

## Culture Shock: Center City Philadelphian Encounters Southern Jewish Culture

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

*Wandering Dixie: Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South*, is a new book of literary nonfiction by Sue Eisenfeld, born and raised in Center City Philadelphia, now residing in Virginia. In it, the author describes her journeys through nine Southern states, learning about Southern Jews, their unique history, culture and food, and their lost communities – all through her lens as a Northern Jew. Eisenfeld’s wanderings revealed more than she expected – Jewish assimilation into the southern culture and involvement in the Civil War, slavery, and civil rights.

Eisenfeld will speak about her book at The Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 Rittenhouse Square, on Tuesday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Ethical Society, Friends in the City, and Penn’s Village. At the event, Head House Books will sell books, and the author will sign books for purchase. (Free and open to the public.)

Eisenfeld attended Greenfield Elementary School, the Philadelphia High School for Girls, and the University of Pennsylvania, before transferring to and graduating from Cornell University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources. Later she earned her Master of Arts degree in Writing at Johns Hopkins University.

She has been a freelance writer for 25 years, publishing articles and essays in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Forward*, and many magazines and literary journals, and her essays have been listed five times among the Notable Essays of the Year in *The Best American Essays*. She is on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University, where she teaches in the M.A. in Writing and M.A. in Science Writing programs. For nearly 20 years, she worked as an environmental policy/communications consultant. Her first book, *Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal*, was published in 2015.

*Wandering Dixie: Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South* will come out in April 2020, published by Mad Creek Books, an imprint of Ohio State University Press. <https://www.sueeisenfeld.com/>



Author Sue Eisenfeld

## Dining Scene

### CCRA Celebrates Members with Meet 'n' Greet at Alimentari by Di Bruno Bros.

By Leo Levinson – *The Center City Foodie*

Imagine being able to roam Di Bruno Bros.’ giant store at 1730 Chestnut, and sample whatever you wanted. Well that bountiful tasting experience pretty much describes the scene as CCRA greeted members with a generous Italian hors d’oeuvres feast held in Di Bruno Bros.’ new second-floor casual dining space, Alimentari.

Not that we sampled everything, but about 50 CCRA members were treated to Alimentari’s classic Italian marble bar, piled high with cheeses, meats, pickled vegetables, breads, olives and nuts. Cheeses included a mild Quadrello di Bufala, Di Bruno’s signature Parmigiano Reggiano and a delicious Gorgonzola Dolce. Meats included a flavorful Italian salami, Mortadella al Pistacchio, and their Larchmont Bresaola. Also served were tasty pork rilette toasts topped with pickled mustard seeds and butternut squash, and goat cheese bruschetta. Yum!

Just when you thought you couldn’t eat any more, the friendly staff brought out some of Di Bruno Bros.’ famous pizza: we enjoyed the Margherita pizza with fresh mozzarella, San Marzano tomato and basil. Fine Italian wine and signature cocktails were also available.

All in all, it was a nice evening affording us a chance to meet some more of our neighbors while enjoying another standout dining venue in the neighborhood.

P.S. Did you know? Another great CCRA member perk—your CCRA membership enables you to obtain a special discount card for 10 percent off purchases at Di Bruno Bros.



CCRA President Maggie Mund with Operations Manager Travis Oliver and Giovanna Chili enjoy a chat at CCRA’s Members’ Meet ‘n’ Greet at Alimentari at Di Bruno’s.