



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 11 No. 1 Spring 2020

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## CENTER CITY

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## CCCulture

### Hot Topics and History

# The Athenaeum's Formula for Relevance Now

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

**F**ounded in 1814, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, a membership library and internationally recognized research institution housed in a National Historic Landmark building on the east side of Washington Square, wants to attract audiences of all ages and professions by increasing its array of diverse topics, relating current issues and events to historical knowledge in its exhibitions, lectures, and other programs offered to the public.

Recently initiated, "Crucial Conversations" is a series of lectures on current topics with historical contexts. One example is "What is the Purpose of Punishment?" a lecture by author Jen Manion, associate professor of history at Amherst College, on



Athenaeum Crane Hall

Tom Crane Photography

March 11 at 5:30 p.m. Other series on issues of both current and historical interest are “Seeking Athena: Women’s Inspiration & Wisdom,” “World Shapers & Visionaries,” and “The Liberty of the Ballot: The History & Legacy of the 15th and 19th Amendments.”

Until March 31, The Athenaeum features an exhibition titled “Structure & Purpose: The Legacy of Engineering at Keast & Hood,” a retrospective about the valuable contribution of structural engineers to building safety, illustrated by original drawings of 20th century landmark architecture. One exhibit describes how Keast & Hood, while inspecting the Academy of Music in March 1989, found structural damage that put the building and its occupants in imminent danger; the Academy was evacuated mid-performance so emergency repairs could be started immediately.

The Athenaeum houses vast collections covering history of architecture, design, and material culture, primarily focused on Philadelphia. It sponsors the Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network and the American Architects and Buildings websites used by thousands of researchers including scientists, architects, historians, artists, other professionals, students, and amateurs.

In February 2019, The Athenaeum and the Penn Libraries announced a partnership that enables each institution’s patrons to access the other’s library holdings. The Sir John Soane’s Museum Foundation in New York presented an award to The Athenaeum for its Architectural Drawings Collection at Soane’s annual Visionaries Dinner Gala in October 2019.

In May, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia announced a new Executive Director, Beth Shalom Hessel, whose mission is to expand their range of activities and visibility in Philadelphia, grow the collections, cultivate partnerships and collaborations with cultural and community institutions and associations in Philadelphia and nationwide, and increase fund-raising. Hessel, who holds a doctorate in American History, was formerly Executive Director of the Presbyterian Historical Society.

“The Athenaeum of Philadelphia is an exciting organization to be a part of today,” Hessel told *The Center City Quarterly*. “Our membership is growing, as empty-nesters, retirees, young

professionals, artists, writers, preservationists, and interested neighbors discover this treasure in their backyard. Our members and guests are discovering a vibrant community of lifelong learners who love great literature, programs that connect our present and the past, and exhibits and research opportunities that reveal previously hidden aspects of our city. Members can pop in for a book or to cozy up in a chair for good conversation and a cup of coffee with a friend. We offer concert series, visits to the opera and area museums, and classes. Our robust program schedule for the winter and spring was designed to include thoughtful discussions of relevant and challenging topics, as well as opportunities to engage with the arts and built environments across the city of Philadelphia. I am tickled to guide this historic organization as we connect our legacy with the future of a great city.”

The Athenaeum is one of 18 historic membership libraries in the United States, supported by membership dues, offering resources to the public. There are three levels of membership including Shareholder, Subscriber, and Young Friends, the latter open to people ages 18 to 35. When the Athenaeum of Philadelphia was founded, the free public library system did not exist and most book collections were located in schools, colleges and other institutions.

The Athenaeum building is an Italianate Renaissance Revival gem, designed in 1845 by John Notman, and is reason enough to make a trip across town. It is furnished with mid-19th century decorative and fine arts. A centerpiece is the gorgeous Reading Room on the second floor. Just for fun, on First Fridays, from 5 to 7 p.m., The Athenaeum offers music, pop-up artist galleries, and social hours. On Friday, May 1, the featured exhibition will be the Hand Fan Collection.

The building and its exhibitions, at 219 S. 6th Street, are free and open to the public Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some lectures are free; others require a small admission fee. Detailed information about The Athenaeum’s collections, exhibitions, digital resources, events, and membership is available on their website. <http://www.philaathenaeum.org/> For more information or to get on the email list, please contact Gabrielle Rodriguez, Membership and Communications Associate, 215-925-2688.



Athenaeum Reading Room



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## President's Report

# Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes....

By Maggie Mund, CCRA President

**H**eraclitus, a Greek philosopher, has been quoted as saying "the only thing that is constant is change." I think many of us have a love-hate relationship with change. I know I do. Certainly, when things are going poorly, we take solace in the fact that, no matter what, things are not going to stay the same. And when things are to our liking, we rue the inevitable disruption that change will bring.



Maggie Mund  
CCRA President

This edition of the *Center City Quarterly* is an example of such change—for the first time, the CCQ is being published in a digital-only format. We decided to try this for a number of reasons, not least of which was financial. The CCQ has been losing money for some time, and despite our best efforts to hire a sales rep to boost our advertising, no one came forward. Other reasons include environmental concerns and adopting best practices from other organizations like Penn's Village and Friends in the City. Please let us know what you think.

Since assuming the presidency of CCRA, I have introduced several changes to our programming and ways of doing business. In the Spring of 2019, we transformed the Celebration of Center City Living into Casino Night, an event that was a lot more lively than previous celebrations. Last Fall we had the Very Special House Tour of the Blatstein residence, quite different from our traditional Fall House Tour. Residential membership levels and benefits have been updated; business membership will follow.

And we just announced the Spring House and Garden Tour, to be held on Sunday, April 26. This Tour offers exciting new features: it is the first CCRA tour to take place in the Spring, and the first to include gardens as a distinct attraction, including a rooftop garden above a busy shopping district and a fairytale-like secret garden tucked away on a quiet side-street just a block from Rittenhouse Square. Please show your support by becoming a sponsor, buying tickets, or volunteering. For information on sponsorship, [click here](#). To volunteer, [click here to sign up](#). As in the past, every volunteer will receive a complimentary ticket.

One change that has been particularly alarming is the uptick in serious crime in the neighborhood. I cannot remember a time when there have been two murders in two months in CCRAville—but that is what confronts us now, along with some violent attacks. Perpetrators include both the homeless—who may be dealing with mental illness, drug addiction or both—and bored teenagers.

