Founded In 1949

THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH

The Official Publication of the
Greater Philadelphia Locksmiths Association

WWW.GPLA.ORG

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Our next meeting will be held on November 17th, 2025

Location:

Tiffany On The BLVD
9010 Roosevelt Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19115

Time:

6:30PM for Dinner, 7:45PM for Meeting Only

Dinner Cost:

$5.00 Per member
$25.00 Per for non-members
The meeting is at no charge.

Program:

Brian Strom from Killeen Security Products (KSP) will be presenting new products

The members of GPLA would like to thank

LAB Security
for their generous donation of
four pick sets and two large pin kits.
Your continued support is truly appreciated!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

The Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association (GPLA) is excited to invite all members and guests to our upcoming Monday November 17th meeting. Come celebrate the comradery and friendship with fellow members and enjoy a delicious Turkey dinner at Tiffanys Diner.

Don't miss this opportunity to relax, socialize, and celebrate the season with great food and great company. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the association, everyone is welcome!

Paul Kline
President, GPLA

GPLA MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The October 2025 membership meeting had no minutes due to lack of quorum.

LOCKSMITH HUMOR

What key does not open a lock?

A Tur-key!



EDUCATION

The Carl Cloud Educational Directory

Carl Cloud Educational Directory on the ClearStar Security Network website (https://www.clearstar.com/) is a valuable resource for locksmiths and security professionals. With over 130 technical articles, it covers a wide range of topics including:

- Lock mechanisms and troubleshooting
- Safe servicing and manipulation techniques
- Advanced locksmithing theory and practice
- Historical insights and industry standards

Accessible under the RESOURCES section for ClearStar members, this directory is a treasure trove of practical knowledge and expert insights. If you're a member, it's definitely worth exploring for continuing education or sharpening your technical edge.

Carl Cloud was well respected within our industry and rightly so. He was a gentleman and was always willing to help his fellow technicians.

He maintained his own web site for many years and freely shared his knowledge with those on his email list.

I worked with Carl to produce a CD of his writings. The primary motivation for Carl wanting to create the CD was so that his lifetime of knowledge would not be lost. He wanted his work preserved for the benefit of his fellow craftsmen after he passed away.

Now that Carl is gone we are honoring Carl by archiving the contents of that CD on ClearStar Security Network.

In July of 2007 I wrote a letter to Carl's wife Betty about this. Along with the letter I sent a photograph of Carl at one of the SAVTA Safetech conventions and a packet containing all the posted responses from ClearStar members - responses to the announcement of Carl's passing. Betty asked me to pass along to all of you her heartfelt thanks for your kind words. She said she has read through the comments from you, Carl's peers, many times and also shared the packet of your posts with other family members.

In a follow-up telephone conversation with Betty Cloud we arrived at the same conclusion. We feel Carl would be honored to have his educational legacy preserved.



Carl was a member of ClearStar and although he didn't post much, he did read and occasionally gave his perspective on matters. Much of Carl's time was devoted to writing.

Therefore, this restricted-access directory is dedicated to his memory and named after him.

- Thank you, Marty Arnold, for your Newsletter contribution.

