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Greenfield Auditorium, From Drear to Dazzle

By Jacqueline Bershad



Through the efforts of the students, faculty and parents the Albert M. Greenfield School 40-year old auditorium was renovated and improved.

Last year I attended my first back-to-school night at Albert M. Greenfield School. The auditorium was crowded and full of lively parents, but the room itself was dim, the wood seats worn and broken and the carpets stained. It was difficult to hear Principal Dan Lazar and the co-presidents of the Home and School Association (HSA) as they discussed the exciting plans for the year ahead or see the fuzzy images on the screen. This year the crowd was even bigger, and it was full of anticipation—perhaps because the auditorium was bright and clean, the seats elegant cherry wood, the carpeting new and the stage refurbished. Seated on the stage was the team that brought about this terrific transformation—the co-presidents

of the HSA, Marnie Vandenburg and Barbara Dallao; the chair of the auditorium renovation committee, Natasha Andjelkovic; Principal Dan Lazar and the evening's special guest, Dr. Leroy D. Nunery II, acting CEO and Superintendent, School District of Philadelphia (SDP). Also in attendance were Jeffrey D. Cardwell, senior vice president of facilities and operations, and several of his associates from the facilities department.

The auditorium is the heart of Greenfield. It seats 182, about 40% of the student body, but is often open to the adjacent cafeteria for big events like back-to-school night. Beyond traditional

Continue on page 2

assemblies, it hosts a wide range of events from performances by professional arts groups like The Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco) and the Walnut Street Theater; after-school clubs like the Singing City choir; Greenfield indoor movie nights and jam nights and the annual student music recital where students who take instrumental classes beginning in second grade have the opportunity to perform. It is even houses indoor recess on rainy days.

The transformation of the auditorium began in the fall of 2010 when Principal Lazar and the HSA made revamping the 40-year-old auditorium a priority. The team worked quickly to determine feasible goals. Aided by a detailed assessment of the state of the auditorium prepared in 2008 by Community Design Collaborative they determined that Phase I would include installing new seating and carpeting, refurbishment of the stage and repair of broken lights and fixtures.

The HSA partnered with the Facilities Department at the School District of Philadelphia. The Greenfield team had confidence that they could raise the necessary funds and the SDP team's facilities and project management experience were instrumental in making the project a reality. Throughout the year, the HSA and SDP united to improve Greenfield—with many early-morning phone calls, impromptu meetings and vendor presentations. After the fund-raising was complete and school dismissed in June 2011, the team spent the summer making the project a reality. With only 10 weeks



When the back of the Greenfield auditorium is opened for big events, the lunchroom's large wall mosaic is visible to the audience.

to complete the work, coordination and cooperation were key.

For the project to begin on time in June, all members of the Greenfield community were involved in the fund-raising efforts. All of the proceeds from the annual spring fund-raiser held at Dane Décor were earmarked for auditorium improvements. Greenfield families, teachers and staff, past and present, donated generously to this effort. To help achieve their goal, the Greenfield Foundation contributed to the campaign as well. But most impressively, Greenfield students themselves worked tirelessly toward this goal by selling raffle tickets, holding lemonade stands and donating their allowance money toward

the improvement of the auditorium. The students helped raise substantial funds through the first-ever Greenfield walk-a-thon, which will become an annual event.

The funds for Phase II are already in place. Work will include a donor recognition wall, further improvement of the light and sound systems and a high-lumen projection system. The projector will be a boon for the popular family movie nights, but more importantly will allow the school to participate in programs like National Geographic's Virtual Classroom or Expeditions. I can't wait until back-to-school night next year. I know the presentation is going to look and sound great.

LOVE Story: The Graphic at Greenfield

By Christina Spangler

Parents Don Shepler and Christina Spangler came up with the idea for teacher Nancie Stupp's third grade class's art project and created the black and white graphic of the iconic LOVE sculpture. The print was cut into eight-inch square sections, providing an abstract pattern for the students to color. Two parents, Gabriela Cesarino and Gerlinde Harb, helped the children in the class to create their individual art pieces. The fun part was their surprise when the squares were put back together to form the LOVE

image. Each square was then scanned in and pieced back together electronically by Don Shepler so it could be printed, matted and framed. The children then signed their work, and it was sold at the auction to raise funds for the auditorium's renovation. The buyers donated the piece back to the school so it could be hung in the auditorium lobby. Fireball Printing provided the printing, and the frame and matte were donated by the gallery Works On Paper. The graphic was also used for t-shirts, which were sold to raise additional funds for the auditorium.



Greenfield third grade parent Don Shepler scanned each child's colored square and pieced them together to create a colorful image of LOVE that was auctioned to raise funds for the renovation of the school's auditorium.

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Jeffrey L. Braff, CCRA President

President’s Report

In my last President’s Report, I outlined seven goals for CCRA that I hoped to accomplish during my two-year term. You will recall that my principal goal was to place CCRA in a position of financial stability, while the balance of the goals essentially consisted of action steps to take us there. A goal that was not mentioned, but one which should support all seven goals, is to increase the “professionalism” of the organization.

As a result of a special gift made by several board members, a step toward accomplishing that goal was taken with CCRA’s membership in The Nonprofit Center at LaSalle University’s School of Business. Informed by a lengthy survey completed by

the Board in July (the Center’s Nonprofit Board Checkup), most of our September board meeting consisted of a training session titled “Best Practices in Board Governance.” It was conducted by Allison Trimarco, a trainer and consultant for the Center. Ms. Trimarco led us through discussions about board roles and responsibilities; potential legal liability; strategic planning; financial management; fundraising; and board development.

In the course of often-spirited discussions, a number of potential action items were identified, including:

- Identification of CCRA’s “core values.”
- Drafting a strategic plan. (CCRA’s last such plan dates back to 1993.)
- Adoption of a written conflicts of interest policy.
- Improving our new board member orientation program.
- Setting aside a portion of each board meeting to focus on discussion of a “big question,” while leaving most “micro issues” to committees.
- Best ensuring that board members come to their position with skill sets that are in particular need (e.g., the board presently has no accountants or web designers).

I am writing this in early October, prior to the board meeting at which I am hopeful that the board will pick, and prioritize, the multiple potential action items, and establish a game plan for completing them. (Based upon recent conversations, however, I am relatively certain that the development of a strategic plan will be toward the top of the list.)

I was delighted by the enthusiasm sparked by the September training session. Our membership in The Nonprofit Center entitles us to additional training, and I am confident that we will use that training to our best advantage. I will keep you posted.

Jeffrey L. Braff, President

Remember to Renew Your CCRA Membership

The CCRA office will send notices to members notifying them of their membership renewal date. Please be sure to renew your membership.

Community garden plot holders and people on the waiting listing please note the following:

- 2012 Schuylkill River Park Community Garden plot leases will be sent to gardeners who are current CCRA members on January 1, 2012.
- If you are on the waiting list for a community garden plot, you must be a current CCRA member in order to remain on the list.

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How Does Our Garden Grow? Best of All, Says the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

By Leslie Young

The Schuylkill River Park Community Garden (SRPCG) at 25th and Manning streets won first place in the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 2011 City Gardens Contest. SRPCG won the Community Combination Garden category, which includes any size garden within the city of Philadelphia that is cared for by three or more neighbors and contains both vegetables and flowers. The entire garden—which contains 70 individually tended plots plus five communal spaces and sits on about 22,000 square feet of land owned by the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation—was judged as one entry.

