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CCCulture

An Unconventional Time Out for the Delegates

By Virginia K. Nalencz

When the delegates to this summer's Democratic National Convention assemble in Philadelphia July 25-28, the question of what it means to be an American will surely be on their minds. Art is one way to explore that question, and they'll find an historic collection of American art at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

A step inside the great vaulted space of the original building by Frank Furness and George Hewitt admits the viewer to a cathedral of American art, founded in 1805 as the first art school and museum in America. In the early years, artists sought to portray our "exotic" flora, fauna, and native inhabitants to Europeans curious about the New World, while looking to Europe for artistic standards. PAFA's collection includes spectacular examples of the European grand manner in the giant canvases of Benjamin West, who traveled to Europe in 1760, eventually becoming president of the Royal Academy in London, and teacher of many American artists including Charles Willson Peale. When Peale returned to Philadelphia he had learned from West how to exhibit and sell paintings, establish an academy, teach.

At PAFA one can trace the impassioned evolution of American art, the land as aesthetic inspiration. Artists were no longer constricted by the hierarchy of genres imported from Europe where myth, allegory, and history reigned, and landscape languished near the bottom with the lowliest genre, still-life. When a

preeminent landscape artist of the Hudson River School, Thomas Cole, departed for study abroad in 1829, the poet William Cullen Bryant wrote urging him to gaze on the "fair scenes" of European art but to "keep that...wilder image bright." Bryant's advice traces a continuing motif, waxing and waning, in American art. As Broadway's *Hamilton* raps, "This is not a moment, it's the *movement*."

Continued p. 2



"Modern Washington" by Brian Tolle called No. 1 (First Inaugural Address), a cool new acquisition that will be in the show.

To coincide with the Convention, PAFA plans an exhibit that “draws attention to the icons and issues of importance to artists throughout the great American experiment.” The title, “Happiness, Liberty, Life...?” refers to artists’ questions surrounding the “inalienable rights” set forth in the Declaration of Independence. The exhibit is defined by humor, protest and—as emphasized in the nucleus of the show—portraiture: the Wall of Washington with 25 representations of George and Martha, from classic Gilbert Stuart portraits to modernist tweaks.

Brian Tolle’s contemporary take on Washington’s image unites portraiture and humor in a pair of acrylic busts from whose mouths the first and second inaugural addresses emerge in long strings of alphabet blocks like teeth, an allusion to Washington’s famous dentures. Red Grooms’ parade float *Philadelphia Cornucopia* is a flamboyant retread of the image of the first President, with Washington and other Revolutionaries riding on a good ship whose figurehead is Martha, beribboned, with flowing locks. Shown in the soaring Fisher Brooks

Gallery in PAFA’s Hamilton building, Grooms’ version of George and Martha was constructed for the city’s tercentennial in 1982.

Anna O. Marley and Jodi Throckmorton, co-curators of the show, say themes emerged organically from PAFA’s collection. When they began organizing the show they never expected that “Red, White, and Blue” would be prominent, yet, “There it was,” says Throckmorton, “in flags, parades, depictions of World War I.”

Protest themes come in many forms, from Herbert Johnson’s cartoons about immigration—a recurring subject—and often in the representation of women. A visitor to PAFA may mark the kinship between Alice Neel’s “Investigation of Poverty at the Russell Sage Foundation” (1933) and Sue Coe’s “Anita Hill” (1992). In each, a woman is seen as “a case,” “a problem” to be examined by powerful men. Feminist commentary is implied in Chitra Ganesh’s depictions of comic-scale women, derived from such sources as Hindu mythology and manga comics.

In this heightened political atmosphere, the way candidates present themselves has renewed relevance, with many insisting on their status as a “common wo/man.” That insistence has a long history in American art. Consider John Neagle’s “Pat Lyon at the Forge” (1826-27), a heroic full-length picture of a businessman who chose to have his portrait painted in his earlier incarnation, as a blacksmith at work. “Pat Lyon” stands in a proud succession of the “man of the people” American portrait descending from John Singleton Copley’s “Paul Revere” (1768), a portrait of the silversmith in his work clothes, showing off the teapot he has made. A free man, proud of the work of his hands, work shunned as *déclassé* by the British aristocracy, it foreshadows the Declaration of Independence; such a person will not for long submit to the rule of an overseas empire.

What can Convention delegates gain from a visit to PAFA? “We have one of the most beautiful buildings in America,” says Marley. “Great portraits, a strong collection on ‘Women’s Work,’ a place of calm, a place to think, to meditate about America.”

It’s Academic

School Superintendent Hite Enjoys Dialogue with Families in Fitler Square Neighborhood

By Fran Levi

Philadelphia School Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite held his ninth “listening session” with parents and students Monday, May 2, at the home of CCRA Education Committee Co-Chair Judy Heller. The committee invited parents and children living within the CCRA boundaries; Greenfield, Masterman, Independence Charter School, Central and Science Leadership Academy were the schools represented.

Zachary Epps, Director of the Office of Advocacy and External Management, recorded the discussion, and Jura Chung, Chief Performance Officer, provided statistics.

Hite began by saying, “Great schools should be close to where children live.” He sought the audience’s thoughts on what makes a school great. There was considerable discussion, and students,

including a fifth grader, spoke freely.

Hite described the district’s planned improvements throughout the system: a literacy-development program, the return of music and art, upgrading technology, PSAT preparation and conflict resolution. Next year, he said, “Every school will have at least one nurse and counselor.” Apparently, more money will be available, and each principal will receive an additional \$60 per student in discretionary funds.

Hite then elicited questions from the audience. He closed the program with



Dr. William Hite speaks to the guests at a listening session at the home of CCRA member Judy Heller.

a request to be invited back to continue the discussions. Everyone appreciated his willingness to meet with them, and welcomed the opportunity provided by CCRA’s Education and Family Committee.

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President’s Report

An Embarrassment of Riches Enough to Leave One Speechless



Charles Goodwin
CCRA President

I’m staring at a blank computer screen thinking about writing the President’s column. That cursor is just sitting there, blinking at me, perhaps laughing at my writer’s block. This column should be easy. There’s so much great stuff

going on at CCRA since I last faced this blank computer screen.

I could talk about our work getting LED bulbs installed in the street lights. I could talk about the incredible community forums that we had in response to the stabbing outside Rittenhouse Square—which has been the impetus to focus more efforts at helping street people. I could talk about the debates CCRA staged in both the state house races and the congressional race. I could talk about the town halls we’ve been conducting with our council people and with our state legislators.

I could talk about the terrific events that the Education and Family Committee has done, organizing our School Daze presentation to help parents evaluating schools for their children. Or the recent “listening session” that the committee had with Dr. William Hite, the superintendent of Philadelphia public schools. (Talk about tough jobs!)

