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## Real Dogs of Philadelphia: A Neighborhood's Best Friend

By Virginia K. Nalencz



*Dogs and their people (enjoying the new dog run in Schuylkill River Park, above) make their neighborhood safer and more cohesive.*

What do dogs want? Rufus the country dog and Rex in the city agree on the essentials: a regular supply of food and affection, plenty of places to sniff, a bed to sleep on (yours would be nice, but sometimes there are rules), a sheltered spot in which to turn around three times before settling down for a nap. Beyond these basic needs, city dogs, like city people living in a place dense with others of varying species and behaviors, have particular preferences.

In Center City West, according to walkers, trainers and observant dog owners, a dog

may find all his heart's desires along with, occasionally, too much excitement and intermittent danger. Our neighborhood boasts lots of trees. Many different aromas. And a spiffy refurbished dog park with separate runs for large and small dogs. On the other hand, there are skateboarders who approach from behind, honking horns, shards from broken bottles near the curb.

One city dweller says of a walkable neighborhood, "Dogs probably like avoiding the car as much if not more

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than we do. They learn routes by smell, and if they get in a car and then get out somewhere, they can't trace the route." Walks are even more enjoyable when a dog comes upon one of the neighborhood's signature canine amenities, the streetside water bowl outside a restaurant or shop. Sometimes there is a hook on an exterior wall so that a dog may be safely tied up while the owner picks up a loaf of bread and maybe some dog biscuits.

On walks, Center City West provides social opportunities galore for pets and people, yet all this society may come at a price. Says a professional dog walker, "Especially around Rittenhouse Square, people just come forward to pet dogs without asking. They take it for granted that the dogs are friendly." The situation can be uncomfortable, even frightening, for the person who unthinkingly pets a dog without seeking an introduction and discomfiting for the dog as well.

"Dogs really like to please people," says a local pet trainer. People can help dogs avoid occasions of sin, and keep the streets clean at the same time, by closing garbage bags tightly when they set trash on the curb for the Monday morning pickup. Dogs can

follow their instinct to please when they take their walks safely leashed. Remember *Lady and the Tramp*? The dog with a collar and lead was one who was cherished and cared for; the dog given free rein was a dog at risk.

Anyone who strolls by the new bridge at Schuylkill River Park will see dogs enjoying the view from above, a taste that reaches back to prehistoric times. When they learned to domesticate animals, humans employed dogs as helpers in herding. These watchful dogs were bred to prefer a high perch, and their descendants continue to appreciate a view like the one that sweeps up toward the Philadelphia Museum of Art and down past the South Street Bridge. One concern about bridges, especially the new bridge looming over the dog park, is that people may drop things from above, which would at the least frighten the dogs and at worst harm them and the humans with them.

Safety is a crucial element in a community, and a neighborhood feels safer when its streets are patrolled by dogs and those who walk them at all hours. Many dog walkers have stories of late-night encounters with suspicious characters who veered away upon seeing Rex on his leash, even Rex-the-Chihuahua. One clever walker, on



Fran Levi

The city dog (at rest, above) appreciates drivers who are willing to wait to park near the curb he is using no matter how many cabs are honking their horns.

seeing any person of possibly ill intent, admonishes his dog, "Now don't you bite!" Says the well-prepared walker, "That person avoids you in double-quick time."

Most of all, dogs in the city build community. A dog owner becomes part of a subculture in a neighborhood. People with dogs meet on the street, walk and talk, sometimes sit in the park together for an hour at a time. The conversation begins with dog matters but moves outward to range over whatever is happening in the neighborhood, the city, the world. Dogs and the neighborhood: best friends forever.

## All Aboard SEPTA's New Silverliner V

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

Just two years ago, SEPTA's brand new Silverliner V made its debut as train 1062 on the Authority's Cynwyd Regional Rail Line at Suburban Station. Since then, these sleek and stylish trains can be seen traveling along any one of the 13 Regional Rail Lines that pass through Center City stations.

Everyone from daily commuters to sometime rail travelers has taken notice. "I got to ride one of SEPTA's new trains today," Simone Williams said excitedly. "I've never seen anything like them." Williams is a New York City resident who often travels to Philadelphia by train to visit her family.

These fancy new trains are definitely something to be excited about. At first glance, you will notice its larger windows and electronic destination signs. When the doors, which are located at quarter points



Kristin Geiger

Continue on page 4

A SEPTA Silverliner V arrives at Suburban Station. Passengers riding it for the first time are in for a pleasant surprise.

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**President’s Report**



*Jeffrey L. Braff, CCRA President*

I am writing this in the afterglow of three terrific neighborhood events: the Celebration of Center City Living (also commemorating CCRA’s 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and bestowing upon Inga Saffron the Lenora Berson Community Service Award) on October 10 at Freeman’s Auction House; the School Fair on October 17 at the Ethical Society and our 54<sup>th</sup> running of the Annual House Tour on October 21. What a month!

But we are not resting on our laurels. Due in large measure to the resounding success of the School Fair, and the efforts of Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and his staff, we are on line to have a town hall type meeting, open to all members, with newly installed School

District Superintendent Dr. William Hite on Wednesday, December 12, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Tenth Presbyterian Church, at 17<sup>th</sup> and Spruce/Delancey. Watch for details in the weekly eNewsletter.

And that is not all. Over the summer and through the fall, CCRA has been working with an interfaith group of Rittenhouse Square houses of worship to create a holiday season Sacred Places Open House. This free event will take place on Sunday afternoon, December 16 and is described more fully in this Quarterly.

In addition, on Sunday evening, February 10, we will bring back our Chili Challenge/Community Supper at the First Unitarian Church, 22<sup>nd</sup> and Chestnut streets. Last year, we had over 200 attendees, covering at least three generations, and we ran out of food and beer. This year we will be putting a cap on ticket sales, so don’t be left out! Watch for details in the weekly eNewsletter.

Furthermore, we have a number of additional programs in mind for the first or second quarter of 2013 that presently are in the concept/exploration stage, including possible presentations on: implementation of the real estate tax Actual Value Initiative (AVI), a follow-up to this year’s Annual Meeting on AVI that was moderated by WHYY’s Chris Satullo; riverfront development; Philadelphia as an international “world class” city and bicyclist and pedestrian safety. We will keep you posted and encourage you to keep yourself up to date by reading the weekly eNewsletter and going to our website: [www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org).

Finally, thank you for your continued support. And please encourage your friends and neighbors to become CCRA members. The larger our membership, the greater our clout on the many important issues that matter so much to our neighborhood. And as was pointed out to me at the Celebration, the new Di Bruno Bros. discount (see article below) will quickly pay for a membership fee.

Jeffrey L. Braff,  
 President

**Di Bruno Bros. Discount for CCRA Members**

Di Bruno Bros., principal sponsor of CCRA’s 2012 Chili Challenge/Community Supper and contributor of the hors d’oeuvres served at this year’s Celebration of Center City Living event, has made another contribution to the CCRA community. The Philadelphia gourmet food institution, with locations at 1730 Chestnut Street, the Comcast Center, Ardmore Farmers’ Market and the Italian Market, is now providing a 10% discount on all purchases by CCRA members upon presentation of your current (i.e., unexpired) CCRA membership card. The discount will apply to all food and beverage items, including Di Bruno Bros. catering, and at all Di Bruno Bros. locations. (CCRA membership cards are mailed out with acknowledgment of membership payment letters. If you cannot locate your card, send a note to CCRA with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and a replacement card will be sent to you.)



**Thank you Di Bruno Bros.!**

along the rail cars' side to enable better passenger flow, slide open, it may seem as though you're walking or riding into train heaven. Fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), each new rail car is equipped with two wheelchair parking spaces. Although wheelchair passengers receive priority, bike riders are encouraged to bring their bikes on-board. Each Silverliner V car can accommodate up to two bicycles during off-peak hours.

Once onboard, you will immediately notice the wider aisles, vivid lighting, bright blue seats and shiny overhead racks. Located just below the overhead racks are silver, rectangular buttons. When pushed, the button retracts from the train's interior wall exposing a small hook from which a passenger may hang a jacket or small item. Digital screens are also located strategically throughout each car for all passengers to see. The screens showcase pertinent passenger information such as the time, stop and route information.

You will also hear the crystal clear sound system from which automated messages are broadcast such as, "Next stop, Suburban Station. This is a wheelchair accessible station for connections to SEPTA Regional Rail, Broad Street Line, Market Frankford Line, buses, trolleys and Philadelphia City Hall." Automated announcements are also shown on the display screen.

Kim Scott Heinle, SEPTA's assistant general manager of customer service and advocacy said, "The customer experience is really what the ride is all about." And the Silverliner V definitely lives up to that expectation. The ride is so smooth that you may not even realize that these 85-foot long trains can travel up to 100 miles per hour or that 108 other people are seated comfortably all around you.



