



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 10 No. 4 Winter 2019

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CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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It's Academic

Peace Education: Part of Montessori's Past, Preparation for a Complex Future

By Nicole Leapheart, Director of Communications and Marketing, GTMS

Each fall, Kindergartners at Greene Towne Montessori School collaborate on an artistic message for peace that they share with the school community and Philadelphia's Logan Square neighborhood, as a symbolic and powerful wish for the world at large. Through this project they join children the world over as part of the International Day of Peace celebration. "Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared day for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace" (<https://internationaldayofpeace.org>).

Guided by Greene Towne's art teacher, Emily Grant, this year Kindergartners created a mural of mixed media hearts titled "Peace Begins in the Heart," currently installed in the school's main lobby. The students also made Pinwheels for Peace, which they planted along Arch and Croskey Streets; as the wind blows, the pinwheels spin, carrying the children's wishes for peace into the world.

More than a "feel-good" holiday, Montessori's emphasis on peace is part of Dr. Maria Montessori's mission in the Montessori educational philosophy and approach from its start in the early 20th century. Beginning with foundational lessons in "Grace and Courtesy" in the Montessori philosophy, even toddlers are instructed in using respectful manners such as saying



Emily Grant

Some Kindergarten students show off their pinwheels for peace.

"please" and "thank you" or "excuse me" when navigating the classroom. Mindfulness is practiced at this age with the "silence candle" exercise, in which a candle is lit and there is a moment of silence as the children reflect on students who may be absent or listen to their heartbeats to establish calm.

Older children will exercise budding conflict-resolution skills at a designated peaceful area of the classroom, such as a peace table where the children use a "peace flower" as a sort of talking stick. Children take turns holding the peace flower and speaking about their feelings. Quite often, after listening to one another and sharing their needs, the conflict is resolved and the children return to the focused work of the classroom.

Continued p. 4

CCRA Membership News

CCRA is very excited to launch our new Residential Membership Levels and Benefits. We will continue to offer "Senior" and "Under 35" discounted levels. Plus, we will be introducing "Individual" AND "Family" memberships. We are retiring the Sustaining level. All membership levels offer the same benefits, such as local merchant discounts, weekly e-newsletters, and the quarterly newsletter. We will continue to offer 3 higher-level memberships with new and enhanced benefits, allowing people to

enjoy some of our events for free. Our fan-favorite House Tour and Celebration of Center City Living are included in some of those levels.

The new membership levels will take effect January 6, 2020. For current members, you will have a greater selection when it is time to renew your membership. From Individual Memberships to Legend Memberships, you are sure to find the package that's right for you. CCRA is truly a

membership-driven organization, and your support allows us to continue to be the people-powered voice of Center City West. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Travis Oliver at centercity@centercityresidents.org for more information.

Please refer to the Residential Membership Benefits chart below and see what the membership levels include.



Residential Membership Benefits

	Under 35 \$40	Senior \$45	Individual \$55	Family* \$85	Patron* \$200	Angel* \$500	Legend* \$1000
Receives 1 membership card	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Receives Weekly Enewsletter and Center City Quarterly (CCQ) newsletters	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
A voting member in membership meetings (excluding board meetings)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Merchant Member Discounts	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
CCQ Recognition (optional)					•	•	•
Recognition at Annual Meeting, Website**, and other Social Media (optional)					•	•	•
1 free ticket to House Tour					•	•	
1 free ticket to Celebration						•	
\$50 donated to Neighborhood Beautification Campaign						•	
\$100 donated to Neighborhood Beautification Campaign							•
2 free tickets to Celebration AND House Tours							•
2 free tickets to any standard CCRA event							•

* Each Family, Patron, Angel, and Legend Member (over the age of 21) will receive their own membership card. Maximum members are 4 in these categories.

** Patron level will be recognized on website only.

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Newsletter Ad Rates

4 Issues	Members	Non-Members
Full Page	\$ 1,350.00	\$1,425.00
½ Page	\$ 750.00	\$ 825.00
¼ Page	\$ 375.00	\$ 450.00
1 Issue	Members	Non-Members
Full Page	\$ 450.00	\$ 475.00
½ Page	\$ 250.00	\$ 275.00
¼ Page	\$ 125.00	\$ 150.00

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

President's Report

New Year, New Agenda



*Maggie Mund
CCRA President*

Since becoming president of CCRA, it has become increasingly apparent to me that most members, even longtime supporters, have little idea of what CCRA really does. So, while the Board discusses and debates important policies, developments and possible actions every month, unless you're "in the room where it happened" you might be in the dark. In an effort to make CCRA activities more transparent so members and friends can stay informed, we have begun to circulate monthly Board agendas and meeting summaries in the weekly eNews. And beginning with the September Board meeting, complete Board packages are posted on the website <http://www.centercityresidents.org/Board-Meeting-Information>. Check it out!

