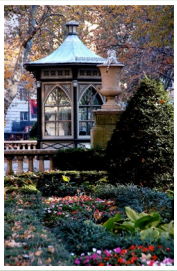
CENTER CITY QUARTERLY



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association *Vol. 13 No. 1 Spring 2022*

Contents

CCRA 75th Anniversary Year
CCRA Honors Yannick Nézet-Séguin.....1

Our Greene Countrie Towne
Green Spaces Heal Urban Ills.....2

President's Letter
Why We Support Bankroll.....3

Shop Talk
Business Trending Up.....4

Out & About
Cool Music.....4
Bethesda Project Celebrates 25 Years.....17

Town Square
Young Black Men Speak of Gun Violence.....5
Register to Vote by May 17.....5
CCRA Works toward JEDI.....7
Penn's Village Makes Friends.....8

Dining Scene
Eat Pie on Pi Day.....6
The Oyster House.....14

City Lit
Celebrate Bloomsday, June 16.....6

CCCulture
A Man for Our Time.....9

Center City Spotlight
Meet Peter Jam.....12

It's Academic
Greene Towne Workshop
on Toddler Behavior.....13

What's Going On
CCRA Spring Calendar.....16

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

CCRA Marks 75 Years

CCRA Honors Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Courtesy of Philadelphia Orchestra

CCRA marks its 75th anniversary in 2022—a remarkable achievement for any grassroots community group anywhere!

And to celebrate another remarkable achievement, CCRA will bestow its *CENTER CITY CITIZEN OF THE DECADE AWARD* on Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the most accomplished Center City Philadelphia resident of the past decade. Yannick, as he is lovingly known in his adopted city, came here in 2012 to take the reins of the Philadelphia Orchestra, emerging from bankruptcy to reclaim its status among the most renowned ensembles in the country.

As if that weren't enough, five years ago he was appointed music director of New York's Metropolitan Opera, widely considered to be the finest opera company in the world. We are truly honored that he has made his home here with us.

To celebrate these two extraordinary achievements—both Yannick's and CCRA'S dedication to enhancing the quality of life in Center City—CCRA will host a pair of events on June 1. A VIP reception and cocktail party in the magnificent Blatstein home on Rittenhouse Square will take place at 6:30 that evening. At 7:30, the main festivities will commence three doors down, at the Ethical Society of Philadelphia, with the presentation of the award to Yannick, a video celebrating our history, just a few speeches, and a wonderful supper.

Save the date now, and look for ticket-purchase information for both events on our website in April. We are excited to share these celebrations with our membership and all of Philadelphia.

Penn Physician Shows Green Spaces, Trash Cleanup, Fixing Abandoned Houses Reduces Urban Gun Violence

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Eugenia South, MD, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Penn, is the lead author of a large-scale research study designed to test whether neighborhood-improvement interventions would reduce gun violence. In the first phase of a multi-year study, randomly selected vacant places received greening, trash removal only, or no intervention. Greening included planting new grass and trees, installing a low wooden fence, trash removal, and regular maintenance. In communities with new green spaces and in communities with trash removal only, gun violence went down significantly. The reduction was greatest where residents live below the poverty line.

Participants living in the areas that received both interventions reported feeling safer and went outside more to socialize with neighbors. Those living in the areas that received new green spaces reported feeling less depressed and worthless compared to those with no intervention.

In the second stage of the study, abandoned houses in randomly selected neighborhoods received either a full remediation, including cleaning the outside of the house and yard and adding new doors and windows; trash cleanup only; or no intervention. In unpublished findings, neighborhoods receiving full remediation had a significant reduction in gun violence.

The research study started in October 2011, with 442 adults living in Philadelphia neighborhoods near 541 vacant lots. By the end of the study, in April 2017, 342 participants remained. On average, participants were 45 years old, slightly more than half were female, and almost half had a family income of less than $25,000. Some of the findings were published in July 2018 in JAMA Network Open (*Journal of the American Medical Association*), and reported by NPR, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the *Washington Post*, as well as other national and international media. Findings from both phases of the study are included in Dr. South's article in the *New York Times*. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/08/opinion/gun-violence-biden-philadelphia.html

Dr. South and her team recently received a $10 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the impact of both environmental and economic interventions on reducing health disparities in Black Philadelphia neighborhoods. The environmental interventions will include tree planting, vacant-lot greening, trash cleanup, and rehabilitation of dilapidated abandoned houses. Economic interventions will include food, employment, and prescription-drug assistance; financial counseling; tax preparation; and emergency cash. The randomized controlled study will enroll 720 adults in 60 neighborhoods.

Neglected Black neighborhoods in Philadelphia have crumbling houses, trash build-up, no green space, and declining economic opportunity. According to a 2021 study by The Commonwealth Fund, Black people live fewer years, on average, than white people, are more likely to die from treatable conditions, and are at higher risk for many chronic health conditions, including diabetes and hypertension.

The new study will find out whether investment in Black neighborhoods will correlate with improved health of residents. Read more here: *Penn Researchers to Study the Impact of Environmental and Economic Interventions on Reducing Health Disparities in Black Philadelphia Neighborhoods with Nearly $10M Grant* - Penn Medicine

Eugenia South, MD, MSHP, is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, and faculty director for the Urban Health Lab. She earned a BA from Harvard University, an MD from Washington University School of Medicine, and an MSHP (Master of Science in Health Policy) at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine.

Dr. Eugenia South is lead author of a research study on reducing gun violence through greening, trash removal, and fixing houses.

CCRA Board of Directors

Rick Gross .....President
Rick Speizman .....Exec. VP/Treasurer
Michele Ettinger .....Vice President
Barbara Halpern .....Vice President
Charles Robin .....Vice President
David Rose .....Vice President
Susan Kahn .....Secretary
Nathaniel Parks .....Assistant Secretary
Matthew Fontana .....Assistant Treasurer

DIRECTORS (term ending)

Judith Axler (2024)
Elena Cappella (2023)
Jim Duffin (2024)
Kate Federico (2022)
Gilbert Feinberg (2022)
Jared Gluskin (2024)
Lawrence Goldberg (2024)
Bill Goldstein (2022)
Richard Huffman (2022)
Wayne Macfadden (2023)
Douglas Mellor (2022)
Ryan Mulholland (2024)
Lauren O'Donnell (2022)
Harvey Ostroff (2023)
Nan Robinson (2024)
Gina Shapiro (2024)
Richard Vaughn (2024)
Benjamin Weinraub (2023)
Irena Wight (2023)
Benjamin Zuckerman (2023)

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Travis W. Oliver

COUNSEL

Wade Albert

ZONING CO-CHAIRS

Janice Woodcock
Veronica Aplenc

PAST PRESIDENTS (active)

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

CENTER CITY QUARTERLY

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

Cover Photo Credits: *Ben Zuckerman*

Newsletter Ad Rates

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

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

President's Letter

Why We Support Bankroll

By Rick Gross, CCRA President

Last Spring a group of local businessmen, among them restaurateur Stephen Starr, announced a proposal for a sports-themed restaurant, to be named Bankroll Club, at the site of the Boyd Theater and The Gap on Chestnut Street.

