

PENN68

CLASSMATES WRITE....



From Carol Greco

I love retirement! After spending 30+ years as a real estate agent in the Virginia suburbs of Washington DC, I decided that I did not want on my tombstone that I sold 30 million houses and that it was time to explore and enjoy something different—Act III in my life. So, I sold my business and moved back to my hometown, Philadelphia. Even though I had some friends and family in Philly, I was still the new kid on the block and took the advice of a friend to join everything when new to a city. Luckily, I found out about the Philadelphia Chapter (it is a national organization) of The Transition Network (TTNWomen.org)—a wonderful group of engaged, active and accomplished 50 and 50-plus women living in Philadelphia and surrounding areas. TTN is composed of many components, and I participate in most of them. Here are just a few:

First, there are great **Events** of which many are centered on places not known to many Philly residents. Did any of you know about the Love Note Mural tour along the Frankford EL not far from Penn? Or did you know there is a world-famous chocolate factory, Michel Cluziel, about a 25-minute drive from Center City? And guess what? Not too far away from town there are wineries such as Paradox Vineyard, where the countryside evokes the spirit of Napa Valley.

Second, there are **Peer Groups** through which I initially met the very best of new friends. They are informal discussion groups composed of 8-12 TTN members who meet monthly. These groups create a small, safe, supportive space within the larger TTN community. Women have thought-provoking and stimulating conversations on topics of interest to them.

Third, there are **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** which are kind of like mini clubs. Members share social activities such as books, art, movies, wine, food, games and more. I lead an Art Appreciation SIG where we have discovered (aside from the large museums) a vibrant art scene in Philly. I also lead an Off the Beaten Track Lunch Group so if you are looking for a hole in the wall, clean and delicious Philly restaurant, I am the one to ask.

Fourth, we participate in many **Volunteer Activities** geared to helping those in need in our area. Our main philanthropic arm, however, is our **Giving Circle** where individuals pool their dollars to support our mission of helping women and children in Philadelphia. Each year through our small grants review process we come together to learn about and identify deserving non profits that could benefit from our grant support. In May, our members vote to select our grant recipients. This year we are seeking to raise \$100,000. If any of you wish to make a donation, contact me at CarolSellsPhilly@gmail.com. Your money will be put to good use.

So ladies, sorry gentlemen, if you are living in the USA, go to TTNWomen.org and see what TTN has to offer you. It truly is one of the best groups I have ever joined. I can honestly say that TTNWomen will enhance your retirement life.