October 2013 Print

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Millville City Commission candidate profile: David W. Vanaman

What would you change about the direction of the Glasstown Arts District?

I believe there could be more diversity in the types of retail to encourage and draw more patrons downtown. Some of the smaller retailers who located at Union Crossing could have fit into some of the buildings available. A children’s shop, wireless cellphone carrier, computer repair and IT personnel, a doctor, dentist or other professional would be some of my choices. More people on the street daily would help everyone. The artists and craftpeople could be more consistent in their open hours.

What role should the city have in supporting the Levoy Theatre going forward?

I have made my position very clear on this. The theater must become self-sufficient and not need to be subsidized. Almost $9 million of federal, state, county and local tax dollars have gone into this project. Although it is a beautiful structure, it is not drawing the crowds that were projected several years ago. Earlier this year, the city gave the Levoy in excess of $130,000 more to pay operating expenses, such as marketing, show advances, advertising and payroll. A subsidy for payroll is a sure sign of a business in trouble.

What is the primary concern facing Millville residents, and how do you plan to address it?

I know some of the people and other candidates will say crime. Yes, we have our problems, but, unfortunately, it is a nationwide problem. Recently, we switched our police patrols to a 12-hour shift system, which allows us to have more personnel on the street at all times. The squads are becoming more productive and cohesive now that they are always working with the same personnel. Having all the citizens becoming more aware of their surroundings and reporting anything that seems suspicious would benefit all of us.

The tax rate is always an issue, but the local tax rate has been fairly stable for the past three years due to trimming and tightening of our budget and expenditures.

If elected, how will you work with opposing views on City Commission and around town?

I do very well with opposing views. I will listen to another person’s viewpoint and respect their position and opinions. I do not argue, but attempt to get my viewpoint across so the other person can understand where I am coming from and why I feel the way I do. I do not attempt to persuade the other person that they have to change their view and I certainly don't change my position if I feel strongly enough about it. That's the beautiful part of being in a democracy .... "the ability to agree to disagree."

Additional Facts

Age: 71

Family: Wife, Kathleen; daughter, Diane Magee; son, Scott Vanaman; four grandchildren, Courtney Chance, Corbin Chance, Alexis Vanaman and Eric Vanaman.

Occupation: Self-employed owner of The Incredible Bulk for 19 years; previously was division controller for Fire Glass Group, Wheaton Industries.


Political experience: City commissioner and director of public safety (2007-present; 1993-97).

Community involvement: Member, Millville Fire Department, 48 years, current secretary for more than 30 years; former member, Millville Exchange Club; former member, Millville Jaycees, including president; member, Vietnam Memorial Committee.
Selection of Linnette Black and Tom Karinshak strengthens Peirce's commitment to an evolving job market

PHILADELPHIA--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Peirce College, Philadelphia's leading private, non-profit, four-year accredited institution for working adult learners, has added two new members to its Board of Trustees, reflecting the institution's continuing commitment to a changing regional job market and economy. Former healthcare executive Linnette W. Black and Comcast Senior Vice President of Customer Experience Tom Karinshak join a Board that includes professionals drawn from the region's financial, legal, non-profit, human resources, and industrial sectors.

"We appreciate their depth of experience and know they will be strong assets to the Peirce community."

"The addition of Linnette and Tom adds tremendous depth to our Board of Trustees as Peirce continues to meet the changing needs of students, employers, and our regional economy," said James J. Mergiotti, President and Chief Executive Officer of Peirce College. "Linnette's community-based experience in the healthcare industry will help us ensure our healthcare programs are state-of-the-art and employer-ready. At the same time, Tom's expertise in building customer service programs will bolster the College's central mission of providing exceptional service to our students, enhancing their experience at Peirce and helping them transform their lives through education."

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Peirce College Expands Board of Trustees

By: LParis@Peirce.edu

October 23, 2013 at 09:00 AM EDT

Peirce College, a leading private, nonprofit institution dedicated to providing exceptional educational opportunities for working adult learners, has added two new members to its Board of Trustees, reflecting the institution’s continuing commitment to a changing regional job market and providing a foundation for the College to meet the changing needs of students, alumni, and employers.

President of Customer Experience Tom Karinshak join a Board that has facilitated numerous connections with employers of the region. As Senior Vice President of Customer Experience, Tom Karinshak is responsible for aligning technical and operational teams to ensure our healthcare programs are state of the art and employer demands are met.

My Watchlist

Linnette Black, President and CEO of HealthRight, Inc., a non-profit organization committed to creating positive relationships with customers at Comcast. Prior to joining Comcast, Mr. Karinshak served as Managing Director and Customer Experience Director for Barclays Capital, working with the Network Senior Vice President of Operations.

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The addition of Linnette and Tom adds tremendous depth to our Board of Trustees, reflecting the institution’s leadership positions at areas of Business, Healthcare, and Education, 3624 Information Management Education.

The College of New Rochelle as a senior healthcare administrator. Ms. Black is a graduate of Columbia Business School and holds a Master of Public Administration in Public Administration from New York University.

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Ms. Black served as the Network Senior Vice President of Operations for New York City Health and Hospitals. Ms. Black brings nearly 20 years of healthcare experience to Peirce College. She is a member of the Coalition of Minority Health Professionals, and a senior member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and was named to the 2008 Class of Presidential Fellows by the American College of Healthcare Executives. Ms. Black holds a degree in Administration from the College of New Rochelle as a senior healthcare administrator.

Mr. Karinshak continues to meet the changing needs of students, enhancing their strategic customer experience, marketing, and operations at Peirce. Mr. Karinshak joined Comcast in 2010 as the company’s Vice President of Information Technology, and was appointed to his current role in 2012. Prior to joining Comcast, Mr. Karinshak served as Managing Director and Customer Experience, responsible for aligning technical and operational teams to ensure positive relationships with customers at Comcast. Prior to joining Comcast, Mr. Karinshak was a New York City Information Technology leadership position at Bank of Delaware, where he created an effective IT organization.

"We are happy to have Linnette and Tom on our Board of Trustees as Peirce moves forward with its strategic plan to expand our degree programs and meet employer demands," said Peirce President of Customer Experience, Tom Karinshak. "Their expertise in building customer service programs and their experience in the healthcare industry will help us continue to meet the changing needs of students, our regional economy, and excited to benefit from their vast insight, experience at Peirce and Peirce College's focused curriculum, we continue to grow and we prepare students to

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Peirce College Expands Board of Trustees

October 23, 2013 09:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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Selection of Linnette Black and Tom Karinshak strengthens Peirce's commitment to an evolving job market

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As Senior Vice President of Customer Experience, Tom Karinshak is responsible for aligning technical and operational teams to ensure our healthcare programs are state-of-the-art. By working with a diverse group of individuals, Mr. Karinshak is helping them transform their lives through education. As our regional economy continues to grow and we prepare students to be strong assets to the Peirce community and the regional economy, "our collaboration will help us ensure our healthcare programs are state of the-art," said James J. Mergiotti, President of Customer Experience.

Recent Quotes

We appreciate their needs of the health care industry will help us industry. .. 2007 WR Hambrecht + Co Indices
Darby Democrats look to stave off challengers

By LAURA WISELEY
Times Correspondent

DARBYBOROUGH—Four council seats are up for grabs this November’s election.

In the 1st Ward, Democrats Jillian Theorgood and Patrick McKenna are looking to hold on against a challenge from Republican Marion Boyd; in the 3rd Ward, Democrats Donald Deigh and Ruby Robinson Munden are up against Republican Kimberly “KC” Cordray.

Theorgood, who has lived in the borough since 1998, is the assistant director of human resources and employment services at Widener University. She holds a master’s degree in organizational dynamics.

Theorgood is looking to extend the position she was first appointed to in August 2012 by running for her first full term on council.

“I joined council because I really wanted to make the same difference in the community as I did in my home,” she said. “I raised three boys here and have met many people as a volunteer coach at Blessed Virgin Mary School. I want to help families bring their voices to the table and represent their needs, wants and desires. I plan to improve communication between the borough and the residents via newsletters, Facebook and other means, and I believe that if we involve more residents in activities and decision-making, our community will thrive.”

McKenna, a graduate of Peirce College and Drexel University, has lived in Darby since 1999. He is a combat veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam, and remains active in veterans’ assistance groups. He is a father of four and grandfather of six.

In his first two terms on council, McKenna oversaw the creation of the first phase of the new Darby municipal complex.

“It has been an honor being able to serve the people of the borough for the last two terms, and I look forward to working with council on the creation of our new municipal services complex, which, when complete, will allow us to serve the members of the community even better than we do today,” he said. “also, as a member of the public safety committee, I look forward to working with the borough and the police department to keep our neighborhoods safe.”

Repeated attempts to reach Boyd for comment on her candidacy were unsuccessful.

In the 3rd Ward, Deigh is seeking re-election to another term on council, where he currently chairs the finance committee.

“The economy is not favorable, and we have taken an economic hit here in Darby,” he said. “But I’m not giving up hope. We are working hard to combat landlord-owned houses, going back from the original practice of converting large houses into apartments for many people, which breeds crime and parking problems and problems with the sewer system. We’re trying to look toward reclaiming these buildings as single-family homes where people can raise their families.”

Deigh, an administrator at the College of Science and Technology at Temple University, also serves as president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1723.

Robinson Munden did not return a phone call seeking comment. She is a retired nurse who serves on the borough’s community relations, recreation and ordinance/zoning committees, and has previously stated her desire to improve the quality of life for children and senior citizens in the borough.

Cordray, a borough resident for 12 years, attended Kingsborough Community College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Boston Berklee College of Music.

She is retired from a criminal justice career that included stints as the assistant corporate director of security for a division of Federated Department Stores and as a detective in Kings County, N.Y. She was the second woman in New York state to receive her private investigator’s license and has written in criminal justice textbooks.

Locally, Cordray volunteers with several organizations, including the Friends of Mount Moriah Cemetery.

“I think one of the most paramount issues in Darby Borough is getting the borough to work together as a team to achieve much needed goals,” she said. “I bring to the table the ability to work with others as
a team player along with a stringent work ethic. This is the most paramount issue I have, uniting Darby Borough utilizing the strongest of interpersonal skills. We are not a united borough and because of this Darby is not reaching its potential as the wonderful place it should be to live and raise a family."
WURD 10th Anniversary Celebration a Blast!!

