



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 12 No. 1 Spring 2021

Contents

Living History

Keeping Wrecking Ball at Bay on Walnut1
History Lives Here2

President's Report

Connectivity and Construction3

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Community Solar Benefits City Dwellers4
CCRA Clean, Safe and Green Appeal4
How to Get a Street Tree Planted15
Center City West Tree Stroll15

Town Square

CCRA's New High-Rise Membership Program5
WANTED NOW: Board Candidates8
CCRA Thanks You8
POWER for Good12
Royster to Lead POWER Interfaith13
Combat Homelessness with Bethesda Project24

Out & About

Philly Makes *Conde Nast's* 2021 Gold List5
Outdoor Excursions22

CCCulture

Barnes Takes on COVID Challenges6
Rosenbach Reopens with Manjiro Exhibit11
List of Reopened Museums23

It's Academic

Greene Towne's Parent Education Focuses on Social Justice7

City Lit

Being a Library Worker in a Pandemic9
Play Like a Girl, by Kate T. Parker22

Dining Scene

Dim Sum House by Jane G's10

Spotlight on...

Healthcare Chaplain Linda Joy Goldner14

CCStreetwise

Outdoor Dining below 40 Degrees?16

What's Going On

CCRA Spring Calendar23

CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

Living History

Ways to Keep Wrecking Ball at Bay for Historic Walnut Street Buildings

By Dane Wells

During the May 30 riots in Center City a cluster of three stores at 1706, 1708 and 1710 Walnut Street was seriously damaged by fire. Engineers feel the damage was severe enough that the buildings need to be demolished. These buildings, however, are all listed on the City's Historic Register, so demolitions have to be very seriously considered before approval by the City's Historical Commission.

In mid-January, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Historical Commission Jon Farnham explained to CCRA vice president Philippa Campbell that the Department of Licenses & Inspections determined that the buildings were imminently dangerous, and ordered the demolition of them in their entireties. In such cases, the Historical Commission does not have the authority to prevent or limit the demolition.

The City's Law Department, though, in consultation with attorneys for the property owners, negotiated conditions to be placed on the demolition permits that require documenting the buildings and preserving significant architectural elements for incorporation into new designs before and during demolition. Thus, the properties remain subject to the Historical Commission's jurisdiction, and the Commission will review the new construction plans at public meetings.

Continued on p.2



The Furness building at 1708 Walnut Street has historic features and design worthy of preservation.

So, could a “façadectomy” be an option? A façadectomy is a sort of Hobson’s choice in preservation: it is acceptable if the interior has little historic fabric or was never the site of a historic event. This allows the exterior restoration while the interior can be rebuilt to current standards. Sometimes façades themselves cannot be retained because of structural issues but can be recreated and rebuilt to look like the original building façades, but this should be a last resort. Sometimes individual decorative elements can be reused in the new structure.

Restoring or, if need be, recreating these façades is more than just a historical issue. In retail districts, exterior appearance is important. The quality and design of the façades establish important character for the district, and though they all need not look the same (here that would be a mistake), they help establish the brand or character of the entire street. Mainstreet managers and retail-district developers always emphasize this: there has to be a level of harmony projecting the brand of the shopping district. As we know, this area of Walnut street is classy and it is historic. That is a main part of its draw. For this reason, I would suggest that everything be done to make sure at least two of the façades be restored or recreated.

Let’s take a look at the three buildings. According to the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings (PAB) website (www.philadelphiabuildings.org), these buildings were listed by the City in February 1995. The building at 1706 Chestnut (McDonalds) was designed c.1870 by notable architects Savery, Addison Hutton. McDonalds did a relatively sedate signage for this store, respecting an interesting exterior.

The building with the most interesting exterior of the three, at 1708 (Vans), was designed in 1873-74 by Furness and Hewitt, who have architectural-hero status in Philadelphia. It was built as the residence for H.W. Catherwood. The façade is the most important of the three, and every effort should be made to restore it.

PAB also lists 1710 (Doc Martens), built c.1850, as being part of the Catherwood residence, but it is very plain and ordinary, and was built earlier than the others, architect unknown, and probably the least important of the three. This writer has a

hard time relating it to 1708, which is a standout.

If any of the properties are totally replaced, I hope the same design mistake made nearby isn’t repeated. In that case, a stark white façade was placed in another historic setting with buildings of natural-color masonry or stone façades. This building ends up standing out like a sore thumb. Even the same modern design with coloring more in harmony with its neighbors would be OK. It is doing nothing to improve the rest of the street; rather, it just distracts.

So, what would I hope for these three buildings? This writer suggests that 1706 and 1708 have their façades saved, and at 1708, the Furness design, I would say even at significant expense. For 1710 there is a possibility for sensitive, not distracting, façade replacement—keep at least the building lines and fenestration. Brick, which is dominant within this clay-rich Rittenhouse area, would be nice. Some speculate that one developer might try to restore all three together. The separate façades though make an important contribution to the streetscape. Perhaps a setback with an elevated rear portion could be acceptable. This type of change should be reviewed by a CCRA Task Force as well as the Historical Commission.



The three damaged buildings on the 1700 block of Walnut await their fate.

Living History

History Lives Here—Be a Part of It!

By Philippa Campbell

History lives here. Right here within Center City West! Right here on your street and your block! We need input about what CCRA members and neighborhood residents are interested in learning and doing to preserve the history of our neighborhood.

Interested in knowing about who has lived in your house? Maybe your child—or you yourself—is into history and would like to know more about using internet resources to learn about your house, your block, your neighborhood. Maybe you would like to know more about how good preservation contributes to higher sales prices of homes, or how street appeal can yield positive economic and aesthetic outcomes.

Or, maybe someone on your block or in your neighborhood is doing something to the outside of their property that does not

seem to contribute to the historic look and feel. What actions can be taken? Interested in the City’s Historic Preservation Commission and what the City does to promote historic preservation? Or maybe you would like to know more about organizations such as the Preservation Alliance or the wealth of Philadelphia institutions and easily accessible historic resources in their holdings that can help you learn more about our neighborhood history.

The CCRA Historic Preservation Committee is conducting a short survey to learn more about members’ interests. We know that many people are surveyed to death but we encourage you to take 10 minutes to complete this anonymous survey to share your thoughts. Just click on the link [here](#) or watch for the link in the weekly CCRA newsletter. Thank you—We value your ideas and perspectives!!

CCRA Board of Directors

Maggie Mund	.....	President
Richard Gross	.....	Executive Vice President
Philippa Campbell	.....	Vice President
Barbara Halpern	.....	Vice President
Charles Robin	.....	Vice President
Robin Sweet	.....	Vice President
Nanette Robinson	.....	Secretary
Lauren O'Donnell	.....	Assistant Secretary
Matthew Schreck	.....	Treasurer
Richard Speizman	.....	Assistant Treasurer

DIRECTORS (term ending)

Michael Bowman (2023)	Douglas Mellor (2021)
Tina Breslow (2023)	Harvey Ostroff (2023)
Elena Cappella (2021)	Nathaniel Parks (2021)
Michele Ettinger (2022)	David Rose (2022)
Kate Federico (2022)	Benjamin Weinraub (2023)
Ayanna Haskins (2021)	Dawn Willis (2022)
Amy Jared (2021)	Benjamin Zuckerman (2023)
Richard Frey (2022)	
Susan Kahn (2022)	

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Travis W. Oliver

HOUSE TOUR CHAIR

Kathleen Federico

COUNSEL

Wade Albert

ZONING CO-CHAIRS

Janice Woodcock
Samuel Gordon

PAST PRESIDENTS (active)

Wade Albert	
Charles Goodwin	Eugene Dichter
Jeff Braff	Samuel Weinberg
Adam Schneider	Wm. J. D. Jordan
Vivian Seltzer	Lenore Millhollen
Pamela Rosser Thistle	Kristin Davidson
George R. Brodie, Jr.	Matthew Fontana

