



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 12 No. 2 Summer 2021

Contents

CCStreetwise	
A Few Deft Touches for Back Streets	1
President's Report	
Much Accomplished, Much To Be Done.....	3
Spotlight on...	
Maggie Mund	4
Our Greene Countrie Towne	
Solar in the City.....	5
Climate Crisis Solutions.....	10
Out & About	
When You Can't Get to London, You'll Always Have Philadelphia	5
CCCulture	
The Rosenbach Celebrates James Joyce	6
Town Square	
Taking Action Against Gun Violence.....	7
Trinity Memorial Church Distributing Free Food Bags.....	12
CCRA Welcomes New Officers and Directors at Annual Meeting.....	16
Josh Shapiro Addresses CCRA Meeting.....	23
Bricks & Mortar	
Walnut Street Demolition Update.....	8
Living History	
An Historic Preservation Agenda.....	9
City Lit	
PCI Updates.....	11
Philadelphia's French Footprint	11
Philadelphia Physician Wins Athenaeum Literary Award.....	12
It's Academic	
Beyond Literacy.....	13
Greene Towne Kindergartners' Center City Classroom.....	13
Koresh Kids Dance Program	14
Dining Scene	
Steak 48	15
What's Going On	
CCRA Summer Calendar.....	22

CCStreetwise

And Suddenly People Want to Walk There **A Few Deft Touches for Back Streets**

Text and Photos by Bill West



So, what do you do with a blind brick wall? Paint a few doors and windows, or maybe just rectangles. And call it art. Because it is.

The scene above is on South Hicks Street, the location of my new favorite coffee shop, called Suprema (actually the entrance to Suprema is on Pine). Somewhere behind that wall are two small theaters, tucked into the old ballroom of the Drake apartment building, which fronts on Spruce and runs quite a distance down South Hicks. (I found this information [online](#).)

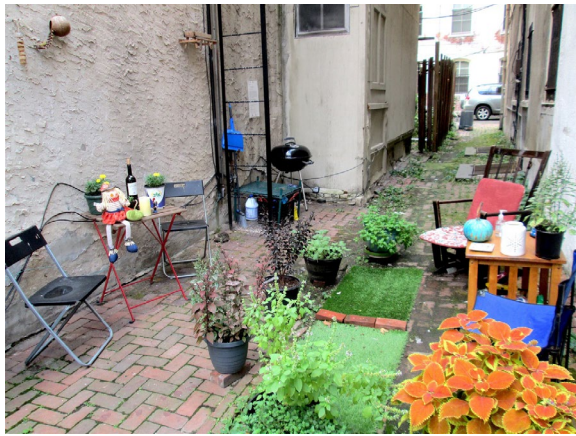
So, if you're thinking that the facade treatment above looks like a stage set, I'm thinking you wouldn't be wrong.

Not too hard to do, really. Once you have the idea.

I've been writing about Philadelphia's alleys and small streets for a number of years, and I'm pleased to say that more and more people seem to be getting ideas. They don't have to be big ideas. Below is a provisional reworking of a small passageway on 16th Street, between Spruce and Locust, last summer.

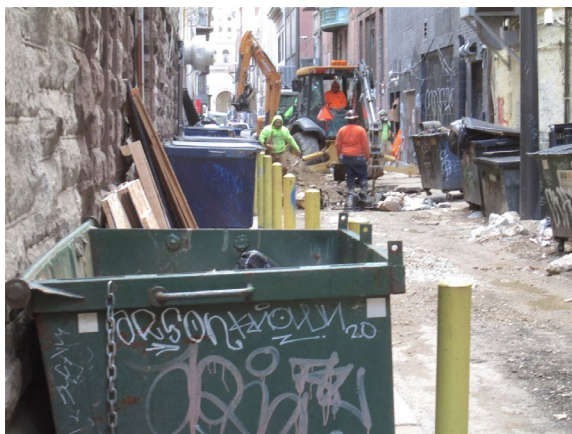
Continued on p.2

**CENTER CITY
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**
1900 Market Street, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-546-6719
centercity@centercityresidents.org
www.centercityresidents.org



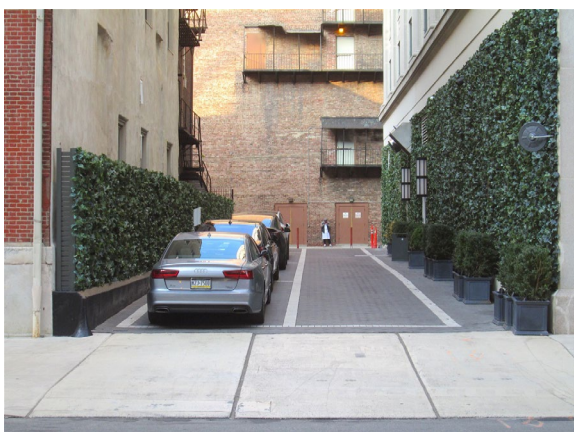
The decor went away in the winter, but the passageway seems to be making a comeback now that the warm weather is here.

I think one of our little streets with the greatest potential is Moravian, just north of Walnut. One of the reasons I like Moravian is that its current situation varies block by block, from depressing to catastrophic. Here's a shot at 17th Street.



This is a little unfair, because of the digging in the road, but I've taken too many pictures of long rows of greasy dumpsters, and I need something to motivate me to take a picture. So forgive me.

The upshot of upgrading is that you make the space more useful. Here's an alley behind the Atlantic building, in the 1400 block of Spruce. This space was a mess that you may not remember, because it was usually closed off with a sagging chain-link gate backed by some plastic tarpaulins.



Now, as you can see, it's open, it looks nice, and there are some parking spots and a non-service entrance to the building.

Look at this side entrance to the Bellevue. Somebody decided to care. And it shows.



The easiest little streets to spruce up are the residential blocks. These streets provide access to the homes, but generally have very little through traffic. Other blocks are everybody's rear door. They're basically places to stow cars and stash trash, and they look it.

And many of them are a lot cleaner than they used to be. But, still, they tend to be colorless, and lacking in a sense of cohesion.

I wish someone would care a bit more about the 1400 block of Moravian. It's just west of Broad; on the north side lies the Union League, and on the south side are a number of very nice older buildings, including Drexel and Company on 15th and, mid-block, one of the former homes of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. (I've written about this block before: see *Center City Quarterly*, [Summer 2016](#), page 15.)

This block used to be a filthy mess. It's now much cleaner and neater than it used to be, but I think the people looking after things here should not rest on their laurels. Take this street to the next level. Put the dumpsters inside, and move the sheriff's-office parking to one of the many, many large garages in the area. A few of the façades on the south side of the street need some restoration. And then you can go for a pedestrian-priority street with outdoor dining.

Here's a taste of the payoff. This slice of the Union League is tucked away in the mid-block, waiting for its audience to show up and have a cappuccino.



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

CENTER CITY QUARTERLY

Nancy Colman	EDITOR
Bonnie Eisenfeld	CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Bill West	PRODUCTION EDITOR
Donna Strug	STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cover Photo Credits: (1) Donna Strug (2) Donna Strug (3) Nicole Leapheart (4) Donna Strug (5) Donna Strug (6) Donna Strug

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

Much Accomplished, Much To Be Done

By Maggie Mund, CCRA President



Maggie Mund
CCRA President

This will be my last President's Report for CCRA; my term ends June 30, 2021. While my term has been especially challenging, between the COVID lockdowns and the protests for racial justice, every CCRA president has a full plate. COVID and the racial reconciling will be ongoing issues for some time, as the city slowly reopens and moves into a more constructive relationship with its citizens, especially the Black and Brown communities. There is a lot of work to do.

I have been on the CCRA board for many years and I was adamant that the organization grow and change under my leadership. We had done the same things the same way for too long. At the start of my term, the CCRA board developed a new Mission Statement that has guided the organization's activities for the past two years. (See Mission Statement below.)

We organized the board into committees that developed plans, programs, and a communications strategy consistent with our new tag line, "The People-powered Voice of Center City West." We restructured our membership program; developed relationships with other civic organizations within our footprint; hired a social media consultant; started a blog; and engaged more fully with city agencies in charge of streets, historic preservation, land use, and public safety. At my request, a governance committee has worked diligently to revise CCRA's bylaws to make them comply with current nonprofit law, internally consistent, and responsive to changing circumstances. (Hopefully, by the time you read this, these revisions will have been endorsed at the May 2021 Annual Meeting.)

We modified our Community Benefits Agreements with developers to further goals of providing good construction jobs to minorities and women, and affordable or workforce housing along with the million-dollar condos and rowhouses being proposed. When COVID hit, we were well positioned to provide meaningful information to our members about the changing nature of the lockdowns, the virus, testing and finally vaccines. Like many Center City establishments, we closed the office, switched to Zoom, and conducted online fundraising. We worked with Rittenhouse Row on the restaurant-reopening plan and the "streeteries," and developed a Center City Coalition to humanely address the rampant homelessness in the neighborhood. Our enhanced communication role continued through the protests for racial justice.

