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Living History

Museum of the American Revolution to Open on Anniversary of the War's Inception

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

On April 19, 1775, the first shot of the Revolutionary War was fired at Concord, Mass; on April 19, 2017, the Museum of the American Revolution will open in Philadelphia at Third and Chestnut Streets. The museum will contain a collection of Revolutionary-era weapons, documents, and rare and historic artifacts including uniforms, flags, personal diaries, paintings and sculpture, manuscripts and books. Among the highlights are George Washington's Headquarters Tent and the first newspaper printing of the Declaration of Independence. In addition to exhibits, the Museum will offer immersive experiences where visitors can feel like participants in key moments of that period.

The Museum is still working on completing its campaign goal of \$150 million. Board Chairman H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest has given a challenge grant of \$10 million, in addition to his previous gift of \$40 million which has been fully matched. Supporters in every state have contributed \$148 million as of January 17, 2017.

It's not too late to become a Founding Member. Founding Members will be invited to a special Members-Only Preview Weekend April 15

to 16. Museum members receive free general admission all year, invitations to lectures and programs, members-only e-newsletter, and discounts on programs, store merchandise, cafe and parking. www.amrevmuseum.org/membership

An article about the Museum appeared in the *Center City Quarterly*, Winter, 2015, p. 11. http://www.centercityresidents.org/resources/Documents/24344_CCRA_Winter_Newsletter_WEB.pdf

For more information, to read historical excerpts, to join the email list, and to donate, please go to <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/>



Costumed historical reenactors from the American Revolution period.

Jim Kenney, Larry Kane and a Great Evening at Plays & Players

By Harvey C. Sacks, VP, Government Relations

On the stage of Plays and Players – one of the oldest continuously running theaters in the US – amid an old saloon stage set, legendary TV news anchor Larry Kane (a total of 36 years on all three major network stations) made Mayor Kenney feel at ease as he peppered His Honor with questions.

Topics covered (Mayor’s answers in parentheses): homelessness (great deal of new resources in the pipeline); the Budget, new taxes (nope); DROP Program (serious issue, but not an immediate priority, shouldn’t be for elected officials, promises not to take it himself); the murder rate/ comparison to Chicago, and public safety in general, including Rittenhouse Sq. vs. poorer neighborhoods (major priority, new officers being added due to less onerous academic criteria); Philly as a Sanctuary City and potential loss of federal funding, a timely subject as earlier that day Donald Trump issued executive orders preliminary to withdrawing federal funds from such cities (not clear how much and/ or which funds we might lose); relations with the local media (they’re not fake news, do a good job); soda tax will be the Mayor’s greatest legacy (health reasons well documented, people eventually will give up wasting gas driving elsewhere to



Mayor Kenney, center, takes questions from Larry Kane, as CCRA VP Harvey C. Sacks looks on.

buy beverages and revert to their usual routines, extra costs will be spread over many items and not just sugary drinks, lasting lifetime value of pre-K); his relationship with law enforcement, the loss of privacy that comes with a police detail, shopping at BJ’s, and many more.

All this in one hour and ten.

In my role as VP, Government Relations, I offered two thoughts for the Mayor:

- While CCRA must prioritize issues affecting its residents, it truly does weigh in on issues affecting other areas of the City for the betterment of those neighborhoods and all of us.
- We are delighted with the responsiveness of every City department, Commissioner and their staffs, and, in particular, the Managing Director and his staff in taking the lead on the serious matters involving the CSX trains, which have plagued the City for a long time.

Park It Here

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Early in January, new signs were installed in Rittenhouse Square prohibiting sitting on the balustrade. According to Friends of Rittenhouse Square, this new policy was put into effect in conjunction with the office of Parks and Recreation and the Philadelphia Police Department, in response to reports of increased vandalism on the historic balustrades and marijuana smoking in the area by the young people who frequently gather there.

On January 14, Mayor Kenney tweeted, “Sit where you want” and later “Along with my liberal view of park use, please don’t litter or graffiti the walls or smoke

weed so obviously that you scare olds my age.” According to the City, there are no fines or penalties for sitting on the walls. The penalty for possession of marijuana is a \$25 fine, the same citywide.

Three days later, the “No Sitting on Wall” signs were removed from Rittenhouse Square. People gathered at a “Sittenhouse” on Tuesday, January 17, to celebrate the victory.

(Sources: Friends of Rittenhouse Square letter to members and Inquirer article, Jan. 14, 2017.)



The short-lived sign.

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Full Page	\$ 450.00	\$ 475.00
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President's Report

Taking Stock of an Active Season with CCRA



Charles Goodwin
 CCRA President

Things seems to be going well with CCRA. The Kenney-Kane event that Harvey Sacks organized was terrific (see Page 2). William Penn House renewed its more-than-generous support this year. The Winter appeal to fund sidewalk cleaning raised over \$11,000, including

a large contribution from Boyd's. Our members and supporters (and that includes you) are fantastic.

We moved offices. We're now at 1608 Walnut St., 12th Floor. Still 215-546-6719. We are in a recently opened "co-working" space, from the Benjamin's Desk people. As planned in conjunction with the move, Steve Huntington left the helm as Executive Director (see our tribute to Steve in the Winter issue of CCQ). CCRA Officers and Directors Frank Montgomery, Matt Schreck, Jake Markovitz, Barb Halpern, Elena Capella, Fran Levi, Harvey Sacks and Charles Robin provided invaluable assistance with the transition. Travis Oliver, we're pleased to say, has become Operations Manager, after working with Steve for some years. When you call or email CCRA, Travis is on the other end (when it wasn't Steve). We're happy Travis is with us. Lots of housekeeping stuff is going on as well, with improvements in our information technology and business practices.

