

..... **HAPPY 2011!** .....

*The Editorial Committee of On the House wishes Hopkinson House owners and residents a peaceful and prosperous 2011. We hope that the holiday season closing 2010 was joyous.*

*We want to particularly thank Adam Blyweiss, our graphic designer. Adam, a resident of Hopkinson House at the inception of the present On the House, had and continues to have more than a business interest in our newsletter.*

# Bright new look for the hallways

by David Roberts

The architect of Hopkinson House, Oskar Stonorov, is reported to have said that the hallways were an "internal sacrifice" to more important parts of the building. Our hallways are long, straight, narrow, and without windows. Also they are bounded by concrete above and below and cinder blocks on each side, making it virtually impossible to run new wiring or to conceal lighting. When we hired architects to renovate the hallways, we gave them clear objectives—to lift the existing gloom by making the hallways brighter, to make them seem more spacious, and to make them appear shorter and wider. Did they succeed?

The new lamps alone make the corridors brighter. This is largely due to their



*A detail of our new door sills, baseboards, and carpet in the hallways.*

glass covers, which do not block light the way the previous, semi-opaque plastic

# on the HOUSE

The Newsletter of  
Hopkinson House • Winter 2011



ones did. In addition, their attractive shape is designed to allow light to shine up

supplementing the direct light.

Some people complain that the new lamps are too bright. When you look up at them they appear relatively bright but hardly blinding, and their illumination of the walls and floor seems about right. It is now possible to recognize a neighbor approaching from the other end of the corridor. Recessed or concealed lighting would be better but those options will not be feasible until false ceilings are installed, and those must await the completion of future projects that will involve the ceilings.

The cooler, more neutral colors add to the brightness and are a welcome change from the previous somber mix

SEE HALLWAYS, PAGE 15

## Editorial: What's inside

by Nelly Childress

You will find in this issue more about the hallways' renovation, the overall reaction to this project and its implementation. Mark your calendar for the 28<sup>th</sup> of April when you will elect, and this is very important to owners, three members to HHOA Council, this in the **Message from Management**. In **David Roberts'** column on the hallways' renovation you will find that the new décor has many of the virtues of the original décor, as described by the late Tom Foglietta in a 1993 newsletter. **Ralph Rodriguez** is embarking on a big project to prepare residents for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our condominium building. The Historic Philadelphia Center in the Public Ledger Building enchanted **Byron Fink** not only

by its architectural beauty but also by the new 360-degree 3D movie theater. **Enny Cramer's** statistical information about Hopkinson House may satisfy the curiosity of some residents, and her report on the excellent turnout of voters in the building on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election should embolden residents to vote/run for Council on April 28<sup>th</sup>. **David Roberts** comments on the October 19<sup>th</sup> lecture by Judith Folweiler on occupational therapy for arthritis and related conditions together with a demonstration of useful gadgets; the uninitiated will learn quite a lot. **Susan Tomita** remarks on a Halloween party for the "kids" of Hopkinson House are fun to read. A gathering to celebrate the lighting of the first candle of Chanukah was a wonderful event as reported by this reporter. **Susan Tomita** invites you to share the joy of the Christmas party starting with the lighting of the tree and Santa bearing gifts. ■

# On the House Fifty is the new 30

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by **Ralph Rodriguez**

In 1962, tuition at Harvard was \$1,520, and a gallon of gasoline cost 28 cents. *The Beverly Hillbillies* was on TV, the Oscar for Best Picture went to *Lawrence of Arabia*, and the best-selling LP was the *West Side Story* soundtrack. The Cuban missile crisis heated up the Cold War, and coincidentally or not, Marilyn Monroe overdosed on sleeping pills. The citizens of Bentonville, Arkansas welcomed the country's first Wal-Mart to their community and the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution condemning apartheid in South Africa.



