

Mother, writer

by Jay McCalla

Until recently, my mother P.J. has followed convention.

She married, raised three boys, entered the workforce, divorced and retired.

Fairly standard stuff, certainly.

But, throughout, she had a soul and creativity to express that didn't lend itself to the very practical life she charted.

One glimpse of that creativity was my early recollection of my family being served chilled vichyssoise, one Sunday evening at dinner. I assure you my father, who was a welder at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, never knew what hit him.



The author (right) and his mother P.J., another author.

And so it was that this practical woman, free from work and children, decided to write. And write she did.

Over the course of several years, my saintly mother produced 14 books which drew on family history, hometown legend and her own dandy imagination. And yes, she did it all on a manual typewriter.

Against all odds and reason, this 83-year-old slice of boundless perfection found a publisher, signed a deal for the first three and was whisked off

to Book Expo America—the annual, international event in New York City—for four days. From there, she proceeded to book signings at Barnes & Noble locations around the mid-Atlantic region. And, she is scheduled for a two-day book signing in Annapolis, Maryland. In between, there have been about a dozen radio interviews conducted by phone from her home.

As a matter of fact, a few weeks ago, she had a signing at the Barnes & Noble near Liberty Place.

Such a star!

With an enduring astonishment that mere words cannot convey, let me say my mother now has a publicist in Santa Barbara and someone who blogs on her behalf. It was fun to explain what a blog is and why it matters.

Did I mention she is 83?

Her book *Heads Deacon/Tails Devil* is available in hardback and paperback via Barnes & Noble and Amazon. (Please forgive the plug. My pride makes me shameless.)

I don't exactly recall how my working-class household responded to chilled vichyssoise, but I can tell you my mother has provided me one of the best years of my life.

Her joy is my joy.

Her success is mine to admire.

She is my mother and she's terrific.

Editor's Note: P.J. McCalla is retired and lives in Darby, Pennsylvania. Her book was "highly recommended" by the Midwest Book Review (Oregon, Wisconsin) and found "compelling and intense" by <http://readerviews.com> (Austin, Texas). ■

on the HOUSE

The Newsletter of
Hopkinson House • Winter 2010



Happy 2010!

by Nelly Childress

The Editorial Committee of *On the House* wish Hopkinson House owners and residents peace, happiness, good health, and prosperity for 2010.

The past year had its joys and sorrows, births but also losses of good neighbors. We would like to honor particularly those who gave freely of their time to our community:

- Paula Berg and Charlotte Churn, who for over 10 years participated in the then-Social Committee's activities, organizing day trips and initiating the now-traditional

holiday celebrations;

- William D. Harris, who was a member of the first HHOA Council serving from 1980 to 1993—a very early period of our condominium association, a confusing time for most who went from renting to owning, and a very busy time for council members;
- Our good friends Ernest and Denise Keen have moved out. Ernie was a member of Council from 2002–2007, and treasurer for much of that period. Denise chaired the Election and Special Events committees. ■



The Editorial Committee of *On the House* [left to right, top to bottom row]: Lynn Miller, Byron Fink, Dan Roethermel, David Roberts, Nancy Snyder, Susan Tomita, Nelly Childress. Not pictured: Enny Cramer.

On the House Council needs good candidates

Editorial Committee

Nelly M. Childress
Enny Cramer
Byron Fink
Lynn Miller
Dan Rothermel
David S. Roberts
Susan Tomita

Graphic Design

Desperate Hours Productions
desperatehours@earthlink.net

Advertising

Nancy Snyder
(215) 627-1731

Council Liaison & Photography

David S. Roberts

Issue Contributors

Nelly Childress
Enny Cramer
Byron Fink
Judi Forte
Jay McCalla
Lynn Miller
Jason Norris
David S. Roberts
Dan Rothermel
Susan Tomita

by David S. Roberts

Great news! In March, all owners will receive the first mailing for the 2010 Annual Meeting. The mailing will include a résumé form to be completed by candidates for election to the Council. Because 2010 is an even-numbered year there will be four vacancies on the seven-member Council.

If you are an owner you may be interested in filling one of those vacancies. Perhaps you are thinking about running but are unsure what council membership would entail. You may be concerned about the demands it would make on you and on your precious time.

The Council is somewhat similar to the board of directors of a company. It is

democratically elected by the owners to ensure that their investment and their property are properly managed and cared for and that their funds are wisely used for those purposes. In a word, the Council's job is governance.

At Hopkinson House the first task of governance is ensuring that there is effective management in place. The second is seeing that management is supported by an adequate staff, and the third is ensuring that management has the funds needed to execute its responsibilities. It is certainly not the Council's job to manage. The general manager and her staff do that very capably every day.