On December 2, CCRA hosted a community meeting on public safety at the Church of the Holy Trinity on Rittenhouse Square. Several police officers attended to answer residents' questions and concerns, and CCRA has followed up with Captain Hooven to get updates. CCRA also has two task forces working on developing solutions to address some of these issues, one focused on high-rise residential buildings. While serious crime is a lot for a neighborhood association to take on, listening to our neighbors, organizing meetings like this one and focusing on Center City's problems and possible solutions is central to the mission of CCRA.

Please be on the lookout for a survey we are conducting to obtain your opinions about the issues that concern all of us. The results will be used at a CCRA board retreat at the end of March to inform CCRA priorities for the future. Please respond in a timely fashion so that we may have the most complete data for the retreat.

## 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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# Green Infrastructure at Greenfield School Slows Sewer System Overflow

By Bob Bershad

Philadelphia is an old city whose sewer system, first built in the 19th century, can be incapacitated by heavy rains. But the city need not be a prisoner to its past. [Green infrastructure](#) enables us to create a solution that mimics nature for a better environment.

Heavy rains can overwhelm the sewer system, forcing [millions of gallons](#) of human wastewater into Philadelphia's rivers and creeks. If it didn't go into the rivers and creeks, it would backflow into the streets and structures where we live and work. That's because two-thirds of the city's sewer system combine rainwater and wastewater, channeling both together to treatment plants. When the sewer system can't contain this combined volume, which happens during heavy rains, it releases the excess into the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers and the Cobbs, Tookany/Tacony-Frankford, and lower Pennypack creeks.

Fred Kaulbach and Lisa Armstrong are among the Philadelphians working toward a green solution to this problem. They and a crew of other dedicated volunteers, supported by governmental, private sector and community organizations, developed a piece of green infrastructure at the Albert M. Greenfield Elementary School playground on the 2200 block of Sansom Street, where the green infrastructure mimics a forest floor.

Greenfield's playground has a soft, artificial surface that is permeable, meaning it has small holes that let raindrops pass through. Below ground is a network of perforated pipes that collect and channel the rainwater to soil and rain gardens—where Kaulbach, Armstrong and other volunteers have planted 40 trees—thereby diverting it from the overtaxed sewer system. It's a bonus that this green infrastructure supports trees, some fruit-bearing, in an area where children play.

Kaulbach and Armstrong have been central to the [Greening Greenfield](#) project since construction launched in 2009, when their children were students there. Even after their kids moved to higher grades elsewhere, Kaulbach and Armstrong remain involved, leading volunteers in planting and tending the trees, some of which have grown to nearly 40 feet. Kaulbach remains involved because the project “transformed the school in many ways” and he wants to keep that going.

There was a physical transformation. Before they began, the playground was paved with asphalt and lined with parked cars and a dumpster. Now it's covered with asphalt and a porous play surface lined with trees and rain gardens.

There was a community transformation. The project required school parents to volunteer, leading to increased parental involvement, making the school's Home and School Association even more robust.

There was an educational transformation. Students gained outdoor classrooms with daily exposure to seasonal cycles in the middle of a city. They also harvest and eat Asian pears, figs, and persimmons, as well as pawpaws, which are native to this area. The school administration has been committed to the project all along, even installing green infrastructure on the building's Mechanical Room roof.

[PHS Tree Tenders](#) and the [TreeVitalize Grant Program](#) provided trees, with fruit trees from the [Philadelphia Orchard Project](#). CCRA has been helpful by generously promoting and publicizing the project from the beginning, according to Armstrong.

The Greening Greenfield project was made possible with the financial and expert support of a constellation of organizations, including \$135,000 from the Philadelphia Water Department and \$50,000 from the developer of a nearby high-rise to satisfy the city's “open space” requirement for new construction. CCRA's Zoning Committee facilitated the latter relationship. A plaque on the playground wall lists all the names of the many other organizations involved, too numerous to list here.

Even with all these resources, the project would have been impossible without dedicated volunteers and community leaders like Kaulbach and Armstrong. Kaulbach expanded the volunteer base to include the nearby Philadelphia office of [Jacobs](#), an architectural and engineering firm where he is senior discipline leader of the architectural department. Working across the street from the school, Jacobs' volunteers are all trained Tree Tenders, a Pennsylvania Horticultural Society initiative that [organizes communities to increase tree canopy throughout the region](#). They hope to add trees to the sidewalks in the neighborhood of the school as well. Volunteers are critical because trees need support to thrive in an urban environment, especially early in their lives. Each tree diverts that much more rainwater from the sewers.

The Greening Greenfield project is a public amenity after school hours, making Center City a better place to learn, work and live. It's part of the city's 25-year green infrastructure plan. With dedicated volunteers like Kaulbach, Armstrong and Jacobs architect Rob Rumburg, there is considerable promise of a greener future with healthier rivers and creeks.

Learn more about becoming a [Tree Tender](#). Learn more about Philadelphia's [green infrastructure plan](#).



Sidewalk tree planting outside the playground

## Naudain Art Collaborative Spring Exhibition Features New Artist

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Mark Willie, the newest member of Naudain Art Collaborative, will be part of the Collaborative's Spring Exhibition. Willie's *plein air* landscapes on paper express the natural and the abstract. A practicing graphic designer, Willie is Associate Program Director and professor of Graphic Design at Drexel University's Westphal College. Other artists in the Spring Exhibition are Bhavisha Patel and Karen Villarreal. Saturday, March 14, and Sunday, March 15, Ageless Gardens Gallery, 2503 Naudain Street, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Bayside Tract by Mark Willie, watercolor, charcoal on paper

### Our Greene Countrie Towne

## The Mystery and Allure of Ginkgo Trees

By Susan Kahn

I don't think I ever had a conversation with my grandmother, just the two of us. In fact, I am certain of it. She lived in southern Illinois; we lived outside of Baltimore—my parents, six siblings and I—and we saw her on average once every other year. On those occasions, with our sheer numbers, we must have been too much for her to seek me out. But she did write regular letters, and every Christmas a large, strangely light box arrived filled with caramel popcorn balls. In the fall, her letters always included a pressed, golden ginkgo leaf. My mother told me there was a ginkgo tree in my grandparents' yard. We did not have ginkgo trees in suburban Baltimore; when my grandmother enclosed a leaf, what was her message?

I became a grandmother less than a year ago. Holding my granddaughter for the first time, I tried to picture the milestones ahead that I hoped to share with her, and the kind of grandmother I hoped to be. It was then that I realized I had not experienced this kind of relationship. Since then I have worked to bring into focus what kind of person my maternal grandmother was. How would she have explained sending a ginkgo leaf each fall?

