

Reflections on the House

by Lynn Miller

Last winter, I roamed northern India for two weeks, time enough for a thousand impressions, but far too little to come to know this incredibly rich and complex country with any confidence. Every day was filled with learning—and sensory overload—like none I’ve experienced in any comparable two-week period in my lifetime. The riot of color and contrast characteristic of Indian life is nearly overwhelming, and gets in the way of the learning. So I offer these observations tentatively, knowing they could be dead wrong, though they were powerful components of what I think I learned.

One key to understanding India’s place in the world is through the *Hinduism* that is rooted in the subcontinent’s prehistory. Hinduism, with which 80% of Indians identify, has no paramount prophet or savior, no unimpeachable set of holy texts, no ultimate religious

authorities or ecclesiastical organization, nor does it have unchallengeable theological doctrines of the kind that exist in other major world religions. So it is a remarkably flexible mine of traditions and ethical precepts to guide its followers in their daily lives. Its pantheon holds either hundreds of millions of gods, or only one, depending upon what makes most sense to the believer. Its deity is either

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manifested in six-armed figures of humans or humans in animal form, like Ganesha, the hugely popular elephant-headed god, or it is utterly formless and without substance.

That range of possibilities

helps explain why Hinduism remains powerful, but very diverse in its impact, for a nation that has been officially secular since its independence in 1947. In Jaipur, I attended an evening *aarti* service, which venerates the god Shiva and fire itself, in a glistening marble temple surrounded by statues, not only of the expected Hindu gods, but of Confucius, Zoroaster, Moses, Jesus Christ, St. Peter and Mohammed. That all-inclusive Hinduism may be particularly appealing to educated city dwellers. The rural poor and the uneducated can worship without those cosmopolitan trappings. In Varanasi, Hinduism’s holiest city, the faithful come in droves to bathe in Mother Ganges, the holiest river, and to cremate their



Women and children in Rajasthan, India.

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Exercising our rights atop the House

by Byron Fink

At 10:15 every Tuesday and every Thursday morning, eight or so intrepid residents of Hopkinson House head up to our solarium for a 45-minute exercise class. It’s free of charge and there is no critiquing. Anyone who chooses to participate is welcome.

We’re there to enjoy ourselves and keep from getting rusty. Naturally, because it’s at 10 in the morning in the middle

of the week, we are, shall we say, no longer the youthful nine-to-fivers we once were. But don’t you dare call us “couch potatoes.” And I—yours truly—am the leader of the class.

How did this all come about?

How it all began

Some years ago (might it be as many as ten years ago?) a professional personal trainer had the inspired idea to offer

body workout classes to the residents of several Center City high-rise apartment buildings. She assured us, “You could appear in the getup you prefer. Speedos, Dr. Dentons, gym casuals? Whatever makes you comfortable. Dig out your weights from the back of the closet and bring them with you. Don’t have weights? That’s easy to fix. Modell’s Sporting Goods in The Gallery has ‘em.” Don’t want to use weights?

No problem. Do the exercises without weights.

Of course, at the time there was a per-session fee to participate. However, the fee was fairly reasonable. Judy, the trainer, led us in a good regimen, which focused on all parts of the body—arms, legs, abdomen, joints—and was tailored to our capabilities.

Judy always reminded us that the purpose was to

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on the HOUSE Better living through chemistry

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by Susan Tomita

Unless you're a scientist, engineer, or alchemist, chemistry's effect on society is not likely to be a subject you ponder. But if you walk two blocks north and three blocks east, you'll find a 17,000-square foot facility, trained staff, and scholars devoted to inspiring a passion for chemistry, highlighting chemistry's role in meeting social challenges, and preserving its story across centuries.

The Chemical Heritage Foundation and Museum, located at 315 Chestnut Street, houses an extraordinary collection of objects and artworks related to the history of chemistry. Born of an idea sparked 30 years ago, the Chemical

Heritage Foundation (CHF) has as its founding members the world's largest scientific organization—the American Chemical Society—and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers—a global association—plus more than 30 affiliated organizations worldwide. It hosts conferences and lectures, supports research, offers fellowships, and produces educational materials. The museum and public programs explore subjects ranging from alchemy to nanotechnology.

In October 2008, the museum opened on the site of CHF's headquarters in the historic First National Bank building. Its award-winning design involved renovating the Civil War-era structure using 21st-century Leadership in

Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles. Its blend of classic 19th century Italianate architectural elements and materials with clean modern lines and technology create an environment conducive to learning and research.

Upon entering the glass-faced building, you'll see the Masao Horiba Exhibit Hall to your left where its permanent exhibit, *Making Modernity*, is on display. It features scientific instruments and apparatus, rare books, fine art, and the personal papers of prominent scientists. Topics range from alchemy, synthetics, and the chemical-instrument revolution to chemistry education and the science of color. A marvelous animated

SEE FOUNDATION, PAGE 17

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Message from Council

Diversified opinions, investments

by Jason Norris
Council President

I would like to take this opportunity to write about two of the most significant issues facing Council: (1) the design and construction of renovated corridors ("Corridor Renovation Project"); and (2) the maintenance of our capital reserve fund.

Over the last several months, Council has continued to work with our architects, Purdy O'Gwynn,

to finalize the details of the Corridor Renovation Project. Although this has been a lengthy process, Council reached a consensus on the final design, and construction will begin on the 31st floor in or about June 2010. After construction is complete on the 31st floor, Council will review the finished product and determine, with the assistance of Purdy O'Gwynn, whether any further tweaks need to be made to the paint

colors. As you know, in any design process, there is room for countless opinions. To that end, we have worked closely with Purdy O'Gwynn and several residents with design expertise to account for these opinions. We believe that the final product will be a design that we can all enjoy and, at a minimum, the renovated corridors will be a vast improvement over our current design scheme. We look forward to unveiling the

results of what has been a long process in the near future.