For now, here is a look at the official actions taken by CCRA's Board between September and November.

- Adopted two Community Development and Benefit Agreements with both Parkway Corporation (for the proposed Morgan Lewis office tower at 23rd and Market) and Brandywine Realty Trust (for a proposed mixed-use development in the 2100 block of Market between the fire station and June 5th Memorial Park) that protect neighborhood interests of safety, cleanliness and livability
- Negotiated a Conditional Licensing Agreement for 1711 Rittenhouse that keeps the noise inside and the quiet outside
- Endorsed legislation (Bill 190467-A01) increasing penalties for certain parking, standing and stopping violations that

should help address congestion in the neighborhood

- Adopted CCRA Policy to join Neighbors' Zoning Board of Adjustment Appeals
- Adopted a CCRA Mission Statement that clarifies our value to the community (see sidebar pg 4)
- Adopted the recommendations of the Membership Committee restructuring CCRA residential membership levels and benefits
- Adopted an Extraordinary Zoning Committee Policy, whereby the standard operating procedures of the zoning committee may be altered because the proposal may be controversial and of significant interest and importance to residents, businesses, or other entities beyond those in the proximate neighborhood of the property in question

Additionally, in these three months CCRA board members worked assiduously on issues related to streets, trash and congestion, homelessness, historic preservation and designation, the Blatstein event, the Spring House and Garden Tour, other liquor license issues, and zoning variance requests.

Blatstein House Tour

The Blatstein House Tour was a complete success. All told, we grossed \$25,500. When expenses were deducted, CCRA netted \$22,000—10K more than the Fall 2018 House Tour. New friends were made, and a good time was had by all!

More importantly, our relationship with the Friends of Rittenhouse Square continues to grow. We are now working together to

Continued p. 4

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

Center City Quarterly wants to hear from you.

Contribute an article. Share your pictures. Send us a letter. Pitch an idea. Email centercity@centercityresidents.org, with CCQ Editor in the subject line.



Continued from p. 1

“The foundational skills of listening, solving problems together, as well as practicing empathy and a desire for a peaceful world are critical capacities for our contemporary world,” said Head of School Sarah Sweeney-Denham. “The more-than-century

old Montessori method is equipping children to be actively engaged in problem-solving around complex issues in our future.”

Greene Towne Montessori School serves children 18 months old through Kindergarten

and is the longest-running Montessori school in Center City Philadelphia. Founded in 1966, it is accredited by the American Montessori Society and the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools. To learn more, visit www.gtms.org.

Continued from p. 3

address the homelessness and panhandling issues confronting the neighborhood, including cohosting a community meeting about public safety in the aftermath of the November 21 murder at 18th and Walnut.

More to Accomplish

As much as we accomplish, I would like to do even more. CCRA has long had an office, and it is one of our biggest expenses. Typically, it has been in an office tower; at present we are at WeWork on the 8th floor of 1900 Market Street, a significant cost reduction from previous locations.

But CCRA could be so much more integrated into the life of the community if we could find a street-level space. One where people could walk in and get a recycling bin. Or pick up tools to do a street

clean-up. Or drop off coats, school supplies, or canned goods for various charitable drives we could participate in—for shelters, underserved schools, etc. And if the space was donated, funds currently going to rent could be used for improvements like street trees, (CCRA used to have a street tree fund; that’s how I bought mine 25 years ago), allocated for more sidewalk cleaning, or for hosting more public events. So that is my wish for the New Year—donated office space, street level, with room for two desks, a conference table, and storage. If you have an empty storefront that’s going unrented, but costing you tax dollars, then donating such a space—or even a portion of your current unused (street-level) office space could offer you tax benefits and be a win-win for both parties. Let me know if you can help.

CCRA Mission Statement

Serving as the voice of Center City West since 1947, the Center City Residents’ Association (CCRA) promotes urban living; advocates for a safe, clean, diverse and supportive community; pursues governmental accountability; and encourages responsible development while preserving the neighborhood’s historic heritage.

Adopted by CCRA Board of Directors November 12, 2019

Our Greene Countrie Towne

CCRA Thanks Supporters of Neighborhood Beautification

We would like to recognize the following for their donation of \$125 or greater to the 2018-2019 Neighborhood Beautification Campaign.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
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Philadelphia City Institute Library's Programs Draw Participants of All Ages

By Erin Hoopes, Head Librarian

I am happy to report that books are alive and well! The Philadelphia City Institute (PCI) Library offers many programs that encourage people to read books, and the library's programs are expanding and attracting more participants. More people than ever participated in summer reading at PCI this summer: 270 preschoolers, 255 school-age children, 111 teens, and 30 adults.

