



# Member NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023, Issue #23-2

Newsletter Chair:  
Elizabeth Gulla

## President's Message



Dear Philadelphia Chapter Member,

As you may be aware, we are celebrating our 80th anniversary as a chapter. A successful chapter year is built upon the hard work led by the past Presidents. Matt Skala, last year's President, was challenged with navigating the hybrid model of in-person and virtual events. He successfully guided us through the chapter year. Please join me in thanking Matt for his leadership last year and his assistance during my transition to this year's President.

We are still adapting to the "new norm" and this year will consist of a mix of in-person and virtual events. Our success over the past 80 years is due to the support of our members, hardworking volunteers, generous sponsors, and our leadership team. We have already had a mix of in-person and virtual training events this year, including the fall conference which provided an opportunity for networking and earning 20 CPEs. Two recent events were led by Pete Parillo, current Board Audit Committee member and Maeve Raak, current Secretary. Please be on the lookout for upcoming events such our ethics event in December, cyber event in

January, a CAE roundtable discussion on hot topics led by current Board member Adam Ross in March, and the spring conference in April. I wanted to express my gratitude to all of our speakers and to the Board members and Officers who have volunteered to speak at our events.

Additionally, our Academic Relations Committee continues to focus on growing membership and promoting the internal audit profession to local universities and student groups. Most recently, the committee held an event at Drexel University, which aimed to promote Internal Audit by explaining the role and responsibilities of Internal Auditors. We are actively seeking opportunities to promote the profession to future Internal Auditors, so please feel free to reach out to me with any potential opportunities.

Furthermore, our DE&I Committee has a new committee chair, Joe Tarshish, who has taken on the responsibilities of leading our DE&I committee. Our chapter is fully committed to supporting Joe and the committee's vision. If you are interested in supporting these efforts, please reach out to Joe or myself, and we will gladly involve you in our initiatives.

As a reminder the IIA continues to offer online CIA Review Courses throughout the year for those looking to become certified. As our chapter is a CIA Premier Partner, members may sign up for review courses and exams for a discount. Learn more here at <https://www.learnCIA.com/> and ensure you mention you are a Philadelphia member!

As the holidays approach, I would like to express my gratitude to our group of volunteers and our members who have enabled our accomplishments. Without them, we would not be able to provide quality programs and networking opportunities to our members. If you are interested in getting more involved with the chapter, please send me an email, and I will connect you with one of our committees.

Please feel free to reach out anytime as we would love to have your suggestions on how we, as a chapter, can best support you! I look forward to meeting as many of our members as possible at our events and I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

*Sean McErlean*

Sean McErlean, President – Philadelphia Chapter of the IIA  
president@phillyiia.org

## Career Opportunities

As a service to our Philadelphia Chapter membership, we post and maintain job postings on our IIA Philadelphia LinkedIn website allowing members who are in need of an opportunity (or a change of scenery) to pursue opportunities with local employers who are looking to fill their audit related staffing needs. This service has always been provided at no cost and viewed as a continuing benefit of membership in our Chapter.

If you are looking to fill a staffing need, we can post your job opportunity(s) on our IIA Philadelphia Chapter LinkedIn. For job seekers, head to our Chapter's LinkedIn to review recent job postings.

If you are searching for staff, please email your opportunity, including contact information (i.e., name, title, email address, phone) for each opening and a link to the online posting to Dave Aubrey, Chair, Employment Committee ([djaubrey@drpa.org](mailto:djaubrey@drpa.org)). Dave can also answer questions pertaining to employment and job postings.

## CPE Reminder

Have you earned all the credits you need to fulfill your certification requirements and opt into the IIA Certification registry? The deadline to report your 2023 CPEs is December 31, 2023! Visit [theiia.org](http://theiia.org) to learn more.



