



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

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## Town Square

# Grocery Distribution Pop-Up Program Operated by Aurora Classical

By Bonnie Eisenfeld



Susan Weinman

Volunteers from Aurora Classical distribute groceries.

Center City resident Susan Weinman, who started a grocery distribution program in 2020 during the pandemic, has introduced the program to Aurora Classical, a nonprofit organization that now hosts a monthly Grocery Distribution Pop-Up. Since October, Weinman and her team have been reaching out to people in neighborhoods where food insecurity is widespread and help is needed, and distributing groceries to them. People in need are asked to reserve a bag of groceries to pick up. Food is distributed on Monday afternoons. Aurora turns no one away, asks no questions, and no identification is required.

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A trained driver goes to the pickup site in northeast Philadelphia, chooses the groceries best for the program, loads the truck, delivers the groceries to the distribution location, and helps unload it. The fee for the driving service is \$250 per trip. Donations are needed to pay for the driving service. If enough funds are raised and enough volunteers are available to help, Aurora will increase distribution to twice a month.

"We're targeting people who may have to choose between paying rent or utility bills or buying food," Weinman said.

"We distribute in several neighborhoods, and you would be surprised at the number of people from the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood who have food insecurity—seniors and people who lost their jobs. They have no car. Sometimes people come just once; sometimes they come for a couple months, and then I never see them again."

Caring for Friends supplies the food. [Caring for Friends](#), founded in 1974 by Rita Ungaro-Schiavone, is a nonprofit organization that provides food to homebound, unhoused, and food-insecure people in the Greater Philadelphia area. A donor supplements this with fresh eggs and milk.

Volunteers help sort and distribute the groceries, and clean up recycling and trash, which is bagged on the curb for Tuesday pickup. The space for the program has been kindly donated. The group plans to distribute food twice a month going forward.

Aurora Classical offers a Classical Open Mic Matinee once a month, whereby anyone is invited to perform five minutes of classical music. For more information about this music program or volunteering for the Grocery Distribution Pop-Up, please contact [admin@auroraclassical.org](mailto:admin@auroraclassical.org)

If you wish to donate online, go to: [www.auroraclassical.org](http://www.auroraclassical.org); please put in the memo line you are donating to the "Grocery Distribution Pop-Up." Or you can write a check to "Aurora Classical of CultureTrust Greater Philadelphia." (Culture Trust [aka CultureWorks] is a fiscal sponsorship that acts as an umbrella organization for arts and service organizations.) Mail to Aurora Classical, c/o CultureWorks Greater Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Building, 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 320, Philadelphia PA 19107.

## CCCulture

# Calder Gardens Art Museum Opening in 2024

By Margie Wiener

The 1.8-acre Calder Gardens, a new art museum opening in 2024, will serve as a sanctuary-like retreat. Located between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets, across the Parkway from the Barnes Foundation, the almost 18,000-square-foot structure is sheathed in reflective metal that blurs the boundaries between architecture and the natural world, and features a flowing landscape of native and flowering species.

Calder Gardens brings into the 21<sup>st</sup> century the continued legacy of an important intergenerational Philadelphia family of artists. The Gardens will highlight the art and ideas of Alexander Calder, a native Philadelphian, who is considered one of the most innovative and influential artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Situated both indoors and out, a rotating selection of masterworks from the [Calder Foundation](#) will be exhibited. Visitors will be dazzled by mobiles, stabiles, monumental sculptures, and paintings in galleries illuminated by natural light. The setting will provide not only a place for contemplation and reflection but also opportunities for learning and community-building through an extensive schedule of public programs and special events.

The site promises a naturalistic four-season garden, intending to create an entirely different experience from all other cultivated, manicured gardens on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Details can be found [here](#).



Sunken Garden.



Interior view of a gallery.

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# President's Letter

## Agenda for the New Year— and the New Administration

By Rick Gross, CCRA President

I wrote in the last issue that we were at an inflection point in Philadelphia, as a sea change in our government was about to happen. It has now come to pass ... and I am optimistic about what it means for CCRA.

In anticipation of the change, we have prepared concrete proposals for improved enforcement of unwelcome sidewalk behavior, a better 311 system, and a cleaner neighborhood and city.

Regarding sidewalk behavior, we have identified changes to the existing code to clarify what conduct is not permitted and, just as importantly, to give the police greater latitude in responding to that unwelcome conduct.

Regarding 311, we surveyed the response systems of the other 10 largest American cities and have identified what we believe are best practices nationwide that could be engrafted on our own, somewhat dysfunctional, system.

Regarding trash collection, our experiment in Fidler Square with additional receptacles led us to the conclusion that installing the latest version of the Big Belly cans at the neediest corners, with a commitment for daily emptying by the city, would make a real difference.

We have met with Mayor-Elect Parker and her staff, who welcome our work, which is on her desk by the time you read this. We expect to have further meetings with her, Council Member Kenyatta Johnson (who is expected to succeed Darrell Clarke as Council President), and Council Member Jeffery Young (elected to succeed Clarke in his district), to discuss these issues and push for them to be enacted and implemented.

While it is too early to tell whether my optimism that better, more responsive government is in the offing, we are off to a good start.

Stay tuned for updates ... and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.



*Rick Gross*

## Newsletter Ad Rates

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# Philadelphia's African American Heritage Sites and Historical Markers

By Margie Wiener

Philadelphia has been a vital center of African American life for more than 300 years. The city's Black community outnumbered that of any other northern city into the 20th century, thanks in part to the city's proximity to the Mason-Dixon line dividing North from South, and the economic and social opportunities the city offered. Despite oppressive racism, African Americans in 18th and 19th century Philadelphia built successful businesses, founded churches, established schools, created support networks, honed artistic skills, expressed political ideologies, and challenged the scourge of slavery.

After slavery, through the 20th century and into the present, the city continued as an important hub of Black intellectual, cultural, and social life. Yet, sites and buildings associated with this vibrant Philadelphia history too often have received relatively little attention. Philadelphia's Black community played an integral role in the city's growth and development from its earliest days, and the historic sites and buildings that embody this rich heritage of resilience, perseverance, and accomplishment deserve to be celebrated.

*Learn about Philadelphia's African American heritage at several greater Philadelphia sites.*

Throughout the city's "Historic District," many of these sites display historical markers, which capture the stories of people, places, and events that shaped the country. The blue signs act as mini-history lessons about notables. For example, there are [markers](#) for:

- The Free African Society (6th & Lombard Streets), an organization that fostered identity, leadership, and unity among Black people
- James Forten, whose home was at 336 Lombard Street, a wealthy sailmaker who employed craftsmen of different races and championed reform causes
- The Pennsylvania Slave Trade (211 S. Columbus Boulevard, outside Independence Seaport Museum), a site where Africans—first enslaved by Dutch and Swedes, and later purchased and enslaved by William Penn, other Quakers, and merchants—landed in Philadelphia
- The London Coffee House (Front & Market Streets), a circa-1754 shop where carriages, food, horses—and enslaved Africans—were bought and sold over coffee
- Billie Holiday, who was called the greatest jazz vocalist of her time (early to mid-20th century), at 1409 Lombard Street

*Other sites include:*

- Washington Square, one of city planner William Penn's five original parks, once known as Congo Square. Penn patented this square in 1706 as a Potter's Field, or a public graveyard for the poor. Free and enslaved Africans were interred here. The city closed Potter's Field to burials in 1794. This square served not only as a burial ground for the dead but also as a gathering place for the living. Free

and enslaved Blacks socialized here before the American Revolution, sometimes gathering to protect the remains of their loved ones from being exhumed. A historical marker in the city-block park describes activities of three centuries ago, when free and enslaved Blacks gathered at the then-potter's field during holidays and fairs to celebrate traditions of their homelands. Between Walnut & Locust and 6th and 7th Streets. [nps.gov/inde](#)

- [The Marian Anderson Historical Residence Museum](#), located in the rowhouse in Southwest Philadelphia where the famed opera singer and civil rights icon lived. It's open only for virtual tours 10 – 4, Monday through Saturday, while undergoing major repairs.
- [The Octavius Catto Memorial](#) at City Hall, a 12-foot bronze statue of Catto—a 19th century educator, baseball player, abolitionist, and civil rights activist. The statue is called "A Quest for Parity," and is the first monument to an African American individual in a public space in Philadelphia.
- The Underground Railroad Museum at Belmont Mansion in Fairmount Park, dedicated to Colonial history and the 19th century network of people and places that comprised the [Underground Railroad](#) in Philadelphia.
- Of particular note, the William Still house on the 200 block of South 12th Street. A major figure in the history of the Underground Railroad, Still was born free in New Jersey in 1821 to parents who had been enslaved, and from an early age was drawn to the antislavery struggle. In time, he would



Billie Holiday historical marker on Lombard Street near Broad.

