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Renewal of the Tidal Schuylkill River

By Lucy McDonald, Schuylkill River Development Corporation

On a November evening in 1892, three men set out to row across the Schuylkill River at Point Breeze. Along the way one of them lit his pipe and thoughtlessly tossed the still-burning match into the river. Suddenly, “a burst of flame shot up alongside the skiff, and almost instantly the surface of the river around the boat was blazing fiercely.” The New York Times article from November 2, 1892, explains that the Point Breeze section of the Schuylkill was covered in a thin layer of oil from the nearby oil works, one of the many industrial sites along its banks. It is frightening to think that a river could catch on fire at all, especially considering the Schuylkill’s bucolic past. Clearly, such careless treatment of our river could not continue.

When the Dutch discovered the Schuylkill River in 1628, they came upon a pure waterway lined with trees and filled with native fish such as American shad, flathead catfish and trout. They initially named it *Varsche Rivier*, or “little fresh

water river.” Over the next two centuries, the Schuylkill and its banks remained an idyllic setting for Philadelphians to stroll, swim or even ice skate during the winter. Popular attractions included the Wigwam Baths, a public garden and water resort that opened in 1791, and the picturesque Gray’s Garden, modeled after the public gardens of London.

The City Assembly’s 1805 legislation, mentioned in the last installment of this series, allowed companies to begin expansion up to the Schuylkill to promote manufacturing and transportation of goods. Coal companies, petroleum refineries, paper mills, slaughterhouses and stockyards soon took advantage of this option and began dumping waste into the river. Philadelphia Board of Health chemist Charles Cresson was concerned about the quality of the city’s drinking water, so he recommended that slaughterhouses and stockyards divert

Continue on page 2



John Frederick Lewis, *The Redemption of the Lower Schuylkill, 1924*

In 1924 John Frederick Lewis described the Schuylkill River as “an enormous dump heap.”



Fran Levi

Today the renewed Schuylkill River awaits a group about to board kayaks and enjoy the view.

their waste to the lower Schuylkill through a series of canals. The Fairmount Water Works, designed by engineer Frederick Graff in 1812, helped keep pollution at bay on the upper Schuylkill. But below the dam little effort was made to preserve the purity of the water.

The sudden increase in industrial waste initiated a swift decline in the lower Schuylkill's water quality. Fish rapidly died off, swimming was not a desirable pastime and the water no longer froze over sufficiently for ice skating. The wildlife and once-beautiful gardens along its banks also suffered due to heavy deforestation to make room for the many new riverfront industries. By 1924, what had been the romantic Wigwam Baths became "an enormous dump heap, to which ashes, waste paper, tin cans, old bottles, and domestic waste, are... hauled down stream and dumped upon the banks of the river, less the dust and waste paper which blows off on the journey and can be seen floating upon the surface." John

Frederick Lewis, an early advocate for the revitalization of the Schuylkill, described this scene at what is now the northern entrance to the Schuylkill Banks trail. Lewis saw the river as a precious natural resource and called for the city to begin remediation immediately and turn the riverbanks back into parks.

Gradually, those who agreed with Lewis gained more ground in the struggle against pollution. Among them was James Henderson Duff, who as Attorney General was the first to push for enforcement of the 1937 Clean Streams Law to stop polluting Pennsylvania's rivers. He was later elected governor and continued to advocate for stream cleanups and construction of sewage treatment plants. During his term, the government undertook the Schuylkill River Project from 1947 to 1951, the first major government-funded environmental cleanup. The cleanup removed over 10 million tons of coal silt from the Schuylkill, vastly improving the water quality and waste

treatment systems. Fish reappeared below the dam and are now thriving.

In her book *A River Again*, Chari Towne called the Schuylkill River Project cleanup long overdue. She noted that "it is now our obligation to ensure that decisions about the Schuylkill's management are not made on the basis of the river's past reputation." Today we are still working to return the Schuylkill to its former glory, but thanks to initiatives like the Schuylkill River Project and the Clean Water Act it has vastly improved since the industrial age.

The City of Philadelphia, Schuylkill River Development Corporation and other partners are revitalizing the river by building a greenway along the banks of the tidal Schuylkill. On any day of the week you will find people fishing, paddling or taking a stroll on Schuylkill Banks Center City and Grays Ferry Crescent. After two centuries of neglect, the tidal Schuylkill is well on its way towards becoming a pristine retreat once again.

Preserving First Presbyterian

By The Rev. Jesse Garner

If you've passed the corner of 21st and Walnut streets at any time during the past six months, you may have wondered what was happening. Construction equipment filled the entire sidewalk, obscuring the view of the building that has occupied that corner for the past 141 years. That work is now nearing completion, bringing to a close a \$2.5 million renovation of the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, a landmark of the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood.

Built in 1872 as a new home for the Second Presbyterian Church (established in 1743), the original building was designed by Henry Augustus Sims. The Parish House was added in 1884 and designed by Theophilus Chandler, one of the most prolific architects in the then rapidly developing Rittenhouse Square area. The church's tower was added by the firm of Furness & Evans in 1900. Among the most unusual of the decorative touches are the carvings done both inside and out by Alexander Calder, the first of his commissions in the United States.

Since the reunion of First and Second Presbyterian Churches at this site in 1949, the merged congregation has been known as

the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. Originally established in 1698, the church over the years occupied sites in Old City, on Washington Square and on Locust Street prior to the move to its current location.

The project began six years ago with a thorough assessment of the church's facilities led by the local architectural firm of Atkins Olshin Schade. That survey resulted in plans for extensive repairs and renovations focused on accessibility issues, upgrade of infrastructure, code compliance and repairs to the masonry and roofs to insure the integrity of the "exterior envelope." Notable improvements undertaken to the interior are renovated restrooms, a new elevator and a new entrance on Chancellor Street, all designed to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.

In June 2011, First Church launched a three-year capital campaign called Preserving First for our Future. Members and friends pledged nearly \$1.2 million to the campaign, exceeding the goal of \$1 million. By the end of 2012, halfway through the campaign, over \$860,000 (nearly 75%) has been raised.



Included in the renovations being made to the 141-year old First Presbyterian Church is a new Chancellor Street entrance.

The project was undertaken not only for the benefit of the congregation but also for the numerous community groups that currently use the building. Among them are Reading Buddies, a tutoring program pairing children at Greenfield Elementary with community volunteers; Musicopia, a program for young musicians now involving over a hundred youth who fill the building with beautiful sounds every Tuesday evening; and Penn's Village, a community of Center City residents linking neighbor to neighbor. The improvements will also enhance the church's ability to offer fully accessible meeting space to various civic and community groups.

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President's Report



Jeffrey L. Braff, CCRA President

I write this after attending an exhilarating presentation on January 10 by the Philadelphia Planning Commission. It was billed as an Annual Update, the first, for Philadelphia2035. In the words of the Commission, Philadelphia2035 is “the comprehensive blueprint enabling our 21st century city to THRIVE with new growth and opportunity, CONNECT to the region and the world, and RENEW its valued resources for future generations.”

The program was presented at the Center for Architecture to a standing room only crowd of community activists, architects, urban planners and urban planner wannabes. And it was held just a day after the commission was honored with the National Best Practice Planning Award for the commission’s efforts with respect to three planning activities: Philadelphia2035; the new zoning code, which went into effect on August 22; and the Citizens Planning Institute (a training program designed to help city residents become active participants in planning their communities).

The evening began with a showing of “Philadelphia2035: The future begins now,” an inspirational video that includes elements from “Citywide Vision,” adopted by the commission in June of 2011 as “a broad yet detailed, long-range inspirational view of the future,” which established an organizing framework of nine planning elements: neighborhoods, economic development, land management, transportation, utilities, open space, historic preservation, environmental resources and public realm. (The video can be found on YouTube under “Philadelphia2035.”)

Citywide Vision is the first phase of Philadelphia2035. The second (and last) phase is the creation of 18 distinct District Plans, covering every city neighborhood. CCRA is in the so-called Central District, and I am proud to report that CCRA has provided significant input into the two public meetings that have already been held (June 20, Kimmel Center and October 22, Trinity Memorial Church), and I am confident the same will be the case for the third and final public meeting scheduled for February.

The program also had an interesting panel discussion about the city’s future. Of particular note during that segment was a statement by Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development. In a list of what he characterized as four very important short-term goals was development of the 2100 and 2200 blocks of Market Street. Of course, as recently noted in our eNewsletter, this development opportunity is a consequence of CCRA’s successful efforts to block the expansion of The Forum Theater, as a result of which both Les Gals and The Forum could not be financially sustained and were shut down. You can be sure that CCRA will be an active participant in this important development project.

Finally, the evening ended with a few remarks from Mayor Nutter. While those remarks were universally well received, aside from his congratulations to the latest graduates of the Citizens Planning Institute, the only applause he received was after he noted the four years spent by 32 commissioners and numerous civic associations (including several members of CCRA) on the brand new zoning code and stated emphatically that the new code needed to be given a chance to work. The audience had no doubt that the Mayor was referring to the distressing efforts of a few council members to amend the code before the ink has dried, a matter about which CCRA has made its position well known.

For more information about Philadelphia2035, including reports regarding the public meetings focused on the Central District, go to phila.gov/cityplanning. Before closing, I would like to give a special shout-out to a small cadre of CCRA board members who worked particularly hard, over many years, on the new zoning code. Though many CCRA members were involved, the following deserve special mention: Tim Kerner, Brian Johnston, Guy Aiman, Michele Langer, Joe Rively and Executive Director Steve Huntington.

Jeffrey L. Braff, President

Addendum to 2012 Celebration Auction Donors and Patrons

The list of Celebration of Center City auction donors in the December issue of the Center City Quarterly omitted Deborah Finn, Rittenhouse Jewelers, Carole Downs and patron Joe Rively. We apologize for the oversight.

Better Public Schools: Questions for Superintendent Hite

By Robin Kohles

“Per pupil spending is much lower in the Philadelphia school district than in surrounding suburbs. What can you do to change that so city children might be on a more equal footing with those in the suburbs?”

“In regards to the districts consolidation plan, this will change the diversity of the school by introducing new cultures and as a result there may be safety issues. How do you see the Philadelphia school district addressing this?”

“How will you handle bad teachers?”

These and many other questions were asked of Dr. William Hite, the new Superintendent/CEO of the Philadelphia school district in December at his first town meeting, sponsored by CCRA and South of South Neighborhood Association (SOSNA) and organized by Councilman Kenyatta Johnson.

Judy Heller, CCRA board member, and Michael Showell, SOSNA member, moderated the evening. The structure of the evening was loose. After a brief overview from Councilman Johnson, Dr. Hite spoke about his main idea—“it’s all about the child.” Residents were then able to direct questions to Dr. Hite from a list submitted earlier via email or in person. Dr. Hite is very approachable and answered questions directly. For example, Dr. Hite’s answer to a question about how bad teachers will be handled was that 10% of teachers are phenomenal, 10% are bad and 80% are good, and his approach is to focus on training and support to make the good 80% phenomenal instead of focusing on the 10% who are bad.

Dr. Hite wants more Philadelphia students to go to college. To achieve this goal, he is striving to improve academic outcomes, raise what we expect from children, offer more college prep and advanced placement classes and offer SAT testing as part of the school day. He is intent on creating graduates who are able to compete in a global work force by developing critical thinking, promoting technical education (more hands-on learning), stressing foreign languages and promoting grit, a concept that makes kids more resilient.



