



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

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## Town Square

# CCRA & Local Congregations Team up with Bethesda Project to Address Homelessness

By Steve Huntington

CCRA has joined a three-partner initiative to address homelessness in our neighborhood. We are teaming up with the local faith community (12 neighborhood congregations) and Bethesda Project, a Philadelphia nonprofit that has been providing shelter, housing and support services to the homeless since 1979.

The Association and its partner congregations will seek volunteer and financial support from their members for neighborhood Bethesda Project programs. This initiative arose out of the annual interfaith Thanksgiving gathering, a 10-year CCRA tradition. The organizers decided to use this year's gathering, called "Thanksgiving in Action," to address a neighborhood conundrum—the presence of hundreds of homeless among thousands of homes. To avoid the pitfalls of starting from scratch, the planning team sought

out Bethesda Project, which operates 14 locations throughout Philadelphia and offers a broad, housing-first continuum of care.

The proposed initiative comprises two phases. The first phase, a short-term "Holiday Launch," has two goals—to provide immediate short-term support for our homeless neighbors, as well as a channel for residents and congregants to direct year-end volunteer and financial donations. This phase will provide volunteer and donor opportunities via gift cards, packaging donated holiday gifts, and two dinners for 40 homeless men—one in December and a second in mid-January.

The second phase will be finalized with input from attendees at the January Ethical Society meeting. Participants will be asked to devise long-term quantifiable goals for

*Continued p. 2*



The 2016 Annual Bethesda Family Picnic at Ridley Creek State Park for all volunteers, shelter guests, and housing residents.

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the initiative, so that the community can receive periodic progress reports. The group will also consider which Bethesda Project programs and personnel should receive support from the partnership.

Progress will necessarily be incremental and depend upon vagaries that CCRA and its partners can neither predict nor control—factors such as the economy and the extent of governmental intervention. To ensure commitment over the long term, community partners CCRA and the congregations will update their members as to advances over time.

Bethesda Project now serves nearly 2,000 individuals experiencing homelessness every year. From street outreach and

shelters, to permanent housing residences with supportive services, its locations create a Housing First continuum of care for Philadelphia’s chronically homeless. Bethesda Project meets men and women where they are, providing case management to help them achieve their highest personal potential. Now, 38 years since its inception, Bethesda Project remains committed to its initial calling—to find and care for the abandoned poor and to be family to those who have none.

For more information on Bethesda Project, visit them online at [bethesdaproject.org](http://bethesdaproject.org) or contact [eeckstein@bethesdaproject.org](mailto:eeckstein@bethesdaproject.org) for more information.

Our 12 congregation partners are Church of the Holy Trinity, Congregation



Two of Bethesda Project’s shelter guests share a light moment.

Leyv Ha-Ir, First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Unitarian Church, Liberti Church, Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, The Peace Islands Institute, Philadelphia Ethical Society, Shambhala Meditation Center of Philadelphia, Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, and Trinity Memorial Church.

## CCStreetwise

# Philadelphia’s 2017 Rankings: Good and Bad

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Philadelphia ranks high to moderate on affordability, livability, and fashion according to recent studies. On the downside, it’s not an easy place for renters, and our city has some of the worst driving in the U.S.

SmartAsset website’s 2017 list of “The Most Undervalued Cities in America” placed Philadelphia in the number 8 spot out of 200 cities in the U.S., based on walkability, affordable housing values, and quality-of-life metrics including employment, crime, high school graduation rates, and nightlife.

Redfin website ranked Philadelphia as the fifth most walkable city in its 2017 list, “Top 10 Most Walkable U.S. Cities. (New York is number one.) Walk Score measures walkability based on distance from amenities, density of population, block length, and pedestrian friendliness. The study included 250 cities; 50 cities with populations of more than 300,000 are included in the annual ranking.

U.S. News and World Report notes that Philadelphia is number 77 on their list of “2017 Best Places to Live in the U.S.” (out of 100). Based on good value, strong job market, and high quality of life, Philadelphia received 6.2 out of 10 points. Highlights include a mix of modern lifestyles; history, arts and culture; neighborhoods with character, restaurants, shops, public parks, and some neighborhood schools. On the downside, the report noted that 27 percent of residents had incomes below \$25,000 per year. The report was based on a survey of thousands of people nationwide, government data, and ranking of best schools and hospitals.

YouGov’s ranking of “America’s Most Fashionable Cities” placed Philadelphia number 9 out of 20 cities. On a scale of *very fashionable* to *not at all fashionable*, residents of each city rated how fashionable people in their city were. Two-thirds of New York residents said their people were

very or somewhat fashionable, whereas in Philadelphia less than half said that.

Financial website *WalletHub* ranked Philadelphia 128th out of 150 cities as a place for renters to live, based on rental market and affordability, security deposits, cost of living, historical rental-price changes, and quality of life. Philadelphia needs over 38,000 more units by 2030 to keep up with demand.

Allstate and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety ranked Philadelphia number 191 out of 200 cities in its “Best Drivers Report,” which is based on claims data, population density, and hard-braking events per every 1,000 miles. The report found that drivers in Philadelphia get into a collision about every six years, compared to the national average of every ten years.

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

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

## President's Report

# A Dizzying Array of Events and Programming for CCRA Members this Fall



Wade D. Albert  
CCRA President

In case you missed it, CCRA has been extraordinarily busy the past couple months doing a variety of programming for the neighborhood. These events have taken a lot of time and energy to plan. I want to take this opportunity to thank all

the folks at CCRA who helped make these events successful, and express my gratitude to everyone in the community who attended and participated in them.

The last week in October was, by far, the most intense week that CCRA has experienced in some time. It all began on Sunday, October 22, when CCRA held its 59th annual House Tour. After months of planning by the House Tour Committee—which this year consisted of a wonderful mix of experienced hands and new faces—we marshalled approximately 80 volunteers to open 11 fabulous properties to the public for this once-a-year, self-guided tour that is both a neighborhood tradition and a major fundraiser for the organization. Thankfully, we hit our fundraising targets and heard positive feedback from many attendees.

Then, just two days later, on Tuesday, October 24, CCRA's Government Relations Committee held a well-planned and informative District Attorney debate at Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, where Democrat Larry Krasner and Republican Beth Grossman

took hard-hitting questions from moderator Chris Brennan of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Daily News*. As usual, the Government Relations Committee produced a professional, polished event that sets a high bar for CCRA.

Doing two major events like the House Tour and the DA Debate, which required serious logistical planning, would have been more than enough for some organizations. However, for CCRA, these events were a cap to an already action-packed month.

Just a few weeks earlier, on Thursday, October 5, CCRA's Government Relations Committee hosted a town hall forum with State Representative Brian Sims at Baril, followed on Thursday, October 12, by a town hall forum with City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson at the Academy of Vocal Arts.

And mere days after that, on Tuesday, October 17, CCRA's Education and Family Committee co-hosted the 6th Annual Elementary School Fair with our friends at the Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) and the South of South Neighborhood Association (SOSNA). The event was attended by many families seeking information about available school options for their children, as well as Philadelphia School District Superintendent Dr. William Hite.

I am so thankful to volunteer alongside such dedicated individuals at CCRA, who work tirelessly to serve the community and make sure that CCRA residents are kept informed about what is happening in the neighborhood.

## It's Academic

# Elementary School Choices on Display

CCRA's Education and Family Committee, Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) and South of South Neighborhood Association (SOSNA) held the sixth annual Elementary School Fair from 5 to 7 pm Tuesday, October 17, at the Franklin Institute. The event gave families the opportunity to speak to representatives of 21 public, charter, independent and parochial elementary schools serving these communities. The Franklin Institute provided a supervised play area for younger children and refreshments for everyone.