The library expanded its Family Book Clubs into three different age categories, for children entering: Kindergarten and 1st grade, 2nd and 3rd grade, and 4th and 5th grade. A Tween Book Club for kids age 10-14 is also offered; all programs were well-attended. Pre-school Storytime attendance continues to soar, and more summer camp groups visited the library. Teen Writers Club and Teens Cook! Workshops have been successful. Teen Reading Lounge began a new series in the fall. The adult book club continues to grow.

The Social Justice Symposium for young people age 12 to 20 attracted 75 participants, the highest attendance ever. Since 2017, this program has been funded through grants from the Philadelphia City Institute Board of Managers. In the fall, nine author talks were offered as well as Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet and two other talks.

The Philadelphia City Institute Library has an Outreach Program to extend its services beyond the building. This fall, the library hosted a Goat Walk and Storytime with the Philly Goat Project in Rittenhouse Square; held two Storytimes at Schuylkill River Park on Saturday afternoons; and gave away books and backpacks to 80 children at Chester Arthur School's Schoolyard Jam.



Despite the soggy weather, more than 100 little ones and their caregivers showed off their adorable costumes at PCI's annual Halloween Costume Parade and Storytime on October 31.

Funding for this library and its programs comes from the City of Philadelphia, the Board of Managers of the Philadelphia City Institute, the Library Foundation, and Friends of Philadelphia City Institute. A committee is being formed for continued lobbying for additional funding from the City, especially directed toward the Mayor. Advocates are needed for this effort, so please sign up to volunteer with Friends of PCI: friendsofphilacityinstitute@gmail.com.

The Friends' annual spring sale brings in extra funding to the library. In 2018, book sales yielded \$1,500, and books left over from the sale bring in \$100 per month; these funds help support the programs.

Progress toward the PCI Library Lift: Contractor Chosen

By Pam Freyd, President, Friends of Philadelphia City Institute Library

PCI Library programs are held downstairs in the Community Room and Children's Library, making it important that the library installs a lift so those programs are accessible to all. We are now a big step closer to the installation of the PCI Lift. In early October, the Domus Construction Company was selected as the installation contractor. Domus has completed a wide variety of projects, including the Divine Lorraine, Barclay Prime Restaurant, and the lobby of 220 West Rittenhouse Square, the building that houses our library.

Domus will work with our excellent architects from Metcalf Architecture and Design, which has designed schools and museum sites such as the Museum of the American Revolution's Discovery Center, Interact Theater, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Buerger Center. Metcalf architect Christopher Kircher has been working with us since 2013, when we first began to dream of a lift.

Directing it all will be the Free Library of Philadelphia's Vice President of Facilities, James Pecora, who has also been working with us since 2013.

Thanks to both Metcalf Architecture and Domus Construction, we can look forward to some outstanding improvements in our beloved PCI Library, as the long-awaited lift construction becomes a reality.

Shop Talk

CCRA Merchant Member Discount Program

CCRA invites you to participate in our 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. To see a list of our Merchant Members, please go to www.centercityresidents.org, or check out our weekly eNewsletter, which arrives in members' inboxes each Thursday.



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Climate Crisis: It's Real and It's Here. You Can Do Something.

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

There's a scene in a Woody Allen movie in which a mother takes her little boy to a psychiatrist because he refuses to do his homework. The child is depressed since learning that the universe is expanding. He thinks everything will break apart, so what's the point? His mother tells him he has to do his homework anyway because Brooklyn is not expanding!

Many people perceive the Climate Crisis as similar to the universe expanding. It's mostly happening out there beyond our everyday lives. It's not happening in Rittenhouse Square. The news stories are still about politics, immigration, crime, and sports. Advertising still pushes cell phones, cars, and beer. Maybe the weather report hints at it now and then. Yet, it's hard to believe it's a real crisis.

How the media reports on this issue affects public perception of its urgency. The term climate change can sound relatively benign. That is far from accurate. The Niemann Journalism Lab reports that *The Guardian*, a British daily newspaper, has instructed its writers to use "climate crisis, climate emergency, or climate breakdown" and "global heating" instead. According to *The Guardian's* editor-in-chief, "what scientists are talking about is a catastrophe for humanity."

Jersey shore and other coastal residents have already been affected by the climate crisis, and "America's Great Climate Exodus" is starting in the Florida Keys, according to Bloomberg. States are buying out homeowners in flood-prone areas and bulldozing homes.