But if I discussed those things, I’d surely be neglecting to mention everyone who put great effort into our Celebration of Center City Living event, at which Babette Josephs was presented with our annual community service award. Those people worked hard to put on a great party.

But this is just sort of highlights (and I’m sure I’ve forgotten some). It would acknowledge the hard work that the chairs and members of the Zoning Committee and our many tasks forces have done quietly in the background.

The Nominating Committee has done a terrific job selecting new board members, who give every indication of being terrific. Every current member of the Board brings enlightening discussions our meetings.

We’re putting our annual meeting together—we’ve got an outstanding speaker in Managing Director Mike DiBerardinis, as well as presenting a plaque to the fire department for their work in fighting the January 19 fire on the 2100 block of Locust Street, which could have been a lot worse.

Then there’s Nancy Colman, who puts this magazine together. The editorial content (this column excepted) is just fantastic—top-notch content professionally presented.

And I haven’t yet mentioned the generosity that you—our members—have shown, in supporting this organization and its efforts. Your membership dues and contributions help pay for our activities, including our sidewalk-cleaning payments to the Center City District.

There’s lots of material to write a column. But the fear of missing someone’s dynamite contributions makes it hard to write this column; fortunately, much of what I’ve mentioned here is covered in greater detail in these pages. And I’m sure I’m forgetting something or somebody who really deserves acknowledgment. So I have to plead that whoever I’ve forgotten to please not take offense.

Why whisper down the lane when you can shout it from the rooftops?

Center City Quarterly wants to hear from you.

Contribute an article. Share your pictures. Send us a letter. Pitch an idea.
Email centercity@centercityresidents.org, with CCQeditor in the subject line.

Choices: Public, Independent, Parochial or Charter Elementary School?

By Fran Levi

In a neighborhood bustling with young families, selecting the “right” elementary school becomes an overriding concern. Parents begin thinking about where to send their children to school almost as soon as they are born. To help minimize parental panic and navigate the confusing maze of elementary school options, CCRA’s Education and Family Committee presented their third School Daze Program, “Choosing the Right Elementary School for your Center City Child,” March 16 at Trinity Memorial Church, 22nd and Spruce Streets.

Committee Co-Chair Judy Heller moderated the discussion among members of a diverse panel: Martha Benoff, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist and certified school psychologist; Eileen Dwell, a retired principal in both the Philadelphia and suburban public schools; and Susan Souffie, parent of a rising kindergartner. Each panelist gave a 10-minute presentation on different perspectives in selecting an elementary school.

Benoff believes parents are often overwhelmed by the education choices available. They may obsess that if they do not select the right school, their child will be a failure as an adult. Not so, says Benoff. She tells parents that monitoring their child’s progress in school is an ongoing process. “Trust your instincts,” she advises. “Know yourself and your child. Pay attention to what is important to you. What are your preferences? What is personal about your situation that you want addressed in a school environment?”

Souffie, the mother of two young children, shared her personal experiences. “When we moved into the neighborhood, my



School Daze panelists, from left, Eileen Dwell, Susan Souffie, and Martha Benoff, with moderator and Education Committee Co-chair Judy Heller at right.

husband’s and my first concern was where to park our car,” she says. “After having children we worried about where to send them to school.” Souffie adds, “The choices are overwhelming.” Describing the whirlwind the couple experienced going from one school open house to another, she recommends speaking to parents at different schools to get their impressions. She cautions parents to remember the importance of differentiating between fact and opinion when listening to others.

Dwell provided an overview of what to look for in selecting an elementary school, and insights into how children learn. “Children like to explain things to you,” says Dwell. “By asking them questions, you will be helping them develop language skills.” When visiting a school, she advises parents to be observant. “Each school has its own personality,” Dwell stresses. Is the principal available? Is the teacher’s language encouraging? Is there a sense of community?

Are there resources in the room? How much travel time is needed for your child to get to school? In addition, Dwell said, “Do you feel a sense of respect and mutual caring?” She firmly believes “a happy school experience means a happy family.”

A question-and-answer period followed the presentations, with time afterward for the audience and panel to socialize and exchange ideas and concerns.

CCRA’s Education and Family Committee, Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA), South of South Street Neighborhood Association (SOSNA) and the Franklin Institute will co-host the 5th Annual School Fair at the Franklin Institute, October 13, 5 – 7 p.m. Information on this special event will be forthcoming as the date approaches. The Education and Family Committee welcomes ideas for programs; please submit suggestions to the CCRA office.

A product of the Philadelphia public schools, certified school psychologist Martha Benoff is in a unique position to observe and advise families on how best to approach the often daunting prospect of finding the right schools for their children. Here are some of the more fascinating observations she had to share with the audience at the School Daze program:

Today, with all the educational choices available, each often with its own unique deadlines and applications, parents can be overwhelmed by “too muchness.”

Benoff described a parent who called to have her child tested,

with the goal of admission to a desirable preschool in New York. When Benoff asked the child’s age, she was shocked to learn the baby hadn’t been born yet. This anecdote exemplifies the peer pressure and anxiety that surrounds “getting into the right school”—or your child is doomed for failure. Benoff referenced Angela Duckworth’s research on grit, and how it can trump IQ in determining a child’s success in life.

Benoff encourages parents to relax; most kids are resilient. If one situation is not working, there will be others to choose from.

—Judy Heller

Learning with a Focus on Service at The Philadelphia School

By Jane White, TPS faculty member

The City of Philadelphia was recently the broad topic of study in first and second grade classrooms at The Philadelphia School. The study was designed to help the children understand that all people have common needs, and that the city provides for those needs in a variety of ways. Students learned to make distinctions between needs and wants, and explored the concepts of interdependence and shared resources. To develop their understanding of how resources are distributed and how citizens can effect change, the children participated in field trips, interviews, project work, presentations by outside experts, read-alouds and discussions.

The city study evolved differently in each of the four classrooms as children's interests in particular aspects of the city emerged. The children took the lead in asserting their desire to effect positive change. In my classroom, where I co-teach with Bernadette McCleary, an area of grave concern for the children was the issue of homelessness.

Following the children's lead, teachers invited guest speakers into their classrooms. Stephanie Sena, advisor to Student-Run Emergency Housing Unit of Philadelphia (SREHUP), gave

students a more nuanced insight into "people experiencing homelessness," a term suggested by Sena and quickly appropriated by the children.

Lutheran Settlement House Director Kelly Davis talked about Jane Addams Place, a shelter for women and children in West Philadelphia. Davis helped them to understand the everyday lives of the families who live there and, more importantly perhaps, to recognize the many things they have in common with the shelter's children: they want to be with their moms; they go to school. Students were also made aware of the tremendous needs of shelter residents.

