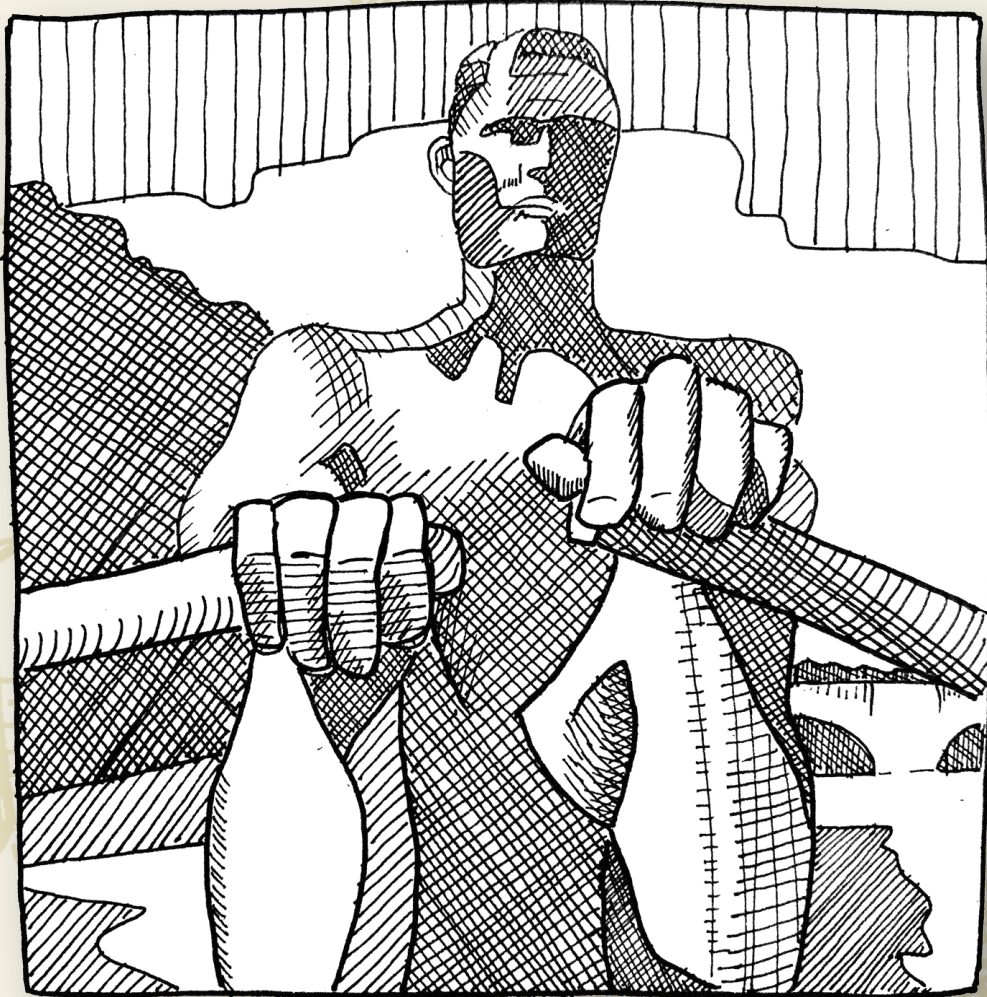


HEAD OF THE SCHUYLKILL REGATTA



OCTOBER 18-24, 2020 | PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



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Regatta as it celebrates
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CONTENTS

Beyond the HOSR mission to conduct a safe and fair race on one of the most challenging courses in the country, we pride ourselves on providing a unique and unforgettable regatta experience. We work year-round to give back to the community and lead efforts in sustainability. We showcase Philadelphia and the Schuylkill River, not only as the birthplace of American rowing, but in its continued role as one of the most significant rowing venues in the country and home to legends in our sport and those in the making.

The Head of the Schuylkill Regatta Board of Directors
 Margo Angelopoulos
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 Mike Cipollone
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 Amy Kurland
 Gerald Lawrence
 Alan Robinson
 Milton (Tony) Schneider
 Benjamin Speciale

Executive Director
 Jennifer Wesson



PCR Women's Novice 4+ celebrate an 8th place finish at the 2016 Head of the Schuylkill Regatta (from left to right - Fiona Jacobs, Julianna Rogers, Skyler Wong, Aniyah Warrick, and Maya Davis)

Welcome Letters

[Jennifer Wesson, Executive Director](#)3

[James F. Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia](#)4

[Kathryn Ott Lovell, Commissioner, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation](#)5

[Regatta Sponsors, Partners & Friends](#)6

[Meet Lyman Perry and J Pattison](#)
[By Signe Wilkinson](#)7

[A Competitor's Reflections on 50 Years of the HOSR](#)
[By Rich Stehlik](#)10

[The Regattas of the Schuylkill: Evolution or Revolution?](#)
[By Dotty Brown](#)11

[Schedule of Events](#)13

[Racing Through the Chop](#)
[By Richard Phillips](#)16

[Real Life Stories of a Rower: Landlocked](#)
[By Merrill Hilf](#)19

[The Volunteer Who Loves Where We Row \(Even if She's Not a Rower\)](#)

[By Maura Kennedy](#)21

[Digging Out the Schuylkill: What Everyone Needs to Know — Part 2](#)22
[By Bonnie Mueller](#)

[Virtual Fall: USRowing](#)25

[Art of the River](#)
[By Bob Cody](#)26

[The Blue Heron Turns Ten!](#)
[By Sydney French & Kate Ratner, Philadelphia City Rowing](#)28

Future Regatta Dates:

2021: October 30 & 31

2022: October 29 & 30

Cover:

The 2020 cover art is by Nicole Gahl Gordon. Nicole is an artist and art teacher. A member of Vesper, Nicole resides in Wallingford with her husband, Jamie Gordon, and their daughters - Lena and Celia.

Photo Credits: Susan Cohen, Philadelphia City Rowing



HEAD OF THE SCHUYLKILL REGATTA

EST. 1970 • PHILADELPHIA

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME competitors from across the country and around the world to the 50th Anniversary of the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta, virtually.

While this year has been nothing short of challenging, we are finding silver linings and opportunities that may have been overlooked in the past. Although we are unable to stage the HOSR this year, we look forward to celebrating our sport and the future with the entire rowing community in ways we never even imagined. This year, we are bringing the regatta, and the city, to you, virtually ... connecting participants from every corner of the world.

In planning for our 50th anniversary, we paused to reflect upon our history, our growth and our commitment to our competitors, spectators, partners, and the City of Philadelphia. We are fortunate that our founders are able to witness our evolution from a small 'race for all who want to row' to a world-class regatta, inclusive of competitors at every phase of their rowing careers. Some come to compete in the iconic birthplace of American rowing, others return each year for the beauty of the Schuylkill in autumn, some to reunite with former teammates, and more for the competition and the challenge of the course. All however, cognizant or not, become part of the tradition of one of the most iconic head races in the country.

Our 2020 program book is filled with essential stories from HOSR history and the history of rowing in Philadelphia, written by our very own talented competitors. Our founders are featured by award winning editorial cartoonist, Signe Wilkinson. Diane Budman, our indispensable headquarters Captain, began volunteering for the regatta for one reason, but continued, like many of our volunteers, for many more reasons, including their love of the event. Doty Brown provides a history of rowing on the Schuylkill and development of major Philadelphia regattas, while Rick Stehlik, a competitor since the very first HOSR, tells the story from his perspective. Even as we grieve the loss of being on the Schuylkill River due to the perfect storm of a pandemic and dredging (yes, we've included an update on dredging!), Rich Phillips writes about our ability to adapt as rowers and how he made good sense of virtual racing.

2020 has proven to be a year unlike any other; regattas, teams and clubs have balanced making something happen in an atypical, unknown form, while keeping the community safe. Perhaps for the first time ever, regattas found themselves on a parallel course, with an opportunity to turn our separation into connection and put the phrase "we are in this together" into action. The result was a first-of-its-kind partnership about finding ways to do what we CAN and growing our community by opening doors to those who may not have had access to regattas in the past. [The USRowing Virtual Fall](#) is two months of virtual regattas that bring competitors closer to some of their favorite events, and one another, while staying in place. Though each regatta provides its own race format and flavor, we have come together to provide a platform for the rowing community to reengage, connect, compete, and have fun!

As a complement to racing, we hope you will join us during regatta week for a full schedule of virtual programming (another first!) with storytellers, talk-backs, concerts, and some special moments as we engage the community to help celebrate our 50th anniversary, highlight the good work of our partners, and recognize you, our outstanding competitors and coaches. We are thrilled to continue *Rockin' on the River* by streaming live music from local bands, and introduce our latest project, *50 Years. 50 Stories*. Another highlight of the week is our 'Love Letter to Philadelphia' with presentations by just a few of the people who make this city the special place we know it to be...and the people who are devoted to rowing and the rowing community.

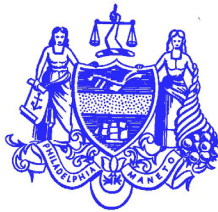
We thank our sponsors and our partners for their continued support as we all work to turn challenges into opportunities. It is because of them that we can produce an exceptional experience for anyone, from anywhere, from October 18-24, and to be able to present topics that are so important to all of us.

Sincere thanks to our Board of Directors who truly believe the HOSR is more than just a regatta and are committed to making a difference through our community engagement initiatives. This year, all proceeds from registration fees will go directly to [Philadelphia City Rowing](#) to support programming expenses for competitive youth.

The celebration of 50 years will continue through to the 2021 regatta to be held on October 30 and 31. We look forward to a very special celebration on the Schuylkill River with you and a few thousand friends... and wish you all a better year ahead, with the vantage of finding silver linings where they may have been overlooked in the past.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Wesson



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

JAMES F. KENNEY
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
215 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 686-2181
FAX (215) 686-2180

October 18, 2020

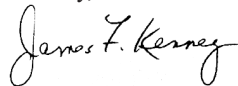
Greetings!

I always look forward to the last weekend in October and the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta, Philadelphia's 'fall festival of rowing.' However, Fall in Philadelphia is different this year, and my welcome to competitors this year is virtual.

Philadelphia remains America's destination city for competitive rowing, hosting more regattas each year than any other racing venue in the United States. The Head of the Schuylkill is the City's largest regatta, with more than 9000 competitors. Known as a highly competitive race, there are many long-term and friendly rivalries among high schools, colleges and rowing clubs that visit from as far as Australia, New Zealand, England, Canada, California, Oregon and Florida. The Alumni races are especially fun for old rivalries who look forward to returning to Philadelphia for a reunion year after year. This year, all competitors will race from their own homes or boat clubs, but will know that the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta, and Philadelphia, are right there with them. We are, in fact, bringing the city to you with love and the same determination that drives the sport.

With great pride I have watched the growth of the regatta, on and off the water. I especially enjoy seeing their outreach to the greater community as they partner with the city, parks, schools, neighborhoods, local artists and musicians. It is a true Philadelphia event and we are proud that the regatta organizing committee has worked tirelessly to overcome the competitive challenges of 2020 while at the same time including virtual programming in and around Philadelphia to showcase our historic and wonderful city. Thanks too, for the generous support of corporate sponsors, partners, in-kind contributors, and individual donors. Although most of you will not be here in person this year we hope you will return in 2021. When you plan your trip please make time to visit our cultural attractions and historic landmarks and enjoy the warm hospitality of our outstanding restaurants. For masters rowers with families, for 20 and 30-something singles, for high school and college crews—there are numerous "off the water" attractions for everyone! My best wishes for an enjoyable virtual experience. We look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia next year. Please be well and stay safe!