Robin Kohles

Second District Councilman Kenyatta Johnson (l) who organized the town meeting, is joined by School Superintendent Dr. William Hite, and moderators Judy Heller (CCRA) and Michael Showell (SOSNA).

The issue of school closings concerned residents from many neighborhoods—the district was planning to announce the next day the consolidation plan’s list of schools scheduled to close. A row of E. M. Stanton Elementary School supporters (located at 16th and Christian), wearing matching t-shirts, were hopeful that Stanton would once again avoid closure. (It did.) A group from the Friends of Chester Arthur Elementary School (located at 20th and Catherine) were present. Dr. Hite stressed the importance of parental involvement and recruited an audience member from the newly formed and successful Friends of Chester Arthur to work with other schools in sharing information on how to involve parents and the local community in supporting schools. Hite mentioned that he does not view charter schools and the archdiocese as the enemy, and he vowed to work with and improve all schools. He mentioned holding all schools to the same standards.

Philadelphia residents are worried about the public schools. We are all crossing our fingers that Superintendent Hite may have what it takes to make the necessary changes to turn the school district around. This town hall program provided an opportunity for neighbors to meet the new

superintendent, listen to his ideas and ask questions. Over 100 residents and about 20 news people came out to hear what he had to say. CCRA plans to offer more programs like this in the future.



Robin Kohles

On behalf of CCRA and SOSNA Judy Heller thanked Christopher Sample, Councilman Johnson’s chief of staff, for coordinating the town hall meeting.

Not by Bread Alone: Metropolitan Adds Art to the Menu

By Bonnie Eisenfeld



Wendy Born and James Barrett are co-owners of Metropolitan Bakery.

Nourishment comes in different forms. Wendy Born, owner of the Metropolitan Bakery, provides some of the tastiest baked goods in the city. With the opening of Metropolitan Gallery 250, at 250 South 18th Street in October, Born now nourishes our visual sense. Born grew up surrounded by artists and became aware of their need for exhibit space. She recently decided to lend space in her offices to emerging Philadelphia artists, free of charge, to give them the opportunity to exhibit their works. Her curator, Bailey Chick, a printmaker who studied at Tyler and a shift manager at the bakery, helps select the artists and plan the shows. Born, not focusing on any particular type of art, believes that “art comes in all sizes, shapes and colors.”

The first exhibit, *Gotta Catch 'em*, created by local artist Adam Ledford, consisted of ceramic objects inspired by his mental library of pottery. Ledford, an adjunct professor at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University, graduated with honors from Tyler and studied elsewhere in the U.S. and in Rome. His work has been shown at various galleries and private collections in Philadelphia, and he has been commissioned to create work by The Franklin Institute and Sacred Heart Oratory in Wilmington, DE.

In December 2012, an exhibit featured works by Marafiki Arts, a local artists’ textile arts cooperative, including knitters, weavers, printers, dyers, textile makers, designers and growers. Marafiki Arts facilitates collaboration through exchanges between young artists and designers in the U.S. and Kenya.

From January 14 to March 1, the gallery featured prints from The Crane Arts Second State Press “Print Exchange,” the premier printmaking workshop in Philadelphia. Fostering ideas and innovation by emerging artists, the workshop provides member artists with printmaking tools, presses and inks. In March and April, Metropolitan Gallery 250 will have an exhibit of art by artists who work in local restaurants. Because Born believes there is a lot of cross-over between the food scene and the art world in Philadelphia, She wants to give emerging artists a place to sell their work and be supported by restaurants and other small businesses.

Metropolitan Gallery 250, across from the Art Alliance, is open on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5:00 p.m. and by appointment. For an appointment or to to be placed on the mailing list to learn about upcoming exhibits, please email

dani@metropolitanbakery.com or phone 508-523-9796. For more information about the gallery and community events, visit www.metropolitanbakery.com and click on Breadheads.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Metropolitan Bakery, Born is opening a café next door to the bakery on 19th Street where she and her business partner and executive chef plan to offer soups, sandwiches, pizza, salads, pastries and cappuccino.

Metropolitan Bakery, now a Philadelphia institution, has been baking bread since 1993, when Born and co-owner James Barrett’s idea to provide really good bread to Philadelphians became a reality. The bakery supplies bread to the city’s finest restaurants and specialty stores and uses and sells locally-sourced and sustainable products from area farmers. Metropolitan Bakery has two licensed locations, one at the University of Pennsylvania and one in Chestnut Hill. Born is also a silent partner in Farmacia, a popular restaurant on Third Street.

Born and Barrett support local community initiatives such as promoting other local businesses, fighting homelessness and hunger and providing job skills for low income students, parolees and formerly homeless adults.



Local artist Adam Ledford stands in front of some of the ceramic objects he created for the first exhibit at Metropolitan Gallery 250.

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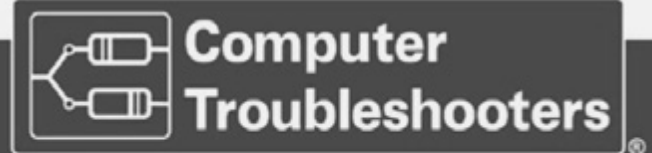
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Social Media, SEPTA Style

By Kristin Geiger, Press Relations Officer, SEPTA-Media Relations

As the world embraces social media as a premier, effective means of communication, SEPTA has joined in and begun to use it to enhance customer service outreach efforts.

The Authority uses Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and an interactive online conversation mechanism known as Chat Now to interact with its customers.

“Social media is amazing technology that allows us to see exactly what our customers are saying about us,” SEPTA Customer Service Program Manager, Vincent Puppio said. “We have the ability to engage our customers in a way that we never could before.”

At first SEPTA used only Twitter to communicate service related information to its customers. Customers could elect to receive SEPTA Twitter service alerts for all modes or a particular mode and route. However, this was one-way communication.

“We’ve learned that people are using social media—whether we respond or not,” Puppio said. “Instead of calling an organization, people are tweeting.”

Puppio added that the unique thing about Twitter is that it provides SEPTA with an opportunity to respond to people who aren’t necessarily talking to the transportation organization. And SEPTA is taking advantage of the opportunity to respond. On January 6, 2013, three social media specialists officially began interacting with customers.

Using the Twitter @septa_social username, the specialists monitor social media outlets—primarily Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and respond to customer questions while striving to turn any negative experiences into positive encounters. For instance, a customer tweeted: “Rude SEPTA workers—do we have to put up with them

or are they worth reporting. Encountered 2 today & I’ve reached my limit.” James Siler, one of the social media specialists followed up with the customer via e-mail and encouraged the customer to officially report their negative experience to the customer service department. He thanked them for their patronage and apologized for the negative customer experience. After receiving James’s e-mail the customer tweeted, “Color me stunned & impressed. Someone @ SEPTA found my email address and responded to my earlier tweet.” Thanks to Siler this customer may see the transit authority in a more positive light.

Customers can also communicate with SEPTA via Facebook. Visitors to SEPTA’s page will see everything from photos and YouTube Videos of SEPTA events, to an overview of its Art In Transit Program, to posts reminding customers that they can receive discounts to Center City venues at select SEPTA Sales Center locations. SEPTA Facebook followers are also able to post items and react to what the Authority posts. Sam Steining, SEPTA’s communications media specialist also uses the page to give SEPTA customers a heads-up about upcoming service changes. Customers can “like” or leave comments about the information posted.

But Facebook and Twitter aren’t the only social media forums SEPTA uses to connect with its customers.

The Authority recently launched a contest that encouraged its riders to take photos of their daily SEPTA travel adventures using the Instagram photo application on their cell phones. Contest participants had to submit photos with a caption about what riding SEPTA means to them with the hashtag #iseptaphilly. Ordinary photos wouldn’t do. SEPTA judges were looking for creative, unique photos and captions. Prizes for winning photos included concert



Tatiana Clark

Recent SEPTA Instagram Photo Contest winner Tatiana Clark won for her “Unicycle on a Train NBD” picture.

tickets, 76ers tickets, Blue Mountain Ski passes and SEPTA passes. One Instagram Photo Contest winner, Tatiana Clark, won for her “Unicycle on A Train NBD” photo. Besides winning Blue Mountain Ski passes, her photo was posted on the Authority’s Facebook page.

Through Pinterest, a virtual bulletin board the Authority posts artistic, public transit inspired photos and customers re-pin these images to their own pages. Pinned photos range from artwork at stations to buildings emblazoned with the SEPTA logo.

SEPTA’s embrace of social media doesn’t mean customers can no longer pick up their phones and dial 215-580-7800 to speak to a customer service representative or chat online with an agent. Through the interactive Chat Now feature on SEPTA’s website, www.septa.org, customers can engage in a one-on-one conversation with a customer service agent through the Internet. Both options are available every day during customer service center hours; 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends.

Through the website, customers are invited to experience the fun, interactive side of SEPTA. Prepare to be virtually impressed with the first class customer service.

Pedal Power: Bicycling in Center City

Come hear representatives from the Mayor’s Office of Transportation and Utilities and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia talk about the recently enacted bicycle legislation, the status of the city’s contemplated bike share program and safe cycling skills for urban riding.

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. at Di Bruno Bros., 1730 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor. Pre-registration is required as attendance will be limited. Click on this event on our home page at www.centercityresidents.org or call 215-546-6719.



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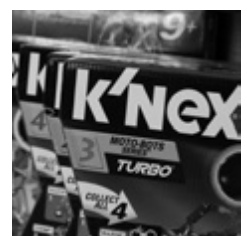
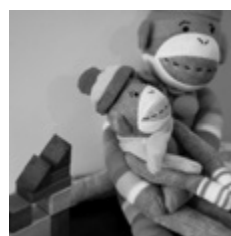
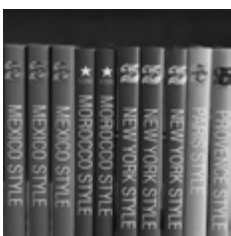
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Freire Charter School – Overcoming Adversity

By Ann Hedges Pagano, Director of Development, Freire Charter School

You may already be familiar with Center City’s Freire Charter School. Located at 2027 Chestnut Street, the high school serving grades 9–12 is one of the oldest public charter schools in Philadelphia. What you may not know is that in August 2012, Freire expanded to a second campus at 1026 Market Street, where it serves over 400 additional students in grades 5–8. So much is going on at both campuses — far too much to report — but we would like to bring you some highlights.

With the opening of the middle school, Freire was able to partner with Play On, Philly! (POP), a dynamic after-school music education program through which 80 Freire students in grades 5 and 6 are receiving daily instruction in violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, clarinet, horn, trumpet, trombone and percussion. Beyond providing music instruction, POP! is an innovative education and social initiative that provides opportunities for personal development through the study of music. After just three months of daily lessons, Freire POP! students played their first

concert December 16 at West Philadelphia Catholic High School. Their next concert is Saturday, March 16 at 2:00 p.m. at the Philadelphia (Episcopal) Cathedral, 3723 Chestnut Street. It is free and open to the public, and Freire POP! invites all CCRA members to attend.