In light of earlier publicity from one of the promoters, stating that the future of online sports betting would be from cellphone apps—which is legal in any venue in Pennsylvania—concerns arose in our community about the proposal. I heard, and shared, many of those concerns.

The Bankroll group sought my participation in a neighborhood advisory council to address these concerns. That felt wrong to me, since CCRA required enough distance to evaluate the proposal fairly and impartially. And since the project needed a special exception under the zoning code (as do all restaurants in Center City), the CCRA Zoning Committee would need to hold a hearing and take a position as well.

Working with our Zoning Committee co-chairs, I established a two-track process to consider the project. First, the Zoning Committee scheduled a public hearing, for the neighborhood to see and comment upon Bankroll's presentation. Second, I appointed a Stakeholders' Committee composed of near-neighbor building representatives and others from throughout Center City West to negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement with Bankroll management over issues of concern. Included among those were outdoor lighting, noise, outdoor dining and liquor service, patron control and street congestion. They also addressed design issues and replacing and expanding the green canopy surrounding the project.

Given the concerns I had heard up to then, there was one condition that took precedence over all others. I insisted that Bankroll (the Tenant of the space) and Pearl Properties (the Owner of the building) jointly agree that gaming would be permanently prohibited at the site. This agreement needed to be both part of the Memorandum and separately recorded as a restriction on the deed of the property, binding any future user to the same prohibition. Once that agreement was obtained, the review process commenced.

The Stakeholders' Group worked diligently on all of the issues, while the Zoning Committee considered the special-exception request. In October, the latter voted 10-2 not to oppose Bankroll's request. Meanwhile, the Stakeholders' Group settled on a draft Memorandum of Agreement with Bankroll, which they sent to the CCRA Board for consideration.

The Agreement is unlike any CCRA has ever negotiated with a business in Center City West. It contains absolute commitments (rather than best efforts) from Bankroll concerning acceptable noise levels; describes acceptable lighting displays and prohibits others; prohibits outdoor dining and drinking; ensures crowd control with a large indoor lobby; controls street congestion from taxis and Ubers with an enhanced security team; and commits to adding green elements to the design.

Remarkably, the proponents were so convinced of their ability to manage their patrons exiting the restaurant that they agreed to indemnify neighboring property owners should those patrons cause any damage to those buildings. Nothing so comprehensive has ever been obtained from a restaurant in Center City or, I would guess, anywhere in Philadelphia.

The Agreement was published in *CCRA This Week* on two consecutive weeks; comment from our members was sought before the Board took it up at its November 9 meeting. The comments from near neighbors and those further away were overwhelmingly positive.

Continued on p.4

Continued from p.3

The CCRA Board met in open session and, after a thorough discussion, approved the Agreement by an overwhelming vote of 28-1. The matter was then taken to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to consider the special exception over parts of three days of hearings.

Even though the Stakeholders' Group had two representatives from William Penn House, one of whom was the President of its Board, the building opposed the special exception. While conceding that the Agreement was an excellent one, they just didn't believe that Bankroll would uphold it.

Their arguments were presented to the ZBA along with the opinions of the safety, event and traffic experts they retained. Bankroll had its own experts as well. I was asked by the ZBA to report on CCRA's position. Ultimately, the ZBA voted 4-0 to unconditionally grant the special exception.

The project will now proceed, with a Fall opening expected. For those of us who support it, finally replacing the decrepit Boyd marquee and the drab architecture of The Gap with an upscale Stephen Starr restaurant will bring a long-needed upgrade to a neglected part of Chestnut Street. For too long the site has been a source of unsightly and unsanitary street behavior in the absence of an operating business.

I firmly believe the process to review and approve this project was fair, open, transparent and impartial. I don't think our membership could ask any more of us as we worked to get it right. I hope, and trust, that we did just that.

Rick Gross

Shop Talk

Business in Center City Is Trending Up

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The Winter 2021 issue of *Center City Digest*, published by the Center City District (CCD) and the Central Philadelphia Development Corporation (CPDC), reports on progress in Center City's economy, development, and retail business. Included in the issue are links to three reports.

Center City Retail 2021 reports that Center City's retail business is rebounding. New retailers and restaurants have opened, and more are planned this year. Although the number of office workers has declined, Center City Philadelphia's residential population is the third largest in the U.S. and provides a loyal and stable market for retailers and restaurants. Millennials (ages 25 to 40) and Gen Z (under 25) residents are the largest population segments, followed by college students and empty-nesters.

Monitoring Philadelphia's Economic Recovery reports that Philadelphia has continued its job recovery, led by growth in educational services, leisure, hospitality and government. Performing arts venues have reopened, and tourists, convention attendees, and regional shoppers are returning, as well as some office workers.

Center City Philadelphia Developments 2021 documents all the current and planned major projects in Center City. The report includes a map and project descriptions of 63 major developments in Center City Philadelphia that were recently completed, under construction, or still in the design or proposal phase.

The Center City District includes the business part of our neighborhood, as well as the east side of Center City and some adjacent neighborhoods. To see the boundaries of the Center City District, go to: https://centercityphila.org/ccd-boundary-map

Out & About

Cool Music

On Saturday, February 19, at Wintergarden on the Greenfield Lawn at Dilworth Park, pianist Lonell Johnson performed hits from Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye, Ray Charles and Diana Ross on a baby grand piano carved from ice. The concert was sponsored by Center City District, **Ice Sculpture Philly** and the **Philly POPS** and TD Bank. *Photo by Linda Gerson.*

—Bonnie Eisenfeld

Town Square

Young Black Men at Risk Speak About Gun Violence Culture

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

ManUpPHL, a nonprofit organization, in collaboration with Drexel University, conducted focus groups with young Black men involved with gun violence and gun culture in high-crime Philadelphia neighborhoods. Participants in the group discussions included victims, perpetrators, and peers. They described their life experiences, behaviors, and activities, and offered ideas for deterring gun violence.

