



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 11 No. 2 Summer 2020

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## CENTER CITY

## RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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www.centercityresidents.org

## Town Square

# Maelstrom of Violence Engulfs Center City around Protests over Floyd Murder

By Bill West

The upheaval that started in Minneapolis on Monday, May 25, came to Philadelphia on Saturday, May 30. It started at the Art Museum as a peaceful protest against the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, then moved to City Hall and the Municipal Services Building across the street, where it turned violent.

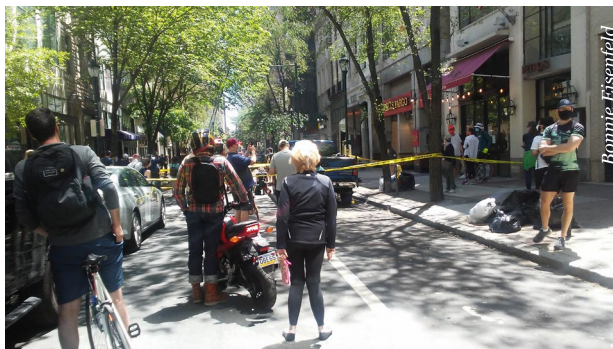
Protesters attempted to dislodge the statue of Frank Rizzo but failed. (The fact that the city government had not followed through on a promise to move the Rizzo statue is symbolic of the underlying entropy of our city's government. The failure of the protesters to move the statue simply enriches the symbolism.)

The protests moved on to Walnut, Chestnut, and other streets around Rittenhouse Square, where they morphed into vandalism and arson. I'm told the violence extended down South Street as well.

I have not seen any of this with my own eyes. I wasn't there. So I won't go into any great detail here. But please do look carefully at the photographs on this page. This happened. It happened to us.

What it means, what the future holds, are questions for which we must pursue answers. But we know the underlying diseases of racism and heedless oligarchy.

People are saying this feels like 1968, and it does. I lived through 1968 and had hoped never to see anything like that again. Is it exactly like 1968? Of course not. But this is a turning point. We can see it on our doorstep. We need to come together and build a better society.



People survey the damage on the 1700 block of Walnut, blocked off because of building fires set during the protests the night before.



Julius Scissors, 2045 Locust.

# Merchants Fund Emergency Grant Helps Neighborhood Boutique Stay in Business

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Ethan Nguyen, owner of M Concept, an award-winning boutique at 1540 South Street, had big problems starting in January when construction closed his entire block to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. For two months he relied on social media to stay in touch with his customers. Then in March the COVID-19 shutdown occurred. He didn't know how his business would survive.

Just in time, The Merchants Fund provided Nguyen with an emergency relief grant to cover rent and costs to get e-commerce up and running. Now M Concept is taking online orders for same-day pickup or two-day shipping. Jill Fink, the fund's Executive Director, says, "His survival thus far is a testament to his savviness, determination, and ability to adapt—the same qualities that will help M Concept weather the current crisis."

Now Nguyen is helping The Merchants Fund review applications for emergency relief grants for other small businesses. "We've wanted to move towards a participatory grantmaking model and involve past grantees in decision-making," Fink says. "When the COVID crisis happened, we moved quickly from talking about it to making it happen."

According to Fink, The Merchants Fund has made 21 grants as of May 8, and was in the process of reviewing 40 more applications. "As many merchants are hearing that they've been denied funding elsewhere, and the shutdown lingers on, we're getting more and more inquiries and requests. That list grows as the funds dwindle. We expect that our current funds will be depleted by late May or early June."

"The Merchants Fund," Nguyen says, "has been instrumental in helping M Concept weather significant disruption from construction and COVID-19-mandated closure. With the Fund's support, we are looking forward to welcoming customers back into our space soon."

M Concept's offerings include face masks and a gift-box service, as well as clothing, jewelry and accessories. "Our clients love the uniqueness of our product selections that they cannot find anywhere else in the city," Nguyen says. "Our studios can even make a particular item to your specification in two weeks or less."

Since M Concept's opening in 2016, the boutique has won two "Best of Philly" awards from *Philadelphia Magazine* and was listed among the top ten in the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* "Best Shop in Philadelphia" list. <https://mconceptshop.com> (215) 839-9154.

Since 1854, The Merchants Fund has provided support to Philadelphia merchants and small businesses during times of financial need and hardship. When businesses have been at their most desperate, The Merchants Fund has been able to help ease that desperation. You can help The Merchants Fund help other small businesses by sending a tax-deductible contribution. <https://merchantsfund.org/>



Ethan Nguyen in front of M Concept, 1540 South St.



M Concept gift box and face masks.