At the high school campus, the Freire Robodragons, an engineering and robotics club, have been busy at work — and at winning. On December 8, a small group of robotics students participated in a qualifying competition in Blue Bell. Because the group had to rely on public transportation to travel to the competition, they had to leave the event early, before the awards ceremony. Little did the team know that they would win an award given just once or twice a season when a group does something exemplary that doesn’t fit into one of the regular award categories. The students were presented with a Special Judge’s Award for “Overcoming Adversity.” The judges reported that the students spoke very articulately about delays in receiving shipments



Katie Flowers

Freire Charter Middle School students learn music performance and much more through the school’s partnership with Play On, Philly!

from LEGO, funding problems, raising money for the Red Cross after Super Storm Sandy and how difficult it was to get to the competition — Freire was the only participating team that had to take a train, then a bus, then walk to the site that day. Their coach, science teacher James Falconio, said, “This is a huge deal for our team and our program, and it acknowledges that our kids are on the right track. For only our second year [in competition], we are progressing nicely. I am extremely proud of them.” And the judges wrote: *[We] would like to recognize a team that has overcome adversity in order to compete. They lost their grant at the beginning of the season, and had to suspend work on their robot to hunt down additional funding. While they were rebuilding their own program, they reached out to help others rebuild after Hurricane Sandy by volunteering with the Red Cross.*

Freire Charter School is proud to encourage student growth both inside and outside the classroom, and we appreciate the support of friends and neighbors in Center City. If you appreciate the opportunities being offered to these outstanding students and would like to participate in their success, please visit the school website: www.freirecharterschool.org to support the school financially or to inquire about volunteer opportunities and other ways to get involved. For additional information, please call Ann Hedges Pagano, Director of Development, 215-592-4252, x1493.



Paul Holt

Faculty Advisor Jason Falconio and members of the Freire Robodragons with the entry for which they won a special judges’ award for overcoming adversity in December 2012.



KLEIN'S KORNER

Philadelphia – More than Just Cheesesteaks

By Jared Klein

I was recently in Ireland and had the chance to tour the country and talk to the locals in every city we visited. What struck me during my travels was that every local I met, upon hearing I was from Philadelphia, immediately made a reference to the quality of our cheesesteaks or the movie *Rocky*.

While I am a big fan of both (and yes, I have run the Art Museum steps my fair share of times), my hope is that one day Philadelphia will be known worldwide for its many attributes outside of fatty foods and pugnacious pugilists.

For example, we have world-class art on display, both in the Art Museum and the recently opened Barnes museum. We have culture in abundance, both on our Avenue of the Arts and in small, off Broad theatres such as Plays and Players and the Walnut Street Theatre. We have sports teams that both entertain and enrage us, which, given the affinity and angst the Irish pour into their soccer and rugby, should be much appreciated.

Philadelphia, and specifically our CCRA area, is also home to food that is second to none. While the food in Ireland was far better than I expected, and in some cases quite inspired, the food we have in our neighborhood is often taken for granted. Our world-class chefs and restaurants offer us, on a nightly basis, food that our global colleagues travel hours to attain.

There are however some facets of Irish living that Philadelphia can incorporate to make Center City an even better place to live. Ireland is a country of walkable cities,

Dublin, Cork and Galway in particular. Each of them has pedestrian only areas, where cars are blocked and those on foot are free to browse the shops at their own pace and in their own space. While a radical idea, making sections of Walnut Street a pedestrian only space could bring a sense of community to Center City while increasing business revenue for our merchants. I must acknowledge that our city experimented with something similar in the past on Chestnut Street. Although a pedestrian-only shopping district did not succeed in the 60s and 70s, at the very least urban planners should discuss whether infrastructure improvement and economic development since that time make another pedestrian friendly shopping center worthy of a second look.

Second, Ireland far surpasses Philadelphia in its number and variety of independent stores. Philadelphia has become the home of the big box store, with Walgreens and CVS on every corner, and our shopping district home to many national chains. I would love to see an increase in the local merchants offering products made in Philadelphia. While in Ireland we were proud to purchase gifts for our family and friends that we knew were sourced, manufactured and sold all in Ireland. Philadelphia should be proud to do so the same, and if it takes tax breaks and incentives to local business to make that happen, it is a program well worth investigation.

As a CCRA resident, I hope Philadelphia continues to do what it does well and to add some new tricks to its repertoire. Until then, I suggest we all enjoy our cheesesteaks with a nice pint of Guinness.



Dane Wells

Good food is found in our neighborhood's four-star restaurants, bistros and bars.



Fran Levi

Interact Theatre Company is one of the many theater companies in Center City.

Be a House Detective: Carlisle Street from 1849 to 2013

By Pip Campbell

Carlisle Street, one block long and nestled between Pine and Lombard streets behind Symphony House, is one of the older, intact blocks west of Broad. The street, originally named Morris, can be seen on map as early as 1840, but the houses were not built on it until 1849 when a row of five was erected on the west side of the block between Lombard and King (Waverly Street today). By 1854, three more houses were added to the west and seven to the east side of the street.

Today, 150 years later, this block looks identical to how it looked in 1854 despite its proximity to commercial areas. We can give credit to the residents who lived on the block in the 1960s. They fought against property demolition and advocated for historic status, thereby establishing the protections that have allowed this block to remain intact. Fifty years ago a gas station, located on the corner of Broad and Pine, requested permission to expand by demolishing two houses on Pine and Carlisle streets. Residents of Carlisle came out in force to oppose demolition. As a result, not only are 1412 and 1414 Pine Street standing today, but residents successfully obtained City Historic Commission designation for each of the 15 houses to provide future protections from demolition or exterior changes. (In 1995, these same houses were redesignated as part of the Rittenhouse-Fittler Historic District.)



In 1849 the first houses to be built on Carlisle Street were on the west side.



John Rice built the five houses from 411 to 419 Carlisle Street in 1854 when Waverly Street was called King Street. The exteriors of the houses have not changed much over the years while the interiors have been modernized.

Historic Commission files contain individual letters from residents describing the block's history, information that is substantiated through maps, Philadelphia directories, a federal census and other historical documents. For example, historical maps document the change in street name over the years from Morris to Blackstone to Wetherhill to Carlisle. For a short period, the five-house row on the block's west side was identified as Melrose Place; the sign is still visible on the house on the southwest corner of Carlisle and Lombard. Philadelphia directories show use of Melrose Place (present-day even numbers 418–426) as an official address for only seven years from 1849–1856. Melrose Place residents had nonprofessional jobs, such as machinist, clerk, bookkeeper and reporter. These five properties were purchased as a group in the late 1800s by Alfred Edward Newton, a renowned book collector who moved in 1900 to his Chester County Oak Knoll estate and used the houses as town houses and rental properties until selling them in the 1930s. Historical Commission files contain a letter stating that Newton purchased the properties to help keep the block intact.

Five east-side houses (numbers 411–419) were built in 1854 by John Rice and sold to the Reverend William P. Hinds, who reportedly rented the properties as housing for University of Pennsylvania professors. A wealthy and prominent Episcopalian from Barbados, the Reverend Hinds owned numerous Philadelphia properties. The 1855 property insurance survey describes the houses as three-story, 15 feet wide by 30 feet deep and containing a middle hall with mezzanine steps, an early Philadelphia row house design. The second floor back rooms had wooden bathtubs with galvanized steel insert and running hot and cold water. Cellar kitchens in the back building extension included ranges, sinks with hot and cold running water and furnaces for house heating — amenities not often thought of as existing in the 1850s.

Comparing 1960 Historical Commission and recent photographs illustrates the impact of historic designation. In recent years, residents have made many inside and outside improvements. On the outside, today's houses probably look more like the 1850s than the 1960s. But, on the inside, most meet present-day expectations for 21st century living.

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Monk's Cafe: For Belgian Beer and Good Food

By Dane Wells

We have a lot to be proud of in Philadelphia. To mention a few things: we have Independence Hall and its environs, world-class orchestra and ballet and theater, amazing educational institutions, terrific hospitals, many notable art museums and we have a bar. Yes, one bar in particular. More specifically it is a café. One that famed beer writer Michael Jackson called “Simply the best Belgian café in the United States.” By now, many of you know that I am talking about Monk’s Café at 264 South 16th Street, just above Locust. (www.monkscafe.com)

Recently *Wine Enthusiast Magazine* said Monk’s was one of the “Top Five Beer Trailblazers in US.” Now that’s wine folk talking. Impressive. Monk’s is known, perhaps worldwide, for its collection of over 150 Belgian beers, some of which are hard to find in Belgium. But they also feature a carefully thought-out list of 55 local beers, and close to 100 other American craft beers, including some hard-to-find bottles. Their volume allows them to keep this number of beers in proper condition, and the servers, some of whom have been at Monk’s from the beginning, are extremely knowledgeable — great for the novice beer drinker who wants a little help selecting from a daunting list.

The man behind Monk’s is Sir Thomas of Monk’s, knight of the Chevalerie du Fourquet des Brasseurs. Known locally as Tom Peters. He really was knighted in Belgium and admitted to the 400-year-old Brewer’s Guild there. Prior to opening Monk’s in 1997, Tom had been employed as a baker, a pastry chef, a line cook, a sous-chef, a bartender, a waiter and a general manager. Craig LaBan tells that Tom just “happened upon the Flemish heartland 20 years ago only because it



To pump beer in the back room of Monk's Café the bar tender uses the pink elephant pump.



Monk's Café at 264 South 16th Street is considered by many to be one of the best bars in the United States with a large selection of Belgian beers.

was a stopover on the cheapest route to Paris. But a lemony-foam-topped glass of Duvel led to chalices of Trappist Orval and Chimay, and soon Peters’s heart (not to mention his liver) was lost to Belgium forever.” Today, Bar Finder.com declares Monk’s “One of the BEST bars in the US.”

Philadelphia beer authority Don Russell, better known as Joe Sixpack (www.joesixpack.net), recently told this writer, “Tom Peters is one of the biggest reasons Philly is America’s best beer-drinking city. He’s our Marco Polo of beer, exploring far-off places — namely Belgium — making friends and bringing back their goodies. He’s orchestrated more American debuts of Belgian beer brands than anyone can count. Other cities just drool at the Belgian imports that crop up in Philly’s taprooms - and that’s due in large part to Tom.” Maybe that is why *All About Beer* magazine named Monk’s one of the “Top 10 Places in the World to Have a Beer Before You Die.”

So, Monk’s is famous. What is it like? We’ve been discussing the beer, but the food, especially the mussels, is notable as well. This makes sense, since mussels and pomme frites (known locally as French fries) are almost the national food of Belgium. The atmosphere is dark, busy and convivial. Don’t look for a TV —

anywhere. It is all about fine beer and good food. *Celebrator* magazine calls Monk’s one of the “Top 5 Restaurants for Beer & Food in North America.”

If you are new to craft beers, especially Belgian styles, and want to try something that bears no resemblance to U.S. industrial brands, try Monk’s Café Flemish Sour Ale. It is brewed in Belgium just for Monk’s by Brouwerij Van Steenberghe. It is a dark ale, yes, really sour, but in a very refreshing way, and is a traditional blend of young and old beers. You can also find this beer at select bars elsewhere in Philadelphia, for Tom is a team player, and helps many other quality publicans around the city. Tom is also a co-owner of the Noddinghead Brewery on Sansom Street, Grace Tavern on Gray’s Ferry near South, and the Belgian Café in Fairmont as well as The Anderson Hotel in Scotland.

