

Greenfield Organizations Sponsor Timely Panel on Education and Racial Justice

By Ben Waxman

The October issue of *Philadelphia Magazine*, which was billed as a guide for parents to getting a great education for their children in Philadelphia, has drawn the ire of teachers, parents and education activists for a cover photo that many said did not accurately represent the School District Of Philadelphia. Two groups affiliated with the Albert M. Greenfield School at 22nd and Chestnut Streets saw the controversy as an opportunity to host a panel discussion on education and racial justice.

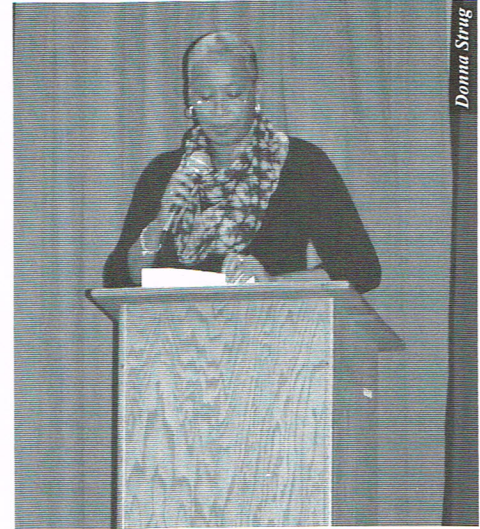
For the cover in question, *Philadelphia Magazine* used a photo of seven Greenfield children, none of whom were African-

American. This was seen by many as being problematic, because over 30 percent of Greenfield's student body are black, as are more than half the School District of Philadelphia's overall student population. Many critics said that *Philadelphia Magazine* should have used a more accurate photograph to represent the school's diversity.

The two organizations affiliated with the school, Friends of Greenfield and the Greenfield Home and School Association, decided to sponsor a panel discussion in response to the controversy, in the hope of fostering a conversation about education and racial justice. A roundtable that included education activists, journalists and racial justice advocates discussed the implications of the cover, and how to build a more socially just education system for all students.

The event, which was attended by more than 80 people, provided an outlet for parents, former Greenfield students, and concerned community members to discuss issues related to race and education. It also provided a space for dialogue on how to make media coverage of education more racially inclusive.

The panelists included Tayyib Smith of *two.one.five magazine*, Cherri Gregg of



Donna Strug

Journalist Bobbi Booker of the Philadelphia Tribune moderated the panel.

KYW 1060am Radio and the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, Paul Socolar of the *Philadelphia Public School Notebook*, student activist Wei Chen, and public school teacher Josh Block. The panel was moderated by Bobbi Booker of the *Philadelphia Tribune*.

CCRA board member Ben Waxman is a founding board member of Friends of Greenfield. He can be contacted at benwaxman@gmail.com.



Panelists, from left, are: Josh Block, SLA, Penn Grad. School of Ed.; Wei Chen, Asian Americans United; Cherri Gregg, KYW and Association of Black Journalists; Tayyib Smith, Little Giant Creative; Paul Socolar, Public School Notebook.

CCCulture

Roosevelt's New Book, *Allegiance: A Novel*, Presented at Free Library's PCI Branch

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Kermit Roosevelt, a Center City resident and professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania, spoke about his new book, *Allegiance: A Novel*, at the Free Library of Philadelphia City Institute branch on Rittenhouse Square, November 4. The theme is the imprisonment of thousands of Japanese-American citizens during World War II.

At the presentation, audience members asked questions related to the U.S.

Constitution. My question was, "When the U.S. government acts unconstitutionally, are there ever any consequences to the people who acted?" Roosevelt's answer: "Generally, no."

He spoke about the 14th Amendment, adopted after the Civil War, which says that all those born in the U.S. are citizens regardless of the status of their parents. The purpose of the amendment, he said,

was to assure that no class of people would remain outsiders for multiple generations. Roosevelt focuses on constitutional law and conflict of laws, and has written several other books. He holds a JD from Yale University and a BA from Harvard University. He is a member of the Roosevelt family, which gave us two U.S. presidents.