



**January  
2021**

**OLCAA of East Oak Lane**

# **The East Oak Lane Paper**

## **May I Have a Word?**

By: Smiley Ferebee

Pivot, redirect, challenging, and unprecedented times are a few words we have been hearing since the beginning of 2020. These are words and phrasings I avoid using. Most of us hear those words and know a change is coming with perhaps some level of uncomfortability, vulnerability and the unknown. The words I would like to talk about are **RESPECT, COURAGE and DIGNITY.**

East Oak Laners proceed with great respect when pulling together our resources and donating to people and causes. It takes

courage to mobilize, rally, stand, and stay the course for what is right for our community. Our dignity remains intact with victory or decline always!



served as an OLCAA board member, secretary, president and counselor for many, many years. Quite a few neighbors have spoken to me about him and the one word that has been repeated is "Champion." "He championed the courtroom," one said to me. Another told me with intensity, "He was a champion to his community!" Let us appreciate the caring and giving community we are truly privileged to reside in.

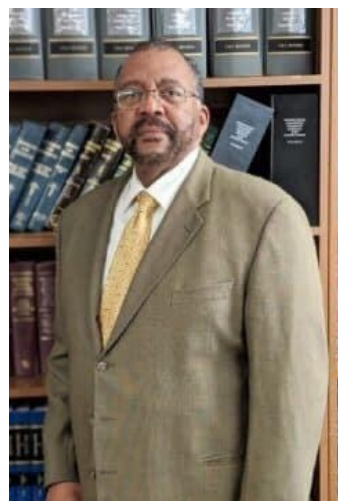
This "People" issue is to remember and thank the deeds of others.

## **Thurgood M. Matthews, Esquire**

August 1, 1955—November 20, 2020

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc. mourns the passing of Mr. **Thurgood M. Matthews, Esq.** As an active member of the Barristers', Thurgood molded many of our members over the years.

Since 1981, Thurgood dedicated his professional life to serving the indigent citizens of Philadelphia. Throughout his tenure at the Defenders Association of Philadelphia, Thurgood distinguished himself as a gifted trial attorney while handling the cases



that others would not or could not try themselves. In addition to his work as a trial attorney, Thurgood was a mentor to decades of defense attorneys. For his continuous service to

the Philadelphia legal community and its stakeholders, Thurgood received the Barristers' Cecil B. Moore Award.

Thurgood's passing is a loss to the entire legal community. As Barristers', we grieve the loss of a legal giant in our City, and express our sincere condolences to our member Keisha Matthews, Esq., and the entire Matthews family.

Sincerely,  
Dominique B. E. Ward  
2020-2021 President of the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc.

# Tribute to “The Counselor”

By: Eric Brice

On November 20, 2020, our East Oak Lane community and the city of Philadelphia suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of one of its most honored and respected citizens, **Thurgood Matthews, Esq.**

Thurgood – or “The Counselor,” as I fondly referred to him – was an especially important pillar of our East Oak Lane neighborhood. There are many who knew him longer than I who can attest to that. His years of service to his community through the Oak Lane Community Action Association (OLCAA) is indeed commendable. To be even

clearer, I saw him as the conscience of OLCAA. When there was a weighty issue being debated by the OLCAA Board, we would all refer to Thurgood for his thoughtful and sometimes brutally honest opinion and advice - hence the name, “Counselor.” As I got to know him better, my admiration and respect for him grew over time. I learned of his passion for fighting injustice. His compassionate wisdom and guidance helped make OLCAA what it is today. His impression on the organization and the community will be forever remembered, and we are better

because of it.

It saddens me to have to come to terms with the realization that Thurgood will no longer be commanding the grill at our Oak Lane Day Festival, to which he was a fixture. There is one thing that I can say with a degree of certainty, Thurgood loved and cared about OLCAA and his community and we loved him back.

Job well done, Counselor. You will always be missed; you will always be remembered.

Words will never justify what you mean to me. You were a guiding light to many. A fierce attorney, but an even more compassionate friend. Thank you, Tgood, for always lending your ear, providing lessons, and always fostering growth.

- Nicole Buck, LMSW  
Social Worker



**New OLCAA website:** [www.olcaa.org](http://www.olcaa.org) Check out our new format!

**New email address:** [olcaa.eol@gmail.com](mailto:olcaa.eol@gmail.com)

Save a tree — ask OLCAA to send your newsletter *electronically* via email.

## Special Thanks to our Newsletter Contributors!

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Freida Williams



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Our annual SnowBall has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. See you next year!

# 101-year-old World War II Veteran from East Oak Lane Dies After Battle with COVID-19

By: Jennifer Joyce, FOX 29 Philadelphia

A 101-year-old World War II veteran from Philadelphia died on March 26, 2020, after testing positive for the novel coronavirus.

**Willie Jenkins**, of East Oak Lane, was laid to rest at Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Due to social distancing guidelines, there was no customary honor guard to send off the war hero and guests were asked to stand away from the grave.

Jenkins died after he spent a week on a ventilator, according to his family.

"No time is good to pass but this was the absolute worst time," granddaughter Nina Jenkins said. "The thought of thinking of him being alone

and feeling alone is horrible."

Willie was not alone often, he lived with Nina and spent countless hours with his ever-growing family. Willie enjoyed a 73-year marriage that came to an end last summer when his wife passed away.

Described as the "king of cool," Willie spent his elder days in retirement watching westerns, boxing matches and his favorite Philadelphia sports teams.

Nina says her grandfather often shared war stories from his time in Europe serving as a radio operator in the 92nd division.

"He lived through segregation, Jim Crow, the civil rights movement," Nina said.

"He was amazed that he got to live to see a black president, President Obama, he never thought he would see that."