Our Benjamin's Desk facility is a more "officey" co-working space than some. It has conference space where we can host Board and Zoning Meetings, and a beer tap (we've yet to try). The industrial décor conveys a start-up vibe.

Additionally, after review by Steve, Fran, Barb, Rick Gross and Charles R., years' worth of records went into the Special Collections Research Center at Temple

University (undoubtedly the final resting place of this column someday), awaiting a dissertation student a few decades hence.

There's a terrific theme for this year's Celebration of Center City Living, which is under the direction of past president Jeff Braff, who is heading the committee with vigor. We're looking forward to a great event this May. (See Back Cover for additional info.)

Zoning remapping efforts continue apace, as that taskforce works its way across the neighborhood, lot by lot. Board Secretary Pip Campbell is organizing an effort to increase historic designations in our neighborhood.

Tim Kerner is stepping in as Zoning Committee Co-chair. Fran Levi steps in as Assistant Secretary for the Zoning Committee, while Rick Gross continues to serve as Secretary. Charles Loomis, who has been outstanding, will finish out his current term as Co-chair. Terms of Zoning Co-chairs will be staggered henceforth to promote continuity.

Crime is down in our neighborhood (though it sometimes doesn't feel like that). Rittenhouse Square seems closer to smoke free (tobacco and otherwise), and people can sit on the wall (see Page 2). The Sixers are almost 3X+ better than last year. Flyers are close to .500. The City generally seems to be puttering along, albeit with frequent protests interrupting traffic. The police seem to be doing a good job managing demonstrations while respecting the First Amendment. People speak of Philadelphia as an American version of Paris. Paris is known for demonstrations. Otherwise, as I write, it's the dull part of Winter in Philadelphia, with bare ground and pewter skies out of Rembrandt's *Christ in the Storm*.

There's not room here to report on national or international events.

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

Center City Quarterly wants to hear from you.

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

Students at The Philadelphia School Protest Mining of Conflict Minerals in Democratic Republic of Congo

By Lois Traub West, TPS Director of Communication

Protests have been de rigueur lately in Philadelphia. And they have inspired 6th graders at The Philadelphia School to rally and march in an effort to educate their schoolmates, teachers, and families about conflict minerals in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where violent militias are terrorizing local populations in order to control the valuable minerals required in the manufacture of cell phones and other electronics.

After an all-school rally and chants of "Hey, hey, ho, ho, conflict minerals have got to go," the students distributed pamphlets they had made about the issue. To learn more, check out their website, Stop the Conflict:

<https://sites.google.com/prod/tpschoool.org/stoptheconflict/home>

The 6th grade's activism is rooted in a year-long classroom study of the African continent. In January, students met with



Dr. Omékongo Dibinga speaks with 6th grade students at The Philadelphia School about the violence and other issues related to the mining of conflict minerals in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

scholar, rapper, and activist Dr. Omékongo Dibinga about the issue of conflict minerals. Omékongo spoke to them about his own

activism in educating the public, including world leaders, about measures that can help end the exploitation of villagers in the DRC.

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Putting Some Park into Old Parking Lots

By Bill West

For some time I've been mildly annoyed by the parking lot in the 1700 block of Rittenhouse Square Street – it's right behind the Art Alliance on what might otherwise be one of the prettiest blocks in the city.

I scrounged around online and found a 2010 document (<http://www.phila.gov/CityPlanning/resources/Publications/parkingdesign.pdf>) from the Philadelphia City Planning Commission that goes over design requirements for new parking lots. There are nice fences and planting beds, even trees. I'm not a landscape architect, but it seems that lots built to these specifications would actually look reasonably nice, for parking lots. I'm mindful of the Penn lots on 19th and 20th, around the old Graduate Hospital.

But I couldn't find anything about requirements for existing parking lots. I was talking about this with my brother, whose experience is in New York, not Philadelphia. John suggested that existing parking lots are probably grandfathered, meaning they don't have to do anything when new regulations come along. Or perhaps they only have to conform if they do a major renovation. This second option may be worse than the first,

because it gives the lot owner an incentive not to fix anything.

John suggested that a better way was sunset – giving the owner a transition period of several years – at the end of which the lot needs to conform to the current guidelines.

I still couldn't figure out what the story was with existing lots in Philly, so I asked my friend Jim Campbell if he could help, and he sent me on to David Perri, Commissioner of Licenses and Inspections and former Streets Commissioner. Commissioner Perri got right back to me and confirmed my worst fears: Existing lots in Philly are grandfathered, unless they do a major renovation. No sunset provision. The execrable parking lot behind the Art Alliance can sit there, unchanging, until the crack of doom.

There has to be a better way. There is. Once again I went begging to my brother, and once again he came through and sent me the link to Section 52-70 of the NYC Zoning Resolution, Termination of Certain Non-Conforming Uses After Amortization. This is New York's sunset provision.



1700 block of Rittenhouse, looking east.

Now all we need is some bright young lawyer to craft similar legislation that would apply to existing surface lots in Philly. And then we need to assemble a coalition to get it passed.

To give this little venture a reasonable chance of success, I suggest aiming the sunset provision at a limited geographical area and applying it only to commercial surface-parking lots. So schools, for instance, would not be made to suffer an undue burden. And perhaps the legislation could be an amendment to an existing district. The Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District covers the 1700 block of Rittenhouse Square Street. Perhaps the legislation could be attached there. I don't know if that's the right approach, but at least it's a place to start.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Solarize Center City

By Judy Wicks

During the years I ran the White Dog Cafe, I took pride in my sustainable business practices. When I sold the business and moved to Center City seven years ago, I commented to a friend that I felt insignificant because now I was only one person.

“But,” she reminded me, “you have always been only one person.”

