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## Out & About

### A Walk on the Schuylkill

By Virginia K. Nalencz

On a sunny morning in October a jubilant crowd gathered to celebrate the opening of the boardwalk on the Schuylkill River Trail. Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor for Transportation and Utilities, told the assemblage, "The team has hit a home run on this project. We hope you'll agree in a few minutes, when you'll be able to walk on water."

Her remarks were seconded by exuberant toots from a Philadelphia Fire Department boat out on the river. After Mayor Nutter cut the ribbon, the fireboat, spurting rainbows from hoses fore and aft, led a small flotilla downriver in tandem with the first burst of runners, walkers and cyclists to set foot or wheel on the boardwalk.

The scene through which they passed at their various speeds allows for contemplation of the city and its natural setting in a novel way. Across the river, along the west bank, trains and trucks roar along while closer by, ducks paddle in formation. A traffic copter zooms overhead, while turtles sun themselves on river rocks in elegant postures, as if their red bellies were the signature footwear of Christian Louboutin. To the east Center City climbs toward the clouds, while occasional cheers from Markward Playground rise behind the leafy buffer of the park.

The Schuylkill Banks Trail extends along the east bank of the river from below the Fairmount Dam to Locust Street, at which point the space between the CSX tracks and the river becomes too narrow to accommodate a path. The Schuylkill River

Development Corporation (SRDC), which manages the trail in partnership with the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, solved the space conundrum by proposing the placement of the boardwalk over the water, at a comfortable distance from passing freight cars. The resulting extension to the trail is a causeway set 50 feet out in the river, winding parallel to the shoreline, running 2,000 feet from the trail entrance at Locust Street to the South Street Bridge.

*Continued p. 2*



At the Boardwalk opening, Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor for Transportation and Utilities, calls out "Great job!" to the river trail team including Joe Syrnick, president of the SRDC; Congressman Chaka Fattah, who garnered federal grants for the project; and Gerard Sweeney, chair of SRDC's board.



Donna Strug

After Mayor Nutter cut the ribbon to open the Boardwalk, a fireboat sent sprays of water across the river, tooting its deep horn in triumph.

Continued from p. 1

When complete, the trail will stretch from the river’s headwaters in Schuylkill County through Philadelphia and past Fort Mifflin to the confluence of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. Part of a green corridor, much of the projected 130-mile trail traces paths first blazed by the region’s original inhabitants, the Unami tribe of the Lenni Lenape.

Seen through a wider lens, the trail is part of the East Coast Greenway, sometimes described as “an urban sister to the Appalachian Trail,” from Maine to Florida, “from the moose to the manatee.” In Philadelphia, the trail will return to the east bank after its boardwalk leap from Locust to South, extend to the vicinity of Christian Street, and then cross the river to reach Bartram’s Garden via a repurposed “swing bridge,” a railroad bridge that has been abandoned for many years.

The boardwalk sails along at a height of six to 12 feet above the water, depending on tides. The city and its consultant on the boardwalk

construction – the engineering firm of UBS Corp – planned for the times when the river would spill over its banks, as it has more than once in the decade since the opening of the Schuylkill River Trail. The surface is concrete, scored like a traditional boardwalk at the shore. The “broom finish” will help to avoid a slippery surface. The design preserved the trees along the shoreline, while the trees in turn help to stabilize and preserve the riverbanks.

The Project for Public Spaces has compiled a checklist of qualities of a great waterfront, among them a significant “octopus effect” of tentacles reaching out into the city. This is what the boardwalk link will accomplish for cyclists and pedestrians as a connector between Center City and South and West Philadelphia. For the rest of the list, the Schuylkill River Trail can confidently check off “easy access via public transit” and “attractive amenities and activities,” provided by the SRDC, from fishing fests, races for runners, boat tours, and public art, to landscaping and benches that provide a front-row seat at sunset.

More and more, cities are experimenting with ways to convert postindustrial sites like the Schuylkill Banks into green spaces. In Paris in 1994, a defunct railway line running from Bastille to Bercy became the Viaduc des Arts – a landscaped promenade above, on the old tracks, and artisanal workshops, cafés, and galleries below under vaulted arches of rose-red brick. In 2009, New York City followed suit with the High Line.

Philadelphia is exploring its own version of a green viaduct on the abandoned Reading Railway line. An exhibit in 2013 called “Above Below Beyond,” by three environmental design graduates of Temple and Penn, offered a glimpse of some of the treasures that could be unearthed if the Reading project succeeds, including the presence of 30-foot-high barrel-vaulted ceilings beneath the Whole Foods at Callowhill.

Meanwhile, the Schuylkill River Trail with its boardwalk poised above the water makes a spirited entry into the adventurous company of postindustrial parks.



Donna Strug

Walking on water: the Boardwalk merges skyline and Schuylkill.

## On the Waterfront with Jane Jacobs

In her magisterial work, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jane Jacobs urges that a waterfront place make the most of its location. For Lower Manhattan, which at the time of her writing in 1960 was virtually all business – with so few residents that the streets emptied out late in the day after the Stock Exchange closed – she recommended an aquarium, a library branch with a specialized collection on marine matters, and boat docks that would prompt seafood restaurants to open nearby, and stay open past lunchtime and on weekends. And if they do not, said Jacobs, “I will eat my lobster shell.” Developers would surely follow, to build residential housing. Almost 60 years later, her vision has been fulfilled with respect to the housing, an element already in place along Philadelphia’s Hidden River.

The Schuylkill Banks is different from Lower Manhattan, yet Jacobs’ advice may apply with appropriate local variations. Universities with both drama departments and parks in their neighborhoods “might try putting two and two together,” Jacobs writes. The Banks has a stage-like setting in place, used for the popular movie nights in summer. The summer movies might be supplemented with free performances on fall and spring evenings by drama students from nearby Penn and Drexel, thus generating potential audiences when they move indoors for the cold season.

Jacobs notes the way ethnic and cultural groups celebrate particular holidays and customs that require a site in the open air, which in the city usually means a park. A linear park like the Schuylkill Banks works for kite-flying, an occasional pursuit among some Americans, but an important one for many from India, Pakistan and the Middle East. And Jacobs surely would appreciate the inventive use of the Markward basketball court as an outdoor dance floor for the Friends of Schuylkill River Park fundraiser, *Eat, Drink and Be Green*.

— Virginia K. Nalencz

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*President's Report*

**PGW Sale, Street Furniture, Site-Specific Zoning, Boyd Theatre Purchase, Etc.**



Jeffrey L. Braff, CCRA President

I am writing this on November 17 and my head is spinning. After a very successful House Tour on October 19 that saw about 775 Tourgoers (see Page 7); a School

Fair featuring 21 elementary schools and television coverage on Channel 6 (see Page 4); and a children's Halloween contest at Fidler Square, in which \$50 was donated in the name of each winner to his/her elementary school, I expected November to be a relatively quiet month for CCRA. Was I wrong!

First up was City Council's decision not to hold a public hearing on the proposed sale of PGW, a decision made more stunning by the fact that it was announced almost simultaneously with the release of Council's consultant's report, much of which was not averse to the sale, and which, according to multiple press reports, few in Council had yet had a chance to read.

On November 5, CCRA (through its Executive Committee) voted to advise City Council of its extreme displeasure over the manner in which the process was handled and, without taking a position on the merits of a sale, to request that Council: introduce the Administration's proposed legislation; convene public hearings on that legislation; and take a public vote. The following day, a letter to that effect, which also stated that public hearings held on November 13 and 14 "to fully explore opportunities to further establish the Philadelphia region as an energy hub" did not remedy the situation, was delivered to Council President Clarke, with copies sent to each Councilperson. (Mr. Clarke called me later that day to explain why no hearings were held. We agreed to disagree.)

Next up was Bill 140827, authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Titan Outdoor LLC for a "coordinated street furniture program," i.e., new transit shelters; benches at transit stops; arts-and-culture information kiosks; and newspaper-distribution structures. CCRA

has long been concerned that the benefits of commercial billboards (very modest revenues to the City) often are outweighed by their costs (visual blight and potentially dangerous distractions). Especially since "street furniture" does not appear to be subject to the City's existing billboard laws, and "newspaper-distribution structures" are all but obsolete – often little more than eyesores and collectors of trash – the Board invited Andrew Stober, Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities, to answer questions and provide details regarding the contract (which, though part of the ordinance, has not yet been published). CCRA has yet to take a position on this Bill (and likely will not before seeing the contract).