Margie Wiener

*Continued on p.5*

rise to prominence as a leader of the abolitionist movement, and would continue his work on behalf of Black rights in the decades following the Civil War. When he died in 1902, he was one of the most famous and respected Black men in America; newspapers across the country [called him](#) “the father of the Underground Railroad.”

- West Philadelphia’s Paul Robeson House, at 4951 Walnut Street, home of the internationally renowned American bass-baritone concert singer, actor of film and stage, All-American and professional athlete, writer, multilingual orator, human-rights activist, and lawyer. He lived there from 1966 until 1976. At long last, the [Paul Robeson House](#) was recently listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The nomination, approved unanimously by the [Philadelphia Historical Commission](#), was a collaboration between the [Paul Robeson House](#), [University City Historical Society](#), and The Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia. It is also a National Historic Landmark and has a [Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission](#) marker.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Robeson’s birth.

- [Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal \(AME\) Church](#) at 6th & Lombard, founded in 1794, the oldest African Methodist Episcopal congregation in the nation.
- [The John Coltrane House](#) at 1511 North 33rd Street, a National Historic Landmark, and the home of American saxophonist and jazz pioneer John Coltrane from 1952 until 1958. It is currently in disrepair and not open for public tours; supporters are trying to raise funds to restore it.

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts has acquired a collection of works by the late African American sculptor John Rhoden. Rhoden’s art captures the essence of African American culture and history. “Determined to Be: The Sculpture of John Rhoden,” a collection of his sculptures, is at PAFA through April 2024.

## CCCulture

# Fleisher Art Memorial Celebrates 125th Anniversary

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Fleisher Art Memorial, one of the oldest nonprofit community art schools in the U.S., is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

Founded by Samuel S. Fleisher in 1898, and located at 719 Catharine Street, the school provides a large variety of classes, workshops, exhibitions, and community programs for children, teens, and adults. According to their [website](#), “Fleisher’s mission is to make art accessible to everyone, regardless of economic means, background, or artistic experience.” Tuition is discounted

for members, and tuition assistance is available to anyone who needs it. Fleisher offers classes onsite, offsite, and on Zoom.

“Fleisher is a great experience,” says a Center City resident who has been taking collage art classes at Fleisher for a few years. “Teachers are high-level, working artists. One learns not just from the teachers but from one’s fellow students. There’s a real sense of community, and I have formed several new friendships through my classes.”



Fleisher Art Memorial at 719 Catharine Street.

## Beyond Education and Training, NPOs Move Adult Learners into the Workforce

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

This article is a follow-up to “Nonprofits Fill Education and Training Needs for Adult Learners,” appearing in the Center City Quarterly, Fall 2023. These local organizations go beyond education and training to offer programs that assist clients in getting jobs.

[JEVS Human Services](#), a nonprofit organization headquartered at 1845 Walnut Street, offers a variety of Employment and Workforce Services, free to anyone unemployed or underemployed, particularly special populations, such as people with disabilities, veterans, those age 55+, returning citizens, refugees, immigrants, asylees, and young people 16 to 24.

This year, JEVS has placed 1,364 clients in paid employment opportunities, including apprenticeships, externships, and internships.

JEVS staff assist clients with job readiness, and conduct workshops in résumé writing, cover-letter writing, interview preparation, networking, and job searching. A team of job developers maintains a network of more than 600 employers across the Greater Philadelphia region and identifies job opportunities.

At JEVS [Orleans Technical College](#) students are trained for jobs at top healthcare organizations in the region, including Jefferson/Einstein, Penn Medicine, CVS, and Labcorp. Other training opportunities are in the building trades, information technology, hospitality, and manufacturing sectors.

JEVS mission statement says, “JEVS Human Services enhances the employability, independence, and quality of life of individuals

through a broad range of programs.” JEVS Human Services is funded by grants from foundations, corporations, and individual donors. In 2022, they received a federal grant for two community projects that will help people get jobs.

**Beyond Literacy**, a nonprofit whose Center City campus is located at 211 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, helped 644 students get jobs during the last program year.

Case workers provide job coaching, practice interviews, résumé-preparation assistance, and other counseling to support students applying for jobs and to connect them with employers through PA CareerLink, career fairs, and other networking opportunities.

A Student Support team helps adult learners who take adult literacy or English proficiency classes, attend training for energy careers, or enroll in pre-apprenticeship programs leading to jobs. The team also offers weekly workshops and English as a Second Language workshops, which prepare learners for employment.

A Pre-Apprenticeship program and a public-private partnership with PECO prepare adult learners for in-demand jobs for middle- and high-wage careers. A special program of education and technical training for green energy jobs, funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency’s Violence Intervention and Prevention Program, targets at-risk adults ages 18 through 25.

Beyond Literacy’s [website](#) says, “Our classes move students from learning to earning, helping them succeed as students, community members, and career seekers.” Programs are funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, other grants, and individual donations.

## Center City Voices

### Granny Peace “Brigadier” Sees Hope for Nuclear Disarmament

By Gayle Morrow, *Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia*

I just saw the new *Oppenheimer* film, and, combined with increased reporting about Russian nuclear threats and rising nuclear tensions on the Korean peninsula, I wanted to share a note of optimism with others who may have left the film shaken by, or questioning, what they have seen.

First, there is now a treaty that makes nuclear weapons, and everything to do with them, illegal. It’s the [UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW\)](#) that came into force in 2021, and it has already been signed by almost half of all UN members.

Second, the Nobel Prize-winning [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons \(ICAN\)](#) has transformed the

anti-nuclear movement and provided a place for anyone—from members of Congress to city mayors to individual citizens like me—to get involved in ending all nuclear threats. This campaign is open to everyone, and as the film so poignantly reminded us, it’s everyone’s responsibility to do what they can to save the world from the devastation of nuclear arms.

I recently joined members of [The Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia](#) in an action calling for the United States to sign on to The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. I encourage all elders (over 55) to join the Grannies in their efforts to put an end to nuclear weapons.

# Living With Bikes And Rethinking Our Streets

Text and photos by Bill West



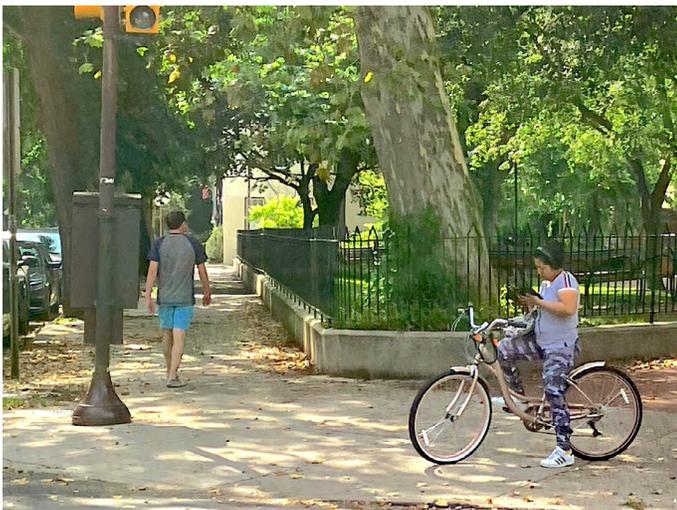
Spruce Street.

