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CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1600 Market Street, Suite 2500
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-546-6719
centercity@centercityresidents.org
www.centercityresidents.org

It's Academic

A Preschool Institution, Greene Towne Montessori School Marks 50 Years in Center City

By Erika Goldberg, GTMS Parent '00, School Archivist, and Director of Advancement

Morning Handshakes • Playing at Coxe Park • Building the Pink Tower • Sandpaper Letters • Field Trips • The Fall Picnic • Lunch-Around-the-World • Table Scrubbing • Continent Maps • Spelling Out a Story with the Moveable Alphabet • The Peace Flower • Tracing the Metal Insets • Music with Mr. Broomall • Climbing the Stairs • Counting the Long Bead Chains • Circle Time • Recess in the Courtyard or Play Deck • All-day Afternoons

For 50 years, generations of Philadelphia children have shared these experiences and many more as they started a lifetime of learning in Greene Towne School's Montessori classrooms.

On September 14, 1966, a new Center City institution, Greene Towne School, opened its single classroom doors to 25 children. That year, Billy Penn's hat atop City Hall was still the highest point of the city skyline, the Beatles played JFK stadium on their final tour, and Wilt Chamberlain was leading the 76ers to glory. And a small group of intrepid parents, inspired by Portia Sperr, realized a dream: to found a Montessori preschool and kindergarten for an economically and ethnically diverse community of 3- to 6-year-olds living in William Penn's "Greene Countrie Towne."

Continued p. 2



Greene Towne founder Portia Sperr guiding her students, 1969.

Photos courtesy of Greene Towne Montessori School

In the 50 years since, Greene Towne has added “Montessori” to its name—to more clearly state their practice of the time-honored pedagogical methods developed by Maria Montessori; moved to a new home; and expanded to a neighboring location, housing a total of eight classrooms with 175 students from 18 months to six years old.

Over the 34 years that Greene Towne first called St. Clements Church home, the search for a bigger, more flexible space to call their own was on. Thanks to the tireless efforts and continuing tradition of strong parent involvement, a former entertainment venue at 2121 Arch Street was purchased in 1995. Half a decade of fundraising and planning later, the building was transformed into a bright and spacious Montessori school with a rooftop playground and garden; five classrooms; and a multipurpose area for school gatherings, indoor recess, and movement, art and music classes. The new building also accommodated expanded afterschool and summer programming.

Greene Towne’s new home opened September 4, 2001. By 2006 it was clear that the Toddler program needed to grow, and space on nearby Croskey Street was obtained for two newly renovated Toddler classrooms to open the following fall.

Today, Greene Towne has two campuses: East campus, with four Primary classrooms open 8 am to 11:45 am or 3 pm; and West campus, with three Toddler classrooms offering a variety of schedules, and a unique All-Day Montessori classroom serving 3- to 6-year-olds.



Playing in the West Campus Courtyard, 2014.



Teacher Maria Kaminstein with her class, 1969. All photos courtesy of Greene Towne Montessori School.

Montessori teachers create environments where appealing hands-on materials inspire self-directed learning in a mixed-age community. Teachers tend to stay at Greene Towne for many years; numerous teachers and staff members have remained for 10 years or more:

- Montessori lead teachers Jennifer Coulter, Neepa Dhar, Michelle Nowacky and Jean Prestas
- Assistants Patty Bebee, Erin (Howell) Buonadonna, Gina Kalesse, Desiree McNeill and Jen Tullai
- Art teacher Emily Grant; Music teacher of 42 years, John Broomall; and just retired after 24 years as Playgroup and Movement teacher, Andi Wingert
- Longtime administrative staff: Head of School, Helena Grady; Assistant

Head of School, Maria Kaminstein; Director of Advancement, Erika Goldberg; Director of Communications/Technology, Nicole Leapheart; and Building Supervisor, Ed Kalesse.

Greene Towne alumni work in a range of fields from the arts to the sciences. Among the names of notable alumni are Michael Bloom, SVP, Unscripted Series and Specials for TBS/TNT; Kert Davies, Director at Climate Investigations Center; Kuae Kelch Mattox, CNN Editorial Producer, *Huffington Post* contributor, and Mocha Moms National President; Melissa Fitzgerald, former *West Wing* actress, documentary film producer, and current Senior Director of Justice for Vets; and Brendan Jones, Stanford University Stegner Fellow, novelist, and contributor at NPR, *Huffington Post* and the *New York Times*.

Dan Kilpatrick, 1982 kindergarten alumnus and parent of three Greene Towne alumni, reminisces, “I remember learning to tie with cloth and laces, working on maps, and my favorite, pasting a picture and writing a story. Greene Towne was fun. I always knew that I would send my children to Greene Towne. I loved my time there and knew that I wanted to give my kids the love of school and work. How could I not give to them what had been given to me?”