For more information on our incredible year of 2020, see [here](#).

These activities continued in 2021. On March 16, we partnered with Jefferson University on a well-attended Town Hall focusing on the risks and rewards of being one of the lucky recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine. Also in March, the board participated in a visioning exercise during which board members imagined ways CCRA could further fulfill our mission in transformative ways. Several projects were identified under the general categories of "Clean and Green—the Environment," "Neighborhood Diversity, Equity and Inclusion," and "Facilitating Community Giving," which will be explored over the summer. By September, we hope to pursue a more vigorous program related to these themes.

So yes, I feel CCRA has changed and become more engaged with our community in more meaningful ways. One leading indicator of that is the success of the fundraising we have conducted. Between budget cuts, PPP loans, and creative fundraising (vacation villas!—a first!), CCRA has weathered the COVID year. That successful fundraising enabled us to undertake the board-visioning exercise.

Continued on p.4

Continued from p.3

Another leading indicator is the number and quality of board candidates we have gathered this year. A good mix of relative newcomers and longtime residents, they share the same passion for the neighborhood and city we all do. Many people currently serving on the Executive Committee will remain, providing continuity to the initiatives we've successfully begun, while bringing their own new ideas to the table. I will not be among them. I have, however, volunteered to lead the Neighborhood Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workstream, which will be a new challenge. But after many years of board service, I am ready to have most Tuesday nights to myself. And it is a best practice to step away to allow new thought leaders to develop. So there's that.

Once more, a big thank-you to all the members of the CCRA, board, and volunteers who continue to make our neighborhood the best in the city.

Mission Statement

Serving as the voice of Center City West since 1947, The Center City Residents' Association (CCRA) promotes urban living; advocates for a safe, clean, diverse, and supportive community; pursues accountability; and encourages responsible development while preserving the neighborhood's historic heritage.

Spotlight On...

Maggie Mund: Inspired Leadership for Decades

By Barbara Halpern

Since moving here in 1986, our outgoing president, Maggie Mund, has been a community advocate for Center City West. Once she became settled in her adopted city, she fell in love with the surroundings, but also understood the challenges of city life, so she worked to make our neighborhood a cleaner, safer, and more inviting place to raise children. When she learned about the work that CCRA did on behalf of the community, she found a willing partner to actualize her vision.

Since joining CCRA in 2007, Maggie has served as a Board Member, a member of countless committees, Executive V.P., and her capstone, President of CCRA. She has guided the organization towards greater transparency and clearer roles and responsibilities. She also oversaw a much-needed revision of our bylaws, and the adoption of our Mission Statement, which advocates for a safer, cleaner, more diverse, and supportive community. Through her guidance, the organization grew in both membership and sponsors, and we were better positioned to tackle the unprecedented community challenges of 2020.

The pandemic and the awakening of the community to the social injustices identified by the BLM movement presented numerous challenges, and Maggie helped CCRA rise to those challenges. The community required a pipeline for information to and from our city leaders, services, medical facilities, businesses, and neighbors. Maggie authorized our e-newsletter and blog to provide that up-to-date critical information to the community. She also has been an outspoken advocate for police reform, setting a new standard for collaboration with a myriad of community groups, and has insisted that agreements with developers include minority hiring. As a result of her leadership, the CCRA is a unified force that is ready to fight for safer streets, social services for those experiencing homelessness, survival of our local businesses, and community-minded real-estate development.

Although Maggie's term as President of CCRA will end shortly, she will continue to occupy an important position in the organization, as she assumes the role of chairperson of CCRA's Neighborhood Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative. In her new role, Maggie will work to make Center City West and CCRA even more inclusive, diverse, and relevant in the future.

Thank you, Maggie, for your hard work and devotion in making our community an even better place to live and work.



Outgoing CCRA President Maggie Mund with Vice President Barbara Halpern.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Solar in the City

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

In 2018, some time after attending a presentation by Judy Wicks and contractor Solar States about Wicks' solarized Center City house, Nancy Colman, editor of the *Center City Quarterly*, requested an estimate. Her husband, David Colman, an architect and developer, reviewed the details, and the Colmans decided to have Solar States install solar panels on their roof. It took close to a year for design, PECO approval, L&I permits, and roof repair to be completed before installation could begin. Installation of the solar panels took only two days.

"The amount of power generated depends on roof size, orientation and shading," David Colman says. The Colmans' solar panels, connected to the house's main electrical panel, now generate about one-third to one-half of the house's power needs. (Nancy Colman reports that after one billing cycle, the household charges dropped from a typical monthly rate of \$150 – 200 to \$72. This does not, of course, indicate a pattern, but it is promising.)

On cloudy days, less solar power is generated, so PECO's electric grid must provide more power. When there are lots of sunny days and the panels generate excess power, it is transferred by PECO to the grid, and PECO credits their monthly electric bill. The Colmans chose not to store power because batteries are expensive and would not be cost effective. In places that have more sunny days, such as the southwestern U.S., solar panels could supply 100 percent of the power needed for an entire house.

As required in our historic district, the panels are not visible from the street. They consist of photovoltaic arrays, mounted on racks, ballasted to the roof but not penetrating the roof. According to David Colman, the arrays are designed to last 25 to 30 years.

Solar panels can be either purchased or leased. If you buy them, federal and city tax credits can offset not only the cost of the panels but also roof repair or replacement. [Solar States](#), a Business Member of Center City Residents' Association, offers

a discount to members. Nancy Colman says, "I was principally interested in saving the environment (along with a little money in the bargain, if possible.)"

For more information about solar energy for your home and for what's happening in Pennsylvania, go to [Philadelphia Solar Energy Association](#), a local nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding solar energy across the state, or contact [Liz Robinson](#), Executive Director.

The U.S. is the fifth-largest generator of solar power in the world. California leads the states with over 3 million solar-powered homes. Four other western states are in the top ten: Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, and Texas. Five states in other U.S. regions among the top ten are New Jersey, North Carolina, Massachusetts, New York, and Hawaii. All states in the top ten (except North Carolina), plus other states, have tax rebates or incentives for solar energy.



Solar panel array installed on a Center City roof.

Out & About

So Says Fodor's When You Can't Get to London, You'll Always Have Philadelphia

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Fodor's Travel recommends Philadelphia as one of five top destinations to visit in the U.S. in 2021, in an article titled, "If You Can't Leave the U.S. in 2021, Visit These Cities Instead." Fodor's compares Philadelphia to London, highlighting our "dynamic food scene" as well as "an abundance of pubs, a tourist-friendly pier district, and wild, cranky residents with unique accents."

The other four destinations in the U.S. recommended by Fodor's are New Orleans (instead of Paris), Miami (instead of Rio), Burlington, VT (instead of Copenhagen), and the Redwood National Park (instead of the Amazon.)

The Rosenbach Celebrates James Joyce with Annual Bloomsday Festival Online and In Person

By Rosa Doherty

June 16 is observed around the world as a celebration of James Joyce and his epic, *Ulysses*, a novel that has been called everything from masterfully moving to hilariously obscene. Nowhere in the United States is this global literary holiday marked with more excitement than in Philadelphia, where the manuscript for *Ulysses* has resided at The Rosenbach since 1924.

For more than 20 years, The Rosenbach has observed Bloomsday with a daylong public reading of *Ulysses* on Delancey Place. This year, with health and safety precautions in place, The Rosenbach commemorates Bloomsday throughout the month of June with a series of free virtual programs and exclusive in-person events, leading up to the world premiere of a new film, *I Said Yes: A Celebration of Bloomsday at The Rosenbach*, on Bloomsday.

The film captures the celebration of Bloomsday and the significance of Joyce's groundbreaking work. Through interviews, commentary, music, readings, and much more, *I Said Yes: A Celebration of Bloomsday at The Rosenbach* reflects on the literary legacy of *Ulysses* and The Rosenbach's place in its history. Premiering Wednesday, June 16, at 7 pm EST (90 minutes), the film can be viewed on rosenbach.org/bloomsday, or facebook.com/rosenbachmuseum.

In addition to the film premiere, The Rosenbach is holding a series of free virtual programs and exclusive in-person events throughout the month. Full details and registration are at rosenbach.org/bloomsday.

