



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 11 No. 4 Winter 2020

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Town Square

EpiCenter City

The Whole World Watched Philadelphia Decide the 2020 Election

By Nancy Colman

For nearly a week in early November, Center City Philadelphia was the focus of worldwide attention, as election workers toiled around the clock inside the Pennsylvania Convention Center on Arch Street to tally the votes of Philadelphia County.

It became increasingly apparent that the key to the outcome of the 2020 Presidential Election lay with Pennsylvania's hotly contested, yet-to-be-awarded 20 Electoral College votes. And those votes hinged almost entirely on the totals delivered by the city of Philadelphia.

Continued on p.2



Folks are lined up to get their pictures taken under the banner at City Hall.

Richard Vaughn

Continued from p.1

As the week ground on, crowds of protesters, counter-protesters, the media, and the simply curious filled the streets around the Convention Center. On Friday, after days of nail-biting suspense, word came that the Biden/Harris ticket had turned the vote tide blue in Pennsylvania, after flipping red in 2016, and spontaneous celebrations erupted outside.

Finally, late Saturday morning, November 7, what seemed to be an inevitable outcome was announced—that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris had won Philadelphia, and with it, Pennsylvania and the Electoral College votes needed to claim the nation's highest offices.

Here are scenes of that historic day in Center City.



Line of bicycle cops separates the sides at the Convention Center.



A man spells out his feelings about the outcome of the election. Broad & Walnut Streets, November 7.



A future voter makes his sentiments known in Rittenhouse Square.



The sign and t-shirt speak for themselves.

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President's Report

Days of Change and Rebuilding

By Maggie Mund, CCRA President

I write this on Election Day, an election day unlike any I have experienced in my life. Center City is again boarded up, as fear of more protests ripple through the city. Once again, the National Guard and curfews and street closures are in place. After having seemingly come so far back in August, with restaurants leading the way, we are back in the soup. Unfortunately, it is a place we are beginning to understand too well. We all know that recovery from the virus and social unrest will take a long time, longer if we don't act responsibly and care for our fellow citizens. And that includes all the residents of Philadelphia, not just our Center City bubble.



Maggie Mund
CCRA President

At this point I have participated in three of the meetings of Controller Rhyhart's Community Accountability and Advisory Council, which is investigating tactics used by the Philadelphia Police Department in the days after George Floyd's murder, specifically the inadequacy or inability of the Department to respond to citywide looting, and the use of tax dollars during the response. The Council is populated by residents from all parts of the city—many of whom are actually afraid to speak up because of what they saw and experienced, often at the hands of police. Having observed some protests in Center City, I can say I never felt physically threatened by police or protesters; all were on their best behavior. Ordinarily, Center City is too watchful, visible, and important to the City's fortunes to experience chaotic protests.

But on the night of May 30, Center City lost its immunity to rioting and looting. I was not fearful of the police, as they were not present. Rather, it was looters and rioters taking advantage of a vacuum of leadership that night. We have now learned that L&I will require demolition of three historic buildings in the 1700 block of Walnut Street—the result of fires during the protest. We still don't know who threw the incendiary device that started that blaze, and maybe never will. No one was injured, although one firefighter was hospitalized with smoke inhalation.

Shockingly, the absence of police protection in Center City that night contrasts with extreme uses of force on West 52nd Street and Vine Street expressway during that same period. In West Philadelphia on September 30, Walter Wallace was shot and killed by police. In a beautiful act of grace and redemption, his family forgave the police officers who shot him, and called for an end to looting that followed.

We in Center City also are outraged by the actions of some police, and CCRA advocated for real reform through our letter to City Council and the Mayor. Upon further reflection, I wrote to the Controller the following, as a way to prevent a recurrence of what happened in late May/early June: "The apathy exhibited by the police when the rioting and looting in Center City was occurring turned into complete anarchy in other neighborhoods. That wouldn't happen with a well-trained, professional police force with the resources necessary to do their job. Officers need to be trained in de-escalation techniques, be from the community they serve, respect the community they serve, and be supported with social workers on calls dealing with the homeless and mentally ill, as was not done in the Walter Wallace incident. We need to allocate more funds to mental health professionals to deal with the aggressive panhandlers and homeless people who are taking over our streets, and provide more housing for people in crisis. Finally, we need to fully fund education, as it is the only way to tackle the multi-generational cycles of poverty that plague too many of our neighborhoods."

Continued on p.4

So yes, we in Center City must look beyond the damage done to our own neighborhood to advocate on behalf of all Philadelphians. Other articles in the CCQ explain how this is being done. Rick Gross explains how we use community benefit agreements with developers to further goals of providing good construction jobs to minorities and women, and to provide affordable or workforce housing along with the million-dollar condos and rowhouses being developed [see article, p. 15]. Center City used to have a much more varied economic mix, with rowhouses and apartment buildings providing affordable, non-subsidized housing. There were dollar stores and diners—now vestiges of the past. We must be more intentional in creating the inclusive neighborhood we want. To that end, we are also participating in the Rename Taney Street task force, and continuing to explore other vehicles for social change.

It is a scary time. But we will get through this; according to the Center City District, we are already rebuilding and coming back from the protests. In mid-June, among 1,884 storefronts and restaurants within the District, 46 percent were closed, 33 percent were fully open, 12 percent were offering takeout or in-store pickup only, while 4 percent were providing outdoor

seating and takeout. By late September, 70 percent of restaurants were open with indoor or outdoor seating, or were offering pickup and delivery. In addition, 75 percent of retail stores and 54 percent of service businesses were either fully open, or open for appointments or curbside pickup. Housing market activity has rebounded strongly, with total sales in August only 5 percent below last year's level, according to Redfin.

Finally, a big thank you to all the members of CCRA, board, and volunteers who continue to make our neighborhood the best in the City.

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.

Town Square

The Future of the PES Oil Refinery Site

By Joseph Otis Minott, Esq.

Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Clean Air Council

The Lindy Institute and Clean Air Council have completed a report synthesizing ideas from their public visioning process about the potential long-term future of the 1,400-acre former site of Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) oil refinery. Called [Visioning the Future of the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refinery Complex](#), the report explores opportunities for creating a long-term vision that protects our environment and public health while spurring economic development and high-paying union jobs. The report was designed to spark a conversation about how to ensure that long-term development of the site results in equitable economic and environmental benefits to the city and its residents.

We are interested in your feedback. What is your overall reaction to the report? What is missing, if anything? What parts of the report are helpful? Please email your comments to: rzerbo@cleanair.org

We are at a critical moment and the public must act now to ensure that new owner Hilco's redevelopment of the site maximizes public health and environmental protection, and allows for equitable public access to previously inaccessible sections of river edges. Following this initial public vision for the long-term potential of the site also comes an opportunity to advocate for policy changes that promote these ideas, and to have a deeper conversation about the short-, middle- and long-term future uses of the site, to ensure that development reflects the public's values.

This report calls for a series of key moves by the City in partnership with Hilco:

- **Extend the Schuylkill River Trail** through the site to the mouth of the Schuylkill River at Girard Point.

Implement, at the minimum, the city's required 50-foot setback from the river's edge for public waterfront access.

- **Create a street grid and central boulevard** across the site to integrate the site into the surrounding city. Over time, the grid can be broken down in scale to allow the site to evolve from logistics and light industrial to one that supports a greater diversity of uses including commercial, institutional, civic, and possibly even residential. Ultimately, a signature bridge would be built at Girard Point, as a southern gateway to Philadelphia from the airport.
- **Turn the Schuylkill Expressway at Point Breeze into a street-level boulevard** that eliminates this barrier between the neighborhood and the site, and extend Point Breeze Avenue to the river.
- **Create new green and open spaces** for the adjoining neighborhoods and the city's park system. Develop green infrastructure on the portions of the site that are in the floodplain.
- **Expand public-transit connectivity** through new hubs of activity (for example, mixed-use centers, park space, or other employment hubs) across the site.

The recommendations in the report reflect the principles of social and environmental justice; climate adaptation; and inclusive growth and prosperity. The report calls upon Hilco and the City to engage the larger public in an open planning process that ensures that this site is an accessible and productive centerpiece of a 21st century Philadelphia.

For more information about the Clean Air Council, go to: <https://cleanair.org/>

Shop Talk

Holiday gift idea...

Historic Baseball Photograph Collection Housed in Neighborhood Gallery

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

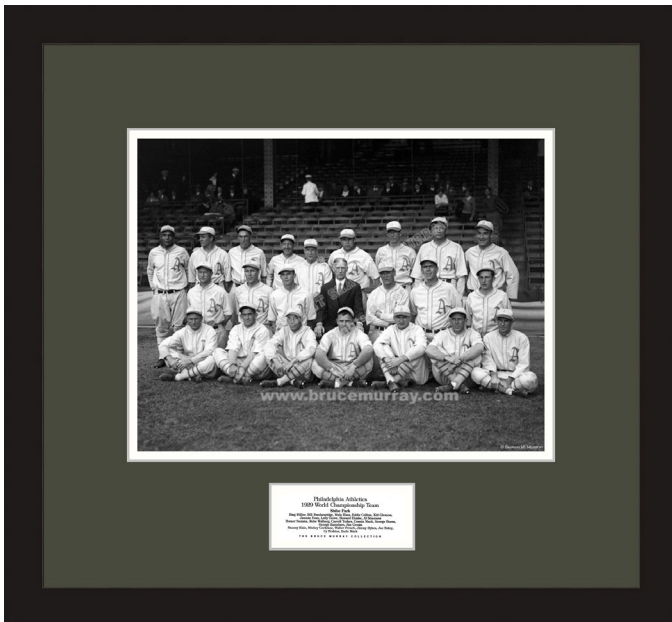
Thirty years of baseball history is preserved in Shawn Murray's photographic archive. His grandfather Bruce Murray, Sr., nicknamed the "Master," worked as an award-winning photojournalist between 1911 and 1958, and photographed baseball legends such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Connie Mack. These historic photographs are housed in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the Thomas Edison Museum, the Babe Ruth Museum, and in private and corporate collections. The entire archive of photographic images by Bruce Murray, Sr., including other subjects, spans about 50 years.