Bikes are here, and they're going to stay. What's it like living with them?

Depends on who you ask.

Opponents generally fall into a few overlapping groups: the car lovers, the bike haters, the anti-gentrifiers, and the people who dislike change in any form. Some people may actually belong to all these groups.

I sometimes say of these people that they want things to get better, but they don't want anything to change. This may be unfair.



Fitler Square.

On the other side—the one arguing for change—there is an interesting coalition that has gathered around the concepts of *Vision Zero* (nobody should die in a traffic crash) and *Complete Streets* (streets should be safe, useful, and pleasant for everybody).

Not so many years ago, bike advocates were fighting a lonely battle for bike lanes. They were relatively isolated, and they were not united: Some cyclists continued to believe in vehicular cycling—the concept that bikes are vehicles (which, legally, they are)—and that, rather than changing the design of existing roads, cyclists should always exercise their rights in the same space as all other vehicles. In other words, always ride in traffic with cars and trucks and buses, no matter how crowded the street, how fast the traffic, how erratic the drivers. (For more on vehicular cycling, click [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).)



Logan Square, near the Franklin Institute.

Vehicular cycling, as a movement, basically stopped the development of bike lanes in this country for several decades. Vehicular cycling still seems to have a few adherents and sympathizers, but I think it's fair to say that the bicycling movement is now controlled by people who want bike lanes. They want bike lanes a lot.

But, until recently, they were an isolated group, and the opponents were extremely effective in preventing or diluting positive change. Then along came Vision Zero.

[Vision Zero](#) got its start in Sweden, where it was adopted by the parliament in 1997. It spread fairly quickly to the United States, and Philadelphia officially adopted the program in 2016 (it had already adopted [Complete Streets](#) in 2009).

Continued on p.8



18<sup>th</sup> Street, near Rittenhouse Square.

Vision Zero and Complete Streets have attracted a wide range of reformers—bicyclists, pedestrians, people who want better mass transit, people who want breathable air, people who want to stop global warming, people who want our streets to be attractively designed and even welcoming to passersby, people who don't want their child hit and killed by a speeding car. (There was a particularly gruesome crash on Roosevelt Boulevard in 2013. For stories, click [here](#) and [here](#).)

And so the movement for bike lanes morphed into something much larger: the movement to reimagine our streets.

Many people, including important journalists, have completely missed or largely misunderstood what this new coalition, built around Vision Zero and Complete Streets, is trying to do. I think this is because they don't know the history and therefore do not have a good grasp of the context.

I have two favorite misconceptions: first, the idea that cars own the curb; second, the stereotype that bicyclists are all skinny white guys in spandex.



Pine Street.

The idea that curbside parking is in the Ten Commandments is ahistorical. Curbside parking, as opposed to loading, was illegal until the arrival of cars in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The laws changed, but the underlying reality has not. There are many better uses for the curb than the storage of automobiles. (For more, click [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).)

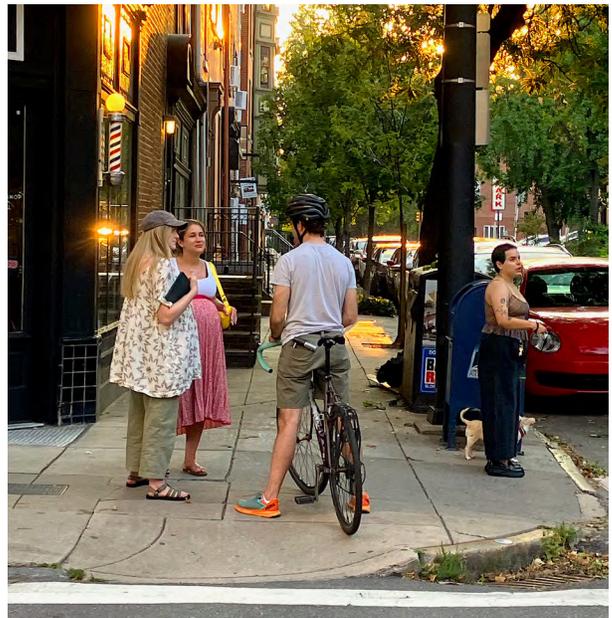
It can be disconcerting to open the pages of your favorite newspaper (or, more likely, scroll through on your phone) and find a respected journalist simply assuming that all street design must take place without affecting curbside parking (for one example, click [here](#)).



Grays Ferry Triangle, 23<sup>rd</sup> and South.

As for the spandex stereotype, have a look at the photographs in this story. Bicyclists are a large, very diverse group.

I'll add one more misconception to the conventional wisdom surrounding bicycling. It's not just for recreation. (It never was, but that's another story.) People today commute by bike; they use a bike to take the kids to school; they run errands by bike. I could go on, but I'm going to stop before I get snarky. I do find it frustrating that people—not just the person in the street, but people who are paid to inform themselves before they write a story—are still stuck with these wrong ideas.



Pine Street.

Continued from p.8

I do find myself less frustrated than I was a few years ago. It's because I sense the beginning of a long-term shift in attitudes. Let me tell you a story.

When I was in my early teens, I thought it might be fun to join my school's track team. During spring vacation, it occurred to me that I should do a bit of training, to prepare for the upcoming season. We lived in Manhattan, and I decided I should go run some laps every morning around the Central Park reservoir.

So one morning I got up early and put on some tennis shoes (this really was a long time ago, and my other option—penny loafers—struck me as a bad idea), and I walked over to Central Park. It never occurred to me to run on the sidewalk. I'd never seen anyone run on the sidewalk. Everybody always walked. When I got to the cinder track around the reservoir I ran and occasionally sprinted, and I enjoyed myself. It was a cool, overcast day. There was virtually nobody else on that cinder track, just as the sidewalks in the early morning had been very sparsely populated.

Fast forward 40 years. I'm lying on a grass slope in Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, waiting for the New York City Marathon to start. I'm on my back, with my eyes closed, feeling very comfortable. There are several groups of people near me. To my left, people are speaking quietly in German. Above my head they are speaking Italian, and to my right they are speaking French.

And then it is time to get up and head to the start. The two Frenchmen who had been to my right shake hands, looking one another in the eye. One says "Bon voyage," and the other says "Bon voyage" right back. And so it was.

For its first six years (1970-1975), the [New York City Marathon](#) was confined entirely to Central Park, for fear of disturbances to automotive traffic. Then, in 1976, it was allowed to expand to all five boroughs of the city. I ran the New York City Marathon in 2003, 2006, and 2009, and I would count my life significantly poorer if I had not had those experiences.

Things can change. Acceptance takes time. When it comes to reimagining our streets, I think we're on that path. A few years ago, we had yet to find it.

*Just as bike lanes are part of the Complete Streets project, so are open streets. Here's a de facto open street a few blocks from Liberty Place. I'd like to see a lot more of these.*



*Smedley Street, looking north from Pine.*

## Out & About

# Enjoying the Schuylkill River Trail

*By Margie Wiener*

If you've ever tried walking or running on the exquisite Schuylkill River Trail, you might not know that it is not fully continuous.

The Schuylkill River Trail comes into the city at Roxborough, across the river from suburban Montgomery County, traveling down the banks alongside the city. If you stay on the east side of the Schuylkill, the trail continues from East Falls until you get to Locust Street in Center City, where [a "boardwalk" begins](#), taking you on a path directly over the water until you reach South Street past Locust Street. From there, you can continue on until Christian Street, where you'll hit a gap.