Philadelphia Public School Superintendent, Dr. William Hite, stopped in and spoke to children, parents and school representatives. Channel 6 filmed the event, which was broadcast later that night on the 10 pm news. The school fair was well received by those in attendance and those representing the various schools.



Superintendent William Hite greets young visitors and their families attending the 6th Annual Elementary School Fair.

—Fran Levi

## Cultivating Peace in the Montessori Environment and around the World

By Erika Goldberg, Greene Towne Montessori School

*"Establishing lasting peace is the work of education."* – Maria Montessori

Dr. Maria Montessori believed the way to peace in the world is through the education of the child. Through her revolutionary work as a physician, anthropologist and educator, Montessori discovered that when we honor and nurture each child's unique development, the child grows to be naturally respectful—of people and their cultures, of animals and plants, of the environment, and of themselves. She recognized that children's early experiences shape their sense of security as well as their attitudes, and instill lifelong habits for peaceful conflict resolution.

This fall, Greene Towne Montessori Kindergartners joined millions of people around the world in celebrating International Day of Peace and sharing their message of Peace by making and planting pinwheels ~ *Imagine Whirled Peace!*

Guided by art teacher Emily Grant, the children's *Pinwheels for Peace*, decorated with peace-themed images, were planted around the school to send our hope for Peace to the world. As an extension of the celebration, the 5 and 6-year-olds collaborated in creating a Peace collage using all the colors of the rainbow to spell out multiple messages of PEACE.

The message was not a new concept to these young students but one they have explored for many years in their Montessori classrooms

at Greene Towne. In a typical Montessori classroom there are myriad customs promoting peaceful interaction among the members of the classroom community. One of these is sitting down together at the Peace Table. The Peace Table is a quiet place in the Montessori classroom where an individual child may go to find inner peace or two children may meet each other to work out a disagreement and resolve conflicts. When the youngest children join the 3 to 6-year-old community, the adults guide them in using respectful language. As the child grows and progresses in this multi-age learning community he or she takes on the responsibility of using peaceful methods to resolve disagreements with friends and classmates.

When a child feels aggrieved by another, that child invites the friend to sit down at the peace table, sometimes with a Peace Flower to talk. Each child takes turns, patiently hearing the friend's point of view. Finally, after both children feel they've each had their say, they shake hands and declare peace. The children have expressed their feelings, each one feels heard, and they can continue the day in peace and harmony, putting their energies into more constructive activities.

The Peace Table is just one aspect in which respect and peaceful resolution are nurtured in the Montessori classroom community. The uninitiated observer is amazed at the peaceful hum of the environment. Children are engaged and focused on activities of their own choosing. In the rare occasion that conflict



*Some of the Pinwheels for Peace planted around the school by Greene Towne Kindergartners.*

occurs, the children have a tool to self-direct a peaceful resolution. Montessori observed that, given the proper environment, preparation and tools, even the youngest children have a remarkable ability to be independent in their daily lives and to learn how to resolve conflicts in a civilized and calm manner.

With their years of experience growing up in a respectful, peaceful environment, Greene Towne Montessori Kindergartners have a lot to say about Peace. Here are some of their thoughts:

Peace is good. *Peace is helping one another.* Peace makes me forgive. *Peace is fun because we sing.* Peace is good because we talk. *Peace is being kind to my cat.* Peace is friendship. *Peace is love.* Peace is quiet time. *Peace is being nice to one another.* Peace means peace and quiet and love. *Peace is when the world doesn't have any arguments.* Peace is planting a tree. *Peace is keeping the water blue.* Peace is giving somebody a hug and kiss. *Peace is when you are careful.* Peace is everyone being nice. *Peace is getting along with your brother.* Peace is hanging out with friends. *Peace is reading a book.* *Peace is love, happiness, and joy.* Peace is helping friends. *Peace is helping my mom and dad and my dog.* Peace feels like my whole family all together and having lots of fun. *Peace is quiet.*

## The Philadelphia School Names Lisa Sun Head of School Effective July 1, 2018

Lisa Sun brings 20 years of experience in the field of education as a teacher, diversity practitioner, and division head. She is currently the Lower School Principal at The Park School of Baltimore. Before joining The Park School in 2011, Sun was the Diversity Coordinator and a visual arts educator at Nashoba Brooks School, a progressive Pre-K–8 school in Concord, Massachusetts. She began her career as a visual arts teacher at Hinsdale South High School in Hinsdale, Illinois, and later taught at Concord-Carlisle High School in Concord, Massachusetts.

"TPS is a school that lives its mission, values its history, and engages with its community," says TPS Board President Jennifer Rice. "It is a place that values innovation, joy, collaboration, and diversity. We sought a head of school who would help our school community co-create our future and live into the bold, strong, and engaging tenets of our new strategic plan. We sought a person who could guide a thoughtful and purposeful evolution, viewing the school's past, present, and future as a connected system

and means to fuel and anchor a shared vision. Lisa Sun is that person."

The Philadelphia School, located at 25th and Lombard Streets, educates children in preschool through 8th grade. For more information, please visit [www.tpschool.org](http://www.tpschool.org).



*Lisa Sun*

# Latkepalooza Celebrates 15th Anniversary of Crowd-pleasing Hanukkah Fest

By Bill Chenevert

Nancy L. Hohns remembers the very first Latkepalooza, back in 2002, as a “room full of smoke and cords everywhere. Our first looked like a giant backyard barbecue and there was smoke from burning grease in the air.” She laughs, “I remember a whole lot of laughter and a whole lot of smoke.”

The former Gershan Y board member, who was once chair of the Marketing committee, was sketching out ideas for a signature program in the early aughts that would raise operating funds for the Y and incorporate all-ages fun in an annually anticipated program.

She remembers making notes and sharing her original brainstorm on letterhead from MRM Gillespie, a prominent Princeton-based advertising and marketing firm where she had been a Group Vice President. “Lollapalooza” and “Latke” are on top of each other, and she referred to the *American Heritage* dictionary definition of lollapalooza: “an extraordinary or unusual thing or event, an exceptional example of something, something extraordinary of its kind.”

She is beyond pleased to see her brainchild reach a fifteenth anniversary December 10 (2 to 4 pm). “What keeps people coming back, year after year, is the latke [traditional potato pancakes eaten at Hanukkah]. In its fifteenth year, I am deeply honored to have come up with an event and concept that continues to bring joy to so many people,” she says.

At the Gershan Y offices at Broad and Pine, Hohns has brought in a thick stack of her favorite press clips: an *Inquirer* food section from 2004 with Chinatown’s Chef Joseph Poon on the cover; a 2012 Y program heralding the tenth anniversary; even a printout by a linguistics professor who swears that the Y’s Latkepalooza spawned any number of national Latkepaloozas, even other programs that use –palooza suffixes. (Though debatable, Gershan Y lore holds that our Latkepalooza spawned all other Latkepaloozas that followed.) At a recent Jewish program at Fox & Hound welcoming new professionals to the area, a Boston University student’s eyes lit up when she heard about the Y’s event. (“I established BU’s for my Hillel group a few years ago!”)

Latkepalooza has even garnered national attention: it appeared in the December 2012 issue of *Food Network Magazine*; a *New York Times* story about Chef Poon from 2004 mentions his participation; and the Jewish Community Center Association of North America named Latkepalooza an

Outstanding Program in 2006.

The framework of the event has seen a handful of modifications and mutations, but the core is always the latke and Philadelphia chefs, typically about a dozen, who each serve more than 300 latkes to 400 latke fans, some of whom come from states and counties far outside Center City.



