



CENTER CITY QUARTERLY



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 1 No. 1 March 2010

Table of Contents

The Print Center	1
Let's Meet at the Philo	2
President's Report	3
Paddles Up!	4
Meet Kency Kennedy, a Familiar Face at our Library	5
Spring Events at the Philadelphia City Institute - 1905 Locust Street	5
Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Ginkgos	7
Franklin, Philadelphia's Forgotten Square.....	7
Why Not Visit the Wagner Free Institute of Science?	11
Sendak in Spring at the Rosenbach Museum & Library	13
Out and About with Children	14
Affordable Center City Living	14
Walking through Philadelphia Neighborhoods.....	15
You Are Here: Wayfinding in Philadelphia...	17
Unitarians: Universalists in Philadelphia ...	18
Farm Fresh Foods.....	19
Spring Performances Scheduled in the CCRA Area.....	20
CCRA Neighborhood Spring Events	21
The Victorian Society in America: In Appreciation of an Underrated Period	21
Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse.....	23
Policing the Streets.....	25
Police Report: Take Action for Quality of Life	25
Zoning Committee Report	26
Southbridge Project	26
Crosstown Coalition Strives to Impact on the New Zoning Code	27

The Print Center: the Art of More Than One of a Kind

By Nancy Ambler

Since before their communities grew into civilizations, humans have been making art. Not long afterward, other humans began collecting it. At some point, the notion arose that a piece of original art could be replicated mechanically, thereby giving pleasure to more than one owner. And that discovery gave rise to, for example, woodblock, silkscreen, lithography, etching, and most recently photography and digital imaging – media embraced by artists from the Renaissance to this century, and all in the realm of The Print Center.

The Center began life as The Print Club, in 1915. Unlike its earlier quasi-counterparts the Philadelphia Sketch Club (1860) and The Plastic Club (1897), it was established by a group of collectors for both artists and collectors: in their words, to provide “an association for the dissemination, study, production and collection of works by printmakers, American and Foreign.” It was the first of its kind in this country. Among the founders were such eminent Philadelphians as Judge Jasper Brinton and Judge and Mrs. Robert von Moschzisker, whose daughter Berthe became Director from 1944 until 1969. Among the original participating artists were John Sloan and Rockwell Kent. The Club’s first annual exhibition included the work of John Taylor Arms.

The Club’s first headquarters were at 219 South 17th Street, the present site of that temple to gastronomy, Little Pete’s. Two years later, it moved to the second floor of



The Print Center moved to its current location at 1614 Latimer Street in 1927.

the former carriage house it now occupies, at 1614 Latimer Street. Then in 1927, under the direction of Ellis James Ballard, members raised \$60,000 to buy the building and its garden, providing office, reference library and gallery space in the one location.

In its new quarters, the Club was able to expand its range of activities. Some highlights:

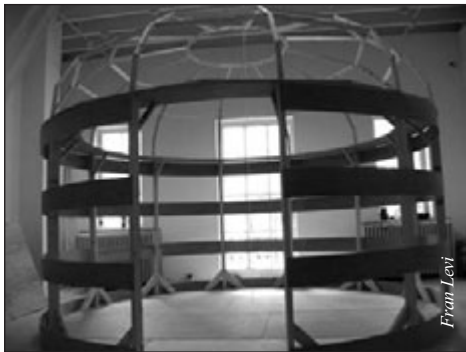
1928 included two first annual Exhibitions, an international one of etchings, and a second of American Lithographs, as well as a Philadelphia Printmakers’ show, with best-in-show awarded to Benton Spruance. The ’30s inaugurated a series of artists’ lectures and establishment of an Artists’ Assistance Fund. During the ’40s, in addition to its war work, the Club formalized its relationship with the Philadelphia Museum of Art by establishing The Print Club Permanent Collection. The 100-plus donated prints became the core of the Museum’s print collection, which the Club has augmented in every year since.

Continue on page 2

CENTER CITY RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

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Workshops were established for etching, lithography and block printing. In 1948 the Ford Foundation recognized the Club's efforts with a grant for building expansion. The '50s saw the first of the Club's publications, William Blake's "Auguries of Innocence" with woodcut illustrations by Leonard Baskin; the '60s, a Prints in Progress program in which local artists made prints with schoolchildren. During the '80s the Club celebrated its 65th anniversary with publication of "The Philadelphia Portfolio," prints by such artists as Edna Andrade, Elizabeth Osborne and Peter Paone. The '90s included The Print Club Residency Series, co-developed with Hester Stinnett, and opening of the still-successful Gallery Store. In the



Under construction is the Print Center's Magical Mongolian Yurt for Philagrafika festival.

new century, the rechristened Print Center celebrated its 90th anniversary, appointed its first full-time curator, launched IMPRINT, the largest public art project in Philadelphia, and began work on the festival Philagrafika, the first of a proposed triennial series.

Founded as a printmakers' collaborative, Philagrafika has evolved into a city-wide festival showcasing replicable work. John Caperton, The Print Center's curator, is one of the five-person curatorial team which has put together exhibits for five venues around the city, including Moore College of Art & Design and the Philadelphia Museum of Art as well as The Print Center. The Center's exhibit is not to be missed. Housed in a Magical Mongolian Yurt in the North Gallery, fluttering with hand-printed pennons and heaped with pillows made by contributing artists, it also includes books and other printed material, art for public spaces and for public health systems.

To come in the second quarter are the 84th annual exhibit of photography, juried by Ingrid Shaffner, Senior Curator of the Institute for Contemporary Art, and Bill Walton's rogue's gallery of "reproductions" and "forgeries."



Many artists painted and printed the fabric covering the Magical Mongolian Yurt.

The Print Center welcomes visitors and new members. In addition to rotating exhibits and its seductive Gallery Store, the Center offers events for members and workshops for both professional and dedicated amateur artists. To learn more, call Liz Spungen, Executive Director, or Ashley Peel Pinkham, Assistant Director, at 215-735-6090, or go to the Center's website, www.printcenter.org.



The Historic
Church of the Holy Trinity
Rittenhouse Square

Spring Art Exhibit & Sale, May 2 – 5
The Rittenhouse Square Artist Guild
 50 artists, 100 original works. Prints and cards available
 In partnership with
Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities
www.rittenhousesquareflowermarket.com

Holy Eucharist with Choir and Organ
 Every Sunday, 11 AM

Choral Evensong, 6 PM every first Wednesday
Preceded by music on North America's Oldest Carillon

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The Rittenhouse Square Artist Guild
 50 artists, 100 original works. Prints and cards available
 In conjunction with the **Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show**

For more information, please call 215-567-1267
 or visit: www.htrit.org ♦ www.ArtOnRittenhouseSquare.org

The Church of the Holy Trinity is proud to be a part of the Episcopal Church committed to welcoming and respecting all and to the deepening of spiritual life.
This announcement donated by John Schmiechen

Let's Meet at the Philo...

By Sam Weinberg

...because there's no better place to renew acquaintances and get up-to-date on what's happening with CCRA and with your entire community than at our 2010 Annual Meeting. The time is 7:00 p.m. the evening of Tuesday, May 4th and the place is the elegant Philopatrian Literary Institute, 1923 Walnut Street. Our President, Adam Schneider, will attempt to separate fact from rumor as he recaps the past year's happenings and helps us look forward to the coming year and beyond. You'll meet and elect our new slate of nominees for a number of Board positions and be introduced to two of Center City's many superstars - the winners of our prestigious Bobbye Burke Historic Preservation Award and our Community Service Award. And, we'll have, as always, a provocative and timely guest speaker. This year it is Seth Williams, our new District Attorney. Of course, you won't go home without enjoying some delicious after-meeting snacks and some neighborly conversation. If you believe, as we do, that there is no more active, assertive neighborhood association in Philly than CCRA, you'll honor us with your presence and your support while experiencing an informative, enjoyable evening. See you at the Philo.

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1 Issue	Members	Non-Members
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⅛ Page	\$ 75.00	\$ 90.00

For information and deadlines, please call
 215-546-6719.



Adam Schneider, CCRA President

President's Report

It is sometimes said that good fences make for good neighbors. Thankfully, this concept has no place in Center City Philadelphia, save perhaps the postage stamp rear yards lining residential blocks. (After all, even the most hardcore urbanite hankers for a small slice of open space WITH privacy.) We can take comfort in knowing that our community thrives without fences. We must nevertheless be mindful of development along our borders. To be sure, the fear is not of invading barbarians from the hinterlands. But even positive development along our borders and adjacent land warrants a close assessment with a critical eye towards potential impact on our district. In particular, I note recent developments impacting our southern and western boundaries, both involving the University of Pennsylvania. We recently met with representatives from Penn at a board meeting to discuss the redevelopment of the former Graduate Hospital site, now Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse, and the extensive redevelopment of the eastern portion of the main campus. These developments affect us all, hopefully for the better, in light of the large role the University plays in our neighborhood.

With so many undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and alumni living and working in our neighborhood, Penn has a strong interest in the life and well being of our community. Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse is an anchor presence on our southern border. And Penn now controls virtually all of the land on our western boundary, just west of the Schuylkill River and highway. Penn's ambitious expansion and improvement campaign on the eastern end of campus is known as "Penn Connects." As its name suggests, the University is striving for stronger connections to Center City, both on a physical and community level. This necessarily means that the CCRA area is the gateway to the new frontier of the campus.

The scheduled reopening of the South Street Bridge in November 2010 will serve as a major catalyst for the desired linkage. But Penn's commitment to the concept of connections transcends mere physical improvements. Penn seeks to connect with the community and its residents. Since redevelopment of these resources affects our community most directly, it is appropriate that the University present its vision to CCRA. Representatives from the office of Community Relations, the Rittenhouse campus and the University Architect presented a broadbrush overview to the CCRA board at the January board meeting.

The scope of the redevelopment plan for the main campus is unprecedented, not equaled since the 1920s. One component of the plan, Penn Park, will surely generate tremendous interest for CCRA and indeed all Center City residents. A swath of land stretching from south of South Street to Walnut Street, Penn Park could become a new urban playground, open to the public and fulfilling the unmet need for more green space, one of the highest priorities identified in CCRA's recently published Neighborhood Plan. Designed to include two football fields, a baseball field, 12 tennis courts, smaller fields for free play, landscaped paths, and field and pedestrian scale lighting, Penn Park should provide a welcome respite for urban dwellers on both sides of the River. We were told that one much anticipated element of Penn Connects, the pedestrian bridge spanning the river and connecting the campus to the Schuylkill River trail, will not likely be constructed as part of the current campaign.

Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse continues to provide a range of outpatient healthcare services in the neighborhood. Some do lament the closing of the emergency room and inpatient services. Yet the facility remains a vital health care provider as part of the University of Pennsylvania Health System. Given the high rate of closure of so many smaller regional hospitals, it is fortunate that Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse continues on, albeit in a different form than the former Graduate Hospital. You can read more about Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse in this issue.

I am committed to seeking and continuing to cultivate and grow our relationship with the University of Pennsylvania. With so much at stake, and no fences to insure good neighborly relations, we must resort to good old-fashioned dialogue to ensure future success and harmony with one of our most important neighbors.

Respectfully,

Adam Schneider

Paddles Up!

By Leslie Young

I am a mindless machine. Labored breathing, burning lower back and arm muscles, thunderous drumming, shouted commands, and stinky water does not exist in my world. My world is the cubic foot of water in front of me, just off the starboard side. I drive my paddle in a split second after the lead paddle slips out, over, and over, and over again. I am clear in both mind and purpose: do not let the team in lane six beat us by a dragonhead.

If you want to experience the exhilarating rush of a dragon boat race, you're in luck: registration for the 2010 Philadelphia International Dragon Boat Festival is now open. The team entrance fee—there are different rates for community teams and corporate teams—includes three heats on race day as well as three practices sessions to help teams acclimate to the boat, learn the commands and practice the characteristic rowing stroke.

Dragon boating is equal parts technique and teamwork. With 20 rowers, seated two-by-two, plus a steersperson in the stern and a drummer seated backward in the bow, space is at a premium in the boat. And timing is everything. Facing the rowers, the drummer

is key to a successful dragon boat team, as his or her drum beat sets the stroke pace and the tempo for the entire race. Both the drummer and steersperson shout commands to the crew throughout the race, making adjustments and calling for different types of strokes.

Since the drummer controls the intensity of the pace, dragon boat racing is a sport that accommodates teams of varying fitness levels. As long as everyone works together, the boat will move forward. Teams vary not only in skill and fitness level but also in purpose. Some people row just to prove they can. Some enjoy the team camaraderie and competition. Still others paddle to raise money for a charity or cause.

Regardless of why you row, there is no better feeling than when the entire team is paddling in synch. You can see and feel the powerful forward momentum of the boat. It's not a sense of gliding across the water as much as it is of a methodical, lurching surge.

The dragon boat stroke itself looks nothing like the low, circular crew stroke more commonly seen on the Schuylkill River. In the "ready position," you grasp the broad,



Leslie Young (front left) and her Dragon Boat team.

flat end of the paddle in one hand, and the handle in the other hand. Then you lean as far forward as possible with the end of the paddle in the water, and the handled end extended in your other arm straight over your head. You will actually be facing inside the boat toward your partner. Moving from this position into an upright sitting position propels the boat forward, as you catch the water in your paddle by pulling hard with your arms and shoulders, and engaging your stomach and lower back.

This unique sport continues to gain popularity, and the Philadelphia festival has grown steadily since it began in 2002. Last year, 154 teams comprising 4,000 paddlers competed on race day, which is traditionally the first Saturday in October. The Philadelphia racecourse stretches 500 meters of the Schuylkill River, from the Strawberry Mansion Bridge to approximately 250 meters shy of Saint Joe's Boathouse.

It's a guaranteed wet and wild good time. What will your time be? The best teams can run the course in two minutes flat.

More information about the Philadelphia festival can be found at www.philadragonboatfestival.com.



Dragon Boat racing on the Schuylkill River.

Meet Kency Kennedy, a Familiar Face at our Library

By Fran Levi

Upon entering our neighborhood library at 19th and Locust Streets, you will see Kency Kennedy, Municipal Guard, standing at the staircase leading to the children's room. The Philadelphia City Institute (PCI), the second busiest branch in the library system, has had one employee through various branch managers for the last 28 years welcoming and assisting visitors, ensuring appropriate standards of behavior of all visitors and

providing a safe environment for patrons of all ages when they visit to attend special programs, read periodicals, use the computer, borrow books, CDs, DVDs, etc. Kennedy's career with the City of Philadelphia began in September, 1981, after working in printing and graphic arts at Gimbel's, United Engineers and Temple University. What was to be temporary became a career. He likes the people with whom he has worked, the neighborhood,

the library's patrons, the PCI Board of Managers and the ever changing branch managers including Joseph Paradin, current Branch Manager, who have treated him with respect and valued his opinion. A jazz lover, Kennedy recommended to one of the branch managers having a jazz performance as one of the evening musical programs. As a result of his suggestion four evenings of jazz were scheduled that were well attended.

Over the years Kennedy has earned the respect of many patrons who have used the library for more than a place to read or borrow books and needed to be reminded of how they should conduct themselves around others in a public building. Initially there may have been some resentment of his gentle prodding; however, when they realized he was serious they ceased to object. Today the problems that he must handle are cell phone use, loud talking, and exceeding the allowable time on the branch's public computers. He routinely walks through the library's stacks, visits the children's area in the lower level, and assists if necessary at the front desk. Because of the large number of patrons requiring assistance, he can be counted on to help his co-workers whom he could not compliment enough on their camaraderie. While he has always found the staff at the branch to be co-operative and pleasant, he said, "The current staff is one of the best that I have worked with over my 28 years in the system."



Kency Kennedy is at his post in front of David McShane's mural painted in 2000.

Kennedy and his wife, a library employee at another branch, are parents of a 36 year old son, two daughters 33 and 29, and grandparents of four grandchildren ages nine, eight, seven and five. When Kennedy's children were young

they would visit the neighborhood library, and their children have followed the same routine.

Next time you visit PCI you will know that the man in uniform at the top of

the stairs will be watching to make sure that all is well and that there aren't any disturbances that will interfere with you or your children having a positive experience during your visit.

Spring Events at the Philadelphia City Institute - 1905 Locust Street

Baby Lap Sit Storytime is designed for babies aged 6 – 18 months and their caregivers.

Friday, April 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 10:15 a.m.
Friday, June 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 10:15 a.m.

Toddler Storytime is designed for children aged 19 – 44 months and their caregivers to participate in rhymes, stories and songs.

Thursday, April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 10:15 a.m.
Thursday, June 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 10:15 a.m.

Pajama Storytime where children aged 2 ½ - 7 years wearing their pajamas and accompanied by their favorite stuffed animal and their caregivers enjoy stories, surprises, and tasty cookies and milk.

Wednesday, March 31 at 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, April 28 at 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, May 26 at 6:45 p.m.

Japanese Bi-lingual Storytime in honor of the 2010 Cherry Blossom Festival.

Thursday, April 8 at 1:00 p.m.

For more information on the Storytime Programs with Ms. Karen, the children's room librarian, please contact her at 215-685-6621.

LEAP is a drop-in after school program for students in grades one through 12 that provides homework help, presents multicultural enrichment programs and assists children and teens in developing library and computer skills.

Tuesday and Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday and Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Homework Help Online powered by Brainfuse is available 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

seven days a week by logging on to www.freelibrary.org. Click on the words "Homework Help" in the Explore Box. On the next screen move to the end of the Catalog Items line and click on the words "Homework Help Online" to choose a subject.

Author Series at PCI is a free monthly program in the library's downstairs meeting room. This Wednesday night series begins at 6:30 p.m., but the meeting room's doors open at 6:00 p.m. for early seating.

Wednesday, April 14
Maria Liberati, The Basic Art of Italian Cooking: Holidays & Special Occasions (2009)

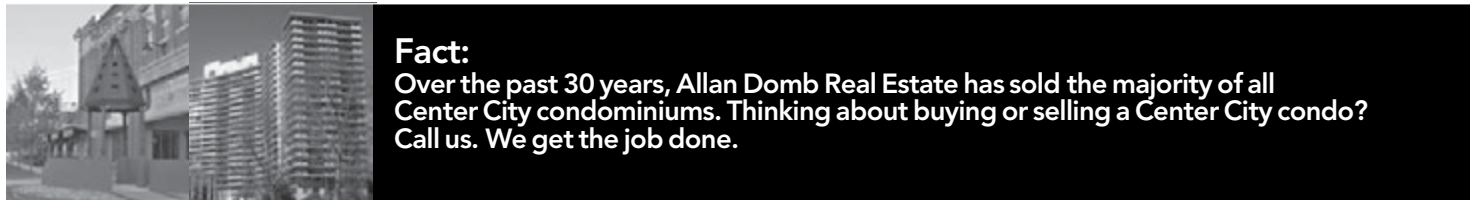
Wednesday, May 12
Vincent Czyz, Adrift in a Vanishing City (1998)



Academy House Dorchester Wanamaker House Independence Place Hopkinson House Society Hill Towers Parc Rittenhouse Warwick



The Rittenhouse 220 W. Rittenhouse Square 1900 Rittenhouse Square 1830 Rittenhouse Square 1820 Rittenhouse The Barclay The Lanesborough Pier 3



Pier 5 Philadelphian

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1820 Rittenhouse Square

Dramatic 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with views over the center of Rittenhouse Square, original plaster moldings, large eat-in-kitchen, lots of light, 3217 sf. **\$1,795,000.**

room and formal dining room with 14 foot ceilings, eat-in kitchen, parking. **\$1,975,000.**
 5 bedrooms, 3.2 baths, elevator, original hardwood floors, fireplaces and molding, courtyard garden, garage, lots of light, chefs kitchen, media room, full floor master suite, high end finishes. **\$2,750,000.**

3 bedrooms plus den, 3 baths, Juliet balconies overlooking Rittenhouse Square, open kitchen, excellent value, 2131 sf. **\$1,595,000.**

1900 Rittenhouse Square

3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 360 degree views, gourmet kitchen, old world charm with modern features, 3200 sf. **\$1,975,000.**

The Dorchester

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, wood floors, new W/D, balcony over Rittenhouse Square, 1231 sf. **\$769,000.**

Philadelphian

2 bedrooms plus den, 2.5 baths, wood floors, Art Museum views, 2120 sf. **\$650,000.**

Academy House

1 bedroom, 1 bath, custom kitchen and bath, hardwood floors, 725 sf. **\$285,000.**

1 bedroom, 1.5 baths (converted from 2br/2ba), completely renovated with wood floors and custom kitchen and baths, balcony, 1231 sf. **\$850,000.**

Duplex penthouse, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, large balconies, high ceilings, one-of-a-kind, 4207 sf. **\$795,000.**

2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, corner unit, courtyard view, 1016 sf. **\$349,000.**

Independence Place

1 bedroom, 1 bath, custom open kitchen, hardwood floors, balcony, 928 sf. **\$339,000.**

Pier 5

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, excellent condition, one parking space included, excellent investment opportunity. 1658 sf. **\$320,000.**