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1/4 Page	\$125.00	\$150.00

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

## President's Report

# Dark Days... and Some Silver Linings

By Maggie Mund, CCRA President

As of this writing, Center City finds itself in the tense aftermath of a night of looting and destruction that came on the heels of an afternoon of peaceful protest against the brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

As we enter the second night of strict curfews, we recognize the pain caused by the police brutality in Minneapolis...and throughout the country. We support peaceful protest everywhere to end this violence against black and minority communities, which runs counter to American values.

Please join CCRA as we call on Mayor Kenney and Police Commissioner Outlaw to assure the city that, while peaceful protest will be encouraged, we need a plan that will prevent the violence and looting that rocked Center City last night. Today, the National Guard will be called in and Center City will be closed to vehicular traffic.

But from all this darkness glimmers of light have also emerged. We would like to thank our neighbors who have been out cleaning up the broken glass and other consequences of last night's lawlessness, restoring the neighborhood to a semblance of order.

Until the ugly destruction of recent days, and the racist acts that provoked it, I had intended to share some musings about life under lockdown. One of the unexpected pleasures of life in the COVID shutdown is becoming a tourist once again in my own neighborhood and city. As I walk, bike and run the streets of Philadelphia, I am observing things I have either overlooked for years or never knew about. Architectural details on buildings too numerous to mention, the wonderful spring flowers and turtles at the Kaskey Park BioPond at UPenn, the statue of Shakespeare in front of the Free Library, hammocks at the Navy Yard, and the historical markers about a slave market at Penn's Landing.

It's all fascinating, and has given me a new appreciation of my city, which, like any long-time resident, I have sometimes taken for granted. I am eternally grateful.

And for thoughts on ways that we as a community can keep these vital institutions, organizations and cultural venues thriving in the face of devastating financial reversals, please explore these pages for articles on how to donate funds to support local merchants and restaurants, attend virtual arts events, and last but not least, keep our outdoor spaces green and vibrant through, among others, CCRA's own Neighborhood Beautification Campaign (see p. 18).

Please tune in for our upcoming Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, at 7 pm. We'll have a Question-and-Answer period with 9th District police officer Jesse O'Shea, with whom we have been working closely. We will also hold director elections and updates on CCRA operations and finances.



Maggie Mund  
CCRA President

## 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 accountability; and encourages responsible development while preserving the neighborhood's historic heritage.



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## Philadelphia City Institute Library Lift Installed

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The long-awaited lift has been installed at the Philadelphia City Institute Library on Rittenhouse Square, making the lower-level Children's Room and the Community Room accessible to all! In addition, new, sliding doors have been installed at the entrance.

Unfortunately, the library is still closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. On Saturday, April 25, the Philadelphia City Institute Library would have celebrated the inauguration of the new lift. Look for announcements about the re-opening of the library in the future.



View of the newly installed lift at the Philadelphia City Institute Library.



Ramp leading to the lower level. Photos: Jim Pecora, Vice President of Property Management, Free Library

## Philadelphia Free Library Is Now the Fine-Free Library

It's the biggest news—and the most exciting—they've had in 130 years.

They've gone fine-free!

That's right: The Free Library of Philadelphia no longer charges fines for overdue materials. What's more, all existing overdue fines have been removed from patrons' library cards.

Overdue fines keep many patrons from enjoying all the Library has to offer, and evidence shows they have no significant impact on the return rate of checked-out materials.

Removing fines will bring people and materials back through the doors, creating a more welcoming Free Library for all Philadelphians. They look forward to seeing patrons as soon as shelter-in-place restrictions are lifted.

# Summer Piano Festival Livestreaming in August

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Ching-Yun Hu, Artistic Director of The Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy, announced that the 8th Annual Piano Festival, August 1 to 9, will transform into the first-ever, full-scale, livestream piano festival, with legendary pianists Gary Graffman and Jerome Lowenthal, and more.

Audience members will be able to not only enjoy concerts but also watch master classes with renowned artists, learn from insider lectures, and participate in panel discussions. Students will compete for Livestream Performance Awards in the Philadelphia International Piano Competition, and audience members will have a unique opportunity to vote for their favorite performer. Watch for updated information. <https://pypa.info/>

**8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**  
**PIANO FESTIVAL**  
**2020**  
**August 1 - 9**

**Ching-Yun Hu**  
Artistic Director

**ONLINE**

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Ching-Yun Hu  
Jerome Lowenthal  
Ursula Oppens  
Alex Moutouzkine  
Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden  
Kathryn Brown  
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Pierre van der Westhuizen  
Gila Goldstein