Ladies who dared wore new styles that were “frankly clinging.” Men wore the “trim, easy, two-button” suit. But of course, it was a lot easier to look trim back then: the average American male weighed 20 to 33 pounds less in 1962 than today. In Boston, Julia Child had her first guest spot on WGBH and instructed viewers on the correct preparation of an omelet. In Philadelphia, nearly 500,000 more persons called our city home then than today and Mayor Dilworth resigned his office and was replaced by James Tate. In the 1950s, a total of 31 acres of Society Hill were purchased by public entities

including the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority and in 1957, Kevin Bacon's dad (well, we do want our younger readers to be able to relate to this too) hired a firm to create a plan for the remaking of Society Hill. These varied efforts included a call for six residential towers that came to be known as Hopkinson House, Society Hill Towers, and Independence Place. Our building was constructed first and some tenants moved into the partially completed structure as early as November 1962 (the building became a condominium in 1980). All apartments were completed by mid-1963. The architect of Hopkinson House was Oskar Stonorov who co-designed the Indian Pavilion

SEE ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 19

## Message from Management Resolve to be better neighbors

by **Judi Forte**

By the time you receive this newsletter over half of the hallways in the building should be completed. The overall reaction to the new hallways has been very positive. The workmen have been respectful and courteous and they have made the experience as non-intrusive as possible. Thank you to the owners and residents who have helped to make this project go so smoothly.

Once the hallway renovations are complete, we anticipate beginning the replacement of the ground floor windows. This should not cause any inconvenience to the residential floors. However, the commercial units on the ground floor will be affected. This project is expected to take several months to complete. The ground floor windows are the last windows in the building to be replaced.

The Annual Meeting and Election is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2011 in the Solarium at 8:00 P.M. There will be three seats open on the Council in 2011. If you would like to be a part of the future planning of Hopkinson House, complete a nomination form that will be mailed out to you 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 up 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

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. Carts and hampers must be returned to their storage areas when not in use. They may not be stored

employees' break room. Building emergencies require the full attention of the desk staff and the maintenance staff. When a fire alarm goes off, do not call the front desk to ask if there is a fire. Follow the instructions which are broadcast on the public address system and do not return to your unit until the all-clear has been announced. The desk staff has instructions that they are not to answer the phone. This distraction takes their focus away from handling the emergency at hand.

Power outages also require the full attention of the desk staff and the maintenance staff. Do not call the front desk. An announcement will be made over the public address system to advise you of the status of the power outage after the staff have performed priority functions such as returning the elevators to the lobby floor and assisting the maintenance staff while the power outage is being isolated. Most outages are caused by a PECO problem and we are not able to transfer to our alternative PECO line until we receive authorization from PECO to do so. This authorization could take several minutes or an hour. Transferring the lines prematurely can cause severe injury or death to any PECO employee working on the line at the time of the transfer.

SEE MANAGEMENT, PAGE 7

Most outages are caused by a PECO problem and we are not able to transfer to our alternative PECO line until we receive authorization from PECO to do so. This authorization could take several minutes or an hour.

safe exit from the building. We also want to keep the new halls looking fresh and clean. Winter is also the time for colds, flu and other types of illnesses that sometimes mean 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

in your unit until you have need of them. This is unfair to other residents who need to use them. They may not be stored in the hallway outside of your unit. This is in violation of the Philadelphia Fire Code and a danger to other residents on your floor. If you are returning a cart or hamper to the area outside of the accounting office, please be sure that you do not block the doorways to the accounting office and the

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Photography: David Roberts.



***Wishing all of the residents at The Hopkinson House a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!***

## FOR SALE AT THE HOPKINSON HOUSE



Deluxe one bedroom home on a high floor with magnificent views of Washington Square, the city skyline and Delaware River. The kitchen is upgraded with Corian countertops and newer appliances. The bathroom has floor-to-ceiling tile and a new wood vanity. Private balcony. 1063 sf.  
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## New, exciting theater around the corner

by **Byron Fink**

I love living in Center City. There's so much to do, so much to see. Dozens of art galleries; an extraordinary choice of dining places; 18<sup>th</sup>-, 19<sup>th</sup>-, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century architecture; beautifully maintained parks and gardens; shopping; libraries; a waterfront; theatres and movies; lots and lots of history. Happily, all of this is within easy walking distance of Hopkinson House.

