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CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1608 Walnut Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-546-6719
centercity@centercityresidents.org
www.centercityresidents.org

City Lit

Help Mobility-impaired Children, Teens, and Adults Access Our Neighborhood Library

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The Philadelphia City Institute (PCI), our community branch of the Free Library on Rittenhouse Square, is the third-busiest branch in Philadelphia. The Children's Room, where children's books are housed and storytimes are held, and the Community Room, where adult and teen programs are held, are both located on the lower level, accessible only to those who can walk stairs. Friends of PCI and the Free Library Foundation have collaborated to install a lift and ramp so that mobility-impaired children, teens, and adults can use these facilities.

Picture a handicapped girl whose grandfather used to carry her downstairs so she could participate in storytime and browse the books in the Children's Room. When the girl grew too big for her grandfather to carry, she could no longer join

the other children and listen to the stories or choose books in the Children's Room.

Every day, children come to the Children's Room on the lower level to read, do homework, and select books to borrow. The PCI branch hosts about 12 pre-school storytimes each month in the downstairs Children's Room, each one attended by almost 50 people.

Also on the lower level, the branch hosts over 34 children's and teen's programs each month, each one attended by about 25 people. The PCI branch hosts over 14 events every month for adults in the Community Room on the lower level, each attended by more than 25 people. Attendance at this branch library's programs is the fifth-highest of any branch in the city.

Continued p. 2



Lower level. The lift will stop at the Children's Room from which there will be a ramp into the meeting room.

Continued from p. 1

Of the senior population, an estimated 25 percent are mobility-impaired and currently are shut out of programs in the Community Room. Programs include author talks, book clubs, English conversation, movies, panel discussions, musical programs, information sessions, poetry readings, writers' clubs, crafts, and other meetings.

The library wants *all* children, teens, and adults to benefit from these facilities and programs.

Chris Kircher, an architect with Metcalfe Architecture & Design, conducted an assessment of the project, spent many hours measuring the space, considered the rules for public buildings, and coordinated with Jim Pecora, Vice President of Property Management for the Free Library of Philadelphia. The management and condo association of the 220 W. Rittenhouse Square building gave permission to proceed, and the Philadelphia City Institute Board of Managers approved. The lift will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

We are asking our community to contribute to this campaign. Please open your hearts and your wallets and contribute to this effort. The cost for the project will be \$400,000, and as of the end of July, the first \$100,000 has been collected.

Send a check to Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation/PCI Lift, 1901 Vine Street, Suite 111, Philadelphia PA 19103. <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/support/pci-lift-campaign>

Town Square

Opinion: Hope for Harrisburg

By Judy Wicks, with Katherine Rapin

This fall's elections are crucial in both the fight against climate change and the fight for our democracy. As our federal government continues to unravel the just systems that protect our communities, many are realizing the need to focus attention on our state elections and bring change to Harrisburg.

I'm a member of several political action committees (PACs) working to raise money for progressive state candidates. Because of my concern about climate change and protecting our drinking water and communities from fracking and pipelines, I am chairing the Food & Water Action PAC to specifically fund candidates from across the state who will aggressively challenge the fossil fuel industry in Pennsylvania.

To support the candidates in this work, I've started the grassroots citizens' campaign *Proud Pennsylvania*. We are working towards a positive vision for a state that runs on 100 percent renewable energy; prospers from a network of flourishing regional economies; and is led by politicians who protect our natural resources, seek a resilient and just economy, and defend the integrity of our electoral system.

Since the days of the coal barons and the world's first oil well—drilled in Titusville, PA—the fossil fuel industry has dominated our economy and unduly influenced the government of our state. It's time to elect candidates who refuse to take industry bribes and will work to make Pennsylvania a leader in the world's transition to renewable energy.

Traditional economic development strategies based on increasing global exports and imports and providing corporate subsidies have increased the wealth and power of multinational corporations, while draining capital from our communities. We've become dependent on carbon-intensive, corporate-controlled long-distance shipping routes—vulnerable to disruption by climate chaos—to deliver the goods we need to survive. Building regional economies will reduce the carbons generated by shipping, provide ownership opportunities and meaningful jobs, and prepare our communities for the coming effects of climate change by building local self-reliance.

Our candidates, who have all pledged to refuse contributions from the fossil fuel industry, will support legislation to reach 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, and support an economic development plan to build sustainable regional economies. Many of them are motivated to run by personal experience.

Danielle Friel-Otten, candidate in the 155th district in Chester County, decided to run for office when she heard rumors that the Mariner East Pipeline would cut through her neighbor's yard, just 40 feet from where her two children play. She helped found the Del-Chesco United for Pipeline Safety, working to ensure that Pennsylvania legislators do their job to protect public health and safety, safeguard private property rights, and preserve natural resources, including clean, safe drinking water. Friel-Otten is empowering

Chester County residents to take action in their communities.

Amy Cozze, running for state representative of the 137th district in Northampton County, was inspired to run on behalf of her fellow local merchants. She's experienced the challenges that small-business owners face firsthand, and sees the benefits of supporting a thriving local food system.

Like Friel-Otten and Cozze, many of the leaders we're endorsing did not have previous political ambition. They decided to run because we're in a time of crisis. They're choosing to stand up as protectors of the rights of our communities and the health of our natural environment.

We are Proud Pennsylvanians who will co-create an economy that builds community wealth, increases local self-reliance, and nurtures a natural environment that we can be proud to leave for future generations that make their home in our state.

On **Thursday, September 13th, 5:30-8pm**, we'll present *Hope for Harrisburg* at the beautiful **Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce St.** Come enjoy drinks and light bites, hear from the candidates and raise funds for these emerging leaders.

For more information and to rsvp, go to www.proudpennsylvania.org.