Sincerely,



James F. Kenney
Mayor



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
Parks & Recreation
Kathryn Ott Lovell
Commissioner

One Parkway
1515 Arch Street, 10th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1587
Phone: 215.683.3600

October 18, 2020

Friends,

As Commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation, I usually use this opportunity to welcome competitors, their coaches, their friends and families and spectators to Fairmount Park for the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta. This year I again welcome you, but this time it's virtually!

This has been a challenging year for all of us and we congratulate the Regatta organizing committee for their countless hours of work to produce a highly successful virtual regatta and supporting programming. By doing so, they've made sure to remind all of us that Fairmount Park, the largest urban park system in the world, is never more spectacular than it is this time of year. For 50 years, the green, gold, red, orange, yellow and purple foliage has provided a perfect backdrop for more than 9000 athletes who usually compete on the challenging 2.5-mile headrace course...and will do so again, in person, in 2021.

The Schuylkill River has a long and storied history in Fairmount Park. As the Park's steward, the Department of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to providing competitors and coaches with a first class racing venue and the spectators with an experience they will long remember. And, as many of you know, we are now more than half-way finished with a very important, and much needed, dredging project. Our mission to ensure the river is safe for all recreational users is our top priority.

We take great pride in Philadelphia's rowing community and we congratulate the Head of the Schuylkill on their 50th anniversary year. We thank the Regatta for their efforts to showcase the Park, the iconic Schuylkill River and the City to all of their supporters, virtually. We especially thank them for their support of the dredging project and their ongoing efforts to keep our park litter-free by implementing numerous 'clean up days' with their more than 350 volunteers.

Our sincere thanks to the Regatta's sponsors, in-kind contributors, donors, partners for their support, especially this year. We all know that it really does take a village!

We encourage you to participate in all virtual activities and mark your calendars for October 30 & 31, 2021 when you can return to Philadelphia's largest and most inclusive regatta and, again, take time to explore the historic landmarks and statues along the racecourse and enjoy Philadelphia during this glorious season. We thank all of you for your commitment to rowing and the greater rowing community as you work to overcome untold challenges and build a better future, together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Ott Lovell".

Kathryn Ott Lovell
Commissioner
Philadelphia Parks and Recreation



Head of the Schuylkill Regatta

Now in our 50th year, the regatta sincerely thanks its generous sponsors, partners and friends who joined us in overcoming the obstacles of 2020 and bringing the Regatta to life ...virtually.

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[Boathouse](#)

Registration: provided by RegattaCentral

Live Racing: provided by HereNow

A year like no other, 2020, presented all of us with challenges that forced us to look for, and take advantage of, new opportunities. We reached out to the rowing community across the spectrum to form unprecedented partnerships and relationships. We extended invitations to Philadelphians who promote the City to join us as we communicate with rowers across the country and around the world. We worked with the local rowing community to tell the untold stories of rowing in Philadelphia, the legends and the hard work that continue to make the river and Boathouse Row, a pillar of rowing in the United States.

Special Thanks to: *The Office of the Mayor, City of Philadelphia; Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, PHLCVB, Fairmount Park Conservancy, Caitlin Mance, Catherine Reddick, Rich Stehlik, Jim Dietz, Alan Robinson, Peter Simone, Christopher Blackwall, Dotty Brown, Jim Cuorato, Larry Needle, Ed Grose, Shannon Kaplan, James Hill, Margo Angelopoulos, Anne Cutler, Alison Grove, Bart Isdaner, Arshay Cooper, 50 Eggs, Five Tribes Cinema Productions, Dawn Eringis, Lyman Perry, J. Pattison, Jane Golden, Mindy Speciale, and Maura Kennedy.*

As always, sincere appreciation to the Schuylkill Navy, our friends, clubs, schools and colleges/universities on Boathouse Row and Kelly Drive for your cooperation and participation.

(List complete as of October 9, 2020)

The First HOSR...

By Signe Wilkinson

THE FIRST HEAD OF THE SCHUYLKILL Regatta was inspired, as so many things once were in Philadelphia, by Boston envy.

University Barge Club members Lyman Perry, late of America's 1960 Olympic rowing team, and his fellow UBC member J Pattison, had rowed in Boston's "Head of the Charles" race which was the only one of its kind in the country at the time. J (very short for Joseph Nathaniel Pattison IV) recalls that, "The Head of the Charles was my favorite day of the year."

At the time, "Philadelphia Sculls" was the city's only post-college rowing event. It only accepted singles and was not, apparently, anyone's favorite day of the year. To Lyman Perry, J Pattison and a tiny group of co-conspirators, this was simply not acceptable.

Lyman, J and several other University Barge Club members decided that anything Boston could do, Philly could do—possibly even better. But the first year was a test of ingenuity, determination and how-to-get-things-done-when-you-have-no-idea-what-you're-getting-into knowhow.

How, for example, do you mark a course when you don't have buoys? According to Lyman, save lots of one gallon, plastic milk jugs and attach them to ropes with weights at the ends.

How do you keep time before cell phones and computers? According to J, borrow six Longines Wittnauer, 5" wide stopwatches. Send three to judges at the start and three to judges at the finish. Write everything down by hand and then find someone to bike the start times the 2.5 miles to the finish line. Have volunteers with old-fashioned calculators tabulate the results in the Sedgely boathouse basement.



Lyman Spencer Abson Perry in official Olympic uniform

How do you get anyone to come in the first place? Have Lyman design and silkscreen posters at his architectural firm, post them around boathouse row and send them with rowers who head off to rowing clubs in DC, New York and, yes, Boston. When Bargee Jeff Walker took over poster designing a few years later, he misspelled the word, "Schuylkill". Who needed that first "L" anyway? And anyway, "silver" plate trophies arrived from the professional engraver with "sculls" spelled "skulls". Mistakes were made.

UBC NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 No 1 a University Barge Club publication Spring 1971

Contributors Needed for Newsletter
The UBC Newsletter will be published twice annually, once at the beginning of the rowing season in the Spring and again in the Fall at the conclusion of the year's activities. It is hoped that this will encourage a more active use of the club by informing club members of regattas, meetings, social events and other news-worthy occasions. Anyone interested in contributing articles or ideas is encouraged to contact Lyman Perry.

Barge Club Survives Wall Collapse
Early one Saturday afternoon last summer a resounding thud was felt along Boat House Row. After the dust settled and everyone had reassured themselves that there were to be no after-shocks, a survey was made of the boathouses to determine the damage and check for survivors. In a matter of moments, a report was received that confirmed everyone's suspicion who had set foot on the Barge Club's listing decks over the past few decades. The ramparts had finally succumbed to a chronic foundation settling problem, and one completely collapsed. A search of the building produced the sole occupant, Carter Shrub, undaunted but slightly annoyed that both clocks had stopped. Needless to say, this also posed a serious financial condition. (Adding to this was the sympathetic collapse of the opposing wall one week later!) Fortunately we were able to completely rebuild both walls with the remaining balance in our account. These walls flank the East River Drive Entrance to the Club.

UBC to Host Head of Schuylkill Race
This year we will transform our 1000 meter Graduate Sculls Race to a head of the river type regatta with the emphasis on the graduate, non-competing carmen. It will be run much in the same manner as the Head of the Charles Race in Boston. There will be four types of boats: Eight, four, doubles and singles. There will be a "Graduate" Sculling Division broken down into the following classifications: 40-year-old, above 30-to-39-year, and 25-to-29-year, with appropriate handicaps according to age. In order to enter one of these classifications, an carman must not have competed as senior or elite carman in the last two years. This is a three mile course rowed against the clock with the entrants started at ten second intervals. The start will be at the Twin Stone Bridges and the finish will be at the Viking Statue in front

of the Sedgely Club. All members are encouraged to participate as either an official or competitor. Members are also needed to work on the regatta planning and coordinating. Contact Lyman Perry. The date for this meet is Saturday, September 25, 1971.

Two UBC Boats for Sale
The Castor/Pollux and Reinkin are for sale by the UBC. We will sell them to the highest bidder above \$75. If you are interested, mail a sealed envelope with your name and a bid, above \$75 to J. Pattison, c/o UBC No. 7, Southouse Row, Philadelphia, 19130. Bidding will close on July 15, 1971.

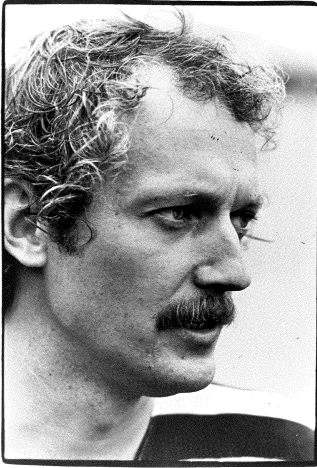
UBC Encourage Competitors
Any of the Club's racing boats will be made available on a regular basis to anyone who has serious interest in racing this season. We presently have two excellent racing singles and two good doubles. We intend to begin an organized rowing program at a regular basis in the near future. Contact Toby Anderson if you are interested.

Storage Space Needed
If you are the owner of any of the various derelicts taking up valuable storage space, please make arrangements to restore them or remove them from UBC. Many are unidentified, so please claim or release them to UBC for disposal. We need to make room for the partial use of the upstream bay and for new and frequently used shells. Contact J. Pattison.

Tax Deductible Donations Possible to the UBC
Should anyone wish to make a tax deductible contribution to the UBC, it is now possible through the Schuylkill Rowing Foundation. The procedure is to make your check payable to "The Schuylkill Rowing Foundation", and enclose it together with a covering letter stating that you wish the donation to be designated for the UBC, mailing it to Edward Singer, 1800 Hayes Ford Road, Penn Valley, 19072. Contact Mr. Singer for further information at MO 4-4268.

Club Endures Vandalism
On several occasions recently the Club has been broken into. The major loss thus far has resulted from locker looting. Members are encouraged to leave valuables hidden in their automobiles or in the boathouse when rowing. The river side bay doors should also be closed when going upstream.

Spring 1971 UBC Newsletter with announcement of First "Head of Schuylkill Race". (Article by G. Harding & J. Walker, lower left)



J. N. Pattison, IV in official UBC (Philadelphia) uniform

Memories are blurry about who wrote down all the entries, start times, and events that first year. A very few regattas into it, J recruited a young, unsuspecting school teacher who lived next door to become the “Executive Director”. Linda Harris never rowed but remembers typing everything regatta related on a Selectric typewriter, depositing entry fee checks (remember checks?) and trotting off to the local police station to get permits. J and Lyman don’t remember even getting permits for the first race.

It all seemed to work. A 1972 UBC newsletter article states that the first regatta had 57 boats in 14 events with 159 competitors. Women could choose from a whopping two events, one for women’s eights (2 boats entered) and one for singles (another two boats entered).