Perhaps she marveled at the ginkgoes' ancient history. Ginkgoes are the only tree whose extinct ancestors date back 170 million years to a time when they grew on every continent. No one knows what rendered them extinct; the modern form was propagated in temples in China and Japan, and cuttings were brought to Europe in the 18th century.

It is possible my grandmother was intrigued by the ginkgo's reputation as a health aid. As a regular patron of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, she espoused all sorts of health supplements. In East Asia, ginkgo seeds are often associated with both fertility and longevity. In the West, an extract from the leaves is sometimes prescribed for difficulties in concentration and energy. It has become a top-selling herbal remedy.

My grandmother could not have predicted that eventually I would make my life in Philadelphia, the city where ginkgoes were introduced in North America. In 1784, noted botanist William Hamilton (no relation to Alexander) brought three specimens from England, two of which he planted on his estate in West Philadelphia (now The Woodlands); the third he gave to his cousin John Bartram. This third tree is enjoyed today at Bartram's Garden as the oldest ginkgo in North America.

By the late 19th century, ginkgoes were well established as botanical garden trees. Its use as a street tree began in the 1870s, when 90 ginkgoes were planted along an avenue leading to the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Despite the foul-smelling fruit borne by female ginkgo trees, ginkgoes today are among the most popular street trees in the world. Nearly 10 percent of Philadelphia's street trees are ginkgoes, lining some of the most beautiful of Center City's blocks.

The same qualities that allowed ginkgoes to survive for thousands of millennia contribute to its success as a hardy street tree. They tolerate the root compaction, salt and pollution of the urban environment better than most trees, and are resistant to fungus and insects.

But its charisma and beauty more fully explain its success. Ginkgo leaves have a characteristic fan shape. They turn bright yellow in November and then release from the branches all at once, creating a golden carpet underfoot. When I walk under ginkgo trees while their yellow leaves rain down, it feels as if my grandmother and I are having our conversation at last.

*Susan Kahn is the leader of the Friends of Schuylkill River Park PHS Tree Tenders, a volunteer group that plants and cares for free street trees. An application for a tree to be planted next fall can be found [here](#).*





*A fall carpet of ginkgo leaves line a Center City street*





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# Culture Shock: Center City Philadelphian Encounters Southern Jewish Culture

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

*Wandering Dixie: Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South*, is a new book of literary nonfiction by Sue Eisenfeld, born and raised in Center City Philadelphia, now residing in Virginia. In it, the author describes her journeys through nine Southern states, learning about Southern Jews, their unique history, culture and food, and their lost communities – all through her lens as a Northern Jew. Eisenfeld’s wanderings revealed more than she expected – Jewish assimilation into the southern culture and involvement in the Civil War, slavery, and civil rights.

Eisenfeld will speak about her book at The Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 Rittenhouse Square, on Tuesday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Ethical Society, Friends in the City, and Penn’s Village. At the event, Head House Books will sell books, and the author will sign books for purchase. (Free and open to the public.)

Eisenfeld attended Greenfield Elementary School, the Philadelphia High School for Girls, and the University of Pennsylvania, before transferring to and graduating from Cornell University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources. Later she earned her Master of Arts degree in Writing at Johns Hopkins University.

She has been a freelance writer for 25 years, publishing articles and essays in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Forward*, and many magazines and literary journals, and her essays have been listed five times among the Notable Essays of the Year in *The Best American Essays*. She is on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University, where she teaches in the M.A. in Writing and M.A. in Science Writing programs. For nearly 20 years, she worked as an environmental policy/communications consultant. Her first book, *Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal*, was published in 2015.

*Wandering Dixie: Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South* will come out in April 2020, published by Mad Creek Books, an imprint of Ohio State University Press. <https://www.sueeisenfeld.com/>



Author Sue Eisenfeld

## Dining Scene

# CCRA Celebrates Members with Meet 'n' Greet at Alimentari by Di Bruno Bros.

By Leo Levinson – *The Center City Foodie*

Imagine being able to roam Di Bruno Bros.’ giant store at 1730 Chestnut, and sample whatever you wanted. Well that bountiful tasting experience pretty much describes the scene as CCRA greeted members with a generous Italian hors d’oeuvres feast held in Di Bruno Bros.’ new second-floor casual dining space, Alimentari.

Not that we sampled everything, but about 50 CCRA members were treated to Alimentari’s classic Italian marble bar, piled high with cheeses, meats, pickled vegetables, breads, olives and nuts. Cheeses included a mild Quadrello di Bufala, Di Bruno’s signature Parmigiano Reggiano and a delicious Gorgonzola Dolce. Meats included a flavorful Italian salami, Mortadella al Pistacchio, and their Larchmont Bresaola. Also served were tasty pork rillette toasts topped with pickled mustard seeds and butternut squash, and goat cheese bruschetta. Yum!

Just when you thought you couldn’t eat any more, the friendly staff brought out some of Di Bruno Bros.’ famous pizza: we enjoyed the Margherita pizza with fresh mozzarella, San Marzano tomato and basil. Fine Italian wine and signature cocktails were also available.

All in all, it was a nice evening affording us a chance to meet some more of our neighbors while enjoying another standout dining venue in the neighborhood.

P.S. Did you know? Another great CCRA member perk—your CCRA membership enables you to obtain a special discount card for 10 percent off purchases at Di Bruno Bros.



CCRA President Maggie Mund with Operations Manager Travis Oliver and Giovanna Chili enjoy a chat at CCRA’s Members’ Meet ‘n’ Greet at Alimentari at Di Bruno’s.



# Via Locusta

## New Dining Spot at 1723 Locust Street

By Leo Levinson—*The Center City Foodie*

It is all about the food at Via Locusta and it's exceptional. I say that because the atmosphere is pretty spare and noisy, even though we didn't experience it exactly, because we got seated in the closet upstairs (aka the pasta room) . . . but that didn't matter.

From the start, they had me with the warm focaccia: gently herbal, with some fresh rosemary on top and served with whipped honey and butter with bee pollen that really wasn't necessary because the bread just melted in your mouth. That said, don't take that butter away either!

I wished I could have tried all the small plates because they were so interesting, but we'll be back. And I think that's part of the appeal of Via Locusta, in that the menu is so intriguing it brings you back; and just when you start to repeat, the new season brings a new selection. Fun!

For now, we enjoyed the snapper crudo with fennel, horseradish and Meyer lemon. The raw snapper was super-fresh and its flavor stood out, accented by the micro-planed lemons and horseradish. The fennel was an inventive idea that added some nice flavor depth.