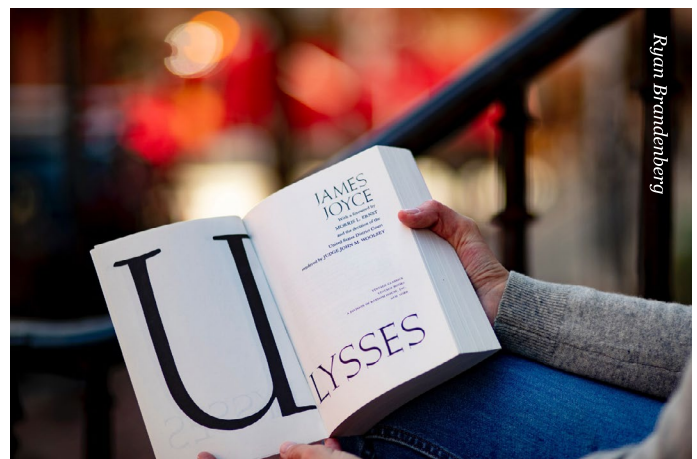
- **Written In My Heart: James Joyce & Irish Authors Behind the Bookcase Tour** (virtual) Thursday, June 3, 6–7 pm. The spirit of Ireland has inspired storytellers like James Joyce, Bram Stoker, Oscar Wilde, and others for centuries. The influence of these authors continues to be felt far beyond Ireland's rugged shores, and The Rosenbach is home to a vast collection of their works. Free.
- **Young Friends Party** (in person) Tuesday, June 8, 6–8 pm. Literature enthusiasts under 40 are invited to a special event in the Garden. The Young Friends of The Rosenbach, a new committee, will debut at this cocktail party, with a special up-close viewing of the *Ulysses* manuscript from our collection.
- **The Will to Forget: Memory, the Nation, and *Ulysses*** – In Conversation with Vincent Cheng (virtual) Wednesday, June 9, 7–8 pm. The subject of memory is notable in contemporary studies of culture, but the desirability or usefulness of forgetting is often overlooked. Vincent Cheng, author of *Amnesia and the Nation: History, Forgetting, and James Joyce*, considers the subject in terms of a nation's collective memory and Joyce's treatment of these themes in *Ulysses*. Free.

- **The Spirit of Bloom Cocktail Mixing Workshop with Art in the Age** (in person) Saturday, June 12, three sessions at 4, 5:30, and 7 pm. Gather in The Rosenbach's Garden to mix your own cocktail, inspired by Joyce's *Ulysses*. A mixologist from Art in the Age walks guests through the fundamentals of creating a special Bloomsday cocktail, using a bottle of Tamworth Garden Gin to take home with you. Registration includes access to view Joyce's manuscript of *Ulysses* in The Rosenbach's collection. To maintain safe social distancing, space is limited in each one-hour workshop.
- **Love's Old Sweet Song: The Music of James Joyce Behind the Bookcase Tour** (virtual) Thursday, June 24, 6–7 pm. Readers of *Ulysses* know music plays an important role in the narrative. This special virtual tour will pair Celtic harp performances broadcast live from The Rosenbach's historic parlor, along with a showcase and discussion of iconic artifacts from our collection. Free.

Also happening in June is the Rosenbacchanal, The Rosenbach's annual, signature fundraiser. This year, the celebration occurs on Bloomsday, June 16, with a special outdoor dinner on Delancey Place and an exclusive screening of *I Said Yes: A Celebration of Bloomsday at The Rosenbach*.

Additionally, Rosenbacchanal sponsors are invited to spend an evening in the Garden for specialty cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, while enjoying a performance by Xavier Foley, a critically acclaimed double bassist and a Laureate of Astral Artists, at the Siren's Garden Party, Tuesday, June 1, 6–8 pm.

Continued on p.7



Bloomsday at The Rosenbach celebrates James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

Ryan Brandenburg

Continued from p.6

With timed tickets and safety measures in place, The Rosenbach is open to the public. Visitors will enjoy a socially distanced, guided tour of the historic house and library, along with a chance to see select pages from Joyce's manuscript up-close in our newest installation, "The Global Other: Race and Empire in James Joyce's *Ulysses*." Visitors can also explore the literature-themed garden, including plants connected to Joyce's works.

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.



Pre-pandemic: a scene from the traditional outdoor reading of *Ulysses* on Delancey Place, Bloomsday 2019.

Town Square

Enough? Taking Action Against Gun Violence – Municipal, State and National Coalition Efforts

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Cities can pass gun-control laws, but because of lawsuits brought by the NRA, municipal ordinances have been disallowed by the courts. At present, any gun-control legislation would need to happen on the state or federal level.

If you want to know what legislation is pending on gun-violence issues in Pennsylvania and you want to make your voice heard, go to CeaseFirePA and click on the Act page. In the Issue Action Center, you can sign your name to prepared letters on specific bills, and CeaseFire will send your letter to your state senator or representative.

The mission of CeaseFirePA is "to end the epidemic of gun violence across the Commonwealth and our country through education, coalition building, and advocacy."

Other information on the CeaseFirePA site includes the Common Agenda to End Gun Violence (Learn), gun violence news (Updates), list of CeaseFirePA partners (at end of About), and Donate. (Contributions are not tax-deductible).

The City of Philadelphia is trying to do what it can. In April, Mayor Kenney released an update to the city's five-year plan, *The Philadelphia Roadmap to Safer Communities*, along with increased funding. Highlights of the plan include education, training, and employment for young people at risk, coordination among city agencies, engagement with community residents, and resources for residents who feel unsafe, particularly in high-risk neighborhoods. Updates to the Roadmap include expanding violence-interruption tactics, improving coordination of social services in areas with high levels of violence, expanding the public-health approach to violence prevention and reduction, and greater community voice in the City's public-safety work. In 2020, Philadelphia lost 447 people to gun violence—the most gun-related homicides in 30 years.

The newly created Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives for Criminal Justice and Public Safety, headed by Senior Director Erica Atwood, will oversee the plan, and coordinate with other city agencies. Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said her department has seen some successes in reducing violence through Operation Pinpoint, which focuses prevention tactics on a small number of violent hotspots.

Philadelphia law enforcement is now getting support from more than a dozen local units of federal agencies such as the U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI.

Councilmember [Jamie Gauthier](#), representing West Philadelphia, was recently selected to serve on the National League of Cities (NLC) Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, along with 22 other local elected officials from municipalities across the country. The task force will work with nationwide experts in criminal-justice reform and public safety from the Vera Institute of Justice, Urban Institute, Cities United, and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to develop a toolkit for local leaders, to include alternative violence-reduction solutions and best practices in public safety.

According to the *New York Times*, 40,000 people die each year from gun violence in the U.S., where there are five main types: mass shootings, suicide, urban gun violence, family shootings, and police shootings. Each involves different risk factors, motivations, and types of firearms. After 25 years, Congress has restored funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health for research to inform policies that could reduce gun violence.

Walnut Street Demolition Update (April 2021)

By Dane Wells

Back in the [Spring issue](#) of the *Center City Quarterly*, we told you about the three buildings—1706, 1708 and 1710 Walnut Street—that were destroyed by fire in last year’s riots. Now, as most of you know, there is a gaping hole on Walnut Street, but we have hopes for suitable replacement, due to agreements with Philadelphia’s Historical Commission.

“All three buildings were laser scanned,” Jonathan Farnham, Executive Director of the Historical Commission, recently told the CCRA. “The Historical Commission has measured drawings of 1706, which was about to undergo a renovation when the fire struck. Architectural features were salvaged, but the Historical Commission has not yet received inventories of the salvaged items. The Historical Commission has the authority to review any new construction proposed for the sites and could require reconstructions of the historic buildings, but has the discretion to approve anything it finds compliant with the review standards set forth in the preservation ordinance.”

In our Spring article, we summarized the original status of the buildings: 1706 Walnut (McDonalds) was designed c.1870 by Savery, Addison Hutton, notable architects. Vans (1708 Walnut Street), had the most interesting exterior of the three, designed in 1873-74 by Furness and Hewitt, who have architectural-hero status in Philadelphia. Built as the residence for H.W. Catherwood, it is the most important of the three buildings. [The Philadelphia Athenaeum’s Philadelphia Architects and Builders \(PAB\)](#) site also lists 1710, (Doc Martens), built c.1850, as being part of the Catherwood residence, but very plain and ordinary, it was built earlier by others, architect unknown, and probably the least important of the three. We suggested in the earlier article that at least the façade of 1708 be retained, since this is the most important of the three buildings, and every effort should be made to restore it.

So where do we stand now? All three of these buildings have been demolished in their entirety, although some architectural

features have been salvaged and laser scans completed. These scans could be used to reconstruct the now-demolished façades of all three buildings. As noted earlier, Farnham stated that the Historical Commission has oversight of the sites and the authority to review any new construction proposed for the sites. The Commission could require reconstructions of the buildings but could approve anything in compliance with the preservation ordinance review standards.

“Reconstruction will be harder to handicap,” noted Patrick Grossi, Director of Advocacy for the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia. “There’s no requirement they rebuild immediately; the properties could change hands; and/or an owner could request more leniency in any new construction (to say nothing of financing uncertainties amid the pandemic).”

With the possible exception of 1708 Walnut Street, the importance of these buildings may lie, to a greater extent, with their contribution to the fabric and streetscape of this Walnut Street block than to their architectural or historical significance as individual structures. I would suggest that CCRA offer its support to the Historical Commission to promote reconstruction of the façades of 1706 and 1708 Walnut Street, whereas a harmonious treatment would be suitable for 1710. The key issue from the preservation and civic standpoint is to present a harmonious historic street view on Walnut Street.