In addition, Shawn's father, Bruce Murray, Jr., a press photographer for the *Evening Bulletin* and the *New Jersey Courier Post*, and an industrial photographer, produced images of Americana and industrial and military subjects.

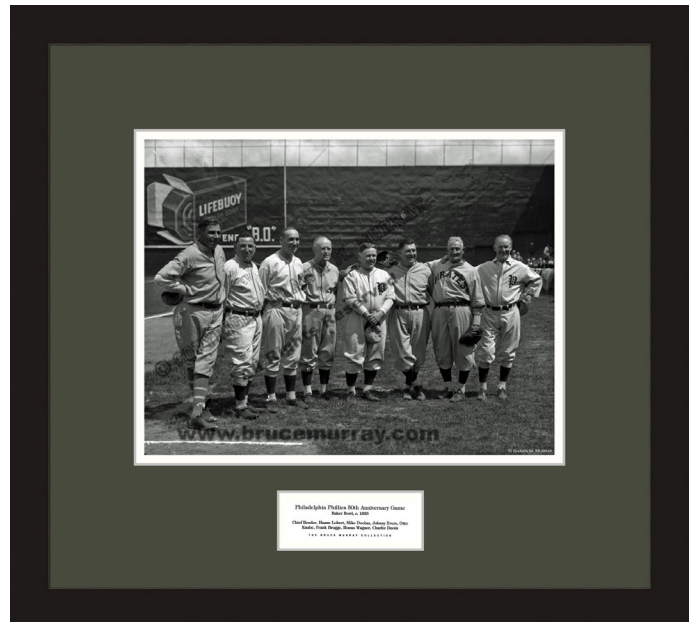
Murray preserved his grandfather's and father's photographs, some never published, on glass plates, and prints them in his darkroom on request. Photos may be viewed by appointment and are available for purchase or license. Contact Shawn Murray, Twenty-Two Gallery, 236 S. 22nd Street. You can see and purchase available photos on the website: <https://brucemurray.com/> or call Bruce Murray at 215-772-1515.



Shawn Murray in front of four of the most popular baseball photos taken by Bruce Murray, depicting baseball greats Lou Gehrig, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth and others in historic moments.



Philadelphia Athletics 1929 World Championship Team



Philadelphia Phillies 50th Anniversary Game

New Activity for Beating Pandemic Boredom: A Walking Tour of the Neighborhood

By Philippa Campbell

Is the pandemic wearing you out? Draining your brain? Are you thinking you cannot make one more new recipe, stream one more Netflix show, bake one more loaf of bread, or attend one more Zoom event?

Maybe you need something new that you can do safely by yourself or with members of your household, and get some exercise at the same time! And, if you have children, take them along on this real-life history adventure to learn about the neighborhood. Our neighborhood consists of several areas with many different building types, all of which have evolved from the early 1800s—when the area bordering the Schuylkill River was first settled—right up until the present, with the tremendous number of new construction projects altering neighborhood composition and density.

The Preservation Alliance has developed two walking tours—Rittenhouse East and Rittenhouse West. You may download the walking-tour guides at no charge from <https://www.preservationalliance.com/explore-philadelphia/self-guided-walking-tours/>. Each tour is about an hour in length, depending on your walking speed and how much time you spend examining the unique features of each property.

The Rittenhouse West tour begins and ends at Fitter Square, with descriptions of 16 properties located on about 20 blocks. The western half of Rittenhouse included early small houses for working-class people who labored along the waterfront, in brickyards, and other early industries, or later worked as maids and housekeepers for residents of the large houses built after the Civil War. Workers were primarily of Irish descent, and part of the area remained an Irish neighborhood well into the 20th century.

Many Philadelphians became wealthy during the Civil War by shipping, supplying products, building ships, or other activities related to the war effort. A huge building boom resulted in development that moved west across Broad Street, eventually comprising the eastern part of Rittenhouse and, by the 1880s, extended into the Rittenhouse West area.

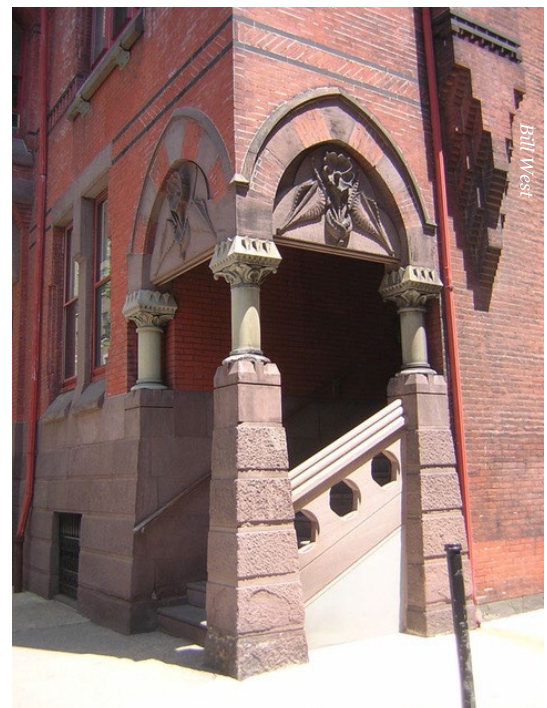
Development included many large and notable “mansions” built on speculation for sale to the newly wealthy middle and upper classes. Speculators were often men who had been successful in other businesses, most notably James McCrea, who first developed the entire 1800 block of Delancey Place and, when that was successful, built the houses on the 2000 block, including 2000-2002, which was his personal residence. McCrea did not use an architect but produced designs that were popular and replicated throughout the area.

Further west, the 2200 block of Delancey became available when a trolley barn was demolished, and was developed by William Weightman, who had made his money in chemicals before turning to land speculation. Much later, in 1928, the Children’s Hospital moved from 22nd Street to new facilities,

resulting in a big parcel of land that was developed as the picturesque English Village.

The Rittenhouse East walking tour includes many examples of contractor-built mansions as well as those designed by notable architects for the newly wealthy generation. It also includes examples of churches and a synagogue that followed the development of these residential neighborhoods. The Rittenhouse East walking tour begins and ends on Rittenhouse Square and includes 16 properties and a roughly 20-block walk. While the Delancey blocks are virtually unchanged from what they looked like in the 1860s, this area remained very popular for prosperous Philadelphians, and many of the earlier-built houses were significantly remodeled in the late 1890s/early 1900s, often by architects and often by completely removing and replacing the front façades to reflect turn-of-the-century fashion.

The prolific Frank Furness, a very distinctive and well-known architect, designed many houses throughout Rittenhouse; others were designed by other notable architects such as Horace Trumbauer, Frank Mills, and Wilson Eyre. You may not know a lot about our built environment, but these walking tours will expose you to the most distinctive and well known of Philadelphia’s 19th century building styles and architects, and allow an appreciation of the individuality of our neighborhood. Even though it may be a little cold, bundle up, download the Preservation Alliance guides, and learn about the origins and styles of your neighborhood.



Detail, Hockley House, 21st & Locust, designed by Frank Furness.

Helping Children with Transitions

By Dr. Lisa Dissinger, Consulting Child Psychologist, Greene Towne Montessori School

It is not uncommon for toddlers, preschoolers and Kindergartners to experience separation anxiety at different points in early childhood. Separation anxiety is the most common form of anxiety found in kids, and can occur when a child has to separate from parents for any reason, including going to school for the first time, returning to school in the fall, or staying with a new babysitter. Since separation anxiety can be triggered easily and repeatedly throughout a child's development, it is imperative that parents learn to effectively manage their child's worries or anxious behaviors.

Your child's ability to deal with their anxiety will depend, first and foremost, on how you, as parents, cope with your anxiety. Parents are the primary role models for their children. Your kids will listen and watch how you handle your emotions. Parents need to model calm behavior when they feel anxious or when their child is showing anxious behaviors.

Be aware of what your body language is saying to your child; what you say and how you say it will also impact how well your child copes. You are your child's "emotional container." Instead of saying or doing something you will regret, model how to take a time out when you get upset or anxious. If you are tired and stressed and you have a significant other who is available, divide and conquer. It is important to remain neutral (i.e. in "zen" mode) when your child shows difficult emotions or when you are feeling distressed. If this is hard for you, then talk to a friend, mentor or mental health professional about ways to better manage emotions, both your own and your child's.

Parents can also promote resilience in children and develop the ability to bounce back from difficult emotions/situations by building optimism and saying positive statements, even when their child is feeling anxious or upset. For example, if your child starts to cry when you drop them off at school, stay calm, give them a big hug and kiss, and say something positive ("short and sweet") like "your teacher can't wait to see you today" or "I know you will find something fun to do today." Let them go and trust that the teachers will take it from there!

