

Look to Literary Locals to Light Up Your Gift List

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Memoir

Rittenhouse Writers: Reflections on a Fiction Workshop by James Rahn, founder and leader of the Rittenhouse Writers' Group for over 25 years. Describing his complex feelings about coaching writers with varied talents and personalities, and becoming a reluctant parent to his two nieces, the book includes short stories by ten workshop participants. Rahn taught writing at the University of Pennsylvania for 15 years, and has published a novel, *Bloodnight*, and stories in literary magazines. <http://rittenhousewritersgroup.com/>

Doing Philadelphia

100 Things to Do in Philadelphia Before You Die, by Irene Levy Baker. Highlights must-see places in Philadelphia, many in Center City, that have surprised and delighted travel writers who visited here: where to dine and drink; unique music venues; where to walk, skate and bike; best museums and historic sites, and hip shopping areas. Baker has 25 years of experience with the restaurant and hospitality industries in Philadelphia. For almost a decade she was Communications Director at the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. She now owns Spotlight Public Relations, specializing in restaurants and hospitality. (See sidebar for information on CCRA-sponsored book-signing.)

The Perfect Square, by Nancy Heinzen. This square-shaped book is an interesting, generously illustrated, and fact-filled history of Rittenhouse Square and the surrounding neighborhood, from the 17th century to the

Millennium. Heinzen has been active with Friends of Rittenhouse Square, CCRA, Rittenhouse Flower Market and Friends of Curtis Institute.

Food

The Restaurant Critic's Wife, a novel by Elizabeth LaBan, wife of *Inquirer* restaurant critic Craig LaBan, is totally fiction according to the author. Elizabeth LaBan teaches fiction writing at the University of Pennsylvania, and has written young adult fiction, newspaper articles and *The Grandparents' Handbook*. <http://elizabethlaban.com/>

Edible Flowers, by Constance L. Kirker and Mary Newman. Describing how flowers have been used in cooking, starting with the ancient Greeks up to modern times, the book ties the culinary history of flowers into their cultural connotations. Kirker is an art historian, culinary historian, docent trainer, lecturer and researcher. She taught art history at Penn State Brandywine, lived abroad, and collects Asian artifacts. <http://globalphiladelphia.org/people/constance-kirker>

Good Morning, Beautiful Business: The Unexpected Journey of an Activist Entrepreneur and Local Economy Pioneer, by restaurateur, writer and speaker Judy Wicks. From her original restaurant idea, a sustainable humane business, Wicks comes to the eventual realization that her long-term goal was to develop a sustainable regional economy even though it meant helping her competitors. Wicks is the co-founder of

Business Alliance for Local Living Economies and founder of the White Dog Cafe.

Art, Architecture and Photography

Assemblages, Cabinet Sculptures, Digital Abstracts, and *Fifty-Two Collages in 52 Weeks*, by Burnell Yow! These four art books consist of photographs of his unique and colorful art work. A fifth book, *Photographs: Evidence of Life After Color*, shows his black and white photographs. Yow! creates works in mixed media and found objects at Raven's Wing Studio. His philosophy: "There are no rules, only materials." Yow! participates in the Philadelphia Open Studio Tour and the Naudain Street Art Collaborative. <http://ravenswingstudio.com/>

Philadelphia Architecture, by architect and preservationist John Andrew Gallery, features color photographs of Philadelphia architectural highlights. The book is now in its 4th edition. Gallery has also published *The Planning of Center City Philadelphia* and *Sacred Sites of Center City*. www.johnandrewgallery.com

Searching for Philadelphia: The Concealed City, by David S. Traub. Architect and preservationist Traub has assembled a collection of black and white photographs of hidden corners, entryways, walkways, courtyards, gardens and other lesser-known spots in Philadelphia.

All books listed are available at Amazon.

Author Talk & Book Signing Sponsored by Friends of Greenfield & CCRA

100 Things to Do in Philadelphia Before You Die

Want to land tables at Philadelphia's trendiest restaurants? Get your apathetic teen excited to spend the day with you? Entertain your mother-in-law? Entice your college roommate to come visit? Find unique gifts?

Irene Levy Baker will speak about her newly released book, *100 Things to Do in Philadelphia Before You Die*. This well-curated, easy-to-use guide includes the tried-and-true as well as little-known gems and tips.

Baker has spent more than 25 years exploring Philadelphia's nooks and crannies. She has worked with tourist bureaus in Philadelphia and South Jersey, the "mayor" of Chinatown, boutique hotels, a historic tavern, celebrity chefs, the nation's first environmentally smart hotel and one of the nation's largest malls. She has hosted scores of travel writers – the world's most jaded travelers – and noted what surprised and delighted them.

Come for a brief talk followed by Q&A. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Albert M. Greenfield School, 2200 Chestnut Street, Monday, December 12, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

For the latest news about Philadelphia, visit www.100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphia.com and follow [facebook.com/100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphiaBeforeYouDie](https://www.facebook.com/100ThingsToDoInPhiladelphiaBeforeYouDie).

Friends of Greenfield is a registered nonprofit organization that fosters connections between Albert M. Greenfield School and the surrounding community to help build a stronger public school for our neighborhood. Albert M. Greenfield School is a public K-8 school in Center City.