In addition to finalizing the details for the Corridor Renovation Project, Council has also been working for over 1½ years to diversify our capital reserves. In these difficult economic times, our paramount objective is to protect our capital reserve. Previously, our capital reserve funds were kept in a money market account that was

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Message from Management

Acknowledging a most welcome spring

by Judi Forte

This has been a winter to remember; more than 70 inches of snow in this area and too many Nor'easters for comfort. Spring has never been more welcome.

There has been a lot of activity among the Council and Hallway Committee members over the past few months. The committee brought its recommendations for the hallway renovations to Council and got an approval for the Architects to proceed. Purdy O'Gwynn, the architectural firm chosen to design the halls, is committed to having the construction documents for the hallway renovations complete by March 31. The documents will be reviewed by the Association's attorney and upon his approval, the bidding process will commence.

- Holstein White, Inc., Consulting Engineers completed their feasibility study to compare replacing the

existing dual temperature pipe risers vs. abandoning the pipes and installing individual heat pumps in all of the units. The Council approved Criterium Engineering to review Holsteins White's study to be sure that the recommendations are appropriate.

- The Arrimour Group was chosen to provide the landscaping services in 2010. This is their second year of providing the landscaping services at Hopkinson House and we are looking forward to seeing the spring and summer plantings.

The swimming pool will open on May 29, 2010. Membership information, pool hours and pool Rules and Regulations will be available the first week in May. Please be advised that you must be a full-time resident of Hopkinson House in order to be eligible for single or household membership. Extended family members, summer visitors, friends, etc.

are not eligible to become a part of the membership. These are guests and can only make use of the pool facilities by the purchase of a guest pass and the unit owner or resident accompanying them to the pool. A day pass will also allow you to purchase guest passes.

Spring brings birds to the area. **Feeding birds on your balcony, either by feeder or spreading food on the balcony surface, is not permitted.** The bird food blows onto other balconies and creates a mess as well as attracting birds to other balconies where they leave their droppings, damaging outdoor furniture. Bird feeding is prohibited anywhere on Hopkinson House property.

With the onset of warm weather more and more residents will be using their balconies to dine and relax. **Please exercise caution when watering your outdoor plants.** Do not let the water overflow the drip pan under the planter. Do not sweep

dirt or water off the balcony. Your neighbor below does not want to be doused with water or have dirt fall on them or their meal.

Smokers who enjoy their cigarettes or cigars on the balcony must not toss their cigarettes or cigars off of the balcony. They are picked up by the wind and they land on other balconies, sometimes burning holes in patio furniture. They can also hit someone on another balcony. If you smoke on your balcony, please extinguish your smoke in an ashtray.

We receive many complaints about tobacco smoke infiltrating units from adjoining units and from across the hall. We ask that the smokers in the building be considerate of their neighbors. One way to reduce the amount of smoke leaving your unit is to use an air filtration system. Smokers can also try a smokeless ashtray. Hopkinson House was built before secondhand smoke became a health issue. Its

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Days of strawberries and cream

by Byron Fink

To be young, to be vivacious, and to be living in Strawberry Mansion in the early nineteen-thirties was heaven. Longtime Hopkinson House resident Sophie Crome harbors the memory of Strawberry mansion ever so fondly. "Everybody knew everybody up and down the block. There were lots of girls and boys my age who were in and out of each other's homes."

During our conversations, the 96-year-old Sophie smiles at her recollections. She remembers the western border of Strawberry Mansion, 33rd Street, which adjoined Fairmount Park. It was



Sophie Crome, on the left, sharing a sunny afternoon with a friend.

a sunny, tree-dappled boulevard that led to the Girard Avenue Bridge, the Philadelphia Zoo, the East and West River Drives of the Schuylkill River and into the center of Philadelphia. She recalls with pleasure taking the #9 trolley car to the movie palaces lining Market Street which promised cool comfort on hot summer days (there was no such thing as an air conditioned home at that time).

A local movie house that

Editor's Note: We bring to our readers the profiles of two long-time residents of Hopkinson House, both native Philadelphians, who grew up in the same part of town. They followed different paths that seldom crossed. They have in common their love for tennis acquired on the same tennis court of their youth although they never played together there and, by coincidence, they reside in the same building now.

Sophie enjoyed talking about was *The Park*, which featured an amateur singing contest for the local children. After the movies and the singing competition, lots of the kids would head over to the main hangout on 33rd Street—a soda fountain joint, Cherry's.

An amenity that made Strawberry Mansion so special to Sophie was the tennis courts in Fairmount Park, across 33rd Street. She loved playing in those tennis courts. One Strawberry Mansion fellow-denizen, a couple of years older than Sophie, who also used the tennis courts, was Max Silverstein. By coincidence, Max, too, is a longtime resident of Hopkinson House. The young Sophie, however, didn't play against the youthful Max for two reasons: 1. He was a far better player than she, and 2. They did not permit men and women to play opposite each other.