Courtesy The Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy

## Our Greene Countrie Towne

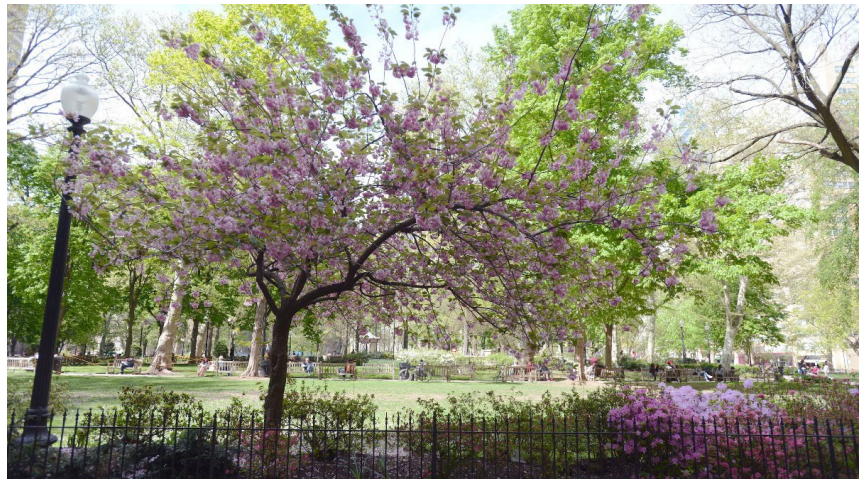
# Help Friends of Rittenhouse Square Keep Our Park Beautiful

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Rittenhouse Square has always been a place to enjoy walking and sitting surrounded by beauty. Now, more than ever, we need this public space for exercise and relaxation. Friends of Rittenhouse Square, a nonprofit organization, helps to maintain and beautify Rittenhouse Square with funds raised from its annual Ball on the Square and Soiree on the Square, usually held in June.

This year these events have been postponed until October. The funds raised from those events are used for security, lighting, landscaping, plantings, grass seeding and cutting, tree maintenance, sprinkler systems, and daily trash removal and clean-up of Rittenhouse Square so it can be enjoyed by all. To help maintain these services, Friends of Rittenhouse Square invites you to join. There are many membership levels available—

including one for your dog! <https://www.friendsofrittenhouse.org/covid> You can send a donation through GoFundMe <https://www.gofundme.com/f/friends-of-rittenhouse-square-park> and follow this organization on Instagram.



# The Rosenbach Presents Virtual Programs and Resources during Closure

By Rosa Doherty, Manager of Communications

The Rosenbach’s mission is to foster inquiry, learning, and creativity. Their doors may be temporarily closed, but their collections are still ready to be discovered. The Rosenbach offers new resources for students in grades 3-12; free Behind the Bookcase virtual tours to glimpse the 400,000+-object collection of books, manuscripts, and art; growing online literary communities related to highlights of their collections like *Ulysses* and *Dracula*; and more.

**At-home learning resources for students:** The Rosenbach posts weekly curriculum-based lessons and hands-on activities for families with children in grades 3-12 to help them connect with The Rosenbach’s extraordinary collection of historic letters and rare books. When possible, they will connect with existing online curricula. Lessons include units on John Tenniel’s illustrations for *Alice in Wonderland*; Phillis Wheatley’s poetry and public image as the first published black poet; Abraham Lincoln’s handwritten manuscript for the *Baltimore Address*; letters written by George Washington to his brother; and much more.

**Virtual programming:** The Rosenbach has launched a series of virtual programs including an in-depth, chapter-by-chapter look at Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, along with the author’s notes, in *Sundays with Dracula* every Sunday through November, at 2pm; an online communal meeting of our popular *Shakespeare Read-Alouds* every other Saturday at 1pm.

**Online literary community:** More than 900 people have joined *Ulysses Every Day*, a new reading challenge by The Rosenbach to encourage new readers and literature lovers alike to finish James Joyce’s epic *Ulysses* ahead of Bloomsday on June 16, the day the novel is set in 1904. Every day, a video is posted of a follower from around the globe reading an excerpt from the book. Followers are encouraged to react, respond, and engage with their fellow readers in the [Facebook group](#).



Go behind the scenes of The Rosenbach’s collections with their virtual Behind the Bookcase tours.

**Virtual Bloomsday Festival:** As we all strive to limit the impact of COVID-19, The Rosenbach will transition their annual Bloomsday Festival to an online format. This yearly festival on Delancey Place is an all-day marathon reading of *Ulysses*. This year, the Rosenbach is pleased that the *Ulysses Every Day* group has captured the same spirit of the festival, and look forward to a day of new content and surprise guests on Tuesday, June 16. Viewers can tune in online and via The Rosenbach’s social media channels.

**Access to digital collections and exhibitions:** The Rosenbach is home to a collection of more than 400,000 objects. On the [website](#) you’ll find a robust list of catalogs, databases, and collections guides along with their new [Gallery Gateway](#) online-exhibitions portal. A hybrid of a traditional catalog and a virtual exhibition, The Rosenbach’s Gallery Gateway transforms on-site exhibition content into a readily accessible digital resource.

Full content can be [found online](#).