The Silverliner V trains feature wider aisles, bright blue seats, display screens and shiny overhead racks making travel a pleasant experience.

The new rail cars are not only fast, they're energy efficient. During braking, electricity is created which fuels the onboard heating/cooling and auxiliary equipment. Any leftover electricity is fed back into the overhead electrical system for other trains to use.

Although United Transit Systems LLC, a consortium of Hyundai Rotem USA and Sojitz Corporation constructed the rail cars' shell for SEPTA in Korea, the cars were completely assembled and tested in Philadelphia. Most of the train parts are also made in Philadelphia. Each rail car undergoes a series of tests before going into service.

SEPTA ordered 120 of the new Silverliner V cars to upgrade its Regional Rail fleet. To make room for the new cars, approximately 70 cars that were in service since the mid-1960s were retired in June 2012. The retired cars were second and third generation Silverliners. When first introduced, the 40-year-old cars were considered to be ahead of their time.

SEPTA's new Silverliner V represents how far train travel has come. If you happen to snag a ride on one of the new trains, try to sit in the last seat of the last car. The highly coveted seat provides the best view on the entire train. After all, your experience should be all about that enjoyable, relaxing ride.

## More Than Just Child's Play: The LEGO Club at Greenfield

By Carole Bernstein

My eight-year-old daughter Lily loves LEGOs. All LEGOs. Space cruisers, Harry Potter castles, robots, safari jeeps, the Krusty Krab restaurant, police cars, medieval knights. I'll sit down with her and by the time I've said, "Okay sweetie, let's take a look at the instructions," she has already grabbed some of

the minuscule pieces and is confidently fitting them together. A robot's arm emerges. A truck axle. A triceratops head. Part of a helicopter.

So when I found out that a LEGO Club was starting at Lily's school this year, I knew she would be excited. And so are a lot of other

kids. In addition to being fun (a good thing in itself), this unique afterschool program at the Albert M. Greenfield School stimulates kids' interest in science, technology and engineering, while offering them the chance to participate in a regional, and possibly national, competition.



Greenfield students Dru and Amani say their favorite thing about LEGO Club is working together.



These builders are constructing a ramp for the robot.

The *FIRST*® LEGO® League (FLL), while new to Greenfield, is part of a nationwide program founded in 1998. There are also FLL clubs in 59 other countries, from Argentina to Yemen. Kids aged 9–14 are challenged to solve real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots. The robots are entered in a competition in which they must complete various tasks, via remote-control, on a thematic playing surface. The Junior *FIRST* LEGO League for younger

students, aged 6–9, is non-competitive, but still sounds pretty cool: the kids build a model with working parts and then program a computer to make it move. The 50 participating students at Greenfield are organized into teams with names chosen by the kids, such as The Robo Kings, The Bay Laser Bots, The Asteroids, The Destroyers.

The club was brought to Greenfield by Aliza Schmidt, whose sons Blaze, nine, and Power, seven, are both participants.

Schmidt had heard from friends and neighbors about the existence of a nationwide LEGO club. She started “poking around online” and found the site TeamUp, which pairs coaches/mentors with teams, or kids with each other so there are enough to form a team. She made contact with Alexis Robinson, who has run LEGO groups and children’s programs at other facilities. Robinson serves as the coach for the club, assisted by several parent volunteers.

“My sons are obsessed with LEGOs,” comments Schmidt, “so I thought it would be great if they could do something productive and learn about robotics at the same time.” She hopes her kids “benefit from the teamwork and the challenge to think critically to solve problems.”

The kids’ activities are guided by a real-world theme or “challenge,” which the FLL divulges each year in early fall. This year’s theme is “Senior Solutions:” “Can *FIRST*® LEGO® League teams improve the quality of life for seniors by helping them continue to be independent, engaged, and connected in their communities?” Past Challenges have been based on topics such as nanotechnology, climate, quality of life for the handicapped population, and transportation.

At a recent LEGO Club meeting, Fiona Feng, whose second-grade son Tony is in the club, observed the activities while keeping one eye on her busy 18-month old daughter. “The kids have a natural interest in the club. It’s very creative and they get to use their imagination. Also, they learn to follow directions,” said Feng.

Greenfield students Adonis, Doug, Noah, Beatrix and Quinn described some of the things they have already created at this early stage of the club, including a crane and a car. I asked them what they thought would be the coolest thing anyone could build out of LEGOs and got some interesting answers. Adonis would build “a ginormous skyscraper.” Doug would build “a scene from a Batman movie.” Noah would build “the biggest city in the world.” Beatrix would build “an entire robot.” And Quinn said she would build a hand. A hand, I asked, like a person’s hand that moves? No, she explained, “a giant hand big enough to sit in.”

More information about First LEGO League can be found at [www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll](http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll)

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# Sa Va: For Women's Clothes Designed and Made in Philadelphia

By Fran Levi

A recent article in *The Wall Street Journal* stated that Brooks Brothers and other men's stores have decided to move the manufacturing of the clothes that they sell back to the United States. But the "made in America" trend in women's fashions has been happening right here in Center City at 1700 Sansom Street, thanks to Sarah Van Aken. She has been designing, manufacturing and selling stylish, affordable women's clothing since 2009.

Van Aken, an energetic woman, has held a wide variety of positions which have provided valuable experience as she pursued her ultimate goal of having her own factory where the fashions she designed could be produced. After graduating from the University of Delaware with a degree in fine arts, she worked at Marathon Grill for several years. From there she moved on to becoming a licensed real estate agent selling residential and commercial properties. In 2006 she started a business designing and selling custom-made men's dress shirts. This was another stepping stone towards her goal because, as she said, "No one in their right mind would give me enough money to start a women's fashion business."

Next Van Aken started a business designing uniforms for upscale restaurants that were made in a factory she opened in Bangladesh. "Van Aken Signature Uniforms is still a very large part of our business, nearly 25% of annual revenue," she said. "We still make uniforms, just all made here in Philadelphia with clients all over the country and even some internationally known like Jean-Georges, Tom Colicchio and of course Stephen Starr."

At the end of 2008, things changed. Working with PIDC and local Valley Green Bank, Van Aken purchased a building at 17<sup>th</sup> and Sansom streets and opened a garment center on the fourth floor and retail store on the ground floor. Today a staff of 15 cuts and sews the dresses, skirts, blouses, etc. that Van Aken designs. Van Aken emphatically stated, "We use a wide range of fabrics. Knits are sourced domestically (no knitting mills left in Philadelphia—closest is Allentown) and all of our other fabrics ranging from silks to wools and cottons are at a minimum fair-trade and often eco-friendly or renewable.

Every garment sold has a compostable tag informing the customer of the source of the fabric, where it was made, if it is fair-trade, organic, sustainable and/or made from eco friendly materials."

Business is growing and Van Aken has contracted-out some of the manufacturing to factories in North Philadelphia and Newark, so that the final products are still American-made. The number of stores carrying her products doubled from 10 to 20 by the end of October. From New Jersey to South Carolina, stores are carrying Sa Va fashions for all occasions. In addition to the Sansom Street boutique and the stores selling the Sa Va label, Van Aken's fashions can be viewed and ordered online at [Shop.savafashion.com](http://Shop.savafashion.com).

According to Van Aken, the Philadelphia fashion industry is making a comeback. "The city of Philadelphia and the Center City District have provided a great amount of support to help the fashion industry thrive through their Philadelphia Collection and Philadelphia Fashion Incubator initiatives," she said.



*In the heart of Center City Sarah Van Aken designs and manufactures women's fashions that are socially and environmentally conscious.*

While *The Wall Street Journal* can rave that Brooks Brothers now only sells ties made in the United States, women have been able to buy Van Aken's socially and environmentally conscious Philadelphia-made fashions for three years.



*Van Aken employs a staff of 15 in the garment center at 17th and Sansom streets where designs are cut and sewn. The clothing is sold in the first floor retail shop and online.*



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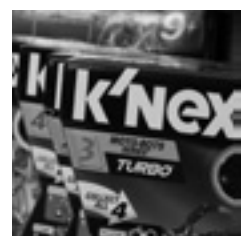
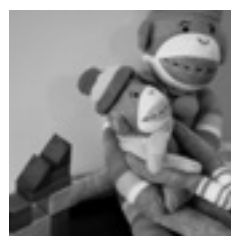
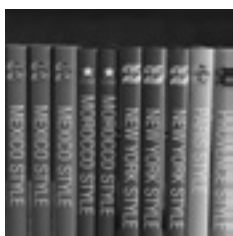
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# Frank Furness, Bold and Creative

By Dane Wells

Ask any architectural historian who the top architects in Philadelphia have been throughout history, and even the short lists will honor Frank Furness (1839 – 1912). There are several ironies here. In the early 20th century, some scholars were calling Furness’s works “monstrously ugly,” and when Victoriana fell out of favor, his works may have fallen harder since he was certainly in the extreme. Some, however, think that perhaps he was ahead of the pack. His works laid groundwork for modern architecture.

