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CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Family Fun

Meet & Greet for Young Families Gives a Whole New Meaning to Happy Hour

By Judy Heller, Vice President for Education and Family Programs

The day before Punxsatawny Phil spouted off about even more of this long season of too much snow, record cold and a new, unwanted term “polar vortex” to add to our vocabulary, CCRA provided a respite from the dreary winter we’ve been having. On Saturday, February 1, with the sun shining and temperatures hovering in the 50s, the Education and Family Program Committee hosted its first “Meet and Greet” for families with young children. Serafina restaurant, at 18th and Sansom, generously donated the use of their sunlit second-floor room from 2 to 4 p.m. for families to enjoy.

Judy Tudy the clown was the main attraction. With her oversized red mary-janes, bright yellow curls and sparkly clown attire she mesmerized adults and kids alike. Her balloon wizardry decorated the room with rainbow hats, hearts on entwined balloon sticks and toys of all sorts. Judy Tudy had a bunch of tricks up her sleeves, which even included a live bunny that, perched safely in her arms, was available for petting.

But the entertainment wasn’t exclusively kid-centric. Throughout the event, the restaurant offered elegant butlered hors

Continued on p. 2



Judy Tudy the Clown fashions a balloon animal for a rapt young guest at the February Meet & Greet.

d'oeuvres of grilled vegetables, risotto balls and mini pizzas, while reduced-price drinks were available at the bar. The relaxed atmosphere allowed couples to meet new friends as they watched their children do the same. A total of 46 people attended, including 14 children under the age of seven. Check out CCRA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/PhillyCCRA/ to catch some highlights of this fun afternoon.

As is true of most gatherings for families with young children, and the Meet and Greet was no exception, talk often centers on how to obtain a quality education for your child. To address these concerns, we are bringing back our successful panel program **“SCHOOL DAZE: Choosing the Right Elementary School for Your Center City Child.”**

The program will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 7–9p.m. at Trinity Center, 2200 Spruce St. Panelists will be Marlyn Vogel, a licensed psychologist and reading specialist; Eileen Dwell, a student-teaching supervisor and instructor as well as retired Philadelphia elementary school principal; and Luise Moskowitz, Outreach Committee Chair, Greenfield Home and School Association. The panelists will give brief presentations followed by an extended question-and-answer session. Watch the weekly CCRA e-newsletter for more information about this timely program.

As always, I invite you to contact me through the CCRA office at centercity@centercityresidents.org if you have any ideas for programs you'd like to see our committee offer, or if you'd like to volunteer at an event. We'd love to hear from you.



Donna Strug

Parents enjoy happy hour with happy kids.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Show Us Your Curb Appeal!

By Maggie Mund, CCRA Executive Vice President

In the bleak midwinter, you are dreaming of FLOWERS! And Spring! Not that unusual, but these flowers are competing—for our hearts and the admiration of your neighbors.

CCRA is pleased to announce our first *Street Scene* competition—of window boxes, containers and tree pits. So all you gardeners, start looking through your seed catalogs, get your gloves out, and plan your most beautiful planting season yet.

The following categories are anticipated for the competition: Single-family Townhouse, Multi-family Apartment/Condo, Small Commercial, and Large Commercial. Prizes will be awarded for both DIY (do-it-yourself) and professional entries. There will also be a Beautiful Block category.



Maggie Mund

A glorious array of planters and window boxes enliven this residential façade.

Kicking off the competition will be some fun and educational “how to” events at the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden in May. Among the topics under consideration are how to: plant window boxes; make compost; and design a darling tree pit.

Entry forms will be available beginning in May, and must be submitted by June 15. Judging will take place in mid-summer, and an awards party will take place in September.

And don't we all win when our neighborhood is more beautiful, inviting, playful? Interested in sponsoring or volunteering for this event? Please email the CCRA office at centercityresidents@centercity, and you will be contacted pronto!



Maggie Mund

A classic early spring spray of tulips and daffodils.

Center City Quarterly Correction

Anna Fineberg and her dog, Josie, were first-prize winners of Philly Water's Best Friend Spokesdog Contest, held on Saturday, October 19, 2013, at Schuylkill River Park. The writer apologizes for reporting Anna Fineberg's name incorrectly in the December 2013 issue. The Philadelphia Water Department sponsored the contest, organized by Partnership for the Delaware Estuary to encourage dog owners to keep Philadelphia's water clean by properly disposing of pet waste.



Bonnie Eisenfeld

Contest winners Anna Fineberg and dog, Josie

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Full Page	\$ 1,350.00	\$1,425.00
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1 Issue	Members	Non-Members
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President’s Report: Boyd Theater, Seeking New Board Members, and Parking



Jeffrey L. Braff, CCRA President

The CCRA Board regularly must grapple with tough issues and make difficult decisions that affect the neighborhood. One was expounded upon at length in the last issue of this publication,

i.e., whether to join in the appeal regarding the so-called “underground parking” at the proposed One Riverside development at 25th and Locust Streets. More recently, at a January 22 Special Meeting, the Board addressed the application of iPic Entertainment to the Historical Commission, under its financial hardship rules, for a permit to demolish the rear exterior of The Boyd Theater (more specifically the brown brick building facing Sansom Street, which contains the auditorium) in order to construct an eight-screen, three-level movie/dining cineplex. (Only the exterior of The Boyd is subject to the historic-preservation law.)

As you may know, The Boyd, constructed in 1928 as a single-screen movie theater with approximately 2,500 seats and a small stage that could accommodate vaudeville acts, but not major theatrical productions, has been shuttered since May of 2002. It is the last of the city’s majestic movie palaces.

Prior to the Special Meeting, the Board reviewed the Report of the Commission’s retained consultant, Real Estate Strategies, Inc., which analyzed three potential alternative uses for The Boyd: Broadway-style theater; multi-purpose live-entertainment venue and single-screen movie theater; and retail use with combined restaurant/single-screen movie theater. The report concluded that none of these alternative uses is “economically feasible without significant public subsidies.”

But the Board did not engage in deliberations until after it heard live presentations by iPic and by the Friends of the Boyd, a volunteer group that has, for years, sought to “save” and reopen the building. Each presentation was followed by a period of “Q and A.”

Ultimately, after extensive debate, the Board voted not to oppose the requested demolition permit, subject to the successful negotiation of side agreements with iPic dealing with preservation of portions of the interior of the headhouse; signage; service/delivery issues; and behavioral/use/alcohol control issues.

Shortly after the January 22 vote, a CCRA Task Force completed negotiations on the side agreements mentioned above, after which a letter of non-opposition was presented to the Historical Commission, together with testimony by Executive Vice-President Maggie Mund. (As of this writing, an “anonymous donor” has offered \$4.5 million to purchase the property [but with no known development plans], and the Commission has not rendered a decision on the permit application.)

* * * * *

This seems like a perfect lead-in to our request for self-nominations for new Board Members. CCRA engages in many important activities to further our mission to “preserve, enhance, and celebrate urban living” beyond the land-use and historic-preservation issues highlighted above. But this may have whetted your appetite! See the solicitation notice on page 7.

* * * * *

Finally, the issue of parking has become an increasingly important part of conversations at both the CCRA Board and our Zoning Committee Meetings. Most of us live in this neighborhood because, among other things, we value its “walkability.” And most of us deplore congestion and air pollution. However, with free parking becoming increasingly difficult to find, there seems to be a sense among community members that one has a “right” to a free and nearby parking spot for one’s car.

Should the city return to the requirement that large residential projects provide at least one parking space for every unit—instead of the current minimum of spaces for only 30% of the units? Should a proposed residential project for which parking is not required under the Zoning Code be opposed for providing no parking? Should on-street parking spots be dedicated to car-share vehicles? Should on-street parking spots be converted to use as bicycle corrals (holding 10-12 bikes)? Should the permit-parking fee (currently \$35/year) be increased? Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor of Transportation and Utilities, will address parking and other matters at CCRA’s Annual Meeting on May 6, at 7:00 pm. Further details and the location will be provided as they become available in upcoming issues of the eNewsletter and on our website.

