

## Bala Golf Club Suits City Golfers to a Tee

Open seven days a week, Bala Golf Club is the closest private golf club to Center City Philadelphia. A challenging course, it spreads over a secluded rolling countryside accentuated by towering pines, meandering creeks and stunning wildlife. This year marks their 115th anniversary.

Offering easy access and the area's best pace of play, Bala allows duffers to fit golf into their busy lives in an idyllic setting just minutes from the bustling city beyond their gates. Just a 12-minute drive from Center City to the 1st Tee, Bala Golf Club is among the area's most convenient private golf experiences.

Bala Golf Club offers a wide range of membership opportunities. Their classic William S. Flynn-designed golf course, host of the 1952 U.S. Women's Open, provides a test of golf that is playable for

the high handicapper while also providing a challenge for the accomplished player.

Its diverse membership welcomes visitors to experience Bala Golf Club's exciting social calendar and dining options, which feature a casual Grill Room and Patio open daily for lunch, dinner and drinks, as well as fine dining in the Member Dining Room Wednesday-Saturday evenings. Bala is also home to a lively, casual and competitive Bridge community.

With its majestic setting, delicious cuisine, and unmatched service, Bala Golf Club also functions as one of Philadelphia's premier event venues. Whether hosting an intimate affair for 30 or an elegant event for 200, clients will find that Bala Golf Club exceeds every expectation. Their spacious and newly renovated event facility is ideal



One of the beautiful vistas at Bala Golf Club.

for corporate meetings, galas, mitzvah celebrations, weddings, anniversaries, and other social events.

Visit their website at [www.balagolfclub.com](http://www.balagolfclub.com) or contact Membership Director Mike Viscusi for more information at [membership@balagolfclub.com](mailto:membership@balagolfclub.com) or by calling 215-220-0746.

**As an exclusive bonus, Bala Golf Club will waive the \$175 application fee for any CCRA member who signs up for membership at Bala Golf Club in 2016.**

## Friends of Rittenhouse Square Celebrate and Beautify Our Neighborhood Garden Gem for All

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Over the years, Friends of Rittenhouse Square, a membership-based organization, has raised millions of dollars to maintain and improve Rittenhouse Square. In 1984 the organization held the first Ball on The Square to raise funds for park improvements. Now an annual Philadelphia tradition, the Ball is a black-tie gala held under a network of tents in the center of Rittenhouse Square on the third Thursday of June.

As one of the most prestigious social events in the city, the Ball on The Square attracts residents of the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood and many notable Philadelphians, including business leaders, philanthropists and politicians. Close to 500 people attend, and tickets start at \$550 per person. Invitations are sent in mid-April and

the event typically sells out before June 1. Thanks to sponsors and patrons, the Ball brings in enough money each year to fund the Friends' special improvement projects.

This year Friends of Rittenhouse Square has been funding a \$250,000 project to restore and update the three main formal gardens. The project scope includes plant removal, soil revitalization, fence restoration, irrigation upgrades and expansion, and a newly designed plant landscape.

While the Ball on the Square is Friends of Rittenhouse Square's largest fundraiser, the organization also hosts two other June events: the Little Friends of Rittenhouse Square Festival and the Young Friends Ball on The Square. Additionally, the organization raises funds through membership dues,

capital campaigns, grants, endowments, private donations and sponsorships.

Funds are used to beautify Rittenhouse Square through landscaping, tree care, grass seeding, graffiti removal, bench repair, supplemental seasonal maintenance staff, sidewalk sweeping, a dedicated park ranger, security, excess seasonal trash removal, holiday lights, doggie bags, sidewalk cleaning and more. While Rittenhouse Square is the property of the City of Philadelphia and is regulated by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, the Friends provide a substantial amount of annual care to keep it looking beautiful.

More information about Friends of Rittenhouse Square is available at <http://friendsofrittenhouse.org/>

**F**riends of Rittenhouse Square host the 2016 Ball on the Square on Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m. The Ball includes cocktails, dinner, and dancing under a tent in the center of the Square. Proceeds from this year's Ball, chaired by Robyn Lewison and Faith Weiss, support renovations of the frog, goat, and lion's flower beds. Ticket prices start at \$550 per individual or \$1,100 per couple. Patrons tickets are \$1,000 per individual and \$2,000 per couple. Young Friends of Rittenhouse Square (age 35 and under) start their evening at the Stotesbury Mansion, 1923 Walnut Street, at 8 p.m. Event sponsors and patrons are invited to a pre-ball champagne reception hosted by The Rittenhouse at 6 p.m. -B.E.