

# Center City Artist Brings Art to Life

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Bill Silver likes “to live in art.” Oil paintings, murals, mosaics and painted furniture, all created in his impressionistic style, fill his row home studio on the 1500 block of Lombard Street. Contributing to this artistic environment is an Italian garden Silver created composed of plantings, mixed media and statues. Silver’s philosophy is “... art rather than being precious, needs to surround us in everything we do — in our houses, on our tables, in our conversations. It needs to be an approach to living.”

Silver was inspired to become an artist when he spent a couple of summer vacations in Florence in the late 90s and started sketching what he saw. “I came to painting later in life through my travels, considering how to look at subjects and objects I’ve seen before. Drawing and painting then became the way to spend glorious hours noticing facets beyond the surface.” He learned oil painting at an English art school that emphasized precision; another summer he painted from models at an Italian art school where he discovered he preferred a more spontaneous style. Back in Center City, he painted outdoors in Rittenhouse Square, where he met other Center City artists and at his home studio. He particularly likes to do murals because he enjoys “painting big.”

A university instructor and psychotherapist for over 25 years, Silver specializes in family and couples therapy at his practice in Centerville, PA. He holds a doctorate in social work from the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Social Work and has been teaching an introductory course at Penn’s School of Social Policy and Practice for over 25 years. At Drexel University, he teaches a doctoral level course on global families and comparative family theories



Artist Bill Silver enjoys the Italian garden he created in his Lombard Street home studio.

that is based on anthropology, evolutionary psychology and neuropsychology. Silver teaches therapists how to deal with different cultural styles of family life. According to Silver, we have a wide diversity of family types in this country, and the “typical” nuclear family now represents only a small portion of households.

Silver has shown his artwork on the Philadelphia Open Studio Tour, October

2012, at the Penn Faculty Club, at Ten Stone Restaurant and Bar at 21<sup>st</sup> and South streets and in a gallery in Florence. He sells his artwork by appointment at his home studio and will create customized murals or painted furniture for homes, restaurants or other businesses upon request. You can see his artwork on his website: <https://sites.google.com/site/billsilversurroundedbyart/>. He can be reached at [billsilver1537@gmail.com](mailto:billsilver1537@gmail.com).

## CCRA Elects New Board Members

The following individuals, currently not on the CCRA board, were elected as directors and/or officers.

**Elena A. Cappella (3-year term)** Cappella has enjoyed life in Center City since moving here with her husband in 1990 from Madison, Wisconsin. Her professional and volunteer activities have centered

on law reform, women’s and prisoners’ rights, judicial conduct and ethics and administration of a national nonprofit organization. Now retired, Cappella frequents the Schuylkill River trail and small-dog park with her sweet Sheltie, Nessie, whom she’s currently training to become certified as a “comfort dog.”

**Daniel J. Dougherty (Assistant Treasurer)** Dougherty has lived and worked in Center City since the early 80s. He is a director in the finance area at Independence Blue Cross. Over the years, he has lived in Queen Village and Washington Square West and now lives in the Rittenhouse area. He is interested in

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