Both Lyman and J remember that in ensuing years they were bailed out by Bruce LaLonde. Bruce, among many other things, helped set the course, made the bow numbers and laid out the milk jug buoys with Lyman. They

were joined by many other dedicated volunteers who are still active today. These include UBC members Mitch Budman, Jeff Walker (who helped me research this scholarly exercise), Christopher Blackwall, John Bazinski, Al Doering and many, many others. Diane Budman, a former police dispatcher, was conscripted to run communications. (Apologies to all those hundreds of volunteers who aren’t mentioned here!)

The event was so successful that the name was changed in 1975 to “The Thomas Eakins Head of the Schuylkill” when a deal struck with the Philadelphia Museum of Art to provide the solid silver first place Eakins medals engraved by artist Leonard Baskin. The Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper covered the medals’ costs and also provided free printing of regatta materials. “Thomas Eakins” was dropped from the name when the regatta became a 501(c)3 in 2009 (although it is still the ‘official’ name.)



Lyman Perry and Bill van der Linde rowing at Henley

Today the Head of the Schuylkill attracts 2000 boats and more than 9000 competitors with 140 races held over two days. It is now the second largest regatta in the country and is still held the weekend after the good, old Head of the Charles.

When asked why he stayed involved for so many years, J Pattison said simply, “It’s just so much fun.”

Signe Wilkinson is a Duffer Class Rower and the editorial cartoonist for the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News. The Washington Post Writers Group syndicates her nationally. You can follow her on Twitter: willkins, Instagram: SigneWilk, Facebook: Signetoon



*Good Luck to All
From the Cipollone Crew*

**JOHN
CIPOLLONE**

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A Competitor's Reflections on 50 Years of the HOSR

by Rick Stehlik, Malta Boat Club



Fred Duhling and Rick Stehlik, World Championships Bronze Medal Winners, Lightweight Doubles, Amsterdam 1977. Photo credit: Edith Duhling

TO BE SURE, this year has been one for the record books. The perfect storm of a pandemic, and the challenges of a much-needed dredging project have worked to alter the Head of the Schuylkill as we have come to love and look forward to in Philadelphia. Only a few floods in the past have accomplished this feat.

I had the pleasure of rowing the senior single race in 1971 when it was known as the Graduate Sculls. Only, later did it change in 1975 to the Thomas Eakins Head of the Schuylkill, but the concept of the first Philadelphia head race regatta was established. To many, it was their first exposure to head racing. It was a modest affair with times transmitted via phones and stop watches. There were no tents, and no food courts or merchandise areas. The course, though unchanged from today, was steered pretty much on the honor system. Ned Thomas of University Barge Club provided the commentary on a megaphone near the Viking statue finish line.

In 1971 all the shells and oars were wood; coaches and coxswains used cardboard megaphones with no stroke coaches; wakeless launches did not exist; though there were 11 Clubs, there were no side yards for shell storage; women's rowing was limited to a few organizations like our own Philadelphia Girls Rowing Club; there were only perhaps ten schools that rowed out of Boathouse Row and a handful of colleges; the Club system and their strict affiliations still predominated the rules of racing.

With the formal inception of the Eakins Regatta, every year it has grown in size, sophistication, and prestige. The beautiful solid silver Eakins medals by the artist Baskin were for several years given out to each winning crew,

but only one per boat. My partner, Fred Duling, and I were fortunate enough in our doubles races to be able to alternate who received the medal until they were no longer available. Now all members of the first three finishing crews are given medals.

So, here we are in 2020, the shells and oars are high tech Kevlar; women rowers equal the men in numbers and level of competition; masters rowing is a force of nature; the number of schools and rowers of all ages is many, many times greater than 1971.

But even though many technical things have changed, the Regatta and rowing is still basically the same concept, that is; how fast can an individual, or a certain number of rowers acting as a unified team, propel a boat on a body of water. Also, what has not changed is the essential dedication of all those who have maintained and preserved Boathouse Row and provided the support to make all regattas a reality. Most importantly, are the friendships and memories which have been forged, and are the underlying glue which holds it all together.

The HOSR now has some 9000 participants of all ages, including adaptive and women athletes. It barely fits within 2 days of racing. The fact that a virtual regatta is being done this year, and planning is already under way for 2021, only underlines the commitment of everyone to this Regatta that the thread of history and tradition is not broken in these challenging times.

I was greatly looking forward to racing down the Schuylkill in the 50th regatta, but now plan to for the 51st. I have only missed two regattas that I can remember due to hip problems and eventual replacement surgery. And of course, there were the weather cancellations which we all endured. So, I say to all the members of the Regatta team over the years, the officials, the volunteers, and the competitors - Thank You for allowing all of us to enjoy this greatest of Rowing experiences.

Rick began rowing in 1962 for Harriton High School. He went on to attend Carnegie Mellon as an undergrad and Wisconsin as a graduate student. He became a full-time sculler, and in 1966 joined the Malta Boat Club. He has continued since then competing for them both at an elite and masters level. He served as their coach for fifteen years and also as their president. Now retired after 45 years as a construction manager, he continues to actively support the operations and maintenance of the Club. More recently he has been involved in the preservation of historic archives for Malta and Boathouse Row.

The Regattas of the Schuylkill: Evolution or Revolution?

By Dotty Brown



Nicolino Calyo, an Italian painter in town that fall captured the scene. What he did not depict were the massive crowds that came to watch the most popular spectator sport of the time. Courtesy: Undine Barge Club

AT THE MATURE AGE OF 50, the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta is really the baby of Philadelphia's family of crew races. Its conception in 1970 by men who had competed in college and sorely missed a venue for racing, marks the beginning of the explosion in masters rowing, a huge phenomenon today.

But the birth of the HOSR came 135 years after the first big regatta on the Schuylkill in 1835. That was a time when only men belonged to rowing clubs. Over the centuries, different demographic groups launched new races as they entered this most physically demanding of sports and sought ways to compete.

Races for elite private schools and Ivy League crews of the 19th century were followed at the turn of the 20th century by regattas for public and Catholic high schools. After crew took hold at small colleges, they got their race in the 1930s – the Dad Vail. And finally women, after much push-back, began serious competition in the 1960s shortly before the HOSR's founding.

A look at those races and who competed tells a story of the waves of change that rowing has experienced in the two centuries since Philadelphia built a dam as part of its water system, a structure that turned a turbulent river into one of the most historic venues for rowing in the country.

First Big Regatta, 1835

News reports document that the first big regatta in Philadelphia took place on Nov. 12, 1835, about a decade after construction of the Water Works dam. A burgeoning number of rowing clubs were forming in the city, and on this fall day 7 eight-oared boats and 4 four-oared boats competed. Each club sported different eye-catching costumes. Members of the Imp, for instance, wore white trousers, red-and-white striped shirts and red Greek fishermen's caps to complement their boat's broad red stripe. By contrast the Blue Devils, dressed in white pantaloons, blue-and-white striped shirts and a round blue hat, rowed a blue shell with a long gold stripe. These were men who could afford the cost of club

membership, shells, and other equipment, not to mention their uniforms.

Schuylkill Navy and People's Regatta

Just before the Civil War, so many clubs were competing –and occasionally colliding–that nine clubs banded together in 1858 to form the Schuylkill Navy, the first governing body for any amateur sport in the country. Its role was to settle disputes among the clubs, negotiate with the city on whose land the boathouses sat, and set rules for regattas, which it began to organize.

A national amateur group made up of NYC and Philadelphia clubs was formed in 1872 in an effort to rid the sport of the gambling and foul play that typified the professional crew races of the time. The National Association of Amateur Oarsmen, which for more than a century was based in Philadelphia, held its first regatta on the Schuylkill on Oct 8, 1873. It was followed by the Centennial Exposition of 1876– the first international amateur regatta in this country.

As rowing became more popular, the Schuylkill Navy in 1887 organized the People's Regatta, "open to amateur oarsmen of the world." Club crews from up and down the East Coast soon came to compete, and on July 4, 1888, 200,000 people reportedly lined the banks of the river in "the most successful aquatic event ever held on the Schuylkill," *Sporting Life* reported.

The People's Regatta was renamed the Independence Day Regatta in 1958 on the occasion of the Schuylkill Navy's centennial.

The Ivies and the IRA

The first Childs Cup Regatta, funded by Philadelphia Public Ledger publisher George Childs, took place here in 1879, with the University of Pennsylvania's four-oared boat defeating Princeton and Columbia. It was a coup for the newbie Penn crew in its first intercollegiate competition. Other select universities, including Cornell, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth, Wesleyan, Amherst,



Brown, Williams, Bowdoin, Hamilton, Union, and Princeton, had been racing each other for nearly a decade in the Rowing Association of American Colleges, which in 1894 became the Intercollegiate Rowing Association or IRA.

Under coach Ellis Ward, who had won fame as a professional rower, Penn's crew catapulted into the top rank of collegiate rowing, winning the Childs Cup of 1882, '83 and '84 and the IRAS of 1898, 1899, and 1900. Ward was known for developing the "Pennsylvania stroke" with a strong leg drive, and coaching his rowers in whispers through his megaphone so that rival crews would not learn its secrets.

In 1901, with ebullient media coverage, Ward and his eight-oared crew traveled by ship to England to compete at Henley, the pinnacle of amateur rowing. The Childs Cup continues to this day, sometimes rowed here.

Small Colleges and the Dad Vail

Colleges with few resources had difficulty competing in the IRA against the larger, wealthier schools, so in 1934 Penn's coach, Rusty Callow, came up with the idea of a small college regatta. It was named for University of Wisconsin-Madison's beloved coach Harry Emerson Vail. "Dad Vail," as everyone called him, was valiantly building a rowing team under freezing, short-season conditions. To give such colleges a fairer playing field, Callow invited them to compete in Philadelphia. But no small Philadelphia college participated in the early years as no schools here but Penn had rowing. That changed in 1947 when LaSalle began a crew program (70 years after Penn) and enjoyed a streak of Dad Vail wins in the 1950s. St. Joseph's followed soon after. Since 1952, the Schuylkill River has been the Dad Vail's permanent home. In 2019, more than 100 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada, and thousands of athletes competed here, making it the largest collegiate competition in the United States, if not the world.

Interscholastic Rowing

In the late 19th century, elite Eastern private schools latched onto what was considered the elite sport of rowing. In Philadelphia in 1887, a handful of such schools organized the nation's first scholastic athletic conference—the Inter-Academic Athletic Association, or InterAc as it's called today. A Friends league quickly followed. Then, in 1897, several city public schools, with support from the clubs of Boathouse Row, joined in to form the Interscholastic Rowing League. Besides the public Central High and the former Central Manual Training, the league included the private William Penn Charter, Episcopal Academy, Germantown Academy, Eastern Academy, and Friends Central. Rowing, too, were students at Roman Catholic High, which had opened in 1890 as the first free Catholic high school for boys in the United States.

But by World War I, the city's public schools had largely abandoned crew in favor of basketball, baseball and football. John B. Kelly Sr., coming off of three Olympic Gold medals in the early 1920s and wanting his club, then Penn AC, to remain world class, began recruiting Catholic school students—the children of Irish and German immigrants whom he felt would have the drive and grit to become great rowers, as he had. At the Bachelors Barge Club, Garrett Gilmore, another Olympian, also wanted to encourage "schoolboy rowing," as it was called. He and others in 1927 convinced the barge club's Edward T. Stotesbury, a prominent and wealthy banker, to fund a silver cup for a race.

Today, few people remember Stotesbury, who was famous in his

time, but every high school rower in the country knows of the Stotesbury Regatta, the largest high school rowing competition in the world.