A special period in Sophie's life was when she was an employee of the for-men-only Camac Baths, located near 12th and Walnut Streets. The Camac Baths—still in operation all these years later, but now called The 12th Street Gym, was more or less a gentlemen's club: steam rooms, exercise rooms, massage rooms, swimming pool, newspaper reading rooms, rooms where gentlemen could spend the night if they chose. "I was a young kid, fresh out of high school," Sophie was hired to be the owner's stenographer. There

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Social worker, scholar, lover of people

by Enny Cramer

Most Hopkinson House residents will agree that one of our most distinctive neighbors is Max Silverstein, who is also one of our oldest. Currently hard of hearing and wheelchair-bound, at the age of 98 Max has his down days. Most of the time, however, he is mentally alert and interested in local and world affairs, and an enthusiastic reader of the daily *New York Times*. To consider his life colorful is an understatement.

He was born and raised in Strawberry Mansion, where he met Belle, whom he married in 1936. The couple had two daughters, one of whom died in 1994. Three years later Belle died. Max and Belle raised their girls in East Oak Lane, where they lived until 1982, when they moved to Center City. A year later they moved into the Hopkinson House. Four grandchildren and two great-grandkids, plus a host of grand nephews and nieces stay in touch on an ongoing basis. It is a joy to hear Max talk about his "kids" after their visits to him.

Max's professional life has been expansive and successful. He started his career in social work in the early 1930s as a

caseworker in the Philadelphia Public Welfare Department. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a BS in 1933, an MSW in 1936 and a DSW in 1963. He joined the Penn faculty in 1966 to help set up a curriculum in Community Organization and Social Planning.

Before that, Max and Belle had moved to California, where Max was the Director of the Health and Welfare Council of Los Angeles in the late '30s and early '40s. He served in the United Nations R&R Administration as welfare liaison officer in '44 and '45, after which he joined the faculty of UCLA through 1949.

In 1950 the couple returned to Philadelphia, where Max was intimately involved



Max Silverstein playing his game of choice, tennis.

in the development of mental health services as the Executive Director of Pennsylvania Mental Health, Inc. From 1966 until his retirement in 1977, Max was a full-time professor at Penn's School of Social Work and head of that department. He retired as Emeritus Professor of Social Work. He

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Discussions with our chief engineer

by David Roberts

In a ship at sea the captain and chief engineer share the job of running the ship. The captain navigates the ship and conducts its business of transporting cargo and passengers. The chief engineer keeps the vessel seaworthy and ensures that its engines and other mechanical systems are in good order and working smoothly. In short, the chief engineer's job is to see that the ship is fit to meet the captain's needs.

In many ways Hopkinson House is like a ship, especially in its extensive mechanical plant. It has boilers and chillers, and pumps to move hot and cold water throughout the height of the building. It also has air-handling equipment to remove stale air and pump in fresh at every level from the solarium to the garage. In addition the building has a shell of walls and windows that must be kept intact. And there is much else to be kept in working order. The general manager and the chief engineer must work together to ensure that the residents can live in safety and comfort. As in a ship, it is the chief engineer's job to ensure that the mechanical plant is kept in good working condition and that the integrity of the building is maintained—if not seaworthy then at least ship-shape.

I asked our chief engineer, Tony Kelly, how he became qualified for such an exacting role. Evidently Tony has mechanical aptitude in his genes. His father was a first-rate motor mechanic and Tony chose a similar path at an early age, attending a vocational high school where he specialized in plumbing. After leaving high

school Tony was apprenticed to a plumber, and he became a licensed plumber before he started work at Hopkinson House in 1994.

The general manager at that time, Mana Tancredi, sensed Tony's potential and persuaded him to attend an engineering course provided

House. In his 16 years here Tony has never ceased learning new details of the building and its mechanical systems. In the past five to ten years many of those systems have come to the end of their useful lives and needed replacement, and most of that has happened on Tony's watch.

more than \$4 million. Tony Kelly works closely with our general manager, Judi Forte, in choosing engineers and contractors to bid on these projects. Tony also works with the chosen contractors to ensure that they do the job correctly. In the corridor project Tony and his maintenance crew



Tony Kelly in the penthouse mechanical room. The pumps in the foreground drive the hot or cold water through our convectors.

by the City of Philadelphia. Tony eventually graduated as a Class A Engineer. Tony became assistant chief engineer in 1997 and served in that capacity under a series of chiefs. In 2004, on Alex Walker's departure, Tony was promoted to the top job.

As every professional person knows, most of the knowledge needed to do the job is learned on the job, and that is how it has been for Tony Kelly. No course of instruction could have taught Tony the vast complexity of Hopkinson

The last few years have seen the replacement of the roof, the main hot and cold water pipes that carry water from the basement to the roof, most boilers and pumps, air-handling systems, the fire-alarm system, and of course the residential windows and balcony doors. About to begin is the renovation of the residential corridors. Most of these projects cost hundreds of thousands of dollars but the corridors will cost over \$1 million and, five years ago, the windows cost

will install the new lighting, saving the Owners' Association well over a hundred thousand dollars. It should be noted that Judi also will save our Association a considerable sum by personally undertaking the coordination with residents. Those of us who lived here during the replacement of the residential windows will remember what that entails.

I asked Tony what he has most in mind for the future. He immediately mentioned the residential heating and

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News

Around the House

SHCA Washington Square Affair is coming

by Nelly Childress

Read in the *Society Hill Reporter*; Mark Thursday, June 10, on your calendars, when the Society Hill Civic Association

(SHCA) hosts its biggest party in Washington Square. There will be tents with food, music and wine.

The affair will be a fundraiser to help cover the costs of the beautification and maintenance of the Square that we at Hopkinson House take for granted. SHCA contributes to and participates in the care and maintenance of Washington Square through donations and

volunteer support. They work with the Independence National Historic Park which took over the management responsibility of the Square since 2002.