Again, quoting Joe Sixpack: “More importantly for us back home, he’s created a superb venue that’s recognized universally as one of the best beer destinations in the world. And, like any good host, he is generous to a fault. He enjoys great beer with friends and strangers alike.”

Note on the Author: Dane Wells is a former Certified Beer Judge and lived in Brussels, Belgium.

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Furness Buildings Highlight the Sacred Spaces Tour

By Steve Huntington

The neighborhood's first Sacred Spaces Open House, held December 16, attracted hundreds of visitors — academics, congregants, students and the just curious. Twelve congregations opened their doors from as far east as the Arch Street Methodist Church at Broad and Arch to as far west as Trinity Memorial Church at 22nd and Spruce to offer an interfaith sampling that included Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish and Protestant places of worship.

The event, which was co-sponsored by CCRA and The Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, featured a walking tour accessed by a QR code smartphone app that explained the architectural history of each building on the tour.

Adam Engle, Temple Beth Zion Beth Israel's representative, said, "As the only synagogue among the participating congregations, it was a treat for our members to share Jewish traditions and symbols with the wider community."

Visitors to Saint Mark's on the 1600 block of Locust saw the chapel, tucked away towards the rear of the main sanctuary with its over the top silver-encased altar, and heard a free recital because the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra was rehearsing their holiday concert.

2012 marked the hundredth anniversary of the death of Frank Furness, whom Philadelphians regard as the preeminent architect of his day. First Unitarian Church, one of three Philadelphia Furness-designed



Maggie Mund and her husband, Gordon Henderson, visited the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion during the Sacred Spaces Open House Tour on December 16.

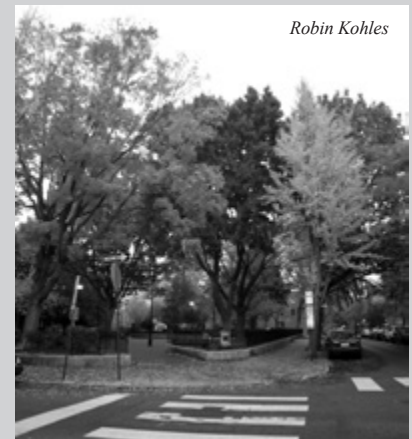
buildings still used for its original purpose (to find out the other two, skip to the end of this article), offered tourgoers a retrospective of the influences that shaped Furness's life. First Unitarian's Furness connections run deep. His father, William, known as a leader of the city's abolitionist movement, was minister of the church. The Furness design work appeared elsewhere on the tour — in the asymmetrical corner tower at First Presbyterian, which still dominates the view when looking south

on 21st Street, and in the richly varied altar of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion. Tourgoers also saw Tenth Presbyterian Church located at 17th and Spruce, designed by John Mc Arthur, Jr., whose signature piece is City Hall.

And the answer to that Furness building quiz? — Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the former library of the University of Pennsylvania, now the Fisher Fine Arts Library.

Fitler Square's Trees: Loved and Cared for by the Community

Residents were concerned about the removal of their favorite Fitler Square tree at the 24th and Pine streets entrance. When asked why this action was taken, Fitler Square Improvement Association Vice President and Grounds Manager Pat Henningsen reported, "We are having all of the trees pruned for their long term health. It is a routine pruning that we have done every few years. One large maple in the garden bed on the 24th Street side was rotting out at the bottom. That would soon have become a safety issue, so we chose to remove it now and replace it with another tree. In fact we might be planting two new trees inside the park and one on Pine Street. So while it pains us all to take down a tree, it was necessary and we will actually be adding new trees for future generations to enjoy."



Philadelphia: Rated a Good Place to Visit, Live and Enjoy

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Philadelphia has been named one of the top cities in the U.S. by a popular guidebook as well as recent surveys of visitors and residents. *Lonely Planet*, the world's number one travel guide publisher, has announced that Philadelphia is ranked fourth among U.S. travel destinations for 2013. The primary attractor is our art scene including the new Barnes Foundation, along with the Philadelphia Museum of Art and smaller neighborhood galleries and art events. According to *Lonely Planet*, "Philadelphia is becoming known as an art capital." Cities are ranked by a team of several hundred expert authors and editors.

Another source, *Travel and Leisure* reported that in its 2012 survey, "America's Favorite Cities," Philadelphia ranks high in many categories. We placed among the top five cities as a cultural getaway and as a destination for historical sites, monuments, museums and galleries, and we're among the top cities for the best pizza, street food and food trucks. Other categories in which Philadelphia ranks high are public parks, music scene, shopping amenities and other food categories. Not surprisingly, Philadelphia rated number one in being sports-crazed. Philadelphians rank our city equal to or higher than visitors did in 19 out of 66 categories. The survey was conducted online from June 1 to September 1, 2012, and 35 cities were included. For the full list of rankings, visit <http://www.travelandleisure.com/americas-favorite-cities/2011/city/philadelphia>.

Another indication that we are moving forward is that *Sperling's Best Places* survey, "Best Places to Live" (May 2011), reported that Philadelphia ranked among the top

10 cities poised for greatness. Categories included sports, arts, music, culture, LEED certifications, health resources, stable housing and population growth. Our city scored sixth for producing homegrown sports heroes. http://www.bestplaces.net/docs/studies/cities_on_the_edge.aspx

Walkability is important to both visitors and residents, and a website called *WalkScore* currently ranks Philadelphia the fifth most walkable city in the U.S. Of all the neighborhoods, Center City West was ranked number one, followed by Center City East, and University City. <http://www.walkscore.com/PA/Philadelphia>

Specific places in Center City Philadelphia have won awards. In 2010, the American Planning Association named Rittenhouse Square one of the top 10 Great Public Spaces in the U.S. because "it is a beautiful, inviting public space that anchors a very vibrant neighborhood, and for the long-standing willingness of community members to fight to keep it that way." Philadelphia won in two other categories in 2008, when Society Hill was named a Great Neighborhood and the Avenue of the Arts (South Broad Street) was named a Great Street.

Philadelphia residents' love for our city is correlated with economic gain according to a three-year study conducted by Gallup World Poll for the Knight Foundation's *Soul of the Community* study, which was released in 2010. Three factors — social offerings (entertainment and places to meet), openness (how welcoming) and beauty (aesthetics and green spaces) — were rated most important in creating an emotional bond between residents



Rittenhouse Square is a great public space for people of all ages.

and their community. Philadelphia was one of 26 cities with the highest levels of resident attachment to their community, and it also had one of the highest rates of local GDP growth.

In *Sperling's Best Places* Philadelphia also made the top 20 in several other categories: best airports to make a connection, best cities for seniors, best cities for telework, best places for military retirees, most competitive private colleges, best cities for Thanksgiving, "manliest" cities, most romantic cities for boomers, most playful cities and best block party cities.

To see a video showing more accolades about Philadelphia, visit <http://press.visitphilly.com/media/show/id/3777/indice/2>

Some categories in which we made the top 20 cities that we would rather not have are sleepless, irritation prone, congested and respiratory infections. We're not perfect!

Pedestrian Zones: Another View

By Virginia K. Nalenz

The pedestrian zone is a species that can flourish only in certain rarefied climates, according to a growing band of planners. "The proper response to obesity is not to stop eating, and most stores need car traffic to survive," says Jeff Speck, co-author of *Suburban Nation*, a seminal work on city and regional planning. In *Walkable City*, his 2012 study of urban design, Speck reports that as director of the National Endowment for the Arts, he reviewed the

fates of pedestrian malls in America over four decades. Of more than 200 malls created, only 30 or so survived, almost all in college towns.

Speck and other city planners, notably Jan Gehl who advised New York City on the recent pedestrian park where Broadway crosses Times Square, counsel incremental change when a city contemplates a pedestrian zone. Instead of

the complete ban on cars that transformed Philadelphia's Chestnut Street in the 70s (but not in a good way), these planners say: forget the expensive paving and street furniture, just bring in temporary barriers, a few potted trees and folding chairs for a weekend and see how it goes. If the right confluence of location, demographics and organization occurs, the city will be "in the zone." If not, take away the barriers, and no harm done, little money wasted.

Friends Select's Immersion in the Non-Western World

The school's groundbreaking international studies program completes its third year

By Sarah Schmidt, Friends Select School

At Friends Select School, a pre-K through 12 Quaker school located in Center City, upper school students continually investigate a wide range of topical issues. And for five days each winter, regular classes are suspended between semesters while students take advantage of a unique immersion program called InterSession. Having just completed its third year, InterSession is a four-year international studies program where students in grades 9 through 12 immerse themselves in a study of a non-Western region of the world.

“The concept for this program began five years ago,” says Friends Select head of school Rose Hagan, “and we secured funding, in the interim, to make the concept a reality. The goal was to create an intensive, sustained block of academic time during which upper school students might develop a solid knowledge base and deep understanding of specific areas of the non-Western world.”

This year's InterSession program held January 22–28, 2013, focused on Southeast Asia. During the week, upper school



(left to right) Pang Xiong Sirirathasuk Sikoun, Master Hmong Paj Ntaub (Story Cloth) Artist; Rose Hagan, Head of School; Jesse Dougherty, Director of Upper School and Assistant Head of School for International Studies, stand in front of Sikoun's story cloth quilts.

students and faculty paused to explore the region's geography, peoples, natural resources, governments, culture, religions, economies and politics.

The overarching question, “What shapes national identity and character for the countries of Southeast Asia?” structured each day's activities. Outside experts in fields ranging from history, to government and politics, to arts and culture engaged with student and faculty teams in a variety of formats: large seminar-style survey lectures, small group meetings, films, performances, and guided discussions and debates around issues.

InterSession kicked off with a lecture on Buddhism in Southeast Asia given by Justin McDaniel, religious studies associate professor and undergraduate studies chair of the University of Pennsylvania. Along with academic sessions, students also experienced personal stories from the region. Among the storytellers, Ed “Vann” Chhay, '90, local senior financial specialist of Penn Mutual Insurance Company, spoke about emigrating to the U.S. in 1981 with his mother, younger sister and cousin after losing his father and two sisters to the Khmer Rouge regime (1975–1978). During his time at Friends Select, he circulated petition drives opposing recognition of the Khmer Rouge as a legitimate Cambodian government.

The entire school had the opportunity to work closely with Pang Xiong Sirirathasuk Sikoun, master Hmong Paj Ntaub (story cloth) artist and artist-in-residence, in the week leading up to InterSession. Sikoun is a native of Xieng Khouang province in Central Laos and was among the tens of thousands of Hmong refugees to flee the Communist-backed Pathet Lao government following years of war in Southeast Asia. Much of her work is autobiographical and students were able to listen to the stories behind her cloths. Sikoun's complete art exhibit was displayed in the school's Select Gallery. Students also drew directly on the intellectual and cultural capital of the City of Philadelphia to further deepen their understanding of Southeast Asia. One group of upper schoolers visited and toured



Students picked out a dragon fruit at a nearby Vietnamese market, and the owners of restaurant Pho 75 at 11th and Washington cut it up for them to share.

the Amitayus Kadampa Buddhist Center at 11th and Pine.

