



# Haverford Township Historical Society



## JULIE GOLD – 1991 “SONG OF THE YEAR” GRAMMY WINNER

By Richard D. Kerr

Julie Gold was born in Haverford Township in 1956. Her family later moved to Philadelphia, where she graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls and Temple University. In 1978 she headed to New York City to pursue her dream of being a songwriter. She wrote later, “And while dreams are essential, they don’t pay the rent. For years, I worked various temp jobs while gigging at night and sending songs out whenever possible. I demonstrated vacuum cleaners, Mr. Coffees and toaster ovens. I worked the flea markets, as a proofreader, for a dentist and at a venetian blinds factory. It was a struggle . . . I finally gave in to taking a full-time job as a secretary at HBO in 1984. It was a smart move.” As an emerging singer-songwriter, meanwhile, she appeared at many small venues, including the Main Point in Bryn Mawr.

Continuing, she wrote, “In 1985, just before my 30th birthday, my parents sent me the piano I grew up playing . . . The next day I sat down and “From a Distance” just poured out of me. On one hand, it took me two hours to write. On the other hand, it took me 30 years. Pick whichever hand makes you happy. I love them both.” She performed this song and her others, while also sending them out to all of her contacts. One day, a phone message from a Nanci Griffith asked if she could include the song in her first album for MCA. Nanci’s rendition gained a worldwide following. Meanwhile, Julie was still a secretary. In 1989 Julie was contacted by the musical director for Bette Midler, asking about the song. Following that call, Midler recorded “From a Distance” and included it in an album. Gold wrote unassumingly, “People seemed to love it, and I won a Grammy for Song of the Year in 1991. Here I was still living in one dark room, no money, uncertain of my future, and yet my song was on the radio and I had won a Grammy. If that isn’t a dream come true, what is?” That hit greatly improved Julie Gold’s fortunes.



In 2011 Julie Gold wrote a wistful song about the memories of her childhood growing up on Maple Hill Road in Haverford Township. You can hear her sing “The House on Maple Hill” at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNK4sOG0QH4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNK4sOG0QH4)

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