Event tickets are \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members. Invitations will be mailed in May to SHCA members. HHOA is a "Monument Sponsor" of the affair, and three of our residents serve on the managing committee.

For further information contact Matt DeJulio at mattdejulio@aol.com or call (215) 629-1288.

Do not miss...

...the Savoy Company's Gilbert & Sullivan's *Ruddigore* at the Academy of Music on May 28–29 at 8:00 p.m. The Savoy's artistic director is fellow Hopkinson House resident Dan Rothermel. ■

Citizens' League history at the House

by Nelly Childress and Enny Cramer

Fifteen years ago Nancy Snyder and Nelly Childress were bemoaning, in a lengthy telephone conversation, the way our elected officials inside the beltway and at home (in Pennsylvania) were conducting the people's business. Nancy mentioned that a friend of hers along with other residents of the Philadelphian had organized and started the Center City Concerned Citizens (CCCC). They were encouraging residents of the Philadelphian to join them. Their aim was to open discussions with invited politicians and pundits and to voice their opinions. Following Nancy's suggestion to join them, we decided instead to organize a similar group at Hopkinson House. With advice from CCCC, a committee of Hopkinson House residents was formed and, subsequent to negotiations, Hopkinson House Owners' Association and Management gave the green-light for the birth of a new, non-partisan organization at Hopkinson House.

The organization's Mission Statement was simply stated: "Belief in efficient government that supports a livable

environment, equal educational opportunities, jobs, affordable health care, decent homes and peace in our streets, our country, and the world." Its goals were threefold: 1. Keep our community informed; 2. Lobby legislators by mail, telephone and personal contact; 3. Connect with other grass-roots organizations with similar goals for the exchange of ideas and concerted action. Its first Executive Committee consisted of: the President, Nancy Snyder; the Secretary-Treasurer, Nelly Childress; the Newsletter Editor, Sid August; the Founding Members, Doris Bowman, Martha Keil, Ilene Lefko, and Dee Wigrizer; the Communication Chairperson, Margaret A. Carroll; and the Voter Registration Chairperson, Sylvia Lieberman.

The speaker at the first WSCL meeting, on June 24, 1996, was Tom Foglietta, then our Representative in Washington, later Ambassador to Italy and a resident of Hopkinson House. The first issue of the organization's newsletter, *UPDATE*, appeared in September of 1996.

Since then, WSCL registered as a nonpartisan, not-for-profit, Pennsylvania educational corporation,

dedicated to motivating residents of Hopkinson House to become engaged in the political and social processes of the day. Over the years Max Silverstein, Lynn Miller, Larry Meehan, Jay McCalla, Susan Tomita, Paul Coyne, George Koch, and Enny Cramer nurtured and helped to bring the organization into the 21st century.

An array of activities is currently offered to residents of Hopkinson House: 1. A **monthly Speaker Series*** featuring local movers and shakers such as then Mayor Ed Rendell, *Philadelphia Inquirer* national political columnist Dick Polman, six Philadelphia judges in an interactive "Meet the Judges" forum on the judicial process and judges' role, *World View* columnist for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* Trudy Rubin, City Planning Commission Executive Director Alan Greenberger, as well as candidates for city, national and state offices. 2. **Bi-weekly afternoon Discussion Sessions** led by knowledgeable Hopkinson House residents have included selected Foreign Policy Association, "Great Decisions" discussions, and "One Book, One Philadelphia" discussions; the diversity of topics has gone from "Green Public

Works" to "Homeland Security" and "Health Care Reform."

3. **Monthly Reel Discussion Sessions** where filmgoers meet to discuss a critically acclaimed film that has social and/or political themes of interest to members. Recently discussed were *The Hurt Locker*, *The Last Station*, and *Amreeka*. 4. In advance of national and local elections a **voter registration** table is set up in the lobby from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. giving residents the possibility to register, or to change their registration. Volunteer members of WSCL are available to give assistance and provide non-partisan help with information on the races, candidates, absentee and alternative ballot information. 5. **WSCL Social activities** include the annual June membership meeting and social mixer, a summer meet-and-greet, and December holiday parties.

Call or e-mail Enny Cramer (phone: [215] 925-9809; ennycramer@aol.com) if you are interested in joining (\$5.00/year) or need further information.

* *Although the Monthly Speakers Programs are open to all Hopkinson House residents, residence in the building does not automatically make them members of WSCL.* ■

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Exercising our rights atop the House

EXERCISE, FROM PAGE 1

maintain and increase our range-of-motion and our energy level. The routine also included stretches and breathing. For the classful of men and women, the exercises were not too hard and not too easy. They could be done while standing or while seated. Best of all, we could stick out our tongues at the weather. Rain or shine? Cold outside? Hot outside? So what! Head on up to the solarium.

As time went on, now and then when Judy realized she would be late in arriving, she would call me in my apartment and ask me to start the class. Why me? Not sure. Perhaps it was because she had a brother who sang in the New York City Opera and I had engaged her in conversation about that. I really don't know.

Then what happened?

One day—bam!—Judy informed us that she would no longer be available to lead our



The author (center) leads one of his twice-weekly workout sessions in the Hopkinson House solarium.

class; she had been hired full-time by one of the local gyms. Was this to be the end? I moped around. Other former attendees moped around. Commiserating with one another, we dared ask: "Is there any reason why we could not do the classes on our own?" The first paragraph of this article will reveal our answer.

Social worker, scholar, lover of people

SILVERSTEIN, FROM PAGE 5 is the author of many scholarly articles, the author of three books, all dealing with aspects of community mental health.