LOCKSMITHING MEETS ART

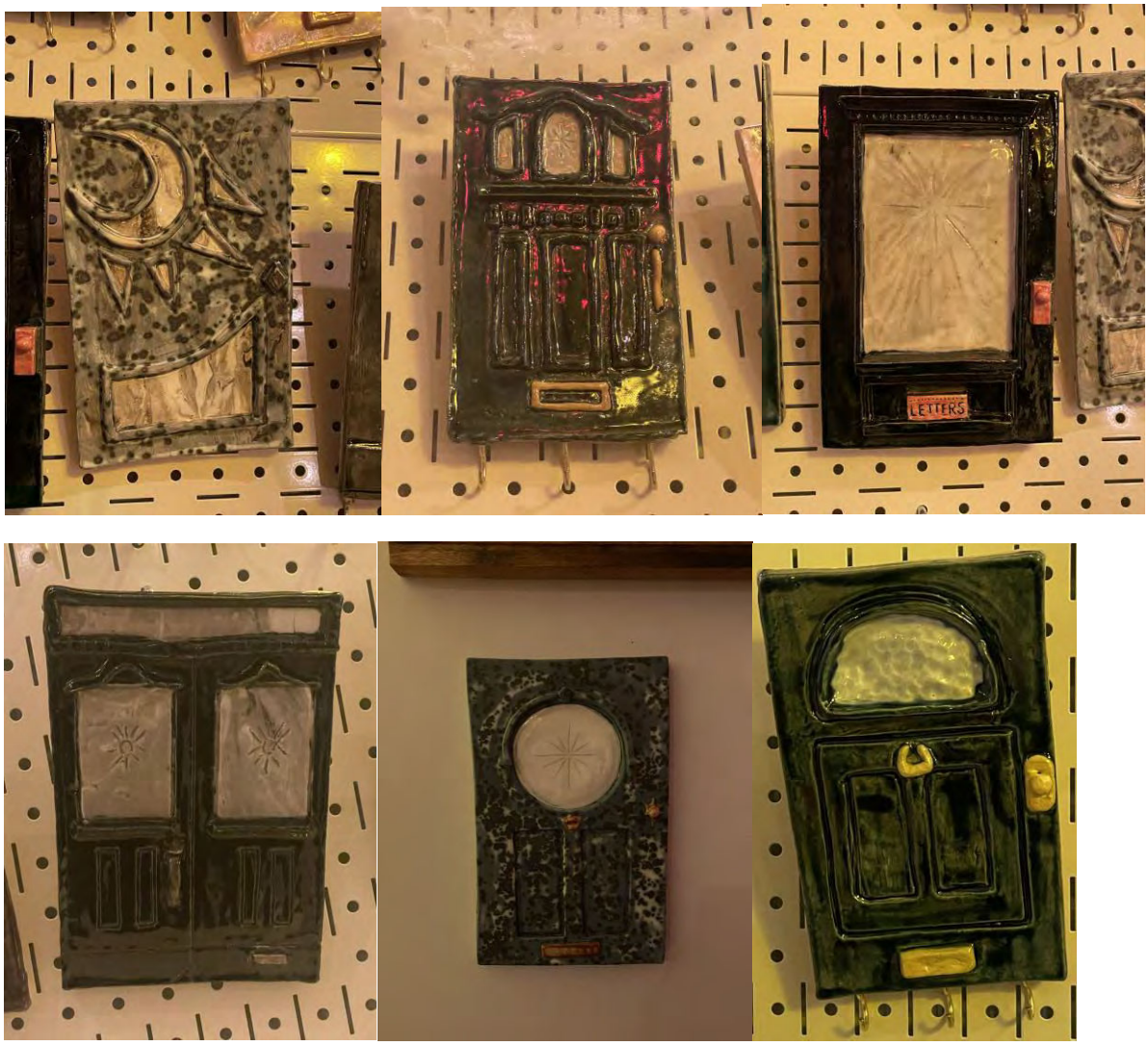
Ari Wilensky recently visited an art gallery dedicated to the original Tofani doors—iconic mid-century fixtures handcrafted in South Philadelphia. During the visit, a local pottery class instructor approached us with a creative challenge: how to transform their students' clay artworks into functional key holders inspired by these historic doors.

We were happy to help, providing hangers that could be added to the bottom of the ceramic mini-doors, turning each piece into a practical and stylish key hook. The result was a vibrant display that honored South Philly's architectural legacy while showcasing the students' creativity. For 95% of the class, this was their first time working with clay, making the experience both a hands-on artistic milestone and a meaningful connection to local history.






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The original Tofani doors were manufactured by the Arthur Tofani Lumber & Millwork Company, which operated at 8th and Dickinson Streets from around 1929 through the 1950s. These handcrafted doors, often featuring a starburst motif in beveled glass, still adorn rowhouses throughout South Philadelphia. Salvaged and refurbished originals are now highly sought after, prized for their unique mid-century modern aesthetic and deep cultural resonance.

Thank you, Ari Wilensky, for your Newsletter contribution.

FEATURED ARTICLE

The Future of Locksmithing: Where Tradition Meets Technology

Locksmithing, once defined by metal keys and mechanical locks, is undergoing a dramatic transformation. As we move into 2026 and beyond, the industry is embracing innovation to meet the demands of a digitally connected world. Here's a look at the key trends shaping the future of this essential profession.

🧠 Smart Locks and IoT Integration

Smart locks are no longer a novelty; they're becoming the standard. These devices allow users to control access via smartphones, voice commands, or even remotely through cloud-based platforms. Integration with the Internet of Things (IoT) means locks can now communicate with other smart home devices, creating seamless security ecosystems.

🧬 Biometric and Mobile Access Control

Biometric authentication using fingerprints, facial recognition, or iris scans is gaining traction in both residential and commercial settings. Mobile access control systems, which allow entry via digital credentials stored on smartphones, are also on the rise. Locksmiths must now understand software systems, encryption protocols, and user interface design to stay relevant.

🛡️ Cybersecurity and Digital Threats

As locks become smarter, they also become vulnerable to hacking. Locksmiths are increasingly expected to be cybersecurity-aware, ensuring that digital locks are not only convenient but also secure. This includes understanding network vulnerabilities, firmware updates, and data protection laws.

🧰 The Evolving Role of the Locksmith

Tomorrow's locksmith is part technician, part IT specialist, and part security consultant. Training programs are adapting to include digital systems, smart device installation, and customer education. The profession is becoming more specialized, with niches in automotive security, corporate access control, and home automation.

In short, locksmithing is no longer just about unlocking doors—it's about unlocking the future of security. Those who embrace technology, invest in education, and adapt to changing consumer needs will thrive in this new landscape.

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