It was a night of an important milestone that attracted local politician, community leaders, loyal listeners and the staff of WURD, 900 AM as the station celebrated 10 years of service on air, on line and in the community. Hundreds came out to join in on the 10th Anniversary Celebration of WURD at the African American Museum in Philadelphia, 701 Arch St.

Hosted by media personality and former 900AM-WURD morning show host, Bill Anderson, this milestone for the station would not have been possible without the talent and expertise of their honorees. A special awards presentation was held in honor of those that made 900AM-WURD the voice of the Black community. Honorees include: Cody Anderson, Kernie Anderson and Reverend Louise Williams-Bishop

The program began at 6pm to 8pm included the award ceremony, a reception and “Random Acts of Art”. The event concluded with an After Dance Party from 8pm to 12am and featured Rhythmic Caravan DJ Tee Alford.

The event would not have been possible with the support of sponsors: Universal Companies, PECO, Philadelphia Energy Solutions, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Wells Fargo, LECET, PNC, Citizens Bank, Bank of America, Peirce College, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Enon Tabernacle Church.

Then on Saturday, Mike Dennis of Reelblack Philly’s #1 promoter of African-American Film was at it again... in a good way (of course). Reelblack, Art Sanctuary and The Dysfunctional Screenwriters Society hosted a special 2 hour Brown Bag Lunch with writer/producer/director CHARLES MURRAY of the movie, “Things Never Said.” Television writer Charles Murray makes a promising feature film debut with “Things Never Said.” He wrote and directed the movie about a Los Angeles woman with big dreams and a talent for spoken-word poetry, if only she could extricate herself from a dead-end abusive relationship.

Shanola Hampton plays Kalinda, a waitress who married her high school sweetheart, Ronnie (Elimu Nelson). Once a rising basketball star, Ronnie’s promising career was quashed by an injury. He’s since taken a job as a cashier at a gas station, but he’s hardly content, and his victim complex coupled with a volatile temper make for a nasty combination. Kalinda, in a bid to escape the drums of her marriage and has to overcome a devastating miscarriage, turns to spoken-word poetry. She has never
left California but plans to one day perform at New York’s spoken word mecca, Nuyorican Poets Cafe.

Charles came to Philly to join in on a Workshop at Art Sanctuary, 628 S. 16th Street (at Bainbridge). Charles is currently Co-Executive Producer of the FX hit SONS OF ANARCHY. He spent the last 10 years as a television writer. Charles has worked with TV heavyweights like David Milch (Deadwood, NYPD Blue), Steven Bochco (Hill Street Blues) and Ed Bernero (Criminal Minds, Third Watch).

His recent moved in features, a natural extension of his ability to tell and share the best stories he can, on platforms his audience habitually and consistently consumes. Working on shows like Sons of Anarchy, Castle, Criminal Minds and V, Charles has also written features for 20th Century Fox, Lionsgate and Screen Gems. Things Never Said is his first feature film. The Q&A at the workshop was Moderated by Mike D. and Keith Chamberlain. “Things Never Said” opens Friday, Oct.18 at the AMC Loews Cherry Hill.

Other movies you might have missed is, “The Baggage Claim” from Playwright, filmmaker and novelist, David E. Talbert. Paula Patton brings audiences in for another film about a woman looking for love. Determined to get engaged before her youngest sister's wedding, flight attendant Montana Moore (Paula Patton) finds herself with only 30 days to find Mr. Right. Using her airline connections to "accidentally" meet up with eligible ex-boyfriends and scour for potential candidates, she racks up more than 30,000 miles and countless comedic encounters, all the while searching for the perfect guy.

Pledging to keep herself from being the oldest and the only woman in her entire family never to wed, Montana embarks on a thirty-day, thirty-thousand-mile expedition to charm a potential suitor into becoming her fiance. The film also features: Taye Diggs, Jill Scott, Derek Luke, Boris Kodjoe, Djimon Hounsou, Tia Mowry, and Ricky Smiley.

Another film to see is “The Inevitable Defeat of Mister and Pete” Directed by George Tillman Jr. and with the brilliant cast that includes: Skyler Brooks (Mister), Ethan Dizon (Pete), Jordin Sparks (Alice), Jeffrey Wright (Henry), Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje (Sergeant Pike), Anthony Mackie (Kris) and Jennifer Hudson (Gloria).

This is a must see. "The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete” is largely told through Mister’s point of view its the story of an
endlessly resourceful child who survives the unimaginable over one long summer. The trouble begins when Mister's mother, Gloria (Jennifer Hudson) — who's hit the bad mother trifecta: she's a prostitute, heroin addict and welfare recipient — is arrested, leaving him on his own with Pete, a 9-year-old neighborhood stray. The cupboard is as empty as Gloria's electronic benefit card. But the mood is lightened with jazz, comic moments and warm colors, Mister and Pete's situation doesn't seem too awful, at least at first.

An irresistibly charming duo, Mister and Pete elude a menacing cop, Pike (Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje), and struggle to keep cool and entertained. They also try to keep fed, an endeavor that initially registers as a challenge rather than a calamity. Well! That's the Philly Beat, next week tune in to hear about the guest that we had on The New World View with David Barnes and co-hosts Yanina Carter and Que Rainey. Thanks goes out to Stacey Harcum, of the new CD "Souls Exposed", and Philly's Own Jazz Artist, Denise King, who now resides in Paris and called into the show. Tune in next week for more....

Left to right: Mike Dennis; Yanina Carter, Judge Jacqueline Frazier-Lyde; A. Whaley and Rev. Joe Williams at WURD Celebration

Mr. Webb photo
Press For Literacy

MAJOR turnout of Penna. State House Delegation attended Democratic Policy Committee hearing at Peirce College on improving adult literacy. Hearing testimony are, from left, State Reps. Stephen Kinsey, Brian Sims, Cherelle Parker, Michelle Brownee, Jim Roebuck and Vanessa Lowery Brown.
Tax-exempt colleges tout their contributions

By Susan Snyder
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Philadelphia's universities, which are largely exempt from paying property taxes, are fighting back against the idea that they should make payments to the city to help with its school funding crisis and other needs.

A universities-commissioned report to be released Thursday says 12 of the city's universities collectively produce an economic impact of $10.9 billion. That includes employing 84,000 people and generating $211 million in city tax revenues, according to the report by Econsult Solutions, a Philadelphia-based economic consulting firm.

The calculations take into account university operations, construction projects, and student and visitor spending, including millions in tuition dollars.

The universities also kick in $641 million in scholarships, community services, public safety operations, and other in-kind contributions, the report said. The contributions span "every neighborhood and every conceivable type of resource and program," it said.

The report was commissioned several months ago by the University of Pennsylvania, Community College of Philadelphia, Moore College of Art and Design, University of the Arts, Peirce College, University of the Sciences, and Drexel, Temple, St. Joseph's, La Salle, Holy Family, and Thomas Jefferson Universities.

It comes as some local and national officials, including former Gov. Ed Rendell and American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten, have begun calling on the city to resume collection of Payments in Lieu of Taxes, or PILOTs, from universities as a way to help ease the School District's budget crunch.

In the 1990s, when Rendell was mayor and the city was in dire financial straits, his administration set up a PILOT program that collected about $9 million annually from about 50 entities, including nearly $2 million from Penn. The program was begun after a state Supreme Court ruling put pressure on nonprofits to prove their tax-exempt status.

But a 1997 state law made it easier for nonprofits to qualify for exemptions, and the city's PILOT program has all but expired. Few institutions still make payments, bringing in about $400,000 a year.

"The universities came together and said there's a lot of half-truths and misunderstandings, and we want to tell our side of the story," said Lee Huang, senior vice president of Econsult. "They brought us in to help tell that."

The report includes an appendix with 87 examples of university partnerships and programs.

The universities grant scholarships totaling $119 million to city residents each year, the report said.

They also lend personnel and expertise to city schools. Penn, an Ivy League institution with a $6 billion-plus budget and a $7.7 billion endowment, gives up to $750,000 a year to Penn Alexander, a district elementary school in its West Philadelphia neighborhood that opened in partnership with Penn in 2001. It assists other neighborhood schools as well.

St. Joseph's funded and built a playground for Gompers Elementary, the report noted. Student athletes at La Salle mentored and coached students at Logan Elementary in 2012-13 and helped clean up the building, providing more than 2,500 hours of service. Jefferson is training high school students in sci-
BY THE NUMBERS

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Annual economic impact of 12 universities in the city, according to an Econsult Solutions report commissioned by the colleges.

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Number of people employed by the 12 colleges.

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Annual amount generated in city tax revenues.

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Annual amount in scholarships, community services, public safety, and other in-kind contributions.

The universities, the report said, also create jobs through construction projects and host health-care programs.

Moore offers art courses to more than 1,000 children each year. Several universities, including Drexel, Penn, and Temple, employ their own police departments.

The report also cited Penn's recently completed $4.3 billion capital campaign as a benefit to the city. Most of the money came from people outside the city, it noted.

"The vast majority of those funds will be spent in Philadelphia to construct buildings, provide scholarships, and serve the university's mission — all while also creating jobs and generating tax revenues for the city," the report said.

Jeffrey Cooper, Penn's vice president for government and community affairs, said the report shows that the city's universities have aligned "their respective missions of education, service, and research with the needs of Philadelphia's citizens."

Lynette Brown-Sow, vice president of marketing and government relations at Community College of Philadelphia, said the model works: "We serve the city in many ways, providing thousands of dollars, hours, and services."
The Bell Tower marks the center of Temple's Broad Street campus. Colleges are pushing back against calls for more money.  CLEM MURRAY / Staff Photographer
Lifelong devotion

Local activist is dedicated to battling AIDS epidemic.

By Ruth Rovner

When the annual AIDS Walk Philly takes place this Sunday, Oct. 20, Robb Reichard of Wissinoming will be there — just as he’s been every year since his first walk in 1988.

As executive director of the AIDS Fund, which sponsors the event, he’s devoted to the AIDS cause and is well aware of its crucial importance.

“With the advent of better treatments, people think the AIDS epidemic is over, but it’s not,” he said. “So we need everyone’s help, now more than ever.”

This year’s walk will bring together almost 15,000 people. The money raised will go toward care services, HIV prevention.