Max was an avid tennis player, as shown in the accompanying photo. Here again he became a leader, winning the state senior doubles championship in the late Seventies. Until her death his wife was his doubles partner. In our building Max played an active role in the development of the

Washington Square Citizens' League. Until very recently he actively participated in its discussion programs, never hiding his political convictions that government should have an active role in the welfare of our nation. He is one of the true Dewey Democrats, with a good sense of humor.

This article is based on several interviews of Max as well as a telephone interview with his daughter, Mady Edelstein, an attorney in New York City, as well as reading several articles. ■

We eliminated the fee and continued to follow Judy's regimen: arms, legs, abdomen, stretches, breathing. I gravitated to the class-leader's chair, because the attendees had become comfortable with seeing me in front of the class.

We've been holding these classes twice week for quite some time now.

Recently, a professional trainer who lives in Hopkinson House observed one of our sessions. He told us that we are following a very good routine and made a few suggestions, which we gratefully accepted.

That brings us to the present. We invite any Hopkinson House resident to

observe—and even join in—one (or more) of our classes. Admittedly, I am not a trained Trainer and we do not use music. On the plus side, there's no charge and I try to make the time entertaining. One more plus: from the solarium, the Philadelphia skyline is spectacular.

One final plus (I promise). In March 2010, on its Health & Wellness page, *The Wall Street Journal* printed an article which bore the headline and subhead, "Double the Odds of Seeing 85: When It Comes to Longevity, Regular Exercise May Be the Most Potent Weapon Against Disease". Nuff said, right? ■

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A visitor's reflections on India

INDIA, FROM PAGE 1

dead on the step terraces (ghats) at the water's edge. But spiritual reminders abound everywhere in India: small shrines for daily devotion are commonplace in Hindu homes and swank hotels, where religious images are swathed in garlands of marigolds.

Of course, India's religion includes much more than Hinduism. Islam was brought to the country by its Mughal conquerors in the 14th century. Because India's population totals more than one billion, the nearly 13% of Indians who are Muslim make it the third largest Islamic country in the world. Its tiny percentage of Buddhists nonetheless number about 8 million; Christians are three times that figure. Sectarian violence continues to mar the nation's history, with too-frequent blood-baths between, especially, Hindu and Muslim communities. With an intolerant Hindu nationalism playing an increasing role in the nation's politics, some worry that India's official secularism may be headed for danger. But more about Indian politics below.

India's economic development has been one of the world's great success stories during the past ten or twenty years, after centuries in which its enduring poverty was unyielding. Sure enough, in major cities such as Delhi or Agra, building booms are much in evidence. City streets are filled with cars (every day adds an *additional* 1,000 cars to Delhi's streets, creating horrendous congestion) and cell-phone-encumbered pedestrians shop in chic Western-style malls. But within a stone's throw of an upscale residential



A view of the Delhi Mall as seen from the Svelte Hotel in India.

neighborhood where private sentries guard huge modernist houses, a shanty-town of cardboard and canvas is home to thousands of scavengers (the film *Slumdog Millionaire* provides a good impression). In the smaller towns and cities of Rajasthan, palatial compounds of former rajahs are separated only by high walls from the hurly-burly of village life that has scarcely changed in centuries. Beyond the teeming village, in a mud-brick compound, a snake-charmer works his ancient wiles on a cobra, to the delight of the children in his extended family and us tourists from across the sea.

So, one of the shocks of India is to see how much of it still looks hopelessly impoverished. Still, it's also clear that many Indians are getting richer. A huge suburb of Delhi, Gurgaon, bristling with office towers, shopping malls, and glamorous hotels, is the call-center for the world now. Young Indians are trained to respond to your phone calls when you're having problems with your laptop—never mind that your morning call comes in the middle of their night.

crowding out camel carts and water buffalo as the standard means of transportation in the countryside.

It may put this development in perspective to guess that India is today at about the place that China was some 30 years ago. That was after the drastic declines brought on by the Cultural Revolution and at the point when Deng Xiao-ping was moving to make China a modern industrial economy. Or it's where Japan stood soon after the Meiji Restoration of 1868. It took Japan half a century or more to transform itself into a modern economic power; China was well on its way in about half that time. There's no guarantee that India will be assured of similar success. But ever since its

SEE INDIA, PAGE 18



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A library is not a cemetery

by Bob Devoe

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row
That mark our place; and in the
sky*

*The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below...*

Most of us will recognize this classic poem. The author, Lt. Col. John McCrae (1872–1918) was a surgeon in the Canadian Army during World War I. He wrote the poem in May 1915 after spending seventeen days treating injured men in the Ypres salient, an area of Belgium which was the scene of some of the biggest and bloodiest battles of the War.

If you have visited the Hopkinson House Library recently, you might think you have stepped onto such a battlefield. Books are competing with each other for limited shelf space. All of our books have been contributed by our residents over the years. While we are grateful for your contributions, we are now at a point where we can no longer accept all books. In addition, we have no space for periodicals, tapes, or compact disks. Even large-size books—particularly dictionaries and reference books—are becoming space-eaters. They simply sit.

*...We are the Dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset
glow
loved and were loved, and now
we lie
in Flanders fields....*

The library's prime take-out products over its 25-year existence have been fiction and mysteries—hardback, soft-cover, and paperback. Although we have accepted and shelved biographies, histories, political studies, and religious studies, as well as business, finance, law, and medicine, few of these books ever circulate. They simply sit on our shelves awaiting an occasional browser. In anguish,

they cry out: "Yo, borrow me. Read me." Even the classical literature we read in school is a victim of diminishing interest.