Whenever your child is faced with a transition (e.g., to a new school, a new classroom, or a new babysitter), it is always a good idea to prepare them emotionally by reading books about that transition. There are so many great books that address these issues and reinforce the idea that "you are going to be OK" in whatever new situation you find yourself. Ask teachers for suggestions or consult your library or search engine!

Finally, build emotional agility in your child by giving them an emotional vocabulary and providing ways to cope with their feelings. This can be done in four easy steps.

Step 1: Label the feeling you think they are expressing.

Step 2: Let the child feel it; don't negate the feeling.

Step 3: Encourage your child to show how they are feeling in a respectful manner. Use mantras like "It is OK to be angry; it is not OK to hit your brother or sister." "It is OK to be sad and cry. Everyone cries sometime."

Step 4: Watch it go! Trust that your child will recover when you leave them. Some books about how to cope with feelings are: *B is for Breath; The ABCs of Coping with Fussy and Frustrating Feelings*, by Dr. Melissa Boyd; *I Can Handle It*, by Laurie Wright; or *Bouncing Back*, by Cherie Meiners.

If you follow these recommendations, I have found that parents feel empowered and better able to navigate the world of their child's emotions and moods. There is no magic wand for separation anxiety; it is natural and inevitable. What helps are effective tools that parents can use when life presents the inevitable transitions of growing up.

Dr. Lisa Dissinger is a child psychologist and parent coach who has been in practice for 30 years. Dr. Dissinger specializes in early childhood and has worked in many of the Montessori preschools in the Philadelphia area. She has been Greene Towne's consulting psychologist for 23 years.

Located in Center City Philadelphia, Greene Towne Montessori School serves children 18 months old through Kindergarten, and is accredited by the American Montessori Society and the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools. Founded by Philadelphia parents in 1966, Greene Towne is the longest-running Montessori school in the Philadelphia area. The school is now taking applications for 2021-22. To learn more, visit www.gtms.org.



Washing up the dishes after a snack.

Penn's Village Continues to Connect and Engage during Pandemic

By Kristin Davidson and Harriette Mishkin, Penn's Village Volunteers

As the pandemic has impacted our lives dramatically, more than 100 Penn's Village volunteers were put into action, creatively adapting to serve members in different ways: instead of face-to-face companion get-togethers, pairs met in the park, or over FaceTime and Zoom; when in-person weekly programs and committee events were no longer possible, we all dived into learning technology and Zoomed our way into members' homes. By fall, we had provided more than 75 virtual programs, free to our members, volunteers, and guests. Since March, nearly 1,000 people have participated.

Penn's Village's mission is to help members in central Philadelphia connect, engage and thrive so they can remain in their own homes as they age or face health issues. Penn's Village has always believed and practiced the principle that we are all in this together.

Long before we had heard of COVID-19, there were concerns about the mental and physical health of older adults due to the loneliness and social isolation caused by living alone. Eighteen percent of adult residents of Philadelphia are over 65 and, while most of them cherish living in their own homes as they age, they face health issues, some of which are exacerbated by social isolation.

Along came the pandemic, and the effects of sheltering in place and quarantine appeared likely to amplify the negative effects on mental and physical health of this population. That's why Penn's Village shifted gears and immediately switched our regular programming to Zoom teleconferences rather than in-person gatherings. Our in-person volunteer support became frequent telephone check-ins with our members.

But members and volunteer companions have stayed connected not only by phone during the pandemic. In one case, they found that their phone conversations missed the nuances, so they switched to weekly chats over Zoom, where they could also share photos or images of crafts they were creating. Another pair, wearing masks, meets on a bench in Washington Square, and when the weather doesn't cooperate, they switch to FaceTime.

Another volunteer has always gone out of her way for her members. She keeps in remarkably close touch, driving one member over to New Jersey to shop at a favorite store, or bringing her dog on visits to an animal-loving member. She continues to connect regularly by phone. She is always willing to respond to other requests and is a member of our Service Committee. When one member was unexpectedly hospitalized, his daughter across the country asked us to retrieve his eyeglasses and cell phone and deliver them to the hospital.

Other volunteers serve on committees meeting over Zoom, write for our blog, or offer readings on Zoom for the Penn's Village Reads program, and much more. Administrative volunteers cover phones and email. Our latest Zoom venture is the debut of the Penn's Village Players, a virtual play reading

performed by a group of members that has tested the skills of our technical volunteers. We hope they will continue to enrich the lives of our members throughout the winter.

Tech support by a volunteer continues but is now handled remotely. The Penn's Village Book Group, History Group and Men's Group continue virtually rather than in person. A Writing Group that had just started before COVID took a break but now meets over Zoom. The French Group keeps connected via a newsletter produced by the volunteer leading the group. Our team of volunteer newsletter writers has been completely unfazed and continues its interviews, but by phone or Zoom rather than in person.

We believe we are providing much-needed support to a vulnerable population, and have received excellent feedback from our members. Across the country, sister villages in the Village to Village Network are also providing important services to older adults to mitigate the health risks of social isolation. As of this writing, coronavirus restrictions are easing in Philadelphia, and Penn's Village is planning to cautiously reintroduce some in-person services under careful guidelines. We hope to be able to provide more services, such as rides to health-care appointments or shopping as circumstances allow.

For more information, visit www.pennsvillage.org, email us at info@pennsvillage.org or call 215-925-7333.



Penn's Village continues to provide companion services "at a distance." Pictured are a volunteer companion and her Villager.

Emergency Food in the Time of COVID-19

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

I'm OK, you're OK. But some people are not OK.

Remember the scene in *Little Women* when Marmee asks her daughters to give away their breakfast to a poor family with nothing to eat? Hopefully, you don't need to go without breakfast to help hungry people obtain food. Here are four Philadelphia nonprofit organizations that supply emergency food and other essentials to people in need. Now, more people than ever need emergency food, and are very grateful.

1. Philabundance:

<https://www.philabundance.org/covid19/>

Philabundance is working with the City of Philadelphia to help supply emergency food for individuals and families in need. Philabundance is the Delaware Valley's largest hunger relief organization, distributing food to 90,000 people weekly in nine counties in PA and NJ. Of the people Philabundance serves, 30 percent are children and 16 percent are seniors. Others seeking food assistance include people with disabilities, single parents, veterans, students and low-income working families. *Philabundance*, 3616 S. Galloway St. Philadelphia PA 19148

2. Garces Foundation:

<https://garcesfoundation.networkforgood.com/projects/97405-garces-foundation-food-pantry>

The Garces Foundation Food Pantry program

addresses the urgent need for food that unemployed immigrant restaurant workers are now facing. Working with partners in the food-service industry, the foundation provides 800 families each week with fresh, nutritious food, as well as free medical and dental care. As some clients find employment, they are replaced with others in need. *Garces Foundation*, 1901 S. 9th St. Suite 205, Philadelphia PA 19148.

3. Caring for Friends <https://caringforfriends.org/>

Caring for Friends provides food and friendship to 2,000 homebound and medically compromised people, mostly seniors, in the five counties of Greater Philadelphia. Volunteers prepare meals for 200 organizations, which distribute them to hungry people. *Caring for Friends*, (formerly *Aid for Friends*), 12271 Townsend Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19154

4. People's Emergency Center

<https://www.pec-cares.org/>

The food relief program is currently serving 600 guests or more each week. For families, children, and youth experiencing homelessness, PEC offers affordable housing units, job training, parenting and early childhood education, financial education and planning, life skills and technology classes. *People's Emergency Center*, 325 N. 39th St., Philadelphia, PA 19104

Out & About

Expedition out of Center City...

Holiday Garden Railway at Morris Arboretum

Visit Morris Arboretum's popular Holiday Garden Railway, open through Sunday, January 3. Famous Philadelphia historic buildings, lighted trees, and other holiday lights create a magical miniature holiday village. In addition to daytime hours, there are 10 Holiday Garden Railway Nights on Saturday and Sunday nights from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. through Sunday, December 27. Advance tickets required; separate tickets for day and evening visits. (Closed December 24, 25 and January 1).

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is located at 100 E. Northwestern Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118. For more information and to purchase tickets, please call 215-247-5777, ext. 109 or 125. https://www.morrisarboretum.org/gardens_railway.shtml



Morris Arboretum's Holiday Garden Railway is open to visitors through January 3.

Spotlight On...

Luis and Maria Guaricela's Shoe Repair Local Merchants' Business Threatened by COVID, Looting-Damage Reversals

By Dawn Willis

Philadelphia loves success stories of local, industrious people working tirelessly to create thriving small businesses. Luis and Maria Guaricela are an example of this effort. The Guaricelas own a small, family shoe-repair and key-cutting business at 275 S. 15th Street, which they opened in 2008.

Luis and Maria emigrated from Ecuador 35 years ago, and they have been working in the shoe-repair business for more than 20 years to serve their community. On Saturday night, May 30, their store, like many others in the downtown area, became a casualty of the rioting that swept that city. On that evening, vandals and looters broke in, shattering the glass windows and doors of the shop.

Once inside, looters stole merchandise, a laptop, and \$3000 in cash. But the vandalism didn't end there: rioters later threw two Molotov cocktails into the store, setting it ablaze and causing the loss of merchandise and machinery worth more than \$10,000. Water to put out the fire further damaged the electrical and internet equipment, and compromised the store's structure.

Luis Guaricela watched at home on surveillance video as looting and fire consumed his business. His main concern was for the tenants in the apartments above his store, who were sleeping while the fire spread. He immediately had his daughter call 911.