For questions, contact Katherine Rapin, Director of Proud Pennsylvania, Katherine@proudpennsylvania.org

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

President's Report

What We Did Last Summer



Wade D. Albert
CCRA President

It might be summer as I write this, however CCRA is not on vacation, but hard at work helping the community. I want to use this opportunity to report some of our work over the past few months.

Property Assessments

One of the most important issues on our plate right now is assisting our residents in responding to the recent round of property reassessments from by the City. In the spring we held a well-attended public meeting with representatives from the Office of Property Assessment. More recently, the Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition – working closely with CCRA – issued a handy 24-page guide called *How to Appeal Your Real Estate Tax Assessment*.

The guide attempts to be a user-friendly resource to help homeowners appeal a property reassessment to the City’s Board of Revision of Taxes. While this document is obviously not a replacement for legal counsel, it does provide lots of information to individuals who feel comfortable handling an appeal on their own.

The guide is available on CCRA’s website, and we invite anyone considering filing a formal appeal of their reassessment to read it. Special thanks to Ed Shay, Stephen Huntington, and Walt Spencer for drafting the document.

Stay tuned for more to come in the next few months from CCRA and the Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition regarding reassessments.

22nd and South Streets

Many folks in the neighborhood, including me, have been excited to see first Starbucks, and now Wawa, open stores at 22nd and

South Streets. While these stores are no doubt great additions to our community, the increased activity at this corner has resulted in some quality-of-life problems.

For example, the issue of cars double parking near this intersection has created serious safety concerns for bikers traveling in the bike lane on 22nd Street. One accident was reported in early July when a biker was forced to swerve into traffic to avoid a car parked in the bike lane. In addition, a growing number of neighbors have reported increased garbage on the streets.

This summer, CCRA has been working closely with Councilman Kenyatta Johnson; CCRA’s sibling civic association, the South of South Neighborhood Association (SOSNA); and local merchants to find solutions to these problems affecting our quality of life. While the details are still in the works, the goal is to see better sanitation and traffic improvements that will make traveling around 22nd and South Streets safer for everyone.

The 60th Annual CCRA House Tour

Also in the works is CCRA’s 60th Annual House Tour. Not only is the House Tour an important fundraising event for CCRA, but it is also a longstanding community tradition. And this year will be no different. We expect to showcase a number of properties ranging from stately rowhouses with rich historical pasts to sleek penthouse condo units, and everything in between!

Reach out to CCRA if you have an interest in putting your home on this year’s House Tour, want to be an event sponsor, or would like to advertise in the House Tour Guide Book. All proceeds go to supporting CCRA’s operations for another year.

On behalf of CCRA, we look forward to continuing our work for the community this fall and helping to bring neighbors together.

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

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Greene Towne Montessori Welcomes New Head of School, Sarah Sweeney-Denham

By Erika Goldberg, Director of Enrollment Management & Constituent Relations

The Greene Towne Montessori School community welcomes Sarah Sweeney-Denham as its new Head of School. Sweeney-Denham succeeds Greene Towne's previous Head of 13 years, Helena Grady, who guided the school through a period of significant growth, attaining its 50th anniversary as a perennial leader of Montessori early-childhood education in Philadelphia. During her tenure Greene Towne expanded programs and increased enrollment opportunities to meet the growing needs of young families in a flourishing Center City.

Sweeney-Denham joins the Greene Towne Montessori School team with 25 years of experience as an educator and administrator in the Philadelphia area. She served as Head of School at Plymouth Meeting Friends School from 2012 to 2018, where she also held the roles of interim Head of School, Assistant Head, and Director of Admission & Financial Aid. Previously, Sweeney-Denham was Associate Director of the Friends Council on Education, the Philadelphia-based national association of Quaker schools. She has also served in development roles and as a language arts teacher at Delaware Valley Friends School.

Sweeney-Denham's initial attraction to Montessori philosophy and interest in

Greene Towne were reinforced when she witnessed the faculty and staff's deep passion and respect for all that children are capable of accomplishing in a developmentally appropriate and supportive early-childhood environment. She is profoundly dedicated to supporting these youngest learners and recognizes that a child's earliest education provides the foundation for all that follows: a strong sense of self, a connection to curiosity, a clear perspective on the world, and empowerment in oneself as a strong contributor to community—all of these are critical foundations on which all future education and achievements are built.

In her early visits to Greene Towne Montessori's classrooms and discussions with the faculty and staff, what stood out most to Sweeney-Denham is the clear space that is created for children to be authentically themselves, and the commitment of teachers and staff to protecting and supporting that space for unbounded growth and care. She sees this reverence for young children in each classroom's intentional layout of materials inviting discovery, the commitment that parents have to the school community and its leadership, and the care and priority that teachers place on their students' experience.

The Greene Towne community has been especially impressed with Sweeney-Denham's deep commitment to independent education and her faith in students and faculty. To this new role, she brings the vital qualities desired in a Head of School serving young families: a love for young people and a commitment to their development; integrity; diplomacy; a commitment to diversity; an ability to develop staff and enrich the parent body; and a positive attitude along with strong communication skills to articulate the school's mission. In this new position Sweeney-Denham looks forward to supporting teachers in sustaining the school's mission and to leading the community in its evolving growth.

As the school embarks on the next 50 years, the Greene Towne Montessori community anticipates Sweeney-Denham's leadership with the school's strong tradition of providing Philadelphia's children with a Montessori start to a lifetime of learning. The school is planning a series of welcoming events to introduce Sweeney-Denham to members of the alumni community and the broader communities of Logan Square and Center City. For information on welcoming events, please email info@gtms.org.



Erika Goldberg



Erika Goldberg

Sarah Sweeney-Denham with Greene Towne campers on the playdeck.

Sarah Sweeney-Denham reads a book with Greene Towne toddlers.

