

## **THINGS TO DO IN THE PHILADELPHIA REGION (compiled by Frank Fish, 2010)**

This is a list of general suggestions... you'll need to google addresses or other information on your own.

You can also check the "About Philly" link to the ASM Meeting Website

### **THINGS TO DO in Philadelphia**

\*University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, 34th and Spruce (Egyptian, Babylonian, Chinese collections; Summer concerts)

\*Philadelphia Zoo, 34th Girard, 243 1100

The Campus of the University of Pennsylvania, Locust Walk, College Green

Live Theater (Annenberg Center at Penn, Philadelphia Drama Guild, Center City Theaters, (although not within 10 minutes of the School, there are lots of regional little theaters - the Chestnut Hill Local is a good source for these and is available in the library. Consider Stagecrafters, Cheltenham, and Wyncote local theaters.)

Dance Programs at Annenberg Center at Penn

Curtis Organ at Irvine Auditorium, University of Pennsylvania, 34th and Spruce (One of the largest organs in the world, weekly concerts at noon)

St. Francis de Sales organ and chorale, 47th and Springfield Sts, in West Phila. (10 am Sunday mornings. Said to be the finest French organ on the east coast. Site of the 1979 Eugene Ormandy/Philadelphia Orchestra, Grammy-winning recording of Saint-Saens Organ Symphony. After listening to the choir, consider joining. The choir has a tradition of veterinary student participation)

University of Pennsylvania Rare Book Collection, Van Pelt Library

Bartram Gardens (in southwest Phila, take the 36 trolley, 54th and Lindberg Aves.)

Institute of Contemporary Arts, University of Pennsylvania, 34th and Walnut Sts.

"The Agnew Clinic" Painting by Eakins in the Old Medical School Rotunda, University of Pennsylvania

The Furness Library (designed by Frank Furness [pronounced furnace], on the Penn College Green)

Koch's Deli, 43rd and Locust

Fine Arts and University Libraries

The Woodland Estate and Cemetery (A fine colonial estate - the Hamilton Mansion- and a superb Victorian cemetery. WC Fields is not buried there, but artists Thomas Eakins and

Rembrant Peale, scientist Ferdinand V. Hayden, and many other medical and military notables. 40th and Woodland Ave.)

Basketball at the Palestra, 34th off Spruce

### **THINGS TO DO DOWNTOWN (CENTER CITY PHILADELPHIA)**

\*Philadelphia Museum of Art, Benjamin Franklin Parkway (Renaissance, European masters, Americana, etc). Free Sunday from 10 am to 1 pm,

\*Rodin Museum, Benjamin Franklin Parkway (the largest collection of original Rodin sculpture outside of Paris)

\*Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and the Parkway

Please Touch Museum (for kids)

\*Barnes Foundation, Upper Merion, Pa (One of the finest Impressionist collections in the world, i.e. more than 100 Renior)

\*Franklin Institute, 20th and Parkway (science and technology, try the laser show at the Fels planetarium - it's deafening, but a truly psychedelic experience)

\*Historical Philadelphia - National Historic Park

Walk around the entire area 5th to 2nd streets (not just the Liberty Bell), Independence Hall, First Bank of the U.S., Betsy Ross House (239 Arch, 627 5343), Ben Franklin Print Shop, Society Hill, Elfreth's Alley (the oldest continually inhabited residential block in the U.S.), Franklin Court Museum (the best bet in the historic district, between 3rd and 4th on Market), Edgar Allen Poe's house (where he wrote The Raven, 532 N. 7th), Atwater Kent Museum (uncrowded), Maritime Museum (321 Chestnut)

Fairman Rodgers Collection at Penn Library, rare books. Look him up on the web.

Curtis Building, 6th and Walnut (see the 30 foot Max Parish mural executed in Tiffany glass mosaic; also marble fountain in the atrium)

Any Event at the Walnut Street Theater (The oldest continuously running theater in the U.S.)

\*Newmarket/South Street (From 12<sup>th</sup> Street east to the Delaware River, particularly art galleries and bookstores; afternoon for the sedate, evenings for the adventuresome; eclectic)

Sports

The Phillies - Baseball

Circle Boat Tour on the Delaware River (from Penn's Landing)

Victor's Cafe, 1303 Dickinson - a great place for food and romance, Italian food for opera lovers.

Rosenbach Museum, Phila

Visit Laurel Hill Cemetery (A great Victorian cemetery). Lots of interesting folks buried here.