Patrons eagerly await a chef's next batch of latkes.

Through the years the restaurants that participate have rotated, but some have been longstanding staples, such as Estia, Sabrina’s, and the Plough & the Stars. Restaurants no longer in business who’ve participated in the past include Bookbinders, Loie, and Deux Cheminées. Among exciting new and returning restaurants are current luminaries of Philadelphia’s dynamic dining scene: Mission Taqueria, Kanella, Honey’s Sit `n` Eat, and Tria Taproom.

Previous Latkepaloozas have explored competition-oriented models, incorporated holiday bazaars, or included choral performances from the Nashirah Choral Group; and almost every Latkepalooza offers something for kids—face-painting, balloon artistry, crafts, and Hanukkah games.

Many Philadelphians have their own Latkepalooza history. But the essence is always there—it’s the season of the potato pancake for Jews everywhere, with memories of their families frying their own versions at home. Everyone enjoys tasting the inventive twists chefs from across the city bring to their own unique interpretations of the tradition. Fifteen years later, the chefs wear coats and bring staff, the smoke has cleared and the cords have been untangled. Unchanged from those first years: Latkepalooza is still going strong.



Prepping the potato pancakes.

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## Crosstown Coalition Update

*By Steve Huntington, Crosstown Coalition Chair Emeritus*

**Triennial Civic Summit:** On September 16, 52 representatives from 27 civic organizations gathered to identify goals for the Coalition officers, newly elected in June. These new objectives supplement the Crosstown's longstanding focus in three areas – education, land use and governmental/tax issues – concerns identified when the Crosstown incorporated in 2014. The delegates selected four topics – Transportation and Parking, Affordable Housing, Zero Waste and Preservation – the first two of which are already on the Coalition's front burner.

**Affordable Housing Legislation:** Bill 170678, introduced in June by Councilwoman Maria Quiñones Sanchez, mandates that all residential projects of 10 units or more include 10 percent affordable housing. This mandate would necessarily affect the profitability of development, raising concerns as to the proposal's impact on the current development boom. To address the profitability issue, the bill increases the zoning code limits on height, density and unit counts. Even so, the development community has produced a series of profitability calculations showing that bonuses alone would not make the 10 percent affordability set-aside profitable. For the CCRA area and the other Crosstown communities, the bill presents a tradeoff – mixed-income diversity in exchange for projects that are denser and higher.

To her credit, the Councilwoman created taskforces to deal with the economic,

administrative and social aspects of affordable housing – an outreach effort almost unheard of in City Hall. Unfortunately, the committee meetings have all been during the workday – a schedule difficult for Crosstown volunteers but easier for other taskforce members who are “pros,” e.g., city agency employees, building-industry representatives and nonprofits involved in land-use issues. Even so, Crosstown representatives have attended all but one of the nine taskforce meetings, which commenced in mid-August and were to continue through early November.

At an October 3 meeting, Councilwoman Sanchez announced plans to introduce a marked-up bill by the end of October, even though the original bill, introduced in June, has yet to be revised to reflect taskforce input. Under normal Council procedures, the Crosstown and its constituent members, such as CCRA, which meet monthly, would lack time to properly analyze and respond to the revised legislation.

Accordingly, the Crosstown has requested that Council conduct a first hearing on the marked-up bill, then revise the bill to reflect the hearing feedback, and hold a second hearing on the revised second draft – standard operating procedure in Washington and a process frequently, though not always, seen in Harrisburg. It would be revolutionary in City Hall.

A further timing complication arises because the Councilwoman has requested that the Crosstown not distribute the taskforce working papers until receipt of finalized reports from all three committees. These working papers are necessary to any understanding of the bill so, at present, the Crosstown Affordable Housing Committee cannot explain this complex bill to its member constituencies.

**Parking:** Council President Clarke, whose district includes the northern half of our neighborhood, has sponsored Bill 16072. This Bill doubles the number of parking spaces required in many multifamily zoning categories, from three spaces to six spaces per ten units. The bill would change the provisions the Crosstown negotiated during the four-year Zoning Code Commission process. The proposal was to be discussed at a Crosstown board meeting on October 30.

Also on the Crosstown agenda is the moratorium on plug-in vehicle charging stations. Plug-in vehicle owners receive 12-hour curbside spaces adjacent to sidewalk charging stations, thereby diminishing the neighborhood's curbside parking inventory. A commission established by the administration to make recommendations included three plug-in owners but no Crosstown representatives, even though the Crosstown testified on the topic earlier this year. At our request, a Crosstowner was added to the Commission, which was scheduled to meet throughout the Fall.



## Local Branch Library Guard Kency Kennedy Retires after 36 Years of Service

By Erin Hoopes

Kency Kennedy, Municipal Guard at the Philadelphia City Institute (PCI) branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia on Rittenhouse Square, is retiring after 36 years of service. After starting at PCI in 1981, Kennedy spent his career working at our neighborhood library branch, providing a security presence and caring for the building.

After studying graphic arts in school, Kennedy took the Municipal Guard position at the library with the intention of transferring to the city’s graphic arts department. Then his plans changed. “After a while at the library,” he says, “I began to like it, so I stayed. There aren’t many places any more where you can go and see the same people. People don’t stay in one job. Now I’m working with people who are the same age as my kids... This place is special—being in Rittenhouse Square every day, seeing the trees, the park.”

Over 36 years, there have also been many changes in the neighborhood and the library. The arrival of computers was a huge change, Kennedy reports. He also says that he’s seen many coworkers come and go. “I can’t imagine how many people I’ve worked with over the years. There was no way I could have done this job by myself. I’m just glad that a lot of people I worked with over the years had a

lot of respect for me and I was more than just a guard.”

Kennedy says that he is most proud of “the fact that we were able to establish a library that people were proud to come in, where people wanted to bring their kids and feel like it’s safe.” That safe, warm atmosphere extended to his coworkers as well. After School Leader Jill Baglieri has worked in the Children’s Room at PCI for nine years, and considers Kennedy family. “He’s always gone above and beyond, making sure the whole staff is taken care of.”

Neighborhood resident and former Branch Manager of PCI Joseph Paradin says “Kency is a man of good counsel and I cherish knowing him and having worked with him.” Library patrons feel the same. Local resident Walter Campbell says, “I’ve known Kency for a while and he does his job extremely well, and not only that, he’s a likeable guy.”

What’s next for Kency Kennedy? “The biggest thing for me is I will have more time for my wife and grandkids. I’ve always been busy as a Jehovah’s Witness, and I’ll still be in the Rittenhouse Square area. It’s going to be different having time because I’ve always worked. That will be an ongoing challenge for



Erin Hoopes

Library guard Kency Kennedy at his post at top of library stairs.

me. I don’t know how to sit still!”

Kennedy also says he looks forward to seeing where PCI goes in the future. “I think something very exciting is going to happen here at the library. And I’d like to be here to see the elevator go in! This place has always been an exciting place to work. I never expected to be here 36 years. But it turned out that I liked it, and that the people liked me and respected me.”

Countless people—current and former coworkers, neighborhood residents and library patrons—will miss Kennedy’s presence at PCI when he retires at the end of December. Be sure to stop by to thank him for his service and to wish him well before he goes!

## Shop Talk

### Fashion Designer Gail Gaines Adds Allure to Second Friday on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Gail Gaines and her *haute couture* designs for women were featured at Second Friday on the evening of September 8 on 22nd Street, along with exhibitions at Twenty-Two Gallery, 236 S. 22nd Street, and Niederkorn Silver, now at 244 S. 22nd Street. Salon Porquoi, 248 S. 22nd Street, participated by doing the hair styling and makeup for the fashion models.