See AIDS / Page 18

and education, and public awareness — all with a local focus.

“The funds we raise during AIDS Walk Philly stay right here in the Greater Philadelphia region, where those dollars can really make a difference,” said Reichard, noting that an estimated 30,000 people in our area are living with HIV (the virus that causes AIDS).

And more than 1 million in the United States are living with HIV/AIDS. It’s estimated that almost 50,000 will become infected this year. Indeed, every nine and a half minutes, someone is infected with HIV.

The AIDS Walk Philly & AIDS Run Philly — its official name — is a high-profile event each year. Last year’s walk drew 15,000 and raised $375,000. Planning for this major event is a yearlong process, and as the date gets closer, Reichard cheerfully admits his schedule becomes “totally crazy.” Working with a staff of four, he arranges for city permits, works with designers on T-shirts, posters and buttons, and processes thousands of registration cards.

Then, there are arrangements for the delivery of 25 squares from the renowned AIDS memorial quilt. Portions of it travel throughout the country each year. The quilt will be one highlight of Sunday’s event. Each
square contains panels that memorialize the life of an AIDS victim and has been sewn by loved ones of the victim. The entire quilt — 44,000 panels in all — is housed in Atlanta. But 25 squares will be sent to Reichard's office in time for Sunday's AIDS walk.

Each of the squares contains eight smaller panels, so in all, the portion of the quilt displayed at the Philadelphia Museum of Art will memorialize 200 AIDS victims, many of them from the Philadelphia area. It will be carefully laid at the base of the museum, so visitors can get a close-up look at the panels.

"Every panel is unique, and people put an incredible amount of time and energy into making them," said Reichard. "With every panel, you get a real sense of the person who is being memorialized."

Over the years, he's seen how deeply moved friends and relatives are to see the panel of their loved one on display. The quilt was first displayed in 2004, which was the year Reichard became executive director of the AIDS Fund. It was his initiative that led to this annual display of the quilt at the AIDS Walk.

The quilt is not the only way that the AIDS Walk will memorialize victims. At 7:30 a.m. on the art museum steps, there will be a reading of the names of AIDS victims, including those honored on the quilt and others who were Philadelphians.

"Any name submitted by someone who is local will be read," said Reichard.

He'll be one of 30 persons who will solemnly read the names.

"It's one of my traditions every year," he said. "The names include people I've known and lost. To me, one important reason we come together each year is to remember and honor those we've lost. We can't forget them."

There are so many names that a full hour is set aside for the reading.

"And we can barely get all the names read in that time," said Reichard.

When the reading of names ends, the opening ceremony officially begins. That's when Reichard gives a welcome speech.

"I thank people for being there and for the funds they've raised," he said. "And I remind them of why we're here: it's because the epidemic continues to ravage our communities."

At 9 a.m., after the opening ceremony, the walk will begin at the Eakins Oval, in front of the steps of the art museum. The 12K route goes up Kelly Drive, crosses Falls Bridge and then continues down Martin Luther King Drive back to Eakins Oval. The more athletic participants can do the AIDS Run — a 10K run that is USA Track and Field certified.

The event brings together friends, families, co-work-
ers and classmates who often organize themselves into teams. This Sunday, one team will be the friends, staff, and customers of Daly’s Irish Pub, at 4201 Comly St. Some are walking, some running, and others are volunteers collecting donations.

Whether they walk in teams, pairs or solo, it’s a spirited event, just as it was for Reichard’s first walk in 1988. He was then housing coordinator for Peirce College, and offered to put together a team of Peirce students. Although he started as a volunteer, he became so involved that, by 1999, he was appointed associate director of the AIDS Fund. Then came his promotion to executive director in 2004.

The fund was established mainly to raise money through the AIDS Walk, but it has expanded to include other activities such as educational outreach. Reichard often visits schools and colleges to talk about HIV prevention. For instance, on Nov. 15, he’ll be speaking at First Philadelphia Charter School.

“Each year, we have new young people who need the information to protect themselves from being infected,” he said.

But in recent weeks, he’s been totally focused on preparation for the big event Sunday, working nonstop to make sure everything is ready.

“We’re absolutely exhausted when it’s over,” he said. “But it’s a good feeling to see thousands of people coming together for this. It leaves me feeling that we’ve made a difference in people’s lives.”

To register for the AIDS Walk this Sunday, contact AIDS Fund at 215-731-9255 or www.aidsfundphilly.org

"With the advent of better treatments, people think the AIDS epidemic is over, but it’s not. So we need everyone’s help, now more than ever.”

Robb Reichard
A mission of hope: Wissinoming resident and executive director of the AIDS Fund Robb Reichard discusses the organization and its mission on a balcony near his office at William Way Community Center in Center City. The fund sponsors the annual AIDS Walk Philly, slated for Sunday.
Decades of dedication: Robb Reichard has participated in the AIDS Walk Philly since 1988. He started as a volunteer. In 2004, he was promoted to executive director.
PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOUTH PHILLY

By Bill Gelman, Lauren Hertzler, Joseph Myers and Amanda L. Snyder

Community lifeline

Bruce Baldwin is a problem-solver. He has been finding solutions for his neighbors for 21 years.

"I advocate for them," he said. "That's what I've been doing for them for years. They come to me for everything."

He has spent many hours on the phone seeking information and in meetings with community members and various stakeholders. Whether it's pushing youths toward a bright future, finding food for families having difficulty affording it or preparing someone for an upcoming job interview, the resident of the 400 block of Hoffman Street accepts the task.

It started with the formation of the Seventh Street Youth Committee when violence plagued the area and affected its children.

"We wanted to make a significant difference and start saving the youth," the 57-year-old organization's president, who used to work as a city contractor, said.

Involvement in that group quickly stretched into four others. He serves as a board member for the Seventh Street Community Roundtable and Men United Against Violence Network, co-chair of the Seventh Street Community Reunion Committee and a long-time volunteer at Ford P.A.L. Center, 609 Snyder Ave., where he has helped to organize annual book bag giveaways and haircuts for homeless women and children.

"Although the police [officers] run the center, they allow me to run the center with them," the lifetime resident of the same neighborhood said.

Most recently, he helped to create the
Seventh Street Community Civic Association, which has covered Mifflin to Wolf and Fourth to Ninth streets since July, Baldwin hopes the group, also a registered community organization, has a say in its area’s zoning process and gives him the opportunity to advocate for everyone in his very racially diverse neighborhood.

“We are in a position now to be able to help this community and really build it up, and that’s what we’re doing,” the civic’s president said.

And it doesn’t hurt to receive a pat on the back for the countless hours he’s given back to his neighbors.

“It’s another way to say ‘Thank you, Bruce,’ and that’s what keeps me going,” Baldwin said. “...It’s the small things that matter to me, and this is one of them.”

Mark Anthony

Throughout his nearly three-decade affiliation with the Delaware Valley Youth Athletic Association, 2840 S. 18th St., including the last 16 years as its president, Anthony Benedetto Sr. has diligently displayed his desire to have children realize maturing as good sports matters more than seeking flawless seasons. While helping them to contextualize wins and losses, he has emerged as an unblemished victor.

“I really enjoy being here,” the 66-year-old resident of the 2000 block of South 19th Street said of his service to the Marconi site. “It’s been great to make lasting friendships and see so many kids excel.”

The graduate of South Philadelphia High School, 2101 S. Broad St., began his relationship with the 62-year-old spot when son Anthony, one of four children to come from his 45-year marriage to Diane, started T-ball in 1984. When watching a game three years into his offspring’s tenure, he observed older gentlemen struggling with maintenance duties and realized upon helping them how useful he could be to the location’s operations. He became a club member and gradually acquired different leadership roles, with the presidency sealing his dedication to bettering the association’s baseball and football programs.

“It took a responsibility, so I’ve had to follow it and keep stuff running smoothly,” the volunteer, who since his ’99 retirement as a union carpenter has made the strengthening of the association his second vocation, said of his duties, which have included upkeep of the fields, referee assignments, fundraising efforts and interaction with parents. “I’ve had great help along the way, especially from the coaches, who understand the importance of including every kid because we don’t equate anything we do here with winning or losing.”

Overseeing 23 sets of diamond dwellers and 24 gridiron units, Benedetto has enjoyed witnessing generational appreciation for the in-house leagues, with the children of his son’s peers now developing their athletic and emotional maturity. Finding that opportunity special, the humble individual uses it as one of many ways through which he sees his longevity as having more to do with others’ enthusiasm than his own talent but admitted to feeling honored to gain difference maker distinction.

“I’ve benefited from many people being involved,” he said. “In terms of being recognized, I’m just glad there are people who look at things that way and think to say ‘Thanks.’ I’ve never looked for an ‘Thank you,’ but I appreciate this.”

Vocal point

Lou Berman often cries when he ponders what his autistic son’s life might never include. Rather than resorting to negativity over the probable absences, the resident of the 100 block of Mc Clellan Street is heading Louie’s Voice, an
organization that derives its name from his 14-year-old descendant and focuses on what special needs individuals should never be without, love and hope.

"The crux of who we are is instilling positivity," the 44-year-old Pennsport dweller said of his 2012-fashioned means to accumulate resources and stimulate conversations on the future of addressing his child's and other figures' conditions. "I'm keeping my finger on the pulse of the campaign for awareness."

Berman used a heartbreaking incident, his '09 divorce, to intensify his involvement within the autism spectrum disorders research community. Having earned a communications degree from West Chester University of Pennsylvania, he has used his interpersonal skills to land numerous contacts with fundraisers making many people more mindful of the increasing amount of diagnoses and their roles in demanding less stereotyping and more caring. Along his journey, Berman, who also has a daughter, has realized his immense ability to foster tolerance, patience, love and faith.

"I would say my true self has been more revealed through my time as an advocate," he said. "I feel it's my responsibility to provide ways to thrive."

Berman has been fulfilling that duty through relationships with businesses, educational entities and organizations, with his outreach likely to land him a meeting with autism activist Temple Grandin. He has banked on his job as vice president of sales for a South-of-South auto body center to gather more interest in his plans to offer child care services for special needs children and residential care for special needs adults.

"What I get out of this is addicting because the mission is to offer life-changing gestures," he said. "I've often wondered what it's like to be Louie and have worked through many feelings, with a prevailing one being that I always need to act and be a voice for the voiceless."