So, a massive reorganization is currently underway. The intent is to free up as much shelf space as possible in order to improve accessibility without reducing overall availability. Our goal is to give greater prominence and display to our prime products, those mysteries and novels which have become readers' favorites. In the coming months, there will be more than a few massive purges as we reduce the

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 21



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Better living through chemistry

FOUNDATION, FROM PAGE 2

display of the periodic table brings the elements to life on a towering high-definition video screen.

An ongoing exhibit, *Transmutations: Alchemy in Art*, presents European paintings from the 17th through the 19th centuries. The depictions of alchemists at work show them performing distillation, metallurgy, and tooth pulling. Such representations offer insight and commentary on what alchemists actually did and how society viewed them over time. Admission to this 4th floor gallery is free, but requires an appointment.

In an era of kid-friendly, hands-on/please-touch science museums, the CHF Museum stands out as an adult facility, and wondrously so.

The Othmer Library of Chemical History contains more than 100,000 print volumes that date from the 15th century through the 20th. CHF holdings extend to fine art, photographs, scientific instruments, personal and corporate archival records, artifacts related to plastics—such as nylon and Bakelite objects—and electrochemicals—such as early batteries, vacuum tubes, and computer chips—and much much more. Its Oral History Collection includes recordings and transcripts of hundreds of interviews conducted with leading figures in chemistry and related fields.

CHF opens its doors to the public for free events as part of its outreach mission. It offers a Brown Bag Lecture



Left: The Chemical Heritage Foundation Museum and Conference Center. Right: CHF Visitors Services Assistant Vivian Ng (left), Communications Manager Neil Gussman (right), and the animated periodic table in the Masao Horiba Exhibit Hall.



series on intriguing topics, such as *How the Calorie Leapt from Chemistry Lab Obscurity to Diet-Culture Eminence*, presented by members of the academic and business communities. It sponsors *Science on Tap*, a monthly science café held at the Old City bar, National Mechanics. It also curates the *Secret Cinema*, which mixes rare, vintage educational science films with classic science-fiction features that touch on themes in the current exhibit, *Marvels and Ciphers: A Look Inside the Flask*.

Residing next to the National Liberty Museum, the

Chemical Heritage Foundation Museum brings to light a different set of ideas and inventions that shaped modern life as we know it. After visiting the museum, perhaps you'll begin to appreciate how many of the ties that bind us are indeed chemical.

Thanks are owed to Neil Gussman, Communications Manager, for his informative tour of the Museum, and to Scott and Nelly Childress, who introduced me to CHF staff.

Before you visit: Museum hours are Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., and

on the first Friday of the month, 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Admission is free. Tours are available. Phone: (215) 925-2222. Fax: (215) 925-1954. E-mail: museum@chemheritage.org. The multimedia-rich CHF website, www.chemheritage.org, explains the breadth and depth of the collections, resources, and activities in great detail and includes slide shows, video clips, recordings, and blogs.

Editor's Note: Our readers may be interested to know that Purdy O'Gwynn, our hallways' architect, designed the 21st-century, elegant Ulliot Meeting Room. ■

A visitor's reflections on India

INDIA, FROM PAGE 13
 leaders unleashed market forces, encouraging entrepreneurship, India's growth (with China's) has led the world.

That leads to my last point, the amazing *Indian democracy*. Whatever your view of British imperialism, it was largely responsible for the fact that modern India was born as a democratic state. Little in India's history before the coming of the British was remotely

democratic. For more than 2000 years, from the ancient Mauryan Empire through the conquest of the Mughals and their subsequent rule over much of India that lasted well into the 17th century, rule was autocratic and from the top down. Most crucially, for many centuries, the Hindu caste system meant an even more rigid social hierarchy than existed in medieval Europe.

This is not to say that Britain or the British East India

Company were democratic when they arrived in India early in the 18th century. But two centuries later, Britain was a modern democracy, and India's founders were thoroughly imbued with its principles. They had learned them first-hand while being educated in British universities. Led by Jawaharlal Nehru, they modeled their governmental institutions after those of modern-day Britain. India has been a messy, fractious

democracy ever since, but a vibrant, largely successful one at that. While caste remains important socially, it has long been illegal in the political sphere to discriminate on the basis of caste, class, race, or religion. Today, a number of individuals from the Dalit, or untouchable, class of Indians have had highly successful political careers. Professionals come from all walks of life. Women are at last beginning to assume equality with men. In important respects, modern Indians rise or fall on their merits and not the circumstances of their birth. In public life, an easy egalitarianism has taken strong root.

The success of its democracy may be the most remarkable feature of all for India today. It probably couldn't have happened, either, without another unwitting contribution of the British: the unifying force of the English language. Its widespread use during the days of the Raj encouraged Indian nationalism, helping to overcome the country's division into dozens of separate political entities. English was made an official language of India at the time of its independence. Today, as the nation's *lingua franca* for educated Indians, it makes India the largest English-speaking country in the world. Also the largest democracy on the planet, India is beginning to overcome many of its most intractable social and economic problems. It is a remarkable blend of an ancient culture and a vibrant modern nation. If it can overcome communal violence stoked by religious extremists, it is poised to become a great player on the world stage. ■



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MANAGEMENT, FROM PAGE 3
construction does not address smoke traveling from unit to unit under the doors or through the ventilation system.

Hopkinson House is a smoke-free building in all of the common areas. Society Hill Towers has become a non-smoking community as of November, 2009. Smoking there is prohibited in all of the units, as well as the common areas. The current smokers in the building are grandfathered but any unit sold or rented after November 2009 or leases which are renewed must adhere to the new No Smoking policy. More and more buildings are looking into this policy.