Gaines has taught fashion illustration at Moore College of Art & Design for eight years and has been designing couture clothing, home accessories and jewelry for clients in Philadelphia, New York, and Washington, DC, for over 20 years.

Since she was 14 years old, Gaines studied dressmaking, tailoring, and French couture with a mentor. Then she attended Moore, at 20th and the Parkway, where she was later named 1989 Fashion Design Alumna and 2013 Distinguished Alumna. She serves on the Alumnae Council, spearheading community service projects such as sew-ins and workshops for children in local hospitals. She was one of 14 alumnae who decorated a giant boot for Moore’s 160th anniversary celebration. For many years she has also taught a course in creative and practical sewing at Temple University Center City.

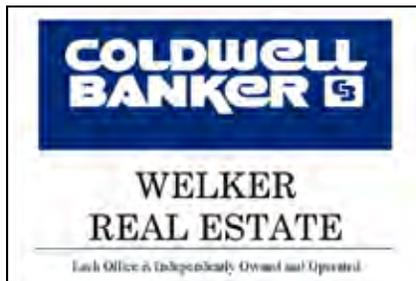


papasnapictures

Models wearing a selection of looks by designer Gail Gaines, center, at her Second Friday fashion show.

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## Historic Building on Locust Street Becomes New Home for Ozzie Perez Hair Salon

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Hair stylist Ozzie Perez has moved to a new location at 2026 Locust Street, a Frank Furness-style building, designed by architects Hazlehurst & Huckel, and built in the latter part of the 19th century. Perez's salon retains many of the original architectural details including a fireplace. The Philadelphia Historical Commission lists the architectural style as Northern European Gothic Townhouse, brick and brownstone with a cornice of copper copiz. In 2001, the mansard roof, dormer, cornice, masonry lintels and sill, and wood windows were restored.

According to an article by Sandra Tatman, retired Executive Director of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the architectural firm of Hazlehurst & Huckel was established around 1881 by Edward P. Hazlehurst, formerly with Frank Furness, and Samuel



Salon owner Ozzie Perez stands by the ornate original mantel inside the salon's new location.

Huckel, formerly with Benjamin D. Price. The firm designed several important residences, churches, and institutional buildings in the Philadelphia area, including the Manufacturers' Club at 1409 Walnut Street, a commission they won in a competition in 1887.

In 1900, Huckel won the commission to remodel Grand Central Station in New York, and moved there so the firm was disbanded. Compilations of the work by the firm include *Architecture Through a Camera, Photographic Reproductions of Designs Executed by Hazlehurst & Huckel, Architects*, (1894), which includes a photo of 2026 Locust Street; and *Philadelphia and Popular Philadelphians*, (1891). The editors of the latter book commented, "The firm has acquired a high reputation for the beauty and reliability of its plans, and has successfully executed some of the most important undertakings in this city and vicinity."

### Researching this article

Conducting research at The Philadelphia Historical Commission at 1515 Arch Street is a simple process once you arrive. (Getting to the building requires navigation through construction blockades and various crosswalks with brief pedestrian signals.) Inside the building, a guard requires you to sign in, get a tag, and enter through controlled gates. The office is located on the 13th floor, behind a locked door. A friendly receptionist greets researchers,



Architectural details feature a leaded glass fan light.

takes your request, clears a table and chairs, and promptly brings you the file you request. Paper still rules in this office. After you have reviewed the file, the receptionist will copy needed pages for you. Once you have found some clues from the paper file, you will have some search terms to use online at home to find additional interesting information.

### "Alternate Facts"

In the PHC file, I found a page showing 2026 Locust, copied from *Architecture Through a Camera, Photographic Reproductions of Designs Executed by Hazlehurst & Huckel, Architects* (1894), but no date of completion of the building. Several real estate websites list the date as 1817. But a close reading by CCQ production editor Bill West called that date into question, since it preceded the architects' births and careers by several decades, according to biographies written by Sandra Tatman. Hazlehurst was born in 1853 and quit the University of Pennsylvania (Class of 1876) at the end of his sophomore year to work for architects T. P. Chandler and Frank Furness. Huckel was born in 1858, graduated from Central High School in 1879, studied painting, and worked for Benjamin D. Price, church architect and purveyor of imitation stained glass.

## Jewelry Designer Opens Pop-up Shop in December

Accessories designer Diane Litten will be showing and selling her creative jewelry in a pop-up shop at 1116 Pine Street December 5 to 31; hours are 1 to 6 pm. Her newest wire design can be either worn as jewelry or placed as sculpture on a table or wall. This piece is now at the Museum Store at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

Her jewelry has been exhibited and sold at Snyderman-Works Galleries, Joan Shepp, the Philadelphia Art Alliance, the Cosmopolitan Club of Philadelphia, the Wayne Art Center, and other venues in the U.S.

—Bonnie Eisenfeld



Peter Groesbeck

# Well Known and Lesser Known

By Bill West

I'd been walking by the building for decades, but it was only recently that I discovered Frank Furness had had a hand in its design. Which explains a lot about the Bates house at 1801 Delancey Place, on the northwest corner of 18th and Delancey.

As Michael Lewis puts it, "The house was an unconventional townhouse design for Philadelphia, where custom placed the rowhouse to the front of the lot, leaving a space for a private yard to the rear. The Bates design reversed this: a garden was created in the front, screened by a brick wall, a very eccentric feature." The result was "an unexpected suburban enclave on a street of stiff late Georgian townhouses." (Michael J. Lewis, *Frank Furness: Architecture and the Violent Mind*, 2001, p. 63.)

Not that Furness and his firm were averse to working on the gorgeous Georgians of Delancey Place. Records indicate the firm did alterations in 1820, 1821, 1823, and 1830 Delancey.

At the other end of the 1800 block of Delancey, just across 19th Street, is the famous Horace Jayne house, from much later in Furness's career.

I'd been aware of the Jayne house and the Thomas A. Reilly house up on Rittenhouse Square.

But mostly I'd been aware of Furness as a posthumously tragic figure whose unique

style went out of style and whose buildings had an uncanny affinity for the wrecking ball, particularly in the years just before the rise of the historic preservation movement in the 1960's.

I'd never really looked into Furness. However, when I was working on my story about creating a large piazza to the west of Philadelphia's City Hall, I found myself checking books on Furness out of the library. I got what I needed out of them, finished the story, and then I kept reading.

A lot of Furness's best stuff did get hammered into dust and chunks, particularly the banks down on Chestnut near Independence Hall. It's a shame. We could be reusing those banks now for restaurants and museums. (Museum of the American Revolution, anyone? I guess we missed our Musee d'Orsay moment.)

I think there's a subtext, even today, to the conventional wisdom about Furness—that his buildings are so quirky they can't possibly work well. And that take is a mistake. Furness was, among other things, a master at moving people through space: his Broad Street Station, which used to stand just west of City Hall, was a prime example until it was knocked down.



Bates house, 1801 Delancey, 1867-1868.

Bill West

Square, where I live, it turns out that we have a substantial number of surviving Furness buildings.

Some of these are institutional: His dad's old congregation, the First Unitarian Church, and his addition to the building that housed the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, now Dorrance Hamilton Hall of the University of the Arts. Hamilton Hall, by the way, is across the street from Furness's childhood home at 1426 Pine Street.

But most of what we still have in the Rittenhouse area is residential (we lost two major train stations, the Pennsylvania Railroad's Broad Street Station near City Hall and the Philadelphia Depot of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at 24th and Chestnut).