Excited about the next few months' occasions, including a chance to dress as Santa Claus for autistic children, Berman revels in having a can-do attitude, which his difference maker kudos will further.

"I don't do anything for publicity," he said. "It's all about being a positive presence and getting results."

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This fourth-grade teacher's got spunk.

Beth Coleman's not only a dedicated educator at St. Monica School, 16th and Porter streets, but also a dynamic mother of three and stepmother of two.

Coleman, from 17th and Wolf streets, likes to keep her schedule jam-packed by organizing different programs for the community. For instance, she's the heart of Biddy Basketball, a recreational program for kids. She's been active in the Home and School Association throughout the years, she's started a bowling club for students and, most recently, she was instrumental in bringing Zumba, a popular dance class, to the neighborhood.

"I don't teach the classes," she said with a laugh. "But I go to all of them."

For 15 years, she's organized the school's talent show, too, which has since evolved into a very anticipated two-night event.

"It's something everyone looks forward to," Coleman, a St. Monica alumna herself, said. But the Newbold dweller's passion for teaching and teaching well, is most inspiring.

Brunella Benales, a parent of a past Coleman student, noticed how often she encouraged her students to give back to the community.

"She wants students to learn and be able to apply what they learned in the classroom to the outside world," Benales, who's known Coleman for eight years, said.

Coleman said she always tells her students they are "learning not just for the test; you're learning to live."

The lifelong South Philly resident didn't stray far from home for college. She attended Temple University for her bachelor's in education, and later, while raising a family and working full time, got her master's in instructional leadership from Neumann University.

"A running joke in my family is that I have the highest degree, but make the least amount of money," she said. "But getting a phone call that says I've been nominated as a difference maker makes it all worth it. I'm glad I made a lasting impression."

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Lady of good
counsel

Over her five-year stint at John H. Taggart School, 400 Porter St., counselor Diane DellaVella reveled in being a transparent builder of relationships. Since June, the 33-year-old Port Richmond inhabitant has lacked opportunities to foster fortitude among the Whitman elementary institution’s registrants, having become a School District of Philadelphia operating deficit casualty.

“When I finished school, I wanted to go to an area that would really need for me to stay there through thick and thin,” the La Salle University and University of Scranton graduate, who is pursuing professional counseling licensure at Holy Family University, said of having had Taggart as her lone site. “I looked to connect on a deeper level because, in addition to structure, the children needed a safe place to land.”

DellaVella steadfastly offered that pleasant realm by ingratiating herself with parents, whom she deemed the school community’s greatest asset, bringing creativity to her vocation through career days and a community service club, among many practices, and relating to families by learning of their cultures. Tasked with assisting educational and emotional progression, she encouraged youths by stripping them of their insularity and beseeching them to ponder their eventual roles in the world.

“I learned so much more than I gave,” DellaVella said, citing the 500-member student body’s diversity as unforgottably influential. “The community often overflowed with positivity, so it’s difficult not being around that to contribute to and feed off.”

Deeming the enrollees her babies, she always wants them to feel pacified, with her former colleagues nursing their aspirations and dilemmas since her early summer dismissal. Her old employer is searching for the means to reinstitute her position and others lost to its financial woes. Having launched a blog to chronicle her post-layoff existence, DellaVella is closely following the district’s affairs with one result in mind.

“My heart is at Taggart,” she said, “so my dream scenario is definitely a return there.”

As for her difference maker designation, DellaVella deemed it a welcome surprise yet credits others for it.

“I was there to counsel,” she said. “However, I feel the more blessed.”

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Choir comrade

There’s no place like home for Phyllis DiLemmo. And Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 2329 S. Third St., is just that.

“The first time I went to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, I stepped in that church and I thought, ‘I am home,’” she said. “Our Lady of Mount Carmel is my heart. I love being there.”

The resident of the 2500 block of South Sartain Street is well-known in the parish for her participation in the choir, which she founded nearly four decades ago.

DiLemmo also serves as a lector on occasion — something she’s been doing for about 26 years. And for 14 years she was a Eucharistic Minister, administering communion every Thursday at St. Monica Manor nursing home, 2509 S. Fourth St.

Her involvement with her parish, including volunteer efforts like cleaning the church pews and being part of the fundraising committee, surely hasn’t gone unnoticed, but she’s always remained humble. A few years ago, she earned the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Holy Name Society’s Person of the Year award.

“When my name was mentioned, I could not believe it,” DiLemmo, who had a similar reaction to her 2013 Difference Makers nomination, said. “I said to them, ‘You’re crazy for nominating me; there’s so many other people that do so many other things.’”

DiLemmo started singing for the church after she retired from working at Provident National Bank in 1963. She always thought about working part time afterward, but as her beloved husband’s health deterred, she knew he needed her help.

The South Philadelphia native, who just turned 83, said she now considers herself a “lady of leisure.” One can find her at church every Sunday singing in the choir or shopping with her daughter on
They do the hop

As the owners of Alphabet Academy, Jim and Roe Gallo get the pure enjoyment of interacting with countless children on a daily basis.

But besides providing a learning environment centered around creativity and imagination, the couple also have found unique ways of spreading important messages to kids ages 5 and younger.

One of the more popular and most successful concepts comes about every spring, right around Easter time, in which the four East Passyunk Avenue-based early learning centers sponsor a “Bunny Hop” at the Singing Fountain, East Passyunk Avenue and Tasker Street, to support the Philadelphia and Susquehanna Valley Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The idea came about through one of the parents who was involved with the organization, and the couple, who also call East Passyunk Avenue home, immediately jumped on board. The kids, parents, faculty and neighbors all play an active role in the fundraising.

“I thought it was a great way for the kids to understand about helping others,” Roe said. “They can make a connection with another kid who is sick.”

In the two years of doing the 20-minute dance routine in which the children, teachers, parents and neighbors come together to try to make a difference, the group has raised about $20,000. In the process, the group helped grant Walt-Disney-World wishes to two young friends, who they’ve gotten acquainted with via pictures.

“The Bunny Hop has exceeded anything we ever expected,” Jim, 53, said.

Roe, 50, noted that parents have already started asking about next year’s event.

The parents to daughters Amanda, 28, and Jamie, 24, have mastered the art of teamwork through their respective roles at Alphabet Academy, which has been providing child care for 25 years. Jim oversees the management of the buildings, including maintenance and construction, while Roe runs the day care aspect.

“I tell people my husband is responsible for the beautiful buildings, and I am responsible for the happy kids,” Roe said.

The four spaces each have a distinct theme with Alphabet Station, The Treehouse, Alphabet Garden and Alphabet Aquarium.

Running the operations may seem like an around-the-clock responsibility, but the hard-working duo also takes great pride in its East Passyunk Crossing community, as Jim serves on the board of both the East Passyunk Avenue Business Improvement District, 1904 E. Passyunk Ave., and the Passyunk Avenue Revitalization Corp., 1134 Titan St. He has been involved with the former for nine years.

“The avenue was in desperate need of attention and revitalization,” he said. “I believe in the avenue. It’s a great place to raise kids and have a business.”

The young and the tireless
Two digits have played sad parts in the life of Tyrique Glasgow, 11, the amount of gunshot wounds he has received, and five, the total years he spent incarcerated for drug distribution. The resident of the 1500 block of South Etting Street, however, seems destined to focus on the number one, as that will teach everyone about each individual’s potential.

“This could sound odd but I’m glad I went away,” the 30-year-old Grays Ferry dweller said. “It was as if God were giving me a timeout to let me know that if I continued my behavior, the repercussions could have become far worse.”

Upon returning from prison, Glasgow grew frustrated with the dwindled integrity of his neighborhood, with November 2011 yielding the creation of the Young Chances Foundation. Deriving its name from his grandmother, Roberta Chance, the organization operates out of Vare Recreation Center, 2600 Morris St., and reinforces the desire to strengthen and offer the same sort of acceptance to community inhabitants that his female relative made her philosophy.

“I dealt with the negative for so long that I wondered how hard it would be to consider the positive, especially for the sake of our children,” Glasgow, a father of two, said of assisting hundreds of youngsters through athletics and performing arts endeavors. “They’re learning choices are free, but consequences are not.”

Glasgow preaches accountability primarily through Young Chances’ initiatives Communities United Together, or CUT, and How U Survive Through Life Everyday, or HUSTLE, the latter an especially important means to reach young males, whom he certainly does not wish to succumb to negativity. Knowing danger can lurk anywhere, he considers his work far from over, with new faces meeting his countenance each day.

“Pride brought me bad results years ago, but now, I’m proud to be working to accomplish something far bigger than me, and I need to humble myself and go inspire goals and aspirations.” Glasgow said.

He is fulfilling his promise by studying business administration at Peirce College. Fond of believing everything happens for a reason, he sees his difference maker commendation as proof of the benefits of doing good.

“It’s really not hard to go out and be different,” Glasgow said. “There’s more to lose by sticking with the status quo.”

In the mix

As an in-demand disc jockey, Ali Hackett knows a great deal about spreading good vibes. As a revered member of the Point Breeze community, he also is proving he can put a positive spin on pressing matters.

“I have been on a quest because I know it’s necessary,” the 51-year-old resident of the 2100 block of Reed Street said. “With all that I do, I strive to encourage cohesiveness in my neighborhood.”

The Chester native relocated to South Philly last decade and immediately showed his altruism by tending to trash on his block, for which he serves as captain, and designing gatherings conveying camaraderie, including well-attended holiday dinners. Having begun his musical infatuation as a 5-year-old playing records for his mother and her friends, he has let tunes take charge in his endeavors and is nearing the end of his second year of Throwback Thursdays at Whitmore Square Park, 2300 Whitmore St. Offering oldies and new-school jams, Hackett helps to hone a comforting feel among his peers, especially older adults who had strayed from using the recreation spot for decades.

“I don’t deal in controversy or negativity,” the selfless soul, who also soothes ears in his hometown and West Philly, said. “I can’t even think to do that because building relationships with people is at the core of my efforts. That’s what makes my heart feel great.”

He ensures that children’s blood-pumping organs stay strong by instructing the etiquette of eating, also in the park. Enrollees pick up cooking techniques, improve their table manners, learn how to converse properly and work on making healthy food selections, likely the most enriching aspect of the course for the Type 2 diabetic.