The Rosenbach is a rare-book library and historic-house museum that offers tours, exhibitions, public programs, and research opportunities. An affiliate of the Free Library of Philadelphia, The Rosenbach seeks to inspire curiosity, inquiry, and creativity by engaging broad audiences in its remarkable and expanding collections. The combined holdings of The Rosenbach and the Free Library of Philadelphia—which include hundreds of thousands of rare books, manuscripts, and ephemera—inspire unique exhibitions and programs throughout the year. The Rosenbach is located at 2008-2010 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103.



Lewis Carroll’s pen-and-ink illustration for the first draft of *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, featured in The Rosenbach’s At-Home Learning Lessons. Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures Under Ground*, illustrated manuscript complete. 1864. The British Library Board, MS4670065.



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### Review of 100 Things To Do In Philadelphia

"Never underestimate how much fun it is to be a tourist in your own town. Even for those of us who were born and raised in the Philadelphia area, it's always nice to find new pockets of the city you've never ventured into, or look at the well-traveled with new eyes."

— *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

### Review of Unique Eats and Eateries of Philadelphia

"In addition to historical tidbits and lesser-known facts, the book also serves as a guide for navigating some of the city's best-loved dining establishments, including menu highlights and tips for getting reservations."

— *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

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## Found: Fresh Fish Dinners for Pickup or Delivery

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Ever since Seafood Unlimited closed during the COVID-19 emergency, I was missing their delicious fish dinners. Thankfully, I was able to find a selection of neighborhood restaurants offering fish dinners for pickup or delivery, fulfilling my craving.

**Casta Diva**, 227 S. 20th St. (215) 496-9677. In my opinion, Chef/Owner Stephen Vassalluzzo is a culinary artist, and the food is always cooked to perfection. My fish dinner consisted of filleted branzino with salsa verde, cauliflower almond gremolata, and preserved lemon. I ordered fennel salad with apple, orange, greens, preserved lemon, and Sardinian pecorino for lunch the next day. What a wonderful blend of flavors in each plate! The menu includes many other items: salads, small plates, pasta, veal, vegetables, and cannoli. Phone for pickup or delivery, Thursday to Sunday, 4 to 5. <https://castadivabyob.com/menu/>

**Parc**, 227 S. 18th St. (215) 545-2262. One of my longtime favorites is Trout Amandine with haricots verts (green beans), and lemon brown butter. It's reliably delicious. For me it yields two dinners. The menu includes hors d'oeuvres, salad, meat, chicken, spaghetti, potatoes, and cookie. Order dinner online for delivery through Caviar, Tuesday to Sunday, 4 to 8. (Also, pickup window for bread, cheese, and wine, 11 to 4.) <https://parc-restaurant.com/menus/evening-menu/>

**My Thai**, 2200 South St., 215-985-1878. My favorites are the grilled swordfish with green curry peppercorn sauce, and the deboned whole steamed rainbow trout with garlic, ginger, and light soybean sauce, each with just the right amount of spiciness. I prefer to omit the cabbage and rice, instead substituting broccoli and carrots. About the Thai wonton soup: I love the unique and delicious broth with its tender wontons stuffed with ground pork, small shrimp and vegetables. For me, each dinner was enough for two. Huge menu includes soups, salads, appetizers, other fish and seafood, meat, chicken, vegetables, and dessert. Order online any day through GrubHub. Delivery starts at 5. <https://www.mythaiphilly.com/orderonline.aspx>

**Branzino**, 261 S. 17th St, 215-731-1222. My dinner was a generous portion of filleted branzino with melted butter and capers, grilled onions, and grilled (undercooked) Brussels sprouts. The fish was delicious, but be careful of tiny bones. Order by phone for pickup, or online for delivery by Caviar, Wednesday through Sunday, 3 to 8:30. <https://branzinophilly.com/>

**Melograno**, 2012 Sansom, 215-875-8116. I ordered the Pescato, grilled fish of the day, which was branzino that day. (Salmon is also available.) The menu said the fish came with sautéed greens and polenta. Instead of greens, I got asparagus, which normally I do not like. However, this asparagus, topped with buttery/lemony sauce, was so delicious I ate all four stalks. A nice extra was four slices of sea-salt bread. The menu includes antipasti, pinsa (small pizza), chicken, meat, vegetables, cheese plate, and dessert. Call first to find out what the Pescato is for that day. (One day, when I didn't call first, I was surprised to get shrimp.) Order online from website. Free delivery Thursday to Sunday, 4 to 8. <https://www.toasttab.com/melograno/v3>



Courtesy Audrey Claire

One of several fish dishes available at Audrey Claire.