“The great aspect of being a Center City school is the wide range of diversity right outside our door,” said Jesse Dougherty, director of upper school and assistant head of school for international studies. “Our study of Southeast Asia is focused on understanding the people of the area as a way to understanding the nuance of the region. By going out into the community and visiting with individuals, organizations and institutions affiliated with the region, students broaden their thinking as global citizens.”

At the end of InterSession, students completed and presented a group project to their peers, which examined their individual understanding of the topics researched in-depth that week. A different region of the world is selected as the focus each year. The Middle East was explored in 2011, and Central and South America was the area of focus in 2012. Next year's region will be Sub-Saharan Africa.




InterSession is made possible through a matching grant by the Edward E. Ford Foundation and is part of the Friends Select School International Studies Program.



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Zoning Committee Report

Pat Mattern and Brian Johnston, Co-Chairs

November and December 2012 and January 2013

2038 Locust Street, (RM-1).

Application for a dress making shop (artist studios and artisan industrial) and for the erection of one (1) accessory flatwall sign on the first floor in the same building with an existing three (3) family dwelling. Size and location as shown in the application. Refusal: The proposed use, artist's studio and artisan industrial with accessory sign on the first floor, is prohibited in this zoning district. **Not Opposed with Proviso.**

1737 South Street, (RSA-5 / CMX-2).

Application for a dog Daycare/Boarding Kennel (Animal Service) on first floor with existing three (3) apartments as previously approved in an existing structure creates a condition of multiple main uses on a lot. Refusals: The proposed use, animal service, is prohibited in this zoning district. The proposed multiple main uses on a lot is not permitted in this zoning district. **Not Opposed with Proviso.**

1607 South Street, (CMX-2).

Application for a one (1) story addition above an existing two (2) story portion of a three story (3) structure (height NTE 38'), with pilot house (height NTE 10') to access roof deck with 42" high guard rail on third floor and for the erection of rear roof deck on second floor, for use as a single-family dwelling in the same building with an existing retail sales of wireless phones and accessories on the first floor. Size and location as shown in the application. Refusals: Minimum Rear Yard Depth (at addition): 9' required, 4' proposed; Minimum Open Area (at addition): 25% required, (215 sf), 14% proposed (121 sf). **Not Opposed.**

1845 Walnut Street, Space #200 NEC 19th thru to Sansom Street, (CMX-5 / CTR Center City Overlay).

Application is for a sit down restaurant with take out in space #200 with existing retail/commercial spaces, offices and uses as previously approved in an existing structure, size and location as shown in the application. Special Exception: The proposed use, sit down restaurant with take-out requires a special exception approval in this zoning district. **Not Opposed with Provisos.**

135 South 18th Street (NEC Walnut Street thru to Moravian Street (CMX-5 / CTR Center City Overlay).

Application is for a sit-down restaurant in space "D" on the first floor in the same building with an existing 81 dwellings and uses as previously approved. Referral: The proposed use, sit down restaurant, requires a special exception approval in the CTR/ Walnut Street West Area District. **Not Opposed with Proviso.**

2117 Pine Street (RM-1).

Application is for the erection of a one and two story rear addition (24' high) as part of an existing three (3) story attached building for the extension of an existing single family dwelling, size and location as shown in the application. Refusals: Minimum Rear Yard Depth: 16' required, 7'-2" proposed; Minimum Open Area: 30% required, 27% proposed. **Opposed.**

222 West Rittenhouse Square SWC

Locust St. (RM-4). Application is for an optical store, no eye exams (retail sale of consumer goods) on first floor in the same building with existing retail/commercial spaces and dwelling units as previously approved. Refusal: The proposed use, retail sale of consumer goods, is prohibited in this zoning district. **Not Opposed.**

1425 Locust Street, Unit 1C.

Application for the erection of one (1) illuminated (non-flashing; non-intermittent; direct static illumination) projecting sign with three (3) faces at the 15th Street façade accessory to 107 Dwelling units in an existing structure with commercial uses as previously approved. Size and location as shown in the application. Refusals: Maximum projection beyond property line for a projecting sign in the CMX-5 Zoning District. Allowable: 1' Maximum, Proposed: 6'4-1/2". **Not Opposed.**

1426 and 1428-30 Walnut Street through to Chancellor Street, (CMX-5).

For the relocation of lot lines to create one (1) lot from two (2) lots. For the erection of an attached structure with penthouse, roof top units and green roof and balcony at second floor. For a sit down restaurant on partial second floor, vacant commercial space from cellar through third floors

and six (6) bicycle parking spaces. Size and location as shown in the application. Referral: The proposed use, sit down restaurant, requires a special exception approval in this center city overlay district. Refusal: Off Street Loading, 1 Required, 0 Proposed. **Not Opposed with Provisos.**

222 West Rittenhouse Square SWC Locust Street, Ground floor Rear (RM-4).

Application for a take-out restaurant with seating on the ground floor rear in the same building with retail/commercial spaces and dwelling units as previously approved. Size and location as shown in the application. Refusal: The proposed use, take out restaurant with seating, is prohibited in this zoning district. **Not Opposed with Provisos.**

2015 Delancey Place (RM-1).

Application is for the expansion of a rear garage at ground level with a first floor rooftop deck above the garage and construction of a rooftop deck and a pilot house with access from an interior stair from fourth floor. Refusals: Minimum Open Area 30% Required, 12% Proposed; Required 632 sf, Proposed 261 sf; Pilot House Height 10' allowable, 11'-6" Proposed. **Tabled.**

1708-10 Rittenhouse Square, (R10A).

Application for relocation of lot lines to create one lot from two lots, for removal and replacement of second floor roof (Max. height 24'), for the erection of an elevator penthouse (Max height NTE 39') for use as medical offices with aesthetician services on all floors of the structure. Size and location as shown in the application. Refusals: The proposed use, "medical offices with aesthetician services" is not permitted in this zoning district. Maximum Height: 35' Maximum, 39' Proposed. **Not Opposed with Provisos.**



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New Clothing Store Dresses-up Historic Building

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Mettler's American Mercantile, a retail chain owned by Lou Mettler and Robert Chevalier, recently opened a store in the historic New Church Parish House at 2129 Chestnut Street adjacent to the former Church of New Jerusalem. A welcoming red door and a bay window displaying classic styles of made-in-America clothing face Chestnut Street near the corner of 22nd. According to Chevalier, this new store has been called "the jewel of Chestnut Street."

The Church of the New Jerusalem was a 19th century Swedenborgian church designed in 1881 by Theophilus Parsons Chandler, Jr. In the mid-1980s the church membership declined, and the church closed. The property was purchased by the Preservation Fund, which worked closely with the Philadelphia Historical Commission and lead architect Mark B. Thompson to redesign it as an office building while preserving its historic character. In 1990 the church was occupied by Graduate Health System and later by The Weightman Group, an ad agency. The National Trust for Historic Preservation pronounced it a good example of adaptive reuse.

Chevalier, owner of the historic church building, is chairman and owner of CFI, a family of companies headquartered there that distributes high-end Knoll office furniture



Mettler's American Mercantile recently opened a store in the New Church Parish House adjacent to the former church.



CFI, a distributor of Knoll Furniture, occupies the magnificent structure designed in 1881 for the Church of New Jerusalem by Theophilus Parsons Chandler, Jr.

(<http://cfi-knoll.com>). He is also half-owner of Mettler's. Chevalier, who has worked in the furniture industry for over 35 years, started CFI in 1985. He bought 2129 Chestnut Street in 2003 because he likes "buildings with character and architectural significance." According to Chevalier, "I'm the custodian of this building for the next generation. This building will be here long after I'm gone." Interior changes to the church, completed in the mid-1980s, include a floor-to-ceiling glass wall, two floors for office space, two balconies, a spiral staircase and an elevator.

Mettler's offers well-crafted classic made-in-America clothing, accessories and home furnishings in stores and online at www.MettlersAmerica.com. Mettler travels throughout the U.S. to find American manufacturers that meet his standards of quality. Currently 31 different small factories in the U.S. supply goods to his stores. Not only is he the founder and president of Mettler's American Mercantile, but he previously owned and operated 45 stores, including Ralph Lauren and Hugo Boss, and he was one of the founding partners of the Tommy Bahama brand.

Mettler and Chevalier met in Chicago through their wives, who have been friends

for over 25 years. The two men share a love of design and style as well as an entrepreneurial spirit. About three years ago Mettler, living in Michigan, had sold most of his stores, and was considering retirement when he decided to open retail stores dedicated to quality, stylish American-made clothing and accessories. Chevalier suggested locating a store in his historic building in Philadelphia, and a partnership was born. The Philadelphia store is becoming the chain's flagship store.

The store attracts people of all ages and types, both locals and out-of-towners, who discover it while they are walking in the neighborhood. According to Chevalier, people are very positive about the idea of purchasing American-made products. Chevalier and Mettler wear Mettler's clothes to work every day. Chevalier, wearing a Mettler's shirt, jeans and shoes, says neighbors have told him they're excited to have a retail store at this location. He's received many compliments on the quality of the clothes from customers and visitors and even from his dry cleaner. A typical comment is "Wow! That's really great! I'm glad somebody has done this."

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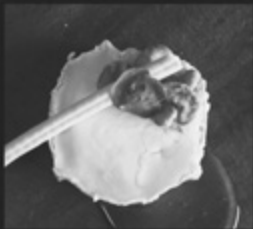
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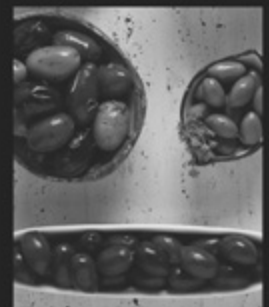


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Theophilus Parsons Chandler, Jr., Architect of Center City Churches and Mansions

By Fran Levi

When asked to name a prestigious and prolific 19th century Philadelphia architect, Frank Furness is the one most of us recall. However, Theophilus Parson Chandler, Jr., (1845–1928), a man little remembered today, also had a great impact on the architectural design of many buildings in this city. The Athenaeum’s website, *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*, states, “The importance of T.P. Chandler to the architectural profession in late nineteenth-century Philadelphia cannot be overestimated.”

Chandler was born in Boston and educated at Harvard and in the atelier of Joseph Auguste Émile Vaudremer in Paris. He came to Philadelphia in 1872 at the request of landscape architect Robert Copeland to work on the development of Ridley Park, a planned community. A year later he married Sophie Madeleine duPont, and his career blossomed as he designed and remodeled houses for several of her relatives, including alterations to the mansion that became the Winterthur Museum.



Kings Views of Philadelphia, Published by Moses King in 1900, provided this description of a Chandler designed mansion including the quotation marks: Hon. John Wanamaker Residence, 2032 Walnut Street, "Just east of the Second Presbyterian Church is one of the handsomest and most noted homes - of the Hon. John Wanamaker, merchant, statesman and benefactor - the most eminent Philadelphian of to-day." The "Second" Presbyterian Church is known today as the "First" Presbyterian Church as described on page 2.



The Bishop Mackay-Smith House built in 1903-1904 was designed by Theophilus Parsons Chandler, Jr. for the Rt. Rev. Alexander Mackay-Smith, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Established as a Philadelphia architect through his familial connections, Chandler opened an office at 705 Sansom Street and expanded his client base. He designed several of the original buildings that no longer exist at the Philadelphia Zoo and mansions throughout the Mid-Atlantic states, including a number of the mansions in our neighborhood. The Scott-Wanamaker townhouse at 2032 Walnut Street (1883–86) remains today but only as the façade of the Wanamaker House condominium. However, the Bishop Mackay-Smith House (1903–04), 251 South 22nd Street, still stands, its exterior intact, and it, too, is a condominium.