Bernadette and I guided the children as they considered ways that they—6- to 8-year-olds—could make a positive change for shelter residents. The class decided to sell soft pretzels to schoolmates on Fridays for several weeks, and donated the proceeds to SREHUP and Jane Addams Place.

The other classrooms looked at the work of other service organizations in the city, and participated in a range of activities. One group created their own model service organizations—with logos, mission statements, and action plans. At a



Stephanie Sena reads to TPS children.

culminating Learning Celebration to which families were invited, the focus was on service learning and community service. Families made hearty sandwiches for a shelter, or assembled packages of personal-care items.

At The Philadelphia School we value nurturing children's intellect *and* character, helping them develop a sense of moral integrity and respect for the individual, the community, and democratic ideals. In this study of our great city, it was immensely gratifying to see young children embrace the role of "citizen," aware of their civic responsibilities, with the power to make the world a better place.

The Philadelphia School is a nonsectarian independent school educating children from preschool through 8th grade. For more information, please visit www.tpschool.org.

**If you'd like to help SREHUP and Lutheran Settlement House continue this vital work, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to www.srehup.org/donate and www.lutheransettlement.org/donate-now.*

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CCRA's "Earth Night" Party Honors Former State Representative Babette Josephs

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

CCRA awarded retired State Representative Babette Josephs its Lenora Berson Community Service Award on April 20 at the Association's annual Celebration of Center City Living, at Trinity Center for Urban Life, 22nd & Spruce Streets. Commemorating the 46th Earth Day, the event offered—aside from great food, wine and beer—an Earth Day trivia contest, and eco-friendly vendors



Multi-talented multi-taskers: CCRA's immediate past president, Jeff Braff, acts as auctioneer, while current prez, Chuck Goodwin, assists with item display.

and service providers, such as: WashCycle Laundry; Bennett Composting; Philly Foodworks; Solar States; Phila. Parks Alliance; Enterprise CarShare; and ZipCar.

Josephs represented our neighborhood, in the 182nd district, in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since January 1985, and retired at the end of 2012. A resident of our neighborhood for more than 50 years, she has never owned a car. While in office, she advocated for the rights of many who needed someone to speak out for them; among her 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.

In October 2012, Josephs was honored by the Americans for Democratic Action, Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter; the National Organization for Women; and the American Civil Liberties Union. Josephs



Honoree Babette Josephs (center) chats with attendees at the Celebration of Center City Living, including CCRA Communications Manager Travis Oliver.

sits on the Boards of the local ACLU affiliate and the Jewish Social Policy Action Network. She appears weekly as co-host on Conversations Across Time, and she is a committee person for the Eighth Ward.

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. Josephs also worked actively on abortion rights, quality public education, and neighborhood improvement.

CCRA Celebrates – and Supports – Center City Living

CCRA especially wants to thank and acknowledge the following individuals and businesses for their support in making the 2016 version of this annual fundraiser a success.

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CCRA Convenes Candidates for 182nd Legislative District Debate

By Heather Montgomery, Government Relations Committee

On Wednesday, March 9, the Center City Residents' Association's Government Relations Committee sponsored a debate among contenders for the 182nd Legislative District seat. The event was held at Tenth Presbyterian Church at 17th and Spruce Streets, where church members went above and beyond to provide extra seating for the standing-room-only crowd, beverages and trays of cookies, and a great audio setup so that the candidates could be heard loud and clear.

The unseasonably warm weather helped to swell attendance to approximately 100 – some of whom were just passing by from picking up groceries and were drawn in by the crowd.

Incumbent Brian Sims was joined on stage by three challengers vying for the seat – Lou Lanni, Marni Snyder, and Ben Waxman – all

of whom engaged in a lively and informative debate on a wide range of issues. The debate was moderated by Chris Brennan, political writer for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, whose local background provided an ideal basis for focusing on matters important to the residents. Audience members also were able to submit their own questions for the candidates.

Against a backdrop of national politics that has been at times filled with animosity, not always focused on policy and issues, and that has inundated the



Candidates, from left, Lou Lanni, incumbent Brian Sims, and Marni Snyder listen as Ben Waxman makes a point.

public with town halls and televised debates, attendees of the March 9 program could come away knowing that they had done what they could to be more informed voters, and with a better feeling about the political process.

Council President Clarke's CCRA Town Hall Questions of Bicycle Licenses, Public Safety Officers

By Jeffrey Braff

Darrell Clarke, City Council President and Councilmember for the 5th Councilmanic District, held a Town Hall meeting, organized by CCRA's Government Relations Committee, at BZBI synagogue on the evening of April 7.

In his opening remarks, Clarke touched on such varied topics as School District finances, community schools, pre-kindergarten education, the sugary-beverages tax, energy-saving retrofitting of municipal buildings, job creation, and criminal-justice reform. In response to a wide array of questions, Clarke discussed two items that so far have not made their way into the popular press, and certainly warrant monitoring.

Responding to growing complaints about cyclists who ride on sidewalks, go the wrong way on one-way streets, and fail to stop at red lights, Clarke stated that City Council is once again considering that cyclists be required to

register and carry licenses. Readers may recall that such a proposal was made approximately five years ago by Councilmember Greenlee; it died in committee.

Clarke also spoke about the possible use of a new civil service position—"public safety officer"—to cover some of the less-dangerous functions currently handled by police officers, such as traffic control. Unlike traditional police, such individuals would not carry guns, and would receive far less training and remuneration.

A number of municipalities, including New York City, have already gone this route. Clarke noted that union concerns would have to be resolved, but he already has had discussions with the president of the local police officers' union (FOP) about this issue. Check CCRA's weekly eNewsletter for notices of future such meetings with our elected officials.



Councilman Kenyatta Johnson addresses a Public Safety Meeting of citizens concerned about the devastating fire that consumed an apartment building at 2122 Locust Street on January 19. Organized by CCRA, the meeting was hosted by Johnson and held at St. Patrick's Church hall on January 29. (For a first-person account of the fire as experienced by one of the building's residents, please see Pages 12-13.)

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Bala Golf Club Suits City Golfers to a Tee

Open seven days a week, Bala Golf Club is the closest private golf club to Center City Philadelphia. A challenging course, it spreads over a secluded rolling countryside accentuated by towering pines, meandering creeks and stunning wildlife. This year marks their 115th anniversary.

Offering easy access and the area's best pace of play, Bala allows duffers to fit golf into their busy lives in an idyllic setting just minutes from the bustling city beyond their gates. Just a 12-minute drive from Center City to the 1st Tee, Bala Golf Club is among the area's most convenient private golf experiences.

