

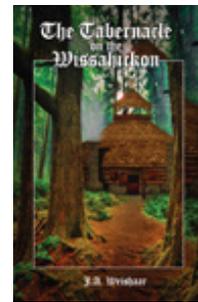
November 2012

Editor's Note: This is the first edition of e-newsletters from The Kelpius Society. This format will allow us to keep in more frequent contact with our members and friends. We hope this will strengthen the sense of membership community and foster further enthusiasm for the activities and aims of The Society. We will still offer a print edition to our members who do not have access to email.

If at any time you choose not to receive our e-newsletters (we hope you don't), you can simply unsubscribe at the bottom of the newsletter.

We are pleased to announce a new Kelpius Society publication,

J.A. Weishaar's *Tabernacle on the Wissahickon*. Originally published in 1921 and now reprinted in a fine new edition, this is the first full-length book to be published by the Kelpius Society, and is the most recent addition to a distinguished series of publications offered by the Society over the past decade. We believe that the subject matter as well as the artful design and packaging of our edition of Weishaar's novel will have wide appeal. Indeed, we are hopeful that brisk sales will contribute much needed support to the ongoing mission and activity of the Kelpius Society.



You can purchase this book right now by going to [our publications page](#). (only \$13.50 plus shipping)

In presenting this new publication to our members and to interested readers,

I'd like to recognize and thank those individuals who made special contributions to the process. **Jonathan Scott**, publications editor for the Kelpius Society, had the original idea to republish the book. **Anita McKelvey** proofread the entire text and made a number of corrections, focusing mainly on irregularities of punctuation, though she also corrected numerous typographical errors that resulted from the digitation process. Once the text was in galley form, **Kenneth Henke** checked and corrected the translations from Latin and German that appear throughout the text. Jonathan Scott devised the overall layout and design of the book. **Nik Stamps** contributed the fascinating and compelling cover art that graces the Kelpius Society edition. We are deeply grateful to all who contributed their labor and talents toward making this fine publication a reality.



J.A. Weishaar's book is a fictional account of the "Chapter of Perfection." As they watched the skies and waited, they strove to adopt an ascetic lifestyle, which for Kelpius, as depicted in the novel, devolves into an uncompromising rejection of the temporal world. That the millennium does not arrive as predicted, sets the stage for Weishaar's story. He explores the growing disillusionment of members of the Chapter, pitching his narrative against the background of an elemental battle between Kelpius and Daniel Falkner, a member of the Kelpius group. In the novel, Falkner is described by one settler as "this confounded preacher of hatred".



Weishaar's story is compelling because it provides a credible (though arguable) portrayal of the people and events of that time and place, while focusing attention on fundamentally important matters such as the allurements of prophecy, the contradictions of asceticism, and the challenges of the settler's life -- as refracted through the consciousness, motivations, and experience of the familiar key historical figures. As we know, the millennium did not arrive as predicted; Kelpius succumbed to his physical (and perhaps spiritual) afflictions; and the Chapter of Perfection slowly exfoliated. Weishaar sums it all up in one melancholy image: the Chapter of Perfection, he writes, "was like a river that slowly loses itself in the sand of a desert"

Weishaar's style is dated and quaint at times, but even so the book is interesting and absorbing to read. Ultimately, the reader is offered a compelling view of the Chapter of Perfection as it flourished, faltered, and then failed, even as the Germantown settlement thrived, and the imperfect, everyday world persisted.

Thomas Carroll, President
The Kelpius Society

Upcoming in future newsletters: *Esoteric Geometry in the Original Design of Philadelphia*; *Christian Kabbalah, Hoodoo and the Kelpius Community*; and new information on the genealogy of the mysterious Robert Clymer.