Individual gardeners and community gardeners can enter a garden in one of nine categories by submitting an entry form to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). Then a team of volunteer judges, chosen for their own gardening prowess, visits each of the gardens entered in the contest before selecting the winners.

According to the PHS website, "Garden entries are judged on maintenance and horticultural practices, variety, color and suitability of the plantings. Design and total visual effect are also taken in to account with extra points awarded for creativity and ingenuity."

SRPCG, which is under the Center City Residents' Association, has demonstrated a commitment to the environment and to engaging the larger community. The garden is wholly organic, orchestrates a large-scale composting operation and recently replaced rotting plot borders with 99% recycled plastic. Initiatives to involve children in gardening include partnerships with The Philadelphia School and Trinity Playgroup and the garden's annual Ladybug Release Party for gardeners and surrounding community members.

For the last three years, SRPCG has participated in the City Harvest program, which is a collaboration among PHS, Philadelphia prisons and the SHARE food cupboard network to grow and deliver fresh produce to those in need. Through contributions from individual gardeners and a dedicated City Harvest plot, SRPCG has donated nearly 1,000 pounds of produce to two neighborhood food cupboards.



CCRA's award winning Schuylkill River Park Community Garden provides members and a limited number of non-members the opportunity to be urban gardeners.



CITY GARDENS CONTEST



**25th & Manning Streets
Derek Freres and Neighbors**

What a magnificent community garden! The overall design, with its brick entrance and gate, stone-lined plots, and cinder paths draw attention to all the floral and vegetable bounty found in the individual plots. Every bit of space is put to good use—the shed, the experimental row, the pergola sheltering the picnic table and the border surrounding the garden complete the garden picture. This is a determined, hard-working dedicated garden group that has garnered great results!

First Place **Community Combination Garden | Very Large**

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society awarded the Schuylkill River Community Garden first place in the Community Combination Garden category of the 2011 City Gardens Contest.

EgoPo Classic Theater: Event Theater in Center City

By Nancy Ambler

A recent addition to our vibrant theater scene, this repertory company is in its fifth festival season here. EgoPo is the creation of Artistic Director Lane Savadove, a Philadelphia native, graduate of the George School in Bucks County and of Haverford College. Savadove was exposed to the performing arts as a child—when his parents went to New York for theater or opera, so did he. His enthusiasm was fostered by Mark Lord, head of Theater Studies at Bryn Mawr College, with whom Savadove studied while at Haverford. After college he set off for New York City, where he worked with Mabou Mines and became associate artistic director of The Living Theater. To formalize his hands-on training, he enrolled at Columbia University, earning an M.F.A. in directing. While there he worked with Anne Bogart, head of the directing program, whose ideas, based in part on those of the great Polish impresario Jerzy Grotowski, continue to shape his career.

Eager to give form to all these ideas, Savadove moved in 1993 to San Francisco, where he established EgoPo. The name? It derives from the French psychoanalytical term *le moi* (Freud's ego) *peau*: "the self in the skin," or the "physical self." In theatrical terms it's realized in the actor's understanding and projection of his role using his whole body. Training for this style is rigorous, with the workshop exercises based on a fusion of dance and acting. The company rehearses year-round and trains constantly. Their workshops have become a resource for other theatrical and dance groups.

EgoPo had no sooner become established in San Francisco than Savadove received a grant from the Luce Foundation to establish a sister company in Java. When he returned to San Francisco, he realized that New Orleans represented a great economy for building a theater and moved the company there. As in San Francisco, EgoPo performed to packed houses and received great reviews. Among the many out-of-town venues in which EgoPo was invited to perform was Philadelphia, and in August 2005 EgoPo staged *Maids x 2*, its gender-bending version of Genet's *The Maids*, at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Then came *Katrina*. The New Orleans



Sara Howard and Griffin Stanton-Ameisen are performers in the EgoPo Classic Theater repertory company.

theater was gone, as were many of the company's homes, and local sources of funding were on indefinite hold. It was at that point that Savadove decided to bring EgoPo to his hometown.

The company received an outpouring of help and goodwill from the entire theater community, including the Fringe and the Arden, and support from the Pew Charitable Trusts. 2006 marked its official debut as a Philadelphia company with *Spring Awakening* on the main stage of the Adrienne. Themed season presentations since then have been a Tennessee Williams Festival ('07-'08), German Expressionist Festival ('08-'09), A Season of Samuel Beckett ('09-'10)



Griffin Stanton-Ameisen will star in *The Golem* March 29–April 15.

and the 2010–11 Theater of Cruelty based on Antonin Artaud. Their productions are “Event Theater” that deliver both a visceral and an intellectual jolt, and each season the company furthers its artistic commitment by “performing dynamic and exhilarating versions of theater classics.” The *Philadelphia Inquirer* proclaimed EgoPo’s “an

impressive Philadelphia debut.” The company has since received four Barrymore nominations and numerous other awards.

The adrenaline keeps pumping this season with three productions at the Prince Theater. The Festival of Jewish Theater will present three important plays, each

representing a facet of Jewish experience that has become part of the collective consciousness: *The Diary of Anne Frank*, October 20–November 10; *The Golem*, March 29–April 15; and *A Dybbuk*, May 31–June 17. To share the experience, call 800-595-4TIX, or visit EgoPo’s website, www.egopo.org.

How Did EgoPo Classic Theater Originate?

By Nancy Ambler

Perhaps the greatest influences on Lane Savadove’s early career were two iconic figures in contemporary theater: Jerzy Grotowski and his spiritual heir, Anne Bogart.

Born in Poland in 1933, Grotowski studied theater in Cracow and directing in Moscow where Stanislavsky was a towering presence. He brought modern Russian theater back to Poland, establishing the avant-garde company Laboratorium and writing a manifesto called “Toward a Poor Theatre” (1968), which altered perceptions throughout the international theater community. His core philosophy was that the fundamental concern of theater is not sets, costumes or other trappings, but the interaction of the “naked” actor with his audience. Grotowski

trained his actors, through programs of rigorous exercise, to perform with their whole bodies, and coached them to enter into an almost mystical relationship with the audience. The audience in turn felt an emotional and intellectual bond, achieving a transformative experience.

By the time Anne Bogart received her Master’s at NYU in 1977, this philosophy had been largely assimilated into the theater curriculum. She began immediately to translate her education into new theatrical experiences. Among her first accomplishments were fresh interpretations of works by Brecht, Chekhov and Gorky. Her interpretations were both acclaimed and scorned but never ignored. She served as artistic director of a repertory

theater, won two Obies and numerous other awards and with Tadashi Suzuki created the Saratoga International Theater Institute (SITI). Suzuki says of her: “Anne Bogart is taking on the backbone of American theater realism and the Stanislavski-derived system which supports it.” SITI’s philosophy is to explore, revitalize and articulate the art of acting through a dialogue between two distinct but complementary approaches: Suzuki and Bogart’s viewpoints both involve a distinctly physical style of theatrical interpretation. In addition to this, she is head of the Graduate Directing Program at Columbia, where Savadove both studied and worked with her. With EgoPo he continues and expands on his mentors’ vision.