CENTER CITY QUARTERLY

Nancy Colman	.....	EDITOR
Bonnie Eisenfeld	.....	CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Bill West	.....	PRODUCTION EDITOR

Cover Photo Credits: (1) Courtesy of a. kitchen
(2) Courtesy of the Rosenbach (3) Hugh Taft-Morales
(4) Bonnie Eisenfeld

Newsletter Ad Rates

4 Issues	Members	Non-Members
Full Page	\$1,080.00	\$1,140.00
1/2 Page	\$600.00	\$660.00
1/4 Page	\$300.00	\$360.00
1 Issue	Members	Non-Members
Full Page	\$360.00	\$380.00
1/2 Page	\$200.00	\$220.00
1/4 Page	\$100.00	\$120.00

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

President's Report

Connectivity and Construction Combatting COVID

By Maggie Mund, CCRA President



Maggie Mund
CCRA President

As this issue of the Quarterly reaches you, the first hints of spring are sure to be noticeable in Rittenhouse Square... Birds chirping, buds bursting and some brave souls starting to picnic...hopefully, socially distanced and masked. And despite the somewhat hectic start of the vaccine program, more and more of us will have punctures in our arms signifying the first light at the end of a long tunnel.

The virus has challenged us more than we could have imagined, but as a community, we have managed our way through. With masking and distancing, takeout and limited indoor dining, watching our orchestra online, and lots of time to spend outdoors, I am hopeful that the vibrant neighborhood we loved before the virus is starting to return! CCRA will continue to maintain our presence on a variety of platforms – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) – as a neighborhood “resource hub”: informing and connecting individuals, organizations, and businesses with timely news and community and government happenings. Our efforts are even more critical as we battle through the COVID crisis and begin the path to recovery in Philadelphia. Be sure to check out our website and Facebook pages for all the information you need.

The pandemic hasn't stopped CCRA from performing its role as the neighborhood's community voice. I was appointed to the City Controller's Community Advisory and Accountability Council to study the city's response to the civil unrest of last summer. The Council's report has been issued and is available [here](#). CCRA welcomes your reactions, and any follow-up suggestions for action items would be very much appreciated. Send them to me through our website.

CCRA also joined an impressive list of commercial and residential buildings and businesses in the eastern part of the neighborhood in a letter to the Mayor and Council highlighting the increased public-safety issues there, such as heightened violence, panhandling and homelessness. This letter, signed by the Center City Coalition, is available [here](#). Together, these concerns make the neighborhood less safe for residents and less welcoming for businesses. The letter specifically asks that the Police Department establish a mobile location near 15th Street to add enforcement and social-service capabilities. We are hopeful the recipients will respond.

The pandemic has not dulled the appetite of developers to propose new residential and commercial buildings in the area. We have negotiated with the proponents of buildings at 2012 Chestnut Street and on the 2300 block of Market Street for Community Benefits Agreements, which ensure that the projects are minimally disruptive for the neighboring buildings; respond to concerns about building mass, density and street use; are environmentally sensitive; and, importantly, provide opportunities for hiring minority and women workers and purchasing from minority- and women-owned firms. See the article on Page 15 of the Winter issue of CCQ [here](#) explaining this process, and look on our website for the new agreements.

This year we have successfully pursued an initiative to invite residents in high-rise buildings in Center City to join CCRA through their buildings, and the program has been a resounding success. Thus far, The Murano, William Penn House and Penn Center House are all participating, and other buildings are considering joining. Let us know if your building would be interested.

Finally, we concluded a very successful winter appeal, supported by matching gifts of \$5000 each from two benefactors and a raffle for a stay at a luxury guest house in Namibia. Thanks to all who gave so generously. And congratulations to James Harrison, the lucky winner. (You can see our very own accountant open the envelope naming James on our website!) And stay tuned for the spring auction event offering weeklong stays at houses in Spain, Tuscany, and Scotland. Philadelphia is coming back strong, but it is nice to see other parts of the world to appreciate it!

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Community Solar: Environmental and Economic Benefits to City Dwellers

By Joseph Otis Minott, Esq.

In terms of electricity generation, Pennsylvania has the fifth-dirtiest power sector in the country, and solar energy accounts for less than one percent of our generation mix. Pennsylvania lags far behind many other states in its production of clean solar energy.

One of the major barriers to getting more Pennsylvanians to purchase solar energy is that so many people rent, live in multi-unit buildings, or have roofs unable to host a solar system. But there is a simple way to overcome that barrier that does not involve any kind of government funding or mandate for participation—*community solar*.

Instead of putting solar panels on individual rooftops, community solar would allow developers to install solar arrays within a community and let multiple customers subscribe to a portion of the array while receiving a credit on their electricity bill. By participating in community solar, Pennsylvania would provide equal access to the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy, help expand development and investment in solar energy throughout the state, and incentivize cleaner energy in Pennsylvania's generation portfolio. There are over 200 shovel-ready projects in counties across Pennsylvania—which would generate significant tax revenue—waiting on community solar.

But there is a problem: community solar is not currently allowed under Pennsylvania law, unlike the vast majority of states. In the last legislative session, the Pennsylvania General Assembly came close to passing a new, bipartisan bill that would have finally authorized community solar in the state. Special interests helped defeat it, but we anticipate it will be reintroduced early in this new session.

[A recent poll conducted on behalf of the Coalition for Community Solar Access](#) shows that nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvanians, regardless of political party, support community solar. In addition to benefiting farmers and small businesses, community solar

would be a boon to Philadelphians who rent their homes or whose housing is unsuitable to host a solar array.

Taking aggressive steps to combat climate change will require a diverse range of policies, including those designed to increase access to affordable clean energy. Community solar is a simple, commonsense step in the right direction, and one Philadelphians should support.

Pennsylvania has always been an energy leader, often with harmful consequences to the environment. The United States' oil and gas sector can trace its roots back here, and coal has played a significant part in Pennsylvania's industrial history. With the rise of fracked-gas production over the past 12 years, our state's capacity for fossil-fuel extraction has taken a new direction. Today, Pennsylvania is the second-largest gas producer in the country and remains the third-largest coal producer.

At the same time, we collectively face an urgent need to move away from fossil fuels, not just in Pennsylvania but around the world. We're past the point of warning signs and dire projections. Scientists and public officials worldwide are calling for drastic action to reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions in the coming decades, with meaningful action needed immediately to afford us more time.

Carbon emissions persist in our atmosphere for decades, and human activity has already baked in at least one degree of warming. In 2019, Pennsylvania's then-Auditor General, Eugene DePasquale, reported that the economic and environmental impacts of climate change are already being felt in Pennsylvania through extreme flooding events and infrastructure damage, incurring at least \$261 million in climate-related costs in 2018 alone. It's clear—our current path is unsustainable.

Joseph Otis Minott, Esq. is Executive Director and Chief Counsel of Clean Air Council. <https://cleanair.org/>

Our Greene Countrie Towne

CCRA Thanks Donors to Clean, Safe, and Green Appeal

CCRA wishes to thank all those who donated to our sidewalk cleaning appeal this winter. Because of your support, we have exceeded our goal, and two generous donors will match each contribution of over \$100, increasing the fundraising total by \$10,000. Our final result was \$22,805. A special thanks to our "Green Star Donors," who contributed \$200 or more.

Also, we want to send a big CONGRATULATIONS to James Harrison for winning the trip to the Ongava Game Reserve in Namibia, Africa.

Town Square

CCRA Announces High-Rise Membership Program

By Michele Ettinger and Rick Gross

CCRA has recently rolled out a brand-new membership opportunity for residents in high-rise buildings in the CCRA neighborhood. We are offering a deeply discounted membership rate for people living in buildings whose residents join in bulk. These memberships provide many of the same benefits as an individual-level membership, such as merchant discounts, the ability to serve on the Board of Directors, CCRA weekly e-newsletters and the *Center City Quarterly*. This partnership is facilitated by the buildings' property management group, board of directors, or building manager. As of this writing, we are pleased that The Murano, William Penn House, and Penn Center have agreed to participate in the program!

