

Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 10 No. 3 Fall 2019

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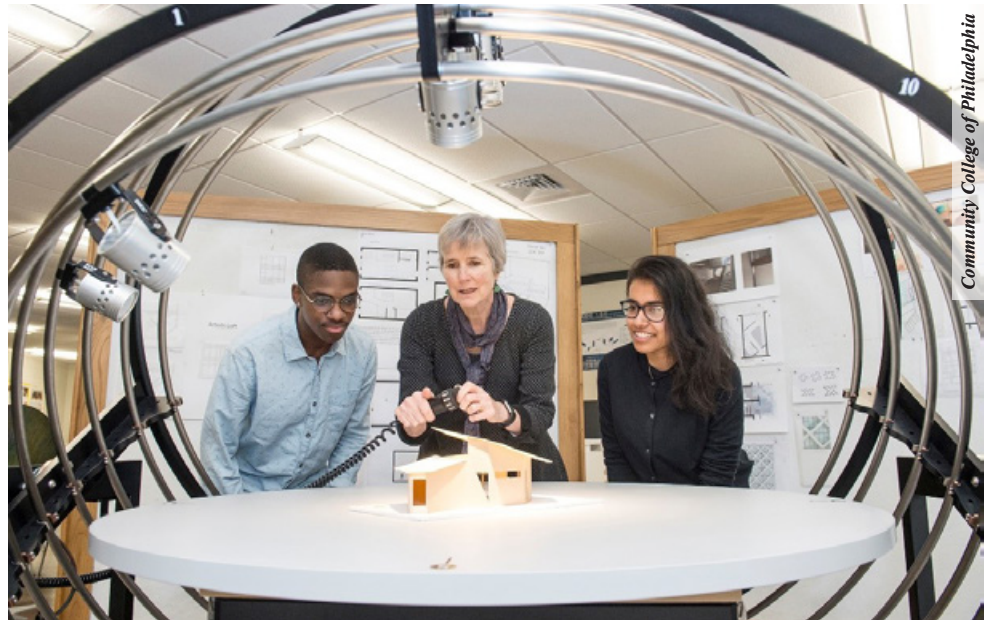
CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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It's Academic

Community College Offers Pathway to Careers for Philadelphia Students

By Bonnie Eisenfeld



Community College of Philadelphia

CCP students exploring architectural lighting.

Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) is the two-year college of choice for many Philadelphia high school students as an affordable pathway to a career or a four-year college. College-bound students study academic subjects leading to an associate degree, in preparation for transfer to four-year colleges for the final two years; most transfer to Pennsylvania colleges.

But many careers do not require four years of college; for students seeking those careers, CCP offers a plethora of professional and technical career programs requiring only two years to complete a degree or certificate. And, through its dual

enrollment programs, high school students can fast-track by enrolling in college-level courses and then graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree.

Almost 29,000 students are enrolled either full-time or part-time. More than half are age 24 or older. Sixty-five percent are enrolled in liberal arts programs, with plans to transfer to four-year colleges; 21 percent are enrolled in certification programs leading to a career; and 13 percent are enrolled in noncredit continuing-education courses. Since CCP opened in 1965, more than 685,000 individuals have been served.

Continued from p. 1

Community College of Philadelphia offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs in business, law, health care, science, technology, arts, architecture and design, construction, transportation, communications, and education (<https://ccp.edu/academic-offerings/all-offerings>). New programs launched in 2019 include tourism and hospitality management, fashion merchandising and marketing, business leadership, and black studies. In addition, students have an option to enroll in two-week study-abroad sessions at a variety of destinations.

CCP's Nursing Program, Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship program, and Biomedical Research Technician Apprenticeship Program have received national recognition. Power Up Your Business, which provides free practical training to small businesses, placed third in the Social Enterprise Intermediary category of the Greater Philadelphia Social Innovations Awards. The *Social Innovations Journal* awarded CCP first place for Post-Secondary Innovator and the *Philadelphia Business Journal* gave CCP the Advancing Women Company Award.

An inquiring student will get counseling about careers and the degrees, certificates, programs and courses leading to that career. The student who needs financial assistance will get help applying for financial aid, scholarships, work-study programs, and federal and state benefits. CCP offers childcare, developmental courses (for those who do not place in college-level courses), re-entry assistance (for formerly incarcerated individuals), tax preparation, health-care enrollment, legal counseling, financial education, referrals, and whatever other resources they need to succeed.

On the Main Campus, running from 16th to 18th Street and from Spring Garden to Callowhill Street, courses are taught in huge modern buildings equipped with state-of-the-art scientific and technical labs, computers, culinary arts kitchens, and more. Plus, there are a student-life building and an athletics center—an entire 21st century college campus. Regional campuses are located in Northeast, Northwest, and West Philadelphia.

More than just an academic institution, CCP is a community unto itself. In the community greenhouse, students grow healthy foods for themselves and the city. Students, staff,



Culinary arts students at work.



Science students working in a lab.

and alumni can produce, record and release their own music on CCP's own record label, Spring Garden Records. CCP has community volunteer programs: College staff and students collected and filled more than 200 backpacks with school supplies for students of the Spring Garden school, launched a children's book for kindergarten and first grade classes, and organized a seasonal food drive for families.

Tuition and fees are affordable because CCP is partially funded by state and city government, and supplemented by gifts from foundations, corporations, and private donors. At the Black and Gold Gala fundraiser to benefit the 50th Anniversary Promise Scholarship, 600 guests donated \$310,000. An additional \$1,000 or more came from each of the 150 members of the Mint Society, and 70 members of the

Rotunda Society gave a lifetime amount of \$100,000 or more. <https://ccp.edu/foundation>

If you wish to support tuition for a student, usually about \$10,000 for a two-year program, you can specify (within limits) the requirements that student must fulfill to receive the scholarship. Donors can also give to the Emergency Fund, to help students in special circumstances obtain last-minute funds for textbooks, food, transportation, and tuition.

To make a contribution to support students attending Community College of Philadelphia, please send it to Community College of Philadelphia Foundation, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Annex 7, Philadelphia PA 19130. For more information, please contact Lyvette Jones, at 215-751-8046 or email ljones@ccp.edu.

Community College of Philadelphia

Community College of Philadelphia

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1 Issue	Members	Non-Members
Full Page	\$ 450.00	\$ 475.00
½ Page	\$ 250.00	\$ 275.00
¼ Page	\$ 125.00	\$ 150.00

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

President's Report

Changing Leaves and Changing Routines



Maggie Mund
CCRA President

I don't know about you, but I am excited to spend Fall in Philadelphia. I love October. Cooler weather means more time spent outdoors, biking the Schuylkill Banks to Fairmount Park and hiking in the Wissahickon. And the calendar begins to fill up with exciting events. *Hamilton* is here, along with other great theater, music, dance and film.