A Florida state demographer predicts that by the end of this century, 13 million Americans will need to move because of rising sea levels. Billy Fleming, a landscape architecture professor at the University of Pennsylvania, says that we have only 10 or 12 years to mobilize and manage retreat. After that, "it won't matter because much of America will be underwater or on fire."

The earth has seen more floods, storms, wildfires, habitat changes, and species extinction. According to the

Environmental Defense Fund, the oceans have experienced "marine heat waves and ocean acidification that could push ocean animals and ecosystems to their limits."

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) says human climate drivers include heat-trapping emissions from burning coal, gas and oil in power plants and vehicles; cutting down and burning forests; tiny pollution particles (aerosols); and black carbon pollution (soot). The UCS concludes that the goal of the Paris Agreement of 2015, which aims to reduce emissions worldwide enough to keep global warming under the dangerous threshold of two degrees Centigrade, "can be achieved through immediate and sustained action to reduce our heat-trapping emissions like adopting technologies that increase energy efficiency, expanding our use of renewable energy, and slowing deforestation (among other solutions)." <https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/science-and-impacts/science/human-contribution-to-gw-faq.html>

GreenBiz Group, a media, events, and networking company in Oakland, Calif., says teenagers are our best hope for leadership to save the planet (the climate crisis is the number-one concern of young people), along with professional and governmental entities: meteorologists, mayors, investors, health professionals, indigenous peoples, risk managers, farmers and fishers, and Silicon Valley techies.

Per Espen Stoknes, a psychologist, economist, professor, and director for the Center for Green Growth at the Norwegian Business School in Oslo, said in a TED talk that people are more likely to take action if their neighbors are taking action.

What are the actions we neighbors should take? Jason Smerdon, a climate scientist for Columbia University's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, recommends that people use their voting power to elect policymakers who support major governmental investments, incentives, regulations, and taxation to save the planet. People should also vote with their dollars by not investing in companies that are the biggest producers of greenhouse gas emissions or the companies that finance

them. Data on companies are available from Climate Accountability Institute <http://climateaccountability.org/> Data on fossil-free mutual funds are available on <https://greenmoney.com/fossil-fuel-companies-hidden-in-mutual-funds/>

Immediate actions Smerdon recommends for individuals are: decreasing beef consumption (cows produce huge amounts of methane gas emissions), installing solar panels, and avoiding driving or switching to a fuel-efficient vehicle. Other sources recommend: limiting air travel, installing LED lightbulbs, reducing use of appliances and devices, planting a garden, eating local food, and discarding less food. The time is now.

Or, one day you may find yourself sitting on the Broad Street beach, listening to your short-wave radio, snacking on insects, and holding a one-way ticket on the last flight to Antarctica. Then you'll know it's real.

Green Energy Solutions for Urban Problems

Dana Robinson of Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) and Martha Griffen of the Climate Action Team of POWER presented at the Philadelphia Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square, October 21. Earth Quaker Action Team is pressuring PECO to increase their source of energy to 20 percent solar by 2025 by building solar installations in urban neighborhoods, creating thousands of new skilled jobs for urban residents. POWER's climate team wants local investment in green infrastructure to improve the health of people living in poor and polluted neighborhoods and to create green jobs as a pathway out of poverty.

— Bonnie Eisenfeld



Center for Literacy Moves to Peirce College

This past summer, the Center for Literacy (CFL) moved from its Old City headquarters into Peirce College campus at 1420 Pine Street; classes started the week of August 12. At this location, CFL offers daytime classes and student support services for its adult learners in English as a second language; individuals who have low levels of literacy or need a high school diploma; and college- and career-readiness classes.



Courtesy Center for Literacy

Vicki Lynam, Chief Administrative Officer, at the front entrance.

With state-of-the-art classrooms, the move allows for blended learning (using both online and in-person learning experiences). The new facilities also provide touchdown spaces for instructors, and offices for Student Support Services and administrative staff. Plus, the move substantially reduced the rent.

CFL believes the move to Peirce will inspire adult students to think more about the opportunities for post-secondary education and careers.

CFL continues to provide additional classes, including family literacy, in schools and libraries in low-income communities throughout Philadelphia. Through a new partnership with Philadelphia Technician Training Institute (formerly Berean Institute), CFL now holds classes at that location, 7446 Ogontz Ave. Classes are also held at 17 neighborhood locations across Philadelphia.



Courtesy Center for Literacy

ESL instructor, Song Han (back right), with her students.