We also had the Romanesco Frito, gently fried vegetables served with farmer's cheese, mint and a dusting of chili flakes.

The star of the show at Via Locusta is the pasta, offered in about a dozen choices. Virtually everything is house-made using locally sourced fresh-milled flour. It is some of the best pasta to be found in a city where there is a lot of competition. We loved the Paccheri, weightless sleeves of pasta with an imaginative saucing of Cantabrian anchovies and pangrattato—Italian for bread crumbs, but so much more—delicately accented with a hint of orange. Also, delicious were the Agnolotti—small pasta pouches stuffed with porcini mushroom and black truffle and served with a fonduta sauce, a blend of melted cheese, egg yolks and milk, cream or other dairy items.

We also tried one of the big plates, the swordfish with lettuce, mint and prosecco sauce, cooked a touch too long but very tasty. The dish was a large enough portion to serve the four of us. Next time, I'm planning to try the chicken, which looked outstanding.

Frankly, we were full after all this, as the servings were generous. So we passed on dessert, but no matter: they surprised us with a house-made cookie—a fitting ending to a sweet meal.

-----  
*Leo Levinson, our roving food writer, is a board member of Philadelphia's premier gourmet club, The Chaine des Rotisseurs, former chair of the Union League's Grand Cru Society wine club, and accomplished amateur cook. As an active foodie, resident and public relations guru in Center City West, he'll give us the inside track, from pho to foie gras. Follow Leo on Instagram [@theleolevinson](https://www.instagram.com/theleolevinson)*



A selection of delicacies awaits at Via Locusta.



Via Locusta's handsome, well-stocked bar.



# The Ups and Downs of PCI Library's New Lift

By Pamela Freyd

"How did you raise the money?" That's the question most people ask about the new lift being installed at the Philadelphia City Institute (PCI) Library on Rittenhouse Square.

Raising funds was not the only challenge to overcome. A more urgent question was: "Is it possible to construct an elevator in this space?"

In 2012, Bernice Levinson and I first approached Head Librarian Joe Paradin and the Friends of PCI group about trying to make the Community Room and the Children's Room handicap-accessible, an idea that was met with enthusiasm. We learned, however, that a previous attempt had been unsuccessful. Why? Primarily because the Free Library does not own the PCI Library space.

Undeterred, in 2013 we informed both the Board of Managers of the Philadelphia City Institute Foundation, which owns the library space, and the Condo Association of the 220 building, which houses it, of our dream. We then talked to Siobhan Reardon, President, and James Pecora, Vice President of Property Management at the Free Library. They were most supportive, saying they wanted all libraries to be fully accessible, but because of budget constraints, we would need to raise the money for this project from other sources. Unfortunately, the Free Library has many branches in dire need of roof repairs and other basic problems.

In 2014 Pecora said a feasibility study was needed if we intended to move ahead. He introduced us to Chris Kircher from Metcalf Architects, and the PCI Friends paid for a study that showed installing an elevator was definitely possible. But our delight soon turned to frustration, upon learning that an elevator requires space underneath to house the mechanical systems to make it operate. Because no such space existed, in 2015 our dream was put on hold.

By the end of the year, however, we devised a simple and obvious solution. We consulted Kircher to see if a "lift" would solve our space problem. The mechanics for a lift are located on the side of the structure, not below. He adjusted the feasibility study accordingly.

In 2016, we resumed our rounds of contacts and were delighted that PCI's new Head Librarian, Erin Hoopes, the Free Library leadership, the Board of Managers of the PCI Foundation, and the Condo Board of the 220 building were all on board for the lift project.

We were ready to advance to the next stage by 2017. Admittedly, raising \$400,000 seemed daunting, but we knew that making the library fully accessible was the right thing to do. We were convinced if neighbors and friends became aware of the problem, they would step up to help. Susan Gould, Assistant Vice President of Development for the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation, offered to be of assistance in raising the money.

"Give PCI A Lift" was the theme of the Friends of PCI party to kick off the fundraising in June 2017. In addition to making wonderful cookies and cakes, the Friends emptied the group's coffers and donated approximately \$100,000 to jump-start the drive.



*Pamela Freyd, President of Friends of Philadelphia City Institute Library from 2014 to 2019, leader of the project to install a lift in the PCI branch.*

Donations began to come. Members of the PCI Friends held fundraisers, contacted community groups and condo boards, placed flyers in high-rise buildings, wrote articles, and approached local businesses. Big and small, each donation moved up the marker on the thermometer in the library's window, but toward the end of 2018, we remained only halfway toward the goal.

Then, in November 2018, Bernard and Evelyn Korman donated \$50,000! To add to that generosity, the Public Health Fund matched that donation with \$50,000 in honor of Bernie Korman. The PCI Friends were three-quarters of the way to the goal! This truly was a lift to our fundraising, and we knew that PCI would soon be accessible to all.

Donations continued, and in the spring of 2019, Pecora told us we had enough money to go to the

*Continued on P. 13*



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*Continued from P. 11*

next stage, and he would begin the bidding process, which occurred during the summer of 2019.

Domus Construction was awarded the contract to install the lift. Pecora from the Free Library and Chris Kircher and Rich Gallagher from Metcalf Architects have continued on the project. All three organizations have been a pleasure to work with and they have included the PCI Friends in much of the planning. We regret that the library closed for construction on January 19. We are anticipating that it will reopen April 6, and we are planning a celebration in April. We can hardly wait to have our first patron take the maiden voyage! We know that the lift and a few other changes will enhance your experiences at our Philadelphia City Institute Library.

A gigantic thank you to the PCI Friends and the hundreds of people and many organizations whose time and generosity made the PCI Library Lift a reality.

*Pamela Freyd was President of Philadelphia City Institute Library from 2014 to 2019.*

## PCI Library Lift Launch Lined Up for April

*By Pat McGovern Gorchov*

Friends of Philadelphia City Institute Library on Rittenhouse Square hosted a dessert party January 14 at the library to thank those who made the lift-construction project possible by contributing \$400,000. Approximately 50 people attended, including some with wheelchairs and walkers, who will most benefit from the new lift.

Judy Everitt, incoming President of Friends of PCI, welcomed guests. Past President Pamela Freyd summarized the work that she, former Treasurer Bernice Levinson, and Jim Pecora, Vice President of Facilities of the Free Library of Philadelphia, did since 2013 to make the lift installation a reality and the Library compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Freyd's energetic efforts on this project were driven by her philosophy, "It's the right thing to do."

