



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

Vol. 11 No. 1 Spring 2020

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CCCulture

Hot Topics and History The Athenaeum's Formula for Relevance Now

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Founded in 1814, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, a membership library and internationally recognized research institution housed in a National Historic Landmark building on the east side of Washington Square, wants to attract audiences of all ages and professions by increasing its array of diverse topics, relating current issues and events to historical knowledge in its exhibitions, lectures, and other programs offered to the public.

Recently initiated, "Crucial Conversations" is a series of lectures on current topics with historical contexts. One example is "What is the Purpose of Punishment?" a lecture by author Jen Manion, associate professor of history at Amherst College, on



Athenaeum Crane Hall

Tom Crane Photography