Exciting things are in the works at CCRA this season. We're developing a new strategic plan designed to revitalize the organization's mission and objectives. The membership committee is exploring structural changes and exciting initiatives with the goals of raising awareness, visibility, and ultimately, increasing our membership. Our plan is to promote the work of CCRA, elevate its image, define consistent messaging, and retain our existing members while attracting new ones. So, read on. I hope you are as psyched as we are.

A Very Selective Fall House Tour

Consistent with the theme of change, I have some very exciting news about this year's House Tour. In previous years, this seasonal tour included several houses. This year, however, the "tour" will consist of one spectacular, recently renovated historic home on Rittenhouse Square—1914 Rittenhouse Square, the home of Jill and Bart Blatstein. Famously known as the McIlhenny Mansion and vacant since 1986, the property was featured in a previous CCRA House Tour before the Blatsteins lovingly revived the house for modern living. This exclusive tour, hosted by Jill and Bart Blatstein, will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and plenty of stories about the extensive renovation and construction that resulted in this magnificent private residence.

The tour will take place on Tuesday, October 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Tickets cost \$1,000 each and are limited to 25. For complete information about the house tour and pricing, please see www.centercityresidents.org/BLATSTEIN

CCRA has never hosted an event of this nature. In order to offer a chance to participate to all of our members, we are sponsoring a raffle for five of the 25 tickets. Fifty raffle tickets, at \$100 each, will be sold for these five tickets—so each entry has a 10 percent chance of winning. Raffle tickets will be sold to the first 50 CCRA members who respond—so act now. For information about the raffle, please visit www.centercityresidents.org/RAFFLE



A very special House Tour awaits.

I view this special house tour as a once-in-a-lifetime event that will permit CCRA to reorganize our fundraising objectives in a way that makes more sense. In the Spring of 2020, the CCRA will host a Home and Garden Tour comprised of several neighborhood homes and gardens. If you or someone you know should be listed on that tour, please let me know. In the Fall of 2020, Celebration of Center City Living Casino Night will return to the Ethical Society.

Please email info@centercityresidents.org with any questions or concerns.

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.



Kalina's Cabinet: A Tribute and a Legacy

By Kathryn Gay, Iris Peron-Ames, Sasha Mennino and Seva Staack

Shortly after her fourteenth birthday, in December 2017, Kalina, a Greenfield student, took her own life, leaving a note that expressed her love for her friends and conveyed her feelings towards those she perceived as selfish and unjust. Here is her story, as told by her mom and her friends.

Kalina's Center City roots ran deep. Although born in Atlanta, she considered herself a proud Philadelphian, down to her accent when requesting a glass of "wooder." Kalina moved to her mom's hometown as a toddler, when her dad started working at CHOP. Her new home on Rittenhouse Court was a vestige of Goosetown, whose old name came from the geese gathered around water-filled clay pits left by early 19th century brick makers. Kalina's grandmother knew a woman who remembered cattle grazing in Rittenhouse Square, but by the time Kalina came along, canines had replaced the cows. Some called the square "bark park"; it was a focal point in caring for creatures of all kinds.

The Square served as a backyard for play with the "foster flunky" animals that Mama, a PennVet grad, brought home from work. Even Professor Sprout, a kitten abandoned in a South Philly dumpster, went on harnessed walks around the Duck Girl fountain. Found on 19th Street, baby birds, once grown, were released at the lion statue. Philadelphia City Institute's Pajama Story Time was a weekly favorite. In third grade, Kalina assisted with the library's Halloween festivities by reading and singing to younger kids before trick-or-treating on Delancey. Her dog, and sometimes a cat, appropriately attired, accompanied her.

Occasionally, Kalina's animals came to her school, Russell Byers, on Arch Street. They helped teach about keeping healthy and how doctors can help. The Parkway institutions were an extension of the classroom. Byers also fostered a sense of community service. With friends from all over the city, Kalina regularly participated in MLK Day at Girard College and Girl Scout activities in Fairmount.

While visiting the school nurse, Kalina learned that in addition to tummy mints, the nurse kept sanitary pads. This was important

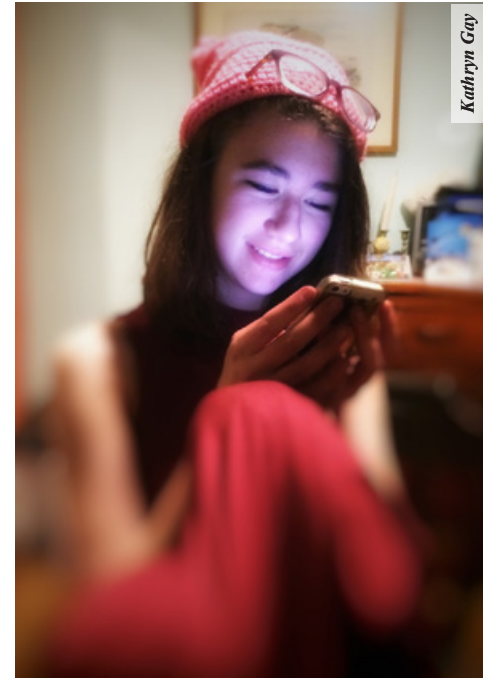
because young girls weren't always prepared, and the products were costly. A general lack of public awareness meant that the individuals most in need were often too embarrassed to ask for help.

In 6th grade, Kalina joined Greenfield, her cousins' *alma mater*. Her mom had also attended Greenfield, in the old Lombard Street building, during the school's first year. Grandpa told Kalina stories of Mr. Greenfield, a nice man with a big car. The new school provided an opportunity to make new friends—including Iris, Sasha and Seva—while exploring complex social issues. Kalina developed interests in archaeology and philosophy and a passion for social justice. She empathized with others facing challenges of bullying and discrimination. Fortunately, the Greenfield community shared her belief that individual and cultural diversity were to be celebrated, not controlled. Kalina felt empowered by participating with her peers at protest marches in early 2017.

The Greenfield friends would sometimes accompany Iris' mom to work at Penn. Always creative and artistic, the girls held a "Generation Pride" event by the Button sculpture in the center of campus. They encouraged passersby to "share your pride in your generation and what they are fighting for." Some created a new pin; others created a new song. Their hashtags included, #pins4pride, #pride4equality and #pride4justice.