This year, there is a city-wide celebration of Frank Furness (the family pronounces their name like the thing in many basements). Eight major organizations are running special exhibits and shows. The exhibit at the First Unitarian Church, 2125 Chestnut, is a good place to start the Furness story. Furness’s father was William Henry Furness, Ph.D., the first minister of that church and served from 1825 to 1875. From Boston, and a very close friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Dr. Furness was a famous abolitionist and free thinker. There is no doubt that he taught his son to “think outside the box.” In 1870 Dr.

Furness, speaking to the American Institute of Architects at their national meeting in Philadelphia, exhorted the architects: “With all our freedom, we do not tolerate oddness. We insist...upon everything being cut on one pattern.” He encouraged them to find new, American, styles “fitted to the materials of today.” Well his son Frank got the message, no one doubts that.

Frank Furness was bold in other ways as well; he is the only architect of note who was awarded a Medal of Honor for his bravery during the Civil War. Though the Chicago architect Louis Sullivan worked for Frank Furness for less than a year, in his autobiography Sullivan cites Furness as a major influence.

The show at the First Unitarian Church goes into great detail about Furness's background and the messages he tried to deliver. The church itself was designed by the younger Furness after his father retired as the minister. Other organizations go into different aspects of his colorful life. The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Broad and Cherry, is one of his best buildings.

Their show, “Building a Masterpiece: Frank Furness’ Factory for Art,” shows drawings and details of the construction of that landmark building.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art has an exhibit, “Learning from Frank Furness: Louis Sullivan in 1873.” The University of Pennsylvania’s exhibit at the Kroiz Gallery, 220 South 34<sup>th</sup> Street, is titled “Frank Furness, Making a Modern Library” and includes works by Louis Kahn and Venturi Scott-Brown. The Library Company of Philadelphia has a show titled “Frank Furness: Working on the Railroads.” Furness did major station design for the Reading, the Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroads. And much of what is referred to as the “muscle” in his work probably stems from that exposure.

Banks were also one of Furness’s specialties, and Drexel University has a show titled “Bank with Frank: The Commercial Architecture of Frank Furness” at the Paul Peck Alumni Center on the southeast corner of 32<sup>nd</sup> and Market. Similarly, the Art in

*Continue on page 11*



The CCRA neighborhood has many Furness-designed buildings, such as this one at 235 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street.



The staircase in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, one of Furness's best designed buildings, reflects the variety of detail in his work.

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the Age Gallery, 116 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, had an exhibit that closed in October called "Furnessadelphia: A Street Art Salute to the Banks of Frank Furness."

Through January, the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the go-to place for learning

about Victorian architecture, has an exhibit, "Face and Form: The Art and Character of Frank Furness." Frank had always been an inveterate doodler and quite a character artist. One can see how some of his doodles morphed into his signature architectural details.

So if you aren't already a "Furnessi-delphian," take a moment and visit some of these sites. See how, instead of looting historical forms, he began a process that led to modern architecture. To learn more about this fascinating Philadelphian, visit [www.FrankFurness.org](http://www.FrankFurness.org).

## Another Winner: CCRA's 54<sup>th</sup> House Tour

By Fran Levi

On Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. neighborhood homes, businesses and religious buildings were open to the public as CCRA hosted its 54<sup>th</sup> Annual House Tour. This year, the tour was sponsored by Toll Brothers. Each location was memorable. Tour-goers viewed recently built homes and townhouses from the 1860s that were lovingly restored or modernized for today's lifestyles. Among the places to visit were a Frank Furness mansion now housing a law firm and a

former City Department of Licenses and Inspection facility that is now an early childhood learning center. New this year was the chance for tour-goers to try one of the 10 neighborhood restaurants that offered a 15% discount on the day of the house tour. The following restaurants participated in the discount program: Audrey Claire, Bellini, Bistro St. Tropez, Davio's Northern Italian Steak House, El Rey, Friday Saturday Sunday, Gavin's, The Prime Rib, Square 1682 and Twenty Manning.

Thanks to Kathleen and Kate Federico, the mother and daughter team that co-chaired this year's houses tour, for making this truly a memorable house tour!



House tour visitors were surprised by some of the large and beautifully maintained gardens.



Jeff Braff gave visitors to his house information about the house's history and the renovations made over time.



It was interesting to see how bathrooms in older homes were modernized while retaining some of their original detail.

## Gavin's Café for the House Tour Appreciation Party

On Tuesday, October 16, Charles Robin, CCRA treasurer, and Jezabel Careaga hosted the House Tour Appreciation Party at Gavin's Café, her Argentinean restaurant at 2536 Pine Street. Home and business owners who were opening their buildings to tour goers on Sunday, October 21 were invited so that CCRA could thank them for their generosity.

From left, Kate Federico, Jezabel Careaga, Charles Robin and Kathleen Federico welcomed guests to the House Tour Appreciation Party.



# School Fair: Decision Assistance for Parents of School Age Children

By Judy Heller and Robin Kohles

On October 17, CCRA, Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) and South of South Neighborhood Association (SOSNA) held their first joint School Fair at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square. The event, sponsored by Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse, Trader Joe's and DuJour, was a huge success with over 100 visitors. As families left, they thanked us for providing this opportunity to speak one-on-one with schools rather than navigate impersonal websites. Many schools stated that the dialogue they had with parents was invaluable and appreciated the ability to reach the geographic cross section of families that were in attendance.

CCRA, LSNA and SOSNA planned the school fair in response to the increased number of young families wishing to raise and educate their children in the city but overwhelmed by the educational options available to them. Twelve elementary schools participated in the School Fair, all of them located within the boundaries of the three neighborhood associations and represented a cross section of public, charter, independent and parochial schools. Representatives from each school answered parents' individual questions, provided literature and shared pertinent enrollment information. The Center City District, Philadelphia School Partnership

and the Philadelphia School District also had representatives available to answer questions and literature to distribute. Second District Councilman Kenyatta Johnson made brief remarks in support of quality education for all Philadelphia School children and reminded the crowd that good schools rely on involved and concerned parents.

As a result of the success of this event, Councilman Johnson, CCRA and SOSNA will be sponsoring a town hall discussion with Superintendent Hite on December 12, 2012. More details to follow.



The School Fair co-sponsored by CCRA provided parents the opportunity to shop for schools.



Representatives of the three neighborhood organizations holding the School Fair (from left to right) Drew Murray, Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Robin Kohles, CCRA, and Michael Showell of SOSNA, welcomed Councilman Kenyatta Johnson (second from right) to the event.

# Dedication of 9/11 Memorial on Schuylkill Banks

By Fran Levi

On September 11, Mayor Michael Nutter, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and other city officials spoke at the dedication of a memorial to the victims from Philadelphia of the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center tragedy. It is located on the Schuylkill Banks just south of the Chestnut Street Bridge. The names of Philadelphia residents, Kevin Leah Bowser, Christopher Robert Clarke and Jasper Baxter, who perished that day, are carved on the black granite base of the memorial on which a steel beam from the building rests. Under the direction of the late Stu Appel of Wells Appel Landscape Architects, the memorial was designed to capture both the chaos of the day and the hope for a better future.



Mayor Michael Nutter addressed the crowd who attended the dedication of a memorial to the three city residents who died at the World Trade Center September 11, 2011.



The memorial is a steel beam from the World Trade Center resting on a black granite base on which the names of the victims from Philadelphians are carved.

# Celebration of Center City Living: Good Food, Great Auction Items and Music

By Fran Levi

To recognize its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary CCRA held the Celebration of Center City Living at Samuel T. Freeman's Auctioneers & Appraisers, 1808 Chestnut Street, on Wednesday evening, October 10. Participants enjoyed food donated by Di Bruno Bros. and bid on a wide variety of silent auction items as they were entertained by pianist Gail Rudenstein of Eclectic Entertainment. Inga Saffron, Philadelphia Inquirer architecture critic, received the Lenora Berson Community

Service Award. Saffron, a long-time CCRA member and neighborhood resident, publicized the proposed expansion of the Forum Theatre and the conflicts of interest relating to the new Family Court building that is being constructed. Her articles are thought provoking and reflect her love for our neighborhood and the city.

CCRA wants to acknowledge the following individuals and businesses for their support of the 2012 Celebration of Center City Living:



Attendees at the Celebration of Center City Living enjoyed the food donated by Di Bruno Bros.



