

## BRCA Research Center, Established at Penn Medicine by Mindy Basser Gray, Is Saving Lives

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

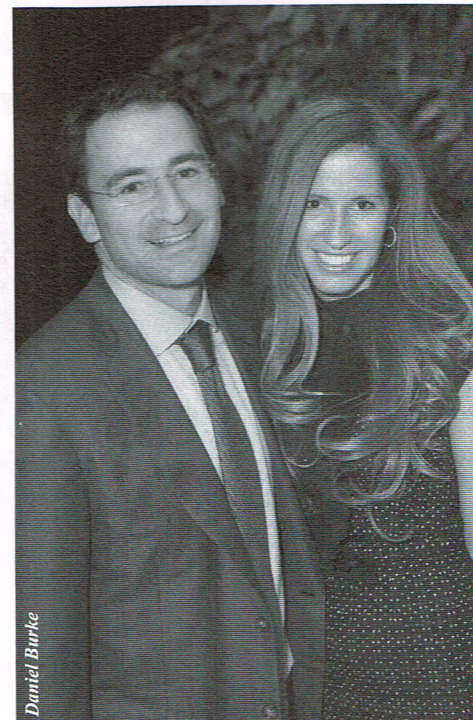
Turning her sadness into a solution, former Center City resident Mindy Basser Gray gave the gift of life to countless others when she and her husband, Jonathan Gray, founded the Basser Center for BRCA at Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center in May 2012. Named in memory of Mindy's sister, Faith Basser, who lost her life at 44 to a BRCA-related ovarian cancer, the Basser Center is dedicated to finding better options to detect, treat and ultimately prevent BRCA-related cancers, and to providing genetic counseling, testing, outreach and education to individuals and families.

The Grays have invested over \$30 million to support the mission of the Basser Center, including funding BRCA research at institutions around the world. It is the first and only comprehensive BRCA-focused center of its kind.

BRCA1 and BRCA2, genes that everyone has, are involved in controlling healthy

DNA repair. When there is a mutation in these genes, men and women have an increased risk of developing breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic cancers. Women with these mutations have up to an 80 percent lifetime risk of developing breast cancer and up to a 45 percent lifetime risk of developing ovarian cancer. These mutations can be passed on to children from either parent, and are estimated to cause five to 10 percent of breast cancers and 10 to 15 percent of ovarian cancers. Individuals of Ashkenazi (Central or Eastern European) Jewish ancestry have a 1-in-40 chance of carrying a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation. This probability is at least 10 times greater than that of the non-Jewish population.

Testing for these genetic mutations can save lives. Those who test positive for a gene mutation have options available to lower their cancer risk and to detect cancer at an earlier, more treatable stage. Options include preventive surgeries, as



Jon Gray and Mindy Basser Gray.

well as early and more frequent screenings. Founders Mindy Basser Gray and Jon Gray expressed their feelings this way: "We hope that the Basser Center will eliminate BRCA-related cancers and, in doing so, provide a road map for curing other genetic

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### To Your Health

## Jefferson Announces New Urgent Care Location in Center City

When you have an illness or injury that does not appear to be life-threatening but you can't wait until the next day to see a physician, you can avoid the Emergency Room and go to *Jefferson at Washington Square* for easy, seven-day access to Jefferson physicians, board-certified in emergency medicine.

### Jefferson at Washington Square

700 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Phone: 215-503-7300

Fax: 215-503-5666

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., 7 days a week

Conveniently located near public transportation. Discounted parking available at the Curtis Center garage, 625 Sansom Street.