The discussions revealed that gun violence had brought trauma to their lives, and sadly, they were becoming numb to the pain. Many did not have fathers around as they were growing up. They learned to imitate behaviors around them. Their families understood the situation and reacted by praying and attempting to demonstrate how to live. However, the young men developed connections with friends, and retribution was a necessity.

"We all live in this sick village," said one. Their options were restricted by inadequate schools and lack of financial resources. These young men felt that no one ever talked to them about what they needed to learn in school.

The young men said they needed meaningful educational opportunities and more magnet schools as alternatives. One person, who did not get into a magnet school because of low grades, said about his local school: "...you're putting me around with other monsters...so I had no option but to become that too to protect myself."

They needed well-paying jobs as an alternative to the drug business. "You gotta come up with a better business than this (drug) game," said a participant.

They came up with ideas about what kind of people might be able to help them, including convicted criminals who had created successful anti-violence initiatives within the prison system, as well as trusted people in their communities to talk to about their problems and connect them with resources.

Focus-group participants were recruited through ManUpPHL's "Listening to the Streets" program. Almost all were between the ages of 19 and 26. Each group discussion lasted approximately two hours. Neighborhoods represented included North Philadelphia, South Philadelphia, Overbrook, and Frankford. Incentives to join "Listening to the Streets" include a $240 stipend, daily complimentary meals, a group session with a licensed therapist, a mentor, and a job opportunity with a program partner.

According to their website, "ManUpPHL's mission is to step into the lives of the men who are statistically most likely to be victims or perpetrators of gun violence in our city, and to provide them with the mentoring, accountability, resources and consistency they require to change their lives and make our communities better. We provide support in 5 areas: Employment, Criminal Justice, Education, Family & Fatherhood, Financial Literacy."

The Eagles granted ManUpPHL $5,000 from their Social Justice Fund. ManUpPHL put together a round of care packages—food, clothing, and transportation—for the organization's mentees.

ManUpPHL is a nonprofit organization. Donations pay for stipends, job clothing, and transportation for participants, as well as salaries for part-time staff members. The organization's Advisory Board consists of Solomon Jones, Executive Director; Brian Ellis, Board Chair; Akbar Hassan, Board Treasurer; and Jeff Brown, Board Secretary. KYW NewsRadio reported the study on December 3: The full report, "Exploring the Lived Experiences of Black Males in Philadelphia Around Gun Violence and the Behaviors/Activities that Encourage Gun Culture," is available at https://www.manupphl.org/ltts-academic-study

Town Square

Register to Vote! Primary Election May 17

Last day to register before the Primary Election is **Monday, May 2.**
You must be a U.S. citizen and a resident of Pennsylvania for at least 30 days before the next election to register to vote in Pennsylvania.
Register **online**.
Primary Election: Tuesday, May 17
General Election: Tuesday, November 8
This election includes Governor of PA and U.S. Senator.

Dining Scene

Celebrate Pi Day—Eat Pie!

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

National Pi Day, March 14, has become a popular holiday, and we celebrate it by eating pie! Any kind of pie will do, as long as it's round.

The day commemorates the first three digits of the mathematical constant, *Pi* (Greek letter *π*), the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, expressed as 3.14. In plain English, this means that the outer boundary of a circle (circumference) is always approximately 3.14 times as long as the straight line across the middle of the circle (diameter.)

The reason 3.14 is approximate is that Pi is an "infinite decimal," meaning that after the decimal point, the digits go on forever. Mathematicians used to calculate Pi by hand. Then beginning in the 1900s, using computers, they have calculated trillions of digits after the decimal point. The record, set by Swiss scientists in 2021, is 62.8 trillion digits.

Physicist Larry Shaw came up with the idea of Pi Day in 1988 at the Exploratorium, a science museum in San Francisco, where he was a longtime employee. It happened at a staff retreat following the death of Exploratorium founder and Nobel Prize nominee Frank Oppenheimer. (The date is also Albert Einstein's birthday.) In 2009, Pi Day, March 14, was officially recognized as a U.S. holiday, and is celebrated around the world.

Bonnie Eisenfeld

Quick, easy, tasty, and healthful Pi Day tartlets: round toasted waffles topped with sliced fruit and yogurt.

City Lit

Celebrate James Joyce's *Ulysses* on Bloomsday, June 16

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

James Joyce's fans around the world celebrate Bloomsday annually on June 16 to commemorate Irish writer James Joyce and his famous 1922 novel *Ulysses*, which follows a day in the life of Leopold Bloom on June 16, 1904. That day also happens to be when Joyce went on his first date with the woman who would become his wife, Nora Barnacle. First celebrated in 1924, Bloomsday continues to be observed internationally with festivals, readings, dramatizations, and pub crawls.

The Rosenbach, a rare-book museum and library at 2008-2010 Delancey Place, and founded in 1954 with a testamentary gift of the Rosenbach brothers' book collection, owns a first edition of *Ulysses*. Originally banned here, it was smuggled in by A.S.W. Rosenbach, who also purchased the manuscript of *Ulysses* at auction for $1,975, sections of which are on display at the museum.

Now affiliated with the Free Library of Philadelphia, The Rosenbach has been commemorating Bloomsday annually with a daylong reading of *Ulysses* by various Philadelphia performing artists, writers, academics, dignitaries and denizens, outdoors on the 2000 block of Delancey, weather permitting.

The audience sits on folding chairs; people come and go during the readings. If you attend for a while, over the years, you will eventually hear the entire book, written in stream-of-consciousness style, so you can enjoy any part at any time. Check their website for the latest news of the 2022 event.

Courtesy of the Rosenbach

Expanding Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion within CCRA

By Maggie Mund

The CCRA area of Philadelphia has been wealthier and whiter than the rest of the city, a statistic that has only gotten more pronounced over the years. As both millennials and empty-nesters flocked to the city, affordable smaller homes and apartment complexes have been replaced with new construction—mostly expensive condo towers and townhouses.