Iris' mom shared one story of inequality with Kalina, Sasha and her own daughter. A first-generation low-income (FGLI) student was finding it difficult to afford tampons. Kalina thought the Greenfield community could help.

The girls learned that although scholarships might pay for academic expenses, basic necessities were a struggle for some. They originally planned a toiletry drive at Greenfield to coincide with Thanksgiving 2017. Kalina was excited about the project, and researched how Penn's FGLI program helped students. This became part of a presentation on Greenfield's toiletry drive at her admissions interview for Science Leadership Academy.



Kathryn Gay

Kalina in the pussy hat she wore to the first Women's March.

Sadly, Kalina found it easier to help others than to help herself.

Kalina died in December 2017. In early 2018, her friends named the toiletry drive "Kalina's Cabinet" in memory of their beautiful classmate. Greenfield became inundated with bottles of shampoo, conditioner, soap, and lots—and *lots*—of tampons. Kids carried the toiletries to school. Caring people from elsewhere had items shipped. Kalina's cousin started a GoFundMe for those who found it easier to donate money. The collection was a wonderful tribute to Kalina's generous spirit. Unfortunately, due to a miscommunication with Penn, the donations had nowhere to go. The mom of another Greenfield student had a suggestion—Cradles to Crayons.

Serving children in need from birth to age 12, Cradles to Crayons had never before been offered a stockpile of tampons. However, they did supply hygiene packs to children in Greater Philadelphia. When reaching out to regional partners about their novel donation, the donors found that the feminine hygiene products flew like hotcakes. Kalina's Cabinet was invited to the new Cradles to Crayons Giving Factory with an expanded capacity to reach 100,000 kids in need.

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A “Sneak Peek” event at the new Cradles to Crayons facility in East Falls coincided with the Academy Awards. Coincidentally, an Oscar went to *Period. End of Sentence.*, a short documentary about lives in Hapur, India, improving because of sanitary pads. Period Poverty was beginning to come out of the shadows. The Sneak Peek was another opportunity to learn how sharing knowledge helps people. News of Kalina’s Cabinet spread, inspiring Cradles to Crayons, Chicago, to start a pilot project on feminine hygiene products. In turn, Kalina’s Cabinet learned that diapers are not covered by government programs intended to help children. So, these large “sanitary napkins” for babies were added to the 2019 toiletry drive. Now in high school, the friends returned to Greenfield to pass

the torch to the new eighth graders, and reflect on the previous year.

Greenfield’s graduating class of 2018 wore yellow, “Kalina flower” pins crocheted by Seva’s big sister. Prior to each performance of the school play, *Beauty and the Beast*, a student read a dedication to the friend they sorely missed with an important message: “If you, or someone you know, is struggling, go tell a trusted adult.”

These Center City kids have learned lessons in compassion much needed in this world. A heart encompassing the letter “K” marks the sidewalk entrance to Rittenhouse Court. Kalina lives on through her amazing friends, with a legacy to help others. Such kindness may echo on in the sounds of future children and animals playing in the square.



Kathryn Gray

Kalina at Greenfield’s playground.

It’s Academic

Greene Towne Montessori Celebrates First Annual Fun Run

By Nicole Leapheart, Director of Communications and Marketing, GTMS

On a sunny Saturday in May, Greene Towne Montessori School had the first annual Fun Run For The Fund, created by the Greene Towne Parent Association (GPA). Events for all ages, including a run for toddler-age participants, were part of a fun-filled annual Spring Family Picnic. Every participant received a hand-painted pasta necklace, and first-place adult participants had their names placed on a trophy, now displayed in the school lobby.

Thanks to their efforts, the Parent Association was able to donate the \$800 proceeds to Greene Towne’s Annual Fund, earmarked for classroom supplies and work materials such as the famous Pink Tower or the beautiful glass bead chains for math.

The Parent Association is the backbone of Greene Towne’s community. From connecting new and current families through the Host Family Program, to community-service projects like the Thanksgiving Food Drive and Spring Park Clean-up, the GPA works hard to fulfill their mission to “...give back to our community and celebrate the spirit of Greene Towne.” In the fall of 1966, the school was started with a small group of parents dedicated not only to Maria



Erika Goldberg

Parents, staff, and students are led in a pre-racing stretch by a GTMS parent.

Montessori’s educational philosophy, but also to the creation of an inclusive and diverse community in Center City. This legacy lives on with the help of the Parent Association.

Greene Towne Montessori School serves children 18 months old through Kindergarten, and is accredited by the American Montessori Society and the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools. To learn more, visit www.gtms.org.



Erika Goldberg

Three students show off the GTMS Fun Run trophy.

City Controller Rebecca Rhynhart Addresses CCRA Annual Meeting in May

CCRA held its Annual Meeting on May 22 at the Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA), where new directors and officers were elected. (See accompanying article for short bios).

Also on the agenda, Rebecca Rhynhart gave a fascinating talk about her work as Controller for the City of Philadelphia. After serving as the City’s Budget Director under Mayor Michael Nutter and Chief Administrative Officer under Mayor Jim Kenney, Rhynhart became motivated to run for Controller when she observed the

waste and inefficiency at every level of City government.

A sampling from the Q&A:

- Q: On a scale of 1 to 100, how efficiently are our tax dollars being spent? A: (No percentage given; just—) There is much room for improvement.
- Q: Will you run for mayor in 2024? A: I’m focusing on the job I’ve got now. (A politician in the making?)

The event concluded with a wonderful party in the AVA garden on a beautiful May evening. Many thanks to the AVA for their generous support of CCRA and to board members Donna Cordner, Barbara Halpern, and Richard Frey for helping organize the event.



Rebecca Rhynhart addresses the CCRA Annual Meeting.

Benjamin Zuckerman

Meet Your New CCRA Board Officers and Directors

Officers

Maggie Mund (President)

A Center City resident for 24 years, Maggie has served many of them on the CCRA board, and has been active on nearly every committee. Since she assumed the presidency in January 2018, the board identified six priority issues, and organized to research and address them. Maggie believes in collaboration, and one goal of her presidency is to work with other organizations within the CCRA footprint on mutual concerns. While not opposed to most change, Maggie wants to retain as much of the walkability, sense of community, and historic character and charm as possible of the neighborhood she loves.