Empanadas and Appreciation for House Tour Homeowners

By Fran Levi

Gavin’s Café at 26th and Pine streets provided the location and Argentinean food for the CCRA House Tour Appreciation Party on Tuesday evening October 18. Kathleen and Kate Federico, House Tour Committee Co-Chairs, welcomed the owners of homes and businesses that are stops on this year’s tour. Jezabel Caraega, who is co-owner with Mark DeCoatsworth of the café, served the delicious food while explaining how they renovated an old neighborhood bar that had been closed for 20 years and retained the old china and “Ladies Entrance” sign while installing a marble floor and food preparation area.

The party provided the opportunity for the owners to meet each other and CCRA

representatives. Without people and businesses willing to open their homes and offices to the public, there would not be a CCRA House Tour. Jeff Braff, CCRA President, and Kathleen and Kate Federico, House Tour Co-Chairs, spoke to the group and extended their sincere thanks to those making their living, working and religious places stops on this year’s tour. Everyone who worked on this year’s tour was thanked. It takes a lot of work to make the event successful. We thank them for helping us show tour goers how we live and work in our wonderfully diverse neighborhood.



Jeff Braff, CCRA President and Kate (left) and Kathleen Federico, House Tour Co-Chairs, thanked the owners of homes and businesses for participating in this year’s event.

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CCRA's 53rd House Tour Wows Again

Every October people come from all over for the CCRA house tour. It gives suburbanites, Jerseyites and dwellers in other Philadelphia neighborhoods the opportunity to see our homes and places of business and worship. This year's tour on October 23rd had 16 stops throughout the neighborhood, each exciting and different. Several homeowners chose to open only their first floors and lovely city gardens to visitors while others shared their entire home.

The businesses and rest stops on this year's tour were unusual. The owners of one business live above their showroom while another is an organization housed in a historically certified townhouse. The selection was made truly eclectic by the diverse houses of worship and a pristinely restored old Irish pub that is now an Argentinean café.

As co-chairs of this annual event we want to thank all of the homeowners who made this day possible. We are also grateful to Trinity Memorial Church and Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, both of which have participated for many years. The Independence Charter School opened its doors, enabling us to help them celebrate their 10-year anniversary, while their Durham School building is celebrating its 100-year anniversary. We thank Gavin's Café at 26th and Pine streets for hosting the House Tour appreciation party.

Also to be thanked are Jeff Braff, CCRA President, CCRA board members, Janet Heuman, CCRA Office Administrator, volunteer hosts and hostesses who assisted in making this the best tour ever. We received valuable help publicizing the event, obtaining ads and sponsors, coordinating meetings, writing the copy for the tour book and orchestrating the wonderful event.

Thank you all,
Kate and Kathleen Federico
Co-Chairs, 2011 House Tour



Jr Christensen

One of the modern houses on the tour had a spectacular staircase.



Fran Levi

One stop on the house tour featured a workplace on the lower floors and the owners' residence above.



Fran Levi

A Victorian townhouse on the tour utilized the living room's bay window as a seating area.

CCRA Member Fights for Better City Schools

By Fran Levi

"When Governor Tom Corbett presented his first budget for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with its draconian cuts to public education, I was furious," Christine Carlson said. Carlson, a CCRA member whose children attend Albert M. Greenfield School, decided that she had to do more than just complain to other parents. She was going to fight for her children's education. She started by first organizing Greenfield parents and other Center City area schools. Members of the fledging group made several trips to Harrisburg and City Hall and initiated thousands of emails, letters and telephone calls to state and city legislators. According to Carlson, "While I feel this effort was not successful at the state level, we did contribute to the success of having City Hall take our issue seriously. They recognized the need to not only provide additional funding for the school district, but in a way that the funds were assured to go towards the issues that parents felt was most important—full day kindergarten, transportation, smaller class sizes and the funding of alternative schools."

Afterwards, the group decided to formally organize the Greater Center City Neighborhood Schools Coalition. The group met with Paul Levy, President & CEO, of the Center City District (CCD), and provided input on what Center City needed to do to retain more parents of children about to enter kindergarten. This

is considered to be a critical factor to the future economic success and quality of city life. The Coalition organized just as the CCD released the report *Leading the Way: Population Growth Downtown* based on the 2010 census. The need for good public schools is heavily mentioned in the report, which can be viewed at centercityphila.org/about/Publications.php. After reviewing this report, Carlson said, "We decided to create a strategic plan to address the needs of the 11 elementary schools located between Tasker and Girard—the area the CCD defined as Greater Center City."

Carlson believes that, for the past several years, the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) has focused on charter schools and schools targeted for improvement, such as the Renaissance and Promise Academies. These are important initiatives, but an unintended consequence has been the lack of attention to maintaining and improving the traditional neighborhood schools. "The neighborhood elementary schools in Greater Center City are some of the few truly economically, racially and ethnically diverse in the city. They run on very little resources yet still provide excellent results," she said. "Neighborhood schools should be valued because they foster community, have more parental involvement and have lower absenteeism and lateness," she added. With stronger neighborhood schools more middle class parents of school-age children would



Christine Carlson, an advocate for good neighborhood schools, posed with her daughter, a student at the Albert M. Greenfield School.

stay in the city instead of fleeing to the suburbs for their neighborhood schools.

The Coalition's eight-member planning group will work towards making Greater Center City neighborhood schools a nexus of their communities. Said Carlson, "We are committed to Philadelphia and committed to giving our children the experience of being educated in a setting that prepares them for the multicultural, 21st century." By strengthening these and other schools in the city, fewer families would leave Philadelphia. If other parents follow Christine Carlson's call, this may happen.

Change Coming to South Street and Schuylkill Avenue

By James Campbell, Kristin Davidson, Michael Schade

South x Schuylkill is a joint task force formed in September 2009 to ensure that development in the prime growth area east of the South Street Bridge benefits the neighborhood. Comprised of members of CCRA, South of South Neighborhood Association (SOSNA), South Street West Business Association (SSWBA) and South of South Community Development Corporation (SOSDCD), the task force's primary goals are to promote:

- A mix of uses that create enduring vibrant places

- Connections to Schuylkill River Park and other areas of the city that promote pedestrian and public transportation
- Preservation as a foundation for neighborhood identity

South x Schuylkill held a meeting with members of the city administration, local legislators and the owners of major parcels of land in the area to promote collaborative planning with input from the community, developers and the administration and elected officials. The task force issued the *South x Schuylkill Report* to foster communications. Highlights follow:

- South Street Bridge: The new bridge is moving toward completion. The towers, painting of the bike lanes and installing of the lane reflectors remain to be done. The investment of \$76 million in the bridge is expected to spur the investment of 10 times that amount in the area surrounding its east side in the next 10 years. Work is also progressing on the design for the Schuylkill Banks boardwalk and the ramp to the bridge.
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: CHOP invited South x Schuylkill to an introduction to their master planning project for the old JFK vocational

building and the Springfield Beer Distributor on Schuylkill Avenue. As a temporary measure, CHOP will install a fence and landscape the property.