Similarly, mom-and-pop stores were replaced by high-end boutiques. As Philadelphia became a destination city, Center City became even more of an island of privilege in a Philadelphia that has been, for years, the poorest big city in the country.

Realizing the need to be more proactive regarding broader city issues, CCRA modified its Community Benefits Agreements with developers to include goals of providing good construction jobs to minorities and women, and affordable or workforce housing. A good beginning, but the changes brought about in the last 18 months, with COVID and the civil rights protests, encouraged CCRA to examine our role in the larger city.

The purpose of the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) committee is to explore ways that CCRA can provide a meaningful voice and opportunities for those who have not equally enjoyed the benefits our community has experienced. We recognize that the quality of life in the neighborhood is affected by the wellbeing of our residents, businesses, guests, workers and our near neighborhoods. Because this is our first foray into social justice as an organization, we recognize the need to enter into meaningful partnerships with organizations and individuals who are known for their work in the area.

Thus far, the JEDI committee has identified four areas of work. They are:

Promotional: Increasing the visibility and reach of social justice organizations by sharing events promoted by them via our social media, CCQ, and *CCRA This Week*. These promotional posts began in the Fall and now are featured under their own banner in *CCRA This Week*.

If there is interest, CCRA would arrange for docent-led group tours of events such as the art show at the African American Museum, possibly followed by a gathering afterwards, say, in Chinatown, where we could patronize a minority-owned business that has weathered significant COVID disruptions. Please contact the office if this would be of interest.

Educational: *Sense in the City* is CCRA's first programming effort hosted by the JEDI committee. We are excited to be partnering with Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Philadelphia Ethical Society. *Sense in the City*, which began in January, is a series of Zoom discussions focused on aspects of community, difference and justice that we all encounter in our everyday lives in Center City. The sessions are held on Wednesdays, 12–1:30pm. Past topics included: Public Spaces and Thoroughfares; Equity, Public Schools and Democracy; and Homelessness and Humanity.

Future sessions are:
- March 9 – Fear and Street Crime
- March 23 – Climate Justice and Economic Justice

Advocacy: The following two ideas are on a longer timeline as they require more organization and relationship building. There are two activities under consideration.

Freire Charter School Support Partnership. Freire Charter High School, located at 2027 Chestnut Street, has been a part of the CCRA community since 2006. Drawing from Southwest, North and West Philadelphia, the school is made up of nearly 100 percent students of color, most of them from single-parent households with limited income. Despite these obstacles, 83 percent of Freire students go on to college.

As of this writing, we have had one meeting to discuss ways to make the neighborhood more welcoming to the students. We will continue working with Freire Charter School administrators and students to provide opportunities for internships, training, and mentoring from CCRA members. Freire offers many after-school clubs and activities. Several ideas under discussion include:

- Featuring contributions from Freire School writers in *CCRA This Week* or the CCQ and/or having writers from the neighborhood lead writing workshops with the students
- Supplying chess tutors to the Chess club
- Providing guest speakers to talk about business or career opportunities; could be combined with an office or site visit or even internships
- Assisting students with conducting voter-registration drives and other civic engagement activities

CCRA Small Business Investment Fund. As currently defined, CCRA would organize an investment club to provide low-interest loans and social capital to qualified, under-resourced entrepreneurs in order to co-create a more equitable, compassionate, sustainable, and vibrant local economy in Center City. All businesses supported would be located within the CCRA boundaries, potentially offering more diverse goods than presently available in the national chain stores mostly found in our area. There are a lot of details to be worked out, but to date CCRA has met with the Enterprise Center and the African American Chamber of Commerce to discuss the idea and potential partnership opportunities. Other possible partners include The Philadelphia Foundation, Entrepreneur Works, Impact PHL, and many others.

So stay tuned! There is much work to do. If interested, please contact the CCRA office with your thoughts and, of course, any ideas or ways to help.

JEDI Committee Members
Maggie Mund, Chair
Jared Gluskin, Barbara Halpern, Ryan Mulholland, Board Members
Travis Oliver, Managing Director

Town Square

Penn's Village: A Web of Unexpected Friendships

By Jane Eleey, Penn's Village Executive Director

"I have made a dear friend. When I was a volunteer driver, I drove her to appointments. We developed a relationship that has grown into a friendship. I am grateful for her friendship."

—A Penn's Village volunteer

Penn's Village members make connections.

The Penn's Village mission is to "assist older neighbors to live independently... by providing caring services and programs that increase social engagement through a network of volunteers."

But, actually, there is much more—flourishing new friendships are often formed as a result of many different types of encounters, whether via Zoom or in person, member to member, volunteer to member, or volunteer to volunteer.

There are so many opportunities! The Penn's Village interest groups include a Chat group, an Intergenerational Book group, a Men's group, a Spanish group, a History group, and a Writers' group. A range of volunteer activities includes coordinating service delivery, office support, providing transportation, being a companion, serving as a Health Pal, grocery shopping, hanging a picture or fixing a lamp, and much more.

And don't forget the members who work on committees to plan Penn's Village's special occasions, develop interesting programs, promote Penn's Village and our programs to our members and the community, help us work towards inclusiveness and diversity, welcome and support new and existing members, and ensure our financial sustainability. Each encounter carries the potential for a deeper connection.

Even in the best of times, it is easy to understand why social isolation has been identified as a significant threat to the well-being of older individuals. After retirement, our time becomes less structured. Adult children may move away. Some of us may not be as mobile as we once were, making it difficult to get out as often as we would like. A move to an apartment may take us out of our old, familiar neighborhood. Long-term, established friendships may begin to dwindle and become more difficult to sustain.

At Penn's Village, it seems that every couple of weeks we hear about a new friendship that has bloomed because of a Penn's Village connection. Examples abound: one of our members put in a request for a companion who liked model railroads, and found a firm friend in our program-committee chair, who shares his interest. And then there are two volunteers who provided respite services for a woman who was her husband's caregiver; both volunteers became friends of the family and attended the funeral when the woman's husband died. And even after moving out of our area, one of our volunteers continued to read to one of our members, who is blind.