Today, city kids are back on the river, thanks in large part to the non-profit, Philadelphia City Rowing. Their presence also is adding diversity to the river.

Women's Rowing

Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern day Olympics, is reported to have said in 1899, "Women have but one task, that of crowning the winner with garlands." The bias against women in athletics was particularly strong in rowing, and well into the 20th Century crew was still routinely called "a manly sport." But Philadelphia became a pioneer in women's rowing when in 1938, a group of secretaries and clerks, some of whom were dating rowers, got hold of the Philadelphia Skating Club building after that organization moved to a rink in Ardmore. The Philadelphia Girls Rowing Club (PGRC) became the first competitive women's rowing club in the country. With no other clubs or universities to race, for years they challenged each other on the Schuylkill.

From that seed eventually grew the National Women's Rowing Association, started in 1963 by PGRC member Joanne Iverson and two West Coast coaches. It organized meets for the American women who were finally entering the sport, and it lobbied the men who dominated international rowing to allow them to compete against European women in meets there.

In the spring of 1976, women for the first time were listed on the programs of the Dad Vail. That summer, women's crew finally became an Olympic sport, with seven of the 27 U.S. oarswomen hailing from Boathouse Row. The eight-oared crew, which included African American lawyer Anita deFranz, won bronze.

For over a decade now, American women rowers have dominated world competition. And all but one of the formerly all-male boathouses on the Row are co-ed.

Thomas Eakins Head of the Schuylkill Regatta

While growing numbers of high school and college students were falling in love with rowing, few races existed for them after graduation. Aching to compete again, members of the University Barge Club in the late 1960s conceived of a race they called the Graduate Sculls. In 1970, it became the Thomas Eakins Head of the Schuylkill Regatta, open basically to anyone.

Since then, the ranks of masters rowers, both men and women has swelled, attracting thousands who have made this a lifelong sport to races all around the world.

Though few women, if any, participated in the early years, that changed with the passage of Title IX in 1973, requiring the equitable funding of women's sports in high schools and colleges. In recent years, about 3,800 men and nearly as many women, ranging in age from 14 to 89, raced over the two days of the HOSR, now the second largest regatta in the country.

Many come year after year in what is for them a rite of fall.

Dotty Brown is the author of Boathouse Row, Waves of Change in the Birthplace of American Rowing. Follow her at <https://boathouserowthebook.com/> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BoathouseRowBook/>



Virtual Racing Events

The 2020 Head of the Schuylkill Regatta will be unlike any other! This year, the regatta is “virtually yours” and anyone can compete from wherever they are, on their favorite rowing machine or body of water. Thank you for joining us in celebrating our 50th anniversary by connecting with community and moving the words “we are all in this together” into action.

See the event listing below for the self-submittal of times on both the erg and

water during October 18th-23rd, and live racing on October 24th. Individual and team events are offered in both participatory and live events.

PARTICIPATORY ERG (Asynchronous)

Race **4100-4300 meters (to be disclosed at start of race week)** from your favorite place, any time during event week October 18th – 23rd. Competitors may row their piece on any rowing machine that counts distance and submit their time.

PARTICIPATORY WATER (Asynchronous)

Race **4100-4300 meters (to be disclosed at start of race week)** from your favorite body of water, any time during event week October 18th– October 23rd. Competitors may use an NK Speed-Coach GPS or any device that exports .fit file to record their meters and submit during the event week.

LIVE ERG (Synchronous)

Go head-to-head with rowers for 4150 – live! Competitors will connect with Concept2 RowErg using their phone to race live on *October 24th* against rowers from around the country and world.

Proceeds from registration fees will be used to support programming expenses for Philadelphia City Rowing competitive youth programs, including coaching costs and professional development, student-athlete transportation, healthy snacks, swimming lessons, uniforms, and more.

Philadelphia City Rowing (“PCR”) has a mission to empower Philadelphia public school students to reach their greatest potential. They believe that by providing academic support, mentoring, nutrition education, and enrichment activities in conjunction with a highly structured athletic program, they can improve the academic achievement, health outcomes, and personal development of our participants. These components are incorporated into all of PCR’s programs, each of which is tailored to suit different age groups and levels of experience. Specific programs include competitive rowing for high schoolers (school year), recreational rowing for middle schoolers (school year and summer), learn-to-row camps for high schoolers (summer), learn-to-row camps for middle schoolers (summer).

PCR maintains a culture that reaches under-resourced youth, puts students first, and is inclusive, transformative, and engaged with the community. All of PCR’s programs and services are offered to their participants at no cost, except for the commitment of their time and effort. To date, 100% of PCR students have graduated on time and with a plan to further their education or professional training.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Classifications	Events Details
Gender:	Female, Male, Mixed
Event Categories:	Masters, Championship, Collegiate, Para, Youth (U15, U17, U19), Alumni, Parent/Child, Coxswain, Corporate Challenge
Boat Classes:	1x, 2x, 4x, 4+, 8+, Paddle Erg

Lightweight classifications offered in Masters, Championship and Collegiate categories. Age handicap will be applied to Masters and Veterans 60+ singles, Masters team boats, Parent/Child, Alumni and Corporate Challenge categories.

HOSR is proud to partner with fall regattas as part of the [USRowing Virtual Fall](#). [Punch your card](#) for a chance to win awesome prizes!



2020 Virtual Programming Schedule of Events

Join HOSR in celebrating its 50th anniversary by connecting and competing with competitors and friends across the country and around the world! Along with virtual racing, HOSR is hosting a full week of virtual programming. Each evening from October 18-24 we will hold a themed hour-long program, all with the goal of engaging competitors, the rowing community, and beyond.

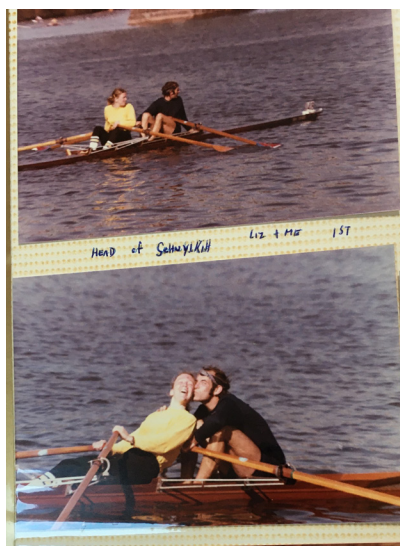
Nightly programming will begin at 7:00PM (ET) and can be accessed through the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta's [YouTube channel](#).

Sunday, October 18 Opening Ceremony & Concert

On a typical regatta weekend, we would begin racing with the singing of the National Anthem. While a few traditions will not be recognized this year, this one will live on, and be complemented by a welcome from our Executive Director and City representatives, an overview of virtual racing and nightly programming, as well as the announcement of the winning artwork for the 2020 HOSR Program Book Cover Art Contest. Then get ready to groove as the HOSR continues one of its latest traditions, **Rockin' on the River**, featuring **Eliot Lewis**!



Monday, October 19 50 Years. 50 Stories



A very happy hour celebrating the people and stories accumulated over 50 years through the history of HOSR, Philadelphia's largest and most inclusive regatta.

This is a chance to hear, firsthand, the stories and the legends that

have made the Schuylkill River and Boathouse Row so important to the greater rowing community, and special in our hearts. An all-star cast will introduce the *50 Years.50 Stories* initiative, discuss the importance of archiving, and of course, share (and debate) stories of HOSR and rowing past...to be passed down through generations.

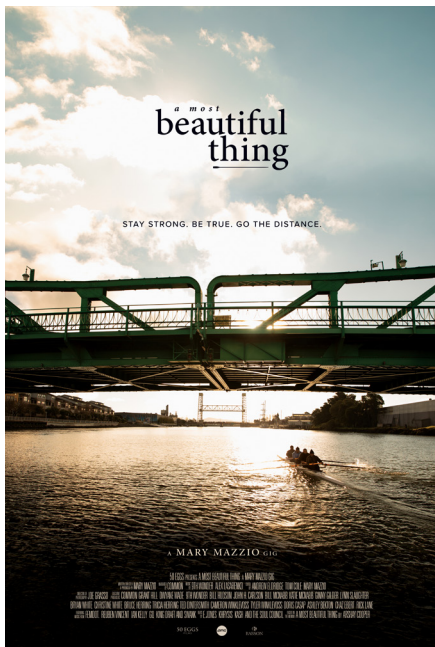
Eliot Lewis has a career most musicians could only dream of. Eliot is not only a member of Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees, Daryl Hall & John Oates band, but also the original featured musician on the award-winning web and TV show, "Live From Daryl's House". Eliot has played alongside Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top), Joe Walsh, Todd Rundgren, Train, Grace Potter, Ben Folds, Cheap Trick, Rob Thomas, Jason Mraz, Darius Rucker, Gavin DeGraw and many, many others. As a solo artist, Eliot has captivated audiences all over the country with his electric performances live and now virtually.

"Eliot is a musician who can do it all, great singer, songwriter and guitarist. He rocks and he's got soul. No one does it quite like him" - Daryl Hall

<https://eliotlewis.com/>

Tuesday, October 20 'Love Letter to Philadelphia'

Our 'Love Letter to Philadelphia' celebrates the City, the Schuylkill River and Fairmount Park, and the community that has been essential to the history of American rowing ...and served as the backdrop to the HOSR for 50 years. We have gathered the people who work behind the scenes to make it all happen, continuing the tradition of rowing for competitors and spectators alike. Learn why Philadelphia has long been home to many of the country's legendary regattas, and remains the location where champions are made.



Wednesday, October 21 A Diversity & Inclusion Panel featuring Arshay Cooper

The HOSR is proud to host a panel featuring author Arshay Cooper, whose memoir *Suga Water*, is the subject of the movie "A Most Beautiful Thing". The movie chronicles the first African American high school rowing team in the nation (made up of young men from the West Side of Chicago, many of whom were from rival gangs, all coming together to row in the same boat). The film takes a deep dive into the backstories of these young men, examining the issues of intergenerational trauma and violence. As the team's captain, Arshay Cooper, reflected, "When we were on the water, we were in a place where we couldn't hear the sound of sirens or bullets, and that allowed us to shape a different vision for ourselves, of who and what we could become. And that was a beautiful thing."

Join Arshay and panel for a talk-back focusing on actionable ways to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the sport of rowing.

Friday, October 23 Women of the Row (WOTR) Happy Hour

Join us for a night of conversation with WOTR and learn what boathouses/clubs are doing to survive and thrive during the pandemic and dredge. Hear from some WOTR who are making an impact in our community and how you can get involved. Connect, reconnect and engage. All welcome (yes, men too)!



Saturday, October 24 Closing Ceremony & Concert

Join us as we celebrate our first virtual week in the books of our 50th anniversary year! We'll highlight stories from the week, race results, and a few new traditions, and cap off with a **Rockin' on the River** concert, featuring **Jack Saint Clair**, *live* from Boathouse Row.

Jack Saint Clair is a Philly-based composer and arranger. He's supplied charts for the [Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia](#) under direction of Terrell Stafford, the Temple University Jazz Orchestra, and the [Dutch Concert Big Band](#).

Jack is the leader, conductor, and sole writer for the Jack Saint Clair Orchestra, a 17-piece big band that performs the first Thursday of the month at LaRose Jazz Club.