Bala Golf Club offers a wide range of membership opportunities. Their classic William S. Flynn-designed golf course, host of the 1952 U.S. Women's Open, provides a test of golf that is playable for

the high handicapper while also providing a challenge for the accomplished player.

Its diverse membership welcomes visitors to experience Bala Golf Club's exciting social calendar and dining options, which feature a casual Grill Room and Patio open daily for lunch, dinner and drinks, as well as fine dining in the Member Dining Room Wednesday-Saturday evenings. Bala is also home to a lively, casual and competitive Bridge community.

With its majestic setting, delicious cuisine, and unmatched service, Bala Golf Club also functions as one of Philadelphia's premier event venues. Whether hosting an intimate affair for 30 or an elegant event for 200, clients will find that Bala Golf Club exceeds every expectation. Their spacious and newly renovated event facility is ideal



One of the beautiful vistas at Bala Golf Club.

for corporate meetings, galas, mitzvah celebrations, weddings, anniversaries, and other social events.

Visit their website at www.balagolfclub.com or contact Membership Director Mike Viscusi for more information at membership@balagolfclub.com or by calling 215-220-0746.

As an exclusive bonus, Bala Golf Club will waive the \$175 application fee for any CCRA member who signs up for membership at Bala Golf Club in 2016.

Friends of Rittenhouse Square Celebrate and Beautify Our Neighborhood Garden Gem for All

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Over the years, Friends of Rittenhouse Square, a membership-based organization, has raised millions of dollars to maintain and improve Rittenhouse Square. In 1984 the organization held the first Ball on The Square to raise funds for park improvements. Now an annual Philadelphia tradition, the Ball is a black-tie gala held under a network of tents in the center of Rittenhouse Square on the third Thursday of June.

As one of the most prestigious social events in the city, the Ball on The Square attracts residents of the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood and many notable Philadelphians, including business leaders, philanthropists and politicians. Close to 500 people attend, and tickets start at \$550 per person. Invitations are sent in mid-April and

the event typically sells out before June 1. Thanks to sponsors and patrons, the Ball brings in enough money each year to fund the Friends' special improvement projects.

This year Friends of Rittenhouse Square has been funding a \$250,000 project to restore and update the three main formal gardens. The project scope includes plant removal, soil revitalization, fence restoration, irrigation upgrades and expansion, and a newly designed plant landscape.

While the Ball on the Square is Friends of Rittenhouse Square's largest fundraiser, the organization also hosts two other June events: the Little Friends of Rittenhouse Square Festival and the Young Friends Ball on The Square. Additionally, the organization raises funds through membership dues,

capital campaigns, grants, endowments, private donations and sponsorships.

Funds are used to beautify Rittenhouse Square through landscaping, tree care, grass seeding, graffiti removal, bench repair, supplemental seasonal maintenance staff, sidewalk sweeping, a dedicated park ranger, security, excess seasonal trash removal, holiday lights, doggie bags, sidewalk cleaning and more. While Rittenhouse Square is the property of the City of Philadelphia and is regulated by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, the Friends provide a substantial amount of annual care to keep it looking beautiful.

More information about Friends of Rittenhouse Square is available at <http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/>

Friends of Rittenhouse Square host the 2016 Ball on the Square on Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m. The Ball includes cocktails, dinner, and dancing under a tent in the center of the Square. Proceeds from this year's Ball, chaired by Robyn Lewison and Faith Weiss, support renovations of the frog, goat, and lion's flower beds. Ticket prices start at \$550 per individual or \$1,100 per couple. Patrons tickets are \$1,000 per individual and \$2,000 per couple. Young Friends of Rittenhouse Square (age 35 and under) start their evening at the Stotesbury Mansion, 1923 Walnut Street, at 8 p.m. Event sponsors and patrons are invited to a pre-ball champagne reception hosted by The Rittenhouse at 6 p.m. —B.E.

Center City Offers Green Oases Beyond the Bustle of Rittenhouse Square

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Although Rittenhouse Square is the queen of Center City parks, there are other parks nearby for residents and visitors to enjoy. For a change of pace or scenery the neighborhood offers an abundance of alternatives.

Fitler Square, situated between 23rd and 24th Streets and Panama and Pine Streets, is a half-acre, 100+-year-old pocket park named for Philadelphia mayor Edwin H. Fitler. A Victorian fountain



Pedestrian bridge leading to the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk

sits at the center; a collection of animal sculptures commissioned by the Fitler Square Improvement Association adorns the Square. The sculptures include Gerd Hesness' *Fitler Square Ram* and Eric Berg's *Grizzly* and *Family of Turtles*. The Association supplies annual plantings and garden maintenance, with the help of Philadelphia's Department of Parks and Recreation. <http://fitlersquare.org/>.

Schuylkill River Park runs along the river and contains a playground, paved paths, sports areas, a dog park and the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden, managed by the CCRA <http://www.srpcg.org/>. Friends of Schuylkill River Park is an association formed to foster the preservation, beautification, improvement, maintenance and enjoyment of the Park. <http://www.fsrp.org/about.html>

Schuylkill Banks, adjacent to the Park, runs along the river's east bank and includes



John F. Collins Park

the newest addition, the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk, a 2,000-foot-long scenic pathway for walkers, runners and cyclists, that connects to the Schuylkill River Trail. <https://www.schuylkillbanks.org/>

The Center City District manages the following four parks. For the latest information on Center City events and the CCD Parks, sign up for free e-newsletters: the bi-monthly *(IN) Center City*, and the monthly *CCD Parks*. <http://www.centercityphila.org/incentercity/signup.php>

Dilworth Park, on the west side of City Hall, features a José Garces café and a

Continued on next page

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fountain that converts to an ice rink in winter. Open seven days, 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. <http://www.ccdparks.org/dilworth-park>

Sister Cities Park, at 18th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, just east of Logan Circle, features a garden, pond and café. Open seven days, 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. <http://www.ccdparks.org/sister-cities-park>

John F. Collins Park, named for its designer, is a small, quiet oasis at 1707 Chestnut Street, where you can enjoy a

picnic lunch and an occasional lunchtime concert. Open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m. <http://www.ccdparks.org/john-f-collins-park>

Cret Park is a landscaped plaza on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 16th Street. Open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. <http://www.ccdparks.org/cret-park>



Grizzly by Eric Berg

Bonnie Eisenfeld

Our Greene Countrie Towne

CCRA Thanks Contributors to 2015 Neighborhood Beautification Campaign

Each Spring CCRA solicits contributions to its Neighborhood Beautification Campaign. Such tax-deductible contributions are beyond annual membership dues and help fund CCRA's \$30,000 annual contract with the Center City District to clean neighborhood sidewalks after weekly trash collection, as well as other neighborhood beautification initiatives, including tree planting, historic preservation, the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden, and oversight of neighborhood development in accordance with the CCRA Neighborhood Plan and the Zoning Code. We are pleased to report that we received 214 contributions in response to our 2015 solicitation. We thank you all and look forward to such enthusiastic support for our 2016 Campaign (letters went out in late April). Listed below are the individuals and businesses that contributed at least \$125 to the 2015 Campaign.