As the elected representatives of the owners,

council members have great power to do good but they generally do not have knowledge of or training in the detailed work of managing and maintaining a building. In technical matters the Council depends heavily on advice from two sources: management, and the special committees of owners and other residents that the Council appoints. Management and the committees, in turn, often seek outside advice. The advice of contractors is especially valuable and important.

Effective use of these sources of advice is a stiff test of a council because it requires the delegation of authority and responsibility.

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 15

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Message from Council

Hallway renovation ends '09 agenda

by Jason Norris
Council President

On December 10, Council hosted its annual budget review with the residents. Joan Rosenfeld, President of CAMCO Management Company, presented the 2010 budget for the Hopkinson House as approved by the Finance Committee. Ms. Rosenfeld and Council answered numerous questions regarding the budget approval process and the substance of

the budget proposal. After the presentation, Council voted unanimously to approve the budget for 2010.

In addition to discussing the 2010 budget, Council addressed numerous questions regarding the status of the hallway renovation project. In case you may have missed the budget meeting, Council voted to approve a carpet selection during their November 2009 meeting. This carpet selection will be incorporated into

the original design proposed by our architects, Purdy O'Gwynn. Over the past couple of months, members of Council have analyzed and reviewed numerous carpet designs with the able assistance of James Scott, Jamie Kolker, and numerous professionals in the carpet industry. After the selections were narrowed, members of Council invited Purdy O'Gwynn to review the selections to ensure that samples adhered to

Purdy O'Gwynn's design concept. Council then voted to approve one of the carpet designs and to authorize Purdy O'Gwynn to begin the process of finalizing the design. After Purdy O'Gwynn has completed this process, Council will review the final design and begin to take steps to implement the hallway renovation. Council will provide updates regarding this process as more information becomes available.

Message from Management

Safety, sounds in and around your units

by Judi Forte

The year 2010 will be the year of the hallway renovations. The delays in the selection of the carpet have been resolved and the HHOA Council and the Design Committee are certain that you will be pleased with the end result and hope that you feel it was worth the wait.

The **Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2010 in the Solarium at 8:00 pm. There will be four seats open on the Council in 2010. If you would like to be a part of the future planning of Hopkinson House, complete a nomination form which will be mailed out in March and put your name on the ballot. Council terms are for two years and Council members must be available to attend one meeting per month.

Winter is the time of year when we go out bundled for the bad weather and

come back snowy or wet. Please be sure to take your boots and umbrellas inside your apartment with you. If you require a **mat to wipe your feet**, it must be kept inside your apartment. The Philadelphia Fire Code prohibits any articles from being left in the halls. In the event of an emergency, these articles become an obstruction to safe exit from the building.

Beginning on January 1, 2010, there will be changes to the **in-unit maintenance charges** which have been in place since 1997. You should have received notice of the in-unit charge increases and the increase in the move in/move out policy in November. If you have not received a copy of the changes, please request one at the Resident Services Desk. A new copy of "The Community Rules and Regulations" with all recent changes was distributed to

all Owners and Residents in December.

Winter is the time for colds, flu and other types of **illnesses** which sometimes means a staffing shortage. Please bear with us if our service is a little slow during this time when we are short-handed. We encourage the staff to stay at home when they are not feeling well to protect the residents and the other staff members. We also ask that the residents follow the same procedure. Our staff is very friendly and they enjoy shaking hands with the residents. If you are ill, please refrain from shaking hands with staff members so as not to spread any illness. We sincerely thank you for this courtesy.

To prevent problems with your **garbage disposal**:

- Cut fibrous materials such as celery stalks into one inch lengths before grinding.

- Cut citrus skins into small piece before grinding. The citrus skins will help to deodorize the garbage disposal and give it a fresh smell.
- Don't put nut shells, corn cobs, bones, poultry skin or gristly meat in the garbage disposal.
- Run the garbage disposal *and* cold water for at least a minute until all of the materials have cleared and been flushed down the drain.
- Grind ice cubes without the water running to sharpen the blades of the garbage disposal.
- When in doubt, bag it and throw it out.

When baking pies or syrupy products which may spill over into the oven, place a cookie sheet or foil pan under the baking dish to catch the drips. Anything dripping into the

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Painting: the dream and the journey

by Byron Fink

Longtime Hopkinson House resident Charles Domsky was privileged, during September and October of 2009, to be included in an art exhibition that filled the east wing rotunda of the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg. Not the usual type of exhibition, it was called *Reverberation: An Invitational Exhibition of Four Artists with Disabilities*. This is the timeline of how Charles came to be included in the exhibition.