We hope CCRA members will continue to watch what will be proposed in the future for these parcels, and we will continue to keep you informed on this issue.



Scene of demolition in progress on the 1700 block of Walnut.



Ghost building of an earlier life: All that is left of this structure on the 1700 block of Walnut Street are many fireplaces.

History Lives Here: An Historic Preservation Agenda

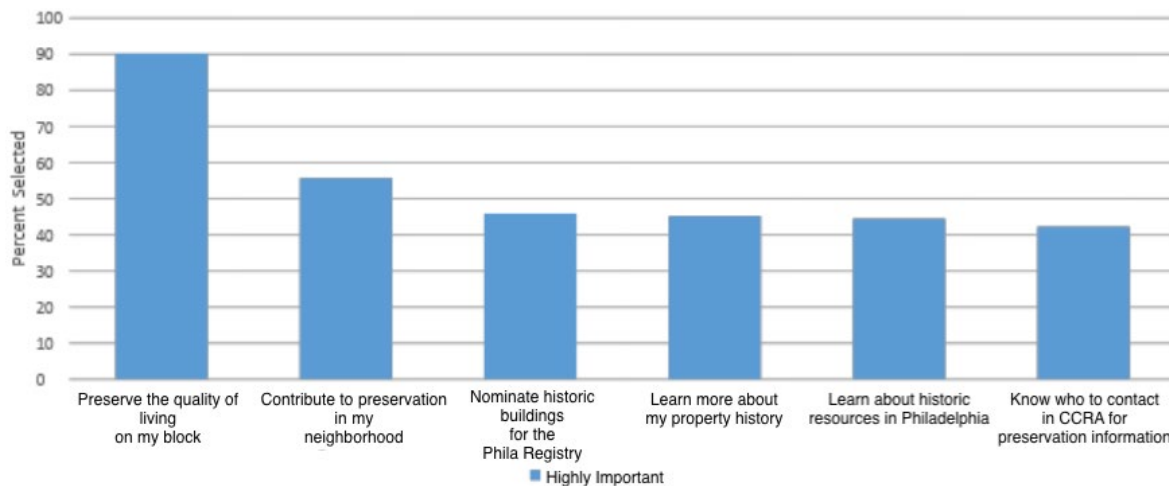
By Philippa Campbell

CCRA thanks its many members who completed the recent survey about historic preservation priorities. Results suggest not only what is important but also future directions for CCRA's preservation activities. In addition to rating 13 items in categories of highly important, generally important, or not important or not applicable, members were also asked to describe a CCRA role, and identify one thing that CCRA could do in relation to historic preservation.

Highly Important and Not-So-Important Activities

Six activities were selected as highly important by at least half of the respondents. The clear priority, selected by more than 90 percent, was “preserving the quality of living on my block.” “Contributing to preservation in my neighborhood” and “learning more about the history of my own property” were also highly important, as were less personally focused activities, such as “nominating historic buildings for designation” or “learning about historic resources in Philadelphia.”

Activities Selected As Highly Important



Four of the 13 identified activities were identified as “not important” or “not applicable.” These activities generally related to information about restoration of properties, for example, “attending zoom sessions about preservation” or “learning about resources for restoring my property.” Many CCRA residents do not live in historic houses but in more modern houses, or in high-rise buildings, so that neighborhood-focused historic preservation activities are likely more applicable and more relevant to most people than activities targeting individual historic properties.

Next Steps for Historic Preservation for CCRA

Respondents identified one primary role for CCRA—to be a leader and advocate for historic preservation in our neighborhood. This role included a few key components: (1) establish priorities, form committees to do research and education, and identify volunteers to attend hearings; (2) partner with other organizations such as the Preservation Alliance or Sacred Places; and (3) monitor new development, not just zoning, but especially demolitions and the design of new construction. There were several comments about the poor-quality design of new buildings, described by one respondent as “eyesores.”

What one thing did members identify that CCRA should be doing? Not surprisingly, almost 40 percent of the ideas related to advocacy. Suggestions included “lobby for stricter

enforcement,” and cited the example of the Boyd Theater, which was “needlessly destroyed and now sits undeveloped.” Another suggestion was to “assess the history of the area regarding African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and Asians [living] in CCRA neighborhoods—and publish the results.”

Many ideas described actions for CCRA to take to lobby the city on preservation issues and to support the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Commission. Still others wanted CCRA to be more assertive in “having a say in preserving historic properties in the face of development pressures,” and specifically with regard to demolitions where CCRA should “identify historic properties in jeopardy of demolition as early as possible,” and take a role in “sponsoring public review of all proposed demolitions in areas that have remained historically intact.”

Public awareness activities were central to other suggestions, stressing those that would make all people aware of historic resources in their neighborhoods and how to protect buildings. Other ideas touched on expansion of the current historic district and support of property nominations. Even with all the suggestions and ideas, some members felt that what CCRA is doing currently is “good work, but don’t overdo it,” while others noted the many neighborhood issues such as “safety, crime, and parking” that were more important than historic preservation; a few commented that CCRA should “stay away from the topic,” “stay out of it,” and “not be overzealous.”

Continued on p.10

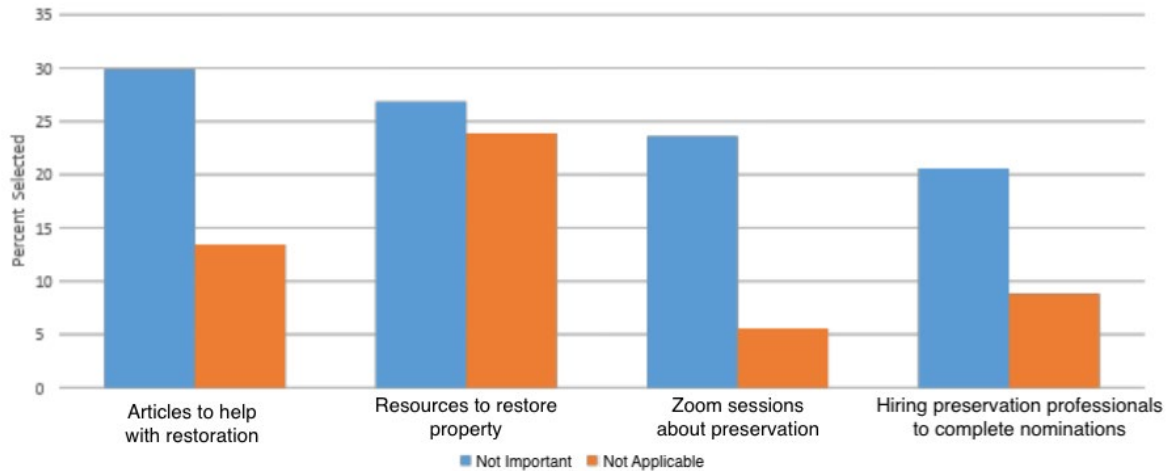
Continued from p.9

Beginning in July, CCRA will have a new president, officers, and some new board members, several of whom have interests and backgrounds in historic preservation. Reach out to the new president and officers if you would like a role in CCRA's efforts to ensure our neighborhood quality of life.

As one member stated on the survey: "Lest we old-timers forget,

and newer residents learn, CCRA was founded to preserve and protect The Historic Rittenhouse Neighborhood. The founding of this mission has expanded and now includes a larger area. Just think what the area would be like now if people had not come together over 60 years ago and let their voices be heard. I am a 63-year resident of the Square and hope to spend a few more years here enjoying what has been preserved."

Activities Selected As Not Important or Not Applicable



Our Greene Countrie Towne

Climate Crisis Solutions: We Can Do It

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

What will it take to get to zero emissions by 2050? According to *The Guardian*, a U.K. newspaper that covers the worldwide climate crisis extensively, we need to power homes and vehicles with electricity, and we need to substitute fossil fuels with solar and wind energy to produce electricity. In order to eliminate existing atmospheric carbon, we need to scale up carbon capture and trapping technologies. ("The race to zero: can America reach net-zero emissions by 2050?" *The Guardian*, March 15, 2021.)

On April 27, the *Washington Post* reported on a new scientific study that claimed, "Moving quickly to cut emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas produced by everything from livestock farming to fossil fuel extraction, could slow the rate of the Earth's warming as much as 30 percent.... Carbon dioxide is far more abundant in the Earth's atmosphere and can linger for hundreds of years, while methane typically breaks down after about a decade. But in the short term, methane is far more effective at trapping heat — roughly 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide."

Findings from new research studies are reported daily, such as how carbon dioxide is released into the ocean by bottom trawling, the practice of dragging enormous nets along the ocean floor. According to a new study, "conserving some marine areas would not only safeguard imperiled species but sequester vast amounts of planet-warming carbon dioxide." ("Trawling for Fish May Unleash as Much Carbon as Air Travel, Study Says," *New York Times*, March 17, 2021.)