I'd heard the Thomas Hockley house was by Furness, but I didn't really know. It is. When you think about it, the corner entrance, the pigmy columns, and the chimney that leaps out of the wall are certainly hints.

A bunch more, almost all of them buildings I have walked by many times, I simply had no idea were by Furness.

I'm not even going to try to list them all—it would be too long a list, and I know I'd miss something—but here are a few Furness houses that can round out a walking tour of Furness in Rittenhouse.

Let's start up on Walnut Street, with the John Rice rowhouses. Facing west, 2106 on the left has fared better than 2108 over the years. 2108 is currently undergoing a vigorous gut rehab, but it appears that what is left of the historic facade will



Horace Jayne house, 1900 Delancey Place, 1895.

Bill West

be preserved. And then there's that new construction to the right. We can hope for the best.

Next we can hop down to the E.B. Warren rowhouses at 2102-2106 Spruce Street.

A little while later the firm supplied a similar facade for the Rudolf Ellis house at 2113 Spruce.

On 17th Street north of Walnut, we have a more commercial neighborhood and a nice row of buildings known as the Caroline Rogers houses (124-132 South 17th Street). Originally there were five, but the northern two were lopped off, and now there are three; 128 is no longer recognizable as a Furness building, so that leaves us with 130 and 132, and they could use some work. The iron beam over the doorway is *echt* Furness.

If you're interested in exploring further, allow me to send you to George E. Thomas *et al.*, *Frank Furness: The Complete Works*, 1996. The catalog there supersedes the checklist in James F. O'Gorman, *The Architecture of Frank Furness*, 1973, which nonetheless remains a valuable resource.

I need to warn you that going through the catalog is a bit like reading the casualty lists from the Battle of the Somme in World War I. So much has been lost.

Let's go back for a minute to the little Thomas A. Reilly house at 1804 Rittenhouse Square. It had a big brother next door, the

William West Frazier house at 250 South 18th Street, built in 1881-1882. It occupied the area from 1804 Rittenhouse down to the corner of 18th Street, and the front door was actually on 18th.

This site is now occupied by a large apartment building of which I am rather fond. But along with my fondness for the present, I must recognize that we lost one of Furness's signature works here. As Thomas *et al.* note (p. 230), "This was one of Furness's most important commissions located at the corner of Rittenhouse Square—one of the most visible sites in the city and Philadelphia's premier square."

I spend a fair amount of time in Asbury Park, a city that has also seen its share of devastation. A few years ago some intrepid techies put together an app that provided 3D images of structures along the boardwalk that aren't there any more, or that have changed greatly. As you walked along the boardwalk with a tour guide, you pointed your cell phone or tablet at a site, and up popped a ghost building. For good measure you could see the SS Morro Castle where it ran aground next to Convention Hall in 1934.



Rudolf Ellis house, 2113 Spruce Street, 1873.

The app is called Augmented Asbury Park, and although there are no more walking tours it appears there is an online version.

My thought is that some group of intrepid techies in Philadelphia might like to do a similar app for missing Furness buildings. The south side of Rittenhouse Square would be a good place to start. Call it The Furness Ghosts.

## Town Square

# DA Candidates Krasner and Grossman Meet for Lively Debate Sponsored by CCRA at BZBI

The night of October 24 brought a large crowd to Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel to hear District Attorney candidates Beth Grossman, the Republican, and Larry Krasner, the Democrat, debate the serious issues they will face as the number one prosecutor for the city of Philadelphia. The debate was moderated by esteemed *Inquirer* political writer Chris Brennan.

Brennan was adept at allowing the candidates to distinguish themselves from each other about how they would each handle a myriad of crimes, including Krasner's reputation as a defender of the accused without prosecutorial experience vs. Grossman's experience as a prosecutor. Brennan opened up the discussion to some audience questions as well. The event was organized by the CCRA Government Relations Committee.

—Harvey C. Sacks, VP Government Relations



CCRA's Harvey C. Sacks introduces DA Candidates Krasner, left, and Grossman, right, as moderator Chris Brennan looks on.

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## NextMove Dance Celebrates Winter Season with Three World-class Companies from US and Canada

By Anne-Marie Mulgrew

For a holiday concert that will lift your spirits and make you want to dance, look no further than Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, A Dance Company. This incredible troupe makes a rare appearance with the NextMove Dance Series December 14-17, at the Prince Theater.

Founder/choreographer Ron K. Brown holds the distinction of creating a full evening of works for the celebrated Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, as well as dances for Philadanco and Cuba's Malpasos Dance Company. Evidence tells the stories about the struggles, the tragedies and the triumphs of the human spirit through African and contemporary dance, music and spoken word. Brown's program highlights include *Torch*, an infectious and expressive dance, and *New Conversations*, Brown's newest collaboration with multi-Grammy Award-winning composer Arturo O'Farrill.

Need a lift from the winter doldrums? Be prepared to laugh out loud when Portland, Oregon's BodyVox graces the Prince's stage, January 18-21. This highly imaginative, side-splittingly funny and athletic troupe performs *Urban Meadow*, a compilation of its greatest hits, celebrating the Company's 20th Anniversary. Founders and choreographers Ashley Roland and Jamey Hampton (partners in life and on stage) have a rich heritage dancing internationally with Pilobolus, MOMIX and ISO. In addition to its body

of hilarious stage works fusing dance and theater, BodyVox has created 22 films, many by longtime collaborator and award-winning filmmaker Mitchell Rose. In addition to live dance, *Urban Meadow* includes some of Rose's gems, such as *Modern Daydreams*, a collection of several films including *Deere John*. Created with BodyVox, and starring Jamey Hampton and a 22-ton John Deere excavator, *Deere John*, winner of 19 festival awards, is "a funny and surprisingly touching fantasy" (*New York Times*). Additional selected Rose collaborations with BodyVox include *Learn to Speak Body*, an uproarious take on body language, boasting three million hits on YouTube.

One of Philadelphia's favorite companies and Canada's treasured touring company, Ballets Jazz de Montréal (BJM), returns to the NextMove Series February 15-18, under the artistic direction of Louis Robitaille. Known for its charismatic dancers, exquisite technique and world-class repertoire, BJM brings three Philadelphia premieres. *Casualties of Memory* is a highly theatrical work by Israeli choreographer Itzik Galili. The upbeat and entertaining *O Balcao de Amor* by Galili is an ode to Havana, with music by Perez Prado. BJM's program also includes an excerpt of its newest full-length production, *Dance Me*, a vibrant tribute inspired by the life and music of prized Canadian artist Leonard Cohen.



Ballets Jaz de Montréal

Robitaille invited three choreographers to contribute to *Dance Me*, including the Belgian-Colombian Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, who created *Locked up Laura* for BJM in 2009; Cretan native Andonis Foniadakis, who choreographed *Cosmo's* for BJM in 2014; and the BJM's newest recruit, British-born Ihsan Rustem.

We invite you to join us at the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street. Performances are Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays at 8pm; Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm; and Sundays at 3pm. There are two post-performance chats with the artists following the Friday evening and Saturday matinee performances. CCRA members receive \$10 off single-ticket sales by using the code SAVE10. Tickets can be purchased at the Prince Theater box office, by phone at 215-422-4580, or online at <http://princetheater.org/next-move>. For additional information about upcoming companies on the NextMove Dance Series contact NextMove Dance at 215-636-9000 or visit [nextmovedance.org](http://nextmovedance.org)

## Town Square

### Councilman Kenyatta Johnson Gets an Earful at CCRA Meeting with Constituents

At the Academy of Vocal Arts on the night of October 12, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson held an open dialogue with CCRA residents. The great majority of CCRA's footprint is in Councilman Johnson's district, so there was a lot to talk about.