She's right! Each of us is only one person, but our individual decisions add up. Cumulatively, we have tremendous power to do good or to cause harm. The Solarize Center City campaign provides an opportunity to work with friends and neighbors to benefit ourselves as well as the world around us.

Watching oil trains rolling past Schuylkill River Park, I think to myself how nonsensical

our fossil fuel-based energy system really is. First, we spoil the land and water in rural and coastal areas where gas and oil are fracked and drilled. Then we endanger communities along railroads and pipelines that transport these highly flammable substances. Finally, when reaching their destination, fossil fuels are burned, polluting the air and causing respiratory disease in our cities, and alarmingly, contributing to catastrophic climate change.

Wars are fought over access to oil. Using fossil fuel is especially foolish when we have an alternative. The sun is free, clean, safe, never runs out and shines on all of us.

Installing solar panels saves money. It pays for itself and keeps on giving. I know because I am seeing the savings from my solar panels

installed last year. But saving money is not the only consideration.

When we choose solar energy, we are choosing to protect our true wealth – clean air to breathe and clean water to drink, for our own good health and for the generations to follow. By signing up for Solarize Center City, we can come together as a community to lower the cost, save money for years to come, create green jobs and protect the environment on which all our lives depend. Our individual decisions do matter. Ultimately, by working together, we can co-create the world we want to live in – one that is safe, healthy and peaceful.

For more information, go to www.solarizecentercity.com and sign up for a free consultation.

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A Spring in Their Step NextMove Welcomes Three Celebrated, Disparate Dance Troupes to the Prince

By Anne-Marie Mulgrew

For a fun evening filled with uproarious laughter and gender-bending irony, look no further than **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**. Fondly known as “The Trocks,” this extraordinary male troupe in tutus and pointe shoes commands the stage March 8-12. Since 1974 the Trocks have been wowing family audiences with their amazing technique and hilarious send-ups of the classics. *Swan Lake* will never be the same after witnessing a Trocks performance. *The Dying Swan*, danced by the prima ballerina (only if she wants to), will leave you in stitches with the high-theatrics of her facial expressions, feathers molting and knees knocking. *Don Quixote* features unique partnering of smaller guys lifting tall hairy-chested men with aplomb, grace and a few pratfalls. *Sydney Star Observer* notes, “The Trocks are a guaranteed hoot for people who know nothing of ballet and an absolute must for those that think they know the originals.”

Philadelphia native and rising superstar on the world dance scene Jessica Lang brings her talented company April 5-9. Her emotionally charged works are known for astounding beauty, musicality and gorgeous dancing. In addition to works for her company **Jessica Lang Dance**, in 2016 she presented world premieres

for American Ballet Theatre, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Pacific Northwest. Her bold and potent choreography set audiences reveling in San Francisco Opera’s production of *Aida*. Philadelphia audiences will experience the range and breadth of her vision in *Thousand Yard Stare*, called “a masterpiece” by a *Seattle Times* critic. This dance is a tribute to war veterans and those affected by their struggles. The title refers to the blank look of the shell-shocked soldier. Lang spent months researching the work of American feminist painter Georgia O’Keeffe. Referred to as “Mother of American Modernism,” and known for her paintings of flowers and skyscrapers, O’Keeffe and her work form a departure point for Lang’s newest creation.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet (ASFB), an American contemporary ballet company, makes a rare Philadelphia appearance, May 3-7, to close the 2016/17 NextMove Series. This exquisite troupe of 11 classically trained dancers is known for its virtuoso technique, commissioning top-notch choreographers (Jiri Kylian, Moses Pendleton and Jorma Elo) and



Les Trocks Ballets de Monte Carlo – Swan Lake

groundbreaking repertoire. The *L.A. Times* exclaims “Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is ready for its Hollywood close-up.” With dual residency in Aspen and Santa Fe, ASFB creates a unique style combining European elegance with American athleticism, as seen in the Philadelphia premiere of *Silent Ghost* by Spanish-born choreographer Alejandro Cerrudo.

Performances are Wednesday 7:30 pm; Thursday 7:30 pm; Friday 8 pm; Saturday 2 and 8 pm; and Sunday 3pm at The Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street. **CCRA members can receive \$10 off single tickets by using the code SAVE10.** Tickets can be purchased in person at the Prince Theater box office, by phone 215-422-4580 or online <http://princetheater.org/next-move>. For more information visit www.danceaffiliates.org

It's Academic

Greenfield Auction Celebrates 40+ Years of Beloved Neighborhood School

It was over 40 years ago that CCRA and local families worked hand-in-hand to establish the Albert M. Greenfield School, to ensure there would be a high-quality, K-8 public school in the neighborhood. Thanks to their efforts, we do. Greenfield is now known as one of the city's best elementary schools, a neighborhood asset and huge draw for families to move into, and stay in, Center City.

Like all Philadelphia public schools, Greenfield must deliver an excellent education to its 600+ students with limited

district, city and state funding. Greenfield relies on its own families, neighbors and community for support. We have several fundraising efforts, including two anchors – our Annual Fund and Auction – which support our enrichment programs, teacher grants, facilities and much more.

It's up to all of us to keep alive that community spirit launched over 40 years ago. Please consider making a donation to the Greenfield Annual Fund at www.albertmgreenfieldschool.org; donating an item or service to the auction;

becoming a sponsor; or coming out to our Auction on Friday, March 31, 7:30 pm at Saxby's Headquarters (2300 Chestnut St.) in support of the arts at Greenfield. To learn more about Greenfield, please contact greenfieldhsa@gmail.com. Giving Together, Growing Together!