The use of barbecue grills is prohibited in high rise buildings by order of the Philadelphia Fire Department.

A reminder: Shade

umbrellas may be used on the balconies with certain restrictions. On November 24, 2008, the HHOA Council amended the conditions under which umbrellas may be used. Umbrellas may be used on the balconies between May 1 and October 31. From November 1 through April 30, umbrellas may not be used on the balconies. They must be taken down and securely stored away during this time. During any periods of high winds, all loose or removable objects, including patio umbrellas must be removed from the balconies. Plants, pots, receptacles and other movable objects are prohibited from being placed on or maintained on the ledges of the balconies. The height of planters, pots, receptacles and all loose or movable objects must be below the height of the balcony

wall. Owners and residents are prohibited from mounting, installing or otherwise attaching any item to the balcony. Owners and residents may not drill holes or otherwise alter the face of the balcony.

Deliveries are not permitted on Sundays or legal and religious holidays. When ordering furniture, appliances, etc., please be sure that the company you are buying from does not schedule the delivery on any of these days.

There is a charge associated with the disposal of large items. The charges are:

- Appliance (disconnection not included): \$60.00
- Venetian blind (removal from brackets not included): \$25.00
- Sofa: \$75.00

- Chair: \$40.00
- Television: \$40.00
- Mattress: \$50.00
- Box spring: \$50.00
- Inside door or closet door (per door charge): \$25.00
- Carpeting or trash (container load): \$275.00
- Contractor trash (container load): \$275.00

If you are in need of maintenance in your unit, **there is a work order procedure which must be followed.**

You must call the front desk and authorize a work order which will be forwarded to the maintenance department. Please let the desk clerk know if you wish to be called before someone from the maintenance department comes to your unit. If the work may be performed

SEE MANAGEMENT, PAGE 23

Diversified opinions, investments

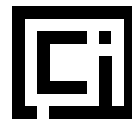
COUNCIL, FROM PAGE 3
privately insured. At the beginning of the financial crisis, Council decided we needed to diversify our accounts in order to stay within federally insured limits. This diversification has allowed us flexibility to open money market accounts that provide us with a better interest rate return on our capital. In addition to money market account diversification, we have been exploring, and investing, portions of our capital reserve funds in Certificates of Deposit ("CDs"). These CDs allow us to take advantage of the best

fixed interest rates available and maximize the return on our capital. We, along with our financial planners at Merrill Lynch, continue to vigilantly monitor our conservative investments.

Should you ever have any questions or concerns pertaining to the issues facing Council, please do not hesitate to contact us by writing or otherwise. The Hopkinson House has many talented and thoughtful residents, and we look forward to and appreciate hearing about any ideas you may have about current or anticipated topics before Council. ■



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Memories of past taxes paid

by Scott Childress

April 15 is surely the most unpopular date on the calendar; taxes are due. Earlier, March 1 was the tax date, rather quickly changing to March 15, but the filing complexity became so great that the Eisenhower administration shifted the due date to April. At tax time I am always reminded of my first contact with income taxes. As war had begun in Europe in 1939 and approached us more closely as time went on, the government began building a stronger military force at a considerable cost. Budget deficits were considered terribly bad policy at that time so it became necessary to raise taxes.

By 1941 there were many in my home town who had to be introduced to IRS Form 1040, for they had never had to file an income tax return. Parenthetically, Forms 1040 and 1040A looked about the same as they do now. Indeed, the forms in use since the tax commenced in 1913, following a Constitutional amendment, have remained recognizably similar while incorporating constant changes in the law.

I was fourteen years old in the spring of 1941 and expected to finish high school in the spring of 1942. Our Math teacher suggested that our class should study the tax forms so that we could help

people with their new task of filing and paying. Most of the class agreed to take on this task. When we were sufficiently trained, we visited schools and churches in groups to assist with tax filing. Our services were free. We were not paid for our time nor were we even given carfare for traveling to more distant sites. The venture was sufficiently successful to draw newspaper notice. Ultimately I was invited to visit an elderly aunt to assist her in filing on her small investment income; she provided my only remuneration, \$1.00, which I was ashamed to refuse.

During the rise in wartime taxpaying the government in

1943 introduced withholding, a convenience to the payers and a boon for the collectors. As a counter to the double charging during that year, the government actually forgave 75% of either the 1942 or 1943 tax bills, at the taxpayer's choice. The loss was made up in part by the institution of a surtax called a Victory Tax. By the end of the war, a person with a taxable income of only \$500.00 had a bottom rate of 23%! Those with taxable incomes over \$1 million paid 94% on the excess. Financial wizards nowadays can receive enormous incomes in a year and still complain about tax rates as low as 30 to 40%. ■

Discussions with our chief engineer

ENGINEER, FROM PAGE 7
cooling system. From the increasing frequency of leaks, most residents must by now be aware that the system is almost at the end of its useful life. In many places the pipes carrying water to the convectors are so corroded that the water is retained only by rust, and rust is brittle. How did this happen? Tony explained that the water in the pipes contains a powerful rust inhibitor, so there is virtually no rust inside the pipes. The rust starts on the outside of the pipes where condensation forms in summer as chilled water flows through. The water of condensation is trapped by the insulation, and corrosion follows.

Replacing the pipes would be enormously expensive, and tearing the walls apart to provide access to the pipes

would make our apartments temporarily uninhabitable. Accordingly, Tony says, the pipes will probably be drained and left in the walls, while the convectors in each apartment are replaced with another means of heating and cooling—probably heat pumps. Our present electric supply is insufficient to provide for electric cooking, which is why we have to cook with gas. It would certainly be inadequate to power new heating and cooling equipment and, therefore, a new electric supply would have to be installed throughout the building.