“The kids need the help,” the chef said of using his culinary knowledge to inspire out-of-the-box thinking. “I am dealing with serious topics, but I have to make ev-
erything fun and enjoyable for it really to matter."

No matter the ages of the assisted parties, Hackett, husband to Allyson, insists on preaching respect as a potential solver of most problems.

"Because of that, I feel very humbled and appreciate this honor," he said. "It makes me eager to do more."

Strong bonds

"Ma, my head," Deborah Holmes' 3-year-old son, who had bumped his head, said to her.

"Let me kiss it," she replied.

The boy is one of about 15 (she stopped counting) foster children with special needs Holmes has reared over the course of 25 years. He also is one of the five children whom she adopted.

"You had to feed a baby every three hours," Holmes, a resident of the 2000 block of South Bonsall Street, who worked as a nurse at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for 16 years, said of the boy who was 5-months-old when she took him into her home. "Every time I'd feed him, his heart rate would drop, and he'd pass out."

Like her son, who had breathing problems, many of those she cared for were newborns with breathing tubes, developmental delays, shaken baby syndrome, etc.

"If they didn't have proper medical care and someone attentive, I know for a fact the baby would be gone," the 56-year-old said.

The boy also is her final foster child, as she is retiring from the role, but plans to assist with recruiting for Episcopal Community Services, her social service agency.

"My house is too small — my heart is big," the native of Third and Christian streets, who wanted to become a foster mother at 19, but was denied at first, said.

While her two biological children — 22 and 38 years old - and her first foster and adopted child — 27 years old — are grown, she still has a full house, with a 24-year-old son with autism, a 14-year-old son, 13-year-old daughter and her youngest son, who turns 4 next week.

Many of her fosters defied odds by doing things doctors predicted would never happen. Her oldest adopted daughter was not expected to walk, but at age 2-and-a-half, she did. Holmes also seeks out activities, such as dance, music, art or sports — whichever interests each child.

"I have to keep them off the streets, so they won't be running all over South Philadelphia," she said.

Even though she spent years caring for as many as six children and many late nights at doctor appointments tending to various medical problems, she wouldn't change a thing.

"They make me happy, and I make them happy," Holmes, who keeps in touch with her adopted and former foster children's birth parents said, "I don't think I'd be happy doing anything else."

The Kat's meow

Philly is Kat Kendon's adopted home. Her family hails from Boston, but she had moved around, mainly along the East Coast, until she landed on the 400 block of Emily Street two years ago. In addition to her photography work, she made a commitment to herself to make volunteering a priority — that's where Red Paw Emergency Relief Team came into play.

She offered to take photos of the animals.
needing adoption, when founder Jen Leary asked if she’d be able to come to the scenes of fires where Red Paw rescues pets at affected homes and provides shelter while the owner gets back on his or her feet, or if the individual can no longer provide for the pet, finds it a new home. While the call asking Kendon to go to the scene could be at any hour of the day, she became engrossed in the process.

“You’re out there helping people with the worst day of their life,” Kendon, who has a beagle named Canada and two cats named Corso and Sabine, said. She soon started to help out with things outside of the realm of photography, including running the Philadelphia program and starting to do outreach to get a Camden, N.J., unit operating. Therefore, she spends a lot of time focused on the nonprofit.

“My day job is a full-time job, and I travel and Red Paw is another full-time job on top of that,” the 34-year-old said.

At one call at a West Philly apartment building, she and Leary responded to the top floor where they found a man crying and digging through debris. Instances like seeing that man’s reaction after he found his cat and kitten have had an impact on Kendon.

“It has totally changed my view and made my life so much richer,” she said. “I wish I could have been able to keep his pets if we hadn’t provided them a place to stay while he got relocated.”

Kendon had already started to sense that she found her home in South Philly, but this honor has helped to solidify that feeling.

“I’m so flattered,” she said as she started to get emotional. “Doing volunteer work and to be recognized within a few years, it really makes me feel like — it’s exactly what I wanted out of life without knowing what I wanted.”

Piety through sobriety

Harry McKay has grappled with serious emotional and physical pain over his 66-year existence, the latest example being the task of recovering from a broken neck suffered in July. No matter the amount of anguish heaped upon him, he has preached the power of God’s love, encouraging other Grays Ferry dwellers to see sobriety as a key means to realize that gift.

“Many setbacks have tested and tried to conquer him,” Joan McCarron said of her cousin-in-law, whose recuperation necessitated his refraining from giving an interview. “He’s been able to lead so many to new lives, and when he’s at full strength again, he’ll guide even more.”

The resident of the 1600 block of South Newkirk Street met McKay, who served in Vietnam following his graduation from St. John Neumann High School, formerly 2600 Moore St., now St. Neumann-Goretti High School, 1736 S. 10th St., in 1979, with the male figure having already tasted the personal consequences of alcohol abuse. With the loss of a sibling and a daughter to the affliction, McKay summoned his resolve and united with brother Rev. Douglas McKay in ’99 to form Our House Ministries, 1439 S. 29th St.

Splitting time between the address and Northeast Philly, he has stressed his creator’s compassion and care while motivating individuals to choose substance over substances. That mentality resonates through inclusion in a number of organizations, notably Al-Anon; Alcoholics Anonymous; the Matt Talbot Society; the Schuylkill Vietnam Veterans Association; the Third Order of St. Francis; the Grays Ferry Community Council, 1501 S. 29th St.; and the Calix Society, which calls for alcoholics to substitute “the cup that stupefies for the one that sanctifies.”

“Many people talk the talk,” McCarron said of her relative, who recently received a commendation from his wartime peers. “Harry walks the walk and, after having dealt with all that you can imagine, has not let his spirit diminish. He’s a trooper.”

McKay and his brother two years ago celebrated the opening of the St. Raphael’s Addiction Resource Center in conjunction with Our House Ministries. Through the space, the siblings and their colleagues advocate for control over temptation, knowing the Lord will help them to resist.

“Robert Kennedy said ‘There are those who look at things the way they are and ask why I dream of things that never were
and ask why not.”” McCarron said. “That makes me think of Harry because he’s always thinking about our potential.”

Help fronted

Many people contend life is what one makes of it. Jaime Pannone backs that opinion every day by exuding and encouraging positivity, finding strength in compassion and fulfillment in selflessness. The 34-year-old resident of the 1000 block of Mifflin Street began her career as a teacher and has determined to keep instructing, with the power of community involvement as her chief theme.

“I feel fulfilled if I’m not assisting someone,” the Connecticut native and New York-schooled individual, who has lived in East Passyunk Crossing for one-and-a-half of her six years in Philadelphia, said. “Being a participant in enriching activities seems automatic to me.”

Through her National Board of Medical Examiners employment, Pannone has helped to improve literacy among second and third graders by uniting with Philadelphia Reads, Children, along with adults, also gain resolve via her role as a guitarist for Musicians on Call, through which she plays for four hospitals’ patients. A fitness buff, too, she fixes rides for Neighborhood Bikeworks and motivates downtrodden figures as a helper for Back on My Feet, which uses running to give the homeless a sense of self-sufficiency.

“Back home, I found many opportunities to contribute, so that when I came to Philadelphia, I could recreate that through a neat built-in system of groups,” Pannone said. “I enjoy every program I’m affiliated with and see nothing out of the ordinary about wanting to give.”

The altruistic presence has felt compelled to crusade for camaraderie since childhood, with her mother, Anne, as the primary inspiration. Having had giving of herself instilled as a value during her formative years, she enjoys having the opportunity to ponder and select from so many life-affirming causes. Always considering what could come next, she is looking forward to taking on more endeavors, with investigations into music therapy and interaction with Soccer Without Borders as the foremost chores.

“The individualized experience competes me,” Pannone said. “I love being able to inject myself into situations to feel a part of a large community.”

Deeming volunteering a key benefactor of her mental and physical well-being, she anticipates adding legions of contacts in reminding everyone that giving leads overtly to receiving.

“I’m very honored to be among the recipients,” she said of her difference maker selection. “It’s humbling to be numbered with great people.”

Grieve’s music minister

“We all have a light,” Juanita Perkins-Qui said. “Singing is my light that I have to let shine.”

Perkins-Qui, of 13th and Christian streets, has been singing her whole life. Her special talent has functioned as a remarkable safe haven for those in need of comfort.

For decades, she’s been ministering in song at Catholic church funerals. She’s sung at every Catholic church in South Philly, as well as numerous places of worship outside the area. Her reason? It’s her passion to use music to ease the sorrow and pain of those who have recently lost a loved one.

And it helps that she’s not afraid to get personal at a time when support is most desired.

Perkins-Qui is known to go to the homes of the grieving. She asks what songs they’d like her to sing at the funeral. She asks them to tell her a funny story.

“I say, ‘Talk about the good times,’” she said. “This helps turn them around from feeling sorry for themselves. It’s a really hard time.”

For those unable to afford church stipends, she often offers to sing for free.

“How could I say no?” the Hawthorne dweller said. “I’m just thinking about bringing comfort and joy to these people’s hearts; you can’t buy that.”

Perkins-Qui has sung for funerals of babies who’ve died suddenly and tragically. She’s sung for those who aged into their hundreds, too.
She credits her faith to keeping her strong in fulfilling the difficult task, because she said she knows they're going to a better place.

The mother of one was born and raised in South Philly, where she learned the rituals of the Roman Catholic faith at St. Peter Claver. For four years after high school, Perkins-Qui was stationed in San Antonio in the Air Force, where she not only directed a choir but was also named 1969 popular vocalist. When she returned to Philadelphia, she sang at St. Rita of Cascia Shrine, 1166 S. Broad St., and later became involved with St. Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic church, 1718 S. Ninth St., where one can find her serving as a cantor every Saturday at 5 p.m. or Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

A typical day for Perkins-Qui is often not typical. She's also a crossing guard, working five days a week at a busy intersection near Columbus Square Park, 1200 Wharton St. She works four hours a day and often runs back and forth to the church to sing at funerals between shifts.

"The mothers in the area have another mother on the corner for them," she said with a smile. "I'm not going to let anything happen to them."

In his zone

Gaetano Piccirilli is a man with many titles. By day, he is a partner at the Center City-based law firm Dilworth Paxson LLP, where he is "a problem-solving litigator who represents businesses, small and large, in commercial disputes."