Insurance did not cover damage from vandalism, forcing the Guaricelas to pay for all repairs out of pocket. The family's financial balance had already been jeopardized for two months because of the COVID shutdown. The business remained closed through July while repairs were made to the store.

Their daughter Jessica set up a GoFundMe page in June to help her parents get the Shoe Repair up and running: not only

to replace all the stolen and damaged merchandise, but also to repair the building and to reinvest in new, expensive equipment that was destroyed. The GoFundMe account raised nearly all of the \$20,000 needed to reopen, and attracted more than 350 donors.

Comments from donors include this from Maria Lerner: "I came to your store once. You did not charge me for the small repair that you did for me. Now it's my turn to do what I can for you. I hope you will be back in business soon."

Kenneth Woodson wrote: "I have been a customer at this establishment for over 18 years. The work is always 'top notch,' and customer service is first class."

And from Victoria Bell: "I have patronized your store for over 20 years and watched you proudly display your daughters' pictures from childhood. You are a wonderful family, and I wish you all the best."

October marks more than four months since the rioting almost ended the Guaricelas' business. Even now, Luis says his business is not back to where it was. "We still do not have money to replace all of the merchandise that was stolen or destroyed," he says. "We do not have the inventory or the customers. COVID is keeping people away."

As with many small-business owners, Luis and Maria hope their business can survive these challenging times. He adds that he hopes customers come back soon; otherwise they may have to close—a loss not only for the Guaricelas but also for the community they have served for so many years.

To contribute to the fund click here:

[HELP MY PARENTS GET BCK THEIR SHOE REPAIR BUSINESS, organized by Jessy Guaricela](#)



Maria Guaricela surveys the destruction after her family's shoe repair shop was looted.



Artists from Walls for Justice decorated the boarded-up windows of the vandalized store.

My Experience Teaching Remotely during COVID-19

By Samantha Kreda

"Michael, please come off of mute. We cannot hear your answer!"

Despite growing up with a moderate amount of technology, nothing could have prepared me for teaching remotely. As a special education teacher, I am accustomed to giving constant reminders and positive reinforcement. The world of online education and the loss of our physical classroom has made it necessary for me to rapidly reframe my teaching style. While positive reinforcement tools such as stickers and mini erasers were useful during classroom instruction, I have found it much more difficult to engage a child in instruction when their only virtual rewards are ClassDojo points and extra time on their favorite educational gaming site, ABCya.

Teaching younger children requires a lot of movement, constant breaks, and engaging activities. During the typical school year, we utilize dance breaks as a means to burn off extra energy and get us ready for academic instruction. I am able to be present with my students and dance around with them, showing them that even teachers need breaks.

Since going virtual, I have continued to give the children "brain breaks" to increase participation during direct instruction. Unfortunately, it is much more challenging to encourage the children to dance along to their favorite songs when we are not together in a room. I imagine that part of the problem comes from the "brain breaks" being in the same format as the rest of their day: on a bright computer screen. While the YouTube dance videos offered a sort of respite from textbooks and worksheets, now work and play are synonymous.

A significant concern I have for my students, as well as one that some parents have voiced, is the effect of increased screen time. Prior to the pandemic, educators had already brought attention to the negative impact of iPhones' and tablets' being introduced to children at such a young age. I wonder, therefore, where the focus on that problem went now that all of our instruction is online. Did the fears of increased technology suddenly dissipate? As an accommodation for some students, we ask them to log on only during our reading and mathematics instruction. Less screen time for these few students has resulted in more attention during the time they are present.

If the school district could focus on making this unprecedented time in education student-focused, the successes would be much greater for children, parents, and teachers. We do not need to hold students, and, more realistically, their families, accountable for following the same 8:30-to-3:09 schedule that they follow during in-person instruction.

As nuclear family structures have become less of a norm, the availability of one parent/guardian to remain in the home and tend to the needs of all the children has become a thing of the past, making this new world of learning even more difficult. Especially in single-parent households or homes with more than one child, the burden of online instruction falls on the shoulders of the children.

Even if the parent is able to get them logged in to the Zoom meeting, they may not be able to sit there and guide the child through all of their activities for the day. Something I urge other educators to consider, when assigning work to be completed asynchronously, is whether the student can complete the activity *independently*. The purpose of independent work is not to see whether the *adult* in the household can complete the task; instead, it is to gauge how much information the student has retained. Assignments can be thought-provoking without being so difficult that the child cannot complete them independently.

As a final thought, I urge teachers and parents to please be kind to yourselves, to each other, and to our children. They are experiencing something that many adults never have. Imagine being 8 years old and suddenly having to "social distance" and stay home all day, away from friends and teachers at school. Especially for children who may be residing in shelters or for whom school is their safe place, we must remember that there are many things over which they have no control.

If there is a lot of background noise, instead of penalizing them, discover other ways for them to engage with discussions. If a student has their camera off, instead of forcing them to turn it on, consider why they may not be able to turn it on, or why they may not want to. Things may not get back to "normal" for quite a while, but supporting each other through what is an extremely tough time for all of us will make the COVID-19 pandemic easier to endure.

Samantha Kreda, a Center City resident, has been teaching Intensive Learning Support (ILS) for grades 1-3 (ages 7-9) in North Philadelphia in her fourth year with the district. She has a Bachelor's degree from Cornell University, and a Master's and a certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the University of Pennsylvania.



Samantha Kreda teaches a virtual class.

Philly Plein Air Dejeuner sur le Tarmac

Story and Pictures by Bill West



The outdoor dining room on 18th at Rittenhouse Square.

There is in fact a revolution taking place on Philadelphia's streets, and it has to do with food. Let me put this up front: restaurants have fractured the hegemony the private automobile has held over our streets for a century.

We had a false dawn five years ago when Pope Francis visited, and the streets of Center City were closed to private vehicles (with a very few exceptions). In a lovely essay in the *Inquirer*, Katie Monroe evokes the quietly magical aura felt by so many: "Just to be able to stand in the middle of the street and take a photograph of City Hall from a new angle is exciting. To be able to walk around, talking to my mom on the phone, without getting interrupted by a driver cutting me off in the crosswalk where I have the right of way." (For the full article, click [here](#).)

Unfortunately, when the pope left town, he took the carless streets and the magical aura with him, and the everyday grind of trying to reform the city's streets snapped back to the status quo ante.

And stayed there. Tangible progress was made, but resistance to change proved deeply entrenched, progress was glacial, and there were repeated calls to rip out existing bicycle lanes.

Then, in November 2017, 24-year-old [Emily Fredricks](#) was killed by a garbage truck while she was riding in the old Spruce Street bike lane. This was a turning point. A project to rebuild the Pine and Spruce [bike lanes](#) had been mired for quite some time. Suddenly it gained urgency.

And in time the City showed itself willing to pursue a range of innovative projects. For instance, the Chestnut Street [bus lane](#)

had long been a joke. Delivery truck drivers regularly parked in the lane, tying traffic into knots. The City decided to expand the loading zones in the parking lane on the other side of the street, and, just like magic, conditions in the bus lane improved. Imagine—fiddling with one lane can help fix an entirely different lane.

So it's not like we weren't getting anywhere. But I was unprepared for what happened this year.

It got started in Old City when Second Street was [closed](#) to motor vehicles between Market and Chestnut for the weekend of July 17-19, and local restaurants set up outdoor dining rooms in the middle of the street, where cars and trucks suddenly were not.

This initial one-weekend experiment proved very successful, and soon streets were closing and outdoor dining rooms were popping up like mushrooms after a rain.

Let's take a closer look at two of these alfresco dining clusters—one on 18th Street near Rittenhouse Square, and the other centered on 13th south of Chestnut, and branching out onto Drury, Juniper, and Sansom to form a rectangle of streets devoted to dining.

The first picture (above) shows 18th Street at Rittenhouse Square, where Parc, Devon, and Rouge occupy the full width of the cartway, normally populated with cars and trucks. There is a wide sidewalk along the park that allows for comfortable pedestrian circulation.

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North of Walnut, we see a slightly different arrangement, with dining areas flanking a central fire lane that, again, provides for pedestrian circulation.



Tables flank a center lane, 18th north of Walnut.

Here we see Bar Bombón on 18th at Moravian.

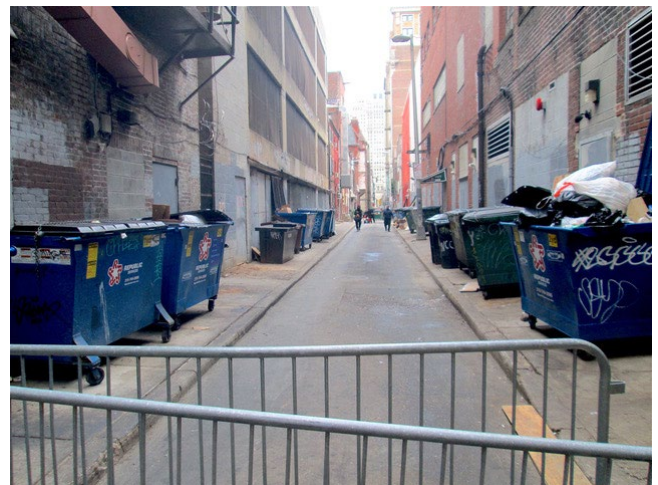


Bar Bombón.

Down Moravian we encounter an innovative solution to hiding Dumpsters—a theatrical scrim decorated with a fanciful streetscape. I expect this works even better at night.



A tromp l'oeil screen camouflages an unsightly stretch of Moravian St. near 18th.



Here's what Moravian usually looks like.