The portions bordering Center City are essentially connected to everything, offering easy access to whatever's going on in the city and institutions like the museums on the Ben Franklin Parkway. If you haven't visited the Schuylkill River Park at the foot of Locust Street, I wholeheartedly recommend it. It is not only beautiful but also the home of a popular dog park and year-round events.

Fortunately, the part of the trail alongside Center City is not affected by gaps, so construction projects are not planned for this part. But what about the gaps in other areas and how to address them? Beyond the all-important question of funding, lots of things must be figured out before ground can actually

be broken: land acquisition, structural issues, figuring out who's going to be responsible for maintenance. Planning projects along the Schuylkill south of Boathouse Row is the responsibility of the Schuylkill River Development Corporation.

If you want to restrict your travels to Center City and its immediate environs, check out the Schuylkill River Trail. For details about the Trail and future construction projects, see [here](#).



*A restful spot on the Schuylkill River Trail, overlooking 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station.*

# Mütter Museum Reexamines Its Future

By Margie Wiener

After months of controversy, the Mütter Museum, at 19 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, hosted a community meeting, where approximately 60 people gathered to share impassioned views and air grievances about recent changes in direction.

Earlier this year, a new administration [removed the Medical History Museum's online exhibits](#) and popular educational videos for the purposes of an ethical review. Some of those have since been restored. The move led to debates over how a medical history museum should handle human remains from the past, some of which did not come from consenting patients.

In September, Dr. Mira Irons, the CEO of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, which runs the museum, [resigned just two years](#) into her tenure. The meeting came after internal turmoil, which was covered by national [news outlets](#).

Several spoke about how much it meant to them for a museum to show people with disabilities and conditions like theirs. Karen Andrade spoke of her emotion upon first coming to the museum several years ago and seeing a specimen from a patient with the same congenital condition she has, which means eventually she will not be able to walk because her spine will be fused.

"I have seen plastic models in doctors' offices over the years," Andrade said, "but I never knew what was actually going to happen at the end of the day—years down the line." Afterward, "I was in tears of ... happiness," she said. "It just made me feel so much closer to all of the other displays here and the people that experienced them, and went through all of the trials and tribulations of being a human being."

Biomedical engineer Rachel Lance flew from North Carolina to Philadelphia for the meeting. Last year, she had surgery to remove an unusually large uterine fibroid and decided to donate it to the museum because of how much the museum meant to her.

"My first trip to the Mütter resulted in tears of joy and catharsis for me after the visit because, for the first time, I saw bodies like mine," she said. "I saw actual samples of people being represented, and furthermore, I saw attention and sensitivity being paid to the way that those samples were discussed, in formats that provided medical information that was accessible by the public."

But, she said, since the museum's new administration took charge late last year, she and a friend who donated a heart have been unable to reach museum personnel. "So, please tell me where else can disabled people like me go and provide permission to others to ask questions in an environment where they feel comfortable, where I have given permission to be looked at and to be examined and provide information back as opposed to the alternative for most disabled people, which is for it to have been done to us unwillingly without our consent on the street?"

Lydia Wood, who has worked as an archivist, thanked Lance for sharing her story. However, Wood said, there are specimens in the collection that did not come from patients who consented, as Lance did.

"We can do better. There are things about this museum and this collection that are still causing harm and hurting people today," Wood said. "And the thousands of people in this collection deserve ... to rest and to control their own stories in the way that they were not able to." She added that it is possible for medical museums to research the provenance of their collections more fully and find descendants of patients to figure out what should happen next.

Another museum professional, who declined to be interviewed afterward, commented that museums are not "hermetically sealed" institutions. "What I would ask is for the people in this room, people who are not in this room, people who are online ... [to] think really deeply, not just about themselves, not just their own stories, not just their own subject positions, but how can the Mütter grow and adapt in ways that are meeting the ethical best practices of the field?"

The speaker referred to the [American Museum of Natural History's recent decision](#) to put all human remains from their collection in storage while holding conversations with affected communities.

Another participant said it was an emotional and fraught meeting. "That fraughtness is just the undercurrent because this is the beginning of public discussions," she said. "There's really a lot more energy and passion on both sides."

Some comments were directed towards the museum's administration, such as: whether the museum can regain lost trust, or why this community meeting was happening after the backlash to the museum's change in direction but not before.



Entrance to the Mütter Museum on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Continued on p.11

Executive Director Kate Quinn, who started leading the museum about a year ago, attended but did not speak. Moderators made it clear this meeting was only for people to air their grievances, so the museum staff could listen.

The museum seemed prepared for heated discussions. A moderator said at the outset that there was a break room for people who needed to take time out. All visitors who entered

through the front door walked past two parked police cars with officers standing by.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Julia Haller, board chair of the College of Physicians, said “This is exactly what we had hoped would happen.” There will be other town hall meetings every four to six months, for two years. For further details, here is the [link](#), to the original article.

## Our Greene Countrie Towne

# Exciting New Penn’s Landing Park Planned

By Margie Wiener

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in September for an 11.5-acre public space that will reconnect Center City to the waterfront, with a multi-use plaza erected above I-95 from Chestnut to Walnut Streets. This park was proposed as part of the larger [Delaware River Waterfront Master Plan](#) for the stretch of the river that runs from Port Richmond to Pennsport. Because the waterfront is so disconnected from the rest of the city, the new park will provide an additional connection between the two.

Construction is expected to take at least two years to complete. The plaza project includes a new, separate bridge from South Street to the Delaware River Trail for pedestrians and cyclists to use.

It’s called a “CAP” project, short for Central Access Philadelphia, in that the park will “cap” or cover a busy highway with public space. The current cap—the Great Plaza at Penn’s Landing—will be razed and replaced with the large park. The new plaza will span the area from the Blue Cross RiverRink to Old City, near the Ritz Five movie theater.

The new park will provide plenty of green space as well as a stage for concerts, multiple cafés, and a play area. This “flex-use” plaza could also be used for movie nights, festivals, roller skating, food trucks, and much more. Interactive art may also be included in and around the park.

In the center of the park will be a mass timber structure housing an open-air pavilion and a café. It will be Philadelphia’s first net-zero carbon building (meaning construction and operations are carbon-neutral).

The country’s first cap park—the [Brooklyn Heights promenade](#) over the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway—was constructed in the late 1940s in New York. Other cap projects include Boston’s Big Dig, which created the Rose F. Kennedy Greenway, and Seattle’s Freeway Park. St. Louis is currently constructing a cap park, and Chicago and Los Angeles may be next.

How exciting to look forward to the project’s completion. More background about the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC), the project, and artists’ renderings can be found [here](#).

Incidentally, another highway “Cap” Project, dubbed the Chinatown Stitch, is in the making. The north and south sides of Chinatown have been disconnected by the Vine Street Expressway for decades. In September, city officials unveiled three design concepts to build a cap over the highway for this highly anticipated project. They aim to help right historic inequities while making the ethnic enclave a safer and healthier place to live and work. Each version of the cap would cover the expressway between 10th and 13th Streets, and includes green space, room for public plazas, and traffic-calming measures. For details, see [here](#).



According to DRWC, “The new park will reimagine favorite wintertime traditions residents and visitors have come to know and love. This depiction showcases the multi-purpose plaza transformed into an ice rink featuring firepit areas and cozy cabins.”

## It's Academic

# Greene Towne Expands Programming in New Home

By Nicole Leapheart

In the winter of 2023, Greene Towne Montessori School officially relocated to 55 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, the former site of the Science Leadership Academy. With 30,000 square feet of space, the school seized the exciting opportunity to expand its programming offerings.

In the Fall, Greene Towne broadened its scope by introducing a Lower Elementary program, catering to older children in a mixed class for grades 1 – 3, ages 6 – 9.

Complementing this expansion for older children, the school also introduced Montessori & Me classes, designed for younger children and their caregivers, and led by Infant-Toddler Montessori-certified instructor Olivia Powers. The program comprises two components: the Parent/Infant Group and the Playgroup.