It feels strange to realize that many of these friendships have burgeoned during COVID. We certainly have a web of friendships and connections and, over the last couple of years, members have found ways to strengthen these relationships. There is the member who gave piano lessons to a volunteer, a connection that has blossomed into friendship with the volunteer and his wife—and the lessons continued over FaceTime. Meanwhile her husband, who is a volunteer driver and handyman, was moved by the poetry that the member he drove recited in the car. This prompted him to suggest to his wife that she call another member, a poet, resulting in weekly French conversation phone calls.

Many, many others at Penn's Village—both members and volunteers—have delighted in these new relationships, which they discover to be rich and varied, at a stage in life when they are perhaps least expected. At Penn's Village we connect, we build relationships, we gain friendships, and we thrive.

Angry and Ridiculous
A Man for Our Time

Text and Photos by Bill West

Milord la Chamarre, outside, 1993.

Years ago, a kindly and well-informed docent at the Philadelphia Museum of Art explained cubism to me. Basically, she said, cubism disarticulated the surfaces of a cube and rearranged them in a novel fashion, and I think you can see that in Jean Dubuffet's *Milord la Chamarre*. Body parts have been separated, flattened and sometimes crumpled, and then (tentatively) reattached. I sometimes think he looks like he's in the initial stages of exploding. Sometimes I think he's about to fall apart. And sometimes I think he's just angry.

I was not prepared for my first encounter with *Milord la Chamarre*. The first Dubuffet sculpture I remember seeing was in New York City, in front of the Chase Manhattan Bank headquarters near Wall Street. It's called *Four Trees*, installed in 1972, and I thought it looked like a group of gigantic, marshmallow-y mushrooms. It made me happy just to look at it.

When I first saw Mr. Milord, he was glaring off into space, or perhaps glaring down at me. He was standing on a platform attached to an exterior wall of the Centre Square development, across from Philadelphia's City Hall.

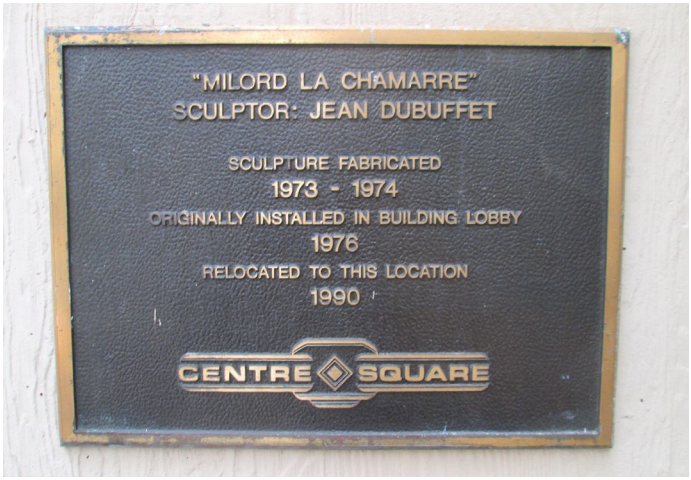
He looked odd. And he looked angry. I found it unsettling to be in his presence.

The Peripatetic Mr. Milord

It turns out I have not been alone in finding him unnerving.

Milord la Chamarre was first installed on New York City's Park Avenue, in front of the Seagram building, in 1974. One observer told the *Times* that it looked a "giant version of the Tin Man in the 'Wizard of Oz.'" Another said he looked like "the Frankenstein monster in a suit of armor."

Philadelphia developer Jack Wolgin thought the statue resembled a Mummer, so he brought Mr. Milord home and set him up in the Centre Square atrium in 1976. He was moved outside, where I first saw him, in 1990, and then back inside in 2019. (There's still a plaque outside, which helpfully summarizes some of his travels.)



A lot of Philadelphians just call him the Mummer. I think it's a valid way of looking at him, although I sincerely doubt that Jean Dubuffet ever saw a Mummer, or had one puke on his shoes.

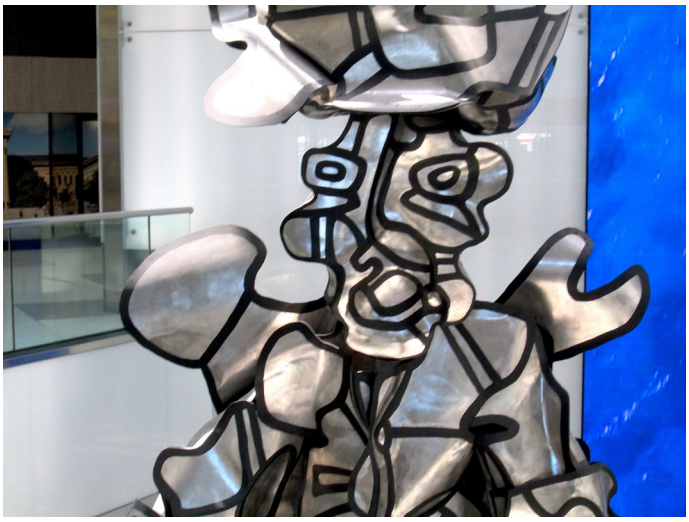
Here he is, back inside the atrium.

Continued on p.10

Continued from p.9

Mr. Milord is 24 feet tall and weighs 5,000 pounds. Fabricated by Lippincott, Inc., he's made of stainless steel.

And he's still angry.



Right shoulder. A complicated bit.

Left hand. I don't know why, but this is the only part of the statue that makes me feel comfortable. And no, I have no way to relate this hand to human anatomy.

Here's a detail of the lower right leg. This plate, just above the foot, reminds me of a soccer shin guard. If you think it's armor, call it a greave. Note the rivets. (They're in the black.)

What Does* Chamarre *Mean?

So, what was Dubuffet intending when he created Mr. Milord? We might learn a bit more about the artist's thinking if we look at the word *chamarre*. Usually, *Milord La Chamarre* is translated as *My Lord of the Fancy Vest*. I looked in my French dictionaries, and found the verb *chamarrer*, which means "to bedizen." *Bedizen*, in turn, means to dress or adorn with gaudy finery.

I did eventually find the noun chamarre online, where it lists several meanings. One is embroidery. (This was in the French-language division of Wiktionary-land. To follow along, click here.

Continued on p.11

Continued from p.10

Both noun and verb derive from the Spanish noun *zamarra*, a sheepskin coat worn by Spanish shepherds.

So how does a workingman's coat in Spain (admittedly a very warm coat) father a French word for gaudy adornment? Is our statue a milord—that is, a nobleman—in a suit of armor or perhaps a fancy vest? Or is he a blue-collar Mummer? I don't know. I've decided he's both—or all three, depending on how you're counting.