For many years Charles Domsky owned, with his business partner Joan Simon, the advertising agency Domsky & Simon which produced innovative, imaginative ads for print and broadcast media. Domsky had graduated from the University of the Arts in 1959 (at the time called the Philadelphia College of Arts) to which he had been awarded two art scholarships. However, the necessity of earning a living intruded and the dream of leading the bohemian life of an artist had to be put on hold. The advertising agency was a success. Domsky and his wife Ellie—a fashion illustrator—were able to buy a home at 1935 Pine Street.

Then, in the early 1980s, it was realized that he had Parkinson's disease, a movement disorder that may reveal itself when it causes, for example, hand tremors or difficulty in walking. Despite treatment at several local neurological rehabilitation centers including MossRehab division of the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network and Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, Charles found coping with the stairs in their multi-level home on Pine Street too daunting, so he



Hopkinson House resident Charles Domsky finds success and solace in his painting. Work by the former ad agency head was recently featured in an exhibition for artists with disabilities.

and Ellie moved to Hopkinson House in 1985.

Although contending with Parkinson's, he kept Domsky & Simon operating busily until three years ago. After taking scrupulous care that every one of his more than two dozen employees found new jobs, Domsky closed his advertising agency. Now, at last, he could devote his life to the dream he had had fifty years ago as a young student. He has converted the space where his ad agency had been—734 Pine Street—into a spacious, light-filled artist's studio. There, using acrylics to give free rein to his imagination, Domsky creates and sells his unique canvases which are not quite abstract, not quite realist. He terms them "aerial landscapes". I term them crisp and engaging. Some seem to resemble, as viewed from far above on remarkably clear days, highways traversing cities. Even better, "in his studio he escapes

the tremors of Parkinson's... when he draws or paints, his hand is steady", it states in the attractive catalogue issued to accompany the exhibition.

To return to our timeline: Early in 2009, when MossRehab, which owns several Charles Domsky paintings, and Bryn Mawr Rehab learned about the Invitational Exhibition planned for the Fall, they recommended to the Governor's Cabinet and Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities that Domsky

be one of the invited artists.

Thus, being granted hanging space for eleven of his canvases, Charles Domsky came to be one of the four Pennsylvania artists included in the show. Bravo!

Life goes on. Every day, the handsome and affable Charles drives from Hopkinson House to his studio (yes, he drives) where he enjoys showing his finished and in-progress canvases to visitors. I suggest, when planning a visit, that you call first at 215-627-7910, or email cdomsky@aol.com. ■

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Experiencing Christmas in Holland

by Enny Cramer and Nelly Childress

For children in Holland, the most important day during the Christmas Celebrations is Saint Nicholas' day (December 6) though the major celebrations are held on December 5. On that morning *Sinterklaas** travels every year with his helper, *Zwarte Piete* (Black Peter, a Spanish Moor), in a boat from Spain to different Dutch cities or villages.

When *Sinterklaas*, wearing his red bishop's robe and miter, and *Zwarte Piete* come ashore, the local church bells ring in celebration and Saint Nicholas rides into town on a white horse -- a brass band leads *Sinterklaas* and *Piete* through the town to meet the mayor and members of the Royal family when available.

Once *Sinterklaas* has arrived, usually during the last weekend of November, children leave their shoes at the fireplace, to be filled with sweets. They also leave some hay and a carrot in their shoes for the horse *Sinterklaas* rides over the roofs to throw the sweets through the chimneys. *Sinterklaas* is believed to know every child's good

or bad behavior. Children who have not been good do not get anything. The most enchanting aspect of this celebration is that all adults join in to keep this tradition alive, and to support the children's "belief" in *Sinterklaas*. Not just parents

and grandparents, but also public officials, the Media, everybody. Saint Nicholas Eve is celebrated with festive family parties when gifts and surprises are exchanged.

Christmas Day itself is a much quieter day in Holland, with a Church Service and

a family meal. Sometimes there is a special Christmas Day "Sunday School" in the afternoon at the church, where the Christmas Story and other traditional stories are told.

Who is Saint Nicholas?

Saint Nicholas – patron of children and sailors, and patron Saint of Amsterdam - was born during the fourth century in the then Greek village of Patara (now in Turkey). Issued from a wealthy family, he dedicated his life to serving God using his inheritance to assist the needy, the sick and the suffering. As Bishop of Myra, he suffered the Roman Emperor Diocletian ruthless persecution of the Christians. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral. Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of his life and deeds. In the Middle Ages his relics were stolen from Myra and taken to Bari, Italy. He is venerated by Catholics and Orthodox and honored by Protestants.