Now, his family of four generations is heartbroken that they couldn't give their proud patriarch the military funeral that he deserved. They could not even visit Willie during his last moments.

"I think that's the hardest part about this, that you cannot be with your loved one in their darkest hour," Nina said.

FOX News' full article and video can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y3gjtlyb>

## East Oak Lane Maple Syrup Project: Tap into It

By: Jethro Heiko

Have you ever wondered where maple syrup comes from and why it's so expensive? As a current OLCAA Board Member, I have teamed up with Stockton University for our very own community maple project. The University is providing supplies and training and I will coordinate.

If you have one or more maple trees on your property and/or are interested in participating, please send an email to me at [jethro@commonpractice.com](mailto:jethro@commonpractice.com) or text 267-984-3493. Please

share your address and photos of your trees (including photos of the bark from 5 feet away or so). The first step is to identify maple trees that are tappable. Tapping will begin in mid-January.

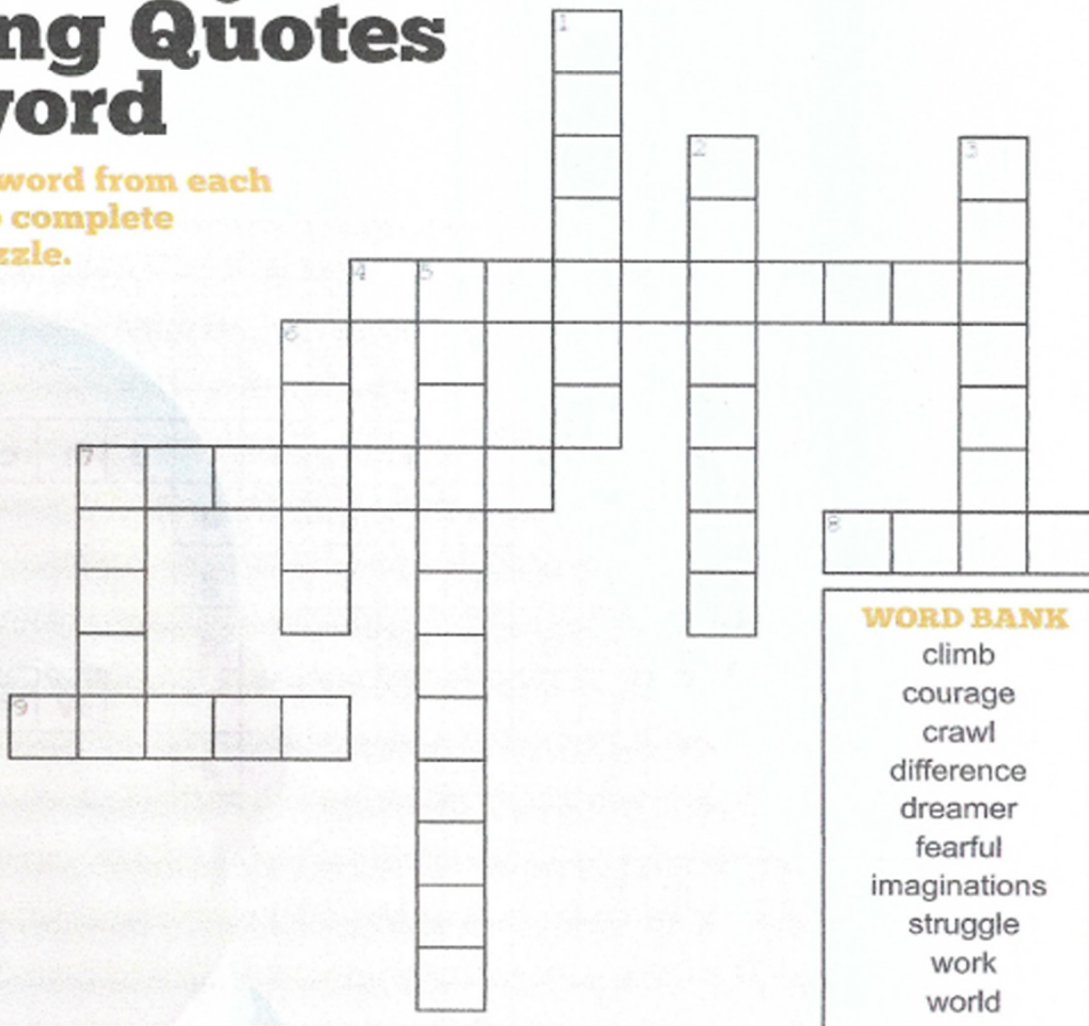
Celebrate this natural, delicious resource that flows in the trees all around us. The season is only 5-6 weeks long. Everyone that participates will get some syrup, of course!





# Black History Month Inspiring Quotes Crossword

Find the missing word from each inspiring quote to complete the crossword puzzle.



## WORD BANK

climb  
courage  
crawl  
difference  
dreamer  
fearful  
imaginations  
struggle  
work  
world

## DOWN

1. "You must never be \_\_\_\_\_ about what you are doing when it's right." – Rosa Parks, civil rights activist
2. "Where there is no \_\_\_\_\_, there is no strength". – Oprah Winfrey, media mogul
3. "Every great dream begins with a \_\_\_\_\_. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." – Harriet Tubman, abolitionist
5. "Never be limited by other people's limited \_\_\_\_\_." – Mae Jemison, first African American female astronaut
6. "You really can change the \_\_\_\_\_ if you care enough." – Marian Wright Edelman, activist
7. "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then \_\_\_\_\_, but whatever you do keep moving forward." – Martin Luther King Jr, civil rights leader

## ACROSS

4. "Success isn't about how much money you make, it's about the \_\_\_\_\_ you make in people's lives." – Michelle Obama, former First Lady
7. "The kind of beauty I want most is the hard-to-get kind that comes from within — strength, \_\_\_\_\_, dignity." – Ruby Dee, actress and civil rights activist
8. "Nothing will \_\_\_\_\_ unless you do." – Maya Angelou, poet and civil rights activist
9. "Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to \_\_\_\_\_ it, go through it, or work around it." – Michael Jordan, retired professional basketball player

Please visit our website at  
<http://www.olcaa.org> for this  
puzzle's answer key.

