



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 14 No. 2 Summer 2023

Contents

It's Academic

TPS Celebrates 50 Years.....1
Greene Towne's City Classroom17

President's Letter

Emerging Stronger from the Struggle.....3

CCCulture

Art-Reach: Another Gem4
Minerva P. Nichols, First Solo Woman Architect18
Koresh Dance on the Road23

CCStreetwise

Come for the Sights,
Stay for the Walkable City5

To Your Health

Community Green Grants.....8
Penn Medicine's Listening Lab14
Death Doulas and End-of-Life Care22

Center City Spotlight

Photographer George Dimitruk.....9

Town Square

Meet Newly Elected CCRA Directors10
Channel Climate Anxiety into Action11
CCD/CPDC Report on Center City13
Home-Visit Program to Reduce Gun Violence.....21
City Receives State, Federal Grants
to Address Gun Violence.....21
CCRA Planning Under-40 Group.....23
CCRA Holds 76th Annual Meeting.....30

Living History

Vauxhall Garden Amusement Park12
Looking Back on Legionnaires' Disease13

City Lit

Rosenbach's Bloomsday
Celebration Returns14
Summer of Wonder at PCI19

Out & About

Dog Days of Summer15
Voices from Penn's Village.....20

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Lights Out Philly Prevents Bird Deaths.....16
How To Help Migrating Birds16
Helpful Gardening Hacks.....24

The Drawing Room

Cartoon by Richard Vaughn.....25

What's Going On

CCRA Summer Calendar.....29

CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

It's Academic

The Philadelphia School Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Elise Greenberg



The Philadelphia School is 50 this year.

The Philadelphia School (TPS) is an urban, progressive school in the Fitter Square neighborhood that educates students from all over the city. Serving children in preK through 8th grade, TPS is a leader and wholehearted champion for the progressive principles of education on which the school was founded 50 years ago.

As the founders intended, Philadelphia is more than a location; it is an extension of the classrooms, a topic of study, and an inspiration for civic engagement. Students learn through service projects, time spent in our city's green spaces, and connecting classroom studies to the world around them. Throughout the year, students visit outdoor "classrooms" at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, the Wissahickon, Bartram's Garden, and more. Museum visits include the Penn Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Two strongly held progressive values are social justice and citizenship. TPS students are active and engaged citizens, working to dismantle prejudice and advocate for themselves and their neighbors. TPS strives to create a culture of service, partnering with organizations around the city to bring about change. This year, they partnered with Philabundance for a food drive, the Bethesda Project for the MLK Day of Service, and Drexel University.

Continued on p.2

This year, TPS celebrates their 50th anniversary. Founders Cal Simon and the late Lynne Berman, former longtime principal Sandy Dean, many board members, and longtime faculty have been deeply ingrained in the Center City community. TPS has spent this year honoring their contributions, the school's roots, and looking ahead to what the next 50 years holds for their students.

Celebrating 50 Years: School Theme

In September, the eighth graders revealed the all-school theme, "From Roots to Branches," kicking off a year full of guided learning, questions, projects, and activities to dive deeper into the school theme. In the fall, students learned all about trees, eventually creating and designing their own tree that served as the centerpiece at their Thanksgiving Feast table.

In the winter, students made connections with "the roots" of TPS, and sat with their classes for an exciting game of TPS history trivia! Questions ranged from how the outdoor education program began to which teacher has been with TPS the longest.

In January several alumni, as well as past and present faculty and staff, attended school in person and virtually to help students understand the history of the school. Each of the school's 23 family circles (a vertical grouping of lower and middle school students) was assigned two or three years of TPS history to research and come up with questions for the alumni historians. After interviewing the alums, students created posters of their findings, creating a visual timeline of the school's development, which were on display at our May 5th spring celebration.

Lastly, this spring students are diving deep into environmental stewardship, learning more about how we care for the earth.

A Year of Celebrations

In its 50th year, TPS has hosted a number of events to bring the community together. Over 700 people attended the Fall Family Festival. Alumni from across the years joined together at the Alumni Thanksgiving Feast in November, and over 300 families came out for MLK Day of Service. TPS partnered with The Bethesda Project, The Sunday Love Project, Woman Against Abuse, and Sara's Smile Foundation to serve the city and build a culture of giving for students and families alike. In April, the school hosted an Earth Day Celebration in Schuylkill River Park, bringing students, families, and the neighborhood together for a fun and educational day!

What's Next for TPS?

This has been a year full of celebrating the school's past, their founders, and all those who have made TPS the extraordinary place it is today. This summer TPS will break ground on their Lombard building renovations.

By the time students return in the fall, the schoolyard will feature a more dynamic play and communal space, with more changes in the works. Through the generosity of donors, TPS is excited to see the Ours to Shape strategic plan come to life over the next few years. To learn more about The Philadelphia School, visit www.tpschool.org.



Courtesy of The Philadelphia School

Eighth graders participating in their service project to help prepare meals.



Courtesy of The Philadelphia School

Eighth graders introduce the all-school theme, "From Roots to Branches," in the fall.



Courtesy of The Philadelphia School

TPS Founders Lynne Berman, left, and Cal Simon at the TPS 25th Anniversary.

CCRA Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Rick GrossPresident
 Rick SpeizmanExec. VP/Treasurer
 Michele EttingerVP/Chair, Membership
 Barbara HalpernVP, Community Relations
 Charles RobinVP/Chair, Remapping Cmte.
 David RoseVice President
 Richard VaughnVP/Chair, Communications
 Susan KahnSecretary, Tree Tender Leader
 Nathaniel ParksAssistant Secretary
 Matthew FontanaAssistant Treasurer

DIRECTORS (term ending)

Judith Axler (2024)	Leo Levinson (2025)
Elena Cappella (2023)	Wayne Macfadden (2023)
Michael Coleman (2025)	Harvey Ostroff (2023)
Jim Duffin (2024)	Nan Robinson (2024)
Kate Federico (2025)	Gina Shapiro (2024)
Gil Feinberg (2025)	Benjamin Weinraub (2023)
Jared Gluskin (2024)	Bill West (2025)
Ceerie Goldberg (2024)	Irena Wight (2023)
Lawrence Goldberg (2024)	Jasmine Williams (2023)
William Goldstein (2025)	Ben Zuckerman (2023)
Richard Huffman (2025)	

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Travis W. Oliver

COUNSEL

Wade Albert

ZONING CO-CHAIRS

Veronica Aplenc
 Rebecca Frisch

PAST PRESIDENTS, Active

Maggie Mund, Chair, Justice Equity Diversity
 Inclusion
 Jeffrey Braff, Chair, Nominating Committee
 Wade Albert
 Matthew Fontana
 Charles Goodwin

PAST PRESIDENTS

Louis Coffey	Francis Hoerber
Kristen Davidson	George Brodie*
Lenore Millhollen*	Lolly LaGreca*
Stephen Huntington	Vivian Seltzer*
William J.D. Jordan	Arthur Klein*
Samuel Weinberg	Ed Halpern*
Eugene Dichter	Constance Gillespie*
Pamela Thistle	*deceased
Adam Schneider	

CENTER CITY QUARTERLY

Nancy ColmanEDITOR
 Bonnie EisenfeldCONTRIBUTING EDITOR
 Bill WestPRODUCTION EDITOR

Cover Photo Credits: (1) George Dimitruk Photography,
 Courtesy of Jody Dimitruk, (2) Bonnie Eisenfeld,
 (3) Margie Wiener, (4) Margie Wiener

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 Letter

Emerging Stronger from the Struggle

By Rick Gross, CCRA President

By the time you read this, I will have completed nearly all of my two-year term as president. The time has flown by. The Nominating Committee of CCRA asked me to serve another term and the Board elected me, together with a terrific Executive Committee, for two more years starting July 1. Before the first term expires and the next one starts, it's appropriate to take stock of where we have been over the last two years.

In July of 2021, we were still struggling through the pandemic. We met by Zoom, we scheduled and cancelled events every time a new variant emerged, and we (mostly) all wore masks everywhere in public. The streets were quiet, some restaurants put up "streeteries," and many others closed. Vacant retail space spread like a virus throughout Center City; office workers were largely absent. It wasn't a fun time.



CCRA dedicated itself to ensuring that our residents and visitors felt safe in this eerie new normal. Our communications team filled *CCRA This Week* with useful information on COVID resources, updated operating hours for businesses, and advice for surviving the pandemic. Our members exercised great care in their personal behavior, leading to few, if any, losses among our CCRA community.

But we refused to stay locked down forever. Our Green program flourished with the adoption of the Tree Tenders program, caring for existing trees and planting more wherever possible. The Schuylkill River Community Garden formalized its relationship with CCRA and continued to flourish—fresh vegetables and working outdoors being a great antidote. And they persevered through a 100-year flood, which reached deep into the neighborhood.

In response to the George Floyd tragedy and protests, we pursued our JEDI agenda with a series of thoughtful online sessions, curated by the Ethical Society's Hugh Taft-Morales. Those in attendance learned much and took away more to think about.

We established a robust relationship with the Police Department, from the Commissioner to our new Captain and Community Relations Officer, to stay on top of disorderly street behavior and crime in a more deserted environment. We surveyed our members on streeteries and Portland Loos, and you made your views known to the city's political leadership.

And our membership grew dramatically.

The Spring of 2022 brought our 75th Anniversary Gala, which was a success far more than I had imagined. We celebrated together (mostly maskless but safely, fortunately) and produced a video history of our first 75 years, our current environment, and our plans for the future. And we celebrated our Center City Citizen of the Decade, the irrepressible Yannick Nézet-Séguin, in a night to remember. I guess we learned to party over the past three-quarters of a century, and we did ourselves proud!

Slowly over the past year, with the pandemic receding, a light at the end of a long tunnel has started to appear. Restaurants are returning in force; office workers are returning in fits and starts; Rittenhouse Square, with its new lawns, is populated with people from all over, eager to rediscover and enjoy the oasis in our midst. There is a palpable sense of rebirth in the air, fueled by hopeful data on crime and safety in Center City West, an approaching change in

Continued on p.4

political leadership, and the feeling that we can restore the vitality we had—and then lost (but only for a while).