Freyd reported on the selection of contractors Metcalf Architecture and Design and Domus Construction Company. PCI Library Supervisor Erin Hoopes talked about the positive effect the lift will have on those previously denied physical access to programming held in the Children's Room or the Community Room.

The PCI Library closed for construction on January 19. The estimated date of completion is April 6, after which the Library lift is expected to launch.

*Pat McGovern Gorchov is Recording Secretary of Friends of Philadelphia City Institute.*

### Living History

## This Place Matters

# How To Be A Preservationist Without Even Trying

*By Pip Campbell, CCRA Historic Preservation Committee*

**Y**ou may not think of yourself as a preservationist but you may live in an area, on a block, or in a house or condo that has benefited from being preserved. Much of CCRA's footprint overlaps with the Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District <https://www.phila.gov/media/20190213131150/Historic-District-Rittenhouse-Fitler.pdf>, created in 1995.

The outside of properties within the district boundaries (roughly, from the west side of Broad Street to 25th Street and from approximately Chestnut to Pine) are protected by City ordinance and require property owners to have changes reviewed and approved by the Historical Commission. These reviews help maintain the characteristics not only of individual properties, but also of blocks made up of individual properties. The "look" of a street—a "streetscape"—is less likely to be negatively altered by owners' personal preferences or decisions when possible changes are subject to review.

Even simple and seemingly inconsequential alterations can have significant positive or negative outcomes. Negative changes to structures or streetscapes often occur when a property owner does something to the property that is out of sync with historic appropriateness. For example, without obtaining approval from the Historical Commission, an owner of a building with multiple



apartments installed mailboxes (see illustration) on the sidewalk in front of the property. Not only do these mailboxes fail to comply with Philadelphia historic guidelines but they also mar the streetscape for neighbors and passersby.

Another owner wanted to increase the value of his property by creating a parking space, and demolished a front-facing wall, thereby significantly altering the symmetry of the English Village architectural design. Property owners might want to have a different front door, and may alter the door opening and configuration in order to replace, for example, a historic double door with one that is more modern. Or an owner may think it is preferable to replace old-fashioned and original paned windows with single-paned vinyl windows. Or remove shutters or replace them with vinyl shutters. Even these small alterations reduce property values and may affect other nearby properties.

Fortunately, small changes may also have a positive impact and increase individual or blockwide property values. Simple and low-cost improvements such as installing first-floor window boxes or placing large flower containers next to front steps or on the sidewalk does a lot to improve the curb appeal of individual properties or rows of houses.

Think of some of the blocks in our neighborhood that are widely considered to be especially pretty or are often selected for movie shoots. These are blocks whose residents have retained historic integrity—such as the 1800, 2000, or 2100 blocks of Delancey Place. Property owners have retained original windows and added small improvements such as front-door lighting. Shutters have been retained on all three or four floors. Stair railings are original or historic replacements. Cellar window grates have not been removed and are historically appropriate. All of these details turn owners into preservationists, increase the value of an individual property, and improve the streetscape.

Every effort each of us makes to retain or enhance the historic features of our properties, no matter how small, supports and increases property values—and who doesn't want their property to be worth more? Many studies and reports have been done by the U. S. Department of the Interior, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and other groups documenting the economic value of historic preservation not just for those designed by architects or lived in by famous people. Again and again, studies document the economic value of historically designated properties, but especially for those that are within a historically designated district. Remember that when you are improving your property in a way that respects its historic origins, you are not just doing this to have a nicer property or to be a preservationist, but to contribute to the economic value of our neighborhoods.



*Sidewalk mailbox installed without Historical Commission compliance.*

If you have questions about historic preservation, your property, or the Historic Commission process, or would like to know more about what CCRA is doing in preservation, please contact the CCRA Historic Preservation Committee at [picamp@aol.com](mailto:picamp@aol.com) or via the CCRA Operations Manager, Travis Oliver, at 215-546-6719 or [centercity@centercityresidents.org](mailto:centercity@centercityresidents.org).



*2000 block of Delancey.*



*New façade and construction that somewhat complements the property on the left, but is out of sync with the property on the right.*



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Learn More at [phsonline.org](http://phsonline.org). #phsgardening | [@phsgardening](https://twitter.com/phsgardening)



*Youngsters get an early start on their gardening skills.*



*Patrons enjoy the abundance of plants available at the Garden Fete.*

*A lovely scene awaits patrons of the Rittenhouse Garden Fete.*





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# How Cities Can Save Our Planet

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that within 12 years, because of rising temperatures, "drought could endanger 400 million city-dwellers." Seth Schultz, founder and CEO of Urban Breakthroughs, a climate consultancy, reports that "cities account for 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions and house half the global population." Schultz says, "there is no viable solution to the climate crisis without cities in the center of it."

Cities are open to the exchange of information, knowledge, and best practices. C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, a network of 94 cities, has committed to the Paris Agreement goals at the local level.

After attending two global conferences of mayors on the climate crisis – Local Governments for Sustainability and C40 World Mayors Summit – Mayor Jim Kenney, in October 2019, launched the Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia along with business and law firm leaders.

"Our administration," Mayor Kenney said, "has committed the city to cutting citywide carbon pollution 80 percent and achieving a 100 percent carbon-free electricity grid by 2050, as well as powering all city buildings on 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030." In 2019, 40 Philadelphia-area organizations, including seven colleges and universities and PECO, joined the Collaborative. <https://phillyclimatecollab.com/>

The University of Pennsylvania, the largest employer in the Philadelphia region, is working on projects to increase its own sustainability, to divest from fossil fuels, and to provide knowledge and advice to cities, industries, and other organizations. To help provide financing for cities, the Penn Institute for Urban Research (IUR) launched the City Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Initiative (C2IFI), a clearing-house for mayors, dedicated to matching cities with international finance.

Wharton's Risk Center partnered with the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, the Penn Program on Regulation, and the Faculty Senate, on a project entitled *30 Solutions to Climate Risks*. This group recommended actions that can be taken by industries and cities in areas most at risk.

Insurers and mortgage lenders could accurately price products according to climate risk, thus putting the burden directly on property owners and "encouraging adaptation and retreat" from coastal communities. In addition, the global insurance sector, holding an estimated \$25 trillion in assets under management, could redirect capital flows toward low-carbon technologies.