Seniors in the City: Fit, Fun, and Fabulous!

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Brace yourself! The senior demographic is growing, as Baby Boomers age. Approximately 78 million people were born between 1946 (just after the end of World War II) and 1964. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, an American turns 65 every 13 seconds, and approximately 10,000 Baby Boomers retire every day.

In 2012, the American Association of Retired Persons named Philadelphia one of the ten great places to retire for city life, and one of the ten great cities for older singles. AARP highlighted restaurants; cultural attractions such as art museums and musical events; historical sites; neighborhood gathering places, like the Reading Terminal; and outdoor spaces, including parks, trails, arboreta and gardens.

For older Philadelphians looking for ways to connect to all the action, there are lots of options. We offer suggestions for the following points of entry.

Friends in the City (FitC) has an array of programs comprising lunches, dinners, happy hours, coffee hours, tours, hikes, information sessions, book clubs, play readings and exercise sessions, all geared to seniors, for a \$60 membership fee. FitC members and guests have strolled through the gardens at the Philadelphia Zoo, taken a van trip to a vineyard, cruised on the Schuylkill River, toured the Shoe Museum and PECO's green roof, donated supplies and volunteered at the Andrew Jackson School, and attended a Camden Riversharks baseball game. www.friendscentercity.org/

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), a branch of Temple University, located at 1515 Market Street, geared to seniors, offers unlimited classes to members. Your student ID card gets you student discounts at museums and concerts. www.temple.edu/tucc/persenrichment/olli/

Seniors mix with people of all ages enjoying neighborhood activities including fairs in *Rittenhouse Square*, *Fitler Square*, *Schuylkill River Park*, and the *Benjamin*

Franklin Parkway; and the *Center City House Tour* and *Philadelphia Open Studio Tour*. In addition to religious services, churches and synagogues offer social events, cultural arts programming and volunteer opportunities.

Residential high-rise buildings with large concentrations of seniors have come to be known as "NORCs" (naturally occurring retirement communities), and many provide social activities for residents. Happy hour is the new early-bird special: starting at 5 p.m. at many local bars, it's a fun way to enjoy discounted drinks and appetizers and possibly an impromptu conversation with some friendly people.

Getting around Center City is easy. And when you reach age 65, you can ride the bus or subway for free. For short car trips, joining *ZipCar* or *Enterprise CarShare* (formerly Philly CarShare) entitles you to reserve conveniently located cars for a few hours or more at prices that are far cheaper than the costs of car ownership, when factoring in expenses such as parking, maintenance, fuel, and insurance. Here's the best part -- each car has its own parking spot, so when you return you are spared the typical car-owner's headache of driving around for an hour looking for parking.

Travelers can avoid the hassles of arranging their own trips by signing up for group tours with *Excursions from the Square*, run by the capable and congenial Ellen Kay Coleman, offering trips to a variety of destinations, far and near. Once you register, you just pack your bag, show up at the bus on Rittenhouse Square, and you're all set. Excursions from the Square has traveled to New York; Chicago; Asheville, North Carolina; Pittsburgh and Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater; New England art museums; Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont; and Bard Music Festival in New York State's Hudson River Valley. A trip to Paris is planned for this Spring.

Seniors worry about health issues, and they are known to have the "organ recital" when they gather. Those who plan ahead can



FitCers go behind the scenes at Hedgerow Theatre with the actor playing the role of Banquo in Shakespeare's "Macbeth."



Each Tuesday, from 9 to 11 a.m., FitC members meet at Reading Terminal Market for coffee and conversation.

be sure they will get help at home in the future if they are recovering from surgery, or a short- or long-term illness or injury, by joining *Friends Life Care*, a continuing-care retirement-community-without-walls that provides experienced professional care managers, nursing aides, and other help at home. For more information, go to <http://members.friendslifecare.org/page/home/>. Another group, *Penn's Village*, provides assistance and referrals through volunteers. www.pennsvillage.org/

Active seniors, whether singles or couples, retired or semi-retired, find it's easy to keep busy, have fun, and make friends in Center City Philadelphia, a place that offers a kaleidoscope of education, entertainment, and support services.

Original Jewelry Creations Blend Modern and Ancient Elements

By Bonnie Eisenfeld



Designer Janet Russell models some of her work.

Archeologists have found jewelry made from perforated beads dating from as far back as 75,000 years ago, and from perforated ostrich-egg shells as far back as 40,000 years ago.

Janet Russell (formerly Swartz), a Center City designer, creates modern jewelry using ancient beads that have been discarded from anthropological digs. No two pieces are alike. Some incorporate semi-precious stones, freshwater pearls, antique gems, colored diamonds, and precious metals. Each piece is distinctive, sophisticated, individually designed and handcrafted; she calls them “wearable treasures.”

Inspiration for Ms. Russell’s designs comes to her from a variety of sources, from antiques to ethnic motifs to modern symbols. Currently

she is working on a new line she calls Chain Reaction: chains with varied beads and gems, some with religious or political symbols.

Ms. Russell feels her jewelry reflects her “love of travel, devotion to the earth and its treasures, and commitment to the indigenous peoples of the world.”

She first became interested in jewelry design in 2001 and began selling handmade jewelry created by artists in Santa Fe, under her company name JBird Jewelry, through a jewelry co-op in Chestnut Hill. While she was visiting Santa Fe, self-taught jewelry designers Marge and Hal Hiestan inspired her to learn how to make her own jewelry. In 2004, she started designing, creating, and selling her own pieces.

Always interested in art, Ms. Russell earned her bachelor’s degree in special education from the University of Kentucky, with a minor in art, and taught special education for 15 years. Later, while living in New York she worked for a printing company and moonlighted by showing artists’ portfolios to galleries and museums. She also gave seminars to groups of artists about the business side of art.

Today, Ms. Russell creates her work in her home studio and sells through four jewelers:



The artist at work.



Detail of finished piece, showing a variety of materials.

Harry Merrill Jewelers in Philadelphia, Langman Gallery at the Willow Grove Mall, Jeff Kellmer in Haverford, and Laura Sheppherd in Santa Fe. Her jewelry designs can be viewed on her website: www.jbirdjewelry.com/ or purchased on Etsy: www.etsy.com/shop/JBirdJewelryStudio.

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As our members know, Di Bruno Bros. (contributor, once again, of the food for this year’s March 13 Celebration of Center City Living event) has been a proud, longstanding supporter of CCRA. Celebrating great food with great people for the past 75 years, Di Bruno Bros. have been honored to be our members’ go-to source for all things gourmet, including domestic and imported cheeses, charcuterie, fresh produce, prepared foods, fine coffees, chocolates, and catering. Please note that Di Bruno’s is launching a new “Friends of Di Bruno Bros.” program for CCRA members, which will

replace the current CCRA discount program, effective April 1, 2014.

Don’t worry—Di Bruno Bros. will continue to offer CCRA members 10% off at their Rittenhouse (1730 Chestnut Street) and The Market at Comcast Center (1701 JFK Blvd.) locations, as well as with their Catering division (www.dibruno.com/catering). But to take advantage of this CCRA membership discount, you must register at www.dibruno.com/rittenhouse-ccra to receive your “Friends of Di Bruno Bros.” discount card in the mail. Simply present your card to the cashier



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CCRA Contributors' Bounty Bestows Beauty on Our Neighborhood

By Jeffrey Braff, CCRA President

Each Spring CCRA solicits contributions to its Neighborhood Beautification Campaign. Such tax-deductible contributions are beyond annual membership dues and help to fund CCRA's \$29,000 annual contract with the Center City District to clean neighborhood sidewalks after weekly trash collection, as well as other neighborhood beautification initiatives, including tree planting, historic preservation, the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden, and oversight of neighborhood development in accordance with the CCRA Neighborhood Plan and the Zoning Code. We are pleased to report that we received 236 contributions in response to our 2013 solicitation. We thank you all and are hopeful that we receive such enthusiastic support for our 2014 Campaign (letters will go out in April). Listed below are the individuals and businesses that contributed at least \$125 to the 2013 Campaign.