Uniform Price Auctions: How to Price Parking Permits

By Bill West

A few years ago, Donald Shoup had a look at Boston's Beacon Hill neighborhood and found there were 983 on-street parking spaces. Only residents with city-issued parking permits could park in these spots. Shoup looked a little further and found that there were 3,933 permits in force. That's roughly four permits for every spot. (Donald Shoup, *The High Cost of Free Parking*, 2011 edition, p. 516; footnotes 31 and 32, p. 552.)

As Shoup points out in his more recent *Parking and the City*, "A district with more on-street parking permits than on-street parking spaces would be like a theater that sells more tickets than it has seats." (Shoup, ed., *Parking and the City*, 2018, p. 484.)

I live in the Rittenhouse area, which is part of Philadelphia's Residential Parking Permit Zone 1. This zone is quite large, with a total of 3,687 zoned parking spaces. (It's so big there's a proposal to split it in two; I agree, but that's another story.)

So, how many Zone 1 parking permits in force? When I looked into it in 2015, there were 6,957, or roughly two permits for every Zone 1 spot.

I agree with Professor Shoup that this is a bad outcome, although my analogy is to an overstuffed trash can. But how do you fix it?

The obvious answer is to charge more for the permit. Currently the Philadelphia permit costs \$35 a year, uniform across the whole city. Every permit costs the same, regardless of the demographics or congestion of the zone. The current process for setting the price is essentially political, and it is not doing the job it should be doing.

Over the ensuing years I have kept coming back to this problem. Fairly early on, I decided that each zone needed to be assigned its own price. The neighborhoods of this city are way too varied for a single price to fit all.



Ben Shahn

Auctioneer, central Ohio, Ben Shahn/FSA, 1938

But how to determine those prices? For several years, I thought the best idea would be to simply float the price up, a little bit each year, until the number of permits in the zone was in rough equilibrium with the number of spaces.

Then, last year, I was reading Shoup's new book, and on page 484 I discovered the uniform-price auction:

"Consider how a uniform-price auction would work on a block with

Continued p. 13

The HeArt of the City



Bonnie Eisenfeld

Sally Eisenberg's work on display in her studio at 1241 Carpenter Studios on Saturday, October 12, during **Philadelphia Open Studio Tours**. Eisenberg says works in this exhibition are "mixed media abstracts inspired by food and the world around me." <https://www.sallykeisenbergartist.com/> The building houses four floors of artists' studios. <http://www.1241carpenter.com/>



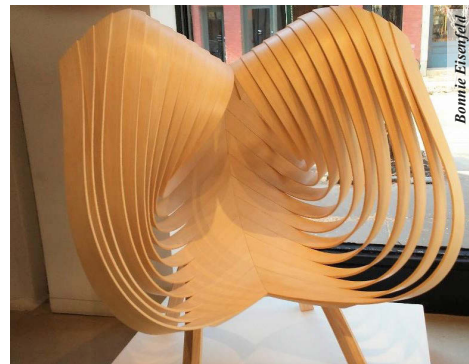
Bonnie Eisenfeld

Center City artist Susan Howard in her studio at 915 Spring Garden on Sunday, October 13, during **Philadelphia Open Studio Tours**. Howard's oil paintings are intricate, colorful, and fanciful depictions of imaginary creatures. This renovated building houses two floors of artists' studios. <https://www.915springgarden.com/>



Bonnie Eisenfeld

"Windsor Flower Chair II" by Annie Evelyn at the **Center for Art in Wood**, 3rd and Cherry Sts.



Bonnie Eisenfeld

"Yumi Flower Chair II" by Laura Kishimoto at the **Center for Art in Wood**, 3rd and Cherry Sts. Their current exhibit is "Making a Seat at the Table: Women Transform Woodworking."



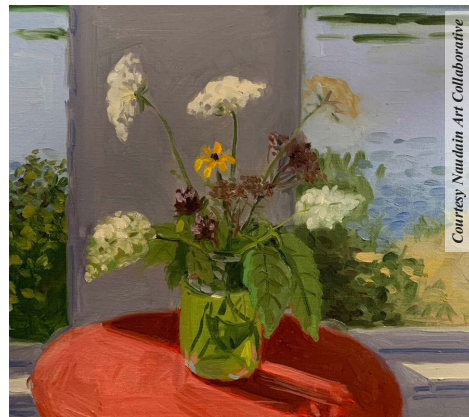
Bonnie Eisenfeld

"Purses" by Michaela Cristone at the **Center for Art in Wood**, 3rd and Cherry Sts.