SCHOLASTIC

Find more printables for children at [scholastic.com/parents/activities-and-printables](http://scholastic.com/parents/activities-and-printables)



# East Oak Lane 2021 Spirit Award Recipients

By: Smiley Ferebee

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## Michael Cauchon

Michael is a recent addition to East Oak Lane via Syracuse, NY. He has experienced an amazing life - news journalist, deejay, on-air radio personality, voiceover artist, camera and drone operator, and an associate producer for Disney! At 38 years young, he divides his time between his dog soul-mate, Teddy, and his sister, Colby, and her children. Colby said, "He is the perfect uncle and he loves this community." Currently, he is on a fitness regime and you will see him walking all over East Oak Lane daily! Please say hi or give a wave.

As soon as Michael landed in EOL, he became involved as a major player in getting EOL's message across with regards to our opposition of the 1100 Oak Lane development. His powerful and artfully execution of a video designed to voice our concerns soon gave us the momentum and encouragement that we needed to see us through this campaign. It exposed truths and brought attention to our position. His passion for his new community provoked a professional production that was a catalyst in the outcome that we so desired. It is a must see and can be found on our website.

## David Anker and Milay Galvez

David and Milay joined the East Oak Lane community in 2016 after looking for a new Philly community and home. Upon arriving here, they fell in love with the people, history, and unique characteristics, which

make East Oak Lane what it is today. Milay, who is Cuban born and raised, has often commented that she has never felt more at home anywhere in the United States than she has felt in East Oak Lane.

Milay and David are avid cyclists and love the outdoors. They both work for the same Bicycle company - Milay in Marketing and David in Sales - which is based in Northeast Philadelphia. They can be seen from time-to-time cycling about EOL or pedaling their way to work.

Milay's background is in Sociology and Anthropology. She worked in Social Work for years in Michigan and Philadelphia, and her passion is advocating for engagement between her native Cuba and the US. David, originally from the Midwest, is a fan of history and spends his free time "polishing the rough edges" on their 132 year old home.

David and Milay became involved in our community's resistance to the proposed apartments at 1122 Oak Lane early in 2020, and were active in networking with the press, elected officials, facilitating, and organizing rallies this summer and autumn. They could be seen passing out fliers on many days. Additionally, they started and managed the *@EastOakLanePhilly* Instagram page. This power couple have humbly shared their home for meetings concerning the proposed

development and when mandates did not allow OLCAA to have their first Board Meeting after the OLCAA election, they happily provided us with a space. There are so many more contributions afforded to East Oak Lane by David and Milay. We thank you for your service.

## Penny Kroll

Penny joined the East Oak Lane community in 2016, after stints in West Virginia, New Orleans, Philly (again), Miami, New York, and originally, her hometown of Forked Island, Louisiana. Penny now lives in "the pink house" with her daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren, where they enjoy hosting weekly informal Happy Hours open to the community. She looks forward to resuming these once it is safe to do so.

What you might not know about Penny is that she has a Ph.D. in Physical Therapy, has visited nearly every state in the country, and makes the meanest gumbo either side of the Mississippi! Many of you can attest to the gumbo when she prepared it for one of our SnowBall events. Thanks to her testimony and work putting together an East Oak Lane Senior Coalition in opposition to the zoning variance request at 1122 Oak Lane, the community had a strong enough legal argument to win the day! OLCAA is proud to present the 2020 East Oak Lane Spirit Award to our "Shero," Penny. Thank you for your community service.

[Article continues on Page 15](#)

# What's the Fuss?

By: Freida Williams

As you may know, there were two recent Zoning Board of Adjustment Appeals hearings related to Requests for Variance by developers for property locations in East Oak Lane.

A Request for Variance was requested by a developer for the lot at 13<sup>th</sup> and Medary - property address **6301 N. Broad Street**. Developer **Auto Zone** proposed to erect a one-story building for its franchise and its operating hours would be 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. There was an RCO Meeting attended via Zoom by community members-at-large and by many of the neighbors. That vote resulted in an overwhelming majority of votes opposing the Request for Variance. A second meeting was held to review the basic elements of the Community Benefits Proposal by the Developer and determine if the residents wished to meet with the developer for a second time. The answer from those attending the meeting was there was no need to meet again. The office of Councilwoman Cherelle Parker held its own meeting regarding the same matter. A third meeting was held on the grounds of the property and every element of the Community Benefits Proposal was reviewed with a resultant unanimous rejection of the proposal and the Request for Variance. The Council Office continued to pursue additional meetings with the neighbors. OLCAA declined to participate in any further meetings. OLCAA withdrew an initial sign-on to the

Community Benefits Agreement once it was clearly understood that the residents both, by far, were not persuaded by any enticements in having the project, due to concerns regarding safety and perceived negative impact on Quality of Life. There were multiple insertions into the process by the Council Office, demonstrated by repeated continuances, and meetings at the request of the Applicant agreed to by the Council Office. The Council Office ultimately opposed the Requested Variance.

At the final Zoning Board Hearing for this matter, the Request for Variance was denied by the Zoning Board. The Applicant has entered an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas. The owner of the property states that he is interested in a buyer, however now that the Zoning Board has ruled, he is willing to hear what type of business might be more readily acceptable to the community. The property is Zoned Commercial Mixed Use 2.5, which allows for a variety of retail establishments that do not need community approval. Some examples are florist shops, office sales, delis, cafés, clothing shops, government offices, medical offices, but does not allow for vehicular sales or service.