Topics that were broached included the possible changes at Broad and South; the protected bike lanes on Lombard Street; the possible changes in traffic lights vs

stop signs between 24th, 25th, and 26th and Lombard Streets; criminal activities, aggressive panhandlers, homeless people, and other related concerns along the 15th Street corridor; trash being put out too early; recent incidents along the Schuylkill Trail, etc.

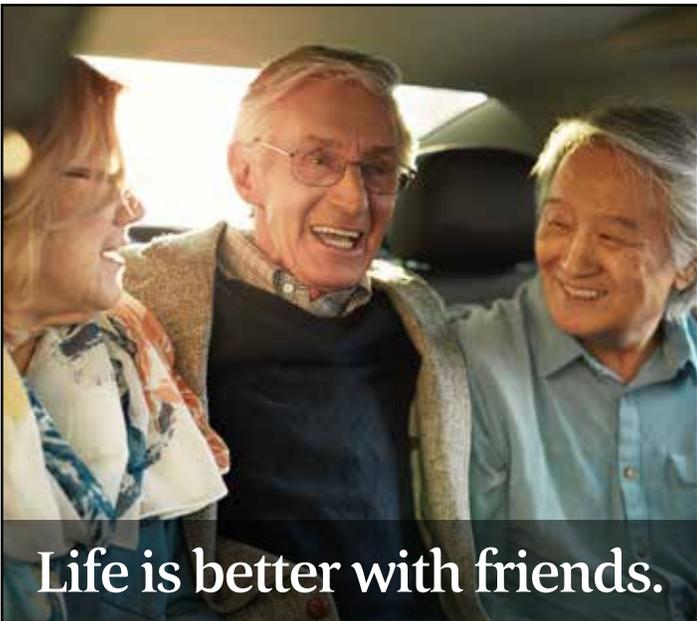
There were a few spirited moments when some residents, completely frustrated by certain problems, vented. All in all, the



Councilman Johnson addresses constituents' concerns at a recent Town Hall.

reaction of the attendees for the most part was that the Councilman is passionate and sincere about trying to help.

—Harvey C. Sacks



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## New Business Model: Modern Style Meets Old-Fashioned Customer Service at Nic Grooming

By Dawn Willis

Nick Berardi remembers the day he realized his new business model was going to work. He was hanging out at his new hip barbershop, Nic Grooming, which he had just opened with his sons at 16th and Pine.

As he recalls, “an Uber pulled up with four guys. They were in a band and were playing at World Café Live for a few shows. They got out in front of our shop because they were staying at the Airbnb apartments we opened on the second floor of the building. As the band members checked in they asked, ‘hey...can we get haircuts? Do we need an appointment?’” That’s when Nick and his sons knew their idea for a high-end barbershop that offered more than just a haircut and a shave was going to succeed.

Most of us know Nick as the Nick in Richard Nicholas—proprietor of the self-named salon at 1716 Sansom Street. Richard Nicholas has been catering to an eclectic clientele for more than 30 years; at any given moment you might find a City Council member sitting next to a performance artist, and longtime Richard Nicholas stylists or younger, heavily tattooed stylists all work their magic and have clients looking fabulous in no time.

Nick first started his salon back in 1971, in the space now occupied by Tiffany. He moved to the current location in 1983. In 2012 Richard Nicholas launched the Open Chair Studio, a workshop space for the beauty industry that hosts classes for stylists, as well as settings for photo shoots.



One of Nick's vintage motorcycles is displayed in the window.

In 2015 he opened his first barber shop, Nic Grooming, at 267 South 20th Street. The concept behind Nic Grooming is to offer a “lifestyle experience,” a new trend in barbershops that provides men with more than just the traditional cut and shave. The recent trend in high-end men’s grooming has expanded barbering from a \$20.3 billion industry in 2015 to a projected \$25 billion in 2020.<sup>1</sup> Part of the appeal is that this industry is immune to the downturn retail stores have seen due to online shopping.

“Barber shops, salons, and coffee shops are making a comeback,” Nick says. “You can’t get these services online. If you look at Center City, there isn’t as much retail opening up—the neighborhood is going back to the old-school service industry.”

Always looking for a new opportunity, he had his eye on the property at 16th and Pine. “I thought this corner and building would be a great space for a new business. Unfortunately, the building wasn’t for sale. And the owner was putting a coffee shop in the first-floor retail space.” Nick knew the building’s owner, Wayne Zukin, and kept asking Zukin to sell him the building. Eight years later, when the coffee shop moved out, Zukin offered to partner with Nick on the space. Nick would put another Nic Grooming on the first floor, and the apartments above the shop would be furnished and leased through Airbnb.

“The reaction from the community has been overwhelming,” says Nick, who started out as a barber and understood barbering. When they first discussed the 16th Street shop, Nick’s sons, Nick Jr and Joe, wanted a different type of shop from the flagship salon. His sons pushed for a more casual and open atmosphere. They argued that younger people do not make appointments—they need to cater to a walk-in/last-minute clientele.

It was also important for Nick to create an atmosphere where people can drop in on their way home from work, have a beer, get a haircut, and stay for conversation—much like the traditional barbershops of the past. “The barber shops were a meeting



Nic Grooming mixes old-style customer service with forward-thinking business models.

place for the community. I want people to feel comfortable to stop by and just say hi. They don’t need to buy. We are more than a destination for a haircut.” He chuckles when he adds, “And women are sending their husbands and boyfriends to the shop. It’s great!”

When you walk by Nic Grooming, what stands out is the light and openness of the shop. He says the neighbors appreciate that there is a new vibrancy to the corner now. Anyone who has passed either of the Nic Grooming locations has surely noticed the antique motorcycles displayed in the storefront windows, where Nick showcases his collection of more than 20 motorcycles. As of this writing, a 1963 Super Hawk was featured in the 20th Street window, and a 1970 Norton Commando at 16th Street. Nick will occasionally sell some of the motorcycles displayed—just make him an offer.

So what’s next? The plan is to open several more Nic Grooming barber shops in and around the city; he will be looking for spaces that also accommodate apartment rentals. Noting that the Airbnb rentals have been phenomenal, Nick says “we are always fully rented—it is a great use of the space.”

The added benefit for Nick is being accepted by the community, “It’s all about becoming part of the fabric of the community. This was such a surprise to us—to have the full support of the neighborhood. It is overwhelming. Guys walking home from work stop by, have a beer and stay. It is a destination for something other than haircut. It is a place to convene.”

<sup>1</sup> Kyle Hagerty, “Barbershops Are Back and Bucking Retail Trends” [https://www.bisnow.com/national/news/retail/a-cut-above-6254?be=wayne%40zukinrealty.com&utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=thu-06-jul-2017-000000-0500\\_national-re](https://www.bisnow.com/national/news/retail/a-cut-above-6254?be=wayne%40zukinrealty.com&utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=thu-06-jul-2017-000000-0500_national-re). Downloaded from <https://www.bisnow.com> on 9/7/2017.

