

For Immediate Release

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Discover the History of Fountain Hill in New Book

Local author shares the history of the area using stunning, vintage images

Telling a story in pictures is *Fountain Hill*, the newest addition to Arcadia Publishing's popular *Images of America* series. The book by local author Karol Strelecki is set to release on December 1, 2014. *Fountain Hill* boasts 200 vintage images, many of which have never been published, and showcases memories of days gone by.

"It is my hope that this book will become another element in recording the history of the borough, albeit from a different perspective," Strelecki said. "Since the book includes many family references, it should become one of those volumes passed on through families."

Incorporated in 1893, Fountain Hill has developed a reputation as a quiet residential enclave located in a lush, wooded valley whose springs and creeks drain into the Lehigh River at Bethlehem. Its history is closely tied to the Fountain Hill Historic District of South Bethlehem. At the same time, the borough has developed a spirit and presence of its own. Home to St. Luke's University Hospital—the first hospital in the Lehigh Valley and now a leading medical treatment facility in eastern Pennsylvania—the borough also boasts a variety of historic homes and developments.

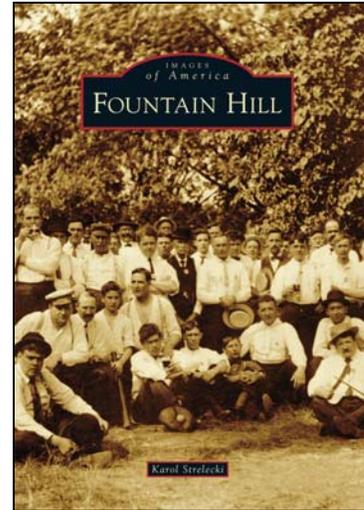
While Fountain Hill has remained primarily residential since its inception, its history has been an assemblage of creative enterprises and curious personalities that have left an imprint on the town. For a time, it hosted a thriving silk and garment industry, but this was short-lived, and the hulks of these buildings remain as reminders of a dream unfulfilled.

Highlights of *Fountain Hill* include:

- A vast majority of the photos were donated by present or former residents of Fountain Hill.
- The book includes a range of faces that represent the characters who make it "a thrill to live on the Hill."
- Royalties from the sale of the book will be donated to the Fountain Hill Borough Council to be used for the purpose of historic preservation.

Available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at (888)-313-2665 or [online](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).

Arcadia Publishing is the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States. Our mission is to make history accessible and meaningful through the publication of books on the heritage of America's people and places. Have we done a book on your town? Visit <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com>.



Karol Strelecki was born and raised in Fountain Hill. With degrees from Rutgers University and Temple University, he is a member of the South Bethlehem Historical Society, the Historic Bethlehem Partnership, and the National Canal Museum. The primary source of photographs for this book has been the borough's residents. Additional images have come from local institutional archives.

Fountain Hill

by Karol Strelecki
Images of America Series
Price: \$21.99
128 pages/ softcover
Available: **December 1, 2014**

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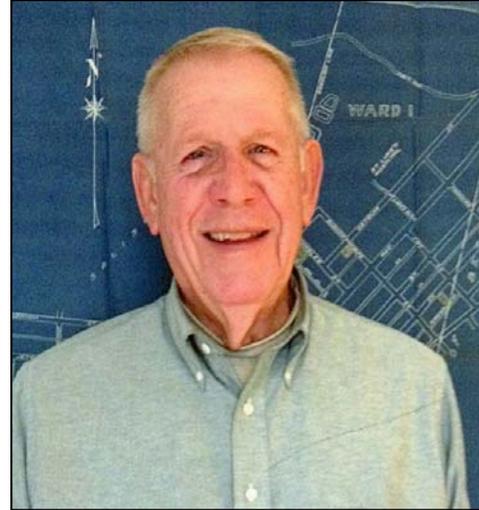
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About the Author of *Fountain Hill*

Karol Strelecki was born in Fountain Hill in 1939. One of six children of a Bethlehem Steel machinist who moved his family to Fountain Hill to escape crowded living conditions in South Bethlehem, Karol attended the Stevens Elementary School and Fountain Hill High School. His high school career was highlighted by his athletic prowess which included helping to lead the school's basketball team to state championships in 1956 and 1957. He garnered all-state honors in both of those years.



Mr. Strelecki's athletic performance led to a scholarship at Rutgers University where he continued to play basketball and participated in baseball and cross country. With majors in both English and history, he was awarded a BS degree in 1961. He later attained master's degree at Temple University and multiple education certifications at Lehigh University.

Returning to the Lehigh Valley, he began a long career in education by teaching English at Southern Lehigh High School. He became the chair of the English department and introduced courses in minority literature and film making. In 1971 he moved to the Bethlehem School District where he taught English at Broughal Junior High School. After one year he was tapped by Lehigh University to develop a high school program for its laboratory school. He served as principal of the Centennial School for ten years and was an instructor in the Education Department. The school focused on programs for students in need of emotional support and on teacher development. In 1981, he moved to the Pennridge School District where he served as the supervisor of special student services until his retirement in 1995. After retirement from the public school system, Karol continued teaching at Lehigh University and added instructional duties at Muhlenberg College and the Capitol Campus of Penn State.

Calling on his background in history, Mr. Strelecki served for six years as a site interpreter for the Historic Bethlehem Partnership. He continues to be a member of the Historic Bethlehem group as well as a partner in the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and a member of the South Bethlehem Historical Society. Participation in these groups fostered an interest in developing a book on the borough that provided him with the opportunity to do so much with his life. It is his hope that others new to Fountain Hill will find the same motivation in its spirit.