**1100-1122 Oak Lane** - A request to merge the two properties for purposes of shared use of the parking lot of the Refuge Church and to erect a four-story 40 unit apartment complex at 12<sup>th</sup> and Oak Lane,

requiring a Zoning Variance from Single Family Residential Detached Zoning to Multifamily Zoning. After multiple continuances, the Zoning Board ruled unanimously against Zoning Variance, despite the support for the project from Councilwoman Cherelle Parker and the City Planning Commission. The basis of the opposition was that the Zoning for that plot of land is appropriate and consistent with the design safety and aesthetic of the immediate area, which is negatively impacted based on safety and density by the proposed project. The Developer, Conifer, and sponsor are free to develop the project of senior "affordable" housing in an area which is zoned for multifamily complex and on land which is sufficiently large enough to accommodate the proposed height, depth, set back, and parking requirements established in the zoning code. This project was not a solely altruistic endeavor. Income is to be derived by the developer and shared with the sponsor, state, local, and federal subsidies and/or loans are required to fund the project some of which are public funds. East Oak Lane engaged in meetings and responded to surveys regarding desires for the future of the community and requested support from the City.

[Article continues on Page 9](#)



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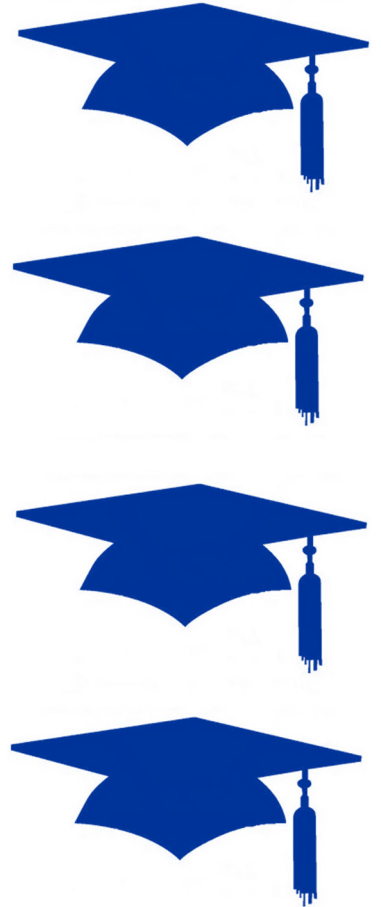
Thrilled to Joyously showcase the unique architectural gems, fantastic local amenities, and abundance of green living at Philadelphia's Northern Gates. A 3rd generation resident of East Oak Lane, I KNOW and LOVE this Region! My Theatre and Preservation background offers vitality, design expertise, and shines a spotlight on the innate value of your Home. Whether 'ready for its close-up,' or in need of TLC- every step my Team and I are ready to support, educate, and advocate for you and your family. Call or Text my Cell, or Email me today to schedule an assessment; or to discuss your next 'Dream Home' objectives!

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# Congratulations, Michael Ferebee!

Michael Ferebee is now an alumnus of Mansfield University! He spent his time studying graphic design and marketing. He received an Associate in Arts and Communications. As a student at Mansfield University studying graphic design, Michael has been able to garner skills that have allowed him to choose his own path. He would like to travel to California and use the photography and graphic skills that he learned. Being able to work with various producers and musicians by taking professional pictures and developing them has been extremely rewarding. He has also been given the opportunity to make logos for a couple of clothing brands. Although Michael has yet to get an internship, he has been able to brand, not only himself, but others on social media through this art. Receiving a Master's Degree in Graphic Design is now his primary goal.





# What's the Fuss?

By: Freida Williams

Continued from Page 6

No requests for additional apartment complexes was a part of the responses, in fact, assistance in allowing residents to remain in their current homes via special programs and in-home assistance was desired. Adherence and maintenance of the zoning code was also cited as important.

Stay alert! The Applicant has the right of Appeal to the Court. Request of spot zoning a change in the zoning of this particular parcel via the Council Office and a request to the Zoning Board for reconsideration of its decision.

We recently received a comment from a supporter of the apartment complex proposal who questioned the opposition of the residents to such a project. In other words, what's the fuss?

Housing and Zoning regulations are made in all municipalities in-line with an overall vision for the city as a whole and communities in particular. Zoning regulates commercial, industrial and residential development, and land use. Zoning creates standards for density, height, setbacks, building materials, historical designation usage, and parking. There is to be a balance between individual, property owner rights and the interests of the city, the community, and the residents. Fortunately, there is a means of participation for citizens in this process; the RCO or Registered Community

Organization, represents the voice of the community in zoning matters based on the votes and comments of those participating. The RCO is responsible for holding and providing a forum for meeting with Applicants for Zoning Change and reporting the votes of participants to the Zoning Board, the City Planning Commission, and the District Council Office. Community members vote as whether a proposed project is acceptable to them with minimal, negligible, major long term individual, or community impact. They determine if there is a community benefit which enhances or offsets perceived negative impacts. Projects may vary from adding a deck onto personal residence, building a swimming pool, converting single dwellings into apartments or rooming units, to multifamily dwellings, business, or entertainment venues.

Rules are generally made to be followed. In the event that the rules are too egregious or restrictive, a request can be made to loosen via conditional zoning approval, allowing by special exception, or granting a variance which reverts to original zoning once the variance use ceases for 3 years. Attendance at Zoning Hearings to testify regarding zoning change requests is another means of participation and voicing one's opinion. Should a ruling go against one's/ community's perceived interests, seek permanent zoning change through your

council representative, if you have standing Appeal the decision in Court.

Above all, be vigilant to preserve enhance maintain and safeguard the essence of your community and the development which takes place within.