- Naval Square: Toll Brothers' successful redevelopment of the Naval Home site is now in the third and last phase. Soon the entrance on Schuylkill Avenue will be fully active and the build-out completed.
- The Triangles: The joint committee consisting of members from CCRA, SOSNA, SSWBA and SOSDC along with a traffic consultant, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., has completed an initial study of the traffic issues around the triangles. The joint committee met with Streets Department representatives to review possible approaches to improving traffic.
- Bainbridge and Grays Ferry: Developer Steve Rodriguez is continuing to work on the triangular site bordered by Grays Ferry Avenue and Bainbridge and 24th streets. The project will be a mixed use of residential and commercial with parking in the basement.
- 2101 South Street: Work is continuing on Metro Development's project at 2101 South Street. The building is being converted into apartments and retail. The second and third floors will be rental units. Most significantly, the entire first floor, including a 7,000-foot wing on the eastern end, will be converted into retail, enlivening the long-dead north side of the block.
- Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church: A neighborhood icon, the imposing Greater St. Matthew Church at Grays Ferry Avenue and Fitzwater Street is for sale. The congregation has been at this site since 2000 but no longer feels that maintaining the location is feasible.
- 2400 South Street: Toll Brothers has proposed to demolish the Abbotts Garage and build new residential development on this site. The plan includes stacked townhouses on the west side and a multi-story condominium building on the 24th Street side. South x Schuylkill is planning a joint CCRA/SOSNA meeting with Toll to review the project.
- The Philadelphia School: Improvements and expansion continue at the school.



Michael Schade

Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church, with its imposing tower, is for sale.



Jl Christensen

Commercial tenants have been obtained for the first floor of 2101 South Street. The upper floors will be rental apartments.

The new entry to the main building at 25th and Lombard streets is complete. Work has started on the former L&I maintenance yard on 25th and South

streets and is expected to be completed September 2012. The school plans to increase its enrollment to about 450 children over the next five to six years.



KLEIN'S KORNER

Hey Center City – Zoning Matters!

By Jared Klein

A sizeable portion of my law practice involves zoning work so I find the upcoming changes to the Philadelphia Zoning Code exciting, edge-of-your-seat stuff. To most of the city talk of zoning reform is left to neighborhood activists and policy wonks. However, zoning matters to Center City residents, and all CCRA members should be aware of the pending changes.

Let's start with the basics. Zoning is a means to protect public health, safety and welfare by regulating land use through restrictions on what can be built where and what those buildings can be used for. For example, zoning laws prevent a tire factory from being built in the middle of Rittenhouse Square, which I think all residents can agree is a very good thing!

While originally designed to regulate compatible uses and population flow, modern zoning codes foster pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods and preservation of historic landmarks. Philadelphia has an old and outdated zoning code that was first enacted in 1933 and last updated in 1962. That's right, 1962.

So why do we need a new code? Excellent question. Since the last update, over 1,000 amendments have been made to code, creating a zoning map more reminiscent of a patchwork quilt than an urban planning tool. This has resulted in development that is often at odds with the needs of businesses, neighbors and the city as a whole. For example, our current zoning code contains specific provisions for the construction and operation of tanneries and sawmills but makes no reference to a computer store. I don't know about you, but I spend more time in the Apple store than I do at the local sawmill. Another example of our wacky zoning code is that under the old code, ravioli could be produced in certain neighborhoods but not linguine and fettuccine, and vinegar and vegetable sauces could not be bottled in the same facility.

Since 1962, Philadelphia's population has moved, and Philadelphia's labor base has transitioned from manufacturing to service, rendering our existing code severely out of synch with the needs of our changing city.

What are the proposed changes? They are many and varied, and most are too technical for the purposes of this short essay. Generally, the proposed changes seek to: (a) improve the organization of the code (making it more user friendly); (b) make the code accessible to the tech-

savvy by putting it online; (c) provide an opportunity for civic and community group engagement; (d) encourage transit-friendly development by altering parking requirements and incentivizing public transit access and (e) create a system of overlays and development districts that are compatible with modern Philadelphia. Overall, the proposed code seeks to provide standards to bring uniformity to new construction and enhance neighborhood stability, while providing opportunities for large-scale commercial development.

Zoning reform is important to all Center City residents. We have many of the city's most beautiful, historic neighborhoods along with the main commercial corridor, and we all share the goal of ensuring that the character of our neighborhoods are protected while business develops around us. While there is still much work to do before the final, revised, zoning code is implemented, many of the proposed changes represent a good start. As the CCRA works to ensure that its suggestions for the new code are implemented and that its voice will be heard on future zoning issues, I suggest that all CCRA members take just a few minutes to learn about the upcoming zoning changes. This is an issue that affects all of us, and your input will help CCRA further its mission of ensuring that Center City is a great place to live.



Orange Zoning Notices are posted on buildings to notify the public that a Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing is scheduled.

CCRA Representative Presents Crosstown Coalition's Concerns with New Zoning Code

On September 14, Steve Huntington, former CCRA President, and a coordinator of the Crosstown Coalition, 13 neighborhood groups organized to address zoning reform, testified at City Council regarding the Coalition's concerns to proposed zoning code revisions. At the hearing, the Coalition presented to Council a 25 page analysis of the draft code. A summary of Huntington's comments follow:

I. OVERLAYS: Overlays customize a "one size fits all" citywide zoning code to the peculiar needs of Philadelphia's varied neighborhoods and are therefore a useful addition to the city planning toolbox. The new code should respect the currently negotiated overlays and recognize the utility of overlays in the planning process.

II. CONTROLS FOR HIGH RISE MASSING: With the exception of Sky Plane regulations that apply to selected east/west streets in Center City, bulk/mass controls for other tall buildings throughout the City are absent from the proposed Code. The potential unintended consequences of removing form and mass controls are huge.

III. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS: Institutional Development Districts can have serious impacts on adjacent neighborhoods. Under the current proposal these districts could be instituted on three acre plots, an

area which in some neighborhoods could involve one or two residential properties. The Coalition suggests that a 10-acre standard be introduced. Further, because the Planning Commission controls approval of Institutional Development Districts, the community safeguards found in the variance process, such as notice to Registered Community Organizations, community meetings and Civic Design Review are not available and the current draft should be revised to ensure appropriate community review.

IV. USES: Generally speaking, a significant concern is not so much that one use be permitted in a particular area but that, by repeated exceptions, a neighborhood can be transformed by the concentration of multiple special exception uses. More specifically, the Coalition suggested that the proposed liberalization of procedures for obtaining seven specific uses be revised to conform to the present Code which contains more restrictive standards.

V. PROCEDURES ENSURING COMMUNITY INPUT: The Coalition suggests that the "community representative" permanent member of the new Civic Design Review Committee should be a "currently active zoning committee member of a Registered Community Organization." Rather than merely a "person with civic association review experience."

Further, the Coalition recommends that the provisions of the current Code be replicated by creating two appeal clocks, a 30-day clock for applicants and a "reasonable time" clock for protestant.

VI. TWO STEP ZONING AND CIVIC DESIGN REVIEW: The current draft code calls for a two step zoning approval on "by right" developments, but for larger projects which would be subject to Civic Design Review, there is no provision for review by the Civic Design Review Committee at each of the two stages. This oversight invites development missteps, distrust and uninformed community opposition.