Since the inception of CCRA in 1947, the vast majority of members hailed from low-rise residential neighborhoods. As we move into the next decade, it has become clear that issues of importance to residents are cropping up in high-rise neighborhoods as well. Large-scale development projects on Market, Chestnut, and Sansom Streets, such as The Laurel, and Harper I & II, are prime examples of buildings that are impacting their neighbors. Crime, panhandling, homelessness, and congestion are visibly increasing in high-rise neighborhoods as well.

We hope this initiative will provide our existing 1000+ membership base a broader and more diverse voice in Center City West, which will strengthen our ability to leverage

change when advocating with local, state and federal officials, police, developers, and other businesses. CCRA also seeks to achieve a balance of high-rise residents of all incomes and diverse demographics from a broad range of buildings when they join our organization.

We will continue to be forceful advocates for exciting urban living, reduced crime and increased safety, clean streets and neighborhood diversity. We will also maintain our presence on a variety of platforms as a neighborhood resource hub, even more important as we battle through the COVID crisis and begin the path to recovery in Philadelphia.

Please join us. We look forward to strong and lasting relationships with all our members, and welcome high-rise residents under the new program.

For more information, have your building's Board of Directors or Property Management Group contact CCRA Manager Travis Oliver at 215-546-6719 or centercity@centercityresidents.org

Rick Gross is Executive VP of CCRA, and Michele Ettinger is Membership Chair.

CCRA—the people-powered voice for a better community

Out & About

Philadelphians: Expect More Visitors in 2021

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Conde Nast Traveler's editors named Philadelphia one of their eight favorite places to visit in 2021 in "The Best Destinations in the World: The Gold List." Writer Betsy Blumenthal says:

"There's really something special about Philadelphia, about the way it doesn't care for pretense or about what anyone else thinks of it.

"One place I return to both in daydream and reality is Fairmount Park, behind the famed art museum, and the miles-long pathway that traces a circle around that part of the Schuylkill River. I think about the Italian Market and its small world of vendors, about the mosaics glinting in the sun, the digestible chaos of Chinatown, the essential, if flawed, sense of American history, the beautiful, dilapidated row houses that speak to the promise of equality we haven't yet reached as a country. Spiritually, it's my city."

The other seven places on *Conde Nast Traveler's* list are Washington, DC; Kauai, Hawaii; Rome; Waiheke Island, NZ; Peru; St. Barts; and Amalfi Coast, Italy.

The Barnes Rises to the Challenge in the Time of COVID

By Richard Vaughn

There's no place that hasn't been jolted sideways by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the beloved Barnes Foundation Museum is certainly no exception. The jolt it received was substantial. How substantial? And how did it respond?

The *Center City Quarterly* caught up with Will Cary, Chief of Business Strategy and Analytics at the Barnes, who shared his thoughts on Museum life during the pandemic.

CCQ: Can you describe what it was like when word came down that the Barnes had to close?

WILL CARY: Once we received word that closure was recommended, everything happened rather quickly, and I think it is fair to say that we were all experiencing some degree of collective shock—together with our colleagues at cultural institutions along the Parkway and throughout the city and state. The shutdown was tough, and certainly longer than we initially expected.

All hands on deck?

We had an incredible level of teamwork on every front, with colleagues from every department playing a role. I helped lead our reopening working group, which met on a weekly basis and included members from every department throughout the institution. Though it was a lot of work, the collaboration across the organization was truly impressive as we were all united in our efforts to provide a level of safety and comfort that would allow visitors to fully enjoy the Barnes collection, exhibitions, and our education programs.

How quickly did you pivot to a reopen, and what did that involve?

Only a few weeks after our closure, we began planning for reopening. We had to completely rethink our daily operations, including ticketing and building capacity, staff and visitor safety, and communications and marketing.

And then, of course, you had to shut down *again*. Ouch.

It was discouraging to close our doors in November at a moment when we would usually be preparing to welcome even more

visitors for the holiday season. But we take our civic responsibility very seriously and support the efforts of our governmental leaders and medical professionals in reducing the spread of the virus.

And then the re-reopening...

We were deeply thankful to ring in the New Year by welcoming visitors back to the Barnes on January 8. Our first weekend back open, we welcomed nearly 1,000 people, which we were thrilled to see.

Once you reopened, what was the response from visitors and members?

They tell us they've been craving direct access to art, and that our building capacity limits—which have been introduced as a safety measure to facilitate social distancing—make the experience feel particularly private and special.

What about the public-health issues related to reopening?

We were fortunate to have the help of several public-health professionals at Thomas Jefferson University to ensure our plans aligned with the best practices and knowledge available. We have confidence in the health and safety measures we introduced when we first reopened in July 2020, and ensuring the well-being of our staff and visitors remains our utmost priority.

What's different at the Barnes now?

We have accelerated our expansion of digital offerings to continue serving our educational mission even while our doors were closed.

We launched a new YouTube video series called Barnes Takeout, featuring short, five- to ten-minute-long videos, in which our educators and curators offer off-the-cuff musings about favorite works in our collection. We have had more than 400,000 views of these videos to date.

In March, we transitioned our adult education classes from

Continued on p.7



Courtesy of the Barnes Foundation



Courtesy of the Barnes Foundation

New technologies have enabled contactless purchases and enhanced "signage" for describing individual artworks.

Continued from p.6

in-person to online with great success. From April to December 2020, we hosted over 2,600 students from 39 states and six countries in more than 46 new classes. Ten percent of those students received full scholarships. We are now offering five to six new online classes per month.

Additionally, for Pre-K through 8th-grade students, we also launched a program called “Barnes Art Adventures,” featuring free interactive classes exploring the Barnes collection, which can be livestreamed directly to a classroom, computer, or smart device. In 2020 we reached over 7,500 schoolchildren and teachers through the program.

Closing thoughts?

Despite the continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cultural sector is resilient, and people value cultural experiences—perhaps now more than ever before. We know that the Barnes, and our fellow cultural institutions, will play a key role in Philadelphia’s ultimate recovery.

We are grateful to our visitors, members, and supporters from Philadelphia and beyond, and we look forward to continuing to welcome the community for safe and rejuvenating visits to the Barnes throughout the year.

In March, the Barnes presents the world premiere exhibition Soutine/de Kooning: Conversations in Paint, organized with the Musée de l’Orangerie, Paris, exploring the artistic affinities between Lithuanian artist Chaim Soutine (1893–1943) and Dutch-American abstract expressionist Willem de Kooning (1904–1997). On view in the Roberts Gallery March 7 – August 8, the exhibition considers how Soutine’s paintings, with their built-up surfaces and energetic brushwork, served the art of de Kooning and helped shape his groundbreaking figurative/abstract works in the late 1940s and beyond.

<https://www.barnesfoundation.org/whats-on/exhibition/soutine-de-kooning>

It’s Academic

Parent Education at Greene Towne Focuses on Social Justice

By Nicole Leapheart, Director of Communications and Marketing, GTMS

The Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging committee of Greene Towne Montessori School’s Parent Association recently hosted Wanjiku F.M. Njoroge, MD, for a talk about parenting and social justice as part of the school’s Parent Education Series. She discussed child development and how children pick up on the cues we may not realize we are giving, such as during overheard conversations.

Dr. Njoroge emphasizes open communication, saying, “At times, parents may be woefully underestimating the information to which children are being exposed.”

The workshop provided a wealth of real-world examples of what implicit bias or microaggressions look like, how children may have outside influences, and how to start age-appropriate discussions about the observations children have when they encounter something new or someone different from themselves. This is also a good time for parents to reflect on themselves, their own views, and the origin of these views. Most important is to have frank and honest conversations, and ask open-ended questions such as, “Why do you think that?” or “How do you feel about that?”

