

Conservation Center Restores and Preserves Vintage Works on Paper

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

A family heirloom or historical artifact made of paper, such as a book, document, photograph, drawing, print, map, poster, or musical score, needs to be stored properly in order to be preserved. But what if you find that an item hasn't been properly stored and needs to be restored and preserved? Help is close by at the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), a non-profit organization established in 1977, located at 264 S. 23rd Street. <http://www.ccaha.org/>

CCAHA specializes in the care and treatment of art and historic artifacts on paper. Highly trained conservators on staff do painstaking, technical work to restore and preserve paper items, not only for private family heirlooms, but also for many large institutional collections of art and historical artifacts.



Inpainting a mixed-media wallpaper panel from Historic New Orleans Collection. [Photos Courtesy of Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)].

In addition, CCAHA provides consulting services for assessment, preservation, storage, and safeguarding of valuable items, as well as emergency assistance and disaster planning.

Here is an example: A private collector brought in a large panoramic photo of the 1939 Harvard - Yale football game. The photo had gotten wet and was now stuck to the framing glass, a common problem with old photographs; it was also dirty and the image was fading. Senior Photograph Conservator Barbara Lemmen separated the photograph from the glass by carefully applying moisture to the back through a Teflon fabric; reduced surface dirt with appropriate materials; and washed the photograph on Tek-Wipe, a non-woven fabric saturated with deionized water. Lemmen remarks, "The treatment went smoothly, capped by a happy reunion between the object and owner."

CCAHA recently treated a wallpaper screen belonging to the Historic New Orleans Collection in New Orleans. This large screen, 7 feet by 4.25 feet, consists of mixed media – pastel, graphite, and gouache on wallpaper, layered wove paper on a wooden board, and wooden strainer. The conservation concerns it presented were standard – surface cleaning, tape removal, and inpainting (filling in the missing parts of a painting), but its size made it unique. Amy Heuer, Manager of Marketing & Engagement, proudly notes, "This project



CCAHA Senior Photograph Conservator Barbara Lemmen meets with a private client to discuss treatment options.

showcases CCAHA's capacity – it's a project on a scale that few private conservators would be able to handle."

Executive Director Laura Hartz Stanton asserts: "We take our jobs as stewards seriously, whether we're treating a family bible or a museum collection. As we treat historic objects, we become part of their history, which is both an honor and a responsibility we don't take lightly."

CCAHA offers workshops, conferences, and seminars, and provides fellowships and internships for the purpose of educating and training conservators. For the public, CCAHA has an annual open house at which they display a variety of artifacts they have treated, from rare books to fine art. The 2016 open house was held on November 3. Look for it again in Fall, 2017.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Let the Sunshine In – Solarize Center City

With the energy and inspiration of restaurateur/entrepreneur Judy Wicks to spur it forward, a new movement is taking hold in Center City West. At her instigation, a big push for solar power is gathering momentum, thanks to the support Wicks has drummed up and the example she has set by her own use of solar energy to power her home.

Thanks also to those of you (more than 60!) who joined us at Trinity Memorial Church for our October kickoff event to Solarize Center City. It was lively and a great start. We are busy preparing initial solar proposals and have our first contract in hand. Please visit

www.solarizecentercity.com for more info. Additional events and workshops included:

Teas, Cookies, and Solar, Sunday November 13 at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square.

Winter Is Coming: Solar Survival, Thursday December 1, 5:30 pm, at the Dwight D (a new Bed and Breakfast), 256 S. 16th Street.

Additional gatherings are in the works, to be held at area coffee shops and hot spots. If you'd be willing to host your neighbors, or



have suggestions for great venues in the area, please give us a call at 215-939-6699 or email info@solar-states.com. Don't forget, CCRA members get an additional five cents off per watt, which means hundreds of dollars saved on your solar!