Players on the zero-emissions team now include Wall Street investors, bankers, and CEOs of companies. "A steadily growing trend in investment went fully mainstream in 2020 as a record number of corporations pledged to go 'net zero' and move to cancel out the carbon emissions they produce to halt a catastrophic rise in global temperatures." ("Reading the writing on the wall": why Wall Street is acting on the climate crisis," *The Guardian*, March 16, 2021.)

These new players join the existing team of federal, state, and local governments; builders and developers; insurers; mortgage bankers; utilities; growers; engineers; technicians; and international organizations. Technical breakthroughs such as scalable carbon scrubbers, bladeless wind turbines ("skybrators"), and microwave-powered home boilers are in the works.

Demographic changes, including population decreases and migrations, are predicted: for example, some parts of the planet, such as Russia, Canada, and Northern Europe, will become warmer, thereby attracting population. Changes in food production are predicted: for example, researchers have reported that feeding seaweed to beef cattle will lessen methane gas emissions.

These are just a few of the many improvements that are needed and already in the works. By the time this issue of the *Quarterly* appears in your inbox, a host of new discoveries and innovations will have been reported in the media. I believe our big brains can solve this problem. Will changemakers win over inertia? I fervently hope so. Be the change.

City Lit

Updates from the Philadelphia City Institute Library

By Erin Hoopes

On Fridays this summer from 10 am to 12 pm, stop by the Goat Statue in Rittenhouse Square to sign up for the Free Library of Philadelphia's Summer Reading program. Philadelphia City Institute Library staff will be handing out summer reading materials, stickers, and free books for readers of all ages! We'll also have grab-and-go craft bags for our young friends and special summer-reading challenge cards for teens and adults. This program begins June 11 and ends August 13.

Material pickup services are ongoing at the Philadelphia City Institute Library (1905 Locust Street). You can reserve library materials online with your library card number and pin, then give us a call (215-685-6621) to schedule an appointment to pick them up. In our first eight months of offering pickup services, we checked out 30,481 items for 7,293 pickup appointments. We are so proud of this achievement by our small staff of three librarians, one library assistant, and one municipal guard!

Although we aren't open for browsing yet, our staff is happy to provide personalized recommendations for readers of all ages. Need some extra-engaging reading material to keep your children busy this summer? Want to find books to help start a new hobby or to take on vacation with you? Let us help! For children's titles, email [Liz Heideman](mailto:Liz.Heideman@cityinstitute.org). For teen and adult titles, email [Erin Hoopes](mailto:Erin.Hoopes@cityinstitute.org). For adult titles, email [Dan Kopp](mailto:Dan.Kopp@cityinstitute.org).

City Lit

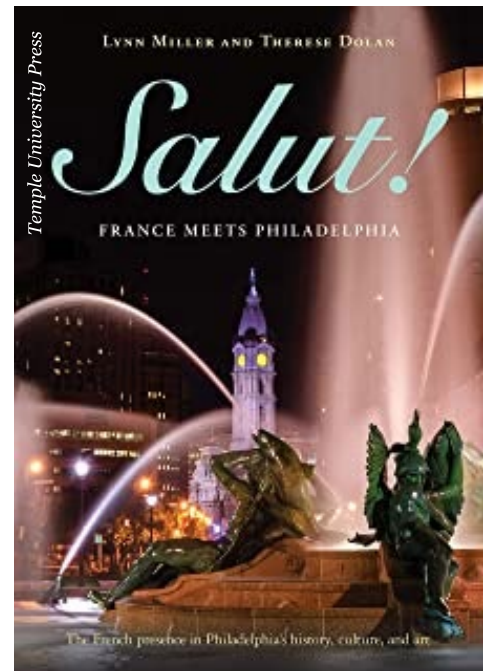
Finding the French Footprint in Philadelphia

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Philadelphians, art aficionados, history buffs, and fans of all things French will find a valuable resource in *Salut! France Meets Philadelphia* (subtitle: *The French presence in Philadelphia's history, culture, and art*). Readers will learn how France is woven into our political and social history, visual arts, architecture, urban design, and cuisine.

Historically, the book covers the earliest French settlers in colonial times, through France's involvement in the American Revolution, the Federal period and the French Revolution, the French influence during the nineteenth century, all the way to modern times. Beautifully illustrated with 169 full-color photographs, the book is so rich in detail that it makes an ideal reference to have on your bookshelf to consult from time to time.

This thoroughly researched and meticulously detailed work was written by two Temple University Professors Emeriti: Lynn Miller, Political Science; and Therese Dolan, Art History; and published by Temple University Press. Watch their [online presentation](#) on YouTube, sponsored by the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the Barnes Foundation, Temple University Press, and the Alliance Française.



From the book cover.

Salut! France Meets Philadelphia Wins Athenaeum Award

The [Athenaeum of Philadelphia](#) presented its 2020 Art & Architecture Literary Award to *Salut! France Meets Philadelphia* at its Annual Shareholder Meeting on April 12. This award honors the year's most outstanding book on art or architecture by a Philadelphia-area author, selected by a panel of Athenaeum shareholders.

Presenting the award, Daniel Traister remarked, "Unanimous about the book's quality and readability, we also agreed about its ability to attract, interest, and inform a general readership while simultaneously meeting scholarly expectations."

—Bonnie Eisenfeld

Town Square

Trinity Memorial Church Distributing Free Food Bags to Households in Need

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Trinity Memorial Church at 22nd and Spruce Streets is distributing two bags of groceries per household to anyone experiencing food insecurity, no questions asked; advance reservations required. This food distribution program is



Sorting groceries for food-bag pickup at Trinity Memorial Church, 22nd and Spruce.

accessible to residents of Center City who do not have cars, and it has been a lifeline to seniors, families, children, and unemployed workers.

Groceries are distributed in the afternoon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. For people who are unable to pick up due to disability or illness, volunteers will try to deliver.

Volunteer drivers needed: Trinity needs volunteers with large vehicles to pick up groceries from a partner in Northeast Philadelphia, drive them back into town, unload and sort the groceries, and drive some to disabled people. The amount of food varies each time. If enough drivers would volunteer, Trinity could distribute food every week.

Financial donations needed: You can donate funds to Trinity's main provider of groceries: www.caringforfriends.com, or donate directly to Trinity Memorial Church at 22nd and Spruce Sts. Donations directly to Trinity Memorial Church are used to purchase supplemental food such as eggs and fresh produce. Donate [online](#). For all donations, please note TMC Food Bag Program.

Bags and other items needed: Trinity needs strong double paper grocery bags (or strong fabric bags) and smaller bags for sorting fruit, as well as socks, and notes that say "You Matter."

To reserve food bags, to volunteer, or to ask questions, please email [Susan Weinman](mailto:Susan.Weinman). Thank you!

City Lit

Philadelphia Physician-Author Wins Annual Athenaeum Literary Award

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Annually, the Athenaeum of Philadelphia presents an award to the year's most outstanding literary work either by a Philadelphia author or about Philadelphia. On April 12, the Athenaeum presented its 2020 Literary Award to Michele Harper's *The Beauty in Breaking: A Memoir*. The book, Dr. Harper's first, is about her experiences as an emergency room physician and her emotional and spiritual growth.

For the first time, the award includes a \$1,000 cash prize. Dr. William Jantsch, who presented the award, stated that the Literary Award jury found the memoir to be "courageous, beautifully written, and powerfully uplifting."

Dr. Harper has been an emergency room physician at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia. She is a graduate of Harvard University and the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. Her book is a *New York Times* bestseller.

Other short-listed books for the 2020 Literary Award were Susan Abulhawa's *Against the Loveless World* and Kiley Reid's *Such a Fun Age*.



Dr. Michele Harper

It's Academic

Beyond Literacy: Two Adult Learning Organizations Announce Merger

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Center for Literacy and Community Learning Center, two nonprofit adult-learning organizations, announced their merger under a new identity, [Beyond Literacy](#), on April 28. Combining resources and staff will better serve the increasing numbers of adults in the city who need help with English language proficiency and high-school equivalency credentials.

Ultimately, the goal is to help adult learners gain employment, enter job-training programs, or transition to college and other post-secondary schools. Preparation for citizenship, computer-skills training, career readiness, pre-apprenticeship programs, and family literacy are among other services offered.

“Our inclusive services take striving adults from learning to earning,” says Kimmell Proctor, the new CEO of Beyond Literacy, “by equipping them with the lifelong literacy skills necessary for family-sustaining careers.”

The new name, tag line, and logo were created through a process involving students, staff, board members, donors, and funders.

Headquarters and classes are located at Peirce College, 1420

Pine St., and classes are also held at Beyond Literacy’s other campuses in West Philadelphia and North Philadelphia. Classes are offered free of charge.

For more information, contact [Robin Robinowitz](#), Chief Development Officer.