Inga Saffron, Philadelphia Inquirer architecture critic, received the Lenora Berson Community Service Award for articles on issues concerning the quality of life in our neighborhood.

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# Ancient Sand Painting Recreated at Trinity Center for Urban Life

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Mandala is the Sanskrit word for circle. It is a ritual art form that originated in India 2,500 years ago and has been practiced in Tibet since 600 A.D. Lama Losang Samten is the first Tibetan monk selected by the Dalai Lama to create the Kalachakra for World Peace Sand Mandala in this country. He recreated it at Trinity Center for Urban Life, 2212 Spruce Street, where it was on display from October 15 to 19. Composed of tiny grains of colored sand, the mandala is elaborately designed—every symbol and color has a specific meaning. Losang, internationally known for his skill, is one of only a few artists trained in the sacred art of building the Kalachakra mandala, the most advanced mandala. Traditionally created once a year to bring peace to the world, it is dismantled upon completion as a reminder of impermanence and change.

The Venerable Losang Samten escaped from Tibet to India, where he entered the Namgyal Monastery and was trained in sand mandala painting. Monks are selected for their artistic skills and are required to memorize 500 pages of sacred text. Losang was one of only four of the 28 monks in his class to finish the three-year course, and he is now one of an estimated 30 people in the world qualified to teach and demonstrate this spiritual art form. He holds a Master's Degree in Philosophy and Debate, is a scholar in Sutra and Tantra, was the monastery's ritual dance master and served as personal attendant for the Dalai Lama. Losang came to Philadelphia in 1989 and founded The Tibetan Buddhist Center, where he is Spiritual Director and conducts classes. In 2002 he received a National Endowment of the Arts Heritage Fellowship Lifetime Honor Award, and in 2004 he was awarded a Pew Fellowship in the Arts. He is delightfully kind, patient and understanding and remembers the faces of people he has met before.



Bonnie Eisenfeld

Venerable Losang Samten, a Tibetan monk, created the Kalachakra for World Peace Sand Mandala at Trinity Center for Urban Life.



## CCRA Members and Friends: Remember These Dates

- December 12, Quality Education Town Hall Meeting
- December 16, Sacred Spaces Open House
- February 10, Chili Challenge

# What Is Chili?

By DeWitt Brown

On Sunday, February 10, the Center City Residents' Association will host its sixth Chili Challenge and, once again, I'll be serving as the event's Chili Chairman. Having been at this gig for five years now, people often expect me to be some sort of chili expert. I'm not. But that doesn't stop me from having an opinion about it.

When it comes to chili, everyone has an opinion. Adam Schneider, the 2009 winner and former CCRA President, takes a laid back approach. When I asked him what he thought chili was, he said simply, "comfort food with attitude." Audrey Claire-Taichman — the owner of Audrey Claire, Twenty Manning, Cook and five-time Chili Challenge Celebrity Tasting Panelist (her most significant distinction) — agrees. For her "chili is the best of beans and beef all in one crockpot of comfort."

Others, like Craig Morrison, the 2010 winner, take a hardline. He once reminded me that, "in case your judges forget, chili has meat in it!"

While Craig may like his chili *con carne*, Eric Cantor, the 2011 winner, proved

chili *sin carne* can be just as tasty. When he stirs up a batch of his award-winning Row House Red Vegetarian Chili, he starts with tomatoes and lots of spices, adding onions, garlic, zucchini, peppers, kidney and garbanzo beans. As he told me, "I then look through my kitchen for anything that I think might add an interesting flare and free up cabinet and refrigerator space!"

Personally, it's my opinion that chili starts with a sofrito. Originating from Spanish cuisine, a sofrito, like the French mirepoix, serves as the aromatic foundation for many Latin American stews. Spiced with cumin, it is a sauté of chopped tomatoes, onion, peppers and garlic. Add a bit of cheap protein, a touch of acidity and some spicy heat and you've transformed your sofrito into a hearty bowl of chili.

But if you're looking for somebody who may know what he's talking about, I'd suggest you talk to Chris Sado, the only person to have his name twice engraved upon the fabled Chili Chalice. His Kenso Red won the event in 2008 and 2012. Fortunately for us, he's graciously agreed to share the ingredients.

## Chris Sado's Kenso Red

Olive oil (for sautéing)  
Bottom round beef - 2 lbs  
Hot Italian sausage - 1 lb  
Dark beer - 12 oz.  
Dark chocolate - 2 Tb.  
Red onion - 1 large  
Garlic - 4 cloves  
Poblano pepper - 1  
Jalapeno pepper - 2  
Habanero pepper - 1 to 2  
Chili powder - 3 to 6 Tb.  
(to desired taste/heat)  
Chicken stock - 5 cups  
Tomato puree - 1 lb.  
Salt and fresh ground pepper (to taste)  
Cumin - 1 Tb. (if desired, or to taste)

Ultimately, chili is what you make of it. And whatever you believe chili is you've still got time to perfect your recipe. The deadline to enter the 2013 Chili Challenge is Friday, February 1st. If you're interested, please email [dewittbrown@gmail.com](mailto:dewittbrown@gmail.com) and I will be happy to provide you with more information. We hope to see you at the Chili Challenge!

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Sat., 12/8	10-3	Holiday Bazaar, Wreath Sale, Café Noël
Sun., 12/9	4:00 p.m.	Al-Bustan Concert
Sat., 12/15	11:00 a.m.	<i>The Nutcracker</i> for the Very Young
Sun., 12/16	Noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Sun., 12/16	12:30-3:30	CCRA Sacred Spaces Open House/ Carol Sing
Sun., 12/16	6:00 p.m.	Liebesfreud Wintershelter Benefit Concert
Sat., 12/22	8:00 p.m.	Piffaro, The Renaissance Band
Mon., 12/24	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Concert
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship, Reception
Sun., 1/6	10:30 a.m.	Worship, Christmas Story Pageant
Thu., 1/10	7:00 p.m.	Grid Alive
Sun., 1/20	Noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Sun., 1/20	3:00 p.m.	Astral Artists Concert
Sat., 1/26	8:00 p.m.	Phila. Voices of Pride Choir
Wed., 2/13	Noon, 7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Liturgy with ashes
Sun., 2/17	Noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Sun., 2/17	3:00 p.m.	Dolce Suono Concert
Fri., 2/22	8:00 p.m.	Piffaro & Orchestra 2001
Sat., 2/23	1:30 p.m.	Astral Artists Kids' Concert
Sat. 2/23	8:00 p.m.	Al-Bustan Concert

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# Looking Into the City's Sacred Spaces

By Steve Huntington

Our neighborhood is enriched by more than 20 houses of worship which line our streets, providing pedestrians a survey course not only of American ecclesiastical history but also of architectural styles—revivals of Byzantine, Romanesque and Gothic, to name a few. But while we all enjoy their exteriors on a daily basis, most of us have viewed just a few of their equally spectacular sanctuaries.

During the holidays, 12 congregations, working with the CCRA congregations committee, will open their doors between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 16. This is the committee's third initiative. Last year, the committee sponsored two interfaith events, the 911 commemoration in Rittenhouse Square and a Thanksgiving eve celebration at First Unitarian Church.

The sanctuaries which will be opened constitute an all-star array. Consider just a few of the venues. Beth Zion Beth Israel (18<sup>th</sup> and Spruce) is a neo-Gothic building with stained glass depicting the five books of the Torah, located just blocks from the soaring neo-Byzantine dome of First Baptist (17<sup>th</sup> and Sansom) housed within a newly cleaned Romanesque exterior, which in turn is a stone's throw from the intimate meditation rooms at the Shambhala Center (20<sup>th</sup> and Sansom), which are dwarfed by the majestic, 1,200-person capacity neoclassical hall of St.

Patrick's (20<sup>th</sup> and Rittenhouse). The list goes on. For visitors with cell phones there will be a QR code-accessible electronic walking tour with architectural descriptions courtesy of the Preservation Alliance. More traditional tour-goers will be given handouts with a tour map and building descriptions. Congregants will be present to answer questions about both the past—the architecture and history of the building and its congregation—and the present, the congregation's current programs in our community. Some sites will offer refreshments and music. Further, the Preservation Alliance illustrated publication, *Sacred Sites of Center City*, will be available for purchase at a discounted rate, \$5.00 instead of the normal \$10.00 charge.