The 34-year-old puts forth that same passion when dealing with the Girard Estate Neighbors Association where he assists with zoning issues, as well as his volunteer work with Philadelphia's Homeless Advocacy Project.

"I like to take on leadership roles," the resident on the 1900 block of Ritner Street said. "I want to be out in front. I don't need to come up with the ideas, but I want to help execute them."

It includes keeping a close eye on Stephen Girard Park, 2101 Shunk St., which, in the eyes of the South Philly lifer, could use a little sparcuping.

"The park is in disrepair, so we are trying to attract attention for the purpose of updating the park because we believe it's vital to our community," he said.

The "quiet bedroom community" is something Piccirilli knows a little something about, as he spent his childhood years there, and has since set up residence with wife, Hadassah, and their 2-year-old son, Nathaniel.

"... The neighbors are very friendly, and I really do believe it's a quiet pocket of South Philadelphia," the Girard Academic Music Program, 2136 W. Ritner St., grad said. "It's a good place with good people, and I am trying to make it better."

He also hasn't forgotten about his alma mater, as he represented the GAMP Parent and Alumni Corp. when it needed to form a not-for-profit to help raise funds for the school.

When a pawn shop/check cashing business attempted to set up shop in his neighborhood, he helped to collect 100 signatures for the opposition.

The Temple University School of Law product also is committed to helping improve life for mentally challenged homeless folks. He performs pro-bono work for the city's Homeless Advocacy Project, and takes on cases to help individuals gain Social Security disability benefits.

"I like to provide a service because I think they are truly at a disadvantage," Piccirilli, who also serves as chairman of the Pennsylvania State Real Estate Commission, said. "They have no income, can't work and can't function."

With this difference maker in the driver's seat, the cause, along with every other that Piccirilli sets his mind to, will have a fighting chance.

What a N.I.C.E. girl

As a former Philly school teacher, Megan Rosenbach has firsthand knowledge of the obstacles inside the classroom; therefore, she had a plan when she and husband Ben bought a house on the 1500 block of South 15th Street.

"I knew that I wanted to meet the school in my catchment area and kind of feed some love and resources into it," Rosenbach, who does not have any children, said of George W. Childs School, 1599 Wharton St.

Her church, Circle of Hope, 1125 S. Broad
St., had a Martin Luther King Jr. block party in 2011 to benefit the school, which initiated her involvement. Last year, she teamed up with South Philly resident Maria Pandolfi, Childs’ art teacher and dean of students, to do an art show and auction at the church that raised $1,000 for art supplies.

For her next project she approached then-principal Daniel Peou, who now heads Horace Furness High School, 1900 S. Third St.

“We naively asked if he wanted us to do a book drive for the school,” Rosenbach said. “He kind of chuckled and walked us down to the library, which was full of books.”

When Childs, then 1541 S. 17th St., relocated to the former Norris Barratt Middle School building in ’10, the library was never set up. Rosenbach took on the project in June ’12, creating N.I.C.E. (Neighbors Investing in Childs Elementary) along the way. Volunteers cleaned up the space and began entering the books in an electronic system to allow students to start borrowing them in March ’13. They also raised $4,000 to help with the renovations.

“It’s definitely our biggest success story because this library was revived, and the principal [Dr. Eileen Coutts] budgeted for a librarian,” Rosenbach, who also serves on the school advisory council, said of the project that was completed in time for this school year, noting Childs is one of 12 district-wide sites to have a librarian.

Rosenbach and her helpers also gave each teacher breakfast and a box of school supplies to start the year. She hopes to establish a home and school organization to increase parent involvement and continue to raise money for to-be-determined needs of the school. In the meantime, she’s honored to be identified as a difference maker for her work, especially because it will spread the word about her cause.

“I want to live in South Philly for the rest of my life and raise my kids here, so I’m glad that what I’m doing is making an impact,” she said.

With five children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild to love and nurture and nine volunteer positions to tackle, 83-year-old Theodore Sciarato Sr. deems each day a call to maximize one’s time for the benefit of others. Using his belief and value systems as inspiration, he seizes any chance to chart an advantageous course for his Marconi neighborhood, keeping apathy dormant and positivity vibrant.

“You have to help people, and I would do anything to assist someone,” the resident of the 2900 block of South Sydenham Street said. “Nothing is a paying job, but everything offers a payoff for my heart.”

Except for his 1950s United States Marine Corps duties, the octogenarian has resided in South Philly his entire life. Having worked in graphic arts until his retirement continued on page 18 two decades ago, he has designed his turf’s future through prominent affiliations with, among others, St. Richard of Chichester Church, 18th and Pollock streets, and the Sports Complex Special Services District, 3300 S. Seventh St.

“My involvement essentially comes through my church,” Sciarato said of the worship site, for which he has served as president of its Society of the Holy Name and home and school association. “This is a unique area of South Philly, and I’ve met many great folks through that parish.”

Furthering his civic sojourn, the lively individual is enjoying his 12th year as the District IV director for the aforementioned entity, with his combined community endeavors including charity drives, cleanup efforts, community improvement projects such as playground upkeep, athletic fundraisers and tree plantings. Tasks benefiting children have proven especially heartwarming for Sciarato, whose own tight-knit clan, which lost his wife, Edith, eight years ago, reminds him of the potential of youth.

“Education is definitely key,” the alumnus of Edward Bok Technical High School, formerly 1901 S. Ninth St., said, adding he has loved working to help St. Pio Regional Catholic School, 1826 Pollock St., and F. Amedee Bregy, 1700 Bigler St. “Anything to be of help makes me feel good.”

Having left the spotlight for others to bask in, Sciarato found himself shocked to earn of his difference maker selection.
“I’m definitely honored, though,” he said. “It’s satisfying to be a resource for my neighbors.”

Service learning

Upon his 2007 installation as president of Congregation Shivtie Yeshurun Ezras Israel, 2015 S. Fourth St., Rich Sisman told his fellow believers to give him six months to overturn the synagogue’s architectural and financial woes. Six years after his proclamation, the 55-year-old is touting the rejuvenation of the 104-year-old worship site, with inclusion in spring’s Hidden City Philadelphia 2013 Festival as the latest boon.

“I’m just stubborn,” the Elkins Park resident, who grew up on the 2000 block of South Fourth Street and made the convenient commute to the spiritual haunt until his family’s 1973 move to Northeast Philly, said. “I would have hated to see a synagogue closed down.”

Using Hillel the Elder, who noted “If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I?” as inspiration, the devout Jew intervened when the space seemed destined for demolition, forging and strengthening alliances to secure funds and favor, including that of Councilman-at-Large James Kenney, who lived close to the location as a boy. Having had the city’s largest Jewish community prior to World War II, South Philly has witnessed an uptick in Jewish residents recently, according to Sisman, with his haven having sought to welcome their wishes for wisdom.

“I would love to see it have a community center identity, so Hidden City, during which people were in and out for numerous events, was the icing on the cake,” the technical consultant affiliated with Hewlett-Packard said of the six-week celebration of often-overlooked havens. “My main objective, though, is having regular services here; that’s the real meat and potatoes.”

Sisman has called on the congregation’s successful festival presence to obtain donations and next month will distribute postcards to try to draw attendees for services. Having rekindled his love for the place 15 years ago upon driving through his old neighborhood, he believes he must continue to work tirelessly to bolster what he tabs “the last of the last.” With ideas abounding, including one for a January-commencing speakers series, he credits his allegiance to his faith as that which could not let him part with an integral element of its formation.

“I think of that quote from ‘Mr. Smith Goes to Washington,’ ‘And you know that you fight for the lost causes harder than for any others,’” Sisman said. “I had to act to save the shul. Now I’m poised to see it thrive again.”

A method to his gladness

When Dan Stevenson suffered spinal difficulties a few years ago, he could have chosen to be bitter and back away from fulfilling any communal commitments. Instead of succumbing to sadness, the resident of the 1900 block of South Second Street elected to redevelop himself and strengthen his engagement, with Pennsport benefiting from his allegiance to altruism.

“Coming from four generations of law enforcement, there was never a time that service wasn’t pushed,” the 37-year-old, whose own professional experience includes time with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said. “Therefore, I’ve always had a desire to contribute.”

Having built a solid community profile before his physical woes struck, Stevenson yearned to sustain a sense of satisfaction and has used participation in numerous endeavors to affirm his love of the only neighborhood he has ever known and interest in surrounding stretches. His résumé includes being a founding member and former president of the Second Street Irish Society, 1937 S. Third St.; a zoning board member for the Pennsport Civic Association, 1837 S. Second St.; a board of directors presence for the Mummers Museum, 1100 S. Second St.; and a contributing voice for events at Burke Playground, Second and Jackson streets.

“This is where I live and where I’m from, so I have to be involved,” Stevenson, a graduate of St. John Neumann High School, formerly 2600 Moore St., now Ss. Neumann-Gores Black School, 1736 S. 10th St., for which he serves on the Millay Club alumni board, said.

The husband and father of two further
proves his dedication to safeguarding families by acting as 1st District Councilman Mark Squilla's public safety liaison.

Through this duty, Stevenson tackles quality of life issues and facilitates dealings with the Philadelphia Police Department, all the while supporting a friend's motto that the best way never to forget where one comes from is never to leave.

"Many times, we have to talk the talk and walk the walk to get stuff done," Stevenson, an external affairs consultant for SugarHouse Casino, said. "We've been able to go through our own channels to get results, and I believe our neighborhoods are stronger on account of that."

Ironically, perhaps, a man who favors order found himself caught off guard when learning of his difference maker nod.

"I wish more people would get involved," Stevenson said. "Don't let stuff pass you by."

Friend for all

Sometimes a neighbor is all you need, especially a neighbor like Paula Terreri.

When her neighbor's husband died, Terreri was there. She didn't hesitate to help her friend, Fran, file her income taxes, get to the doctor's office, cook dinner and make it to church. Terreri also helped Fran find the perfect independent living facility to move into and helped her prepare to sell her home. Terreri got her friend settled into the new space and planned a fun birthday party for her just like old times.

Why? Because she likes helping people, she said.

"I've done it my whole entire life," she said. "When people need help, it just comes secondhand. You're always there; you have to be."

