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## CENTER CITY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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## Living History

# CCRA Annual Meeting May 20 to Feature Photographer and Author Vincent Feldman

By Philippa H. Campbell

Recently published photographer Vincent Feldman will be the featured speaker for the CCRA annual meeting scheduled in May (watch for details in weekly eNewsletters). For many years, he has photographed abandoned buildings throughout Philadelphia, some of which remain abandoned, others of which have since been demolished, some of which have been saved. His book *City Abandoned* is a compilation of photographs that were also recently exhibited at the University of the Arts. Inga Saffron, architecture critic for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, calls *City Abandoned* “a deeply moving survey of the great civic structures that Philadelphia erected, then neglected.” At the CCRA annual meeting, Feldman will share these unusual and often

poignant illustrations of older buildings and their declining purposes.

Not only do the needs for some buildings become obsolete, but tastes in architectural design change and fall out of public favor. Some buildings may be “saved” from abandonment or demolition through transformation into new uses. Take, for instance, the school district’s Board of Education Building (at 21st Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway), designed in 1932 as offices for a nationally recognized School Board and its acclaimed school district. By 2001, the Board was abolished, offices were moved, and in 2005 the building was sold to a developer who

*Continued p. 2*



Known as “Rindelaub’s Row,” this now-demolished quartet of historically registered buildings along the block of South 18th St. once stood where the 10 Rittenhouse Condominium now looms.

Continued from p. 1

transformed this wonderful art deco building into a condominium.

But others may not be so easily re-purposed; abandonment often leads to destruction by neglect, with final demolition necessitated by safety or other concerns.

Two decades ago when Feldman began photographing abandoned buildings, he noted that many represented no-longer-needed civic uses due to the decline of urban

areas in the years after the post-World War II period. The photographs are described as representations of an urban ideal and collectively ask “how Philadelphia, once the center of American History in politics, culture and industry, became so careless in the stewardship of such a great historic legacy and empowering identity?”

Feldman lives and works in Philadelphia. His photographs are owned privately and included in many museum collections including the

Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, and the Free Library of Philadelphia. *City Abandoned* received a Silver Award in the Graphis International 2015 Design Annual competition. Join other CCRA members at the May annual meeting to experience these award-winning photographs of Philadelphia institutions, and learn more of the history they capture.



The Board of Education Building (1932), 21st & the Parkway, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, now houses luxury apartments.



Oliver Bair Funeral Home and Warwick Apts, 1900 block of Sansom, and both on the Philadelphia Historic Register, have managed to fend off demolition to make way for a massive parking garage.



Another Center City jewel, the Hale Building (1887) at Chestnut & Juniper, is listed on the Philadelphia Register and still stands as an emblem of Gilded Age architecture.

### *It's Academic*

## Friends Select School Hosts a Series of LGBT Events

By Sarah Schmidt, Associate Director Marketing, Communication

Friends Select School mounted a photographic exhibit titled “Portraits Inside/Out” in the school’s Select Gallery. The exhibition, which was comprised of black-and-white portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals, aimed to reflect the wide range of LGBT people who have inspired the school’s wonderfully diverse and unique community. The show ran for a month in January.

Philadelphia State Representative Brian Sims visited Friends Select to view the exhibit and chat with students about his personal LGBT heroes.

Also in January, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affinity Group of the Parent Association of Friends Select School hosted an LGBT-themed Quizzo Cabaret with

legendary drag diva Martha Graham-Cracker at the William Way Center.

All proceeds were split between the Attic Youth Center and Friends Select. Funds raised will support the safe space and community-building opportunities the Attic Youth Center provides for LGBTQ youth. In addition, funds will help support Friends Select’s David A. Wood Scholarship, which provides financial aid to a lower- or middle-school student from an LGBT-headed household.

Friends Select School is a coed, college preparatory, Quaker day school in Philadelphia serving 550 students in grades pre-k through 12. Friends Select believes that education can be fascinating. Located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, in the



State Rep. Brian Sims; Chair of the FSS Parent Association’s LGBT Affinity Group Abby Schrader; and Head of School Rose Hagan, at the “Portraits Inside/Out” Exhibit.

cultural heart of Center City, the school traces its roots to 1689. At every age, students visit museums, attend cultural events, participate in community service, and experience the finest educational resources Philadelphia has to offer. For more information, please visit friends-select.org.

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## President's Report

# Primary Election, Search for Board Candidates, April 13 Celebration Event, eNewsletter, Zoning Committee Reports, and Several Disclosures



Jeffrey L. Braff, CCRA President

By the time you read this, the Primary Election will be just two months away. (Full disclosure: I am a Judge of Elections at the Greenfield School.) Of particular interest

to our neighborhood will be candidates for Mayor and City Council. Do you know where the candidates stand on the issues? CCRA has been working on ways to help find the answers. First, we organized a March 5 debate – moderated by Holly Otterbein of *Philadelphia Magazine* and WHY?Y's *NewsWorks* – between the two Democratic candidates for Second District Councilperson: incumbent Kenyatta Johnson and challenger Ori Feibush. Are you registered to vote? The deadline is April 20.

Second, as you can read about further on Page 21, CCRA played a leading role within the Crosstown Coalition in crafting a Candidate Questionnaire designed to pin down both mayoral and council candidates on difficult and controversial issues. Look for their responses on our website.

Third, CCRA is helping to promote an event for mayoral candidates that will focus on transportation issues, including infrastructure and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. The Better Mobility Mayoral Forum will be held on March 19 at 6 p.m. at the Friends Center (1501 Cherry St.), and will be moderated by *Philadelphia Magazine* Deputy Editor Patrick Kerkstra. (Full disclosure: I am on the Board of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, the host of this event.)

In keeping with the election theme, the Association's Annual Meeting will be held in May. (*City Abandoned* author and photographer Vincent Feldman, featured on Page 1, will be our guest speaker.) We will elect an entire slate of officers, and at least seven directors. If you are passionate about our neighborhood and wish to be considered, or simply would like more information, see Page 17.

**Do Not Read the Following Paragraph If You Receive Our eNewsletter Each Friday.**

Apparently, some members have not been receiving our weekly eNewsletter, a helpful resource that provides updates on Center City programs and events; lists the merchants offering member discounts; and includes the usually witty, sometimes irreverent, and always informative, "What's New in the Neighborhood" column. If this applies to you, please email [centercity@centercityresidents.org](mailto:centercity@centercityresidents.org) with "eNewsletter" in the Subject line. Be sure to include your name and address so we can record you in our database.

### Zoning Committee Report Online

From time to time we are asked, why not publish the Zoning Committee Report online, where it can be read far more timely (monthly instead of quarterly) and does not take up space (typically 1½ to 2 pages) that could otherwise be used for more entertaining pieces? The fact is we have been publishing these reports online, on a monthly basis, for years now. They can be accessed via the CCRA home page at [www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org); click on "About CCRA" and then "Zoning Meetings." And we have now decided, absent a groundswell of objections from you, our readers, to discontinue publication of these reports in *CCQ*. We hope you enjoy the articles that replace them.

I will conclude with a plug for our annual Celebration of Center City Living on April 13 at Freeman's Auction House, where we honor Joan and Dane Wells, this year's Lenora Berson Community Service Award winners. (Full disclosure: I was among the winners of the famous "Joan and Dane Beer Dinner" auctioned off during our 2012 Celebration.) If you've attended this event over the past few years, you know it's a real treat; you'll see old friends and make new ones; and you'll go home neither hungry nor thirsty. If you haven't, why not give it a try? Details can be found on the Back Cover. Thanks.

## Center City Artist Leroy Forney Paints Beijing in Spring

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

For two months last spring, Center City resident Leroy Forney lived and worked in Beijing as an artist-in-residence sponsored by the Red Gate Gallery in the Feijiacun village, where he painted portraits, mountain landscapes, and city scenes. Along with seven other artists, he exhibited his work in the “Ba-Da-Bing Open Studio,” which in Mandarin means, “Eight Big Egg Sandwiches.”

Forney describes his experiences in China on his blog: [www.LeroyForney.com/blog](http://www.LeroyForney.com/blog). Here is one short clip: “The open studios in Feijiacun are often casual and congenial affairs. Red Gate Gallery’s open studio in Feijiacun last month included not just art but also a vendor making tasty jianbing pancakes. In part, the open studios are a celebration of the arrival of warmer weather.”