VII. MAINTAIN STATUS QUO FOR SIGNAGE: Council should maintain the current sign regulations, including the 1,000-foot distance requirement of animated and flashing signs from residential properties; the size of temporary and logo signs; and the intent language contained in 14-1604 until the signage working committee completes its work, the public engagement process occurs and/or the remapping and district planning processes are completed.

VIII. FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT PLAN PROCESS: Council should adequately fund the District Planning and citywide re-mapping to ensure success of the Zoning Code re-write launched three years ago.

Elementary School Information Fair - Rescheduled

CCRA believes a vital neighborhood needs young families. Therefore, CCRA will be hosting an elementary school fair, an open house event where parents can shop for an elementary school. At this free public event parents will be able to speak directly to representatives of local public, private, charter and parochial schools serving Center City families to learn about their many and varied elementary school options.

Please check centercityresidents.org for details of the elementary school fair as they become available. The committee is looking for volunteers to contact schools and sponsors. If you are interested in helping, contact centercity@centercityresidents.org

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Another Neighborhood and City Winner!

By Jim Campbell

On September 27, Streets Commissioner Clarena Tolson announced that the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) awarded the Streets Department its Regional Transportation Project of the Year Award for the new South Street Bridge. Each year, DVRPC recognizes leaders and programs that have significantly contributed to the unique character of and improvement to the Greater Philadelphia region, and this year the City of Philadelphia was honored for the bridge that unites Center City, South Street West and Southwest Center City with University City. Even with substantial stakeholder involvement including many community meetings, the reconstruction of the bridge was completed a month ahead of time, within budget and with minimal disruption to traffic.

The project to demolish the old bridge and build over 1,800 linear feet of new bridge extending from 27th Street on the east side to 34th Street on the west side was the largest and most complex public works project in the history of the Philadelphia Streets Department. “This was an extremely challenging project,” said Commissioner Tolson. “I applaud our Bridge Design Unit for leading this project and designing a viaduct that should be considered a benchmark in transportation excellence. It is a marvelous piece of work that all Philadelphians should be proud of.” More than 30,000 pedestrians, bicyclists, buses and commercial and private vehicles use the bridge daily and many of the individuals using it were instrumental in its design and in making it more pedestrian and bike friendly.



Jr Christensen

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission awarded the Streets Department its Regional Transportation Project of the Year Award for the new South Street Bridge.

Making Drinking Establishments Good Neighbors

By Chuck Goodwin, Liquor Committee Chair

Since October 2009, the CCRA Liquor Committee has been working to make neighborhood drinking establishments our good neighbors. The purpose is to eliminate the negative impact that licensed operations sometimes have, without diminishing the convivial street life that makes Center City a great place to live or infringing on the rights of people to gather socially. In short, everyone should have a good time without making anyone miserable.

The problem is that as far as Pennsylvania law is concerned, a five-star prix fixe restaurant, a dive bar, a jammed nightclub and the corner beer store are all “restaurants.” Today’s placid French bistro can be tomorrow’s “zesty” dive bar. Legally, they’re the same, even though they have dramatically different impacts on their neighbors.

The Liquor Committee addresses this gap by encouraging liquor licensees to accept voluntary limitations on their operations. The flexible standards include (1) no takeout beer, (2) no sidewalk service and/or open windows/doors after 10:00 p.m. Sunday–Thursday and midnight Friday–Saturday, (3) no live entertainment, (4) no outside speakers, (5) no dancing, (6) no video games, (7) no lines of patrons



Jr Christensen

When a business applies for an application for a liquor license from the State Liquor Control Board, an orange placard must be posted announcing it.

waiting to enter (i.e., take a phone number) and (8) no loud groups on the sidewalks. The Committee also tries to fix the maximum number of patrons to ease crowding.

No dancing? No live entertainment? What’s that about? The Committee is not made up

of prudes. Dancing and live entertainment are often nightclub things. The Committee does not want a business opening as a patisserie and turning into a nightclub with a crowd lined up around the block.

The Liquor Committee adjusts the limits depending on the location

Continue on page 16

and intended operation. There are places where nightclubs fit and places they don't. In some neighborhoods, sidewalk cafés can go 'til 2:00 a.m., bothering nobody. Other places, they should stop at 9:00 p.m. Locust and 24th is a very different from 17th and Market. Fitting the operation to the place is important.

The Committee's vehicle for limiting operations is to monitor new liquor license applications, protest them and secure Conditional Licensing Agreements (CLAs). CLAs are agreements between the state and the business that limit operations and are usually agreed to when a location is first licensed. Without a CLA, a business can do whatever the law allows. The Liquor Committee and the CCRA acknowledge

State Senator Larry Farnese and his staff for their help with these efforts.

To obtain a liquor license, a business must post a large orange placard at its location. For businesses not currently licensed, any resident within 500 feet of the location can "protest" for any reason. When a new owner seeks to take over an already licensed business, the only challenge allowed is to the "good moral character" of the new owner—an easy standard because, as far as the state is concerned, almost everyone has good moral character. Protests must be made within 30 days of posting. Places that sell takeout beer must also have a permit from the city. This standard is also very relaxed. These applications are marked by a green poster.

The Liquor Committee relies on CCRA members who live within 500 feet to be protestors. If no member protests, we rely on petitioners—people who ask the state, at its sole discretion, to let them object. The Committee's on better ground when they have protestors rather than petitioners.

In the future, the Liquor Committee hopes to address disruptive operations as well as new licenses. The Committee welcomes member feedback and complaints concerning both new and existing bars and restaurants. Contact us through the CCRA's offices at 215-546-6719 or centercity@centercityresidents.org

Reminder to Residents - Holiday Week Trash/Recycling

By Jeffrey L. Braff, Streets Committee Chair

A walk in our neighborhood during a holiday week leaves little doubt that many of our neighbors have forgotten, or never knew, that trash and recycling pick-ups do not occur on city holidays, but rather are pushed back a day for the remainder of the week. The city holidays are: New Years Day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. (And on the affected weeks, CCRA's private contract with the Center City District for sidewalk cleaning is also pushed back a day.) Please pass the word on to your neighbors. And while you are at it, remind them that trash and recycling may not be set out earlier than 8:00 p.m. on the night before collection (but no later than 6:00 a.m. on collection day). It should be obvious that the longer trash and recyclables sit at curbside, the greater the eyesore and the increased likelihood that the refuse will end up strewn around the neighborhood.

Thanks.



Trash and recycling pick-ups will not occur on City of Philadelphia holidays. It will not be collected until the following day resulting in collection to be postponed one day for the remainder of the week.

Fran Levi

Lights of Holidays Past and Present

By Christine Carlson

No matter how we celebrate the holidays, it is the season of light. In our homes, in Rittenhouse Square and on the city streets, the lights of the holidays cut through the hours of darkness that descend on us at this time of year. And what better way to celebrate the light than to watch it reflected in the eyes of the city's children as they make Philadelphia's holiday traditions their own.