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High Rise Zoning: the Disappearance of the City as We Know It

By Timothy Kerner, AIA; CCRA Mapping Committee and outgoing Co-Chair, CCRA Zoning Committee

What is Philadelphia's most iconic commercial corridor? Many would argue there is no better place for a stroll in the city than Walnut Street. If we add Sansom and Chestnut, and the numbered streets between Broad and 20th, we have a handsome and highly functioning commercial area that has few equivalents anywhere in the country.

Some are attracted to the quality and variety of stores and restaurants, while others are entertained by the age-old pastime of people-watching. But it is the quality of the streetscape and the many superb examples of architecture that give this area its truly unique character.

A broad range of architectural history lines these streets: from stately Victorian rowhouses to impressive Art Deco high-rises to crisply modern glass structures. The assortment of styles, sizes, materials and ages contributes to the streetscape's vitality, creating a richly varied and widely appreciated urban environment. In 1987, the National Park Service recognized the area's distinctive value with its designation as the Center City West Commercial Historic District. "Center City West displays the City's most concentrated and impressive assemblage of Art Deco and Art Moderne architecture dating from the 1920s and 30s, along with the mix of late Victorian and early 20th century revival styles and the beginnings of the International style in the late 1930s," according to the nominating document.

You might imagine the area's historic significance and commercial vitality would prompt the city to support its continued existence by zoning the land to reflect its current configuration. However, that is not the case. In fact, all of this area is zoned CMX-5, which allows for the highest and densest development in the city. The Comcast building and the FMC Tower are prime examples of CMX-5 zoning. In fairness, the zoning code does include street-specific massing and "sky-plane" limitations that would not quite allow a Comcast Tower to be dropped on Walnut Street, but the code does allow for some really tall structures to be built along these blocks—after the historic four- and five-story buildings are torn down.



The 1500 block of Walnut: a streetscape of uncertainty.

To consider what might happen in the near future, take a look at the northeast corner of 16th and Walnut. The residential tower known as the Beacon was recently built according to the current code. Now imagine both sides of the block lined with towers that size and you will realize how much the character of the street could change. The effect of such high-density zoning is to incentivize the demolition of lower-scale buildings, to allow for the construction of much taller structures. And since the many historic buildings are a key part of the area's cherished character, we are left to wonder why the city would incentivize the cannibalization of its own desirability.

In 2012, after a four-year rewrite effort, Philadelphia switched to a new Zoning Code. As a required follow-up, every neighborhood organization had to take a long, hard look at its zoning map to decide if the new zoning classifications are appropriate. In areas where the zoning classifications do not fit the context, different classifications are proposed to the Planning Commission and then all proposed changes are presented at a public meeting. The CCRA Mapping Committee, ably chaired by Mike Schade and Charles Robin, has been laboring over this task for the past three years.

The Committee considers the CMX-5 classification appropriate for Market and Broad Streets, Center City's widest thoroughfares. However, on narrower streets such as Walnut, Sansom, and Chestnut, the Committee concluded that buildings constructed to the allowed limits of CMX-5 zoning would refashion these streets into deep canyons. Further, the resulting loss of historic structures would be similar to the "deeply disturbing" Jeweler's Row story (according to Mayor Kenney), where Toll Brothers will soon demolish historic buildings to erect a 24-story tower on CMX-5-designated land.

For these reasons, the Mapping Committee is requesting a reduction to CMX-3 of the zoning along these blocks. This category would not allow such tall buildings to be constructed and would relieve some of the related developmental pressures (less height = less profit = less pressure). However, this change would run counter to the ideas of the Planning Commission, which considers Center City West part of the downtown core, where "bigger is better."

You may be wondering why all these historic buildings are not protected by the city's preservation regulations. Yes, Center City West is a National Historic District,

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but national designation does not provide protection for historic buildings; it is a tax-incentive program. Only designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission can hold up demolition, and the vast majority of buildings in this area are not yet listed on the local Register of Historic Places.

To be precise, Walnut between 17th and 23rd Streets falls within the Rittenhouse

Fitler Historic District and is thereby under the watch of the Historical Commission. But Walnut from Broad to 17th lies beyond the district, and, of the 52 buildings on these three blocks, only eight are listed on the Register. As for the other 44 buildings, they are in line for the next Jeweler’s Row surprise. Appreciate them while you can, along with the buildings of Sansom and Chestnut, which have even less protection.

This Fall, CCRA will hold a public meeting to present the proposed zoning designations for this area. If you are concerned with the fate of the Center City West Commercial Historic District, come and voice your opinion. The city is ours; be a part of the discussion to shape its future.

Date, time and location of the public meeting are to be determined. Please check the weekly CCRA eNews for updates.

Town Square

CCRA Annual Meeting Presents Impressive Panel for Discussion with Members

CCRA held its 2018 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 23, at the Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce St.

Following a brief business session, at which the new slate of directors was elected to the Board (see accompanying article for an introduction to your new Board members; last year’s officers retain their current posts), CCRA President Wade Albert turned the program over to an esteemed panel of experts for discussion of current issues in development in Center City.

The panel included **Anne Fadullon** (Director of Philadelphia Department of Planning and Development), **Jon Geeting** (Director of Engagement for Philly 3.0) and **Paul Steinke** (Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia). Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Inga Saffron**, architecture critic for the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, ably served as moderator.

It was a well-attended, exciting, and thought-provoking event. The Annual Meeting is open to all, however only



CCRA President Wade Albert addresses the distinguished panel at the 2018 Annual Meeting, including, from left, Inga Saffron, Jon Geeting, Paul Steinke, and Anne Fadullon.

CCRA members are entitled to vote during the business session. Following the 7 pm meeting, members and panelists mingled for delicious food and wine and lively conversation in the garden.