The participating congregations are:

- First Baptist Church, 17th & Sansom streets, Architect Edgar Viguers Seeler, 1900
- First Church of Christ Scientist, 1915–23 Pine Street, Frank Furness, architect, 1886
- First Presbyterian Church, 21<sup>st</sup> & Walnut streets, Henry Augustus Sims, architect, 1872 (the tower by Furness, 1900)
- Arch Street Methodist Church, Broad and Arch streets, Addison Hutton, architect, 1870
- First Unitarian Church, 2125 Chestnut Street, Frank Furness, architect 1886 (Frank's father was minister here)
- Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 2110 Chestnut Street, Isaac Purcell, architect, 1880 (pulpit designed by Furness)
- Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, 1625 Locust Street, John Notman, architect, 1852
- Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, 242 South 20<sup>th</sup> Street (at Rittenhouse Street between Locust and Spruce), Balanger & Perrot, architects, 1901–20
- The Shambhala Center, 2030 Sansom Street, part of an international community of urban meditation centers
- Temple Beth-Zion Israel, 18<sup>th</sup> & Spruce streets, Lonsdale, Thomas Preston, architects, 1894
- Tenth Presbyterian Church, 1700 Spruce Street, John McArthur, architect 1857
- Trinity Memorial Church, 2200 Spruce Street, James Peacock Sims architect, 1875



Dane Wells

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity at 2110 Chestnut Street was designed by the architect Isaac Purcell in 1880, but the pulpit was designed by Frank Furness.



Dane Wells

Balanger & Perrot were the architects of Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church at 242 South 20<sup>th</sup> Street.



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# Documents and Underwear To Go: How To Be Ready for an Emergency

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Hurricane Katrina spawned many stories and so will Hurricane Sandy for many years to come. One of my favorite stories is in a letter written by a Katrina evacuee to his family who shared the letter with friends. This man had been an evacuee, refugee and displaced person three times in his life, escaping two dictatorships in Europe and the flood in New Orleans. Each time he was grateful to survive and was able to reconstruct his life. He learned from these experiences to bring in emergencies his *important documents and three changes of underwear*.

Janice Winston, a volunteer with the Red Cross, Southeastern Chapter, who spoke at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Temple Center City (OLLI) on Friday, October 5, recommends packing a Go Bag and keeping it handy in case you have to evacuate quickly in an emergency. Emergencies range from residential fires to hurricanes, earthquakes to terrorist attacks and other widespread disruptive events. Pack copies of important documents (proof of residence, birth certificate, passport and insurance policies), photo identification card, cash, keys, medication list, emergency contact information including out-of-town numbers (in case local phone lines are tied up), spare clothing and important personal and comfort items. You'll need to be able to carry this bag so it shouldn't be too heavy. At shelters, the Red Cross will supply food, water and medications.

The OLLI audience included many senior citizens and high-rise apartment building residents who had concerns. Winston recommended that people unable to evacuate should notify the manager of their residence in advance, and during the emergency hang a sheet out the window so emergency personnel know someone in that unit needs help.

An important note about fires: It's good to have a fire extinguisher in your home and to know how to work it. But if you can't put out the fire in *three seconds*, leave immediately and call the fire department!

In case of emergency, communication is important but emergencies sometimes include electric outages when your plug-in devices will not work. Have a battery radio with spare batteries at home so you can



*In anticipation of Hurricane Sandy warnings were issued for people to prepare for an emergency situation. As shown above, the Schuylkill River overflowed, but local damage as a result of Sandy was minimal."*

get news and announcements. Ordinary landline phones supply their own electricity so keep that phone service. Keep your cell phones charged and learn how to text because in an emergency texts may get through when voice mail won't. Emergency announcements will tell you whether to evacuate or if you should take shelter in your home. If you are told to take shelter in your home, grab your medications and cell phone, go to the room with the fewest windows and listen to any announcements.

In your home shelter room, the six most important items to store for an emergency are: 1) two-week supply of water (one gallon of water per person per day includes both drinking and washing water), 2) two-week supply of nonperishable canned food and manual can opener, 3) battery radio and spare batteries, 4) flashlights and spare batteries, 5) first aid kit and 6) list of medications. It's a good idea to store sanitation items and other personal and comfort items. Food and water need to be rotated periodically so clear out expired items. Store plastic sheeting and duct tape to seal windows and doors in case of poisonous material in the air. In this type of disaster,

turn off all air-conditioners and fans, close windows, doors and vents and seal them.

More information about preparing for an emergency is available from the Red Cross, including a list of additional items to store, how to plan with family members and emergency planning for your pet. For a copy of the handout at the presentation, go to [www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA\\_CustomProductCatalog/m4240190\\_Be\\_Red\\_Cross\\_Ready.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4240190_Be_Red_Cross_Ready.pdf)

More detailed planning information is available on [www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/plan](http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/plan). The Red Cross sells a supply kit that you can purchase online: [www.redcrossstore.org/Shopper/Product.aspx?UniqueItemId=3](http://www.redcrossstore.org/Shopper/Product.aspx?UniqueItemId=3).

The Red Cross has a phone line operating 24/7 every day of the year answered by a live person: 215-299-4000. To assist you with planning, the Red Cross will do a free presentation to any group. For more information about the Red Cross, go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). For more information about emergency preparation, go to [www.readynotifyPA.org](http://www.readynotifyPA.org).

# Schuylkill Banks: Riverfront Revival

By Zoe Axelrod, Program Associate, Schuylkill River Development Corporation

It's hard to imagine that the Schuylkill Banks were ever anything less than a recreational destination and center of activity for so many Philadelphians. From peaceful retreat to heavy industrial zone, the tidal Schuylkill has seen a lot of change through the years. Schuylkill Banks as we know it is the result of efforts over the past century by visionaries who recognized the potential for a cleaner, greener and more accessible tidal Schuylkill.

Prior to 1805, industry was forbidden to occupy ends of streets or other land along the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. This land was meant for public enjoyment according to William Penn's original city charter. Among the sycamores, oaks and willows, stately mansions dotted the hills and marshes along the river. Ben Franklin relaxed along the banks or at Gray's Gardens, a mid-18<sup>th</sup>-century pleasure garden. People enjoyed the river year-round, swimming, sailing or skating.

In 1805, the City Assembly enacted legislation allowing city corporations to expand to, and into, the Schuylkill. As industry boomed, businesses expanded to take advantage of the river for transportation of goods and railroad access along the riverbank. Clothing and paper mills, paint and chemical companies, coal wharves, waste collection and the city's slaughterhouse and stock yard crowded the banks. Human waste, trash, chemicals and slaughterhouse by-products were dumped onto barges in the Schuylkill—with much of the waste ending up in the river and littered along its banks.

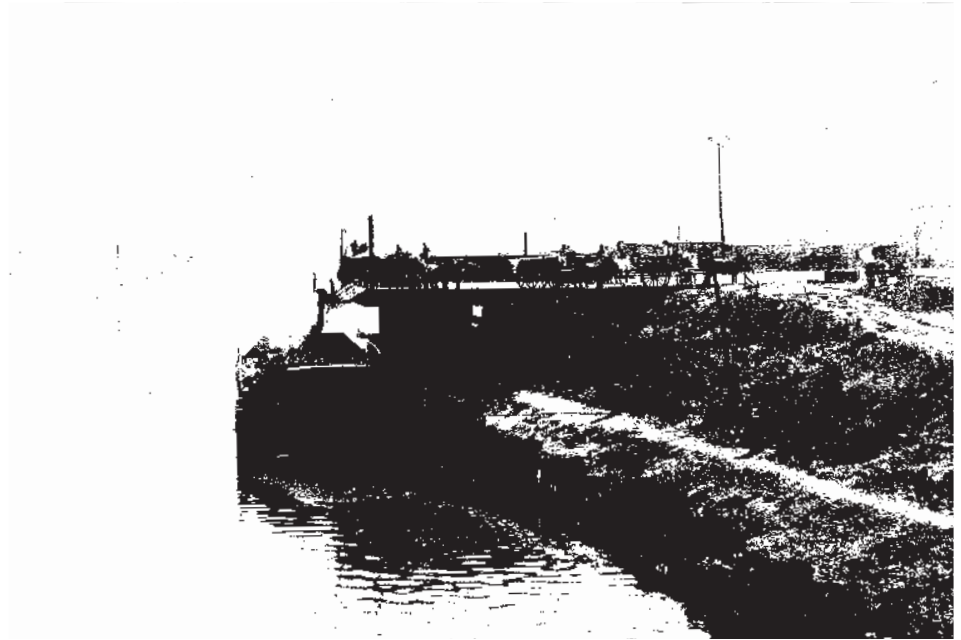
By 1917, most Philadelphians refused to use river water for drinking, industrial use or even fighting fires. By the 1920s, the river, once a bucolic retreat, was overrun, polluted and neglected and in desperate need of remediation.

In the 1910s and 1920s, Philadelphia was swept into the City Beautiful Movement, a nationwide push to create grand public buildings, parks and open space in post-industrial cities. The movement revived a national investment in dynamic green spaces, later influencing the development of the Schuylkill Banks.