The Parent/Infant Group, for newborns to 10-month-olds and their grown-ups, encourages infants to explore the Montessori environment, while fostering a sense of community among grown-ups to share the joys and challenges of parenting. The Playgroup accommodates 9- to 30-month-olds and their grown-ups, who may be parents, relatives, or caregivers. Here, older infants and toddlers explore the Montessori environment while grown-ups learn how to support their child's natural drive to learn. Both sessions culminate in a circle time.

"Our new home enables us to build on our mission of supporting young families in Philadelphia," Head of School Sarah Sweeney-Denham remarked. "With increased space and expanded programs, we are able to extend our reach to serve more children and families, both here on our campus and out in the broader community."

According to Sweeney-Denham, there is more to come. "We've added two classrooms this year: Lower Elementary for grades 1 – 3 and an additional Toddler All Day Montessori Classroom. We've also expanded programming for our

Montessori & Me playgroups, and now take our show on the road into different neighborhoods each week with Circle Time with Ms. Olivia." Over the past year and a half, Greene Towne has hosted Montessori playgroups at Park Towne Place, Edgewater, and the Fitler Club, with plans for additional playgroups in Fishtown, East Falls, and Naval Square.

If you would like to explore having Ms. Olivia come to your neighborhood community center/playspace or park, reach out to Julie Kaeli: [jkaeli@gtms.org](mailto:jkaeli@gtms.org).

*Greene Towne serves children 18 months old through third grade and is the only Montessori school in Philadelphia that is accredited by the American Montessori Society. Greene Towne holds a four-star rating through the Pennsylvania STARS program and is accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools. Greene Towne has limited spaces available for the current school year and is also now accepting applications for 2024-2025. Please visit [www.gtms.org](http://www.gtms.org) to learn more.*



Children enjoying the Montessori & Me playgroup.

## Living History

# The Roundhouse on the Register of Historic Places

By Margie Wiener

Remember the Roundhouse? The former Philadelphia Police Department headquarters at 8<sup>th</sup> and Race Streets has been vacant since [the department moved to North Broad](#) in the spring of 2022. After a vigorous [community engagement process](#) to help decide the Roundhouse's future, a Philadelphia Historical Commission committee voted in September to include the building on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

In October, the full commission voted. This mid-20th century, curvy concrete structure has been alternately described as ugly or an "[architectural marvel](#)." Furthermore, it has been notorious as a symbol of police brutality. It's unclear if it will be preserved or razed. Click [here](#) for details.

## Town Square

# Gun-Control Legislation Passes PA House, Stalled in PA Senate

*Correspondence from Aaron Davis, Chief of Staff to PA Representative Ben Waxman (District 182):*

Ben Waxman, our PA Representative, co-sponsored two gun-control bills and helped to get them passed through the House. Unfortunately, it appears the GOP-controlled Senate has no intention of having any gun-control bills make their way through committee so that they can receive a vote. The two bills are:

### *HB 1018 - Extreme Risk Protection Orders*

- This legislation would provide for Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs). These orders provide a mechanism for loved ones, family members, or law enforcement to ask a judge to hold a hearing to temporarily disarm someone in crisis.
- The bill was passed out of the House of Representatives 5/22/23.

- The bill was referred to the GOP-controlled Senate 6/2/23, where it is sitting in the Judiciary committee and has not been brought up for a vote to take it to the Senate floor.

### *HB 714 - Background checks*

- This legislation requires background checks for all firearms, regardless of barrel length. This background check applies regardless of the method of purchase: whether through a licensed retail seller, via private transaction, or at a gun show.
- The bill was passed out of the House of Representatives 5/22/23.
- The bill was referred to the GOP-controlled Senate 6/2/23, where it is sitting in the Judiciary committee and has not been brought up for a vote to take it to the Senate floor.

## Living History

# Do You Know How Bubble Gum Was Invented?

*By Margie Wiener*

It all started with Frank Fler, a German immigrant who moved to Philadelphia in the 1880s and founded a candy company. His Fler Corporation became a national success, making him a millionaire.

One of his early achievements was the invention of “Chiclets,” the first candy-coated gum. Later, he wanted to create gum that could be blown into bubbles, which he thought his customers would enjoy. But his “Blibber-Blubber” didn’t stick—partly because it was too sticky and brittle. He died in 1921 without solving the bubble puzzle.

In 1928, Walter Diemer, a 23-year-old Fler factory accountant, tackled the puzzle. He played with a mixture that enabled him to blow a bubble, pop it, and clean up the mess relatively easily. Because it had an ugly, gray hue, Diemer dyed it pink. This was how Dubble Bubble was invented.

Initially, the Fler corporation met with resistance because consumers were afraid of the gum’s “harmful and injurious ingredients.” But Fler waged a successful national ad campaign to dispel these concerns.

Notably, later on, the Fler Corporation probably became better known for [the trading cards](#) it sold with its gum.

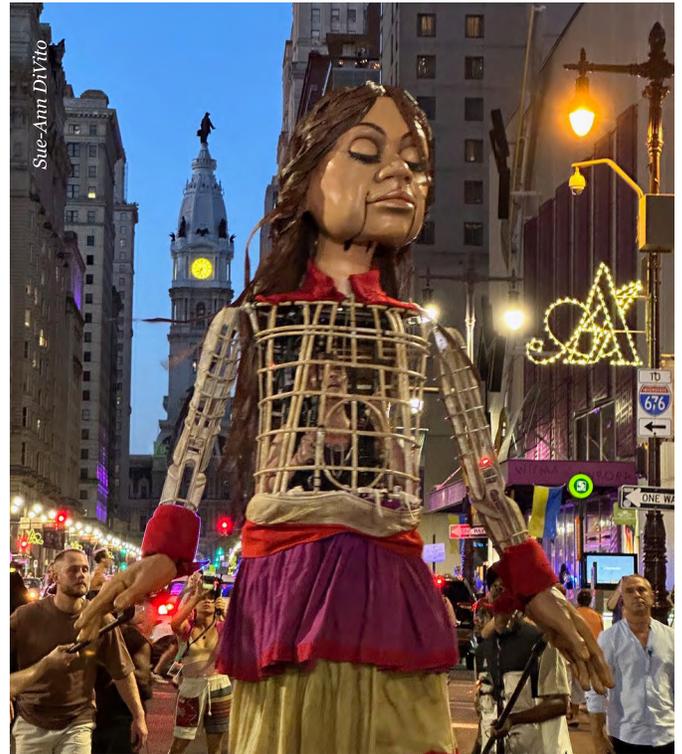
To this day, Fler’s most popular and lasting invention remains bubble gum. And the Tootsie Roll company now sells [the twist-wrap chews](#), still just as pink. For further background, check out [this link](#).



## Little Amal Visits Philadelphia

[Little Amal](#), a 12-foot puppet depicting a 10-year-old Syrian refugee child, has become a global symbol of human rights, especially those of refugees. Little Amal visited Philadelphia on September 13 and 14. A crowd gathered as she walked up Broad Street, 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia and Philly Grannies Respond/Abuelas Respond accompanied her, along with a variety of Philadelphia organizations.

—Margo Villanova



## Center City Spotlight

### Original Phillie Phanatic Helps Create GMA's Mascot

By Margie Wiener

Dave Raymond has been instrumental in creating *Good Morning America's* new mascot, Ray. Raymond has inspired the creation of more than 130 mascots, including Gritty, the notorious yet beloved mascot of the Philadelphia Flyers.

He has a lot of hands-on experience in the mascot arena, having served for 16 years as the original Phillie Phanatic. With Raymond in the iconic green suit, the Phillie Phanatic gained huge popularity. So, check out GMA and look for Dave's work! See Ray [here](#).



The Phillie Phanatic.