Eat in Chinatown, particularly at the Chinese Cultural Center during the Chinese New Year

Sunday Brunch at the Four Seasons (expensive)

Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul

\*The Philadelphia Orchestra (At the Kimmel Center on Broad Street)

Concerts at the Curtis Institute (superb, free)

\*Reading Terminal Market (best Thursday or Friday, also noon on Saturday, fresh produce and ethnic food; best of Philly Magazine awards for pretzels (Fisher's), ice cream (Bassett's), produce (Ro & Sons).

The Italian Market, 9th and Christian Streets, Phila. (Friday and Saturday best, closed Sunday and Monday; stop in at DiBruno Brothers cheese shop)

The Opera Company of Philadelphia (a usual season has 3 productions; Big productions, usually in the original language with an international cast, at the Academy of Music)

The Pennsylvania Opera Theater (a usual season has 3 productions, smaller productions, in English, usually with American singers)

The Academy of Vocal Arts Opera productions (a usual season has 3 productions; all student singers of very good quality, a chamber opera company)

Famous Deli, 4th and Bainbridge

\*Fairmount Park (miles of trails for walking, running, horseback riding, and biking; a large expanse of land that provides a "safety valve". It is remarkably bucolic and safe for a city park) Visit Memorial Hall in the Park. Bike/walk/or run from the top of Chestnut Hill in NW Philly to the Art Museum (almost 20 miles) and only cross one street.

The Top of City Hall Tower on a Clear Day

The Trolley Ride Through the City and Fairmount Park (very inclusive - gives a touch of many things one might want to go back and spend hours doing)

Hear Jazz at a Club - see the Philadelphia Inquirer weekend section on Friday for details

Mann Music Center (free with newspaper coupon, summer concerts on the grass)

Boat House Row/Spring Regatta on the Schuylkill River

Fairmount Park Japanese House and Gardens (they do an authentic tea ceremony)

Feed pigeons and itinerant Curtis music students on Rittenhouse Square

Visit Penn's Landing (and wonder why so little is happening). Summer Concerts on the Riverfront - free

Attend a Philadelphia Orchestra Open Rehearsal

Admire the Architecture of the Bourse, 5th and Market (Shop too, eat from a selection of vendors, and hear brass players at Christmas)

Wilma Theater (somewhat experimental professional theater 2030 Sansom)

\*Mütter Museum of the Philadelphia College of Physicians and Surgeons - a great collection of medical oddities

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (Frank Furness design), Broad and Cherry

House Tours of Center City, Old City, and Spring Garden Sections of the City

Drive the West River in the evening and admire the beautifully lit exteriors of the boat houses

Painted Bride Art Gallery, 320 Vine Street

Choose a pleasant, warm day and tour 4-5 center city hotels; have a drink at each bar; wander around the historic district and/or galleries north and east of Rittenhouse Square and end up at either. Take a cab home.

## **THINGS TO DO IN NORTHWEST PHILADELPHIA AND BEYOND**

\*Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Chestnut Hill, Phila (spectacular landscaping, walking trails)

\*Chestnut Hill (Saturday afternoon is pleasant; great restaurants and shopping; Certified National Historic District; call 248-8800 for information)

\*The Wissahickon Creek part of Fairmount Park; the Valley Green Inn for brunch and a walk in the park

Woodmere Art Gallery, 9201 Germantown Ave.

Live Theater (Lots of regional little theaters - the Chestnut Hill Local is a good source for these)

Attend a Carillon Concert at St. Thomas in Whitemarsh

Historic Germantown House Tour. See Dreshler-Morris (the "White House" where president Washington lived when he fled Philadelphia to escape an epidemic 200 years ago); other houses

including Cliveden (see the battle of Germantown reenactment), Upsala, Loudoun, and the Maxwell mansion

LaSalle University Art Museum

A Walk on Main Street in Manayunk

### **THINGS TO DO WEST OF PHILADELPHIA**

Valley Forge (for a picnic, especially when the dogwoods are in bloom, or in winter to appreciate the struggle, sled in the winter, fly kites in the spring)

Franklin Mint and Museum, Media Pa

Wharton Eshrich House (Paoli, all built by the artist)

Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa

Tyler Arboretum, Media, Pa (with 20 miles of woodland trails)

\*Swiss Pines in Carlestone (near Phenoxville and Chester Springs; a beautiful, well-kept Japanese garden; tranquil and lovely)