I firmly believe that CCRA is a central part of this rebirth. We will continue our Green programs; we are expanding our attention to a cleaner environment in both the high-rise and low-rise neighborhoods; we are sharpening and expanding our JEDI focus and our attention to historic preservation; and we remain vigilant about street safety and firmly establishing and maintaining a sense of civic order.

And in a field in which I take particular pride, we have engaged with the developers of seven new projects over the past two years, producing Community Benefits Agreements ensuring that large new projects harmonize with the neighborhood, cause minimal disruption during construction, utilize a significant and measurable number of minority and women-owned contractors, provide workforce and moderate-income housing, and result in buildings that enhance and expand our community while respecting our historic environment. Many of you have told me personally how much these efforts mean to you. I agree... they do make a difference!

The Executive Committee, whose last term began with mine, has been superb and hard-working: Our EVP and Treasurer Rick Speizman, Secretary and Green Initiative Chair Susan Kahn, Vice-presidents Michele Ettinger (Membership), Richard Vaughn (Communications), David Rose (Major Development),

Charles Robin (Zoning), Barbara Halpern (Community Relations), and Matt Fontana (Government Relations) have devoted countless hours to our mission. I am deeply grateful to them and to our hardworking Zoning Committee, which sets the gold standard for the city.

Our Managing Director, Travis Oliver, makes it possible for me to lead CCRA to whatever success we have. I also acknowledge and applaud the hard work by the editors and authors of this publication...it has never looked and felt so good. Finally, our Board is more involved and hard-working than ever, and we are adding younger and diverse members so that our future is in good hands. To all of you, my thanks.

When I took office in July 2021, I asked you to let me know how we're doing—both positive and negative—and I would reply to everyone who reached out. I have kept that commitment, both to the complimentary comments, and the not-so-complimentary ones. I repeat that same pledge. You can reach me at president@phillyccra.org. If you take the time to email me, I will respond. Together we can focus on the health and vibrancy of a neighborhood and city we cherish and call home.

I look forward to two more active years at the helm.

Best wishes,

Rick Gross

CCCulture

Art-Reach: Another Hidden Gem on Greater Philadelphia's Cultural Scene

By Margie Wiener

"I'm disabled and would love to go to the ballet, theater, symphony, museums, and so many other cultural venues. But it's so hard to get around and I can't afford these exorbitant prices. What can I do?" Well, Art-Reach might just be the solution for you!

Founded in 1986, originally to enable disabled children to attend live music/dance performances, Art-Reach has expanded to provide access to the arts across the life spectrum. Art-Reach's largest program is called Art-Reach ACCESS, which provides \$2 admission to more than 70 sites in the Greater Philadelphia area for disabled and/or disadvantaged adults and children. These sites include museums, gardens, performance and live-arts venues such as music/dance settings, theaters, and other cultural attractions. For just \$2 per ticket, you can bring up to three guests.

Today, to be eligible for an Art-Reach ACCESS Card, applicants must identify as having a disability. As the website states, "Art-Reach removes the financial barrier to arts engagement for the disability community and people with low income."

Art-Reach recommends checking the website of each participating organization for any late changes or updates to their information regarding Art-Reach access.

Here are key links:

- How to [apply for a card](#)
- List of [sites](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [About](#)
- [Fundors and supporters](#)

Art-Reach was born out of a mutual desire to boost attendance at performing arts spaces and to increase arts accessibility for people with disabilities. Art-Reach set out to make unfulfilled tickets available to people who might never have the opportunity to go to a play, dance performance, or museum. A wide gap existed between the disability community and the cultural engagement sector. Art-Reach was founded to bridge this gap.

Executive Director John Orr—one of the most enthusiastic people I've ever encountered—has this to say about Art-Reach: "This organization embodies values I hold personally," a conviction evident in everything Art-Reach does.

If you have any questions, please contact info@art-reach.org.

Come for the Sights, Stay for the Walkable City

Text and photos by Bill West



Monumental vs. intimate: Love Park at left. Moravian at 20th on right.

Center City Philadelphia comes in two pieces. First is the monumental city that draws office workers, shoppers, suburbanites looking for a decent restaurant, museum lovers, and general-purpose tourists. The monumental city is surrounded by another, more intimate city. This largely low-rise area flings a necklace of neighborhoods around the often very tall buildings in the downtown core.



High-rise, One Liberty Place, in the background; low-rise residential in the foreground.

People who live in the inner parts of this necklace can walk 15 minutes to a job in a monumental office tower—a commute that is inconceivable in many American cities. Thanks to the proliferation of bike lanes, people who live a bit further out in the necklace can readily commute by bicycle to work in the core.



A damp day on Addison Street.

Whose Streets? Our Streets!

Odd things happen in this doughnut of neighborhoods. People walk down the middle of the street. They walk their dogs down the middle of the street—again, something that is simply inconceivable in most of America.

In 2012, Jeff Speck came out with a book called *Walkable City*, in which he suggested that a good walking street is useful, safe, comfortable, and interesting for pedestrians. I think he would like this stretch of Addison Street.

And I think it's time to raise the bar. We need not just a walkable city, but a walking city. Like, you know, putting the farmer's market in the middle of the street instead of up on the sidewalk.



Farmer's market, 18th at Walnut.

Continued on p.6

Although this farmer's market, in Rittenhouse Square, does do just fine when it's pushed back on the sidewalk.



On the Walnut sidewalk.

And things do get pushed back a lot in Philadelphia. Is it two steps forward and one step back, or one step forward, and two steps back? I'm often unsure. I do know that almost all of our political class views the city through a windshield.

But pedestrians and their allies, such as bicyclists and restaurateurs, have shown themselves to be a tenacious lot, and they're ingenious about inserting little pieces of civilization where they can.



Spruce at 11th.

This cafe, above, with its sidewalk tables, is a favorite of mine. It's also an emotional place for me. Just to the right of this picture is the spot where, on the morning of November 28, 2017, [Emily Fredricks](#) was riding a bicycle to work when she was run down and killed by the driver of a garbage truck. There's still a memorial ghost bike on the other side of 11th Street.

Despite political malpractice on a truly gargantuan scale, cycling has become an integral part of the life of the city. Even people who hate bicyclists benefit from this development, because bikes are one way we are slowly civilizing our streets.

Below we have a picture of a bicyclist using the streetwall as a theatrical backdrop. There's a quiet intimacy in this photograph that I find attractive—can we say peaceful?



1500 block of Pine.

Speaking of peaceful, how about sitting on your stoop (below) and reading a book on a warm sunny day, with a little help from a nearby shade tree?



S. Carlisle Street from Waverly.

I can't resist one more. Let's hear it for the contribution that shade trees can make to the mood on a street.



24th and Naudain, dappled with shade.

Color

In 1908, Philadelphian S. Weir Mitchell came out with a novel titled *The Red City*, which was a historical romance set in Philadelphia immediately after the American Revolution. The moniker has stuck because, even today, we do have a lot of red buildings.

There is a risk of stereotype, however. I've written before about the surprising variety of color available in the neighborhoods of Center City. (See: [Which Side Are You On?](#)) Here's a relatively recent addition, mixing black, white, and red very nicely.



Interesting colors at 20th and Locust.

I wrote a whole story about the [2400 block of Cypress](#) back in 2017. I felt moved to go back and take a new picture. These façades had all been a uniform white, somewhat grayish from age. The homeowners banded together and came up with—I think—a better idea. And one that is aging very well.

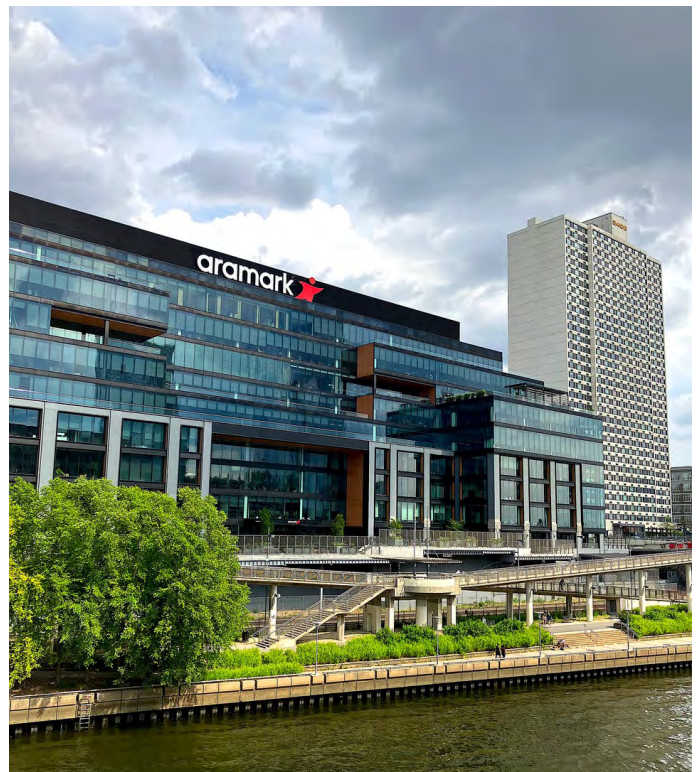


Mediterranean colors on Cypress Street.

Clouds and Corridors

Rittenhouse Square has recently had quite a few hawk [sightings](#). Generally, the hawks hang out in the trees, but I'm reliably informed that they will occasionally come down and perch on the back of an unoccupied bench. This is just one more reminder that, despite superficial appearances, Mother Nature is never very far away in Center City Philadelphia.

This is particularly true of the sky. The built environment may block the last stages of a sunset, but if you can find the right places, there are often symphonies playing out above us. The Schuylkill River provides an open corridor that can be quite entertaining on a cloudy day.



Clouds over the Aramark building on the Schuylkill.

Let's go back to the area around City Hall and have a look at Dilworth Park, which abuts the west front of City Hall. With some clouds, of course, and Vincent Kling's Municipal Services Building.