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, eat-in-kitchen, large living area, 1314 sf. **\$350,000.**

1 bedroom, 1 bath, balcony, high floor with magnificent panoramic views. **\$375,000.**

The Rittenhouse

1 bedroom, 1.5 baths, sunset view, eat in kitchen. 1037 sf. **\$599,000.**

One of a kind combined residence, 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths, 2 half baths, excellent entertaining space, custom high end details and features throughout, 5265 sf. **\$1,500,000.**

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, balcony, 1977 sf. **\$875,000.**

Society Hill Towers

Corner 1 bedroom, southeast view, wood floors in living room, 775 sf. **\$329,900.**

Bank Building

3,068 sf of customizable raw space, hotel amenities. **\$1,195,000.**

The Lanesborough

Entire floor penthouse, 360 degree views, raw space, outdoor decks, 2300 sf. **\$1,395,000.**

2 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors, abundant light, unobstructed river views, 1133 sf. **\$399,000.**

3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, Birdseye Maple Floors, high ceilings, exposed brick, custom finishes. 3068 sf. **\$1,795,000.**

Tri-level penthouse, 360 degree views, raw space, 3413 sf inside, 1600 sf outdoor space on three levels. **\$2,750,000.**

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, wood floors, custom built-ins, intimate views of Society Hill, 1200 sf. **\$409,900.**

Barclay

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, W/D, abundant light, 1075 sf. **\$550,000.**

The Lippincott

Bilevel penthouse, 2 bedrooms+den, 2.5 baths, brand new architecturally designed unit. **\$1,975,000.**

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, Delaware River views, corner unit, well maintained, 1200 sf. **\$469,000.**

3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, crown molding and hardwood floors throughout, EIK, 2,474 sf. **\$2,395,000.**

Parc Rittenhouse

1 bedroom plus den, marble baths, pool club views, Brazilian cherry wood floors, 1344 sf. **\$549,000.**

Wanamaker House

1 bedroom, 1 bath, townhome with private entrance, custom kitchen and bath. **\$359,900.**

3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, den, EIK, formal dining room, 10' ceilings, park view. **\$2,900,000.**

1 bedroom plus den, 1.5 baths, hardwood floors, marble baths, custom finishes throughout, 1338 sf. **\$644,900.**

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, renovated kitchen, wood floors, **\$494,900.**

Delancey Street

5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, marble entry, grand living

3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1525 sf private deck, hardwood floors, open floor plan. **\$950,000.**

The Warwick

1 bedroom, 1 bath, marble bath, hardwood floors, 712sf. **\$375,000.**

3 bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwood floors, open kitchen, marble baths, high end finishes, 1978 sf. **\$1,350,000.**

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Everything You Always Wanted To Know about Ginkgos But Were Afraid To Ask

By Jeffrey L. Braff

The ginkgo is a living fossil, with fossils related to the modern ginkgo, “ginkgo biloba,” dating back 270 million years ago. Ginkgo leaf extract has been used in efforts to improve memory; to treat Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia; and to treat sexual dysfunction. And the nut-like gametophytes inside the seeds are highly valued in Asia, and are used by Chinese cooks to make congee and by Japanese cooks to make chawanmushi.

Ginkgos adapt well to the urban environment, tolerating pollution and confined soil spaces. They rarely suffer disease problems, and are attacked by few insects. And their foliage, especially the golds of autumn, is quite beautiful. Thus, it should not be particularly surprising that a CCRA visual count conducted in 2006 concluded that there were 454 Ginkgo trees in the CCRA borders.

But what about that smell! According to Wikipedia (the source for most of the scientific information in this article), Ginkgos are dioecious, with separate sexes, some trees being female and others being male. Male plants produce small pollen cones; female plants do not produce cones. Two ovules are formed at the end of a stalk, and after pollination, one or both develop into seeds. The seeds have a light yellow-brown soft and fleshy outer layer which, though fruit-like, is not technically a fruit. Though attractive in

appearance, they contain butanoic acid (also known as butyric acid) and smell like rancid butter, vomit, or feces when fallen.

So if the “perfume” problem is attributable to the female ginkgos, why plant them in urban environments where they closely co-exist with everyday pedestrians? I leave that question to be answered by others while noting that, according to Wikipedia: “In some areas, most intentionally planted ginkgos are male cultivars grafted onto plants propagated from seed because the male trees will not produce the malodorous seeds.”

CCRA to the Rescue

Since 1997, CCRA has contracted with the Center City District to perform weekly sidewalk cleaning on the day after each scheduled City trash pick-up. The cost for this service is now \$25,440 per year, and is funded through member contributions to a restricted account in response to an annual Spring Appeal (which you will be receiving shortly). This sidewalk cleaning does not include leaves or other vegetative debris, such as fallen ginkgo seeds.

From time to time, on an ad hoc basis depending upon the degree of “stench,”

CCRA has entered into an “Additional Services” agreement with the CCD to provide for ginkgo seed cleanup. The money has been taken out of the sidewalk cleaning restricted account.

This Fall, perhaps due to global warming (or the Phillies losing to the Yankees in the World Series), the olfactory organs of a number of our members who emailed the CCRA office reached the breaking point, and the board approved two months of ginkgo seed clean-up (from mid-October to mid-December), at a cost of \$475 per month. Please remember the fresh air or the ginkgo seed fragrance (whichever works best for you) when you receive your sidewalk cleaning appeal letter this year!



Franklin, Philadelphia’s Forgotten Square

By Christine Carlson

As spring approaches, our beloved Rittenhouse Square becomes a daily harbor for parents, caregivers and their young charges. But when the urge for a special outing hits home, another of William Penn’s city squares beckons with the offer of serious fun.

Not long ago, a jaunt to Franklin Square would have seemed preposterous to Center City parents. That once-vibrant neighborhood square had long since been abandoned by its thriving residents and businesses. In her 1961 groundbreaking book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, urban planner Jane Jacobs described Franklin Square as “the city’s Skid Row park where the homeless, the unemployed and the people of indigent

leisure gather.” Her description of the square’s adjoining properties includes flophouses, cheap hotels, pawnshops, tattoo parlors and burlesque houses. Soon after, the neighborhood experienced a large scale demolition that literally paved the way for an expressway that further isolated the forlorn patch of green. Soon, Franklin Square was all but erased from Center City’s memory, being thought of only when recalling the sites of Penn’s original squares.

During the last redevelopment of Philadelphia’s Historic District and the emergence of the Constitution Center, Independence Visitor Center and the new Liberty Bell Pavilion, Governor Ed Rendell challenged Amy Needle, President

and CEO of Historic Philadelphia, Inc., to give visitors and area residents a hands-on experience. Her inspiration came after she attended a luncheon held to celebrate the completion of the Constitution Center. Accommodating the large number of people who had worked on the project required an outside venue. Because of its proximity and open areas, then-desolate Franklin Square was selected as the site. It was the first time Amy had visited the square, yet she saw past its condition and envisioned a transformation. Undaunted by ample skepticism, the plans for a new Franklin Square took root.

Amy knew that the square’s reputation would keep people away, so Historic

Continue on page 9

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Philadelphia needed to create a compelling reason for them to go. As a result, unique attractions including a “Philadelphia Style” carousel and a Philadelphia-themed miniature golf course were included in the plans. The balance between park-like space and the new attractions was carefully considered, resulting in a wonderful green square where residents congregate, children play in a creatively designed space, and visitors enjoy Philadelphia’s past and present. Though not part of CCRA’s official geography, Franklin Square is easily accessible by car with parking in the nearby Constitution Center. The trip is even more fun for my children when we take Septa’s route 17 bus. The revival of Franklin Square has also contributed towards the scheduled renovation of another oft-forgotten spot – the Franklin Square PATCO stop. Last year, the Delaware River Port Authority announced that the station would reopen. This PATCO stop has had a conflicted past, being opened and closed four times since its 1936 debut. Perhaps this fifth opening will endure and provide another expedient way to get to Franklin Square. When we arrive at Franklin Square, the first thing my children do is run to the playground. There are actually two play areas, one for those five and under, and one for six and older. They are in one fenced area, so it easy for parents and caregivers to keep an eye on multiple charges. The play area for the six-plus crowd is especially interesting. My six-year-old daughter describes the asymmetrical, modern fixtures as “musical” in appearance. In a way, they are a variation on a theme and offer her a climbing challenge that requires an effort similar to the one I exert when listening to contemporary music compositions.

When they’ve had their fill of the playground, next on the list is a ride on the carousel. Afterwards we play miniature golf. My four-year-old son prefers rolling the ball up the green in lieu of using a club, but no one seems to mind. At the miniature Art Museum hole, it’s a challenge for staff members to keep kids and adults from running up the steps Rocky style – perhaps the prohibition of this activity should be reconsidered. When the round is over, it’s time for lunch or a snack, and perhaps another quick visit to the playground before heading home.



Young visitors admiring the restored Franklin Square fountain.



The author's children at the Franklin Square “Philadelphia Style” carousel.

Franklin Square is open year round, but the special attractions are closed during the winter months. They are set to open March 26, 2010.

On a more practical side, park visitors appreciate the on-site restrooms and the Stephen Starr SquareBurger food stand.

But whether it is sense or sensibility that attracts park patrons, Franklin Square proves to be a worthwhile destination. The experiences now garnered in our city’s once-forgotten square will be remembered fondly by children and adults for many years to come.

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Why Not Visit the Wagner Free Institute of Science?

By Lauren Zalut, Museum Educator and Communications Coordinator, Wagner Free Institute of Science

Located off the path of Philadelphia's "Museum Mile", the Wagner Free Institute of Science is a natural history museum and educational institution housed in a building that has survived nearly unchanged since the 19th century. Designed by John McArthur, Jr., later the architect of Philadelphia's City Hall, this hidden treasure has stood on the corner of 17th Street and Montgomery Avenue since 1865, two decades before the founding of its neighbor, Temple University. The Institute was the creation of William Wagner, a gentleman scientist, merchant, philanthropist and collector of natural history specimens. Wagner felt that education in science should be free and

open to all, a mission the Institute's board and staff maintain over a century and a half later.

The Institute serves 30,000 people annually through a wide range of educational programs – from free evening courses for adults to daytime lessons for school groups. All children's programs aim to promote their interest in science by introducing it at an early age. The Wagner is particularly invested in its neighborhood, and 17 years ago began the GeoKids program, a museum-school partnership that brings science learning into classrooms at four North Philadelphia elementary schools.