In addition to his writing, Jack performs regularly as a saxophonist with Chelsea Reed and the Fair Weather Nine and the *Epoché* Saxophone Quartet.

<https://www.jacksaintclair.com/>
jacksaintclairorchestra@gmail.com

Racing Through The Chop

By Richard Phillips



VIRTUAL, *adj.* Being such in power, force, or effect, though not actually or expressly such.

Regatta, *n.* A boat race, as of rowboats, yachts, or other vessels

Virtual Regatta, *n.* 1. The best testament to a sport that has survived tragedies before, and will survive this one, too. 2. A chance to avenge a 30-year-old loss, one that perhaps I should have gotten over a *long* time ago.

2020 is no year to bring together thousands of people for an athletic event. We are part of a world that is suffering breathtaking tragedy. Coming together would only serve to increase the risk of expanding that tragedy. And we are part of a nation that seems that it is finally, painfully, addressing its own injustices, like systemic racism and income inequality. In a time like this, rowing may seem almost inappropriate. Racing may seem a lark.

But look more closely. March 15 was the date of my last row out of my beloved University Barge Club. As far as I know it was the date of the last row for anyone out of any club on Boathouse Row. After that row, I racked the boat and sat in the clubhouse, and it occurred to me that I had no idea when I might be back. I took some time to examine the photos, the plaques, the trophies, and for the first time really looked at the *dates*.

As our present day world was about to change dramatically, I was soaking in the fact that the world has changed dramatically before, and our forebears have rowed through everything. While world wars raged, and our very existence as a nation was uncertain, they rowed. Through a depression, countless recessions, through pandemics and social upheavals, they rowed. And that is not to mention rowing through all of the triumphs and tragedies that doubtless were happening in their personal lives. I imagined as I looked at those young men (and, sadly, if you look back not terribly far, they were indeed all men) that they were rowing not because times were always good, but because things were sometimes tough. They rowed consistently in an inconsistent world. I imagined that they took pleasure in the sheer and simple beauty of moving a boat, not because nothing troubling was happening, but because so much that was happening was deeply troubling.

It is our turn, now. This is our moment, as individuals and as a community. Our times are changing, and as rowers we will adapt and find new sources of strength. We cannot rightly say we look forward to getting back to normal, because the normalcy of March 15, 2020 is not coming back. We cannot wish it back and we should not. Time has an arrow, and fighting it is wasted energy. When we do return to live racing, the world will be a different place, and we may or may not see our role in it the same way. We may have a new perspective on the diversity challenges that we face as a sport. We may see a different obligation to our community than we have before. We may have new rules and practices to keep people safe. We will certainly have changed, as individuals and as a community.

So what about this virtual thing, then? I will confess that when I heard that our beloved autumn celebration would be virtual, I didn't buy it. Racing is about seeing your opponents. It is about feeling their presence next to you, and doing everything in your power to crush their spirit (in a friendly way, of course), as they do everything in their power to crush yours. It is about coxswains screaming at you as you try to finish an overtake, just in time to clear that bridge abutment. It is about eyeing up your competitors at the starting line. It is about yelling across the water to wish them good luck, and it is about not really meaning it. At all. How in the world can you do all those wonderful things virtually?

And then it came to me. And this whole virtual thing finally made sense.

So let's get one thing straight right away. Because to understand the wonder and importance of the fact that the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta is going to be virtual this year, you really need to fully grasp and digest this one undisputed—indeed indisputable—fact. And that fact, boiled down to a simple declarative sentence, is this:

In the spring of 1989, The Yale Freshman Heavyweight 8 really, seriously, very much should have won the Yale-Harvard boat race.

You can go back and read that again if you need to. Internalize it. It may seem unrelated to this regatta, but trust me. It is critical to all that follows. And we don't have to get in to WHY it's true, but trust me. It is SO true. Indeed, the fact that the intrepid (and really quite dashing) Yale Freshman Heavyweight 8 lost that race is still, to my knowledge, the single worst miscarriage of justice to befall competitive sports. Ever. And anyone who disagrees simply doesn't understand rowing. Either that or they just hate America. And freedom. And democracy.

Anyway, you get my point. We should have won. And yes, it still bothers me.

And here is the next fact you need to know to understand the HOSR's new format this year. It's virtual-ness, if you will. That second fact is this.

Rowers are, really, at their essence, a bunch of head cases who cannot let go of a loss, and love to relive a victory. They will happily obsess about both for years and years after the actual fact.

I mean, who better than a bunch of people who spend countless hours making micrometer adjustments to a motion they have done hundreds of thousands of times, in order to MAYBE find a half a second of speed over a two thousand meter course, to also obsess about a race that took place four years before email.

I know I can't go back and actually recreate that race. So I do the only thing I can. I re-race it. Virtually. In my obsessive little rower head. Day in. Day out. On the erg. During practice pieces on the water. While warming up for a race. Hell, I do it in the shower and sometimes on the commute to work. (By the way, every time we have a Yale-Harvard re-race, justice prevails and Yale wins. But you knew that.).

And now you can admit it, too. We are all always rowing—and racing—virtually. Always.

I would argue, in fact, that we do this better than athletes in any other sport. Just look at the numbers. We train for hours upon hours, twelve months a year, year in year out. I stopped doing the math a long time ago, but it looks something like this. Let's say you train five days a week, one hour a day, twelve months a year. That is about 240 hours per year. That's a lot. And we actually compete in fantastically short races! A master's race is about 3 minutes long. The really, really long races, the marathons of rowing, the head races, are all of twenty minutes long. Twenty minutes! Woohoooo! I should bring a book. Maybe I could finally finish Sapiens. Anyway if one were to race five sprints, and let's say two head races, that is a grand total of 55 minutes of racing.

With such short races, how do you get through all those hours of training?

The answer is the little secret we have all finally confessed. The one thing we ALL do, but don't talk about that much. This dirty little secret of rowing is that every time we get on that erg or in the boat, whether it is on a frigid predawn February morning, or on a beautiful Fall evening, we call up some imaginary race. We relive some moment, avenge some loss, triumph over some foe who is not really there. We create and experience an entire world, a reality, in our head. The truth is, we never practice. Ever. We race every day. Virtually.

I look forward to this year's virtual regatta. I look forward to beating Harvard again. And I can't tell you how much I look forward to seeing you all in person next year. I assure you I will wish all of you actual, in-person rowers good luck at the start, and I assure you I will not really mean it.

Richard Phillips is a rower, writer, and proud member of UBC. He is a former counsel for the Department of Justice and Senate Judiciary Committee, and former CEO of a global logistics company. He is a proud, recent finisher of Sapiens.

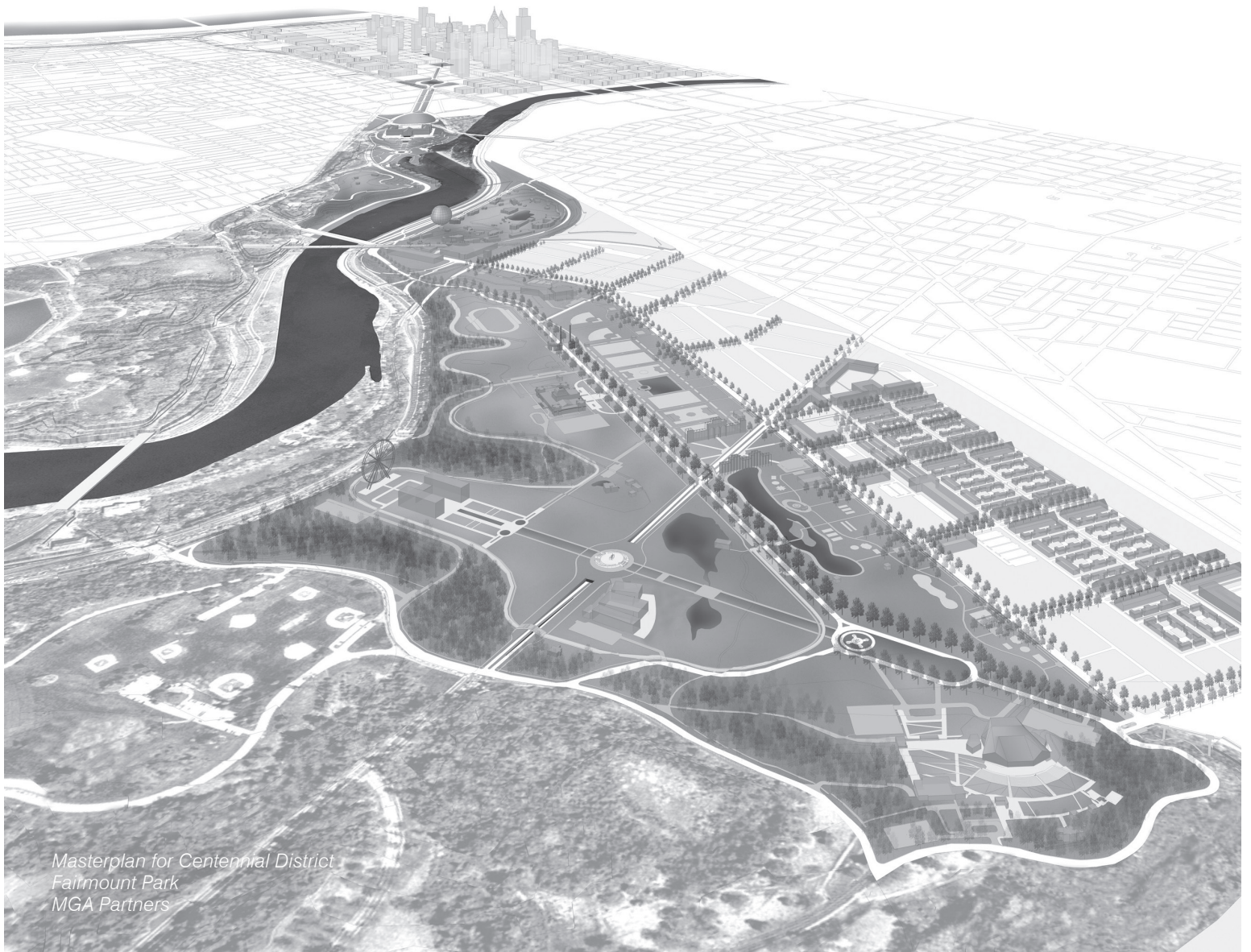
Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence in Sportsmanship

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Head of the Schuylkill Regatta

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Real Life Stories of a Rower: Landlocked

by Merrill Hilf

BACK IN FEBRUARY, it became definite that the long awaited dredging of the Schuylkill River, would start in the late spring. Rowers that were rowing, kept rowing, and I started to think about what I would do once the river was “closed”. I figured I probably wouldn’t be able to row for three months, but I could erg, and swim more than usual. Maybe travel to some beautiful places for open water swimming events. Not rowing would suck, but I would just focus on other things to stay in shape, and not have to wake up every day at 4:30am.

March began like a typical March, crappy weather, rowing in the cold, and looking ahead to summer vacation plans. By mid-March the news from New York City was grim, lots of talk about ventilators, how contagious the corona virus was, and photos of healthcare workers wearing plastic garbage bags as gowns, and N95 masks and goggles. Before the end of March, Philadelphia issued a stay at home order for all non-essential personnel, and non-essential businesses such as gyms, boathouses, schools, places of worship, and restaurants were all shut down. In the beginning, I was hopeful the shutdown wouldn’t last too long, and I might still be able to get a few rows in before the dredging began. The two week stay at home order became four weeks, then eight weeks, and well, you all know the rest.