Donna Cordner (Executive Vice President)

A Philadelphia enthusiast, Donna loves her Fitler Square neighborhood and appreciates Philly’s many diverse neighborhoods, walkability, cultural offerings, and friendly neighbors. Donna comes with some serious street cred: she’s lived in Amsterdam, Stockholm, Moscow, Seattle, Santiago, and Brooklyn! Donna is a managing partner of a venture capital firm investing in early-stage companies and an active member of Robin Hood Ventures, one of the largest angel investor groups in the region.



Philippa Campbell (Vice President)

A former professor and Director, Child and Family Studies Research Programs at Jefferson, Pip currently provides consultation to various national, state, and local organizations that offer services or conduct research around the needs of families with infants and young children. She is a Philadelphia Citizen Planner, completing CPI training in 2017, and serves as on the CPI Board of Directors. In 2018, she received a Certificate in Historic Preservation from Rutgers University and is actively involved in organizations and initiatives around Historic Preservation in Philadelphia and Cape May, NJ, as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission and of Preservation New Jersey. She has served on the Board of CCRA for the past four years, as Vice President for the past two, and chairs the Historic Preservation Committee.



Barbara Halpern (Vice President)

Barbara is an English as a Second Language tutor for the Center for Literacy and happily sits on their Board of Trustees. Before this second career, she practiced law in Center City for many years. In 2012, she and her husband, Carl, moved to Filter Square from Abington, PA. Previously, Barbara was a VP for CCRA, the Liaison to the Schuylkill River Community Garden Steering Committee, and served with the University of Pennsylvania’s Office of Government and Community Relations. As CCRA Membership/

Sponsorship Chair, she generated new types of business memberships, created a Restaurant “Dine with Us” program, and increased membership as a whole. She currently co-chairs the Celebration for Center City Living.

Robin Sweet (Vice President)

President and Broker of Record for Revolution Real Estate in Center City, Robin has thoroughly enjoyed her position as a Director for the CCRA, and is excited and honored to be elected to a Vice President position. As a resident of the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, she enjoys helping CCRA make our area the best neighborhood in the city!



Charles Robin (Vice President)

A Center City Realtor since 1990, Charles currently owns and manages a third-generation real estate company, Robin Apartments, that has been on the same corner—20th & Chestnut—since 1937. Charles and Miae, his wife of 22 years, have two beautiful children. Charles has been an active member of CCRA since 1992, serving as Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. He now serves on the Zoning Committee as well as the Remapping Taskforce; he previously served on Finance and House Tour committees, among others. Charles also served as the Ninth Police District Advisory Council Representative for over a decade.

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Rick Gross (Secretary)

Rick and his wife, Roberta, moved to Rittenhouse Square eight years ago, enchanted by the neighborhood and the city. Rick is Senior Manager of his company, BW Realty Advisors LLC, which finances large public/private projects throughout the country. Rick won a Tony in 2013 for co-producing the revival of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on Broadway; both he and Roberta are active with local theater and arts organizations in their new hometown. Rick chaired the Stakeholder groups for both The Harper (Pearl Property's project on 19th and Chestnut) and The Lauren (Southern Land's project on Walnut Street at Rittenhouse Square).



Lauren O'Donnell (Assistant Secretary)

A Philadelphia-area native, Lauren has lived in the Rittenhouse neighborhood for the past eight years. She works as a litigation associate at Blank Rome LLP, concentrating her practice on white-collar criminal defense and products-liability defense. Lauren is excited to be a part of CCRA's mission to continually improve Center City for residents and visitors alike.



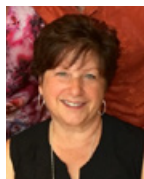
Matthew Schreck (Treasurer)

Matt Schreck, and his wife, Kristen Phillips, moved to Philadelphia in August 2011. They love Center City and especially its walkability, culture, and abundant restaurant scene. An attorney, Matt is also on the board of the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia (Treasurer) and is a trustee of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia.

Directors

Michele Ettinger (three-year term)

A retired dental hygienist, Michele and her husband, Joel, are recent transplants to Rittenhouse Square from the NJ suburbs. Michele has been a prominent community leader for almost three decades, advocating for seniors, special needs, victims of domestic violence, and people with food insecurity. A former President of Jewish Family and Children's Service of SNJ, she continues to sit on their Board. She was also a VP of The Jewish Federation of SNJ. Michele and Joel have two children and three grandsons. A graduate of the Rutgers's



Master Gardener Program, she enjoys gardening and photography.

Richard Frey (three-year term)

Richard is founder and operator of *Your Philadelphia Tour, LLC*; an activist for about 65 years; married to Diane 40 years; Center City resident 55+ years; active with ACLU, SNCC, Angry Arts Against the War, Day without Art, historic preservation, 1st Unitarian Church, New Sanctuary Movement.



Kate Federico (three-year term)

Born and raised in the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, Kate has been a success in the Philadelphia real estate industry for 20 years. With her creative energy and dynamic personality, she helps sellers, buyers, developers and investors achieve their goals. A lifelong resident of Center City, she loves her neighborhood and community. She has been a past board member of CCRA and has co-chaired the Annual CCRA House Tour in past years. She is thrilled to be giving back to the community and CCRA again! When Kate's not out selling homes, collecting cool vintage finds, staging properties, cooking delicious Italian eats or doing Pilates, you'll find her spending quality time with her family and her awesome dog, Monte.

Susan Kahn (three-year term)

Susan is a retired criminal defense attorney and teacher who has lived in the Rittenhouse Square area with her husband, Geoff, for the past nine years. Her two children were born in the 1980s when they lived on the 2100 block of Naudain. She is the leader of the Friends of Schuylkill River Park PHS Tree Tender group and an avid street-tree advocate. She runs a mentorship program at Penn Law School for first-generation public school high school students who aspire to be attorneys. She is also a board member of Need In Deed, a nonprofit that fosters civic engagement in Philadelphia public school children in grades 3-8, with service-learning opportunities.



Paul Rathblott (three-year term)

Paul moved to Philadelphia in 1958 to attend the University of Pennsylvania and Temple Law School. Following graduation,



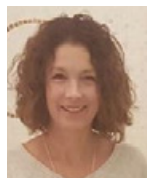
he worked briefly for Morgan, Lewis, then left the city in 1968 to embark on his career as corporate counsel for Xerox, Avis and Baker Industries. After practicing law for 25 years, Paul followed his entrepreneurial dream and started ERC Dataplus, a software business that built Human Resource applications for large companies. He returned to Philadelphia in 2003 after reconnecting with his now-wife, journalist Carol Saline, a friend from their childhood in Camden, NJ. In December 2012, Paul sold his business and retired to pursue his main interests—travel, biking, reading. He formerly served on the board of Save the Children.