To make complaints/requests for investigation of property activity, call 311 and provide dates, times, persons involved, the exact address, what is happening, and frequency. Write down the service number provided. Contact OLCAA with the information and we can follow up after the stated service date (time the involved department has to act). Housing and Zoning meets the third Monday of each month. If you would like to become a part of the committee, please email [olcaa.eol@gmail.com](mailto:olcaa.eol@gmail.com) or call the OLCAA Hotline at 215-224-2777.



**Want to advertise in our newsletter?**

Call us at 215-224-2777 or see the **Contact Us** page on [www.olcaa.org](http://www.olcaa.org).

Thank you for your support!

# OLCAA Partners with Operation Baby Blankets

By: H. Victoria Hargo Atkerson

**Operation Baby Blankets** is a grass-root project that works year-round to give comfort, prayers, and hand-crafted blankets to families during a difficult time in their lives. For the past 15 years, we have made baby blankets for the Neonatal Wards in area hospitals. In 2020, we were able to donate

162 blankets and 45 baby hats. The staff at both Temple and Einstein Hospitals were most appreciative and still need additional blankets. This mission could not have been successful over the years without the donation of our volunteers' time and resources. I would like to thank The Oak

Lane Presbyterian Church, Dr. Sadiki Che Baye, Joan Clerk, Grace Bradley, Lorraine Wierzbicki, and the OLCAA Board for their generous contributions of the time, talents, and resources. To donate and read more about the heartfelt backstory of Ms. Atkerson, visit our website.

## OLCAA Revises Dues Schedule

By: Earlene Mitchell

Many of you have asked for the OLCAA dues schedule to be changed from May to January. OLCAA agrees with you and from now on, your dues will begin in January of each year. Those of you who have paid your dues in 2020 will be pro-rated. That means whatever you paid in May 2020, you will pay half of your dues this January 2021, which would carry you through the end of December 2021. In January 2022, your full dues for membership will be due.

This past year was not only harsh on the world, but difficult

for East Oak Lane to pull through our community concerns. We, as neighbors, did get through it. The 2020-2021 OLCAA's Board of Volunteers is continually working for all of us. Most of you are working hard along with us. Your dues are necessary to make every attempt to resolve these concerns in East Oak Lanes' favor while meeting our administrative obligations.

The link below is for the February 10th OLCAA Board Meeting. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and community concerns/comments will be

heard starting at 7:30 p.m. sharp until 8:00 p.m. Please join us via Zoom Meeting at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y239u9hu>

**Meeting ID:** 884 4794 5779

**Passcode:** 434317

**Dial by your location:**  
+1 646-558-8656 US

This information will also be posted on our Website. OLCAA is grateful for your membership and service. We thank you all!



## Introducing, Ken Pezanowski

By: Smiley Ferebee

OLCAA would like to introduce the Editor of our newsletter and Webmaster of our website, **Ken Pezanowski**, to our EOL neighbors. Ken is the Co-Owner and Principal Designer of A Bit Graphic ([abitgraphic.com](http://abitgraphic.com)) in South Philadelphia. Whenever you see a flyer, banner, invitation, etc. for any one of OLCAA's special events throughout the year, Ken and his team probably

designed them. They are in charge of the behind the scenes wonderment of making our publications and promotional designs spectacular. He has been working with OLCAA and the East Oak Lane family since 2015.



As for his day job, Ken has worked at a national bank for the past 17 years, and recently received a promotion in 2020 as an Account Manager in their Public Finance division. He is also celebrating his birthday this month.

Ken, we would like to wish you well and congratulate you on both!



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<b>PAN SEARED LUMP CRAB CAKES</b> Lemon Dill Aioli	<b>\$9.5</b>	<b>PHILLY CHEESESTEAK EGGROLLS</b> Sriracha Ketchup	<b>\$8</b>
<b>BACON WRAPPED SCALLOPS</b> Applewood Bacon Wrapped Dayboat Scallops with Gremolata Sauce	<b>\$10</b>	<b>PHILLY CHEESESTEAK SEITAN EGGROLLS</b> Sriracha Ketchup	<b>\$9</b>
<b>CRISPY ARANCINI</b> Risotto Balls Filled with Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Asiago Cheese and Pesto Aioli Dipping Sauce	<b>\$7</b>	<b>VEGETARIAN STUFFED MUSHROOM CAPS</b> Stuffed with Spinach, Walnuts, Asiago Cheese and White Wine	<b>\$8.5</b>
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<b>LUMP CRAB CAKES</b> Parsley Aioli	<b>\$22.5</b>
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<b>GRILLED NORWEGIAN SALMON</b> Lemon Beurre Blanc	<b>\$21</b>
<b>PAN SEARED PORK TENDERLOIN</b> Whole Grain Mustard and White Wine Sauce	<b>\$22</b>
<b>CLASSIC LASAGNA</b> Rich Tomato Gravy, Spinach and Herbed Ricotta Cheese	<b>\$21</b>
<b>SWEET POTATO GNOCCHI</b> Chicken Ragù, Sautéed Shallops and Sage Brown Butter Sauce	<b>\$23</b>
<b>CRISPY TOFU STEAK</b> Pineapple-Vegetable Stir Fried Rice	<b>\$22</b>
<b>CURRIED CHICKPEA STEW</b> Fall Vegetables, Basmati Rice and Coconut-Curry Broth	<b>\$21</b>
<b>GRILLED TEQUILA MARINATED FLANK STEAK</b> Adobo Cream Sauce	<b>\$22.5</b>
<b>GRILLED HERB CRUSTED TURKEY BREAST</b> Caper-Lemon Pan Sauce	<b>\$22.5</b>