On October 30, at the request of developers of the 12-story, 300-unit Hudson Hotel proposed for the southeast corner of 17th and Chancellor Streets, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson introduced legislation that would convert the zoning classification of the parcel from CMX-4 to CMX-5. CMX-4 permits a 500% FAR (floor area ratio), meaning that a building taking up the entire footprint of the parcel could be a maximum of five stories; whereas CMX-5 allows a 1200% FAR, which would accommodate the 12 stories proposed. This legislation also would eliminate the zoning-code requirement that vehicle loading and unloading be off-street.

Due to concerns about access and transparency, and the belief that zoning is best accomplished at the macro-level (with any needed modifications made through the Zoning Board of Adjustment), CCRA adopted a policy under which projects not in compliance with existing zoning should seek relief through the ZBA, rather than through Council ordinances – except in "Extraordinary Circumstances," a term very narrowly defined. At the same time, a Task Force was appointed to attempt to expedite comprehensive remapping of the zoning in our neighborhood to bring it up to date. (Remapping of the entire City is contemplated by the zoning code that went into effect in August of 2012.)

*Continued p.25*

## **Third Annual Elementary School Fair**

# **Neither Wind nor Rain Deterred Families Seeking “Their” Schools**

*By Judy Heller, VP Education and Family Programs*

Seventy-six Center City families – well over 125 people – shrugged off gusty wind and rain October 22 to attend CCRA’s third annual Elementary School Fair at the Franklin Institute. The hard work of three civics – CCRA, along with LSNA (Logan Square Neighborhood Association) and SOSNA (South of South Neighborhood Association) – combined with the Franklin Institute’s active partnership, has turned the Fair into not only a great success, but also an annual event much anticipated by families and schools alike.

The Fair offers families opportunities to speak with representatives from public, charter, independent and parochial elementary schools; this year 21 in all participated. Parents and guardians get to speak one-on-one with a live person who has intimate knowledge of a school, rather than be faced with navigating impersonal – and often inadequate – websites.

Conversely, many school personnel in attendance commented that the dialogue they had with parents was invaluable, and they appreciated the ability to reach the geographic cross-section of families they encountered at the Fair. For the school representatives, the Fair provided abundant opportunities to share their message, answering parents’ individual questions, providing literature and sharing pertinent enrollment information.

This is the second year that the Franklin Institute partnered with CCRA, LSNA and SOSNA to put on the School Fair. The Franklin Institute generously donated the



*Dozens of families browsed information tables and chatted with school reps at the Third Annual Elementary School Fair.*

large space in which the Fair was held, and provided refreshments. In the months leading up to the event, Frederic Bertley, Ph.D., Senior Vice President of Science and Education, and his assistant, Sharon Kiefer, met with me and Drew Murray of LSNA to address logistics of the Fair, and to discuss implementation of a number of family-friendly ideas. These were deemed a great success:

- So that kids could take a break from the business at hand, the Franklin Institute provided a play area for the little ones, with supervised science projects led by museum staff. It got rave reviews.
- As they did last year, to all those attending the Fair, the Franklin Institute offered free same-day museum admission, up to the 5 p.m. start-time of the Fair. Reduced parking rates were also provided.

- Sign-in was done on iPads, which made for a more efficient registration, and enabled all civics to receive data within a few days. As a result, the exit survey, which had been prepared ahead of time by CCRA Board member Dilek Karabucak, could be sent out within days of the event.

Attendees said they appreciated how the Fair afforded them an easy way to collect valuable information, and investigate the differences between public, charter, independent and parochial schools. The Fair also serves as a way for families to exchange ideas and information with each other.

Many in attendance have children who are still a few years away from entering kindergarten, yet they come to learn what their options are. Many express a desire to stay in the city, but are concerned about the challenges that face the Philadelphia School District.

The Elementary School Fair even drew the attention of local television news cameras, cementing our reputation as an important event on the city’s annual Fall calendar. A two-minute segment (lengthy by local TV-news standards) on Channel 6 Action News, by reporter Chad Pardelli, aired that night.

Such a big program with so many moving parts cannot happen without the long planning and hard work of many dedicated people. We want to acknowledge the Education and



*Leaders of area civic associations joined forces to make the Fair a success. From left: CCRA’s Robin Kohles and Vice President for Education and Family Programs Judy Heller; Michael Showell and Emily Stromberg of SOSNA; and Drew Murray of LSNA.*

*Continued p. 7*

## Seed to Table for Young Learners

By Carlye Nelson-Major, Associate Head (preschool-grade 3), The Philadelphia School

Since its founding in 1972, The Philadelphia School has had a longstanding commitment to environmental education. Every fall and spring students in kindergarten through 8th grade spend a day each week outdoors at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia.

For our preschoolers and kindergartners back in Center City, we extend our country classroom into the city with our lush organic garden on our South Street property. The garden is the place where our youngest learners can find the natural world at their fingertips.

Through our Seed-to-Table program, each student participates in planting, tending, and harvesting fruits and vegetables. Once harvested, the students prepare, serve, and eat the food. The children plant seeds, pull weeds, water vegetables, observe butterflies, and dig for worms. By growing and eating vegetables they have planted, our students learn to see themselves as part of natural cycles. This helps to strengthen their connection to what they eat, and to appreciate the processes that occur in order to grow a seed into something for nourishment. For many city kids, experiencing food up close and personal – from seeds in the soil rather than items in the grocery store or meals already prepared for them – can be an eye-opening opportunity. They come to understand the complexities at both ends of our food chain.

There are many ways we use the Seed-to-Table program as part of our curriculum. Sometimes students will take a “snacking trip” through the garden, where they pluck raspberries or cherry tomatoes and pop them right into their mouths, tasting the freshest



Teacher Katie Miller and students harvest thyme.



Assistant teacher Brian Jordan shows kindergartners how to harvest beets, which will be donated to the People's Emergency Center in West Philadelphia.

food possible. At other times they harvest basil, tomatoes and peppers, and try their hand at preparing a Mexican dish while speaking in Spanish. Math skills are honed by measuring the growth of an eggplant, or by counting how many seeds are in the pumpkin they grew, and then roasting the seeds for a snack. These activities give our young students a rich context for exploring science, nutrition, social studies, math, and language arts, while creating a sense of responsibility and service to other living things.

We are fortunate to have a group of early childhood educators who are avid gardeners to guide the children in this work. One of the keepers of the garden, assistant kindergarten teacher Brian Jordan says, “For me it is about helping the students develop a relationship with their food, and cultivate stewardship and a sense of ownership and responsibility.”

And their robust harvest – thanks to an irrigation system designed last year by our 6th graders – has been shared with others, including neighbors and the People's Emergency Center in West Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia School, a nonsectarian, progressive independent school in Center City, educates children in preschool through 8th grade. For more information, please visit [www.tpschool.org](http://www.tpschool.org).

## Friends Select School Celebrates 325 Years of Quaker Education

By Sarah Schmidt, Associate Director Marketing, Creative, Friends Select School

On September 8, the entire Friends Select School student body, faculty and staff gathered in the Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting House to celebrate the school's 325th opening day.

Students viewed a video featuring archival photos of the school, with moments and figures in history. “William Penn” himself read the mayor's proclamation commemorating the 325th anniversary of the Friends Select charter. Lower school students received copies of a specially commissioned 325th Anniversary coloring and puzzle book. Birthday cake was served. A time capsule is planned for later in the year.

In honor of the school's anniversary, large banners that herald Friends Select's 325 years have been installed along exterior walls of the building. A gallery exhibit of artifacts and photos spanning the history of the school was displayed during the month of September.

Both Friends Select and William Penn Charter Schools trace their roots to the founding of the first Quaker school in 1689, and each is celebrating this milestone year. For more about Friends Select's history visit <http://www.friends-select.org/about/mission-history/index.aspx>.



Students from all divisions stand with “William Penn” as he reads the proclamation.

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## Fall House Tour a Hit with Hundreds

By Maggie Mund, CCRA Executive Vice President



Patrons line up to get a look inside one of the 11 homes on the tour.

October 19 was a gorgeous fall day – beautiful blue sky, crisp autumn weather – the kind of day that just screams “enjoy this day outside by looking at houses!” And people did.

Strong pre-sales online and at neighborhood ticket vendors, combined with record-breaking day-of-Tour sales, resulted in hundreds of city residents and wannabes patronizing the 56th Annual CCRA House Tour. As in years past, the Tour could not happen without our generous neighbors who “donated” their homes for the afternoon.

