

CENTER CITY QUARTERLY









Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 2 No. 1 March 2011

Table of Contents

"My Mommy's an Inventor!" 1
Paris Through Philadelphia's Window2
President's Report3
The Art of Collaboration at a New Philadelphia Festival4
Center City Opera Theater, Opera from Inception to Stage
Bartram's Garden Steps Into the 21st Century5
Martin Brown, Neighborhood Legend 8
A Natural Gem in the Midst of Historic Philadelphia9
New Ways to Support Penn's Village11
Fitler Square: The Village West of Rittenhouse11
"He Remains An Englishman": The Delius Society12
Klein's Korner (Can't We All Just Get A Shovel?)13
Get Started As A House Detective15
In June, Art in the Open17
Gift to the Street: In Praise of the Corner Store17
Fitler Square Fair – 50 Years Of "Fun" Raising18
CCRA Neighborhood Spring Events19
Police Report: Taking Responsibility23
Zoning Committee Report25

CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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"My Mommy's an Inventor!"

By Christine Carlson

You see them in the most expected places – sitting by the goat in Rittenhouse Square, keeping a watchful eye at the playground, escorting their charges to and from school. They may look like ordinary, mild-mannered moms, but they lead a double life. They are Center City's newest breed of inventors and entrepreneurs. They've earned professional diplomas, but their current inspiration comes from their recently acquired "MOM" degrees. Their offices are their dining room tables or the café at Barnes and Noble, and their efforts stand to benefit moms not only in our city, but around the world.

Center City moms Melissa April and Caryn Abramowitz became friends after they each had their first child. Like most city moms, they often found themselves pushing a stroller. After they each had a second child, they realized that, on rainy days, they could no longer maneuver a double stroller while holding an umbrella. They would arrive at destinations soaked and bedraggled despite raincoats and hats and joke about needing a third arm to hold an umbrella. (Though there are many products that keep children snug and dry, moms are left literally out in the rain.) Finding no stroller umbrella available for sale, these former attorneys decided to design a solution. It was harder than they thought but after several years, they launched My Blue Bumbershoot, a totally hands free, adjustable umbrella that attaches and detaches easily to any stroller. Melissa and Caryn launched their product this past October at a trade show in Las Vegas. Demand for their initial batch of umbrellas has been high. They are now in the final phases of manufacturing, and are finalizing



Caryn Abramowitz demonstrates My Blue Bumbershoot.

distribution channels as far away as Korea. As someone who has been drenched pushing a stroller around town, I predict that My Blue Bumbershoot will soon be a common sight on rainy days!

Prior to earning her MOM degree, Ivy Gilbert taught college English. After her second child was born, she began to notice the bags of crumpled wrapping paper that piled up after the holidays. Her concern grew as she noticed similar piles accumulate after children's birthday parties. Upset by the waste, she complained to an artist friend that someone should invent reusable wrapping. And so the idea of Give Wrap was born. Together, they hired an

Continue on page 2

industrial designer, created a product and are now in the manufacturing phase. When I first heard about their invention, I mistakenly assumed it was like a fancy pillowcase that would be closed with a drawstring. In reality, Give Wrap is truly adjustable and folds around each package. Creating Give Wrap allowed Ivy to overcome her frustration with excess waste and start a business that inspires her. Her children are especially proud that their mom's eco-sensitivity will make the world a better place.

Jackie Promislo was able to arrange reduced hours and a flexible schedule for

her work at a top Philadelphia law firm when she became a mom. But after caring for her own mother during a prolonged illness, Jackie realized that her priorities had changed. She was no longer interested in litigation. She now wanted to create something that would allow her to spend more time with her family and be involved in her community. Coming from an entrepreneurial family, she decided to start her own business. After developing several plans, she opened Lolli Lolli, on Walnut near 8th Street. She had originally planned a children's clothing store, but realized there was a demand for a convenient toy

store as well. As a mom, she knew what it was like to rush around at the last minute to purchase gifts for the many birthday parties her children attended. Now, in addition to providing an array of affordable, stylish clothing, she saves Center City moms considerable time. All they have to do is call the store and Jackie will help select a gift, wrap it and deliver it (for free) anywhere in the city.

So the next time you pass a seemingly ordinary mom on the sidewalk, you may want to take another look. She may just be on the verge of formulating her next big idea.

Paris Through Philadelphia's Window

By Virginia K. Nalencz

Philadelphians who want to see Paris through the window know where to look, at all hours: a morning turn toward the Ben Franklin Parkway, the city's Champs-Élysées; a sunny afternoon glance out at Fairmount Park, where Memorial Hall's metal and glass dome shines like that of that of the Grand Palais; a glimpse of the streetlamps in Fitler and Rittenhouse squares at dusk. All around the city, mansard roofs, Belle Époque tracery on stone façades and people sitting at outdoor cafés contribute to the illusion.

This spring, Paris is outside Philadelphia's window more than ever. "Springtime in Paris" is the theme of the Philadelphia Flower Show. The Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA) makes its debut with a host of art events inspired by Paris of "the banquet years," the revolutionary period in the arts in the early 20th century. And the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) presents in conjunction with the festival Paris Through the Window: Marc Chagall and His Circle. The exhibit focuses on the work of Chagall between 1910 and 1920 and on that of other émigré artists from Eastern Europe who were loosely associated in Paris at the same time, including Alexander Archipenko, Jules Pascin, Chaim Soutine and Ossip Zadkine; the last, like Chagall himself, was born in Vitebsk, in what is now Belarus.

In the painting (a loan from New York's Guggenheim Museum) that gives its name to the exhibition, Chagall sees a parachutist, the Eiffel Tower and an upside-down train from his window, probably the one in the Montparnasse studio dubbed "La Ruche," the

beehive, for its cylindrical shape and its buzz of activity. "In La Ruche," said Chagall years later, "you either came out dead or famous." While Chagall worked in La Ruche, Archipenko, Soutine and Jacques Lipchitz were among his fellow-denizens in the building whose communal exhibition space encouraged the interchange of artistic ideas.

It was a time when Cubism, Dada, Fauvism, Futurism and surrealism jostled for a place at the head of the avant-garde. Chagall had been exposed to the new styles even before going to Paris; at an art school in St. Petersburg, he had studied with Léon Bakst, with Nijinsky as his classmate. Bakst had joined Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in Paris as one of the set designers for the theatrical productions that merged dance, music, painting and costume in a triumph of all the arts. From Bakst and from Robert Delaunay, Chagall absorbed the use of Fauve color, brilliant and non-naturalistic. He soon incorporated the flat planes and fragmented forms of Cubism into his work, giving the fragments a distinctive twist: although body parts are often contorted in Chagall's paintings, there is no suggestion that they got that way by violence.

A monumental painting from PMA's own collection, *Half-Past Three (The Poet)* of 1911, contains many of these stylistic elements. Paris swims around the figure in the café whose head is detached non-violently from his body. Instead, he looks rather jaunty and green-faced, while items of café life—a wine bottle, a fork, a knife—drift by in the geometric air. In *Paris Through the Window* (1913) a Janus-headed



Paris Through the Window by Marc Chagall lends its title to the exhibit at The Philadelphia Museum of Art, March 1-July 10.

figure, perhaps Chagall himself, seems to look forward to Paris and backward to a Russian village. The other important loan work by Chagall in the show, *The Poet Reclining* (1915, from the Tate Modern), alludes to the painter's friendship with Guillaume Apollinaire, who coined the word "surrealist" in his preface to the catalog of Chagall's first exhibition.

Gertrude Stein, surveying the period of *Paris Through the Window* from her own singular peak, perceived that the émigrés had amplified the revolution in the arts: "And that is what made Paris and France the natural background of the art and literature of the 20th century... Foreigners were not romantic to them, they were just facts, nothing was sentimental they were just there, and strangely enough it did not make them [the French] make the art and literature of the 20th century but it made them be the inevitable background for it." Just so.

Page 2 March 2011

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President's Report



Adam Schneider, CCRA President

In the world of civic groups, it is rare that an issue of significance arises, develops and concludes very rapidly. Rather, issues tend to percolate slowly over many months, sometimes years, before reaching a conclusion. Take, for example, the case of the expansion of the Forum adult movie theater. We first heard this proposal over two years ago and CCRA is still appealing the Zoning Board's approval of the project! But there was no plodding over the subject of this column. The issue here arose quickly and stealthily, erupted loudly and generated strong opinion, with views that were as equally passionate as they were divergent. What's all the quacking about? Ducks of course!