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<b>CRISPY BRUSSEL SPROUTS</b>	<b>\$9</b>
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<b>CHARRED BROCCOLI</b>	<b>\$9.5</b>
<b>WILD RICE CONFETTI</b> With dried cranberries	<b>\$10</b>
<b>PARMESAN AND TRUFFLE INFUSED STEAK FRIES</b>	<b>\$10.5</b>
<b>CARLICKY BRAISED GREENS</b>	<b>\$9.5</b>
<b>BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP (QT)</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>WILD MUSHROOM BISQUE (QT)</b>	<b>\$10.5</b>

**EACH MENU ITEM IS  
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PLEASE ALLOW FOR A 48 HOUR  
WINDOW BETWEEN ORDERING.  
WE WILL ACCOMMODATE  
ALLERGIES OR DIETARY  
RESTRICTIONS

# Lee Wagner: Activist and Sage

By: Barbra Wagner & Smiley Ferebee

**Lee Wagner** arrived in Philadelphia in 1966 after receiving a degree from Andover Newton Seminary and a college degree from Syracuse. He immediately became involved in Fair Housing advocacy, challenging the blockbusting and redlining throughout Philadelphia. Indeed, this was a challenge, since he was also working with a black-owned real estate company. The Philadelphia Urban League then hired him to be their Housing Director. Over the years, Lee's professional challenges continued to focus on housing, community development, and civil rights. But in-between their "professional" time, he and a partner set up their own carpentry company. They were very capable "artisans." The Wagners moved to East Oak Lane from Germantown in 1989. After eight years with the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, retirement was appropriate. This time allowed Lee to rest a bit. He learned to play golf and just loved the sport.

Beyond his "quiet" demeanor, Lee would share fascinating stories of living in the south as part of a military family. He remembered every detail of marching in Selma, Alabama. Lee was honest, compassionate, complex, loved animals, could

watch sports 24 hours/day, and could discuss philosophy and religion. He had four children. Although he said that he had enough of "organizations," he was very proud to serve on the



OLCAA Board. The night of OLCAA's National Night Out, as sick as he felt towards the end, he walked to the Fire Department on Oak Lane that evening to see his friends and eat his last hotdog with them. Thank you, OLCAA!

*Comments from Smiley Ferebee:*  
Barbra, we should be thanking you for sharing him with us. OLCAA and serving his community were especially important to him. Lee took his

seat on the OLCAA Board very seriously. Whenever concerns, issues, or problems may have come up, Lee would look for a way to solve those challenges with his life experiences and expertise. He had acquired an abundance of knowledge that had made him an authority on many, many subjects. We could trust the resolve that he offered was solid and ran with it. Lee had so much to give that we were discussing having workshops on subjects that were of nuisance to our neighbors like plumbing, cement, carpentry work, etc., along with another neighbor, Frank S. Lee was also concerned that his neighbors were safe and thus was a long-time member of our crime and safety committee. Lee loved Oak Lane Day (OLD) and made sure he was available each year to serve on the OLD Committee. His favorite responsibility of OLD was the food and beverage station and he had come up with a plan of how to best execute serving beverages. Once, I went to take over his position at that station a couple of years ago and he gave me a look like, this is my baby. That made me smile because, it affirmed to me he took his generosity of service as a volunteer seriously. He was a gentleman and a sage, always working for the betterment of community. Thank you, Lee!







BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
CRADLE OF LIBERTY COUNCIL

December 10, 2020

Troop 19, Northern District  
Oak Lane Presbyterian Church  
6637 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19126

**Re: Commendation – Thurgood M. Matthews**

The purpose of this letter is to formally and publicly commend the years of service of Thurgood M. Matthews to the Cradle of Liberty Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Matthews was a long-time Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 19 in Philadelphia, participating with his son, Thurgood Matthews II, who ultimately earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Mr. Matthews remained involved with Troop 19 even after his son grew up, going on weekend camping trips and organizing backyard cookouts for the Scouts, leaders, and parents.

In addition to his role as Assistant Scoutmaster, Mr. Matthews shared his passion for law by serving as a Law Merit Badge Counselor in the Northern District. Through his leadership and teaching, many young people in Philadelphia earned the Law Merit Badge, learning about different types of law, careers related to law, the history of the legal system and current legal processes.

The Cradle of Liberty Council of the Boy Scouts of America honors the memory of Thurgood M. Matthews and celebrates his contributions to both Scouting and our community as a whole, and extends its sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Templar  
Scout Executive & Chief Executive Officer