Courtesy of Beyond Literacy

Kimmell Proctor, CEO of Beyond Literacy

It's Academic

Greene Towne Kindergartners' Center City Classroom

By Nicole Leapheart, Director of Communications, GTMS

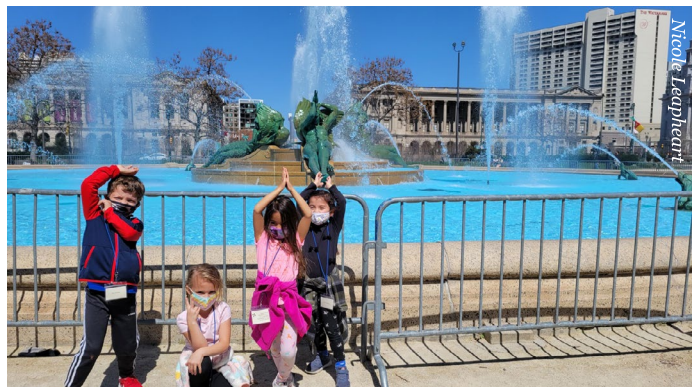
On a cloudless, beautiful day, a small group of kindergarten students from Greene Towne Montessori sets off on a short walking trip around Center City with their teacher and additional staff. The object of this particular trip is to explore some of the sculptures found within walking distance of the school: *Deinonychus*, the sculpture of two dinosaurs, and the casting of Joseph Leidy, both found at the Academy of Natural Sciences; *The Thinker* at the Rodin Museum; and the Swann Memorial Fountain, with sculptures of Native American figures to represent the Schuylkill, Delaware, and Wissahickon bodies of water, just to name a few stops along the way.

The kindergartners have mastered safety protocols and are properly wearing their masks. Animated and curious, they are excited to be outside on a walk, and clamor around each other to either sound out or even read aloud the signs associated with various sculptures. Sometimes they mimic the sculptures and giggle at each other. This opportunity to be out and about is not taken for granted.

The kindergarten year is for children in their last year at Greene Towne, as the culmination of the complete Montessori program. Kindergarten children spend each day in the mixed-age Montessori classroom working on individual projects or in small groups and mentoring younger students. They eagerly explore the worlds of reading, writing, mathematical calculations, geography, science and art. This is the year where everything comes together, and these children display confidence in skills like leadership, cooperation, discovery, and grace.

Along with skills learned in the classroom, there are enrichment opportunities in addition to the standard Montessori curriculum. These students also enjoy field trips and cultural activities like Lunches Around the World, both typically hosted by kindergarten-parent volunteers. This year, safety protocols made these events look different, but thanks to some creative thinking by teachers and parents, arrangements for experiences like a sculpture walk, a virtual Franklin Institute trip, and a leaf scavenger hunt have happened, with more to come.

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.



Greene Towne kindergartners visit the Swann Memorial Fountain.

Koresh Dance Company's Outreach Program, Koresh Kids Dance, Takes It Outdoors!

By Keila Perez-Vega

This summer Koresh Dance Company's Outreach program, Koresh Kids Dance, will be taking it outdoors. The program invites participants to shake off the winter blues outside at some favorite Philly parks. Koresh Kids learn some new moves, play some games and make their own dances with Koresh Kids Dance teaching artists.

These free, 45-minute classes are conceived for dancers in grades K-5, but all ages are welcome and no dance experience is required. Pre-register online by visiting koreshdance.org/koresh-kids-dance.

Since 2006, Koresh Kids Dance provides free, high-quality, weekly, in-school creative-dance instruction to Philadelphia public school students in grades 2-5.

Through KKD, students learn fundamental dance techniques, how to create choreography, and to bridge dance with life skills including self-confidence, discipline, and collaboration.

Koresh Kids Dance enables children to tell their own stories through movement vocabularies that are meaningful to them. The program is geared toward educating the whole person and enriching the lives of students. KKD's program is based in the belief that dance is a powerful tool for educating young people, and is committed to contributing to the inclusion of dance in the curriculum of Philadelphia's school students.

Students experience the joy of dance as both participant and viewer, and gain meaningful educational experiences to supplement their standard curriculum.

As Koresh Dance Company's youth outreach program, Koresh Kids Dance supplements the curriculum of Philadelphia's Title I public schools for 750 students at 10 schools. KKD provides free, weekly, in-school dance lessons for underserved children yearly from October to June. KKD operates exclusively in Title I schools, which demonstrate strong need for outside support in providing a comprehensive curriculum. According to schools' data, 80-100



Koresh Kids Dance lesson outdoors.

percent of KKD students are classified as economically disadvantaged.

Operating virtually in a pandemic incurs a number of unusual costs, such as computers that can stream high-quality virtual classes for our teaching artists, and materials for outdoor classes to supplement online learning.

KKD supplements the Philadelphia School District's needs for the arts and physical education, two crucial cornerstones for full personal development. During the COVID shutdown, KKD runs through Google Meet, so students can still see and dance with peers. Students receive new online 45-minute lessons each week. Over nine months, they learn fundamental dance techniques and how to use them when creating original dances.

Koresh coordinates lesson plans with District teachers, integrating anatomy, math, literature, etc. into KKD, to integrate study and enable success at the intersection of academic fields. For example, 4th graders study bones and joints, and how each can create unique dance moves, to enhance ongoing anatomy classes. We create a safe setting for students to express themselves, and promote their in-school engagement, particularly in the pandemic. We anticipate returning to in-person learning this fall.

KKD held three open "Koresh Kids Dance: Outdoor Edition" events in September and October at community sites near some of their partner schools. Students from all partner classrooms were invited to attend with their families, along with the general public. In June, KKD will hold a culminating performance for family and peers, showcasing student choreography. Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, this may be live or on video.



A local park was the scene of this 2020 Koresh Kids Dance session.

Dining Scene

260 S. Broad Street (Broad & Spruce) Steak 48

By Leo Levinson—*The Center City Foodie*

Do you remember normal? Do you remember bustling kitchens, bulging menus and gracious hospitality? Normally, that might not have been something to write about in a restaurant review, but today it is.

I know that coming back after the odious lockdown has been beyond challenging for the hospitality industry. And that's why Philadelphia's Steak 48 is such an extraordinary place. Because when I say that dining at Steak 48 is "normal," it is the highest praise—I dined there before, during, and after COVID. And their normal is the exceptional, which never varied.

Normal makes you feel really good dining there. And that comfortable feeling starts the minute you're welcomed into their sepia-toned foyer enveloping you like a warm cocoon. You're quickly led to the smart, contemporary dining room featuring a glass wall, spanning the entire length of the room and separating it from the kitchen. Its effect quickly focuses you on the food, which is the star, riveting your attention to mounds of fresh seafood, fresh vegetables, aged super-premium beef, and more.

With echoes of my Mom admonishing me not to spoil my dinner, I order too many appetizers every time because the menu is so tantalizing. Portions are large, too, so you can share. Pro tip: the meatballs are not to be missed, which is truly saying something in this city of Philadelphia. I admit I have ordered them every time. They are that good.

Other standouts include the Rhode Island shrimp & squid in buttermilk coating, braised pork belly, fresh burrata with tomato jam & pickled onion, crispy shrimp deviled eggs, and the seafood tower selection. And another pro tip: searching down-menu to the side dishes, we've ordered the asparagus fries (fresh asparagus spears gently fried in buttermilk coating) as an appetizer every time, too.

Of course, the real stars are the steaks. Their 28-day, wet-aged USDA prime beef has depth of flavor that is delicious. Steaks are cooked any way you like them and with a variety of optional toppings, from truffles to foie gras to crispy shrimp and others. The steaks, as well as all the entrees, are served on a 500-degree hot plate, and it really is that hot. Ouch!

But steaks are only part of the menu: fresh seafood offerings are extensive, including tasty seasoned crab cakes. Other meat entrees include Tomahawk pork chops, rack of lamb, bone-in veal chop, Amish chicken, and even meatloaf.

Be sure to order the creamed corn brulée as one of your side dishes, because it is so indescribably delicious, with its crispy brulée crust. We've also enjoyed the creamed spinach, mac and cheese, roasted Brussels sprouts, and Kennett Square mushrooms, among others.

Save room for dessert, too. Their Triple Chocolate Bombe is outrageous, with its dark chocolate shell and mousse interior. S'mores in a Jar, Triple Layer Key Lime Pie, and Ultimate Warm Vanilla Caramel Cake are just some of the wonderful endings to an outstanding meal.

Also unusual in Philadelphia, thanks to our State Store system, is that Steak 48 has one of the most extensive restaurant wine lists in the City, with a diverse range of price points and vintages, adding a unique dimension to your meal.

Steak 48 is the definition of restaurant hospitality: they care enough to call every patron the day after, to ask about your experience and to hear praise as well as criticism. Our guess is that you'll praise your experience, especially about feeling normal again. And in Steak 48's case, the exceptional is normal.

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



CCRA Welcomes New Officers and Directors at Annual Meeting

The Center City Residents' Association welcomed a new slate of Officers and Directors to the Board at the Annual Meeting on May 27. All members of CCRA are eligible to vote in Board elections at the Annual Meeting.