# Members Enjoy a CCRA Meet-and-Greet Event at Osteria Ama October 30

*Pictures by Donna Strug*





# CONSIDER A GIFT

*TO THE CLEAN, SAFE, AND GREEN CAMPAIGN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON*

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Since 1947, CCRA has promoted urban living and advocated for a safe, clean, diverse, and supportive community. That mission has not changed—but it has become more challenging. As Center City faces a post-pandemic future, our focus is making our neighborhood everything it can be for residents, workers, and visitors.

The Clean, Safe, and Green Campaign aims to enhance our community's overall appearance by providing sidewalk-cleaning services, planting trees, improving public-safety measures and overseeing neighborhood development so that proposed new buildings harmonize with the neighborhood and preserve its historic character. Our goal is a safe, healthy, and beautiful environment for everyone to enjoy.

These efforts are not free. We are seeking donations from individuals and local businesses to make this campaign a success. Your contribution will go a long way toward providing the resources and manpower needed to complete our objectives.

We know there are many unmet needs right now, and social and charitable organizations of every kind are competing for scarce dollars. But we also need to ask for your help.

Support in any amount makes a difference, and is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. So please, help keep our neighborhood clean, safe, and green by donating to CCRA via the link below. Thank you for everything you do to make our neighborhood better!

Best wishes for a healthy, safe, and happy New Year.



[Donate here](#)



# When the Beatles Snuck into Philly

By Margie Wiener

Many of us recall when the Beatles appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show* in 1964. Their first American tour was in August and September, and they were slated to play September 2 at Philly's Civic Center (aka the old Convention Hall). But Philadelphia saw civil unrest in late August, which resulted in a city on edge.

Protests erupted in North Philadelphia after a confrontation between two white police officers and a Black woman. The protests—known as the “[Columbia Avenue riots](#)”—led to hundreds of injuries and arrests before calming down on September 1. With the city already on edge, concert organizers worried that the Beatles’ conspicuous entrance would draw a huge crowd of fans and overwhelm police. They had to determine how best to get the Beatles onto the stage at the West Philadelphia venue.

Frank Rizzo, then the newly appointed deputy police commissioner, who’d played a major role in [shutting down the North Philly protests](#), called famed Philly DJ Hy Lit, one of the concert organizers. Rizzo’s plan was to send a decoy limo, while the Beatles would ride in a fish truck traveling from New York via the Black Horse Pike, and slip into the Philadelphia Civic Center through a food-service entrance. Although Rizzo’s involvement has little confirmation, newspaper accounts do say the Fab Four arrived at the concert in a fish truck.

The plan worked! The Beatles played to a raucous crowd of almost 13,000 people. The performance (preserved [on video](#)), included 12 songs. Eleven audience members ended up at Philadelphia General Hospital, according to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, with minor injuries. Given the Columbia Avenue

protests, [the Beatles were apparently dismayed](#) to find that their audience in Philadelphia was all white.

Where did they stay? George Harrison joked to the *Inquirer*, “Some humble little home, somewhere, would take us in.” Since fans were staking out all the major hotels in hope of catching a glimpse of their idols, the Fab Four ended up crashing at the home of Hy Lit! For more detailed information, click [here](#).



*Excited Beatles fans rush the entrance to the Civic Center for a sold-out concert in 1964. Credit: Temple University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center.*

## In Memoriam

# In Memory of Sam Weinberg, 45+ Years of CCRA Service

By Jeff Braff

Sam Weinberg joined CCRA in 1972, two years after getting married and moving to CCRAville from Wynnefield, where he was raised. Cable television was just getting off the ground and South Philadelphia was being wired above ground. CCRAville was targeted as one of the next areas to be wired. The impetus for Weinberg's involvement in the Association was his concern about the possibility that Center City would be blighted by the installation of above-ground CATV cables. Sam joined CCRA's task force on this issue and in 1979, in conjunction with the Philadelphia Community Cable Coalition — and after years of community meetings, petition signing efforts, and lobbying — CCRA was successful in securing legislation requiring that all CATV cables must be installed underground where existing utility cables were already underground (as is the case in most of Center City).

As reported in the 1996 Mar./Apr. issue of the CCRA Newsletter, Sam stated that, based on that experience: "I was hooked on

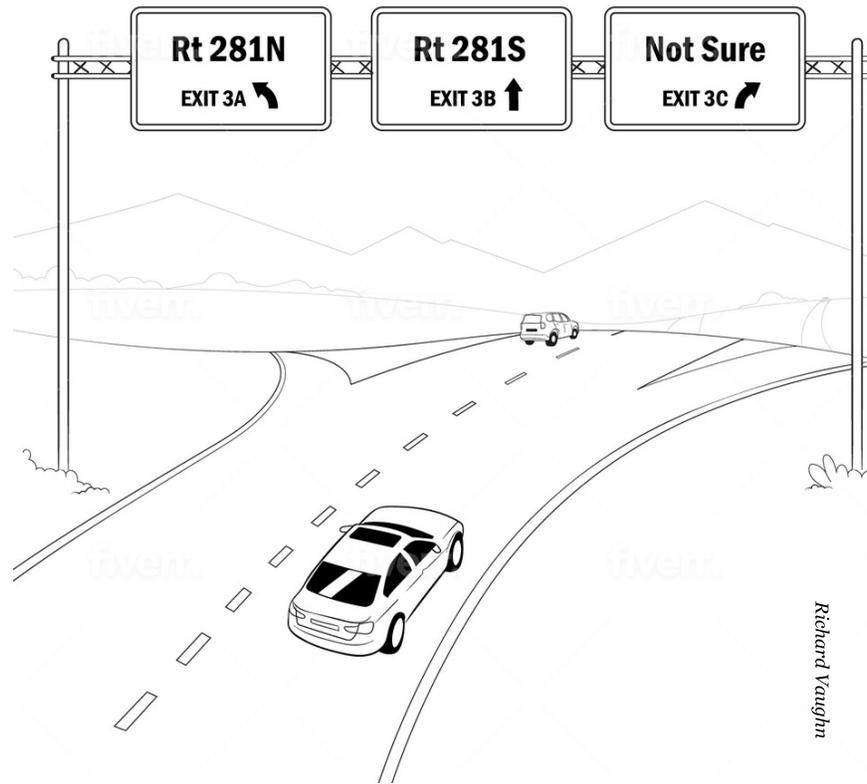
CCRA and decided to involve myself in whatever other activities they had that interested me."

And involve himself he did: from committee chairmanships, to board member, Vice President and, from 1991 to 1993, CCRA's 23<sup>rd</sup> President. Furthermore, as permitted by the bylaws then in effect, Weinberg stayed active as a full board director for more than 20 years after his presidency, providing sage counsel, serving on many nominating committees, and participating in new director orientations. (Should Sam also get credit for his wife Taube's extensive work on the CCRA annual House Tour for almost 30 years, for many of which she served as Chair? You'll have to ask Taube.)

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of working with Sam on numerous CCRA activities, and was the beneficiary of his always constructive advice during my terms as President. I will remember him as ALWAYS being kind, caring, jovial, and upbeat. He will be missed.

## The Drawing Room

### Cartoon by Richard Vaughn



## Shop Talk

### Holiday Gifts at Historic Candy Store



Margo Villanova describes her visit to Shane Confectionery: “As I approached the store, I could smell the chocolate. Much of the candy is made on the upper floors. There are five beehives on the roof. In late afternoon there is a lovely spot in the back of the store where you can enjoy amazing hot chocolate.”

Shane Confectionery, 110 Market Street, is “America’s Oldest Continuously Operating Confectionery Shop.” Read its history and sourcing [here](#).

## Have the Winter Blues? Grow Some Plants Indoors

By Travis Oliver

As winter approaches, many of us may find ourselves feeling a little down. The lack of sunlight and fresh air can take a toll on our mood and energy levels. However, there is a simple solution to beat the winter blues—growing plants indoors!

Plants like Amaryllis, Anthurium, Christmas Cactus, Peace Lily, and Cyclamen do well indoors and can bloom the most beautiful flowers to help with the winter blues.