Town Square

CCRA Welcomes New Directors to the Board at Annual Meeting in May

Brett Goldman (term expires 2021) - Brett was born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia. After living in Tel Aviv, Israel, and Washington, D.C., Brett moved back to Philly in 2016 and currently resides at the Academy House. Brett is a lobbyist at Duane Morris Government Strategies and is actively involved in political and Jewish communal circles, both locally and nationally. In his free time, he enjoys cooking and a nice glass of scotch or bourbon.

Richard Gross (2021) - Rick is a returning Director. Rick, who moved to Rittenhouse Square with his wife, Roberta, five years ago, has been enchanted by the neighborhood and the city ever since working as a real-estate and transaction attorney in Washington, D.C. Rick is Senior Manager of his company, BW Realty Advisors LLC, which finances

large public/private projects throughout the country. Rick won a Tony in 2013 for co-producing the Broadway revival of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*; both he and Roberta are active with local theater and arts organizations in their new hometown. They have adult twin sons, and Max, a beautiful English Springer Spaniel, who has become a well-known member of the Rittenhouse dog community.

Barbara Halpern (2021) - Barbara is a returning Director. Barbara is currently an English as a Second Language tutor for the Center for Literacy. Previously, she practiced law in Center City. In 2012, she and her husband, Carl, moved to Filter Square from Abington, PA. Barbara has been a V.P. for CCRA and has also acted as the Liaison to the Schuylkill River

Community Garden Steering Committee, as well as the University of Pennsylvania’s Office of Government and Community Relations. As Membership/Sponsorship Chair, she generated new types of business memberships, created a Restaurant “Dine with Us” program and increased membership as a whole. She currently co-chairs the Celebration for Center City Living.

Ayanna Haskins (2021) - Ayanna is a Philadelphia-area native living in the Graduate Hospital neighborhood; she is passionate about keeping the neighborhood a desirable place to live. Ayanna is an entrepreneur and leads the Datcher Group Inc., an IT consulting firm that assists regulated organizations in areas of security, risk management and compliance.

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Nathaniel Parks (2021) - Nathaniel is an entrepreneur who, throughout his career, has focused on utilizing technology to help progressive candidates and organizations. He lives on Rodman Street with his wife, Sallie, their daughter, Celia, and dog, Wrigley.

Robin Sweet (2021) - Robin is a resident of the Fittler Square area, and is an Associate Broker with Philly Living. In addition to her real estate career, she has owned and operated multiple businesses, and has been on the executive board of The Saturday Club for the past five years, a women’s philanthropic organization that benefits women, children and families in the greater Philadelphia area. She is also the Director of Communications for the XXI Club of The Union League of Philadelphia, and a Troop Leader for her daughter’s Girl Scout Troop.

Max Tuttleman (2021) – Bio unavailable

Michael Bowman (2020) – Bio unavailable

Benjamin Zuckerman (2020) - A Rittenhouse Square area resident for almost two decades, Ben is a retired trial lawyer who specialized in complex commercial litigation matters. He and his wife relish the energy and variety of life in Center City, and he is eager to help sustain and improve it through his service on CCRA’s Board. Over the years he has been active in a number of nonprofit and cultural organizations, including board service at JEVS Human Services and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Elena Cappella (2019) - Elena A. Cappella (a native of Brooklyn, N.Y.) and her husband, Joe, have enjoyed life in Center City since moving here from Madison, Wisconsin, in 1990. Ignoring the advice of

suburban Philly-area colleagues back then, they choose from day one to live in and enjoy the urban center; they have never regretted that decision. Elena’s professional activities over the years have involved women’s rights, prisoners’ rights, judicial ethics, law reform work in a host of areas, and nonprofit administration and governance. For nearly two decades she served in an executive capacity with the American Law Institute in West Philadelphia. Since retiring in 2010, she has turned her focus to local events, issues, and activities. She enjoys local theater, bicycling for health and transport, and volunteering at CHOP and Greenfield School (among other venues) with Nessie, her certified therapy dog. Having previously served four years on the CCRA Board (she left because Joe’s sabbatical from Penn would keep them away from the city for extended periods), she enthusiastically re-assumes the responsibilities of board membership.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

My Impressions of the Rail Park

By Pamela Freyd

Along with a group of walking buddies, I’ve been making regular visits to the new elevated Rail Park ever since the ground-breaking in the fall of 2016. Even before then, I’d followed the dreams of the organization that is now known as the Friends of the Rail Park.

In 2009, this organization, along with the Center City District, began to create plans, raise funds, and develop Phase I. Their plans seemed a wonderful way to preserve the majesty of the time when Philadelphia was the “Workshop of the World.” And it seemed a wonderful way to turn an abandoned, decrepit, and, frankly, unpleasant area to a place that would resonate with the young, active people who have made Philadelphia so lively in the past few decades.

In the fall of 2016, however, the task looked daunting, if not impossible. Entering the area from Broad and Noble Streets, we passed the abandoned train-car diner and struggled down a falling-apart street to where an entrance to the park was to be located. We climbed over dirt piles, trash and weeds.

Every few months we returned to see if there had been any progress. And there



Artist's rendering of Phase I of the Rail Park.

Studio/Bryan Haynes

was! Slowly, the years of decay were removed or repaired. Neglected buildings sprouted flower boxes, the street was paved, and trees were planted everywhere. Plans were afoot to make the old train-car diner the headquarters of the Rail Park. On June 14, the first phase of the park was open for use.

If you go to visit the new Rail Park, don’t expect anything like the High Line in New York City because you will be disappointed. Our park is a fledgling. The trees are still too small to provide shade. At a length of barely two blocks, the Rail Park

is tiny. In time, the trees will grow, and, according to plans, so will the park.

People think of Philadelphia’s history in terms of our colonial heritage; our new rail park opens the possibility of awakening appreciation of the importance and indeed, greatness, of Philadelphia in the Industrial Revolution. A park can do this in a way that is relevant to Philadelphia and its residents in the 21st Century.

