

# THE LANDMARK

Volume XLIV, No. V

September/October 2023

Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville  
P.O. Box 99, Annville, PA 17003

## Room 101 The Med and the History of 35 W Main St • Annual Dinner Meeting November 11 with Featured Speaker Julie Fitzpatrick

### President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

"I love that Annville has that small town feel, like how I can be cooking here in the kitchen and look out the front window and see people walking by," remarked Vito Mannino, the owner of our town's newest restaurant, Room 101 The Med at 35 West Main St. "The Med" is short for "Mediterranean" and a glance at the menu reveals the diversity of fare—from Greek and fig salads to fried ravioli and chicken pesto to carbonara and agnolotti pastas and more—including half a dozen types of scrumptious 10-inch pizzas.

Born and raised in Lebanon County, Vito is the son of Salvatore Mannino (1953-2021), born in Palermo, Italy, and the "M" in the A&M Pizza Restaurant in Palmyra, which closed in 2021. One of seven siblings, Vito graduated in Culinary Arts at the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center and then from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. Returning to the Lebanon Valley, he worked at the Hotel Hershey and, for a dozen years, at the family restaurant in Palmyra, learning the business side of running a restaurant. He'd always hoped to open his own place.

So when 35 W. Main St. went up for sale, Vito and his wife Heather jumped. After enjoying several meals there, I'm especially impressed not only with the delicious food, but the creative way Vito and Heather have designed the interior space of this small, squat one-story cement block building – with the kitchen in the middle, fully visible through large panes of glass, and dining areas in both the front and rear of the building. It is a brilliant remodel.



Vito Mannino with his wife Heather in the rear dining area of Room 101 The Med.

Piecing together the history of this property and building from the late 19th century presents quite a challenge, even with all the information available in FOOA's Digital Archives.<sup>[1]</sup> The parcel was apparently a vacant lot till around 1880, when census data show a dwelling place occupied by one Jenny Schule, age 36, and her three children. Two years later, in 1882, the parcel became the property of Dr. W. B. Kunkleman, and from around 1900 to the late 1920s, the home of Light's Livery. The dwelling house faced Main Street. Facing the alley behind were the livery and stables with horses, mules, and wheeled conveyances.

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*1 Sept. 2023 Edition > Buildings, Addresses > Main > W Main > o First Block > 35 W Main, FOOA Digital Archives. Especially helpful here are 18 pages of handwritten notes by Doris Flory that include census data and newspaper reports, and a June 10, 1947 article and advertisement in the Lebanon Daily News.*

The 1920s saw the rising dominance of the automobile, the near-disappearance of horse and mule transport in the Lebanon—Hershey corridor, and the closing of Light’s Livery. In the late 1920s was built the one-story cement block structure that stands today as 35 W. Main St. I bet the whole parcel was leveled first. The building was first home to an eatery called Astoria Lunch, William Theodore, proprietor. The business thrived for some three decades (ca. 1928-1960), run by the father-and-son team Wm. Theodore Sr. and Jr. In 1947, Astoria Lunch underwent major remodeling and became the Astoria Restaurant. Our Digital Archives include two photos of the 1930s interior and two of the newly-remodeled 1947 interior, the latter showing a sparkling new upgrade.

The 1978 application to the PA Historical and Museum Commission to create the Annville Historic District lists 35 W. Main St. as an “intrusion” —defined as a structure within a historic district that is not historic or relevant to the district. It is an odd duck of a building, with narrow walkways on either side, and one of only six such intrusions along W. Main St. (the others are 13, 55, 239, 401, and 513).

After the Astoria closed, around 1960, came Loser’s Steakhouse; in 1961, Carvel Ice Cream; from 1963-65, Western Auto Store; and from 1965 to the early 1990s, Suds Your Duds Laundry. Then came Mary Catherine’s Bakery & Café (2003),

followed by the Levi Samuel Hair Studio in the front and Bauer’s Shoes in the rear (ca.2009). Around 2015, Lebanon Valley College housed its physical therapy clinic there, and in 2022, it became Room 101 The Med. Doubtless I’m missing some.

Overflowing with positive energy, with a booming voice, a large presence, and a winning smile, Vito is hopeful that his new restaurant, which imports ingredients from across the Mediterranean, will not only prove popular but become an enduring part of people’s food memories here in Annville. The restaurant’s warm and inviting décor is simple but elegant, its waitstaff pleasant and attentive. The back room is available for rental for special occasions, and the menu sees new dishes added regularly.

We wish Vito and Heather all success, on the scale of the Astoria’s, which flourished here as a family business for more than three decades, in their effort to bring the richness and variety of Mediterranean cuisine here to Annville.

And speaking of delicious food, we hope you can join us for our Annual Dinner Meeting on the evening of Sat. Nov. 11 at the American Legion on S. Manheim St. in Annville, catered by Becky Briody’s Chef on the Go, with featured speaker Julie Fitzpatrick of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center in Harrisburg. Find out more about the program on page 4.