Later, back in Philadelphia, Forney created an oil painting of the First Unitarian Church at 2125 Chestnut Street. This painting was one of an exhibition of 44 artworks depicting sites on the Philadelphia Historic Places list, chosen by The Athenaeum to commemorate their 200th anniversary.

Recently Forney has begun exploring different materials and techniques, such as painting unframed wall hangings on both Tyvek and canvas, and experimenting with dioramas and other constructions using recycled materials and other found objects. Three of his artworks were chosen by a jury to be in the “On the Grid” exhibit at the Off The Wall Gallery at Dirty Frank’s in December. Other paintings were selected for exhibitions at the Janssen Library in



Leroy Forney among his paintings in his Center City studio.

Reading (sponsored by the Berks County Historical Society), the Plastic Club, and the Philadelphia Sketch Club.

The bulk of Forney’s artwork ranges from portraits to landscapes, cityscapes, and seascapes, painted in oils with muted colors in a soft, realistic style. To create his portraits, Forney incorporates his knowledge of the subject gained through conversation, observation, and research.

“My portraits probe the unique character and humanity of the model as I perceive him or her,” Forney explains. In 2011, Forney painted a series of portraits of participants in the Occupy Philadelphia movement, and captured their stories. The following year, he had a solo show, “The Many Faces of Occupy Philadelphia,” at the American Friends Center and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County in Media. The Occupiers’ portraits, along with their stories, are reproduced in a book, available for sale at his studio.

Now residing and painting in a Center City high-rise building, Forney traces the roots of his art career to doodling in class as a youngster in Central Pennsylvania. He took a long road from there to here,

spanning five continents and seven careers – among them industrial chemical research, medical device development, quality-control management, microchip manufacturing, electronic engineering management, and inventor/entrepreneur. He lived in various places in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Then, upon retiring, he taught with the Peace Corps in Tanzania, Mexico, and Guatemala. He now travels to visit family in Paris, Vicenza, Beijing, and Seattle.

When Forney moved to Philadelphia in 2007, he immediately began to study oil painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), and continued to study there and, since 2008, at the Fleisher Art Memorial, Main Line Art Center, Woodmere Art Center, and Studio Incamminati. His work has been exhibited at PAFA, the Schuylkill Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, Fairmount Arts Crawl, Off the Wall Gallery, the Kimmel Center, and the Cosmopolitan Club, as well as two clubs of which he is a member, the Philadelphia Sketch Club and the Philadelphia Plastic Club. He is a member of the American Portrait Society, the Center for Emerging Visuals Artists, and InLiquid. His portrait



Forney’s painting of First Unitarian Church.

Continued p. 5

of Frances E.W. Harper, commissioned by the First Unitarian Church, is on display there. His other accomplishments include a live painting demonstration at the Wallingford Community Art Center, and three appearances in the Philadelphia Open Studio Tour.

Forney holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Syracuse University and a B.S. from Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. His other talents include choral singing and

photography. He sang with the Choral Arts Society, sponsored a recorder group, and now sings with the choir at First Unitarian.

Forney's artwork adorns the walls of his studio and is stacked neatly in his large storage closet. When asked why he holds on to so much of his work, Forney replies, "I like to paint more than I like to market my work." Leroy Forney's artwork is available to view by appointment. [www.LeroyForney.com](http://www.LeroyForney.com).

Currently, there is a ready opportunity to view the artist's work without an appointment. Leroy Forney is one of three artists invited to exhibit at the 11th Annual Mary Liz Memorial Masters Exhibition at Off The Wall Gallery at Dirty Frank's, 13th and Pine, March 1 to April 17. Forney is going in a new direction and will be showing all new work, featuring drawings and multiple images.

## Author and Greenfield Alum Sue Eisenfeld to Speak at Athenaeum

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Sue Eisenfeld, a former Center City resident and graduate of the Albert M. Greenfield School, will speak about her new book, *Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal*, at the Athenaeum on Washington Square, Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m. (Free for members; \$10 for non-members.)

Eisenfeld traces her off-trail hiking adventures and discoveries of old cemeteries, house foundations, and artifacts in the backwoods, and tells the true story of the American settlers who were forced to leave their homes in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains during the FDR administration's creation of Shenandoah National Park.

Eisenfeld has been hiking the park for more than 20 years, initially for the scenery, but then became fascinated with the history of the dispossessed mountain residents, who she feels were treated unfairly. As a child growing up in Philadelphia, Eisenfeld first became interested in American history when her mother (this writer) took her to visit historic cemeteries such as Old Pine, Christ Church, and Laurel Hill, as well as historic homes such as the Todd House and those on Elfreth's Alley. Her interests included not just famous historic figures but also the lives of ordinary people.

Eisenfeld attended the Philadelphia High School for Girls and the University of Pennsylvania. She developed an interest in the global environment, which led to an internship at the Clean Air Council. After two years at Penn, she transferred to Cornell University, where she earned a B.S. in Natural Resources in 1992. While at Cornell, she became a hiker and an activist in protests against the use of pesticides on the college lawns.

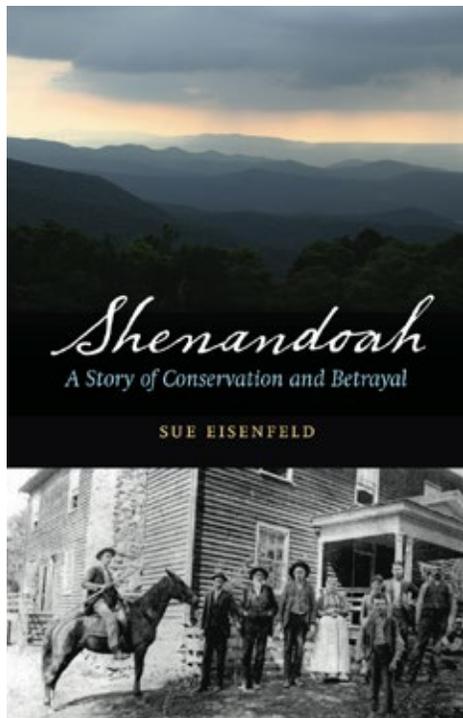
Upon graduation, Eisenfeld was hired as an environmental policy consultant at ICF International in Virginia, followed by more than 15 years as an environmental communications consultant at Eastern Research Group, working primarily for federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency. She produced nationally distributed educational materials and campaigns about various issues, including a documentary about environmental injustice in a small, poor, minority community in South Carolina and its subsequent transformation and recovery. Fellow Philadelphian Elinor Bacon, daughter of renowned planner Ed Bacon, was also involved in the project.



Author Sue Eisenfeld.

In addition to her consulting career, Eisenfeld has been a freelance writer since the 1990s. Her articles and essays about history, hiking, travel, nature, food, health, the environment, and personal experiences have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Washingtonian*, as well as numerous literary journals and regional travel magazines.

In 2009, Eisenfeld earned a Master of Arts in Writing from Johns Hopkins University, where she is now on the faculty in both the M.A. in Writing and M.A. in Science Writing Programs, the only online science-writing program in the nation, for which she created the first online science-writing workshop. Her essays have been listed among the Notable Essays of the Year in *The Best American Essays* (2009, 2010, 2013). She is a four-time Fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. [www.sueeisenfeld.com](http://www.sueeisenfeld.com)



Eisenfeld's book.

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## David Meketon Talks about the Psychology of Achievement

By Donna Marie Strug

Award-winning Philadelphia educator David Meketon presented an informative program on how to implement change in the lives of our children, and ourselves, at a CCRA-sponsored talk at the Trinity Center For Urban Life on January 8. Meketon addressed needs and provided tools for intervention throughout his interactive two-hour program. A school-based research liaison with Angela Duckworth at the University of Pennsylvania, Meketon built his presentation on the Duckworth philosophy of gauging success in life by focusing on grit and self-control.

He began by introducing the audience to the concept with a filmed reenactment of the famous chocolate-chip cookie test that illustrated the benefits of self-control over immediate reward. Meketon focused on the two traits that have been demonstrated over years of study to predict success in life. Grit is the tendency to sustain interest in an effort toward long-term goals. Self-control is the ability to voluntarily regulate thoughts, emotion and behavior in service of a valued goal. Together these two traits provide a benchmark to greater insight into the psychology of achievement.

### Building-blocks of confidence

Meketon presented results of studies by the Duckworth Lab in a concise and comprehensible manner through informative visuals and interpretive commentary throughout the discussion. He explained how, in practice, the theory of building self-esteem in children through constant praise and reward did not result in a generation of confident overachievers. Rather, the exact opposite has been the result. For instance, in a case where every child receives a trophy simply by participating in an event so that no one is left out, the study shows that this type of approach does not increase either grit or self-control in the quest for success.