The details, cost, and timing of this very large project are still under review by management and the Council. We do know that repairing or replacing the heating and cooling systems, when necessary,

will be expensive and that it will take several years to complete. No wonder Tony gives much thought to the subject.

Finally I asked Tony about a frequent complaint of people who reside at either end of the building. Why does it take so long to get hot water when they open their faucets? Tony explained that the water in the main pipes, in the center of the building, constantly circulates. After it reaches the roof, a return pipe takes the hot water back to the boiler to be heated again, so the water in the main pipe is always hot. By contrast, the smaller, lateral pipes that take the water to each end of the building, and to every apartment along the way, do not have return pipes. There are so many lateral pipes that the addition of return pipes would be impracticable.

As a result, the water lies still in the laterals until somebody opens a faucet. While it is still, the hot water cools. During the night, when few people use hot water, the hot water cools all the way back to the main pipe. If you live in an end apartment and you are the first to open a hot faucet in the morning, the hot water has to travel half the length of the building to reach you. That can take several minutes. At busier times, when many people are bathing or cooking, the water in the lateral pipes is kept flowing and hot water arrives more quickly.

If you have a question about how something works in Hopkinson House our chief engineer, Tony Kelly, is always happy to explain. If you cannot find Tony, members of his well trained Maintenance crew can usually resolve your concern. ■

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Acknowledging a most welcome spring

MANAGEMENT, FROM PAGE 19 without you present, please advise the desk clerk. Stopping a member of the maintenance department to report a problem will not generate a work order and the work will not be performed until a written work order is authorized by the owner of the unit. Renters must have their landlords authorize work orders for the unit in which they are living unless there is an emergency situation such as water leaking into the unit.

If you intend to have work done in your apartment by an outside contractor, yourself, a family member or friend, you must file a completed contractor's package with the building's Chief Engineer before any work can begin. The insurance requirement for all work done in the units, whether by a contractor or the owner is \$2,000,000. If you intend to have your hardwood floors refinished, you must notify the Chief Engineer, Tony Kelly, prior to refinishing the floors. All neighbors in the surrounding units must be notified of the potential for strong fumes when the refinishing is in progress.

Community laundry rooms require a special type of etiquette. When you are checking the clothes in a dryer and discover that the load is not yours, please close the dryer door and push the reset button. Otherwise, the owner of the clothes comes back to a dryer full of wet clothes. Surely, you would want the favor returned.

Please empty the lint trap in the dryer after each load. A build up of lint can create a fire hazard. If you have a problem with a washer or dryer, please report

it to the front desk with the number on the washer or dryer in need of repair.

If you are anticipating selling or renting your apartment, contact Cathy in the management office for the most recent sale and rental information. Sale prices and monthly rental information is kept on record and can be very helpful to you.

If you have boxes to discard, please do not leave them in the trash room. Call the resident services desk at (215) 923-1776 to have housekeeping pick up the boxes.

The two most common noise complaints that we receive

are because of uncarpeted units and TV volume. The Hopkinson House Community Rules require all units to have 80% carpeting in the living room, dining room, bedrooms and halls. The bathroom and kitchen are not required to be carpeted. Landlords are responsible for their tenants complying with this rule. The sound of chairs scraping across an uncarpeted floor is extremely annoying to surrounding neighbors. Several residents have mentioned that they have felt or rubber tips on their chair legs which muffles the sound in the event the chair is pulled across uncarpeted flooring. But,

ultimately, the owner must be in compliance with the policy regarding carpet. **Exercise equipment should not be used after 10:00 p.m. or before 8:00 a.m.**

TV volume is to be kept at a level at which it does not interfere with the peace and quiet of neighboring units. If you have difficulty hearing a lowered TV, think about investing in a headset for your TV. If you are prone to falling asleep with your TV on, please remember to set the sleep timer.

From Council, Management and staff at Hopkinson House, have a safe and wonderful summer. ■

Our library is not a cemetery

LIBRARY, FROM PAGE 15 overall inventory. Some of the books we discard will be donated to other area libraries. Others will simply be designated for disposal. We will retain a smaller number of books in each of our non-fiction categories.

Since our library is your library, you can help this

effort by not dumping your unwanted books onto our shelves en masse. Be conscious of our limited shelf space. The days of the printed book as a commercial commodity are nearing an end. Libraries everywhere will soon enter a new dimension of functional services keyed to expanded

Internet access. (But that's another story....)

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The torch; be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow
in Flanders fields. ■*

Her days of strawberries and cream

CROME, FROM PAGE 5 were clothes lockers, but if the guests wanted to, they could leave valuables in a secure area under Sophie's custody. It was all up-and-up. Except...

Prohibition was still the Law of the Land. Sophie gradually realized that a few of the clients were Bootleggers! How exciting! "I knew their names and their tough-guy

nicknames—which I never dared use. They always had valuables to check and after retrieving them, they schmoozed with me and gave me a generous tip. They may have been roughnecks elsewhere, but at the Camac Baths they were always gentlemen and I was always a lady. When I regaled the girls in Strawberry Mansion with my stories, they were so jealous!"

Sophie, now widowed, has lived in Hopkinson House since 1977. She keeps active, walking herself across the street to Washington Square in nice weather and coming to the exercise class in the solarium once or twice a week. It's in the exercise class that I have the opportunity to talk with her and, I must say, she maintains a cheerful, positive outlook. ■

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