Rowers were left to their own devices to come up with workouts to stay in shape. Obviously, those of us who owned ergs, simply pretended the river was frozen, and grudgingly started erging. For the first time in history, Concept 2 sold out of ergs, Peloton spin bikes were on backorder, and home exercise equipment filled Amazon trucks. Rowers that were young, lightweights, or triathletes transitioned smoothly to running and cycling, and yoga folks rolled out their yoga mats and continued to yoga. This left the older masters rowers, who didn’t already have a home gym, few options. Out-patient physical therapy clinics and orthopedic doctor’s offices were closed, so running was risky given the chance of injury, and buying a decent bicycle meant waiting a few months. I chose to walk, erg, and avoid eating when I would typically be rowing. I quickly realized that walking the dogs mile after mile, was getting their heart rate up more than mine, and my wife and I began speed walking. Basically marching throughout our neighborhood, without the frequent sniff and pee stops the dogs so enjoyed. We looked like maniacs, checking our heart rates, puffing up hills, and no stopping was allowed. Over six months later, we have continued the speed walking, have a new spin bike (only took 2 months to arrive), have returned to swimming, but still no rowing. When I wasn’t working, spending money, hunting for toilet paper, and wondering if I would ever

be able to buy Lysol again, I read. I read historical fiction novels primarily set during World War II. Reading about people surviving brutal dictators, loss, and bravery, certainly put not being able to row in perspective.

Meanwhile, while my friends and family were all scrambling to figure out their work from home situations, my colleagues and I were informed that physical therapists were essential workers. Since I work doing homecare, this meant business as usual, and after some discussion, a lot of consultation of the CDC Guidelines, and back and forth, our staff was informed that everyone would treat COVID positive patients, or they could go out on an unpaid leave. In about three weeks the patients that were hospitalized began to be discharged to home, and the subsequent scramble to obtain the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) spread throughout the city. It’s difficult for me to explain the amount of stress and anxiety the entire healthcare community, myself included, felt everyday. The PPE we were given was inadequate, everything seemed to be on backorder, and we were expected to clean and reuse everything.

All the while trying to figure out how to put on and remove PPE in the street, and not put our patients and families at risk. Fortunately for me, rowers and friends came through to help. My extreme thanks goes to Hope and Russ, who were able to get me a few KN95 masks (the Chinese version of an N95 mask) when no one had them, Alix from NK Sports who sent me face shields they produced and actually fit, and Theresa, who sewed hundreds of cloth face masks for anyone who needed them. None of these people would accept money from me, and I will never forget their compassion and generosity.

I’m still working. I’ve seen co-workers get the virus, and get better, while others retire. I’ve seen young and old people get sick, and test positive. Some get better, some are on oxygen for long periods of time, and some have died. Too many people have died without family being present, including my father in law. I know that things will get better, treatments are improving, and people will continue to look out for their families and friends. We will all row again. It will happen, and when it does, it will be all the more special. Stay safe, please be smart, and I hope to see you all at the HOSR 2021, in person. Just keep your distance.

Merrill Hilf PT DPT is one of many exhausted healthcare workers, who is trying to provide care, and stay healthy. Rowing helps her stay sane, in a world where the hits keep on coming.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARB MILES

The Head of the Schuylkill Regatta 2020 has gone virtual, and so have we!

Join us at The Agnes Irwin School's

Virtual All-School Open House on **October 20** at **7 p.m.** and

Virtual Athletics Open House on **November 2** at **7 p.m.**

Meet virtually with our Head of School, Athletic Director, students, and teachers on live Q&A panels to learn more about how Agnes Irwin prepares girls to lead and succeed. You'll also hear about our 55,000-square foot Athletic Center — including our Sonnenfeld Rowing Center, with an eight-seat rowing tank and erg equipment for our championship crew team!

Register today at agnesirwin.org/openhouse.

Empowering Girls Since 1869



The **Agnes Irwin** School

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The HOSR Volunteer Who Loves Where We Row (Even If She's Not A Rower)

By Maura Kennedy

YOU WILL RARELY FIND HER ON THE RIVER. In fact, she has never rowed in the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta (HOSR). Diane Budman, however, is one of the most beloved HOSR volunteers and integral to the Regatta's operations. Over the past 32 years, she has spent every third weekend in October volunteering on the course and cheering on hundreds of thousands of rowers, from Olympic athletes to novice rowers. Budman has dedicated more than 800 hours to HOSR volunteer efforts and doesn't see an end in sight. This year, she is being honored as the 50th Anniversary HOSR Volunteer.

"The Head of the Schuylkill Regatta is a wonderful Regatta to be a part of. It's a neat, Philadelphia event with a lot of great history. You get to meet a lot of interesting people."

The first time Budman got involved with HOSR, the Regatta was a one day event. Her husband, Mitch Budman, was also helping to run the race, so it seemed like a great way to spend the weekend. "Admittedly I started as a volunteer at the request of my husband. But I've come to really look forward to being with the volunteers, the athletes, the spectators, and totally appreciate the sport itself."

Budman's volunteer duties have spanned from timing to communications, which she says has been her favorite HOSR volunteer role so far. It makes sense. Back in the 1980s, Budman worked as a police dispatcher. "Walkie talkies have come a long way since the 80s. While we still use them at Head of the Schuylkill Regatta for race communications, communications technology has improved over the years," Budman says. "We can actually hear each other now."

Working as a police dispatcher has come in handy as Budman is Race Command Patrol Dispatcher, communicating with EMT and law enforcement personnel if any issues happen on or off the water. "Working in race communications is fun and challenging because it's fast-moving, quick pace, and requires an athletic focus. I must be aware when any problems happen around the Regatta course and be able to quickly communicate with police if needed."

While serving as Race Command Patrol Dispatcher over the past 10 years, Budman has come to learn and know the voices of fellow volunteers, but interestingly enough, she has yet to meet most of the 350+ Regatta volunteers in-person. However, no matter what kind of challenges Budman's experienced as a volunteer, there have always been other volunteers eager to help. Budman recalls one of her most memorable experiences as an HOSR volunteer:

"Funny experience: a few years ago, a gentleman was at the Three Angels statue cheering for his grandchild's team. He yelled so hard, his false teeth flew out and landed in the water. His wife came to the Command Tent and asked me for a fishing net. After I learned why she needed the net, a few volunteers tried to assist the couple in locating his teeth. The Marine police saw the activity on the bank and came over. Their diver put on a wet suit and went into the water. We were unable to locate his teeth, unfortunately, but it was nice that the volunteers came together to help," Budman shares.

One of the reasons she returns year after year to the course is because of the other HOSR volunteers. Budman fondly recalls volunteer celebrations at London's where volunteers would go to trade stories from the Regatta weekend. "Volunteers work long hours and some have physically demanding work, but they are all so upbeat and have big smiles on their faces. Volunteers can always find something to smile about," Budman explains. "And plus, athletes are always fun to work with."

Budman is already planning on ways to make the next year's HOSR even bigger and better than ever before... with many more stories to come and trade.



Maura Kennedy is a founder Women of the Row, the Marketing and Communications Director at Pond Lehigh, and a member at University Barge Club and Cooper River Rowing Club. Kennedy is also a Forbes contributing writer and serves on the Forbes Communications Council.



Digging Out the Schuylkill: What Everyone Needs to Know – Part 2

By Bonnie Mueller

AS WE CELEBRATED LAST YEAR'S 49TH Head of the Schuylkill, we did so on the heels of an immense public-private partnership to raise funds for dredging of the Schuylkill River.

With financial support from many stakeholders (the City and State, universities, the rowing clubs of Boathouse Row and Schuylkill Paddlers Inc, each of the major regattas, the William Penn Foundation, and many private donors), we did what many thought impossible – raise the needed \$4.5 million. We did so in under 9 months, thereby triggering the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE's) solicitation of bids for the work.

Last year, we answered Frequently Asked Questions about the cause of silt accumulation, the reasons for the USACE involvement, the fundraising effort, and what the project may look like.

A year (and Contract Award and pandemic!) later, I thought it might be helpful to answer the most common questions since work began:

To whom was the contract awarded...and when?

Upon opening of the bids, Atlantic Subsea Inc (ASI) – a New Jersey-based marine engineering service company with expertise in desilting of ports, marines, etc. – provided the only qualified, acceptable bid within the available \$4.5 million budget.

Fully bonded and assessed by USACE as capable to complete the engagement, ASI was given NTP (Notice to Proceed) on December 13, 2019 with 365 days to complete five Accepted Sections of work (two at Boathouse Row, one within the Adaptive "Lagoon," and two on the National Course).

If "NTP" was issued for mid-December, why didn't they begin until what seemed like June? Was the delay the result of COVID-19?

While COVID-19 had some impact, we were fortunate to receive the City of Philadelphia's and Governor Wolf's help in issuing formal exemptions from Stay-at-Home orders in April. Mobilization efforts (e.g., pipe fitting, dock removal, etc.) could therefore proceed, even while other businesses in the city and state remained closed.

But, one of the things that makes each of us "Love Where We Row" also makes dredging of the Schuylkill River particularly complex.

Blessed with increasingly clean water, the Schuylkill River is home to an abundance of wildlife species, many of which are protected by agencies such as the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Although much of the mobilization work could take place January- May, the environmental assessment for the fish spawning season revealed that no work could begin on Boathouse Row (nor the National Course) until the first week of June.

Even with the later start due to the environmental assessment, shouldn't the work on Boathouse Row be completed by now?

It was everyone's hope (and USACE's) initial assessment that the dredging of Boathouse Row would be completed within the 90-day period from June-August. Disappointingly... it wasn't.

Weather, vandals, mechanical challenges of not one but two dredge barges, and the imposing heft of debris at Boathouse Row had a different plan. At times, it has felt like the progress of the dredging has joined the list of disappointments that 2020 served up on our collective plate.

Saved in my own "Memory Book" was that moment my phone rang while visiting family in New Hampshire. It was the Philadelphia Police; Tropical Storm Isaias was blowing through; and, a "boat" was loose and moving downriver. "Uh oh," I thought, "there aren't any rowing boats on the river right now, so this must be a really big boat...and it sure doesn't belong to any rowing club. This can't be good."

National news stories of an "allision" between the 676 Bridge and ASI's collection barge below the Fairmount Dam would follow over the next days. And, while (thankfully) no one was injured and little damage was incurred, the incident ate away two weeks of progress...time that joined other weeks of slow progress or downtime due to challenges.

If the contractor isn't performing at the pace we want, can't we replace them? Or, take other action?

Frustratingly, no.

Although we had hoped and USACE had estimated the work at Boathouse Row might be completed within 90 days, the contract itself (with additional time allotted for COVID-19 disruption) affords ASI until January 8, 2021 to finish. Unless January 9th arrives and the work remains unfinished, the contractor will have performed according to the contract.

More importantly, the rowing community is not a party to the contract with ASI. The City of Philadelphia is not either. Instead, only the US Army Corps of Engineers is under contract with ASI and, therefore, can formally manage any perceived underperformance.