Imagine venturing to Wanamaker's, the Center City department store that is now Macy's, with its cathedral-like grand court for holiday shopping in the 1950s and '60s. Families accustomed to black and white console televisions must have found the store's annual holiday show jaw-dropping with its magic fountains, magnificent organ music and wall of lights depicting dancing snowmen, reindeer and ballerinas—even a toy-laden train. The show has evolved over the years and the fountains are gone (you can see them on YouTube) but Macy's has restored the lights to their original luster. Nowadays it's hard to tell who is more excited, the children expectantly craning their necks or the adults transported back to their own childhood. Even though mammoth TV screens and fast-paced video games are ubiquitous, children continue to be captivated. My eight-year-old daughter thinks it's just a really fun show to watch and likes to view it from different parts of the store. She always notices different things about it.

Macy's other holiday treat is found on the third floor. Dickens Village is a life-size, walk-through replica of the holiday story *A Christmas Carol*. It came into existence in 1985 but to me it seems much older. I saw it for the first time at its original home in Strawbridge & Clothier, another Philadelphia department store of days gone by, and recall dusty wax figures whose stiff mechanical motions embodied the technology of an earlier era. It had a complete makeover when it was moved to Macy's in 2006. It's best to enter after the light show has started because it will be less crowded. The children will enjoy it more if they're familiar with the Dickens story about Scrooge and Tiny Tim. My six-year-old son reports, "Dickens Village is really cool, especially when you see the spirits. It's funny when the boy pops out of the barrel and rings the bell. When I was little I thought it was really scary but now I don't think it's scary."

Next, we're ready for lunch. Since the days of both the Crystal Tearoom and Macy's restaurant are gone, we've found a new venue for our holiday tradition: McGillin's Olde Ale House. The first time my husband led me down the 1300 block of Drury Street, I thought he was joking—all I saw was an alley full of dumpsters. But venture forward and a vintage 19th century Irish pub emerges just like the scene from *Raiders of the Lost Ark* when Indiana Jones suddenly sees the temple carved into the desert cliffs. With its crackling fire and congenial patrons, McGillin's is the epitome of festive. There's no need to bring crayons to keep the kids occupied since every wall is teeming with glittering decorations and lights. It's appropriate to end up here—the original Strawbridge and Clothier seal and John Wanamaker signature sign are part of the permanent décor.

After lunch, if you or your young charges don't need a nap, it's time to head over to what my son calls "the big building with the giant screen"—better known as the Comcast Center—for the Holiday Spectacular, one of



Macy's light show is a holiday tradition.

Philadelphia's newest holiday traditions. Its larger-than-life video wall provides a modern day contrast to the light show of old. Seeing it reminds me that the lights and music of the holiday season transcend time and evoke the wonder of every miracle of the season.



The Ghost of Christmas Present greets visitors during the holiday season at Macy's.



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For the City Jigsaw, a Winning Proposal

By Fran Levi

The City Charter requires that City Council Districts be revised every 10 years and within six months following the U.S. Census Bureau's release of their data. Fred Murphy, a CCRA board member, has some ideas on how to redesign these districts to more fairly divide them throughout the city and to lessen gerrymandering. Always up to a challenge, Murphy, a professor at Temple University's Fox School of Business, decided to enter *Fix Philly Districts*, a competition sponsored by the geographical information systems company Azavea, WHYY and the *Daily News*. The contest challenged the average citizen to develop a plan to revise the districts on the web. Four winners were announced: an overall winning plan, an equipopulation plan that divided the city's population as equally as possible among districts, a compactness plan that used the Schwartzberg measure (a detailed explanation of the Schwartzberg measure is at fixphillydistricts.com/rules.html) and a ward splits plan that reduced the number of wards split between councilmanic districts.

With his undergraduate degree in mathematics and a PhD in operations research, a branch of applied mathematics, competing for the compactness prize seemed like a perfect fit for Murphy. He pulled together a team consisting of Steve Kimbrough from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business, Ram Gopalan from Rutgers University Camden and Nick Quintas from Temple to develop a redistricting plan using the Schwartzberg measure — and

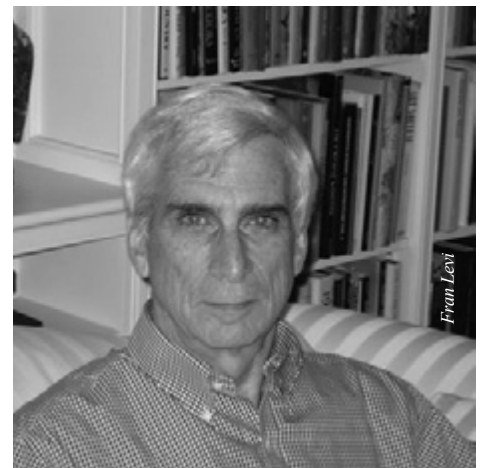
they won! According to Murphy, "We used mathematical methods to generate a good solution and altered using a set of rules of thumb to get the most compact districts." Murphy presented the team's plan to the Philadelphia City Council's Committee of the Whole at a public meeting held on September 7 at Albert Einstein Medical Center. His presentation can be viewed at youtube.com/watch?v=gNmHITetgX8.

Despite winning the prize Murphy said, "The compactness solution was a terrible solution because it did not respect the neighborhoods and the wards." Because of this, his team (known as Team Fred) came up with other redistrictings that did not break up the wards. They used the computer equivalent of Darwinian principles to breed 116 different maps that kept the wards intact. They made these maps part of their testimony, demonstrating that it is possible to respect the ward boundaries yet have many choices for the new boundaries.

Murphy believes the City Charter requirement for redistricting to take place six months after the initial census data is released is also a problem. "The data is not complete," he said. "The charter should be changed. City Council should have one year after all of the census data on Philadelphia is available to develop a redistricting plan." The proposed map should be posted on a website for public comment, the web equivalent of a public hearing, for several days before any vote is taken. The data would be more

accurate, and there would be enough time for the public to review the proposed changes to the City Council districts.

City Council has accomplished the charter's requirement for redistricting within the six-month time period and split the Eighth Ward, the main district covering the CCRA neighborhood, lessening our voice in city government. Councilman-at-Large Bill Green publicly announced that City Council can redo the districts at anytime. Team Fred has offered to generate hundreds of maps for City Council to choose from at no cost, starting from any reasonable definition of the city's neighborhoods. If City Council does not revise the districts before the next election, we will have to wait another 10 years before there is any chance of correcting the problems with the 2011 plan.



Fred Murphy, CCRA board member and a professor at Temple University's Fox School of Business, and his team entered the *Fix Philly Districts* contest and won the compactness prize.

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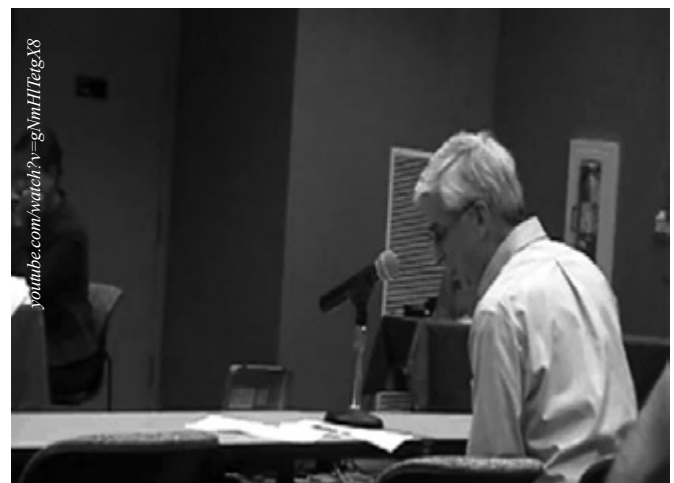
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Fred Murphy presented Team Fred's winning redistricting plan to Philadelphia City Council's Committee of the Whole.