Chandler, however, is best known as a designer of churches in urban areas. He designed the Church of New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian) at 22nd and Chestnut streets, now an office building and clothing store, as described on page 21, and the

Gothic parish house that was added in 1885 to the First Presbyterian Church at 21st and Walnut streets (page 2).

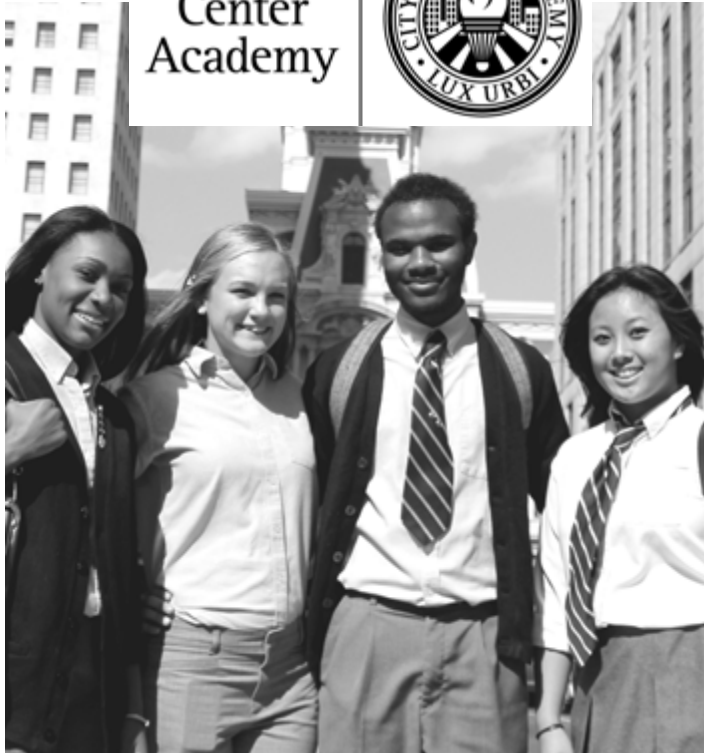
Chandler was also the architect of North Philadelphia Station (1896–1901), the designer of additions to many historic structures and a painter and furniture designer. Much of his work has been demolished, but he left a legacy that exists today at the University of Pennsylvania — he founded the university’s Department of Architecture and served as its executive head from 1890–91.

Theophilus Parsons Chandler, Jr., was a well-respected architect during his lifetime and was quite influential in our city’s architectural history. His accomplishments have been overshadowed by those of Furness, perhaps because more of Furness’s work was saved from the wrecking ball.



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Good Friday-March 29

12:00 p.m. Contemporary Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. Service

Easter Sunday-March 31

8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services

9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast



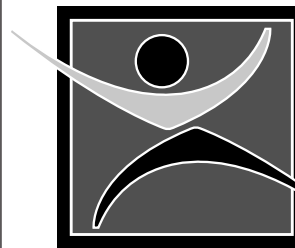
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PIFA: All Arts, All Month, All Around the Town

By Virginia K. Nalencz

“If You Had a Time Machine,” the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA) asks 51 artists in the visual, performance and multimedia arts, “where would you go?” One answer comes with a Big Bang as Philadanco interprets the first instant of the universe, while in “Dance Space” Savion Glover tap dances in the dark to evoke the formation of bodies in space from stardust 3.8 billion years ago. FutureFest by the Luna Theater Company offers glimpses of the future through five one-act plays.

Other artists land at places between the extremes on the timeline. Danilo Pérez and his jazz quintet see the Pacific Ocean with Balboa in 1513. *If She Stood* dramatizes the founding of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society in 1833. The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia witnesses the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 in the chords of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. PIFA, which runs from March 28 through April 27, is the second appearance of the biannual festival hosted by the Kimmel Center. Events will be staged at various venues throughout the city, from the Kimmel and the Academy of Music to Plays and Players and the Adrienne Theater to an empty lot, site of “Daringly High,” which posits a metaphorical link

between trapeze artistry and miniskirt hemlines of the Swinging Sixties.

The festival will culminate in a street fair on Saturday, April 27, when the Kimmel Center closes off Broad Street from Chestnut to Lombard. As it was at PIFA 2011, the space will be filled with the bright colors of exhibitors’ tents, food vendors’ stalls, tables where artisans show their wares and performers who mingle with the crowd. In 2011 the month-long festival attracted more than 400,000 visitors, including 170,000 from beyond the Philadelphia area, pumping over \$55 million into the city’s coffers. Ticket cost at PIFA is based on the event; many are free. The lead sponsor of PIFA 2013 is TD Bank.

The first time around, PIFA presented events, exhibitions and performances that looked at “Paris Through the Window,” works inspired by a revolutionary period in the arts at the beginning of the 20th century. This year the festival engages with the idea of time itself.

What is history? The question leaps out of the space-time continuum. History is the coronation of Napoleon, and also the first celebration of Causal Friday, events of importance with a capital or a lower case “i.” History embraces the very specific



Courtesy Kimmel Center

PIFA at Plays and Players presents *The Life (and Death) of Harry Houdini* by The Eg Po Classic Theater. The play is a reenactment of a series of his most famous acts, in the words of Houdini’s own lectures, remembered by a mysterious magician’s assistant.

date (November 18, 2009) when Thierry Henry’s handball eliminated Ireland as a World Cup qualifier and the Big Bang that inaugurated the very concept of time. All these events are represented at PIFA.

PIFA’s theme may indicate a philosophical perspective, while at the same time the festival charges the city with a bolt of artistic energy. Several events invite audience participation. There’s a chance to play gladiator or to be on the side of ancient law and order in the helmet and shield of a Roman soldier at “The Birth of Rome” at the Penn Museum. Stone Depot Dance Lab’s “Casual Friday” at the Ruba Club begins with Happy Hour at the club bar. Dan Deacon’s musical evocation of the sending of the first e-mail is an interactive event employing smartphone technology, at the Perelman Theater at the Kimmel. Visitors take a tour of ENIAC, the world’s first computer, on site at Penn where it was invented; afterward musicians of Third Space do what ENIAC’s inventors imagined—they mix electronic music with traditional instruments and invent a new kind of music, at the Rose Recital Hall on the Penn campus.

And on the last day of the festival, there’ll be dancing in the streets.

To learn more, visit www.pifa.org



Courtesy Kimmel Center

In a PIFA event, the Ky Daiko Taiko Drummers re-visit 2011 to memorialize the victims of the tsunami that struck the northern Tohoku region of Japan. Fairmount Park’s Shofuso Japanese House, where the percussion piece will be performed, has had a 25-year-long relationship with the city of Sendai in Tohoku.

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Sat., 3/2	2:00 p.m.	Pages to Pirouettes: <i>Cinderella</i>
Sun., 3/3	4:00 p.m.	Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra Concert
Thu., 3/7	6:00 p.m.	CORP Grid Alive
Sat., 3/16	1:30 p.m.	Astral Kids Concert
Sun., 3/17	12 noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Sat., 3/23	8:00 p.m.	Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture Concert
Sun., 3/24	10:15 a.m.	Palm Sunday: Ritt. Sq.-TMC
Thurs. 3/28	6:00 p.m.	Holy Thursday Supper
Fri., 3/29	12 & 7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Liturgy
Sun., 3/31	10:30 a.m.	Easter, Festive Eucharist
Sat., 4/13	8:00 p.m.	Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society Concert
Sun., 4/14	3:00 p.m.	Astral Artists Concert
Sun., 4/21	12 noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Sun., 4/21	4:00 p.m.	Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities Fundraiser
Sat., 4/27	10:00 a.m.	TMC Jumble Sale
Sun., 4/28	3:00 p.m.	Dolce Suono Ensemble Concert <i>Debussy and the Baroque</i>
Fri., 5/3	7:00 p.m.	Trinity Playgroup Gala
Thur., 5/9	6:00 p.m.	CORP Grid Alive
Sun., 5/19	12 noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Sat., 6/8	8:00 p.m.	Philadelphia Voices of Pride Concert
Sun., 6/16	12 noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Fri., Sat. 6/21, 22	7:30 p.m.	Poor Richard's Opera <i>Midsummer Dream Concerts</i>

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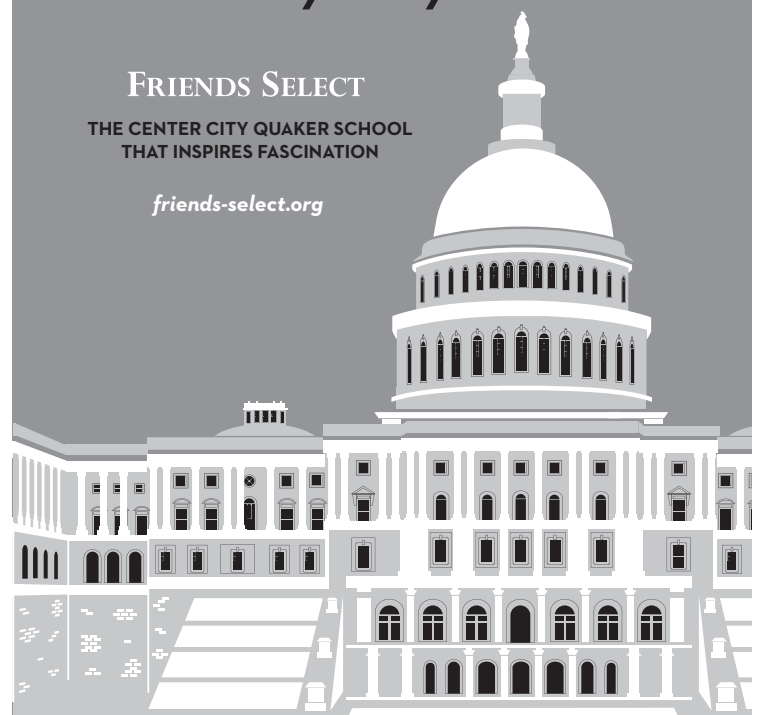
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Primer on Real Estate Taxes Enclosed

By Jeffrey Braff, President

Last June, CCRA endorsed the Actual Value Initiative (AVI), an undertaking to reassess all properties in the city at fair market value. Both in meetings with our councilmen, and in testimony before City Council, we supported AVI because many, if not most, current assessments have no relationship to market value so that, currently, tax bills are inconsistent and unfair. However, we opposed the mayor's plan to establish a new AVI tax rate before the citywide reassessment was complete. We asserted that setting the rate before the completion of the assessment process was a matter of placing the cart before the horse. Fortunately, the mayor and council agreed to delay the implementation of AVI for a year so that the tax rates could be determined after the reassessment had been accomplished.

By the time you read this, you will have received in the mail your AVI reassessment. This reassessment will be used to compute realty taxes due in February of 2014. Almost everyone's AVI assessment will be a multiple of the assessment used in the current system. Consequently, as part of the AVI program, City Council and the mayor are to enact a tax rate which will be lower than the rate currently in place. Your 2014 tax bill will be calculated by multiplying the AVI assessment received in the mail by the AVI tax rate which will be set by City Council and the mayor this spring as part of the overall budget deliberations.