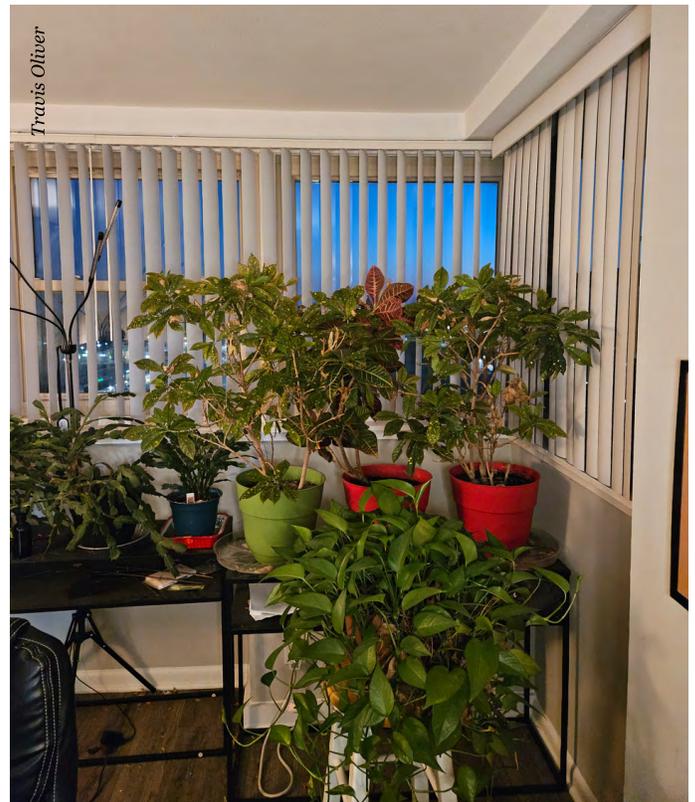
Not only do plants add a touch of greenery to your living space, but they also have several health benefits. Studies have shown that plants can help improve air quality, reduce stress, and even boost productivity. Plus, taking care of plants can be a fun and rewarding hobby.

If you're new to indoor gardening, don't worry—it's easier than you might think. Here are some tips to get you started:

1. Choose the right plants. Some plants are better suited to indoor environments than others. Look for plants that don't require a lot of sunlight or maintenance, such as Snake Plants, Pothos, or Spider Plants.
2. Get the proper lighting. While some plants can survive with natural light, others may need additional lighting to thrive. Consider investing in a grow light to give your plants the extra boost they need.
3. Don't overwater. One of the most common mistakes new plant owners make is overwatering. Make sure to let the soil dry out between waterings, and be careful not to drown your plants.
4. Keep an eye on humidity. Indoor environments can be dry, harming some plants. Consider using a humidifier or placing a tray of water near your plants to keep the air moist.
5. Keep your plants away from drafts. Your home may be warm and cozy, but if you have a draft coming through your windows, your plants may not like it—especially if they are tropical plants.

6. Enjoy the process. Growing plants should be a relaxing and pleasant experience. Take time to appreciate the beauty of your plants and the benefits they bring to your home.

By following these tips, you can create a thriving indoor garden that will not only cure the winter blues but also provide a source of joy and relaxation year-round. So go ahead and give indoor gardening a try—your mind and body will thank you!



An array of different plants can thrive indoors.

## City Lit

### PCI Announces Updated Library Hours

All Free Library locations began updated hours of operation in mid-October. Open hours for the Philadelphia City Institute Library at 1905 Locust Street are now:

- Mondays and Tuesdays, 11 am – 7 pm
- Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 am – 5 pm

The library has lots of programs for patrons of all ages, including author talks, book clubs, storytimes, English classes, film screenings, and a crafting club. Please see our [website](#), for a schedule of current programs for adults, teens, and children.

Open hours for the Parkway Central Library at 1901 Vine Street are now:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9 am – 8 pm
- Fridays, 9 am – 5 pm

Some libraries will be open on Saturdays by the end of 2023; visit [here](#) for more details.

# PTC Launches Exciting Season under New Artistic Leadership

By Sylvia Zhang

Under the new leadership of Artistic Directors Taibi Magar and Tyler Dobrowsky, Philadelphia Theatre Company (PTC) has set a fresh mission for its 49th season and beyond:

PTC is a vital civic institution dedicated to the creation of extraordinary theatrical experiences that reflect the essential issues and ideas of our time, and which foster connection, understanding, and transformation. PTC engages and strengthens its community through exceptional productions of new and contemporary plays and musicals, inspiring education programs, and mutually beneficial civic partnerships. PTC develops exciting new work that resonates both locally and nationally, and upholds a deep commitment to be a fully inclusive, welcoming home for the artists, audiences, and people of Philadelphia.

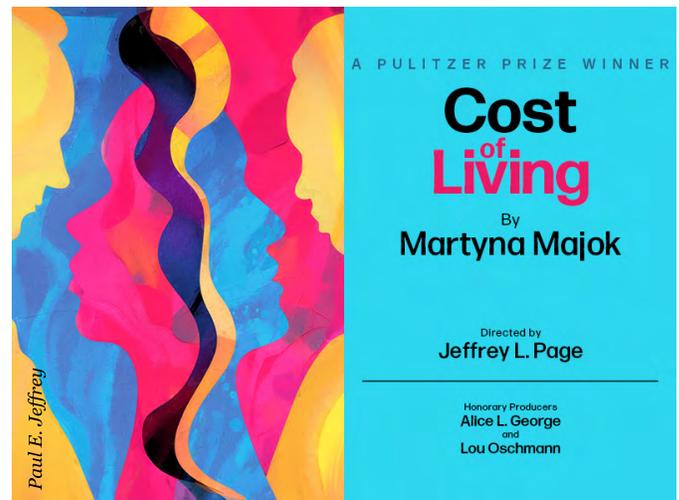
Embracing this new mission, and following the successful run of its season-opening show, *Macbeth in Stride*, PTC offers audiences a chance to explore its upcoming production, *Cost of Living*, making its Philadelphia premiere in February 2024. Co-Artistic Director Tyler Dobrowsky describes it as "an achingly beautiful play—human, funny, poignant. It's why we go to the theatre: to laugh, to cry, to be emotionally engaged and transported."

This Pulitzer Prize-winning and Tony-nominated work by Martyna Majok intricately weaves the stories of two relationships: one between a wealthy graduate student with cerebral palsy and his female caregiver, the other between a woman recovering from a terrible accident and her ex-husband. Heartfelt, funny, and deeply moving,

this exquisitely written play examines the fiscal and emotional cost of human connection.

Since its establishment in 1974, Philadelphia Theatre Company has played a vital role in enriching Philadelphia's cultural landscape. The opening of the beautiful Suzanne Roberts Theatre on the Avenue of the Arts in 2007 solidified its presence in the city's artistic scene.

PTC welcomes this exciting new chapter as it continues to redefine itself, setting the stage for inclusive and enriching theatrical experiences in the heart of Philadelphia. [philatheatreco.org](http://philatheatreco.org)




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## CCRA Mourns the Passing

Of Past Presidents Lenore Millhollen and Sam Weinberg  
And Honors Them for Their Years of Service  
To CCRA and the Community

### Lenore Millhollen, 97

Lenore, who died May 21, was a co-founder of the Preservation Coalition, which merged into the Preservation Alliance in 1996. She was also a board member of Friends of Fidler Square Park and a past President of CCRA. Husband William E. Millhollen survives her.

### Sam Weinberg, 87

Sam, who died September 18, was a past President of CCRA, and Owner and President of Frank Wolf Furniture. He leaves behind wife Taube, two children, five grandchildren, and a brother.