As Greene Towne celebrates 50 years, alumni and their families are invited to **share** photos, mementos and stories of their Greene Towne years; **reconnect** with classmates, old friends and teachers; and come home to Greene Towne to **join** the events planned in celebration! **Visit www.gtms.org/50th for event details.**



Putting the last block on the Brown Stair Tower, 1988.

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President's Report

A Tale of Two Cities, by Charles Goodwin (with apologies to Dickens...)



Charles Goodwin
CCRA President

Away from Philadelphia, it's easy to see everything we lack. In Philadelphia, it's easy to see all we have. Spending a vacation week in San Francisco prompts some observations.

1. What Philadelphia does better.

- *Clean streets!* Believe

it or not, San Francisco seems to have more loose trash scattered along sidewalks than Philly. Schadenfreude: after decades of hearing about "Filth-adelphia," it's satisfying (in a guilty-feeling way) to see a city legendary for its beauty with a worse litter problem than ours.

- *Busy places.* Outside the tourist areas, San Francisco's sidewalks are often as empty as ours were on summer weekend mornings in the early 90s, i.e., desolate. SF's ordinary commercial streets where regular people go are lonely next to 18th & Walnut – or 52nd & Chestnut, or Main Street Manayunk, or Germantown Ave. in Chestnut Hill, or 69th St., or...

- *LGBT rights.* Philadelphia has long been more progressive on LGBT legislation/policies. This continues to today. Out here (in SF), single-toilet bathrooms in restaurants still have gender-specific signs. (Where is this? North Carolina?) Philadelphia banned gendered single-toilet bathrooms in public places within the last year – a move that not only protects the rights of trans people but makes life easier for anyone who has ever had to wait for the "right" restroom while the other is empty.

- *Homelessness.* San Francisco's homelessness indicts the city. There is more, and – more importantly – in evidently far worse condition than in Philadelphia. Neglect is not benign. Hardscrabble Philadelphia – forever down at its heels, always going broke – seems to find resources for its homeless that gleaming, tech-rich SF doesn't.

- *Housing affordability.* Think Center City is ridiculously overpriced? Take a look at San Francisco: \$3.25 million for 1,100 square feet and three bedrooms in a row-home neighborhood?

- *Friendliness.* Philadelphians make eye contact, smile and say hi. San Franciscans, not so much.

- *Climate,* not that any city can do a darn thing about its weather. "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco," said Mark Twain. He was right. Breath should not be visible in August at sea level. Think Philly's 90° with 85% humidity is bad? Try SF's 55° with 85%.

2. What San Francisco does better.

- *Local stores.* San Francisco has a far higher proportion of small, locally owned stores than Philadelphia. Local stores support local families, increase economic opportunity and diversify retailing; they are the muscle and bone of a good city. Apparently San Francisco has a zoning ordinance that discourages chain retailers and preserves space for local merchants. Philadelphia ought to look into these ideas.
- *Bus Shelters.* San Francisco has abundant, contemporary municipal bus shelters very similar in design to the ones Philadelphia was supposed to get in exchange for expanded advertising. (Notice we have the expanded advertising but the same old bus shelters?) The only difference is SF actually has them, with less advertising but a greater share devoted to arts.
- *Outdoor advertising.* SF is largely free of "non-accessory" outdoor advertising (i.e., billboards).

3. The Point.

Yo, Philly! In all seriousness. Let's stop putting ourselves down. Twenty-five years ago, nobody in Philly would have even bothered to challenge San Francisco. Everyone "knew" that SF would humiliate us.

Times change. We are not America's *next* great city. We *are* a great American city. We are world class. Sure, there's still work to do: there are still neighborhoods weltering in poverty and desperately in need of help. But we have come a long way – and we are moving forward. Good job, Philadelphia.

One note – looking at this list, I'm struck by how many of Philadelphia's successes follow from the efforts of one person making a difference – for instance, Mark Segal on LGBT rights, Sister Mary Scullion on homelessness. Lesson? All it takes is one person – why not you?

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Center City Artist Leroy Forney Exhibits Cardboard Creations

An exhibition of recent bas-relief cardboard artwork by Center City artist Leroy Forney is showing at the East River Bank, 36 N. 3rd St.

Forney's joyful displays emerge from cardboard, that castoff material so ubiquitous in our everyday lives—simply engineered, utilitarian, disposable—that serves our most quotidian needs before entering the Dumpster of urban trash.

Forney is a Center City resident and award-winning artist who trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and Fleisher Art Memorial, and exhibits

regularly at the Sketch Club, Plastic Club and Off the Wall Gallery.

The current exhibition, which runs until the end of September, opens with a reception on First Friday, September 2, from 5 to 9 pm, with light refreshments by Le Bus, and live music by Magdaliz Roura. After that, the artwork can be viewed Mondays through Thursdays from 9 am to 4 pm, Fridays from 9 am to 7 pm, and Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm.

Images are available at: www.pinterest.com/leeforney/working-with-texture.