***... You cannot fully succeed until you are able to fail... "Greatness comes from feeling safe to fail."***

—David Meketon



Education expert David Meketon speaks with audience members following his well-received talk on the Psychology of Achievement. CCRA Vice President and Education and Family Programs Committee Chair Judy Heller is at right.

Mindful of what does not work, Meketon offered suggestions to enable parents to try a different approach in guiding their children to stay the course. With ability, information, and motivation, coupled with good, repetitive habits, everyone has the ability to stay focused and work towards their specific goals. He stressed that you cannot fully succeed until you are able to fail successfully: "Greatness comes from feeling safe to fail."

***Know when to push and when to back away. Let children learn from their mistakes without shame. Provide unconditional love.***

Meketon also explained how our words greatly influence the way that children view their achievements and failures. Language is powerful. How we react, and what we say, affect a child's ability to win gracefully or fail with equanimity. Instead of telling a child that he is smart when he receives a good grade, praise his efforts. When a child is struggling, encourage trying until success is achieved. Meketon likens the role of parents to that of a coach. Stress practice, aim to win, do your best,

praise success, move on through failures, recruit outside help when necessary, and cheer them on. Know when to push, and when to back away. Let children learn from their mistakes without shame. Provide unconditional love.

### Looking ahead

David Meketon delivered a talk full of information beneficial to everyone, regardless of generation. The audience's high level of engagement and intellectual stimulation was evident in the questions, comments, and discussion that followed. Meketon committed to return later in the year, in response to enthusiastic requests for a follow-up presentation.

The Duckworth Lab is currently studying character strengths in school-age children. The most recent project involves measuring gratitude, actively open-minded thinking, self-control, grit, and purpose.

"I consider myself to be of basically average talent..." Meketon says, quoting actor Will Smith on the topic of will power: "The key to life is on a treadmill. When I say I am going to run three miles, I run five. With that mentality, it is actually difficult to lose."



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## Burst Pipes Cause PCI Branch Closure in December

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

No one was prepared when, on Saturday, December 20, around 2 p.m., water started pouring down in Philadelphia City Institute, our neighborhood branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia. A unit above the library, in 220 Rittenhouse Square where the branch is housed, suffered a burst pipe, causing severe damage to the library and its contents. The owners of the unit were out of town and unaware of the plumbing emergency, so it took many hours before the water was shut down.

At 10:49 a.m. the next day, branch manager Joe Paradin sent an email message to the Board of Directors. “About half of the entire adult book level was flooded,” according to board member Pam Freyd. “Hundreds of books and several computers were destroyed, as well as carpeting, furniture and ceiling tiles.” The library was closed to the public

to repair any damage, replace all destroyed materials, and dry and sanitize the carpeting. All programs and outside groups were notified and rescheduled.

Two days later, on December 23, Paradin reported that several crews were working on the task, including maintenance cleaners, flood and mold sanitizers, book-collection care workers from the Central Library, and half of the branch staff. As of that date, assessors determined that about 500 books and DVDs in the adult reading area were destroyed, several computers damaged, rugs soaked, dozens of ceiling tiles collapsed, and dust and debris covered almost all books.

During the cleanup, the drop slot remained open so readers could return books and DVDs. During the closure period fines were waived. The last full day of operation was December

19; little more than two weeks later, at noon on January 5, the library reopened. Patrons were waiting at the door.

PCI, centrally located on Rittenhouse Square, is a busy place. People line up to await its opening every day except Sunday, the one day it is closed. The branch is always filled with patrons reading books, magazines, and newspapers, and using the library computers or their own laptops. The branch also offers a rich array of programs both for adults and for children (on the lower level).

In 2009, the branch closed sporadically because of funding shortages. At that time, there was a chance the entire Free Library system would be shut down. Luckily that didn't happen, and the library system returned to almost normal operations; PCI was open only five days a week. In 2014, hours were extended back to six days a week.

It is some consolation to know that when the physical space, materials, and computers are not accessible, there are digital options available. The Free Library offers electronic books downloadable to your devices. You can connect to PCI's WiFi while sitting in Rittenhouse Square even when the branch is closed, and you can access library databases from your home computer.

In addition to the Central Library on the Parkway, the Free Library system operates 54 neighborhood branches. In 2013, the Free Library reported over 6 million in-person visits and over 7 million online visits.



Burst pipes at PCI: The signs say it all.

### CCCulture

#### Rona Fisher One of Few Local Designers at Craft Fair

Award-winning jewelry designer Rona Fisher (far right, pictured here with Communications Manager Emily Sims) exhibited at the Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair in Rittenhouse Square, last fall. Specializing in custom work that sometimes incorporates clients' own materials, Fisher works with gold and silver, often mixing metals or combining them with precious or semi-precious gemstones. She is a juried member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen and a member of the American Crafts Council. Rona Fisher Jewelry Design is located at 740 Sansom Street, Suite 505. Hours by appointment. [www.ronafisher.com](http://www.ronafisher.com)

—Bonnie Eisenfeld



## Neighborhood Reaps Rewards of CCRA'S 2014 Beautification Campaign

By Jeffrey Braff, CCRA President

Each Spring CCRA solicits contributions to its Neighborhood Beautification Campaign. Such tax-deductible contributions are beyond annual membership dues, and help fund CCRA's \$29,000 annual contract with the Center City District to clean neighborhood sidewalks after weekly trash collection, along with other initiatives, including tree planting, historic preservation, the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden, and oversight of neighborhood development in accordance with the CCRA Neighborhood Plan and the Zoning Code. We are pleased to report that we received 218 contributions in response to our 2014 solicitation. We thank you all and look forward to enthusiastic support for our 2015 Campaign (letters will go out in April). Listed below are the individuals and businesses that contributed at least \$125 to the 2014 Campaign.



*With the support of generous donors, CCRA's Neighborhood Beautification Campaign can help sustain Penn's vision of a Greene Countrie Towne.*

### 2014 Neighborhood Beautification Campaign Contributors

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Lombard Swim Club  
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## Street Scene Categories, Awards Expanded in 2nd Year New Photography Competition—and a People’s Choice Award

By Maggie Mund, CCRA Executive Vice President

On the heels of a widely acclaimed, successful first outing, CCRA is pleased to announce the second annual Street Scene Urban Garden competition—celebrating well-tended window boxes, containers and tree wells. Last year we had over 60 entries, and competition was fierce.

This year we anticipate even more activity and the participation of more gardeners. Can’t grow flowers but enjoy framing the perfect shot? Then this is for you: this year the competition categories include the addition of a photography contest.

Here is a preliminary schedule:

- April-May: Workshops at the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden
- June: Garden contest entries due by June 30
- July: Garden Judging; People’s Choice voting; Notify photographers of entries to photograph
- August: Photo entries due by August 15
- September: Awards Ceremony at Schuylkill River Park Community Garden

### Garden Competition

Once again, there will be separate

competitions for residential and commercial properties, as well as a garden block category. Gardener categories include:

- DIY (do it yourself) – done by the individual property owner or renter
- Professional – done by a landscaping service or garden center

Gardens must be within CCRA boundaries and visible from the street.

### Photo Competition

- Promotional – photos that reflect the mission and purpose of CCRA and the Street Scene project
- Artistic – maximum room for artistic expression and composition. These can include extreme close-up (macro) photography, and effects generated with Photoshop to create compelling artistic compositions. Watch the CCRA weekly e-newsletter for more information about entering the competition and photo-submission standards. If you are interested in helping **organize, fund or promote** Street Scene, please contact the CCRA office at [centercity@centercityresidents.org](mailto:centercity@centercityresidents.org) or 215-546-6719, and Travis will connect you with event organizers.



This entry in last year’s competition brightened up the 2300 block of Pine Street.

Here’s what some of last year’s contestants had to say:

*“Although not everyone on the block competed officially, there was a lot more greening on our block. Thank you for organizing this!”*

*“This was so much fun. I can’t believe I won a prize!”*

And don’t we all win when our neighborhood is more beautiful, inviting, playful?