Thanks to the generosity of donors to the CCRA Neighborhood Beautification Campaign, our streets can maintain their metropolitan splendor.

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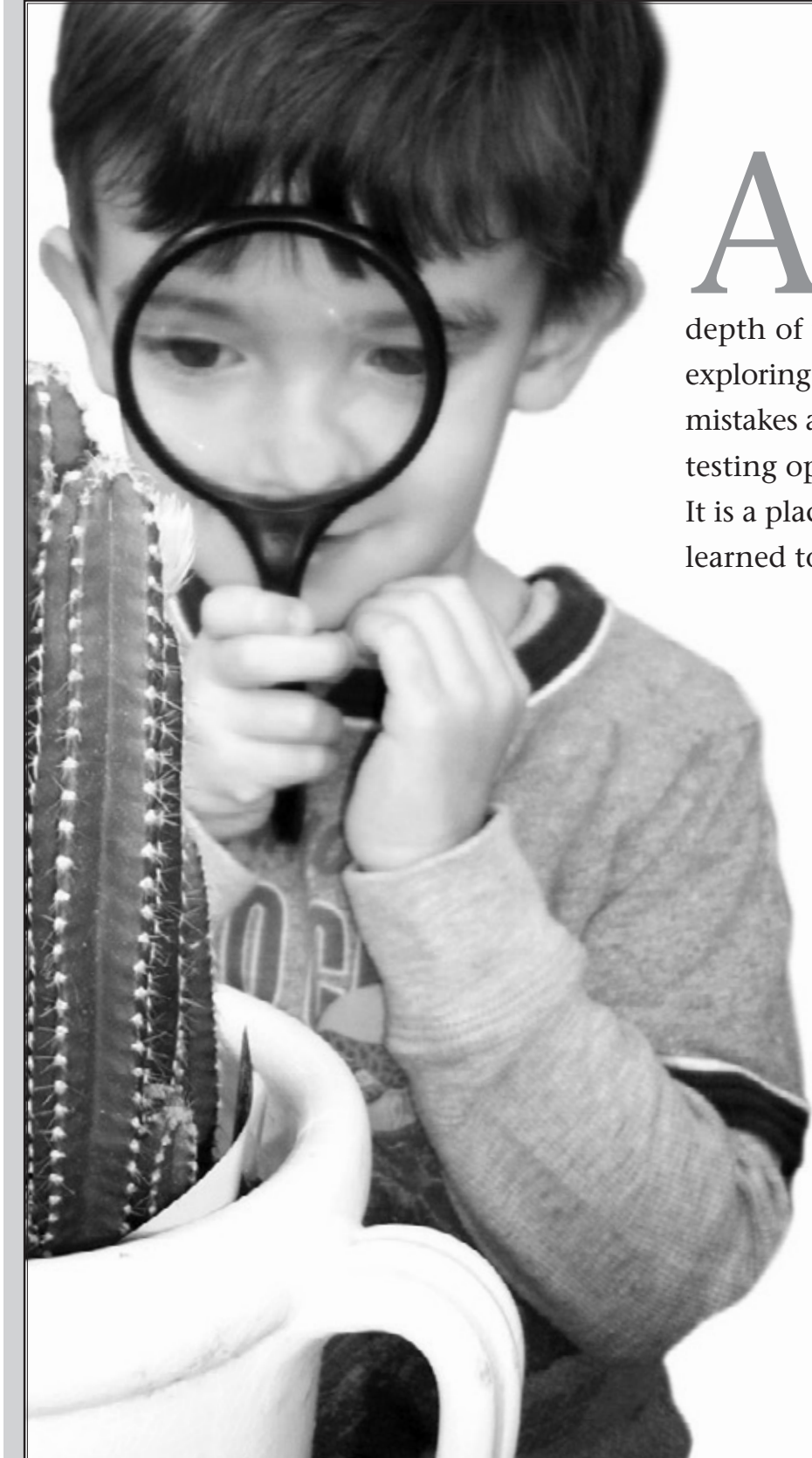
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Tony Junker: Architect, Teacher, Writer, Peacemaker

By Bonnie Eisenfeld



Tony Junker

Peace: What is it? Why is it important? Is it possible? Who is responsible for it? Tony Junker hopes you can find some answers at the Envision Peace Museum.

Mr. Junker's background as a member of the Society of Friends, coupled with his talent in architecture and design, provide the perfect balance of qualities required for his current role as a member of the Board of Directors and Acting Director of the Envision Peace Museum, a work in progress. Dedicated to the idea that peace is real and possible, the Envision Peace Museum, a visionary museum currently without walls, challenges participants to understand and commit to peace.

The Museum provides traveling and pop-up exhibitions, programs, discussions, and events focusing on social change and peaceful solutions to conflict. The organization connects and inspires participants and gives them images, ideas, success stories from the past, and tools to help bring about peace. The Envision Peace Museum hopes to build a permanent home by 2020 and attract visitors from all over the world. Learn more at www.envisionpeacemuseum.org/

Retired from active practice, Mr. Junker was a founding partner in the award-winning Philadelphia firm of Ueland Junker McCauley Nicholson Architects and Designers, specializing in museum planning and design and buildings for higher education. (www.ujmn.com). Mr. Junker studied under the legendary Louis I. Kahn at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned both a Master of Architecture and a Master of

City Planning. Prior to that, he earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from MIT, a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University, and a diploma in architecture from the Ecole des Beaux Arts Americaine in Fontainebleau, France.

For his designs, Mr. Junker has won awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. General Services Administration, the Foundation for Architecture, the State Art Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Society of Environmental Graphic Design, and the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, as well as numerous magazines, commissions, and committees. He has taught architectural theory at Penn, Columbia, North Carolina State, and Moore College of Art in Philadelphia.

His local projects include the Philadelphia Mummies Museum; the St. Augustine Center for Liberal Arts and Sciences at Villanova University; the new wing at the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village in Dover, DE; St. Michael Hall at LaSalle College High School; The Fournier Wing at Mount St. Joseph Academy in Flourtown, PA; the Dining Commons at the Meadowbrook School; and the glass-enclosed bookstore addition at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. He has completed museum projects in Deerfield, MA; Clinton, NJ; Old Lyme, CT; Greenwich, CT; Monroe, LA; and Georgetown, ME.

Mr. Junker's active pursuit of a wide range of interests render him a modern-day Renaissance man. A longtime student of Italian culture and language, Mr. Junker

has lectured on historic Italian architecture and led architectural tours of Italy with Under the Tuscan Sun Tours, covering Tuscany, Umbria, Venice and the Veneto, and Sicily. As an added creative outlet, Mr. Junker writes fiction. Published in 2005, his historical novel, *Tunnell's Boys*, is set in 19th century Quaker Philadelphia and tells a story of the sea and conflicting views on war and peace during the Spanish American War in 1898. Mr. Junker's knowledge of the sea is not merely academic: a sailing enthusiast, he particularly loves wooden boats and has captained sailing craft on coastal voyages.

Mr. Junker was a founding member of Friends in the City, a group of Quakers originally motivated to establish a retirement residence for seniors eager to enjoy the full benefits of Center City living. That goal was accomplished with the purchase of units in Riverfront at Front and Chestnut Streets. Eventually, the organization expanded to become a community of retired people of all backgrounds, living anywhere in Center City Philadelphia, engaging in activities to enhance their social, educational, spiritual, and physical well-being. (See article on Seniors in the City for more about Friends in the City, and other programs and activities for older Philadelphians, on page 4, in this issue.)

Tony Junker and his wife, Lee, are longtime Center City residents and spend their summers in Maine.