Dr. Njoroge tailored the discussion based on a survey sent out to families, who shared specifically what topics interested them, a valuable tool in this process. Dr. Njoroge also discussed resources available to parents. She encouraged reading books with diverse characters, and recommended, among many articles, “Talking to Your Kids About Race,” published by CHOP. Greene Towne looks forward to having Dr. Njoroge return for another Parent Education Workshop.

Wanjiku F.M. Njoroge, MD, is a psychiatrist and Program Director of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Children’s Hospital of 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. To learn more, visit www.gtms.org.



Toddler students make dough for the classroom.

WANTED NOW: Board Candidates

CCRA is looking to fill several Board seats for our fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. Board members generally serve a term of three years. The Board is a working Board. We are seeking CCRA members with a passion for living in “CCRAville”; an interest in issues of quality of life and community service; and a commitment to active Board participation. Successful candidates must serve on at least one committee and agree to fulfill the responsibilities set forth in our Board Pledge, which includes devoting at least four hours per month to CCRA activities, in addition to preparing and for attending monthly Board meetings. See www.centercityresidents.org for full Pledge and committee list (click “About CCRA” tab on Toolbar).

Interested members are encouraged to forward a résumé or statement of interest with a summary of qualifications by **Friday, March 19** to centercity@centercityresidents.org, with “Board Candidate” in the subject line. (We also welcome your suggestion of any individuals residing in CCRAville whom you believe would be assets to the Board. Be sure to include their email address and/or phone number.)

CCRA Thanks You

CCRA would like to thank all our members this past year. Plus, a big Thank You to our Legend, Angel, and Patron Members.

Legends (\$1000)

Stephen & Susan Huntington
Charles & Maie Robin
Richard Speizman & Faith Horowitz

Angels (\$500)

Ryan Cardone
Matthew Schreck & Kristine Philips
Christopher Spay
Jeffrey Zeelander & Maureen Welsh

Patrons (\$200)

Guy Aiman
Wade Albert
Richard Aplenc
Betty Ballin
Sylvia Beck & Jay Federman
Jill & Sheldon Bonovitz
Jeffrey Braff & Hope Comisky
Jo Buyske & Marc Kaman
Alan Cohen
Richard Cohen
David & Nancy Colman
Donna Cordner & Brent Groce
Daniel Coyle
Jason & Angela Duckworth
Avi Eden & Emmy Miller Cooke
Louis & Nina Eni
Thomas & Nancy Eshelman
Michele & Joel Ettinger
Gilbert Feinberg & Nadine Van Tuyle
Peter & Lilly Ferry
S. David Fineman & Joy Sardinsky
Elliot & Marian Fisher
Adrienne Frangakis & Marc Redeman
Diane & Fred Frankel
David & Donna Gerson

Nancy Gilboy & Philip Harvey
Sue Goldstein & Jon Curtis
Robert Gonnella
Margaret Harris & Phil Straus
Adrienne & Eric Hart
Nancy & Ben Heinzen
Lynn & Eric Henson
David & Gail Hofstein
Richard Kagan & Marianna Simpson
Leah Kaplan & Jon Smollen
Jacqueline & Eric Kraeutler
Frederick Kroon
Frederick & Elena Kyle
Robert & Randi Lane
Dorothea Leicher & Howard Peer
Kenneth & Anne Luongo
Sally MacKenzie
Patricia & Scot Malay
Alan & Ricki Mandeloff
Arthur & Kathleen Miller
Edward Montgomery
Mary Mullins & Michael Granato
Maggie Mund & Gordon Henderson
Virginia Nalencz
Bonnie & Eliot Nierman

Harvey & Lisa Ostroff
Roberta Pichini
Carl Primavera
Paul Rathblott & Carol Saline
Dinah & Stephen Richman
Nan Robinson
Dan & Barbara Rottenberg
Richard & Patricia Rucker
Ellen Ryan & Randy Mason
Betsy & Vincent Salandria
Howard Scher
Mary Ellen & Carl Schneider
Ann Seelaus
Steven & Barbara Shapiro
Tom Sherman & Nancy Middlebrook
Madeline Sherry & Frank Devine
Barry & Ruth L. Slepian
Donald & Hether Smith
Oscar Soldano
James & Nancy Steele
Donna & Joseph Strug
Michelle Tagliatela
Dane & Joan Wells
M. Michael Zuckerman & Jan Levin

Being a Library Worker During a Pandemic

By Erin Hoopes, Philadelphia City Institute Library

Not long ago, I was at our library's front door providing material-pickup service, and a patron told me to "stay warm." It made my eyes well with tears. The moment passed quickly, but I thought about it later, and wondered what about that moment made me so emotional? Being a library worker during a global pandemic has been hard. Most of us thrive on our interactions with people. We are service-minded and community-oriented. Seeing our community struggling, not being able to interact in our normal way with our patrons, has been devastating.

When we returned to our buildings after a few months of working from home at the start of the pandemic, we were overjoyed to see you at our front door. To see familiar faces, to exchange greetings, to be grateful you were safe. It brought us so much joy. And it still does. But as the months wore on, we were also forced to confront more realities exacerbated by the pandemic. Our little staff of five, about a third of our pre-pandemic level, was working hard, but it didn't seem to be enough. Pressure began mounting for libraries to allow patrons back in our buildings, and we felt that pressure acutely.

We know the value libraries bring to our society as a whole, and to our community in particular. But a reality that the pandemic has forced us to confront is that without library workers our libraries are just buildings filled with books and computers. The true value libraries bring is the service we library workers provide. And honestly? Years of austerity budgets mean that our staffing levels were desperately low before the pandemic, and now our numbers are decimated. Library workers are service-minded, sometimes to a fault. We serve and serve and serve and forget that we are human.

The reason I nearly cried at a simple thoughtful comment was that I realized in that moment that you, kind patron, saw me as human. And when I thought about it more, I realized I've been forgetting to see myself that way. The reasons we forget to see ourselves as human are many and varied. But I believe they're rooted in the fact that we're always asked to do more with less, and that we're told our services are valuable, but not our lives.

It's complicated to learn to advocate for library workers when we've always been too worried about serving others to care for ourselves. But if we don't learn now, who will be left to provide library services when this public health crisis finally ends? Library workers in Philadelphia have faced strong pressure to reopen to the public, as a new strain of Covid-19 appears in Pennsylvania, and as cases are spiking after the winter holidays. We have proposed safely increasing crucial services such as computer access, by providing technology to our most vulnerable patrons and setting up outdoor tech access centers, but our proposals have been ignored.

We are scared. We are tired. We are working in small, poorly ventilated buildings, and even though we are diligent about wearing masks, it's impossible for us to maintain social distance all the time. We travel on SEPTA to get to work. We live with increased risk due to our jobs. And we want you to know that every time we have to politely reason with someone who won't keep their mask over their nose, every time we are berated for how long it's taking a reserved book to arrive, every time we are scolded for preventing someone from browsing our stacks, our anxiety spikes. And when we are asked, only half-jokingly, if we're enjoying our vacation without patrons in the library, we die a little inside. We want to serve, but we also want to live, and we want our families to stay healthy, and we desperately don't want public libraries to become places that further the spread of COVID-19.

We know you value our libraries. We hear it when you, a high school senior, tell us you made it to graduation because of us. We see it when a kindergartner, who hid behind her mother's legs during every library visit for three years, overcomes her shyness to tell us about a book she's read and now, because she can't tell us in person, sends us a list of all the books she loves. We feel it when we pick out a bagful of books for you, an isolated senior, and you tell us how the library is the only thing keeping you going right now. We know it when you thank us for our service, when you tell us how excited you are to get library books again, when you share how much it means to see our faces.

Now we're asking you to value library workers as human beings. Please call the Office of Children and Families and say it's not time for libraries to let people back into our buildings. Call the Mayor's Office and City Council and say you want our libraries to be vibrant for years to come, which means rejecting the austerity of the past decade and investing in library workers. Speak out for us, the library workers who provide the services you value so dearly.