The issues raised by AVI are both important and complicated. We have therefore prepared for our membership the enclosed free-standing insert: "A Primer On Philadelphia Real Estate Taxes." Written by our executive director, Steve Huntington, the Primer discusses such topics as how to calculate your real estate tax, how Philadelphia's real estate tax compares with that of other cities, the impact of a possible Homestead Exemption and the concept of "revenue neutrality." This Primer will help you decipher the complexities involved in setting a new AVI real estate tax rate, a task which the mayor and City Council must complete by June 30th as part of the budget process.



CCRA President, Jeff Braff, moderated the panel discussion of the city's proposed Actual Value Initiative (AVI). Panelists representing the city were (left to right) Marisa Waxman, Director of Programs and Policy, and Richie McKeethen, Chief Assessor, Office of Property Assessment, and Carla Pagan, Executive Director, Bureau of Revision of Taxes.

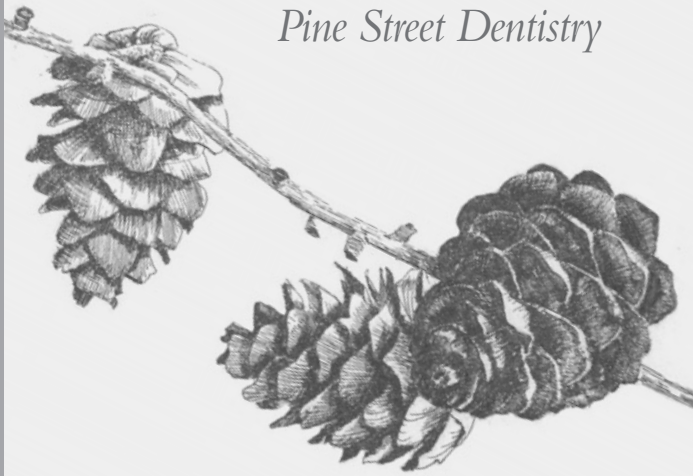


The CCRA sponsored session on AVI was very well attended because of interest in the subject and its potential impact on property owners.

I hope you will keep the Primer handy and share it with your friends. And if you missed our February 6 public meeting regarding the "nuts and bolts" of the AVI assessment process and appeal procedure, I encourage you to attend our

next AVI program, likely to be held in May or early June, which will focus on the second part of the AVI process: the creation of a new tax rate for the city's reassessed properties. Look for details in the weekly eNewsletter.

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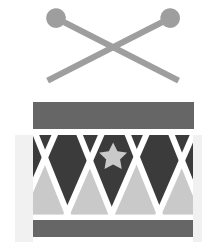
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CCRA Neighborhood Spring Events

Pedal Power: Bicycling in Center City

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Representatives from the Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia will talk about the recently enacted bicycle legislation, the status of the City's contemplated bike share program and safe cycling skills for urban riding. Pre-registration will be required as attendance will be limited.

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.

CCRA home page for details,
www.centercityresidents.org.

CCRA Herb Booth

Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities

Wednesday and Thursday, May 8 and 9

CCRA Annual Meeting - Sharon Pinkenson, Speaker

Academy of Vocal Art

1920 Spruce Street

Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities

Wednesday and Thursday, May 8 and 9

Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

82nd Annual Spring Show

Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8,

11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 9, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fitler Square Spring Fair

23rd and Pine streets

Friday, May 10, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.fitlersquare.org

Rittenhouse Row Spring Festival

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Shut Your Wormhole by Tribe of Fools, a serial musical comedy about time travel.

Thursday, March 28 through Sunday, April 21, 5:30 p.m. (except Mondays)

www.kimmelcenter.org/events/?org=355

Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA)

Thursday, March 28 to Saturday, April 27

www.pifa.org for events, locations and times

Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center

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Science Saturday, Fishin' Around

What do fish tell us? Fish populations can tell us about the health of the river. Take a look at some of the inhabitants of the Schuylkill – what fish are present and what does that tell us about life under the surface. March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. starting every half hour.

Movie Time!

The 11th Hour, 2007, Rated PG, 95 minutes
March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 1:30 p.m. Free!
Co-directors Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners conduct interviews with some of the world's leading scientists and creative thinkers in a film that asks whether or not it's too late to avoid the ecological disaster that looms ominously on the horizon.

Philadelphia City Institute (PCI)

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Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet at PCI

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Monday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.

Carnival of the Animals

Monday, May 6, 6:30 p.m.

Forsythe & Kylian

Monday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.

Meditations for a Peaceful Mind

Gen Kelsang Tenzin, Buddhist monk, will introduce simple, profound meditation techniques. For more information contact PCI Librarian, 215-685-6621.

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.

Free Films at PCI - The Free Library on Rittenhouse Square

Wednesday, March 6, 2:00 p.m.

Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, 1969

Wednesday, March 13, 2:00 p.m.

It All Starts Today, 1999

Wednesday, March 20, 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Holland's Opus, 1995

Wednesday, March 27, 2:00 p.m.

Monsieur Lazhar, 2011

Wednesday, April 3, 2:00 p.m.

A Matter of Life and Death, 1946

Wednesday, April 10, The Library is closed

Thursday, April 11, 2:00 p.m.

Pandora and The Flying Dutchman, 1951

Wednesday, April 17, 2:00 p.m.

War and Peace, 1956

Wednesday, April 24, 2:00 p.m.

Black Narcissus, 1947

Wednesday, May, 2:00 p.m.

I Symphony of Six Million, 1932

Wednesday, May 8, 2:00 p.m.

Annie Hall, 1977

Wednesday, May 15, 2:00 p.m.

Joshua, Then and Now, 1985

Wednesday, May 22, 2:00 p.m.

Nabucco (from the Met, 2002)

Wednesday, May 29, 2:00 p.m.

Rite of Spring (from the Bolshoi Ballet)

Wednesday, June 5, 2:00 p.m.

Coco Chanel and Igor Stravinsky

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See dates, times, and locations at:

<http://www.curtis.edu/performances/>



Index of Center City Quarterly: Fall 2008 through March 2013

Prepared by Virginia Nalencz

A

aging
Communicare, Trinity Memorial, Sept 10
Friends Center City Riverfront Sept 10
Friends in the City (FitC) Mar 12
Alliance Française de Philadelphie Mar 09
Annual Meeting, CCRA, Jun 09, Jun 10, Jun 11, Jun 12 [tax talk]
America-Italy Society Dec 09
Amerita Dec 09 see also "music"
apartments
affordable, lacking in Center City Mar 10
Belgravia Sept 10
William Penn House F 08
Architecture
Annex, 20th and Chestnut, plan for redevelopment Jun 11
Chandler, Theophilus Parsons, Jr. Mar 13
Dr. Horace Jayne Residence Dec 09
First Presbyterian Jun 10
Furness, Frank Dec 12
Lonsdale, T.P. Dec 09
neighborhoods, architecture seen on walks Mar 10
Palomar [Hotel] Dec 10
art
artist Jerome Schwartz Jun 12
open studio tours Sept 12
PIFA Mar 11, Mar 13 Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA)
art galleries
Art in the Open Sept 10, Mar 11
Center for Emerging Visual Artists (CEVA) Mar 09
Metropolitan Gallery 250 Mar 13
The Print Center Mar 10
Twenty-Two Gallery Mar 12
Astral Artists Mar 09 see also "music"

B

Bartram's Garden Mar 11
Bikes
as part of Philadelphia transportation Jun 12
bike lanes Dec 09
bike lanes expanded Dec 10
bike share Jun 09
bikeway planning Sept 09
biking for kids Sept 11
birdhouses, Jun 11
Board members F 08, Jun 09, Jun 10, Jun 11, Jun 12
Boating
Dragon Boat Race Mar 10
kayak tours on Schuylkill Dec 09
Sculling on the Schuylkill Sept 10
Book reviews
Green Metropolis, Dec 09
Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took on NY's Master Builder and Transformed the American City Sept 10
Boyd Theater, plan to save building, F 08
Broad Street Run Jun 11

C

CCRA
Celebration of Center City Living Dec 12
strategic plan Sept 12
Cars see also "parking"
cars v. pedestrians Mar 2012

Center for Emerging Visual Artists (CEVA) Mar 09, see also "art galleries"
Center City Crime Victim Services (CCCVS) Dec 10
Children
and mothers, exercise, Stroller Strides Jun 12
art program, Bo Concept at Markward Dec 10
biking for kids Sept 11
CCD website Mar 10
Growing Up in Center City Dec 10
holiday traditions Center City Dec 11
Philadelphia City Institute Library Children's Room Sept 10
playgrounds Jun 12 [Klein's Korner] Markward Playground and O'Connor Pool Jun 10
textile crafts at Markward Sept 12
winter activities Dec 09

Chili Challenge Jun 09, Jun 10, Dec 12
Churches and Synagogues
Beth Zion Beth Israel Dec 09
Congregations Committee Sept 10
First Baptist Sept 12
First Presbyterian Jun 10, see also "Architecture" Preservation, Mar 13
"Hands Around the Square" 9/11 memorial Dec 11
Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square Mar 09
Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, Welcome Center Jun 09
Sacred Spaces Tour Dec 12, Mar 13
Trinity Memorial/Trinity Center for Urban Life (TCUL), blessing of the animals Sept 11; Communicare Sept 10
Unitarian Universalist Mar 10

City Council Jun 12
City Year Dec 09
crafts
craft fair Rittenhouse Square Mar 12
sand-painting at TCUL Dec 12
textile crafts at Markward Sept 12
Curtis Institute Mar 09

D

Dance
Ballet X Jun 12
Jeanne Ruddy at PIFA Mar 11
Koresh Company Sept 10
Nancy Heller, Sept 12
Dilworth Plaza Jun 11

E

Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, Victorian holidays Dec 09
Eisenhower Fellowships Mar 12
Emergency Preparedness Dec 12
English-Speaking Union of Philadelphia Jun 10

F

Farmers' Market
baker Gil Orale's canelé at Rittenhouse Square Mar 12
Rittenhouse Square market Sept 09
farm food delivered/Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Mar 10
Fidler Square
FSIA [Fidler Square Improvement Association] Golden Jubilee Sept 12

Fountain, greened Dec 10
garden Jun 09
gardener, Maureen Chambley Jun 09
history, Mar 11
Spring Fair, 50th Mar 11
tree care Mar 13
Fort Mifflin Dec 10
Forum Theater, CCRA combats sleaze Sept 10. CCRA opposes expansion, wins. Jun 11
Franklin Square Mar 10
Friends, various Dec 10
Friends Center City Riverfront Sept 10
Friends of Schuylkill Banks (FOSB) Dec 10
Friends of Schuylkill River Park
Eat, Drink and Be Green Sept 10
Fall Festival Dec 11
Markward improvements Jun 12
Tree Tenders Jun 10
French Philadelphia Mar 09