John Frederick Lewis, a visionary, applied the ideals of the City Beautiful movement to the Schuylkill, recognizing its potential

as more than just a waste dump. In 1924, he presented his argument for "The Redemption of the Lower Schuylkill" to the Philadelphia's City Parks Association. Lewis outlined the river's history and offered suggestions for the future: "Redeeming the lower Schuylkill ... with bordering parkways upon both banks lined with trees, and with open places for public use in the peninsulas formed by the river's windings," wrote Lewis, "is a work of social uplift worthy of a second Messiah."

Another visionary—landscape architect, urban planner and horticulturalist John F. Collins—conceived and designed the trail and greenway that Lewis only dreamed of decades earlier. In 1965, Collins drafted the first plan for the Schuylkill Trail. For 30 years Collins and his firm, The Delta Group, churned out drawings, met with public officials and tirelessly advocated for the development of a landscaped public space along the tidal Schuylkill. Collins died in



THE MUNICIPAL DUMP IN ACTION, WEST BANK OF THE RIVER, BELOW THE ART MUSEUM. SEE THE FILTH FLOATING ON THE WATERS.



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"Redemption of the Tidal Schuylkill River" by John Frederick Lewis, 1924

"Redemption of the Tidal Schuylkill River" by John Frederick Lewis, 1924

2011, and is largely responsible for planning Schuylkill Banks as we know it today.

Today, the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC), founded in 1992, works in a public-private partnership with the city, to continue Lewis's and Collins's work. Through the years, the city has acquired and reclaimed former industrial properties and brownfields along the Schuylkill. This made it possible for SRDC to transform abandoned, industrial no-man's land into a continuous trail and greenway to be enjoyed

by Philadelphians. Improved water treatment systems, watershed education programs and other cleanup measures have made the tidal Schuylkill much cleaner, and fish and other native species have returned.

The most recent addition to Schuylkill Banks is the Grays Ferry Crescent, former site of Gray's Gardens where Franklin found retreat and once the most important entrance into the city. The Crescent, a greenway stretching from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to Wharton Street, provides over 4,000 feet of additional trail in the

neighborhoods of South and Southwest Philadelphia. SRDC plans to connect the Crescent to Bartram's Garden, the country's oldest botanic garden.

Future *Center City Quarterly* articles will delve deeper into the river's past, highlighting the people, projects and events that have literally shaped the current landscape of the tidal Schuylkill.

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## What's the Next Chapter in the Life of Babette Josephs?

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Our neighbor Babette Josephs, who has represented the 182<sup>nd</sup> district in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since January, 1985, will retire from office at the end of 2012. In her Farewell Address on October 17, Josephs' headline was, "Don't stick a fork in me, I'm not done." She plans to focus her efforts on helping Pennsylvania farmers bring delicious and nutritious food to city dwellers.

The 182<sup>nd</sup> district encompasses our Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, and for 28 years our concerns have been Babette Josephs's concerns. She has advocated for the rights of many segments of the population who needed someone to speak out for them. Among her many causes were voting rights, women's rights, gay and lesbian rights, children's rights, separation of church and state and other civil liberty issues, energy efficiency, services for seniors and low-income people and public education. Most recently, while still in office, Josephs actively opposed

Pennsylvania's new voter identification law. In October, 2012, Babette Josephs was honored by the Americans for Democratic Action, Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Prior to her career as a state representative, Josephs was a practicing attorney specializing in women's issues. She earned her J.D. from Rutgers-Camden School of Law. In the 1970s, she was president of the Women's Political Caucus and ran seminars on women in politics, teaching women about running for office, fund-raising and managing campaigns. At that time there were few women in office, but many women were interested, and the seminars were well attended. Josephs also worked actively on abortion rights, quality public education and neighborhood improvement.

Josephs is appreciative of the role voters allowed her to play in Harrisburg, where she took courageous positions on cutting-edge issues. "With the current gridlock in



Anna Zhilkova

*State Representative Babette Josephs has represented the 182<sup>nd</sup> district for 28 years.*

Harrisburg, I just might be more effective as a private citizen," states Josephs.

---

## Win a Tree and Help CCRA's Neighborhood Beautification Program

By Jeff Braff

Open 4 Business Productions, LLC, the producers of the TV show "DO NO HARM" being filmed in our neighborhood, is donating a planted tree (\$450 value) to CCRA to thank the neighborhood for its role in the filming process. For the cost of a \$15.00 raffle ticket (or \$50.00 for 4 tickets) the tree can be yours or, with the owner's permission, you can have the tree planted on a needy streetscape or perhaps in one of the neighborhood parks, once again,

with permission. Raffle proceeds will be applied towards the CCRA Neighborhood Beautification program.

Simply send a check made out to "CCRA" with the notation "Tree Raffle" for the number of raffle tickets you wish to purchase, with your contact information, to: CCRA, 1600 Market Street, Suite 2500, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Attention: Tree Raffle. The winning raffle ticket will be

drawn on Thursday, January 10, and the tree will be planted in the spring. (Note that the raffle is for the planting of a tree selected by a certified arborist from Awberry Landscape Services, Inc., and does not include the cost of cement cutting to prepare a tree pit, which is approximately \$250.00.)

And if you want to see our neighborhood on the small screen, tune into NBC (channel 10).



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2501 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 215.545.5323 [www.tpschool.org](http://www.tpschool.org)

# Digital Ads on Newsstands?

By Jeff Braff

On September 27, City Councilmen Greenlee and Squilla, and Council President Clarke, introduced Bill No. 120754, a city ordinance about newsstands that, among other things, would permit newsstands to have electronic flashing messages or full motion video on three sides, vinyl wraps and retractable awnings. The bill would also permit newsstands to sell bottled non-alcoholic beverages.

Scenic Philadelphia, formerly SCRUB, quickly came out in opposition to the billboard/commercial signage aspects of that proposed legislation and asked for CCRA's support. After studying the bill, the CCRA

Executive Committee decided to invite both Councilman Greenlee and Stephanie Kindt, a lawyer for Scenic Philadelphia, to present their respective positions at the October 9 meeting of the CCRA board of directors. They did so, after which the board voted to reject the signage portion of the bill, support Scenic Philadelphia's efforts in opposition and inform City Council of CCRA's position in writing.

The board's discussion focused on two topics: (1) the visual impact of the bill's provisions on the sidewalk-scape of our neighborhood and (2) the projected income that would be generated by the tax on the

advertising revenues at a time when we are all concerned about city finances. Regarding the revenue expectations, Greenlee advised us that the income stream could amount to as much as \$400,000 per year. While we share the councilman's belief that every dollar of city revenue is important, we concluded that this relatively meager benefit (less than .01% of the budget **IF** \$400,000 is generated) does not come close to offsetting the adverse visual impact.

Greenlee made it clear that he was amenable to revisions to this bill. CCRA will be monitoring it closely.

---

## We Are All Preservationists

By Pip Campbell

When you live in a historic neighborhood, you learn, as William Morris said, that "these old buildings do not belong to us only.... They are not in any sense our own property to do with as we like. We are only trustees for those that come after us." Do good trustees replace leaky old windows with new ones made of vinyl? Or basement windows with glass block so that the basement can become a children's playroom? Or put an air-tight vinyl front door in place of an old stained glass upper-paned wooden door? These replacements might make an old house more energy efficient but they don't preserve its historic character. In fact, if your property is designated as historic or located in an historic district, none of these changes is likely to be permitted.

Just because a house is old does not mean that it is designated as historic. There are two types of historic property designations—federal and local. Federal designations are granted by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, after nominations are submitted through the State Historic Preservation Office. An individual property or group of properties (called districts) may be approved to be put on the National Register, a prestigious federal designation that triggers a variety of reviews when federally funded projects are being planned. If you're not sure about your house, information about federal designation can be found at [www.nps.gov/](http://www.nps.gov/)

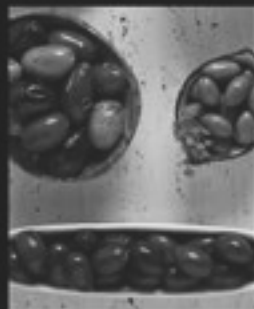


*The work done to restore and maintain this property showed the owner's care. The door was recently refinished; the window boxes are a nice touch; and the stucco is in excellent condition.*

[www.nps.gov/publications/forms.htm](http://www.nps.gov/publications/forms.htm). The Secretary of the Interior has also established historic preservation standards found at [www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/](http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/) to provide guidance about restoration and rehabilitation of historic properties.

A different type of recognition occurs when communities enact historic preservation legislation and locally designate individual properties or districts. The Rittenhouse-Fitler district is one

*Continue on page 25*



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[www.tenth.org](http://www.tenth.org)

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6:30 PM



## Join us for a concert this season!

### Tenth Family Christmas

December 24, 4:30 pm (doors open at 4:00 pm)

Westminster Brass and the children from *Schola Cantorum* choirs.

### Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Sunday & Monday, December 23 & 24, 7:15 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)

Tenth's Lessons & Carols is a tradition enjoyed by standing-room-only crowds each year. The two nights of carols, Christmas anthems, and Scripture are sure to delight all who attend. This year, tenor Gary Seydell will sing "O Holy Night" along with the Tenth Church Choir and Chamber Players.

### David Kim & Friends

Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 7:30 pm

Multiple artists will join David Kim, concert master of the Philadelphia Orchestra, in works of Mozart, Saint-Saëns, Paganini and Piazzolla, among others. A very special feature is a ballet performance of the *Pas de deux* from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*.

### Sacred Spaces Tour

December 16, 1:00–4:00 PM

A community event in partnership with the Center City Residents Association, Partners for Sacred Places, the Preservation Alliance, and other sacred spaces in Center City—please come and visit us!



of 15 city districts ([www.phila.gov/historical/](http://www.phila.gov/historical/)) designated by the Philadelphia Historical Commission. When districts are designated, all properties within defined geographical boundaries are reviewed and further classified as contributing or noncontributing. Visit [www.phila.gov/historical/base.html](http://www.phila.gov/historical/base.html) to see a map of the district and read why the Ritt-Fit district is important historically. Individual historical properties and those within historical districts are subject to local preservation ordinances. Philadelphia ordinances are designed so that owners maintain the historical characteristics on the outside of a property.

Let's get back to those old drafty windows that you want to redo for energy efficiency. Deciding what to do may not be as simple as hiring a contractor. All contractors are not knowledgeable about historic requirements, and they may recommend products that will not be approved by the Historical Commission. Should you repair your current windows, install inside or outside storm windows, replace windows with new vinyl or wood windows? The Internet is a resource for learning more about the advantages of various options

as is the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, which provides historic preservation information, including homeowner workshops about windows at [www.preservationalliance.com/events/workshops.php](http://www.preservationalliance.com/events/workshops.php). Once you've made your decision, you must apply for the necessary building permits. Historical Commission approvals for the product(s) that you want to use on the outside of your house are a first step in obtaining building permits. Some contractors or architects will obtain the permits as part of the job or you can find applications at the Commission offices on the fifth floor of City Hall or on their website at [www.phila.gov/historical/permits.htm](http://www.phila.gov/historical/permits.htm). Once the permit has been obtained the work can be completed.

Making informed decisions about maintaining your property is only one part of being a preservationist. Even if you're not an owner, you're a trustee for the properties that define the neighborhoods where we live or work. Being a preservationist means becoming involved in what is happening in our community and advocating on behalf of the historic resources in our neighborhoods. The weekly CCRA email is a good place



Dane Wells

Owners of this house made improvements so that the door is in excellent shape, and the bricks are well pointed.

to start to learn about changes being proposed, commission meetings and other resources that can start you on your journey of being a preservationist and good trustee for all our historic resources.

## Open for Students: TPS's Early Education Center

On the morning of Friday, September 21, The Philadelphia School's (TPS) students attired in their red tee-shirts marched to the new Ellen Schwartz & Jeremy Siegel Early Childhood Education Center located at 25<sup>th</sup> and South streets. Family members, alumni, politicians, etc. were on hand for the celebration.



Fran Levi

Students were on hand for the dedication of the new early education center at 25<sup>th</sup> and South streets.



Amy Tedder

Head of School Amy Purcell Vorenberg thanks alumni parents Jeremy Siegel and Ellen Schwartz at the dedication for their generosity in fully funding the new center.

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# Zoning Committee Report

Pat Mattern and Brian Johnston, Co-Chairs

August, September 2012 (There wasn't an October meeting.)

**1413–35 Chestnut Street through to Ranstead Street (C-5).** Administrative Review. Review of plans for 52-story hotel with 755 guestrooms and meeting rooms with below grade parking. **Not Opposed.**

**1708–10 Rittenhouse Square (R-10 A).** Application for the relocation of lot lines to create one lot from two lots, for removal and replacement of second floor roof (maximum height 24') for the erection of an elevator penthouse (maximum height NTE 39') for use as medical offices with aesthetician services on all floors. Refusal: The proposed use, "medical offices with aesthetician services" is not permitted in this zoning district. The proposed zoning is refused for the following: Maximum height: 35' allowable; 39' proposed. **Opposed.**

**1716 Spruce Street (R-15).** Application is for the creation of five non-accessory off-street parking spaces, for the erection of 9' high fence for the church administrative offices, meeting rooms, class rooms (religion class room during church), play rooms and an one existing apartment (all the uses are non-accessory use on lot). (Existing church is located on 1700 Spruce Street) Refusal: The proposed use, non-accessory parking and non-accessory uses, is not permitted in this zoning district. The proposed zoning is refused for the following: Height of fence: 6' required; 9' proposed. **Opposed.**

**212 South 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 2408 (L-4).** Application for the erection of a third story addition to in-fill a previously approved deck area located in the front façade portion of the structure. For the creation of a roof top deck at the third-floor roof area elevation that is served by the fourth-floor. Refusal: Whereas the previous ZBA approved 44-dwelling units and 58 public parking slots and 32 accessory parking slots that exist. Any extension of this Use requires ZBA approval. **Not Opposed.**

**1631 South Street, Unit 2 (C-2).** Application for the erection of one story addition (roof deck) with protective rail (not to exceed 42" in height) to an existing roof deck with existing pilothouse on a four-story attached structure (five-stories total, maximum height not to exceed 42"). For use as a single-family dwelling on floor two through four and vacant commercial space on first floor as previously approved. Refusal: The proposed zoning is refused for the following: Maximum open number of stories: existing: 4 proposed: 5. **Not Opposed with Proviso.**

**2016 Walnut Street (RC-4).** Application for the legalization of the following uses within an existing four (4) story attached structure: first floor, space #1 an art framing store, space #2 a real estate office (Both occupying 100% of the first floor): second floor, a yoga studio, third and fourth floors, four (4) family dwelling.

Refusal: The proposed use is refused for the following:  
Commercial uses on first floor:  
Required: 1 Proposed: 2  
Gross floor area of commercial on first floor  
Required: 33% Proposed: 100%  
Commercial use on second floor:  
Required: 0 Proposed: 1  
**Not Opposed.**

**339 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street (NEC Pine Street) (C-1 / R-10).** Application for the erection of a one (1) story rear garage addition (12'8" high) connected to an existing two (2) story attached building by a screen/gate/cladding for use as a one (1) car parking space accessory to an existing gallery, size and location as shown in the application). Refusals: Minimum Open Area (corner lot): 20% required, 5% proposed. Minimum Rear Yard Depth: 9' required; 0' proposed. **Not Opposed.**

**1808 Spruce Street, (R-15).** Application is for the fourth (4th) story addition over an existing three (3) story structure (51' high) with stair penthouse to roof deck. For use as a three (3) family dwelling, size and location as shown in the application. Refusals: The proposed use, legally required windows to be located minimum of horizontal distance from the side property line of ½ height of the structure, 22' need to be required, only 6' is proposed in not permitted in this zoning district. Open Area: 30% required (858sf); 15% proposed (430sf). **Not Opposed with Proviso.**

## Wanted: Residents Concerned with Quality Education

By Nancy Heller

District 2 Councilman Kenyatta Johnson attended the recent school fair co-sponsored by CCRA and was impressed with the turnout of families seeking quality education for their children. Councilman Johnson's belief that "educating our children must be our top priority" and his desire to be responsive to his constituents' educational concerns resulted in his sponsorship, along with that of CCRA and South of South Neighborhood Association (SOSNA) of a town hall meeting with Dr. William R. Hite, Jr., the new superintendent/CEO of the Philadelphia School District. The meeting will be held 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., December 12, at Tenth Presbyterian Church, 17<sup>th</sup> and Delancey streets.

Dr. Hite will speak briefly before opening the floor to questions pertaining to the Philadelphia public schools. Questions may be asked the night of the event or submitted ahead of time to [centercity@centercityresidents.org](mailto:centercity@centercityresidents.org) with Dr. Hite as the subject.