Center City Artist's Painting Wins First Prize in Art Competition

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Jerome Schwartz's painting, "Entering Acoma Pueblo, NM," (oil on wood panel, 12" x 12") won first prize in the Plastic Club's competition *Travel and Transport*. The subject is one of the monumental rock formations that greet the visitor on entering the enchanting valley of Acoma. The pueblo itself is at the top of the mesa that dominates the awesome scene. Jerome Schwartz is a Center City artist whose paintings are inspired by the sea, deserts, mountains, cities, and space objects. The Plastic Club is located at 247 S. Camac Street. An article about Jerome Schwartz appeared in the *Center City Quarterly*, June 2012 issue.



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Wyeth's World: A Granddaughter's Memories

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Victoria Browning Wyeth, Center City resident and only grandchild of the artist Andrew Wyeth, presented her perspective on her famous grandfather and his artwork to a rapt audience at the Free Library's Philadelphia City Institute branch on Rittenhouse Square on December 4.

Intent on setting the record straight, correcting art historians, and adding personality to the paintings, Ms. Wyeth lectures around the U.S. and abroad on her favorite subject, her grandfather "Andy." She doesn't mind shocking her audience a bit and telling some insider family stories, but most of all she bubbles over with enthusiasm about her love for her grandfather, what he taught her, and the wonderful relationship she shared with him.

The Wyeths spent winters in Chadds Ford, PA, and summers in Maine. As a child, Ms. Wyeth would wake up in the morning and see her grandfather outside, painting, and she thought that was what all grandfathers did. In later years, when the President would call her grandfather every year with birthday greetings, she did not think that was unusual.

Her grandfather did not make a big deal out of being rich and famous. He delighted in the black L.L. Bean turtlenecks she bought him for his birthday, carved pumpkins with her at Halloween, and didn't mind her nickname for him, "Old Bones," derived from a self-portrait in

which he depicted himself as a skeleton.

With no training as an artist or art historian, Ms. Wyeth believes one should value what the artist says about his own work. In her presentation, she pointed out her favorite parts of each painting and told what she knew about Wyeth's inspiration and technique. His jovial personality attracted people and they enjoyed modeling for him.

Andrew Wyeth did between ten and 150 studies of a subject before creating a painting. He painted people and landscapes that interested him, never used photographs, and did not believe in symbolism. He did his first painting when he was six years old and had no art-school training. The Wyeth family purchased many of his paintings at auction and built a private family museum on an island in Maine.

At 16 years old, Ms. Wyeth gave her first talks about Wyeth at the Farnsworth Art Museum in Maine. She earned a B.A. in American Cultural Studies in 2001 from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, and during her senior year curated her first museum exhibition on Wyeth's painting "Her Room." She studied the history of psychology at Harvard University and earned a Master of Arts in Psychology from Wesleyan University. From 2004 to 2011, she conducted gallery talks at the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford. Her photographs were included in the 2006



Victoria Wyeth, the artist's granddaughter.

Wyeth retrospective at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and other Wyeth shows. She worked as a therapist at a Pennsylvania state psychiatric hospital and now works there as a research assistant.

Andrew Wyeth died five years ago, and Victoria Wyeth, his only grandchild, still mourns the loss. "He taught me to see the world in a different way."

For more information go to www.victoriawyeth.com.

CCRA Seeking New Board Members

CCRA is looking for Nominees to serve on our Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2014. We are seeking energetic individuals who have a passion for Center City living and are interested in issues of quality of life and community service.

The CCRA Board is a working Board whose Members share a pride and a vision for excellence in our neighborhood, and are willing to volunteer time (at least four hours each month, not including attending, and preparing for, monthly Board meetings) to turn that pride and enthusiasm into meaningful activity. Board Members are energetic and diverse in our interests, but unified by what Center City brings to our lives. Board Members serve on at least one of the following

committees -- Streets, Government Relations, Zoning, Membership, Newsletter, Education and Family -- and a number of others.

Board Members must live in the area between JFK Boulevard and South Street and Broad Street to the Schuylkill River. To be a part of one of Philadelphia's oldest, largest, and most respected civic organizations, please forward a resume or a summary of your qualifications before March 28th to: Nominating Committee Chair, Center City Residents' Association, 1600 Market Street, Suite 2500, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or by email to: centercity@centercityresidents.org with "Board Candidate" in the subject line.



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Sidewalk Cafés

It Takes More than Good Food and Good Weather

By Dane Wells

Of the many attractions that contribute to the lively, festive feeling of Center City Philadelphia, its myriad sidewalk cafes is prominent among them. They enliven our streets at night, they serve as a visible reminder of the wealth of fine restaurants we enjoy, and they bolster the friendly pedestrian atmosphere of our town. A visitor driving into our neighborhood and seeing the abundance of sidewalk cafes will realize instantly that people have fun living here.

It hasn't always been this way. According to Paul Levy, CEO of the Center City District and a great student of urban affairs, "In 1995, the CCD had been cleaning and patrolling sidewalks for four years, but there were no outdoor cafes, and the streets were still largely empty and abandoned after dark. Last summer, the Center City District counted 327 outdoor cafes between Vine and South Streets.

"Many things contributed to the growth of a vibrant evening economy, making downtown an attractive place to live," says Levy. "But outdoor cafes have been an essential part, adding vitality by day and making downtown safer at night by putting more 'eyes on the street.'"

Like most good things, though, it comes with a price. By definition, sidewalk cafes take up sidewalk space. Diners enjoying city life *al fresco*, wishing to see and be seen, compete with pedestrians for pavement that originally may not have been planned with outdoor seating in mind.

Levy points out that the sidewalk cafes "should be managed well to make sure they don't obstruct our walkways." The city has established regulations and procedures for sidewalk cafes (City Code §9-208 Sidewalk Cafes). Here is a brief summary of some of the regulations.

- If the sidewalk, from the curb line to the cafe, is 13 feet or less, then at least five feet must remain clear for pedestrians.



Outdoor tables teem with patrons on a rare warm winter day recently along Parc's Rittenhouse Square façade.

- If the sidewalk is wider than 13 feet, then at least one-half of the sidewalk should remain clear; so, for example, a 16-foot sidewalk should leave at least eight feet clear for pedestrians.
- The clear space is measured from the edge of a table or chair to the curb line.
- Obstructions, such as light poles, parking meters, and trees must be taken into account; there must be the same clearance around them as well. More space is needed on corners, at doorways, and transit stops.
- The licensee is responsible for seeing that employees and customers keep the required amount of space clear, and that tables, chairs and other equipment do not create an obstruction.
- Tables may be set up at the curb after 7:00 p.m., as long as it is adjacent to a parking lane (not a traffic lane). The minimum clear space must still be maintained.

To establish a sidewalk cafe, the cafe owner must submit an application to the Department of Licenses and Inspections—which requires proper posting—along with drawings of the sidewalk showing proposed placements of tables, chairs and equipment.

The Streets Department is responsible for enforcement. David Perri, Streets Department deputy commissioner for transportation, says that sidewalk cafes have mushroomed, but that his department has no staffers dedicated to sidewalk-cafe enforcement. They perform two sweeps a year, and respond to complaints, which come in through the 3-1-1 system.

If you believe a specific cafe is taking up more than its fair share of the sidewalk, first consider if the many civic benefits it may be conferring on the neighborhood might trump the degree of real nuisance being created by the encroachment. But if the negatives outweigh the positives, then give 3-1-1 a call. Also, it is helpful to let the CCRA Board know of your concerns so they can work with city officials to address any issues that arise.

Film Society's International Children's Film Festival Slated for June at Roxy

By Parinda Patel, PFS Managing Director

With the announcement of the dates for the schedule of the Philadelphia International Children's Film Festival (PICFF), the Philadelphia Film Society paves the way for year-round youth and family programming, featuring the 2014 Academy Award-nominated film *The Secret of Kells*.

Partnering with New York International Children's Film Festival, one of the longest-running and most acclaimed children's film festivals on the circuit, the three-day festival, to be held **June 6-8**, promises a variety of animated, live-action and experimental short and feature films from all over the world. Now in its second year, the festival will show films exclusively at the PFS Theater at the Roxy, 2021 Sansom Street.