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Photo Credit: Bonnie Eisenfeld

Trial by Fire: One Woman's Story of Loss and Recovery

By Shari Goldman Gottlieb

I had finally gotten down to work when the buzzing began. It was 5:30 pm, January 19. Reluctantly, I disentangled myself from Calderón, the subject of my dissertation, to search for the sound's origin. Peering up at the ceiling and down the hallway, I couldn't find a cause for the noise. *Fire alarm?*

I considered working through it—but grudgingly decided I should go outside. You never know. So after some hesitation over whether to throw my iPad into my trusty blue backpack, I moved on to the non-negotiable: my computer backup hard drive. I always take it with me when there's a fire alarm, even though there's never been a fire, and I didn't think there was one now; consider it a personal quirk. I hastily donned my winter jacket and loafers, and hoisted my backpack to head downstairs, where I would wait the 10 minutes in the cold for the fire department to show up, clear the building, and let us back in.

And then I opened the apartment door. Thick white smoke was writhing in strips drifting in upon itself. As I closed the door behind me, the smoke stifled my breath, lungs working to suck in air that wasn't there. After fishing around for my keys, I noticed I was holding them in my hand, when the realization struck that I didn't have the breath to stay in the smoky hallway long enough to lock the door.



A painting by the author, that was recovered from the debris during a brief salvage operation.

Suddenly the question bolted through my body: *Was the fire between me and the front door?* So I ran.

I exited the building in a tunnel of smoke to the fresh, breathable outside air, a handful of my neighbors, and—looking up—a top-floor unit and back part of the building's roof ablaze. (It was determined that the fire had begun on the first floor and then spread quickly to the fourth floor and roof.)

Later I would learn the fire entered my apartment through the bathroom wall; it was a closer call than I realized. The other residents of the 22-unit building had acted responsibly in the short time that had elapsed: calling 911; propping open the outside doors; knocking on apartment doors as they evacuated the building; and ringing apartment buzzers, thinking that the general commotion would roust residents from their homes.

I was about to dash back inside to knock on doors, when I realized someone was needed to take over the doorbell-buzzing. More residents began emerging at that point. The building was completely evacuated by the time firefighters arrived; we had looked out for each other.

As we stood in the cold watching our homes burn, a wave of fire trucks arriving (over the course of the night, 120 firefighters would take their turn battling the flames), ominously, we were moved further and further away from the blazing building. At one point the fire looked beaten back, only to have it shoot up once more through the top floor and roof, flaring golden, orange, and red against the sky.

Scattering messages like ashes, I called friends locally and family in New York, but only my aunt answered. A few women came by as we shivered in the setting sun, and offered the huddled residents of 2122 Locust Street their phone numbers so we'd have warm places to wait if needed. I was about to take advantage of the offer when it was announced that the Red Cross had opened a shelter at Trinity Memorial Church. I arrived at the church, where they welcomed me and the other displaced people with kind words and hot drinks. Volunteers were preparing to make spaghetti when a friend called offering me a place to stay. Grabbing a cab to

South Philly, I felt so grateful for sanctuary: somewhere solid with quiet and a bed.

The fire quickly became a medical emergency: I had only 24 hours' worth of medications on me. With several pain conditions—legacies of cancer—not only do these medications provide minute-to-minute relief that enables me to function, but they also prevent additional severe symptoms that would occur should I cease taking them, particularly if stopped abruptly. Every deed becomes agonizing.

I needed to be in top form to be able to deal with my medical and renter's insurance, and the fire department, at the very least. And to do this, I needed my medication. My medical insurance company did not want to pay for more medication.

What I needed from the Red Cross—more than the toiletries they gave me a week later, or the welcome small sum of financial aid—was someone to advocate for me to get my medications, some costing as much as \$3,000 a week! But the Red Cross told me it was “too hard” and “no longer an emergency since [I had] five days' worth.” They reimbursed me for the five days of out-of-pocket costs and left it at that, disregarding the fact that I needed more than five days' worth of meds, nor did I have five days of all of my meds (like the \$3000/week one).

I commend the Red Cross for opening the shelter and offering housing. I know it fulfilled a need for some of the fire victims; I am grateful I didn't have to worry I'd be homeless. I appreciated the cup of coffee when I visited their building for an appointment, and meeting with the social worker in pastoral care. But I needed my medications more. My mother has given to the Red Cross for over 30 years. But it did not give me the help I needed when I needed it.

In the blink of an eye, everything I owned was damaged. *But was it accessible?* Overnight, I became familiar with the word *salvage*. In daily conversations with the Fire Department and Licenses and Inspections, I was told the building was unsafe and there would be no salvage. I repeated the mantra: *I had my possessions, I made good use of them, and now I'm moving forward.*



Shari Goldman Gottlieb

A stack of salvaged manuscripts and documents related to the author's work on her doctoral dissertation.



Shari Goldman Gottlieb

Another precious keepsake saved: the pitcher fashioned by Gottlieb's late father.

I was bereft of everything. *Why hadn't I put my favorite pen in my backpack that day?* Through word of mouth I learned of a meeting about the fire convened by Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and the CCRA on January 28. Unfortunately, there apparently was no effort to inform its victims of the meeting; only three of us were present.

There, I met the proper person to get permission for a short, vicarious salvage session through L & I; William Penn Realty did one as well. I wrung my memory to recall the location of items I valued in my apartment so professionals could find them.

Thus I was given the gift of links with my past, of moments of love embodied in material goods, and hours of academic work: the pitcher my late father shaped and the vase a college friend made me; some of my own paintings; the nameplate from Sevilla from my aunt; the decorative box my mother gave me as a housewarming gift; the play with margin notes for my dissertation. But so many things are missing—research lost, my 400 waterlogged books, spice bottles collected over time living in Spain—but my heart hurts less.

The emotional cost is astronomical, but the financial cost cannot be dismissed either. I am fortunate to have renter's insurance that would pay for a hotel until the apartment I actually wanted to live in became available in April (found after weeks of searching, with the help of a friend who does not even live in Philly). I was told I might not find an apartment until May. But the disparity between my coverage and the cost of starting anew is staggering.