The proposal, put forth by duck boat operator Ride the Ducks, was to operate up to 60 duck boat tours a day traversing town and entering the Schuylkill River. If cross town ducks didn't ruffle enough feathers, the proposed access ramp to the river certainly did. They proposed a deep and wide trench cutting straight across Schuylkill Banks Park, just south of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. I had just finished writing this column condemning the proposed ramp when we learned that the city of Philadelphia not only rejected the ramp, but also rejected the entire proposal for duck boats on the Schuylkill.

Putting aside the widely unpopular ramp (which CCRA voted to oppose), or the wisdom and appropriateness of duck boats touring the lower Schuylkill (for which CCRA chose not to take a position), I find that the handling of the proposal by the city to be troubling, especially in light of the mayor's stated desire for civic engagement. Lack of public input is particularly troubling when a treasured public amenity is threatened with irreparable harm to benefit only private commercial interests.

We are relieved by the city's final decision. But we are also concerned at the apparent secrecy with which negotiations were conducted. When we first learned of the proposal in October, 2010, we had reason to believe that the plan was all but approved and construction was imminent, with virtually no public input. The fact that approvals were not quite so far along does not excuse the city from failing to be more transparent. The scant official information came from one public meeting on December 15, where Richard Negrin, managing director and deputy mayor for administration and coordination, and Brian Abernathy, chief of staff in the managing director's office, made a brief presentation of the proposal and fielded questions and comments.

The silver lining here is that we believe that the final decision was brought about in part by a vocal push by the public (including CCRA) fighting against the project. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reviewed the proposal critically on at least two occasions. Sam Little, president of Logan Square Neighborhood Association to our north, worked his channels to propose an alternative point of access to the river, which made more sense. I wrote a letter to the mayor firmly stating our opposition to the trench.

CCRA consciously chose not to vote on the bigger question of whether there should be duck boats on the Schuylkill. We lacked sufficient information to evaluate the proposal fairly. And we appreciate the economic benefit to expanding tourist attractions. But we could not stand idle about the trench. The Schuylkill Banks recreation corridor is among the greatest civic enhancements in decades devoted purely to free public recreation. To sever it in half and herd thousands of daily users like cattle through a chute over a deep gash in the landscape, all for commercial profit of a tour boat operator, would have been a travesty of shortsightedness over the greater good and sound city planning principles. I trust our vocal community opposition influenced the city's decision making.

I only hope that as future projects emerge, the city will honor its commitment to meaningful civic engagement and partnering with civic groups to reach the best outcome possible. Open and public discussion should be viewed as the accepted norm, not as a special concession, especially when a valued public asset would be compromised for private gain. CCRA looks forward to partnering on future issues, whether they simmer along for years, or pop out of the woodwork at the last minute. We are always ready to meet.

Respectfully,

Adam Schneider, President, CCRA

The Art of Collaboration at a New Philadelphia Festival

By Nancy Ambler



Dancers in the Jeanne Ruddy Company interact with art.

In April 2010 the Kimmel Center announced its intention, over the next 12 months, to sponsor 31 new, commissioned works. Collectively they will be known as the first Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA). Ranging in scope from vocal and instrumental music, to dance, to film and video, theater, mural and even circus art, they will be presented between April 7 and May 1 of this year at the Kimmel Center and other Center City venues. The festival's overarching theme will be those seminal years in Paris between 1910 and 1920, perhaps epitomized in Stravinsky and Diaghilev's Le Sacre du Printemps, and destined to change the face of both visual and performing art forever.

DANCE AT PIFA: Jeanne Ruddy Dance with Elizabeth Osborne and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA).

Neighbors in Fairmount and long-term admirers of each other's work, the two artists had not found the right opportunity to collaborate. PIFA provided it. When approached by the festival managers, Jeanne Ruddy visualized her dancers interacting with projected images, their movements choreographed to music of the specified period – not, in her vision, entirely Stravinsky's visionary strokes, but principally the "impressionist" sounds of Claude Debussy and the crisp worldliness of Erik Satie. The images, of course, would be those created on canvas by Elizabeth Osborne.

Jeanne Ruddy's company has been performing for a decade now in her famed Performance Garage on Brandywine Street. After nine years as principal dancer with Martha Graham in New York, she chose Philadelphia to start her own professional contemporary troupe, incorporating principles of her illustrious mentor but creating and commissioning new work with her own signature. Elizabeth Osborne is a product of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), where she has been a beloved faculty member for 50 years. She has studied in Paris and exhibited internationally, with gallery representation here at the Locks Gallery as well as in New York, and has mounted more shows than very likely even she can count. Her most recent locally was the acclaimed retrospective "The Color of Light" at PAFA, from which the images in Jeanne Ruddy's production are drawn; her latest is up through March at the Locks Gallery on Washington Square. Weaving together the artists' collaboration are Ellen

Fishman-Johnson, composer/arranger and videographer, and Jeffrey Wirsing, costume designer, who has a long history with Martha Graham.

The production, *MonTage à Trois*, will be staged April 14-17, in the Hamilton Building of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts at 116 North Broad Street; all four performances are at 7:30. The dancers will interact with projections of 10 of Elizabeth Osborne's paintings to the music of Debussy and Satie, with excerpts from a string quartet of Stravinsky. The performance will unfurl projected images, dance, costumes and sound to create a truly magical fusion. For the most current information on performances, call PIFA at 215-790-5800 or visit www.pifa.org.



(I to r) Jeffrey Wirsing, Jeanne Ruddy, Elizabeth Osborne discuss ideas in the creation of MonTage à Trois, a new work by Jeanne Ruddy that will première as part of the Philadelphia Festival of the Arts at PAFA on April 14, 2011.

Corrections

- The pictures of the BoConcept Arts Program at the Markward Recreation Center on pages 27 and 32 of the December 2010 newsletter were incorrectly credited. Carolyn Duffy was the photographer.
- William Kriebel, a retired architect and CCRA member, has supplied the following corrections to the footnote on Paul Cret in the December article on The Palomar:
- 1. Cret was born in 1876, not 1907.
- 2. He joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in 1903, not 1907.

- 3. He was apparently not the principal architect of 2201 Parkway. While Cret supplied designs for 2601, not all were incorporated in the structure as built.
- 4. His contribution to College Hall consisted of additions or renovations, not the original design.
- 5. The article failed to mention Cret's Rodin Museum, a small neo-classic gem amid its monumental Parkway neighbors.

Nancy Ambler thanks Mr. Kriebel for his vigilance.

Page 4 March 2011

Center City Opera Theater, Opera from Inception to Stage

By Nancy Ambler

In case you'd thought of opera as an archaic art form, with a blue-haired audience Listen to Andrew Kurtz, founder and General & Artistic Director of the Center City Opera Theater (CCOT). He describes his company as "cutting edge", as "pushing the boundaries" of the genre. His aim is to revitalize opera, making it alive and relevant for contemporary audiences. Since its founding in 1999, the company has produced nearly 50 operas, from full-scale performances in the Perelman Theater to more intimate productions at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square. 2008 saw the launch of CCOT's ConNEXTions: The Next Generation of Opera project as part of Philadelphia's Fringe Festival, featuring premiere stagings of new operas. This has grown into CCOT's Creative Development Project, which nurtures the development of new operas from concept to the stage. One of CCOT's innovations is the "site-specific" opera. Last winter's The Shops, staged in the Food Court of the Comcast Center, was a glorious case in point, and the company has done its share of "flash opera" with "spontaneous" aria performances in the same venue.

CCOT's entries in this spring's PIFA celebration combine a look over the cultural shoulder with a brand-new work, in a triple-barreled homage to Igor Stravinsky. Staged in the Perelman Theater, its orchestra seating converted for the occasion to a cabaret setting with tables for four, it begins with the Philadelphia premiere of *Renard (The Fox)*, Stravinsky's "burlesque" operaballet of 1916. Based – loosely – on one of Aesop's fables, *Renard* consists of four

episodes, with new choreography created by the Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers (KLY/D), in contemporaneous style, with vocal soloists in the pit functioning as part of the orchestra. Additionally, KYL/D will present the Philadelphia premiere of Stravinsky's *Ragtime*. The second half of the program is the world premiere of *Danse Russe*, a new opera by Pulitzer-prize winning composer Paul Moravec with an original libretto by Wall Street Journal drama critic Terry Teachout. Danse Russe is set in Paris, in the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, where the premiere of Le Sacre du Printemps took place and Stravinsky's international star was born. Danse Russe relives the creation

of the ballet and the subsequent riot. Taking inspiration from Renard, Danse Russe is a chamber opera with just four characters: Stravinsky himself, the impresario Diaghilev, the dancer/choreographer Nijinsky, and the work's first conductor, Pierre Monteux, and with an orchestra of 16 instruments. including cimbalom. As Renard was considered a "burlesque," Danse Russe is conceived as a "vaudeville"-style opera, comprising a series of vignettes. There will be two performances at the Kimmel Center: April 28 at 8:00 p.m. and a matinee on April 29th at 2:00 p.m., with a third at the Gordon Theater on the Rutgers Camden campus on Saturday the 30th at 8:00 p.m.