Further expanding programming for children and families throughout the year, PFS will host "**Saturday Morning Specials**," an affordable monthly series of unique, family-friendly, contemporary and classic films from around the world. In an effort to extend accessibility in the local community, a reduced ticket price accompanies each screening. Adult matinee and member prices apply. Kids ages 12 and under pay just \$1. Saturday Morning Specials is supported by The Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Arts Education Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation.

"What better way to spend a Saturday morning as a young person than at a real movie theater, seeing good film? Great excitement, learning and memories for a lifetime," says Mr. Kimmel. "We hope and believe this will be another wonderful cultural experience for the youth of Philadelphia."

Saturday Morning Specials — March

THE SECRET OF KELLS

Saturday, March 22 – 10 a.m.

Animation, Tomm Moore, Ireland/France/Belgium, 2009. 78 minutes.

In this Academy Award nominee for Best Animated Feature, Young Brendan lives in a remote medieval outpost under siege from barbarian raids. But a new life of adventure beckons when a celebrated

master illuminator arrives from the isle of Iona carrying an ancient but unfinished book, brimming with secret wisdom and powers. To help complete the magical book, Brendan has to overcome his deepest fears on a dangerous quest that takes him into the enchanted forest where mythical creatures hide. It is here that he meets the fairy Aisling, a mysterious young wolf-girl, who helps him along the way. But with the barbarians closing in, will Brendan's determination and artistic vision illuminate the darkness and show that enlightenment is the best fortification against evil? For information on this and other youth and family programming, visit www.filmadelphia.org/programs-education.

Finally, to accommodate film lovers with infants, PFS launched "**Babies on Board**" in early January. PFS invites new parents and caregivers, along with their children, to the PFS Theater at the Roxy to enjoy a new-release film while avoiding the social limitations of the traditional theater experience. Volume is lowered, lights are raised, and fussing is not a problem. The films screen at matinee times, and admission for infants is always free. Designated "Babies on Board" screenings are noted on the schedule at www.filmadelphia.org/nowshowing.



THE SECRET OF KELLS screens March 22 at the Roxy. Picture courtesy of GKids.

MOMS Find Strength and Support in Numbers

By Susan Strug Souffie

Philadelphia is a fantastic place to raise a family, but for many new moms or moms new to the area, being home with a baby can be lonely or isolating at times, no matter where they live. While happy to dedicate time to raising children, many women find the transition to motherhood a challenging one: they long for friendship, adult conversation and a support system that understands the difficulties—and the joys—of being an urban mom.

MOMS Club of Philadelphia can fill that void: a social group for young mothers and their children, the club is comprised of fellow moms who share these concerns and have come together to exchange their wisdom, experiences and encouragement. Run by a dedicated group of local women, the Philadelphia MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) is a chapter of the International MOMS Club. In the past two years, the club's membership has grown to more than 75 moms throughout Center



Club members enjoy a recent lunch especially for moms with newborns.

City, with children ranging in age from newborn to five years.

Whether moms stay at home, or work part-time or full-time, MOMS Club provides an

Continued on p. 16

Celebrity Sightings



At the Philadelphia premiere of the film *POMPEII*, with members of the Philadelphia Film Society in attendance, stars Kit Harington (left, TV's *Game of Thrones*) and Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje (right, TV's *Lost*, *Oz*) participate in a talkback with Casey Boy from WMMR's Preston & Steve Morning Show, January 27 at The Franklin Institute.

Pictures courtesy of Allied-THA



Flanked by producer Will Packer (left), and star Regina Hall, Philadelphia native Kevin Hart (*RIDE ALONG*, with Ice Cube), star of the romantic comedy *ABOUT LAST NIGHT*, received a warm hometown welcome at the Philadelphia premiere of the film February 4 at the Prince Music Theater. The screening was attended by many of Hart's friends and relatives, along with members of the Philadelphia Film Society, which offers opportunities for exclusive preview screenings to many of their members.

Anna Deavere Smith in Philadelphia: Launching the Pipeline Project

By Nancy Colman

Internationally acclaimed playwright-actor Anna Deavere Smith spent an engaging evening of conversation with audience members at the Philadelphia Theatre Company on February 26, to talk about her current work, *The Pipeline Project*, which explores the “school to prison” pipeline, a national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile/criminal justice systems.

Ms. Smith’s appearance came at the conclusion of the first phase of her artistic residency with PTC, which involves extensive research and interviews with a vast range of players at all stages of the “pipeline,” including students, educators, law enforcement, justice, government,

prisoners and corrections officers, to form the basis of her new work for the stage. Philadelphia is one of several U.S. cities hosting such residencies for Ms. Smith’s project. An eventual world premiere at PTC is anticipated.

Anna Deavere Smith is well known to Philadelphia audiences for her award-winning performance in her last appearance at PTC in 2011, her riveting play *Let Me Down Easy*. She is just as familiar to TV viewers for her roles in “Nurse Jackie” and “The West Wing,” and to film fans for her appearances in such movies as *Philadelphia* and *Rachel Getting Married*. President Obama recently awarded her the National Endowment of the Humanities Medal.



David Colman

Actor-playwright Anna Deavere Smith (right) is welcomed to the Philadelphia Theatre Company by Executive Producing Director Sara Garonzik on February 26.

easy way to meet other moms, a wonderful way for children to meet and make friends, and an opportunity to become part of a caring community of Philadelphia women.

MOMS Club gatherings are held all over town, from Northern Liberties to Society Hill and Queen Village, Fairmount to University City and Fitler Square. A typical month's activities include:

- Playgroups and meet-ups at local parks and playgrounds
- Field trips such as the Zoo, Please Touch Museum, Smith Playhouse, and other local museums and attractions
- Child-friendly breakfast and lunch outings
- Play dates at members' homes and special holiday-themed parties
- Moms' Nights Out and Special Events: a chance to get together with friends and without the kids! Past events have included dinners, movie nights, shopping events and spa outings

"In 2014 we aim to meet more of our members' needs, to make the most out of our club," says Club President Vicky Martelli. "We plan to have more age-specific events, such as newborn lunches for new moms, guest speakers, and various play dates around the city. We also started a private Facebook page just for our members to be able to message, contact and post activities and events for our group. Every mom needs a night out and we are planning dinners and happy hours as well as mini spa days to take some time to relax, unwind and socialize with other members."

MOMS Club is proud of their philanthropic work to help local moms, children and families in the community and around the world. One such activity is Meals for Moms: this delicious program lends support to club members and their families by sending meals to moms who have just welcomed a new little one to their family. Involvement in local charities includes cooking meals for families staying at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House; donating pajamas and toiletries to local women's and children's shelters; donating books to the library; charity



Busy moms gather for a relaxing break at a mini spa day.

walks, holiday drives and much more.

Annual dues are minimal at \$30, but the benefits of joining MOMS Club are limitless. Members receive invites to all events through a private Meetup group online. A monthly e-newsletter—filled with information about upcoming events, tips, recipes, birth announcements and highlights from the past month's events—is also sent to all members. For more information about MOMS Club of Philadelphia and to join, visit www.meetup.com/MOMSClubofPhiladelphiaCenterCity/

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Center City's English Village

By Philippa H. Campbell

In the daily rush of urban life, it is easy to miss the English Village, a cluster of architecturally charming and distinctive houses tucked into a courtyard off the east side of 22nd Street between Walnut and Locust Streets. This group of 19 houses, designed by popular architect Spencer Roberts, is one of only a few housing developments in Center City. Early land development west of Broad Street gave birth to blocks of various-sized row houses built for both wealthy and working-class residents.

By the early 20th century, large land parcels came about primarily through demolition of factories, schools, or other institutions. The English Village housing development was built on the site of the 1866 Children's Hospital property, which became available following the hospital's 1916 move south to Bainbridge Street. In 1917, the building was taken over by the United Services Club, a place for World War I servicemen to spend time while on leave. Wealthy Philadelphian Edward Stotesbury purchased the plot in 1918 on behalf of his wife, who was actively involved in the Club. At the end of the War, the Club disbanded, and the property became a rental hall until purchased by David Coons in 1923.