"Great Eight" by Leroy Forney

Out & About

Philadelphia Ethical Society Welcomes Neighbors to Peace Day Philly 2016 Events

By Lisa Parker

Peace Day Philly is the Philadelphia region initiative for the U.N. International Day of Peace, observed globally on and around September 21. Now in its sixth year, Peace Day Philly encourages collaboration to present meaningful and diverse peace-related community programs.

Using this global day as a catalyst for action, the Philadelphia Ethical Society seeks to empower all people to collaboratively build a more peaceful and just world. All event information for Peace Day Philly 2016 will be posted in the EVENTS section of www.peacedayphilly.org as information becomes available.

The Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square (SW corner) will again be a key venue for Peace Day Philly programs during the week of September 18 – 24. All events are FREE.

An Interfaith Peace Dialogue: Welcoming Difference in a Multi-Faith, Multicultural World
 Sunday, September 18, 2 pm to 4 pm
 People of all faiths and practices welcome.

Come share your efforts to nurture peace in yourself, in your relationships, and in the world.

Meditation for Enhancing Personal and School/ Workplace Peace
 Tuesday, September 20, 6 to 8 pm
 Overview and practice of several forms of meditation, as well as discussion about how meditation can positively impact individuals, schools and workplaces. No meditation experience required. (Please check the EVENTS section of www.peacedayphilly.org for updated information.)

6th Annual Sing-Along for Peace!
 Wednesday, September 21, 5 to 6:30 pm
 Come celebrate the International Day of Peace with words, dance and song! Hugh Taft-Morales of the Philadelphia Ethical



Hugh Taft-Morales (center) leads Peace Day Philly Sing-Along for Peace in Rittenhouse Square.

Society will lead participants in varied songs of peace. Spoken word and Dances of Universal Peace will also weave into the event. Children and adults are also welcome to engage in the global initiative "Chalk4Peace"—drawing images and words for peace on the sidewalk with colored chalk. (SW corner of Rittenhouse Square, across the street from the Philadelphia Ethical Society).

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Mocktails: Alcohol-free Beverages for a Change

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

More and more, bars and restaurants are encountering alcohol-free patrons such as designated drivers, recovering alcoholics, pregnant women, underage teens and preteens, people on medications or with health issues, people whose religion prohibits alcohol, or just ordinary drinkers who prefer a refreshing alcohol-free beverage for a change. Restaurateurs and bar-owners are starting to pay attention.

Tove Danovich writes about the “Mocktail Revolution” in *Eater* (July, 2015): “... there’s now a range of beverages created for those who want to drink less (or not at all).” Trendy mocktails are not just traditional cocktails minus the alcohol—they are based on original recipes, many of which contain fresh fruit juices. To avoid an overly sweet taste, bartenders add herbs, spices, bitters, peppers and other tempering ingredients. Restaurants leading this trend have come up with creative ideas, and at least one New York restaurant now offers mocktail pairings—serving a different mocktail or alcohol-free wine with each course.

Closer to home, a number of Center City restaurants serve mocktails. Charlie Was a Sinner, 131 S. 13th Street, offers three mocktails made with fresh fruit juices: basil fennel lemon soda, spicy pineapple, and blackberry ginger soda. Zahav, 237 St. James Place, lists four non-alcoholic drinks on their beverage menu, house recipes made with fresh fruit juices and house-made soda. The bar at Fine Palate, 231 S. 15th St., has fresh fruit juices; Canyon, the bartender, will mix a mocktail to your taste. Vedge, 1221 Locust St., has a Refreshments section on their menu listing three housemade, alcohol-free, mixed beverages with unusual ingredients: Pickpocket soda (bell pepper-pineapple shrub and lemon), Bermuda limeade (strawberry falernum and lime), and gingerbeer (ginger, demerara and lime). Yelp reviewers mention having mocktails at several other restaurants. It’s possible to participate in happy hour and still be alcohol-free!

For private parties, bartenders can serve a mocktail named for the guest of honor, as happened recently at a friend’s birthday



Tim, the bartender at Charlie Was a Sinner, a vegan bar at 131 S. 13th Street, mixes a mocktail: basil lemon fennel soda, with all fresh ingredients.

brunch...the McMillan Mocktail, a delicious blend of fruit juices and mint. Guests were offered both mimosas and mocktails. For some tasty, illustrated mocktail recipes go to the slide show at this link: www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/drinks/how-to/g785/best-mocktail-recipes/

CCRA Annual Meeting Hears from Philadelphia Managing Director DiBerardinis, Ushers in New Officers, Directors

By Harvey A. Sacks, CCRA Board VP

The most important CCRA meeting of the year was held at the Academy of the Vocal Arts on May 25, so important because it is the only general membership meeting of the year, and is the required member-only vote for new Board directors. Nominating Committee Chair Jeff Braff and CCRA attorney Stanley Krakower presided over the vote.