During a workshop the four characters introduce themselves to the audience and explain their various roles with the Ballets Russes. (Left to right: Jason Switzer as Diaghilev, the impresario; Chris Lorge as Stravinsky, the composer; Judd Ernster as Monteux, the conductor; and Matt Maness as Nijinsky, the choreographer.)

Bartram's Garden Steps Into the 21st Century

By Stephanie Phillips, Director of Development, Bartram's Garden

Bartram's Garden, located just a few minutes from Center City, is an unexpected treasure of natural beauty and history in the midst of the urban streetscape. With its unique views of the Philadelphia skyline, reclaimed meadow, natural riverfront and wetlands, and park-like setting with 18th century farm buildings, the Garden has hosted generations of Philadelphia explorers and nature-lovers. "This place has saved spirits," says one visitor, "this is people's homes."

In 1728, John Bartram established America's first botanic garden along the banks of the Schuylkill River. He devoted his life to the collection and study of native American flora, which he shared with eager audiences in Europe. Among other honors, John Bartram (1699-1777) was appointed "Royal Botanist for North America" by King George III in 1765. In 1769 Carl Linnaeus wrote, "It will be a long time, if at all, before there is someone in North America who is better than Bartram at defining plants."



John Bartram designed and built this house over nearly 50 years (1728 to 1777) out of local river stone.

Continue on page 7

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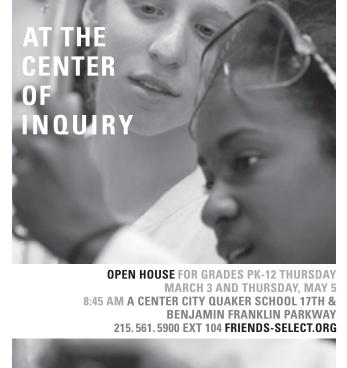
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Page 6 March 2011

John Bartram's son, William (1739-1823), also an important naturalist and traveler, is equally recognized for his written and painted observations of the new world. The Bartrams were intrepid explorers, alone and together, traveling as far south as Florida, north to Lake Ontario, and as far west as the Mississippi River, collecting plant specimens and seeking to understand all forms of nature. By the middle of the 18th century, Bartram's Garden contained the most varied collection of North American plants in the world. In 1893, Bartram's Garden became a city park and is operated today by the John Bartram Association in cooperation with the city's Department of Parks and Recreation. It is a free resource and natural refuge for city residents, offering low-cost tours and workshops for adults and hands-on education programs for nearly 9,000 school children.

As Bartram's Garden steps into a new decade, it is poised to take advantage of unprecedented opportunities. Construction of the Schuylkill River Trail will connect Center City residents with the Bartram riverfront by 2012. Visitor improvements include an

updated entrance, ticketing and gift shop. Also in the works is an urban farm initiative in partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Urban Nutrition Initiative that will educate local high school students and provide fruits and vegetables to the City Harvest program.

These improvements will inspire more visitors than ever before to discover and learn about nature and to actively use the gifts of our natural abundance. "Bartram's Garden is a place that pleases the eye and calms the soul," says executive director Louise Turan. "It has transformed generations of Philadelphians by providing them with a place to simply be in nature."

As Bartram's Garden comes alive in March and April, visitors will see rare heirloom tulips, cornelian cherries and bloodroot in bloom. They will hear migratory blackbirds in the meadow, and crane their necks to see the top of historic trees such as the oldest living male gingko in North America and a centuries-old Yellowwood. Those who walk along the riverfront will encounter the

cider press carved into the bedrock by John Bartram which was used to create apple cider from the Bartram orchards and those across the river

John Bartram loved all forms of nature and wrote in 1740, "...whatsoever whether great or small ugly or handsome sweet or stinking...everything in the universe in their own nature appears beautiful to me..." Today, Bartram's Garden continues to connect people to nature through its landscape, community partnerships and ongoing education programs.

While the grounds are free and open to the public year-round for self-guided exploration, guided tours of the 45-acre National Historic Landmark garden and house are available for a fee on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting April 1. Private tours for groups of any size are available every day of the week, year-round with advance registration. For more information, visit www.bartramsgarden.org or call 215-729-5281.



Bartram's Garden has a unique view of the Philadelphia skyline from its 13-acre reclaimed meadow.

Martin Brown, Neighborhood Legend

By Fran Levi

Martin Brown, the first principal of the Albert M. Greenfield School, is a living legend. "Happy Birthday, Greenfield!" in the December 2010 issue of the *Center City Quarterly* described the school's 40th anniversary celebration and mentioned Brown's involvement in its creation. Through his leadership the school became one of the best neighborhood schools in Philadelphia. Now, in retirement, he is still a bundle of energy, full of life, with lots to say about his beloved school and former students.

Brown was born in Philadelphia in 1925. In 1927, his family moved to New Jersey where he spent his childhood years. In 1942, after graduating from Haddon Heights High School, he entered the University of Pennsylvania. In 1943, he was drafted and served in the U.S. Army through the end of World War II. After training as a medic, he was assigned to the 91st Infantry Division in Italy. He joined the division shortly after the fall of Rome, serving as a company aid man. Brown was awarded two Bronze Stars – one for heroic achievement and one for meritorious service. He has returned to Italy seven or eight times to visit wartime sights and the cemetery in Florence where comrades lie buried.

After the war, he returned to Penn where he met his future wife, Rita, also an education major. Through an accelerated program, Brown received a bachelor's degree in June, 1948, and in February, 1949, a master's degree in secondary education. He joined the Philadelphia school district as an elementary

and secondary school teacher, and in time earned elementary and secondary school principal certifications.

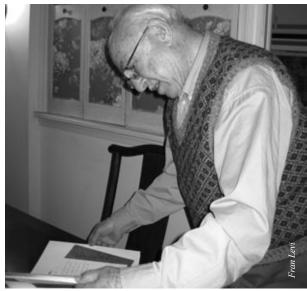
In 1954, a new school was opened in the YWCA annex on the 2000 block of Chestnut Street. The City Center School enrolled 150 children in kindergarten through grade six. In 1959, Brown was offered the position of principal of the school. He was thrilled - but there was a catch. The principal of City Center School was also principal of the Youth Study Center School. That school served troubled children 12-18 years of age who were enrolled for three weeks to three months while awaiting court action. Brown accepted the challenge, and the dual assignment lasted eight years. Finally, when Greenfield School was on the drawing boards, he was no longer responsible for the Youth Study Center School.

As more and more families with children chose to stay in Center City, a new, larger facility was needed. Opening in 1970, Greenfield was built initially as a K-6 school. Because there was no Center City junior high school, and one third of the children were from neighborhoods outside of Greenfield's boundaries, Brown pushed to have Greenfield expand to include seventh and eighth grades. This would enable the students to stay at the school until high school, when most would apply to Central or Girls' High.

From its inception Greenfield has had a diverse population. "We had foreign-born children, physically handicapped children, mentally gifted children, children from every income level all studying and playing together," Brown said. "We had a class of hearing-impaired children who were lip readers and who were integrated with normal-hearing children in art and physical education. Terrific parent involvement helped to make the school great. We had a card catalog in the office of 70-80 parents that we could call upon. I could always find someone who could do a special presentation," he said. Brown remembers Wesley Emmons demonstrating jewelry-making with second graders.; Ruth Bacon organized a Junior Great Books Program that lasted many years.

In 1970, the Greenfield principal, who as a youth had shunned the "big city," moved his family to the Fitler Square neighborhood to be near his students and his school. Rita, the principal of the Girard School and Martin, principal of Greenfield, could be found operating the Fitler Fair food booth every year. Rita served on the board of the Fitler Square Improvement Association, and for 11 years Martin served as volunteer coordinator of the winter shelter at Trinity Memorial Church.

Today, many of Brown's neighbors are not just students at Greenfield. They are the alumni who attended while he was principal. Proudly he shows visitors the scrapbook he was given at the 40th anniversary celebration, with letters from his former students describing their fond memories at the City Center and Albert M. Greenfield schools when he was the principal.