Dining Scene

1930 Chestnut Street

Dim Sum House by Jane G's

By Leo Levinson—*The Center City Foodie*

By the time you read this, your New Year's Resolutions are probably auld lang syne. But not mine. You see, I've been social-distancing from my resolutions, but it's time to take the mask off and face them. One of my resolutions is to go on a real diet and not the see-food kind (i.e., see-food and eat it). I have a time-honored pre-diet tradition, where I celebrate the night before with a Chinese banquet, which is my polite way of saying gorging on Chinese food.

My go-to place for Chinese food is Dim Sum House by Jane G's. True, in Philadelphia we have an excellent Chinatown, but in my opinion one of the best Chinese restaurants is not there, but happily, in our own neighborhood at 20th and Chestnut.

I enjoy Jane G's anytime. And lately, in coping with Philadelphia's onerous restaurant shutdowns, Chinese cuisine is one that travels well as takeout.

My top four reasons why Dim Sum House beats Chinatown:

- 1) they offer classic Peking duck within walking distance, with its delightfully crispy skin; fragrant, tender meat; sweet and tangy plum sauce and scallion strips, all tucked away in pillowy steamed fold-over buns. They even sell it by the half-duck. No matter what else I'm ordering, I get at least a half-duck every time.
- 2) they offer an enormous dim sum selection (even chicken's feet!), right in our neighborhood, all day and evenings too.
- 3) martinis – nothing goes with Chinese food like a chilled martini, yet most restaurants in Chinatown lack a full bar with a professional bar staff. The Dim Sum House team can shake or stir with the best.
- 4) decor – forget formica tables, Dim Sum House feels relaxing, like a real restaurant, if you know what I mean.

One can make a meal from an assortment of dim sum, or just enjoy some as an appetizer. I find their selection quite interesting and diverse. For example, they have four types of soup dumplings – be careful, they're hot! I enjoy the crystal shrimp dumplings with their clean, delicate appearance and flavor. I also like the pork shu mai here, as they seem to be larger compared to other restaurants' offerings. One of my favorites is the banana-leaf-wrapped sticky rice, chock full of pork, chicken, and beef morsels.

Vegetable fans will find tasty dishes like sesame soy Brussels sprouts and vegetable dumplings; my favorite is the turnip cakes, crispy and creamy at the same time. And yes, I have eaten their chicken feet – not for everyone, but very authentic with a delicious, aromatic sauce.

But Dim Sum House isn't only about dim sum. Thanks to their chefs, who come to Philadelphia directly from a number of

Chinese provinces, their fare is exceptional for its authentic flavors and spicing. Try unusual dishes like the exotic sweet and sour whole fish, steamy hot pot, five-spice pork belly, and boiling hot sauce fish filet, and you'll feel like you're on a trip to China. However, even the not-so-adventuresome diner will find something to enjoy at Dim Sum House. Mainstay dishes, like Kung Pao Beef, General Tso's Chicken, and though not Chinese, Pad Thai, are among the standouts.

Of course, as good as Dim Sum House takeout is, I'm glad they and other restaurants are returning to indoor service, starting with reduced capacity. After all, it's hard to beat the in-restaurant experience of getting that frosty martini just as your Chinese food is served.

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 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



The Rosenbach Reopens to the Public with New “Manjiro” Exhibition

By Rosa Doherty

The Rosenbach museum and library reopened to the public on January 21 with timed tickets and safety measures in place. Visitors can take a socially distanced guided tour of The Rosenbach’s historic house and library, along with self-guided access to the new exhibition *Manjiro: Drifting, 1841–2020*, and the literary-themed garden that reopened last fall after more than 20 years of being closed.

Details of the visitor experience include

- A socially-distanced guided tour of the Rosenbach brothers’ 19th century townhouse to explore the founders’ [collection](#) of rare books, manuscripts, furniture, decorative arts, and more, along with newer acquisitions. Highlights of the collection include holdings from James Joyce, Bram Stoker, Lewis Carroll, Phillis Wheatley, Joseph Conrad, Charles Dickens, Cervantes, George Washington, and many others.
- New exhibition, [Manjiro: Drifting, 1841–2020](#). This epic tale begins in 1841, when, as a teenager, Manjiro leaves his tiny Japanese village on a fishing trip. A violent storm leaves him shipwrecked and sets the course that would lead Manjiro to become the first Japanese person to live in the United States. Highlights include Manjiro’s own illustrated manuscript depicting his world travels, rare letters between Manjiro and the captain who rescued him at sea, and much more.
- The Rosenbach’s [garden](#), open to the public again after more than 20 years. The garden is a 1,600-square-foot green oasis tucked behind The Rosenbach’s Delancey

Street townhouses. Carefully renovated last summer, the garden is now filled with plants and flowers specially selected to connect with works of literature in The Rosenbach’s collections.

Learn more about visiting The Rosenbach, along with a full set of safety rules and regulations at rosenbach.org/visit. Additionally, The Rosenbach will continue to offer a diverse series of virtual programs, courses, tours, exhibitions, and much more available at rosenbach.org/events.

The Rosenbach is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. To ensure safe capacity in the building, each 90-minute timeslot accommodates up to four ticket-holders per group, and only one group is admitted into the museum at a time. Visitors are strongly encouraged to pre-register for timed tickets [with this link](#), by calling 215-732-1600, or emailing rsvp@rosenbach.org.

The Rosenbach has implemented rules and restrictions to keep visitors and staff safe. All visitors above the age of 2, and all museum staff, are required to wear masks that cover the mouth and nose at all times. In addition, sanitizing stations are available throughout the museum and shared spaces, which are sanitized after each group’s departure. Find a full list of policies and procedures at rosenbach.org/visit.

The Rosenbach is located in Center City Philadelphia and is open to the public, with growing content available at all times on [Rosenbach.org](https://rosenbach.org). The Rosenbach is affiliated with the Free Library of Philadelphia.



Nakahama Manjiro depicted this scene in Boston Harbor, 1852. He set sail around the world to hunt whales and learn from and about the diverse people he met in his travels.



Manjiro’s 10-year journey began with the wreck of a tiny fishing vessel and ended with his return to Japan aboard a small, refurbished whaling boat he named The Adventurer. This model was presented by Manjiro’s hometown, Tosashimizu, to its sister city of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, where he lived with the whale-ship captain who rescued him. (Courtesy Fairhaven, Mass., Board of Selectmen.)

POWER for Good: Organizational Clout and Moral Persuasion in our Interfaith Coalition

By Hugh Taft-Morales

Clergy Leader Hugh Taft-Morales explains why the Philadelphia Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square is a member of POWER, a dynamic, non-partisan interfaith coalition that will turn 10 years old this September.

In the spring of 2011, more than 150 lay and clergy leaders began a dialogue about the systemic issues that plague Philadelphia and particularly harm economically disadvantaged residents and people of color. In order to address these problems more effectively, 2000 people held a “founding convention” on September 25, 2011. One of the largest grassroots civic gatherings in years, it birthed *Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild* (POWER).

POWER Interfaith, as it is now called, creates opportunities for collective action to transform our city—and now state—so that it serves all its residents. While the Philadelphia Ethical Society (<https://phillyethics.org/>) could easily have focused simply on nurturing its home for humanists at its comfortable location on Rittenhouse Square, the members yearned to support efforts to empower the most marginalized populations in our region. So, we joined POWER and dove into five key areas: education, civic engagement, climate justice, economic dignity, and criminal-justice reform.

POWER Interfaith congregations in Center City with which the Ethical Society had the most active connections included Arch Street Methodist, Arch Street Friends Meeting, Broad Street Ministry, First Unitarian, Mother Bethel AME, Old First Reformed UCC, St. Peter’s Episcopal, and Congregation Leyv Ha-Ir, which shares our space for services. By reaching across denominational lines, the Ethical Society honored our own commitment to “deed before creed” and enjoyed a sense of effective engagement.