## Event Spotlight

In October, the Philadelphia Chapter of the IIA hosted Foundational Elements of Effective Internal Audit. Over 70 members attended both in person and virtually as Maeve Raak (Managing Director, Technology Audit at Protiviti and Philadelphia Chapter Secretary) and Nick Foley (Senior Manager, Internal Audit and Financial Advisory at Protiviti) led participants through an engaging and insightful day. Attendees appreciated the engaging event, which included applying lessons to breakout sessions with other attendees and opportunities throughout the day to network.

Be on the lookout for other in person and virtual events as we look forward to 2024!

## Chapter Achievement Program (CAP) Report



The CAP program is designed to reward and recognize chapters who go above and beyond in serving their members. All CAP activities are derived from the North American Strategic Plan. Chapter status levels recognized by the program are progressive. The chapter must fulfill all Bronze requirements to achieve Bronze status, all Bronze and Silver requirements to achieve Silver status, and all

Bronze, Silver and Gold requirements to achieve Gold status. Based on the dedicated service of our leadership and our members, the Philadelphia Chapter has achieved a Platinum designation for 2023; continuing our Platinum run since 2014! Our Chapter has now achieved at least Gold status for 18 straight years!

CAP activities the Chapter must complete on an annual basis are broken up into the following categories:

- IIA HQ Partnership
- Programming
- Certifications
- Advocacy
- Membership

\*Chapters earn:

- Platinum by achieving Gold 10 out of 11 consecutive years;
- Ruby by achieving Gold for 20 consecutive years;
- Sapphire by achieving Gold for 25 consecutive years; and
- Diamond by achieving Gold for 35 consecutive years

All Chapter members can play a role in the Chapter's success. By informing the Secretary when you participate in various activities specific to the "Service to Profession" category, this will help to increase our CAP point submission. The various activities include areas such as:

- Advocacy: Participation by any chapter member in a Junior Achievement Program/Event;
- Advocacy: Host an Internal Audit event at work, (i.e. Lunch and Learn);
- Advocacy: Schedule meeting with legislator or local politician to discuss IIA, legislation etc.
- Audit Executive Center (AEC): Contribute thought leadership to the AEC Knowledge Center;
- Certification: Participate in writing examination questions for the following

IIA certifications: Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Financial Services Auditor (CFSA), Certification in Risk Management Assurance (CRMA), Certified Government Auditing Professional (CGAP), and Certification in Control Self-Assessment (CCSA);

- Editorial: Submit articles to the Internal Auditor magazine;
- Editorial: Have articles published in the Internal Auditor magazine;
- Editorial: Have articles published in other professional journals;
- Speakers: Speaking engagements by chapter members both in and outside of the US, Canada, and the Caribbean. The chapter is eligible for CAP points if speaker is not compensated. Additionally, presentations can be outside of the Internal Audit profession.
- Volunteerism: The Chapter will receive points based upon the percentage of volunteer growth annually.

If you have participated or plan to participate in any of the activities described above, during the period of June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024 please communicate this information to the Chapter Secretary, Maeve Raak ([secretary@phillyiia.org](mailto:secretary@phillyiia.org)) and provide a brief description of the activity/event. If the activity is related to a speaking engagement, please provide the date of the presentation, a brief description of the event/presentation, and the length of time you presented. We appreciate your participation in helping the Chapter to once again achieve a Platinum status for this Chapter Year!