## CCCulture

### Center City Writer Art Fischman Talks About The Living Memories Project

*The Living Memories Project* is a collection of stories from Nick Clooney, Lynda Johnson Robb, Jack Klugman, and others who lost someone dear to them, and how they keep memories of their loved ones alive through memory quilts, the arts, scholarships, poetry, recipes, and many other forms of remembrance. Prompted by the loss of their own parents, Fischman and his sister and co-writer Meryl Ain, along with Meryl’s husband, Stewart, embarked on an intimate writing journey to explore these powerful questions. To celebrate the culmination of this work – the publication of their book – the trio gave a talk and book signing recently at Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel (18th & Spruce), where Fischman is a member of the congregation. Joining them for the presentation was Tonia Tecce, a well-known singer whose story is featured in *The Living Memories Project*.

—Nancy Colman



Art Fischman, right, with Stewart and Meryl Ain.

## CCRA Begins Zoning Remapping Project

By Maggie Mund, CCRA Executive Vice President

The new Zoning Code eliminated approximately half of the zoning categories created under the repealed Code. As a stop-gap measure, the zoning map was revised by converting the former code classifications into their 2012 counterparts, with the idea that each neighborhood would conduct a detailed remapping exercise to fine-tune community zoning.

A CCRA task force has commenced meeting every two weeks to review the zoning map in our neighborhood – JFK to South Street, and Broad Street to the Schuylkill River – an area that contains close to a thousand individually zoned properties. To make the task manageable, the task force has decided to divide the community into sections.

The first focus area will be the north side of South Street from Broad to the Schuylkill. We are collaborating in this effort with the South of South Neighborhood Association. The second focus area will be from JFK south to Locust, an area containing a variety of high-density zoning classifications, and the location of a number of proposed and anticipated developments. Finally, the task force will tackle the rowhouse part of the neighborhood.

As you can imagine, this is not a simple task. At an introductory meeting in December, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission identified six steps and estimated the process easily could take a year or longer. Because our neighborhood is divided between Darrell Clarke's and Kenyatta Johnson's council

districts, we will need to work with both offices on the public outreach process and legislation.

As the work progresses, the task force will keep the neighborhood informed.

### Zoning Remapping Process

1. Formulation
2. Prioritization and Drafting
3. Recommendations and Revision
4. Bill Introduction and Review
5. Legislative Action
6. Map Amended and Updated

## The Parking Muddle

By William West

We're choking on our cars, and it's getting worse.

Here's the complaint. I took the family out to dinner. We came home about 9 o'clock. I let my wife and kids off at the house, and then I started looking for a spot. And there were no spots. None at all.

So what do we do? I've been doing some reading, and there are some good solutions out there. Donald Shoup's book, *The High Cost of Free Parking*, offers quite a few. With a Ph.D. in economics from Yale, he is a professor of urban planning at UCLA, and he has spent the last several decades studying parking. His book runs 800 pages, and I'm not suggesting you read it. His ideas, though, have gotten around, most notably to San Francisco, which, with the help of a federal demonstration grant, has reformed the way it does parking in the busiest parts of the city (SFpark.org). Other cities have also tinkered with their parking, including New York (ParkSmart), Washington, D.C., and a bunch of smaller places.

Things can get better, and it's not just a theory.

Here's the basic problem: storage vs. access. Currently in Parking Zone 1, we're all about storage. My block is stickered for Zone 1, and with the exception of the handicapped spot, it is almost always full. The underlying rule is a two-hour limit, but if you have a Zone 1 sticker you can park there forever. And there

are times when it feels like that's what people are doing.

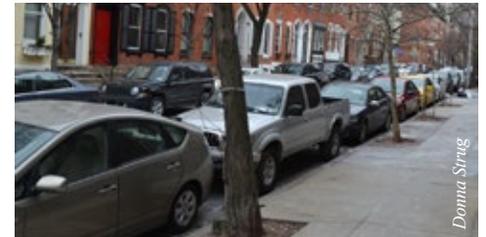
So what do we do? On page 696 of his book (2011 edition), Professor Shoup suggests de-stickered a few spots on each block. The spots would no longer be available for long-term storage, but they would provide access.

I know this will work. On South Street, the south side of the 1700 block is stickered for Zone 1; the north side is not. The south side is usually full; the north side is where my plumber parks.

Parking is always a political issue. I have several thoughts.

First, 52 percent of people in my neighborhood don't own a car. (In some parts of Center City, the figure is 75 percent.) So let's look at the car owners. A bunch of them, like me, use the garage on South. But hold on a minute; there are other off-street spots. In the 1700 block of Lombard, there are 16 on-street spots. There are 41 off-street spots.

One should use caution extending such a small sample to all of Center City, or even the Rittenhouse quadrant. But let's just say that 20 percent of households are parking on the street. The actual numbers can vary a lot from this estimate without invalidating my basic argument: Only a small percentage of



Cars crowd every inch of curb on residential blocks in Center City. residents have a stake in long-term storage on the street, whereas 100 percent of residents have a stake in access. With access, our friends and family can come visit.

A story: Labor Day weekend my wife's brother and his wife came in from New Jersey and had lunch with us at Parc, on Rittenhouse Square. They found a parking spot on Locust Street in front of the restaurant. Then, later, they came to our house to see some changes we'd made, and they found a spot in front of our house. Any other time of the year, this would not have happened.

But it could be an everyday thing, if we managed our parking instead of surrendering it to storage.

And, remember, the 20 percent who do store their cars on the street will also benefit from better access. When you come home at 9 o'clock at night after dinner there will be spot. So you have to get up and move the car at 8 a.m. You found a spot.

## Nuts, Bolts, Paint, and—Cookies?

By Bob Weiss

Where can you find two kinds of meat thermometers, 12 kinds of cedar to thwart moths, plastic wood and spackling paste, cleaning brushes of all shapes and sizes, and people to answer your questions about any of these? A good neighborhood hardware store, of course.

Serving Center City 21 years this spring, Rittenhouse Hardware at 20th & Pine Streets is a small business that aptly suits the area. Owner Ken Kemp had worked in a hardware store while in college and liked it so much that, instead of pursuing a career in criminal justice, he decided on entrepreneurship instead, with a mission of selling tools, paint, nuts and bolts, and thousands of other items.

An inventory of such size must be well managed for the limited space available. Here, it is arranged floor-to-ceiling for easy access by staff and customers. Ask for it, and one of the store's seven employees will quickly find it for you, even if it's eight feet up. They take pride in having a well-organized shop with the right products for the neighborhood, and constantly work on expanding their inventory and keeping it current. Rittenhouse Hardware continually gets and stocks new products that neighbors request, such as the latest types of LED light bulbs.

Customers are a mix of local homeowners with do-it-yourself projects, contractors, and renters (mostly college students). Of course, CCRA members are privileged to get a five percent discount on purchases.

"We are always ready to help a customer," emphasizes Kemp, who is backed up by managers Jesse Prager and Mike Thomas. Experience and loyalty count – all of the staff have worked there at least five years. "A good crew," according to Prager, they know their hardware and are "always having fun and joking with each other." Customers join in the banter, and "all of this leads to a great feeling of being part of the community."

How rough is the competition? "The biggest misconception about our store is that we are more expensive than the big-box guys. Most of the products you see here – especially everyday items like screws, caulk, and so on – are competitively priced with Home Depot or Lowe's, if not cheaper."

In the hardware business, you never know what will come through the front door. An art student planning a sculpture may want to examine an array of rods and bolts to help envision the creative possibilities in ordinary metal hardware. Or an owner of an older home that has been re-plumbed and re-wired many times over may need advice to resolve a problem 50 years in the making.

Dealing with such issues day after day, Rittenhouse Hardware started to show a profit after about four years and to grow as a fixture in the neighborhood. Now the front door opens not just to people wanting hardware but also bringing holiday cookies and treats, as they would to any friendly neighbor – the crew like this the best.



Managers Mike Thomas, left, and Jesse Prager of Rittenhouse Hardware.

## CCRA Merchant Members Discount Program

Support our local merchants and save money too. Just present your current CCRA membership card and personal identification to these local merchants, who will provide a discount, described here, in the case of new merchants to the program. (Check the CCRA website at [www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org) under the "Merchant Member" tab for descriptions of other merchants' discounts; Di Bruno Bros. has its own CCRA card.)