Terreri, a resident of 18th and Ritner streets, credits her caring personality to her mother, who would "help anyone and do anything for anyone."

"I really got tired of seeing people run into problems and situations they couldn't handle and I just decided to start helping," Terreri said. "Be it for a neighbor, for the church or political, I am good at getting something done that needs to be done. If I can't do it myself, I find someone that can, whereas a lot of people get frustrated and give up."

For 30 years, Terreri has been captain of the 1800 block of Gladstone Street. She's also a Republican committee woman, who volunteers her time to help constituents with any problems they run into.

"One thing I'm happy about is we never ask what their party affiliation is," she said. "They're neighbors."

She's also heavily involved in the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and fundraisers for St. Monica Church. 1714 Ritner St.

On top of all her volunteer work, Terreri's also a full-time employee making sweet treats at an Old City chocolate shop, where she loves seeing customers' reactions when they taste a piece of delicious candy.

"I never look for a thank you in anything I do," Terreri said. "A smile is enough."

Passion for the game

Lynn Oakes West knows a little something about winning.

All it takes is one look at her record as the sideline general for the St. Richard, 1826 Pollock St., Catholic Youth Organization girls' basketball team (now St. Pio Regional Catholic School) in which she compiled a 68-0 mark over four seasons. The tally includes winning four-straight Region Six championships.

The 51-year-old has since retired following a 30-year stint on the local CYO circuit. But not from the game. When she steps on the hardwood, strictly on a volunteer basis, the Packer Park resident motivates her players to believe in her simple eight-word motto: "You have to work hard to win big."

But more importantly, the full-time health care professional, who is the director of operations at the Rothman Institute, strives to help youngsters succeed.

"I really like working with girls because I want to give them the confidence to be successful," West, who resides on the 3500 block of Tuscany Drive, said. "My biggest accomplishment is my two beautiful daughters [Jane, 21, and Sami, 14] who I love dearly."

West extends her giving nature to the workplace by offering students summer work so
they can see if a career in the health care industry is for them. Even with the sometime 12-hour days, the basketball life never loses passion for the game. She volunteers her time with the locally based Philly Girls Got Game, an organization committed to the development and improvement of girls’ basketball. She also coaches on the Amateur Athletic Union circuit.

West, whose husband of nine years, Mike, serves as CEO of the Rothman Institute, played competitive basketball until the age of 37.

“I played in college summer leagues and women’s leagues all over Philadelphia,” she said. “You would find me on any court all day long. At the age of 16, I was one of two girls who broke into a competitive men’s league at [Guerin Rec Center] 16th and Jackson streets. Both of our teams went to the championship.”

But as great as it feels to win, West’s top priority is helping girls become winners in life.

“I think the biggest message is with hard work, perseverance and education, you can do anything,” West said.

Defending with confidence

Lawrence Whitaker grew up at 29th and Oakford streets, where he learned slap boxing. However, his current talents as a martial arts instructor teaching street smarts could have benefited him as a youth, such as when a guy harassed him on a basketball court.

“I hit him first, but it wasn’t hard enough,” Whitaker said. “He hit me back and blacked my eye.”

While that incident didn’t trigger his future career, Whitaker now gives people strength by teaching them defensive skills and boosting their confidence.

During his six-year stint in the Army, during which he won multiple medals, Whitaker met a mixed-martial artist whom no one could hit. He wanted to obtain that skill, so he began learning from the fighter.

When he returned to Philly in 1986, he found a martial-arts course at Temple University. After learning under various instructors, Whitaker rented a space at Third and Bainbridge streets, where he founded the Urban Defense Center in ’96. It relocated to Dickinson Street and Passyunk Avenue two years later.

“We wanted to make sure everyone stood up on the ground and defended themselves,” the 53-year-old said.

In 1999, his sister was killed in what he believes was a domestic violence incident.

“It didn’t change,” the resident of the 900 block of South 16th Street said of his focus of teaching others to protect themselves. “It just became more serious.”

Whitaker, who has multiple black belts and various certifications, moved the business again to its current locale in Northern Liberties in 2001. He now teaches urban combat, women’s self-defense, urban karate for children and their parents, taekwondo and kickboxing and more. He also allows those interested to try a week’s worth of self-defense classes for free and donates his time to various nonprofits, such as schools, civic associations and senior-citizen organizations.

And his lessons don’t deal with only the physical component, but also the legal aspect, too.

“If a homeless guy is asking for money and he grabs your arm, you can’t break his neck,” Whitaker said.

When he first started, he didn’t receive much support from South Philly, as many deemed his teachings too violent, but now he receives many thanks from patrons and is being honored as a difference maker.

“It makes me feel everything is worth it... I’ve been out here a long time,” he said. “I’m really dedicated to what I’m doing here.”

Answering
If a resident is in need of food or employment, Robert Wilbowe is ready to help. If a resident needs help with paying a bill, the inhabitant of 26th and Reed streets has been known to lend a helping hand. He also was instrumental in integrating Vare Recreation Center, 2600 Morris St., where African-American children couldn’t play basketball there prior to his involvement. These are just a few examples from the local nomination-writing campaign to include the Grays Ferry dweller among this year’s group of difference makers.

As proud as the 63-year-old is of these accomplishments, it has never been about the individual accolades.

“It wasn’t about the recognition,” he said. “The concerns and cares of the city were the things I cared about.”

The community activist, who also did work as a political consultant, is the founder and president of the 27-year-old South Philadelphia Rainbow Committee, based at 1260 S. Newkirk St., — a former drug house that was purchased for $1 from the District Attorney’s office and converted into the home base for the nonprofit. Today, residents can partake in video/photography and GED classes.

Wilbowe also remains active in neighboring communities such as Point Breeze, where he supports the Pardon Me Clinic, which assists formerly convicted individuals through the expungement, pardon and clemency process. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month (with the next one scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 5) at the Church of the Redeemer Baptist, 1440 S. 24th St. The neighborhood activist, who lost his wife Irene in 1999 to diabetes, said he was pleased with this month’s meeting, in which 65 people attended.

Wilbowe is ready to fight for any cause, including speaking up to address neighborhood issues.

While Wilbowe doesn’t need the personal recognitions to keep his trying-to-better-the-community engine going, several of the residents he has helped didn’t hold back in praising the behind-the-scenes leader.

“When my family was suffering from lack of food and lack of employment. Mr. Wilbowe helped us with food and also found companies that needed workers,” Cecilia Marino, vice president of the Rainbow Committee, said. “... He is a true and kind humanitarian who helps anyone.”

Wilbowe plans to remain on call for assisting others.

“I don’t have an age limit,” he said. “If people need a service, I try to help them.”

Community crusader

Irene Wilder is a self-proclaimed “uber multitasker” with a constant drive to help her community.

It’s her passion for being engaged and making a difference that keeps her involved with the Columbus Square Park Advisory Council, 1200 Wharton St., where she serves as president.

Wilder, from 13th and Wharton streets, this year spearheaded the efforts for a redesign of the park. After receiving a grant from the Community Design Collaborative, she’s working closely with neighbors and officials to make sure improvements can and will be made.

“I have that squeaky wheel syndrome,” she said with a laugh. “I’m definitely known as the squeaky wheel, but I don’t care as long as we get the results we want.”

Wilder has also worked relentlessly — and successfully — to get lighting around the park at night, green the area, allow permit parking on the street and implement sidewalk filtration planters to help mitigate flooding.

It’s never been easy, but that’s never stopped her.

“First of all, never tell me I can’t do something,” Wilder said. “That’s the quickest way for me to get something done.”

It’s the Chicago native’s background as an environmental lobbyist in Washington, D.C., and her successful career as a business and marketing consultant that has given her the skills to be an effective leader.

“A lot of people have ideas; one of the
things that my specialty is, the reason I say I create vision, is that if you tell me what it is you want to do, I can help you figure out how to get it done," she said.

Wilder, who recently started her own consulting firm, also is a board member of the Passyunk Square Civic Association, where she is chair of the fundraising committee.

"I’m really happy to be engaged in the civic association because it sort of broadens my reach of what I think I can do," she said. "I don’t have any fear about asking for money; most people don’t like to [do it]. Listen. I look at it this way, people can say ‘yes’ or ‘no.’"

But most of all, Wilder said she enjoys "watching this great community grow."

"I’m not only engaged as a leader of the park, but I’m a neighbor," she said. "I’ve invested in this." SFR

Comment at southphillyreview.com/news/features.
Educational partnership for young people

Peirce College and Year Up’s Professional Training Corps program have partnered to help young adults earn a college degree.

An estimated 45,000 Philadelphians ages 18 to 24 are jobless, not attending school and do not have a degree beyond a high school diploma.

Peirce College is based in Center City and caters to working adults.

Year Up invites young adults to visit www.yearup.org to learn about the initiative. The program is accepting students 18-25 who have a high school diploma or GED. Classes will start in January.

Students will complete up to 27 credits at Peirce and participate in a full-time internship at a Fortune 1000 company in Philadelphia. They will also benefit from a range of support services, including professional development, networking opportunities and life coaching.

"Peirce College and Year Up share the same philosophy: to provide a supportive, career-focused environment that can help students reach their personal and professional potential," said Uva Coles, vice president of student services at Peirce. "Combining Peirce’s career-related courses with a comprehensive, full-time Year Up internship provides students the opportunity to develop professional skills and accelerate their careers, while building relationships with highly respected companies in the region."

**
Wilford Shamlin III  
Tribune Staff Writer

Community College of Philadelphia is inviting high school students with minimal access to guidance counseling to visit one of its open houses scheduled later this month.

The open houses, which are free events held throughout the city, could prove a valuable resource in a school district in deep financial crisis. Workloads have gone up dramatically for school-based counselors and roving counselors have been assigned to multiple schools in the wake of widespread layoffs that have left behind a bare-bones staff.

Diane Kae, manager of outreach and recruitment for CCP, said, "With everything going on in the district, we knew we had to fill in some of the gaps by ramping up some of our open house activities. This is our way of supporting students and their families who are in the district." She added, "we want to make sure everyone is getting the information they need."

Masterman High School senior Nuwar Ahmed said she and her classmates feel as if they’re being left to their own resources to complete tasks. There’s only one counselor to handle the workload that was spread last school year between three counselors. "Things that would have been done for us, we have to do," she said.