Martin Brown reviews the scrapbook he was given at the Greenfield School's 40th Anniversary celebration.



Martin Brown is standing on the right with the first sixth grade graduating class of the City Center School after he became principal. Lillian Lyons, the sixth grade teacher in January 1960, is on the left. Inset: Martin Brown as he appeared in the Albert M. Greenfield School's 1967 yearbook.

Page 8 March 2011

A Natural Gem in the Midst of Historic Philadelphia

By Ned S. Levi

Philadelphia is the birthplace of the United States. It's where the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution were written and signed. Philadelphia is where our country was named the United States of America. Everyone knows about Philadelphia's historic sites.

Most Philadelphians and tourists are aware of Philadelphia's great museums and other cultural institutions too. However, there is a gem of the natural world about which most Philadelphians and travelers to the city know little or nothing. Just about one mile from Philadelphia International Airport sits the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

The Heinz Refuge's 1,200 acres of varied habitats of impounded water, woods, meadows and fields also contain Pennsylvania's largest remaining freshwater tidal marsh, in the midst of one of the country's largest cities. The refuge is a resting and feeding area for more than 300 species of birds, from large herons, egrets, wild turkeys and cormorants, to small warblers and other species. At least 85 bird species, including bald eagles and hawks, nest there. The refuge is home to fox, deer, muskrats, turtles, fish, frogs, butterflies and a significant variety of plants and wildflowers.

In 1972, Congress established the refuge to be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and renamed it in honor of the late Senator H. John Heinz III in 1991. The refuge's Cusano Environmental Education Center is the nation's first National Environmental Center. The grounds are open every day of the year from sunrise to sunset. The Cusano Environmental Education Center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., but closed on federal holidays. There are no entrance fees for the refuge or the Cusano Center. The main entrance at 86th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard, in Southwest Philadelphia, leads to a parking lot. From there, visitors have access to the Cusano Center, trails, fishing and a twodeck wildlife observation platform at the impoundment pond.

The refuge has approximately 10 miles of trails. Bicycling is allowed on the main trails, but prohibited on woodland

foot trails and on the boardwalk over the impoundment pond. There is a paved trail for handicapped access which includes the boardwalk. Hunting, ice skating, motorcycles/ATVs, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the refuge. Pets are welcomed but must be leashed. Feeding wildlife and removing or collecting plants and wildlife are strictly prohibited.

The Friends of the Heinz Refuge (FOHR) is a non-profit group dedicated to assisting the refuge to carry out its mandate, promote an understanding and support of the environment, and work for public support of the refuge. FOHR manages the refuge's nature shop, sponsors a photo group, a "Trail Tamers Group," and works hard to foster environmental education

FOHR has started an annual Groundhog Day Festival for families and children at the refuge. The group provides funds to bus area schoolchildren on field trips to the refuge, and provides volunteers for the many special events at the refuge, including the Cradle of Birding, Darby Creek Cleanup Day, Family Fishing Day, and the International Migratory Bird Day. Our FOHR Photo Group works with area youth via their annual "Teaching About the Environment Through the Lens" program.

Every weekend, with few exceptions, highly knowledgeable FOHR volunteers lead morning bird walks in the refuge which last from two to three hours. At special times of



A great egret is posing for pictures at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

the year, butterfly, plant and tree, and other special walks are held on weekends. I'm a regular on the walks myself, and can't recommend them highly enough if you're at all interested in birds and other wildlife, or seeking to photograph them in the wild.

For more information about the refuge, its activities and events visit www.fws.gov/heinz For more information about FOHR and its programs visit: www.friendsoftinicummarsh.org

For times and dates of the weekend bird and other wildlife walks visit the FOHR Facebook Page at: www.facebook.com/ HeinzRefuge and click on bird walks.



Tree swallows are among the 300 bird species that rest and feed at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge.

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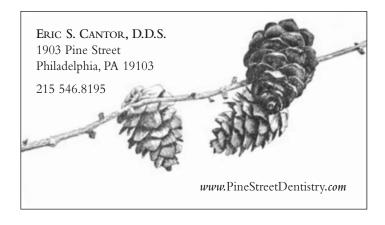
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Page 10 March 2011

New Ways to Support Penn's Village

By Tania Rorke, Executive Director, Penn's Village

Center City was the first Philadelphia neighborhood, and among the first nationwide, to embrace the "Village" concept of supporting neighbors who wish to remain in their own homes as they grow older or develop special needs.

Penn's Village has learned a great deal in its first two years, most importantly, that continued success and financial stability depends upon being part of the fabric of our community, with support from all of our neighbors. Our new membership structure is designed to accommodate and encourage broad participation. We invite you to join as a Supporter for \$100 (tax deductible donation) or a Friend for \$200 (limited services). If you would like to access the full scope of Penn's Village services, for example, transportation to physicians' appointments, grocery shopping, computer

support, home repairs, meal deliveries or companionship, please join at the \$600 level.

An additional and very important way to participate is as a Penn's Village volunteer. Volunteers perform the majority of services based on their interests, skills, talents and availability. Volunteers provide two types of services:

Outreach to neighbors, directly interacting with members to meet their service requests.

Staff support, providing administrative services such as answering phones and matching member requests with available volunteers or providing special expertise such as marketing and financial management. Penn's Village has its office right in the heart of CCRA territory in Buttonwood Hall behind First Presbyterian Church on 21st



Street below Walnut Street. Many of the volunteer activities can take place there.

When a volunteer is not available or if a requested service is not appropriately provided by a volunteer, requests are fulfilled by carefully screened vendors.

Penn's Village is a vital neighborhood resource and in the vanguard of innovative nonprofit organizations that are redefining the way we live in our community. Please consider joining us.

For more information, visit us at www.pennsvillage.org or call us at 215-925-7333.

Fitler Square: The Village West of Rittenhouse

By Nancy Ambler

Alone among the city's squares, along with Society Hill's Head House, Fitler was not part of the original "Greene Countrie Towne." In the late 19th century it was one of many brickyards in the area whose modest masonry dwellings had grown up to house workers in the construction, textile and shipping industries that flourished nearby. In 1896 the square was created by city ordinance and named for Edwin H. Fitler, a popular mayor from 1887 to 1891. The square suffered from neglect during the Depression, but was revived in 1953 with help from - ta-da! the Center City Residents' Association, which elicited from architect Norman Rice a plan for its rehabilitation. The rehab suffered in its turn, until in 1962 neighbors formed the Fitler Square Improvement Association (F.S.I.A.) to rescue it. It was further enhanced under the auspices of the F.S.I.A. and its founder, Mrs. John F. Wilson, in 1981.

Today the square itself is an urban oasis, housing an exuberant wedding-cake of a 19th century fountain and an engaging collection of animal sculptures, two of them by Center City resident Eric Berg. The surrounding structures range from modest masons' houses to the Horn (as in & Hardart) mansion, still standing at 2410 Pine. What distinguishes the neighborhood from its counterpart to the east



 ${\it Fitler Square is an urban oas is for neighborhood residents of all ages}.$

is its domestic scale. From 22nd Street west to the Schuylkill, the vista is one of small, tree-lined streets and two-to-three- story houses, with the odd fourth story surmounting a cautiously grand establishment. As was the case in the 19th century, many are home to families with children, though in this century their parents tend to be employed in business and professional capacities and

the children to acquit themselves well at one of the two excellent K-8 schools that serve the neighborhood.

The Albert M.Greenfield School at 22nd and Chestnut is part of the Philadelphia public school system. With a student body of 500, Greenfield has distinguished itself in two

Continue on page 12

major ways: by "Greening Greenfield" - converting its asphalt campus to a self-sustaining green space; and by its community partnerships with such local institutions as the Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, Penn Museum, Rosenbach Museum and Library, Bartram's Garden and Moore College of Art. The Philadelphia School, a private institution at 25th and Lombard, maintains a student body of approximately 370, with a faculty/student ration of 1-to-8. It's further distinguished by a holistic approach to student growth, giving equal attention to developmental disabilities and intellectual gifts and encouraging student participation in community affairs.

The F.S.I.A. sponsors a range of events and activities for its resident families. In

spring, the Easter egg hunt involves young children, while the Spring Fair, with a flea market, food and drink and live music, provides diversion for the whole family. On Saturdays the square is home to a farmers' market, bringing meat and produce from area farms to urban tables. In fall, Halloween is a major community activity, with block parties and trick-or-treat tours, and the year ends with the gala lighting of the square Christmas tree, hot cider and caroling.