CCRA is pleased to welcome the following new Board members: Becca Fischer (term ending 2019); David Gerson (2019); Samuel Gordon (2019); Lauren O'Donnell (2019); Jennifer Tintenfass (2019). See the accompanying story on Page 9 for more on our new directors.

Matt Schreck, a member of the Board and Chair of the Sponsorship Committee, was voted in as Treasurer.

President of the Board Chuck Goodwin presided over the meeting, which began with a rousing talk and dialogue with our keynote speaker, Michael DiBerardinis, the City of Philadelphia's Managing Director. "Mike D" spoke about his desire for quality service for our residents. The dialogue was quite spirited and upbeat. Goodwin followed with a recounting of the past year's successes, and thoughts on where we go from here.

For their unending devotion to CCRA, special recognition and gifts were given to

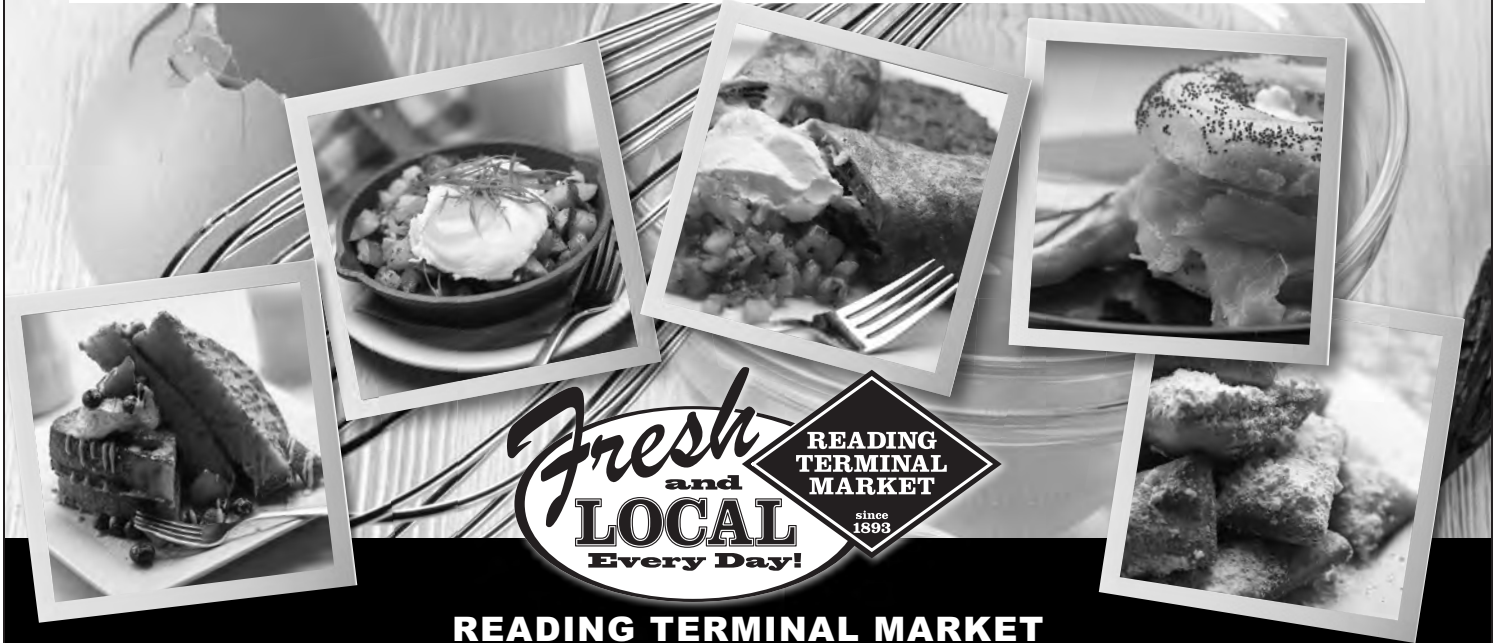


Keynote speaker Michael DiBerardinis addresses a rapt audience at the CCRA Annual Meeting in May.

Steve Huntington, our Executive Director, who will be retiring from this position at the end of the year; Travis Oliver, our Manager of Communications & Operations; and Jeff Braff, past president and wearer of many hats.

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Meet Your New Representatives on the CCRA Board of Directors

Newly Appointed to Office

Matt Shreck (Treasurer)

Matt previously served as a Director, completing a three-year term. He chairs the Sponsorship Committee, and is an active member of the Membership Committee. Schreck and his wife, Kristen Phillips, moved to Philadelphia in August 2011. They live near Filder Square and love Center City, in particular its walkability, abundant culture, and the dog-friendliness of the neighborhood. He is an attorney engaged in private practice, and also serves on the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia board.

Newly Elected to the Board of Directors



Becca Fischer (Three-year term)

Fischer was born and raised in Center City Philadelphia. She is an enthusiastic advocate for city living, and especially Center City.