Interestingly, Coons was not a real estate agent or a developer but a manufacturer of women's underwear who became concerned about the many areas of slum-rental properties hidden in courts behind Philadelphia's main streets. He joined with architect Roberts and contractor Frank G. Stewart in 1922 in his first development, a redesign of 14 houses on a small court called Uber Street, west of 19th Street, between Chestnut and Ludlow Streets.

Renamed Lantern Court, the significantly remodeled Uber Street housing development was entered through a gate from Ludlow Street and faced a one-block garden created by filling in Uber Street. Quickly rented, Lantern Court was widely described in national publications as an innovative way to eliminate urban slums. These small houses remained hidden away behind major streets until the 1960s, when they were demolished to build the William Penn House.

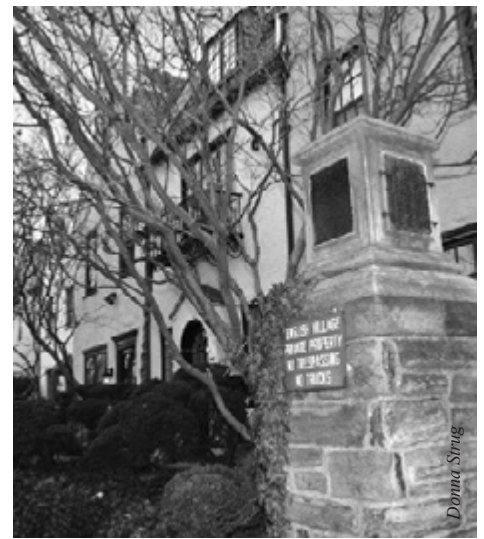
Likely encouraged by the widespread positive attention to their Lantern Court project, the Coons-Roberts-Stewart team moved on to create English Village, a built-from-scratch urban housing development in a non-blighted area of the city. Creating this development presented a challenge because the lot was irregularly configured. Thanks to existing stables north of the property the lot was wider on the 22nd Street side, where the hospital had been able to purchase additional land, but narrowed considerably before ending a short half-block to the east at Van Pelt Street.

Roberts accommodated these irregularities by designing an array of house plans to fit onto the available property and then staggering the placement of the 19 houses along a 40-foot-wide bluestone lane, named St. James Place, curving through the property from 22nd to Van Pelt. Stone gateposts and fences defined the 22nd Street entrance, as they do today, with a curved stone archway creating a boundary between the development and Van Pelt Street.

While the houses reflected a variety of floor plans and sizes, all were three stories and had the living room, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor, with bedrooms and baths upstairs. In most floor plans, the kitchen was a small "L" off the back, allowing for a grassy area behind each house. The fronts of the houses were landscaped to provide small grass strips and space for plantings. The interiors were colonial in design, with many built-in features to maximize space in these small houses. Bookcases and cupboards around living room fireplaces, built-in china cabinets in the dining room, and wall paneling were common features.

Each house was of the English Cotswold style, but by varying building materials and elements such as window placement, size and shape, the architect was able to create distinctive individual houses that fit together as a unified whole.

Because of its trend-setting uniqueness, the English Village housing development was widely covered in newspaper real-estate



Stone pillars guard the entrance to English Village.

columns and professional publications. The June 1928 issue of *Building Developer* magazine featured an article entitled "A Bit of Olde England in Philadelphia," suggesting to other developers that these "perfectly true English style houses" were a model for creating peaceful country surroundings amid the congestion and concrete of modern cities.

Almost a hundred years later, English Village continues to evoke a sense of life in a quiet country hamlet for today's residents. Improvements to building exteriors have maintained the historic integrity of this unique development while keeping pace with modern times. Even with parking in such high demand in Center City, owners have worked together to restore and maintain their tree-lined bluestone lane as a walkway for pedestrians rather than a parking lot for cars. It is little wonder that many residents have lived in English Village for years and years, rarely allowing these picturesque homes to come onto the real estate market.

A note on sources:

Files in the City's Historic Commission, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Free Library of Philadelphia as well as online resources at the American Architects and Buildings website (www.americanbuildings.org/pab/), Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network (www.philageohistory.org/geohistory/), and *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Daily News* online archives were used as sources for this article. Find information about your own house through these same sources.

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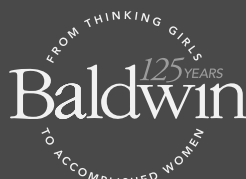
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A Dirge for Dmitri's

By Nancy Colman

As news of the imminent closing of Dmitri's Restaurant, at 23rd & Pine, filtered throughout the neighborhood, reaction ranged from disbelief to despair. After 18 years at that location—the first four under the name of Styx—the eponymous establishment owned by acclaimed restaurateur Dmitri Chimes would no longer preside over its prime people-watching perch overlooking Fidler Square.

My three now 20-something daughters were in single-digit ages when Chimes first put down roots in this lovely, leafy spot, where he served up a reliable, reasonable and consistently delicious Greek-inspired menu of fresh grilled meats and seafood. It was the place you could always go for a drink and a good dinner, the near-certainty that you'd run into a friend or neighbor, and the best *pot de crème* this side of Paris. It drew celebrity regulars, doctors, lawyers, grad students and working stiffs. And it was always at the far end of my block.



Dmitri's Restaurant at 23rd & Pine, as seen from Fidler Square, has been a neighborhood landmark for 18 years.

To me and to many others I've talked to in the neighborhood, it feels like the passing of an old friend, and the end of an era. It is not our intention to speculate or infer the reasons for this regrettable development; rather we wish only to note with sadness this transition in the long-term landscape of our community. While there are other outposts of Dmitri's

restaurants to visit in Queen Village and Northern Liberties, it just won't be the same for a lot of us. For now, we would prefer to commemorate the many enjoyable years of dining and camaraderie that our own Fidler Square branch provided—and we wish the owners and staff a soft landing, somewhere close by, we hope.

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Police Talk Protection and Personal Safety

By Maggie Mund, CCRA Executive Vice President

More than 50 people braved forecasts of an impending snowstorm on the evening of February 12 to attend CCRA's open discussion with representatives of our local Police District 9, Captain Raymond Convery, Lieutenant Marty Best, and Officer Steve Kieffer. The forum was conceived as an exchange of practical advice on staying safe in the city, and it delivered.

Captain Convery opened his remarks with some good news: He reported the apprehension of the criminal responsible for several bank robberies and of three men who had been robbing mobile-phone stores on Market and Chestnut Streets. Pickpockets, however, and thefts of cell phones, wallets and purses, left even briefly unattended in restaurants and stores, continue. Most of these crimes occur in the commercial corridors along Market/Chestnut/Walnut. In our residential area, thefts from cars and occasional apartment burglaries are more common; the police anticipate bike thefts when the weather warms.



CCRA Vice President David Rose (at lectern) moderates the panel discussion with representatives of the 9th District Police on Feb. 12. Seated from left are Lieutenant Marty Best, Captain Raymond Convery, and Officer Steve Kieffer.

For information about neighborhood crime, go to philapolice9th.weebly.com, a 9th District website that lists crimes when and where they occur. Click on CRIME

REPORTS; we are in PSA1. There are several tip sheets under CRIME ALERTS.