A sterling example of public/private partnering, the Fitler Square neighborhood has fostered dozens of chic restaurants, boutiques and small service businesses, forming its own close-knit community within the larger city.



Farmers sell fresh produce every Saturday on Fitler Square's 23rd Street sidewalk.

"He Remains An Englishman": The Delius Society

By William Kreindle

The Delius Society of Philadelphia is almost 35 years old and is dedicated to the production of events featuring classical music from England. The first public concert was held at the Curtis Institute in 1977. The society also sponsors publications and scores by English composers.

Venues for the society (which is connected with the Delius Society in Britain) include the Philadelphia Ethical Society, St. Mark's Church, the Philadelphia German Society, the Art Alliance and the University of the Arts, as well as a yearly concert at Longwood Gardens, usually involving the famous pipe organ.

While the society specializes in "serious music" of Delius, Finzi, Howells, etc., Gilbert and Sullivan and popular music of the 30s and even earlier is never neglected, and some of the "popular" concerts take place in members' homes, followed by a party. No two seasons are alike. There are concerts, lectures, symposia, films and other events. Most are free and all are open to the public. There is also a well-regarded newsletter published three times a year that contains articles and many record reviews.

The Delius Society has commissioned several musical works and also a number of transcriptions. They have given a number of world and U. S. premieres and maintain connections with a number of musical authorities in different places.

The composer Frederick Delius was born in Bradford, England in 1862. He suffered much parental opposition to his studying music and lived a rather bohemian life in Germany, Norway, France (where he was a friend of Gauguin) and Florida before his friend Edvard Grieg talked Delius senior into providing the funds for Frederick's studies. He soon settled in France, in the town of Grez-sur-Loing, where he lived for the rest of his life, except for the years of 1914-1918. In 1903 he married Jelka Rosen, a pupil of Rodin.

His musical style reached maturity in the late 1890s and from that point he produced a number of orchestral and choral works in an impressionistic style, although his music sounds nothing like Debussy and Ravel. He loved nature and this is seen in the titles of some of his works: "A Song of Summer," "Summer Night on the River," "A Song Before Sunrise," "On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring," and a number of others. There are also six operas and the massive choral work *A Mass of Life*.

During the First World War, Delius and his wife retreated to England and he turned to classical forms, writing four sonatas and a string quartet. A few years after the Great War he began to suffer from a debilitative illness that left him blind and crippled by 1928. It seemed obvious that he would never compose again, but by collaboration with a young admirer named Eric Fenby, he



Although the Delius Society of Philadelphia is named for Frederick Delius, it also holds events and performances featuring classical English music.

was able to produce almost a dozen more works before his death in 1934, the same year as Holst and Elgar.

Membership in the society is open to all, regardless of musical knowledge, and new members are avidly sought. For more information contact:

The Delius Society c/o Arthur D. Zbinden 1540 Grovania Avenue Abington, PA 19001

Page 12 March 2011



KLEIN'S KORNER

Can't We All Just Get A Shovel?

By Jared Klein

Like many Center City residents, I often take clean, passable, sidewalks for granted. However, the winter's snowfalls have raised the need for a shoveling conversation in my neighborhood.

Why is shoveling important, you might ask? Actually, it's essential for a number of reasons. First, it's a matter of public safety. Unshoveled sidewalks lead to slips, falls and spills, causing injuries to pedestrians. Moreover, despite a snowstorm, many people have jobs that depend on passable sidewalks. The postman must reach the door, the parking authority must still patrol, FedEx must make their next-day deliveries, etc. I think we owe it to those performing a public service to, at the very least, wipe clean our steps and clear a small path to our doors.

Second, common courtesy demands a shoveled walk. During a heavy snowfall, I braved the elements three times to shovel the walkway in front of my home. Not only did I want to be sure that my dog walker could make it down my steps without injury, I wanted to be sure that the many pedestrian commuters who walk my block could do so without looking like they had just traversed Mt. Everest. Sadly, many of our Center City neighbors do not share this concern, and by the time I reached my office I had wet socks and snow-covered pants that took hours to dry.

Third, it's the law. Let me repeat – it is the law in the city of Philadelphia to shovel our sidewalks. Given the large number of unshoveled walks, I imagine that the following will come as a surprise to many readers:

Philadelphia Code (10-720) states that the owner, and tenants of any building or premise shall clear a path of not less than 36 inches on all sidewalks within six hours after the snow has ceased to fall, and that the snow or ice removed from sidewalks shall not be placed or piled in the street.

The fine for violating this provision ranges from \$50 to \$300 for each violation.

When I think of how blatantly this law is violated, I am shocked. Take a look six hours after a snowfall and count the number of unshoveled walks – I think the number will surprise you. I applaud Mayor Nutter

for his announcement that the city will be ticketing for unshoveled walks, and I hope that continued enforcement of this provision will ease my walk to work and reduce injury for those whose jobs depend on walking the city.

Finally, while I am on the topic of snow removal, I must take a second to discuss the use of rock salt on sidewalks. As a dog owner, I find that rock salt is my constant snow nemesis. The salt crystals get stuck in paws, causing considerable pain to the dog. I have been told that the feeling is similar to salt in an open cut, a feeling that all of us could do without. Given the number of petfriendly salt alternatives on the market, all for reasonable prices, I fully support a ban on rock salt in residential neighborhoods. I have no problem with the use of rock salt in the business district, as it is cost-effective for large office buildings and can be deployed quickly and frequently. However, in areas where dogs are on the move as much as humans – can we please stop the salt?

As we exit the winter snow season I hope my fellow Center City residents embrace the needs of walkers citywide and make an effort to clean those sidewalks!



Unshoveled sidewalks can be a hazard to pedestrians after a snowstorm.

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Page 14 March 2011

Get Started As A House Detective

By Pip Campbell

Many people are interested in finding out more about the history of their houses. Your house's history is made up of information about design as well as the stories, photos and documents describing who lived there and what their lives were like. Our Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District is rich with different periods and architectural styles because we are a neighborhood where our earliest 19th century houses might be standing adjacent to modern-day structures. Think of the small houses on the block off Rittenhouse Square and 20th Street across from the Dorchester, which was built in 1964, sandwiched next to the series of row houses put together as one mansion by Henry McIlhenny to house his large and prestigious art collection. In our area, properties that originated as single family homes may have had many different uses over the years, including professional offices, businesses, apartments or condominiums.

There is a wealth of resources to get you started as a house detective. Most historic preservation professionals begin house histories by identifying the owners from the time the house was built to the present. This "chain of title" becomes the structure – the skeleton – for branching out to find

more information about the house and its owners. By filling in the skeleton, you can learn more about the owner than just the name. You can learn about everyone who actually lived in the house and what activities took place there.

Completing a title search in Philadelphia can be daunting and may mean trips to City Hall to figure out street, numbering or districting changes that may complicate a title search. If your property is within the area bounded roughly by Walnut to Pine and 15th to 24th streets, its location within the Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District allows you to begin your exploration by visiting the city's Historical Commission (http://www.phila.gov/historical/). At least partial title searches are available for most properties. Property files may also include information about architects, interior remodeling or exterior changes, especially if building permits were obtained.

Another useful resource is the Philadelphia Architects and Builders (PAB) project website about buildings and architects. Go to (http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org), click on locations to look up your house by the street. Once you have selected the street, click on the box in the upper right hand



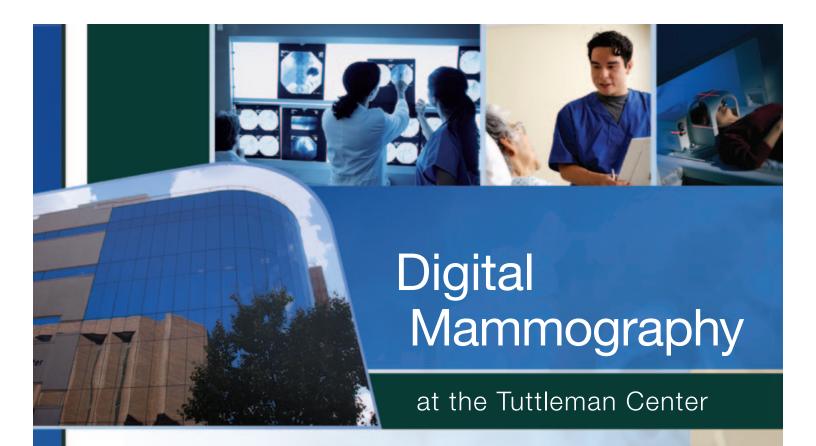
Most of the houses on the 2100 block of Delancey Place were built in the 1840s-1850s by local bricklayers on speculation. As neighborhoods expanded east from the Schuylkill River, the houses on this block of Delancey were built as residences for the middle class.