After attending The Philadelphia School and William Penn Charter School, Becca went to Northeastern University in Boston, where she majored in English. She loved living in another great city for college, but could not wait to return to Philly. Becca moved back to her hometown, where she taught preschool for three years, helping to impart a love of the city to a new

generation of little Philadelphians. Now, her affection for Philly has led Becca to her true passion—selling homes and condos.



David Gerson (Three-year term)

David is a partner in the law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, whose practice focuses on representing private equity firms and their portfolio companies in mergers and acquisitions. David and his wife, Donna, returned to Center City in 2009 after 18 years in Pittsburgh, where David was a founding partner of the Morgan Lewis office there, and an active member of the board of Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures. He served on the CCRA Board from 2011 to 2012, and is excited to have the chance to serve our community once more.



Sam Gordon (Three-year term)

For the past 26 years Samuel Gordon has lived in the CCRA district, where he and his wife, Susan, have raised their two daughters. He is the principal of Samuel Gordon Architects, PC, designing private residences here in Philadelphia and at the New Jersey beaches. As an architect

and daily bicyclist he is intimately familiar with the district and surrounding neighborhoods. He looks forward to bringing his life experiences with him to the CCRA Board.



Lauren O'Donnell (Three-year term)

Lauren is a Philadelphia-area native who has lived in the Rittenhouse neighborhood for the past five 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.



Jennifer Tintenfass (Three-year term)

Jennifer Ilana Tintenfass is a proud Philadelphian and resident of Rittenhouse Square. Currently an associate with Cozen O'Connor, Jennifer practices in the Real Estate group. Jennifer is very committed to the neighborhood and the City and believes everyone should love Philadelphia.

Living History

Museum of the American Revolution to Open on Anniversary of the War's Inception

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

On April 19, 1775, the first shot of the Revolutionary War was fired at Concord, Mass.; on April 19, 2017, the Museum of the American Revolution will open in Philadelphia at Third and Chestnut Streets. The museum will contain a collection of Revolutionary-era weapons, documents, and rare and historic artifacts including uniforms, flags, personal diaries, paintings and sculpture, manuscripts and books. Among the highlights are George Washington's Headquarters Tent and the first newspaper printing of the

Declaration of Independence. In addition to exhibits, the Museum will offer immersive experiences where visitors can feel like participants in key moments of that period.

The Museum is still working on completing its campaign goal of \$150 million. Board Chairman H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest has given a challenge grant of \$10 million, in addition to his previous gift of \$40 million which has been fully matched. Supporters in every state have contributed \$130 million.

An article about the Museum appeared in the *Center City Quarterly*, Winter, 2015, p. 11. http://www.centercityresidents.org/resources/Documents/24344_CCRA_Winter_Newsletter_WEB.pdf

For more information, to read historical excerpts, to join the email list, and to donate, please go to <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/>

A History of Rittenhouse Square: From Penn's Plan to the Millennium

The following highlights in the history of Center City's beloved "town common," the singular Rittenhouse Square, have been summarized by Bonnie Eisenfeld mainly from the book *The Perfect Square*, by Rittenhouse Square denizen Nancy Heinzen. Published in 2009 by Temple University Press, *The Perfect Square* is available on Amazon and at the Free Library's Philadelphia City Institute branch on Rittenhouse Square. Its 170 pages, plus Notes and Index, bound in the shape of—what else?—a perfect square, are packed with illustrations and fascinating historical facts. Heinzen was a teacher and counselor in the Philadelphia School District and has been active as a volunteer and board member with Friends of Rittenhouse Square, CCRA, Rittenhouse Flower Market and Friends of Curtis Institute.

17th century to 19th century: From plan to residential neighborhood

William Penn's 1681 plan for Philadelphia included five squares, one in the center of town and one in each of the four corners. The Southwest Square was in a forest known as Governor's Woods, the Penn family's private property. In the late 1820s, brickmakers and other workers—the first residents of the neighborhood—called it Goosetown because geese roamed there. In 1825, four of the squares were renamed for prominent Americans—the Southwest Square in honor of David Rittenhouse, an

astronomer, clockmaker, and first director of the U.S. Mint. In 1834 streets and churches were added around the square. Philip Physick, who built a Greek revival mansion, was the first gentleman to purchase properties in this neighborhood. Other prominent men followed, including John Hare Powel, James Harper, Henry Cohen and Francis Drexel.

Turn of the 20th century: Rittenhouse Square becomes a fashionable neighborhood

In 1853 Rittenhouse Square was enclosed by an iron fence; fountains and gas lamps appeared. Grass was trimmed and walks were cleaned. Over the next few years, upper class families built mansions and the Church of the Holy Trinity. Rittenhouse Square developed a prestigious reputation. Soon after the end of the 19th century the Rittenhouse Square Improvement Association was formed, and Paul Philippe Cret was selected to create the landscape design. In 1914, the ladies of the Square established the Rittenhouse Flower Market for Children's Charities, which continues annually to this day.