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Local Student Leads Alice's March for Equality, Rally Supporting ERA

By Sarah Schmidt, Associate Dir. Marketing, Communication

On inauguration eve, Thursday, January 19, more than 300 local students and supporters of equal rights for women took part in **Alice's March for Equality**, from City Hall to Eakins Oval, and a rally calling for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Friends Select School junior Anna Holemans was the lead organizer, with support from the Girl Scouts Council of Southern New Jersey, Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, the Alice Paul Institute, and the Friends Council on Education. The March's aim was to raise awareness for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the US Constitution, co-authored by Alice Paul in 1923, which guarantees equal rights for women.

The line-up of speakers included: Holemans; Jovida Hill, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Commission for Women; Drew Smith, Director of Friends Council on Education; Lucy Beard, Executive Director at the Alice Paul Institute; Ginny Marino, head of Girl Scouts Council Southern New Jersey; Kim Fraites-Dow, head of Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania;

and Graciela Slesaransky-Poe, founding dean and professor at Arcadia University's school of education and noted gender-studies researcher.

"Here is your call to action," Holemans told the crowd.

"Contact your legislators. Go to our website, alicesmarchforequality.com, and click on the Action button. Put in your zip code and your elected officials will pop up. Tell them to pass the Equal Rights Amendment."

Alice's March for Equality echoes the work of suffragist and women's rights activist Alice Paul. The day before Woodrow Wilson's first inauguration in 1913, Paul and more than 8,000 women



From left, Friends Select students Lili May Muntean, Rachel Soloff, Liz Seibert, Anna Holemans and Diana Epstein lead marchers toward Eakins Oval to begin the rally.

marched on Washington to demand a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote. After achieving passage of the 20th amendment in 1920, Paul wrote a new amendment for equal rights of the sexes, also known as the Equal Rights Amendment. Alice's March for Equality took place the day before Donald Trump's swearing in, 104 years after Woodrow Wilson's inauguration.

Meet the Free Library PCI Branch's Newest Staff Member, Margaret Triandafyllis

Welcome to Margaret Triandafyllis, the new full-time Adult-Teen Librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia City Institute branch on Rittenhouse Square since December. Triandafyllis's responsibilities include adult reference, programming, outreach and collection management. She has a Master's degree in Library Science, and reports to Head Librarian Erin Hoopes.

"I started my career," Triandafyllis says, "as a Children's Librarian for the Brooklyn Public Library and most recently served as Branch Manager for the Harris County Public Library in Houston. I have loved doing story times with preschoolers, facilitating a book club for adults, and generally interacting with the public and staff.

"My reading tastes tend to favor dark and brooding novels," she notes, "and I have recently enjoyed *Eileen*, a novel by Ottessa Moshfegh, and *Nutshell*, a novel by Ian McEwan. I like non-fiction books and am currently reading *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond."

Triandafyllis is launching an adult book club at PCI; the first meeting was scheduled for February 23, at 2 pm. The first book is *Even the Dead* by Benjamin Black, and all are welcome to join. Copies of the book are available at the Reference desk. She also will host a monthly Saturday Scrabble club for all ages that was scheduled to start February 18 at 2 pm.



What are her interests outside of work? "When not at the library, I enjoy cooking, watching dark and brooding movies, and playing endless games of Monopoly with my daughter."

Naudain Street Art Collaborative Boasts Four Women Artists from Range of Careers

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Among the members of the Naudain Street Art Collaborative are a civil litigator, a cartoon animator, a capital management expert, a voice-over artist and health and wellness coach – four women from disparate worlds and careers who have all become successful fine artists. The Collaborative provides an outlet for its members, exhibiting two featured artists every other month at the home of Bhavisha Patel.

Bhavisha Patel's impressionist/ representational paintings include African landscapes, elephants, cityscapes, nature scenes, and Indian and African designs, all influenced by her background as an Indian woman raised in Kenya, educated in England, and now living in Philadelphia. Formerly working as an attorney specializing in civil litigation, Patel holds a Bachelor of Laws (L.L.B.) from the University of Warwick and a Masters in International Law (L.L.M) from Temple University. She enjoys receiving studio visitors by appointment. Contact her at Art and the Ageless Gardens: artatagelessgardens@gmail.com. Her artwork can be viewed at www.artandtheagelessgardens.com/

Karen Villarreal paints beautiful still lifes, landscapes and seascapes in oils. Previously she was a cartoon animator for Disney Studios, Hanna-Barbera, Cartoon Network and Scholastic Books, and has painted portraits on commission. She studied fine-art painting at San Diego State University and the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. As a member of the Naudain Street Art Collaborative, she will



Works by Emily Squires Levine.

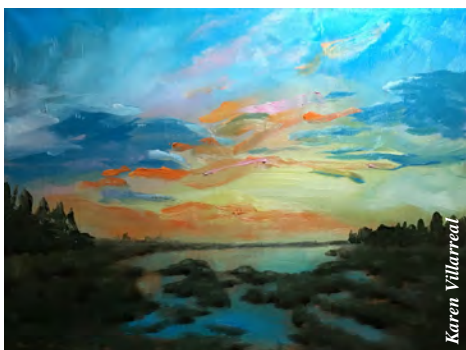
be one of two featured artists exhibiting in May. Her paintings can be viewed at www.karenvillarrealpaintings.com/

Emily Squires Levine designs and creates unique works of decorative art such as vessels, wall pieces and Judaica using polymer clay formed into distinctive patterns, shapes and colors. For 30 years, she had a successful career in capital management, and has degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University. She has won several international craft and polymer clay awards. Her work has been exhibited at the Philadelphia Museum of Art Contemporary Craft Show and she is a frequent exhibitor at the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen Show in Rittenhouse Square. As a member of the Collaborative, she will be the other featured artist exhibiting with Villarreal in

May. To see her work go to www.emilysquireslevine.com/

Sally Eisenberg, another member of the group, will exhibit at Twenty-Two Gallery May 12 through June 4. Her vibrant abstract pieces include mixed media, paintings, photographs and works on paper. Eisenberg also works as a voice-over artist for various media and as a health and wellness coach. She holds a B.S. from Drexel University's College of Business and a health coaching certification from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition and Columbia University Teacher's College. For a look at her artwork go to www.sallykeisenbergartist.com/

Look for notices about these upcoming art exhibitions in the CCRA Weekly E-News.