And now, in the Public Ledger Building at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets, an innovative, 21<sup>st</sup>-century attraction has opened.

Last August, when I was doing research for an *On the House* article, I had visited one of my favorite spots—the Sixth Street lobby of the Public Ledger Building—to take a couple of pictures of its glorious renaissance-quality ceiling. Work of some sort (the glass in the door had been covered by kraft paper) was going on in the main lobby. I was told that a 360-degree 3D movie theater was being installed. Wow! Two blocks from Hopkinson House!

It has been installed and is now in operation. I went to see it and had a great time.

The main entrance, identified as the Historic Philadelphia Center, is on Chestnut just west of Sixth. When building the theater, they were careful to leave in place many of the Public Ledger Building's original architectural details. The supporting columns remain encased within agreeable, tawny-colored, fluted-wood coverings; the elaborate ceiling and wooden wall panels continue to add their charm and warmth.

One corner of the lobby now contains a snazzy kiosk

that sells tickets to the movie. Because I always carry proof of my age, I paid \$6.00 instead of \$7.00. Yippee! The privilege of age, right? The show lasts 15 minutes and repeats about every 20 minutes. Not nearly enough time to browse through the souvenirs before the next show. (More about the souvenirs later.)

In no time at all, they summon us into the theater.

Franklin is the star of the show. He looks really good. As the movie progresses, more and more of the screen is unveiled, until, at last, the entire screen is in use all around us. Lovely!

While not very scholarly, the film is thoroughly enjoyable. And it concludes with a delightful surprise which I'm not going to tell you. You'll have to go see it yourself.

is visible from the street. A day or two later, I saw, while I was walking on Sixth Street, that the image had been replaced with a gigantic flag whose broad stripes and bright stars undulated and snapped in a brisk breeze.

In the lobby, through the glass in the door connecting the Historic Philadelphia Center with the Sixth Street entrance to the Public Ledger Building



*A computer-generated eagle flies around on new theater installations at the Historic Philadelphia Center.*

We are welcomed very sweetly by the ushers and given our 3D glasses—which have, we are assured, been sanitized each time.

The theater has lean-against rails instead of seats—although there is a bench for sitters. Before the lights go down, we look around. The curtain-covered screen does indeed make a complete circle. The house lights go out. The show begins. A small portion of the curtain opens to introduce *Liberty 360 in the PECO Theater: A 3D Look at the Experience of America*. Benjamin

After the movie, we exit back into the lobby. Alas, we must surrender our 3D glasses. More time to souvenir-browse. I thought their well-chosen array of souvenirs is of nice quality. Amid the t-shirts and jackets there is an interesting selection of books for adults and for children about our history, about Philadelphia, about our flag.

Between the top of the PECO Theater and the ceiling, a computer-generated eagle flies majestically around and around. And around. This 100-foot-circumference image

(the kraft paper has been taken down, natch), that glorious Renaissance-quality ceiling can once again be seen. Through the lobby windows on Sixth Street one can see, at a corner of Independence Square, the building that housed the very first U.S. Congress. So many visual delights! No wonder I had a great time.

The movie is presented seven days a week from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. For more information, call (215) 629-4026 or visit <http://historicphiladelphia.org>. ■





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## Resolve to be better neighbors

MANAGEMENT, FROM PAGE 3

One of our goals at Hopkinson House is to go paperless. Going paperless helps the environment, reduces clutter at the front desk and on the bulletin boards, and reduces material and labor costs for copying and printing. Unfortunately, we cannot accomplish any of this if we do not have your e-mail address. At present we have the e-mail addresses for fewer than 50% of the owners and residents. Please take a minute to provide your e-mail address to

Cathy in the management office.