## CCRA Winter Calendar – A Winter's Tale

For updated information on hours and more events, please go to [VisitPhilly.com](http://VisitPhilly.com)

### Winter Fountains

Benjamin Franklin Parkway  
Friday, December 1, 2017, to March 2018  
Five large domes glowing with animated video projections by artist Jennifer Steinkamp light the Parkway to celebrate its 100th anniversary.  
<http://www.associationforpublicart.org/apa-now/news/announcing-winter-fountains/>

### Christmas Village

Love Park, JFK Plaza, 1500 Arch  
Through December 24  
Sunday to Thursday, 11 am – 7 pm  
Friday and Saturday, 11 am – 8 pm  
Christmas Eve, 11 am – 5 pm to 5pm

### The Living Book: New Perspectives on Form and Function

Exhibition at the Library Company, 1314 Locust St.  
Through Friday, January 5, 2018  
Monday to Friday, 9 am – 4:45 pm  
<http://librarycompany.org/>

### Dilworth Park Wintergarden

West side of City Hall  
Rothman Institute Ice Rink, Rothman Institute Cabin Deck the Hall Light Show, American's Garden Capital Maze, Made in Philadelphia Holiday Market, Wintergarden Events  
<http://centercityphila.org/parks/dilworth-park/wintergarden>

### Diane Litten, accessories designer, pop-up shop

1116 Pine Street  
Tuesday, December 5 to Sunday, December 31 | 1 - 6 pm

### St. Patrick's Church Holiday Bazaar

20th & Locust Streets  
Saturday December 9, 10 am to 6 pm  
Sunday December 10, 8:30 am to 2 pm

### Macy's Holiday Light Show

13th & Market Streets  
Through Sunday, December 31 | 10 am, 12 noon, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm, and 8 pm | Closed Christmas Day

### Wanamaker Organ Concerts

Macy's, 13th & Market Streets  
Monday and Saturday 12 noon  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 5:30 pm  
Wednesday and Friday 7 pm  
<http://www.wanamakerorgan.com/events.php>

### Comcast Holiday Spectacular

Comcast Center, 17th & J.F.K. Blvd.  
Through Monday, January 1  
Weekdays each hour, 10 am – 8 pm  
Weekends each hour, 10 am – 5 pm  
New Year's Day, 10 am – 6 pm

### Ethical Humanism: Finding a Path to an Ethical Life

Talk by Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 Rittenhouse Square  
Wednesday, January 10, 2 pm  
Free and open to the public

### Chuck Close Photographs

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts  
Broad & Cherry Streets  
Through Sunday, April 8  
The first major exhibition in Philadelphia of renowned artist Chuck Close  
[www.pafa.org/exhibitions/chuck-close-photographs](http://www.pafa.org/exhibitions/chuck-close-photographs)

### Union League Heritage Center

Risk and Reward: Entrepreneurship and the Making of Philadelphia  
140 S. Broad Street  
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Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 – 6 pm; second Saturday of each month, 1 – 4 pm  
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### Curtis Institute of Music

Field Concert Hall, 1726 Locust Street  
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### Beijing Orchestra Plays Liberty Place

Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra played a pop-up concert, sponsored by the Philadelphia Orchestra, in the Shops at Liberty Place Rotunda on Wednesday, November 1.

— Bonnie Eisenfeld

## Online Reviews Offer a Window into Consumers' Opinions, and a Valuable Marketing Research Tool

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Small-business owners: wake up and read your online reviews! According to The State of Online Reviews, a recent national survey of more than 2,000 consumers conducted by San Francisco research firm Survata for SaaS Platform Podium, over 90 percent of respondents said online reviews influence their purchasing decisions. More than two-thirds were willing to pay more when reviews assured them they would have a better experience.

The survey reported that 3.3 is the minimum star rating of a business with which consumers would engage. Consumers don't look only at the star rating; they read online reviews, trust them, and consider the content influential in deciding whether to deal with a business. Online rating sites have a big impact on the success or failure of a business. A Harvard Business School study found that "a one-star rating increase for a restaurant listed on Yelp translated to a bump in revenues of 5 percent to 9 percent."

Most reviewers are legitimate, and will reveal gritty details of their experiences that a business owner will never discover otherwise. Reviewers write about what's important to them, expressed in words they feel best describe their experience. Many reviewers write their opinions just after their encounter, when they have clear memories of what they liked or didn't like. Readers can see the dates of postings and figure out if a negative review is a trend or an aberration.

In a 2014 marketing-research study by Yodle, 90 percent of consumers said they were influenced by positive online reviews, but only half of small-business owners believed these reviews to be important. More than two-thirds of small-business owners spent no time monitoring online feedback, and less than half responded to bad reviews because they didn't feel they had the time to engage with customers online.

Online reviews constitute a no-cost method of marketing research for a small-business owner. Reviewers are influencers. They want to share the enjoyment of a good experience or spare others the annoyance of a bad one. They write to an audience of potential customers who may patronize or avoid a business based on the review. Reviewers also write to a manager or owner, to whom they offer either praise or suggestions for improvement. Read enough reviews and you will capture nearly all the variables customers care about in how they rate your business.

Yelp is one of the most popular online review sites, with over 40 million unique visitors per month. Yelp rates restaurants, stores, hotels, and even doctors' offices, using a five-star rating system, based on questions plus comments. Additional questions are optional. After joining Yelp (it's free), you can go on the website anytime to enter your rating and review. Yelp's descriptors are creative: one star is defined as "Eek! Methinks not" and five stars mean

"Woohoo! As good as it gets!" The middle stars – two, three, and four – are tagged as: "Meh. I've experienced better; A-OK; and Yay! I'm a fan," respectively.

In my own search for local restaurants and stores on Yelp, I saw plenty of high ratings and positive reviews, as well as some negative ones. Many unhappy reviewers said they were never coming back.

Based on my own experiences, I recommend that business owners respond to negative reviews, without being defensive. The business owner should apologize and say how the business plans to correct the problem. If a business tries to argue with customers' perceptions of their own experience, it just compounds the negative effect.

Consumer Reports and others have questioned whether the rating sites are unbiased. Online review websites use filters to screen out and delete opinions that are likely to be fraudulent, and some have even filed lawsuits against alleged spammers who created fake accounts to influence ratings. Skeptics question the opinions of strangers and say they would prefer to ask their friends. Brad Tuttle, writing for *Time*, says "while only a fool would trust the opinion of a single stranger, millions of people are apt to trust the collective opinion of hundreds, or thousands, of strangers."

### Our Greene Countrie Towne

## Learn How Honeybees Are Essential Contributors to Our Food System

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild, a group of local beekeepers, will hold its 8th Annual Natural Beekeeping Symposium at the Franklin Institute on Saturday, February 10, 2018, from 8 am to 5:45 pm.

Although honey production is a huge commercial business, beekeeping has become a popular and enjoyable hobby and small business. Founded in 2009, the Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild encourages and promotes urban beekeeping and raises awareness of the importance of bees to our environment.

Not only do honeybees produce honey but they are essential to our food system, according to Judith Adamson, in her book, *Backyard Beekeepers of the Bay Area*. In the process of collecting nectar and pollen to make honey, the bees pollinate flowers, which then grow into fruits and vegetables. Bees pollinate at least one-third of the fruits and vegetables that humans eat, and they also pollinate plants eaten by animals who then supply humans with meat and dairy. Adamson says that, without honeybees, we would depend on a diet of wind-

pollinated wheat, corn, and rice. Adamson's book contains first-person accounts of the joys of beekeeping in California.

At the Symposium featured speakers will be Thomas Seely, Professor of Biology at Cornell University and author of four books on bees; and Leo Sharashkin, founder of Horizontal Hive (<http://horizontalhive.com/>), editor of *Keeping Bees with a Smile*, contributor to several bee publications, and international speaker on sustainable beekeeping. Purchase tickets at <http://phillybeekeepers.org/>

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## CCRA's 59th House Tour a Smashing Success

By Wade Albert, CCRA President

On Sunday, October 22, CCRA held its 59th Annual House Tour, a self-guided open house showcasing beautiful houses, condo units, and several public spaces around Rittenhouse and Fitler Squares. One of CCRA's most important fundraising events, this year's House Tour was a smashing success thanks to our many volunteers, the hundreds of people who purchased tickets, and the generous contributions of local businesses.