To decrease emissions from air travel and autos, cities could stop encouraging airlines to develop new routes and could cooperate to develop more intercity rail and bus routes. In the future, state and local governments might withhold municipal services to communities vulnerable to climate change, particularly if Congress legislates the climate crisis as a national emergency. <https://thepenngazette.com/the-new-climate-advocates/>

Elsewhere on the planet, electric utilities are working on sourcing energy entirely from solar and wind. According to *The Guardian*, "UK homes will soon be able to plug into community wind and solar farms from anywhere in the country through Co-op Energy, the first energy tariff to offer clean electricity exclusively from community projects." (For more current information on the climate crisis, read *The Guardian*.)

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*This is Eisenfeld's second article about the Climate Crisis. The first one, published in the Center City Quarterly Winter 2019 issue, introduced the topic and discussed what experts say individuals can do: Use your voting power, do not invest in big producers of greenhouse gas emissions or companies that finance them, limit beef consumption, install solar panels, decrease driving or switch to a more fuel-efficient vehicle, limit air travel, reduce use of appliances and devices, plant a garden, and eat locally sourced food.*

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# City Residents' Priorities Are Streets, Police, and Public Safety

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Using a sample of over 11,000 residents, in 2019 the City of Philadelphia, along with Temple University, conducted a survey to learn their opinions of city services and their priorities for improvement. The report was released in January.

The top services that residents most want the city to prioritize are streets—including structural conditions and cleanliness—police services, and public safety (including fire, traffic, emergency services, and emergency preparedness).

Respondents were relatively satisfied with some city services. Fire services were rated excellent or good by 76 percent of respondents, the highest rating of all city services. Just over half of residents rated recycling services and quality of drinking water excellent or good. Almost 60 percent of respondents were happy with their housing quality, and more residents felt safe in their neighborhood than not. Over 60 percent were satisfied with their travel between home and work.

However, there were many areas identified for improvement. Forty percent of respondents were not happy with the schools in their neighborhood. Other issues of concern were health services; parks and recreation; homelessness; open-air drug use; and illegal dumping, graffiti, vacant lots, and dilapidated buildings.

Traffic enforcement was rated the lowest of public safety services. Only one in five respondents rated emergency preparedness excellent or good. Less than half rated police services excellent or good, including approachability, conduct, presence, responsiveness, and ability to prevent crime. Residents were split on opinions of permits and licensing services and trash collection.

In general, ratings of city services decreased slightly since the previous survey in 2016-17. Respondents of color gave lower ratings than did white respondents to neighborhood safety, police approachability, quality of housing, quality of drinking water, quality of parks, code violations such as graffiti, litter, vacant lots, and abandoned buildings.

The survey was conducted by the Mayor's Offices of Policy, Public Engagement, Civic Engagement and Volunteer Services, and Performance Management. Temple University's Institute for Survey Research partnered in developing and administering the survey.

Between August and November 2019, Philadelphia residents 18 and older were invited to participate in the survey, conducted in English, Spanish, and simplified Chinese. The sample consisted of an address-based probability sample by mail; a web-based opportunity through [www.PHLsurvey.com](http://www.PHLsurvey.com); paper questionnaires at Police Athletic League Centers, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Centers, and Free Library of Philadelphia branches, as well as phone participation. All responses were blended and weighted to reflect the distribution of population by gender, age, ethnicity, race, education, and income. The full report is available at: <https://www.phila.gov/media/20200113092058/2019ResidentSurvey-FINAL.pdf>

## Wanted: Board Member Candidates

CCRA is looking to fill several Board seats for our fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. Board members generally serve a term of three years. CCRA's Board is a working board. We are seeking CCRA members with a passion for living in "CCRAville," an interest in issues of quality of life and community service, and a commitment to active Board participation.

Successful candidates must serve on at least one committee and agree to fulfill the responsibilities set forth in our Board Pledge, which includes devoting at least four hours per month on CCRA activities, not including time spent attending, and preparing for, monthly Board meetings. See website ([www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org)) for full Pledge and list of committees (click "About CCRA" tab on the toolbar).

Interested members are encouraged to forward a résumé or statement of interest containing a summary of qualifications **by March 31** to: CCRA, 1900 Market St., 8th Fl., Phila., PA 19103, or by email: [centercity@centercityresidents.org](mailto:centercity@centercityresidents.org), with "Board Candidate" in the subject line.

# What Are We Doing to Our Truck Drivers? When You Can't Do Your Job Without Breaking the Law

By Bill West

Probably the only truck driver I've known in Philadelphia was my longtime UPS driver, Donna. Lovely lady. We were all so happy when her son came home from Iraq safely.

I've spent a fair amount of time watching truck drivers like Donna working in Center City. Just trying to do their jobs. We don't make it easy for them. And their bosses don't make it easy for them.

## Fitting Cities for Cars and Trucks

The basic problem is one of geometry. Cars and trucks are quite big, and they don't fit well on streets in the older parts of many cities—in Philadelphia, Center City and South Philly are good examples.

For most of the 20th century, there was a huge move to alter cities so they would better fit the motor vehicles flooding their streets. The street and its intersections should be big enough to fit a very big truck with a very large turning radius.

In the 19th century, of course, cities spent a lot of time altering themselves to fit the new railroads. Cities are quite malleable; change is really a constant. However, it's nice when the changes are for the better.

It turns out that the people now flocking into old downtowns around the country are often attracted by the human scale, the older buildings, the walkability.

And so people have started to look at the concept of fitting the vehicles to the city. The original micromobility vehicle was the bicycle. And now the e-scooter has entered the scene.

Recently UPS has piloted a delivery e-tricycle in Seattle. I suspect we're going to see a lot more commercial uses like this. They're not entirely new of course. I remember, growing up in New York City, that the grocery stores often used delivery bicycles; they looked a lot like modern cargo bikes. And Chinese restaurants have used delivery bicycles for years. I wonder when pizza shops are going to move to delivery bicycles?

Still, it seems clear that, for longer distances and bulkier goods, large trucks will be with us for the foreseeable future. I do hope we see fewer and fewer 18-wheelers in Center City. I think the smaller trucks are workable with some changes to our curb management.

## The Curb

Transportation planners like to talk about the last mile, but in Philadelphia the challenge is often the last 10 feet. Eventually a delivery vehicle has to stop and unload and deliver its cargo. In Philadelphia, this often means parking at the curb, and there is often no space at the curb.



Take that, porch pirates! Amazon pickup center, 23rd & South.

So what's a truck driver to do? Actually, this is when the driver becomes a criminal. Until recently, on Center City's Chestnut Street commercial corridor, delivery trucks would often stop in the dedicated bus lane. They had no choice.