Thanks to:

Jack Bullard  
Lori Clark  
Rick and Roberta Gross  
Sandy Isenstadt and Hannah Bennett  
Don and Gay Kimelman  
Sarah and Kevin Kleinschmidt  
John and Missy Randolph  
Susan and Sean Souffie  
Donna and Jay Strug  
The Residences at the Ritz Carlton (2 units)

Thanks also to our 2014:

- Sponsors: AMC Delancey; Robin Apartments, Inc.; Clemens Construction Company, Inc.; Allan Domb Real Estate; and Dranoff Properties
- Tour Book advertisers too numerous to mention!
- Restaurant Discount Program Partners: Audrey Claire, El Rey, Friday Saturday Sunday, Square 1682, and Twenty Manning Grill

- Pre-Tour Ticket Sellers: Rittenhouse Hardware, Jomici Apothecary, Maxx’s Produce and Pure Florist Design.

And finally, thanks to all Tour-day volunteers (including hosts, hostesses, and ticket-sellers), and to Tour Co-Chairs Kathleen Federico and Kate Federico, and their top lieutenants: Maggie Mund, Ruth Segal, Bonnie Collins, Susan Axler, Jean England Brubaker, Donna Strug, Steve Huntington, and Travis Oliver.

Choosing a date for the Annual House Tour, an important fundraiser for CCRA, is not child’s play. The Tour Steering Committee’s preference has always been a Sunday afternoon in October that does not conflict with Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Columbus Day weekend, Halloween, or an Eagles game. Only the Eagles schedule, which does not come out until April, is unknown a year ahead. Nevertheless, the committee has already picked next year’s tour date: October 18, 2015. So mark your calendars now.

Continued from p. 4

Family Program Committee of the CCRA, led by Vice President for Education and Family Programs Judy Heller, and her committee members Emmeline “Effie” Babb, Eileen Dwell-Fishman, Dilek Karabucak, Tina Kluetmeier, Robin Kohles, Chuck Steinberg, and Donna Strug, whose exceptional photography captured the event.

Deserving of thanks for pitching in the night of the event, along with the Committee, were the following CCRA Board members: Michael Axler, Michele Langer, Maggie Mund, David Rose, Harvey Sacks and his wife, Mary (who does not sit on the Board), Walt Spencer, Ben Waxman, and of course, our tireless leader and Board President, Jeff Braff.

We also wish to acknowledge Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse and Trader Joe’s, who helped sponsor the event.



Smile for the camera: Channel 6 reporter Chad Pardelli interviews a forward-thinking family.

### Upcoming Education and Family Programs Committee Event

Mark your calendars for January 8, 2015, for our next exciting event, when the Education and Family Programs Committee will present an important talk by **David Meketon: “How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity and the Hidden Power of Character,”** a must for those who want to help their children develop habits that are the cornerstones of academic and career success. It’s never too late to implement some of the strategies that will be discussed, as they are thought-provoking and apply to all ages.

A School Research Liaison with the Department of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, Meketon is a retired teacher and administrator, and former Dean of Students/Assistant Principal at Masterman High School. Meketon works in the lab of colleague Angela Duckworth, Ph.D., a 2013 winner of the MacArthur Foundation “genius” award, in the Penn Psychology Department.

His talk will center on findings coming from the Duckworth Lab, and their everyday applicability. The program will consist of a lively presentation, running approximately 40 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer session. We hope to see you on January 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Trinity Memorial Church at 22nd and Spruce. Check the eNewsletter for more information and updates.

— Judy Heller



## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS

are a time of rapid change as students enter adolescence. It is a critical time to secure the foundations for success in high school, college, and beyond.

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*The Philadelphia School is a progressive independent school serving children in preschool through 8th grade.*



## Death with Indignity A Nurse Tells Center City Seniors What to Avoid

By Bob Weiss

Common sense tells you to minister thoughtfully and caringly to your aged and infirm parents, and to alleviate their suffering attentively and well. But if your common sense lives in Pennsylvania it can get you arrested and prosecuted, cost you your job, and leave you with more than \$100K in legal fees, even if your case is tossed by a sympathetic judge. And it can bring immense suffering to your parents.

At a talk held November 10 at the PCI Library on Rittenhouse Square, Roxborough nurse Barbara Mancini recounted how such events unfolded after she handed her 93-year-old father a small vial of morphine prescribed to relieve his acute pain.

Mancini's dad, Joe Yourshaw, was at home under hospice care. She held his health-care power of attorney, and the entire family had been briefed on and had consented to his wish to avoid medication and hospitalization. Her weekend visits enabled her mom to go out shopping and get relief from caring for him.

He had several serious ailments, was in considerable pain, and at the time of the incident, asked for his morphine. She handed him the bottle and he swallowed its contents and started to relax. As has been widely recounted in news reports, a hospice nurse came to the residence shortly after, and her father was taken to hospital and resuscitated. Mancini was arrested for allegedly assisting a suicide. Her father died several days later after enduring great pain and suffering.

The ensuing story is a cautionary tale for those of us who strive to prepare fully in the event of our own suffering, incapacity and death, and for those of us who have loved ones taking responsibility to care for us then.

It transformed Mancini into an activist for the death-with-dignity movement and has led to her speaking engagements across the nation. She advocates for changing laws to protect people's end-of-life choices. Most recently, she was interviewed by Anderson Cooper for a *60 Minutes* segment that aired October 19 (<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/barbara->



Mancini chats with audience member Cirel Magen, left.

mancini-he-was-trying-to-protect-me/), but her November talk divulged many significant details absent from that interview.

Mancini's presentation was sponsored by Friends in the City (FitC), a seniors' group active in Center City, and attended by a sizable crowd whose hair was mostly gray, white, or gone. Response was enthusiastic.

"Her personal story and her eloquence about end-of-life issues was a great gift to us all," according to one attendee. Mancini hopes to speak in Center City again; she is available to address other groups as well. Contact: [bmanci56@gmail.com](mailto:bmanci56@gmail.com).

## CCRA'S Harrisburg Advocacy to Extend Hate Crimes Protections

As part of the Association's response to the September 11 assault on two gay men at 16th & Chancellor Streets, CCRA Executive Vice President Maggie Mund testified in Harrisburg on September 23, urging quick action on SB 42, sponsored by Senator Larry Farnese of Center City, which extends the protection of current hate-crimes legislation to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens. Speaking in the Capital rotunda, Maggie stated:

Almost two weeks ago, two young men were viciously beaten on the sidewalk of my Center City Philadelphia neighborhood. The assault was accompanied by hateful epithets concerning this couple's sexual orientation. We hold the victims in our hearts and pray for their recovery. But can they ever recover their trust in their fellow man?

This incident reminded us yet again of the destructiveness of hate crimes, how they inspire fear in law-abiding citizens who must constantly look over their shoulder, to wonder if they're, or I'm, next.

Our communities are places where people of all kinds can live together and belong – without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, gender, gender identity, ability and age. Hate and fear have no place there. By undermining our collective sense of safety, this was a crime against our entire community, as well as the two victims.

Having a hate-crimes law is about building and protecting communities and

neighborhoods. It's about protecting our communities from people who would rip them apart.

It is completely incongruous that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens can marry in Pennsylvania and at the same time be the object of wanton violence in the name of bigotry.

This must end.

Therefore, the Center City Residents Association – a community group of those living in Center City Philadelphia – strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 42, legislation that would expand the Commonwealth's hate-crime protection law to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens, as well as women and the disabled.

*Editor's note: As of press time, both Philadelphia City Council and Pennsylvania State lawmakers were advancing legislation to include LGBT citizens in hate-crime protection laws at the municipal and state levels, respectively.*



CCRA Executive VP Maggie Mund testifies in Harrisburg in favor of including LGBT citizens under protection of Hate Crime legislation, following the brutal attack on a gay couple in Center City. State Sen. Larry Farnese looks on.

## Her Green Thumb Grows Like Topsy

By S. Valence Sauri, DDS

Elin Frazier has been gardening for a long time – an avocation she describes as “just calling me.” It began when Elin started tending a friend’s garden in which her friend had little interest. Turns out, Elin truly has a green thumb.

Fast forward a few years to her new home in Center City, specifically to the intersection of South Van Pelt, Beechwood and Moravian Streets, these last two being walkways, although they are identified as streets. Elin’s new apartment overlooked the area, and after getting the okay from the owners of the surrounding properties, she started planting the verges of what was once a parking lot, and the side of Van Pelt from Sansom to Walnut. Over a period of years, she planted, nurtured, watered and even offered words of encouragement to her charges.