## Upcoming Chapter Events – Save the Date

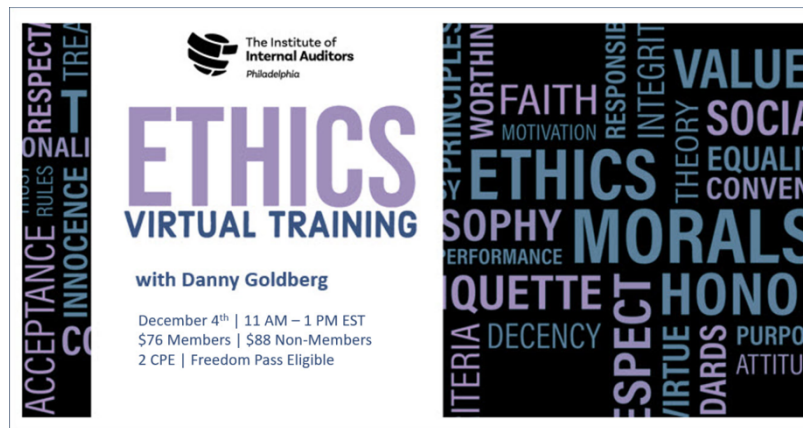
|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>December 4, 2023</b>    | 2 CPE – Ethics (Virtual)                     |
| <b>January 22-23, 2024</b> | 8 CPE – Cyber at the Cyber (Virtual)         |
| <b>February 2024</b>       | 2 CPE – TBD (Virtual)                        |
| <b>March 2024</b>          | 2 CPE – CAE Panel - Hot Topics (Virtual)     |
| <b>April 26, 2024</b>      | 8 CPE – Spring Summit/Conference (In Person) |
| <b>May 2024</b>            | 2 CPE - TBD                                  |

## Next Event Details

We are happy to welcome back Danny Goldberg for an online live webinar on our fifth iteration of Practical Ethics on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM – 1 PM for 2 CPEs in the Ethics field of study. The session will break new ground with a discussion on behavioral ethics and what drives people to make the Our course discusses the types of bias that can negatively impact our ethical decision making, how skepticism is critical to auditing *and* ethical decision making and a deep dive into the 2021 Global Business Ethics Survey, published by the Ethics and Compliance Initiative.

The Session will focus on the following:

- Understand how behavioral ethical decisions are made and what impacts decision making
- Learn more about professional skepticism and how it plays into ethical decision making
- Discuss the current trends in building an ethical culture from the 2021 Global Business Ethics Survey



*Stay informed about upcoming events by following the Philadelphia IIA Chapter on social media*



@IIAPhiladelphia



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/institute-of-internal-auditors-philadelphia-chapter>

## Member Anniversaries & Certifications

The Philadelphia IIA Chapter would like to recognize and thank our long-standing members. Please join us in thanking the following members:

