

2011, and is largely responsible for planning Schuylkill Banks as we know it today.

Today, the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC), founded in 1992, works in a public-private partnership with the city, to continue Lewis's and Collins's work. Through the years, the city has acquired and reclaimed former industrial properties and brownfields along the Schuylkill. This made it possible for SRDC to transform abandoned, industrial no-man's land into a continuous trail and greenway to be enjoyed

by Philadelphians. Improved water treatment systems, watershed education programs and other cleanup measures have made the tidal Schuylkill much cleaner, and fish and other native species have returned.

The most recent addition to Schuylkill Banks is the Grays Ferry Crescent, former site of Gray's Gardens where Franklin found retreat and once the most important entrance into the city. The Crescent, a greenway stretching from 34th Street to Wharton Street, provides over 4,000 feet of additional trail in the

neighborhoods of South and Southwest Philadelphia. SRDC plans to connect the Crescent to Bartram's Garden, the country's oldest botanic garden.

Future *Center City Quarterly* articles will delve deeper into the river's past, highlighting the people, projects and events that have literally shaped the current landscape of the tidal Schuylkill.

What's the Next Chapter in the Life of Babette Josephs?

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Our neighbor Babette Josephs, who has represented the 182nd district in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since January, 1985, will retire from office at the end of 2012. In her Farewell Address on October 17, Josephs' headline was, "Don't stick a fork in me, I'm not done." She plans to focus her efforts on helping Pennsylvania farmers bring delicious and nutritious food to city dwellers.

The 182nd district encompasses our Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, and for 28 years our concerns have been Babette Josephs's concerns. She has advocated for the rights of many segments of the population who needed someone to speak out for them. Among her many 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. Most recently, while still in office, Josephs actively opposed

Pennsylvania's new voter identification law. In October, 2012, Babette Josephs was honored by the Americans for Democratic Action, Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

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. At that time there were few women in office, but many women were interested, and the seminars were well attended. Josephs also worked actively on abortion rights, quality public education and neighborhood improvement.

Josephs is appreciative of the role voters allowed her to play in Harrisburg, where she took courageous positions on cutting-edge issues. "With the current gridlock in



State Representative Babette Josephs has represented the 182nd district for 28 years.

Harrisburg, I just might be more effective as a private citizen," states Josephs.

Win a Tree and Help CCRA's Neighborhood Beautification Program

By Jeff Braff

Open 4 Business Productions, LLC, the producers of the TV show "DO NO HARM" being filmed in our neighborhood, is donating a planted tree (\$450 value) to CCRA to thank the neighborhood for its role in the filming process. For the cost of a \$15.00 raffle ticket (or \$50.00 for 4 tickets) the tree can be yours or, with the owner's permission, you can have the tree planted on a needy streetscape or perhaps in one of the neighborhood parks, once again,

with permission. Raffle proceeds will be applied towards the CCRA Neighborhood Beautification program.

Simply send a check made out to "CCRA" with the notation "Tree Raffle" for the number of raffle tickets you wish to purchase, with your contact information, to: CCRA, 1600 Market Street, Suite 2500, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Attention: Tree Raffle. The winning raffle ticket will be

drawn on Thursday, January 10, and the tree will be planted in the spring. (Note that the raffle is for the planting of a tree selected by a certified arborist from Awberry Landscape Services, Inc., and does not include the cost of cement cutting to prepare a tree pit, which is approximately \$250.00.)

And if you want to see our neighborhood on the small screen, tune into NBC (channel 10).