Recently, the parking lot and the adjacent building were sold, and a townhouse development got under way. In short order,

all her lovingly tended plants, along with some new ones, were carefully moved to the Moravian Street walkway, where they have flourished, again with TLC from Elin. If you look closely, interspersed among the plantings you will find artfully arranged seashells and small groupings of pebbles, adding a touch of whimsy and, possibly, a touch of fantasy, to the small-scale garden.

If you are very lucky, when strolling along the Moravian Street walkway, you may hear the tones of a trumpet sounding a classical piece – Elin again, perhaps entertaining her plants. (Notably, Elin was the first woman to graduate in trumpet studies from the Curtis Institute of Music...so you might happen onto a special performance.)

Elin’s skill and quiet enthusiasm for her borrowed garden were rewarded with a Third Place award in the CCRA Street Scene Competition. But, for those of us



Elin Frazier is surrounded by the fruits of her labor in her award-winning garden.

fortunate enough to live close by, the real reward is the daily enjoyment of Elin’s garden.

## Winners Announced at First Street Scene Competition Awards Ceremony

By Maggie Mund, CCRA Executive Vice President



Award ribbons await their recipients at the ceremony.

On a beautiful fall day, Center City gardeners and their friends celebrated the success of the first Street Scene Urban Gardening Competition, at the Farewell to Summer Awards Ceremony at Schuylkill River Park Community Garden. After welcoming remarks by CCRA President Jeff Braff, and a big thank-you to sponsors Berkshire Hathaway and Friends in the City, awards were announced and handed out by Maggie Mund, Joan Wells and Barbara Halpern. Overall winners included:

### Commercial

1. Carol Yaron, 1715 Rittenhouse
2. Patricia Yonekawa, The Dorchester
3. David Merreale, Tinto

### Residential

(individual houses on the following blocks)

1. Jean Cho, 200 Block of South Van Pelt St.
2. Meredith Dunn, 2000 Block of Pine St.
3. Laura McMunigal, 1800 Block of Pine St.

### Garden Block

1. Michael Ascher, The English Village
2. Ginny Beier, 200 Block South Van Pelt St.
3. Patrice Sauri, 100 Block South Van Pelt St.

Additional prizes were awarded in the following categories:

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Best Design</b>    | <b>Most Elegant</b>     |
| <b>Greenest Thumb</b> | <b>Most Exotic</b>      |
| <b>Most Colorful</b>  | <b>Most Variety</b>     |
| <b>Most Creative</b>  | <b>Small But Mighty</b> |
| <b>Most Dramatic</b>  |                         |

All contestants received certificates and copies of the judges’ remarks. All prizewinners received ribbons, and first-place winners also received a one-year membership to the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**.

This competition could not have achieved such a high level of success had it not been for the master gardeners and landscape professionals who volunteered their time and expertise to serve as judges. It was a challenging task, as there were so many amazing and glorious entries. A special thank-you goes out to them:

- Missy Randolph
- Allison Rulon-Miller
- Joan Wells
- Grace Wicks of gracefulgarden
- Elizabeth Savage
- Cecily Kihn
- Margie Cole
- Alan Cohen
- Wayne Rosenberg
- Lois Evans
- Christine Giuliani
- Dianne Reed
- Brian Ames
- Vince & Claudia Roux of Petit Jardin en Ville
- Michael Haschan of Pure Design

Continued p. 13

## Who Put the Din in Dinner?

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

*“The point of eating is to slow down life long enough to promote what Brillat-Savarin called, with simple charm, good cheer. It doesn’t just take time, but makes time—carves out evenings, memories. That’s what Darwin meant when he said that we recall good dinners as happy days, wrapped like flies in a spider’s web by the silk of memory.”*

Adam Gopnik, *The Table Comes First*

The reverberating din of loud music and loud voices. Restaurant patrons don’t like it. Staffers don’t like it. It has been linked to hearing loss, ringing ears, headaches, stress, and hypertension. And if you have to shout to be heard, after dinner you might end up with a sore throat. So why do restaurants deliberately increase their noise level by playing loud music and not using noise-reduction materials? We went looking for some answers.

Research studies have reported that when a restaurant plays loud, fast music, patrons consume more, eat faster, talk less, and leave sooner, thus increasing the restaurant’s turnover and profit. In addition, restaurateurs think patrons want an exciting, energetic, party ambiance and that a quiet restaurant will seem boring and dead. However, these restaurateurs may have overestimated how much noise their patrons will tolerate. The right sound level should enhance the dining experience, not spoil it.

Echoing the sentiments of many Center City residents, *Center City Quarterly* editor Nancy Colman complains, ... “the decibel level of too many restaurants has gotten way out of hand lately. One can barely conduct a coherent conversation, which is one of the main objectives of dining out with friends.” According to Zagat surveys conducted in several cities, noise is the number one irritant, and over 70 percent of survey respondents avoid restaurants that are too noisy.

Craig LaBan, restaurant critic for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, often criticizes the loudness of restaurants and even mentions the specific decibel level. Websites like Open Table include restaurant patron reviews rating noise levels, and comments on Yelp indicate that many diners are looking for quieter restaurants. Perhaps avoiding indoor



*A packed house, an absence of soft surfaces, and noisy neighbors at the next table can make for a deafening dining experience.*

noise is one reason people prefer to dine outdoors at sidewalk tables, with views of parked cars or idling trucks and the sounds of honking horns and traffic.

The Hartman Group reports that millennials (people in their 20s and 30s) are the most influential demographic segment, and appear to have a higher tolerance for loud noise. Restaurants have been targeting millennials, because in the past they dined out more frequently than older people. But the restaurant industry might be surprised to learn that the percentage of millennials who dine out has declined, from 60 percent in 2011 to 49 percent in 2014.

Baby boomers (people in their 50s and 60s), by comparison, spend more money dining out than younger adults, while restaurant visits by boomers have grown steadily. A research study by the NPD Group found that 76 million baby boomers accounted for 23 billion restaurant visits in 2012, and \$172 billion in revenue. It’s fair to say that healthy and active boomers with disposable income are out to enjoy life and want a total dining experience with a balance of cuisine, service and ambiance.

But it’s not just a matter of preference. Loud noise can adversely affect one’s health. About 26 million people between the ages of 20 and 69 have high-frequency hearing loss caused by exposure to loud noises. Restaurants that exceed government noise standards are actually breaking the law when it comes to worker exposure. Restaurant noise levels are equivalent to those found in industrial environments, where the Occupational Safety

and Health Administration (OSHA) requires workers to wear hearing protection if they are exposed to noise 85 decibels or higher. A 66-decibel reading is equivalent to the sound of normal conversation. Decibel levels in the 80s and 90s are equivalent to power lawn mowers, chainsaws, jackhammers, and roaring motorcycles.

I have enjoyed lunches and dinners without loud music at many restaurants in Center City. Two with quiet courtyard gardens are Le Cheri at the Art Alliance on 18th Street at Rittenhouse Square, and Branzino on 17th Street between Spruce and Locust. At The Prime Rib at the Radisson Blu Warwick Hotel, a piano player performs entertaining background music during dinner. Lunch at XIX at the Hyatt at The Bellevue may be the most pleasant, relaxing lunch in the city.

Other restaurants without loud music in our neighborhood and beyond include: Seafood Unlimited (20th between Spruce and Locust); Friday Saturday Sunday (21st and Rittenhouse; see article in Fall CCQ); Casta Diva (20th between Walnut and Locust); Estia (Broad and Locust); Bistro St. Tropez in the Marketplace Design Center (23rd and Market); Granite Hill at the Art Museum, Caribou Café on Walnut near 12th, and a host of Asian restaurants too numerous to mention.

Some other restaurants do not have loud music but could still stand improvement in the use of noise-reduction materials. Patrons are encouraged to make their opinions known to restaurants, either directly or through rating websites.



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## Making a New Move

# Koresh Dance Co. Buys Site of Ex-Rittenhouse Fitness

By Kate Aid

Koresh Dance Company, founded in Philadelphia in 1991 by internationally acclaimed dancer-choreographer Roni Koresh, recently moved into beautifully retrofitted quarters in the Rittenhouse Square area. In 2013, the company reaffirmed its commitment to the city by purchasing the site of the now-closed Rittenhouse Square Fitness Club, in the heart of CCRA's neighborhood. In performance, they continue as resident dance company of the Suzanne Roberts Theatre at Broad & Lombard.