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><i>40 Years</i><br/>Frank Hudson (Nov 1983)<br/>Rande E Whitham (Dec 1983)</p> <p><i>35 Years</i><br/>Daniel A. Thompson (Aug 1988)<br/>Aniruddha Pendharkar (Oct 1988)<br/>Mary Lou Scalese (Oct 1988)</p> <p><i>30 Years</i><br/>Sandra Mozee-Smith (Jul 1993)<br/>Nilufer K. Shroff (Sept 1993)<br/>Richard Wright (Nov 1993)</p> <p><i>25 Years</i><br/>Frank J. Tresnan (Jan 1998)<br/>Danielle L. Herner (Jan 1998)<br/>Robert W. Kintzer (Jan 1998)<br/>Wayne A. Tull (May 1998)<br/>Thu Nguyen (June 1998)<br/>Daniel J. Kennedy (Aug 1998)<br/>Joseph K. Kochuba (Oct 1998)<br/>Alida Hall (Nov 1998)</p> <p><i>20 Years</i><br/>Luisa Rosenberg (Jan 2003)<br/>Scott M. Parker (Jan 2003)<br/>Stacey M. Kelsall (Jan 2003)<br/>Daniel F. Creedon (Jan 2003)<br/>John O'Grady (Jan 2003)<br/>John M. O'Connor (Jan 2003)<br/>Stephen Doney (Jan 2003)<br/>John F. Conrad (Jan 2003)<br/>Robert S. Bright (Feb 2003)<br/>George Knapp (Feb 2003)<br/>Christopher J. Janis (Mar 2003)<br/>Michael E Rodriguez (Apr 2003)<br/>Joyce Massott-Burnett (May 2003)<br/>Maria R. Hoffman (May 2003)<br/>Bryan Henry (June 2003)<br/>Dennis Aquino (July 2003)<br/>Joseph Esposito (July 2003)<br/>Marc Lyman (July 2003)<br/>William Dawson (Aug 2003)<br/>Malte H. Globig (Oct 2003)<br/>Michael L. Brozzetti (Nov 2003)<br/>Steven Melletz (Dec 2003)</p> | <p><i>15 years</i><br/>Donovan Hawse (Jan 2008)<br/>Mark Vitale (Jan 2008)<br/>James Snyder (Feb 2008)<br/>Theresa Valley (Mar 2008)<br/>John Romano (Mar 2008)<br/>Craig Cleaver (Apr 2008)<br/>Ericka Green (Apr 2008)<br/>Matthew Williams (Apr 2008)<br/>Warren Greenidge (Apr 2008)<br/>George Molwitz (June 2008)<br/>Meredith Byrne (June 2008)<br/>Toby Jose (June 2008)<br/>Joseph Bethea (July 2008)<br/>Otis Aracena Jon (July 2008)<br/>Melody Blanchford (July 2008)<br/>Courtney Wilgucki (Aug 2008)<br/>Maurice Jones (Sept 2008)<br/>Jun Zhao (Sept 2008)<br/>Holly Corson (Oct 2008)<br/>Elaine Woehr (Oct 2008)<br/>Katherine Paquette (Oct 2008)<br/>Catherine Naydan (Oct 2008)<br/>Ricardo Rodriguez (Oct 2008)<br/>Steven Mark (Oct 2008)<br/>Michael Duplessis (Dec 2008)</p> <p><i>10 years</i><br/>Shmuel Eisenbach (Jan 2013)<br/>Sheetal Mehta (Jan 2013)<br/>Cory Hardy (Feb 2013)<br/>Chip Scott (Feb 2013)<br/>Sunyou Ni (Feb 2013)<br/>Mitchell Steinberg (Feb 2013)<br/>Jay Patel (Feb 2013)<br/>Jin Chen (Mar 2013)<br/>Frank Hansen (Apr 2013)<br/>Martin Szakacs (Apr 2013)<br/>Bancroft Hunter (Apr 2013)<br/>Marisol Baez-Neris (Apr 2013)<br/>Amy Leimbrock (May 2013)<br/>William Ramaeckers (May 2013)<br/>Matthew Hutchinson (May 2013)<br/>Stephen Straccia (May 2013)<br/>Jeemi Dattani (June 2013)<br/>Shawn Marion (June 2013)<br/>Jennifer Sholder (June 2013)<br/>Eileen Stephenson (July 2013)<br/>Shara Laws (July 2013)<br/>Kaliopi Pappas (July 2013)</p> | <p>Kelly Rieger (Aug 2013)<br/>Kristian Suy (Aug 2013)<br/>Ericka Chehi (Sept 2013)<br/>Rebecca Hemple (Sept 2013)<br/>Dawn Vogel-McWhinney (Sept 2013)<br/>Nicholas Foley (Sept 2013)<br/>Michael Marino (Sept 2013)<br/>Olumuyiwa Adegun (Oct 2013)<br/>Timothy Smith (Oct 2013)<br/>Brittany Maeve Raak (Oct 2013)<br/>Courtney Carroll (Oct 2013)<br/>Viktoria Foris (Oct 2013)<br/>Daniel Reyes (Nov 2013)<br/>Vireli Rios Guisao (Dec 2013)<br/>Kenneth Wozniak (Dec 2013)</p> |
|---|--|--|

## Certifications



to the following Philadelphia IIA Chapter members on their recent IIA certifications!

### Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)

Jacinta Bacon  
Blaine Bower  
Faizal Chaudhury  
Nicole DeFeo  
Bryan Hua  
Manush Kathrotia  
Robert Koob  
Saidath Mazu  
Monica Pitra  
Maevae Raak  
Jennifer Romano  
Katrina Savon

### Internal Audit Practitioner

Emily Bantola  
Ryan Gill



### Officer Spotlight: *Seth Edwards*



Seth is a Director in the Internal Audit & Financial Advisory practice at Protiviti. Seth currently works with privately and publicly held companies of all sizes in the real

estate, financial services, healthcare, and manufacturing industries providing a broad array of internal audit consulting services dealing with internal control structure, financial statement risks, process, and operational reviews as well as enterprise-wide risk assessment. For the past 18 years at Protiviti, Seth has assisted these companies with building Internal Audit, Sarbanes-Oxley, and ERM programs from the ground up and continues to monitor those programs year-over-year. Seth has also led or participated in projects to develop process and controls for ERP implementations and assisted with development of a new internal system by working with

management to gather business requirements. Prior to Protiviti, Seth worked as an internal auditor at an automotive sales and fleet leasing business.

Seth holds a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees in Business Administration focused on Accounting and Economics from Drexel University. Seth is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), has a certification in Risk Management Assurance (CRMA) and is Accredited in Internal Quality Assessment / Validation (QAR / EQA).

Seth has been an active member of The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Philadelphia Chapter since 2006. During his tenure as an IIA member, he has co-chaired the CAE track for several Spring Summits and Fall Conferences. Seth is currently the Treasurer and Board Member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the IIA. As an Officer and Board Member, he serves the Chapter providing leadership, support, and guidance to promote the Chapter's strategic initiatives and goals to strengthen the internal

audit profession and further educate the next generation of internal auditors.

Seth has a passion for sports including baseball, football, basketball, and hockey. When time allows, he watches and “commentates” (good or bad) games from beginning to end from the comfort of his home or out with friends. He also coaches in son’s little league baseball teams, attends football and basketball games, and even occasionally takes in his daughter’s gymnastics practice. Finally, Seth appreciates the time he gets to spend with his family which includes his Golden Retriever named Champ (no coincidence, Champ Bailey was one of Seth’s favorite football players).



**Member Spotlight:**  
*Stacie Mendoza*



Stacey is a Business Development Leader for Jefferson Wells, responsible for growing their client base along the East Coast. She has been working with Internal Audit leaders for over 20 years and has held varied

titles such as National Sales Director – Financial Services Industry, Lead Business Development Manager, Vice President Global Client Services, and National Account Manager. She’s lived in London, New York City, Ridgefield, Connecticut and now Philadelphia, where she has vowed, she is staying!

Stacey’s specialty is establishing executive-level relationships and leveraging her knowledge and understanding to deliver solutions. At the heart of everything Stacey does, there are two continuous themes: a strong passion to help clients solve their business issues and an enjoyment in helping people grow their networks. She has worked with executives across a wide range of industries such Financial Services, Sports Leagues, Manufacturing, Not-for-Profit, Insurance, and Utilities.

Stacey fell into the world of Internal Audit when she joined Jefferson Wells and has been a growing part of this community ever since. She has been involved with the IIA since 2003 and is dedicated to helping promote education and knowledge sharing within the internal audit industry. She was on the SIFMA Internal Audit Society Executive Committee for over 5 years, started the Women in Internal Audit group for this Society and was their Conference Planning Co-Chair for numerous years. She is now focusing her efforts on the IIA Philadelphia Chapter and is on the Fall Summit Conference Planning Committee.

In her spare-time, when she is not watching English Premier League or silver-smithing and designing jewelry, Stacey loves to cook, travel, and work with her local community. She is an Executive Team member for the Leukemia & Lymphoma (LLS) Light the Night event, has been on the Board of a Youth Orchestra, and was an alumni volunteer for American University. Whenever possible, Stacey unofficially mentors young women who are navigating their career growth.