In any event, there he is, gaudily dressed, malevolent under the comedy, striding forward as if he owns the place.

Art Brut

Where does the anger come from?

Dubuffet was one of the spark plugs behind the Art Brut movement, which got its start in the late 1940s. As defined by the Tate Gallery, "Art brut is a French term that translates as 'raw art', invented by the French artist Jean Dubuffet to describe art such as graffiti or naïve art which is made outside the academic tradition of fine art."

The Tate adds that, in addition to graffiti, Art Brut includes "the work of the insane, prisoners, children, and primitive artists." It was "the raw expression of a vision or emotions, untramelled by convention." Dubuffet tried "to incorporate these qualities into his own art."

I have decided that *Four Trees* is channeling children, and Mr. Milord is channeling crazy people.

But, along with the anger, there is a brittle quality, a fragility. The way his body has been assembled, he appears to be in imminent danger of collapse, possibly held together only by his anger.

To see how Dubuffet pulls this off, we need to look at something called the Hourloupe Cycle.

The Hourloupe Cycle

When you look at Mr. Milord or the *Four Trees*, it's hard not to notice the black outlines of the various segments. And then I find myself thinking of the Keith Haring mural in the Point Breeze section of Philadelphia. Here's Haring's *We the Youth* (1987, restored 2013). (For a story and pictures by Mural Arts Philadelphia, click here.)

It turns out that both Dubuffet sculptures, in addition to being influenced by Art Brut, also came along in the middle of what is called Dubuffet's Hourloupe Cycle. (Just so you know, *hourloupe* doesn't seem to have any meaning.)

I think that a basic idea behind hourloupe was radical simplification. Dubuffet wanted his hand to connect directly with… something, without the intervention of his conscious brain. Here again, as with Art Brut, Dubuffet, a sophisticated Frenchman to his fingertips, was attempting to escape the clutches of the French Academy.

The National Gallery of Australia reports that the hourloupe cycle "was inspired by doodles that Dubuffet made with a ballpoint pen while talking on the telephone in July 1962."

His hourloupe studies began with drawings and paintings, but in due course he started exploring his ideas in three dimensions, and eventually we get to Mr. Milord.

So if parts of Mr. Milord look like crumpled paper to you, I wouldn't disagree. And if you think some of his armor plates may have gotten started as post-it notes, I'd tell you that Post-It notes weren't introduced until 1980, and then I would agree with you on the general proposition, maybe with Elmer's glue or, better, pushpins that eventually get turned into rivets. Just guessing.

Disintegration

It is worth remembering that Dubuffet was French and not American. Let's consider what France went through while he watched. First there was World War II, an experience of defeat, occupation, and eventual liberation by foreign powers. Then France had not one but two "Vietnams." The first was actually in Indochina. The second was in Algeria, and it brought down the Fourth Republic. Then, in May 1968, students began their famous revolt, many others joined in, the government and the economy came to a halt, and it seemed briefly that the new Fifth Republic might fall in turn. (It didn't.) And, shortly thereafter, Dubuffet created Mr. Milord. I think this statue is basically about the ever-present possibility of disintegration, and what that might look like.

Angry and ridiculous

So what can we Americans learn from Mr. Milord? I think we are rounding out a long historical circle that began in the middle of the last century, with the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War and Watergate (for me the turning point was the 1968 Tet offensive in Vietnam). Will we fulfill the promise of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution as amended, or will we continue down the path to a military state under autocratic rule, similar to 18th century Prussia? These issues were raised pointedly at mid-century, and I think we will see the answers in the relatively near future.

As I suggested earlier, I think *Milord la Chamarre*, with all his aggressive fragility, speaks to our time. Will he destroy everything around him, or will he finish disintegrating first? It's an open question.

Special thanks to Chris Murtha for guiding me to sources I would not otherwise have found. Needless to say, we will not blame him for the many zany opinions I have expressed in this story.

Center City Spotlight

Meet Peter Jam!

By Niko Mamula and Hugh Taft-Morales

Award-winning global rights activist, composer, quadrilinguist, and professional dog behaviorist—Peter Jam does it all. On any given day, you might see him at Rittenhouse Square, training dogs or dropping by the Ethical Society for a visit. He's a fascinating person with an intriguing life story.

Jam (an abbreviation of his surname, Jambazian) was born to Lebanese-Armenian parents in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War. His grandfather, for whom he was named, was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, and lived in the Armenian quarter of old city Jerusalem, where Peter's father was born.

When his father was a teenager, the family moved to Lebanon. Peter was very fond of soccer as a child, so much so that he once considered pursuing a career as a pro player. He also loved animals. He didn't have any, but his uncle did.

"I always wanted to go and visit them," says Jam, "because there were dogs there." Then he discovered a new passion—guitar, realizing "it's more creative to be with the guitar than the ball."

As a teen, Jam practiced music eight hours a day and, at 19, started giving lessons. Affording lessons for himself was a struggle, however. "I come from a modest family," Jam says, "so I had to work."

His father sent him to a jewelry workshop, an "Armenian heritage thing," but Jam never lost sight of his passion for musical creativity. He formed a school band called "Vibrations"—the same name as his debut album. His love for music impelled him to look towards America, but 9/11 put that dream on hold.

After working a few years as a guitar teacher and technician, Jam confronted a series of serious health challenges. In 2004 he was found to have a condition whereby his body was unable to regulate its temperature, causing him great suffering. He overcame that, but in 2006 was diagnosed with stage-four cancer. Hodgkin's Lymphoma was serious enough, but Jam's life was put in immediate danger when his surgeon fainted during a biopsy and nearly pierced his lung.

Thankfully, Jam survived, but subsequent chemotherapy made him severely anemic—another threat to his life. As if things weren't bad enough, in July 2006, Beirut became a battleground between Israeli war planes and Hezbollah militants in its southern suburbs. During his many trips to the hospital, Jam heard warplanes thunder overhead.

Surviving so many threats to his life, questions flooded his mind, driving Jam to "look deeper." From his near-death experiences, new motivation emerged. Jam began to *do* the things he had only *thought* about doing before. He adopted a new mentality, turning his concerns away from the future to live in the present. He put it this way: "You always think that you have enough time and then suddenly you wake up—oh, I'm going to die."