Also at our Annual Dinner Meeting, we’ll recap the year’s events and vote on the slate of candidates to our Board of Directors for 2024-2025, listed on the next page. We’ll also be thanking three of our current Board members who will be stepping down at the end of the calendar year: Mark Leshner, who’s served since 2017; Jeremy Long, editor of The Landmark who’s served since 2021; and Joanna Guldin-Noll, who’s also served since 2021. On behalf of the entire FOOA Board and membership, we are grateful for your service!

*Editor’s note: See more pictures on page 5*



Inside the Astoria Lunch in the 1930s. FOOA Digital Archives.

***Want to see more historic photos of Annville?  
Join FOOA for only \$5 and get access to our  
archives to browse whenever you want!***

# Annual Dinner Meeting

## Friends of Old Annville

Saturday, Nov. 11, 6-9 p.m.

Connor-Streicher American Legion 35 South Manheim St., Annville PA

### Featured Presentation

#### **Main Street: How Your Town Can Be the Best Version of Itself**

Julie Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center

Also, Annual Business Meeting, a chance to visit with members of the George & Lillie Struble extended family (see p. 5), and other fun activities you won't want to miss!

*Appetizers & Wine & Buffet Dinner & Dessert & Coffee by Rebecca Briody's Chef on the Go. Dinner served at 7 o'clock.*

Cost: \$30 per person

**BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS OF  
OLD ANNVILLE, INC. AT THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING ON  
SATURDAY, 11 November 2023**

Member at Large.....Natalie Duvall (2024, 2025)

Member at Large.....Rachel Noll (2024, 2025)



### Friends of Old Annville Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30/person  
(payable to "FOOA")

Payment Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and payment to Matt Woolson, 517 Maple St., Annville, PA 17003

Deadline for reservations: Friday, November 3, 2023

Online Reservations: Make reservations online at [www.fooa.org/donate-to-fooa/](http://www.fooa.org/donate-to-fooa/) by filling out the form on that page. [www.fooa.org](http://www.fooa.org) > Events > Annual Dinner 2023

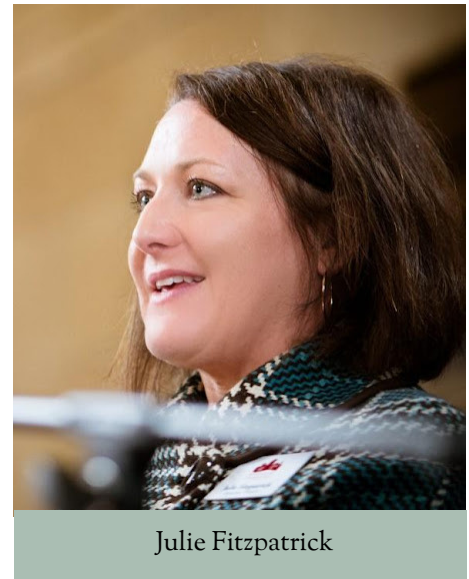
You can pay for the dinner with a credit card, but you must go through PayPal to do so.



## FOOA Featured Speaker for 2023 Annual Dinner

Julie Fitzpatrick, “Main Street: How your town can be the best version of itself”

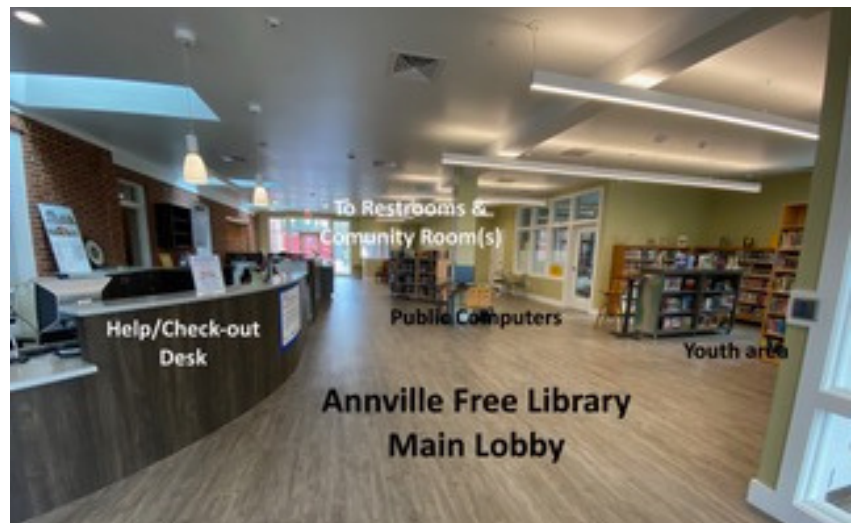
Julie Fitzpatrick is Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, whose tagline is, “Partnering with Main Street America to revitalize PA’s downtown communities” (<https://padowntown.org>). She has been involved with a variety of projects in communities all over the Commonwealth, including community visioning, developing regional downtown revitalization strategies, establishing tourism infrastructure plans, and developing business improvement district plans and other strategic planning activities. She has a Master of Science degree in Community and Regional Planning, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History and Anthropology from Temple University. She attributes her focus on people-centered service and the importance of building relationships to 18 years of small business management at a locally-owned independent downtown pharmacy.