On 13th Street, we see the fire-lane configuration again, shown here with and without people in it.



The fire-lane configuration on 13th St., with...



... and without pedestrians.

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And here we are on Drury, where people are watching football and having a good time outside McGillin's Old Ale House.



Outside McGillin's Old Ale House on Drury St.

Next to McGillin's is a well-hidden corral chock-full of Dumpsters. I can't tell you how happy I was to see this. For a long time, Drury Street had been blighted by a plague of Dumpsters strewn at odd angles on the sidewalks and street, like so many cows in a pasture.



The Dumpster corral on Drury.

Somebody convinced the merchants and restaurateurs on Drury to cooperate like good neighbors and corral their Dumpsters. I have no idea how this came to be. Maybe someone can do a lot of reporting and figure out what happened here. (I'm not that person, but I do know that discussions about cleaning up Drury Street go back quite a few years. For Jon Geeting's 2015 article in *PlanPhilly*, click [here](#).)

Tucked behind the corral is a lovely, quiet beer garden. A sheltered oasis—really a little world by itself.



A hidden beer-garden oasis has sprung up where refuse once ruled.

It's hard to describe how transformative these street closures are. Not just moving cars but parked cars—supposedly a third rail of municipal politics—vanish, at least for a time. As we can see on Moravian and again on Drury, even the Dumpsters have been moved to the background.

What's left? A place for people.

For a brief moment I had to ask myself if I was jealous of the restaurateurs. They have come so far, so fast. But I found that I'm not jealous—I'm thrilled. The restaurants have set a new mark for achievement and speed.

I just hope that some of the positive energy the restaurants have generated flows over into the other reforms we so desperately need on our streets.

Community Benefits Agreements Reflect CCRA's Work to Make Major Real Estate Developments Harmonize with our Neighborhood

By Rick Gross

Center City West is the locus of many major real estate development projects in Philadelphia. But every large project, which produces jobs and taxes and numerous other benefits for the city, also puts stress on the neighborhood, such as construction disruptions, traffic congestion from loading and deliveries, and changes to the built environment of this fragile and unique architectural landscape.

Historically, CCRA had a process of working with the developer on major projects to identify such concerns and to find the right balance going forward. A stakeholders' process supplemented this effort, resulting in the Harper (19th & Chestnut) and Laurel (1900 block of Walnut) buildings. Neighbors applauded this process for good design, human-scale street fronts, and minimizing construction, traffic, and loading disruptions. (For an in-depth discussion of the stakeholder process on these two buildings see the *Center City Quarterly* Volume 8, No. 2, Summer 2018, p. 10. https://www.centercityresidents.org/resources/Documents/28333_CCRA_Summer-2018-Newsletter-Hyperlinks.pdf)

Philadelphia ordinances require developers to coordinate with the designated Registered Community Organization (RCO) to review proposed zoning changes, conduct public meetings, and participate as part of the Civic Design Review process. As the designated RCO for Center City West, CCRA appoints a Major Development Task Force, composed of members with experience in real estate, zoning issues, architecture, and historic preservation, who work with the CCRA Zoning Committee to engage with the developer about the proposed project.

The CCRA Major Development Task Force reviews and comments on the architectural plans, with attention to mass, scale, design, harmony with the surrounding environment, loading, traffic and parking issues, streetscape and greenscape. We also focus on construction plans to minimize the dislocation and disruption any major development project entails.

If changes to zoning are required, we work to adhere to the integrity of the existing code. These requirements specify a process that developers must follow to seek approval for any zoning changes or variances for their project. CCRA generally does not support developers seeking zoning changes by asking City Council members to use Councilmanic prerogative to sponsor bills to change zoning ordinances, but may support developers who follow established procedures for securing zoning changes.

Most importantly, CCRA has made the expansion of employment opportunities for minorities and the use of minority- and women-owned vendors a priority in these discussions. Major developments generate hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in purchasing. If developers can be required to make quantifiable and verifiable efforts to employ minority contractors and use minority-owned vendors,

Philadelphia's desperately needed progress toward racial justice and a fair opportunity for all can be achieved.

The outcome of CCRA's work with developers is a negotiated Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). This document identifies the project by attaching the architectural plans and specifications for the proposed building, and sets forth construction parameters as to hours, timing, materials storage, protection of neighboring buildings and remediation of any construction-related damage. It also sets forth the delivery, loading, and parking arrangements for the project, to minimize congestion on our already clogged streets.

In addition, the CBA sets forth the developer's obligations to retain existing trees during the construction process, replace them with new ones, or make a financial contribution for the Philadelphia Horticultural Society to restore lost greenscape. Where historic buildings are affected by the project, because of their adjacency or proposed removal, CCRA invites the Preservation Alliance to join the process to try to resolve historic preservation concerns. Finally, we insist on quantifiable and verifiable goals for minority business enterprise in the construction of the project.

Recent Community Benefits Agreements (CBA's) have been negotiated for projects at 21st & Market (with Brandywine Real Estate Investment Trust), 23rd & Market (with Parkway Development Corporation), 113-119 S. 19th Street across from The Harper (with Pearl Properties), and the project in the Trader Joe's parking lot at 33 N. 22nd Street (with PMC Properties and joined by the Logan Square Neighborhood Association and the Murano Residents' Association). *Each of these agreements, which is a public document, may be viewed by clicking on the following link to the CCRA website:* <https://center-cityresidents.wildapricot.org/resources2/#CBA>

Given the success of these efforts over the past decade, CCRA has gained a reputation for effectively negotiating mutually beneficial agreements with developers. Since we try to avoid legal conflict in these negotiations, relying on architects to help us improve proposed projects to reflect neighborhood concerns, developers have begun proactively to engage with CCRA early in the process. For instance, the developer of the Freeman's Auction House project reached out to us with preliminary plans for a condominium behind the façade of the building, and welcomed our input as to historic elements, traffic and parking, and the ultimate design. This project was built as a matter-of-right under the zoning code, meaning that changes or variances to established zoning were not required. Because Freeman's building was listed on the City's Register of Historic Buildings, the design required approval from the Philadelphia Historical Commission. CCRA invited the Preservation Alliance to serve on the Major Development Task Force, and supported the developer's project and design with the Historical Commission.

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Rather than addressing differences between neighbors and developers through often time-consuming and expensive all-or-nothing litigation, the CCRA process of negotiation and collaboration generally results in a project that is acceptable to most parties and reflected in detail in the CBA. Many developers are always going to want to build larger projects on land

they own. If, early in the process, they and the community (represented by CCRA) can modify their plans to reflect our concerns, agree to harmonize the building with the neighborhood, minimize the disruptions involved in large-scale new construction, protect the environment, and provide increased minority employment and purchasing, then we think this a true win for all.

What's Going On

12 Ideas for a Fun Winter Holiday Staycation

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Introverts and stay-at-homes may be happy to hibernate alone cozily during the holidays, but others may miss being with family and friends, traveling to exciting places, or going out to dinner and shows. Here are 12 ideas for getting into the holiday spirit while observing the rules during the pandemic. For most enjoyment, *plan ahead!*

1. **Try new recipes.** Spend some time researching recipes, asking friends for recommendations, and thinking about what you would like to cook or bake. Find the recipes, buy the ingredients in advance, and enjoy new tastes. Plan B: order a meal from a different restaurant.

2. **Have an old-fashioned phone call.** If there is relative or friend you haven't spoken to for a while, plan a day and time to have a long chatty catch-up conversation.

3. **Review your old photos.** Enjoy memories of people, places, and events. You may even find a special one you want to frame or share with someone else. If you like to organize, this is the time to label and categorize your photos.

4. **Set up Zoom social hours.** Chatting with friends and family over Zoom can be very satisfying. Practice setting up a Zoom meeting in advance, plan a holiday outfit, and invite people to attend on a specific day and time. If you're exchanging gifts, you can open your gifts together.

5. **Create a film festival.** Choose a favorite theme, actor, director, or genre. Choose which films you want to watch and find out how to get them. Get a library card and go to Kanopy to enjoy free streaming of critically acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries, award-winning foreign films and more:
<https://www.kanopy.com/>

6. **Share a talent.** If you are an artist, create holiday cards. If you are a singer, musician, or dancer, plan a Zoom performance event with others. Or you can perform solo and videorecord to send to family and friends.

7. **Create a music festival.** Choose a favorite composer, musical group, or selection of pieces, and find them on YouTube or other website. Arrange a time to listen alone or with family or friends.

8. **Travel virtually.** Choose a place you have been before and loved or have always wanted to visit. Find a virtual tour, plan a time, get dressed for travel, and go there on your computer.

9. **Plan outdoor events.** Arrange an outdoor holiday event with your neighbors. Each neighbor can bring their own chair, food, and drink. Decorations, music, and "white elephant" gifts optional.

10. **Write a Holiday E-Letter to Family and Friends:** Write about creative, amusing, or uplifting experiences you've had during the past year, and add photos too.

11. **Go to outdoor destinations.** Certain outdoor places are open such as ice-skating rinks, parks, and arboreta. If you can go in a car, check this list to learn about interesting places in our area that are open:
<http://americasgardencapital.org/updates>
Consult websites for days, hours and facilities.

12. **Hold a virtual garage "sale."** Make a list with photos of newish useful items that just aren't right for you, but that someone else will love, and send it to family and friends so they can choose what they want. Then gift wrap and deliver or mail the items. Donate the leftover items to a thrift shop.