The Wagner is not only celebrated for its noble mission but also for what is housed inside its National Historic Landmark building. When visitors enter this unique institution they have the nearly magical experience of entering the 19th century. The building's interior is almost unchanged since the 1890s, as is the museum's collection which was systematically arranged in 1891 by Dr. Joseph Leidy, one of the most significant scientists of the 19th century. The museum displays more than 100,000 specimens laid out to illustrate the various branches of the natural world according to Darwin's theory of evolution. As visitors move through the exhibition hall, they move from the simplest organisms to the most complex, as well as through geologic time.

Museum specimens include William Wagner's mineral collection, mounted animal skeletons, skulls and skins, birds, insects and shells. Fossils are also displayed, including many collected on Institute-sponsored expeditions. The best known of these specimens is the saber-toothed cat, *Smilodon floridanus*, discovered in 1886 on an Institute expedition to Florida and still on view for visitors today.

The museum's soaring three-story exhibition hall is filled with cherry wood display cases constructed for the specimens in the 1880s, and most retain the original handwritten curator's labels. While the installation is historic, it is still a powerful tool for learning about science. Groups of all ages come for lessons on natural science and for guided tours of the museum. Visitors are invited to explore the collection on their own or with the guidance of a scavenger hunt that not only conveys scientific information, but also structures the museum experience.

In addition to the museum, the Wagner houses a Victorian lecture hall where Edward Drinker Cope and Margaret Mead once taught, and is still used to present science to Philadelphians on a regular basis. In this space the Institute hosts special lectures from contemporary scientists, historians and artists as part of the evening series Weeknights at the Wagner, and the annual Westbrook Lecture. The lecture hall is also the setting for Saturday Family Open Houses, which



Wagner Free Institute of Science's Exhibit Hall today looks as it did in 1900.

Continue on page 13



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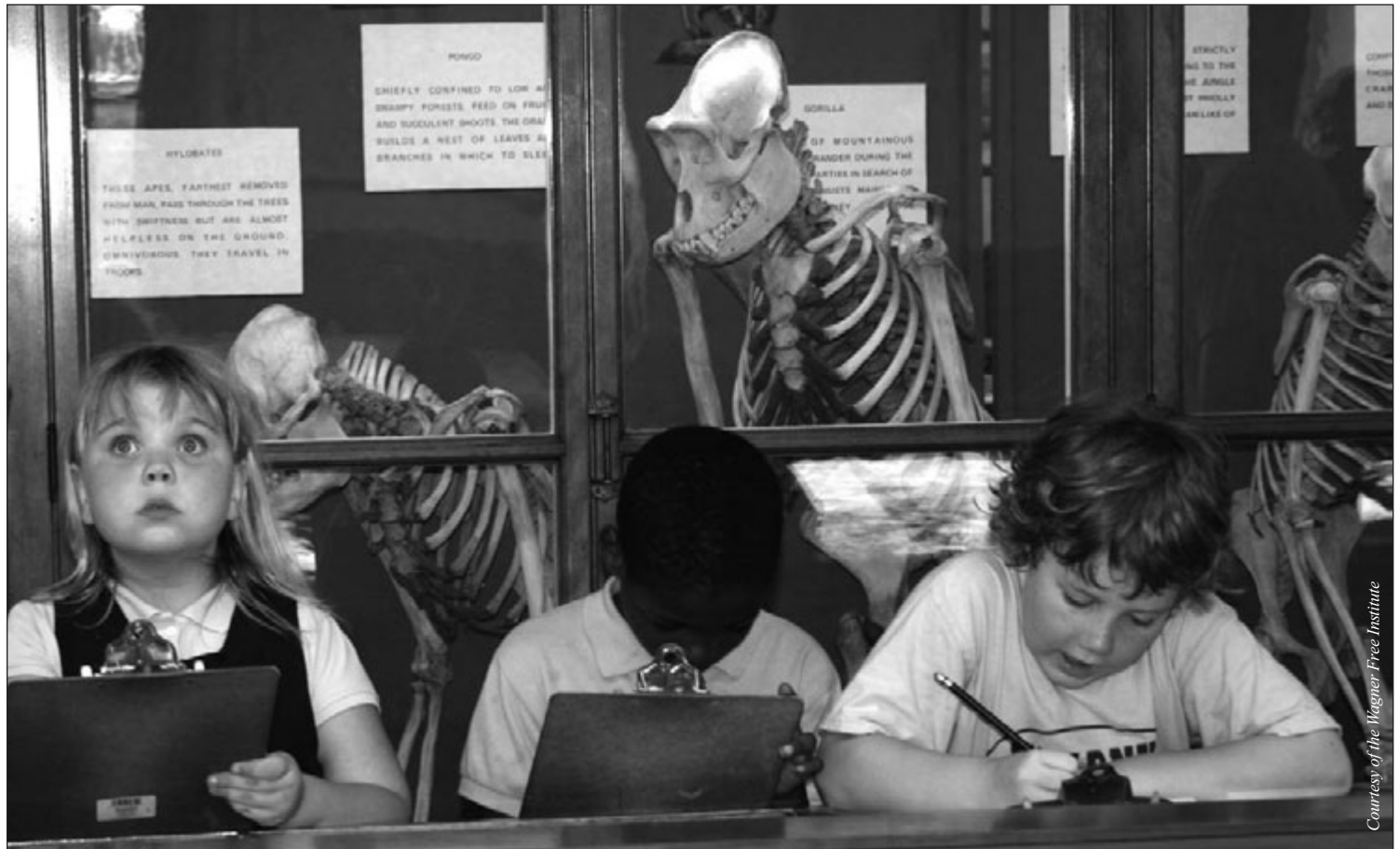
include science-centered lessons for children and activities throughout the museum.

The Wagner Institute is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for self-guided tours. Groups of more than six people are asked to phone in advance for reservations, and guided tours are available by appointment. Adult education courses are held on weekday

evenings; special lectures and Family Open Houses are held on periodic Saturdays and evenings. The Institute is easily accessible from Center City, either by the Broad Street Subway, the #2 bus or by car. Free street parking is available on Montgomery Avenue, in front of the museum and nearby.

Upcoming programs include the 2010 Westbrook Lecture, "I Am One of You:

The Secret Life of Bacteria," presented by Dr. Bonnie Bassler on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. Other future programs and course listings can be viewed at www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org; more information is also available by calling 215-763-6529.



Skeletons watching GeoKids at work at the Wagner Free Institute of Science.

Sendak in Spring at the Rosenbach Museum & Library

The Rosenbach Museum & Library at 2008-2010 Delancey Place will celebrate Maurice Sendak with their annual festival for children of all ages the first weekend of spring, March 20-21. There will be **Drop-in Activities** 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. that are free with museum admission and do not require a reservation.

At 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. both days visitors who have reserved a free ticket will be able to attend performances of *Wild Things Whirligig*, a dynamic,

interactive performance inspired by the wonderful work of Maurice Sendak. Created by Karen Saillant, Artistic Director of the International Opera Theater, this musical performed by and for children weaves together classic Sendak characters with figures that have inspired the author, such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Performances last approximately 45 minutes.

Seating for the performances is limited. Tickets are free when requested with paid

museum admission and will be available on the dates of the performances, or in advance, beginning on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. For advance tickets, museum admission must be paid in-person. The Rosenbach Museum & Library cannot accept ticket orders over the phone.

Please contact Emilie Parker, Director of Education (215) 732-1600 ext. 120 or eparker@rosenbach.org for more information.

Out and About with Children

By Robin Kohles

Center City Philadelphia is blessed with an enormous number of resources for families with children. But finding these resources can require a bit of legwork and research. The Center City District (CCD) has just made life a bit easier for families, by launching a new Web site devoted to parents and kids in Center City. This new Web site, www.kidsincentercity.org, not only provides an exhaustive listing of activities, it also provides tips on transportation, healthcare and shopping. And, perhaps most importantly, the CCD provides a comprehensive list of schools and educational opportunities.

The number of families in Center City (and Philadelphia in general) is rising. Keeping these families in Center City is important to maintaining a vital community. A critical factor in keeping families in Center City is educational opportunities. All public schools are listed on the CCD Web site,

including boundary maps and information on enrolling. The site also lists private, parochial, and charter schools, as well as preschools and day care centers. Every school listing includes contact information and a link to the school's Web site. Beyond schools, the CCD site includes listings for all sorts of summer camps, after school programs and special classes.

But there is more to life than education. The site also includes an unbelievably wide-ranging list of events, which can be filtered and searched by date, category or location. Activity listings are not just for kids, as local college games, lectures and art exhibits are included as well. The site also includes a huge list of stores, restaurants, doctors and cultural institutions. For each listing there is detailed contact information, a map, and a list of nearby resources. The health care section provides Center City options ranging from childbirth classes to orthodontic

practices. There is even a list of places to hold birthday parties!

To help navigate and make sense of all this, the CCD site includes an excellent dynamic map, which displays the locations of all these resources. Various transportation options are explained, including how to get around by car, bike, taxi and public transportation. Sign up for the quarterly newsletter to receive school news updates and special event information.

All of this information is available on various scattered Web sites and local magazines, but the CCD has successfully consolidated an enormous wealth of information, in an easy to use Web site, which should make raising a family in Center City a little easier.

Center City District's Kids in Center City Philadelphia - www.kidsincentercity.org.

Affordable Center City Living

By Leslie Young

Over the past few years, renewed interest in urban living from people at all stages of life has fueled several residential real estate projects that are changing the face of downtown Philadelphia. It's difficult to walk more than two blocks in Center City these days without seeing at least one billboard touting "luxury" condominiums or "excellence" in downtown living. Knowing that enough sustained demand exists to warrant the development of these deluxe accommodations is encouraging for the city's continued growth. While it seems the need for high-end residences is being met, that begs a question: what about the demand for more affordable housing?

According to *Residential Development 2009: Riding Out the Storm*, a report compiled by the Center City District and the Central Philadelphia Development Corporation, "Center City Philadelphia has succeeded in attracting well-educated, knowledge-workers — young professionals and empty-nesters — a key objective of development professionals in every American city." Much has been reported about the empty-nesters trading sprawling suburban homes for million-dollar condos in the Philadelphia skyline, but where are these average, young professionals

living? If housing and income data for Center City are any indication, they are all renting.

From the second quarter of 2008 through the second quarter of 2009, the average housing unit sale price was \$495,934 within the core Center City area — defined in the report as encompassing zip codes 19102, 19103, 19106 and 19107. The average sale price drops to \$311,261 in the expanded outer ring — defined in the report as zip codes 19123, 19130, 19146 and 19147.

According to the survey, 35 percent of households within these districts bring in \$75,000 or less. Half of those households reported an annual income less than \$50,000. Factor in the city wage tax, student loans, perhaps day care or private school, and it quickly becomes clear that this large segment of Center City residents is temporary. Without residences that they can afford, many of these young, well-educated people will be forced to move out of the city.