Dilworth Park, an urban oasis.



Clouds paint the sky over the FMC tower.

And let's close with a man-made view corridor, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, with the LOVE statue in the foreground and a hint of the Art Museum in the distance. Although I confess I was more interested in the unusual cloud formation when I was taking the picture.



Love to Art on the B.F. Parkway.

To Your Health

Research Leads to Community Green Grants for Enhanced Health and Safety

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Penn Medicine, Children's Hospital, and Penn Urban Health Lab have created the Deeply Rooted Collaborative, which will distribute [Community Green Grants](#) to fund projects that green over 1000 vacant lots, plant more than 1000 trees, and build mini-parks designed by Philadelphia communities.

Research has shown that increasing greenspace in neighborhoods, planting trees, and cleaning vacant lots reduces crime, improves heart health, and reduces depression.

The first round of grants awarded \$51,000 to 22 community leaders and organizations, selected from more than 40 applicants, by a panel of community partners.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society serves as the lead strategic greenspace implementation partner.

A Tribute to Late Photographer George Dimitruk

By Margie Wiener

After chancing upon George Dimitruk’s photography book, *My Philadelphia*, on the coffee table in my Center City high-rise lobby, I was impressed and intrigued by how he captured the spirit of our neighborhood with his artistic eye. I learned that George had passed away in 2016. After our staff connected me with his widow, real-estate agent Jody Dimitruk, she generously gifted me with his book and agreed to an interview.

The book’s Introduction by Jody’s sister, Jill Montaigne, states: “When many are thinking about retiring ...George found his pulse. He unleashed a ferocious talent for seeing beyond the ordinary... George saw things that most of us missed. We saw trees, he saw shapes and shadows. We saw bridges, he saw composition. We saw ordinary streets; he saw artistic canvases. He saw Philadelphia, the city he came to love, with a swain’s passion. Everywhere he looked he saw beauty and he captured that beauty through timeless photographs.”

Jody Dimitruk explained that his passion for photography “began on a trip to Paris we had taken when he turned 60. I looked at his photographs from the trip and I looked at mine. I said ‘my photographs are nice, but they look like everyone else’s. Yours look totally different. They look artistic.’

“I told him he should start taking our real-estate photos. On his way up and back to the photo shoots, he started taking photos

of the city. I looked up at his computer and I saw a nighttime picture of Rittenhouse Square. I thought it was the most beautiful night shot of the square that I had ever seen. I told him that I was going to post it on Facebook. The response was incredible and that’s how it all began.”

George Dimitruk photographed Center City West as well as other aspects of our city. When his wife asked him to select his favorites, he simply replied that he loved all of them and that’s why he had taken them. Highlights from other parts of the city are the Mythical Creatures Overlooking Swann Fountain, the Ben Franklin Bridge, Louis I. Kahn Park, and Seger Park Playground.

I concluded the interview by asking Jody Dimitruk what she would want him to be remembered for.

“George didn’t grow up here,” she responded, “but Philadelphia captured his heart. The entire city became his—from the sports teams which he was passionate about to the scenery that surrounded him. He made us all see the city differently. He made us see the beauty that we had taken for granted before. His early morning walks to see the sunrises, the fog on the Ben Franklin Bridge, and his late afternoon shots (‘it’s all about the light’) gave him so much.

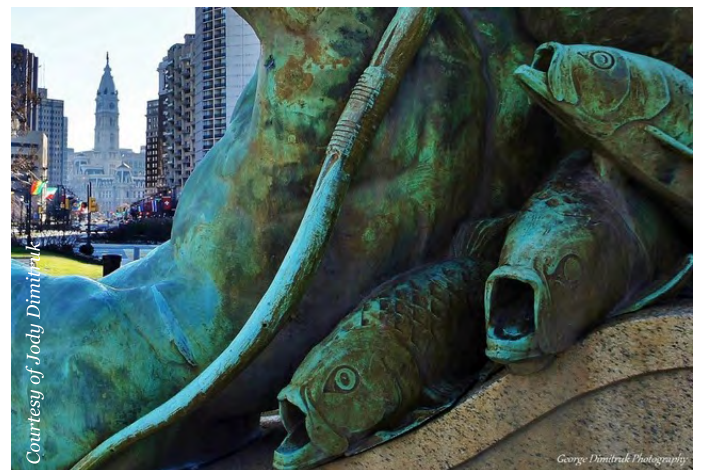
“He had a photography show at the Adrienne Theater,” she continued, “and having his family, friends, and so many other people attend and buy his photographs was like his dream had come true. Our sons were never prouder of him than they were that night. And neither was I. His photography career only lasted six years, but he made his mark, and he left us with his beloved gifts.”

You can view his awe-inspiring video, *The Beauty of George Dimitruk*, which is posted on his [Facebook page](#).

There are limited remaining copies of his book, *My Philadelphia*, which Jody Dimitruk is selling for \$50 on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact her at jody@jodydimitruk.com.



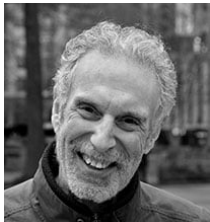
Moon Over City Hall.



Mythical Creatures Overlooking Swann Fountain.

Meet the Newly Elected Directors to the CCRA Board

At the CCRA Annual Meeting on May 11, members voted to elect or reelect eight nominees to serve new terms on the Board of Directors, beginning July 1. Here's a brief introduction to our new Directors.



Jeff Braff (incumbent) – Jeff first became active with CCRA shortly after moving into CCRAville in 1979, becoming Chair of the Streets Committee and a VP in the mid-80s. He then turned his attention to the Friends of Schuylkill River Park (eventually becoming President) and the creation of the original dog park (much smaller than today's), as well as a youth soccer league, for which he was "the Commissioner." In the late 90s, Jeff returned to CCRA as a Director, and served as President from 2011 to 2015. Prior to revisions to CCRA's Bylaws in 2021, Past Presidents were entitled to serve as a Director for life. That privilege is now expiring, and Jeff has chosen to run for election. An avid cyclist, Jeff serves on the Board of the Bicycle Coalition. He and his wife, Hope Comisky, recently moved into a high-rise.

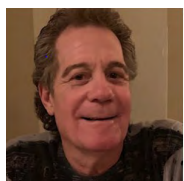


Renée Jones – Born in the U.K., Renée moved to Philadelphia 37 years ago. A former International Marketing Director in London, Paris and Mexico City, Renée was the founder and owner of a successful national advertising agency, Stratus Communications, located at 4th and Market Streets. Renée has long experience working on Boards, including as President of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Women Impacting Policy (Washington, D.C.), the Advisory Board of Temple University's Fox School of Business, and President of the Unitarian Universalist board in St. Augustine, Florida. With her late husband, Tony DeCrosta, Renée has been a consistent supporter of the arts in the Philadelphia region, and now works on marketing and development for nonprofits in Camden, N.J. Committed to supporting the quality of life for Center City residents, she enjoys living at the Rittenhouse Claridge with her King Charles Cavalier, Finnegan.



Michael O'Brien – Michael is a partner in the Philadelphia office of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, a law firm with approximately 350 attorneys in 11 offices nationwide. Michael graduated from Scranton Prep, Georgetown University, and Temple University Law School. His legal practice is focused on representing businesses and

individuals in complex litigation matters before Pennsylvania state and federal courts, and advising for-profit and not-for-profit entities in governance matters. In addition to his civilian practice, Michael served as an officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps from 2007 to 2017. Michael lives in Rittenhouse Square. In his free time, he enjoys golf and tennis at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, running along the Schuylkill River Trail, and spending time with family and friends.



Harvey Ostroff (Incumbent) – A Rittenhouse Square-area resident, Harvey and his wife, Lisa, moved to "the city" three years ago to join their three children and seven grandchildren, and to enjoy the sights of Philly. A builder/developer, Harvey takes pride in creating residential environments by design. He has welcomed the opportunity to assist in preserving and enhancing the area's beauty, vibrancy and energy. Among

his many philanthropic endeavors, Harvey served as president of the Feasterville Rotary Club, was elected Small Business Person of the Year from the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce and the Pennsylvania Small Business Association, and served on the board of the Golden Slipper Club Charities Camp. He can be seen picking up debris in Rittenhouse Square on Sunday mornings, and likes to cook and drink great wine with family and friends.



Irena Wight (Incumbent) – A Rittenhouse Square resident, Irena has lived in Philadelphia for eight years. Irena holds a dual master's degree in architecture and historic preservation from the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, and currently works for Atkin Olshin Schade Architects.

Irena joined CCRA because of her interest in the preservation of historic buildings and ensuring that the Center City neighborhood retains its cultural and pedestrian-friendly character. Irena is honored to have been nominated to serve another term as a Director and is excited to be part of CCRA's mission to encourage responsible development while preserving the neighborhood's historic heritage.



Jasmine Williams (Incumbent) – Jasmine lives, works, and plays in Center City. Originally from the Washington, D.C. area, she moved to Philadelphia in 2014 and has been here ever since. She is an attorney at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, and a real-estate professional who wants to see Philadelphia flourish. She serves on

the CCRA Membership Committee.



Marc Werlinsky – A proud and passionate native Philadelphian, Marc earned a journalism degree from Temple University and worked his way through Widener University School of Law as a newspaper reporter and editor. As a former assistant counsel with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Marc's area of concentration was on vehicle and

traffic-safety law. In addition to being co-author of Pennsylvania Driving Under the Influence (Thomson Reuters), a consultant on vehicle law, arbitrator, lecturer and teacher, Marc is a professional boxing judge and a nationally ranked amateur boxing official. A former *Jeopardy!* contestant and stand-up comedian, Marc resides in CCRAville with his wife, Nancy.



Benjamin Zuckerman (Incumbent) – A Rittenhouse Square-area resident for almost two decades, Ben is a retired trial lawyer who specialized in complex commercial litigation matters. He and his wife relish the energy and variety of life in Center City, and he is eager to help sustain and improve it through his service on CCRA's Board. Over the years he

has been active in a number of nonprofit and cultural organizations, including board service at JEVS Human Services and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Ben is also an accomplished photographer. He currently serves as Secretary to CCRA's Zoning Committee.