Karen Villarreal, Maine Marsh, oil on linen, 20"x 26"



Sally K. Eisenberg, Still Life Abstract



Bhavisha Patel poses with one of her paintings at the POST event last fall.

Ruth Schreiber and Jano Cohen Gershman Y Exhibitions Close in March

By Bill Chenevert, Director of Public Relations and Marketing

The Gershman Y is delighted to host two artists' exhibitions concurrently in the Open Lens Gallery (housed in the Broad St. lobby), and in the Gershman Gallery, respectively. Their works are stunning, powerful, and complementary.

In the Open Lens Gallery (through March 8) is a striking collection brought to us through a collaboration with the Philadelphia Photo Arts Center – **“A Close Look Inside James Shuler Memorial Boxing Gym: Photographs by Jano Cohen.”** A rising local photographer, Cohen was invited to shoot a Golden Gloves PA charity event in Chester, Pennsylvania, and quickly became enthralled with the Shuler Memorial gym, at Athens and Brooklyn Streets in West Philadelphia. Over a year, Cohen made many visits, earned members' trust, and photographed the gym's regulars, teachers and students.

This is the Y's second collaboration with the Photo Arts Center. Cohen recently received Honorable Mentions from the 2016 Monochrome Awards International Photography Contest for two photos from this show – “Buster Puts on Leo's Headgear” and “Ring Doctor Checks Nahir.”

Boxing was not an area of expertise for Cohen. As she puts it, “Most people do not frequent boxing gyms. I had certainly never walked into one. I had always abhorred the violence in the sport and stayed away.”

But after witnessing the character- and community-building led by the gym's owner, “Buster” Percy Custus, she quickly learned that safety was a top priority in the gym. “It took a while for some people to become comfortable with me,” she said, “but many people started telling me their stories right away and most people were happy to have their pictures taken.”

Cohen discovered boxing's beauty through witnessing members' endless and painful training sessions. “The athleticism, the discipline and bravery these fighters have is inspiring,” she writes. “The relationships between the trainers and fighters are strong and close – they are built on a mixture of respect, camaraderie, tenderness and tough love.” As she notes, many of the gym's trainers have themselves experienced some

tough life bouts – marital troubles, jail time, drugs, violence and more. Boxing “gives them a way to live a better life and become a better person and they want to pass that on to the next generation.”

In the Gershman Gallery is

“Letters from My Grandparents: The Art of Ruth Schreiber” (through March 30), an arresting mixed-media exhibition that carries substantial history and emotional weight. Schreiber's family story is spun into drawings, sculptures, clothing, table settings and more in her ongoing tribute to her grandparents, who managed to write approximately 200 letters and postcards to their five surviving children, before perishing in the Holocaust.

When Schreiber's aunt Esther died in 2004, her children found a box of letters she had kept. They were written by Schreiber's grandparents between January 1939 and August 1942, as Hitler rose to power. Nathan (Schreiber's father) and Esther, were sent to England from Germany as part of the *Kindertransport* in January 1939, a process that saw thousands of brave parents sending their children to safety as anti-Semitism flourished in pre-WWII Europe.

Another daughter, Lottie, reached England in June 1939 after securing a position as a nurse trainee. The fourth and fifth, Sophie and Jeni, escaped imprisonment in 1941 and were smuggled to safety in Switzerland by 1943.

In 1939, Schreiber's grandparents fled from Bavaria to Brussels. Escaping Germany drained the couple of all of their resources, and now impoverished, dependent on the charity of Jewish Benevolent Committees. Their letters testify to their failed attempts to leave continental Europe. In May 1940, they fled Belgium for Southern France, where they were separated – grandmother Mina Merel



Kalil Stafford Trains Amira, 2015

went to Rivesaltes, Vichy France, with the two youngest girls and was killed in May 1941. Grandfather Samuel was moved to several labor camps but ended up in Auschwitz, where he was gassed in August 1942.

The letters and postcards are now archived at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem (where Schreiber lives) – two-thirds are dated and the rest are not – and most are written in German mixed with Yiddish, plus a notable few written in French and English. They declare a steadfast faith, admonish their children to continue to practice Judaism, and, of course, to look after each other. The five children were reunited in London in 1945 and the two youngest are alive today. Schreiber has been working with these letters as the raw material of her fine artwork and they function powerfully in an ongoing Holocaust Remembrance Project.

“Most striking is the fact that Samuel had at least two opportunities to escape but would not leave his wife and small daughters,” notes Schreiber. “In addition, both he and Mina constantly declare their faith and trust in the Almighty and admonish their children to keep to the Jewish tradition in which they were raised.” The choice was clear for these parents – their children would survive if they could not. “For \$250 to \$300 then, \$4,000 to \$5,000 is today's equivalent, they could have all reached safety in Cuba or Bolivia,” according to Schreiber. “But they were penniless by then and couldn't raise the funds.”

For more information, go to GershmanY.org or call 215-545-4400.