Other restaurants where I have enjoyed fish dinners BC (Before COVID):

**Ambrosia**, 231 S. 24th Street at Locust. 215-703-2010. Highly recommended. Fish offerings at this writing are salmon entrée and seafood appetizers. Menu includes pasta, vegetables, salad, and dessert. Brunch and lunch offered also. Call to order noon to 4. Pickup 5 to 8. <http://ambrosiabyob.com/>

**Audrey Claire**, 276 S. 20th Street at Spruce. 215-731-1222. Offers three-course dinners for \$35, including salmon, mahi-mahi, tuna, and scallops. Order online for pickup or delivery through Caviar, Thursday through Saturday, 4 to 9. <https://www.audreyclaire.com/>

**Via Locusta**, 1723 Locust, 215-642-0020. Menu offers swordfish as well as a selection of small and large plates and pasta. Order online for pickup or delivery by DoorDash, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, 3 to 8:30; Friday and Saturday, 3 to 9:30. In addition, market is open for pre-order and pickup, Saturday and Sunday, 11 to 3. <https://www.vialocusta.com/>

For those wanting to cook their own fish dinner, here are two fish purveyors that come to Rittenhouse Square:

Robert Amar, owner of **Small World Seafood**, sells fresh fish on Fridays at Rittenhouse Square in front of The Philadelphia Ethical Society. Sign up for notifications about seafood selection each week. Order forms sent to you on Thursday for pickup Friday. 215-668-1138. <https://smallworldseafood.com/>

**Shore Catch** sells fresh fish at the Rittenhouse Farmers' Market on Saturdays from noon to 2. <https://www.farmtocitymarkets.com/shore-catch-rittenhouse>

Check websites for menus, days, and hours for pickup and delivery. Things change.



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## Eat a Bite, Give a Bit

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Every time I dine on delicious food delivered to my door from our neighborhood restaurants, I think how fortunate I am to enjoy this culinary feast. My next thought is about the many unfortunate people struggling financially during the COVID-19 emergency. I then feel compelled to write a check.

I have assembled a list of local nonprofit organizations that are helping, and I share it in the hope that you too will feel compelled to contribute. In many cases, you can do it through their website with a credit card. If you prefer to write a check or to direct your IRA custodian or donor-advised fund to contribute, I have included the mailing address. (Checks sent to these offices are picked up and deposited a few times a week.) The beneficiaries of these organizations are very grateful. (Quotes are taken from organizations' statements.)

**Philabundance:** <https://www.philabundance.org/>

"COVID-19 has forced us to change the types of food we're distributing, and the way we work. We continue to supply our partners in our nine-county service area, and we are providing additional support for a citywide emergency food-distribution effort to meet the high need in Philadelphia. We've purchased several truckloads of shelf-stable pantry items, meal kits that provide up to eight meals per box, and we have increased our distribution schedule to meet demand."

*Philabundance, 3616 S. Galloway St., Philadelphia PA 19148*

**Garces Foundation:** <http://garcesfoundation.org/>

"To respond to the needs of our community, we are proud to announce the Garces Foundation Food Pantry. In partnership with local restaurants, we are providing boxes of food to support our local community. Please consider supporting this important new program, which provides one week of food to a family in need."

Established by Chef Jose Garces, The Garces Foundation provides English classes and job-skills training for immigrant restaurant workers and free health care including dental care by Beatriz Garces. *Send checks payable to Garces Foundation c/o Robin Morris, Executive Director, 116 Woodside Ave., Narberth, PA 19072. Food Pantry on memo line. Garces Foundation headquarters is located at 1901 S. 9th St. Suite 205, Philadelphia PA 19148 and is temporarily closed.*

**The PHL COVID-19 Fund:** [PHLCOVID19Fund.org](https://www.phl.org/PHLCOVID19Fund.org)

Jointly sponsored by the City of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Foundation (PF), and United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey (UWGSPNJ).

"We will rapidly provide grants to Greater Philadelphia nonprofit organizations with a successful track record of serving at-risk populations such as seniors, people with disabilities, and those who are experiencing homelessness or are economically disadvantaged. These grants will allow the nonprofits to continue providing community safety nets such as food pantries and health services, as well as preparedness and protection services, such as hygiene supplies and access to accurate information."

*Philadelphia Foundation (PHL Covid-19 Fund on memo line)  
P.O. Box 826728, Philadelphia PA 19182-6728*

**Jefferson COVID-19 Better Together Fund** <https://www.give-campus.com/schools/Jefferson/the-covid-19-better-together-fund#updates>

The Fund is supporting JeffSecure, an emergency fund to assist students with financial support for the unexpected, unforeseen, and unavoidable emergency expenses; providing assistance for employees facing unforeseen hardships, and ensuring food and housing security; funding transportation for employees; offering resources for mental health, counseling, and psychosocial support services for employees; ensuring access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and rapid testing to keep staff and patients safe; helping subsidize elder care and childcare options for employees who have limited to no support.