Worried about the Climate Crisis? Channel Your Anxiety into Action.

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

If you feel a sense of doom about the future of our planet, you are not alone. According to a [survey](#) by the American Psychological Association, more than two-thirds of Americans experience some climate anxiety.

More than half of Americans have experienced extreme weather events in recent years, and these experiences have made them more pessimistic about the prospect of global warming, according to a [CBS News poll](#) conducted in January.

A [study](#) published by *The Lancet* found that almost 60 percent of children and young adults ages 16 to 25 are very or extremely worried about climate change.

Young people around the world are voicing their concerns. Sweden's Greta Thunberg, now a leader of a global youth movement for climate action, was 11 when she learned in school about the climate crisis. She fell into a deep depression for months. Eventually, she began her activist career, camping out in front of the Swedish Parliament and holding a sign that said "School Strike for Climate." Since then, she has addressed the United Nations, the World Economic Forum at Davos, and the U.S. Congress; met with the Pope; and been named 2019 *Time* Person of the Year.

Now age 20, Thunberg recently published *The Climate Book* (Penguin Press)—400+ pages of short, informative chapters by more than 100 experts worldwide, including climate scientists, ecologists, evolutionary biologists, hydrologists, marine biologists, and other scientists. In addition, engineers, economists, social scientists, political scientists, historians, journalists, reporters, authors, indigenous leaders, activists, and others have contributed. Graphs and charts illustrate key data. Topics include explanations of the problem, how climate change affects us, past actions, and what actions are needed. This book is useful as a reference book, an orientation, a guide, or a gift for the confused, curious, and worried learner, aspiring scientist, or world leader.

Thunberg created Fridays for Future (FFF), a global movement of students striking for climate protections; 7.6 million people in 185 countries have attended FFF climate strikes. To find out what Greta Thunberg's followers are thinking and doing, read posts on Fridays for Future social media, both U.S. and worldwide.

Who are the worst climate culprits? According to [the World Resources Institute](#), "the top three greenhouse gas emitters—China, the United States and India—contribute 42.6% of total emissions, while the bottom 100 countries account for only 2.9%....Since 2015, 196 countries ratified or joined the Paris Climate Agreement, representing more than 96% of global emissions. Additionally, 57 countries—including United States, Japan, Canada, Germany and Mexico—also developed long-term plans to decarbonize their economies."

What can be done to limit disaster? A report issued by U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found the world is not likely to achieve its most ambitious climate target—limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial temperatures—by the early 2030s.

As [reported](#) by the *New York Times*, "There is still one last chance to shift course....it would require industrialized nations to join together immediately to slash greenhouse gases roughly in half by 2030 and then stop adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere altogether by the early 2050s. If those two steps were taken, the world would have about a 50 percent chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius....Delays of even a few years would most likely make that goal unattainable, guaranteeing a hotter, more perilous future."

"The pace and scale of what has been done so far and current plans are insufficient to tackle climate change," said Hoesung Lee, the chair of the climate panel. "We are walking when we should be sprinting."

Policymakers need to know that voters demand action on the climate crisis. The [CBS News poll](#) reported that a majority of Americans want Congress to support efforts to fight global warming, rather than oppose such efforts. Younger Americans, particularly 18 to 29, cite the climate crisis among the top issues they want Congress to focus on. However, for many, climate change ranks below other issues for Congress to address.

The [Washington Post reports](#) that "policy makers have long wrangled with a trilemma: how to achieve security of supply, keep prices low and protect the environment." Renewable energy makes it possible to do all three. Rebranding the problem as "energy security," as Japan did, is one way to achieve support for all three goals.

President Biden's stated goal is "to put the United States on a path to achieve net-zero emissions, economy-wide, by no later than 2050." Climate is Biden's number two [priority](#) after Covid-19, according to the White House website. He has issued an [Executive Order](#) on Climate Crisis and appointed a [team of senior advisors](#) for clean energy and climate.

Environmental groups, both global and national, are monitoring Biden's policies, decisions, and actions, and you will see reports of protests and lawsuits when these groups do not think they are in line with his plan and are leading to worse outcomes for our planet. If you have questions or comments for the Biden Administration, contact the White House [online](#) or [call or write a letter](#).

You can join an email list for action alerts from [EarthJustice](#) and sign petitions about stopping fossil fuel projects.

Channel your anxiety into action.

Center City's Vauxhall Garden Amusement Park

By Margie Wiener

An amusement park in the heart of Center City more than 200 years ago? Really?

Yes, indeed. Named after London's famous pleasure gardens, Vauxhall Garden was founded in 1814 on the city block between Walnut and Sansom (then called George Street) and between Broad and Juniper Streets.

Promoted as the most beautiful summer resort in the U.S., the property was adorned with exquisite trees, flowers, and grveled serpentine walks. It was originally owned by Captain John Dunlap of Revolutionary War fame (who printed the first copies of the Declaration of Independence), and by David Claypoole (of the publishing firm Dunlap & Claypoole, printers of the first copies of the United States Constitution).

Described by visitors as "a little paradise," this marvelous summer amusement garden was lit up with colorful, variegated lamps at night. The Moorish-style pavilion featured a dance hall large enough for balls, making it the most fashionable of all of Philadelphia's pleasure gardens at the time.

Other attractions included large bands often accompanied by vocalists, a vaudeville troupe, fireworks, hot-air balloon ascents—some featuring parachute leaps. Concerts were held several days a week. Admission on days offering music was 50 cents, with 25 cents returned in the form of refreshments.

One notable festival occurred in the summer of 1815: the magnificent Peace Ball to celebrate the end of the War of 1812. This was also an occasion to honor General Jackson's victory at New Orleans during the War of 1812. It was reported that the ballroom was illuminated with 6000 lamps in decorative Italian style. The festival featured a Venetian *ridotto*, a space behind the theaters, much like a foyer, where masked guests would go for refreshments during intermissions.

Astoundingly, on the evening of September 8, 1819, a drunken, angry mob of reportedly 30,000 people surrounded the fenced-in Vauxhall Garden and completely destroyed it by looting and setting it afire. The mob had been incited by a postponement of a scheduled balloon ascent and parachute leap. The balloon was literally torn to shreds. The riot was publicized worldwide.

Only the ruins and some trees that had escaped the mob's fury remained, until 1824, when a new pavilion was erected at the northeast corner of Broad and Walnut Streets called the New Vauxhall Theater. For 14 years, the site served as a summer stage and open space for all sorts of theatrical performances.

At this theater in 1825, the elderly General Marquis de Lafayette was honored with a grand banquet and greeted by 100 little girls all dressed in white.

After the theater was razed in 1838, Scottish millionaire James Dundas erected the famed "Yellow Mansion" at Broad and Walnut Streets. Designed by Thomas Ustick Walter, the mansion was the site of many Philadelphia social events. It had a charming garden along the east side of Broad Street, which incorporated the remains of the old Vauxhall Garden. At the 1898 Peace Jubilee celebrating the end of the Spanish-American War, President McKinley watched troops parade by from a grandstand in the garden.

During the first decade of the 20th century, the Yellow Mansion was demolished, and shops were built on the site. In 1928, the Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Company bought the entire property and constructed a beaux-arts skyscraper, which was later named the Wachovia building. Today, the building is known as the Wells Fargo Building.

A background note about London's Vauxhall Gardens (namesake of Philadelphia's Vauxhall Garden): From the mid-1600s to the mid-1800s, the Vauxhall Gardens were one of the leading venues for public entertainment in London. Consisting of several acres of trees and shrubs with attractive walks, the site was not formally named Vauxhall Gardens until 1785 when it started charging admission for its attractions. The Gardens featured concerts, hot-air balloon ascents, fireworks, and tightrope walkers.



The Dundas-Lippincott Mansion: Commonly known as the "Yellow Mansion," erected in 1837 on the site of Vauxhall Garden. The famous elm shown on the right of the picture was a full-grown tree in 1818. Credit: Places in Time: Historical Documentation of Place in Greater Philadelphia..

Sad Summer: Looking Back on Legionnaires' Disease

By Margie Wiener

In late July 1976, more than 4000 delegates from the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Legion descended upon Philadelphia's Bellevue-Stratford Hotel for their annual convention during the Bicentennial commemoration of the Declaration of Independence. But after returning home, several became sick with high fevers, chest pains, and lung congestion. By August 2, 12 had died.

Initially, doctors suspected that swine flu might be the cause. If so, it was feared that Philadelphia could become the center of an influenza pandemic, similar to the 1918 Spanish flu that had killed 100 million worldwide. In light of this, Pennsylvania state health officials got involved. The state health director considered a quarantine of the city and held daily press conferences to update the public on the progress of the presumed epidemic.

Meanwhile, the number of stricken delegates continued to grow. By August 6, 25 had died, with 112 more hospitalized. Eventually, the case count would reach 34 dead and 221 taken ill.

Curiously, tests for known viruses, bacteria, and fungi that might cause similar symptoms all came back negative. Moreover, the sick did not seem to pass on the illness to those with whom they came into contact. This was no fatal pandemic, but the question remained: What was killing the legionnaires?

To find out, a team of local and state health officials distributed a survey to the 10,000 people—legionnaires and their families—who had attended the meeting. Through computer analysis of their responses, epidemiologists determined that all of the sick had been inside the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel.

It was not until January 1977 that researchers finally pinpointed the source of the legionnaires' pneumonia, coined "Legionnaires' disease." Epidemiologists traced the mystery disease to a newly

discovered bacteria—dubbed legionella after the first recognized outbreak—found in the air conditioning system in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel.