Mayor Kenney signs the **21st Century Living Wage** and **Fair Work Week** legislation, courtesy of the Office of Councilmember Helen Gym. Kate Esposito (in yellow scarf) next to Gym. Rev. Greg Holston, POWER’s then-executive, stands to the mayor’s left.

POWER has made a real difference to this city due primarily to two factors: **constituent numbers** and **moral persuasion**. Regarding numbers, with over 40 congregations dedicated to showing up for justice, POWER has registered voters, organized rallies, and filled committee rooms to pressure elected officials to hear constituent voices too often shut out of policy decisions. I remember Rabbi Julie of Leyv Ha-Ir blowing a shofar at our state capitol to emphasize that POWER meant business, and three POWER trips to Harrisburg when joyous singing in the halls of our legislature left me hoarse but fulfilled.

Few members of the Ethical Society have been so engaged in POWER’s justice work as Kate Esposito. Working with POWER’s Economic Dignity Team, Kate recounts a recent victory for low-wage workers with passage of the **21st Century Living Wage** legislation: “With Councilmember Mark Squilla as chief sponsor, we negotiated with Administration officials, lobbied councilmembers and counted City Council votes until a bill was passed and then signed by Mayor Kenney on December 20, 2018, the same day he signed the **Fair Work Week** legislation, sponsored by Councilmember Helen Gym. Since then, there have been gradual yearly increases in minimum wage for all municipal workers and city contract and sub-contract workers. Starting on July 1, 2023, they will be making a minimum \$15-an-hour wage with guaranteed yearly COLA increases. This was a lead issue for Mayor Kenney in his re-election campaign. But it was POWER that pushed the bill onto his desk.”

While POWER is non-partisan regarding candidates and political parties, its progressive perspective and dedication to equity and justice fuel the second reason for its success: *moral persuasion*. Of course, it’s hard to measure how ethical appeals affect each political player, but the moral clarity of our appeals inspired and motivated me personally to act.

I was privileged to speak to a crowd gathered under the Harrisburg dome, where I said our “commitment to the worth of every person is why I am at the Ethical Society, and why I am here today. Our state budget, and the political priorities that drive it, *do not* treat every child as unique, irreplaceable and sacred. Year after year of deficit budgets are harming our children—it’s fiscal child neglect. This is simply unethical.”

Ethical Society member Sylvia Metzler has been working with *Live Free*, POWER’s criminal-justice reform team, for years. She spoke at POWER’s Rally for Police Accountability at Arch Street Methodist Church, in December 2019. District Attorney Larry Krasner has worked with POWER leaders to stamp out racism and humanize our criminal justice system.

Whether you are a member of a POWER congregation or not, consider supporting POWER’s work financially or by spreading the word about its moral agenda—visit <https://powerinterfaith.org/>. The pandemic has only increased economic inequality and deepened wounds caused by racism. To be truly a city of sisterly and brotherly love, Philadelphia needs the ethical and organizational clout of POWER.

Town Square

Royster Takes Helm of POWER Interfaith

The Board of POWER Interfaith has announced the hiring of Bishop Dwayne Royster as Executive Director of POWER, effective January 1. Bishop Royster takes the helm of POWER Interfaith at a critical time of transition to a statewide organization.

Royster was interim Executive Director for the last year. He was “on loan” from Faith in Action, where he served as their National Political Director. “We are thankful for this arrangement and all FIA’s help,” says the Reverend Michael Caine, POWER Board Co-Chair. “As part of our saying thank you, while Bishop has become our POWER Interfaith Executive Director, we are going to share him with Faith in Action for the first six months or so, so that he can finish up his work for them.

“But he is ours to help lead POWER Interfaith in organizing and empowering Pennsylvania’s working families and fighting for racial justice in the state. After a year of much labor and success, we are thrilled to have the continuity of Bishop Royster’s leadership, and we look forward to continued strides in racial and economic justice in Pennsylvania as we move forward together.”

Royster thanks this community for the opportunity to lead. Now, as he says, “let’s change the damn world!”



Bishop Dwayne Royster, Executive Director of POWER, and Rabbi Julie Greenberg of Congregation Leyv Ha-Ir didn't let a pandemic stop them from their voter-registration efforts this fall!



HEALTH, HOME, AND LIFESTYLE SERVICES

Helping you to maintain
your independence.

Providing you with peace of mind.

One convenient number to
call for all your service needs.

Exclusively for FitC members

Email: info@friendscentercity.org

Call: 267-639-5257



Riverfront is a community of
friends living cooperatively in an
intergenerational building.

Members reside in their own spacious
condominiums, and share in private community
spaces, where they enjoy weekly dinners,
discussions, exercise, and entertainment.

To learn more about availability or the
Priority Wait List, contact us at
info@friendscentercity.org
or call **267-639-5257**

Friends Center City – Riverfront
22 S. Front St. Phila., PA 19106
www.friendscentercity.org

Former Graphic Designer Finds New Meaning as a Healthcare Chaplain

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Day and night, family members gather outside Penn Presbyterian Medical Center's Emergency Department, crying and clamoring for information about the condition of a victim of gun violence who was just admitted. Not knowing if the victim is alive or dead, loved ones must wait outside because they are not allowed inside the hospital during COVID-19 restrictions. Linda Joy Goldner, a healthcare chaplain on staff, meets outside with these distraught families to give them current information, to try to provide some comfort, and to offer to pray with them. She also encourages them to return home, telling any who phone for information to remain at home and assuring them that she and the trauma physicians will keep them updated as their loved one's evaluation is completed and a plan of care is developed.

Gun violence and the COVID-19 pandemic together create a lethal combination, and Goldner's job is difficult. Still, Goldner says, "I find meaning in helping people when they fear the worst, when I can provide them with hope—when realistic—through the remarkable skill of the PPMC's trauma team working on saving their loved ones' lives."

In November, Penn Medicine commemorated Linda Joy Goldner's dedication with special recognition during Penn Medicine Xperience Week. The award states, "In that moment, she is the only connection they have to the patient and she is profoundly committed to the importance of that job."

Goldner also serves part time with Penn Medicine Hospice, providing spiritual and emotional support to homebound patients and families of all backgrounds and beliefs. She is known for her ability to connect with people across a broad range of cultural, socio-economic, and religious backgrounds. She helps to provide emotional support through traditional or personalized prayers, deep and reflective conversations, and explorations of meaning—even with non-believers—at a time when the end of life is approaching.

"I have been told," Goldner says, "I have a talent for connecting with patients and their families, providing them with comfort through compassion and creativity."

About her two jobs, Goldner says, "I like the combination of the trauma center and the home hospice because together they represent the most profound and mysterious aspects of existence—life and death. That is, being present when everything possible is being done to save a life and being present when everything possible is being done to ease the mind and the spirit as a life is drawing to its end."

Prior to becoming a chaplain, Goldner was a communications consultant and graphic designer serving many Philadelphia clients. After many years of experience at several Philadelphia

advertising agencies, she started her own firm, Goldner Communications Design. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design from the Rhode Island School of Design.

While she pursued her communications and design career, she worked as a volunteer Pastoral Visitor (lay chaplain) at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, a job that inspired her to switch careers. "My experience as a volunteer led me to want to become a chaplain," Goldner explains, "because of the satisfaction of providing this service to others in need of support when confronted with challenges to their health and well-being."

Becoming a chaplain took several years of study at the University of Pennsylvania, Gratz College, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where she earned a Master of Arts in Jewish Studies. She served one internship unit and three residency units in pastoral care, and was a part-time chaplain at several other hospices before joining Penn Medicine in 2017. Linda Joy Goldner has lived in Center City Philadelphia for 45 years.