Friday, March 31
7:30 p.m.
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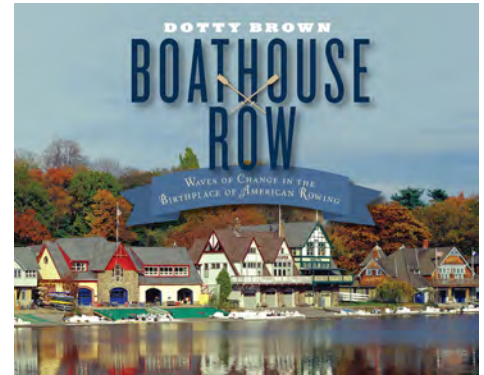
Spring Book Selection... A Philadelphia Story

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Boathouse Row: Waves of Change in the Birthplace of American Rowing, by Dotty Brown

Thoroughly researched, interestingly written, and beautifully designed and illustrated, this hard-cover book is one that Philadelphians and rowing enthusiasts everywhere will enjoy reading, displaying and giving. Interspersed with more than 160 photographs, a third in full color, the text describes the history

of Boathouse Row, including social, art and architectural highlights, key rowing champions, boat clubs and the Schuylkill Navy. Author Dotty Brown, a Pulitzer Prize-winning former reporter and editor at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, is a member of the Vesper Boat Club. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. The book is available on Amazon and at the Free Library of Philadelphia. www.boathouserowthebook.com



From the book jacket.

Rittenhouse Writers to Speak at Free Library on the Parkway in March

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Rittenhouse Writers' Group authors James Rahn, Diane McKinney-Whetstone and Tom Teti will be reading and speaking at the Free Library on Logan Square Tuesday, March 7, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

James Rahn, the founder and leader of the Rittenhouse Writers' Group, possibly

the longest-running independent fiction workshop in America, will read from his memoir, *Rittenhouse Writers/Reflections on a Fiction Workshop*, describing his complex feelings about coaching writers with varied talents and personalities.

The book also includes short stories by ten workshop participants, two of whom

are included in this program. Diane McKinney-Whetstone is the author of six novels, based on material from Philadelphia. The most recent, *Lazaretto*, was published in 2016. Tom Teti is a well-known actor who has published many short stories, and who appears regularly at People's Light and Theater Company and other theaters in the region.

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(888-458-8587)

Nature's Gallery Florist
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(215-563-5554)

Photo Lounge
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(267-322-6651)

Twenty-Two Gallery
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Raven Lounge
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(215-840-3577)

Rim's Dry Cleaners & Tailors
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(215-546-1889)

Rittenhouse Hardware
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(215-735-6311)

Society Hill Dance Academy
2nd & Pine Sts.
(215-574-3754)

Suga Restaurant
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(215-717-8968)

Ursula Hobson Fine Art Framing
1528 Waverly St.
(215-546-7889)

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The Crosstown Coalition in City Hall

By Steve Huntington, Crosstown Coalition Chair

Patience is bitter; its fruit is sweet. Because City Council bills can be enacted within ten days of their public hearings, volunteer groups such as the Crosstown Coalition (and CCRA) are constantly playing catch-up, so they rarely have an opportunity to be proactive. Hence, a Crosstown goal has been to break the catch-up cycle by initiating legislation from the neighborhood grass roots.

It is therefore gratifying that the Crosstown finally has been able to shepherd a bill from conception to enactment. In 2013, the Crosstown proposed that the orange zoning notices (affixed to properties to describe the issues to be raised at Zoning Board of Adjustment hearings) be publicized, only to be told that computer quirks made this impossible.

Hoping for a second look by the new Kenney administration, Crosstown taskforces spoke to administration representatives, and visited 13 Council chambers last summer. The upshot – passage of Bill 160865, introduced by Councilman Bobby Henon (thank you!), which provides that L & I's referral or refusal be posted adjacent to the orange hearing notification.

Crosstown Works with Planning Commission

Reverting to its more customary role of playing catch-up, the Coalition successfully pressed its case to revise a proposal to eliminate a requirement that Planning Commission comments on street platting (i.e., proposals to create or revise streets) be received after Council enactment of platting ordinances. Bill 160525, as passed in September, reflected the Crosstown suggestions by providing the Planning Commission with authority to approve street platting.

In late March, the Planning Commission published proposed revisions to Registered Community Organizations (RCO) administrative regulations. The Crosstown proposed 15 changes to the Commission proposals, and engaged in numerous public and one-on-one meetings with Planning Commission staffers discussing these suggestions. Of the 15 original recommendations, six were adopted. Among the more important Crosstown recommendations, which have yet to be adopted, are suggestions that:

- RCOs be required to have a minimum area, just as they are currently barred from exceeding a maximum area
- Municipal wards be required to meet the same RCO qualifications required of non-municipal civic associations

- Re-notification protocols be created to address circumstances when public meetings are postponed

At its November meeting, the Crosstown delegates voted unanimously to oppose a proposal before the Art Commission calling for the placement of large advertising signs, the largest being 1200 square feet, on the Municipal Services Building and on One Parkway (1515 Arch Street). In a letter to the Mayor and Council President, the Coalition noted that it was not opposed to the idea of generating income through ads on city buildings. It did express opposition to such large-scale ads on these particular buildings.

Crosstown Education Funding

The Philadelphia Public School Giving Circle, organized by two Crosstown delegates in collaboration with the Philadelphia Foundation, has collected \$10,000 to distribute to neighborhood primary schools. Under Giving Circle procedures, donors vote on proposals presented by schools. The initial round of applications/voting has closed, and the Giving Circle has announced \$4300 in gifts to nine applicant schools. The Crosstown will serve as a 501(c)3 conduit for distributions to school groups that have not qualified as charities.

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A Look Behind the Curtain

By Harvey C. Sacks, VP, Government Relations Committee, CCRA

What does the CCRA Government Relations Committee do?