Researchers realized that legionella bacteria thrive in large central air conditioning systems, such as those used by the Bellevue-Stratford. Also, they determined that similar outbreaks could be traced back to 1965 in hospitals and large office buildings (but had escaped detection at those times). Indeed, a similar instance occurred at the very same Bellevue-Stratford Hotel two years earlier, in 1974. Three members died at a convention of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Today, the names of both the disease and the bacteria remain linked to the 1976 outbreak in Philadelphia. A 2002 outbreak of the disease at a nursing home in suburban Horsham, Pennsylvania, killed two residents and sickened seven others. In 2005, two attendees of the Pennsylvania American Legion convention in King of Prussia became ill with Legionnaires', rekindling memories of the 1976 crisis (although both men survived). Since the discovery of the legionella bacteria, doctors have been able to treat the disease with antibiotics.

Another eventual casualty of the 1976 outbreak was the storied Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, long considered to be the premier establishment in the city. Sadly, the Bellevue-Stratford name became "cursed" and never really recovered, leading to a series of different chains taking over. Today, the hotel on South Broad Street is known as the Bellevue, and is operated by Hyatt.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, illness caused by legionella bacteria continues to be detected. About 10,000 cases of Legionnaires' disease were reported in the U.S. in 2018, but because this disease is likely underdiagnosed, this number may understate the true rate of occurrence.

Town Square

CCD/CPDC Report on Progress in Center City

State of Center City 2023

Does Center City Philadelphia have what it needs to recover? This Center City District (CCD)/Central Philadelphia Development Corporation (CPDC) report highlights Philadelphia's signs of recovery and examines the serious challenges that must be addressed.

Pedestrian Vitality: Spring 2023

A new CCD/CPDC report highlights how steady increases in office workers, shoppers, theater- and museumgoers, and visitors helped downtown pedestrian volumes reach 78 percent of February 2019 levels.

Downtown Rebounds: Greater Center City Housing Trends 2023

For two decades, the fastest-growing residential section of Philadelphia has been Greater Center City. In 2022, the downtown rebound was built on decades of success: At just 5.8 percent of the city's land area, Greater Center City accounted for 48 percent of the city's total supply of new housing units.

All three reports available here <https://centercityphila.org/research-reports>.

Bloomsday Is Back **The Rosenbach's Annual Celebration of James Joyce's *Ulysses* Returns**

By Rosa Doherty

Every year, the world celebrates Bloomsday on June 16, the date in 1904 on which James Joyce set his novel *Ulysses*. Nowhere is it celebrated quite like at the Rosenbach, home of Joyce's manuscript. Bloomsday is a daylong public reading held on Delancey Place with musical performances that bring the epic novel to life.

"James Joyce's *Ulysses* has been called the greatest modern novel," says Kelsey Scouten Bates, the Rosenbach's John C. Haas Director, "but it has also inspired scores of writers and readers since its publication in 1922, solidifying its place as one of the most influential novels of all time." Joyce's manuscript has been a part of the Rosenbach's collection since founder Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach purchased it at auction in 1924.

Joyce enthusiasts and novices alike can listen to the reading, enjoy free admission to the Rosenbach to view portions of the *Ulysses* manuscript, and relax in the beer garden with a special Bloomsday brew from our partners at Attic Brewing Company. Bloomsday is FREE and open to the public. Guests can drop by any time between 11 am and 8 pm, Friday, June 16.

In the event of rain, the Bloomsday festival will be moved to Trinity Memorial Church at 22nd and Spruce Streets. To learn more about Bloomsday and to register, visit www.rosenbach.org/bloomsday.

Alongside the Bloomsday festival on June 16, the Rosenbach presents a series of special programs.

- June 4: [Written in My Heart: James Joyce and Irish Authors | Behind The Bookcase Tour](#)
- June 7: [Liberté, Égalité, Bloomsday: A 1920s Parisian Soirée Toasting James Joyce and Sylvia Beach | A Young Friends Event](#)

- June 8: [Written in My Heart: James Joyce and Irish Authors | Behind The Bookcase Tour](#)

- June 9: [Left Bank: The Visionary Women Behind James Joyce and Ulysses Film Screening](#)

- June 14: [In Conversation With Dr. Clare Hutton on "Women and the Making of Ulysses" \(virtual\)](#)

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 and is open to the public, with growing content available at all times on Rosenbach.org. The Rosenbach is affiliated with the Free Library of Philadelphia.

The Bloomsday Festival and programs are supported by sponsors: Sláinte® Irish Whiskey, The Consulate General of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme, Lenore Steiner and Perry Lerner, James Conmy, Alix Gerz and George Matysik, with thanks to the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Rosenbach's formal partner.



Stories for Healing: Penn Medicine's Listening Lab

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

If you are connected to Penn Medicine as a patient, clinician, staffer, or caregiver, you can benefit from the healing power of stories. So far more than 28,000 people from across Penn Medicine and throughout the country have listened to the nearly 50 stories on the site. Listening highlights the human element in medicine.

Created by Aaron Levy, PhD, of the University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences, Penn Medicine's Listening Lab offers the opportunity to tell your story or listen to the stories of others. Levy is a special advisor for health and humanities initiatives in the Patient Experience Leadership Team at Penn Medicine Academy. Learn more about this program and the healing power of stories at <https://pennlisteninglab.org/about>

A New Take on the Dog Days of Summer

Text and photos by Margie Wiener

It's a two-mile walk back and forth from where I live at 15th and Locust through Rittenhouse Square to the Schuylkill River Dog Park. I look forward to visiting my favorite dogs on my journeys. It's particularly peaceful and beautiful strolling during springtime and summer. Here are some of my favorites.



Happy Humphrey.



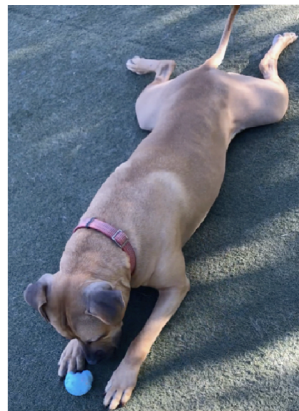
Mashing Malcolm.



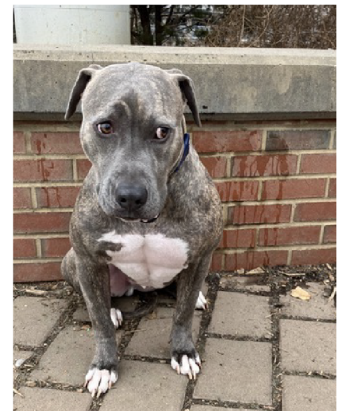
It flew where?



Be my friend?



Leo loving his ball.



Popeye ponders joining the playgroup.



RIP Sweet Ollie.



Splish splash.

Lights Out Philly Prevents Bird Collisions during Migration

By Keith Russell, Program Manager, Urban Conservation, Audubon Mid-Atlantic

Lights Out Philly is a voluntary program that involves turning off and/or blocking as many external and internal building lights as possible at night, from midnight to 6 am, when bird migration is occurring during the spring and fall, to prevent birds from colliding with buildings.

To assess the effectiveness of Lights Out Philly, currently we are looking mainly at one building, where there has been 100 percent light reduction since Lights Out began in 2021; we've seen a 70 percent decrease in the number of bird collisions since 2020.

Where light has been reduced at other buildings, but not as much, collisions have also declined a bit. With only two years of Lights Out data, this result is preliminary. We need more years of data to confirm that this result is really due to Lights Out versus other factors.

In general, buildings participating in Lights Out are not expected to experience a 100 percent reduction in bird collisions if these buildings also experience collisions during the daytime because of glass reflections.



Looking east from a Center City high-rise. Arthaus, near Broad and Spruce, is bird-friendly, but the Atlantic, at 1401 Spruce, is still brightly lit.

Bird Safe Philly volunteers monitor for collisions in two parts of the downtown area during bird migration seasons. In one section that includes a number of buildings participating in Lights Out, we monitor seven days a week, 5:30 to 8:00 am, from March 15 through the end of May and from August 15 through the end of November. The other section, Independence National Historical Park, was monitored this spring from late April through the end of May.

Around 100 buildings currently participate in Lights Out, with more expected to participate this spring. Lights Out is for all buildings, including residential and low-rise buildings, which greatly outnumber high-rise buildings and therefore cause more bird collisions.

Volunteers needed

Identify bird species: Volunteer monitors identify the injured bird species that occur in Philadelphia, and should be available to monitor one day a week downtown throughout the spring and/or fall migration seasons.

Drivers for injured birds: Volunteer drivers transport injured birds found during monitoring to the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education's wildlife rehabilitation clinic in Roxborough. Using their own vehicles, drivers should be available to transport injured birds one day a week between 7 and 8 am during the spring and/or fall migration seasons.

Continued on p.17

How Center City Residents Can Help Migrating Birds

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Birds that migrate at night use the moon and stars to help guide their way. Artificial light confuses, disorients, and exhausts them. From midnight to 6 a.m., Center City residents can help migrating birds by keeping their outside lights off or shielded, inside lights off or dimmed, or windows shaded.

Windows confuse birds by appearing to them as open space or as trees and other foliage reflected in the glass. They attempt to fly into windows, resulting in collisions and deaths. Collisions can happen at both high-rise and low-rise buildings.

You can prevent bird collisions by putting decals, films with dots, strips of translucent tape, UV stickers, streamers, beads, or other decorations on your windows, about two to four inches apart. These items need to be visible to birds and do not need to be visible to humans. <https://www.birdsafephilly.org/>

Amateur photographers and outreach: We need volunteers to take photos of buildings during Lights Out season. And if there are any folks interested in reaching out to individual buildings they live in or have connections with to try to get them to participate in Lights Out, we'd also welcome that kind of assistance.

We would welcome anyone interested in volunteering in any other capacity that may be helpful. To volunteer for Bird Safe Philly, contact me at keith.russell@audubon.org

Bird Safe Philly is a partnership led by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, National Audubon Society, Valley Forge Audubon Society, and Wyncote Audubon Society. The partnership is designed to help protect native birds in the Philadelphia area from a variety of issues that can harm birds in urban areas, especially issues that can cause birds to collide with buildings and other human-made structures. Bird Safe Philly was created in response to a mass collision event that occurred on [October 2, 2020](https://www.birdsafephilly.org/lights-out) in which thousands of migratory birds died after colliding with buildings in Center City Philadelphia. <https://www.birdsafephilly.org/lights-out>

It's Academic

A Return to Form: Greene Towne's City Classroom

By Nicole Leapheart

In February, Greene Towne Montessori School officially opened the doors of their new home at 55 N. 22nd Street, the former home of Science Leadership Academy High School and across the street from Greene Towne's previous home for many years, 2121 Arch Street.