Visit the Rail Park, Broad and Noble Streets to 11th and Callowhill Streets. Free. www.therailpark.org

The Last Man Who Knew Everything – Joseph Leidy of Philadelphia

By Bill West

Joseph Leidy (1823-1891) is best known as a pioneer in the study of dinosaurs. In 1868, he guided a team that erected “the first fully articulated dinosaur skeleton display in the world.” The skeleton was exhibited at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, which at the time was located on the northwest corner of Broad and Sansom, and it revolutionized the concept of a natural history museum.

In addition to attracting visitors—lots of visitors—to museums, dinosaurs were also instrumental in getting people to think seriously about the then-novel concept of evolution. Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection* had only appeared in 1859, and it would be an understatement to say that the guardians of received wisdom were not very receptive. Leidy, in a letter, wrote of the importance of dinosaur displays: “They break up old and rather fixed views about the world being created just as we now see it. Nothing tends so much to lead people to believe in the existence of former races of animals, as such restorations.” (See Robert McCracken Peck and Patricia Tyson Stroud, *A Glorious Enterprise: the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the Making of American Science*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, [2012], pp. 136-138, 140.)

Leidy was also a pioneer in the use of the microscope, which he called his “first love.” This work included parasites (he found the source of trichinosis in pork and later recommended more thorough cooking as a preventive measure) and his beloved rhizopods—tiny creatures, some better known as amoebas—which he lovingly reproduced in illustrations that showed considerable artistic talent. (See Leonard Warren, *Joseph Leidy, The Last Man Who Knew Everything*, New Haven, Yale University Press [1998], pp. 65, 69, 166-169; and Henry Fairfield Osborn, *Joseph Leidy 1823-1891*, City of Washington, National Academy of Sciences, 1913, pp. 351-352. The latter is available online.)

Leidy was probably the first in America to use the microscope in forensic medicine.

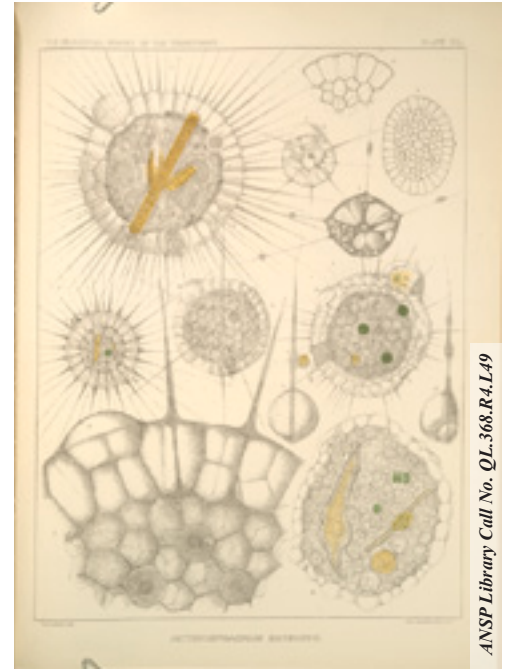


Portrait of Joseph Leidy at his desk at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Shortly after Leidy graduated from medical school, the coroner of Philadelphia hired him as a part-time assistant coroner. It probably didn’t hurt that the coroner was his cousin Napoleon B. Leidy. During his four years on the job (1845-1849) Joseph showed that nepotism could have an upside. In 1846 a farmer was murdered in north Philadelphia, and a day later a man was arrested with blood on his clothing and on the hatchet he was carrying. He claimed the blood came from chickens he had killed. Leidy threw some samples under his microscope, and declared that he was not looking at chicken blood. The suspect, apparently lacking any plausible alibi, wound up confessing. (Warren, pp. 59, 72.)

But perhaps the thing about Leidy that most astonished his contemporaries, from students in the hallway to colleagues in the faculty lounge, was the simply amazing amount of stuff he knew about the natural world. From dinosaurs to clinical pathology, botany, zoology, rocks and gems, “if Leidy didn’t know, no one knew,” in the words of his biographer Warren (p. 192).

Leidy had a happy life and many friends, and he was a pillar of three major



Freshwater rhizopods of North America. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1879. Illustration by Joseph Leidy.

institutions in Philadelphia: Penn’s medical school, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Wagner Free Institute of Science. He received the M.D. degree from Penn in 1844 and in 1853 was appointed professor of anatomy at the medical school (a position he held for nearly four decades), and served as dean of the medical school. At the Academy of Natural Sciences Leidy was a curator, and, in the 1880’s, president of that institution; he also served as president of the Wagner Free Institute. And he taught natural history at Swarthmore for many years.

It seems that just about everybody liked Leidy. The few who didn’t like him seem to have been annoyed that, even though he was a really nice guy, you couldn’t push him around.

Leidy was born at his parents’ home, 312 North Third Street, which was conveniently next door to his father’s hat store. In 1864 he married Anna Harden, daughter of the Reverend Robert Harden of Louisville, Kentucky. In 1876 the couple adopted Allwina Franck, the orphaned daughter of a Penn engineering professor. Leidy was raised as a Lutheran, but

migrated in later years to Unitarianism. His funeral was held at the Frank Furness-designed First Unitarian Church at 2125 Chestnut Street. (Warren, pp. 1, 143, 145-146, 221, 225.)

Leidy was a part of the western migration of Philadelphia during the 19th century. He grew up on Third Street, and in 1859 he purchased a house at 1302 Filbert Street, where he lived for many years. In the last year of his life he lived at 2125 Spruce. (Warren, pp. 19, 173, 221, 270.)

The Dr. Joseph Leidy House at 1319 Locust Street was the home of Dr. Joseph Leidy, Jr., who was Professor Leidy's nephew. It was built several years after Uncle Joseph died. Penn's online biography of Leidy gets this wrong in the last paragraph.

The site of the Filbert Street house later became part of the City Hall Annex, which is now a hotel. Across Filbert today is the city's criminal justice center.