Charitable giving at holiday time

In between fun activities, make time to review your charitable contributions for 2020 and send some extra bucks to nonprofit organizations providing emergency food and other essentials to disadvantaged people. They need it now more than ever. Then start your giving plan for 2021.

Dining Scene

The Center City Foodie

Ambrosia—Excellent Italian Beyond South Philly

By Leo Levinson

I've only lived in Philadelphia for about 50 years, so I'm not really considered a True Philadelphian (T.P.). I mention this because I'm about to challenge a cardinal Philadelphia concept, the idea that the best Italian restaurants are only found in South Philly. Sorry, T.P.'s, but just a short walk to 24th and Locust will take you to Ambrosia BYOB, one of Philadelphia's best Italian restaurants.

Another cardinal Philadelphia rule I'm about to break is about never sharing favorite spots with strangers, for fear they'll go and make the place too popular. But since I'm not a T.P., I'm going to tell you anyway, because after all, we're all family here . . . you know what I'm saying? Besides, Ambrosia is pretty popular already.

My definition of "best Italian" is highly influenced by the quality of the pasta, and that it's homemade. Ambrosia's pasta is light, supple, flavorful and at the top of the authentic scale. It's all made on site. Some of my favorite pasta dishes include the papardelle with short-rib ragu and the rigatoni with lamb sausage. Both hit those deep meaty/tomato notes one hopes for.

Most likely Ambrosia's signature pasta dish is the crispy gnocchi with mushrooms, fava beans, pancetta, brown butter & whipped goat cheese – it is just complex creaminess accented with an intriguing mix of textures. Often Ambrosia will serve a special pasta and I urge you to get it: when I went, they served a homemade tortelloni that was like biting into a tasty pillow of pasta, filled with light ricotta cheese and mushrooms, and bathed in masterful cream sauce with walnuts.

But don't get the idea that this is just a pasta joint...no, no, no. In fact, I could order their short ribs with creamy polenta

every time. But don't you do that. Their chicken Milanese, veal medallions, Airline Chicken, strip steak and more are excellent too. Ambrosia even gets me to order fish dishes like their salmon with crispy skin and black bass with braised fennel, because they are just that good. And I think that's the point; for a small, neighborhood restaurant, you won't get bored with a favorite because every dish has the potential to become one.

I like the present BYOB aspect to Ambrosia (although I noticed an orange sign in the window indicating a liquor license is on the way), because I get to bring my better Italian wines to open and enjoy with some imaginative appetizers, like their octopus with chorizo, or roasted beet salad with whipped goat cheese, pistachio, and orange vinaigrette, or their creatively herbed and spiced soups. Ambrosia's beef carpaccio is a standout, so thin it melts in your mouth.

One of the main reasons Ambrosia is such a strong neighborhood restaurant is the consistency of its food and service. You can really eat here every week, and more, and never get tired of it. . . but don't tell anybody!

Ambrosia
231 S. 24th St. (at Locust)
BYOB

Leo Levinson, our roving food writer, is a board member of Philadelphia's premier gourmet club, The Chaîne des Rotisseurs, former chair of the Union League's Grand Cru Society wine club and an 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

Dining Scene

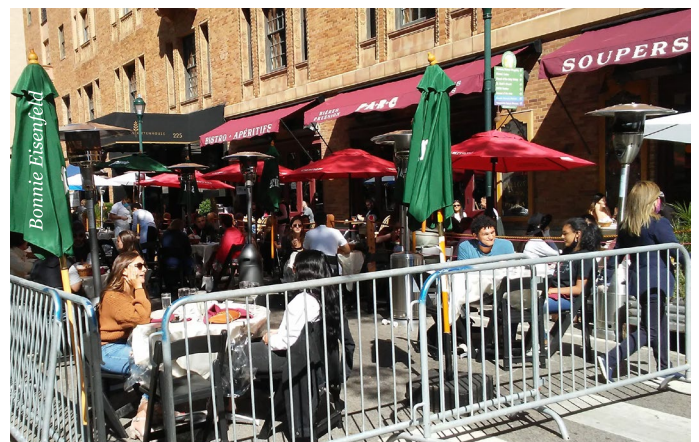
Outdoor Dining Guidelines During the Winter Months

The City's expanded outdoor dining initiative has enabled hundreds of restaurants across Philadelphia to earn much-needed revenue by offering outdoor dining, safely. In June, the City launched [four new options](#) for restaurants to operate outdoor dining.

As the weather has gotten cooler, new challenges are presented for restaurants. The City has developed guidance and best practices as businesses have begun to offer outdoor dining through the colder months.

The [new guidelines](#)—which address shelter and heating specifications—provide businesses with as much flexibility as possible, consistent with the Philadelphia Fire Code and current COVID-19 safety measures.

Editor's note: with the spike in COVID cases, the city has ordered new restaurant restrictions, effective through at least January 1. Please check websites for updates.



Outdoor dining on 18th Street along Rittenhouse Square in late September.

The Tattooed Lady and PTC Awarded Prestigious Pew Grant

The Tattooed Lady, a developing new musical from Max Vernon and Erin Courtney, and directed by Ellie Heyman, was awarded a prestigious 2020 Project grant from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. The new musical is a fictional tale based on true stories from the sideshow, centering on one of sideshow's biggest stars.

This significant grant will enable Philadelphia Theatre Company to develop this new musical, first as a virtual reading during the 2020-21 Season, and as a full production in a subsequent season. The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage awarded PTC a \$300,000 Project Grant to support the production and its world premiere, and \$60,000 in general operating support.

"*The Tattooed Lady* will be PTC's first commission under my leadership, which is a huge thrill for me," says Producing Artistic Director Paige Price. "Commissioning is something I've been dreaming of doing since I joined PTC. We can make the most impact by supporting new work and artists in this way. We hope this is just the start. There's no formula—I believe a little bit in Kismet when it comes to finding talent. After the long slumber of isolation, this show will be the jolt of live humanity we all crave."

The Tattooed Lady, with its focus on an iconic sideshow character, explores the power of and the path through "otherness," celebrating the resilience of women whose audacious choices have the potential to liberate them. *The Tattooed Lady* is a moving, fantastical tale of the bond between mother and daughter, traced in the self-inflicted patterns revealed in both the visible and invisible marks left on each woman.

Since taking over the artistic leadership of PTC in 2017, Price has been looking for a show that could usher in the next era of theatre's history.

"*The Tattooed Lady* exceeds our mission to develop and produce imaginatively staged contemporary theatre focused on the American experience," says Price. "I have been looking for the right show that will introduce audiences to the next generation of American talent, draw attention to the national theatre community, and upend our audiences' expectations of what is possible in our space."

"*The Tattooed Lady*," she adds, "promises to transform the physical space of the Suzanne Roberts Theatre and ... reshapes the way audiences experience the surprise and delight of leading-edge musical theatre."

Max Vernon's work includes the Lortel and Drama Desk Award-winning *KPOP*, currently slated for Broadway, and *The View Upstairs*, which has had sold-out productions Off Broadway and in London. Erin Courtney, a former visual artist, is also winner of the 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts, and the 2012 Obie Award for Special Citations.

Ellie Heyman, Director in Residence at Joe's Pub, recently directed the *Angels in America* AMFAR benefit, featuring an all-star cast that included Glenn Close, Patti LuPone, S. Epatha Merkerson, Daphne Rubin-Vega, and Josh Gad.

Choreographing is new PTC Resident Artist Jeffrey L. Page, who is set to co-direct (with Diane Paulus) and choreograph the new Broadway production of *1776*.

The creative team developing the show boasts some of Broadway's most exciting and prolific designers: Tony Award-winning Rachel Hauck (*Hadestown*) is the scenic designer, with costumes designed by Tony winner Clint Ramos (*Eclipsed*, *Sunday in the Park with George*). Sound design is by Tony Award winner Nevin Steinberg (*Hadestown*, *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen*), and Mary Ellen Stebbins, a longtime collaborator of Heyman's, will design the production's lighting.

A Little-Known History of the Women's Vote

The Museum of the American Revolution's groundbreaking new exhibition [***When Women Lost the Vote: A Revolutionary Story, 1776 – 1807***](#) is free of charge and now open to the public online through Sunday, April 25, 2021.

The exhibit tells the little-known story of women and free people of color legally voting in New Jersey following the Revolutionary War. It also examines the political conflicts that led to their voting rights' being stripped away in 1807.

The exhibition coincides with the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment this year, and explores how Revolutionary-era women voters became role models for the next generation of women's suffragists.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

How to Remove a Dead Street Tree

By Susan V. Kahn

Urban life can be stressful. Just ask a street tree. Compacted soil, pollution, vandalism, storms – these things all take a toll on the trees that line our city streets. And when a street tree dies, how do you remove it? While street trees are owned by the property owner, the City – specifically the Street Tree Management Division of Parks and Recreation – has jurisdiction over them.

There are two categories of street-tree problems to report: urgent matters and less-urgent matters. To report a *downed tree or limb that is blocking a road or sidewalk*, call 911. This is an urgent matter.

To report a dead tree that does not pose any immediate harm, take a picture and submit a service request using the 311 app on your phone, or email philly311@phila.gov. (Oddly, you should file it under “Park Conditions [Safety and Maintenance]”). The tree will be inspected seven to ten days later.

And then you wait. Before 2020, the wait was as long as two and a half years. Earlier this year, Parks and Recreation’s budget was slashed 20 percent. In addition, the department saw an uptick in the reports of downed trees and limbs due to an increase in the severity of summer storms. So now the wait stretches even longer.