Horace Trumbauer designed 1629 Locust Street for Edward Collings Knight, Jr., a prominent socialite and the son of Edward C. Knight, Sr., a wealthy sugar refiner. Built in 1902, the limestone façade of this Beaux Arts mansion is unusual for the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood.

corner to select your block. Information about all the properties on your block is provided. You may learn if your house has been registered individually in Philadelphia or if it is listed on the National Register. If so, direct links are provided to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) so that you may download information about the National Register application. You may find links from PAB to http://phillyhistory.org, a website on which pictures and maps from the city archives are being stored and where you may find pictures of your house in earlier times, or maps which will help identify when your property was actually built.

House histories can be as addictive as genealogy research is for people who want to know more about their own families. Identifying the property owners and locating general information about the house provides a basis on which we can explore further to understand the property in even more depth. In Philadelphia, there is a wealth of historical and cultural organizations where extensive information can be located, as well as online resources that can help fill in the spaces to provide a rich history of your house. Use the information in this article to get started as a house detective.



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For directions and parking information, please visit PennMedicine.org/radiology.



Page 16 March 2011

In June, Art in the Open

By Peg Shaw

Planning is now underway for the second annual Art in the Open event, scheduled for June 9-12 along the banks of the Schuylkill River. Building on the phenomenal success of last year's event, the committee is reaching out for the participation of neighboring communities and partnering organizations to help conceptualize and plan novel ways of involving the public before and during the event. There are many avenues to get involved: volunteering during the event, hosting visiting artists, organizing local complementary events before or during the festival, fundraising...the list goes on.

Art in the Open is designed to celebrate the artistic process in the open air, invite the public to watch and interact with the artists and, in turn, be inspired themselves to create. Jury-selected artists turn the Schuylkill Banks into their studio, letting the natural and built landscape be their inspiration. On a broader level, Art in the Open celebrates Philadelphia as a city defined and nurtured by river ways whose landscape has given rise to a legacy of artistic prominence.

The call for artists went out in December and is posted on the website. Selected artists will be notified by April 1st. This year's jurors include Amy Lipton, East Coast curator of ecoartspace in New



Harry Bower prepares his sculpture for the 2010 Art in the Open event on the Schuylkill Banks.

York City; Brian H. Peterson, Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest Chief Curator, James A. Michener Art Museum, Doylestown, PA; Stuart Shils, artist and faculty member at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia; Andrew Suggs, executive director of Vox Populi in Philadelphia; and Mary Teeling, Curator of Education, Public Programs, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA. The event is open to all professional artists working in any medium whose work can be made on site during the four-day event.

The website will announce regular updates as plans progress. Any individual or group interested in supporting or getting involved is encouraged to contact the Art in the Open committee by visiting www.artintheopenphila.org.



Gift to the Street: In Praise of the Corner Store

By Dane Well

There are many things which make an urban neighborhood successful. Things such as clean streets, attractive plantings, and well-maintained residences all contribute to our quality of life. In my mind, however, there is one very important part of a thriving neighborhood: a corner store. A nearby supermarket is nice, but having that little shop within a block or so really makes life more spontaneous and enjoyable for the residents.

Near our house, we are blessed with a corner food store that has recently undergone quite a transformation. Food and Friends, at 20th and Spruce, not only has a great new interior, but owner Jay Choi recently finished an impressive renovation of the exterior. Now the store contributes to a fine gateway for the rest of this vibrant

commercial block. Not only are the neighbors impressed, but he has also done a favor for his fellow business owners by giving the block a quality entrance.

Recent blog posts indicate the neighborhood response. Here is a sampling of the comments from Yelp.com:

The produce selection is limited, but ultra fresh, high-quality, consistent, and cheap... The [employees] are always a pick-me-up, playing some of the best obscure DJ mixes I have heard in recent times. I've walked away from there with as many music tips as groceries... Their product knowledge of microbrews is as impressive... Food and Friends is my ace in the hole when I know everywhere else is closed... Hours at this place are great. One of the few places open



Jay Choi is the owner of the attractive corner store, Food and Friends.

late... Wide selection of items including some pretty exotic produce items and Mix &

Continue on page 18

Gift to the Street: In Praise of the Corner Store cont.

Match on a six-pack with a really wide selection of beers... A place that obviously caters to a fairly affluent local customer base that includes its share of foodies and vegans/vegetarians.

Jay and his wife, Bibianne, have owned Food and Friends for about five years. Previously they owned and operated a flower shop at 19th and Sansom, and he had worked for 7-Eleven. Jay will tell you he is good because of his employees. He tries to hire people with a positive outlook and encourages them to accept responsibility. His good staff allows him to circulate in the area, checking the competition and their prices. His "eye on the market" is probably responsible for many comments about his reasonable prices and quality of the merchandise.

Food and Friends' beer selection is considered by many to be good. This is Jay's intent, but still he says he wants to keep more of an eye on the food, in order to be a well-rounded convenience store.

I asked Jay what he thought made a good corner store, and was impressed with his reply. His first comment was that the staff should be friendly and competent. Of course the quality of the food is paramount, but one should watch prices carefully. Good

value, he says, builds lasting customer loyalty; greed might only be good for short-term gains. Lastly Jay says you must love your neighborhood, and he loves catering to the wide and interesting clientele of Center City.



The renovation to the 20th Street exterior of Food & Friends made it pedestrian friendly and a pleasant improvement to the northeast corner of 20th and Spruce Streets.

Fitler Square Fair - 50 Years Of "Fun" Raising

By Judy Romano Zimering

This year, charming Fitler Square will hold its 50th annual Spring Fair, Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7. Since its inception in 1961, this event has been bringing neighbors together to raise funds to support and maintain the lovely park at 23rd and Pine Streets.

There are a few original board members of the Fitler Square Improvement Association (F.S.I.A.) who recall its original concept of "theme" fairs, such as an Irish festival in 1967, where the Trilby String Band played, Irish stepdancers performed, and Mayor James Tate cut the ribbon at the start of



The book booth at the Fitler Square Spring Fair is a great place to find a good selection of used books for a nominal cost. Funds raised support the maintenance and improvement of the tiny, heavily used neighborhood park.

the fair. At the Italian festival, attended by Consul General Gian Piero Nuti of the Italian consulate and City Council President Paul D'Ortona, Italian style hot dogs were sold.

Over the years many different booths have come and gone. Many of us still remember the kitschy Coca-Cola truck that would be wheeled into the park. People would line up at the tiny window for hot dogs and (usually flat) Cokes. At one time there was even a cheese booth, with blocks of cheeses that volunteers would slice down to buy.

Of all the booths at the fair, the most daunting has been the food booth. In the early years, with Andrew Farnese as board president, restaurants such as the old Pagano's at 38th and Chestnut donated pizza, and more recently F.S.I.A. has sought the help of Bacchus at 23rd and Spruce. But generally the delicious food is homemade by hard-working board members.

Though the different booths have morphed into their present day designations, there has always been a white elephant booth

Continue on page 19

Page 18 March 2011

where the neighbors donate everything from antique silver mugs to how-to-potty-train-your-cat kits. The most exciting time is at the very end of the fair on Saturday when all remaining items are sold for 10 cents!

With more and more children being raised in the city, the fair has added a Moonbounce and face painters and a kids games booth. There is also a kids clothing booth chockfull of gently worn clothes and toys.

The most important aspect, as with any outside event, is the weather. Over the past 50 years, dedicated fair volunteers have sometimes worked in torrential downpours and tent-ripping winds. This is one aspect of the fair that will never change.

Stop by this year for a small-town experience in a big-city neighborhood. Enjoy a 50-year tradition, as Fitler Square celebrates its Jubilee fair.



A volunteer waits for customers at the Fitler Square Spring Fair game booth.

CCRA Neighborhood Spring Events

Rosenbach Museum and Library 2008-2010 Delancey Place 215-732-1600 www.rosenbach.org

Library of the Early Mind Screening and Panel Discussion

Explore the art and impact of children's literature on our kids, our culture and ourselves. This feature-length film focuses on over 40 prominent children's book authors and illustrators, including Maurice Sendak. Following the screening there will be a panel discussion with filmmakers Edward Delaney and Steven Withrow, the Rosenbach's Patrick Rodgers and Christine Nelson, the Drue Heinz Curator of Literary and Historical Manuscripts at the Morgan Library & Museum. RSVP to Mary Duffy at 215.732.1600, ext. 123 or rsvp@rosenbach.org. Saturday, March 12, 1:00 p.m.

