

CCRA's "Earth Night" Party Honors Former State Representative Babette Josephs

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

CCRA awarded retired State Representative Babette Josephs its Lenora Berson Community Service Award on April 20 at the Association's annual Celebration of Center City Living, at Trinity Center for Urban Life, 22nd & Spruce Streets. Commemorating the 46th Earth Day, the event offered—aside from great food, wine and beer—an Earth Day trivia contest, and eco-friendly vendors



Multi-talented multi-taskers: CCRA's immediate past president, Jeff Braff, acts as auctioneer, while current prez, Chuck Goodwin, assists with item display.

and service providers, such as: WashCycle Laundry; Bennett Composting; Philly Foodworks; Solar States; Phila. Parks Alliance; Enterprise CarShare; and ZipCar.

Josephs represented our neighborhood, in the 182nd district, in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since January 1985, and retired at the end of 2012. A resident of our neighborhood for more than 50 years, she has never owned a car. While in office, she advocated for the rights of many who needed someone to speak out for them; among her causes were voting rights, women's rights, gay and lesbian rights, children's rights, separation of church and state and other civil-liberty issues, energy efficiency, services for seniors and low-income people, and public education.

In October 2012, Josephs was honored by the Americans for Democratic Action, Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter; the National Organization for Women; and the American Civil Liberties Union. Josephs



Honoree Babette Josephs (center) chats with attendees at the Celebration of Center City Living, including CCRA Communications Manager Travis Oliver.

sits on the Boards of the local ACLU affiliate and the Jewish Social Policy Action Network. She appears weekly as co-host on Conversations Across Time, and she is a committee person for the Eighth Ward.

Prior to her career as a state representative, Josephs was a practicing attorney specializing in women's issues. She earned her J.D. from Rutgers-Camden School of Law. In the 1970s she was president of the Women's Political Caucus and ran seminars on women in politics, teaching women about running for office, fund-raising, and managing campaigns. Josephs also worked actively on abortion rights, quality public education, and neighborhood improvement.

CCRA Celebrates – and Supports – Center City Living

CCRA especially wants to thank and acknowledge the following individuals and businesses for their support in making the 2016 version of this annual fundraiser a success.

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