The following members of CCRA have been elected to serve two-year terms as OFFICERS (07/01/2021- 06/30/2023):



President

Rick Gross (incumbent Executive Vice President)—Rick and his wife, Roberta, moved to Rittenhouse Square 10 years ago, enchanted by the neighborhood and the city. Rick is Senior Manager of his company, BW Realty Advisors LLC, which finances large public/private projects throughout the country. He chaired the Stakeholder groups for

both The Harper (Pearl Property's project on 19th and Chestnut) and The Laurel (Southern Land's project on Walnut Street at Rittenhouse Square), and has been active in developing and negotiating Community Benefits Agreements with the developers of all other major projects proposed for Center City West over the past several years. Roberta is active in the local arts community. Rick won a Tony in 2013 for co-producing the Broadway revival of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* As President of CCRA, Rick hopes to contribute to the reopening of Center City and the restoration of the vibrant community enjoyed before the pandemic.



Executive Vice

President and Treasurer

Rick Speizman (incumbent Assistant Treasurer)—After 35+ years away from "home," Rick returned to Philadelphia in 2019. His wife, Faith Horowitz, was kind enough to join him. This move was enabled by Rick's retirement as a Washington, D.C.-based partner at a "Big Four" accounting and consulting firm, and by the sale

of Faith's engineering firm. At his firm, Rick had national responsibility for the practice that provided tax services to nonprofit clients. Rick was ready for his return to Philadelphia, having remained an avid Philadelphia sports fan, and having kept well informed of developments in the area. While Rick has a particular fascination with the built environment, he is interested in all things Philadelphia. He looks forward to contributing to CCRA and helping to make Center City a better place to live and work for all.



Vice Presidents

Michele Ettinger—A retired dental hygienist, Michele and her husband, Joel, moved to Rittenhouse Square almost three years ago. Within a few months of joining CCRA, she became a Board member, and, assuming the role of Membership Chair, orchestrated CCRA's exciting

growth, with myriad new initiatives and an emphasis on relationship-building. Michele has been a prominent community leader for almost three decades, serving as President of Jewish Family and Children's Service of SNJ, and as V.P. of the Jewish Federation of SNJ. Michele and Joel are proud parents, and recent grandparents of three little boys.



Barbara Halpern (incumbent Vice President)—a retired attorney, Barbara has lived in the Fidler Square area for 11 years. She has served as Membership Chair, and is currently on the Executive Committee as V.P., Community Relations. In that role, she also chairs the Communications Committee, which publishes

CCRA This Week and the *Center City Quarterly*.

Charles Robin (incumbent V.P.)—Charles has been a Center City Realtor since 1990. He manages Robin Apartments, a third-generation real estate company that has occupied the same corner—20th & Chestnut—since 1937. Charles and his wife of 25 years, Miae, have two beautiful children, who attend Temple University. An active member of CCRA since 1992, Charles has served previously as Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. He co-chairs the Remapping Taskforce, and previously sat on the Finance and House Tour committees, among others. Charles also served in the past as CCRA's Ninth Police District Advisory Council Representative.



David Rose—David's prior roles include PDAC rep, Streets Chair, and spearheading the LED Street-lights Grant Taskforce. He has served on the Executive Committee, and CCRA's Liquor, Education, Garden, High-Rise Membership, and Government Relations Committees. He ran the 19th Street Congestion Taskforce, and was a member of the Remapping Committee. His work on the Major Development Taskforce included IPIC, 1901 Chestnut, The Harper, The Laurel, Harper 2, CVS, Freeman's, One Riverside, Morgan Lewis, Culinary Institute, and 1919 Market St. David acted as a facilitator of the Stakeholder Groups for Harper, Laurel, Harper 2, and CVS assemblages.

Continued on p. 17



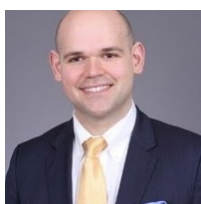
Secretary

Susan Kahn—Susan came to Philadelphia many years ago to attend Penn Law School. She practiced law and then taught high school history. Susan and her husband moved to Center City in 2010. She currently leads the Schuylkill River Park PHS Tree Tenders and serves as a board member of Need In Deed, the Friends of Schuylkill River Park, and CCRA.



Assistant Secretary

Nathaniel Parks—Nathaniel is an entrepreneur who, throughout his career, has focused on utilizing technology to help progressive candidates and organizations. He lives on Rodman Street with his wife, Sallie; daughter, Celia; son, Wes; and dog, Wrigley.



Assistant Treasurer

Matthew Fontana—Matt is a labor and employment attorney with the firm of Faegre Drinker Biddle and Reath. Matthew has lived in Center City West for nearly 10 years; as a CCRA Board member since 2016, he has focused his service on addressing quality-of-life issues

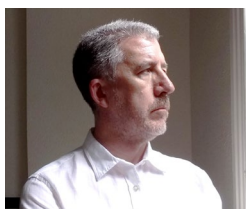
impacting our community.

The following members of CCRA have been elected to serve three-year DIRECTOR terms (07/01/2021 - 06/30/2024):



Judith Axler—Judith has lived in Center City since 1987 and been a CCRA member much of that time. She’s happy to have seen all the wonderful changes in our neighborhood in recent years, and wishes to help it continue to flourish. A history buff, Judith indulges this passion by serving as a volunteer park ranger at Independence National Historical Park. She also

volunteers as a second-grade reading tutor at Greenfield Elementary School. She works in the affordable housing field.



Jim Duffin—A Philadelphia native, Jim has resided in the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood for 20 years. He enjoys the rich, diverse, and walkable life the neighborhood offers. An archivist at the University of Pennsylvania with a deep interest in the rich history of Philadelphia and how it can inform

the lives of residents today, Jim has served on a number of nonprofit history-related organizations in the Germantown/ Mount Airy area. He has worked on numerous nominations to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, and promoted citywide preservation efforts. Jim hopes to bring his civic experiences to bear on the surrounding neighborhood via the CCRA. For Jim, preservation is more than just pretty buildings; it’s about looking to the future and thinking about ways to keep the best parts of our neighborhoods – people, buildings, institutions and business – and provide opportunities for new growth.



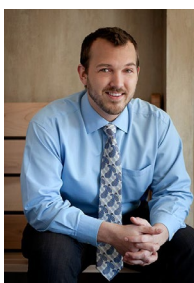
Jared Gluskin—Jared moved to Philadelphia 10 years ago to attend Temple University, and is the manager of Robin Apartments, Inc., working alongside CCRA V.P. Charles Robin. Living in the Rittenhouse Square area, Jared has come to love Center City and appreciate the work of the dedicated volunteers who have made it such a

wonderful neighborhood. Jared is also a volunteer chapter advisor for the Jewish youth group BBYO.



Lawrence Goldberg—A Center City resident since 2005, Lawrence joined CCRA shortly after his arrival. Raised and educated in New York City, Larry appreciates the livable scale of Center City, with its restaurants, shops and cultural attractions, many within easy walking distance. Larry is a retired psychiatrist. Besides engaging in clinical practice, he has served as a hospital

medical director, an administrator for health-insurance plans, and as an overseas volunteer providing clinical training in low-resource settings.



Ryan Mulholland—Ryan moved to Philadelphia nine years ago to help his longtime friend Greg Vernick open and operate his namesake restaurant, Vernick Food & Drink, on Walnut Street. After gaining popularity and acclaim, the restaurant has expanded to four different concepts within the city of Philadelphia, adding Vernick Fish and Vernick Coffee Bar in the Comcast Technology Center, and Vernick Wine adjacent to the original

location. For the entirety of those nine years, Ryan and his wife, Danielle, have resided in the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, and are proud to call this neighborhood and city home.



Nan Robinson (incumbent Director)—Serving as Secretary last term, Nan has been on the CCRA Board since 2019, participating on the Membership, Nomination and various other non-standing committees. A transplant to Philly from Seattle, Nan has lived in the Fidler and Graduate neighborhoods, and wants to do her part to ensure this wonderful community continues to thrive for generations to come.



Richard Vaughn (incumbent Director)—Richard is a Delaware Valley native who spent his adult life in North Jersey while working in the tech field as a telecom consultant before finishing his career at Rutgers University. He has recently circled back to the area to be near friends and family (read: grandchildren). He is also circling back to create a second career

out of his first love, that being Journalism (print, online and broadcast). His hobbies include playing tennis, writing and performing standup comedy, and regularly laying waste to the Sunday NYT crossword puzzle.

The following members of CCRA have been elected to serve two-year DIRECTOR terms (07/01/2021 - 06/30/2023):



Elena Cappella (incumbent Director)—A resident of CCRA-land for over three decades, Elena is retired from law and from her work as a key executive for a national nonprofit organization dedicated to law reform. She loves city life and can't wait to return to in-person OLLI and Penn classes, and to once again visit area schools and hospitals with her therapy dog. She's been chairing CCRA's Bylaws committee for over a year, and previously served on the Streets

Committee, with special interest in pedestrian and bicyclist safety.