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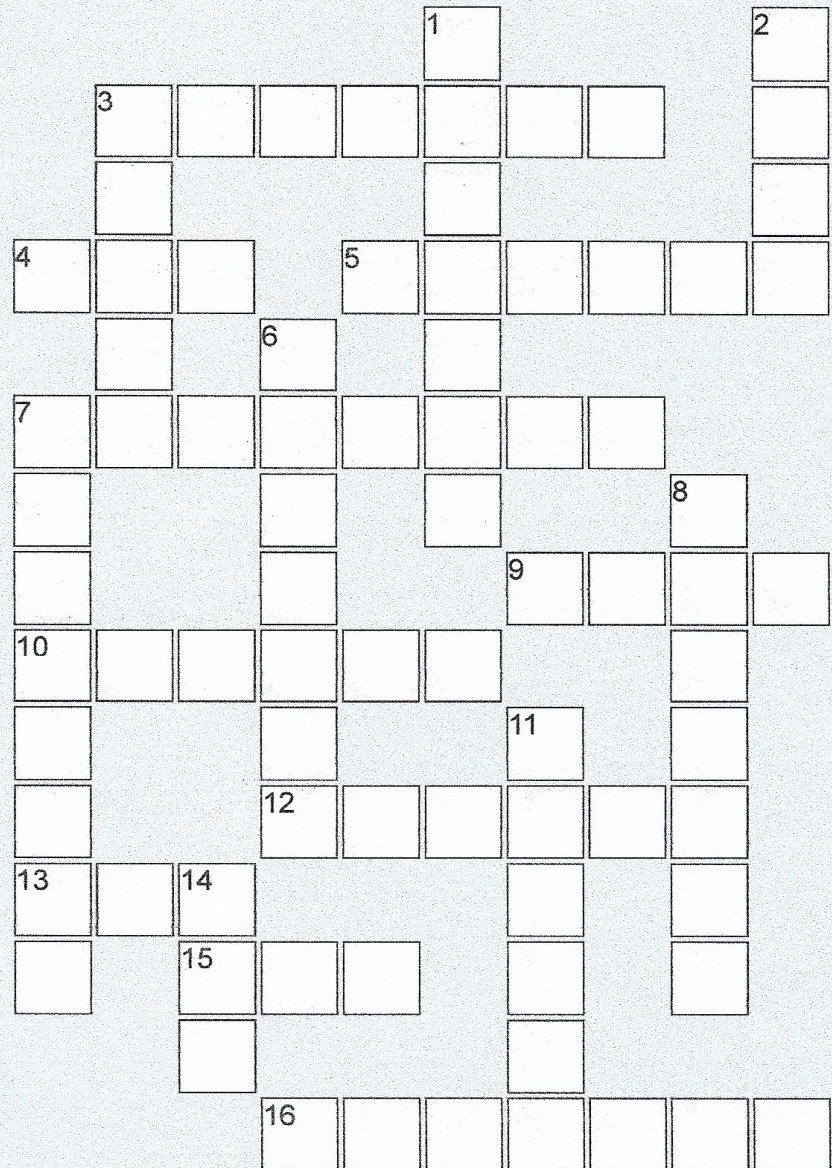




# St. Patrick's Day Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS CLUES

3. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of this country.
4. Lively Irish folk dance
5. According to legend, St. Patrick drove these legless reptiles out of Ireland.
7. The three-leaf clover that's a symbol for Ireland
9. It's what's in the pot at the end of the rainbow.
10. A blight destroyed this very important crop resulting in the Great Famine.
12. The capital of the Republic of Ireland
13. Both an Irish Setter and a rose are this color
15. "May the road rise to meet \_\_\_\_." - an Irish blessing
16. He's a saint and March 17 is his day.



Please visit our website at <http://www.olcaa.org> for this puzzle's answer key.



## DOWN CLUES

1. The leprechaun's pot of gold is at the end of one.
2. Do this to the Blarney Stone to get the gift of gab
3. What everybody is on St. Patrick's Day
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Isle - Ireland's nickname, due to its lush green landscape
7. Somebody who herds sheep, as Saint Patrick did in his youth
8. Kiss this Stone to get the gift of gab
11. A shamrock is the three-leaf type of this plant, the four-leaf type is lucky, they say
14. They pour it in the Chicago River on St. Patrick's Day



# Remembering Thurgood Matthews

By: Sandra Camacho, Committee Person, 61st Ward, 17

I first encountered **Thurgood Matthews** in a courtroom in Philadelphia. He was the Public Defender representing a scared, young, and indigent Philly Black man who was on trial for rape. He won that case with the skill of Jack Johnson. Keeping his arms close to his chest with fists balled up, jabbing with sharp precision every question, objection, and focused knock-outs. He may have lost some cases, but you could never accuse him of not fighting with his knowledge and heart for all the people he defended in this

City. He was a bulwark for the poor and disadvantaged who had to face systemic racism in the First Judicial District.

Thurgood could be brash, but he was "thoroughly good." He had a big heart and he was kind. On some occasions on our way to work, we would walk to Fern Rock together to catch the subway. We talked about gardening - he loved gardening. His topiary was simple, but lovely. It showed an organized mind and an eye for symmetry. We shared and exchanged

flower bulbs. Thurgood, "the cultivator" of his garden, was an attorney who was not timid in the courtroom when it came to digging for truth and justice for the defendants he represented. The truth mattered to him - justice mattered to him.

The sign placed on his front lawn, surrounded by flowers, with the war cry signage and the raised black fist stating, "Black Lives Matter," is a true epitaph that he not only lived by, but practiced.

## East Oak Lane 2021 Spirit Award Recipients

By: Smiley Ferebee

Continued from Page 5

### Tom Vales

One of the most valuable things you can give is time. Tom is in the business of public service daily and yet at the end of the day, when he clocks out of his professional public service employment, he makes time

for his beloved community of over 40 years. As a busy family man, in a three generational household, he and his trusty snow blower will take on the task of snow removal for his entire block. Tom does not like his block to worry or be

disadvantaged due to snow-storms. Some of his neighbors are elders and he is adamant about their safety. I smile every time I hear that blower after a snow fall. I need not look out the window. We already know who is out there taking care of us all.

## Coming in February: "Cocktails with Erin"

By: Smiley Ferebee

Join us for a Virtual Cocktail Tutorial! Make cocktails at home that are just as enjoyable as the ones you indulge in at your favorite cocktail lounge. OLCAA Board Treasurer and one of the hosts of "Friday Night Happy Hour," Erin Lighthead will demonstrate recipes step-by-step while you follow along. Learn how to expand your cocktail repertoire using basic ingredients. Once you have purchased your ticket, the recipes will be forwarded to

you along with your Zoom invitation. We feel this is a great way to share in the experience together. The donation is just \$15.00 per person, and all proceeds benefit the Oak Lane Community Action Association (OLCAA).

In lieu of not being able to have in-person fund raisers, this is one of many we have planned throughout the year. Stay tuned for "East Oak Lane Authors" and "The Spring Health Series."