* *The English in colonial New York adopted the now unrecognizable saint, calling him Santa Claus (a variation of Sinterklaas).* ■



Enny Cramer, a member of the Editorial Committee of On the House, was in Leiden, Holland on December 4, welcoming *Sinterklaas* (also known as Saint Nicholas).

Safety, sounds in and around your units

Photography: Courtesy of Enny Cramer

MANAGEMENT, FROM PAGE 3 oven will create smoke and will activate your **smoke detector**. If the spill causes your smoke detector to go off, open your windows to get rid of the smoke. Do not open your apartment door. Smoke

entering the hallway will activate the building's alarm system.

Don't leave anything cooking on the stove or in the oven **when you are not at home**. The best plans can go wrong if you are delayed

in returning home when you think you will. The same applies to your dishwasher and clothes washer and dryer. Do not use these appliances unless you are at home.

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SEE MANAGEMENT, PAGE 17



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Tippling, tattling in the 18th century

by Susan Tomita

Say you're in a time warp, stuck in colonial Philadelphia. The Christmas festivities are over, and the winter ahead is long. There's no Internet, iPod, Wii, TV, or airplanes. Cabin fever sets in. What to do? Where to go?

In colonial Philadelphia, taverngoing was a popular way to exchange information and gossip over a drink or meal. Philadelphians had other news sources, such as newspapers and coffee houses, but the sheer number and growth rate of new taverns were testament of their prominence among its citizenry.

The city was situated in what was considered "the best poor man's country" where industry was justly rewarded. If you were a hardworking laborer, you could earn a good living. If you were an ambitious tradesman like Benjamin Franklin, you could rise to the level of a master, merchant, or something even greater. Philadelphia taverns were peculiarly egalitarian, where the rich sat cheek by jowl with subordinates, laborers, and artisans, unlike their counterparts in Boston or the Carolinas.

Philadelphia's ethnically and culturally diverse residents embraced taverns as places to socialize, observe, and influence. The typical tavern featured a single bar room where customers sat at a common table and drank from pewter cans or tankards or shared in a communal bowl. Wives, sweethearts, and lone women travelers were occasional patrons.

Regulated price controls kept drinks and food affordable. Tavern keepers were expected to maintain control over their patrons, or lose their license. Many a destitute man and woman turned to the tavern trade to make ends meet and feed their families.

The Man Full of Trouble Tavern at Dock and Spruce Streets is the only surviving colonial tavern in Philadelphia. It was a humble establishment built in 1759 where the Little Dock Creek once flowed. If you were a shipwright or dockhand,

looked the same. Picture signs helped strangers and the illiterate find their way. The Man Full of Trouble Tavern actually entered the trade as "The Man Loaded with Mischief" bar. Its sign depicted a man carrying a woman piggyback. (Graffiti surely would deface such a sign today.) The colorful sign outside the tavern now shows a man with a monkey on his shoulder, a parrot in his hand, and his wife carrying a bandbox and a cat.

The tavern went through many incarnations

Paschall House next door. University of Pennsylvania graduate students unearthed considerable findings during archeological investigations. The low-ceilinged tavern and its museum of relics were open for tours for a time. Since 1994, however, the building has been closed to the public, but remains in full view for the curious.

If you were one of the city's elite, you might have made your way instead to Second and Walnut Streets, where City Tavern was built as a very different sort of



The backyard of City Tavern at 2nd and Walnut Streets (left), and the signpost for The Man Full of Trouble Tavern at Dock and Spruce Streets (right)



you might have drunk cider, dined, and smoked on the ground floor. You might have been greeted with warm beer and a warm bed, sleeping four to a mattress on the second floor. Meals were cooked in the kitchen cellar, where maids and hired men slept on cots.

If you were a visiting sailor in town for a stay, you might not have known the building housed a tavern, as many commercial buildings and residences of the day

over the centuries. Perhaps its best days were its 30 years run by the widow Martha Smallwood, who purchased the building in 1796 and introduced a bit of respectability. Some 137 years later, the building was a dilapidated chicken market when another strong woman rescued the tavern.

In the 1960s, Councilwoman Virginia Knauer bought and restored the building to its 1759 appearance, along with the

enterprise. Whereas the Man Full of Trouble Tavern was a private home put to eventual commercial use, City Tavern was financed by 52 subscribers desiring a "large and commodious tavern" worthy of Philadelphia's status as the largest, most prosperous city in the colonies.