Greene Towne Kindergarten students took their first field trip of the year together in March to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA). In addition, Greene Towne was thrilled to welcome back parent chaperones since the onset of the pandemic, as part of the school's larger program of Kindergarten traditions of exploring the world outside Greene Towne.

PAFA, located on Broad Street and a good walking distance from 22nd and Arch, is a quick jaunt when swept into the excitement and boundless energy of 23 Kindergarten-aged students. PAFA offers many programs for young children, and on this day the Kindergartners took the "Making American Artists: History Connected Through Art" tour. They studied art from different time periods and discussed the storytellers of American art—who they are and how they affect history.

The students were given the opportunity to create their own art as well, using a variety of materials provided by PAFA. "It's always great to have the opportunity to have children exposed to art in person at such a young age," says Art Coordinator Diana Mousetis, who co-chaperoned the trip with Lead Teacher Maggie McCaffrey. "They notice more than you think and they absorb more than we realize. That can be reflected in their own artwork."

This trip was a welcome return to form, demonstrating Greene Towne's commitment to providing an accredited, quality Montessori education for young children in Center City.

Greene Towne serves children 18 months old through third grade and is the only Montessori school in Philadelphia that is accredited by the American Montessori Society. Greene Towne holds a four-star rating through the Pennsylvania STARS program and is accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools. Greene Towne is accepting applications for 2023-2024. Please visit www.gtms.org to learn more.



A proud student with her creation.

Groundbreaking Exhibition on Minerva Parker Nichols, America's First Solo Woman Architect, On View through June 17

By Margie Wiener

The Architectural Archives at the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design has mounted an exhibition on America's first solo woman architect, *Minerva Parker Nichols: The Search for a Forgotten Architect*. On view through Saturday, June 17, the exhibition tells the story of Minerva Parker Nichols (1862-1949), the first woman in the country to practice architecture independently, with an office in Philadelphia and commissions nationwide. Creating an archive in the absence of one, the show reflects more than a decade of research by architectural historian and preservation planner Molly Lester, and recent work by Elizabeth Felicella, who is photographing surviving buildings by Nichols.

On display are items from Nichols' personal papers—architectural drawings, letters, and family photos—along with Felicella's pictures of her surviving buildings. The show begins with the [Philadelphia New Century Club](#), one of America's first women's clubs—and one of Nichols' most famous commissions. Unfortunately, that building was torn down more than 50 years ago.

For Lester, its loss embodies the ways that women in architecture's history have been erased. "Its demolition is a physical manifestation of the forgetting of Minerva," she says.

Throughout her career, Nichols designed [dozens of homes and buildings](#) across the country, though some were never built. One of those was the [Queen Isabella Pavilion](#), which she designed for the [Chicago World's Fair](#) in 1893, modeling her work on [Alhambra Palace](#) in Spain.

Working during the suffrage movement, Nichols had numerous clients who were women. Her commissions included more than 80 projects, including large and small private residences and the New Century Clubs of Philadelphia and Wilmington (the latter designed in the [Colonial Revival](#) style). The opening of her Philadelphia office in 1888 drew the attention of the Philadelphia press, and her death in 1949 merited a headlined obituary in the *New York Times*. Supervising all her own construction, she declared, "I don't mind walking over scaffolding, but I draw the line on ladders."

Despite this legacy, Nichols is rarely included in the story of Philadelphia's built environment or broader historical assessments. Her archival record is even more elusive, as only a handful of her drawings survive, and a large body of her work remains unknown. Of her surviving commissions, most are private residences; one of her residential designs has been converted to a non-profit retreat center, and her only surviving women's club is now a children's theater in Wilmington, Delaware.

And yet, Nichols' legacy extends beyond her own work. Per *Ms.* magazine, she was an early advocate for affordable housing in Philadelphia and New York, and she championed other women in architecture. Lester hopes that the new exhibition will help bring the architect the credit she deserves.

Learn more at www.minervaparkernichols.com.

Now on view at the Harvey & Irwin Kroiz Gallery of the Architectural Archives, 220 South 34th Street, Philadelphia. Tues - Sat, 10 am to 4 pm. Free and open to the public. For more information about the exhibit, contact Michael Grant, University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design at 215.898.2539.

For additional resources (including photos and video), check out:

- Fascinating *Smithsonian Magazine* [article](#) "History Forgot Minerva Parker Nichols"
- What Was Her Style? A YouTube Video: [What Minerva Built](#)



Former women's club in Wilmington, designed by Minerva Parker Nichols, is now used as a children's theatre.
Photo courtesy of Michael Grant, University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design.

Summer of Wonder at Philadelphia City Institute Library

By Erin Hoopes

Everyone is invited to participate in an exciting Summer of Wonder at the Philadelphia City Institute Library at 1905 Locust Street on Rittenhouse Square.

The Summer Reading program is open to community members of all ages, and will run from Monday June 5 through Friday August 11. Children earn stickers and a biweekly prize for reading and participating in literacy activities. Teens and adults fill out raffle tickets for reading, and are entered in prize drawings at the end of summer.

There will be lots of special programs planned for young people. Please contact the library at 215-685-6621 with any questions. Starred programs require pre-registration.

Children's Summer Reading Programs at PCI Library:

- Thursday, June 8 at 4 pm: Insectopia: Meet the Animals (for school-age children)
- Friday, June 9 at 3:30 pm: Summer Reading Kick-Off Party (for all children)
- Thursday, June 15 at 4 pm: Mighty Illustrators* (for school-age children)
- Thursday, June 22 at 4 pm: Ananse and Me (for all children)
- Thursday, June 29 at 4 pm: Pride Jam: Ants on a Log (for all children)
- Thursday, July 6 at 4 pm: Habitat Heroes (for school-age children)
- Thursday, July 13 at 4 pm: Story Quilting with Mama Carla (for all children)
- Thursday, July 20 at 4 pm: Origami for All (for school-age children)
- Thursday, July 27 at 4 pm: Let's Explore Space (for school-age children)
- Thursday, August 3 at 4 pm: Story Drumming (for all children)
- Thursday, August 10 at 4 pm: The Lara and Joe Show (for all children)

Teen Summer Reading Programs at PCI Library

(teens in grades 7-12, except where noted):

- Tuesday, June 20 at 4:30 pm: How the Brain Learns
- Friday, June 23 at 4 pm: Teen Cubing Club
- Saturday, June 24 at 1 pm: Youth Queer Lit Fest* (for students ages 10-19)
- Tuesday, June 27 at 4:30 pm: Squid Dissection*
- Friday, June 30 at 4 pm: Teen Cubing Club
- Friday, July 7 at 4 pm: Teen Cubing Club
- Tuesday, July 11 at 4:30 pm: Scrumptious Smoothies*
- Friday, July 14 at 4 pm: Teen Cubing Club

- Tuesday, July 18 at 4:30 pm: Body Modification with the Mütter Museum
- Friday, July 21 at 4 pm: Teen Cubing Club
- Tuesday, July 25 at 4:30 pm: Craft Together with Collages*
- Friday, August 4 at 4 pm: Teen Cubing Club

Programs for adults:

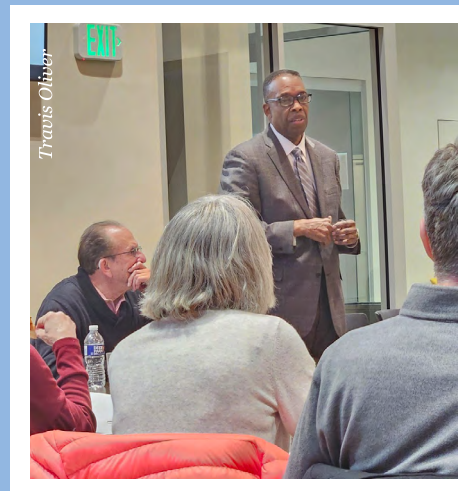
- Movie Matinee every Wednesday at 2 pm – View recently released feature films in our renovated meeting room.
- Penn's Village Presents Film Series on select Mondays at 2 pm – Join Penn's Village and the library for two special film series featuring Orson Welles classics and food-related films.

Please visit <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/locations/philadelphia-city-institute> for program details.



Town Square

Clarke Addresses CCRA



Council President Darrell Clarke addressed the CCRA Board of the Directors on March 14.

Voices from the Village

By Fred A. Barfoot, Penn's Village Member

It was billed as Penn's Village's first Town Hall since 2020: however, the buzz and activity in First Presbyterian Church's Old Buttonwood Hall on a March evening sounded for all the world like a party.

"It was one of our best gatherings ever," one person declared. Business first, followed by presentations that were professional, with clarity, brevity, and excellent PowerPoint support.

Board Chair Kristin Davidson masterfully kept the program focused—no lengthy asides or repetition. Executive Director Jane Eley highlighted ongoing Village operational activities. The financial health of Penn's Village was evident in the encouraging reports and plans, including growing an endowment.

Other speakers took their cue. Cheerful salutes were directed to several volunteers who have kept and continue to keep Penn's Village vibrant.

Kudos to those who decorated the large hall. No wonder even the business part of our gathering was fun. Business over, the party began. Volunteer workers ensured that food was plentiful, as was a welcome selection of beverages. No shortages. No spillage. Well, one gentleman almost spilled his drink when he forgot that it was in his hand as he waved to a friend across the hall.

A hallmark of any Penn's Village gathering is enthusiasm. At the largest in-person event since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, people chatted, hugged, traded phone numbers, introduced themselves—you know, like a cocktail party from the "good ole days."