Thirty-five percent of households encompasses a lot of people and also constitutes a largely untapped market for developers. Affordable Center City housing development would help the city retain a



The number of affordable rental units in Center City for young professionals and recent graduates is limited.

broader residential base by accommodating recent graduates, young families and other more modest income groups.

One of Philadelphia's greatest achievements is its neighborhood diversity. Creating a housing supply with a wider range of price points would strengthen the overall community and help Center City maintain its diversity over the long term.

Walking through Philadelphia Neighborhoods

By John Andrew Gallery, Executive Director, Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

Last fall I went to Nashville, Tennessee, for the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Each time I visit a city for the Trust's conferences, I take a close look at the downtown and at some of the city's neighborhoods. The result is usually a greater appreciation of Philadelphia when I return. Rarely do I find a downtown as vibrant as Center City (my recent visits have taken me to Denver, Tulsa, St. Paul and Pittsburgh). One of the reasons for this is the presence of strong downtown neighborhoods—Rittenhouse Square, Society Hill, Old City—something that I rarely find in other places. As my trips into the neighborhoods of these cities leave me with a greater appreciation of Philadelphia neighborhoods, I ask myself, what makes Philadelphia neighborhoods so distinctive?



These houses in Girard Estates in South Philadelphia are a change from the usual brick row houses

First and foremost, Philadelphia neighborhoods are wonderful places in which to walk. This is particularly true of those neighborhoods developed before 1940, after which the influence of the automobile was more greatly felt. These older neighborhoods are wonderful places to walk for many reasons. First, the small row house width of property lots means that buildings are close together and buildings are generally of similar size. This creates an overall neighborhood environment far more interesting than places where buildings are widely separated with parking lots or miscellaneous open space in between. It also means that there is a great deal of visual change occurring every 16 or 20 feet along the street. Even on blocks with simple brick row houses, the details of doors, or windows with or without shutters or window boxes, or changes in the patterns of brick or cornice details creates a great deal of visual variety that leads the eye and the mind along.

Second of course is the extraordinary architectural character of so many neighborhoods. The Rittenhouse Square neighborhood is filled with a variety of architectural styles from elegant brownstones to high Victorian brick townhouses. But outside Center City, the neighborhoods of Philadelphia are like visiting a museum exhibiting every architectural style ever invented. Think, for example, of Powelton Village, which has a greater concentration of ornate Italianate villas than I've seen in any other city, along with great mansions built by wealthy industrialists, like the Poth Mansion at 33rd and Powelton Ave. Or check out the exuberant richness of Victorian row and twin houses in Spruce Hill and see one of my favorite row of houses at 42nd and Spruce Streets designed by the Hewitt Brothers. (see photo below) Or take a look at the large Flemish-style houses along Parkside Avenue on your next trip to the Please Touch Museum. Even what seem to be simple row houses in South Philadelphia have rich architectural details if you take a closer look. There are often interesting patterns in the brickwork, or distinctive cornices and always a fabulous old bank building or really ornate house somewhere in the neighborhood.

It is this richness of architectural detail that makes it so pleasurable for me just to walk around Philadelphia neighborhoods and literally stare at everything in sight!

Why not get out and take a walk in a Philadelphia neighborhood you've never visited? Powelton, Spruce Hill and Spring Garden are all a short bus ride away from Rittenhouse Square. The Preservation Alliance's walking tours, beginning in May, offer guided tours of such diverse neighborhoods as Fishtown and Frankford, East Falls, Tacony, Manayunk, Callowhill and Girard Estates. How many have you been to? And if it's too cold to get out and walk right now you can get a virtual tour of Girard Estates in South Philadelphia (see photo on left) from the self-guided tour on the Alliance's website (www.Preservationalliance.com/events/selfguidedtours). You'll also find there two tours of Rittenhouse Square—downloadable to your smart-phone—where you might discover something new about your own neighborhood.

The best way to help preserve the distinctive character of Philadelphia neighborhoods is to experience them for yourself, and then support efforts to protect and restore these wonderful places.



These Victorian houses at 4206-4218 Spruce Street were designed by the Hewitt Brothers (G. W. and H. D. Hewitt).



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You Are Here: Wayfinding in Philadelphia

By Virginia K. Nalencz

All over the world, cities have a distinctive way of indicating to people how to get around. Paris divides into 20 districts that ripple out from the Seine, each street and square tagged with a Belle Epoque blue plaque. London sees its reflection in the map of the Underground where its streets untangle into jaunty horizontals, verticals and diagonals. In New York the Bronx is up, the Battery's down, and the (mostly) numbered grid of streets and avenues organizes the rest. Philadelphia marches in straight lines according to William Penn's plan, two miles square between two rivers.



Walk! Philadelphia directional signs indicate destinations within 2-5 blocks.

A city of neighborhoods whose people tended to stay in the place where they grew up, Philadelphia during its first three centuries had little incentive to give directions in systematic fashion. Getting around followed predictable patterns: daytrippers set a course for Independence Hall, workers went to habitual workplaces, and suburbanites drove in for high culture and adventurous dining. By the mid-1990s, after glory days as the nation's capital and as a manufacturing center had faded, the building of the new Convention Center signaled the city's intention to become a leader in the tourism and hospitality industry. A city that welcomed visitors needed clear, uniform signage to show everyone the way to its varied destinations.

"Imagine the city without signs," says Nancy Goldenberg, vice president of planning at the Center City District (CCD). In 1995, CCD in partnership with the city launched the streetscape initiative to replace the confusing welter of signs with a lucid, standardized system centered on the downtown area. "We take the signs for granted," says Goldenberg, "but a lot of thought went into their design and placement." Joel Katz Design Associates, a Center City firm, devised the signage in a signature style of brilliant clarity.

"Joel always had a passion for the city," says Goldenberg, "and he wanted to take a fresh look at Philadelphia's signage." Katz's designs for Walk! Philadelphia and its later expansion, Ride! Philadelphia, along with the earlier Direction Philadelphia, for vehicles, have created a unique wayfinding system which links walking, driving, and public transit. The signs, termed "colorful but not gaudy" by one frequent visitor, highlight cultural and commercial landmarks.

The anchors of Walk! Philadelphia are the disk maps located mid-block on both sides of major streets and the directional signs at downtown intersections. The disks provide a vivid diagram of the city divided into five sections of different colors, from brick red for the Historic District to green for Rittenhouse Square. The directionals on corners, double-faced like the disk maps, list six-to-ten destinations, all within two-to-five blocks. First-time viewers of the signs are delighted to discover that they are oriented in the direction the person is facing. As Nancy Goldenberg notes, "North is not always up."

"I get phone calls from all over the country about our signage," says David Kanthor, project manager at CCD who oversees maintenance of the signs. "Providence and Boston are particularly interested. They ask, 'How do we decide what to include on the signs?'" (Some criteria are: nonprofit, unless otherwise noted; open to the public during regularly scheduled hours; host functions of broad significance.)

Outlanders and Philadelphians alike may be surprised to learn how sturdy yet



Heads Up: Disk maps give a wide-angle view of the city.

vulnerable the signs can be. They must be replaced regularly; graffiti happens, and colors fade in the sunlight. Signs are bent, uprooted and occasionally tossed away by heedless construction crews. On the other hand, if hit by a car, the sign's bracket swivels; it can endure a 300 mph wind gust. Adding and subtracting is a continuing issue. The Visitor Center moves, a theater company changes its name or closes, and 80 or more signs need maintenance.

"The eyes and ears of the general public are constantly looking after the signs," says Kanthor. The care taken by the citizenry for the signs speaks to their success as a symbol of the city. Like the lights on Boathouse Row, the orchestra tuning up at the Kimmel Center and the mustard dripping off a soft pretzel at Reading Terminal Market, the signs say "Philadelphia," and show everyone how to find the music, the mustard and the lights.

Unitarians: Universalists in Philadelphia

By Dane Wells

In 1796 a small group of English Unitarians living in Philadelphia led by John Vaughan formed the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia. Their mentor was Joseph Priestley, the discoverer of oxygen and an internationally known scientist who had recently relocated from England.

Vaughan, a wine merchant and civic leader, was the treasurer and librarian of the American Philosophical Society and worked with many of the country's founding fathers, including Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. The congregation itself only numbered 25 to 30, but it developed a program that attracted a great many of the city's intellectuals. In 1813 they built an octagonal church at 10th and Locust Streets. There were 258 donors to the building fund, the list reading like a Who's Who in Philadelphia, attesting to John Vaughan's influence.



Helen Kate Furness, wife of Henry Howard Furness, is the subject of a stained glass window by Henry Holiday.

In 1825 they engaged a young minister from Harvard, Reverend William Henry Furness. Under his dynamic leadership, the congregation grew. Furness became a notable figure in Philadelphia, especially in the abolitionist movement. Though Furness's abolitionist positions were controversial, the congregation gained considerably, and with the help of William Strickland they built a second larger church in 1827. In 1883, eight years after Reverend Furness's retirement, the congregation needed an even larger building and hired his son, Frank, to design the current building, at 2125 Chestnut Street.



The sanctuary of the First Unitarian Church features hammerbeam trusses.

Frank Furness is now considered to be one of Philadelphia's most important architects. He studied with Richard Morris Hunt and was exposed to English medievalism and inspired by the writings of John Ruskin. Reverend Furness was also an important influence who taught Frank to think out-of-the-box. Most likely Ralph Waldo Emerson, a close family friend, encouraged him to find new styles rather than just copy the classics.

Frank Furness developed a highly personal style that is expressed in polychromatic decoration and massive geometric ornamentation as well as in a variety of sculptural forms, the shapes of which were frequently abstractions of forms found in nature. He often played with structural forms, such as columns, and showed industrial influences, such as making a bolt head a decorative feature. In addition to the Unitarian church, other classic buildings by Frank Furness include the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts at Broad and Cherry Streets, the Fine Arts Library at the University of Pennsylvania and the Hockley House at 235 South 21st Street.

At the Unitarian church, one is first taken by the hammerbeam trusses in the sanctuary, complete with exposed bolts. A floral motif in leaded glass windows at the rear of the sanctuary is repeated in the chancel reading desk and is typical of Furness' work. The chancel window is believed to be the first by Tiffany Glass Company to be installed

in Philadelphia, and at the other end of the sanctuary is a La Farge window awaiting further restoration. There are also several important stained glass windows by Henry Holiday of London which have a distinct pre-Raphaelite influence.