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*Ed Wentz is an East Oak Laner who takes care of OLCAA's insurance needs.*



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# East Oak Lane Speaks: 2020 and Beyond

By: Freida Williams

For a few years now, we have been developing a program, East Oak Lane Speaks, where “experts,” passionate advocates, professionals, and hobbyists of East Oak Lane speak with their neighbors and the community in general.

East Oak Laners spoke volumes in their actions; caring for one another during 2020. While I do not know all of the people who have spoken, here are just a few: **Lillian Ransome, Sandra Camacho, Iris Roundtree, Patricia Berrian, Freida Williams, and Michelle McDowell** gathered and donated toiletries to residents of Laurel Square Health and Rehabilitation Center. **Sandie Hollie**, the Chair of OLCAA’s Quality of Life Committee identifies, collects, and distributes health and wellness packets to our shut-in community members. Heard any really good music lately? You can thank **Sandra Camacho** who posts music from classical to rock to salsa to soul on Next Door to uplift the spirits or help you get the kinks out. While also being an invaluable resource in posting election information, **PJ Thomas** is to be commended for bringing Next Door to the East Oak Lane Community. We exchange and share ideas opinions, recipes, civic information, service recommendations, music, lost and found pets, free stuff, and words of encouragement, support, and welcomes. It is particularly valuable as a resource for updated notices on COVID-19, as well as government services. Join PJ

the next time she collects food and personal items for college students away from home. The neighbors who spoke through rallies, letters, calls, testimony, and yard signs effectively spoke their concerns about the proposed seniors apartment complex and its impact on their immediate neighbors’ property values, view and privacy, and safety.

Community members, many who preferred to remain anonymous, donated to a GoFundMe® effort in support of the Tanksley family following their house fire. Did you know that members of the **Oak Lane Presbyterian Church** regularly collect canned goods and donate them to the **Germantown Crisis Ministry**, which in turn distributed those and other food items to some of our own community members? OLPC houses homeless families annually for short-term stay. The **Refuge Evangelical Baptist Church** has a food giveaway at its location. **Camac Street neighbors** have consistently held book and school supply drives for returning students. **Peggy Weston** has made masks for community members. Produce donations have often been given from the bounty of the **Lighthouse family** gardens.

Thanksgiving and Christmas during the pandemic found many without the prospect of a filling tasty holiday meal. **Martha Lewis**, working from the kitchen of her now shuttered Martha’s Kitchen, singlehandedly cooked turkey,

dressing, meatballs, mac and cheese, rice and beans, greens, string beans, mashed potatoes, yams, and chicken to feed over 200 people. She was assisted by community members **Kim Robertson, Iris Brunson, and friends**, receiving donations from anonymous donors, virtual acquaintances, and fellow religious believers. The **Tree Tenders** assisted with planting and education on the care of trees, and invaluable gardening advice was given by **Sally McCabe**. The **Friends of the East Oak Lane Library** are committed to obtaining and maintaining the best materials for our local branch. When the storm occurred in June, some neighbors came out with chainsaws, rakes, muscle, and goodwill to clear all of the fallen trees. Our community partner, **PASSi** donated prepared dishes to community members.

While I do not know every helper and apologize to those whom I may have overlooked, I know of enough to inspire pride in my community and feel as though in times of need, I am not alone. Be encouraged to act individually, join neighbors and OLCAA to seek/meet help for needs - big or small.

## CONDOLENCES

OLCAA would like to send out their condolences to all of the families that have lost love ones this past year. If there is anything that we can do, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.





## Oak Lane Community Action Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ NEW MEMBER    ☐ RENEWAL    ☐ DONATION

*The membership term runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year.*

Select your membership below; Includes subscription to OLCAA's newsletter (**add \$1.00 for mailed copy**):

### Full

- ☐ Individual \$15
- ☐ Household (2 voting members) \$25
- ☐ Student (under 23) \$6
- ☐ Senior (65+) \$10

### Associate

- ☐ East Oak Lane Business/Organization
- ☐ Non-East Oak Lane resident \$25
- ☐ This household has more than one OLCAA member. (Help us reduce mailings!)

I/We wish to make an additional contribution of:

- ☐ \$500+ (Oak Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \$100-499 (Maple Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \$50-99 (Willow Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \$1-49 (Spruce Club) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check or money order payable to:**

**Oak Lane Community Action Association**

Fill in this form online and save. Email it to us as an attachment (Use as the *Subject* line: **Membership**). Mail us your payment.

Or mail completed form with payment to:

**OLCAA P.O. Box 2926 Philadelphia, PA 19141**

**Total amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**ZIP Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information on: ☐ Placing ads in the newsletter    ☐ Contributing to OLCAA Committees (*Select from below*):

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Development      | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Events           | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime, Safety, & Security            | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me email security alerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Zoning |  |

I would like to earmark my additional OLCAA donation to the committee(s) checked above:

I would prefer to receive the newsletter select below:

- ☐ Via email
- ☐ Printed copy mailed to me (**add \$1.00 to my membership**)

How did you learn about OLCAA? ☐ Newsletter    ☐ OLCAA website    ☐ Word of mouth

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

OLCAA is classified as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3).

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Contact us at the OLCAA Hotline: **215-224-2777** Website: **www.olcaa.org**

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**OLCAA Calendar**

2021	Board Meetings	Events
JAN*	13	
FEB	10	
MAR	10	
APR*	14	
MAY	12	
JUN	9	
JUL	14	
AUG*	11	
SEPT	8	
OCT	13	
NOV	10	
DEC*	8	



\* Newsletter issues

**THIS ISSUE**  
**Production Staff**  
Ken Pezanowski (Editor),  
Smiley Ferebee, and  
Andrea Mayo

**Your OLCAA**  
**membership supports**  
**community concerns.**  
Thank you!

**January**