By 1773, Philadelphians had become disillusioned with the mixed company of the taverns as the city grew

SEE TAVERNS, PAGE 19



The winter holidays bring

by Lynn Miller

Santa Claus did it again! He found time in his frantic schedule to stop at Hopkinson House on the evening of December 14. Officiating at the lighting of the Christmas tree in the lobby, he also chatted with the children who sat on his lap. Except for one small child who screamed in terror when she got an up-close look at the old man's beard, it was a wonderful occasion for all. Some

of the older residents who perhaps had not seen Santa since last year expressed surprise, not at his girth, but his height. Of course it takes quite a big man to pack all those toys.

Santa's sleigh, which remained out of sight on the roof, must be a large one, too.

Santa Claus was ably assisted by resident pianist Murray Savar, who accompanied the crowd in a hearty sing-along of Christmastime favorites.

Following the festivities in the lobby, residents adjourned to the solarium for wine, cheese, and other treats provided by Hopkinson House and the Washington Square Citizens' League. The League's president, Paul Coyne, presided over the entire celebration. Council member David Roberts recorded the celebration for posterity. The event's bartenders were a bipartisan mix. ■



all House residents together

by Nelly Childress

*Baw-rooch Ah-raw Ah-doh-noi
Eh-loh-hay-nu Meh-lech haw-oh-lom
ah-sheer kid-d'shaw-nu b'mitz-voh-sawy
v'tzee-vaw-nu l'had-leek nair shell Hah-
nu-kah.*

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord our
God, King of the Universe, who has
sanctified us by Thy commandments,
and commanded us to kindle the light of
Hanukkah.*

Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication, was celebrated on December 13 in the lobby at Hopkinson House. Parents with children, young adults and senior citizens participated in the festivities. Joyous music emanated from Murray Savar's nimble fingers on the piano.

Following introductory remarks from Council member Lisette

Tarragano who managed the event with Paul Coyne, Marge Weinstein gave the blessings and the candles were lighted. Shirley Silverman led the singing celebrating Hanukkah and freedom. Tables were laid with wine, latkes, apple sauce, sour cream, chocolate coins encased in golden foil, and dreidels. The evening was filled with enchantment, good will and beautiful music. ■

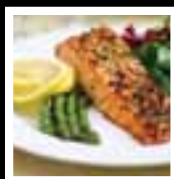
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Get reacquainted with Locks Gallery

by Dan Rothermel

This summer, Hopkinson House residents passing the Locks Gallery, our immediate neighbor to the east, were startled by a difference in its façade: the impressive gate at the Gallery's door was missing. It was made by Samuel Yellen, the early twentieth century ironsmith whose work is represented locally at the Rosenbach Museum and Library as well as on Park Avenue, New York. It was temporarily removed for cleaning and has been completely restored to its former glory, typical of Locks Gallery's continuing policy of maintaining and improving its external and internal physical facility.

Locks Gallery, formal even grand in design, but welcoming alike to the sophisticated lover of contemporary art and to the neophyte, is open to the public five days a week, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 am to 6 pm. The space and the presentation are formal and commerce is secondary to educating and engaging the public in the excitement of the Philadelphia art scene, a vital atmosphere nurtured by our city's long tradition of art education. Ever seeking an aesthetically satisfying presentation, the atmosphere is comparable to that of an elegant small museum. Of special distinction is the sculpture garden on the roof which opened to the public in 2005. Many Hopkinson House residents will remember vividly its impressive first exhibit, George Segal's *The Dancers*.

The Marian Locks Gallery, founded in 1968, was originally located at 1524 Walnut Street



Patrons congregate around artwork from the Microfibers exhibition at Locks Gallery, our neighbor at the corner of 6th Street and South Washington Square.

but moved to the current facility on Washington Square in the 1980's. The building itself is of some historic interest. Built in 1923, the structure originally housed the firm of Lea and Febiger, one of the oldest publishing companies in the United States, founded by Matthew Carey in Colonial days. Washington Square has, of course, historically been a stronghold of publishing activity including, among others, the Curtis Publishing empire, W. B. Saunders and the J.B. Lippincott

company. The gallery is now in the capable hands of Sueyun and Gene Locks, second generation of the founding family.

Locks Gallery concerns itself alike with new and retrospective work of established mid-career artists and with introducing to the public the work of emerging artists. Some exhibits are thematic in approach while others provide a survey of representative work of a specific artist. Louise Bourgeois, Robert Motherwell, George Segal and Louise

Nevelson are among the artists of the first rank whose work has been closely associated with the gallery. A particular relationship has been established with Philadelphia-based artists, among them Thomas Chimes, Edna Andrade, Eileen Neff, Stuart Netsky and Jane Irish, whose work has been regularly showcased. Locks Gallery also cooperates and collaborates with other Philadelphia artistic institutions. Many will have visited the recent exhibit that featured the work of Jun Kaneko whose distinctive sculptural creations were concurrently on view in the public space at the Kimmel Center and in the courtyard of City Hall while on the stage of the Academy of Music the Japanese artist's breathtaking production of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, designed specifically for the Opera Company of Philadelphia, was in performance.