"I had no idea you were a Villager as well," one attendee said to a fellow Philadelphia Orchestra-goer. "You live in my building!" another exclaimed. "We'll have to get together; I have to hear more about that trip." "This is my first Village meeting," a new member said, "and I am so impressed with this mix of people. There isn't an old person in the room."

Indeed, age had no spotlight. As another Villager noted, "We aren't old; we're 'experienced' and 'seasoned.'" Looking around the room, others observed that our initiatives toward ethnic and racial diversity were proving fruitful.

Good weather boosted turnout, and the room allowed for moving around easily. With First Presbyterian Church generously providing office and meeting space, we could do well by filling Old Buttonwood Hall for another "old fashioned" party. "I think we could meet their maximum capacity," laughed a member who perhaps spoke for us all.

You can be part of this thriving community in central Philadelphia. Check out our [website](#) to learn more about how Penn's Village supports older adults who wish to stay in their own homes by providing volunteer services and educational and social programs.



Members mingle at Penn's Village Town Hall.

City's New Home-Visit Program Reduced Gun Violence in Target Groups

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Group Violence Intervention (GVI), Philadelphia's experiment with a new method of solving the problem of gun violence in our neighborhoods, is credited with reducing shootings among specific groups of young people by as much as 50 percent during a nearly 30-month period from January 2020 to May 2022, according to a [study](#) conducted by University of Pennsylvania researcher Ruth A Moyer, Ph.D, J.D.

During this period, a Mobile Call-In Team identified a small population of people most likely to shoot or be shot, and visited their homes on Saturday mornings to encourage them to avoid gun violence and take advantage of opportunities offered to them for training and social services. The team consisted of police officers, social workers, case managers, and community members such as ex-offenders and mothers whose children had been shot. The project also included enforcement actions and deterrence messages.

The GVI team contacted 276 people in 113 groups over 29 months. Launched in August 2020, the program received \$1 million in city funding from the City of Philadelphia.

In addition to collecting quantitative data on gun violence, confidential interviews were conducted with some GVI participants. People who were visited by the team had positive opinions of the program and had told others about it. They felt that it demonstrated community concern about them. Respondents reported that it was easy to get guns and there was a strong connection between social media and violence.

Police who participated said that getting the trust of community was an important aspect of the project, and they found it rewarding to see "an at-risk individual have the opportunity to make positive life changes."

Subsequent to the calls, police said the participants and their families began to ask the officers for help when facing issues that could result in gun violence. "This allows us to get ahead of the violence and end it before it even started."

Philadelphia Receives Millions in Federal and State Grants for Gun Violence Investigation, Prosecution, Intervention, and Prevention

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Philadelphia received two Gun Violence Investigation and Prosecution Grants, federally funded by the American Rescue Plan. The District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with the Police Department and Managing Director's Office, will receive \$20 million to support citywide gun violence investigation and prosecution initiatives; and SEPTA will receive just under \$5 million. In addition, 65 Philadelphia nonprofit organizations and institutions received \$105 million for gun violence intervention and prevention.

The City's \$20 million will be used to support the Digital Forensics Lab's expansion advancing gun-violence investigation and prosecution. Advanced technology, increased staffing, and improved multi-agency sharing of intelligence evidence should lead to more arrests and convictions. Digital surveillance capabilities will be expanded, including video analytics and license-plate reader technology; cameras will be installed and maintained; an investigator and prosecutor case-management system will be installed, and crime scene kits will be upgraded.

These technology upgrades will also assist law enforcement efforts to intervene and prevent potential incidents, collect evidence for straw-purchase guns, and trace the origin of firearms found in Philadelphia.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) will receive just under \$5 million to install ZeroEyes weapon-detection technology on its security cameras, and increase police overtime to reduce gun violence and aid prosecution of firearms offenses. The ZeroEyes system quickly identifies whether guns are visible in camera footage, and after verification by trained personnel, alerts emergency responders about their location.

In addition, 65 Philadelphia nonprofit organizations and institutions received \$105 million for gun violence intervention and prevention through the Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program, run through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). This program was funded by \$30 million in state funds in 2022/23 and \$75 million in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) State Fiscal Recovery dollars.

This information is extracted from material provided by a staffer in PA State Rep. Ben Waxman's office.

The Role of Death Doulas in Today's Society

By Annie Wilson, *Sunset Companions*

Dying is central to our lives—a promise made by life is that it ends. However, in our contemporary, death-phobic society, dying doesn't get the support and attention it deserves. As a death doula, I believe that every death deserves a doula.

Death doulas offer nonmedical support to individuals through all aspects of the dying process. We empower the people we work with to prepare to say goodbye, whether to their own life or the life of a loved one. We don't have a great deal of control over how our death visits us. In this article, I will refer to a death that follows a terminal illness, where there is time to prepare for death.

There is tremendous compartmentalization to all aspects of dying. Different professions preside over different aspects: hospice nurses, doctors, lawyers, home health aides, chaplains, funeral directors—the list goes on. These specialists are uniquely qualified to provide specific support, such as spiritual guidance from a chaplain. However, this compartmentalization can be overwhelming to folks during an already overwhelming time. There is a lot of good that comes from a doula providing basic, holistic support.

There are three general types of support that death doulas offer:

Planning

Holistic end of life planning support includes:

- Writing advanced directives. We help you consider whom you want to make healthcare decisions for you in the event you are unable to make decisions for yourself, and when it may be the right option to decline treatment.
- Vigil planning. You may be able to make choices about what you want your final days to look like. Doulas can guide you through considerations such as:
 - Where do you want to die?
 - Who do you want to visit in your final days?
 - Do you have favorite music you would like to listen to?
 - Doulas write custom guided meditations for a dying person
 - Are there photos, videos, movies, or TV shows you want to look at?
 - Are there activities you would like a visitor to engage in when they visit you, such as reading a favorite piece of poetry, or sharing a memory you have together?
- Having a conversation. We provide tools for you to use to plan and have a conversation with those important to you about your end-of-life wishes. This conversation can be hard to have. Yet it can be one of the most important conversations of your life!
- Legacy Project. We help you develop a project that encapsulates your legacy. This can take the form of a written or video memoir, scrapbook, or something else. This can also be a project that visitors engage with at your vigil.

Vigil

Death doulas provide nonmedical, nonjudgmental bedside companionship during the vigil phase: the final days and hours before a person dies. We maintain the dying environment according to the wishes of the dying person. We provide caregiver respite. We attend to the logistical details of vigil such as greeting visitors, refilling tissue containers, and temperature control, so you don't have to. By attending to these details, the dying person and their loved ones can focus on the sacred aspects of dying, in all its grief and love.

After-death reprocessing

Death doulas spend time with surviving loved ones after a death. We remember what happened during the vigil, what the death felt like, and how it felt to move through the funeral or memorial service. This step is another aspect of nonmedical, nonjudgmental support for someone's death (and all the feelings that came up during that time) to integrate into the loved ones' lives. We also offer referrals for anyone who is struggling with their grief, such as grief support groups and counselors.

Death and dying is too important to leave up to chance. While there is so much that we ultimately cannot control, we must respect the power of death by preparing for it as best we can. By preparing for our death in ways beyond the medical, financial, and legal, we can minimize needless suffering for ourselves and our loved ones—maybe even make it a profound and sacred experience.

For more information, please visit www.sunsetcompanions.com, email hello@sunsetcompanions.com, or call 267-7-SUNSET and ask for Annie or Russ.



A death doula provides resources and education on many aspects of death and dying.

Town Square

CCRA Planning New Under-40 Group

By Kimberly Bowers

Movement is underway on the formation of a "Young Friends of Center City" group within CCRA, spurred by an exciting and productive focus group with "under-40" members that took place on the evening of Wednesday, March 29. Brought together by a shared investment in their neighborhood and ideas for future community, six members participated in the session, which was professionally facilitated by Joy Sardinsky.

The engaging discussion included their reasons for joining—such as re-establishing social connection and networking post-pandemic, acting on a heightened sense of community following the Hurricane Ida flooding, or a desire to become more involved in addressing neighborhood concerns—to ideas about how CCRA could better engage, and grow, its under-40 membership ranks through tailored outreach and events.

In describing concerns in the neighborhood, responses such as public safety, zoning and development, or maintaining the success of Center City's business sector, will likely resonate with CCRA members across all age groups. But other answers from the under-40 perspective included securing a pathway to homeownership, or access to and investment in neighborhood schools for their children, which may more directly impact this subset of our membership.

A second focus group for non-members was planned for May 17 to further gauge how CCRA can attract and respond to the needs of these younger members; check *CCRA This Week* for more updates.



A recent focus group looked at ways to engage Center City's "under-40" demographic with CCRA.

CCCulture

Koresh Dance Takes It on the Road

By Keila Perez-Vega

Through generous funding from the William Penn Foundation, and additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Koresh Dance Company is taking the show on the road ... to Philadelphia's "City of Neighborhoods."

The many neighborhoods in our city are filled with strong communities, with diverse traditions, history and cultural treasures. Koresh is excited to collaborate with community members and organizations in each neighborhood to present free performances, resource workshops, classes and more.