To do so, USACE must proceed through a series of formal procedures and a prescribed series of steps to increase escalation (all of which they are doing).

The good news is that the work is a Fixed Fee project to achieve specified depths within clearly delineated boundaries. In other words, the contract structure provides no incentive for ASI to delay completion.

With all of this, would the City of Philadelphia been better off just hiring a private contractor to do the work and not involving the US Army Corps of Engineers?

Not from a cost nor time perspective.

Other dredging projects on the Schuylkill recently cost over 8x as much per cubic yard removed. That's because USACE's management of the project has afforded the project free Planning & Engineering, environmental permitting, and disposal of silt material at Fort Mifflin.

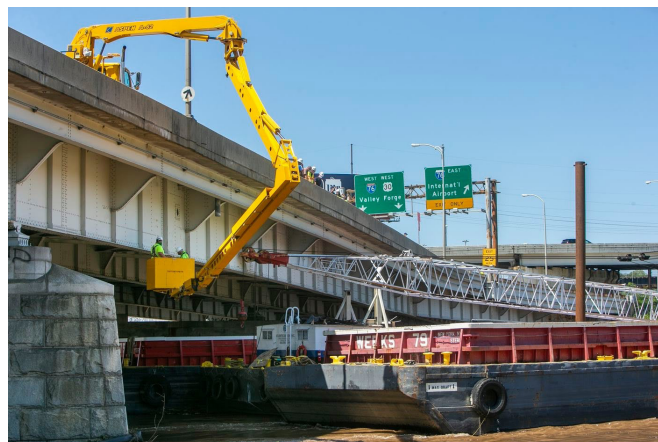
Also, this environmental permitting process was completed in less than six months (unlike other projects in the same area that took over six years). Few-if any -would agree that we had six years to spare, given the lack of depth before the project began.

Where does this leave us? When will the work be done?

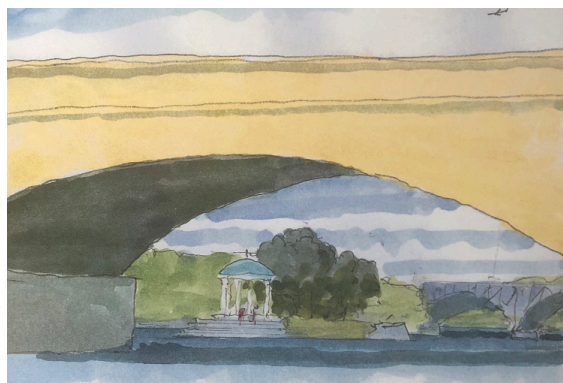
As I write this, USACE's latest estimates for the completion of all the scoped work has currently shifted to early March 2021 (inclusive of completion of the National Course).

This estimate rests on an important decision ... a waiver and/or extension from the PA Fish & Boat Commission that will allow continued dredging past October with little to no impact to Red-bellied Cooter turtles. A protected species in Pennsylvania, the cooters have found a comfortable (and safe) home in our zip code, even while their natural habit is destroyed in most other places.

So, herpetological experts have been hired, surveys will be done, and all options will be considered as USACE and ASI work together to explore the ability to continue work with minimal disruption to our hard-backed neighbors.



One of several dredging challenges, a wayward collection barge hits the Vine Street/676 Bridge following Tropical Storm Isais (Photo Credit: Philadelphia Inquirer's A. Alvarez)>



Having already sought (and gained) approval for partial return of docks as sections are cleared and approved, the hope is that docks will then continue to be moved back into place to return Boathouse Row operations to normalcy as quickly as possible.

Given the number of setbacks and moments of frustration, are there any "bright spots" in these first five months of the project?

Two come to mind.

The first is the volume of interest that everyone has in the project's progress. While anyone closely associated with the project can no longer go anywhere in the City without fielding questions about "the dredge," I take it as a sign of how invested



New public space, a solution for a safety challenge, and repurposed sedimentation combine in another creative idea by Caldwell/PerrySpectives (Note: No, this isn't a "set plan," just the work of minds open to reimagining)

day. When the Schuylkill is finally dredged, every athlete and citizen should know that it wouldn't have happened without the efforts of Tom Forkin.

Looking ahead, what do we need to know?

That we must commit to a long-term solution because the challenge of silt accumulation is chronic (requiring action every 15-20 years), expensive to remediate, and massively disruptive.

The dark cloud is that each completed "dredge" has been more difficult to execute thanks to rising expenses, competing civic funding priorities, increasing regulations, and greater volumes of individuals disrupted. But, there's a silver lining ...should we choose to see and embrace the opportunity it affords.

Never since the installation of the Fairmount Dam in 1821 (gifting us the recreational waters of the tamed "Schuylkill Pool") have we enjoyed so much interest in the river and our shared civic commons. Even before COVID-19 came along to remind all humans of the healing impact of time spent outdoors, Philadelphians were reshaping the narrative of how to better leverage our unique public spaces.

Now, we have a once-in-a-generation chance – and responsibility - to craft that story within the context of ensuring that all citizens feel welcome and included to find joy near the river's edge. Meanwhile, perhaps we can also use that chance to solve some of our most pesky infrastructure challenges at the same time.

Of what do you dream when you let your mind dream big, great things? Do you dream of repurposed sedimentation material, as does Gardner Cadwalader – a longtime friend to this regatta and rowing community, former Fairmount Park Commissioner, 1968 Olympian? (See photo inserts). We do.

Indeed, creative re-use of dredged materials is not so novel a practice, as any visitor to Camden County's Cooper River Park, Oklahoma's Boathouse District, Memphis River Parks, or dozens of other cities around the world knows.

When the current dredging is completed and depth is finally "restored," we'll each share the accountability to then "maintain." How we do that (answering the "what") and for whose benefit (answering the "why") are questions I personally hope we each will embrace having the chance to answer.

individuals are. I'm always happy to answer questions because I'd much rather know that individuals care. To me, those questions are evidence that all of this is work worth doing.

The second is the unrelenting support of our partners from the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR). Specifically, Maria Horowitz has been an Environmental Engineer for PWD for over a decade and a great partner of the Schuylkill Navy, even before this project began.

Additionally, PPR has been on the front lines during this pandemic; yet, they've never backed away from helping us to press forward. We are fortunate to have so many PPR team members in our crew; but, Deputy Director Tom Forkin is a stand-out.

In terms we can understand, Tom brings the strategic mind and cheery encouragement of a coxswain, the driving pace of a stroke, the brute force of an engine room, and the subtle finesse of a bow person. And, he does this every



The cutter head hydraulic dredge awaits placement into the Schuylkill River earlier this summer. The cutter head moves through the sediment, which mixes with water to create a slurry that can be pumped into collection barges.

Together with Jeff Greenfield (Chair), Paul Horvat (SN Commodore), Margaret Meigs, and Rebecca Foley, Bonnie Mueller serves on the Schuylkill Navy River Restoration Committee. As Vice Commodore, she's shared her morning coffee all year with 35-60 of her closest rowing friends while hosting the biweekly "Saturday Dredge Status Briefings" for the community. Once the dredging is complete, she's looking forward to seeing those same faces zoom around on the river vs Zoom around on her screen.

USRowing Partners with Five Head Races to Launch USRowing Virtual Fall presented by Concept2

USROWING HAS COME TOGETHER with five of the nation's largest head races, including the Head of the Schuylkill, to launch the USRowing Virtual Fall presented by Concept2 -- a fun way to stay connected with the rest of the rowing community and compete in virtual regattas during the fall season.

The USRowing Virtual Fall, which kicked off September 1 and runs through November 16, is made up of 16 rowing-related activities -- including eight racing opportunities -- that members can check off on the USRowing Virtual Fall Punch Card.

"We're excited to be partnering with five of rowing's most recognizable fall head races," said USRowing Interim CEO Susan Smith. "While we all want to be back on the water at in-person regattas, that just isn't possible yet. But, this provides us with a unique opportunity to come together and create a fun way for the rowing community to stay connected during the fall. We'd also like to thank Concept 2 for coming on board to be our presenting sponsor, as well as Heartline, CaptainU, and Gutzy for sponsoring individual punch card regattas and activities."

Racing opportunities began with the USRowing Virtual Fall Half Marathon presented by Heartline and will conclude the weekend of November 14-15 with the Row to Tokyo 2k Challenge.

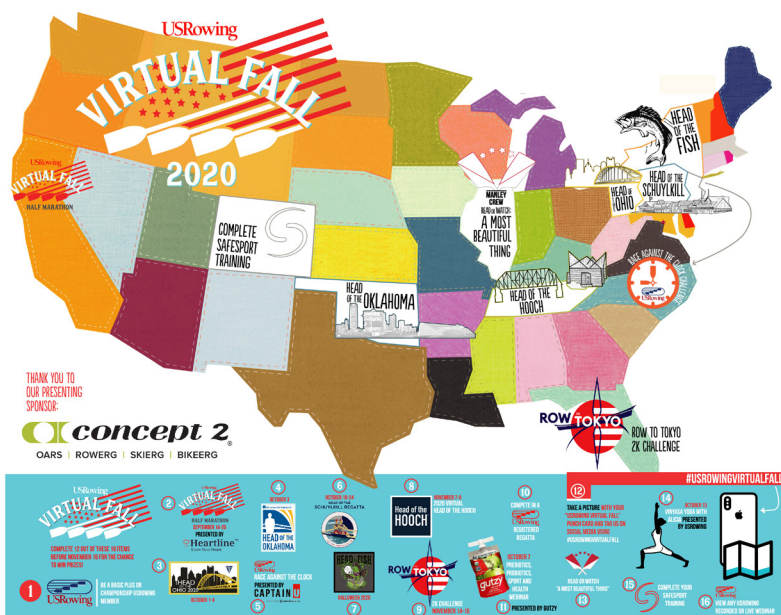
In between, rowers will have the chance to race virtually in some of the nation's largest, most well-known head races. Each regatta will provide its own unique racing experience and medal opportunities. The eight races include:

- USRowing Virtual Fall Half Marathon presented by Heartline - September 14-20
- Head of the Ohio - October 1-4
- OCU Head of the Oklahoma - October 3
- USRowing's Race Against the Clock Challenge presented by CaptainU - October 1-11
- Head of the Schuylkill Regatta - October 18-24, 2020
- Head of the Fish Regatta - Halloween 2020
- 2020 Virtual Head of the Hooch - November 7-8, 2020
- Row to Tokyo 2k Challenge - November 14-15

In addition to those great racing opportunities, there are eight more ways to check off your virtual punch card:

- Be a Basic PLUS or Championship USRowing Member
- Read or Watch A Most Beautiful Thing
- Attend our Prebiotics, Probiotics, Sport and Health presented by Gutzy Webinar (October 7)
- Take a picture with your "USRowing Virtual Fall" Punch Card and tag on social media using #USRowingVirtualFall
- Compete in any USRowing Registered Regatta
- Attend Our Vinyasa Yoga with Alicia presented by USRowing Webinar (October 13)
- Complete Your SafeSport Training
- View any USRowing Recorded or Live Webinar

To learn more about the 2020 USRowing Virtual Fall presented by Concept2, visit USRowing.org.



Art of the River

By Bob Cody

ROWING ON THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER in January and February, in many respects, is the best time of year to row. The river is as flat as glass, the temperatures hover around 30-35 degrees, which is manageable, and there is very, very, little river traffic. For those individuals who have logged anywhere from 100 to 200 miles on the water in those months, this may end up as the benchmark for 2020, as COVID-19 lockdown continues.....