It works to build rapport with federal, state and city government officials, via one-on-one meetings, providing analysis and expressing its opinion on pending legislation through oral or written testimony. It provides various forums for residents to get to know these officials and vice versa, including town halls and debates. It acts as liaison between the residents and pertinent officials to help resolve specific problems residents may be having. It forms a number of subcommittees or task forces as needed to look into such matters as the homeless and CSX.

Current members of the committee, and their areas of focus (individuals' "day jobs" appear in parentheses):

- Jeff Braff (Retired attorney and past CCRA president; has held almost every Executive

Committee position over the years):
Legislative analysis

- Ben Waxman (Director of Communications for State Sen. Vincent Hughes), Frank DiCianni (Developer), Jennifer Tintenfass (Attorney): Legislative analysis and event organizer
- Wade Albert (Attorney): Legislative analysis, event organizer, representative to Philadelphia Police District Advisory Council, Homeless and CSX Task Forces
- Gil Feinberg (Attorney), Mark Schneider (Business Broker): Legislative analysis
- Matt Fontana (Attorney): Legislative analysis and CSX Task Force
- Heather Montgomery (President, CEO and Senior Business Analyst of HMM Consulting): Event organizer
- Christine Carlson (Vice President of Executive Communication): Liaison between the CCRA Family/Education and Government Relations Committees

- Dan Keough (Property Manager): Legislative analysis, building rapport with city officials
- Harvey C. Sacks (Financial Planner & Investment Manager), VP

FAQs

Does the Committee consist solely of CCRA Board members, or can "civilians" also participate?

- Any member can join the committee, regardless of whether they live in the CCRA footprint, and they do not have to be a Board Member. Board members on the Government Relations Committee are Harvey C. Sacks, Wade Albert, Matt Fontana, Jeff Braff, Dan Keough, Ben Waxman, and Jennifer Tintenfass.

Who do I contact to learn more about the Government Relations Committee?

- Call or email Harvey at 215-802-2509, harveysacks@gmail.com.

What's Going On

CCRA Spring Calendar – Let the Sunshine In

For updated information on hours and more events, please go to VisitPhilly.com

Greenfield School Auction

Friday, March 31
Saxby's Headquarters, 2300 Chestnut Street
greenfieldhsa@gmail.com

Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival

Saturday, April 1, to Sunday, April 9
Opening at Shofuso Japanese House and Garden

Japanese Culture Week at Liberty Place

Monday, April 3, to Friday, April 7

The Cherry Blossom 10K/5K

Saturday, April 8

Sakura Under the Stars at Union Trust

Saturday, April 8

Philadelphia Furniture Show

23rd Street Armory, 22 South 23rd Street
Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
<http://www.philadelphiafurnitureshow.com/>

Museum of the American Revolution

3rd & Chestnut Streets
Opens April 19
<http://www.amrevmuseum.org/>

Philadelphia Science Festival

Friday, April 21, to Saturday, April 29
Science Carnival, Penn's Landing
Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
<http://www.philasciencefestival.org/>

Dining Out for Life

Thursday, April 27
Proceeds benefit AIDS/HIV organizations
<http://www.diningoutforlife.com/philadelphia>

Annual Used Book Sale

Free Library, Philadelphia City Institute
1905 Locust Street
Saturday, April 29
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Used books, DVDs, music CDs, audiobooks

Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities

Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7
(Dates tentative)
Sponsored by Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Naudain Street Art Collaborative exhibition

Works by Karen Villarreal and Emily Squires-Levine
2503 Naudain Street
Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Blue Cross Broad Street Run

Sunday, May 7, 8 a.m.
<http://www.broadstreetrun.com/>

Fitler Square Spring Fair

23rd & Pine Streets
Mother's Day weekend
Friday, May 12, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 13 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
www.fitlersquare.org

Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair

Rittenhouse Square
Friday, May 12, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday May 14, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
www.pacrafts.org/fine-craft-fairs/may-2/

Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta

Schuylkill River
Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13
www.dadvail.org

CCRA Celebration of Center City Living!

Academy of Vocal Arts
1920 Spruce Street
Monday, May 15, 6 – 8:30 pm
www.centercityresidents.org

Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

Friday, June 2, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 3, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday, June 4, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
<http://www.rittenhousesquareart.com/>

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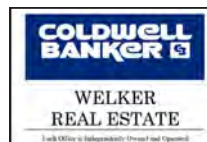
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CCRA Business Member Directory

To get your business listed in the Directory, or to learn more about becoming a Business Member, go to www.centercityresidents.org. To find out more about the businesses listed here, please use the contact information provided. Don't see a category for your business? Join today a we'll create a custom category just for you!

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Contact: Barbara Halpern, halpernlaw@gmail.com

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<http://dorchesteroa.com/>

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Arts & Culture

Twenty-Two Gallery

236 S. 22nd St.
Office: 215-772-1515
Gallery: 215-772-1911
www.twenty-twogallery.com
Contact: Shawn Murray

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2007 Walnut St
215-568-5503

Raven Lounge/Pendulum

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Contact: Jonathan Hunter, Owner

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pennsvillage.org

Project Home

1929 Sansom St.
<https://projecthome.org/>
Contact: Joan McConnon,
joanmccnonn@projecthome.org

Society Hill Civic Association

241 S. 6th St.
<http://societyhillcivic.org/>

Trinity Center for Urban Life

2212 Spruce Street
<http://www.trinitycenterphiladelphia.org/>

Computer & Technology

Computer Troubleshooters

215-825-2188 or 215-825-2101
<http://pc-troubleshooters.com>

Dining

Baril (formerly Crow & the Pitcher)