Early 20th century: Rittenhouse Square grows vertically

Developers demolished some of the old mansions and constructed apartment buildings around Rittenhouse Square. The first two high-rise buildings were 1830 South Rittenhouse Square (1916) and The Wellington (originally

a hotel). The most fashionable and expensive residential hotel, The Barclay, built in 1929, had a ballroom popular with debutantes. During the 1920s, five more tall apartment buildings rose around the Square. Residents included both established families and the newly affluent.

Mansions preserved and repurposed: Some of the remaining mansions were preserved and put to other uses, such as private clubs, institutions and offices. Still in existence are the Philopatrian Society (the Stotesbury mansion), the Ethical Society, the Curtis Institute (the Drexel mansion) and the Art Alliance (the Wetherill mansion). The Fell-Van Rensselaer mansion (now Anthropologie) became the home of the Pennsylvania Athletic Club; the Alison Building (now residences and Barnes and Noble) became the offices of the Presbyterian Ministers' Fund for Life Insurance; and James Harper's mansion (now Barney's at 10 Rittenhouse Square) became the Rittenhouse Club. The McIlhenny mansion, and 1804 S. Rittenhouse Square (designed by Frank Furness and now a dental office), remained private residences.

Rittenhouse Square becomes a cultural center: The new apartment residents were interested in educational, artistic and cultural activities—museums, libraries, concerts, theater and lectures. Heinzen writes, "As mansion dwellers moved to the country, the millionaire in the top hat was increasingly replaced as the icon of Rittenhouse Square



1830 S. Rittenhouse Square: Built in 1913, this Beaux Arts-style apartment building was the first high-rise on Rittenhouse Square. All photos by Bonnie Eisenfeld.



Barney's at 10 Rittenhouse: Built in 1901 in the Beaux Arts style, James Harper's mansion – whose facade has been preserved – later became the Rittenhouse Club.



Curtis Institute of Music: 1726 Locust St. Originally the Drexel Mansion, built in 1894, notable for its Romanesque and Renaissance architectural details.

by the earnest young music student with the violin case.” Statues were added to the Square, including “Billy” the goat, which was not universally appreciated at the time but became very popular with children. In 1932 the first Clothesline Art Exhibit was held in Rittenhouse Square. The Center City Residents’ Association (CCRA) was formed in 1946. In 1950 a development firm sought to build a parking garage underneath Rittenhouse Square, which CCRA opposed. At a meeting



Rittenhouse Plaza: A 1920s high-rise, Art Deco-style, 19th & Walnut. Garden entrance faces Walnut St.

called by CCRA on June 19, 1950, 500 neighbors gathered at the YWCA to express their opposition; two days later the City announced that the garage proposal was dead.

Mid-20th century: Rittenhouse Square modernized

In the 1950s, developers built the first modern apartments on the Square—the Savoy, the Claridge and 220 West

Rittenhouse Square. In 1961 the Dorchester was built. To prepare for America’s Bicentennial, Friends of Rittenhouse Square was founded in 1976, providing funds for plantings, new lighting, and other improvements, and getting Rittenhouse Square listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Late 20th century: Rittenhouse Square celebrated and maintained

In 1984, Friends of Rittenhouse Square raised \$50,000 with the first Ball on the Square. Tickets ranged from \$150 to \$1,000 per couple. New park benches were installed with plaques commemorating the donors. The Millennium was celebrated by Luminaire in the Square on December 31, 1999. In 2010, the American Planning Association named Rittenhouse Square one of the top 10 Great Public Spaces in the U.S., citing its beautiful and inviting public space; vibrant neighborhood; use for ceremonies and festivals, walking dogs and eating lunch; variety of people and buildings; accessibility by public transportation or walking; and long-standing community preservation efforts.

CCStreetwise

A Tale of Three Alleys

By Bill West

Go to Fidler Square. Look west. You’ll see three alleys leading down to the park by the Schuylkill River. The 2400 blocks of Panama, Delancey, and Cypress. They can talk to us about what it’s like to be an alley in Philadelphia.

Let’s start with Panama Street. This is an old street that has seen hard use and survived in very good shape. Its scars (have a look at the tree behind the dog walker) should be seen as badges of honor. I don’t want to turn Philadelphia into Disneyland.

I think this is one of the most beautiful streets in Philadelphia. On my rating scale (see *Center City Quarterly*, Fall 2015, p. 1), I give it an A. I choose not to see its flaws, and it sparks joy. Make that an A+.

Next is Delancey. A very different block from Panama, with a lovely mix of brick and Mediterranean houses. Don’t know how to improve it. It’s been on my basic running route for many years, and I’ve watched the

work that got it to where it is. Another A.