Jam's new mission was to travel. He visited dozens of countries throughout Europe and the world with his beloved dog Boogie, performing his first major peace song, "If You Want." He sang and spoke out, having received the title "Ambassador for Peace" from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Jam came to Philadelphia where, at City Hall, City Council granted him an honorary citation as a peace-building artist. After receiving this award, he felt a calling that Philadelphia should be his lasting home.

Upon gaining "Artist with Extraordinary Abilities" status, Jam became a permanent resident of the U.S. He continued to use his musical talents to promote peace at international gatherings and at the Ethical Society, where he has sung at Peace Day Philly events.

In America his passion for animals was rekindled. He worked with a German organization for animal rights, earned a professional trainer/instructor certificate in Scranton, PA, and subsequently received a pet psychology degree in the United Kingdom.

His passions exist in a cycle, "guitars, creativity, then dogs." In the midst of the pandemic, he founded ***Magic Dogs***, a training and instruction service. His aim is to fundamentally change pet training from forced obedience to reciprocated trust and friendship. His relational approach to dog education intrigued Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Ethical Society. With a philosophy of promoting ethics through relationship building, Taft-Morales says, "Why only focus on human beings? All sentient creatures matter."

"I don't train with treats," says Jam. "Your presence can be a reward." The crucial aspect of a relationship between pet and

Continued on p.13

Peter Jam and friend in Rittenhouse Square.

Continued from p.12

human is that the dog must feel it can depend on the owner or guardian. A well-behaved dog should always be looking at the owner, waiting for their guidance before acting. He also pointed out an innocent yet potentially harmful mistake some dog owners make. Because the dog is continually treated as a puppy, it is conditioned to behave as one. You wouldn't want a 60-80-pound dog jumping up on people like a puppy, would you?

Now, Jam is looking to expand *Magic Dogs* to include education for owners. He feels that training dogs isn't enough to truly instill a robust relationship between pet and owner. He believes that owners often indirectly reinforce bad behavior.

According to the *Magic Dogs* website, instruction provides "utmost and optimal communication." Jam notes that some people don't understand how the training works: they bring him their dog "as if it's an iPhone" with a sort of "take it and fix it" attitude. By building upon his current approach, Jam hopes to deepen the ethical connection between dogs and their owners. Say hello to him next time you see him with doggie clients in Rittenhouse Square.

Niko Mamula is an Intern at the Ethical Society, where Hugh Taft-Morales serves as Clergy Leader.

It's Academic

Parent Education at Greene Towne Focuses on Toddler Behavior

By Nicole Leapheart, Director of Communications and Marketing

Greene Towne Montessori's Lead Toddler teachers combine for an extraordinary 50 years of experience at Greene Towne. When the team consisting of Desiree McNeill, Michelle Nowacky, Olivia Powers, Cherise Sistrunk, and Dominique Well-Moats get together to host a parent education workshop, parents are eager to collect whatever wisdom the teachers can share. Recently, the team led a workshop titled "Managing Difficult Behaviors: A Day in the Life of a Toddler."

"Anger and tantrums are contagious," notes Ms. Cherise. "Be careful not to get pulled in. Be firm, but also be calm."

A common thread in this workshop was the importance of taking time. When children are growing in their independence, an important strategy is to allow more time for them to do things themselves. The teachers discussed this and more about their toddlers' emotions and behaviors below.

Tantrums: Toddlers like to test their limits. It is important to establish boundaries with them, but understand that they are often being told what to do all day. It is appropriate that they push back, especially when they don't get what they want when they want it. What's the strategy? Let them go through the tantrum as long as they have a safe space to do so. Give it time. Post tantrum, take some deep breaths together, then talk about what happened. Avoid tantrums by giving toddlers choices that are not yes or no; for instance, you have to wear a shirt, but pick one that is blue or red. Pro tip: Toddlers typically pick the last choice they hear.

Parent Behavior: Parents need to evaluate their body language and verbal language. During the Montessori certification process, teachers are instructed in their training to speak very matter-of-factly to children. Stay calm and stay the course, with the understanding that a toddler may not like what's happening and may react as a result. Children often mirror our moods back to us. Give yourself some time to breathe through your frustration and remain consistent with your toddler.

Exploring Emotional Vocabulary: Children, just like adults, are capable of complex emotions. "Every behavior is communication—ask yourself what your child is trying to communicate about what they need," said Ms. Michelle. Building an emotional vocabulary can help give children more language to express their needs. Bibliotherapy is an expressive treatment that involves the reading of specific texts with the purpose of healing and learning. Choose some books that focus on emotions and read them with your child, such as *The Feelings Book* by Todd Parr or *Voices Are Not for Yelling* by Elizabeth Verdick. Help name the emotions your child is feeling.

Over its 55-year history Greene Towne has helped thousands of young children grow into lifelong learners and leaders. Greene Towne Montessori School serves children 18 months old through Kindergarten, and is accredited by the American Montessori Society and the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools. To learn more, and to get information on future parent education workshops, visit www.gtms.org.

Toddler friends hugging.

Dining Scene

1516 Sansom Street
The Oyster House

By Leo Levinson—The Center City Foodie

I confess. One of my guilty pleasures is Friday lunch at the Oyster House (formerly known as Sansom St. Oyster House). Oh sure, I go there other days, and for dinners too. But with the business week nearly over and no meetings in the afternoon, it's time for the ultimate luxury—a martini at lunch with some fresh oysters.

My martini of choice is made with Boodles Gin, a classic London Dry gin. The Oyster House is one of the few restaurants to carry Boodles, which is one of my favorites because of its authentic traditional flavor. By the way, for a restaurant where oysters are the stars, the bar service is exceptional here—it is well-stocked, the glassware is above average, and the friendly bartenders can make any drink well.

But I digress. Oysters. Oysters. Oysters. East Coast…West Coast…all around the town! Every day, you'll find a selection of six to 10 oysters, which you can order however you like, from one of each to any combination. Glidden Point, Wellfleet, Kushi, Naked Cowboy and on and on—it's fun to taste them all, on the way to becoming an amateur oyster afficionado. Most types you won't find at other restaurants either, certainly not all at once. The Oyster House shuckers know how to open the oyster, and are expert at leaving the oyster liquor intact, so you can enjoy the complete experience right from the shell. As much as I like the oysters, I have to give a shout out to their clams—especially the Cherrystones—so plump, fresh and natural.