It has been a journey. Stacey studied International Relations with a minor in French. It was while she was studying in France that she met her future English husband, Colin. They have been married for too many years to mention and currently live in South Philadelphia with Spike the Standard Schnauzer and Mr. Pickles the fluffy tabby cat. They have two wonderful children, Hannah and Ruben, who live in Colorado at the moment. She is hoping to get them back East at some point!



## New Member Spotlight: *Abraham Almonte*



Abraham Almonte is an Audit Associate at Thomas Jefferson University. Prior to joining Jefferson this past summer, Abraham was a professional baseball player within the Arizona Diamondbacks’ organization.

Abraham graduated from Philadelphia University (Now Thomas Jefferson University) in 2016 with a BS in accounting and continued at the same institution to complete his Master of Business Administration. In addition to his education, Abraham played for the Jefferson Rams baseball team. The left-handed pitcher was garnering attention from professional scouts in his 2017 season, and eventually got selected by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the 26<sup>th</sup> round of the Major League Baseball Draft.

Abraham paused his MBA classes once he was drafted; however, he returned to East Falls in 2019 to help coach the Rams and finish his MBA, while still preparing for his own season on the field. He continued coaching the Rams’ pitchers during his off-seasons every year. In 2022, he retired from professional baseball and decided he needed a change in his life. Abraham remained on the Rams’ coaching staff, even being promoted to Director of Baseball Operations and in 2023, he joined Jefferson’s Internal Audit team. Although Abraham envisioned himself on a baseball field for his entire life, this unanticipated change has done wonders for him. He finds joy in every day, is part of a great environment, and still feels like he is part of a team. He has truly fallen in love with what he does.

### Chapter Feedback

If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, or concerns please don’t hesitate to reach out to [communications@phillyiia.org](mailto:communications@phillyiia.org)

## Some Lighthearted Internal Audit Humor



“Could you explain this, frankly, implausible spike in travel expenses in late December?”

## The Current IIA Philadelphia Chapter Board of Governors (2023-2024)

### Ex-Officio – Two Past Presidents

Ryan Egan  
Matt Skala

### Officers

Sean McErlean  
Lyzbeth Noel  
Lee D’Ambrosio  
Liz Gulla  
Seth Edwards  
Maeve Raak

### Term Expiring 2024

Ken Brzozowski  
Adam Ross  
Bernadette Robinson  
Sandra Mozee-Smith  
Susan Allem

### Term Expiring 2025

Marc Lyman  
Jamal Ahmed  
Michael Levy

### Term Expiring 2026

Laurie Riggs  
Frank Macciocca  
Lindsey Bell  
Peter Parillo



# Freedom Pass Bundles

Save up to 30% at our events!

| Bundle Size     | Cost     | Cost per CPE | Savings % |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| 40 CPE Credits  | \$1,560  | \$39.00      | 10%       |
| 80 CPE Credits  | \$2,945  | \$36.81      | 15%       |
| 160 CPE Credits | \$5,545  | \$34.65      | 20%       |
| 320 CPE Credits | \$10,395 | \$32.48      | 25%       |
| 640 CPE Credits | \$19,400 | \$30.31      | 30%       |



Conditions for purchase:  
 - Credits expire after 18 months  
 - Must be a member of the Philly Chapter of the IIA  
 - Savings calculated using event cost of 1 CPE - \$43

For further details, please reach out to [programs@phillyiia.org](mailto:programs@phillyiia.org)

## Additional Freedom Pass Details:

- Freedom Pass credits generally translate to CPE hours for each event, unless otherwise stated (i.e., 5 people attending an 8 CPE seminar is 40 Freedom Pass Credits)
- Freedom pass credits expire 18 months from date of purchase
- Every Quarter, a statement providing the balance of used and purchased Freedom Pass credits will be provided to each account holder
- Freedom Pass bundles must be purchased by a member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the IIA
- Most programs offered by the Philadelphia Chapter of the IIA are eligible to be purchased using Freedom Pass credits

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