Things obviously looked a bit different when Leidy was living there. For several decades he got to watch the construction of City Hall, a block away. Although the Reading Terminal was not built until after his death, there were markets on 12th Street before the Reading Terminal arrived.

A student who lived with the Leidys, Charles S. Dolley, tells us that Leidy "did most of the marketing and I frequently accompanied him to the 12th St. Market and carried home the basket of meat, fish or vegetables which he selected." At the time hucksters would also walk the streets, calling out their wares. Fresh crabs were frequently on offer in the summer, and when Leidy heard the soft-shelled crab men "crying 'crabs, crabs,' he would take some change from his pocket and say, 'Charlie, suppose you run down and get some crabs and a pitcher of beer from the corner saloon'—a very respectable place on the corner of 13th and Filbert—in fact, right next door. Then we would have a jolly snack." (Warren, pp. 143-145.)

Although not a great traveler, Leidy did get to Europe four times. And from time to time the world came to him. *A Glorious Enterprise* has a wonderful photograph on page 275 that shows Joseph Leidy standing with Edgar Allan Poe in the Academy of Natural Sciences at Broad and

Sansom, during the winter of 1842-1843. The authors report that Poe spent time at the Academy researching mollusks; the photograph—a daguerrotype—is "the oldest known photograph of an American museum interior."

Much later in life, Leidy served on the committee at the University of Pennsylvania that supervised the work of Eadweard Muybridge, who was conducting photographic studies of human motion. (Warren, p. 240.)

While Leidy was slowly moving westward across Philadelphia, his two main employers were doing the same thing.

From 1751 to 1801, the University of Pennsylvania's college was located at Fourth and Arch. The medical school was founded in 1765 and located in Surgeons' Hall, on Fifth near Walnut. (Because the site of Surgeons' Hall is in the Independence National Historical Park, there is a plaque.) In 1801 the college and the medical school moved to Ninth and Market, where they stayed until the move to West Philly in 1872.

The Academy of Natural Sciences held its first meeting in 1812, in a private residence near the northwest corner of Market and Second. It was soon renting a meeting space above a milliner's shop at 94 North Second Street, and in 1816 moved to purpose-built quarters on Arch between Front and Second. The building was presumably designed by William Strickland, who was on the building committee. In 1826 the members, moving the collections themselves, to save money, occupied a former Swedenborgian church (which was definitely designed by Strickland). This structure was located at 12th and George (now Sansom) streets. In 1840 the Academy continued its trek west, to Broad and Sansom, where it stayed until 1876, when it moved to its current location on Logan Square, at 19th and Race. (Peck and Stroud, pp. 2, 6, 13, 30, 32, 43, 144, 149, 154 fn. 69, 410.)

Warren (p. 207) says the Academy moved to Broad and Sansom in 1826. I believe he is mistaken.

Warren does have one significant criticism of Leidy. It's an interesting point, with which I happen not to agree, but it is well worth discussing.

Leidy lived at a time when modern science was really beginning to take off, with the experimental method becoming more and more important. Leidy, though well aware of these developments, continued to work throughout his career in the more traditional vein of descriptive science. Warren thinks that Leidy should have jumped on the experimental bandwagon. (Warren, pp. 6, 41, 92, 105, 236, 252.)

(Think of Louis Pasteur saying, "Look at all those microbes in the fresh milk." And then saying, "I wonder what happens if we heat the milk." The first is observation. The second is the beginning of an experiment.)

I have several reactions. First, the idea of looking very carefully, and then reporting precisely what you have seen, lies at the base of modern science. Today we may take this approach for granted, but it was not always so.

For example, maggots seem to have the ability to appear out of nowhere. In reality, they come from very tiny eggs, and later in life they turn into flies. Leidy spent a good amount of his time, over the years, dealing with people who sincerely believed they had witnessed the spontaneous generation of life. (Warren, pp. 106, 116, 122, 130.)

Second, there is no guarantee that Leidy would have been half as good an experimenter as he was an observer, reporter, and illustrator. I'd say Leidy knew what he was good at, and he stuck to it. There's a really bad John Wayne movie from 1968 called *Hellfighters*, in which the veteran character actor Jay C. Flippen says to Katharine Ross, "Your father is the best there is at what he does. No man can walk away from that."

Third, observation continues to be in considerable demand even today. A recent article in the *New York Times* carries the title "The 8 Million Species We Don't Know." In it, the eminent entomologist Edward O. Wilson suggests that biodiversity is a good thing, estimates that there are currently 10 million species on the planet, of which only 2 million have been described, and argues that we can't save species if we don't know they're there.

If Joseph Leidy were alive today, his services would definitely be in demand. Eight million species to go. He'd be a happy man.



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New Head of School at TPS Looks Toward a Bright Future

By Alison Fritz

Putting children at the center of the educational experience is the thing that impressed Lisa Sun most about The Philadelphia School. “TPS understands that children should have a voice in their own education,” says Sun. Throughout her 20-year career, that philosophy has driven her work as an art teacher, diversity practitioner, and Lower School Head. This fall, Lisa Sun steps into the role of head of school at The Philadelphia School. “I was drawn to TPS because of its commitment to social justice, and it aligns beautifully with one of the core tenets of progressive education, which is to raise active and engaged citizens.”

Her path to becoming an educator started early. As a girl, Sun never considered herself an artist until she met Mr. Mastrodonardo, her high school art teacher. His gentle manner, enthusiasm, and encouragement had a way of bringing out the best in each of his students. “It was his ability to connect with his students and to instill a sense of confidence in each of us

that allowed me to see myself as an artist,” recalls Sun.

Mastrodonardo inspired not only a deep love of art but also a passion for education. So it’s not surprising that, after receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois, Sun returned to the art room as a teacher.