Unfortunately, the only quick way to get a dead street tree removed is for the property owner to hire a private contractor (who should first get permission from the Street Tree Management Division, 215-685-4363.) And then, be sure to plant another! While street trees do require upkeep,

they also make significant contributions to the quality of life in our community.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society plants free street trees in the spring and fall. Apply online at <https://pg-cloud.com/phs/?openform=request-a-tree> (More on this topic in a coming issue of the *Quarterly*.)

Susan V. Kahn is the Leader of Friends of Schuylkill River Park/ Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Tree Tenders. For questions, please email Susan.v.kahn@gmail.com



Dead trees in front of 7-Eleven at 17th and South Street that were ravaged by construction.

City Lit

PCI FYI...

Library Outlines New COVID Procedures for Patrons

In the interest of limiting the spread of COVID-19, all Free Library of Philadelphia buildings closed to the public on November 20. While buildings will remain closed, some libraries, including the Philadelphia City Institute, were expected to resume contactless materials pickup and returns as of November 30, subject to Philadelphia Department of Public Health guidance. In the meantime, programs are proceeding virtually, and their award-winning digital resources are available 24/7.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit freelibrary.org, call 215-685-6621, or sign up for the Philadelphia City Institute email newsletter on their website.

Hold requests and pick-up appointments may be made by phone (215-685-6621) or through the library’s website,

<https://freelibrary.org>. Request personalized recommendations by emailing hoopese@freelibrary.org for teen and adult titles, koppd@freelibrary.org for adult titles, and heidemane@freelibrary.org for children’s titles.

Pick-up procedure: Call 215-685-6621 to set an appointment. Provide your name, telephone number, and library card number. You will be given an appointment time and your requested materials will already be checked out to you in a paper bag when you arrive to pick them up. You must wear a mask.

Material returns are accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in book return slot.

No donations: Because of COVID-19 restrictions, no material donations will be accepted.

CCRA Thanks Our Sponsors



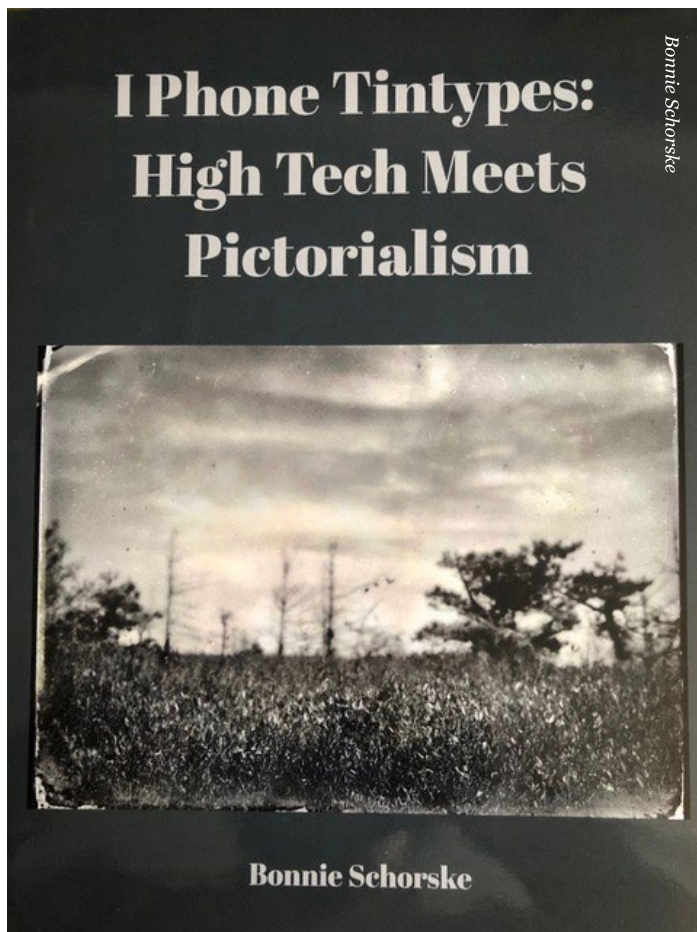
THE
LAUREL
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

Art Photographer Creates iPhone Tintype Images

Center City resident and art photographer Bonnie Schorske has just published her art book of photographs, *I Phone Tintypes: High Tech Meets Pictorialism*, and is now offering a limited edition of signed copies. The tintype-like photographs, taken in 2019 and 2020, include scenes and people from around Rittenhouse Square. Using her iPhone and a tintype application, her images explore the relationship between modern automated processes and the Pictorialism movement (1885-1915), a period when photographers used many hand processes to create images of tremendous mood and imagination.

Schorske is an artist member of the Plastic Club, where she has received the Club's highest recognition for her work and has exhibited frequently. She has exhibited at Off The Wall Gallery, Old City Jewish Arts Center, the Cosmopolitan Club, the Athenæum, and Church of the Holy Trinity, as well as at various coffee houses and commercial establishments in the city. She has had solo shows at Twenty-Two Gallery, Artists Gallery in Lambertville, and the Watermark at Logan Square. Her work has been recognized in national juried competitions including The Phillips Mill Inn Photographic Exhibition and an online Calumet Photography Landscape contest.

The 8x10 book, printed on demand on high-end archival-quality photographic paper, has a hard linen cover with full-color dust jacket and flaps. Email Bonnie Schorske at bjphoto@mac.com to purchase the book (\$36) or ask questions. Free delivery for Center City residents upon request.



Book Cover



Ranunculus by Bonnie Schorske

Dear CCQ Advertisers:

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For more information, please contact Operations Manager
Travis Oliver at 215-546-6719 or email
centercity@centercityresidents.org



The Rosenbach's Hidden, Historic Garden Reopens to the Public after 20+ Years

By Rosa Doherty, Manager of Communications

After more than 20 years, The Rosenbach has reopened its garden to the public. A 1,600-square-foot green oasis, tucked behind the Delancey Place townhomes that house the museum and library, [The Rosenbach's garden](#) is unique in that it is the last original garden left on the block. Others have been converted to parking spaces or building extensions, or never appeared in the original blueprint when the townhouses were constructed in the mid-19th century.

The Rosenbach's garden has been closed to the public since 1999, when the buildings were renovated and the space was altered to add an accessibility ramp. Over the summer, the garden was carefully renovated and filled with beautiful flowers and native plants that were specially selected to connect with works of literature in The Rosenbach's collections.

"We're thrilled to welcome the public back into our garden after it's been hidden for so many decades," says The Rosenbach's Director Derick Dreher. "It's a remarkable space and we're glad we were able to share it with our community when the demand for safe outdoor activities was greater than ever. In the coming years, The Rosenbach's garden will be fully renovated as an outdoor venue but in the meantime, we're delighted that we were able to open the gates for our friends and neighbors to enjoy this season."

The Rosenbach's collections include works by William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, Lewis Carroll, and countless others that were inspired by the natural world. The Rosenbach's collections staff have created six different [interpretive guides](#) that direct visitors where to find different plants

referenced in these important works of literature, along with context from the authors. Visitors are encouraged to use these digital guides to complement their experience, or they can simply enjoy a slice of nature in the heart of the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood at their own pace.

The Rosenbach and the Free Library continue to follow Philadelphia Department of Public Health guidelines to help manage the spread of COVID-19. After reopening in September, the museum and garden were once again closed to the public effective Friday, November 20, in order to best protect staff and visitors. The Rosenbach plans to reopen in early 2021. Visit www.rosenbach.org/visit for updates.

The Rosenbach's garden reopening has been made possible by The McLean Contributionship and an anonymous donor, with special thanks to Dorothy Binswanger. The renovations undertaken in the garden this summer are part of a larger, long-term plan for The Rosenbach to convert the space into an outdoor venue for public programming and private events, which has been generously supported by the above donors as well as Jim and Janet Averill and the Connelly Foundation.

The Rosenbach creates unique experiences for broad audiences through programs inspired by its world-class holdings of literature and history. The Rosenbach is located in Center City Philadelphia with growing content available at all times on Rosenbach.org. The Rosenbach is affiliated with the Free Library of Philadelphia.



The Rosenbach welcomes visitors to its newly reopened garden.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Win a Trip to the African Safari Ongava Game Reserve in Namibia for 2022 while Keeping Our Neighborhood Clean, Safe and Green!

In this unique fundraising year, CCRA is excited to introduce our expanded [Clean, Safe and Green Appeal](#) to fund our sidewalk cleaning and related programs. Two generous CCRA supporters have pledged to match each gift of \$100 or more received by the end of the year, doubling the fundraising power of every qualifying gift. Furthermore, anyone who donates \$200* or more will be recognized as a Green Star Donor and entered to win a 5-night, 4-day stay for two at the Ongava Game Reserve hunting lodge in Namibia, Africa, in 2022. Each additional donation of \$200 earns another entry into the raffle. The winner will be selected in January. Please note that flights are not included.

[To enter](#), we must receive your donation by December 31, 2020.

Please support CCRA's efforts to keep our neighborhood clean, safe and green through our actions to fund a \$30,000 contract with the Center City District for sidewalk cleaning after each weekly trash collection; as well as other programs.

To learn more about the Ongava Africa Reserve: [Click here](#).

* If you are the lucky winner, please consult your tax advisor about the retail value of this prize (\$3000).



Shop Talk

Holiday gift idea...

