SUMMER EDITION

PRESIDENT OBAMA, JON BON JOVI, ANTHONY BOURDAIN VISIT CAMDEN

Camden has been host to many important people recently!

Surely you all heard (and maybe even saw) that President Barack Obama visited Camden on May 18th. He spoke with residents at the Kroc Community Center and officials from the police department to discuss the improving living conditions in Camden. President Obama now refers to Camden as “a symbol of promise for the nation.”

Rutgers–Camden also had the pleasure of awarding an honorary Doctor of Letters degree to rockstar, philanthropist, and native New Jerseyan Jon Bon Jovi. Bon Jovi even performed his new song, “Reunion,” at the commencement ceremony!

Anthony Bourdain, host of “Parts Unknown,” a travel and food show on CNN, visited Donkey’s Place in Camden, a restaurant known for their cheesesteaks. After visiting Donkey’s, Bourdain claimed that “the best cheesesteak in the area might well come from New Jersey.”

OIS STAFF PICKS: FAVORITE SUMMER GETAWAYS

Dean Atkins | Cape Cod, Massachusetts
Cape Cod is a lovely destination not far from Boston defined by its charming homes, iconic lighthouses, and relaxing beaches.

Marissa | Asbury Park, New Jersey
Asbury Park has something for everyone: sandy beaches, an exciting boardwalk, lively nightlife, and many other interesting destinations, like the New Jersey Music Hall of Fame.

Joe | Lake Wallenpaupack, Pennsylvania
If you love hiking, swimming, canoeing, and boating, Lake Wallenpaupack in the Pocono Mountains is the place for you! The lake is located about three hours northwest of Camden near Hawley, PA.

BIRTHDAYS
Jennie (6/1), Harish (6/3), Nauf (6/5), Wenyi (6/6), Shoubai (6/7), Neeta (6/13), Amaka (6/21), Sung Eun (6/21), Min Kyung (7/1), Ting (7/8), Kirk (7/12), Echo (7/18), Elia (7/20), Papa (8/1), Diana (8/3), Clovis (8/12), Hyuna(8/14), Straso (8/15), Luna (8/18), Patricia (8/19), Sumeyye (8/30), Beatrice (8/31)

JOIN US!
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CULTURE CORNER: AMERICA’S INDEPENDENCE DAY

We now think of Independence Day—the 4th of July—as a day of celebration: a time to picnic, barbeque, watch parades and fireworks... But why? And what does the city of Philadelphia, our neighbor, have to do with this important day?

After years of growing frustration and conflict* between America’s 13 colonies and England, the colonies’ Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to draft a document that would formally break ties with England. The Congress’s committee, consisting of individuals such as Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, adopted the final version of this document—the Declaration of Independence—on July 4, 1776.

A few days later, on July 8, 1776, the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence was held in Philadelphia and one year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia celebrated Independence Day with bells, fireworks, and bonfires.

Congress established Independence Day as a holiday in 1870 and reaffirmed it as a federal holiday in 1938.

*The main reason for this conflict and inevitable separation was “taxation without representation,” which meant the American colonies were required to pay taxes to England but did not receive representation in the British Parliament.

CAMDEN’S RICH HISTORY

Did you know that there are over 40 locations in Camden on the National Register of Historic Places? One of these places is the Walt Whitman House.

Who was Walt Whitman?
Walt Whitman was an influential American poet. His most recognized work is Leaves of Grass, first published in 1855. Whitman is regarded as “America’s first poet of democracy,” and is often described as an “imaginative, wild” man.

Where is the Walt Whitman House?
The Walt Whitman House is located at 330 Mickle Boulevard (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard). Walt Whitman purchased this home in Camden in 1884 and lived there until his death in 1892. The historic home is now open to the public and offers free tours. There is also a statue of Walt Whitman on the Rutgers–Camden campus in front of the Campus Center!

LOOKING AHEAD...

What’s going on next year?
Pope Francis to visit Philadelphia in September
Pope Francis will be visiting Philadelphia—his first visit to the United States as Pope—to participate in the closing ceremonies of the World Meeting of Families. He plans to attend a Festival as well as host a Papal Mass on Sunday, September 27th. This event will take place on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open to the public.

Observation Deck to open on 57th floor of One Liberty Place
An observation deck—the first of its kind in Philadelphia—is set to open this fall on the 57th floor of the One Liberty Place skyscraper.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THIS SUMMER? LET US KNOW!

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