The lavish Victorian style employed by Furness during the late 19th century proved unattractive to mid-20th century tastes, and the church suffered some neglect. The current congregation, however, reveres the Furness legacy. In collaboration with Partners for Sacred Places, a substantial preservation and restoration effort is underway, with even more being planned for the future. The congregation is very close to achieving an initial \$355,000 campaign, and hopes to begin work this summer to repoint the masonry to prevent water damage. The recent restoration of the front porch interior provides a sample of what is to come.

As a regional community center for spiritual, educational, cultural, wellness and other civic activities, the Unitarian church welcomes over 2,000 people a week. In addition to classical concerts, the church has received national recognition from *Rolling Stone* as an alternative rock venue because of events organized by R5 Productions. These concerts draw hundreds of young listeners to a drug and alcohol-free environment.

For more information visit www.philauu.org.

Farm Fresh Foods Delivered to Center City Residents

By Amy Crystle, Manager, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Where do you buy your produce? Do you ever wonder how far your food traveled to reach you or who put the seed in the ground and where? More and more conscientious consumers want to know the faces behind their food. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is one way to know your farmer and take food safety issues into your own hands. Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative (LFFC), an organic farmers' cooperative owned and operated by 70 member farmers, grows certified organic produce and pastured animal products and serves Philadelphia with a CSA program. LFFC delivers 28 weeks of certified organic, Lancaster-grown produce to CSA members weekly from May through November. Individuals participate in CSA by purchasing a vegetable subscription, or share. CSA members pay for their "share" during the winter months, giving farmers much-needed funds at a very lean time of the agricultural year. Farmers repay CSA members during the growing season with freshly harvested produce at wholesale prices. As the CSA manager of LFFC my responsibility is to facilitate a connection between CSA members and the farmers growing their food. Nearly every Wednesday morning last summer, I visited a farmer contributing produce to Lancaster Farm Fresh CSA. I arranged a time to meet, then the farmer and I, often accompanied by his wife and sometimes a few children, walked through their fields together. We viewed the crops in the field and talked about growing, harvesting and eating them. I brought news from the office, CSA members and other farmers to share.

LFFC has grown from 12 farmers in 2006 to 70 farmers in 2010. Each year a crop of new farmers joins the Cooperative. In 2009 25 new farmers joined LFFC. I felt compelled to visit their farms, see their produce fields and get to know them. Accounts of these visits comprised a portion of the newsletter, *The Indeterminate Tomato*, I sent to CSA members with their vegetable delivery each week. Through these tales I hoped to convey to CSA members, mostly city folk, the character of the farms and farmers growing their food in rural Lancaster County. During these visits I learned a lot about food, farm life and growing produce, and shared that knowledge with CSA members.

The farmers asked lots of questions during my visits. Many of them wanted to know, "What happens to the produce after it leaves my farm?" I explained the packing, delivery and

distribution processes to them. Most LFFC farm families are Amish or Mennonite and include five or more children. The farmers told me how much they enjoy working together with their families: picking, washing and packing produce for CSA shares.

As in every community, there are many people who contribute to the success of LFFC CSA. The managers and board members plan the program in September. Individuals and families register for vegetable, fruit and flower shares from November 1 through April 15. (LFFC sells prorated shares from April 16 through September 15.)

In May, when the spring crops are ready to harvest, farmers send crop predictions to the Cooperative office. I order produce from as many as 15 farmers for one CSA delivery and send a "shopping list" to CSA members. Early the next morning the farmers check their voicemail for an order for the CSA

program. They harvest and pack the produce and load it on the delivery truck bound for the LFFC warehouse in Leola. At the warehouse the packing staff assembles the shares for each individual pick-up site. They load the trucks and delivery drivers take the produce to your CSA pick-up site, where your site host unpacks it.

Many people care for the CSA vegetables as they make their journey from LFFC farms to your kitchen. You can read more about Lancaster Farm Fresh and find a 2010 CSA application on our Web site: www.lancasterfarmfresh.com. I hope that you will join our community of Lancaster County farmers and learn more about the origins of your food during the 2010 growing season. Individuals or organizations are needed to host pick up sites in Center City. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please ask them to contact me. In return a free full vegetable share is offered to site hosts.



David, a Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative farmer, is sorting the tomatoes that he grew.

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Spring Performances Scheduled in the CCRA Area

(Due to limited space, only the performances taking place Broad Street and west are listed.)

1812 PRODUCTIONS

421 North 7th Street, Suite 218,
215-592-9560, www.1812productions.org
Happily Ever After,
March 4 – March 28.
Adrienne Theatre, 2030 Sansom Street.
An Evening Without Woody Allen,
April 29 – May 16.
Plays & Players Theatre,
1714 Delancey Street.

ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS

1920 Spruce Street,
215-735-1685, AVAOpera.org.
Jubilate! A Concert of Sacred Music,
March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the
Holy Trinity, 1904 Walnut Street.
Free Recital Series, March 10 at 5:30 p.m.
The artists of The Academy of Vocal Arts
present a series of hour-long voice recitals.
BrAVA Philadelphia Gala and Concert,
March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at The Kimmel
Center for the Performing Arts.
Opera Preview: La bohème,
April 21 at 5:30 p.m.

THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PHILADELPHIA

215-893-1709, ChamberOrchestra.org.
Brahms Violin Concerto, March 28 at 2:30
p.m. and March 29 at 7:30 p.m.

THE CURTIS INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

1726 Locust Street,
215-893-7902, Curtis.edu.
Curtis Student Recital Series,
Now – May 14.
Samuel Barber Centenary Celebration,
March 9 at 8:00 p.m.
Guest Recital: Leon McCawley,
piano ('95), March 16 at 8:00 p.m.
**Curtis Alumni Recital Series, Michael
Schade**, tenor ('90), April 18 at 3:00 p.m.
Curtis Chamber Orchestra,
Presented by Philadelphia Chamber Music
Society, April 21 at 8:00 p.m.
Curtis Symphony Orchestra,
April 24 at 8:00 p.m.
Il Barbiere Di Siviglia,
Curtis Opera Theatre, May 6 – 9 at The
Prince Music Theater.

THE GERSHMAN Y

401 South Broad St.,
215-446-3021, GershmanY.org.
By Strouse: A Musical Review,
Music by Charles Strouse, May 13 – 16 at
The Arts Bank, Broad and South Streets.

INTERACT THEATRE COMPANY

2030 Sansom Street,
215-568-8077, InterActTheatre.org.
When We Go Upon The Sea,
April 9 – May 9.
Black Pearl Sings!,
May 28 – June 27.

OPERA COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA

215-893-1018, www.operaphila.org.
La Traviata,
May 7 – 16, Academy of Music.

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

215-893-1999, PABallet.org.
The Four Temperaments/Carmina Burana,
March 4 – 13.
The Crossed Line/In the Night/The Concert,
March 13 at 8:00 p.m. and
March 14 at 2:00 p.m.
**Square Dance/Afternoon of a Faun/
Requiem for a Rose/In the Middle,
Somewhat Elevated**,
May 5 – 9 at the Merriam Theater

PETER NERO & THE PHILLY POPS

260 S. Broad Street, 215-893-1999,
PhillyPops.org.
The Stage Door Canteen,
March 24 – 28.
The Great American Tenor,
April 21 – 25.
**Winding Around the '70s with
Maureen McGovern**,
May 12 – 16.

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY (CCRA area

performances only and are at the Kimmel
Center for the Performing Arts, Broad and
Spruce Streets except where noted.)
215-569-8080, PCMSConcerts.org.
Gerald Finley, baritone; **Julius Drake**,
piano, March 10 at 8:00 p.m.
Artemis Quartet, March 14 at 8:00 p.m.
Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band,
March 26 8:00 p.m. Gershman Y, Broad
and Pine Streets.
Yefim Bronfman, piano, April 9 at 8:00 p.m.
Richard Goode, piano, April 22 at 8:00 p.m.
Hagen Quartet, April 28 at 8:00 p.m.
Soovin Kim, violin; Ieva Jokubaviciute,
piano, May 4 at 8:00 p.m.
Musicians from Marlboro III, May 5 at
8:00 p.m.
Ensemble ACJW - John Adams, conductor;
Jeremy Denk, piano, May 9 at 3:00 p.m.

THE PHILADELPHIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER

2111 Sansom Street, 215-496-9722,
PhillyShakespeare.org.
**Shakespeare and Film: The Dogme Group,
The King is Alive**,
March 22 at 6:30 p.m.
Macbeth,
March 26 – May 8.
A Midsummer Night's Dream,
April 14 – May 9.

PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY

Suzanne Roberts Theatre Company,
Broad and Lombard Streets, 215-985-0420,
PhiladelphiaTheatreCompany.org.
**Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit
of Molly Ivins**,
March 19 – April 18.
Ma Rainey's Black Bottom,
May 21 - June 13.

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

215-893-1999, Philorch.org.
An Evening of Schumann,
March 4 – 6 at 8:00 p.m.
Vänkä Conducts Sibelius,
March 11, 13 and 16 at 8:00 p.m. and
March 12 at 2:00 p.m.
Beethoven's Eroica,
March 18 and 20 at 8:00 p.m.
and March 19 at 2:00 p.m.
Mozart and Elgar,
March 25 and 27 at 8:00 p.m. and
March 26 at 2:00 p.m.
Family Concert: The Firebird,
March 27 at 11:30 a.m.
Beyond the Score: Rite or Wrong?,
April 8 at 7:00 p.m.
The Rite of Spring,
April 9 and 11 at 2:00 p.m. and
April 10 at 8:00 p.m.
Ax Plays Beethoven,
April 15 – 17 at 8:00 p.m.
Chamber Music Concert,
May 23 at 3:00 p.m.
Mozart and Rachmaninoff,
May 27 and 29 at 8:00 p.m. and
May 28 at 2:00 p.m.
Family Concert: Carnival of the Animals,
May 29 at 11:30 a.m.

THE WILMA THEATER

265 S. Broad Street, 215-546-7824,
WilmaTheater.org.
Language Rooms, March 3 – April 4.
Leaving, May 19 – June 20.

CCRA Neighborhood Spring Events

Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities

Wednesday and Thursday, May 5 and 6
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The 96th signature French flower market in Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square will be held for the benefit of four annually changing children's health and welfare service organizations, as well as for the maintenance of the Square. There will be flowers, food and entertainment for everyone.



Rittenhouse Row Spring Festival

Saturday, May 1, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine

Walnut Street will be closed to traffic from the Avenue of the Arts to 19th Street for the free public event showcasing Rittenhouse Row with an all day celebration of fashion, food and family fun.

Greening Greenfield Spring Events

E-Cycle Day at Greenfield's Sansom Street school yard, Saturday, April 10, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Take advantage of a quick and easy way to get rid of used electronics: those old computer monitors, laptops, keyboards, printers, stereos, and cell phones cluttering our lives!