267 S. 19th St., 267-687-2608
crowandthepitcher.com

Ladder 15 Restaurant

1528 Sansom St
www.ladder15philly.com

Education

Formative Years Learning Center

1925 Lombard St, 215-735-3558
Contact: Anne Seelaus,
ann.formativeyears@gmail.com
www.FormativeYearsLearningCenter.com

Friends Select School

17th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Contact: Annemiek Young
215-561-5900, x102, friends-select.org

Greene Towne Montessori School

2121 Arch St., <http://gtms.org/>

Entertainment

Dance Affiliates

Dance Affiliates presents NextMove at the Prince
1412 Chestnut St. www.danceaffiliates.org
Contact: Randy Swartz, Artistic director
215-636-9000 ext. 105
Anne-Marie Mulgrew, Project/Ed. Director
215-636-9000 ext. 110

Faith & Religion

First Baptist Church of Philadelphia

123 S. 17th St.
Contact: Rev. Peter Wool, fbcp Philadelphia@aol.com

First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia

201 S. 21st St

Trinity Memorial Church

2212 Spruce Street

Financial & Banking

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

1515 Market St., Suite 714
215-802-2509
Harvey C. Sacks, JD, Financial Advisor
<http://ameripriseadvisors.com/harvey.c.sacks>

Firsttrust Bank

1515 Market St.
Contact: Scott Cirella, Vice President
215-563-0900, www.firsttrust.com

Health & Fitness

Row Zone Indoor Rowing & Fitness Studio

2006 Chestnut St
<http://therowzone.com/>

Yoga and Thrive

2016 Walnut St., 2nd Floor
267-908-5395
Contact: Hally Bayer, info@yandpphilly.com
<http://www.yandpphilly.com/>

Home Care

Home Helpers

1835 S. Broad St., Suite 2
Contact: Patricia Grace, 267-402-7271
pgrace@homehelpersphilly.com www.homehelpersphilly.com

Home Maintenance

Joseph Giannone Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning
1641 Delmar Dr.
Folcroft, PA 19032
Contact: jgiannoneplumbing@gmail.com
215-383-2957 www.calljg.com

Solar States

1508 N. American St.
Contact: Micah Gold-Markel, 215-939-6699
www.solar-states.com, info@solar-states.com

Legal

Badey, Sloan & DiGenova P.C.

2200 Locust St., 215-790-1000
Contact: George J. Badey, III

Medical

My Doc Urgent Care

Academy House, 1420 Locust St.
Open 7 days a week. www.mydocuc.com

Penn Medicine

399 S. 34th St., 800-789-PENN
www.pennmedicine.org

Pennsylvania Hospital

800 Spruce St., 215-829-3000
<https://www.pennmedicine.org/for-patients-and-visitors/penn-medicine-locations/pennsylvania-hospital>

Meeting Space

Pyramid Club

1735 Market St., 52nd Floor
<http://www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/Pyramid-Club>
Contact: Maureen Coyle

Pets

Liberty Vet Pets

265 S. 20th St.
888-458-8587 (phone & fax)
<http://libertyvetpets.com/>

Real Estate

Abbolone & Scullin Realty, LLC

415 S. 20th St., 215-546-2030
Contact: Mark Gamba, info@as-realty.com
<http://www.as-realty.com/>

Mary on the Square Realtors

210 W. Rittenhouse Sq., 215-806-1500
Contact: Mary Genovese Colvin,
mary@maryonthesquare.com
www.maryonthesquare.com

Renaissance Properties

1324 Locust St., Mezzanine Level
Contact Henry Friedman, 855-745-2587
henry@renaissancepropertiesgroup.com
www.renaissancepropertiesgroup.com

Tori Properties

266 S. 23rd St., 16A
Contact: Gloria Tori, 215-735-3020
<http://www.addisonre.com/>

Retail/Shopping

Boyd's Philadelphia

1818 Chestnut St., 215-564-9000
<http://www.boydsp Philadelphia.com/>

Di Bruno Bros, Rittenhouse Sq.

1730 Chestnut St., 215-665-9220
www.dibruno.com

Metropolitan Bakery

262 S. 19th St., 215-545-6655
www.metropolitanbakery.com

Reading Terminal Market

12th & Arch Sts., 215-922-2317
www.readingterminalmarket.org

Ursula Hobson Fine Art Framing

1528 Waverly St., 215-546-7889
<http://www.ursulahobsonframing.com/home>
Contact: Ursula Hobson

Women's March Philadelphia, January 21, 2017 *Photos by Donna Strug*



Women's March Philadelphia, January 21, Logan Circle. A sea of marchers everywhere you turn.



Even the littlest marchers carried big messages.

Out & About

Celebration of Center City Living!
Academy of Vocal Arts / Monday, May 15, 6 – 8:30 pm

Celebrate the joys of Center City Living with your friends and neighbors; honor our local Greenfield Elementary School and its Principal, Dan Lazar, our 2017 Lenora Berson Community Service Award winner; and help raise some money for CCRA at our beautiful neighborhood opera house and generous host, the **Academy of Vocal Arts**, 1920 Spruce Street.

Complementing our Award winner, this year's theme will be "School House Rock," and many of the decorations—notebooks, pencils, crayons, etc.—and part of the evening's proceeds, will be donated to the Greenfield School. There will be hors d'oeuvres and desserts courtesy of **Di Bruno Bros.**; wine pourings courtesy of **Moore Brothers Wine Company**, games, lively music, and fine conversation; and to top it off, fabulous silent- and live-auction items. Tickets start at \$75 per person (\$40 for those under 40) and can be purchased online at www.centercityresidents.org or by calling 215-546-6719. See you there!



Last year's Celebration drew a lively crowd for conversation, food, fun, and prizes.

Donna Strug