I am thankful for help with the sky-high organizational hurdles as well as the

fiscal. There is so much to coordinate. The weeks following the fire were lessons in the generosity of private citizens and organizations. Many contributed money and gift cards, some through Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel's Fire Victim fund. As soon as friends and family in Philly and across the US learned of the fire, they began to help me determine what I needed immediately (e.g., a place to stay, toiletries, boots, clothing, a computer), and would need later (an apartment, furniture, pots and pans); how to acquire the items; and how to pay for everything.

The night of the fire my host and friends close by made sure I had the necessities (contact-lens solution! milk!) to get through the night and morning. The day after, a college friend provided clothes and a suitcase, and others donated toiletries; within two days I had 12 toothbrushes. One person even bought my preferred brands and pajamas so I'd be comfortable. Soon, bags of clothing came pouring in through my friends, their friends, and their various organizations (like CCRA). And two friends, my brother and my aunt even came to Philly to help.

One friend made an online chart, with spaces for people to sign up, of tasks and indispensable items. The friend giving me shelter helped devise a strategy for itemizing my belongings for insurance reimbursement, while a friend from ninth grade and another from college configured this list of hundreds of items destroyed in the fire into the insurance company's desired format. My mother is after the utility companies to get them to stop billing me; did you know they keep charging you even when your house burns down?

Huge networks of people have become involved. BZBI has played a significant

role in helping me get back on my feet; the University of Pennsylvania has helped to a lesser degree. What makes these networks so large is that it's not just people I know and organizations of which I am a member (like BZBI and Penn), but also friends of friends and their organizations (like CCRA, Buy Nothing, Congregation Beth David, Philadelphia Rotarians, and Congregation Beth Am Israel), that have expanded the circle.

As I go about my life in these weeks after the fire I have made new friends, like the kind woman at a clothing drive/sale, which I attended with a friend who brought me and even paid my entry fee. Upon hearing of the fire, this woman became part of my support team. And five days after I moved to the extended-stay hotel (discovered by another friend living in New York), the front-desk attendant handed me an embossed golden bag with a card bearing messages of condolence and good wishes from the staff. Inside was a soft, warm winter scarf. The staff had chipped in for the gift, carefully chosen by the gentleman who presented it. As it happens, I was looking for such a scarf. He was so excited when I put it on! How bereft can I feel with such a heartfelt gift wrapped around my neck?

I have learned, from a fairly convincing pedigree—cancer, chronic regional pain syndrome, my father's early death from gastric cancer, chronic atypical migraine, a car accident last July, and now this disaster—the best thing to do from tragedy, which is not unlike leaving a burning building: take the gems you find and run—strong and hard, forward and on, pushed along by the warm hands of those you are blessed to know, and pulled ahead, through a kind of interpersonal miracle, by those you will one day meet.

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This Isn't Just Any Alley

By Bill West

Some of the finest architecture in Philadelphia stands next to this alley, which today is largely devoted to the storage of trash. Welcome to the 1400 block of Moravian Street, just west of Broad Street, south of Sansom, north of Walnut. Two blocks from City Hall. But more importantly, this is where, for many years, the people who really ran things used to hang out.

To the left is the Union League. To the right the big building, with the columns well above ground-level, used to be the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. The Drexel building is to the right, facing 15th and Walnut Streets.

Years ago, I used to work in lower Manhattan. One day I was walking down Broadway near Trinity Church, and I passed a group of tourists standing at the head of Wall Street, by the church. An older gentleman placed his bag on the pavement with an air of arrival, straightened up, looked down Wall Street, and said, “*Ach so, die Zentrum der Platz.*”

So that was Wall Street, and the alley above was essentially our Zentrum from before World War I until after World War II. What was it like when all the financiers crossed Moravian to eat lunch at the Union League, and when they went back to their offices after their steaks and succotash? Did they have Dumpsters in those days?

Most people likely don't even know this alley exists. From Moravian at 15th, the Union League is to the left, the Drexel and Company building to the right. To see the alley, you need to be standing in the right place, and you need to be looking for it.

The Drexel family has a university named after it, but the eponymous building here was the brainchild of Edward T. Stotesbury, who in addition to running the Drexel firm found time to dabble in the sport of racing rowboats. The Stotesbury Cup, held on the Schuylkill every spring, is named after him.

The design of the Drexel and Company building is based on the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence. The Strozzi were rivals of the Medici, and they had a better architect. The Drexel building went up between 1925 and 1927.



Welcome to the 1400 block of Moravian Street, largely devoted to the storage of trash.

At the Broad Street end, there's the Banana Republic, and a pile of condo apartments on the left and the Union League on the right. (see photo, p.1.)

Notice that this end of the Union League looks a lot different from the 15th Street end. That's because they're two different buildings. The building on Broad Street dates from 1865; the Renaissance palace fronting 15th was designed by Horace Trumbauer, and went up between 1909 and 1911.

These two very different buildings joined at the hip can be a bit disconcerting to the modern eye. But I've gotten used to it. And this isn't the only building on Broad that looks like this. A few blocks to the south, at Pine Street, stands the main building of the University of the Arts, Dorrance Hamilton Hall. The front of this structure—which, like the Union League, extends through to 15th—was designed by John Haviland and built between 1824 and 1826, with wings added in 1838 by William Strickland. The back part was designed in 1875 by Frank Furness in his own style.

I've taken to walking down the 1400 block of Moravian on my way to the Reading Terminal Market. It's not pretty. Recently I've noticed that it's cleaner than it used to be. That's true of a lot of the alleys that I walk down. I haven't seen a dead rat in quite a while.

But still, it's ugly. My best story comes from last year. I was walking down the middle of the street, dodging puddles of slime—you need to watch your step in these alleys—and almost missed a man sitting on the sidewalk with his back resting against the old Stock Exchange building. He was a homeless man, and he was naked. His

clothes were on the sidewalk next to him. I could relate. It was a warm day, his clothes were very dirty, and so was he. It probably felt good getting some fresh air on his skin.

But still. What would Mr. Stotesbury have said?

I'm not one of those who wishes that the homeless would just disappear, and doesn't particularly care what happens to them when they do. Again, though, this should be one of the premier pedestrian streets in Philadelphia.

Just have a look at the front façade of the Stock Exchange building, over on Walnut. This is what the Moravian Street façade should look like as well, instead of having those lovely arched openings at ground level blocked in ways that only the Department of Licenses and Inspections could love.

The other Walnut Street frontages show a similar sense of possibility.