David Rose (three-year term)

Bio unavailable.

Dawn Willis (three-year term)

As a Vice President last term, Dawn has been working with CCRA for six years. A longtime Philadelphia resident, she lives in the Rittenhouse Square area with her children. Dawn is interested in historic preservation, Airbnb issues, and fund raising. She is happy to serve on the CCRA for another term.



Elena A. Cappella (two-year term)

Elena and her husband have spent the last 29 years in Center City, longer than anywhere else—which makes them virtual natives. After retiring from a demanding law career, Elena once again entered the classroom—at OLLI and as a senior auditor at Penn, where she's happy to read materials and participate in class and to skip the papers and exams! She's also been engaged in volunteer work with TTN and with CCRA, and taking her therapy dog, Nessie, to visit children at CHOP, Greenfield School and many other venues. Her preferred mode of transportation is bicycling, but the sorry state of Center City streets and the absence or frequent blockage of bike lanes make her feel at greater risk than in the past—which is why she joined CCRA's Streets Committee.



Amy Jared (two-year term)

Amy moved from Tennessee to pursue her M.A.Ed and teaching certification. She has taught at the University of the Arts, the Shipley School and Russell Byers Charter. Amy worked at the Philadelphia Museum of Art over 20 years developing programs for children,



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Teens Talk: Social Justice Symposium at Philadelphia City Institute Library

By Erin Hoopes, Head Librarian

The Philadelphia City Institute (PCI) branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia held its fourth annual Social Justice Symposium for young people, on Saturday, July 20, sponsored by the PCI Board of Managers. It was a transformative day of talking, thinking, and learning about injustice for the 75 attendees. Specific issues of concern were racism, discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, immigration and refugees, poverty, the cost of higher education, and the criminal justice system.

Students participated in a variety of workshops; as one teen said, “I enjoyed listening to people’s stories and how they are fighting problems in society.” Karla Rojas, a DACA recipient from Mexico, led “Young and Undocumented,” a workshop in which students explored the struggles of being a young, undocumented person in this country. In “Writing Your Story,” local attorney Whiquitta Tobar detailed her process of self-publishing a memoir, and the intersections of her personal experiences with the school-to-prison pipeline. Vincent Taylor, in the workshop “Justice and Expression,” led a discussion on social justice and LGBTQ issues, while also giving a lesson in how to vogue. And finally, media activist and educator Nuala Cabral taught “Social Media for Social Justice,” in which students learned how to advocate for social change through digital media.

The daylong program was the culmination of a year’s work by the library’s Youth Planning Committee, which met monthly to plan all aspects of the Symposium. The Committee’s goals were to organize a meaningful, relevant program, and to increase attendance levels from last year’s program. They surpassed the latter goal, almost doubling the number of participants in 2018. And based on the results of a survey administered to 2019 participants, they also met their first goal: 87 percent of participants reported feeling more



Karla Rojas, a DACA recipient from Mexico, leads a workshop, “Young and Undocumented,” at PCI’s Social Justice Symposium.

confident about becoming involved in their community after attending the program.

As part of the program planning process, members of the Youth Planning Committee held two focus groups with teenagers who had never attended a Social Justice Symposium at the library. They visited youth at Mighty Writers and the University Community Collaborative’s POWER interns to ask them what social justice issues were most important to them, and what could make the library’s program more engaging. Because of those conversations, the Planning Committee decided to include an open mic component to this year’s Symposium, and several teens performed poems, songs, and monologues relating to social justice and other issues.

What else did participants like about the program? “I enjoyed the inclusivity,” one reported, while another said, “I really liked meeting other teens interested in social justice and social change.” They also responded extremely positively to the Keynote Talk, given by Wes Matthews, the 2018-2019 Youth Poet Laureate of Philadelphia. He gave a moving and inspiring speech about the power of poetry and art to combat injustice. And, a highlight was the appearance of Councilmember Helen Gym, who stopped by to talk with participants and offer her support.

Another new component of this year’s Social Justice Symposium, dreamed up by the Youth Planning Committee, was a Youth Resource Fair, at which several wonderful organizations gave teens information about their services: Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, Galaei, Valley Youth House, the Mayor’s Office of Public Engagement, the American Friends Service Committee, the Columbia North YMCA, the Mazzoni Center - HIV Prevention Services, SEPTA Youth Advisory Council, the University Community Collaborative, and the Philadelphia Student Union.

The Youth Planning Committee was comprised of high school students, three of whom were Teen Leadership Assistants (TLAs); this program offers paid afterschool jobs at the Free Library of Philadelphia to high school students, funded by the City’s Department of Human Services, with additional support from the PCI Board of Managers, Bank of America, and other private or corporate donors.

Heather Sparks, Out-of-School Program Manager with the Free Library, estimates that approximately 1,500 students have participated in the TLA program over the last 20 years. TLAs are an integral part of the library’s Literacy Enrichment

Continued p. 13

City Lit

PCI Lift Funding Gets a Lift from Generous Donor

Pam Freyd, President of Friends of Philadelphia City Institute, and Susan Gould, Assistant Vice President of Development of the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation, report progress towards the installation of a lift in the library on Rittenhouse Square. A gift of \$10,000 brought the total amount collected up to \$387,000. The bidding process has begun. Jim Pecora, the Vice President of Property Management for the Free Library of Philadelphia, in charge of this phase of the process, is getting bids from contractors.

—Bonnie Eisenfeld

Walking to the Free Library The Distracting Charm of Logan Square

By Bill West

I love going to Philadelphia's main library, up on Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The gorgeous Beaux Arts building, designed by Horace Trumbauer and Julian Abele, is an experience inside and out. And I always nod hello to Dr. Pepper, founder of the library, whose statue hangs out on the landing of the main staircase.

I find myself going to the library when a project moves me to. So I will go a bunch of times, and then not go for a while. I still love browsing the bookshelves, and it still amazes me how often I'm interested in the book that's shelved next to the book I was looking for.

Walking to the library, on the other hand, has not, until recently, been a great experience. There are basically three ways for me to get there—18th, 19th, or 20th—and they all suffered from visual dead zones between Market and Arch. That has changed.

18th Street, My Favorite

In particular, 18th Street has perked up a lot between JFK and Arch, thanks to Comcast, which now has two buildings on this block, one on each side. I sometimes divert eastward and take the midblock crossing of Arch in the 1700 block, so I can walk up through the plaza and fountain by Three Logan Square and then the few feet beyond Cherry Street to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

It's here—at 18th and the Parkway—across from the cathedral, that you encounter the *AMOR* statue, a translation of the *LOVE* statue three blocks down the parkway in



Entrance to Sister Cities Park.