The college-bound student said counselors seem "overwhelmed" by their caseload, which has gone up dramatically since the district laid off one-third of its staff on June 30 as a cost-cutting measure. "It’s obvious that they have more work than before. A lot of teachers are stepping in," she said.

Ahmed needs to submit her college admissions application before Nov. 1 in order to meet the deadline to be considered for early decision admission. Her appointment with her counselor has been rescheduled twice. The last time, she said, was because her counselor was required to attend an emergency staff meeting.

The guidance counselor who knew her best was laid off. And now Ahmed and other students are working with a counselor who isn’t as familiar with their strengths, personal interests, or background, according to the Philadelphia Student Union, which represents students’ interests.

The student union has about 150 active members, and Ahmed is one of them. She and other college-bound seniors need help from a guidance counselor who can check that their applications for college admissions have been filled out completely and correctly.

About one-third of Philadelphia’s graduating seniors attend community college. CCP is catering to that segment of the student population. A free, 30-minute webinar offering basic information about the college admissions process and federal and state financial aid can be accessed at www.ccp.edu. The next webinar starts at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

One workshop is geared toward putting high school dropouts on track toward pursuing higher education and another workshop will show students how to make a smooth transition from community college to four-year degree programs in the Philadelphia area, offered by recognizable names such as Cheyney, Temple, St. Joseph’s, La Salle, Immaculata, Holy Family, Arcadia universities and Pierce, Cabrini and Chestnut Hill colleges.

The workshops, which are also open to adults interested in higher education, are scheduled as follows: 6 p.m., Oct. 22 at the Northeast Regional Center, 12901 Townsend Rd.; 6 p.m., Oct. 23 at the Northwest Regional Center, 1300 W. Godfrey Ave.; 6 p.m., Oct. 24 in the Pavilion Building’s Welcome Center on CCP’s main campus, 1700 Spring Garden St.; and at noon, Oct. 26 at the West Regional Center, 4725 Chestnut St. Anyone interested in attending the sessions should register at openhouse ccp.edu.

Contact staff writer
Wilford Shamlin III at (215) 893-5742, or weshamlin@phillytrib.com.
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

EVENTS

Villanova University School of Law is hosting U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit oral arguments at 2 p.m. October 9.

The cases set to be heard are In re Tillman, In re Motorola Mobility LLC and Lee v. Mike's Novelties.

The event is open to the public. Visit http://goo.gl/HYodbZ for more information.

ADDITIONS

Four lawyers joined Hill Wallack.

Barbara M. Kirk is a partner in the Yardley, Pa., office, where she is a member of the family law and municipal law practice groups.

Shane T. Prince is counsel in the Princeton, N.J., office, where he is a member of the products liability, trial and insurance defense, and insurance coverage practice groups.

Donald F. Burke Jr. is an associate in the Princeton office. He is a member of the firm’s litigation division and its trial and insurance defense, insurance coverage, and employment and labor law practice groups.

Wade D. Koenecke is also an associate in the Princeton office. He is a member of the firm’s litigation division and the administrative law/government contracts practice group.

HONORED

Dilworth Paxson partner Anne Marie Aaronson is set to be honored by the Morris Brown College Foundation as the recipient of the 2013 Steward Wiley/Wesley John Gaines President’s Leadership Award.

Aaronson is being honored for her work as bankruptcy counsel to the college.

The presentation is scheduled for October 11 in Atlanta.

SPEAKERS

Partner Andy Faust of Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams is set to deliver talks on special education for two upcoming conferences.

He is scheduled to speak at the Pennsylvania School Boards Association annual school leadership conference’s School Law Workshop on October 16 and at the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units’ Eastern Pennsylvania Special Education Administrators Conference on October 31, both in Hershey, Pa.

In each of the conferences, Faust will cover current trends, issues, litigation and legislation in the area of special education.

ON THE WEB

Did you miss any of The Legal’s most significant news? Look online and on the app for the most-read stories from the print publication and blog:

• Culture Shift, Technology Lead to Staff Cuts.
• Couples Sue in State Court Over Pa. Ban on Same-Sex Marriage.
• Former Philadelphia Priest Arrested for Rape.
• Morgan Lewis Elects Phila. Litigator as New Chair.
• Baylson Sends Paxil Case Back to Phila. Court.

Subscribers can visit www.legalintelligence.com for full access.
The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals celebrated its 40th anniversary September 19. Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams received the Paralegal Professional Development Award; Edwin Miller, assistant dean of Peirce College, received the Student Paralegal Professional Development Award; and Pepper Hamilton received the Continuing Paralegal Professional Development Award. Pictured, from left, are Ruby Gala committee members Clare McManus, Kirsten Fullerton, Christine Flynn, Robert Hrouda, Renee Mazzeo, Judy Stouffer, Vivian Luckiewicz and Lyndora Patterson Tiller.
THE UNBEATENS JUST NEED TIME

MIKE KERN
kernm@phillynews.com

O N E M O N T H in, and 20 teams remain unbeaten.

Some, of course, were more expected than others. So by no means are they created equal.

The ACC and Pac-12 have the most with four apiece. Clemson and Florida State, OK. But Miami was 7-5 in 2012, and Maryland was 4-8. Maryland is at FSU this week. Miami is probably a home win over Georgia Tech away from getting to 7-0 by the time it goes to FSU early next month. Is it too early to start thinking wide left?

On the West Coast you’ve got Oregon and Stanford. But you’ve also got UCLA, in its second season under Jim Mora, and Washington, which hasn’t won more than seven since going 8-4 in 2001. That was also the last time the Huskies were 4-0. On Saturday, they’re at Stanford, which they beat at home last year. UCLA visits Stanford Oct. 19 and goes to Oregon the following week.

In the SEC there’s Alabama and . . . Missouri? The Tigers were picked to finish fifth in the East division, ahead of Kentucky. And they very well might. They’ve beaten Murray State, Toledo, Indiana and Arkansas State. Who knows how many more they’ll get, since they have to go to Kentucky.

The Big Ten has Ohio State, Michigan and Northwestern, which hosts OSU in 2 days in what appears to be the Buckeyes’ best chance to lose before Nov. 30 at Michigan. And right now, who knows for sure about the Wolverines, who are at NW in mid-November.

In the Big 12 you’ve got Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas Tech. Baylor, which has scored 69, 70 and 70 against Wofford, Buffalo and Louisiana-Monroe, was picked to finish fifth. Tech, which has beaten then-No. 24 TCU, was picked for seventh with new coach Kliff Kingsbury. The Red Raiders could be 7-0 on Oct. 26 when they host to OU. The same could be said for the Bears, who host OU the week after that on a Thursday.

The AAC has Louisville and Houston, which is coming off a 5-7 season and has to go to Rutgers, Louisville and Central Florida. The Cardinals, with Teddy Bridgewater, have only one tough road trip. That’s not until December, at Cincinnati. And like the Big 12, there is no conference title game to get in the way.

In your bracket-buster division there’s Fresno State from the Mountain West and Northern Illinois, which made it to the Orange Bowl last season, out of the MAC.

At this time a year ago there were 22 unbeaten. By the end of the regular season one was left. And after the bowls it was none, just like 2011. So usually this stuff sorts itself out. It mostly takes time.

Bet you can’t wait for those first BCS standings.

Trivial pursuit

Now that Lane Kiffin is gone, who was the last USC coach to last less than four seasons? Hint: He succeeded John Robinson. See Answer Man.

This and that

► Georgia has played three teams that were in the Top 10 at the time. And beaten two, despite giving up 38, 30 and 41 in those games. It has only one game left against anyone currently in the Top 25 (Florida).

► Before 2009 USC hadn’t given up more than 49 points (at Notre Dame, 1977). Since then it’s allowed 55 (Stanford), 53 (Oregon), 56 (Stanford, three overtimes), 62 (Oregon) and now 62 again (Arizona State). Three were at home.

Smalls stuff

► West Chester, Delaware Valley and Ursinus are 4-0. The Rams host California (3-1), which they haven’t beaten in back-to-back seasons since 1994-95. The Aggies are at MAC preseason favorite Lycoming (3-1), which just snapped Widener’s 15-game home winning streak. And the Bears travel to Moravian (0-4).

► With his 89th victory, Jay Acorsi passed his former boss, K.C. Keeler, as Rowan’s all-time leader. “I didn’t really know until the end of [Friday night’s 7-0 win over Montclair], when they announced it over the loudspeakers,” said Acorsi, who’s in his 12th season. “I got here in 1993 as a graduate student and I’ve yet to escape this place. I guess it just means I’ve been here a while. When I retire I’ll probably go, ‘That’s pretty cool.’ ” The Profs (2-1) are at Brockport (1-2).

Answer Man

Paul Hackett (1998-2000). The
first time Robinson left, in 1982, Ted Tollner at least made it through four seasons before giv-
ing way to Larry Smith.

Email: kernm@phillynews.com

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**Spotlight on ...**

**Philly’s desert export**

JAELEN STRONG didn’t follow a straight line to Arizona State. But it doesn’t seem to be hindering him any.

The wide receiver was a big part of West Philadelphia’s state championship team in 2010. Yet he didn’t have the grades for an FCS scholarship, so he spent 2 years at Pierce (junior) College in Los Angeles, where he didn’t even play football as a freshman.

Now in his first season with the Sun Devils, the 6-4, 205-pounder — who has 2 years of eligibility left after this — is the team’s leading receiver with 31 catches for 433 yards and two touchdowns. ASU, of course, just scored 62 against USC to hasten Lane Kiffin’s departure.

There are those who think Strong has a future at the next level.

Maybe stuff happens for a reason. His high school coach, Albie Crosby, knew ASU offensive coordinator Mike Norvell, then an assistant at Pitt for Todd Graham before he got the gig in Tempe.

And he only ended up at Pierce through a friend, Gerald Bowman (Imhotep), who’s a safety at USC.

“I’m happy,” Strong told AZCentral Sports. “I think I made the best decision of my life coming here.”

His dad was Drexel basketball great John Rankin, who passed away a decade ago of leukemia.

“It took a toll on me,” Strong said. “Not having him around ... was weird. It bothers me to this day.”

Nobody said the journey’s supposed to be detour-free. What matters is how you deal with the audibles. This week he will be trying to get it done against Notre Dame.