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**PhotoLounge**  
1909 Chestnut Street  
267-322-6651

**Rim's Dry Cleaners & Tailors**  
2203 South Street  
215-546-1889

**Rittenhouse Hardware**  
2001 Pine Street  
215-735-6311

**Rittenhouse Pet Supply**  
135 South 20th Street  
215-569-2555

**Computer Troubleshooters**  
108 South 20th Street  
215-825-2101

**Di Bruno Bros.**  
1730 Chestnut Street  
215-665-9220  
The Market at the Comcast Center  
215-531-5666

**Dom's Shoe Repair**  
203 South 20th Street  
215-972-0098

**Eye Candy Vision**  
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215-568-3937

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## Philadelphia Rocks—and Rolls The Ground Beneath Our Feet

By Virginia K. Nalencz

Six hundred million years ago, at the edge of the North American craton – the building block of the future continent – Philadelphia was encased in ice, as was the rest of the planet in an episode of a recurring series dubbed “Snowball Earth.” Five hundred million years ago, Philadelphia along with what is now the Atlantic Coastal Plain was beneath the Iapetus Ocean, direct ancestor of the Atlantic. About 250 million years ago, the Philadelphia region was far inland, and a near neighbor of modern Senegal.

Continents and oceans scuttle around the globe like the colors on a whirling Rubik’s Cube, riding on plates that rise up at mid-ocean ridges, scrape together like angry iguanas, and dive under one another at continental margins. Usually, this pace matches the speed at which our fingernails grow, about four inches per year, except when the convection engine beneath the crust prompts them to move much, much faster, and with the proviso that the four, seven, or 20 principal plates move at different speeds and in different directions.

Although Philadelphia’s site (the northeast portion of the North American plate) has moved around a lot, the ground we walk on today retains characteristics imposed upon it by its earliest history. The earth we stand on at, say, City Hall, is sandy, relatively level, and well-drained, atop bedrock formed by the



Part of the Wissahickon Formation, this rock displays veins of crystalline granite folded throughout the schist.

collision and separation of continents, just as it was when the Iapetus Ocean began to recede half a billion years ago, with additional sandy deposits as recent as 2 million years ago.

In the four-way gridlock that produced the supercontinent before the famous Pangaea, mountains arose and eroded, leaving behind “Grenville rocks.” These rocks rank among the distinctive points of Philadelphia’s

geology because they survive at the surface in Pennsylvania only in the southeast, most visibly along the trails of the Wissahickon Creek. In his 1681 prospectus for the new “province of Pennsylvania,” William Penn wrote of “a good and fruitful land” whose jewel would be the city he envisioned on an alluvial plain between two rivers, surrounded

*Continued p. 15*

### Plate Tectonics: How It Explains (Almost) Everything

The gradual acceptance of the theory of plate tectonics is one of the heroic tales in the history of science. In 1915 when the German Alfred Lothar Wegener proposed that continents and seas moved and shape-shifted, he was greeted with brutal opposition. “German professors of that time were like God, only more frightening,” says British paleontologist Richard Fortey. “Where was the mechanism that moved the continents?” Wegener’s opponents demanded.

The Americans, meanwhile, reacted to “continental drift” as though it were the plot of a novel Henry James had never written but whose theme he would

recognize immediately, that of the New World outmaneuvered in the search for truth by wily Old Europe. Rejecting both Wegener’s deductive conclusions and the inductive methods of his opponents, American scientists declared independence via “multiple working hypotheses.” Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom in the quest for a universal theory of earth science.

Studies of fossils, paleomagnetism, and radiometric dating sped along after WWII, progressively demolishing the objections of the “anti-drifters.” In 1963 Cambridge geophysicists Vine and Matthews presented one explanation of how the earth’s crust did indeed move when they showed that

the bottom of the Atlantic, measured on a magnetometer, was zebra-striped like Op Art because of periodic reversals of the earth’s magnetic poles. In 1968 Canadian John Tuzo Wilson, building on the work of English geologist Arthur Holmes, presented a paper that showed that continents, oceans, and the plates that carry them move because of convection currents beneath the crust. There was no sound of trumpets – full acceptance of the theory of plate tectonics was decades away – but the evidence was irrefutable.

—V.K.N.

by limestone-rich farmland, the leftover calcium deposits from ancient seas.

As in the snappy parody of British history *1066 and All That*, there are some useful dates in “All About Geology:” The Big Bang occurred about 14 billion years ago; the coalescence of the sun from space debris, 4.7 billion years ago; and the formation of the earth, 4.5 billion years ago. “Midway in my life’s journey,” says Dante in his *Divine Comedy*, and so too are we: the sun will implode in another 5 billion years.

The big dates on earth include the formation of the supercontinent Rodinia, which sat astride the equator 1 billion years ago, and the resulting “Cambrian explosion” of 543-505 million years ago, when complex life forms began to appear, once 88 percent of the earth’s timeline to the present had already passed. Finally, Pangaea, the most recent supercontinent, existed about 250 million years ago, when Philadelphia (along with most of the North American craton) was a desiccated mass enclosed by the other modern continents-to-be, far from the planet’s single enveloping ocean.

The Philadelphia area straddles two geological regions, the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Piedmont Upland Province. While geology can describe the vastness of time and space on earth, divisions based on geology can be remarkably small, hence the idiosyncrasies of particular places: the area’s parks and nature



In Iceland, the division between the plates is visible at surface; except for the Great Rift Valley of east Africa, most ridges dividing the major plates lie under the sea.

preserves contain worlds within worlds. At Morris Arboretum the azalea meadow benefits from slightly acidic soil atop a Precambrian formation, the oldest in the park, while the limestone-derived soil in the northern section of the arboretum is typical of the Whitemarsh Valley, where limekilns once abounded. The soil of Bartram’s Garden, which sits on a ridge that divides the plain from the upland, consists of silty, gravelly clay atop sand from ancient oceans. Its occasional outcrops of bedrock, Wissahickon Schist, were deposited as a result of an orogeny, a mountain-building event, like the earlier orogeny that left Grenville rocks behind.

Schist is a metamorphic rock, one of the hardy trio of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary, not different in themselves but generations of the same entity, their mineral components arranged at different

temperatures, under different pressures. The Wissahickon Formation, the most prominent rock unit in Philadelphia, displays faults, joints, and folds, examples of some of the most significant ways that rocks behave in response to tectonic forces. As hikers may discover at the junction of the Cresheim and Wissahickon Creeks, rocks of quartzite and schist line Devil’s Pool and red garnets twinkle in the sun, all because of the particular combinations of heat and pressure to which they were subjected.

In the distant future, either the Pacific or the Atlantic will close. Philadelphia may smash into Gibraltar, or join a ring of fire in an ocean near Kansas City. All we know is that the steps in the dance of the plates will be determined by the roiling engine deep within the earth, or by forces yet undiscovered, elements yet unseen.

## Myth, Mystery and Mountains

To the ancient Norse peoples, the earth was an immense tree. In the Mayan cosmology, the sky was supported by jaguars. In ancient Japan, it was believed that a giant catfish in the earth caused earthquakes.

Aristotle had reasoned that the positions of land and sea changed over time. Ibn Sina in 11th century Persia and Shen Kuo, his contemporary in China, recognized a proto-geologic concept of “deep time.” Rudiments of the theory that the earth’s surface moves had occurred to Europeans beginning in the 16th century, when people first grasped the full extent of the globe and the placement of the land masses on it. Ortelius, who drew a map of the globe including the New World in 1570, had proposed that Africa and South America “fit together.” Athanasius

Kirchner, a 17th century Jesuit, grasped that mountain chains, “the bones of the earth,” are interconnected.

In the 19th century, theories of the earth centered on explanations of mountains, from the Austrian Edward Suess’ likening them to the ridges formed by a cooling apple that shriveled, to the Englishman Charles Lyell’s suggestion that mountains emerged gradually out of thrusts from the earth’s core. Not so, argued his exact contemporary, Elie de Beaumont; mountains arose out of sudden violent upheavals. As historians of science have noted, Lyell and de Beaumont mirror their national identities. The Frenchman, rattled by the Revolution, invented the theory of “catastrophism,” while Lyell’s

“uniformitarianism” hints at the slow progress of Parliamentary democracy.

As is so often true, both were partly right. Catastrophes happen, like the giant meteor that killed off the dinosaurs along with numerous other species about 65 million years ago. And as Lyell observed, the laws of nature are basically unchangeable. It is astonishing to realize that only within the last half-century has plate tectonics emerged to explain the composition and movement of the ground beneath our feet. Yet the history of science indicates that we would do well to avoid looking back at the inevitability of the theory. Something new is always coming along to cause us to readjust our thinking.

—V.K.N.