Sendak in Spring Activities

Bring the whole family to the Rosenbach to celebrate the work of famed author and illustrator Maurice Sendak, creator of *Where the Wild Things Are*. This fun afternoon of crafts and imagination features Linda Goss, Philadelphia's favorite storyteller, and the chance to create a popup book with renowned book artist Jude Robison.

Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wild Things Whirligig

Attend a dynamic, interactive performance weaving together classic Sendak characters with music by the composers who inspired him, such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Festival activities and Whirligig performances are included in the price of museum admission, but registration for the Whirligig performances is required. Register for Whirligig tickets in advance by stopping by the museum's front desk to select the performance date and time of your choice, and pre-pay the applicable admission fees. Performance tickets will also be distributed on festival days. Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20, 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Raving Beauty

An intimate concert of live music will be performed by some of the area's finest musicians. The highlight of the evening will be the world premiere of a piece by the Rosenbach's Composer in Residence, Joseph Hallman, based on the life of controversial writer and socialite Mercedes de Acosta. Works by Debussy, Takemitsu, and Bax complete the program. The concert will be performed by the critically-acclaimed Dolce Suono ensemble. Seating is limited. RSVP to Mary Duffy at 215.732.1600, ext. 123 or rsvp@rosenbach.org to reserve a seat. Saturday, April 9, 2:00 p.m.

Philadelphia City Institute (PCI) 1905 Locust Street

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Children's Storytime Programs
Baby Lap Sit Storytime is designed for babies aged 6 – 18 months and their caregivers.

Tuesday, April 5, 12, 19 and 26, 10:15 a.m.

Continue on page 21



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Page 20 March 2011

Toddler Storytime is designed for children aged 19-36 months and their caregivers to participate in rhymes, stories and songs. Tots may apply for their own library card.

Thursday, April 7, 14, 21 and 28, 10:15 a.m.

Pajama Storytime where children aged 2 ½ - 7 years wearing their pajamas and accompanied by their favorite stuffed animal and their caregivers enjoy stories, surprises, and tasty cookies and milk. Children should bring their library card to enter the raffle.

Wednesday, March 30, April 27 and May 25, 6:45 p.m.

Family Yoga Fun at Philadelphia City Institute

Children three years of age and older along with their caregivers are invited to explore the ancient art of Yoga with certified instructor, Emma Burkhart. Please wear loose comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat or large towel. Registration is not required. Saturday, March 19, 11:00 a.m. Monday, April 11, 5:00 p.m. (with guest instructor for National Library Week) Saturday, May 14, 11:00 a.m.

Smoke Signals, Film Screening/Discussion

The film, lauded as the "first feature film produced by, directed by and starring Native Americans" is a coming-of-age tale loosely based on the book *This Is What It Means To Say Phoenix, Arizona.* Sherman Alexie wrote the book and the movie script. Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 p.m.

A Celebration of Six Women of Distinction, Amsterdam IX Series – Final Lecture

Joan Carter, President and COO of UM Holdings, CEO of PetroChem Inspection Services and recently elected (first female) President of the Union League. Tuesday, March 15, 6:00 p.m.

Lecture is 40 minutes, followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers. Seating capacity is limited and there is a \$10 charge. Contact the PCI Library for more information.

PIFA (Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts) at PCI Library 1910-20 Paris, FREE FAMILY FARE:

film screenings, readings and events, for all ages. A spectacular convergence of performances, events and experiences, focusing on Paris from 1910-1920. PCI is contributing the following free events.

Alexei Borovik will present an illustrated lecture-demonstration about the Ballets Russes in Paris. Russian born and trained, Alexei Borovik is the former principal dancer, Pennsylvania Ballet, currently teaches at Jeanne Ruddy Dance and is a member of the Board of Advisors for Dance Affiliates.

Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.

Pre Event, *Jules et Jim,* François Truffaut's love triangle set in Paris, before, during and after World War I.

Wednesday, April 6, 2:00 p.m

Fantomas, screenings of French silent film crime series, released in 1913 and 1914. Wednesday, April 13, 20, and 27 at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

A Bi-lingual Storytime, The Honorable Daniele Thomas Easton, Director of France-Philadelphie and former Honorary Consul of France, and Ms. Karen Fleck, PCI Librarian, will read, in French and English, popular French stories for children preschool through first grade. There will be a reception following the program. Thursday, April 14, 11:00 a.m.

Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities

The signature French flower market is held in Rittenhouse Square for the benefit of four annually-changing children's health and welfare service organizations.

Wednesday, May 4 and Thursday, May 5.

Fitler Square Fair

The Fitler Square Improvement Association will hold its 50th Spring Fair with food, games, face painting, white elephant booth and vendors selling antiques, art and jewelry surrounding the square at between 23rd and 24th Pine and Panama Streets.

Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7.

2nd Annual Art in the Open

Art in the Open celebrates art and the inspirational environment of the natural and built landscape of the city. The public is invited to participate in the creative process while gaining a new perspective on the Schuylkill River. The multi-day event will take place along the banks of the Schuylkill River from the Fairmount Water Works to Bartram's Gardens.

June 9 -12, during daylight hours.



Philadelphia City Institute (PCI) Carpeting Campaign

The Friends of the Philadelphia City Institute (PCI) Library announce the opening of a campaign to raise funds to replace all the old, threadbare carpet on both floors of the 8,000 square foot library. Because the librarians and the Friends wish to continue serving the neighborhood while the work is being done, it will be a very complicated project. Estimates for replacement are \$22,000. The Friends will match every dollar contributed. A donation jar will be on the circulation desk. If you wish to make a contribution by check, please send it to: Friends of PCI Library, 1905 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19103 and indicate that it is for the carpeting campaign.

Thank you.



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Page 22 March 2011

Police Report: Taking Responsibility

by Alex Klein

As the same issues appear to arise over and over again in the CCRA neighborhood, it's important to emphasize actions each of us can take to keep from being a victim of a crime. Much of the degradation of quality of life in our neighborhood is attributable to crimes of opportunity: a laptop sitting in the front seat of a car in plain view; walking alone on a dark street late at night; talking on a cell phone or texting while walking down the street without paying attention to the surroundings. Some are quick to say it was bad luck when they are accosted and that it is merely being in the wrong place at the wrong time, but with the appropriate awareness and understanding you can avoid the majority of circumstances that lead you to become a victim.

What to consider in protecting life and property:

Personal

Criminals are always looking for new targets, and they prefer people who seem to be weak, timid and unable to defend themselves. You must not fit the profile of a victim. Do whatever you can to keep out of harm's way. It will not always be possible to avoid confrontation, so you should also know what to do if you are threatened with violence.

It is vital to know how to remain safe on the city streets. People who come from smaller towns may be caught off guard by the amount of crime and violent activity that is present in large cities, but by being aware and taking a few precautions you can stay safe wherever you go. Specific tips include:

- Be vigilant
- Guard your money
- Don't walk alone late at night
- Walk on well lit and populated streets
- Know how to activate the panic button on your home security system or car key and be prepared to use it
- Have a plan in mind to deal with a bad situation
- Limit phone conversations and texting while walking on the street

Property

As in the case of personal security, criminals will almost always look for the easiest possible targets. While no one can guarantee

100% that no one will break into your home, certain precautions will definitely reduce the likelihood significantly.

Search for tips and advice from experts in how to burglar-proof your home to avoid being the victim of a home invasion. Information about basic crime prevention techniques will be very effective in making your home unappealing to any burglar. Through certain and specific actions you can turn your house from a target into something a predator will not want to even attempt breaking into. Specific tips include:

- Vary your schedule and routine
- Lock and double check car and house doors
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight
- Install alarms in car and home and know how to work them

- Report suspicious behavior
- Do background checks on all handymen and contractors

Maybe the advice and direction I have provided in the past has actually kept you out of the spotlight, and the numbers of car break-ins and strong-arm robberies are focused on those new to the neighborhood. If you believe your actions have benefited your well- being, pass your knowledge along to new neighbors. Equally important, if you have been a victim and believe there was anything you could have done differently to prevent it from happening, pass that information and learning experience on as well.