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Zoning Committee Report

Pat Mattern and Brian Johnston, Co-Chairs

August, September and October 2011

1809 Delancey Place (R-10).

Application for the erection of a rear sun deck 20' x 9' as part of a single family dwelling. Refusal: The proposed zoning is refused for the following: Any deck or patio shall be constructed so that it is no closer at any point than three (3) feet from the edge of any driveway and/or rear property line serving two or more lots. Required: 3'0" vs. Proposed: 0'0".

Not Opposed.

2031 Walnut Street (C-4).

Application for a restaurant on the first floor and second floor front with accessory storage in the cellar in the same building with an existing five (5) family dwelling. Referral: The proposed use, restaurant requires a certificate from the ZBA in the Center City Commercial Area Special Controls District. FAST TRACK. **Opposed unless provisos/stipulations adopted by ZBA and LCB.**

265 South 19th Street (SEC Manning Street) (R-15).

Application for a beauty salon to include facial and body waxing (no message) on the first floor (Unit A) in the same building with existing two (2) family dwelling above. Refusal: The proposed use, beauty salon, is not permitted in this zoning district.

Not Opposed.

1829 Addison Street (R-10A).

Application for the construction of a 6'4" x 16'0" one story addition at the rear second story level as part of a single family dwelling, w/ accessory 6' x 16' (+/-) roof deck atop addition roof w/ access via doorway from existing 3rd floor Level. Application to the ZBA was continued. Refusals: Rear Yard Area: 144sf required vs. 80sf proposed. Rear Yard Depth: 9' required vs. 5' proposed. Open Area: 30% (192sf) required vs. 13% (80sf) proposed. **Not Opposed.**

2046 Sansom Street (C-4).

Application is for the preparation and serving of food for take-out restaurant with seating on first floor in an existing structure. Referral: The proposed use, take-out restaurant, requires a certificate from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. **Not Opposed with Provisos.**

2534-36 Pine Street (R-10A).

Applicant is requesting relief from a previous CCRA ZC proviso: *6. No deliveries of food to be made from premises;* **Not Opposed.**

1837 Chestnut Street (C-5).

Application is for take-out as part of an existing eat-in restaurant with seating with garbage disposal system and trash enclosure area on the first floor with accessory storage in the cellar (not to exceed 25% of gross floor area) in the same building as three (3) existing apartments. Refusal: Proposed Use, A take-out restaurant is prohibited in the center city commercial area. **Not Opposed with Provisos.**

2200 Locust Street (R-10). Application for the use law office in the first, second and third floor and accessory storage less than 25% of GFA in third floor and the basement of the same existing three story structure and erection of two accessory flat wall signs, size and location as shown in the application. Refusal: The proposed use, law office with two accessory flat wall signs are not permitted in this zoning district. **Not Opposed.**

1619 Walnut Street (C-5).

Application for retail sale of cosmetics/ beauty supplies, a beauty salon (manicure/ nail salon) all in cellar first and second floors, for a real estate office on the third floor, for an advertising office on the third floor, for real estate offices on floors four and five, floor six to remain vacant (use registration required prior to occupancy) all in an existing six story structure. (no sign on this application). Referral: The proposed use, retail sale of cosmetics/ beauty supplies requires a certificate from the ZBA. Refusal: The proposed use, manicure / nail salon is prohibited on the ground floor in this zoning district. **Not Opposed with Proviso.**

309 S. 25th Street (R-10A).

Application for the legalization of a rear yard parking space as part of a single family dwelling. Refusals: Rear Yard Depth: 9' required vs. 8'3" proposed. Min. Dim. Parking Space: 8.5' x 18' required 7'x14' proposed. **Not Opposed with Proviso.**

31 S. 19th Street (C-5).

Application for the erection of two free standing signs (23'5") high and for the creation of 40 off-street parking spaces including with two handicapped and 10 compact spaces and for the erection of 6' high fence on vacant lot. Refusal: The proposed use, public parking lot, is prohibited use in this zoning district. The proposed use, free standing signs, is not permitted in this zoning district. **Opposed.**

1701-09 South Street (NWC. of South 17th Street) (C-2).

Application for the relocation of lot lines to create two lots from one existing lot (1701-09 South Street). Lot 1 and lot 2: For the erection of an attached four story structure (maximum height not to exceed 42') on each lot with rooftop deck and rear decks (balconies) at the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th story levels (within 30' of roof line, with guardrails 42' high); for use as a retail convenience store (no items as defined in 14.605) on the first floor and a four family dwelling above on each lot. Refusal: The proposed is refused for the following: Required vs. Proposed: Minimum open area of the lot (lot 1) 20%, 318.2 S.F. of 1591 S.F. vs. 0; Minimum open area of the lot (lot 2) 25%, 397.8 S.F. of 1592 S.F. vs. 0; Rear yard minimum depth (lots 1 & 2) 9' vs. 0; Rear yard minimum area (lots 1 & 2) 444 S.F. vs. 0; Maximum height of structure (lots 1 and 2) 35' vs. 42'; Maximum number of stories of structure (lots 1 and 2), 3 vs. 4; Minimum number of off-street parking spaces (lots 1 and 2), 4 vs. 0. **Tabled.**

265 S. 19th Street (SEC Manning Street) (R-15).

Application for a beauty salon on the first floor. Review of proposed signage. **Not Opposed with Proviso.**

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- Thursday, March 15 at 2 PM

To register for an open house, to join Friends in the City or to find out more about *Friends Center City*, *Friends Center City Riverfront* or *Friends in the City*:

- Call 267-639-5257
- Go online at: www.friendscentercity.org
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("FitC" our community without walls)

FitC is a membership-based community without walls. We provide an age friendly gateway to the city and its resources for members of all backgrounds. As a member you will enjoy unprecedented access to events and activities in downtown Philadelphia and you will share those experiences with a community of people who are as committed to the concept of urban engagement as you are.

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The Philadelphia School Opens a New Door

By Lois West

The Philadelphia School held a ceremonial Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, October 6, to celebrate completion of a new, beautifully landscaped entryway to the school at 25th and Lombard streets. State Senator Larry Farnese and City Councilman Jim Kenney were on hand as two preschoolers — both granddaughters of the school founders — cut the bright red ribbon and led their fellow students into the new vestibule.

Remarking on the culmination of Phase I of a project that started years ago, head of school Amy Vorenberg said, “We have dreamed of this new entrance for years. Many, many members of our school community — parents and staff — worked really hard to turn our dream into a reality.”

Construction continues apace at the school’s new property at 25th and South streets, where an Early Childhood Center for preschool and kindergarten students and a Multipurpose Performance Space will open in September 2012.



Led by the granddaughters of founders of The Philadelphia School, Amy Vorenberg, head of school, passes through the school's new entryway at 25th and Lombard streets.