Bonnie Eisenfeld

Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair. Martin Moon at work during the October weekend fair in Rittenhouse Square. Moon is a Pennsylvania-based metal artist who creates decorated functionalware and jewelry, primarily in copper and silver. Martin studied in Turkey, where he learned traditional Turkish coppersmithing. <http://www.moonmetalsmithing.com/>



Courtesy Naudain Art Collaborative

"Naudain Lake and Flowers #12" by Sarah Hicks. **The Naudain Art Collaborative** presented works by 12 artists from our neighborhood, winners of the First Juried Community Show on November 2 and 3. A group show with small works was planned for December 7 and 8.



Courtesy Naudain Art Collaborative

"Three Graces" by Eric Mencher Photography. **The Naudain Art Collaborative** presented works by 12 artists from our neighborhood.

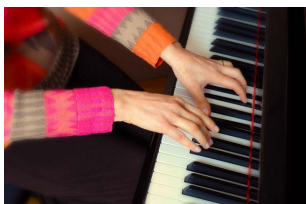


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Tree Tenders Play Favorites

By Susan Kahn

People develop deep personal connections with trees and Center City trees have their own admirers. These two advocates are among the most senior and junior of Center City's Tree Tenders. Hearing about their favorite trees may inspire each of us to notice more fully the majesty of a tree we pass daily. For more information about how you can plant trees with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Tree Tenders, email Susan Kahn (susan.v.kahn@gmail.com) or go to (<https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-tenders/>)

Judith Parker

FAVORITE TREE: Japanese lilac tree (*Syringa reticulata*)



Judith Parker

PHS Tree Tender Judith Parker has planted hundreds of trees in Center City since the days of CCRA's Greening Project in the early 1980s, so it is not easy for her to pick a favorite. "They are all my children!" she says. Still, she relishes the memory of planting a Japanese lilac tree on 25th Street five years ago with a mother and her teenage son from North Philadelphia. Judith never heard the whole story, but the mother insisted that the teen needed to "do something to give back to the community." When their digging revealed a layer of cement requiring a sledgehammer to break it up, the young man threw himself into the project enthusiastically. Judith remembers him saying when they had finished, "I'm never going to look at a tree the same way again."

In a walk around the neighborhood, Judith can recount stories associated with nearly every tree, including the ones circling The Philadelphia School, where she taught Language Arts for nearly 30 years. Each year she helped students create leaf booklets inspiring a new generation of tree advocates. "People don't know the different varieties of trees. You have to teach them," Judith says.

EARLY TREE MEMORY: As a child growing up in suburban Washington, D.C., Judith was put to bed in summer long before the sun set and well before she was sleepy. The tree outside her window kept her company during these solitary hours and she talked to it like a friend.

TREE TIP: Tree gators can be helpful in getting 15 to 20 gallons of water weekly to a tree, but take them off in the winter months. They hold moisture next to the trunk that rots the tree. Judith advises that, during the warm months, annuals such as impatiens be planted around the base of a tree as a reminder to water and to discourage visits from doggie friends.

Ellis Stafford Moore

FAVORITE TREE: Oyamel fir (*Abies religiosa*)

Sixteen-year old Ellis Stafford Moore has never seen his favorite tree, an Oyamel fir, as they grow 2500 miles away in southern Mexico, but forests of them shelter his beloved but endangered Monarch butterflies over the winter. Since the age of two and a half, Ellis and his mother have nurtured a butterfly sanctuary in their garden plot in the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden that includes a butterfly bush, milkweed, spicebush, fennel and goldenrod. He also tags Monarchs in the garden in cooperation with Monarch Watch, a network of scientists and citizens who study Monarchs. Their world population is 150 million, down from a billion just two decades ago. Because pesticides have decimated milkweed, their only food source before turning into butterflies, Ellis urges that milkweed be planted wherever possible. His interest in the natural world was expanded two years ago when he took the PHS Tree



Ellis Stafford Moore at 16



Ellis Stafford Moore at age 6

Tender class. Since then he has planted street trees in Center City twice a year. "I love taking care of trees," says Ellis. "As I walk around, I cut the strings and wires off of trees before the tree can grow into them and become strangled."

EARLY MEMORY: Ellis's work with butterflies began years ago when he and his mother first tagged them in Cape May, and the leader of the demonstration let Ellis release the tagged butterfly. Each year he and his mother would return to "tag and release butterflies, go to the beach, then have a slice," he recalls. "It's a nice tradition." When Ellis could not go in 2014, he decided he should use the tagging skills he had acquired to tag Monarchs himself. He and his mother have been tagging independently since then.

TREE TIP: Ellis encourages everyone to join the battle against Spotted Lantern Flies before they hurt our trees. "Look out for gray egg masses on trees, bricks and patios and scrape them into a baggie. Smash them or kill with alcohol or hand sanitizer before throwing them away," he advises.