Educator, Play Expert Offers New Book of Creative Ideas for Kids' Play

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

KIDFUN: 401 Easy Ideas for Play, Ages 2 to 8, the newest book in a series by Sharla Feldscher, focuses on children's play *not involving technology*. During the pandemic, with kids at home, families can use suggestions right now. Feldscher offers step-by-step directions to parents, grandparents, nannies, and babysitters for using stuff you already have around the house to make up games or put on shows together.

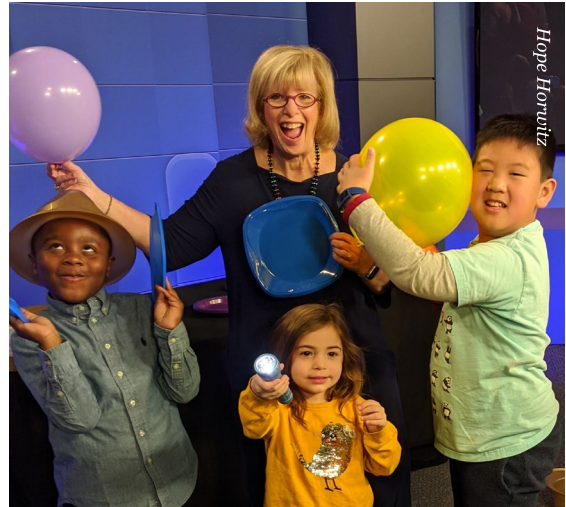
To buy holiday gifts for your kids, Feldscher recommends shopping at stores, including dollar stores and drugstores, that sell school supplies for teachers, hardware, party supplies, craft supplies, and office supplies.

"Today, more than ever," Feldscher explains, "families need creative ideas for kids' play, away from the 'screen.' Using stuff already in the home, *KIDFUN* contains ideas for everyday situations like rainy days, bedtime, bath time, and outdoor play. Play is a wonderful stimulus for thinking and learning. You can almost see a child's mind in motion as they create games and activities."

Sharla Feldscher appears on PHL 17-TV's "Morning News" program. She has written for *Grade Teacher Magazine*, *New York Family Magazine*, *LA Family Magazine*, and many local publications, and is the author of seven other books on play.

She was the first Director of Public Affairs for Please Touch Museum and a consultant for many years to Sesame Place. As Feldscher likes to say, "Big Bird was my first client."

Learn more about *KIDFUN* by visiting www.kidfunandmore.com



Back Cover of *KIDFUN*: Sharla Feldscher and kids playing with stuff people have in their homes or can buy at the dollar store, like fun hats, balloons, flashlights.

Shop Talk

Holiday gift idea...

100 Things to Do in Philadelphia: Updated

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

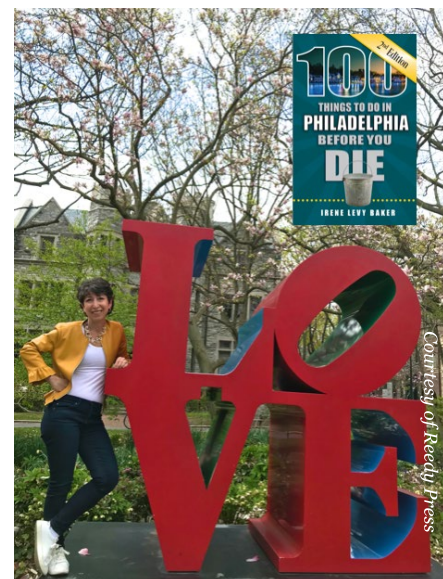
In November 2019, Philadelphia was on *National Geographic's* list of Best Trips to Take in 2020. Since then, many places have closed; now, many of the places mentioned in the second edition of Center City resident Irene Levy Baker's book, *100 Things to Do in Philadelphia*, published in October 2020, are open and welcoming visitors, including free attractions.

More than 20 percent of the items described did not appear in the first edition, published in 2016. Some examples of the new additions are: Wonderspace, Rail Park, Legoland, Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum, and Wharton Esherick Museum.

This book is an excellent holiday or housewarming gift, and is recommended for new residents, visitors, and local people looking for restaurants, museums, parks, or weekend getaways, including special recommendations for families.

Baker will sign and personalize her book for you if you order it through her website:

<https://www.100thingstodoinphiladelphia.com/>



New edition of *100 Things to Do in Philadelphia* by Irene Levy Baker.

CCRA Winter Calendar—Escapist Entertainment

Philadelphia's new "Safer at Home" restrictions are effective through January 1, 2021. Museums, libraries, and theaters are closed. Check for re-openings in January.

<https://www.phila.gov/2020-11-16-philadelphia-announces-new-safer-at-home-restrictions-in-response-to-rising-covid-19-cases/>

Outdoor Entertainment

Check websites for days, hours and facilities. Outdoor gatherings and events are limited to 10 percent of maximum capacity of the space, or 10 people per 1,000 sq. ft. for venues with an undefined maximum capacity—not to exceed 2,000 people in any outdoor space. In addition, all individuals at outdoor gatherings must wear masks at all times, and—to reinforce mask use—neither food nor beverages may be served.

Holiday Garden Railway at Morris Arboretum

100 E. Northwestern Ave., Chestnut Hill

Through Sunday, January 3;

Closed December 24 and 25, and January 1

For hours, info and tickets, call 215-247-5777,

ext. 109 or 125, or visit

https://www.morrisarboretum.org/gardens_railway.Shtml

Dilworth Park, West Side of City Hall, 1 S. 15th Street

Deck the Hall Holiday Lights

Illumination and sound effects on the west façade of City Hall

Sunday – Thursday, 5 – 9pm; Friday and Saturday, 5 – 11pm

Through January 1

Made in Philadelphia Holiday Market

Buy handmade gifts, treats and crafts

Support local small businesses

Through January 1

Wintergarden on Greenfield Lawn

Reindeer topiaries, seasonal plantings,

twinkling lights, rustic arbor

Through February 28, Free

Monday to Sunday: 9am – 9pm

Rothman Orthopaedics Ice Rink

Through February 28

Scheduled timed 90-minute skating sessions

Monday through Thursday: Noon – 9pm

Friday: Noon – 11pm

Saturday: 11:30am – 11pm

Sunday: 11:30am – 9pm

Purchase ice-skating sessions at rothmanrink.ticketsocket.com

[Click Here for holiday hours](#)

Sleds available for reservation January 4 – February 28

To reserve a sled, email sleds@rinkmanagement.com

<https://centercityphila.org/parks/dilworth-park/winter/rothman-rink>



Morris Arboretum Holiday Garden Railway.

Entertainment at home

FREE: Philadelphia Orchestra Online Concerts

The Philadelphia Orchestra presents Our City, Your Orchestra, a series of FREE online concerts performed by small ensembles at Black-owned businesses and iconic cultural locations. Digital Stage concerts begin with a performance premiere, followed by on-demand access for 72 hours. December performances:

[Yannick Leads Mahler 4](#), Thursday, December 3, 8pm

[Bronfman/Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3](#),

Thursday, December 10, 8pm

[Favorites from The Nutcracker](#), Thursday, December 17, 8pm

<https://www.philorch.org/performances/our-season/events-and-tickets/#?more=true>

Performances available for free on www.philorch.org/our-city-your-orchestra and www.facebook.com/philorch.

Macy's Santaland® at Home

Through Thursday, December 24

Interactive, virtual experience with Santa and the Elves.

Plus Dickens' Village, Christmas Light Show,

and world-famous Wanamaker Organ.

<https://wanamakerorgan.com/christmas-light-show>

Places for the People: WPA Travel Posters

Carpenters' Hall

Visit virtually through Wednesday, December 31

Exhibition of rare posters by out-of-work artists in the 1930s and 40s to promote tourism in and around Philadelphia, part of New Deal Works Progress Administration (WPA). Curated exhibit of original posters from the Free Library's Print & Picture Collection includes many not publicly displayed in more than 80 years.

www.carpentershall.org

Museums

Due to the current surge in COVID-19 cases, the city has issued new restrictions closing area museums until at least January 1. However, many offer virtual programming.

Check each museum website for updates before visiting.

Academy of Natural Sciences

Barnes Foundation

Betsy Ross House

Carpenters' Hall

Eastern State Penitentiary

Fabric Workshop and Museum

Fireman's Hall Museum

Franklin Institute

Independence National Historical Park

Independence Seaport Museum

Masonic Temple

Museum of the American Revolution

Mutter Museum

National Constitution Center

National Liberty Museum

Penn Museum

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Philadelphia's Magic Gardens

Philadelphia Zoo

Rosenbach

Shofuso Japanese House & Garden

Simeone Museum

Wonderspaces at Fashion District



Center City Residents' Association

1900 Market Street, 8th Floor
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centercity@centercityresidents.org
www.centercityresidents.org

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, December 31, 2020

CCRA Raffle Deadline

Enter to win a stay at

Ongava Game Reserve in Namibia

CCCulture

Barnes Foundation Reprises Weekly *Barnes Takeout: Your Daily Serving of Art* In Response to Citywide Museum Closures



A subject of the Barnes Takeout series: Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, "A Montrouge"—Rosa La Rouge, 1886–1887. BF263.

In accordance with restrictions announced by Philadelphia city government and health officials on November 16, the Barnes has temporarily closed to the public to limit the spread of COVID-19. They plan to reopen on January 2, 2021.

If you have purchased tickets, please call 215.278.7200 during normal business hours.

In the meantime, patrons are encouraged to enjoy *Barnes Takeout*: Each Friday, get a serving of art in this YouTube series. In short videos, Barnes curators, scholars, and educators present off-the-cuff musings about some of their favorite works in the collection. **Subscribe** for new content every week.