Seasonal Weather and Fabulous Fun at the Fall Festival in Schuylkill River Park

By Leslie Young

On October 15, a cooperatively crisp and sunny fall day, Friends of Schuylkill River Park (FSRP) held its annual Fall Festival in the park, at Pine and Taney streets. This year’s festival included a silent auction and raffle, great music and plenty of tasty treats. Children played games, decorated cupcakes, had their faces painted, met animals at the

4-H petting zoo and bounced themselves silly in the super moonbounce.

FSRP hosts this event largely as a “friend-raiser” and community gathering to enjoy the park as well as offerings from local vendors. The Friends’ also strive to raise both funds and awareness of the many

park improvement projects on which they work throughout the year. FSRP would like to thank all of the donors, vendors, volunteers and festival-goers for their support of this growing neighborhood tradition. To learn more about FSRP, visit www.fsrp.org.



Children rode through Schuylkill River Park in a mule-pulled carriage at the Fall Festival.



The super moonbounce was a bouncing success at the Fall Festival.



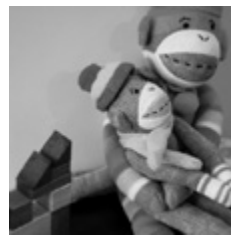
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The Philadelphia School is a progressive independent school serving children in preschool through 8th grade.

Hands Around the Square to Commemorate September 11th

By Steve Huntington

On September 11th, 12 local congregations and representatives from the Islamic and Turkish American community convened at Rittenhouse Square for an open house and interfaith service organized by CCRA to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in 2001.

The event was co-sponsored by the City's Office of Faith Based Initiatives whose director, Malcolm Byrd, was instrumental in obtaining funds from the city to stage the event.

The 14 faith organizations and CCRA staffed 15 hospitality tents welcoming interested visitors from noon to 2:00 p.m. when Mayor Nutter addressed the group followed by a short interfaith service conducted by Buddhist, Christian, Jewish and Islamic clergy and congregants.

At the completion of the service the bells of the Church of the Holy Trinity played a three minute requiem written to memorialize the events of September 11th, and Reverend Erika Takacs of Saint Mark's Church on Locust Street called on the crowd to join hands stating: "Let us stand together holding the hands of these, our neighbors, and remind one another and the world that we need each other, that we indeed are greatly blessed and that we are one."

In response more than 200 people linked hands circling the interior portion of the Square three times.

The congregations participating with Center City Residents' Association were:

- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 21 South 13th Street
- Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, 300 South 18th Street
- First Church of Christ, Scientist, Philadelphia, 1915 Pine Street
- Philadelphia Shambhala Meditation Center, 2030 Sansom Street
- First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, 201 South 21st Street
- Saint Mark's Church, 1625 Locust Street
- First Baptist Church, 123 South 17th Street



A diverse group attended the open house and inter-faith service co-sponsored by CCRA and the City's Office of Faith Based Initiatives.



At the close of the September 11th event, attendees linked hands and circled the interior of Rittenhouse Square three deep.

- Trinity Memorial Church, 22nd and Spruce streets
- Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, 2110 Chestnut Street
- The Church of the Holy Trinity, 1904 Walnut Street
- Philadelphia Dialogue Forum, 9350 Ashton Road
- Tenth Presbyterian Church, 1701 Delancey Street
- Liberty Church, c/o First Baptist Church, 123 South 17th Street
- Council on American-Islamic Relations, Philadelphia Chapter (CAIR-PA), 1218 Chestnut Street



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CCRA Neighborhood Winter Events

Philadelphia City Institute (PCI)
1905 Locust Street • 215-685-6621

Children's Storytime Programs

Baby Lap Sit Storytime is designed for babies aged 6 – 23 months and their caregivers.

Tuesday, December 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday, February 7, 14, 21 and 28, 10:15 a.m.

Toddler Storytime is designed for children aged 24 months – four years and their caregivers to participate in rhymes, stories and songs.

Thursday, December 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 10:15 a.m.

Thursday, February 2, 9, 16 and 23, 10:15 a.m.

Pajama Storytime where children aged 3–7 years wearing their pajamas and accompanied by their favorite stuffed animal and their caregivers enjoy stories, surprises and tasty cookies and milk.

Children should bring their library card to enter the raffle.

Wednesdays, December 28, January 25 and February 29, 6:45 p.m.

Nutcracker Fantasy Program
Monday, December 12, 3:45 p.m.

LEAP (Literacy Enrichment Afterschool Program)

This free drop-in after school program provides homework help and computer assistance services for elementary through high school students and literacy enrichment activities for early elementary students.

Monday and Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For more information on all children's programs call Ms. Karen at 215-685-6621.

Fitler Square Holiday Tree Lighting

The Philadelphia School chorus will entertain at the annual holiday tree lighting.

There will be goodies for the kiddies and a special guest who always arrives in a different mode of transportation.

Sunday, December 11, 5:00 p.m.

Trinity Memorial Church
2200 Spruce Street • 215-732-2515

Trinity Memorial Church Café Noel and Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture Poetry and Arab Classical Music
Friday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.

Nutcracker for Young Audiences performed by Pages to Pirouettes
Saturday, December 10, 11:00 a.m.

9th Annual Beethoven's Birthday Concert to Benefit WinterShelter
Sunday, December 18, 5:00, p.m.

Orchestra 2001 Concert, Works by Crumb, Boulez, Andriessen
Saturday, January 28, 8:00 p.m.

Astral Artists presents Soprano Yulia Van Doren, Philadelphia Recital Debut
Sunday, January 29, 3:00 p.m.

Dolce Suono Ensemble, Mahler 100/ Schoenberg 60 [Year 2]
Sunday, February 5, 3:00 p.m.

Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, Classical Arab Music Concert
Saturday, February 25, 8:00 p.m.



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Making Our Neighborhood a Great Place to Live



Maggie Mund

CCRA and the City's Office of Faith Based Initiatives hosted an open house and interfaith service in Rittenhouse Square to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attack.



Fran Levi

Visitors purchased their tickets for CCRA's 53rd Center City House Tour at Trinity Memorial Church, a stop on the tour.



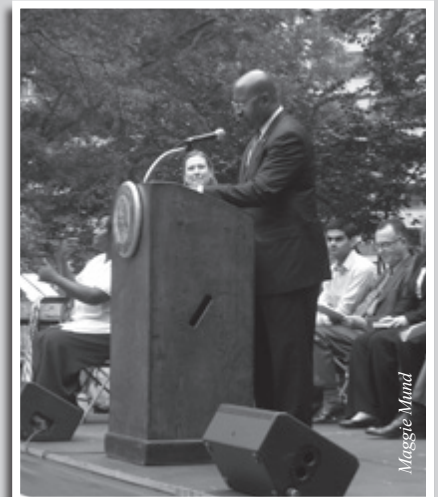
Sally Frazza

Wearing her CCRA hard hat, board member Robin Kohles assisted by her son, Porter Garst, distributed information at the CCRA table at the Schuylkill River Park Fall Festival.



Fran Levi

State Sentaor Larry Farnese and Councilman-at-Large Jim Kenney attended The Philadelphia School's ceremonial ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of the school's new entryway.



Maggie Mund

Mayor Michael Nutter addressed the crowd at the CCRA co-sponsored September 11th commemoration in Rittenhouse Square.