CCRA Past President



Sold

2410 Delancey
 2413 Spruce
 2133 Green
 279 S 5th
 113 Naudain
 624 Kenilworth
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 2330 Pine
 304 Cypress
 1919 Chestnut
 1617 Lombard
 2509 Pine
 2330 St Albans
 1702 Panama
 1839 Addison
 1134 Waverly
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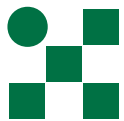
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20 on-street parking spaces reserved for residents. Any resident can bid for a permit. The bids are ranked in descending order and the highest 20 bidders receive permits. In a uniform-price auction, all the winning bidders then pay the same price: the lowest accepted bid. All successful bidders except the lowest bidder thus pay less than what they bid."

This basic idea could work in Philadelphia. It would tend to increase the cost of having

a car, but the current permit rate is clearly a subsidy for private car ownership, and as a matter of public policy I think we should move away from that.

Test it out in a few neighborhoods, like mine, that are both prosperous and highly congested. See what happens. I suspect that the initial opposition—a given for any innovation in Philadelphia—might quickly give way to quiet satisfaction.

Town Square

Volunteering at Penn's Village: "I Have Gotten Back Tenfold"

By Victoria Dailey, Penn's Village Marketing & Communications Intern

Penn's Village positions itself as a grassroots organization dedicated to helping older adults remain in their homes longer. Beyond the services provided by Penn's Village volunteers (rides to the doctor, companionship, computer support) or programs our members enjoy (talks on current events or a health-related topic, French conversation, men's group, knitting circle, happy hour), it is the relationships formed between members and volunteers that are the essence of the organization: neighbors together—connecting, engaging, thriving.

Meet Dawn, a Penn's Village volunteer with a variety of skills and tasks. She reads to members, helps with Internet and phone software, accompanies them to the farmers market, and performs general house repairs. In short, Dawn is "Ms. Fix-it."

She recounts this powerful and heartwarming anecdote: She helped a member set up a CapTel phone, which employs real-time closed captions for people with hearing impairment. Dawn never knew such a device existed, but learning about it enabled Dawn to share this information and technology with an aunt experiencing similar hearing problems. The phone worked wonders. "I still have my aunt's voicemail telling me how much she loved having the phone... She could now hear people on the phone — she had a new lease on life."



Volunteers are integral members of the Penn's Village team. They enhance the work of Penn's Village and thus strengthen our community.

Volunteering with Penn's Village, according to Dawn, was the impetus for changing her career to a helping profession. After taking an early retirement from a telecommunications company, she began training for a new job as a caseworker. When she looks to her future, she mentions helping "the greater good" in any capacity that it takes. She is thankful that Penn's Village gave her the opportunity to find her niche.

Dawn says volunteering for Penn's Village was a win-win situation for her. "I have gotten back tenfold what I put forth."

For more information on volunteering or membership, visit www.pennsvillage.org, or call 215-925-7333.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Schuylkill River Park Tree Tenders

Susan Kahn, Leader of the Friends of Schuylkill River Park Tree Tenders, organized tree planting in our neighborhood on Saturday, November 16. Tree Tenders® is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. "Since 1993, more than 5000 volunteers in the region have become certified Tree Tenders, receiving hands-on training on the biology, identification, planting and proper care of trees. Each year, with PHS support, neighborhood Tree Tenders groups plant more than 1000 trees, and also focus their efforts on follow-up monitoring and care to ensure their survival." <https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-tenders/>



Susan Kahn, Leader of the Friends of Schuylkill River Park Tree Tenders.



Sandra Sokol, her granddaughter Amelia, and Peter Arriaza plant a tree outside Doobies Bar at 22nd and Lombard Streets. It is one of 18 planted by the Tree Tenders this fall.

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CCRA Winter Calendar—Time to Chill Out

Christmas Village

Love Park, JFK Plaza, 1500 Arch St.
Through Tuesday, December 24
11 am – 8 pm
<https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/attractions/christmas-village-in-philadelphia/>

Franklin Square Holiday Festival and Electrical Spectacle Holiday Light Show

Presented by PECO
Franklin Square, 200 N. 6th Street
Free shows nightly. Saturdays with Santa; holiday train and carousel rides, mini-golf, food, beverages.
Through Tuesday, December 31
<https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/events/electrical-spectacle-holiday-light-show-at-franklin-square/>

Comcast Holiday Spectacular

Pennsylvania Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, a magical sleigh ride over the city, and a sing-along.
The Market and Shops at Comcast Center, 1701 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Until Wednesday, January 1. Free.
<https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/events/the-comcast-holiday-spectacular/>

Macy's Christmas Light Show

The Grand Court at Macy's, Wanamaker Building, 1300 Market St.
Sugarplum fairies, dancing snowmen in a 100,000-light show narrated by Julie Andrews, accompanied by the Wanamaker Organ. Free, every two hours during store hours.