Thinking about moments that stood out in her career, Sun tells a touching story of a kindergarten student who had recently been adopted. The girl was withdrawn and struggling academically. Sun, a school principal at the time, partnered with the parents, teachers, and school administrators to establish a plan and a system of support that would ensure the child’s success.

Sun watched as the girl slowly began to blossom. In 1st grade she was starting to form friendships and gain confidence. By 2nd grade, she began improving academically. Then in 3rd grade, she made a huge breakthrough: “She became a leader among her classmates—vibrant, social, and happy,”

recalls Sun. “She also made huge academic gains. We had all been on this journey with her every step of the way—so we were thrilled to be there to witness her success.”

The Philadelphia School shares that commitment to providing the right kind of support to help everyone succeed in their roles. “In the same way TPS gives students what they need in order to be successful, the Board has been extremely supportive and thoughtful during this transition. I feel confident that they are invested in my success, and it’s something that I am very grateful for.”

As Sun begins this new era in her career, she says, “TPS is young enough to still remember the founders’ vision for the school. There is a real sense of family and close community. With the 50th anniversary coming up in 2022, we have a unique opportunity to retain what is important to who we are, and to shape the next phase of The Philadelphia School’s future. I am truly excited for the journey ahead.”

Ultimo Coffee Bar Owner Steps Up to Fix Sidewalk

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Since summer of 2017, neighbors have been annoyed by an unpaved square of sidewalk near the northwest corner of 20th and Locust outside the Ultimo Coffee Bar. Apart from being unattractive, the unpaved square presented a tripping hazard. Neighbors who complained to the city learned it is the property owner’s responsibility to repair sidewalks. The owner was listed as a corporation at 238 S. 20th Street. Repeated complaints to Philly311 and attempts to contact the owner led to dead ends.

Recently Tom Knadig, a Locust Street resident, contacted Aaron Ultimo, the owner of Ultimo Coffee Bar, about this issue. Ultimo is a renter in that location and is not legally responsible for the sidewalk. Knadig obtained bids from contractors to do the repair work, and Ultimo agreed to step up and pay a contractor to fix the sidewalk. The work was completed on Friday, July 27.



Workers repair the unpaved section of sidewalk in front of the Ultimo Coffee Bar.

When neighbors thanked Ultimo, he said: “We can’t survive without being a part of the neighborhoods in which we do business. Your support is integral to our success. One of our core principles is to be a community

gathering spot. We hope to be that place for you and to continue a long and productive relationship. We always appreciate any and all support from the neighbors. That is more than an adequate thank-you.”



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Naudain Street Artists Exhibit in November

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The Naudain Street Art Collaborative will hold a group exhibition on Saturday, November 3, and Sunday, November 4, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Ageless Gardens Gallery, 2503 Naudain Street. Participating artists will include Bhavisha Patel, Sally Eisenberg, Karen Villarreal,

Ed Bronstein, Betsy Alexander, Leslie Sudock, Lauren Sweeney, William Silver, and Emily Squires Levine. This event is free and open to public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact naudainartcollaborative@gmail.com

Below: Artists in the Naudain Street Art Collaborative who exhibited in the 2017 Philadelphia Open Studio Tour (POST): from left, Ed Bronstein, Bhavisha Patel, and Karen Villarreal. These three artists are also participating in POST 2018 on October 14, along with Sally Eisenberg of the Collaborative.



Bonnie Eisenfeld



Bonnie Eisenfeld



Bonnie Eisenfeld

The artists in their studios during last year's POST event.

To Your Health

Marijuana Is Now Legal in Pennsylvania for Certain Medical Conditions

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Patients in Pennsylvania with 17 specific diagnoses may now legally use marijuana to alleviate certain symptoms such as pain, anxiety, and loss of appetite. Patients may go to specially trained and licensed doctors for prescriptions and then to dispensaries where trained and licensed pharmacists fulfill their orders. Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program is explained in full detail on this website: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/pennsylvania-medical-marijuana-program/>

The elements of the website include: 17 medical conditions for which marijuana is indicated; how to obtain it; documentation and identification required; and lists of licensed physicians and dispensaries. Physicians are listed by county; several are in Center City Philadelphia. The closest licensed dispensary to Center City is Restore Integrative Wellness Center, 957 Frankford Ave., in Fishtown.

Here's how it works: Patients and caregivers must register with the PA Department of

Health, Patient and Caregivers Registry and visit a licensed physician who will certify that the patient suffers from one of the 17 serious medical conditions. You pay a fee and receive a medical marijuana identification card. That card enables a patient to obtain medical marijuana from an approved dispensary in Pennsylvania.

Marijuana, also known as cannabis, is available legally in a variety of forms, including pills, oils, topicals (including gels, creams and ointments); vapor; tinctures, and liquids. Different ingredients, dosages, and forms are prescribed specifically for each patient's needs.

A caregiver in Center City reports that she and her husband, a cancer patient, went to a licensed doctor who prescribed marijuana for loss of appetite. The patient was able to register and pay the registration fee at the doctor's office. In about a week, the patient received his identification card. He

and his wife went to the licensed dispensary and met with a pharmacist who advised on form and dosage. It sometimes takes a few purchases to come up with a workable solution. In her opinion, "the dispensary in Fishtown was a lovely and tranquil facility."

The next step was for the caregiver to register, which requires a PA photo license, electronic fingerprinting and another fee. The site lists official places to register. This caregiver ID card allows her to go to the dispensary to make a purchase on the patient's behalf.

Several studies have shown that cannabis therapy prescribed by a doctor is safe and efficacious for pain relief from a variety of ailments, and does not have the adverse effects of opioids. For more information, go to the official PA website to find a licensed physician.



Riverfront is a community of friends living cooperatively in an intergenerational building. Members reside in their own spacious condominiums, and share in private community spaces, where they enjoy weekly dinners, discussions, exercise, and entertainment.