Spring Social & Fundraiser for Greening Greenfield, April 22 at Dane Décor in Old City - Come out for a fun evening and help raise money for Greenfield's en-

vironmental efforts. For more information visit www.greeninggreenfield.net.

Spring Events in Fidler Square

Easter Egg Hunt -

Sunday, March 28, 3:00 p.m.
(Rain date, Saturday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.)

Fidler Square Fair - Friday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, May 8, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Rain or shine. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Judy at judyro1957@aim.com.)

Schuylkill River Banks

Art in the Open (AIO)

Wednesday, June 9 - Saturday, June 12.
A citywide festival will celebrate artists and their inspirations for creating art in the urban environment. From historic Fairmont Park Water Works to landmark Bartram's Garden. <http://www.artintheopenphila.org/>

Garden Potluck Picnics in 2010

Come celebrate one of the many hidden gems of our community - Schuylkill River Park Community Garden, 25th and Locust Streets. The Gardeners invite all CCRA Members and their friends and families to attend the Garden's Summer Potluck Picnic Series, weather permitting, April through October on the fourth Sunday of each month. Bring your own picnic and a dish to pass (optional). The grill will be fired up for your use; sodas, plates, napkins, utensils and ice will be provided. See you there on the following dates!

April 25, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

May 23, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

June 27, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

July 25, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

August 22, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

September 26, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

October 24, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



The Victorian Society in America: In Appreciation of an Underrated Period

By Nancy Ambler

Convention perceives Philadelphia as a Georgian city, and indeed much of its oldest part is. In the 19th century, however, the city marched west, and its path is marked by a wealth of Victorian architecture.

The Victorian Society in America, which celebrates that period, roughly 1840 – 1910, has been headquartered since 1966 in New York. In 1973, local members of the national Victorian Society (VSA) determined to create a Philadelphia chapter. Dr. and Mrs. Guy Schless, Mrs. Luther Terry, William Fischelis and the architect Henry Magaziner were among these founders; CCRA's own preservationists Lenore Millhollen and Gersil Kay were early members. Dr. Roger

Moss, architectural historian and longtime director of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, took an early interest and provided space for meetings and symposia.

The Society's mission statement includes the fostering of "public appreciation and understanding of the artistic expression of the Victorian Era in the United States"; "preservation and publication of material culture of the Victorian Era, including but not limited to architecture, fine and decorative art, design, planning and technology"; "educational opportunities for the study of the Victorian heritage;" and "[service as] a reservoir of expertise on matters pertaining to

Continue on page 23



The Park Guard kiosk was saved from demolition, restored and installed in Rittenhouse Square.

Your View from the *Rittenhouse Claridge*

Soaring 26 floors above Rittenhouse Square, the Rittenhouse Claridge puts the city's best restaurants, shops and concert halls at your feet. From the doorman who greets you by name, to the valet who brings your car, to our empowering Fitness and Business Centers, this is city living at its finest – from \$1,045/mo.

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Victorian culture.” Avowed purposes of the local chapter are “to provide local activities and programs of interest to members”; and “to encourage interest and help educate the general public in the values and preservation of Victorian culture.”

The “material culture” of the era is not just gingerbread and antimacassars. Local architects of the period include John Notman (the Gothic Revival St. Mark’s Church on Locust Street); Horace Trumbauer (the Beaux Arts Racquet Club on the 16th Street, and the reason Stanford White got so little work in Philadelphia); Frank Furness (perhaps his masterpiece, the eclectic Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts); W.D. and G.W. Hewitt, in partnership with Furness (design and interiors of the Academy of Vocal Arts at 1920 Spruce Street); and Paul Cret (2601 and other buildings along the Parkway), who became an exponent of Art Moderne. VSA Philadelphia symposia have covered the

work of these and other notable architects in CCRA’s service area.

The Chapter has had a highly visible impact in the heart of our neighborhood, having been in part responsible for the literal centerpiece of Rittenhouse Square, the Park Guard kiosk. Back in the ’80s Gersil Kay discovered the kiosk along the East River Drive and about to be demolished. She quickly marshaled a crew from her commercial lighting business to salvage it. She and Lenore Millhollen, another long-term member of CCRA’s Preservation Committee, brought it to the attention of the VSA Philadelphia Chapter. They then chaired a fundraiser for expenses, and VSA saw to the installation – a cap to CCRA’s successful effort to rescue the Square in 1947.

In addition to salvage operations and symposia, the Chapter’s activities include monthly program meetings and an annual tour to a repository of Victorian architecture; this year’s is planned for Galveston, Texas.

It also publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Victorian News*, and confers Annual Victorian Awards for preservation of a noted artifact of the period. Last year’s went to the Philadelphia City Hall Envelope Renovations and the Historic Smithville Streetscape Renovation. And one of the year’s highlights is Queen Victoria’s birthday, in May, celebrated in grand Dickensian style.

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Victorian Society in America (President: David Ewaniuk) welcomes both new members and nominations for the Victorian Award. For more information call the Chapter’s Center City Office at 215-636-9872 or e-mail info@victoriansociety.org.



St. Mark's Church on Locust Street

Fran Levi

Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse

Representatives from Penn Medicine attended the January board meeting to provide the Center City Residents’ Association with an overview of the Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse campus located on the 1800 blocks of Lombard and South Streets.

The Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse campus has undergone a significant facelift since the acquisition of the properties by Penn Medicine in March 2007. The site of the former Graduate Hospital has seen numerous improvements over the past two and a half years. Most notably, the main hospital has been re-opened as a 108-bed specialty hospital operated by Good Shepherd Penn Partners—a joint venture between Penn Medicine and the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network of Allentown. This partnership brings the academic and medical expertise of Penn and the rehabilitation expertise of Good Shepherd together to allow for the continuous care of patients from the acute care hospital setting through discharge.

In addition to the rehabilitation and long-term acute care services provided at the main hospital, the building also houses the Penn Hospice at Rittenhouse – a 12-bed inpatient hospice offering the most up-to-date hospice care in a comfortable and caring setting.

The main hospital building also includes the state-of-the-art Penn Medicine Clinical Simulation Center that serves as a training hub for physicians and nurses as they train and update their clinical skills, as well as the eICU, which is an enhanced monitoring service for patients in intensive care settings throughout the health system.

Across the street at the Tuttleman Center, the services are growing every year with outpatient radiology and ambulatory surgery services, along with the Penn Pain Medicine Center, podiatry practice, and Travel Medicine and Primary Care (both offering evening and weekend hours). All of these services are meant to complement each other and provide the local community with easy and convenient access for their outpatient needs.

The former Pepper Building located at 19th & Lombard Streets was acquired from Penn Medicine by the PMC Group in August of 2008 and is currently undergoing a major re-development into an apartment house which, when completed, will have 185 apartments available for lease.

Parking for Penn Medicine staff and visitors has been well accommodated by the five parking lots that remained under



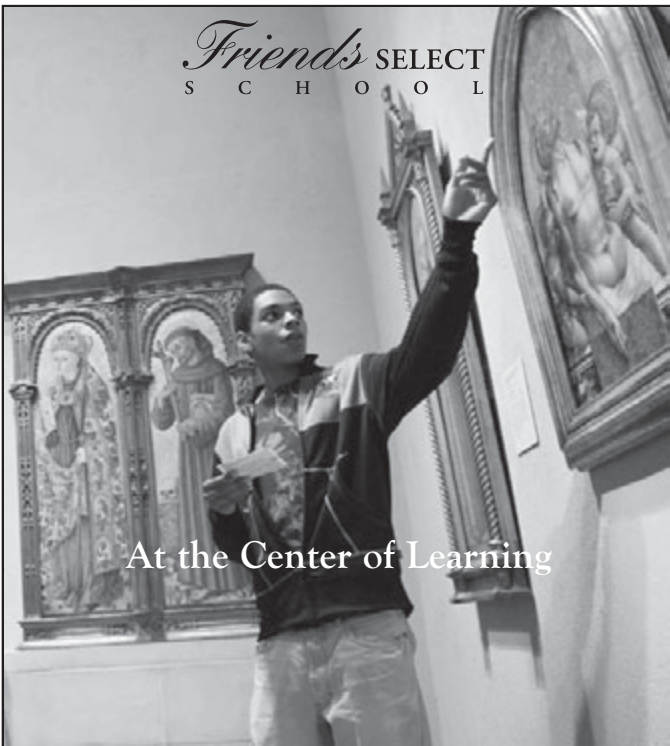
Under construction is the new entrance to Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse.

M. Christian

Penn ownership. The 1700 South Street garage parking is available for community residents who are interested in monthly leases. For more information about garage parking, please contact the parking manager at 215-985-2277.

Penn Medicine representatives stressed the importance of keeping an open line of communication with neighborhood residents. If you have any questions or concerns about the property, or if you would like to learn more about the services available at the campus, please contact Patrick Norton, Director of Government Relations and Community Outreach at 215-662-7030.

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The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia

Concerts @ First (free admission)

- March 21 The Naughton Sisters Piano Duo 2:00 p.m.
(Courtesy of Curtis Institute of Music)
- April 23 The Hunchback of Notre Dame 7:30 p.m.
(with live organ accompaniment)

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 28

- 10:15 a.m. Ecumenical Service, Rittenhouse Square
11:00 a.m. Cantata 131, *Aus der Tiefe*, J. S. Bach

Maundy Thursday, April 1

- 7:30 p.m. Communion

Good Friday, April 2

- 12:00 noon - Meditations and Choral Reflections upon
3:00 p.m. *The Seven Last Words*

Easter Sunday, April 4

- 7:00 a.m. Easter Vigil, followed by breakfast
11:00 a.m. Communion

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Policing the Streets

By Alex Klein

The Philadelphia police instituted a major change in January in the way they patrol the neighborhoods and city streets. In somewhat of a return to what works best, Commissioner Ramsey reached into his years of experience as a top cop and developed a Police Service Area (PSA) network among the 23 Philadelphia police districts. According to the brochure *PSA Week: January 18th-24th...Introducing Police Service Areas in our Police Districts*: "This is the first step toward establishing geographic accountability for both the police and the community and for building a proactive neighborhood policing strategy."

CCRA is situated in the 9th police district which was divided into three PSAs. PSA 9-1 covering Chestnut Street to Lombard Street and Broad Street to Schuylkill River is most closely associated with the CCRA boundaries. Lieutenant Bob Nudd, a Philadelphia police veteran was assigned to



Meeting with residents on January 18 were (left to right) Lieutenant Bob Nudd, Captain Dennis Wilson, Sergeant Staunton.

lead PSA 9-1 while Alex Klein volunteered to be the liaison between the Philadelphia police and the community in this PSA.