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## Crosstown Coalition: Civic Associations United for Common Goals

By Stephen Huntington, Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition Chair

In the past year the Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition, a federation of civic associations of which CCRA is a charter member, has formalized its operations by incorporating, creating a board, and electing officers. Currently 19 civic associations are members. In addition to my role as CCRA's Executive Director, I serve as Coalition chairperson. Other officers hail from Queen Village, Passyunk Square and Logan Square. CCRA's delegates to the Coalition include its President, Jeff Braff, and Executive Vice President, Maggie Mund.

The Crosstown provides its members, including CCRA, with an increased talent pool and political clout that would otherwise be unavailable. A good example of the synergy afforded by the Coalition is the drive to protect community groups and their volunteers from exposure to Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, or SLAPPs – lawsuits filed for statements made or positions taken in connection with matters of public interest. A series of SLAPPs, all of which were dismissed before trial, led to the demise of Crosstown member Old City Civic Association. OCCA closed its doors after it could not find affordable Directors and Officers insurance. Shortly thereafter, a pan-neighborhood team of lawyers from Center City, Old City, and Fishtown organized testimony for a hearing of the state Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, and then drafted an Anti-SLAPP statute, which was introduced by Senator Larry Farnese, representing the Crosstown area.

Other Coalition initiatives have been launched by the Crosstown Land Use and Zoning Committee, headed by an Old City resident. That committee thwarted an ill-considered

Council initiative to place billboards on school-district properties. In November, an eleventh-hour Coalition intervention derailed a proposal to radically revise the Center City Zoning Overlay. Key to this effort was a series of graphics prepared by volunteers from Logan Square. The Committee meets regularly with representatives of the development community, the Development Workshop and the Building Industry Association, to explore joint initiatives – how to make land-use procedures more useful and less expensive. Due to the Committee's diligence, the orange zoning posters are now revised to contain information as to the postponement of hearings. In the works is implementation of a Crosstown request that zoning posters disclose why the property has been listed for a hearing.

The Crosstown Schools Committee, chaired by volunteers from Queen Village and Packer Park, convened a planning meeting for groups supporting neighborhood schools, which was attended by 46 representatives from 22 schools. A summit for these Friends groups is scheduled for March 14. Another project involves a public relations outreach program touting the advantages of the schools in the Crosstown area.

The Crosstown's origins trace back to 2008, when CCRA, Logan Square Neighborhood Association, South of South Neighborhood Association and Society Hill Civic Association decided to pool funds and expertise to ensure a community voice in the drafting of a new zoning code. As the zoning process progressed, the Coalition added seven new civic groups. Over four years, the Coalition met at least bimonthly in the CCRA offices and, by the time



the Code was enacted in 2012, Coalition representatives had attended 50 Zoning Code Commission meetings and produced more than 200 pages of white papers analyzing the Code's complexities.

No sooner had the Code been enacted in 2012, than plans were announced for AVI, the Actual Value Initiative, to reassess all 490,000 parcels of land in the City. While acknowledging inequities in the City's assessments, the Coalition worked to ensure that reassessments would be accurate and fair, and to ameliorate AVI's potential impact on gentrified neighborhoods where the market value of long-term homeowners' properties had been boosted by the arrival of affluent newcomers.

In May of 2012, the administration asked Council to implement a realty-tax adjustment before reassessments were published. As a result, 10 new civic-association members joined the Coalition and, with its added heft, the Crosstown played a key role in successfully lobbying to delay AVI's implementation until all of the reassessments had been issued. As part of the AVI effort, Coalition volunteers published two booklets advising citizens how to navigate the new tax system, and created a 35-page white paper analyzing the equities of the reassessment package.

### **Wanted: Board Member Nominations**

The Nominating Committee of CCRA's Board is seeking nominations to fill several board seats for the Association's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015. New Board members generally serve a term of three years.

The Board is a working board. We are seeking energetic members who have a passion for living in our residential district; are interested in issues of quality of life and community service; and are committed to active participation on the Board, including actively serving on at least one committee (e.g., Membership, Fund Raising, Events, Newsletter, Zoning, Streets, Historic Preservation,

Family/Education). Consistent with the foregoing, all candidates must pledge to devote a minimum of four hours per month on CCRA activities, not including time spent attending, and preparing for, monthly Board meetings.

Interested members are encouraged to forward a resume or summary of qualifications before March 13 to the Nominating Committee Chair: Dilek Karabucak, c/o Center City Residents' Association, 1600 Market Street, Suite 2500, Philadelphia, PA 19103, or by email: [centercity@centercityresidents.org](mailto:centercity@centercityresidents.org), with "Board Candidate" in the subject line.

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## Tria Café Opening in Fidler Square

By Nancy Colman

Last year’s collective sigh of sadness at the passing of old friend and Fidler Square fixture Dmitri’s has been replaced by a collective sigh of relief, and lately, a growing sense of anticipation at the news of the heir to this prime perch for food and drink overlooking the scenic corner of 23rd & Pine.

The new kid on the block is actually another old friend – or at least the newest addition to the family of neighborhood stalwarts – Tria Café. Joining its siblings near Rittenhouse Square (at 18th & Sansom and 20th & Walnut) and Washington Square, the new Tria Fidler Square is set to open March 1

– despite less optimistic reports in a large local daily publication.

“We believe that to be achievable, but the strangest things can happen to delay restaurant openings,” says co-owner Jonathan Myerow. (To anyone in this neighborhood living in a historic – or just old – rowhouse, that statement should come as no surprise.)

“Tria Fidler Square will be like Tria Café but with a full kitchen,” Myerow says. “In addition to many Tria Café favorites, we will feature more dinner-friendly items as well.



Donna Strug  
A fresh coat of paint—and a new color scheme—hint at activity readying the new Tria Fidler Square.

We will be serving seven nights as well as weekend brunch.”

To find out more about the Tria family of wine, beer and cheese establishments –their focus is fermentation – visit their website at triacafe.com, or check out our story on great beer bars in the June 2014 issue of *Center City Quarterly*.

## Philadelphia Theatre Company Debuts Theatre Masters Series

**Theatre Masters** is Philadelphia Theatre Company’s new Monday night series of intimate on-stage interviews at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre. The inaugural season presents three of America’s most noted theatre artists, all of whom have had a working relationship with PTC.

Acknowledged as one of the greatest intellectual and physical clowns of his time, **Bill Irwin kicked off the series on February 16**, with a lively mix of interview, audience Q&A, and a surprise treat of physical-comedy improvisation. Winner of the first MacArthur Fellowship for performance, he is also an acclaimed actor, having won the Tony Award as “George” in the Broadway revival of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* opposite Kathleen Turner. He earned a Tony nomination as “Vladimir” in *Waiting for Godot* with Nathan Lane on Broadway. Irwin is familiar to television and film audiences, including the current *Interstellar*. To patrons of the Philadelphia Theatre Company, Irwin is best remembered for his starring roles in *Trumbo* and his PTC-commissioned piece *The Happiness Lecture*.

**Next up is acclaimed playwright, director and actor Billy Porter, March 23 at 7 p.m.** Porter conceived and directed *Being Alive*, based on the music of Stephen Sondheim, which PTC produced to inaugurate its new home at Broad and Lombard. As a director, his extensive credits include *Once on This*

*Island* – garnering the NAACP Theatre Award for Best Direction of a Musical – and a critically acclaimed production of *The Wiz*. Porter, the actor, continued to rack up honors with 2013 Drama Desk and Tony Awards as “Lola” in *Kinky Boots*. Other Broadway acting credits include *Miss Saigon*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Grease*, *Smokey Joe’s Café*, and the 20th Anniversary concert of *Dreamgirls*. His one-man show, *Ghetto Superstar: The Man That I Am*, was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award, and his portrayal of “Belize” in *Angels in America’s* 20th Anniversary revival at New York’s Signature Theatre achieved high praise. As a playwright, he saw his new play, *While I Yet Live*, receive its world premiere at New York’s Primary Stages.