Ridley Creek State Park, Media Pa

Red Maples Nurseries in the Media area (for those who like maples and are interested in discussions and/or listening to information about the trees)

\*Longwood Gardens (Seasonal - 4 different outdoor garden exhibitions each year; superb throughout the year, Rt 1 Kennett Square)

\*Brandywine River Museum (Wyeth family collection. Wonderful Christmas exhibition; N.C. Wyeth and H. Pyle "heroic" illustrations; a detailed trip of the Brandywine Valley was provided and is available)

Brandywine Battlefield

Fresh mushrooms from Phillips in Kennett Square, Rt 1

Area Horse (Devon, Radnor) Shows

Chadd's Ford Inn

### **THINGS TO DO NORTH OF PHILADELPHIA**

\*Mercer (Fonthill) Museum and the Moravian Tile Factory, Doylestown, Pa (Henry Mercer was an eccentric collector, world traveler, and tile maker; 3 concrete "unreal" structures embellished with tiles, full of tools, and reflecting an eccentric, turn-of-the-century man)

A Drive Along River Road in New Hope (in May when the dogwoods are in bloom, take route 32 north)

Bucks County

Bryn Athyn, Pa (Swedenborgian Cathedral, Glencairn museum and Pitcairn Estate, a replica of a medieval cathedral with hand-crafted stone and glass, mosaics, and tapestries, in rolling countryside north of the city)

Franklin Mills Mall (the largest mall in the country, route I 95 north, exit at Woodhaven)

Tubing on the Delaware River

Doylestown Pa (Charming old town in gorgeous farm country with fewer tourists than New Hope and Lancaster County)

Canoe the Delaware River

The Willow Grove Mall to shop at Bloomingdales

Beth Shalom Synagogue (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, in Elkins Park)

### **THINGS TO DO IN NEW JERSEY**

Mullica Hill, New Jersey. (A town consisting almost solely of antique shops, on route 322, across the Commodore Barry Bridge)

The Jersey Shore (fall and spring is best, not summer)

Washington Crossing Park (New Jersey side)

Brigantine Wildlife Refuge (October through April)

Campbell Soup Tureen Museum, Camden (may be closed now that the factory is)

\*Cape May, New Jersey (Victorian houses, on the National Historic Register, stay at a bed and breakfast in late fall or early spring) Take the Cape May to Lewes Delaware Ferry (about 1 hour, cars and people, gives you an alternate way back home)

\*Canoe trips in the Pine Barrens. (Wildlife and history; Information Batsto, New Jersey; can also camp and visit historic sites; canoe the Wading River)

Long Beach Island Wildlife Preserve, Labor day to Memorial day

Atlantic City Gambling Casino (Take the casino bus and gambol instead of gamble, it's cheaper; For some high-class sleaze)

### **THINGS TO DO IN DELAWARE AND MARYLAND**

\*Winterthur Museum of American Design, Greenville, Delaware (Marvelous American furniture collection; also a spectacular garden, best on Mother's Day when the rhododendron and azaleas are in bloom)

\*Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Delaware (Museum of the engineering arts and history of the gunpowder industry [DuPont] along the Brandywine Creek)

\*Inner Harbor and National Aquarium, Baltimore, Maryland

Delaware Museum of Natural History (Route 52, Wilmington Delaware, great sea shell collection)

Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge, Smyrna, Delaware

Delaware Beaches

Sail on the Chesapeake Bay

Sunday Brunch in the Green Room of the Hotel DuPont, Wilmington Delaware (\$20 fixed price without drinks.- great room, great food)

Annapolis Boat Shows (power and sail, in October)

New Castle, Delaware (Colonial homes and a wonderful park along the river for picnics and sun)

Chestertown, Maryland (Colonial homes)

Saint Michael's Maritime Museum (Maryland)

The list above is only representative of the many things to do and places to see in Philadelphia. You will find more details and additional suggestions in guide books which are available in local bookstores:

Zagat Philadelphia Restaurant Survey

Philadelphia Magazine's Guide: Enjoy Philadelphia

Philadelphia Architecture: A Guide to the City

Fodor's Philadelphia

A Guide's Guide to Philadelphia

Country Walks Near Philadelphia

A Marmac Guide to Philadelphia

Frommer's Guide to Philadelphia

Walking Tours of Historic Philadelphia

The Sculpture of Philadelphia