According to Douglas Schaller, an administrator at Locks, the institution takes particular pride in nurturing a passion for collecting, especially an interest in acquiring the work of one specific artist. To that end the director and staff are personally available to give expert guidance to the budding collector. The public has direct access to museum catalogs, biographies of current artists, press releases and reviews of past work. A longtime member of ADAA (Art Dealers Association of America), Locks Gallery personnel have guided museums and private collectors alike in the intelligent acquisition and informed resale of contemporary work.

SEE GALLERY, PAGE 21



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Quiz: Test yourself!

*These questions were
taken from an advertisement of
Hewlett-Packard in Newsweek.*

- Improved new drilling techniques have increased the U.S. gas reserves by:
A. 5% B. 35%
C. 50% D. 75%
- What is the percentage of plastic water bottles recycled in the U.S. each year?
A. 25% B. 55%
C. 80% D. 95%
- Central and South America have developed inventive methods to smuggle cocaine into the U.S.. Which container has **not** been recognized by the authorities as a means of introducing the drugs?
A. Beer cans
B. Frozen sharks
C. Beach balls
D. Religious statues
- When the American tanker captain was recently kidnapped by Somali pirates, the U.S. Navy rescue operation was made easy because the Somalis ran out of what crucial supply?
A. Food and water
B. Fuel
C. Ammunition
D. Narcotics
- What country was the deadliest for journalists in 2009?
A. Iraq
B. Afghanistan
C. Somalia
D. Philippines
- In fiscal year 2010, 48 states reported a budget deficit. Which one of these did not?
A. Oklahoma
B. Hawaii
C. North Dakota
D. Rhode Island
- How many Xanax tablets was Michael Jackson taking daily prior to his death, according to police documents?
A. 1 B. 3
C. 10 D. 30

SEE ANSWERS, PAGE 20



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News

Around the House

Casino paves over ancient ground

It might be of interest to those concerned with our riverfront that, on the grounds of the future SugarHouse Casino, hundred of relics left behind by people who lived along the Delaware River 3,500 years ago were found. Those people are not the Lenape Indians but their more ancient ancestors who were nomads, moving with the seasons, encamping by the river in mild weather to fish, hunt and socialize. The cache, found in the southwest corner of the property, constitutes

the largest single discovery of Native American artifacts in Philadelphia. It is reported that the SugarHouse investors have spent “over a million dollars” on archeological work—“more than any private developer” in the city’s history.

Unfortunately, when the work is completed and the artifacts removed, the site of the ancient Indian meeting place will have a new use: parking for the gamblers.

Save our ship!

Again, on our riverfront, the 57-year-old liner, the *SS United States*, sitting idle at Pier 82 in South Philadelphia for the past 13 years and growing rustier each day has turned into an eyesore. She was the world’s fastest passenger ship setting

the record, on her maiden voyage in 1952, for the fastest transatlantic crossing.

The Hong Kong-based shipping company that promised to restore the ship to cruise service when it bought her in 2003 has decided the venture will not be economically feasible. If no buyer steps forward, the *SS United States* may be scrapped.

The goal of the *SS United States Conservancy*, a national non-profit entity based in Washington, D.C., is that the ship be preserved as a stationary floating attraction in a major American city. Philadelphia has been seen as a strong possibility because of the ongoing redevelopment of the Delaware waterfront—the ship could become a

vibrant multi-purpose hotel, waterfront convention center, and historic destination. Let’s not forget that the ship’s designer, William Francis Gibbs (1886–1967), grew up on North Broad Street and Rittenhouse Square.

Following the listing for sale, the *SS United States Conservancy* has mounted several events in the Philadelphia area. This summer, it was announced that philanthropist Gerry Lenfest had pledged a \$300,000 matching grant towards the purchase of the ship, which at current scrap prices is estimated to be relatively low. Lenfest’s father, a naval architect, helped design the ship’s watertight doors in the early 1950s. ■

Council needs good candidates every year

CANDIDATES, FROM PAGE 2

The Council must have the judgment to choose whom to trust, and the character and self-confidence to trust the competence and expertise of the people it has chosen. The temptation to interfere in the details of projects has always been difficult for some council members to resist. Furthermore, as a recent council president pointed out, councilors who have professions are there to represent the interests of the owners, not to practice their professions.