Notice that several of these buildings have fire escapes on their Moravian frontages. Show stopper, you say. Well, no. Andy Nicolini has been working on giving the 2000 block of Moravian, next to the Shake Shack, a makeover, and he and his design crew have come up with some very nice ways to make fire escapes cute, and even fun, without reducing their effectiveness in an emergency. (See *Center City Quarterly* 5:3, Fall 2015, p. 15.) Now he just needs to get his funding, so we can stop looking at drawings and actually go to the alley and look at the real thing. I think when that happens people will finally understand the value in these alleys—and, to use a real estate term—they may even feel motivated to unlock that value.



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An Ounce of Prevention: Common Substances That Are Toxic to Your Pet

By Barrie Yalof, DVM, Queen Village Animal Hospital

Many food and non-food items can be harmful, or even deadly, if eaten by your dog or cat. We highlight a few of the common ones below. For a more complete list, visit www.aspc.org. Additionally, the ASPCA animal poison-control hotline is a great resource in the case of toxic ingestions. **Phone 888-426-4435 (fee applies).**

Common substances toxic to cats

Lilies

Several members of the plant family *Lilium* and *Hermercallis* are toxic if ingested by your cat. Easter lily (*Lilium longiflorum*), tiger lily (*L. tigrinum*), rubrum lily (*L. speciosum*), Japanese show lily (*L. lancifolium*), stargazer lily (*L. auratum*), and some species of daylily (*Hermercallis*) are examples. All parts of the plant—the stems, leaves, flowers and pollen—can cause potentially irreversible kidney damage in cats. Symptoms include vomiting, lethargy, loss of appetite and depression; once a cat shows signs of lily toxicity, damage to the kidneys may be so severe that death or euthanasia is inevitable. If you think your cat has had exposure to lilies, seek immediate veterinary care. If you have a cat, avoid lilies in your house. Similarly, if you are sending or bringing flowers or a plant to a household with a cat, opt for no lilies. Dogs are not susceptible to the kidney-toxic properties of lilies.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol™)

If Tylenol™ is safe to give a baby, it must be safe to give a cat, right? Wrong! For

cats, even a small amount of Tylenol™ is deadly, causing damage to red blood cells and depriving the body of oxygen. An affected cat becomes weak, its gums become a pale pink color, and if untreated, dies within a day or two. Treatment is not always successful, and can be difficult and expensive. Accidental ingestion of Tylenol™ is less common than the purposeful administration by an uninformed owner who thinks this medication may benefit a sneezing or feverish feline. Although dogs can suffer liver damage with acetaminophen use, they are not as sensitive as cats.

Common substances toxic to dogs

Xylitol

Xylitol is a sugar substitute found in some chewing gums, candies, baked goods, and most recently, certain peanut butters. If eaten by your dog, even a small amount can cause liver damage and a dangerous drop in blood sugar. An affected dog is lethargic and weak, and may experience seizures. The usual presentation involves an unmonitored pack or pieces of gum ingested by a curious dog. If you are a gum-chewer, be sure to avoid products that contain xylitol. If you suspect your dog has eaten a product containing xylitol, call your veterinarian immediately and provide relevant packaging. Feline toxicity is unknown.

Chocolate, grapes and raisins

Chocolate can be toxic to a dog's cardiovascular system, although not all chocolates are equally dangerous. In general, the darker the chocolate, the more

severe the effects; the amount eaten and size of your dog are also important for determining toxicity. Call your veterinarian if your dog has eaten chocolate. Cats can be similarly affected but much less likely to sneak into your sweets supply.

Grapes and raisins are a source of kidney toxicity in dogs, although the reasons are poorly understood. Unlike chocolate, where there is a fairly predictable formula to determine how sick your dog may become after ingestion, there is no known specific amount of grapes or raisins that can hurt your dog. Some dogs show evidence of kidney damage with small ingestions, while others suffer no harm with large exposures. It is best to deny your dog access to these foods. It is not known whether cats are affected.

Rodenticides

Mouse and rat poisons are toxic to dogs (and cats) if eaten. While the mechanism of action varies among products, most work by causing fatal internal bleeding. The toxicity is dose-dependent, so smaller dogs and larger amounts consumed are causes for greatest concern. If your dog has eaten a rodent poison, bring any packaging you have with you to the veterinarian, as treatment is dependent on drug type.

Being informed is one of the best ways to avoid the many risks for our pets to be poisoned, whether by accidental ingestion or innocent administration of dangerous substances. Seeking prompt treatment in case of exposure is essential.

Jefferson's Urgent Care at Rittenhouse Now Up and Running

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Jefferson Health has opened a new **Urgent Care Center**, staffed by board-certified emergency medicine physicians, at 2021 Chestnut Street. It is open seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. When you need to see a doctor fast but don't want to wait in the emergency room for hours, Jefferson Urgent Care is a convenient alternative. No appointment necessary. (FOR LIFE-THREATENING AILMENTS,

GO TO HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM.) Limited hours on major holidays.

The Urgent Care Center treats common conditions such as: cold, cough and flu symptoms; fever; stomach pains; sinus infections; earaches; seasonal allergies; migraines; muscle aches and pains; partial tears of tendons and ligaments; sprains; fractures; minor lacerations; minor

burns; minor eye injuries; skin rashes; and abscesses. Additionally, the Urgent Care center will provide EKG, IV fluids, Nebulizer Therapy, X-rays (reviewed by board-certified radiologists), lab tests, physical exams, and vaccinations. Urgent Care physicians will coordinate with your primary care physician.



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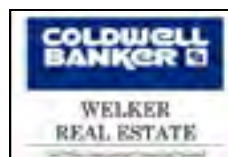
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Philadelphia's Anthem...The Theme Song from Rocky

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

By popular acclaim, "Gonna Fly Now," the theme song from *Rocky*, has been unofficially adopted as Philadelphia's anthem. The song is regularly played at local sporting events, other Philadelphia events, and even at the Philly Pops to accompany Music Director Michael Krajewski's entrance.

Written in Philadelphia, the song was performed by DeEtta Little and Nelson Pigford in the first *Rocky* movie, released in 1976. Bill Conti composed the music, and Carol Connors and Ayn Robbins wrote

the lyrics. In the movie, the title character, Rocky Balboa, finishes his daily training regimen as he runs up the 72 stone steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Early in his training, he can barely reach the top without gasping for air, but with hard work and dedication to his goal we see him finally charging up the steps in triumph, as he raises his arms in victory, an iconic scene that tens of thousands of visitors try to replicate every year.