Lately this has changed. The City has launched a "Loading Pilot," which provides 80 feet of loading zone on each block, all day.

Already it seems clear that the new loading zones are having the desired effect. Truck drivers, as a group, are not particularly dedicated to breaking the law. They're just looking for a place to park. And with the bus lane clear, traffic is much less jumbly, and the ride much less of a steeplechase.

Residential neighborhoods of Center City are also experiencing an access problem. Mine is a good example. I live a few blocks south of Rittenhouse Square, in the southwest quadrant of William Penn's original plan for Philadelphia, and parking has been ridiculously tight here for decades.

The dramatic increase in package delivery, as well as pickups and drop-offs by companies such as Uber and Lyft, has only compounded the problem.

I think it's fair to say the boom in home delivery—as opposed to commercial deliveries on Chestnut—has been giving the delivery companies fits. At a store at least, someone is "home." In the modern world, it's likely nobody is home during the day. So you can have a failed delivery (wasting time, labor, gas, and money) or you can leave the package on the stoop, where one of our local porch pirates may find opportunity booty.

Either way, not a good outcome. Delivery companies have been looking into alternative models. First came delivery lockers in convenience stores; now, at 23rd and South, we have an actual pickup and return center from Amazon.

None of this is new. The pickup center in a convenience store simply replicates the 19th century arrangement with general-store proprietors, who often served as the local postmaster. And the Amazon pickup and drop-off center is taking a leaf from the 19th century books of Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck, which used the nation's expanding rail system to deliver their goods. Just go down to the local train station to pick up your new mail-order buggy—horse not included.

I think these new ways of getting packages to people will be successful, but I also think home delivery is not going away. So how do we get curb space for all these trucks? The same way we did on Chestnut Street. We turn parking spaces into loading zones.



## Using the Latest Technology to Support Ancient Practices

By David Haas

For more than 50 years, every weekday morning and every weekday evening, Temple Beth-Zion-Beth Israel gathers at least 10 members of the Jewish community together for prayer and meditation in what is called a quorum, or *minyan* in Hebrew. The tradition was established almost 2,000 years ago, and even King David describes in Psalms how he prayed in the same manner used today. Kaddish, the haunting prayer spoken in memory of deceased relatives and friends, can only be recited in the presence of a minyan.

With the pace of life accelerating relentlessly, gathering a daily minyan can be a challenge. BZBI has adapted the most modern of technologies to address this ancient need. Using the messaging platform WhatsApp to create an opt-in group, members of the congregation receive an alert when fewer than 10 are present for the service; this can be an issue especially when someone needs to recite Kaddish.

Members of the opt-in group who are available and can arrive within 15 minutes text back to let the other members know they are on their way. The technology has proven to be a great success, and has helped many members of the synagogue remember loved ones while at the same time letting the responding member receive psychic credit for fulfilling a mitzvah (commandment of Jewish law) by becoming the tenth person. And as the only synagogue in Center City offering a daily minyan, BZBI performs a vital service to the greater Jewish community beyond their own congregation, by providing a place to say Kaddish to mourners who may be visiting the area from outside the neighborhood or even the country.

Since the release of the “Despicable Me” movies, congregations have had a little fun with the play on words referring to the movies’ tiny yellow minions. It’s a bit incongruous because the plot relies on the characters’ devotion an evil boss. Still, they are so cute that they’ve been adopted as mascots. Artist David Zimmerman has even created fine art work using the theme.

If you would like to try out the technology, go to <http://bit.ly/2OMOWGO> on your computer or mobile device.

**I HEARD YOU WERE  
LOOKING FOR A  
MINION.**



# Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel Begins “BZBI Presents” Series for the Community

By David Haas

Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel (BZBI), established in 1840, has been a fixture in the neighborhood since 1957. Events have always been geared toward informing and educating the entire community. Unfortunately, the realities of life mean that a security guard is present whenever the synagogue is open, but the guards are friendly, and the door is always open to visitors.

Over the years, the synagogue has welcomed important local and national figures for speeches and discussions. In a new program, speakers are grouped into a series of events titled “BZBI Presents.” All events begin at 7 pm.

**Monday May 4, BZBI Presents Dr. Susannah Heschel**, with a lecture on her book *Psychoanalytic Challenges to Modern Jewish Thought – and Religious Challenges to Psychoanalysis*. Heschel will speak about ways in which psychoanalytic theory illuminates aspects of modern Jewish thought and Jewish historical self-understanding, as well as the ways in which Judaism as a religion has helpful insights to offer psychoanalytic treatment. Heschel is Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. Her numerous publications include *Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus* (University of Chicago Press), which won a National Jewish Book Award, and *The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany* (Princeton University Press).

**Monday May 11, BZBI Presents Yosef Goldman: Open My Heart**, celebrating the release of Goldman’s new live album. A well-known spiritual artist, activist, and pastoral caregiver with close ties to the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, he is known for creating an eclectic soundscape reflecting his mixed Ashkenazi, Yemenite, and Syrian-Turkish heritage. His new album includes echoes of Arab classical music, jazz, funk, and Sufi chanting. Goldman says that he hopes the concert “will move you, and maybe even open your heart, as it has mine.”



Jeffrey Rosen and RBG



Dr. Susannah Heschel

**Wednesday, May 27, BZBI Presents Jeffrey Rosen**, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, to speak about his new book *Conversations with RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law*. Rosen will discuss the life and views of his friend and Supreme Court Justice in a series of conversations on topics including the future of *Roe v. Wade*, the cases she would most like to see overturned, how to be a good listener, and how the #MeToo movement took her by surprise. In one excerpt, RBG says “My hope is not just that [#MeToo] is here to stay, but that it is as effective for the woman who works as a maid in a hotel as it is for Hollywood stars.”

The first lecture in the series, on February 26, was presented by **Dr. Tamar Kamionkowski**, on *Reading Leviticus through a Feminist Lens: Applying New Questions to Old Texts*. The author of three books of commentary on the Torah, Kamionkowski explored a book of the Jewish Bible that consists primarily of God’s speeches to Moses, which God commands Moses to repeat to the Israelites. A professor at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Kamionkowski is the author of *Leviticus: A Wisdom Commentary* (Liturgical Press, 2018), *Gender Reversal and Cosmic Chaos: Studies in the Book of Ezekiel* (Sheffield Academic Press, 2003) and co-editor of *Bodies, Embodiment and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures* (T&T Clark, 2010).