Ah, Cypress. There are some very good elements here, but the block hasn’t gelled. The other two alleys hold you, but this one lets the space bleed away on the north side, over the garage gates.

I think part of the problem is that the alley is so wide. The gates simply aren’t tall enough to provide closure.

And there are no sidewalks. Well, there are some remnants, but mainly this alley is wall-to-wall asphalt. I feel adrift, and it’s not a wine-dark sea. We need a little poetry here.

What to do? Sidewalks would be nice; they would help define the space. But they would be expensive. Strings of LED lights over the parking spaces on the north side would provide an attractive visual closure, at least at night.

On the south side, have a look at the building with the red-painted brick. Call Isaiah Zagar



The 2400 block of Panama Street.

and get a mural. One with lots of mirror shards. The light at this end is dead.

Also, the buildings on the south side might want to consider some Mediterranean pastels for their facades, which are actually quite nice in their current shades of off-white. But the block needs something. (The house facing the park, on the south side of the alley, has already made a nice start in this regard.)

Bury the utility wires. Maybe some trees? There are a few, but not enough to pull the block together.

2400 Cypress is a clean utilitarian alley. There are no derelict structures. I’ll give it a B.



Anna Chandra Photography

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Montréal's RUBBERBANDance Group Kicks Off NextMove Dance at the Prince October 13-16

By Anne-Marie Mulgrew

Not to be missed is the coming season of NextMove Dance—Philadelphia's leading presenter of world-class dance, featuring Philadelphia debuts, world premieres and legendary masterpieces—at the intimate Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street.

“Our second season at the Prince Theater offers eight stylistically diverse companies in 48 performances, and expands our tradition of community outreach activities,” says Artistic Director Randy Swartz, a Center City resident. “We are very excited about this season as we host longtime friends bringing new work, and a company making its Philadelphia debut. We are also thrilled to bring the finest in American dance with companies like Martha Graham (November 3-6), featuring Graham's masterpiece *Appalachian Spring*, with music by Aaron Copland.”

Montréal's hip hop and ballet-fusion troupe, RUBBERBANDance Group (October 13-16), opens the season with *Vic's Mix*, which includes a stunning interpretation of

Prokofiev's “Dance of the Knights” from *Romeo and Juliet*.

Known for its athletic and entertaining dances, Parsons Dance (December 7-11) brings a world premiere produced in conjunction with Drexel University's ExCITe Center, which integrates dance with robotics.

Doug Varone and Dancers (January 18-22) performs two powerful and poignant contemporary works—*ReComposed* (2015) and *Possession* (1994).

Cuba's Malpas Dance Company (February 15-19) makes its Philadelphia debut with a new work by internationally acclaimed American choreographer Aszure Barton.

The all-male comedic Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo (March 8-12) makes a rare Philly appearance with its uproarious take on ballet classics.



Hibbard Nash

Martha Graham Dance Company, *Appalachian Spring*.

Jessica Lang Dance (April 5-9) performs two Philadelphia premieres: *Thousand Yard Stare*, a compelling tribute about war veterans; and a work inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's artwork.

The exquisite Aspen Santa Fe Ballet closes the season (May 3-7) with *Silent Ghost* by Spanish-born choreographer Alejandro Cerrudo.

Season subscriptions are available online at www.princetheater.org/nextmove, by phone at 215-422-4580, or at the Prince Theater Box Office. **CCRA members can receive \$10 off single tickets using the code SAVE10.** For more information and to see a preview of the season visit www.danceaffiliates.org.

Shop Talk

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Computer/phone sales and service. Contact: John Goodman. Discount: 15% to CCRA members; may not be combined with other sales or discount programs. Mon – Fri, 9 am – 7 pm; Sat, 11 am – 4 pm

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CCRA Business Member Directory

To get your business listed in the CCRA Business Member Directory, or to learn more about becoming a Business Member, please see the accompanying article on Page 17 of this issue, or go to www.centercityresidents.org. To find out more about individual businesses listed here, please use the contact information provided below. Don't see a category for your business? No problem. Join today and we'll create a custom category just for you!

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Continued from p. 15

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Network Your Way around the Neighborhood

By Barbara Halpern

CCRA recently has unveiled some business-friendly membership opportunities for both old and new members.

As a business “Friend” (\$85), you will be listed in the web-based Business Directory. Included is space (approximately 60 words) to describe your business and any special deals for CCRA members. The list also appears as a regular feature in this publication, the *Center City Quarterly*, mailed seasonally to CCRA’s 1,000+ member households. And methinks this is a deductible expense!

As a business “Supporter” (\$200), you also get a license to post your special sales on CCRA’s Facebook page (unlicensed ads removed by administrator).

As a Business “Champion” (\$500), you receive the additional benefit of participating four times a year in a “Dear Abby” type

column in our e-newsletter, about your business. You’ll be able to answer questions about your field or product and share advice (and contact info) with members.

