



Photo courtesy of Phil Straus

JOHN RANDOLPH

Founder and past President of the Schuylkill River Development Council, John Randolph launched the campaign to revitalize the east bank of the Schuylkill in 1989. As a result of this vision and efforts, the River Park connecting the Art Museum to Locust Street was completed, a master plan encompassing the entire Tidal Schuylkill was developed, and residents from across the region gained access to a neglected natural resource that our neighborhood now takes for granted as we stroll, bicycle, and meditate along the path. But John's contributions are not limited to the Schuylkill. An active member of Trinity Memorial Church, John co-founded WinterShelter (a seasonal overnight shelter for the homeless) in 1984, and since 2008 he has been Chair of the Community OutReach Partnership (CORP) which manages WinterShelter, Communicare (providing volunteers visitors to help fragile and isolated elders), and Cook-Off (a program that prepares some 200 nutritional meals/months that are distributed to those in the community who need supplemental nutrition).

LENORA BERSON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Lenora Berson (1928-2011) loved our Center City neighborhood, and worked tirelessly to make it great right up until her death at the age of 83. She served as President of CCRA from 1999 until 2001, and she strategized about, and led, numerous CCRA activities, including opposition to the Crosstown Expressway which had been proposed to run along South Street. As noted by Representative Mark Cohen, Berson, who lived most of her life in this neighborhood, was “an impassioned advocate who could teach a class, do social work, organize testimony and demonstrations, write speeches, lobby elected officials, initiate candidacies for public office, mastermind election campaigns, write articles and books, take photographs worthy of being shown in art galleries, promote Philadelphia’s hidden gems, and organize events to promote the city that no one else thought of.”

There are few who can match Lenora’s energy and tenacity. The Award given in her name is intended to pay tribute to Lenora and to recognize others who have had a substantial positive impact on our neighborhood.