Linda Joy Goldner

Our Greene Countrie Towne

How to Get a Street Tree Planted

By Susan Kahn

Not surprisingly, appreciation for street trees has become more widespread as our canopy has significantly diminished. Our urban forest offers health, environmental, economic, social, and psychological benefits. More trees mean lower energy costs, less air pollution and higher property values. Yet, over the past 10 years, Philadelphia's canopy has declined by six percent overall, and Center City West's by nine percent.

[This interactive map](#) provides a block-by-block snapshot of the change. The overall canopy of Philadelphia stands currently at 20 percent—well below the 30 percent considered ideal. Happily, many neighbors are asking how to plant a street tree in front of their property. There are three ways.

First, the city plants free trees through Parks and Recreation's Street Tree Department. The application is available [here](#). The city subcontracts the work to certified arborists who plant balled and burlapped trees that are relatively large (at least two and a half inches in diameter). However, the wait time from application to planting is as long as two years.

Second, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society also plants free street trees through the Tree Tender program. Trained Tree Tender volunteers plant smaller, bare-root trees (approximately one and a half inches in diameter) in the spring and fall. The wait between application and planting is shorter than the city's—between five to 11 months. The PHS application can be found [here](#).

Finally, to avoid the wait time, property owners may plant a street tree at their own expense. All street trees must be planted by a certified arborist with a permit obtained from Parks and Recreation. Call 215-685-4363 for more information. The tree species must be from the [approved street tree list](#). Parks and Recreation also requires that trees planted by certified arborists be balled and burlapped, and be at least two and a half inches in caliper. This requirement can increase the cost by several hundred dollars over a container-grown tree.

If enough neighbors take advantage of these options, the decline of our neighborhood and citywide canopy will be reversed. Moreover, Center City, a neighborhood with streets named for trees, will live up to its leafy reputation.



Friends of Schuylkill River Park Tree Tenders plant a street tree on the 1600 block of Spruce Street.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Center City West Tree Stroll

By Susan Kahn

Center City West is a veritable arboretum of exceptional street trees. With the weather warming and leaves beginning to bud, now is a perfect time to get outside to learn about some notable specimens. Here is a self-guided tour of 13 trees, all within a one-mile radius. The [guide](#) sends visitors into little-explored side streets and alleys to discover these hidden treasures. It not only includes information and folklore about the species but also highlights sites ranging from cramped to expansive, from ordinary to creative. Feedback is encouraged! Email fsrorg@gmail.com with comments and suggestions for a follow-up Center City West tree stroll.

Will People Dine Outdoors Below 40 Degrees?

Text and Photos by Bill West

The answer is yes.

Shortly before the Inauguration I took a walk and had another look at the outdoor dining rooms near Rittenhouse Square and around 13th Street. Actually, I took several walks. Things have definitely evolved.

Tria, right, was firing on all cylinders around sundown on a Saturday. Note that people are using the shelter and also the sidewalk, where there are high-top tables in the open air, back next to the building.

And then we have Rouge, below, which seems to have transplanted its outdoor space from a ski lodge somewhere. The firepits, the faux sheepskins on the chair backs, the crossed skis on the posts supporting the roof of the tent all contribute to the alpine atmosphere. (Note that the far wall of the tent, nearest the moving cars, has been opened, with sheets of clear plastic gathered up like drapes in a living room.)

Continued on p.17



Continued from p.16

The Love, below, is also up and running, with a white-painted structure that communicates a light, airy feel. Like the two above, it's on 18th Street, near Rittenhouse Square.



Mercato (below), on Spruce at Camac (just east of 13th), has gone with plastic igloos. I'm a little surprised we're not seeing more of these.



Let's go over to 13th Street and its environs. The structure below is on Juniper Street (just west of 13th).



This is El Vez, below, on 13th Street. Finally, people really will eat outdoors, without a roof, in January.



See also [Philly Plein Air](#), [Winter Shelters in Rittenhouse](#).



My impression is that Philadelphia's outdoor dining rooms can barrel right through the kind of cold winter air we've been seeing in recent years. Snow, on the other hand, does seem to slow things down. Photo on the left is Sansom St. Oyster House. Photo on the right is Parc.



2900 Grays Ferry Avenue
daybreakeggs.com



LONG SHOT
BBQ

215.925.8520
2900 Grays Ferry Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19146
longshotbbq.com



Rittenhouse: 1511 Locust Street
Logan Square: 1801 JFK Boulevard
misconducttavern.com



231 S 24th Street
ambrosiabyob.com





— Advertise your Business in our Center City Quarterly

Center City Quarterly

Online Advertiser Form

Your ad in the CCRA Newsletter will reach residents who live, shop and work in Center City Philadelphia. You will communicate directly with people about their community. The *Center City Quarterly* is published four times per year — September, December, March and June.

Please Note: Newsletter Pages Are 8 ½” x 11”		Non-Member Rate		CCRA Member Rate	
Size	Dimension	Four Issues	One Issue	Four Issues	One Issue
Full Page	8”w x 10.5”h	\$1,140.00	\$380.00	\$1,080.00	\$360.00
½ Page (horizontal)	8”w x 5”h	\$ 660.00	\$220.00	\$ 600.00	\$200.00
½ Page (vertical)	3.75”w x 10.5”h	\$ 660.00	\$220.00	\$ 600.00	\$200.00
¼ Page (vertical)	3.75”w x 5”h	\$ 360.00	\$120.00	\$ 300.00	\$100.00

For Current Advertisers Only: I would like to use our previous ad
 I would like to change our previous ad

Issues: Projected Ad Deadlines Subject to Change with Notification

September: August 15
December: November 15
March: February 15
June: May 15

To place an ad, please complete the order form below and mail to *Center City Residents’ Association, 1900 Market St., 8th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103*, along with your check. **To pay by credit card, please contact Travis Oliver at 215-546-6719.**

Electronically submit to centercity@centercityresidents.org your ad in .jpg or .pdf format.

- Full page
- Half page (horizontal)
- Half page (vertical)
- 1/4 page (vertical only)
- One issue
- Four issues
- Member Rate
- Non-Member Rate

Contact Name and Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

MILES TABLE
philadelphia

NOW SERVING
BRUNCH

**CATERING
& EVENTS**

MILESTABLE.COM



PARKING SPOT NEEDED.

Preferably South side of Square.

Will share a driveway,
leave keys if necessary.
Ability to add Tesla outlet a plus.

\$300-500 month

Contact: rlondon@guesswho.com

D'Angelo's
Ristorante Italiano & Lounge

256 South 20th Street
dangeloristorante.com





CORK

THE WINE SHOP AT

COOK

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO
POP OPEN A BOTTLE AND
SET THE SCENE FOR A
PERFECT NIGHT AT HOME

253 SOUTH TWENTIETH
AUDREYCLAIRECOOK.COM

Girls' Success on the Field Leads to Success in Life

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Kate T. Parker's *Play Like a Girl: Life Lessons from the Soccer Field* is a beautiful book of photos of girls and women who play soccer; each photo is accompanied by a lesson learned. Players from beginners to professionals tell how soccer informed their lives and contributed to their success.

Most of the photos and quotes are from pre-teens and teens. Cailey, age 11, learned that injuries are not stoppers: "I broke my arm and that same night had practice for my club team. I didn't want to miss it. I won't let a broken arm stop me."

EJ, age 9, learned to think strategically: "Soccer makes me think a few steps ahead. I like that about the game."

Gabi, 11, learned about teamwork: "We win when we work together and are there for each other. I love my soccer girlfriends."

Ten-year-old Nakia learned the importance of persistence: "It's okay to fail. It is never okay to give up."

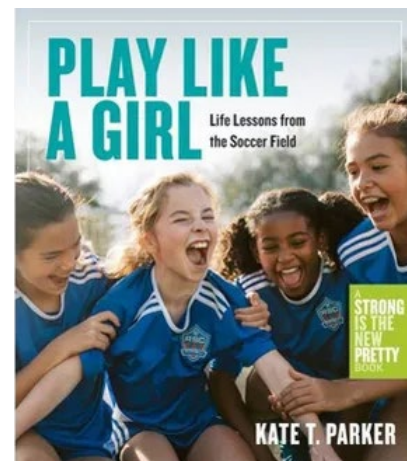
Aline, age 10, learned to be tough: "Soccer has taught me that it's important to overcome your fears and it's okay to be tough when you're a girl."