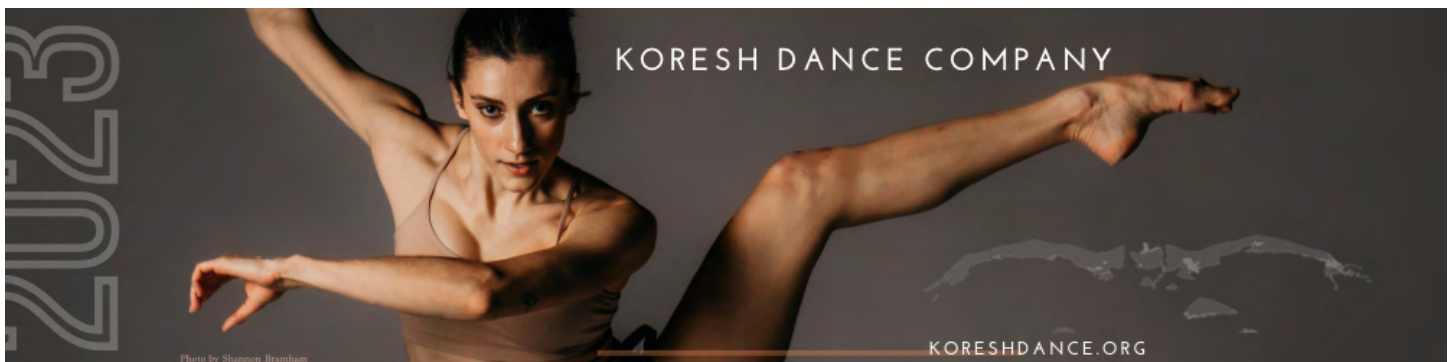
First Up—The Historic Germantown Neighborhood

Koresh is partnering with [Kinesics Dance Dynamics](#) (KDD) to present an Arts and Entrepreneurial resource workshop series, classes and much more throughout the year. Koresh is collaborating with [Second Baptist Church of Germantown](#) and [Partners for Sacred Places](#) for a free and open to the public performance.

To learn more visit, koreshdance.org/germantown.

Up Next:

June 19- 23 | Summer Intensive at KDD



Some Helpful Hacks for Your Garden

By Travis Oliver

After a relatively chilly start to the growing season, your plants should be sprouting. Now the fun part begins—maintaining your garden.

Let's talk fertilizing. I'm trying to distance myself from using chemical fertilizers—especially on herbs and veggies. Did you know you can make your own fertilizer with products you may have at home? Try these methods for the best plant growth.

First, did you know that you can use coffee grounds in your garden? They act as a natural fertilizer and can help repel pests. Just sprinkle them on the soil around your plants and watch them thrive.

Boiling potatoes? Don't throw away that water. After you remove the potatoes, let the water cool and collect it in a spray bottle; spray your plants about once every two weeks. The water contains phosphorus, which is a natural element in soil. It will help with plants that need phosphorus, such as mint, aloe vera, lemon, hydrangea, and begonias.

Did you snack on a banana? Don't toss the peel in the trash just yet. Simmer it for about an hour in a pot of water. The peel will release potassium, which plays a role as a regulator of the plant's vital functions: assimilation of chlorophyll; resistance to diseases, cold, and drought; and regulation of transpiration. You can spray your soil about twice a month.

Are you growing fruits and veggies? They need calcium. Don't discard those eggshells! Rinse them out, let them dry, smash or grind them up in a blender, and sprinkle them in the soil. Watch your lettuce and tomatoes grow.

Hey tea drinkers! Don't throw away your tea bags. Used tea bags, especially green tea, are an excellent fertilizer and bug repellent. Tea leaves contain about 4 percent nitrogen, and other nutrients that nourish the soil in which your plants grow. And just like coffee grounds, the tannic acid in tea leaves can lower your soil's pH! All you have to do is bury the used tea bag.

Got cinnamon? Sprinkle some cinnamon powder at the base of the plant. Not only will it help with root rot, but it's an excellent ant deterrent. Cinnamon is all natural, and, therefore, causes no harm to plants. This miracle spice can cure your plants of almost any disease, infection, or fungus!

There are many benefits of using homemade fertilizers for plants. It's more affordable, safe and gentle, and environmentally friendly. Making your own homemade fertilizer may sound intimidating initially, but, as you can see, it can be as easy as saving some kitchen scraps in a jar of water.

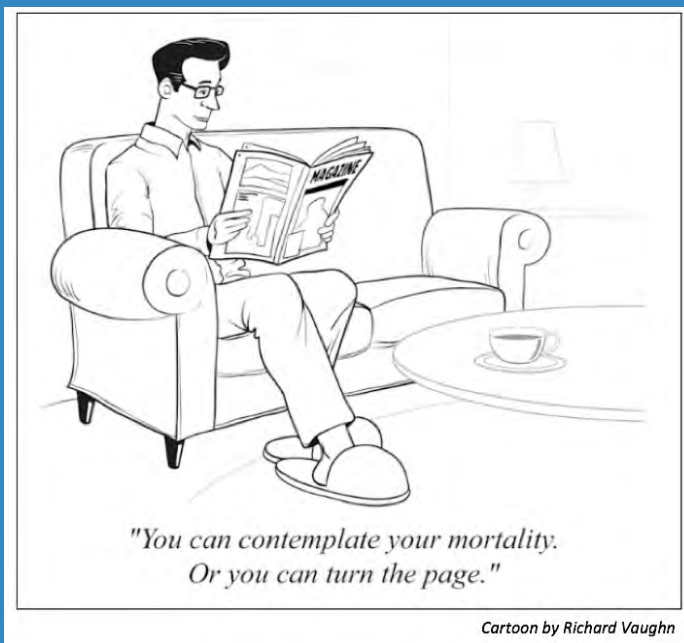
With this information, you can confidently make your own fertilizer at home. Your plants—and the environment—will thank you for it!

I hope these gardening hacks help you as much as they help me. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at centercity@centercityresidents.org. Happy gardening!



You can enhance the health of your herb garden with handy homemade fertilizer hacks.

The Drawing Room



KLENK LAW

A Boutique Estate Law Firm

www.klenklaw.com | 215-790-1095

2202 Delancey Place Philadelphia, PA 19103

Continuum

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



Specializing in Residential Architecture
and Interior Design

267.253.6174


jlr@continuum-architecture.com

BOYDS



1818 CHESTNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 | 201 W. LANCASTER AVE., WAYNE, PA 19087

2023-24
SEASON




Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Music and Artistic Director



Hélène
Grimaud

Yo-Yo Ma



John
Williams

A season of incredible artists and sensational programs awaits!

**THE MUSICAL EVENT
OF THE FALL**

Opening Night
September 28

**Yannick and
Hélène Grimaud Reunite**
December 7-10

**John Williams
with Yo-Yo Ma**
February 20

Yannick Conducts
La bohème
June 7 and 9

Subscriptions for the 2023-24
season are on sale now!



philorch.org

The Philadelphia Orchestra

CCRA Summer Calendar—Ways to Fill Those Long Days

Center City District SIPS

Discount happy hours, Wednesdays

June 1 to August 31, 4:30 – 7 pm

<https://www.centercityphila.org/explore-center-city/ccd-sips>

Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

Friday, June 2, 11 am – 6 pm

Saturday, June 3, 11 am – 6 pm

Sunday, June 4, 11 am – 5 pm

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

Elfreth's Alley Fete Day

124 Elfreth's Alley

Saturday, June 3, 1 – 5 pm

<https://www.elfrethsalley.org/events/fete-day-2023>

Odunde Festival

2300 South Street (15 city blocks)

Sunday, June 11

<https://www.odundefestival.org/>

Bloomsday Festival

The Rosenbach

2008-2010 Delancey Place

A daylong public reading of *Ulysses*, along with musical performances. Free admission to The Rosenbach to view portions of the manuscript.

Friday, June 16, 11 am – 8 pm

<https://rosenbach.org/bloomsday2023/>

Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy

Piano Festival

Academy of Vocal Arts

1920 Spruce Street

Saturday, July 29 to Sunday, August 6

<https://www.pypa.info/>

Museum Exhibitions

Nothing Change, Nothing Strange

Fabric Workshop and Museum

1214 Arch St.

Through Sunday, July 23

<https://fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/exhibition/nothing-change-nothing-strange/>

Disney 100: The Exhibition

Franklin Institute, 222 N. 20th St.

Through Tuesday, August 22

<https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/events/disney100-the-exhibition-at-the-franklin-institute/>

Rising Sun: Artists in an Uncertain America

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts

118 N. Broad St.

<https://www.pafa.org/museum/exhibitions/rising-sun-artists-uncertain-america>

and African-American Museum

701 Arch Street

<https://www.aampmuseum.org/>

Through Sunday, October 8

Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia

Museum of the American Revolution

101 S. 3rd St.

Through Sunday, November 26

<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/exhibits/black-founders-the-forten-family-of-philadelphia>

Schuylkill River Rowing Events

Kelly Drive closes at 6 am for these events

<https://boathouserow.org/schuylkill-river-schedule/>

Schuylkill Banks Riverboat Tours

<https://www.schuylkillbanks.org/events/riverboat-tours-1>

Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia Walking Tours

<https://preservationalliance.com/walking-tours/>

America's Garden Capital

30+ gardens, arboreta, and historic landscapes within 30 miles

<https://www.discover> <https://penrelays.com/phl.com/blog/american-garden-capital/>

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>

To learn about more festivals and events in Philadelphia, go to <https://www.visitphilly.com/>

Town Square

CCRA Holds 76th Annual Meeting

By Rick Gross

CCRA's 76th Annual Meeting, held at the Freire School May 11, was attended by over 50 members, who elected the new class of CCRA Board Members (see Page 10) and heard from two important speakers.

First, PA State Representative Ben Waxman, elected last year from the 182nd Legislative District (encompassing CCRA and surrounding neighborhoods), talked about participating in a House Democratic majority in Harrisburg for the first time in many years. He described revisiting legislative priorities like sensible gun control; increasing funding for public transportation and state aid to Philadelphia; and the fact that access to safe abortion is assured in Pennsylvania despite repeated efforts to repeal those protections. His comments were very well received.

The assembly then heard from Jeffery Young, Jr., the sole candidate on the ballot from either party to succeed Darrell Clarke as the District 5 councilmember. Young related his life's story, including a decades-long desire to serve in council after starting to work there at 17. He described his extensive governmental experience in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Washington as training for his new job as a councilman.

Young cited a commitment to the best quality of life possible in all neighborhoods, reiterating that he saw Center City as a neighborhood as well. He also committed to deferring all major development project requests to CCRA for community input and agreement before supporting them, just as Council President

Clarke and Councilman Kenyatta Johnson do. His remarks were well received.

The evening ended with a scrumptious dessert from Nook. Too bad it couldn't have been capped off with a Sixers victory for the Eastern Conference Semifinals.



City Council candidate Jeffery Young, Jr.



PA State Rep. Ben Waxman