*Jefferson Office of Institutional Advancement (COVID-19 Better Together Fund on memo line), 125 S. 9th St., Suite 600, Philadelphia PA 19107*

**The Merchants Fund** <https://merchantsfund.org/>

"Since 1854, The Merchants Fund has provided support to Philadelphia merchants and small businesses during times of financial need and hardship. When businesses have been at their most desperate, The Merchants Fund has been able to help ease that desperation."

*Check payable to The Merchants Fund. Mail to home office:*

*Jill Fink, Executive Director, The Merchants Fund, 748 N. Bucknell St., Philadelphia PA 19130.*

*The Merchants Fund headquarters is located at 1617 JFK Blvd, Suite 2042, Philadelphia PA 19103, and is temporarily closed.*

**Community College of Philadelphia Single Stop:** <https://www.ccp.edu/student-support/single-stop>

During the COVID-19 emergency, requests for assistance from Community College of Philadelphia's Single Stop office have increased. Single Stop offers students support exploring, navigating, and obtaining additional financial resources. After assessing students' needs, Single Stop staff provide free assistance connecting them with health insurance, food resources, free tax preparation, legal aid, financial education, childcare, utilities, cash and other subsidies, as well as internal and external referrals.

*Community College of Philadelphia (Single Stop on memo line) Office of Institutional Advancement, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Annex 7, Philadelphia, PA 19130*

**Philadelphia Futures Opportunity Fund:** <https://philadelphiafutures.org/a-message-from-our-executive-director-regarding-philadelphia-futures-office-closing/>

This organization's mission is to help low-income college-bound Philadelphia high school students get into college and graduate. During the COVID-19 emergency, many students are struggling with access to computers, lack of school-provided meals, and other emergencies. The Opportunity Fund provides them with technology, gift cards, and other emergency assistance.

*Philadelphia Futures (Opportunity Fund on memo line)  
230 S. Broad Street, 7th Floor, Philadelphia PA 19102*

## CCRA Past President



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## Spotlight On...

# Penn's Village Volunteer Kristin Davidson, a Former President of CCRA

*By Jane Eeley, Penn's Village Executive Director*

Kristin is the model community volunteer, who has continued to give many hours of her time, leadership skills, and extensive expertise, despite all the challenges that COVID-19 presents.

The board is now organizing the delivery of tasty homemade treats—including home-baking!—to all Penn's Villagers (members who have signed up for full volunteer-delivered services). Kristin is leading that effort, along with the vice-chair.

She is the Chair of the Board of Penn's Village; Board member, Academy of Vocal Arts; and Chair of the Board of the Freire Charter Schools Foundation. She is leading efforts in all three sectors of the community: caring for older neighbors in central Philadelphia so they can age in place; supporting the growth of the arts here and internationally; and promoting quality education for talented high-school and middle-school students. What a gift to the community her talents bring us!

Penn's Village is a community-based nonprofit organization, operated by and for neighborhood residents, that exists to support residents of central Philadelphia as they age in place.

Penn's Village supports older adults and younger persons with special needs so that they can live independently in their own homes and in their familiar neighborhoods.

Penn's Village connects neighbor to neighbor through educational, cultural and social programs. Volunteers provide services to members who need assistance such as transportation, errands, companionship, technology support and referrals to preferred providers such as electricians and home care. For more information contact: [www.pennsvillage.org](http://www.pennsvillage.org) 215-925-7333.



*Penn's Village strategic planning meeting (pre-COVID shutdown), with board members and other volunteers, from left: Kristin Davidson, Brian Wengenroth, Molly Lenowitz, Mario Oropeza, Harriette Mishkin, Mindy Mozenter, Jane Eeley, Karen Lynch, Lois Evans, Marianne Waller.*


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## Spotlight On...

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Need: I'm So Grateful

By Richard Frey

When the pandemic struck, a wonderful minister at the First Unitarian Church, the Reverend Hannah Capaldi, our Minister of Faith Formation, took it upon herself to connect helpful young members with older members like me and my wife, Diane.

So, Anni Tacchino, whom I had not yet met, called me up: "Hello. How are you what can I do to help?"

"Well, we are doing okay," I lied.

"Can I get you anything?" asked Anni.

"No—Well, we could use some groceries."

As soon as those words were out of my mouth, Anni—once she heard we live at 25th and Lombard—said she was about to drive from Mt. Airy to South Philly; she had to pick up some things she needed to bake her boyfriend a birthday cake for the coming weekend, so she said she'd be shopping at a store she knew on Cheltenham Avenue, and she would be driving by our house.



Anni Tacchino with First Unitarian minister Abbey Tennis.

The next thing I knew, Anni was standing outside our door! She had bags of foods, ones we had mentioned, plus her own ideas of what we might like.

It was incredible!

We reached out to her with cash for the groceries, we carried them in—and she was on her happy way.