**Topping off the series trio is the much celebrated, multi-faceted Anna Deavere Smith, May 11 at 7 p.m.**

For her one-woman show at PTC in 2011, *Let Me Down Easy*, Smith won the Barrymore Award for Best Actress. Following up last year’s visit to PTC – where Smith used a similar evening of audience engagement to announce the launch of her next theatrical undertaking, *The Pipeline Project* – the actress, playwright, and social commentator returns to continue the conversation. *The Pipeline Project* explores the plight of American youngsters – especially African-American males – being “shuttled” from school into the criminal justice system. Recipient of the prestigious MacArthur

Award, Smith blends theatrical art, social commentary, journalism and intimate musings. *Twilight: Los Angeles* received two Tony nominations, an OBIE, Drama Desk Award, and a Special Citation from the New York



Mary Ellen Mark  
Anna Deavere Smith

Drama Critics Circle. *Fires in the Mirror*, examining a race riot in Crown Heights, Brooklyn (1991), received an OBIE and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. She was the 2013 recipient of the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for “... an outstanding contribution to the beauty of the world and mankind’s enjoyment and understanding of life.” Many know her as Nancy McNally, national security advisor on NBC’s long-running hit *The West Wing*, or as Gloria Akalitus on Showtime’s hit series *Nurse Jackie*. Smith has numerous honorary degrees, from Juilliard, Penn, Arcadia, Northwestern, Williams, Radcliffe, Haverford, Bryn Mawr, Barnard, Spelman, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and others.

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# Board Works with Crosstown Coalition on Candidate Questionnaire

By Stephen Huntington, Crosstown Coalition Chair

“The first responsibility of every citizen is to question authority.”

So wrote Ben Franklin, who might look favorably on a recent CCRA project endorsing questions for mayoral and City Council candidates running in May’s primary.

The questions cover four large topics: Taxes and City Finance; Development; Government and Administration; and Lifestyle. CCRA is collaborating on this effort with the 18 fellow Civic Association members of the Crosstown Coalition to create a *Crosstown Coalition Candidates Questionnaire*. The goal: to ensure that candidates seeking votes in the Crosstown area will address key issues identified by Crosstown civic associations.

At this writing, the questionnaire remains a work-in-progress, endorsed so far by CCRA and three other member associations. The current draft can be viewed on the Association’s website.

Some of the Tax and City Finance inquiries deal with:

- Whether the ten-year tax abatement for newly erected structures should be extended, terminated, or revised

- Whether the City should sell to the private sector part or all of its \$1 billion of tax delinquencies, a sum that has grown larger from year to year

- Whether the City should sell the Philadelphia Gas Works or continue operating the utility

Topics in the Development section include:

- Whether Council should have a say in each sale from the City’s proposed new land bank
- What, if any, intervention City government should make in the gentrification of neighborhoods

The Government and Administration portion poses questions on:

- How much City taxpayers should pay to fund City schools
- Amending the Charter to make permanent the Inspector General’s office, which is charged with ensuring ethical conduct in City Hall, but which now exists only at the discretion of the Mayor

- The mapping of the City’s Council Districts, two of which have been ranked as within the top ten gerrymandered voting districts in the country

- Eliminating the election of the three City Commissioners and the Sheriff by having their duties performed by Mayoral appointees

The Lifestyle segment considers:

- Tactics for dealing with the City’s homeless population

The questions were phrased with the following goals in mind:

- To be informational — most questions summarize the pros and cons involved
- To be pointed — the questions are not open-ended but call for an affirmative or negative response
- And to be revealing — the issues presented are divisive so that voters can determine where the candidates stand on difficult or controversial issues



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*Last Day for Board of Elections to Receive Absentee Ballot: May 15*

*Primary Election Day: May 19*

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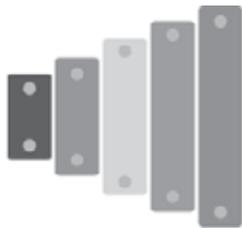
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\* Source Based on the number of financial planning clients SEC-registered investment advisers disclosed annually. Date as of Dec. 31, 2012 available at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The survey score is based on responses gathered within the preceding two years. The survey rates Ameriprise advisors on overall satisfaction, financial knowledge and other criteria. A score averages all responses and may not represent a particular client experience. A minimum number of responses are not required for a score. Working with this advisor is not a guarantee of future financial results. Investors should conduct their own evaluation of a financial advisor. Investment advisory services and products are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., a registered investment adviser. Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2014 Ameriprise Financial, Inc., All rights reserved.

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## Walking Alone at Night: Do You Feel Safe?

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Walking alone at night is Americans' number one fear, according to the Chapman Survey on American Fears, conducted among 1,500 adults by the Wilkenson College of Humanities and Social Sciences of Chapman University in Orange, Calif. In the U.S., 37 percent of adults are afraid to walk alone at night within a mile of their home, Gallup's 2014 Annual Crime Survey reports.

Personal safety is the number one factor in satisfaction with the place you live, measured specifically by how safe you feel from crime when walking in your neighborhood after dark, as reported by CityLab analysts, using data from the Atlantic Media/Siemens State of the City Poll. Fear of crime constrains behavior, restricts freedom, and affects the local economy. In places where there has been a period of serious crime, fear spreads about walking alone after dark, so dining out and shopping decrease, people do not take jobs that require them to stay out after dark, and the neighborhood economy suffers.

Of the top 50 U.S. metropolitan areas studied in Gallup's 2012 World Poll, Philadelphia showed up in the middle, number 24, with 27 percent of respondents saying they did not feel safe walking alone at night in their neighborhood. Residents of Memphis and New Orleans top the list, while residents of Minneapolis, Denver, and Raleigh report the least fear. The FBI's violent crime statistics for these metropolitan areas correlate with residents' feelings of safety.

Men and women differ significantly on this issue. Nearly half (45 percent) of women said they did not feel safe walking alone at night, compared with 27 percent of men, as stated in the 2014 Gallup Annual Crime survey. The gender difference was even greater in another survey: twice as many women as men reported being afraid, according to the 2012 General Social Survey, conducted by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center. Notably, women's perceived sense of danger has declined since the 1970s, while men's fear has remained the same.

How does fear of walking alone at night compare across countries? According to Gallup's 2012 World Poll, 25 percent of adults in the largest U.S. metropolitan areas



Statistics show that while Philadelphia falls about midway among the 50 largest cities in the US for fear of walking alone at night, Center City is considered a safe neighborhood.

reported they were afraid to walk alone at night in the city where they live. The percentage was much higher in Venezuela and South Africa and much lower for residents of Canada and China.

The current Better Life Index website, created by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, consisting of 36 developed countries), shows that in the U.S. 26 percent of people do not feel safe walking alone at night, lower than the average of 31 percent for all member countries. (This data set is not limited to metropolitan areas.)

Feelings of insecurity have grown despite a reduction in assault rates over the past five years. The Chapman survey reports that a majority of Americans fear crimes such as child abduction, gang violence, and sexual assault, and believe these crimes have increased over the past 20 years. However, according to police and FBI records, crime in America has actually lessened over that period. In 2013 on average, 3.8 violent crimes were reported for every 1,000 residents, a decrease of 4.4 percent compared to the previous year. Violent crimes include homicide, rape, aggravated assault, and robbery.

What are the odds of being a victim of violent crime? Center City is rated one of

the 10 safest neighborhoods in Philadelphia by NeighborhoodScout.com, a website that summarizes data from the FBI Uniform Crime Report. According to this source, in 2013 (the most recently released FBI data), in Philadelphia, 11 violent crimes were reported for every 1,000 residents. You could estimate that your chance of being a victim, on average for Philadelphia as a whole, is about one percent, but it's actually less if you are in a low-crime neighborhood like Center City. (Data are not separated by crimes committed indoors vs. outdoors.)

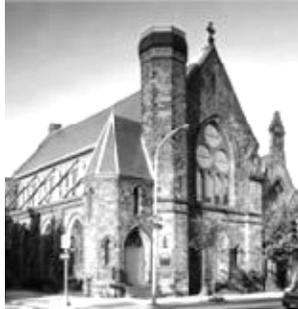
Are violent crimes committed more frequently at night? The answer is yes, at least by adult offenders. The U.S. Department of Justice analyzed data from the FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System and determined that the most violent crimes committed by adults (over age 18) are between 8 p.m. and midnight. In contrast, violent crimes by juveniles occur most frequently from 3 to 7 p.m., with the peak between 3 and 4 p.m., when they get out of school. (Data are not separated by indoor vs. outdoor.)

Media reporting of just one violent crime heightens the perception of danger, especially if it occurs in your neighborhood. Perhaps the best advice is don't feel afraid, but be alert and avoid unnecessary risk.