Speaking of clams, the Oyster House's clam chowder is world class. And I can say that because I've tasted dozens of clam chowders all over America, and especially throughout the state of Maine. Yet here in Philadelphia we have one of the best. It is creamy and buttery with very subtle spicing, pillowy finely diced potatoes, and lots of tasty clams.

As much as I like the raw seafood, the cooked entrees at the Oyster House are delicious too, because in most cases, they let the superior-quality seafood stand out. Cod, flounder, branzino, black bass, scallops—here too, the menu is always changing, depending upon what is most freshly caught. I also enjoy their Fisherman's Stew and its delightful hint of saffron.

Another dish I seem to always come back to is the classic Philadelphia dish, fried oysters and chicken salad. The kitchen starts with fresh oysters, which many other places don't. They are nicely breaded with just the right amount of crunch. Paired with the lightly mayonnaised (if that's a word?) chicken salad, it's delicious culinary nostalgia to the roots of Philadelphia cuisine.

If you happen to be one of those people who is not a seafood fan (and I'm not here to judge), oh sure, you can get a burger here—and my guess is that it's pretty good—but frankly, I've never tasted it because The Oyster House is Philadelphia's seafood mecca.

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 fois gras. Follow Leo on Instagram @theleolevinson*

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

Veda

Perfect Partners

KATHLEEN & KATE FEDERICO

Call KATE
Kate@allandomb.com
215.840.0049
or
KATHLEEN | 215.850.3876

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

CITY TO SHORE

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

RECENT TRANSACTIONS
Rittenhouse Place
$2,300,000
Hopkinson House
$308,000

Licensed in PA, NJ, CA

CCRA Board Member/Chair
Annual House & Garden Tour

CCRA
center city residents' association

Why whisper down the lane when you can shout it from the rooftops?

CENTER CITY QUARTERLY
WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE. SHARE YOUR PICTURES.
SEND US A LETTER. PITCH AN IDEA.**

Email:
centercity@centercityresidents.org
with CCQeditor in the subject line.

ALIMENTARI
UPSTAIRS AT DI BRUNO BROS.

1730 Chestnut Street, 2nd Floor • Philadelphia, PA 19103
267.764.5143 • www.dibruno.com/alimentari

CCRA Spring Calendar – Hope Springs Eternal

The Philadelphia Auto Show
Pennsylvania Convention Center
1101 Arch St.
March 5 to 13
https://www.phillyautoshow.com/

Penn Relays
Franklin Field, 235 S 33rd St
April 28 to 30
https://pennrelays.com/

Blue Cross Broad Street Run
Sunday, May 1
https://www.broadstreetrun.com/

Water, Wind, Breath: Southwest Native Art in Community
Barnes Foundation
2025 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy
Through May 12
https://www.barnesfoundation.org/whats-on/exhibition/water-wind-breath-southwest-native-art-in-community

Voter Registration Deadline for PA Primary
Monday, May 2
Register online: https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx

Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair
Rittenhouse Square
Friday, May 6, 11 am – 7 pm
Saturday, May 7, 11 am – 7 pm
Sunday, May 8, 11 am – 6 pm
https://www.pacrafts.org/fine-craft-fairs/fine-craft-fair-spring-rittenhouse-square

Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta
Schuylkill River
Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14
www.dadvail.org

PA Primary Election
Tuesday, May 17
https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Pages/default.aspx

CCRA 75th Anniversary Gala
Honoring Citizen of the Decade Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Wednesday, June 1
Details to follow—watch *CCRA This Week*

Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show
Friday, June 3, 11 am – 7 pm
Saturday, June 4, 11 am – 7 pm
Sunday, June 5, 11 am – 6 pm
http://www.rittenhousesquareart.com/

The Stories We Wear
2,500 years, 250 objects
of style and adornment
Penn Museum
3260 South Street
Through June 12
Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm
First Wednesdays, 10 am – 8 pm
Closed Mondays and major holidays.
Mask, proof of vax, and ID required.
Timed tickets.
https://www.penn.museum/on-view/galleries-exhibitions/the-stories-we-wear

Odunde Festival
2300 South Street (15 city blocks)
Sunday, June 12
https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/events/odunde-festival/

The Rosenbach's Bloomsday Festival
The Rosenbach
(See article on P. 7 for more info)
2008-2010 Delancey Place
Thursday, June 16
Website

Harry Potter: The Exhibition
Franklin Institute
222 N. 20th Street
Through September
https://www.fi.edu/exhibits/harry-potter

America's Garden Capital
30+ gardens, arboreta, and historic landscapes within 30 miles
https://www.discoverphl.com/blog/americas-garden-capital/

Curtis Institute of Music
Live and online
Free student recitals
1726 Locust Street
https://www.curtis.edu/performances/calendar/

To get the latest news about events in Center City, sign up for (IN) Center City, the e-newsletter of the Center City District: http://www.centercityphila.org/incentercity/signup.php

Ben Zuckerman

Rittenhouse Square Art Show.

Center City Residents' Association

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

LOOKING AHEAD

SAVE THE DATE
CCRA 75th Anniversary Gala
Wednesday, June 1
Details to follow

Out & About

Bethesda Project Marks 25th Annual Party & Auction with Return to In-Person Event

By Sarah Carter, Senior Marketing and Communications Manager

Bethesda Project's 25th Annual Party & Auction will welcome back supporters for an in-person event at Citizen's Bank Park on Friday, May 13th at 6:00pm. (The event will also stream virtually.) Funds raised from this event allow Bethesda Project to provide emergency shelter, permanent housing, and supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia.

Currently, they are seeking auction items such as (but not limited to!): gift certificates to restaurants, retail stores, spas and salons; hotel stays; services such as home cleaning and repairs, landscaping, and box subscriptions; or gift baskets specific to your business or themed, such as "At-Home Movie Night," "Cooking for Two," or "Self-Care."

David, a Bethesda Project guest, noted how Bethesda Project served as "a secure place to stay where I can reconstruct my life that was shattered by both homelessness and the pandemic."

Two guests enjoying a previous Party & Auction with the Phillie Phanatic.

Your support as an auction donor makes services possible for individuals like David. If you are interested in donating or would like additional information, please contact Emma Stern, director of development, at **estern@bethesdaproject.org** or visit **2022party.givesmart.com**.