In 1977, the song was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Music,

Original Song, and hit number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart. The soundtracks of subsequent *Rocky* movies include the theme song in different arrangements. Many other versions and arrangements have been played and recorded, and the song is now firmly entrenched in popular culture in the U.S. and worldwide. To watch the film clip from the first *Rocky* movie, accompanied by the music, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSmYAdiXb5M>

Out & About

Philadelphia Ranked High in Walkability Again this Year

Philadelphia ranked number 4 of most walkable cities in the U.S. according to Walk Score®, a Redfin company. New York was ranked number 1, followed by San Francisco and Boston. Philadelphia's Walk Score was 78.3. All cities in the top

ten increased their scores over last year. Walk Score analyzed 2,500 cities with populations of more than 300,000, using an algorithm that incorporates walking routes, number of nearby amenities (such as restaurants, coffee shops and grocery

stores), distance to those amenities, pedestrian-friendliness, population and neighborhood boundaries. From RedFin, April 28. <https://www.redfin.com/blog/2016/04/the-most-walkable-us-cities-of-2016.html>

Shop Talk

CCRA Merchant Members Discount Program

Support these local merchants and save money too, with discounts to any CCRA member who shows a current CCRA membership card (Di Bruno Bros. has its own CCRA discount card), and personal identification.

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(215-825-2101)

Crow & The Pitcher

267 S. 19th St.
(267-876-2808)

Di Bruno Bros.

1730 Chestnut Street; The Market at the Comcast Center
(215-665-9220)

Dom's Shoe Repair

203 S. 20th Street
(215-972-0098)

Eye Candy Vision

218 S. 20th Street
(215-568-3937)

Koresh Dance Company

2002 Rittenhouse Square Street
(267-687-1769)

Liberty Vet Pets

265 S. 20th Street
(888-458-8587)

Nature's Gallery Florist

2124 Walnut Street
(215-563-5554)

PhotoLounge

1909 Chestnut Street
(267-322-6651)

Twenty-Two Gallery

236 S. 22nd Street
(215-772-1911)

Raven Lounge

1718 Sansom Street
(215-840-3577)

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Philly Foodworks - Use code

"CCRA" when signing up for home delivery and receive a \$20 discount on delivery charges.

Dance Affiliates - Get \$10

off Dance Performances with CCRA Member promo code allattheprince.

My Doc Urgent Care -

1420 Locust St. (215 800-1909) Show CCRA membership card for a \$25 flu shot with coupon (available via CCRA website).

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CCRA Summer Calendar—Happy Days Are Here Again!

Little Friends of Rittenhouse Square Festival

Rittenhouse Square
Wednesday, June 15, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
<http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/events/all/little-friends-festival/>

Young Friends Ball on the Square

Rittenhouse Square
Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m. – midnight
<http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/events/all/young-friends-ball-on-the-square/>

Ball on the Square

Rittenhouse Square
Thursday, June 16, 8 p.m. – midnight
<http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/events/all/ball-on-the-square/>

Bloomsday

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

Albert M. Greenfield School 45th Alumni Reunion

Friday, June 17
All classes are invited.
5:30 p.m. School tour:
Meet at school yard door
7:30 – 11:30 p.m. Dinner, DJ, dancing
Location TBA. \$50 includes dinner, dessert,
non-alcoholic beverages
Cash bar, free parking
Purchase ticket online: \$50 plus \$2.24 fee
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/greenfield-reunion-tickets-18888172031>

Bastille Day Festival at Eastern State Penitentiary

Reenactment of French Revolution's
Storming of the Bastille
Appearances by Napoleon, Joan of Arc,
and Ben Franklin
"Let Them Eat Cake" celebrated with
raining Tastykakes
2027 Fairmount Avenue
Saturday, July 16, 5:30 p.m. Free.
(VIP tickets online)
<http://www.easternstate.org/bastille-day>

Democratic National Convention

July 25 – 28
<http://www.phldnc.com/>



The Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy

Sponsored by Yun-Hsiang International
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Curtis Institute of Music
1726 Locust Street
Tuesday, August 9 – Tuesday, August 16
Concert schedule: <http://www.pypa.info/home-en.php>

Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

Rittenhouse Square
Friday, September 16
Saturday, September 17
Sunday, September 18

Schuylkill River Regattas

Until end of November
<http://www.boathouserow.org/index.php/regattas/2016-regatta-schedule>

Golden Age of King Midas

Penn Museum
3260 South Street
Through November 27
Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
First Wednesday of each month till 8 p.m.
120 treasures from 740 BCE tomb of King Midas' father, Gordios, on loan from four museums in Turkey.

Schuylkill River Cruises

Walnut Street Dock, east side of
Schuylkill River
Beneath Walnut Street Bridge
<http://www.phillybyboat.com/schuylkill-river-cruises/>

Architectural Tours

Philadelphia Center for Architecture
<http://philadelphiacfa.org/architecture-tours>
Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia
<http://www.preservationalliance.com/what-we-do/architectural-walking-tour/>

To Your Health

The Virtual House Call Has Arrived!

Jefferson Hospital has introduced **Jeff Connect**, a service that connects patients with Jefferson emergency medicine physicians — anytime, anywhere — through a smart phone, tablet or computer (with camera and video capability). Jefferson uses up-to-date video-conferencing tools to deliver real-time care and consultation, virtually, at the convenience of the user. To sign up for JeffConnect go to <http://hospitals.jefferson.edu/jeffconnect/how-to-use/>

— Bonnie Eisenfeld

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, October 13, 5 to 7 pm

5th Annual Elementary School Fair

Co-sponsored by CCRA

The Franklin Institute

Sunday, October 23, 1 to 5 pm

58th Annual CCRA House Tour

Town Square

Congressional Countdown CCRA Convenes Candidates to Debate the Issues

By Wade Albert

On March 24, CCRA's Government Relations Committee sponsored a lively debate at the Academy of Vocal Arts for the heated race in Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District. All candidates running for the office were present that evening, including 11-term incumbent Chaka Fattah, and his challengers in the Democratic primary, Dwight Evans (a longtime member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, who would go on to win the primary), Brian Gordon (a Lower Merion Township Commissioner since 2005), and Dan Muroff (an accomplished community activist). Also on stage was James Jones (a human resources consultant) who was running unopposed for the Republican Party nomination.

Documentary filmmaker and former mayoral candidate Sam Katz served as moderator, asking the candidates a variety of hard-hitting questions on topics such as public education, gun control and increasing the minimum wage. Katz also gave them an opportunity to address some proverbial elephants in the room. For example, he pointedly asked Fattah to address his pending legal troubles. In a similar vein, Katz asked Muroff and Gordon, who are both white, why they were running for the only seat in the Pennsylvania delegation currently represented by an African American.

The debate was recorded by Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN), to be played back several times prior to the primary election on April 26. The 2nd Congressional District encompasses all of the CCRA territory, as well as parts of West Philadelphia, South Philadelphia, North Philadelphia, Germantown, Mt. Airy, Chestnut Hill and the Main Line.



The candidates for the House Seat: from left, Evans, Fattah, Gordon, Jones and Muroff.