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| 2410 Delancey | 1739 Addison |
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| 2030 Pemberton | 1632 Bainbridge |
| 2529 Naudain | 506 Pine |
| 624 Kenilworth | 426 S Taney |
| 1420 Locust | 925 S 2nd |
| 2330 Pine | 2202 Lombard |
| 304 Cypress | 709 S 18th |
| 1919 Chestnut | 2609 Aspen |
| 336 S 24th | 2108 Catharine |
| 2232 St Albans | 502 S 25th |
| 210 Queen | 2220 Lombard |
| 1702 Catharine | 716 S 21st |



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Ways to help yourself and your neighbors:

1. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. If you observe people loitering with no apparent connection to the neighborhood, call 911. The police need good descriptions of suspicious persons and behavior. The more data the police have, the more they can put disparate facts together.
2. If you live in a multi-unit building, don't let strangers in the door. Only buzz in people you know.
3. If you are confronted by someone demanding your purse, wallet, phone, etc., GIVE IT TO THEM. And call 911.
4. If you are being followed, call 911, and walk to a well lit area, go into a store or restaurant, anywhere there are people. Avoid dark areas, small streets.
5. If you are home and hear someone breaking in, call 911, stay in place and tell the operator where you are. Scream. The intruder might leave, and you might alert your neighbors, who might also call 911 to report the screams. If you want the

police to enter under any circumstances, tell 911 police may break in if necessary. Otherwise, if everything looks normal, they will leave.

6. Don't leave valuables visible in your car. A charger is an invitation to break in to look for a phone.
7. iWatch Philadelphia is a free smart-phone app that allows citizens to quickly and easily report crime tips to law enforcement. Your phone's gps helps input most of the info; you can send a tip by text, speed-dial a tip line, transmit a picture, and get crime alerts, or access the iWatch Philadelphia Facebook page directly from the app.
8. Call 911 for nuisance bars, especially if late-night noise is an issue. Police will come, and the more nuisance reports in their file, the more evidence the police will have when the bar's liquor license is up for renewal.
9. Install a video camera on your building and register it with the police department's SafeCAM program. Make sure you know how to use it. The

Commerce Department has a program to subsidize the purchase of video cameras. Contact Kenyatta Johnson's office for more information: steve.cobb@phila.gov or 215-686-3412. Contact Lieutenant Best for advice on choosing a camera: Ppd.09psa1@phila.gov, 215-686-3090.

10. Don't park bikes outside overnight, even if locked. They will not be there in the morning!

In case you were wondering...

- Bike police ride on the sidewalk when following someone. They are less visible, thus more likely to be successful.
- The murder rate declined due to a concerted effort by several agencies, beginning with the community-policing model. Under this model, police are on the street, know the neighborhood they serve, and report broken or missing street lights and abandoned buildings to the appropriate agency.
- Quickly replacing light bulbs and boarding up vacant buildings sends a message to criminals that there are "eyes on the street" and they will be caught.

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Our diverse and friendly Membership welcomes you to learn more about historic Bala Golf Club, now accepting new Members for 2014. Bala Golf Club is proud to offer:

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Trinity Memorial Church

Trinity Memorial Church is a small corner of tranquility in the midst of the big city. ~Ellen

Community OutReach Partnership

"I am so blessed to have 95-year-old Cecilia in my life through CORP's Communicare elder friend program." ~ Rebecca

Center for Urban Life

My family finds so many great things to do, see, and hear at Trinity Center ~ Eleanor

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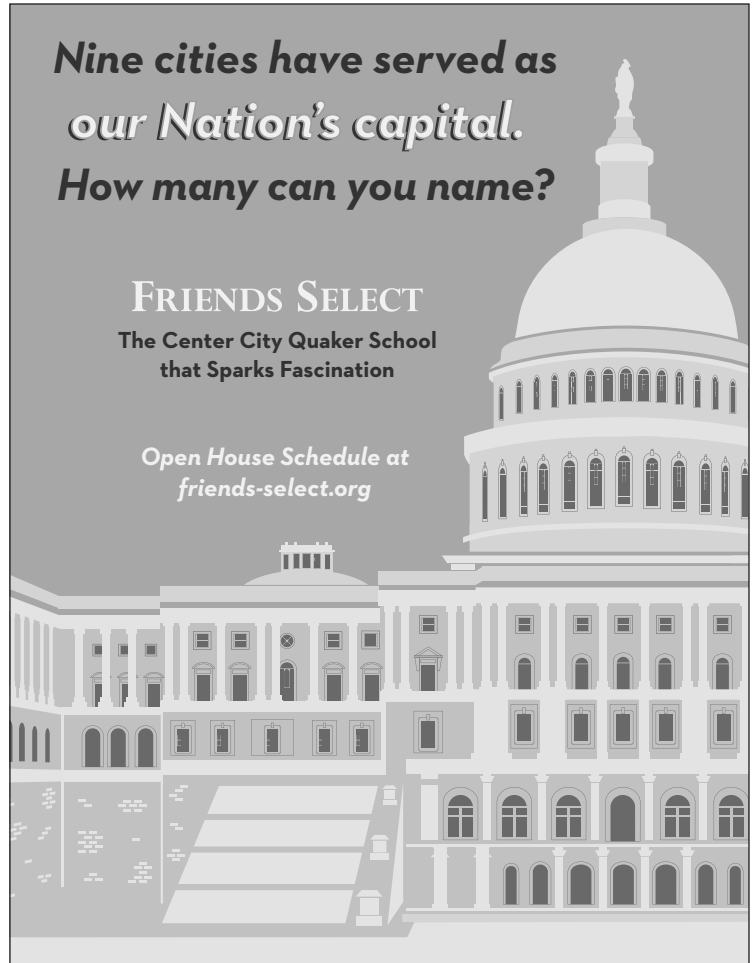
trinityat22nd.org

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CCRA Calendar – A Spring in Our Step

International Festival of the Arts

Thursday, March 27 to Saturday, April 26
For events, locations and times go to www.pifa.org

School Daze

Panel Discussion: Choosing an Elementary School
Trinity Center, 2200 Spruce St.
Wednesday, April 2, 7–9 p.m.

Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show

23rd St. Armory, 22 S. 23rd St.
Friday, April 4; Saturday, April 5; and Sunday, April 6.
www.philalifs.com

Philadelphia's Middle Class: After Decades of Decline, Prospects for Growth

a new report of The Pew Charitable Trusts
Panel discussion with Susan Warner of The Pew Charitable Trusts, Steve Mullin of Econsult, and Steve Wray of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia
Trinity Center, 2200 Spruce St.
Monday, April 7, 7 p.m.

Raising Your Pre-Teen in the City—What Every Kid and Parent Should Know

April Sunday afternoon, Specifics TBD
Master Whitaker of the Philly Urban Defense Center demonstrates practical safety tips for teens and parents.

Philadelphia Science Festival

Friday, April 25 to Saturday, May 3
For events, locations and times go to www.philasciencefestival.org/

Rittenhouse Row Spring Festival

Walnut between Broad and 19th Sts.
Saturday, May 3
www.rittenhouserow.org

2013 Blue Cross Broad Street Run

Broad Street from Olney to South Philadelphia
Benefits the American Cancer Society
Sunday, May 4, 8:30 a.m.
www.broadstreetrun.com/

CCRA Annual Meeting with Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor of Transportation and Utilities

Venue TBD
Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m.

Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities

Rittenhouse Square
Welcome Spring—Plant Some Herbs
Visit the CCRA Herb Booth!
Wednesday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday, May 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fitler Square Spring Fair

23rd & Pine Sts.
Mother's Day weekend
Friday, May 9, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.fitlersquare.org

Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair

Rittenhouse Square, Mother's Day weekend
Friday, May 9, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 11, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

83rd Annual Spring Show
Friday, June 6, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 7, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, June 8, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Photograph of Hugh N. Campbell hanging paintings at the clothesline art exhibit in Rittenhouse Square, May 23, 1941. Picture courtesy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Free at the Kimmel

Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Day
Kimmel Center, Verizon Hall
Broad and Spruce Sts.
Saturday, June 7, 12 p.m.
Come and go as you please.
For info on other free concerts at Commonwealth Plaza, go to www.kimmelcenter.org/events/?org=355

Bloomsday

Readings from James Joyce's *Ulysses*
Rosenbach Museum & Library
2008 Delancey Place
Monday, June 16
www.rosenbach.org/learn/news/bloomsday-central

Little Friends of Rittenhouse Square Festival

Rittenhouse Square
Wednesday, June 18
www.friendsofrittenhouse.org/

Ball on the Square

Friends of Rittenhouse Square
Rittenhouse Square
Thursday, June 19
www.friendsofrittenhouse.org/

Curtis Institute of Music

Free student recitals
1726 Locust St.
See dates, times, and locations at:
www.curtis.edu/performances/

Architectural Walking Tours with the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

Tours are offered from May to October
Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Sundays at 2 p.m.
Duration: 90 minutes to two hours
www.preservationalliance.com/events/walking_tours.php
215-546-1146

Schuylkill River Banks

Riverboat tours to Bartram's Gardens
Kayak tours, June through September
Dates and times to be posted
www.schuylkillbanks.org/events

Zoning Committee Report

Brian Johnston and Kevin Dunleavy, Co-Chairs
November, December 2013, and January 2014

2007-09 Addison Street (RSA-5) Not Opposed

Lot Area and Rear Yard; Oppose Fence Opacity; Not Oppose w/ Proviso fence height

Application (a) for the lot adjustment to create one (1) lot from two (2) existing deeded lots; (b) for the erection of a rear addition to an existing attached structure; (c) for the addition of a roof deck above the 2nd floor (no access structure), and (d) for the demolition of the existing fence wall and the erection of a new fence wall at the front property line. Property to be used as a single family household living area.