The library seen from the Sister Cities Cafe.

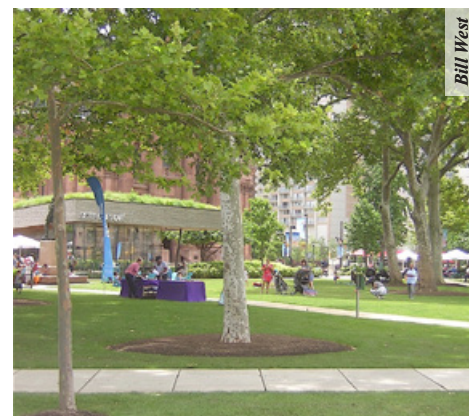
LOVE Park. *AMOR* takes after its English cousin, and is very popular with the tourists.

It stands at the beginning of Sister Cities Park, one of my favorite places in Philadelphia. There are two water features flanking the Sister Cities Cafe, and in the good weather the place is, shall we say, well populated with children, their parents and caregivers, and people like me who come to sit and enjoy a place of happiness.

Logan Square is a very complicated space. Sister Cities Park lies on the east side of the square. Inside the square is a large traffic circle that is part of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. On the west side of the square is another park called Aviator Park. And on the north side, straddling 19th Street, are two more patches of land that could be called "park," but aren't. So, one square, one circle, how many parks? I don't know. But I do know that the whole place is a sculpture garden.

When I finally finish my cup of coffee at the Sister Cities Cafe, and wander on toward the Free Library, I pass the statue of Galusha Pennypacker—he was a Civil War hero—which is one of the quirkiest public sculptures

in our fair town. (Dubuffet's *Milord la Chamarre*, on Market Street, gives Galusha a run for his money.)



Galusha Pennypacker's view of Sister Cities Park.

After my old friend Galusha, you can walk up 19th to the library, or you can cross over 19th to the *Shakespeare Memorial*. I'll get to that in a minute.

19th and the Swann Fountain

So if you're walking up 19th to the library, you can walk directly across Logan Circle. In the middle of the circle, you will find three very large people bathing in a fountain. They're not real people. They're sculptures by Alexander Stirling Calder.

Continued p. 11



Bill West

Swann Memorial Fountain, 1924.

And I like to sit on a bench here. The bathers are old friends, and I do love to watch the tourists walk through here. They're probably headed somewhere up the parkway—the Franklin Institute, Barnes Foundation, Rodin Museum, even the Philadelphia Museum of Art that hovers in the distance, at the end of the parkway. But they almost invariably stop and spend some time in this space, which is, among other things, an island. You can see all these destinations around you, and, as I said, you're probably headed to one of them, but just for now you're cut off from the outside world. It's an interesting experience.

When the spirit moves, I walk across the parkway traffic and up 19th Street to the library.

20th: Should Be the Easiest Way in, but It's Not

Just west of 19th Street, on the north side of the circle, is the *Shakespeare Memorial*.

And just across the Parkway, in front of the Franklin Institute, sits Aviator Park. It's a lovely, if underused, park, with the *Aero Memorial* and the *All Wars Memorial to Colored Soldiers and Sailors* and a very adequate number of benches, most well



Bill West

Aviator Park from the Shakespeare Memorial.



Bill West

The Shakespeare Memorial is directly behind me.

shaded by trees. It should be the easiest way to get to the Free Library, but it's not.

Why? Bear with Me.

If you do come this way, and cross the zebra stripes in the crosswalk, and get to the *Shakespeare Memorial*, you come upon a simply wonderful plaza.

This plaza sits on top of the Vine Street Expressway, and it provides a truly epic approach to a grand building. There's just one problem. Vine Street (the above-ground, not-expressway part of Vine) lies between this space—which would be a suitable parade ground for the French *Garde Republicaine*—and the library, which, come to think of it, is inspired by two buildings on the Place de la Concorde in Paris.

So what's the problem? It's illegal to cross the street. The entire approach from 20th Street—through Aviator Park, across the parkway, and across this fabulous no-name plaza—is designed by the heirs of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, whose specialty was moving people through space and making them feel grand while they were doing it. But when you get to this last piddly street directly in front of the library, you're told *no-no, we didn't really mean it*.

If ever a spot cried out for a midblock crossing, surely this is it. Of course, intrepid

souls (including me) have been known to ignore the sign and stride confidently across the street. But what about the tourists from Sweden? They probably have enough English to know what the sign says. And do they really want to go jaywalking in a foreign country? Maybe we should get the signs to agree with what the built environment is saying to everybody.

Just a matter of some paint, and switching out a few signs.



Bill West

At least they tell you to go to the corner.



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Afterschool Program (LEAP). They receive extensive training in job expectations, résumé writing, college prep, and more. The program, under Sparks' leadership, has encouraged TLAs to speak up and advocate for themselves, and near-peer mentoring is also an important part of the program.

"I volunteered to take on this job in late 2013," Sparks says, "with the expectation

of serving for six months. Nearly six years later, I almost cannot see myself doing anything else, and that's in large part because of the teens. I am continually inspired by their creativity, ingenuity, humor, and dedication. More than any other single accomplishment, being able to genuinely say we (as a program) have made a difference in the lives of these young people is really why I am here."

The results of that training, and the relationships our TLAs formed with library staff and community members through their work at the library, are manifested in the results of successful programs like the Social Justice Symposium. As a librarian, I am honored to mentor these young people, to watch them grow and develop as human beings, and to play a small part in the future contributions they will make to the world.

CCCulture

Shyamalan and Film Society Mark 20th Anniversary of *The Sixth Sense*

By Nancy Colman

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the release of his landmark film, *The Sixth Sense*, Philadelphia-based filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan joined forces with the Philadelphia Film Society to present a special screening of the film at the Prince Theater on July 30.

Shot entirely on location in Philadelphia—much of it in our own familiar CCRA-neighborhood streets, homes and parks—the film broke box-office records and narrative formulas, generating a new appreciation for the beauty of our city and its demand as a film location, while catapulting its then-29-year-old director to unimagined heights of international acclaim.

After 20 years, the film still has the power to terrify and to touch us. At a preview party at Rittenhouse Square's a.kitchen, and at a question-and-answer session

following the screening, Shyamalan spoke with grace, humor and humility about his experiences making the film.

Proceeds from the preview party and ticket sales benefited the M. Night Shyamalan Foundation and PFS.