As we all know, The Head of the Schuylkill Regatta is virtual this year and so is the program book. This is particularly bittersweet, as this is the 50th Anniversary of this major rowing event. I was asked to make some comments about The Head of the Schuylkill Regatta for this year's program book, and the art of the event, since I was fortunate to win the artistic competition for last year's program book cover and poster.

But first a few words about COVID-19 and why we are not on the river this year. As a physician and chairman of the Board of Trustees for a New Jersey health system this past year, I've seen the impact of the corona virus first hand, week after week. But I also witnessed the amazing effort of so many healthcare professionals who organized and improvised to meet this ongoing challenge. As we continue to witness the national and global devastation of this pandemic, it would be foolish to attempt to estimate when we will all be back on the river again. At the same time, this has presented an opportunistic time window for the long overdue dredging of the river, which is currently underway. Having moved from central New Jersey to Center City Philadelphia in early May, it's definitely frustrating, but we all continue to find alternate means of exercise and conditioning while we wait updates.

There are countless examples of artwork of the Schuylkill River, dating back to the 18th century. But of course, the artwork of Thomas Eakins has dominated this motif, and has graced the program book cover of The Head of the Schuylkill Regatta for decades. More recently there was the curated exhibit at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts last year: "From the Schuylkill to the Hudson: Landscapes of the Early American Republic". It compares and contrasts the two rivers of early commerce, and is available in book form.

My interest in art of the Schuylkill River and rowing goes back many decades. Figure 1 shows a palette knife oil painting from 1966, while a high school student, of a double just past the 500 m mark. This may have been a good luck talisman, as my partner and I won the McIlvaine Trophy in the Stotesbury Regatta less than two months after I finished this painting.



Figure 2

Returning to this part of the country a number of years ago, my high school and college rowing mate Paul Laskow recruited me to senior master rowing.

There have been many benefits to returning to rowing, but it revived my early interest in the art of the river. The artwork of Thomas Eakins goes on forever, but I salute the leadership of The Head of the Schuylkill Regatta for starting an open competition for the program book cover. There are so many talented artists and numerous art schools in the Philadelphia area, so that this decision has established a wonderful tradition and opportunity. In June 2019, I saw the announcement of the open competition for the 2019 program book cover, and started work on two images for submission. At that time, I was reviewing the works of Da Vinci in detail, including his "Vitruvian Man". I realized that



Figure 1

I could capture something like that, in the geometric form of a scull, and the rowing positions of start to finish. This started out as a very detailed pencil drawing with a ghosted figure of the “catch” and the full figure of the “finish”. As the work progressed, I digitized the image for color highlights and other details.



Figure 3

I was running out of time and I needed a backup for my second submission, so produced an image, based upon a watercolor painting crafted two years previously. **(Figure 3)**. After I had submitted the two works, I realized that my first very detailed work might not be best as a program book cover, whereas the second submission had more of a “pop” factor, and said “Philadelphia”. This second image is titled “Morning Row” and was the image eventually selected for the program book cover and poster. All I can say is that I was more surprised than I would have predicted. It was humbling to see the final Head of the Schuylkill Regatta program cover produced, distributed, and hung in the University Barge Club gallery of previous Head of the Schuylkill Regatta program book covers.

As we continue to muddle through the Covid-19 lockdown, I continue to generate artwork to highlight rowing on the Schuylkill River. It’s a small measure of compensation for not being able to be with friends and colleagues at the boathouse, on the river, and at social

events. **Figure 4** is an example of one of the watercolors that I’ve produced this summer. It is challenging to create a rowing motif that simultaneously captures ample detail of the rowing subject, yet sufficient background to confirm the location as the Schuylkill River. One forgets the magnitude of the bridges and their dominating relationship to even an eight-oared shell.



Figure 4

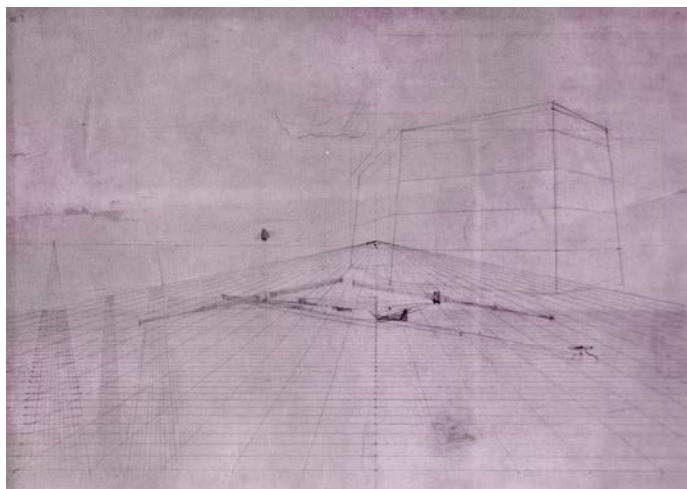


Figure 5

Even Thomas Eakins did not spontaneously paint his great masterworks.

His records are well documented in the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, and several publications. **Figure 5** shows one of his preliminary sketches for “The Pair-Oared Shell” of the Biglin brothers. It is a classic study of two-point perspective and demonstrates the planning required for the challenging issues of planar surfaces and three-dimensional depth.

In closing, I’d like to congratulate Nicole Gordon, the winner of the open competition for this year’s program book cover, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of

the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta. It’s a wonderful work. I also want to congratulate everyone else who submitted to this year’s competition. As word of this open format competition disseminates, I am sure that we will have more submissions in future years, as “Art of the River” expands. It is a fitting tribute to this major United States rowing event, the tradition of Thomas Eakins, and the many stories of this historic river.

Bob Cody is a retired Cardiologist and self-schooled artist, working in many media over the years. A native Philadelphian, he has lived and rowed in Philadelphia at intervals, and currently lives in Center City. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the arts and rowing in Philadelphia, where he is a member of University Barge Club. His artwork, scribbles and visual diatribes sometimes pop up on the Instagram website of @midniteinkster.

The Blue Heron Turns Ten!

By Sydney French and Kate Ratner, Philadelphia City Rowing '21



Current PCR athletes (stroke to bow) Kate Ratner (author), Imani Clay, Priya Cue, Asata Mander and Ajah Edwards (coxswain), all PCR Class of 2021, out practicing on the Schuylkill River during the spring of 2019.

SINCE ROWING STARTED IN THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY, it has been a sport with predominantly upper-class, white participants. The Schuylkill River has long been home to private school, suburban high school, and club teams. This began to change ten years ago when a small group of local rowers came together and turned a seemingly infeasible idea into Philadelphia City Rowing, a program that allows Philadelphia students from all over the city to experience a sport and community like no other. Over its ten years, PCR has transformed its program, staff, and athletes into the remarkable community it is today.

PCR originally started as a big idea among a small group of local rowers and dedicated volunteers. Longtime PCR Board Member, Catherine Reddick, explains, “The largest transformations that I’ve seen over the last 10 years have been scaling up in terms of the program size, as well as the academic, water safety, counseling, and other services we provide. PCR is no longer a tentative experiment, a startup. We now have 85+ students in our high school program from more than 20 schools all across the city. They are racing in more professional gear and newer boats, and the parents are lining the shore cheering with cowbells. Sometimes I can’t believe it, but PCR is becoming the program we dreamed of ten years ago! It also feels like it’s become more of an institution. We have a national profile and our internal systems are more sustainable. I’m excited about being able to grow the program and do more in the future.”

For its entire existence, PCR has been a free program available to students from any Philadelphia public school. Each day, students get a free snack, free transportation to and from practice, and a free opportunity to experience a sport that is often inaccessible to students from inner-city high schools. These free services are especially crucial for students in the Philadelphia School District who face one of the largest gaps of any state in the country in per-child spending between the commonwealth’s poorest and wealthiest districts, limiting their opportunities for in-school support and out of school activities. PCR alum James Marshall, class of 2015, shares his perspective on the importance of PCR’s free programming and all-inclusive core values: “[PCR] was this opportunity for inner-city kids and anybody who didn’t have resources to row or just the support network in general. We could just come together and be a part of this team

as one.” What makes PCR unique is that the only requirement to participate is that you attend a school within the Philadelphia School District. If a student maintains their grades and reaches out for help when necessary, they get to row. PCR is a program that creates bonds between students from across the city and gives them a place to meet each day and to grow as a collective.

While rowing may just be a sport for some, it’s much more than that at PCR. Public school students, especially here in Philadelphia where 81% of students in the district live in poverty, are not always financially able to participate in a sport like rowing. What PCR has done is something extremely unique. Access to rowing and the inclusive team environment PCR creates can have transformative impacts on student-athletes. PCR Alum and current Princeton University rower Will Stocovaz, class of 2018, shares how PCR played an influential role in his life: “After a long hard day of school, coming down to the water and watching the sunset as you’re on your way back in from a long hard row, is the best way to decompress after a long day of school.” PCR class of 2020 alum and current Drexel University rower Julianna Rodgers adds, “PCR taught me how to hold myself and others accountable. Throughout my time at PCR, the team transformed from being a relaxed scholastic rowing team into a truly competitive racing program. PCR was not just a place of sport to me, but a home where I made close connections to my teammates.” PCR allows for students from all over the city to come together and enjoy the amazing sport of rowing. It gives them space where they can escape from the pressures of school or their home lives and they can just focus on getting stronger and faster all while enjoying time with their crew friends.



PCR athletes celebrate a great performance at the 2015 Cooper Cup in Camden, NJ

Members of the PCR community hope for another ten years of transformation, progress, and providing Philadelphia students with a special place to row! Executive Director Caitlin Mance shares that her on-going goal for PCR is that “our student-athletes have an equally transformative and positive experience to everybody else rowing up and down the river.” In addition to rowing practice and competition, PCR will continue to offer tutoring, SAT prep, college guidance, and environmental workshops to student-athletes. Will adds, “I would love for [PCR] become more robust over the years and expand so we can offer more opportunities to students. I think with the increased volume comes a higher level of competition and things like that.” PCR recently developed an Alumni Board that will be a place for PCR alums near-and-far to reflect on their experiences on the river and share their input on what is yet to come for the organization. Student-athletes hope to see their own PCR boathouse along Boathouse Row in the future and the staff agrees that expanded and improved facilities are a necessary next step for achieving their long-term vision for the program.

Today, PCR is a highly respected rowing program. It has changed the lives of many individuals from both a physical and mental perspective. PCR has allowed students to connect, destress, and learn life skills that they will take with them for the rest of their lives all while enjoying a sport they love. When the two of us go off to college next year, we will bring with us the memories, skills, and friendships that PCR has given during our four years with this “stupid sport we love”!

Kate Ratner is a senior at Central High School and a four-year varsity rower at PCR. Her favorite thing about rowing with PCR is the incredible student-athlete community and tomato pie after races. She plans to major in Communications and minor in Political Science in hopes of pursuing a career in Journalism.

Sydney French is a senior at Central High School and a four-year varsity rower at PCR. Her favorite thing about rowing with PCR is coming into the dock after a hard practice and seeing the Philly skyline as the sun sets. She plans to study International Business and hopes to pursue a career in Business Administration.



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