The Koresh School of Dance, established in 1993, welcomes thousands of students to classes at all levels and for all ages. Along with dance education and performance, the school presents emerging artists in bi-monthly **Koresh Artist Showcases** and provides professional training and performance opportunities to the exceptional dancers of the **Koresh Youth Ensemble**.

Last year, Koresh also launched the annual **Come Together Dance Festival**, with more than 50 companies and a range of styles from hip hop to classical ballet. As part of its commitment to community-building and outreach, while on tour the company offers post-performance discussions, residencies,



Frank Bicking

Two large studios were re-structured and re-floored to make them suitable for professional dance, while a downstairs studio was rebuilt to be used as an on-site black-box theater. Though it is not known which elements of the building date back to the 1850s, the molding, chandeliers, and projection booth (from its movie-theater days) remain intact.

open rehearsals, lecture demonstrations, master classes and video discussions to audiences. At home, **Koresh Kids Dance** brings arts education to economically underserved elementary-school students, in partnership with Philadelphia public schools, to provide free weekly dance classes, with the aim of promoting children's creativity

as a conduit for non-violence and setting life goals.

For more information, contact:  
Koresh Dance Company, 2002 Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA 215-751-0959.  
koreshdance.org

Continued from p. 10

CCRA thanks all the contestants, and considers everyone a winner – as are all residents, businesses and visitors to our wonderful neighborhood, so ably beautified by the contestants.



Joan Wells

One of the stunning entries in CCRA's First Annual Street Scene Garden Competition.

### Street Scene 2014 Contestants

Betsey Alexander	Denelle Drake	Denise McKeon	Patsy Sauri
Michael Ascher	Meredith Dunn	Laura McMunigal	Matt Schreck
Ginny Beier	Stephanie Feldman	Leah McTiernan	Farrell Silverberg
Elizabeth Begosh	Laura Goetzl	Frankie Medlock	Kiley Smith
Susan Blatt	Tammy Heilman	Fernando Mendez	Kristin Stever
Dorothy Boersma	Susan Huntington	Dave Merreale	Lee Tamaccio
Linda Brenner	Rebecca Ichord	Karen Nicolini	Julie Hirsch Waxman
Jean Brubaker	Doris Jeanette	Lea Oxenhandler	Andrew Terhune
Jo Buyske	Cecily Kihn	John Plastaras	Susan Barr-Toman
Charlotte Calmels	Kevin Lawrence	Joseph Pozzuolo	Judith Tshirgi
Kyle Conner	Lauren Leonard	Mady Prowler	Carol Yaron
Jean Cho	Jamie Lilley	Butch Puchowitz	Patricia Yonekawa
Kevin Crane	Evan Litman	Maureen Roche	
Terry A. Decker	John Maher	Nicole Rolondaro	
Sharon Dooley	Jason L. Marcotte	Thelma Sagan	



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## Hunger in Our Midst: Helping a Hungry Person Find a Free Meal

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Near the Free Library on Rittenhouse Square, while waiting for the traffic light to change, I was approached by a man who politely asked if I knew of a church in the neighborhood that served free meals. The question stumped me.

For decades, I had been contributing to Philabundance, a program that helps feed hungry people, but I didn't know where to send *that man on that day*. According to Philabundance, hunger affects 900,000 individuals in the Delaware Valley, and *hunger happens every day*. On that day, that particular man was hungry because his funds had run out after he had traveled to Philadelphia for a job opportunity and ended up living in a shelter. He was still hopeful that he would get the job but there were a lot of other applicants.

Even the most generous contributors to charitable organizations may feel helpless when they encounter a hungry person on the street. You may wonder what you personally can do at that moment. To direct a hungry person to the nearest free meal, especially as the cold winter weather closes in, keep this information handy. Anyone at any time may need to depend on the kindness of strangers.

**Daily:** *The Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission*, at 302 N. 13th Street, provides free meals, including breakfast at 7 a.m., lunch at noon, snack at 2:15 p.m. on most days, and dinner at 6 p.m. 215-844-7116. <http://www.sundaybreakfast.org/1172-2/>

In our neighborhood, several religious institutions operate food programs:

• **Tuesday:** *Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion*, at 2111 Sansom Street, gives away bagged lunches to homeless people every Tuesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. In addition, their *Food Cabinet* distributes food to neighbors and community members on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, and they distribute *Senior Food Boxes* on the third Wednesday of each month. 215-567-3668. <http://www.lc-hc.org/drupal/>

• **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday:** *Broad Street Ministry's Broad Street Hospitality Collaborative*, 315 S. Broad Street, serves dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and lunch on Thursday and Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. 215-735-4847. <http://www.broadstreethospitality.org/>

• **Saturday:** *St. Mark's Episcopal Church*, 1625 Locust Street, runs a *Soup Bowl* program, serving soup and bread from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Bread is donated by Metropolitan Bakery. <http://www.saintmarksphiladelphia.org/soupbowl/> St. Mark's also runs a *food cupboard*, open Tuesday to Friday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. 215-735-1416. <http://www.saintmarksphiladelphia.org/foodcupboard/>

• **First and third Thursday** of each month (except for holidays): *Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Mitzvah Food Project*, 2100 Arch Street (Jewish Communal Services Building) operates a *food pantry* distributing non-perishable groceries from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The same

organization operates four other food pantries in the Delaware Valley. 215-832-0509. <https://www.jewishphilly.org/programs-and-services/mitzvah-food-project>

Other local organizations offer support, shelter and information beyond providing meal service to those in need. Among them are:

• *Trinity Memorial Church*, 22nd and Spruce Streets, runs *Wintershelter* from mid-November through mid-April, providing overnight shelter, dinner and breakfast to a limited number of screened male participants, in cooperation with the Bethesda Project. <http://www.bethesdaproject.org/> Volunteers from other neighborhood religious institutions, including First Presbyterian Church, Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel and First Unitarian Church, serve food at Wintershelter on rotating days. <http://www.communityoutreachpartnership.org/wintershelter/>

• Philabundance operates the *Food Helpline*, 800-319-FOOD (3663) Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The bilingual staff will direct a caller in need to the closest food cupboard. <http://www.philabundance.org/programs-2/food-help-line-2/>

• *Project Home* produces a pocket-sized brochure entitled, "Where to Turn," listing places to go for a variety of services including meals. 215-232-1984. Download and print brochure at: <https://projecthome.org/sites/projecthome.org/files/Resource%20Guide%20August2014.pdf>

### Peace Day Sing Along for Peace

At 6 p.m. Sunday, September 21, a crowd gathered in front of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia on Rittenhouse Square to participate in the fourth annual Peace Day Sing Along for Peace, one of many Peace Day Philly events culminating a week celebrating the United Nations International Day of Peace. Hugh Taft-Morales (right) led the group in peace songs from the Sixties, and Earth Day Kids in yellow tee-shirts performed.

—Bonnie Eisenfeld



# Scene in the Square...

Photos: Bonnie Eisenfeld



Some of the folks you might encounter on a stroll through the Square... a musician, a chess player, or CCRA Executive Director Steve Huntington recruiting citizens to register to vote!



## RH<sup>2</sup> — Rosh Hashanah in Rittenhouse Square

In a first for Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, just off the Square at 18th & Spruce, the congregation welcomed members, neighbors, curious passersby, and even the Israeli consul to an outdoor event to usher in the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah eve, September 24. The spirited celebration featured a mix of secular and religious music performed by BZBI's new Assistant Rabbi, Yosef Goldman (left, center), and his Marom Band, followed by a traditional religious service led by Rabbi Ira Stone and Cantor Sharon Grainer (below). With the cooperation of pleasant weather, friendly crowds, and city agencies, the event was a resounding success, attracting approximately 400 people, and coverage by several local TV stations.

Photos by Donna Strug.





# Scene in the Square...

## Rittenhouse Square Fine Arts Show

Photos: Donna Strug



Fine Arts Fair and College Fest: Annual fall traditions fill the Square.

## Rittenhouse Square Café Night

Photos: Donna Strug



A Fine Arts Fair favorite: on Saturday, September 20, during the show, Rouge, Devon and Parc offered the 18th Street Outdoor Café, sponsored by the Friends of Rittenhouse Square.