Upgrade your “household membership” to the “Business Friend” category at any time during the year, and it will not cost you a cent! We hope that the experience will convince you to renew at the business level, paying the standard amount.

So, for those who have a small business (medical provider, lawyer, accountant, financial planner, builder, Airbnb host, etc.) we invite you to try out a Business Membership for free for the rest of your membership year. Just call the office at 215-546-6719, and we’ll adjust your membership up!



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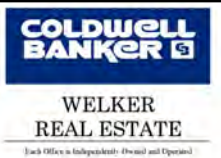
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Fringe Festival, sponsored by Fringe Arts

Friday, September 9, to Saturday,
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<http://fringearts.com/>

Rittenhouse Square Fine Arts Show

Friday, September 16, 11am – 7pm
Saturday, September 17, 11am – 6pm
Sunday, September 18, 11am – 5pm

Peace Day Philly / International Peace Day

Wednesday, September 21 and Sunday,
September 18, to Saturday, September 24
www.peacedayphilly.org/

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Saturday, October 1
Gates open at 5:30pm
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<https://www.operaphila.org/whats-on/events/opera-on-the-mall/turandot/>

Philadelphia International Dragon Boat Festival

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Saturday, October 1, 8am to 5:30pm
www.philadragonboatfestival.com

2016 DesignPhiladelphia

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5th Annual Elementary School Fair

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Sunday, October 23, 1 – 5pm
www.centercityresidents.org

Head of Schuylkill Regatta: Gold Cup Challenge

Saturday, October 29, and
Sunday, October 30
<http://hosr.org/>

Ed's World: A 30-Year Affair with Paint

Paintings and Drawings by Ed Bronstein
Proceeds benefit Bartram's Garden
Bartram's Garden
Sunday, October 30, 4pm – 7pm
<https://bartramsgarden.org/>

Schuylkill Banks

Kayak tours, riverboat tours, and boat trips to
Bartram's Garden
Through October
www.schuylkillbanks.org/events?page=6

Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)

Annual Open House
Staff will display a variety of artifacts treated in
the lab, from rare books to fine art.
264 S. 23rd Street
Thursday, November 3, 5 – 7pm
Light refreshments will be served.
RSVP at ccaaha.org/openhouse or
215-545-0613

Election Day

Tuesday, November 8
elections.mytimetovote.com/dates/pennsylvania.html

Philadelphia Marathon

Friday, November 18, to
Sunday, November 20
<http://www.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 www.curtis.edu/performances/

CCCulture

Neighborhood Artists Welcome the Public for Philadelphia Open Studio Tour in October

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The 17th Annual Philadelphia Open Studio
Tours (POST), west of Broad Street,
will be held on Saturday, October 8, and
Sunday, October 9, noon to 6 pm each
day. Participants include neighborhood
artists Betsy Alexander and Burnell
Yow! of Raven's Wing Studio; Leslie
Sudock of Ready to Hand Studio; SAORI
Philadelphia; and Bhavisha Patel. Among

neighborhood galleries participating in
POST, Twenty-Two Gallery will be open
for visitors. Addresses are available at
<http://www.philaopenstudios.org/post/neighborhood/center-city-west>

Artists' studios and galleries east of Broad
Street will be open on Saturday, October
22, and Sunday, October 23.



"Smoke" by Burnell Yow!, a participant in
Philadelphia Open Studio Tour, October 8 and 9.



CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1600 Market Street, Suite 2500
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-546-6719
centercity@centercityresidents.org
www.centercityresidents.org

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Looking Ahead

The Government Relations Committee held a number of well-received debates, forums and town halls last year, and plans to offer CCRA residents more opportunities for top government officials and citizenry to meet and learn from each other. Under consideration are town halls with City Councilmen Clarke and Johnson, State Rep. Sims, Sen. Farnese, and the seven City Council at-large members. There are tentative plans for a Larry Kane interview of Mayor Kenney on the anniversary of his first year in office; US Congressional and city-office debates; more on the homeless; and police and L&I enforcement. Watch the CCRA weekly eNewsletter, emailed to members every Thursday, for updates.

–Harvey C. Sacks, Chair, Government Relations

Out & About

58th Annual CCRA House Tour Opens Doors to Celebrated Center City Homes

Home to The Eisenhower Fellowships from 2012 to 2014, 256 S. 16th Street was fully renovated and returned to residential use after approximately 100 years housing offices and other commercial activities. Now known as The DWIGHT D, it serves the neighborhood as a boutique hotel. Preserved with great attention to historic detail, the 1840s townhouse offers eight guestrooms and eight and a half baths, plus a lounge and a small rear garden for guests to enjoy. The public is invited to explore this property and many others on **CCRA's 58th Annual House Tour, Sunday, October 23, 1 - 5 pm.** Information and tickets: www.centercityresidents.org 215-546-6719, or centercity@centercityresidents.org.



Juan Trizarry