### Common Conditions Treated

Jefferson Urgent Care centers are equipped to treat a wide range of conditions, including:

- Cold, cough & flu symptoms
- Fever
- Stomach pains
- Sinus infections
- Earaches
- Seasonal allergies
- Migraines
- Muscle aches & pains
- Partial tears of tendons & ligaments
- Sprains & fractures
- Stitches
- Minor lacerations
- Minor burns
- Minor eye injuries
- Skin rashes
- Abscesses

### Additional Services

- **Care Coordination** – work with your primary care provider on your condition or illness
- **Electrocardiograms (EKGs)** – test to check your heart for possible conditions

- **Intravenous Fluids** – IV treatments for dehydration and other possible conditions
  - **Nebulizer Therapy** – breathing treatment for asthma, croup and other respiratory conditions
  - **On-site X-rays** – visual detail of chest, wrist, ankle and more, reviewed by board-certified radiologists
  - **On-site Lab** – tests provided for urine, strep throat, pregnancy, blood sugar levels and more
  - **Physicals** – examinations for general health, sports and school
  - **Vaccinations** – protection against the flu, tetanus, hepatitis B and more
- For more information, go to [Hospitals.Jefferson.edu/news/2015/05/urgent-care-center/](http://Hospitals.Jefferson.edu/news/2015/05/urgent-care-center/)

—Bonnie Eisenfeld

diseases. As Penn alumni, we are fortunate that our alma mater has the world-class medical facilities and gifted researchers essential for this mission.”

Mindy and Jon Gray both graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992. A senior executive at Blackstone, Jonathan Gray holds dual degrees from Penn’s Wharton School of Business and the

College of Arts and Sciences. The Grays now reside in Manhattan with their four daughters. Mindy Gray grew up in Center City Philadelphia and attended the Albert M. Greenfield School.

The *Basser Jean Bash*, the Basser Center’s inaugural New York City benefit, was held November 10 at Cipriani Wall Street. Mindy Basser Gray reports, “We BASHED all expectations, raising \$8

million and filling the room with over 1100 guests.”

*For more information about genetic risk assessment and management, please contact Pamela Kline, Outreach Manager at the Basser Center for BRCA, at 215-662-2748. The Basser Center is located at the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, 3400 Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19104. www.basser.org*

## CCStreetwise

# You Never Forget Your First LOVE [Park]

By Bill West

I am a great fan of the LOVE Park redesign. Final plans were presented in a public meeting at the Free Library on Monday, October 26. I do have one improvement opportunity. It relates to the park’s footprint.

At the meeting, Deputy Parks Commissioner Mark Focht related that, in addition to the removal of the slip lane at the southwest corner of the park, the southern sidewalk has been extended approximately eight feet to the south. This is a wonderful thing.

On the west side of the park, however, the treatment of the street remains as it currently is, with a total of five traffic lanes jostling northward. Removing one lane would not increase congestion, but it would calm traffic, particularly at the northwest corner of the park, where 16th Street intersects with Arch and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. This is probably the park’s gnarliest street corner, which is saying a lot.

It’s worth remembering that, up to Chestnut Street, 16th has only two traffic lanes. It then bulges out over the next two blocks, eventually ballooning to five lanes as it reaches LOVE Park. Then, in the next block, up by the Café Cret, it’s back to three lanes.

On 16th Street adjacent to the park, the rightmost lane of the five is a turn-only lane that feeds the entrance to the LOVE Park garage, on the north side of the park. Because of the configuration of Arch Street, the only other thing you can do if you turn right at that corner is go back



Looking north toward the corner of 16th and Arch, the right-turn-only lane bordering LOVE Park is empty of traffic, while the others are heavily traveled.

down 15th Street. Why would someone going up 16th Street want to go back down 15th Street? Maybe you left your cell phone at home.

Finally, removing a traffic lane would allow the park to expand. LOVE Park is not a large place, and the extra space would be useful.

On the evening of Thursday, October 29, I went out and observed the right-turn-only lane on 16th Street, where it intersects with Arch. I watched for 15 minutes, from 5:08 to 5:23 p.m.

Seven cars and one SugarHouse Casino bus turned right during those 15 minutes. Multiplying by four gives a rate of 32 vehicles per hour, during the evening rush. Much of the time I watched, the lane was completely empty.

There are times—the morning rush, for instance—when we could expect more traffic in this lane. But of course there would be less traffic in the other lanes. Sixteenth Street is basically a get-outta-town street.

We really can live without that right-turn-only lane. Time to show LOVE Park some love.