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## The Earlier Life of 1900 Chestnut Street: The Raymond Pace Alexander Legal Offices

The present building at 1900 Chestnut was added to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 2004 because of its circa-1935 Art Deco façade, but recent research by a local historian reveals even more significance due to the man who built it: Raymond Pace Alexander.

The Alexander family biography reads as a startling chronicle of Civil Rights in Philadelphia. Raymond Pace Alexander's parents were both born into slavery in Virginia, and both left (separately) for Philadelphia to escape the Jim Crow-era South. After graduating from Central High School in 1917 as valedictorian, their son did his undergrad at the University of Pennsylvania and received his law degree from Harvard. His wife, Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, a partner in his firm, became the first African American woman to earn a law degree at Penn. Her father, Aaron Albert Mossell, was the university's first black graduate.

Alexander's reputation as the namesake of the city's preeminent African American law firm led to his tenure as President of the National Bar Association from 1933 to 1935, and his appointment to the Court of Common Pleas in 1959, the first African American judge in that role. His docket included challenging the policies of two Chester County school districts, a victory that factored prominently into the effort to end segregation in Pennsylvania public schools. He also successfully cleared



Southwest corner of 19th & Chestnut, 1945; note the Boyd Theatre, far right.

the names of six black defendants – “the Trenton Six” – falsely accused of killing a white shop owner in Trenton in 1948, a case he won on appeal with the assistance of Thurgood Marshall. (In 1967, Marshall became the first African American Justice on the US Supreme Court.) Alexander also served on Philadelphia City Council from 1951 to 1958.

His firm's rise was slow and steady. Alexander first established offices in 1923 at Broad and Lombard, and later

moved to the 12th floor of the Commonwealth Building at 12th and Chestnut. But as the number of his largely black clientele passing through the office grew, the building's owners refused to renew the lease, and the firm again relocated, this time to cramped quarters at 1901 Chestnut (now home to Burger.org).

By 1934, with standardized integration still decades away, the practice needed

Class A office space but Alexander was turned away from the Land Title and other desirable buildings. At the Lincoln-Liberty Buildings, an annex to the Wanamaker Department Store, management went so far as to say “we have no racial prejudice, but... [we don't want to] risk racial criticism.” So Alexander bought the old house across the street from his office, demolished it, and hired architect Frank Hahn to draw up plans for modern new offices.

The cover of the August 1936 issue of *The Brown American* featured a story about the merit of the new building as a status symbol for Alexander's firm. The lead sentence read, “In Philadelphia, when one thinks of the law in connection with Negroes, the trend of thought usually goes directly to 1900 Chestnut Street.” A year earlier, the *Philadelphia Independent* reported on the building's dedication with this description: “Each room, and there are eight, including a law library that is reputed to be the most complete in the city, are so designed to resemble the interior of ocean going steamer cabins.” In 1942, columnist Jack Saunders wrote



Raymond Pace Alexander in his office library. Photo from *The Washington Eagle*, February 23, 1935, Alexander Archives at University of Pennsylvania.

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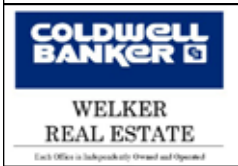


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for the *Philadelphia Tribune*: “For a number of years the Alexander law offices at 1900 Chestnut Street were considered a landmark of Negro business and professional progress in Philly and vicinity; folks came from far and near just to scan the Alexander edifice, returning to their home locales electrified and over-abundantly proud of the fact that a Negro was the owner of such a magnificent building.”

In addition to 1900 Chestnut having received the City’s historic designation,

archivist and local historian Jim Duffin hopes to see its legacy commemorated with a state historical marker next spring. While admitting it’s early on in the process, Duffin told *Hidden City* via email that he has the support of the Preservation Alliance, a number of historians, and the authors of two books on Alexander.

*This story was modified from an earlier and longer version published on the Hidden City Daily, May 8, 2014. It was written by Daily co-editor Bradley Maule, with assistance from historian Jim Duffin.*

### Restoration in Action

As part of the CCRA House Tour in October (see article on Page 7), hundreds of people visited an 1860s-era Delancey Place mansion, currently undergoing restoration. Tourgoers could observe historic preservation in action, and talk with architect Chris Carter of John Milner Associates, and Joost Langeveld, a member of the Cherokee Construction team working on the house.



House Tour visitors gather outside the Preservation House on Delancey Place, for a glimpse of an ongoing restoration project inside.

Blueprints were displayed on easels so that visitors could see on the plans how the house is being updated for 21st Century family living. Carter and Langeveld were happy to answer questions about historic features that were being retained, those being replicated, and construction materials and techniques.

Representing the Preservation Alliance, Ben Leech provided informational brochures about the Alliance, programs offered about historic preservation, and the City’s historic preservation practices. CCRA members shared their interest and knowledge about preservation by serving as House Tour docents and guides.

We thank Dane Wells for spearheading this effort and greeting everyone at the door. With their restoration and historic preservation experience, docents Perry Benson, Pip Campbell, Christina Doe, Lenore Millhollen, Michael Schade, Rachel Schade, and Joan Wells were able to give the tour participants more insight into the project. And as for the tourgoers, their most-repeated comments were: “Where is the elevator?” (the house does not have one); and “I hope the house can be on the tour next year so we can come back and see it when this is all finished.”

— Pip Campbell

### Shop Talk

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Support our local merchants and save money too. Just present your current CCRA membership card and personal identification to these local merchants, who will provide a discount, described here, in the case of new merchants to the program. (Check the CCRA website at [www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org) under the “Merchant Member” tab for descriptions of other merchants’ discounts; Di Bruno Bros. has its own CCRA card.)

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#### CCRA's Historic Preservation Committee is seeking new members.

This committee meets approximately twice annually and carries out a number of activities such as publishing articles in the *Center City Quarterly* and weekly CCRA online newsletter, an upcoming community lecture program, and other initiatives. Please email Pip Campbell ([pipcamp@aol.com](mailto:pipcamp@aol.com)) if you would like to participate or learn more.

# Share the love!

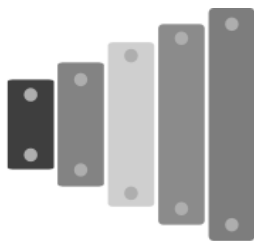
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1420 Locust	925 S 2nd
2330 Pine	2202 Lombard
304 Cypress	709 S 18th
1919 Chestnut	2609 Aspen
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1702 Catharine	716 S 21st



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CCRA thanks all of you for your membership support. Membership dues are critical to our activities, accounting for approximately 45 percent of the Association's annual revenue. We would like to especially acknowledge those many resident members who in the recently completed fiscal year (07/01/13 – 06/30/14) joined or renewed at our recognition levels. (In the Spring issue of the *Quarterly*, we will formally acknowledge the recognition-level contributors to our Annual Beautification Campaign.)

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## Christmas Village Returns to Center City



Prancing reindeer alight on traditional food stalls of the Christmas Village Market.

What better way to embrace this festive season than taking in the sights and sounds of a genuine Christmas market right here in Philadelphia? For the seventh straight year Christmas Village in Philadelphia will bring the unrivaled holiday atmosphere of a traditional German Christmas market (*Weihnachtsmarkt*) to Center City. From Thanksgiving Day to December 28 Christmas Village is situated once again in Center City's own LOVE Park (JFK Boulevard between 15th and 16th Streets), making it convenient and accessible for all Center City residents.

For those who don't know us yet, Christmas Village in Philadelphia is an outdoor holiday market built and modeled after the time-honored tradition

of Christmas markets in Germany. Since its inception in Philadelphia in 2008, it has grown to include more than 60 wooden booths and two large tents, and a wider array of distinct and festive international holiday offerings. Browse our rare selection of gifts, including festive ornaments, handmade jewelry, and high-quality arts and crafts, not to mention an authentic and delicious selection of European food and drink.

As a special bonus to Center City residents this year, we are offering discounts on our most popular food and drink specialties. Show your valid CCRA membership card and receive discounts on featured items. Choose from a mouthwatering German bratwurst or schnitzel served

on a warm roll (*Brötchen*), with a hearty complimentary side of delicious German sauerkraut, to satisfy your holiday cravings.

Hungry for something exciting and different? Try our newest menu items, the *Döner Kebab* (a German specialty that is a twist on the classic Turkish dish, featuring fresh meat shaved right off the rotisserie spit, placed in a warm pita pocket with tomato, onion, and our delicious homemade sauce); or *Raclette* (a Swiss specialty whereby a wheel of Raclette cheese is heated on a portable hotplate, with the melting side being regularly scraped off onto fresh potatoes and rolls of bread). Wash it all down with a warm mug of traditional German *Glühwein* (spiced mulled wine) or rich hot chocolate.