Now she calls every so often, just to say hello and be sure we are still okay.



Richard Frey's whimsical watercolor tribute to his "grocery buddy," Anni Tacchino.

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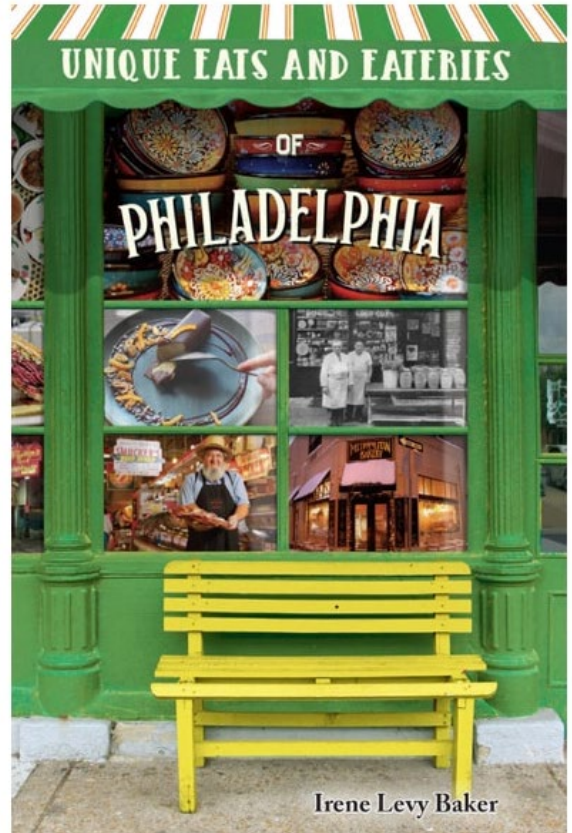


## Dining Scene

# Our Top Ten Ways to Help Restaurants Survive Quarantine!

By Irene Levy Baker

1. Order pick-up/delivery. When possible, order directly from the restaurant and not through a delivery service.
2. Tip. Even if you don't usually tip on takeout. In fact, over-tip.
3. Buy gift certificates. Then, once the restaurant reopens, give it time to get on stable financial footing again before using the certificates.
4. Buy merchandise. Then be an ambassador for the restaurant by wearing t-shirts or sweatshirts on walks, or holding a restaurant-themed mug during Zoom meetings.
5. Be generous. Look for GoFundMe campaigns supporting restaurants.
6. Shop for experiences. Buy one-of-a-kind experiences like hosting a cooking class or dinner party in your home with a chef (post-shutdown, of course). [www.SavePhillyEats.com](http://www.SavePhillyEats.com).
7. Donate. Go to the PA Restaurant & Lodging Association's website ([PRLA.org](http://PRLA.org)) and give to the Hospitality Assistance Response of PA, a nonprofit that provides emergency relief to hospitality workers.
8. Thank heroes. Help restaurants AND healthcare workers at the same time by buying meals for healthcare workers at [www.Frontlinefoods.org](http://www.Frontlinefoods.org).
9. Write reviews. Leave positive reviews for your favorite restaurants on Facebook, Google, Yelp & Trip Advisor.
10. Be Social. Help your favorite eatery spread its message. Like, re-tweet and share its social media posts.



From the book cover.

For a list of safe places to social distance and other tips, visit [www.100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphia.com/blog](http://www.100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphia.com/blog). Follow the book on Facebook and Instagram @100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphia and Twitter @100Philly. To start planning where to go when the quarantine is finally over, get the books at [www.100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphia.com](http://www.100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphia.com). Read the stories behind Philadelphia's most fascinating chefs and restaurants, and learn how to get into speakeasies, how to make the most of Restaurant Week, where to order secret menu items, and discover hidden destinations that will be new to even longtime Philadelphians. CCRA members can use promo code FREESHIPPING for free shipping.

Irene Levy Baker is the author of 100 Things To Do In Philadelphia and Unique Eats & Eateries of Philadelphia (link to [www.100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphia.com](http://www.100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphia.com))

## Town Square

# Food Pantry Pitches In

On Sunday, April 19, 80 families picked up boxes of fresh, healthful food donated by Garces Foundation's Food Pantry. "People were grateful and relieved and warm and happy," said Robin Morris, Executive Director.



Courtesy of Garces Foundation

## CCRA Summer Calendar—June Is Busting Out All Over?

### Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

2020 Virtual Edition

Friday June 5 through Sunday, June 7

<http://www.rittenhousesquareart.com/>

### Curtis Institute SummerFest

Young Artist Summer Program: A Teaching Festival Online

Saturday, July 11 to Saturday, August 1

<https://www.curtis.edu/summerfest/young-artist-summer-program3/about/>

### CCRA Virtual Annual Meeting

Guest Speaker Officer Jesse O'Shea, 9th Police District

Tuesday, June 16, 7 pm

[CCRA Virtual Annual Meeting](#)

### Virtual Bloomsday Festival

Online Readings from James Joyce's *Ulysses*

Rosenbach Museum & Library

Tuesday, June 16, 11 am to 8 pm.