Refusals:

1. Lot Area - Required: 1,440 Sq. Ft.; Proposed: 788 sq. ft.
2. Rear Yard - Required: 5ft. for first 12ft. of building height and 9ft. above 12 ft. of building height; Proposed: 0ft;
3. Fence Height - Required: 4 ft.; Proposed: 8 ft.
4. Fence Opacity - Required: 50%; Proposed: 100%

2025 -2027 Waverly Street (RSA-5) Not Opposed w/Provisos

Application (a) for lot consolidation to create one (1) lot from two (2) existing lots; (b) for the erection of additions at the rear and a partial roof deck above the portion currently known as 2025 Waverly Street; (c) for the removal of a previously approved eight foot high wooden fence and the erection of an eight foot high overhead rolling gate along a portion of the Capital St. frontage. Property to be used as a single family dwelling throughout.

Refusals:

1. Minimum lot area for Proposed Parcel "A" - Required: 1,440sf; Proposed: 1,266sf
2. Minimum percentage of open lot area for Proposed Parcel "A"(corner lot) - Required: 20% (253.2sf); Proposed: 17.3% (219sf);
3. Maximum fence height (rear yard of corner lot): Allowable: 6'0"; Proposed: 8'0"

2016 Delancey Place (RM-1) Not Opposed

Application for the erection of a one-story addition at the 3rd Floor Level. Size and location as shown in Plans

Refusal:

14-305(6) Height
Allowable: 38' Max.; Proposed: 44'

1732 Spruce Street (RM-4)

Withdrawn – to be rescheduled

Application for a five (5) Family Dwelling in an existing structure and one (1) commercial use on first floor.

Refusal:

14-602-1 The proposed use, commercial use, is not permitted in this zoning district.

1501-39 Market Street (CMX-5 – within City Hall sign control area) Not Opposed

Application for the removal of an existing flatwall sign (47sf) and for the erection of one (1) flatwall sign (61sf); erection of five (5) double face banner signs (projecting sign within the property line projects 10' from the structure) (total area 130 sf); for the erection of one (1) D/F free standing sign with logo (5' high) (total area of sign 8.75sf); for the erection of one (1) flatwall sign (marquee sign, no projection out of the property line) (total area of sign (16.75 sf) in the same building with an existing total of eight (8) signs (total area of existing signs 371 sf).

Refusal:

14-502(7)(k) The proposed projecting sign extending 10' beyond the building line within the city hall sign area is prohibited in this control district.

14-904 Total area of Sign

Allowed: 561.4 sf; Proposed: 586.7 sf

1426-30 Walnut Street Not Opposed

(CMX-5 [CC Core Commercial Mixed use and CC Com. Area])

Application for the erection of three (3) accessory wall signs (two 2. Fronting Walnut Street, one (1) Fronting 15th

Street), all Statically illuminated and for the documentation of the installation of one (1) non- Illuminated window sign. All signs accessory to previous approved sit-down restaurant. Size and location as show in application/plans

Refusal: 14-904-1 Height of Signs

Wall signs shall not extend above the roof line or the second floor window sill of a structure, whichever is lower; proposed signs B and C extend above the second floor window sill.

Allowed: Second Floor Sill (+ 22'AFF)

Proposed: 39'5" AFF Sign B

39'2" AFF Sign C

1800 Delancey Place (RM-1 CTR Res. Pkg Control Area) CCRA letter on hold pending receipt of amended refusal

Application for the erection of a roof deck and pilot house above the 4th floor and for the creation of two 2. accessory off-street Parking spaces in the basement of an existing attached structure with existing / previously approved roof decks (above 1st floor , above 2nd floor bay and above 3rd floor); structure to be used as a single family household living. Size and location as shown on application.

Refusal:

14-1082. ; 14-502(6)(C).(1) The proposed use, off-street parking accessed by a rear street, is not permitted in the /CTR residential parking control area.

Table 14-803-1 Parking space stall depth
Required: 18ft; Proposed: 16.917ft

Table 14-701-2 Height

Allowable: 38'; Proposed: 57'-2"

250 S. 18th Street Unit 101 (RM-4) Not Opposed w/ Provisos

Application to change use to a medical, dental, and health practitioner office (Group Practitioner) on the first floor of a multi-story residential condo building

Refusal: Proposed use of a office/medical, dental, health practitioner is not permitted in this zoning district

Continued on p. 27

1711 Walnut Street (CMX-5)

Not Opposed w/ Provisos

Application to affix a vinyl graphic to the 2nd floor window (5'5" x 6'8")

Refusal: Window signs shall be limited to the ground floor, except that CMX-2, CMX-2.5, CMX-3, CMX-4, CMX-5, CA-1 and CA-2 Districts, window signs for businesses that are not located on the ground floor shall also be permitted in the second floor windows.

502 South 23rd Street (RSA-5)

Postponed to February due to Counsel's absence

Application to legalize the use of the property as a two-family dwelling.

Refusal: The proposed use as a two family dwelling is not permitted in this zoning district. Preserve, enhance and celebrate urban living

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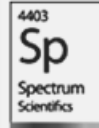
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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, April 2, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

School Daze: Panel Discussion on Choosing an Elementary School
Trinity Center

Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m.

CCRA Annual Meeting with Deputy Mayor Rina Cutler

Wednesday, May 7, and Thursday, May 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities
Visit the CCRA Herb Booth!

John Randolph Honored with CCRA's Lenora Berson Community Service Award at Celebration of Center City Living

As founder and past president of the Schuylkill River Development Council, John Randolph launched the campaign to revitalize the east bank of the Schuylkill in 1989. Thanks to his visionary work, the River Park connecting the Art Museum to Locust Street was completed, a master plan encompassing the entire Tidal Schuylkill was developed, and countless residents from across the region gained access to a neglected

natural resource that our neighborhood now takes for granted as we stroll, bicycle, and meditate along its picturesque path.

But John's contributions are not limited to the Schuylkill Banks. An active member of Trinity Memorial Church, John cofounded WinterShelter (a seasonal overnight shelter for the homeless) in 1984, and since 2008 has been Chair of the Community OutReach Partnership (CORP), which manages WinterShelter, Communicare (providing volunteer visitors to help fragile and isolated elders), and Cook-Off (a program that prepares some 200 nutritious meals per month, for distribution to community members in need).

Lenora Berson Community Service Award

Lenora Berson (1928-2011) loved our Center City neighborhood, and worked tirelessly for its enhancement right up to her death at 83. As President of CCRA from 1999 to 2001, she strategized about and led numerous CCRA actions, among them sparing South Street from obliteration by the proposed Crosstown Expressway. The Award given in her name is intended to pay tribute to Lenora's matchless energy and tenacity, and to recognize others who have had a substantial positive impact on our neighborhood.



Phil Straus

John Randolph, with the Schuylkill River Park and Trail visible behind him.