For more information on these and other events, go to [www.bzbi.org/events](http://www.bzbi.org/events). Click on the “contact us” link to receive synagogue email announcements and be alerted to future lectures and discussions.



Rabbi Yosef Goldman



# CCRA Spring Calendar—Arts in Bloom

## Naudain Art Collaborative Spring Exhibition

Saturday, March 14 and  
Sunday, March 15

11 am – 6 pm

Ageless Gardens Gallery,  
2503 Naudain Street

## Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival

Shofuso Sakura Matsuri, live performances, art & crafts, tea, fashion, flower arranging  
Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5  
Cherry Blossom 10K and 5K Race  
Saturday, April 11th  
Fairmount Park  
<http://japanphilly.org/programs/festivals/subaru-cherry-blossom-festival/>

## Philadelphia Fine Arts Fair

Saturday, April 4 to Sunday, April 12  
23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd Street  
Forty galleries and museums present contemporary works; benefits public art. Tickets required. [philfineartfair.com](http://philfineartfair.com)

## Philadelphia Science Festival

Thursday, April 16 to Saturday, April 25  
Science Carnival on the Parkway,  
Saturday, April 25, 10 am – 4 pm  
<https://www.fi.edu/psf>

## 61st Annual CCRA House & Garden Tour

Sunday, April 26, 1 – 5 pm  
[Tickets are available now.](#) For group sales, call 215-546-6719. Top off your tour with dinner at our participating restaurants, offering 10% off for all attendees. For sponsorship information, [click here](#). To volunteer, [click here to sign up](#). Every volunteer gets a complimentary ticket.

## Dining Out for Life

Thursday, April 30  
Proceeds benefit AIDS/HIV organizations  
<https://www.diningoutforlife.com/city/philadelphia-delaware-valley/>

## The Rittenhouse Garden Fete

*Presented by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society*  
Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3  
Rittenhouse Square  
[phsonline.org](http://phsonline.org) | #phsgardening | [@phsgardening](https://twitter.com/phsgardening)

## Blue Cross Broad Street Run

Sunday, May 3, 8 am  
<https://www.broadstreerun.com/>

## Fittler Square Spring Fair

Mother's Day weekend  
Friday, May 8, 10 am – 6 pm  
Saturday, May 9, 10 am – 4 pm  
23rd & Pine Streets  
<http://www.fittersquare.org/spring-fair-2/>

## Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair

Rittenhouse Square  
Friday, May 8, 11 am – 7 pm  
Saturday, May 9, 11 am – 7 pm  
Sunday May 10, 11 am – 5 pm  
<https://www.pacrafts.org/fine-craft-fairs/fine-craft-fair-spring-rittenhouse-square>

## Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta

Schuylkill River  
Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9  
[www.dadvail.org](http://www.dadvail.org)

## Love Your Park Week

Rittenhouse Square  
Saturday, May 9 to Sunday, May 17  
<https://loveyourpark.org/about/>

## Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

Friday, June 5, 11 am – 7 pm  
Saturday, June 6, 11 am – 7 pm  
Sunday, June 7, 11 am – 5 pm  
<http://www.rittenhousesquareart.com/>

## Odunde Festival

Sunday, June 14, 10 am – 8 pm  
2300 South Street (15 city blocks)  
<https://www.odundefestival.org/>

## Little Friends Festival

Wednesday, June 17, 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Rittenhouse Square  
<http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/home/>

## Ball on the Square

Thursday, June 18, 7 pm – midnight  
Rittenhouse Square  
<http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/home/>

## Young Friends Soiree on the Square

Friday, June 19, 7:30 – 11:30 pm  
Rittenhouse Square  
<http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/home/>

## Bloomsday

Readings from James Joyce's *Ulysses*  
Tuesday, June 16

## Rosenbach Museum & Library

2008 Delancey Place  
<http://www.rosenbach.org/learn/news/blooms-day-central>

## Curtis Institute of Music

Free student recitals  
1726 Locust Street  
<https://www.curtis.edu/performances/student-recital-series/>

*To get the latest 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>*

## Happening at the Kimmel Center...

*Broad & Spruce Streets  
All events are free.*

### Vision 2020: A Seat at the Table Interactive Exhibition

Sunday, March 1 to Wednesday, September 30  
Commonwealth Plaza, Kimmel Center  
Learn about women's right to vote and equality 100 years later.  
<https://www.kimmelcenter.org/events-and-tickets/201920/free/vision-2020/>

### Grow Up Great with Host ILL Doots

Saturday, March 14, 11 am  
Commonwealth Plaza  
Kids learn to sing and dance:  
Jazz and musical theater for kids  
<https://www.kimmelcenter.org/events-and-tickets/201920/free/grow-up-great-june/>

### Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Demonstration

Saturday, March 14 and Saturday, April 18, 1 pm  
Verizon Hall, Kimmel Center  
Plus, one-hour Kimmel Center tours 1 pm daily  
<https://www.kimmelcenter.org/events-and-tickets/201920/free/organ-demonstration-april/>

### Organ Day

Saturday, June 20, 11 am – 5 pm  
6-hour music marathon performed on  
The Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ  
Verizon Hall  
<https://www.kimmelcenter.org/events-and-tickets/events/organ-day/>

*For more free events at the Kimmel Center, go to <https://www.kimmelcenter.org/events-and-tickets/?search=free#?more=true>*





# Center City Residents' Association

1900 Market Street, 8th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-546-6719  
centercity@centercityresidents.org  
www.centercityresidents.org

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Sunday, April 26, 2020**  
CCRA Spring House & Garden Tour

### Bricks & Mortar

## CCRA's 61st Annual House & Garden Tour Offers Spectacular Sites and Sights

There's no lovelier time in Philadelphia than Spring—and no better way to experience Center City's charm than our annual Center City Residents' Association House and Garden Tour. On Sunday, April 26, patrons will have the opportunity to step inside the private homes and gardens of some of the neighborhood's most stunning properties.

Now in our 61st year, the House and Garden Tour comprises a mix of condos and townhomes, a museum, and several elegant outdoor

spaces, including a rooftop garden above a busy shopping district and a fairytale-like secret garden tucked away on a quiet side street just a block from Rittenhouse Square.

To be held the last Sunday in April, the tour's move this year to Spring is sure to inspire your green thumb in the planting weeks ahead!

Tickets and group sales for the April 26 tour will be available online at the CCRA's website and also new this year look for us on Facebook and Instagram. As always plan your day to end with dinner at one of the participating restaurants offering 10 percent off the bill for all attendees.

See you there!



Benjamin Zuckerman

Benjamin Zuckerman