Julie Fitzpatrick

## WRITING THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR THE ANNVILLE FREE LIBRARY

Welcome to our new spaces! Funded by a Keystone Library Grant from Commonwealth Libraries and by community donors, the first phase of the once-in-a generation library expansion project, is now open. Plan to visit us, take a tour, and see for yourself the new ADA-compliant entries, the spacious main lobby, the wider, gentler stairway down to the Children’s Library, and the windowed corridor that connects to the new Community Room that was



repurposed from the adjoining library-owned duplex. Join us also at the Open House on Saturday, November 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. when we celebrate this wonderful resource for our community.

Meanwhile, In the 1990 section of the library, planned renovations supported by a Local Shares Gaming Grant in partnership with Annville Twp. are also underway. Carpenters from Arthur Funk are framing in the new family restroom in the Children’s Library and are converting the old, narrow, down-staircase into storage. Once these components are completed, Funk’s will begin work on the main floor installing new study rooms, the informal meeting/seating area called Lillie’s Place after founder Lillie Struble, a library workroom, and a Friends’ store that will move upstairs from the cellar.

The project website, [writingthenextchapter.org](http://writingthenextchapter.org), has updates and information on how you can help us to complete the entire project. We still need to raise \$350,000 to transform the former lower-level youth area to a creativity center, update the downstairs restroom to an ADA-compliant facility, finish the second floor of the Annex for library storage, and as historic preservation efforts, repoint the outside brick and add landscaping to the Main Street area to parallel Annville’s Historic District streetscape. Check the library website, [annville.lclibs.org](http://annville.lclibs.org), and social media for programs and activities to enjoy in the new Community Room, and please consider a donation to boost us to the finish. Hope to see you on November 11!

## A Struble Family Visit!

On Saturday, November 11, the Friends of Old Annville and the Annville Free Library will jointly welcome as our special out-of-town visitors members of the George and Lillie Struble family. Longtime residents of Annville may recall that George (1900-1993) was for more than three decades Professor of English at LVC (1930s-1960s), and that Lillie (1898-1989) was the founding force in 1939 behind the Annville Free Library. They resided in the specially-built Cotswold-style house at 27 N. Ulrich St. where they raised their family.

Please join us Saturday morning at the library's celebratory Open House, 11 am-1 pm, and later in the evening at the FOOA Annual Dinner, to greet and visit with the Strubles' son George and other members of their family.



*Top left: Exterior of the Astoria Restaurant, ca. 1947. FOOA Digital Archives.*

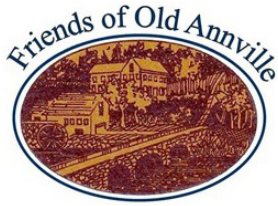
*Bottom left: Inside the newly remodeled Astoria Restaurant in 1947. FOOA Digital Archives.*

*Bottom right: Interior of the front section of Room 101 The Med, with the kitchen visible from the dining area.*



**Please consider remembering the Friends of Old Annville in your will. No matter how big or small, your bequest to the non-profit, 501(c)(3) Friends of Old Annville will go toward one or more of our many ongoing community projects to preserve, protect, and honor the history of our town. Thank you.**

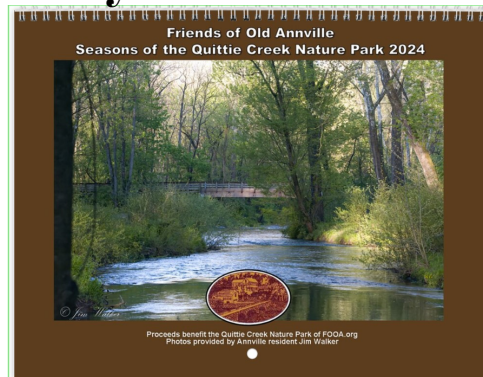




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## Help Support Quittie Park Buy a 2024 Calendar



Annville's Quittie Creek Nature Park is a gorgeous place to behold nature's beauty. What better way to enjoy the Park all year long than through a calendar that hangs on our walls and greets us every day! It makes the perfect holiday gift for family and friends.

Annville resident and amateur photographer Jim Walker has generously shared some of his best Quittie photos for this special 2024 Quittie Creek Nature Park Calendar. The 2024 calendar focuses entirely on the scenes of the Quittie Creek Nature Park throughout the seasons. The calendars will be available only via prepaid orders, orders are due by Nov. 17. No extra copies will be printed. The cost per calendar is \$27, and all profits will directly benefit the Quittie Creek Nature Park.

To order, visit <https://www.fooa.org/fooa-store/quittie-park-2024-calendar> or use the QR code.