Tune in <https://rosenbach.org/events/bloomsday-festival-2020/> or via Rosenbach's social media groups.

### Ball on the Square

Rittenhouse Square

POSTPONED to October

<http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/events/all/ball-on-the-square/>

### Young Friends Ball on the Square

Rittenhouse Square

POSTPONED to October

<http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/events/all/young-friends-ball-on-the-square/>

### Independence Day Celebration

Updated event information will be posted in June

<https://www.phlvisitorcenter.com/July4>

### The Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy Online Piano Festival

Livestreaming

Saturday, August 1 to Sunday, August 9

<https://pypa.info>

### Schuylkill Banks RiverBoat Tours Cruises

Walnut Street Dock, east side of Schuylkill River

Beneath Walnut Street Bridge Riverboat tours this summer and fall; once stay-at-home orders have been lifted and it is safe to

host these tours, schedule will be posted

<https://www.schuylkillbanks.org/events/riverboat-tours-1>

## Virtual Tours in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania

### Virtual art tours in Philadelphia area

<https://www.associationforpublicart.org/apa-now/story/virtual-art-tours-in-philly/>

### Philadelphia's favorite museums

<https://phillystylemag.com/visit-phillys-favorite-museums-thanks-to-virtual-gallery-tours>

### Visit Philadelphia in Virtual Reality – YouVisit:

<https://www.youvisit.com/tour/visitphilly>

### Virtual Tours of Local Attractions

<https://www.phillymag.com/sponsor-content/philadelphia-virtual-attractions/>

### Pennsylvania's museums' virtual tours

<https://www.pennlive.com/coronavirus/2020/03/if-coronavirus-has-you-stuck-at-home-these-pa-museums-offer-virtual-tours.html>

For the latest news about events in Philadelphia, go to VisitPhilly at <https://www.visitphilly.com/>

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



*Tulip displays brighten the entrance to the Rittenhouse Hotel.*



## Center City Residents' Association

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### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Tuesday, June 16 at 7 pm**  
CCRA Virtual Annual Meeting

### Town Square

## Save the Date CCRA Virtual Annual Meeting

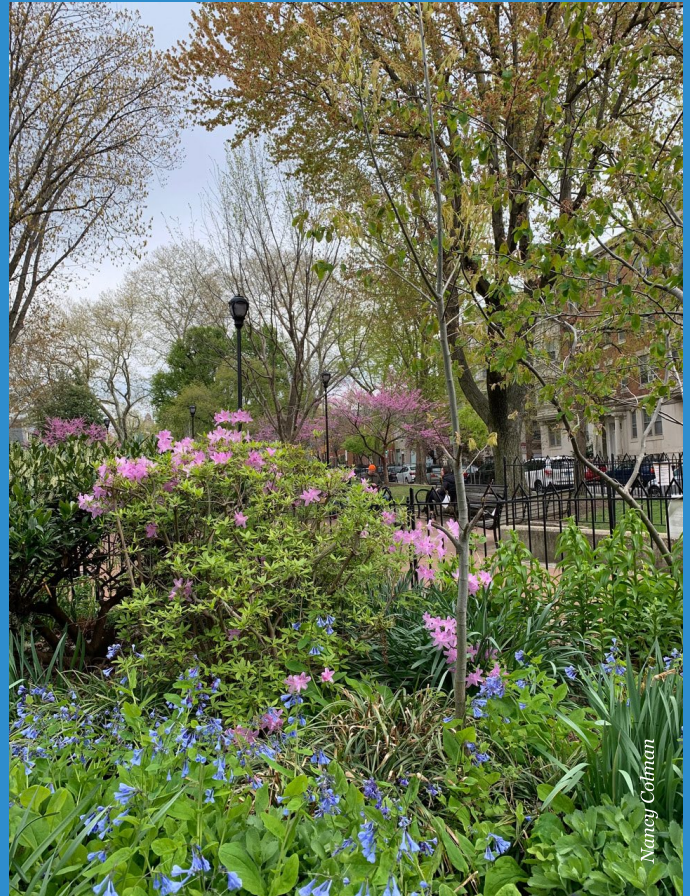
**Tuesday, June 16 at 7 pm**

Our Guest Speaker is Officer Jesse O'Shea from the 9th Police District. More details to come.

## Donate to Keeping Our Neighborhood Clean, Safe and Green Campaign

Help keep our neighborhood clean, beautiful, open and safe during the pandemic with a donation to CCRA Neighborhood Campaign.

[Click Here To Make A Donation!](#)



Spring in Fitter Square.

Nancy Coftman