

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

## Celebrating Lyle the Crocodile and his creator



*Lyle the Crocodile is featured in writer and illustrator Bernard Waber's exhibit. (HMH Books)*

By Michael Harrington, Inquirer Staff Writer

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Lovable Lyle the Crocodile was discovered lounging in a bathtub in a Manhattan brownstone in 1962. First by the Primms, the family that bought the building from the acrobatic reptile's performing partner, Signor Valenti, and then by readers of Bernard Waber's classic children's book *The House on East 88th Street*. What followed was a series about the cosmopolitan croc - he shops the Upper East Side, picnics in Central Park, skates at Rockefeller Center - with generations of devoted fans.

The exhibit **Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile and Friends: The Art of Bernard Waber** is the first major exhibition for the writer and illustrator, who was born in Philadelphia and trained at what became the University of the Arts. The show has illustrations, sketches, artifacts, and manuscripts from Waber's half-century career.

And just like you're never too old to enjoy picture books (never!), you're never too young to begin enjoying the museum experience.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Nov. 1, at the National Museum of American Jewish History, Fifth and Market Streets. Tickets: \$12; \$11 seniors and ages 13 to 21; ages 12 and under free (includes museum admission). Information: 215-923-3811 or [www.nmajh.org](http://www.nmajh.org)

#### *Act of enormous enormance*

The rhythmic writings of Dr. Seuss are a natural fit for musical theater, as Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty's Tony Award-winning 2000 show **Seussical** proves. The charitable theater troupe H.O.P.E. Players brings Horton the Elephant and the Cat in the Hat to life in a production benefiting Project Linus, the My Stuff Bags Foundation, and the Special Olympics.

7:30 p.m. Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Haverford School's Centennial Hall, 450 Lancaster Ave., Haverford. Tickets: \$15 to \$18. Information: 484-886-1869 or [www.hopeplayers.com](http://www.hopeplayers.com)

#### *Harvest time*

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's **Harvest Fest** at the East Passyunk PHS Pop-Up Garden is particularly kid-friendly on Saturday, if only because small-fry set doyenne Kathy O'Connell of WXPN's *Kids Corner* fame will be there as emcee of a 2 p.m. concert by the Plants. There's also pumpkin painting and a competition of gigantic garden delights.

1 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the PHS Pop-Up Garden East Passyunk, Ninth and Wharton Streets. Admission is free. Information: 215-988-8800 or [PHSonline.org](http://PHSonline.org)