



# Calvary Center News

## "What's happening at the community hub?"

Spring  
Newsletter

2006

### Highlights

-  **Hey ole' timer! The Calvary building is 100 years old.**
-  **Party "To the Tune of Tiffany"**
-  **A face-lift for a new century**
-  **Beauty on the Block**
-  **Curio goes to school**
-  **Crossroads = 4 years of success**

### Still Standing!

Ten years ago, no one knew whether the dilapidated Calvary building would live to see its **100<sup>th</sup>** birthday, but here it is 2006, and not only is Calvary still standing but it is bursting at the seams with life and activity, as a sacred place for five congregations, as a community center for the whole community, and as a venue for culture and the arts, with a concert series and theater company in residence!

There have been many repairs to the building over the past decade, including a new roof, repair and replacements in the heating system, new gables rebuilt over the Tiffany windows, and improvements to many of the interior spaces and to the look of the exterior.

Thank you all for your continued support! It is because of all of our efforts that CCCC continues to be West Philadelphia's community hub.

-Dr. Richard Kirk  
President, CCCC



Calvary Center for Culture and Community

### Save the Date!

#### September 16th Celebration

The biggest neighborhood party ever held at Calvary is in the works! "*To the Tune of Tiffany*" is our upcoming gala event celebrating the amazing progress that has been made over the past five years and the 100th birthday of the opening of the Calvary church building!

And what a celebration it will be! The incomparable Cecelia Chaisson, winner of the International Pavarotti competition (who, incidentally, lives just two blocks from Calvary) will bring celestial music. Our own resident Curio Theatre will present theatrical entertainment par excellence, there will be a wine and cheese reception (the wine at the neighboring houses, as Calvary will remain alcohol free!), a full gourmet dinner, a special silent auction, and appropriate presentations!

It will be a night to remember and your contributions will continue to support CCCC and its programs. Tickets will soon be on sale for \$40.

Mark your calendars! You **WILL** be getting more information and opportunities to purchase tickets soon!



## Construction for the Next Century

On May Day the big lifts arrived on site. Calvary’s exterior masonry is getting a major mortar overhaul. There are over two hundred VISIBLE cracks in the masonry and many more that are just hairline now, but are still problematic. Finally they are getting serious attention and once done, will put Calvary’s exterior in shape for its second century of beauty and service!

So stop and take a look when passing by to see for yourself the amazing transitions going on! This work is very expensive, but very necessary. And after that is complete, its on to finally fixing up the last space at Calvary, and its best space – the sanctuary itself, which will be restored and reworked for use as home base for the theater, but also wonderful for concerts, worship and other events!

This work was made possible with grants from Keystone/ Partners for Sacred Places, Claniel Foundation, and an anonymous donation.

## Summer Beauty

With the help of Cedar Park Neighbors and OUR 48th Street neighbors, the 48th Street churchyard will be undergoing a wonderful transformation over the summer.

A beautiful weeping cherry now gracefully frames the massive Tiffany window, and one of the two missing street trees has been replaced.

Immediately after the masonry work is completed on the 48th Street side:

- the gardens will be formed,
- beautiful plantings placed in the gardens,
- the brick sidewalks will be repaired,
- an attractive wooden surround will appear by the driveway on the side to hold the garbage cans,
- and the gardens will be edged and curved.

The old bulletin board was given a good rework, and now matches the colors of the other signage at Calvary, as do the three Victorian entrance doors.

A new directory sign matching the style of the other signage will replace the old Calvary church sign on the tower and will be lit at night, proudly announcing the names of all the groups and congregations in the building.

And finally, we are exploring ways to light the tower windows along with the Tiffany windows, at night. We hope that all of this work will be completed by September!

## Curio goes to the Lea School

We all know that Curio Theatre is now performing the last play of its first successful season at Calvary Center this month, with their wonderful production of “The Stag King”, an Italian story told in the style of comedia del arte, and they’re revving up the theatre school for summer camp, barely having completed their spring classes!

But Curio Theatre folks have been busy behind the scenes, too! Few people know that Curio has been working at

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# "What's happening at the community hub?"



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the Lea School, now for the second year, with a Shakespeare Festival there. This is very exciting work, and Calvary Center has been working hard on this as well because it is such a plus for our neighborhood to have work like this going on.

Calvary Center made connections through the University of Pennsylvania to launch the program and now are looking forward to receiving a grant which will actually serve to build and expand the program. Stay tuned for more big news soon!

## Congratulations Crossroads! Four years of Success!

With the May Fair, The Crossroads Music Series completes its fourth successful season at Calvary! This year saw some of the biggest crowds ever, especially with a perennial Philadelphia favorite, the Anna Cruces Women's Choir, teamed up with a

performance of Yiddish songs. But the most amazing concert ever featured Tuvan throat music performed by masters of the art.

Dan Flaumenhaft, who oversees the concerts, is dedicated to bringing most unusual music from around the globe, and booking performers from as far flung areas as Mali and Tuva does have its risks, and two cancellations resulted. But we still haven't seen any gray hairs on Daniel, and the successes have been amazing indeed.

Attendees have DANCED Lakota hoop dances, heard music played on flutes built from Andean condor feathers, watched Lebanese belly dancing to authentic middle eastern instruments played live, and much, much more!

Can't wait to see what comes up next year!

### Ways to Support CCCC



Join CCCC and become a part of our community.



Donate funds or gifts-in-kind, or explore our naming opportunities.



Volunteer with CCCC and our partners, and put your skills and interests to work for a better West Philadelphia.



Give CCCC cards to friends and loved ones. All proceeds support our efforts.



**Calvary Center for Culture and Community**

Visit us on the Web at [www.Calvary-Center.org](http://www.Calvary-Center.org).  
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215-724-1702