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## CCRA Spring Calendar – Here Comes the Sun

### State Rep. Brian Sims Town Hall Meeting

Trinity Center for Urban Life  
22nd & Spruce Streets  
Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.  
<http://www.centercityresidents.org/>

### Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show

23rd Street Armory  
Friday, April 10, Preview Party (ticketed):  
6 to 9 p.m.  
Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday, April 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Ticket sales open March 1  
[philalifs.com](http://philalifs.com)

### Celebration of Center City Living!

Freeman's Auction House  
1808 Chestnut Street  
Monday, April 13, 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
<http://www.centercityresidents.org/>

### Philadelphia Science Festival

Friday, April 24 to Saturday, May 2  
For events, locations and times go to  
<http://www.philasciencefestival.org/>

### Dining Out for Life

Proceeds benefit AIDS/HIV organizations  
Thursday, April 30  
<http://www.diningoutforlife.com/>  
[philadelphia/restaurants/](http://philadelphia/restaurants/)

### Rittenhouse Row Spring Festival

Walnut between Broad & 19th Streets  
Saturday, May 2  
[www.rittenhouserow.org](http://www.rittenhouserow.org)

### Blue Cross Broad Street Run

Broad Street from Olney to  
South Philadelphia  
Benefits the American Cancer Society  
Sunday, May 3, 8:30 a.m.  
<http://www.broadstreetrun.com/>

### Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities

Visit the CCRA Herb Booth!  
Welcome Spring—Plant Some Herbs!  
Rittenhouse Square  
Wednesday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Thursday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Fitler Square Spring Fair

23rd & Pine Streets  
Mother's Day Weekend  
Friday, May 8, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
[www.fitlersquare.org](http://www.fitlersquare.org)

### Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair

Rittenhouse Square  
Mother's Day Weekend  
Friday, May 8, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday, May 9, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sunday May 10, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta

Schuylkill River  
Friday, May 8 - Saturday, May 9  
[dadvail.org](http://dadvail.org)

### National Train Day

Events at Amtrak's 30th Street Station  
Saturday, May 9

### CCRA Annual Meeting, with Photographer/Author Vincent Feldman

Curtis Institute of Music, Lenfest Hall  
1616 Locust Street  
Wednesday, May 20, 7 to 9 p.m.

### Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show

83rd Annual Spring Show  
Friday, June 5, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday, June 6, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Philly Photo Day exhibit at Dilworth Park

The Philadelphia Photo Arts Center (PPAC) will exhibit 1,903 photographs of Philadelphia, at Dilworth Park from mid-May through June. These photos were taken on October 10, 2014, Philly Photo Day, an annual event when PPAC invites everyone to take a photograph in the city on the same day. <https://www.philaphotoarts.org/>

### Free at the Kimmel

Fifth Annual Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Day  
Kimmel Center, Verizon Hall  
Broad & Spruce Streets  
Saturday, June 13, 12 noon  
For information on free concerts at the Kimmel Center's Commonwealth Plaza:  
[www.kimmelcenter.org/events/?org=355](http://www.kimmelcenter.org/events/?org=355)

### Bloomsday

Readings from James Joyce's *Ulysses*  
Rosenbach Museum & Library  
2008 Delancey Place  
Tuesday, June 16  
<http://www.rosenbach.org/learn/news/bloomsday-central>

### Curtis Institute of Music

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See dates, times, and locations at:  
[commonroom.curtis.edu/curtis-calendar-home](http://commonroom.curtis.edu/curtis-calendar-home)

### Schuylkill Banks

RiverBoat Tours to Bartram's Gardens  
<http://www.schuylkillbanks.org/events/boat-bartrams-garden-river-tour-0>

### Architectural Walking Tours

Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia  
Tours run between one-and-a-half to two hours  
[http://www.preservationalliance.com/events/walking\\_tours.php](http://www.preservationalliance.com/events/walking_tours.php)



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*S. Samuel Arsht Professor of Corporate Law  
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## World Premiere of Koresh's *Aftershock* in Philadelphia, March 26 - 28

### Fashion-themed Gala Koresh Kouture to Culminate Weekend

By Kate Aid

Koresh Dance Company brings a new contemporary work and a new, fashion-themed gala event to Center City this season. Hailed as “the most exciting dance experience in Philadelphia” by *Philadelphia Weekly*, the company will premiere director Ronen Koresh’s work *Aftershock*, March 26 – 28 at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre. Saturday, March 28, the performance will be a part of *Koresh Kouture*: an evening of cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and fashionable design.

Culture shock in hindsight, *Aftershock* reflects the impact of emigrating from Israel to the United States in the 1980s on the development of Artistic Director Ronen Koresh.

“Israel is a huge part of my life,” says Koresh. “It’s what defines me as a person – the culture, the tension, the love of life, the passion, the heat, the music and food, the complexity of racial and cultural integration. But my work is Middle Eastern culture coupled with American experience. Culture shock shakes your core. Then you live, you create, shaken up.”

Through the powerful athleticism and lyrical lines of the famously synchronized Koresh Company dancers, *Aftershock*

illustrates the dangers and difficulties of building artistic identity in a new place – the reverberation of hostile receptions, the challenge of gaining acceptance, and the risk of losing oneself to the expectations of a new environment.

On Friday, March 27, **Talk over Drinks: A Conversation with the Artists** will follow the performance. Audience members are invited to bring a drink into the theater and sit close to the stage to ask Ronen Koresh and company dancers about the process and experience of devising and performing *Aftershock*.

**Koresh Kouture: a High Fashion Performance, Silent Auction + Gala** takes place on Saturday, March 28, 6 -10 p.m., at the theater. Over 250 art and culture aficionados will attend this gathering to support Philly’s “most expressive dance company” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*). The Host Committee, spearheaded by legendary fashionista Joan Shepp, will present an evening offering dance, cocktails and displays by the city’s hottest designers, including Bela Shehu, Victoria Wright, Jovan O’Connor, and Terese Brown. Moore Brothers Wine Company, Victory Brewing Company, and Valley Green Bank are sponsors.

All performances and events are held at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre, at Broad & Lombard. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Box Office at 215-985-0420, or online at <http://philadelphiatheatrecompany.org/tickets/buy-tickets/>.

#### Schedule and Tickets for *Aftershock*

Thursday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 27, 8 p.m., with post-performance **Talk over Drinks: A Conversation with the Artists**

#### Tickets:

Individual \$35

Senior\* \$30

Student\* \$25

Groups of 10+ \$25 per person | \$20 per person for student groups

\* To purchase Senior, Student, and Group tickets, please call the Box Office at 215-985-0420. No handling fee for Koresh tickets purchased online.

#### Schedule and Tickets for *Koresh Kouture: Performance, Silent Auction + Gala*

Saturday, March 28, 6 -10 p.m.

#### Tickets:

Koresh Young Friends \$75\*

Young Patrons (ages 21-35) \$100

General \$125

\* To become a Young Friend of Koresh, receive member benefits, and purchase a Young Friend ticket to Koresh Kouture, contact Rachael at [rachael@koreshdance.org](mailto:rachael@koreshdance.org) or 215-751-0959.

For more about Koresh Dance Company, Artistic Director Ronen Koresh, and the Koresh School of Dance, see the Winter 2014 issue of *Center City Quarterly* (p.13), or go to [koreshdance.org](http://koreshdance.org).



Bickling Photography

Dancers Krista Montrone and Joseph Cotler rehearse for an upcoming performance.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.**

Brian Sims Town Hall Meeting  
Trinity Center for Urban Life

**Monday, April 13, 6 to 8:30 p.m.**

Celebration of Center City Living!  
Freeman's Auction House

**Wednesday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities  
Visit the CCRA Herb Booth!

**Wednesday, May 20, 7 to 9 p.m.**

CCRA Annual Meeting with  
Guest Speaker Vincent Feldman  
Curtis Institute of Music, Lenfest Hall

### *Out & About*

## Celebration of Center City Living!

**Freeman's Auction House | Monday, April 13, 6 - 8:30 p.m.**

Celebrate the joys of Center City living with your friends and neighbors, honor our 2015 Lenora Berson Community Service Award winners Joan and Dane Wells, and help raise some money for CCRA.

This year's event will be held in the elegant setting of Freeman's, our neighborhood auction house at 1808 Chestnut Street, amidst their "American Furniture, Folk and Decorative Arts" show.

There will be drinks, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, lively music, and fine conversation, as well as a silent auction and a few live-auction items. Tickets start at \$75 per person (\$50 for those under 35) and can be purchased online at [www.centercityresidents.org](http://www.centercityresidents.org) or by calling 215-546-6719.



Donna Strang

Fun, food and friendship await at the Celebration of Center City Living!