In the first meeting of PSA 9-1, held at the Stevens Center on January 18, Lt. Nudd pledged police contact at the patrol level, reducing the amount of lip service at the administrative level. Several local residents attending the meeting voiced their

concerns about issues including enforcing rules in Rittenhouse Square, dealing with local after-hours clubs and bars creating quality of life issues, increasing the bike and foot patrols and increasing communications with the community. Stay tuned for announcements of dates, times and formats of the future meetings expected to be held monthly within the boundaries of PSA 9-1.

Police Report: Take Action for Quality of Life

By Alex Klein

In late December, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* ran a series of articles about the court system in crisis. Those articles provided the inspiration for this article encouraging readers to follow through on reporting quality of life issues in Center City. While reporting quality of life crimes should not carry the same fear of retribution as when witnessing a felony like murder, many Center City residents are not adequately following through on nuisance crimes. Reporting such crimes has the potential to lessen them at least and eradicate them at most.

A common misperception is that if you report a crime by dialing 911, it becomes part of a formal record that can be cited in future actions. In actuality, if the responding officers do not observe the crime that was reported it may be filed as "unfounded" along with many, many other such 911 calls. Following through on your 911 call by meeting the assigned officer at the time and location of the crime and requesting a formal report lodges a specific complaint that can readily be referenced, resulting in a much stronger case against the violator. Filing complaints also creates the necessary level of visibility and escalates an issue whereby it

stays in the sights of those able to remedy a negative trend.

Consider the issue of nuisance bars at 19th and Chestnut Streets. For years residents at the William Penn House, The Plaza and the Wellington, to name just a few residences, complained to 911, the 9th District Police and PDAC. They even complained to the bar owners themselves. Unfortunately none of these complaints were ever formally lodged and no solid trail to the issues was left behind for those who were in a position to enact change. That's when the Nuisance Bar Task Force entered the picture and advised the appropriate course of action. Local residents began to follow through with the police by filing reports at the time of incidents, which occurred mostly after midnight. They would then follow up the next day with the 9th District to ensure that the report was in fact filed. In time, this activity registered on the Nuisance Bar Task Force's radar screen and the DA's office was able to use these complaints as evidence of a problem and force change.

In short, the squeaky wheel gets the oil. Be heard! Take action!

By the Numbers

(Final statistics comparing crime in the 9th Police District in 2009 to those committed in 2008.)

Violent Crime

Homicide down 67% (1 this year)
Rape down 21%
Robbery gun up 21%
Robbery other down 5%
Aggravated assault gun up 14%
Aggravated Assault other down 25%

**Total: Violent crime down 4%
from 2008**

Property Crime

Residential burglary down 21%
Commercial burglary down 20%
Theft from person down 20%
Theft from auto down 17%
Regular theft down 13%
Retail theft up 15%
Auto theft down 37%

**Total: Property crime down 13%
from 2008**

Zoning Committee Report

Tim Kerner, Chair - November and December, 2009 and January 2010

2101-43 South Street NWC 21st Street

(C-2): Application for three commercial spaces as permitted in the district with a connecting common corridor, for 34 dwelling units all in an existing three/one story structure with 13 existing parking spaces with no handicapped accessible space. Refusals: Rear yard depth: 9' required vs. 0' proposed. Rear yard area: 3,044sf required vs. 0sf proposed. One handicapped parking space required vs. none proposed. *Note: This application was presented the previous month and was being reheard with the addition of parking and landscaping plans.* **Not opposed with provisos.**

2118 Delancey Place (R-10A):

Application for the partial demolition of an existing two (2) three (3) story structure and for the erection of a three (3) story rear addition for the extension of an existing single family dwelling. Refusal: Open area: 353sf (30%) required vs. 297sf (26%) proposed. **Not opposed.**

1732 Pine Street (R-10): Application for the erection of a wood sun deck 20' x 18'-6" at the 2nd floor level in the rear of a single family dwelling. Refusal: Any deck or patio shall be constructed so that it is no closer at any point than 3' from the edge of any driveway and/or rear property line serving 2 or more lots: 3' required vs. 0' proposed. **Not opposed with proviso.**

1500 John F. Kennedy Boulevard (C-5): Application for the removal of seven (7) signs and for the erection of six (6) signs above the bottom of the second floor accessory to six (6) existing tenants within an existing office building with uses and

signs as previously approved. Size and location as shown in the application. Refusal: The proposed uses, six (6) accessory signs above the bottom of the second floor, are not permitted in this zoning district. **Not opposed.**

262 South 20th Street (C-2): Application for accessory take-out to an existing eat-in restaurant on the first floor in the same building with an existing two family dwelling above, all in an existing three story structure. Refusal: The proposed use, "accessory take-out to an existing eat-in restaurant" requires a certificate from the zoning board of adjustment. **Not opposed with provisos.**

1706 Panama Street (R-10): Application for a rear addition to 1st floor, 2nd story addition with roof deck and 3rd story addition to single family dwelling. Refusal: Minimum open area: 30% required vs. 14% proposed. Rear yard minimum area: 144sf required vs. 80 sf proposed. **Tabled for further discussion with adjacent neighbors.**

1628-30 Sansom Street (C-5): Application for the preparation and serving of hot food take-out as part of a take-out restaurant with seating. Food served in disposable ware and non-disposable ware. No live entertainment. No sale of alcoholic beverages for take-out. No dispensing window in space 1628-30 on 1st floor with existing retail/commercial uses and existing parking garage as previously approved. Refusal: The proposed preparation and serving of hot food is an extension of use previously reviewed by Zoning Board of Adjustment

(ZBA) and any change in use requires additional ZBA approval. **Not Opposed with Provisos.**

2534 – 2536 Pine Street (R-10A):

Application for the relocation of lot lines to create two (2) lots from one (1). For use of 2534 Pine Street (Parcel 'B') as a single-family dwelling in an existing three (3) story structure. For use of 2536 Pine Street (Parcel 'A') as an eat-in/take-out restaurant (coffee shop) in an existing one (1) story structure, to include the erection of two (2) accessory projecting signs. Refusals: 2536 Pine Street: The proposed use, eat-in/take-out restaurant with two (2) accessory projecting signs, is not permitted in the R-10A residential zoning district. 2534 Pine Street: Minimum open area: 30% required vs. 15% proposed; Rear yard minimum area: 144sf required vs. 80sf proposed. **Not Opposed with Provisos.**

1512 Walnut Street (C-5): Application for adding use of accessory take-out to existing eat-in restaurant with a minimum of thirty (30) seats and no live entertainment/music, take-out not to exceed twenty five percent (25%) of the gross floor area in the first floor with accessory storage in the cellar. Eighteen (18) existing single-family dwellings in floors two through four (six (6) apartments per floor) and four (4) existing single-family dwellings (apartments) in the fifth floor) all to remain (twenty-two (22) total dwelling units throughout). Refusal: Whereas the proposed use, restaurant to include accessory take-out service, is prohibited under the Center City Commercial Area Special Control. **Opposed.**

Southbridge Project

By Tanya Seaman

The current lull in the real estate market provides the opportunity to prepare for the next development cycle, and the neighborhood in the vicinity of the new South Street Bridge will be a prime growth area in the coming cycle. The South of South Neighborhood Association and Center City Residents' Association are working together to take a new approach to development in this area, inviting landowners and developers to make the most of the next real-estate cycle. If all parties can work out a plan for the area, the associations

will actively support the implementation of development plans and lobby with developers and land owners for the needed approvals and infrastructure enhancements that will accelerate development. To this end, the joint committee will reach out to the property owners in this project area to include them in our efforts. And to help us come up with a vision for what this area can be, a class of city planning master's students at the University of Pennsylvania will spend this semester studying and creating a plan for the area.



Center City is visible as you look east on Grays Ferry Avenue.

Crosstown Coalition Strives to Impact on the New Zoning Code

By Steve Huntington and Fran Levi

Developers, homeowners, businesses, and anyone who wants to build, remodel, or lives next to someone who does, quickly learn that the City's zoning code is outdated, cumbersome and difficult to understand. In 2007 voters were given the opportunity to vote on the establishment of a commission to re-write the zoning code. The ballot question was overwhelmingly approved and, as a result, a 31-person Zoning Code Commission was appointed to recommend revisions to the code that would require City Council's approval. The Commission retained planning consultants Clarion Associates and Duncan Associates who issued a 92-page report last September. The report can be viewed on the Commission's Web site www.zoningmatters.org. In response, Center City Residents' Association (CCRA), Logan Square Neighborhood Association and Society Hill Civic Association reactivated the Crosstown Coalition, founded by

CCRA during the last mayoral race to advocate for the interest of downtown residents. The Coalition's membership now includes civic associations representing Washington Square West, Old City, Northern Liberties, Queen Village, South Broad Street, Callowhill, East Passyunk and East Kensington. Adam Schneider, President, Tim Kerner, Zoning Committee Chairperson, Brian Johnston and Steve Huntington, board members, are CCRA's representatives.

Crosstown Coalition representatives have met with the commissioners and the commission staff and presented testimony at Zoning Code Commission hearings. To explain their concerns the Coalition presented to the commission 13 bullet points which can be viewed on CCRA's Web site at www.centercityresidents.org and on the Coalition's at www.neighborhoodsmatter.org.

Presently, the Commission is focusing on zoning procedures. In the future, the Commission plans to issue recommendations for the revision of the City's zoning map. Of special concern to the Coalition is whether community groups will continue to have the ability to participate in zoning decisions in their geographic area.

Without community representation at Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) hearings and the proposed Design Review Committee, neighborhoods may not have the opportunity to express their opinion on projects planned in their neighborhoods. Through its Crosstown Coalition representatives, CCRA is seeking to ensure that the voices of the City's neighborhoods will continue to be heard in any revised zoning process that emerges from the Commission's efforts.

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CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1616 Walnut Street, Suite 705
Philadelphia, PA 19103

2010 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

District Attorney Seth Williams

Philopatrian Literary Institute

1923 Walnut Street

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What Does CCRA Do to Improve Our Neighborhood?



- Manages the 72 plot Schuylkill River Park Community Garden.
- Holds Candidates Forums.
- Zoning Committee meets to review all neighborhood construction and development projects.
- Participates in the cost of planting sidewalk trees for all members.
- Assists members in obtaining free trees from a Tree Tenders Group.
- Annual Community Supper and Halloween Trail for safe Trick-or-Treating.
- Publishes Center City Quarterly with information on issues, cultural events, CCRA initiatives and programs.
- Works with neighborhood police district on public safety issues.
- Contracts with Center City District for street cleaning and ginkgo removal.

**CCRA protects and improves
the quality of life in Center City.**