# CCRA PAST PRESIDENT



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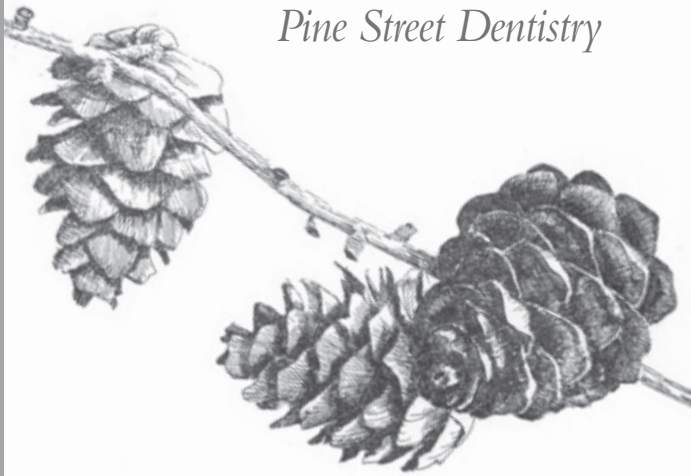
- 2410 Delancey
- 2330 Pine
- 304 Cypress
- 1919 Chestnut
- 336 S 24th
- 2232 St Albans
- 210 Queen
- 2400 South (pending)
- 1702 Catharine
- 1600 Arch/The Phoenix
- 507 S 26th
- 1632 Bainbridge
- 506 Pine
- 815 S 7th
- 925 S 2nd
- 2202 Lombard
- 709 S 18th
- 2609 Aspen
- 2108 Catharine
- 502 S 25th
- 2220 Lombard
- 716 S 21st



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# CCRA Neighborhood Winter Events

## CCRA's Sixth Annual Chili Challenge

A Chili Challenge Celebrity Tasting Panel will judge the chili prepared by this year's challengers vying for the Chili Chalice. Attendees will eat the chili, drink soft drinks and beer, hear great music and enjoy the company of their neighbors and friends.

First Unitarian Church  
22<sup>nd</sup> and Chestnut streets  
Sunday, February 10  
Contact CCRA for exact time and cost,  
215-546-6719.

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## Sacred Spaces Open House

For the holiday season 12 congregations, working with the CCRA congregations committee, will open their doors to visitors who will have the opportunity to view a variety of architectural styles—revivals of Byzantine, Romanesque, and Gothic to name a few.  
Sunday, December 16, 1:00 p.m.  
and 4:00 p.m.

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## Philadelphia City Institute (PCI)

1905 Locust Street  
215-685-6621

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## Children's Story Time Programs

**Baby Lap Sit Story Time** is designed for babies aged 6 to 24-months and their caregivers to share and enjoy stories, songs and rhyme with Ms. Karen. Babies can be registered for their very first library card. Caregivers may preview new books and DVDs.  
Tuesday, December 4, 11 and 18,  
10:15 a.m.

**Toddler Story Time** is designed for children aged 2 to 4-years and their caregivers to participate in rhymes, stories and songs. Preview new books and DVDs and register your toddler for his or her very first library card.  
Thursday, December 6, 13, 20 and 27,  
10:15 a.m.

**Pajama Story Time** where children aged 3 to 7-years wearing their pajamas and accompanied by their favorite stuffed animal and their caregivers enjoy stories, surprises, and tasty cookies and milk. Children should bring their library card to enter the raffle.  
Wednesday, December 26, 6:45 p.m.

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

**Conversations with the Stars of the Pennsylvania Ballet at PCI Balanchine/Wheeldon/Tharp**  
Monday, February 4, 6:30 p.m.

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**  
Monday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.

**Free Films at PCI - The Free Library on Rittenhouse Square**

**Coming Home**  
Wednesday, December 5, 2:00 p.m.

**Being There**  
Wednesday, December 12, 2:00 p.m.

**Harold and Maude**  
Wednesday, December 19, 2:00 p.m.

**Bound for Glory**  
Wednesday, December 26, 2:00 p.m.

**Introduction to Using E-readers to Check-out Library Materials**

**Nook, Sony e-reader, etc.**  
Thursday, December 13

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## Tenth Presbyterian Church

1701 Delancey Street  
www.tenth.org

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## Elmore 100 Concert

Friday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Norman Mackenzie, organist, in concert commemorating Elmore's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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## Fittler Square

2300 Block Pine Street  
Christmas Tree Lighting, Singing,  
Santa and Refreshments  
Sunday, December 9, 4:00 p.m.



## Curtis Institute of Music

www.curtis.edu

## Student Recital Series - Free

Field Concert Hall  
1726 Locust Street  
December 1, 2,3,4,5,10,11,12, 2012,  
8:00 p.m.  
December 10 and 12, 2012, 5:15 p.m.  
January 14, 16, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30,  
8:00 p.m.  
February 1,4,6,8,11,13,18,20,22,23,25,27,  
8:00 p.m.

Church of the Holy Trinity  
Rittenhouse Square,  
Wednesday, December 5, 2012 12:30 p.m.  
Wednesday January 16, 12:30 p.m.  
Wednesday February 6, 12:30 p.m.

Gould Rehearsal Hall at Lenfest Hall  
1616 Locust Street  
Friday, January 18, 8:00 p.m.

## Curtis 20/21, Contemporary

**Music Ensemble,**  
Gould Rehearsal Hall at Lenfest Hall  
Saturday December 8, 8:00 p.m.

## Curtis Symphony Orchestra,

Gould Rehearsal Hall at Lenfest Hall  
Saturday, January 19, 8:00 p.m.

## Alumni Recital Series

Field Concert Hall  
1726 Locust Street  
Sunday, January 20, and Sunday February 24,  
3:00 p.m.

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## Town Hall Meeting with School District Superintendent Dr. William Hite

Sponsored by Councilman Kenyatta Johnson as a follow-up to CCRA's School Fair, this meeting open to CCRA members and non-members will a chance to hear and speak to the new school superintendent.  
Tenth Presbyterian Church  
17<sup>th</sup> and Spruce/Delancey streets  
Wednesday, December 12,  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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# Rittenhouse Square Community Coalition

By Robert W. Dworski

In the spring of 2010, representatives of 16 buildings around Rittenhouse Square created the Rittenhouse Square Community Coalition (RSCC) for the purpose of working with each other and in coordination with other community organizations for the economic betterment of their building operations and for the health, safety and well-being of the neighborhood.

To accomplish these and other goals, the RSCC has hosted evenings with elected officials, among others, including “A Conversation” with Mayor Michael Nutter, Councilmen Clarke and Johnson, Sister Mary Scullion of Project H.O.M.E. and Brian Sims, candidate for State Representative of District 182.

The RSCC has since grown to more than 20 member buildings, and it has convened informational seminars in the

areas of engineering (façade restoration), discounted office products and green line cleaning products (Staples), flooring systems (Davino Manejo Corporation [DMC]), Leading Edge Solutions LLC (a lighting consultant and LED supplier) as well as energy providers, energy consulting firms and a competitive cable system. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, RSCC hosted a seminar on building insurance coverage. Panelists from Marsh and McLennan and Buchanan Ingersoll provided information on the insurance and legal issues, respectively.

RSCC has established liaisons with The Friends of Rittenhouse Square, CCRA, Community Association Institute (CAI) and the Green Co-op and Conservation Committee.

As with all activities of this nature, an active membership is always a necessity.



Fran Levi

The Rittenhouse Square Community Coalition hosted an evening with Brian Sims, when he was the Democratic candidate for District 182 State Representative.

For more information, please email Robert W. Dworski, Vice President [rvdworski@verizon.net](mailto:rvdworski@verizon.net), or Herbert H. Kaplan, President [herbert.kaplan@verizon.net](mailto:herbert.kaplan@verizon.net)



Jr. Christensen

The Celebration of Center City Living was an opportunity for past CCRA presidents to be at one place at the same time.



Jr. Christensen

The expansion of the Schuylkill Trail has begun on the area closest to the river south of Locust Street.



Bonnie Eisenfeld

Artists Ray Ercoli and Liz Goldberg work together on paintings. Samples of their individual and joint paintings were on the west of Broad Street Philadelphia Open Studios Tour.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**December 12, Quality Education Town Hall Meeting**

**December 16, Sacred Spaces Open House**

**February 10, Chili Challenge**

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**Please Pass the Zucchini!**

*By Leslie Young*

Resident gardener in the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden and spearhead of its City Harvest efforts, Linda Zaimas says she can't even begin to estimate how many "baseball bat" zucchinis she delivered to the local cupboard this season, but she knows her fellow Philadelphians were happy to be eating fresh and green! In its fourth year of participation in the City Harvest program—a joint endeavor among several local and state organizations to grow and provide fresh produce to city residents who otherwise may not have access to it—SRPCG tripled the total amount of produce it grew and delivered to the local food cupboard. From May through October, SRPCG gardeners donated a whopping 680+ pounds of produce, including everything from featherweight dill and chives to beefsteak tomatoes and... well... 8-pound, baseball bat zucchini!

For more information on the City Harvest program, visit [www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/phlgreen/city-harvest.html](http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/phlgreen/city-harvest.html).



*Linda Zaimas*

*Caption*