Philadelphia filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan is flanked by his wife, Bhavna Vaswani Shyamalan, and Larry Korman, President of aka Hotel Residences and Chairman of the Board of the Philadelphia Film Society, at a preview party for the 20th anniversary screening of *The Sixth Sense*.

CCCulture

Neighborhood Artists Open Home Studios to Visitors

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

On Saturday, October 12, from noon to 6 pm, plan to visit neighborhood artists Ed Bronstein, Karen Villareal, Sally Eisenberg, and Bhavisha Patel in their studios during the annual Philadelphia Open Studio Tours (POST), sponsored by the Center for Emerging Visual Artists (CFEVA). Again this year Ed Bronstein will hold a half-price garage sale to benefit two nonprofit organizations: Philabundance and Tree Philly. Shawn Murray's Twenty-Two Gallery and

CFEVA in the Barclay will be exhibiting on that day also.

All Center City artists are included in the South section. Artists in three other sections of the city will open their studios on different days: Northeast on Sunday, October 13; Northwest on Saturday, October 19; and West on Sunday, October 20.

For addresses and more information, please go to: <https://www.philaopenstudios.org/>



Artist Ed Bronstein's half-price garage sale benefits Philabundance and Tree Philly.

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Everyone's a Preservationist

By Pip Campbell, VP and Chair, Historic Preservation

We are lucky to live within an historic area and on blocks that are primarily included as part of the City of Philadelphia designated Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District. Other blocks are outside the City's district but may be federally designated districts and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Both of these listings offer recognition and benefits, but only a Philadelphia Historical Commission designation provides a legal basis for potential protection from demolition or significant alteration to the outside of the building. Legal protection is based on the importance of buildings or sites and recognizes them for significance related to events, architecture, association with important persons, or archeological possibilities. These protections may be challenged, as frequently occurs in Philadelphia and in other communities, when available land is limited, and an historically designated building is on land that might be used differently.

In Center City and other areas of Philadelphia, there are developers and builders who need land to support various projects. As an example, the old warehouse on Washington Street between 19th and 20th (not within the CCRA footprint) was recently torn down to clear land on which to build town homes. In our footprint, most parking lots, empty lots, garages, and other obviously non-historic buildings have long

since been demolished to make way for other projects; only recently is pressure being exerted to tear down or substantially change buildings that are protected.

Many CCRA members don't see themselves as preservationists or even as having an interest in history or historic preservation, but many of us live on historic blocks in historic properties and, as such, are stewards of historically protected buildings. Historical protections may be viewed by some people in terms of an individual's rights to own property and do with it as they wish. For example, if you live in an historically protected single-family house in West Philadelphia and you want to sell it to a developer to tear down to build housing for Drexel or Penn students, is it a violation of your rights as a property owner if historic protections mean that the house should not be demolished? Some see historic protections in terms of "rules" or things that are not allowed – for example, people may interpret historic preservation as meaning they can only have wood-frame windows. Others see historic preservation as an added step in improving their property because they have to obtain approval for a change from the Philadelphia Historic Commission.

A different view considers preservation as being a good steward for your property in ways that respect the historic nature of your neighborhood and building. This can be

something as simple as replacing your front door with an historically correct door or adding a roof deck so that it cannot be seen from the street. These small things contribute in positive ways to your house, block, and neighborhood, and increase the curb appeal (and potential value) of your property.

Being a good steward also means having your proposed changes undergo a required design review by the Commission, but this is not as challenging as people may think. The Commission's website <https://www.phila.gov/departments/philadelphia-historical-commission/> provides information about the process, and Commission staff can be helpful in answering questions. Detailed instructions about how to submit are included as a downloadable PDF file at <https://www.phila.gov/media/20190326125911/Historical-Commission-submission-requirements-2019.pdf>. Non-complicated design review is accomplished by Historic Commission staff, but substantial changes may be referred to go before the Commission's Architectural Review Committee.

If you have questions about your property or the Historic Commission process, please contact the CCRA Historic Preservation Committee chair at pipcamp@aol.com or via the CCRA Operations Manager, Travis Oliver, at 215-546-6719 or centercity@centercityresidents.org.

Continued from p. 7

youth, families and diverse communities throughout Philadelphia.

Douglas Mellor (two-year term) A Philadelphia-area native and resident of Rittenhouse Square, Douglas is a former gallery director, commercial freelance photographer, professor at the University of the Arts, and currently working as a fine-art artist and fine-art photography consultant. He has been an advocate for the arts and historical preservation in his community.

Nan Robinson (two-year term)

Nan transferred to Philadelphia in the late 80s from Seattle for her career



as a Reinsurance Broker. Initially living in the Graduate Hospital neighborhood so she could walk to work, she bought her first home in the Fitler Square area. Now back in the Graduate neighborhood, Nan is excited to join the CCRA team working to see that the community she has grown to love is the best it can be for generations to come. Much to the chagrin of family back in Washington State, Nan now roots for the Eagles over the Seahawks (but just barely—she likes them both)!

Harvey Ostroff (one-year term)

A Rittenhouse Square-area resident, Harvey moved to "the city" two years ago with



wife Lisa to join their three children and seven grandchildren and enjoy the sights of Philly. A builder/developer, Harvey takes pride in creating residential environments by design. He welcomes the opportunity to assist in preserving and enhancing the area's beauty, vibrancy and energy. Amongst many other philanthropic endeavors, Harvey was president of the Feasterville Rotary Club, elected Small Business Person of the Year from the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce and the Pennsylvania Small Business Association, and formerly served on the board of the Golden Slipper Club Charities Camp. He can be seen picking up debris in Rittenhouse Square on Sunday mornings, and likes to cook and drink great wine with family and friends.

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Jefferson Health: Meeting the Needs of Immigrants where They Live

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

If you've ever been in a foreign country where you didn't speak the local language and you needed health care, you probably were quite relieved to find a conveniently located English-speaking doctor. Now imagine the thousands of immigrants that have come to our city, live in low-income neighborhoods, and, like anyone else, at times are in need of health care. Trekking to a hospital emergency room in Center City is the only option for many uninsured people, and it can be a special hardship for those who do not speak English.

Jefferson Health has recognized the need for local neighborhood clinics to treat low-income, uninsured people, particularly non-English-speaking immigrants. In 2020, Jefferson will open the Hansjorg Wyss Wellness Center in the Bok Building, formerly a vocational school, on the

1900 block of South 9th Street, situated in a largely Southeast Asian immigrant community. In addition to health care, this center, led by Dr. Marc J. Altshuler, will provide social, educational, and mental health services, funded primarily by a \$3.1 million grant from the Wyss Foundation.