Wayne Macfadden—A New York City native, Wayne moved to Center City in 1986. A Board-Certified Psychiatrist, Wayne has held a variety of clinical, academic and research positions. He has also worked for several large pharmaceutical companies in Neuroscience Research and Development, in the U.S. and overseas. Upon returning to Philadelphia, Wayne committed to the betterment of the quality of life for Center

City residents. A Fellow of the Philadelphia College of Physicians, Wayne was recently elected to the Board of Directors at the Penn Center House.



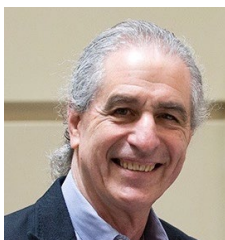
Irena Wight—A Rittenhouse Square resident, Irena has lived in Philadelphia for six years. Irena holds a dual master's degree in architecture and historic preservation from the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, and works for Atkin Olshin Schade Architects. She joined CCRA because of her interest in the preservation of historic buildings in Center City, and ensuring that the neighborhood retains its cultural and

pedestrian-friendly character. Irena is honored to join the CCRA Board of Directors, and is excited to be part of the CCRA's mission to encourage responsible development while preserving the neighborhood's historic heritage.

The following members of CCRA have been elected to serve a one-year DIRECTOR term (07/01/2021 - 06/30/2022):



Gilbert Feinberg—Gil has studied, lived and worked in Center City since 1970, and now resides in the Rittenhouse Square area with his wife, Nadeen Van Tuyle. Gil is a sole-practitioner attorney specializing in estate planning and settlement. Gil is a current board member and past president of Gretna Music, and serves on the board of Singing City.



Bill Goldstein—Bill is a lifelong Philadelphia resident, having grown up in West Oak Lane, across the street from the original Ben & Irv's Delicatessen. He graduated from Central (215 class), Penn (College '64, Law '67), and celebrated 55 years of marriage (to Joan) in May. Bill has lived full time in the Murano since 2013.



Richard Huffman—Richard Huffman, FAIA, is a retired architect partner at Wallace Roberts and Todd. He and his wife, Susan, have lived and raised a family for 50 years in Center City. His other board assignments include CPDC, Friends Select School, AIA and Urban Land Institute.



Douglas Mellor (incumbent Director)—A former commercial and fine-art photographer, former gallery director, and teacher at the University of the Arts, Doug has renovated several houses, two in Philadelphia: one on Pine Street in 2008 and one on Waverly Street in 2018. Doug feels we have a unique city where we can live and work; he is interested in keeping the city livable and historically appealing.



Lauren O'Donnell (incumbent Director)—Lauren is a Philadelphia-area native who has lived in the Rittenhouse neighborhood for the past 10 years. She is a partner in the litigation department at Blank Rome LLP, concentrating her practice on products liability defense and white-collar criminal defense. Lauren is excited to be a part of CCRA's mission to continually improve Center City for

residents and visitors alike.





The FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in PHILADELPHIA

est. 1698

21st & Walnut Streets
215-567-0532

The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia was founded in 1698. Since then we have been a home to a diverse group of Christians.

While our building is temporarily closed, our hearts are always open! We invite you to join us online for our Traditional or Celebration Worship services, Fellowship Opportunities, Educational Programs, and more!

www.fpcphila.org



philly power yoga YOGA & THRIVE pilates health fitness

Yoga | Pilates | Barre | TRX

**JOIN US IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY
(LIVESTREAM & ON DEMAND)!**

Your neighbourhood studio with world-class instructors!

New Client Specials available for private & group sessions.

Check out our website for more information on registering for class and setting up private sessions.



www.yandpphilly.com | @ppyogathrive
info@yandpphilly.com | 267-908-5395
2016 Walnut St., Philadelphia PA 19103 US



*Discover one of the Top 20
Athletic Clubs in the Nation!*



Learn more at
www.rcop.com
Email: membership@rcop.com
Phone: 215.772.1555



1700 Lombard St, Philadelphia, PA 19146
bistolabaia.com





Explore traditional

Indian Cuisine

with a modern influence

- Lunch • Dinner • Desserts •
- Weekend Brunch • Bar

1920 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA
267-519-2001





Perfect Partners

KATHLEEN & KATE FEDERICO

Call KATE
Kate@allandomb.com
215.840.0049
or

KATHLEEN | 215.850.3876



Allan Domb Real Estate
1845 Walnut Street, Suite 2200
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.545.1500

CITY TO SHORE

Whether your primary residence, vacation home or investment property, we shall assist you with all of your real estate needs.

RECENT TRANSACTIONS

Rittenhouse Place
\$2,300,000

Hopkinson House
\$308,000

Licensed in PA, NJ, CA

CCRA Board Member/Chair
Annual House & Garden Tour

What's Going On

CCRA Summer Calendar—Dancing—Reading, Shopping, Eating, Being—in the Streets

Bloomsday Rosenbacchanal 2021: A Celebration to Support Bloomsday in the Rosenbach Garden

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

Siren's Garden Party

Tuesday, June 1, 6 – 8 pm

Hors d'oeuvres, special cocktails, and a magical performance by acclaimed double bassist Xavier Foley, Laureate of Astral Artists

Rosenbacchanal Young Friends Party

Tuesday, June 8, 6 – 8 pm

The Young Friends of The Rosenbach will debut 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, following the world premiere of its original Bloomsday documentary.

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/>

Rothman Roller Rink

Dilworth Park

Outdoor rollerskating

Through Sunday, June 27

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

Schuylkill River Rowing Events

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

Schuylkill Banks RiverBoat Tours Cruises

Walnut Street Dock, east bank of Schuylkill River

Beneath Walnut Street Bridge

Select Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays

June through October

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

Architectural Tours

Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

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

Center for Architecture and Design

<https://www.philadelphiacfa.org/architecture-tours>

Museums

[https://www.discoverphl.com/blog/philadelphia-muse-](https://www.discoverphl.com/blog/philadelphia-muse-ums-that-are-now-open/)

[ums-that-are-now-open/](https://www.discoverphl.com/blog/philadelphia-muse-ums-that-are-now-open/)

Trails for Walking, Running, or Biking

[https://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/running-and-bik-](https://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/running-and-biking-trails-center-city-philadelphia/)

[ing-trails-center-city-philadelphia/](https://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/running-and-biking-trails-center-city-philadelphia/)

Parks and Outdoor Spaces in Philadelphia

[https://www.visitphilly.com/parks-outdoors-in-philadelphia/?utm-](https://www.visitphilly.com/parks-outdoors-in-philadelphia/?utm_source=VisitPhillyEmail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VPE_April2021&utm_content=parks)

[source=VisitPhillyEmail&utm_medium=email&utm_cam-](https://www.visitphilly.com/parks-outdoors-in-philadelphia/?utm_source=VisitPhillyEmail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VPE_April2021&utm_content=parks)

[paign=VPE_April2021&utm_content=parks](https://www.visitphilly.com/parks-outdoors-in-philadelphia/?utm_source=VisitPhillyEmail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VPE_April2021&utm_content=parks)

Center City District

To get the latest news about events in

Center City Philadelphia, go to Center City District at

<https://centercityphila.org/explore-center-city/events>

Sign up for *(IN) Center City*, the e-newsletter of the Center City

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

VisitPhilly

To get the latest news about events in the Greater Philadelphia

area, go to VisitPhilly at <https://www.visitphilly.com/>





Center City Residents' Association

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

Town Square

PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro Addresses CCRA Annual Meeting

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro was scheduled to appear as Guest Speaker at the CCRA Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 27.

The son of a public school teacher and a pediatrician, Shapiro grew up seeing how compassion and serving others can change lives and strengthen community. After earning his law degree at night from Georgetown, Shapiro and his wife, Lori, returned to their suburban Philadelphia hometown, where they are raising their four children.

As Attorney General, he preserved patients' access to healthcare by taking on the largest healthcare companies in Pennsylvania; exposed a decades-long cover-up of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church; and has returned over \$200 million in financial and non-monetary relief to student-loan borrowers, seniors, small businesses and consumers.

Now in his second term, Shapiro fulfilled a mandate to modernize the Attorney General's office and meet its promise to be the people's law firm. His leadership forced action to take on the climate crisis and hold polluters accountable; defended voting rights; and protected women's access to contraception.

As Attorney General he is directing an urgent, across-the-board fight against the big drug companies and trafficking rings fueling the heroin and opioid epidemic, and pursuing more treatment for those suffering from addiction. He is tackling the scourge of gun violence across Pennsylvania, and is committed to improving trust in the justice system with a comprehensive integrity agenda, a more diverse workforce, and smart-on-crime criminal-justice reforms.

As Chairman of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, Shapiro led an historic fiscal turnaround, helped the first LGBT couples in Pennsylvania marry, and fired Wall Street money managers in order to protect pensions and save retirees millions. As State Representative for Pennsylvania's 153rd House District he passed some of the toughest ethics laws in state history.