Christmas Village in Philadelphia is truly one of Philadelphia's most unique and charming holiday attractions and one of the most rewarding places to spend quality time with family and friends. Visit us during your lunch break for a relaxing stroll through our quaint promenade or visit us after work hours for a new and exciting take on happy hour with coworkers.

Come enjoy complimentary entertainment by local artists playing your favorite Christmas songs weekdays from 4 to 7 p.m. Show your family and friends why the holiday season in Center City would not be the same without Christmas Village in Philadelphia. See you there!

*Continued from p. 3*

On December 2, I expect to testify before Council that, while CCRA has not taken a position as to the merits of the Hudson Hotel project, we object to the proposed legislation because of the process, i.e., circumventing the existing zoning code. And on December 9, our Task Force will meet with the Planning Commission to learn the status of comprehensive remapping in our neighborhood and the process for completing it quickly.

I could keep going, with several additional matters on the Association's plate at the moment, including but not limited to: the impact of a reported sale of the Boyd Theatre to Pearl Properties (making it the sole owner of all the properties from the Boyd, at mid-block, to the southwest corner of 19th and Chestnut); the resurrection of a proposal to permit installation of "Urban Experiential Displays" (very large, three-dimensional,

digital billboards); development of the Royal Theater on South Street; developments at the CHOP construction site adjacent to the South Street Bridge; and the gathering of data regarding the availability, location, and prices of public monthly parking in our neighborhood. However, I have run out of room, so stay tuned to this space and our weekly eNewsletter.



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## CCRA Winter Calendar – Snowblowers

### Sacred Spaces Open House Tour

Free, self-guided tour featuring 13 houses of worship in Center City West  
Sunday, Dec 14, 1 to 4 p.m.  
For details, see story on Back Cover, or go to [www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org)

### Rittenhouse Square Holiday Tree Lighting

Monday, Dec 1 at 5 p.m.  
[www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org)

### Fitler Square Holiday Tree Lighting

23rd and Pine Sts.  
Sunday, Dec 14 at 5 p.m.  
[www.fitlersquare.org](http://www.fitlersquare.org)

### Comcast Holiday Spectacular

Comcast Center, 17th St. and JFK Blvd.  
Thursday, Nov 27, to Thursday, Jan 1  
15-minute shows, daily at the top of each hour  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (except 5 p.m. weekdays)

### Christmas Village

Love Park, 15th and Arch Sts.  
Thursday, Nov 27, to Sunday, Dec 28  
Sundays to Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Check for holiday hours. Free admission.  
For more information, see story on Page 25 or go to [www.philachristmas.com](http://www.philachristmas.com)

### Free at the Kimmel Center

Broad and Spruce Sts.  
Free events: [www.kimmelcenter.org/events/?org=355](http://www.kimmelcenter.org/events/?org=355)

### Free Library, Philadelphia City Institute Branch

1905 Locust St. at Rittenhouse Sq.  
Free events: [www.freelibrary.org/branches/branch.cfm?loc=PCI](http://www.freelibrary.org/branches/branch.cfm?loc=PCI)

### Macy's Center City

13th and Market Sts.  
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[www.wanamakerorgan.com/events.php](http://www.wanamakerorgan.com/events.php)  
**Holiday Light Show**  
Friday, Nov 28 through Wednesday, Dec 31  
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### Trinity Center for Urban Life

2212 Spruce St.  
Performance of *The Nutcracker*  
Saturday, Dec 20, at 11 a.m.  
For information on other performances:  
[www.trinitycentercity.org/calendar.php?next=12](http://www.trinitycentercity.org/calendar.php?next=12)

### Franklin Square Holiday Festival

Franklin Square, 6th and Race Sts.  
Through Wednesday, Dec 31  
Free admission; pay-as-you-go activities  
<http://historicphiladelphia.org/franklin-square/holidays-in-franklin-square/>

### How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity and the Hidden Power of Character

Talk by David Meketon, presented by CCRA  
Trinity Memorial Church  
2212 Spruce St.  
Thursday, Jan 8, 2015, 7 to 9 p.m.

### Curtis Institute of Music

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For details on times and places, please go to [www.curtis.edu](http://www.curtis.edu)

### Rosenbach Museum and Library

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Macy's Christmas Light Show.  
Photo Credit: Christine, <http://freshlocalandbest.blogspot.com>.

## Free Concerts for Participants and Audiences Philadelphia Orchestra's PlayINs

The Philadelphia Orchestra presents its second season of PlayINs, a series that invites amateur musicians to perform alongside Orchestra members at the Kimmel Center. On October 23 more than 100 young violinists performed with Orchestra musicians at the Suzuki Violin PlayIN. The audience is invited to photograph one of the final pieces of each PlayIN to post on social media. No tickets are required. To register as a performer, go to [www.philorch.org/playin](http://www.philorch.org/playin). Here is the schedule of upcoming concerts:

**Holiday Community SingIN:** week of December 15 (date TBA)

**Flute PlayIN:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015    **Cello PlayIN:** Thursday, March 5, 2015

**Viola PlayIN:** Saturday, February 21, 2015    **Brass PlayIN:** week of April 21, 2015



Young musicians join in a recent PlayIN. Photo Courtesy of Philadelphia Orchestra, [Instagram.com/philadelphiaorchestra](https://www.instagram.com/philadelphiaorchestra).

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# Zoning Committee Report

Brian Johnston and Kevin Dunleavy, Co-Chairs

August - October, 2014

## 1505 South Street (CMX-2)

### Not Opposed w/ Conditions

ZBA# 23497, Hearing Date: 9/30 @ 9:30

Application for a take-out restaurant with seating on the first floor in the same building with one (1) apartment on the 2nd floor. No sign on this application.

#### Referral:

Table 14-602-2 The proposed use, take-out restaurant, requires a special exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

---

## 1639 Naudain Street (RM-1)

### Not Opposed w/Condition

ZBA# 23562, Hearing Date: 10/14 @ 9:30

Application for the erection of an addition at the 2nd floor rear and at the 3rd floor level. For the erection of a roof deck above the 3rd floor level with a pilot house to enclose access stairs only. For use as a single family household living. Size and location as shown in plans.

#### Refusal:

Table 14-702-1[5] Setback of 3rd floor 8 ft required 0 ft proposed

---

## 2526-30 Panama Street and 339-45 S. 26th Street (RSA-5)

### Continued

ZBA# 23620, Hearing Date: 09/24 @ 2:00 pm

Application for the lot adjustment to create four (4) lots (Lot "A", Lot "B", Lot "C" and Lot "D") from six OPA Accounts (2526 Panama St, 2528 Panama St, 339 S 26th St, 341 S 26th St, 343 S 26th St and 345 S 26th St) as follows: Lot "A", "B" & "C": For the complete demolition of all structures on lots; for the erection of attached structure, balcony at 2nd floor, rear deck at 2nd floor, pilot house access to roof deck only and for the creation of two (2) parking garages for two (2) cars (access from front street) for a single family household living on each lot. Lot "D": Vacant Lot. Size and location as shown in plans.

#### Refusals:

14-803(2)(C) Accessory Parking for a proposed Single Family Dwelling in an attached structure in the RSA-5 District, parking is accessed from a Front Street, is prohibited in this zoning district.

## 2526-30 Panama Street and 339-45 S. 26th Street (RSA-5) (continued)

### Table 14-701-1

Open Area	Required	Proposed
Lot "B"	30% / 363.9 sf	8% / 100.8 sf
Lot "C"	30% / 270 sf	0% / 0 sf
Lot "A"	20% / 242.6 sf	9% / 121.3 sf
Rear Yard Depth	Required	Proposed
Lots "A", "B", "C"	9 ft	0 ft
Height of Structure	Allowable	Proposed
Lots "A" & "B"	38 ft	42'3"
Lots "C"	38 ft	39'1"

---

## 2143-49 Lombard Street (CMX-2)

### Opposed

ZBA #22993, Hearing Date: 10/8 @ 2pm

For the lot adjustment to create one (1) lot from four (4) existing lots (2143, 2145, 2147 and 2149 Lombard Street) and for the creation of a shared driveway easement. For the erection of a semi-detached structure with decks at the 2nd and 3rd floor rear and a roof deck above the 4th floor accessed by a pilot house for use as a multi-family household living (three (3) dwelling units) with six (6) interior accessory parking spaces accessed by a shared driveway.