Jefferson has been concerned about the needs of immigrants for a long time. In 2007, directed by Dr. Altshuler, Jefferson opened the Center for Refugee Health at 9th and Chestnut, to care for more than 2,000 newly arrived refugees from 50 countries. Language interpreters work primarily through a Language Line. In 2004, Dr. Jack Ludmir and his associates created Puentes de Salud ("Bridges of Health"), a nonprofit aimed at the Latino community. A special clinic for Latina women was part of that project and is now

Jefferson Latina Women's Clinic. Jefferson opened clinics in Chinatown and South Philadelphia staffed by Chinese and Spanish speakers in 2001 and 2003, respectively.

Most recently, Jefferson asked Dr. Ludmir to create the Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity (P-CHE), aimed at addressing health inequities <https://p-che.org/>. P-CHE has conducted a study to determine the needs of the Latino community in North Philadelphia. They asked 28 organizations to be part of the Community Advisory Group, including many Latino and Hispanic organizations, and conducted interviews with their members. P-CHE will award more than \$500,000 in grants to organizations focused on closing the health-disparity gap in North Philadelphia.

Teens' Perspectives on Health

The Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity asked teenagers to provide input about their health needs through the Photo Voice project. Not surprisingly, many of their photos illustrated the effects of drugs, smoking, and violence on their community. The more-surprising images, like the one pictured here, illustrated their concerns about their neighborhoods' unhealthy outdoor environment. Trash piled up everywhere made them feel unsafe, depressed, and disgusted, and they wanted more trees, plants, public gardens, and playgrounds.

<https://p-che.org/news-resources/photo-voices/>

—Bonnie Eisenfeld



Community Destruction

Leaving trash around the community makes us look like we don't love our community. My quote means that **people just dump trash anywhere**. People who just visit probably be disgusted.

Destrucción de la Comunidad

Dejando la basura alrededor de la comunidad hace ver como si no amamos nuestra comunidad. Mi oración significa que **la gente solo tira la basura en cualquier sitio**. Las personas quienes visitan probablemente les da asco.

Ashanti, 16, and Anthony, Providence Center

Courtesy Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

CCRA Business Members Directory

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CCRA Fall Calendar—Fall Out, Look Lively!

REGISTER to VOTE before the November election. Last day to register: Monday, October 7. Last day to request Absentee Ballot: October 29. It is very important for all U.S. citizens age 18 or over to register to vote. Here is a link to online PA Voter Registration: <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

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Wednesday, October 2 to Sunday, October 13
<https://www.designphiladelphia.org/>

Bethesda Project 5K

Please Touch Museum, Fairmount Park
Sunday, October 6, 7:30 am
More info <https://bethesdaproject5k.greatfeats.com/home>

Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair

Rittenhouse Square
Friday, October 11, 11 am – 6 pm
Saturday, October 12, 11 am – 6 pm
Sunday, October 13, 11 am – 5 pm

Philadelphia Open Studio Tours (POST)

Sponsored by Center for Emerging Visual Artists
Saturday, October 12, 12 – 6 pm
Center City artists in the South section
<https://www.philaopenstudios.org/>

Site/Sound Festival Sand Mandalas at Our Brothers' Place

900 Block of Hamilton Street
Saturday, October 18
More info <https://www.muralarts.org/artworks/site-sound-revealing-the-rail-park/>

CCRA Presents A Very Special House Tour

At the home of Jill & Bart Blatstein
1914 Rittenhouse Square
Tuesday, October 22, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Admission limited to 25
www.centercityresidents.org/BLATSTEIN

Head of Schuylkill Regatta

<https://10times.com/schuylkill-regatta>

GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 5
Polls open 7 am – 8 pm

Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) Annual Open House

Display of artifacts treated in the lab, from rare books to fine art.
264 S. 23rd Street
Thursday, November 7, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Light refreshments will be served.
RSVP by November 1.
www.ccaha.org/openhouse

Philadelphia Marathon

Sunday, November 24
<https://philadelphiamarathon.com/>

Curtis Institute of Music

Field Concert Hall, 1726 Locust Street
For schedule of alumni performances and student recitals, go to events calendar at <http://www.curtis.edu/performances/>

To get the latest news about events in Center City, sign up for (IN) Center City, the e-newsletter of the Center City District:
<http://www.centercityphila.org/incentercity/signup.php>

Town Square

CCRA's Celebration of Center City Living—A Full House

CCRA'S annual gala Celebration of Center City Living on May 9 at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square, offered not only an unsurpassed array of raffle and auction prizes, but also an exciting new theme to engage its patrons—Casino Night, complete with an assortment of games of chance and professional croupiers.

Gamblers and non-gamblers alike had fun, with plenty to do and people to meet—including **Governor Edward G. Rendell**, this year's Lenora Berson Community Service Award honoree. As always, CCRA wishes to thank the many generous Sponsors, Contributors and Auction Donors that made the event so successful and memorable.

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Terry Gillen

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Julie Wertheimer & Ben Waxman

La Croix Restaurant
La Fontana Della Cita Restaurant
Macy's
Momo's Treehouse
Nature's Gallery Florists
Oyster House
Paul Crehan
Philadelphia Film Society
Philadelphia Orchestra
Philippa ("Pip") Campbell
Plays & Players Theater
Raven Lounge
Robert S. Porter
Saint Joe's Basketball Coach, Phil Martelli
Travis Oliver
Twenty Manning
World Café Live



CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday, October 22, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

CCRA Presents A Very Special House Tour
The Blatstein Mansion on Rittenhouse Square
www.centercityresidents.org/BLATSTEIN

A very special house tour *sponsored by the Center City Residents' Association*



painting by Joe Barker

Tuesday, October 22nd
5:30 to 7:30pm

1914 Rittenhouse Square
Graciously presented by homeowners
Jill and Bart Blatstein

Please join us for an exclusive event at the historic Rittenhouse Square mansion formerly owned by Henry McIlhenny, and painstakingly revived by the Blatsteins.

Enjoy cocktails and sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, as Jill and Bart guide you through their magnificent home. Learn about the building's history and see how they've interpreted it for their lifestyle today.

Space is limited to 25 people.
Tickets will be reserved on a first-come basis.

The cost is \$1,000 per person.
Visit centercityresidents.org/blatstein
or call 215.546.6719 for tickets.



Your donation will help the CCRA's efforts to preserve, protect and celebrate our community in the coming year. Thank you.