CCRA is immensely grateful to the homeowners and proprietors who put their properties on the House Tour:

- The Touraine
- The Residences at the Ritz-Carlton
- Susan Gross Gordon and Samuel Gordon
- Barbara Bellman and Seth Koch
- Roger and Jane Willig
- Marsha and Stephen Silberstein
- Tamara Heilman
- David Alexander Jenkins
- The Philadelphia Art Alliance
- The Church of the Holy Trinity

CCRA also thanks the following:

- Our 59th Annual House Tour Sponsors: The William Penn House, the Abstract Company, AMC Delancey, Clemens Construction Co., Dranoff Properties, and Robin Apartments.
- Our many Tour Book advertisers!
- The local businesses that graciously donated items for our House Tour After Party: The Touraine (use of The Townhouse at the Touraine, a beautiful 5,440 sf mansion), CAB Holdings LLC (wine), Rouge (wine and hors d'oeuvres), and Veda, Parc, and Devon Seafood Grill (all contributing hors d'oeuvres).
- Restaurant Discount Program participants (discounts for tour goers on Tour day): Audrey Claire, Baril, Bellini Grill, Blue Duck on Broad, Jane G's, La Fontana Della Citta, SuGa, and Twenty Manning Grill.
- Our pre-Tour ticket sellers: Good Karma Cafe, Jomici Apothecary, Maxx's Produce, and Rittenhouse Hardware. Also, Saxbys Coffee for contributing free drink vouchers to all House Tour volunteers.



Donna Strug

Patrons line up for a peek inside one of the exceptional properties featured on this year's House Tour.

And finally, a special thanks to our numerous Tour day volunteers and the House Tour Committee. The House Tour was a fantastic event thanks to the dedication, drive and energy of the Committee Co-Chairs, Kathleen Federico and David Alexander Jenkins, and the hard work of Committee members Jeffrey Braff, Jean Brubaker, Paula Cohen Buonomo, Bonnie Collins, Carole Giampalmi, Melissa McCleery, Heather Montgomery, Lea Oxenhandler, Kelly Patrizio, Fran Levi and Ruth Segal.

## CCCulture

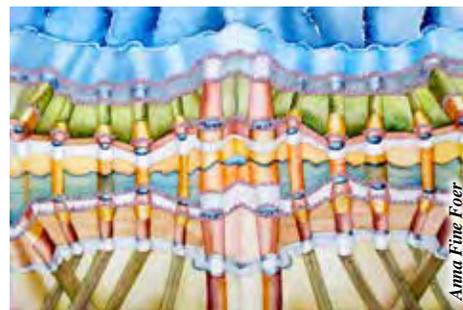
## Anna Fine Foer's Colorful, Complex Collages on View at Gershman Y through December 15

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Anna Fine Foer, a graduate of the University of the Arts, has created colorful and complex collages about various modern and historical topics and themes, including the interface of technology with political and social life, architecture, folktales and biblical narratives.

She holds a BFA from the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, has been artist in residence at the Vermont Studio Center and Governors Island (New York City), and has exhibited in many places in the U.S., as well as in Israel.

Her work is on exhibit at the Gershman Y, Broad and Pine, through December 15. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm; Sunday 9 am to 2 pm. Admission free. <http://www.annafineart.com/>



Anna Fine Foer

Hidden Tunnels, Watercolour.

## Town Square

State Representative Brian Sims led a lively dialogue with residents, sponsored by CCRA, at Baril restaurant, Thursday, October 5. He raised a number of issues he has and wants to work on. He specifically emphasized the current budget crisis, how Philly's portion of revenue earned for the state is far above the benefits we get in return, and his concern about the loss of funds for education.

— Harvey C. Sacks, VP, Government Relations



Harvey C. Sacks



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In the spring and summer, CCRA's Historic Preservation Committee consulted with the Preservation Alliance, City planning and historic preservation staff, and other local historic-preservation experts, and began a process to nominate buildings for consideration as a commercial district to include blocks adjacent to the Rittenhouse-Fitler District. Members of the committee received orientation training from Laura Spina in the City Planning Department, and began to identify buildings for potential inclusion in a nominated district.

CCRA's Historic Preservation Committee currently includes 10 members who are interested in preservation and our community. The Committee meets periodically, and, in addition to undertaking the present nomination project, carries out

other activities such as making an annual historic preservation award or identifying potential historic properties for the annual House Tour. Members may attend PHC meetings, participate in activities of the recently formed Preservation Task Force, or provide statements and testimony supporting ("not opposing") or opposing historic actions that may affect our neighborhood, such as the demolition of the Boyd Theatre.

If you are interested in learning more about what CCRA is doing about historic preservation in our neighborhood, or if you would like more information about participating on the committee or just would like to be on our mailing list, please contact Pip Campbell at [pipcamp@aol.com](mailto:pipcamp@aol.com) or 215-301-3823. We welcome all who are interested in preserving our neighborhood's valuable assets.



An example of one of Center City's many historic properties: Thomas Hockley house by Frank Furness, 235 S. 17th Street, 1875.

## CCRA Business Members Directory

CCRA invites you to become a Business Member, and publicize your business or organization in our Business Members Directory, published in alternating issues of the *Center City Quarterly*, and weekly in the CCRA eNewsletter online. Updated listings are available anytime on the CCRA website. If you don't see a category for your business, we will create a new category for you.

To become a Business Member, to get your business listed in the Directory, to place an ad in the *Center City Quarterly*, or for more information, please go to [www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org).

## Shop Talk

### CCRA Merchant Members Discount Program

Support our local merchants and save money too. These local merchants will provide a discount to any member who shows a current CCRA membership card and personal identification.

**NextMove Dance** - Get \$10 off Dance Performances with your CCRA Membership. Members use promo code SAVE10.

**Philly Foodworks** - Use the code "CCRA" when signing up for home delivery and receive a \$20 discount on delivery charges.

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218 S. 20th Street  
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**Home Helpers Philly**  
1835 S. Broad Street, Ste. 2  
(215-334-2600)

**Koresh Dance Company**  
2002 Rittenhouse Sq. Street  
(267-687-1769)

**Nature's Gallery Florist**  
2124 Walnut Street  
(215-563-5554)

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

### **Monday, December 4 at 6:30 pm**

Town Hall Meeting with US Representative Dwight E. Evans  
Plays and Players Theatre  
1714 Delancey Place  
CCRA's Government Relations Committee will host a  
town hall meeting with Congressman Evans

### *Living History*

## **Preserving Our Neighborhood: CCRA's Historic Preservation Committee**

*By Pip Campbell*

Historic preservation has taken on greater prominence under Mayor Kenney's initiative to protect Philadelphia's historic assets, which have been threatened for many reasons, primary of which are the development pressures of late. Development is a good thing—especially in a city like Philadelphia, which has experienced so little new development until recent years. However, as “open land” becomes more scarce, one strategy for new development is to tear down existing buildings. In Center City, open land has virtually disappeared, and most existing properties are older, if not historic, resulting in the perfect storm for massive destruction of historic properties.

Properties are historic by virtue of characteristics such as their age, architect, design, or association with an important event or person. However, legally they are protected only if designated by the Philadelphia Historic Commission (PHC). Individual structures may be designated but, more often, designations are for districts that encompass many blocks. Most—but not all—of our neighborhood is designated through the Rittenhouse-Fitler District but many blocks of Chestnut, Walnut, and Sansom Streets, for example, are outside the District.