Delegating authority and responsibility is the only way to take full advantage of the available brainpower. It calls for patience and restraint but, when done successfully, the results are very rewarding.

As one of America’s better presidents said, “There is no limit to what you can achieve if you don’t mind who gets the credit.”

I have always felt that there are two key qualities to look for when voting for council members—integrity and common sense. If you know a fellow owner who has those qualities and who also has a mature personality and a record of success as a manager, please persuade him or her to run for election. Then vote for the person, and advise your friends to do the same. If you think you have those qualities, and I know some of you do have them, please run for election.

Do not, however, be deterred from running by the concern that you must meet too high a standard. In an

effective, well balanced council there is room for a variety of talents and temperaments.

I have always wondered why it is so difficult to persuade good people to run for election to the Council. Sometimes there are barely enough candidates for a competitive election – the number of vacancies plus one. For a councilor who does not hold one of the three main offices—president, secretary, and treasurer—the time demand is not great, one evening a month, but the power to get good things done is considerable. Each member of the Council wields one seventh of the voting power. The newest rookie’s vote is equal to the president’s.

Potential candidates have often said that they

do not wish to risk the humiliation of losing. That is understandable but they should not look at it that way. We are grateful to all the candidates for their participation and for helping to make the election competitive—critical to obtaining the quorum required for a valid Annual Meeting. Many a defeated candidate has come back to win the next year. A candidate may have to run once just to gain name recognition. Your candidacy shows that you are a public-spirited member of our community and, for that, you will have earned our gratitude and our respect. Even if you come in last you will have finished way ahead of all those owners who didn’t make the effort to run. ■

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Safety, sounds in and around your units

MANAGEMENT, FROM PAGE 7 contractor must provide an insurance certificate with a minimum of \$2 million in liability coverage. Contractors may not begin work in the units until the renovation package has been approved by Tony Kelly, the building's Chief Engineer. Please contact Tony if you have any questions regarding renovations to your unit. He can be reached through the Resident Services Desk. *Contractors may not cut wood or tiles on the balconies.*

Contractor work and moves are not permitted on Sundays or **legal**

and religious holidays throughout the year. We are posting these holidays for your convenience. No exceptions can be made.

- Friday, January 1: New Year's Day
- Monday, January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, February 15: Presidents' Day
- Friday, April 2: Good Friday
- Monday, May 31: Memorial Day
- Monday, July 5: Independence Day (observed)
- Monday, September 6:

Labor Day

- Thursday, September 9: Rosh Hashanah*
- Saturday, September 18: Yom Kippur*
- Thursday, November 25: Thanksgiving
- Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve
- Saturday, December 25: Christmas Day
- Friday, December 31: New Year's Eve

(* Jewish holidays begin at sundown the day before they are listed.)

Noises in a building like Hopkinson House can travel from floor to floor. While you may think a particular

noise is coming from directly above you, it may, in fact, be coming from another floor or another part of the building. A common complaint is the sound of scraping or dragging something across an uncarpeted floor. These sounds appear to be coming from directly above the person hearing the noise. We know from past history that in most instances, this is not the case. As hard as we try, we are not always able to identify a sound or where it may be coming from. The Hopkinson

SEE MANAGEMENT, PAGE 21



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Tippling, tattling in the 18th century

TAVERNS, FROM PAGE 9
and became more stratified. Taverngoers increasingly preferred socializing with people of similar background and views. The tight quarters of the typical taverns full of noise, competing distractions, and eavesdropping sometimes gave way to fisticuffs and even riots. City Tavern offered a fashionable, genteel place for food, drink, lodging, and discussion modeled after the finest taverns in London.

Praises of City Tavern's sumptuous French-style dining appeared in the journals and diaries of the colony's elite and

distinguished European visitors. Its fine food, atmosphere, and elegant appointments of City Tavern are well known today, thanks in part to the 1975 replica of the tavern on its original site. More importantly, its role as the unofficial meeting place for members of the first Continental Congress guaranteed its place in the annals of American history. Patronized by the likes of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams, City Tavern was no ordinary place for socializing.

Alas, its prominence among the military, politicians, and high

society could not save it from changing tastes and business trends. From 1785 to 1824, City Tavern became primarily a hotel, merchant's exchange, and coffee house, and its fortunes eventually declined. In 1834, a roof fire did irreparable damage, from which the tavern never recovered. Twenty years later, City Tavern was demolished. It would take another 140 years for it to reappear in extensively restored form and welcome the public in its traditional 18th century fashion.