Dickens Village

meet Santa, second floor.
<https://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/must-see-holiday-attractions-in-philadelphia/#vp-article-section--item-11>

Wanamaker Grand Court Organ

Free. Recitals at noon and 5:30, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Recitals at noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday and Friday
<https://phillyfunguide.com/free/free-daily-recitals-on-the-wanamaker-grand-court-organ>
Until Tuesday, December 31

For more holiday attractions in the Philadelphia area, please go to <https://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/must-see-holiday-attractions-in-philadelphia/>

Philly Loves Bowie Week

Saturday, January 4 to Tuesday, January 13
<https://phillylovesbowie.wordpress.com/plb-week-a-glance/>

Center City Restaurant Week

Three-course dinners for \$35 per person, three-course lunches for \$20.
ccdrestaurantweek.com
Sunday, January 12 to Friday, January 24

Invisible City: Philadelphia and the Vernacular Avant-garde (1956-1976)

Art Alliance on Rittenhouse Square, University of the Arts Philadelphia's significant contributions to visual culture, 1950s through '70s, exhibition, publication and performances.
Tuesday, January 21 to Saturday, April 4

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Volunteers do community projects
mlkdayofservice.org
Tuesday, January 21

Lunar New Year

Chinatown Parade, midnight lion-dance performances, special events at Reading Terminal Market, Independence Seaport Museum, The Rail Park.
Saturday, January 25

Winter in Dilworth Park

West side City Hall.
Ice skating, Wintergarden, and beverages
Through Monday, February 24

Black History Month

Major attractions at The African American Museum, the National Constitution Center, the Free Library of Philadelphia and more
[visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/black-history-month-in-philadelphia](https://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/black-history-month-in-philadelphia)
Month of February

African-American Children's Book Fair

28th Annual African American Children's Book Fair at the Community College of Philadelphia. Through Sunday, April 5
theafricanamericanchildrensbookproject.org

American Voyages: HERMAN MELVILLE AT 200

Rosenbach Museum, 2008 Delancey Street
Melville's 200th birthday exhibition, first editions, rare manuscripts (including *Moby-Dick*). Through Monday, April 6
rosenbach.org

Philly Wine Week

Annual eight-day festival of wine-centric events, tastings, pairings, specials at bars, restaurants phillywineweek.org
Thursday, April 2 to Sunday, April 5

Philadelphia Fine Arts Fair

23rd Street Armory
22 S. 23rd Street
Forty art galleries and institutions—including the Barnes and the Art Museum—present contemporary works; benefits city's public art. Tickets required.
philfineartfair.com
Saturday, April 4 to Sunday, April 12

Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia

Shofuso Japanese House and Garden, Fairmount Park Horticultural Center.
Screenings, live performances, arts and crafts, tea, fashion, flower arranging, kimono dressing, demonstrations of *nihon buyo*, traditional dance and martial arts.
Sakura Weekend, Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5
The Cherry Blossom 10K and 5K Race
Saturday, April 4
japanphilly.org

89th Annual Easter Promenade

South Street
Sunday, April 12

Out & About

We Are Number One!

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

National Geographic Traveler just named Philadelphia as the top city to visit in 2020 on its "Best Trips 2020" list of 25 top destinations in the world. Author Johnna Rizzo calls Philadelphia "a scrappy underdog with a heart of gold," "a city of ingenious makers," and "an American classic" with a combination of "old school glamour" and "quirky culture spots." The magazine rates destinations in four categories: cities, nature, adventure and culture. Our city was one of only two U.S. sites on the entire list of destinations; the other one was the Grand Canyon. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/features/best-trips-2020/#close>



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Sunday, April 26, 2020

CCRA Spring House & Garden Tour

Out & About

House Tour Committee Seeks Volunteers and Homes/Gardens

**Join us for a new take on an old
favorite: our CCRA Annual *Spring*
House and Garden Tour Sunday,
April 26, 2020!**

The House Tour committee is looking for unique homes and outdoor spaces for the tour, and asking members to join them in making our biggest fundraiser a success.

If you would like participate on the committee, or wish to donate your home/space for the day, call our Operations Manager, Travis Oliver, at 215-546-6719 or email centercity@centercityresidents.org, with the subject line: House Tour.