To learn more about availability or to be on the Priority Wait List, contact us at info@friendscentercity.com or call 267-639-5257

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CCRA Fall Calendar – Arts, Crafts, Peace, and Elections

Fringe Festival, sponsored by Fringe Arts

Thursday, September 6 to
Sunday, September 23
www.fringearts.com

Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

Friday, September 14, 11 am to 7 pm
Saturday, September 15, 11 am to 6 pm
Sunday, September 18, 11 am to 5 pm

International Day of Peace/ Peace Day Philly 2018

• The Right to Peace

Friday, September 21
Center of Rittenhouse Square
11:30 am to 12:15 pm
Peace Day gathering including reflections on personal, local and global peace as well as music, guest speakers and the global minute of silence at noon.
Rain location: Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square

• Peace Day Philly Annual Sing-Along

Friday September 21
In front of Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square
6 to 6:45 pm
Join Philadelphia Ethical Society Leader Hugh Taft-Morales for an informal sing-along of new and old peace songs.

• Peace Day Philly Benefit Concert

Friday September 21
Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square
7 to 8:30 pm
Members of the Philadelphia Orchestra will perform at this special Peace Day Philly event to benefit local refugees

through HIAS. Refreshments to follow.
Suggested contribution \$15; refugees free.

REGISTER to VOTE before the November general election

Last day: Tuesday, October 9
It is very important for all U.S. citizens age 18 or over to register to vote. Here is a link to online PA Voter Registration: www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx

Philadelphia International Dragon Boat Festival

Schuylkill River
Saturday, October 6, 8 am to 5:30 pm
www.philadragonboatfestival.com

DesignPhiladelphia

Thursday, October 4 to Sunday, October 13
www.philadelphiacfa.org/programs-and-exhibitions/designphiladelphia

Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair

Rittenhouse Square
Friday, October 12, 11 am to 6 pm
Saturday, October 13, 11 am to 6 pm
Sunday, October 14, 11 am to 5 pm

Center City Residents' Association 60th Annual Fall House Tour

Sunday, October 14, 1 to 5 pm
www.centercityresidents.org

Philadelphia Open Studio Tours (POST)

Sponsored by Center for Emerging Visual Artists
Artists' studios will be open to the public. See our neighborhood artists: Center City and South, Sunday October 14, noon to 6 pm
www.philaopenstudios.org

Parkway 100 Celebration

Centennial celebration of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Friday, October 26
www.parkway100.org

Head of Schuylkill Regatta

Saturday, October 27 and
Sunday, October 28
www.hosr.org

GENERAL ELECTION – VOTE!

Tuesday, November 6

Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)

Annual Open House
Display of artifacts treated in the lab, from rare books to fine art.
264 S. 23rd Street
Date TBA – Check website for updates
Light refreshments will be served.
RSVP by November 1.
www.ccaha.org/openhouse

Philadelphia Marathon

Friday, November 16 to
Sunday, November 18
www.philadelphiamarathon.com/marathon-information

Curtis Institute of Music

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

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

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Friends of Rittenhouse Square Improves Maintenance and Security

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Rittenhouse Square is a busy park, used daily by neighborhood residents and visitors. On weekends and holidays, the Square attracts even more people, who stroll through the pathways, play with their children, sit on the benches and the grass, walk their dogs, eat lunch, and enjoy the beauty. Invariably, people create trash; earlier this year trash cans were filled to capacity and overflowing by the end of each weekend.

“Our organization, having had the most successful fundraising season ever, is using the additional funds to improve clean-up and security of Rittenhouse Square,” reported Renee Dubyk, President of Friends of Rittenhouse Square, in July.

The organization has hired a supplemental maintenance company to remove trash, pick up litter and sweep the sidewalks twice a day, seven days a week. Security coverage

now includes overnight coverage seven days a week.

“The members of Friends of Rittenhouse Square are pleased to be able to provide these improvements to make Rittenhouse Square safer and more attractive to residents and visitors.”

To learn about Friends of Rittenhouse Square, go to <http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/>



CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1608 Walnut Street, 12th Floor
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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday, October 9

Pennsylvania Voter Registration Deadline

Sunday, October 14, 1 - 5 pm

CCRA's 60th Annual Fall House Tour
www.centercityresidents.org

Tuesday, November 6

GENERAL ELECTION – VOTE!

Town Square

Crosstown Guide to Appealing Real Estate Tax Assessments: Deadline October 1

By Stephen Huntington

The 31 civic-association federation comprising the Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition has published a 24-page manual, *How to Appeal Your Real Estate Tax Assessment*, an update of its original guide created for the last mass reassessment in 2013. The booklet may be obtained at the Crosstown website—www.philacrosstown.org—or on the CCRA website, www.centercityresidents.org.

Early this year the Office of Property Assessment (OPA) mailed “Notice of Valuation” forms containing property-value assessments for the realty taxes due in February of 2019. While there was a May 2 deadline for filing a First Level Review request to OPA, any property owner (including those

who filed OPA First Level challenges) may contest their assessment by completing a Bureau of Revision of Taxes (BRT) appeal form no later than Monday, October 1. Owners who filed for a First Level Review but have not received an OPA determination by mid-September are encouraged to file a BRT appeal so as to ensure their appeal rights if a disappointing OPA determination arrives immediately before or after the October 1 BRT appeal deadline.

The Crosstown Guide includes:

Section 1. How To Calculate Your Taxes:

The current tax rate; where to find your assessment; the homestead exemption;

and the Long Term Owner Occupants Program (LOOP).

Section 2. Your Rights to Appeal

Assessments: The Board of Revision of Taxes appeal form with instructions for its completion.

Section 3. Non-Uniformity Appeals:

How to appeal when the assessed value is higher than assessments for comparable homes in your community.

Section 4. Over-Valuation Appeals:

How to appeal when the assessed value exceeds the market-value/recent-sales prices of comparable homes in your community.