William Penn initially banned taverns and alehouses from Pennsylvania, but changed his mind,

putting faith in regulations and good character to control public order. For the social experiment called Philadelphia to succeed, he knew that speedy settlement was key, and that a handful of taverns would spur development and economic activity. Perhaps the early Philadelphia style of socialization also contributed to the tenets of free speech and equality that ultimately found expression in our country's Constitution and Bill of Rights. In any event, Penn's legacy left us with convivial opportunities to enjoy community and exchange of ideas with our neighbors. ■

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READING TERMINAL MARKET

.....

"This is Philadelphia's town square."

— The Guardian (U.K.), May 2009

Quiz: Test yourself!

ANSWERS, FROM PAGE 14

1. B. 35%
2. A. 25%
3. C. Beach balls
4. D. Narcotics. They were low on Khat and suffering from withdrawal symptoms.
5. D. Philippines. With 31 journalists massacred during 2009. It made, according to the International Federation of Journalists, this island nation the deadliest country for journalists in 2009.
6. C. North Dakota
7. C. 10



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MANAGEMENT, FROM PAGE 17
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If you have not completed and returned your **emergency information form**, please do so. The information on this form is vital in helping us to

assist you in the event of an emergency.

Holiday **decorations** are permitted to be hung on the apartment doors. However, all decorations must be removed when the holiday is over.

Enjoy the winter season. Stay warm and stay well. ■

Get to know Locks Gallery

GALLERY, FROM PAGE 13

On view since December 4 has been *Microfibers*, an exhibition curated by the highly experienced Sue Spaid which showcases the work of Danielle Bursk, Caroline Lathan-Stiefel and Laura Watt. "By connecting tiny traces to form-micro-joints that permit shapes and forms to bend in infinite directions," writes Spaid, "Bursk, Lathan-Stiefel and Watt have invented ways to envisage ever-more complex illusory and real spaces." Spaid also provided the text for the illustrated brochure which accompanies this impressive exhibition. Succeeding *Microfibers* will be *Politics of Snow*, devoted to new work by the well-loved Philadelphia artist, Diane Burko. On view between February 5 and March 13, this thematic exhibition will focus on Burko's work relating to climate change. To learn more about the Locks Gallery, visit <http://www.locksgallery.com> or, better still, stop by and experience at first hand the exciting work currently on view. ■

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School celebrates 100th anniversary

by Nelly Childress

Our neighborhood McCall School celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2009. Built in 1909 it had a capacity of 1,300 students. Children were required to attend school regularly until the age of 14, at which time they could leave school to join the labor force or attend "continuation school" one day a week until the age of 16.

In the 1920s McCall School became well-known for its continuation school that provided courses in printing, tailoring, carpentry, metal working, electrical work and other trades. Students received 6 hours of academic instruction for every 2 hours of hands-on vocational instruction. Local employers were invited to see the students' works, and successful entrepreneurs such as Ellis A. Gimbel were invited to speak or lecture the students on the job market and provide career advice.

From 1917 to the mid-thirties the school was headed by Margaret T. McGuire who was well-known for her work in the advancement of education philosophy, psychology and theory.

During the Depression McCall School provided "opportunity classes" to males aged 16–21. Students were not graded, nor were they given credits for the courses taken. The classes were to help young men gain skills that would provide job opportunities. This led to the concept of a permanent vocational school and McCall students were trained in typing, stenography, bookkeeping, cost accounting and commercial law.

Interestingly, the McCall School has always hosted a diverse immigrant population and a student body with varied socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. In 1918, 95% of the students had not been

born in the United States. In the 1950s immigrant children from the Greater Philadelphia area (including suburban areas) were assigned to McCall School, the only public school in the United States that had a program teaching English as a second language. By 1953 the school had 200 students from more than 20 countries (Ukraine, France, Japan, China, Greece, Puerto Rico, Germany, Brazil, Hungary, Cuba, Korea and several African countries) who were studying English as a second language. The school became a center for foreign-born children to assimilate, learn American customs, and learn to read, write and socialize. Welcome signs, at the entrance to the school could be read in 14 different languages, and the school was, at times, referenced as a miniature United Nations.

The school continues to be one of the highly regarded

public kindergarten to 8th grade school in the city with a diverse multicultural population. With the help of an active Home and School Association, along with parents' involvement, the school continues its tradition of excellence in education and remains at the forefront of educational technology, for example, the construction of the school cybrary (cyber library). Each classroom is now furnished with a state-of-the-art promethean (white) board that allows teachers to use touch screen computers in their class.

A Centennial Gala culminated the yearlong celebration. All proceeds from the gala went toward the school's science education program.

This article is based on the article which appeared in the Autumn 2009 issue of the Washington Square West Civic Association's The Post. ■

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