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### 2005 Walnut Street MY LOUP

By Leo Levinson—*The Center City Foodie*

You will never get a Saturday night reservation at My Loup ... or on Sunday night either. And it's not because they're booked. Or that you're not worthy. It's just that Philadelphia's restaurant wonder-couple, chef/owners Alex Kemp Roussy and Amanda Shulman, simply don't open My Loup on weekends—their own weekend “normal” life is part of their business plan.

So you'll just have to make your reservation Mondays through Fridays. But do make that reservation because—cut to the chase—My Loup has quickly rocketed to one of my top 10 favorite restaurants in Philadelphia, because it is delicious, creative, hospitable, and more ... And from the difficulty in getting a reservation on those weekdays, I see it's also rocketed to many other people's “best of” lists, too.

Despite my admiration, I have to admit, this review was difficult to write because many (all?) of the menu items change frequently. Not that that is a problem, but the dishes I enjoyed and would otherwise describe for you are probably not on the menu this week. That said, I greatly admire the energy and creativity required to keep up this pace. It's part of the charm that keeps My Loup's customers coming back. But it also requires diners to come back for reasons other than for tasting their favorite dish again. Some of those good reasons are the anticipation and enjoyment of My Loup's originality and culinary fun.

Dining at My Loup is an experience, not just a meal. Each week is like performance art that disappears the moment, or in this case a week, after it's presented. Within the confines of a very comfortable dining room that's purposefully just a tad too dark and a tad too loud, you'll enjoy a meal that won't be replicated.

For example, take a cocktail I had—the Caesar Salad Martini. That's right, it's a liquid cocktail with a taste reminiscent of a Caesar salad. And it was amazingly right on. I'd recommend it, but I'm pretty sure it's not served anymore, as this week you're likely to find another cocktail(s) that is equally curious. Part of the fun is in anticipating the surprise of what head bartender Jillian Moore will think of next. My Loup also has a small wine list of about 50 choices that exposes diners to very good, but relatively unknown small producers.

If I had to describe My Loup's cuisine, I'd say it is country French-like, but it is so much more contemporary, unexpected, and imaginative. For example, a country chicken dish will be enhanced by matzoh balls and root vegetable puree and dill on the plate, a fun play on traditional chicken soup but cooked and plated perfectly. For seafood lovers, often two seafoods or a meat and a seafood are creatively paired, like the grilled swordfish paired with squid. My Loup also typically offers a larger meat and fish dish for two, but the food is so interesting you'll want to share even the smaller plates to experience it all.

It is great to see that My Loup is already receiving national attention, having been selected one of America's best new restaurants in 2023 by the *New York Times*. [My Loup](#) is a delicious addition to our district's unofficial “restaurant row,” the blocks of Walnut and Sansom Streets around 20<sup>th</sup>.

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*Leo Levinson, our roving food writer, is a board member of Philadelphia's premier gourmet club, The Chaine 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*



*A colorful plate of buratta with melon, prosciutto, and a dash of olive oil, offered at My Loup.*

Leo Levinson

2023-24  
**SEASON**

The  
Philadelphia  
Orchestra

  
Kimmel Cultural  
Campus

Yannick Nézet-Séguin  
Music and Artistic Director

Alvin  
Ailey



Ain't  
Too Proud

Joshua  
Bell



## A season of incredible artists and sensational programs awaits!

Broadway Series

**Ain't Too Proud**

January 3–21, 2024

The Philadelphia Orchestra

**Brahms's German Requiem**

January 26–28, 2024

Broadway Series

**Mrs. Doubtfire**

February 6–18, 2024

The Philadelphia Orchestra

**Joshua Bell Returns**

February 15–17

Kimmel Campus Presents

**Alvin Ailey American  
Dance Theater**

February 23–25, 2024



Use promo code **CCRA24**  
for savings up to 20% off

\*Restrictions apply.  
Photos: Jeff Fusco, Chris Lee

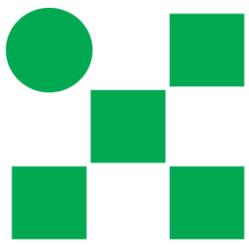
[KimmelCulturalCampus.org](https://KimmelCulturalCampus.org)



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When you work with Solo, you'll never have to navigate the real estate process by yourself. We know how much of a commitment buying, selling, renting, investing, or managing a property can be. That's why we listen to your unique needs and use our expertise to help you find the right fit.

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**Greene Towne**

**Montessori School**

building blocks for life



**School Day and All Day Montessori  
Toddler through Third Grade**

55 N. 22nd Street, Center City, Philadelphia  
[www.gtms.org](http://www.gtms.org) • [info@gtms.org](mailto:info@gtms.org)

**American Montessori Society Accredited**

**Financial Aid Available**

## What's Going On

# CCRA Winter Calendar—Let Cooler Heads Prevail

### Fitler Square Christmas Tree Lighting

Nutcracker performance from The Philadelphia Dance Academy and special guest appearance.  
23<sup>rd</sup> & Pine Streets  
Saturday, December 9, 4 pm  
<https://www.fitlersquare.org/holiday-lightings/>

### Fitler Square Menorah Lighting

23<sup>rd</sup> & Pine Streets  
Sunday, December 10, 5 pm  
Rain date: Monday, December 11, 5:30 pm  
<https://www.fitlersquare.org/holiday-lightings/>

### German Christmas Market in Philadelphia

Love Park and City Hall  
Through Sunday, December 24  
12 noon – 8 pm daily  
Free  
<https://www.philachristmas.com/>

### Macy's Christmas Celebration

Wanamaker Bldg., 1300 Market Street  
Dickens Village and Santa  
Through Sunday, December 31  
Reservation only  
<https://www.macys.com/s/holiday-celebrations/>

### Rivers Casino New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Waterfront

Cherry Street Pier  
Sunday, December 31, 6 pm and midnight  
<https://www.cherrystreetpier.com/event/2022/11/rivers-casino-new-years-eve-fireworks-on-the-waterfront-2023/>

### Tinseltown Holiday Spectacular

FDR Park, 1900 Pattison Avenue  
Outdoor winter wonderland, 350 light sculptures,  
Mistletoe Marketplace, treats and eats.  
Through Monday, January 1  
Advance tickets. Children 3 and under free.  
<https://www.tinseltownholiday.com>

### Mummer's Parade

Broad Street from City Hall to Washington Avenue  
Sunday, January 1, 9 am  
Fancy Brigade Finale,  
Indoors at the Pennsylvania Convention Center  
11:30 am and 5 pm

### Marie Laurencin: Sapphic Paris

Barnes Foundation  
2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway  
Through Sunday, January 21  
<https://www.barnesfoundation.org/whats-on/exhibitions/marie-laurencin>

### Winter in Franklin Square

Through Thursday, January 7, 5 – 9 pm  
(Sunday, December 24 and Sunday, December 31, 5 – 8 pm)  
January 11 to February 15, 5 – 7 pm (Thursdays to Sundays)  
<https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/events/electrical-spectacle-holiday-light-show-at-franklin-square/>

### FLOE: A Climate of Risk

Stephen Talasnik, Philadelphia artist  
Museum of Art in Wood  
141 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Through Sunday, February 18  
<https://museumforartinwood.org/exhibitions/>

### Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest

101 South Columbus Boulevard  
Ice skating at the city's largest outdoor rink, warming  
cabins, fire-pit stations, twinkling lights and holiday tree.  
Through Monday, February 19  
<https://www.delawariverwaterfront.com/places/blue-cross-river-rink-winterfest>

### Winter in Dilworth Park

1 S. 15<sup>th</sup> Street (west side of City Hall)  
Through Monday, February 26  
<https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/attractions/the-rothman-ice-rink-at-dilworth-park/>

### Curtis Institute of Music

Student recitals, faculty recitals, graduation recitals  
<https://www.curtis.edu/curtis-performances/calendar/?month=20231201>



One of the many popular attractions at the Christmas Village of Philadelphia.



# Center City Residents' Association

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# Save The Date

## 61<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR



06 . 02 . 24