Three of the professional soccer players offer advice based on their soccer experiences. Abby Smith: "You have to grow and be patient with yourself. When you make a mistake, it's on to the next play."

Carson Picket: "Never let anyone turn your sky into a ceiling."

Kristen Edmonds: "Control the controllables. As long as you have done all you can do and given all you have, you can be happy about your contribution."

This book is a great gift for a young girl as an inspiration to succeed, as a celebration of female strength, and as a demonstration of the importance of working and playing as a team. Kate T. Parker is a photographer, author of a best-selling book series *Strong Is the New Pretty*, collegiate soccer player, Ironman competitor, philanthropist, wife, and mother.



Out & About

The Great Outdoors Parks, Gardens, Arboreta, and Walking Tours

With the warming weather, now is the perfect time to shake off the snow and cold of winter and the sense of suffocation brought on by stay-at-home COVID rules and neighborhood routines. We've compiled a list of some great nearby and not-so-near outdoor excursions to offer a much-needed change of scenery and to help you refresh and recharge.

30 Best Parks in Philadelphia:

www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/best-parks-in-philadelphia/

America's Garden Capital: 30+ Gardens in 30 Miles: Search by region, interest or type; find the ones that are open: <http://americasgardencapital.org/gardens-regions>

Area Gardens and Arboreta:

[Awbury Arboretum](#)

[Bartram's Garden](#)

[Shofuso Japanese House & Garden](#)

[The Gardens at Mill Fleurs](#)

[James G. Kaskey Memorial Park](#)

[The Philadelphia Zoo](#)

[The Woodlands](#)

Self-guided walking tours:

GPSMyCity: <https://www.gpsmycity.com/gps-tour-guides/philadelphia-600.html>

Constitution Walking Tour: <https://www.theconstitutional.com/tours/self-guided-tours>

Mural Arts: <https://www.muralarts.org/self-guided/>

Preservation Alliance: <http://www.preservationalliance.com/explore-philadelphia/self-guided-walking-tours/>

Association for Public Art: <https://www.associationforpublicart.org/tours/>

John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/john_heinz/

Pennsylvania State Parks: Find a park by region

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/Pages/default.aspx>

What's Going On

CCRA Spring Calendar—Coming Back to Life

Application Deadline:

CCRA Board Candidates

Friday, March 19

centercity@centercityresidents.org

Subaru Cherry Blossom Viewing

Virtual Ohanami

Shofuso opens for visitation March 20

Cherry Blossom 10K and 5K Race, Virtual, Saturday April 10 to Sunday, April 18

<https://japanphilly.org/programs/festivals/subaru-cherry-blossom-festival/>

Dining Out for Life

Thursday, April 29

DINE IN. Proceeds benefit

AIDS/HIV organizations

<https://www.actionwellness.org/join-us/special-events/dining-out-for-life/>

Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair

Rittenhouse Square

Friday, May 7, 11 am – 7 pm

Saturday, May 8, 11 am – 7 pm

Sunday, May 9, 11 am – 6 pm

<https://www.pacrafts.org/fine-craft-fairs/fine-craft-fair-spring-rittenhouse-square>

Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta

Schuylkill River

Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8

www.dadvail.org

Art in the Open (AiO)

Artists creating art outside in *plein-air*

Sponsored by The Center for Emerging

Visual Artists (CFEVA) and Fairmount

Water Works

Schuylkill Banks

Friday, May 14 to Sunday, May 16

Bethesda Project Party & Auction to Combat Homelessness

Thursday, May 20, 6 pm (virtual)

RSVP 2021party.givesmart.com

Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

Friday, June 4, 11 am – 7 pm

Saturday, June 5, 11 am – 7 pm

Sunday, June 6, 11 am – 6 pm

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

Odunde Festival

2300 South Street (15 city blocks)

Sunday, June 13

<https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/events/odunde-festival/>

Rosenbacchanal 2021:

A Celebration to Support Bloomsday in the The Rosenbach Garden

Siren's Garden Party

Tuesday, June 1, 6 – 8 pm

Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and

performance by double bassist Xavier

Foley, a Laureate of Astral Artists

Rosenbacchanal Young Friends Party

Tuesday, June 8, 6 – 8 pm

The Young Friends debuts in a garden

cocktail party, raffle, and special up-

close viewing of the *Ulysses* manuscript,

exclusively for rare-book enthusiasts

under 40.

Rosenbacchanal Dinner and World

Premiere of Bloomsday Documentary

Wednesday, June 16, 6 – 9 pm

The Rosenbach Garden hosts its

first seated dinner among the flora,

following the world premiere of their

original Bloomsday documentary.

<https://rosenbach.org/rosenbacchanal2021/>

Curtis Institute of Music

Live and online

Free student recitals

1726 Locust Street

<https://www.curtis.edu/performances/calendar/>

To get the latest news about events in Center City, sign up for (IN) Center City, the e-newsletter of the Center City

District: <http://www.centercityphila.org/incentercity/signup.php>

The following annual events have been postponed/canceled or have not announced scheduling for 2021; consult websites listed for updates:

Philadelphia Science Festival

Science Carnival on the Parkway

<https://www.fi.edu/psf>

Blue Cross Broad Street Run

POSTPONED TO FALL

<https://www.broadstreerun.com/>

Fitler Square Spring Fair

<http://www.fitlersquare.org/spring-fair-2/>

Rittenhouse Row Spring Festival

Love Your Park Week

<https://loveyourpark.org/>

Friends of Rittenhouse Square events

Little Friends Festival

Ball on the Square

Young Friends Soiree on the Square

<http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/home/>

CCCulture

Many Philadelphia Museums Now Open Again to Visitors

Many museums are now open. Check each museum's website for open days and hours, and virtual programs.

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
Mütter 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

The Museum of the American Revolution's special exhibition **When Women Lost the Vote: A Revolutionary Story, 1776-1807** is on view through April 25. It explores the little-known history of the women and people of color who first voted in New Jersey in the decades following the Revolutionary War and examines the political conflicts that led to their voting rights being stripped away in 1807. Video available free online.



Center City Residents' Association

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, March 19

Deadline for CCRA Board Candidates' Application

TBA – watch eNews for more information

CCRA Town Hall on Life after Vaccination (March)

CCRA Annual Meeting (May)

Town Square

Party with Bethesda Project to Combat Homelessness

By Sarah Carter

Make a difference for thousands of people experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia, with a virtual celebration—from the comfort of your couch! The 24th Annual Party & Auction on Thursday, May 20, 2021 will stream virtually into the homes of supporters locally and across the nation.

The strength and commitment of Bethesda Project's community of support helped raise over \$150,000 at the 2020 Party & Auction despite the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, they hope to raise \$200,000 to fund Bethesda Project's work providing emergency shelter, permanent housing, and supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. Attendees are invited to make or order in their favorite meal, dress up in sweatpants or a ball gown, and tune into to the live fundraising event at 6pm on May 20. To RSVP, visit 2021party.givesmart.com.

More ways to help the cause are sponsoring the event or providing an item for the silent auction. Anticipated popular items for 2021 will include services (landscaping, photography, home improvement, etc.); themed baskets such as "At-Home Movie Night," "Cooking for Two," or "Self-Care"; memorabilia; or even home fitness equipment and virtual fitness memberships. Also anticipated are such popular experiences as virtual beer tastings with brewers, private online cooking classes with chefs, or online meet-and-greets. Additional ideas are welcome, offering opportunities to connect individuals to your business. For more information, please visit 2021party.givesmart.com or email scarter@bethesdaproject.org.