G

garden, Schuylkill River Park Garden (SRPG) F 08
annual meeting Jun 09
City Gardens Contest, first place Dec 11
City Harvest Sept 09
grants and improvements Jun 10
ladybug release party Sept 10
maintenance, summer work day Sept 09
Party for the Parks Mar 09
potluck picnics Mar 10
garden, pop up on Walnut Sept 12
Gateway Neighborhood F 08
Ginkgos Mar 10
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance Jun 09
Greenfield School, see also "schools"
art classes Sept 12
auditorium Dec 11
Greenfield School Jun 09
"Greening" Sept 09;
40th Anniversary Jun 10;
40th celebration Dec 10.
LOVE graphic project Dec 11
Martin Brown, former principal Mar 11
principal Dan Lazar Sept 11
secret garden Sept 11
wall sculpture by George Sugarman Mar 12

H

Heinz Wildlife Refuge Mar 11
Historic Preservation
general, F 08 [see also House Detective esp historic designation Dec 12]
guided walks Sept 12
Historic Interiors legislation Sept 09
1822 Spruce Street Dec 10
Holidays
Center City traditions Dec 11
trash pick-up Dec 11
Homelessness F 08
MANNNA, feeding the homeless Jun 10
Hospitals
Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse Jun 12
House Detective
Carlisle Street Mar 13
chain of title Sept 11
general Mar 11
historic designation Dec 12
maps Jun 11

modernism on Delancey Jun 12
Naudain Street Mar 12
House Tour, CCRA, F 08, Dec 09, Dec 10, Dec 11, Dec 12

I

Independence Seaport Museum Jun 11 see also "museums"
Insurance, with HUB F 08
International Culinary School at the Art Institute of Phila Jun 09

K

Klein's Korner Sept 10 [construction]; Dec 10 [clean up after dogs] Mar 11 [snow shoveling] Jun 11 [parking]; Sept 11 [flash mobs]; Dec 11 [zoning]; Mar 12 [taxis]; Jun 12 [playgrounds]; Mar 13 [Philadelphia and Ireland compared]

M

Magic Gardens Jun 10
Markward Playground and O'Connor Pool Jun 10 see also "children"
new ballfield Jun 11
MANNNA, feeding the homeless Jun 10
Merchants
Bacchus Jun 12
entrepreneur Moms Mar 11
Food and Friends Mar 11
Gavin's Café Sept 10
Home Sweet Homebrew Jun 10
Joseph Fox Bookshop Jun 10
Mettler's American Mercantile Mar 13
Monk's Café Mar 13
Rittenhouse Hardware Jun 09
SaVa Women's Clothing Dec 12
Sophy Curson Sept 12
Sue's Produce Market Mar 09
Wash Cycle Laundry Sept 11
The Window Box Jun 10
movies at the Philadelphia City Institute F 08
murals
the Mural Mile Jun 10
proposed for 21st and Lombard Sept 12
Museums
Independence Seaport Museum Jun 11
Penn Museum "Silk Road" Sept 10
Philadelphia Museum of Art Chagall/PIFA Mar 11
Music see also "Opera"
Amerita Dec 09
Astral Artists Mar 09
Curtis Institute Mar 09
Delius Society Mar 11
Freire Charter School afterschool music program Mar 13
Mississippi Delta at the Rosenbach Jun 12
rock concerts at Unitarian Church Sept 10
Tempesta di Mare Sept 11
The Philadelphia School Dec 10 see also "schools" "TPS"

N

Neighborhood Plan F 08 [see also Gateway Neighborhood]

O

O'Connor Pool Dec 09
Opera
Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA) Sept 09

Center City Opera Theater Mar 11
The Scarlet Letter at AVA Sept 10

P

Parks and Squares, see "Fittler"
"Rittenhouse"
Sister Cities Park Sept 12
Parking
National Parking Day Sept 11
Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse Mar 10
Penn's Village Jun 09, Sept 09
Pets
Armie the Fun Guy Dec 10 see also
"profiles"
blessing of the animals at Trinity
Memorial Church Sept 11
in the neighborhood ("Real Dogs") Dec 12
microchip identification Jun 10
Philadelphia City Census Jun 11
Philadelphia City Institute Library Sept 09;
Children's Room Sept 10 see also "children"
Philadelphia City Planning Commission
Mar 09
Philadelphia International Festival of the
Arts (PIFA) Mar 11, Mar 13. see also
"museums"
Police
crime-deterrence advice Jun 12
Police District Advisory Council (PDAC),
introduction. Jun 09
Police Report in each issue through Mar 11,
resumes Jun 12.
Profiles
Ambler, Nancy F 08
Berson, Lenora Dec 10
Berson, Lenora Jun 11
Brown, Martin Mar 11
Cox, Keith Sept 10
Easton, Daniele Mar 09
Eden, Judith Jun 09
Federico, Kathleen and Kate Sept 09
Heller, Nancy Sept 12
Jacobs, Jane Sept 10 see also "Book
reviews"
Josephs, Babette Dec 12
Kennedy, Kency Mar 10
Klein, Alex Jun 11
Mauro, Patty Sept 12
Schneider, Adam Sept 09
Zacharias, Amie Dec 10

Q

Quality of Life see also "Klein's Korner"
gifts to the street Jun 12
graffiti removal Sept 12
"nuisance bars" Mar 09, Jun 11, Dec 11
pets, value of in the neighborhood ("Real
Dogs") Dec 12
police report Mar 10
police report Dec 10
schools, Greater Philadelphia Center City
Neighborhood Schools Coalition Dec 11

R

rain barrels Mar 12
Reaney's Court Dec 09
redistricting Dec 11
Rittenhouse Square
Community Coalition Dec 12
craft fair Mar 12
History of, Mar 09
sculptures Dec 10
Rosenbach Museum and Library
Bloomsday Sept 09

Dracula parade F 08
Mississippi Delta music Jun 12
spring events Mar 10

S

Save Our Sites (S.O.S.) Sept 11
Schools see also "Greenfield School" "TPS
[The Philadelphia School]"
CCRA forum on school choice Jun 12
CCRA School Fair Dec 12
CCRA school forum w/ Dr. Hite Mar 13
Freire Charter School history Jun 11
afterschool music program Mar 13
Friends Select Intersession program on
Southeast Asia Mar 13
Greater Philadelphia Center City
Neighborhood Schools Coalition Dec 11,
and update Mar 2012
Greenfield School Jun 09 "Greening"
Sept 09; 40th Anniversary Jun 10; 40th
celebration Dec 10. Martin Brown, former
principal Mar 11; secret garden Sept 11;
principal Dan Lazar Sept 11; auditorium
Dec 11; LOVE graphic project Dec 11;
wall sculpture by George Sugarman Mar
12; art classes Sept 12
The Philadelphia School ["TPS"] F 08;
music program Dec 10; expansion Jun
11; construction of new entryway Sept
11; opening of new entry Dec 11; 40th
anniversary Sept 12; opening of Early
Education Center Dec 12
Independence Charter School F 08, Mar
09, Dec 09 (stormwater management);
Odyssey of the Mind competition
Jun 11; Odyssey finals Sept 11;
hosts community forum World Class
Philadelphia 2026 Jun 12
Schuylkill Banks
bridge over CSX tracks Sept 11
clean-up Jun 12
composting toilet Dec 10
memorial of 9/11 dedicated Dec 12
Schuylkill River
history, series beginning Dec 12, Mar 13
Waterworks Sept 12
Schuylkill River Community Garden, see
garden
Schuylkill River Development Corporation
Fishing Fest F 08
kayak tours Dec 09
Schuylkill River Park, grants Sept 09
Schuylkill River Park Alliance
Runnin' on the River F 08
Schuylkill River Trail Mar 09, Jun 09
(transportation corridor)
SEPTA
art in transit Sept 12
new Silverliner Dec 12
social media Mar 13
Signs
as city attraction, Wayfinding, Mar 10
as city blight Sept 10
digital on newsstands? Dec 12
Social Security
new location in Center City Sept 11
Southbridge Mar 10
South x Schuylkill Sept 10, Dec 11
Toll Bros. development at 2400 South
Street Mar 12
South Street Bridge
bridge to be rebuilt F 08,
new design Sept 09,
design update Dec 09
design award Dec 11

State Representative Babette Josephs Jun 10
Streets
20th between Spruce and Locust Mar 12
Carlisle St. Mar 13
Latimer St. 1600 block F 08
Naudain Street Mar 12
Sansom St. 2000 block Dec 09
South Street West Dec 10
Synagogues, see "Churches and
Synagogues"

T

"TPS" [The Philadelphia School]
40th anniversary Sept 12
construction of new entryway Sept 11
expansion Jun 11
history F 08
music program Dec 10
opening of new entry Dec 11
opening of Early Education Center Dec 12
Taxes
AVI primer Mar 13
CCRA annual meeting, tax talk, Jun 12
Theater
1812 Productions Sept 09
EgPo Classic Theater Dec 11
Helium Comedy Club Jun 10
InterAct Dec 09
Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre Jun 10
Philadelphia Theater Company Sept 10
Philly Fringe/Philadelphia Live Arts
Festival Sept 11
Plays and Players Sept 09
Roxy Dec 09
StorySlam [First Person Arts] at World
Café Live and L'Etage Sept 11
Walnut Street Theater Jun 11

Wilma Ballet X Jun 12
Trash
Big Belly solar trash compactor Sept 09
Circular-Free Property Jun 11
Holiday trash pick-up schedule Dec 11
Slipstream recycling Jun 10
Travel
western Pennsylvania Sept 11
Trees
Tree Raffle, donated by TV show
producers Dec 12
Tree Tenders Jun 10, see also "Schuylkill
River Park" and "Friends of Schuylkill
River Park"
"Plant One Million Trees" Mar 12
Triangles, the "leftovers" of diagonal streets
Sept 10; plans for, Jun 11

V

Victorian Society in America Mar 10
Vidocq Society Jun 09
voting Sept 12

W

Wagner Free Institute of Science Mar 10
Waterworks Sept 12
Wayfinding, signage in Center City Mar 10
William Penn House, see "apartments"
World Class Philadelphia 2026 forum Jun 12

Z

zoning [Zoning Committee Report appears
in every issue]
Klein's Korner Dec 11
zoning code, impact of Crosstown
Coalition Mar 10
Zoning Code Commission, Sept 10

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, April 17th

Pedal Power: Bicycling in Center City

Wednesday and Thursday, May 8th and 9th

CCRA Herb Booth at Rittenhouse Flower Market

Wednesday, May 22nd

CCRA Annual Meeting - Sharon Pinkenson, Speaker

centercity@centercityresidents.org
www.centercityresidents.org

Chili Challenge 2013: An Evening of Good Food, Entertainment and Fun



The Keystone Mountain Boys entertained the crowd.



Brian Kelly was the winner with his entry "Homesick Texan Chili."



Attendees had their choice of 17 different chili entries made by a variety of chefs of all ages.

Calling for CCRA Board Nominations

CCRA's nominating committee is seeking candidates to fill several three-year term board seats for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013.

This is a working board. We are seeking energetic individuals with a passion for living in our residential district, an interest in issues of quality of life and community service and a commitment to active board participation. They must actively serve on at least one committee (e.g., membership, fund raising, newsletter, zoning, finance, streets, long-range planning and historic preservation).

Candidates must be CCRA members living in the area bound by the south side of JFK Boulevard, the north side of South Street, the west side of Broad Street and the east bank of the Schuylkill River. CCRA members interested in being candidates or recommending another member should forward a resume or summary of qualifications before March 15th to the nominating committee chair: Center City Residents' Association, 1600 Market Street, Suite 2500, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or email centercity@centercityresidents.org with Board Candidate in the subject line.