#### Refusals:

- (1) Decks in rear yard are required to be no closer than 3 feet from the rear lot line.
- (2) Decks must be constructed so that all vertical support elements are located a minimum distance of 18 inches from all lot lines.
- (3) Rear yard depth – Required: 9ft. Proposed: 0ft.
- (4) Height - Allowed: 38ft; Proposed: 47ft

---

## 1524-26 Chestnut Street (CMX-5)

### Opposed

ZBA #23604, Hearing Date: 9/24 @ 2pm

For the erection of one (1) statically illuminated flat-wall sign. For use as a sign accessory to a business and professional office on the 1st and 2nd floor front in a building with other previously approved uses.

#### Refusals:

- (1) The proposed use, wall sign extending above the 2nd floor window sill of the structure is prohibited in all zoning districts.

---

## 1701-05 Chestnut Street (CMX-5)

### Not Opposed w/Conditions

ZBA #23686, Hearing Date: 11/3 @ 9am

To convert a vacant space to sit-down restaurant (no take-out) in space # 6 to include the first mezzanine levels of the structure with one internally illuminated flat wall sign.

#### Referral:

The proposed use, a sit-down restaurant, requires a special exception in this zoning classification. Property is located on the center overlay Chestnut/Walnut Street Area West.

---

## 2143-49 Lombard Street (CMX-2) – Representation

### Non-Opposed as (re)presented

ZBA #22993, Hearing Date: 10/8 @ 2pm – Continued 11/5 @ 5pm

For the lot adjustment to create one (1) lot from four (4) existing lots (2143, 2145, 2147 and 2149 Lombard Street) and for the creation of a shared driveway easement. For the erection of a semi-detached structure with decks at the 2nd and 3rd floor rear and a roof deck above the 4th floor accessed by a pilot house for use as a multi-family household living (three (3) dwelling units) with six (6) interior accessory parking spaces accessed by a shared driveway.

#### Refusals:

Rear yard depth – Required: 9ft. Proposed: 0ft. Height – Allowed: 38ft; Proposed: 47ft

Continued p. 31

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**201-03 South 22nd Street (Lot #F)  
(SEC 22nd Street)**

**Opposed**

**(RMX-3)** ZBA# 23770, Hearing Date: 11/5 @ 2pm

Application for the erection of an attached structure with mezzanine at 5th floor level; Deck at 4th and mezzanine level; bay windows from 2nd through 5th floors for a vacant retail space on first floor (not more than 25% of gross floor area) and multi-family house hold living from 2nd through 5th floor (nine (9) dwelling units). Size and location as shown in application.

*Refusal:*

*Table 14-802-1.*

*Total accessory parking spaces.*

*Required: 3 spaces. Proposed: 0 spaces.*

**2308 Delancey Street (RM-1)**

**Not Opposed w/Conditions**

ZBA# 23840, Hearing Date: 11/5 @ 2pm

Application for the proposed activity of adding one (1) additional dwelling unit

within the existing footprint of the building envelope. The total number of dwelling units will be seven (7).

*Refusal:*

*Table 14-602-1: Uses Allowed in Residential Districts*

*Table 14-602-1(a)[1] 1926 SF of Lot Area / 480 SF per Dwelling Unit*

*Required/Allowable: Four (4) Units / Six (6) per Variance*

*Proposed: Seven (7) Units.*

**1816 Delancey Place (RM-1)**

**Not Opposed**

ZBA# 23832, Hearing Date: 10/29 @ 2pm

Application for the creation of one (1) off-street parking space. Size and location as shown on submitted plan.

*Refusals:*

*T14-502(2)(d): The proposed use, one interior off-street parking space is prohibited in this zoning classification and overlay CTR/Residential parking control area.*

*Table 14-502-1*

*Off-Street parking shall not be provided for any one-family of two family use located in the residential parking control area, except for parking accessed by a shared driveway or rear alley, which is permitted but not required.*

*14-502(6)(c): Proposed interior off-street parking space is accessed from a rear street.*

**1524-26 Chestnut Street  
(CMX-5 / 14-502(2)(d) Chestnut Street  
West Use Control District)**

**Opposed**

ZBA# 23604, Hearing Date: 11/5 @ 5pm

Application for the use of the basement as kitchen and food services; 1st through 3rd floor as sit-down restaurant and bar in an existing structure. No signs with this application.

*Referral:*

*Table 14-502-2 – Supplemental use controls*

*The proposed use, eating and drinking establishments in the Chestnut Street area west overlay district, requires special exception approval from the ZBA.*

*Continued from Back Cover*

Building on its success from 2012, when hundreds of people explored our neighborhood sacred sites, CCRA has added even more local stops to visit. This year's open houses include an all-star array of architectural magnificence.

One featured space is Church of the Holy Trinity, an Episcopal church on Rittenhouse Square, designed by Scottish architect John Notman. It is known for its numerous stained glass windows, including five by Louis Comfort Tiffany and one by Luc-Olivier Merson. The church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Built in the mid-1800s, the church had a renowned rector, Phillips Brooks, known for his staunch opposition to slavery. Brooks gave a widely read eulogy for Abraham Lincoln after his assassination in 1865.

Also on the tour is Tenth Presbyterian Church, 17th and Spruce Streets, designed by John McArthur, architect of Philadelphia's City Hall. The interior of the church, with its Byzantine decorations, was designed by Frank Miles Day.

Visitors can also marvel at the First Unitarian Church, 21st and Chestnut Streets, designed by famed Philadelphia architect Frank Furness (1885-86). The church's stained glass windows are by Louis Tiffany & Co. and John La Farge. Henry Holiday of London designed several of the stained glass features at First Unitarian.

Joining the Open House for the first time is Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, at 1500 Lombard Street. "Big Wesley" has been a historical leader in the development of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church denomination and influential in civil rights and social reforms in the 1950s and '60s. The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It also appears in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places and the Pennsylvania State Historic Resource survey.

Other congregations inviting visitors in for a peek include: Trinity Memorial Church, 22nd and Spruce Streets; First Presbyterian Church, 21st and Walnut Streets; Liberty Church, 17th and Sansom Streets (also home to First Baptist Church); St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Locust between 16th and 17th Streets; St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, 20th between Locust

and Spruce Streets; Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, Chestnut between 21st and 22nd Streets; The Shambhala Center, 2030 Sansom Street; Arch Street Presbyterian Church, 1724 Arch Street; Arch Street United Methodist Church, Broad and Arch Streets.

Updated information and further details are available at [www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org). This event is being sponsored by Atkin Olshin Schade Architects.



*Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, 1500 Lombard Street, in the Rittenhouse Square East neighborhood, was listed on the NRHP December 1, 1978. Photo Courtesy of Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church.*

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

### **Sunday, December 14, 1 to 4 p.m.**

Sacred Spaces Open House Tour  
Free, self-guided tour featuring  
13 houses of worship in Center City West

### **Thursday, January 8, 2015, 7 to 9 p.m.**

How Children Succeed:  
Grit, Curiosity and the Hidden Power of Character  
Talk by David Meketon, presented by CCRA  
Trinity Memorial Church

### *Bricks & Mortar*

## **Visitors Invited to Take a Peek Center City Places of Worship Featured at 2nd Biannual Sacred Spaces Open House Tour**

*By Barbara Halpern*



*First Unitarian Church, at 21st and Chestnut, was designed by Frank Furness. Photo Courtesy of First Unitarian Church.*

As part of an ever-expanding interfaith community in Center City West, local places of worship are joining together to create a Sacred Spaces Open House tour. Thirteen participating congregations open their doors to visitors Sunday, December 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. Congregants and

church leaders are on hand to answer questions about the architecture and history of their buildings, as well as provide information about communal activities. Refreshments, music and tours are offered at many locations. All participants in this free, self-guided tour, sponsored by CCRA, will receive a tour map, along with historical/architectural descriptions of each facility.

For local residents who pass by these buildings daily, this is an opportunity to discover world-class historic interiors and the varied activities held at faith-based communities in our midst. For out-of-towners, the Sacred Spaces Open House provides an amenity commonly found in Europe, where even the most humble houses of worship open their doors daily

to tourists. Visiting a few – or even all 13 – sites can make for an easy afternoon stroll, and serve as a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

*Continued p. 31*



*A magnificent skylight crowns the altar of the Church of the Holy Trinity on Rittenhouse Square.*