Parts of this article were extracted from Crimepreventiontips.org

By the numbers

YEAR TO 11/14

VIOLENT CRIME	2009	2010	% Change
Homicide	1	2	100%
Rape	15	21	40%
Robbery/Gun	99	72	-27%
Robbery/Other	127	121	-5%
Aggravated Assault/Gun	24	12	-50%
Aggravated Assault/Other	70	69	-1%
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	336	297	-12%

PROPERTY CRIME	2009	2010	% Change
Burglary/Residential	151	234	55%
Burglary/Non Residential	74	55	-26%
Theft Of Motor Vehicle Tag	36	32	-11%
Theft From Person	72	53	-26%
Theft From Auto	783	1100	40%
Theft	1137	1180	4%
Retail Theft	440	458	4%
Auto Thefts	121	111	-8%
TOTAL PROPERTY OFFENSES	2814	3223	15%

TOTAL PART ONE CRIMES	3150	3520	12%
# Of Shooting Incidents	17	14	-18%
# Of Shooting Victims	11	9	-18%
Firearms Seized	38	42	11%



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Page 24 March 2011

Zoning Committee Report

Tim Kerner and Pat Mattern, Co-Chairs

November and December 2010 and January 2011

1827 Delancey Place (R-10). Application for the construction of a 13'x19'x9' high penthouse addition for roof-deck access and the refurbishing of existing roof decks to include a new 13'x15'x 9' high pergola atop 4th story roof accessory to a single family dwelling. Refusal: The proposed structure exceeds the 35 foot height and three-story limit. **Not Opposed.**

1930 Chestnut Street (C-4). Application for a takeout restaurant with seating to include live entertainment on the first floor in the same building with 144 dwellings above and other uses as previously approved and for the erection of six (6) accessory flatwall awning signs. Refusal: The proposed use, takeout restaurant with seating is prohibited in the special controls for the Center City Commercial Area District. Not Opposed with Provisos.

2303 Delancey Place (R-10). Application for an office for psychoanalysis/psychotherapy

performed by a certified psychoanalyst in the same space as an existing singlefamily dwelling on the first floor all as part of an existing four (4) family dwelling. Refusal: The proposed use is not permitted in this zoning district. **Not Opposed.**

1800 Pine Street (R-10A). Application for a three family dwelling. Refusal: Rear yard area: 344 sf required vs. 0 sf proposed. **Not Opposed.**

1903 Chestnut Street (C-4). Application for the expansion of an existing eat-in restaurant on second floor of an existing 2 story structure. Refusal: The proposed use, restaurant is prohibited under Center City Commercial Control, is not permitted in this zoning district. Tabled pending results of LCB negotiations.

1830 Rittenhouse Sq. Unit 19B.

Application for the erection of an 18th story addition and 2 roof decks at the 18th floor for use as extension of an existing dwelling unit (Unit 19B) all as part of an existing 18 story structure. Refusal: Gross floor area

(maximum permitted as a % of lot area 7000 sf. 500% -35,000 sf. permitted vs. 1,654% -115,795 sf. proposed. **Not Opposed.**

218 South 20th Street (RC-4). Application for the legalization of a rooftop deck above the 3rd story roof (less than 30" above the roof line) with railing 42" high for use by the dwelling occupants in an existing 4 story structure with existing retail sales (eyeglasses) on the 1st floor and a 7 family dwelling above. Refusal: The proposed deck, an extension of a use previously approved by the ZBA and must also be approved by the ZBA. Postponed.

1511 South Street (C-2). Application for erection of two (2) non-illuminated flatwall awning signs and one (1) internally illuminated (non-intermittent, non-flashing) double-faced projecting sign (accessory signs); for the preparing and serving of hot and cold food for take-out as part of an existing restaurant with seating (no sale of beer or alcohol or take-out, no music dancing, or live entertainment) on the 1st floor in an existing structure with an existing

Continue on page 27

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Open Houses are scheduled for

Thursday April 7 at 3 PM

Saturday April 16 at 1 PM

Sunday May 8 at 1 PM

Tuesday May 17 at 3 PM

Sunday June 5 at 11 AM

Thursday June 9 at 3 PM

Open House Location: 22 S. Front Street
To register phone Sarah Jolles at (267) 639-5257 or email:
sarahjolles@friendscentercity.org

For more information go to www.friendscentercity.org



Concerts @ First

(free admission)

March 20 Sarah Sutton, Violinist

Viola de Gamba Sonatas, J. S. Bach

7:00 pm

May 22 Sacred Music Vocal Competition 2:00 pm

Holy Week Services

Ash Wednesday, March 9

7:00 p.m. Communion Service with dispensation

of ashes

Palm Sunday, April 17

10:15 a.m. Ecumenical Service, Rittenhouse Square

11:00 a.m. Choral Service

Maundy Thursday, April 21

7:30 p.m. Communion

Good Friday, April 22

12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. The Seven Last Words

Easter Sunday, April 24

7:00 a.m. Easter Vigil, followed by breakfast

11:00 a.m. Communion Service

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Page 26 March 2011

two (2) family dwelling above. Referral: The proposed use, a take-out restaurant, requires a certificate from the ZBA. **Not Opposed.**

1414-38 South Penn Square SEC 15th Street (C-5). Application for a takeout restaurant with seating in space on the first floor of an existing structure with other previously approved uses. Refusal: The proposed use, takeout restaurant with seating requires a certificate from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Not Opposed.

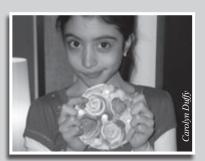
1604 Spruce Street (C-2). Application for a five (5) family dwelling in an existing attached structure. Refusal: The proposed

use, attached structure solely for dwelling purposes is not permitted in this zoning district. **Not Opposed with Provisos.**

218 S. 20th Street (RC-4). Application for the legalization of a rooftop deck above the 3rd story roof (less than 30" above the roof line) with railing 42" high for use by the dwelling occupants in an existing four (4) story structure with existing retail sales on the 1st floor and a seven (7) family dwelling above. Refusal: The proposed deck, an extension of a use previously approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment must also be approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Not Opposed.

423 S. Carlisle Street (R-10). Application for construction of a 5'-2" x 11'-4" two (2) story addition at the first story level as part of a single family dwelling. Refusal: Minimum open area: 175 sf (30%) required vs. 106 sf (18%) proposed. Rear yard minimum area: 144 sf required vs. 106 sf proposed. Rear yard minimum depth: 9'-0" required vs. 7'-7" proposed. This application is a modification of a previously approved application for a one-story addition with the same plan dimensions and shall be reviewed administratively by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Not Opposed.









The BoConcept Arts Program is an arts education collaboration between the Friends of Schuylkill River Park and Markward Playground (Taney and Pine Streets) with generous funding and initiative provided by BoConcept Philadelphia. On Saturday, December 11, 2010, BoConcept hosted at their store an exhibition and reception to celebrate the young painters and clay artists who participated in the Fall 2010 arts program.

The Friends of Schuylkill River
Park will hold their second
annual cocktail party to benefit
improvements and programming
in Schuylkill River Park.

EAT, DRINK & BE GREEN

Schuylkill River Park (Pine and Taney Streets)

June 4, 2011 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m

To keep up to date with developments on this event or to purchase tickets visit www.eatdrinkandbegreen.org.



Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Joins City Harvest Program

In 2009 the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden (SRPCG) joined the City Harvest Program, which is a collaboration among Philadelphia Prisons, the SHARE food cupboard network and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). SRPCG gardeners and waiting list members participating in the tomato trials donated excess produce that they grew. At a ceremony held in December at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park, PHS awarded this certificate to SRPCG for its participation in the city-wide program. Derek Freres, chair of the garden steering committee, received the certificate on behalf of the garden which is administered by CCRA.



CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce Street

centercity@centercityresidents.org www.centercityresidents.org

CCRA Celebrates Paris in Philadelphia, Spring 2011



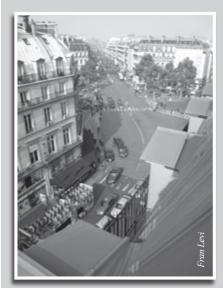
Parade on the Parkway by CCRA member John Schmiechen, shows the Free Library, based on the twin palaces of Place de la Concorde.



Chagall's Self Portrait (1914) is a highlight of the spring show at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in conjunction with the Paris-centered Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts, April 7-May 1.



City Hall's design was inspired by Second Empire style with sculptures by Alexander Milne Calder.



The mansard rooftops of Paris were the inspiration for many of Philadelphia's 19th and 20th century buildings.



The theme of the 2011 Philadelphia Flower Show is "Springtime in Paris."



The Union League of Philadelphia was designed by John Fraser in Second Empire style. Horace Trumbauer and Julian Abele designed the Beaux Arts additions to the building.