If you are planning any renovations to your unit, regardless of how large or small, remember to pick up a **Renovation Requirement Package** at the front desk. Owners and contractors must complete the forms in the package and the 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.** No exceptions can be made. We are posting these holidays for your convenience.

- Thursday, December 30, 2010 (New Year's Eve observed)
- Friday, December 31, 2010 (New Year's Day observed)
- Saturday, January 1, 2011 (New Year's Day)
- Monday, January 17, 2011 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
- Monday, February 21, 2011 (Presidents' Day)
- Friday, April 22, 2011 (Good Friday)
- Monday, May 30, 2011 (Memorial Day)

SEE MANAGEMENT, PAGE 17

## News Around the House

**Bravo to our voters**  
by Enny Cramer

Over 70% of the active registered voters in the third Division of the fifth Ward—more than 90 percent being residents of Hopkinson House—fulfilled their civic duty by voting in the November 2 general election. Compared to the less than 50 percent of active registered voters who voted in the City of Philadelphia, we may congratulate ourselves on our civic-mindedness. Let's keep this up!

**The countdown**  
by Enny Cramer

Here is statistical information for those who are curious about our condominium building:



Murray Savar (far right) conducting Agnes Irwin School's Bel Cantos ensemble.

The total number of residential units is 536; 44 of those units have been combined by the owners of two or more adjacent units into one residential apartment.

Of the 536 units, 379 (71%) are owner-occupied, 150 (28%) are rentals and

5 are second homes. Two units are owned by HHOA in addition to the business spaces located on the ground floor of the building.

**Caroling at Hopkinson House**

by Nelly Childress  
On Wednesday,

December 8, at 4:00 P.M. the Bel Cantos student ensemble from the Agnes Irwin School in Rosemont came, caroling under Murray Savar's direction, to Hopkinson House. As someone in the audience said, "They sang like angels!" ■





## Halloween 2010: What a treat!

by Susan Tomita

A lively party for Hopkinson House children transformed the lobby on October 31st, complete with hovering ghosts and creepy spiders. A gingerbread girl, a superhero, a ballerina, and assorted beasts and princesses

were on the scene - where they opted to have their hands and faces decorated. Parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and neighbors joined the merriment.

HHOA Special Events Committee organized the event with master decorator and

organizer Paul Coyne assisted by Bari Shor, Mauriel Holland, Larry Meehan, Nelly Childress and this reporter. Mary Coyne read aloud some scary tales, and Charlotte Phelps and Enny Cramer helped to serve the refreshments for the ghouls and fairies. ■



Clockwise from top: The ghouls and fairies who made the party possible; a little baker gets her face painted by the author; a visiting Irish leprechaun; a resident inquires about treats; Mary Coyne reading Halloween stories; Mom carries her little lion; two scary characters.

Photography: David Roberts



## A House holiday for all

by Susan Tomita

On the evening of December 17, Santa Clause made his long-awaited appearance in the Hopkinson House lobby, bringing presents and good cheer to resident children. Paul Coyne, chair of the Washington Square Citizens' League's Social Events Committee, did the introductions.

The Christmas tree was lit, and resident pianist Murray Savar led the carol singing, accompanying on his electronic keyboard.

The holiday festivities continued in the solarium. Wine, cheese, and assorted treats were provided by Hopkinson House and the Washington Square Citizens' League. Ken Artz played seasonal favorites on the digital piano. Thanks go to Paul Coyne, Gail Winkler, their volunteers—Faith Abbey, Enny Cramer, Lou DelSoldo, Mauriel Holland, George Koch, Larry Meehan, Roger Moss, and David Roberts, camera in hand—and to Santa's agent, Richard Binder. ■

## O, festival of joy

by Nelly Childress

On the first night of Chanukah, December 1 this year, we gathered in the lobby surrounded by joyous music provided by Murray Savar. We sang/recited the first night blessing as Lisette Tarragano and Sydney Jacobi with his young son lit the candles. A jolly party followed in the lobby with great singing, we gathered round the table laden with latkes, doughnuts and more. And while we were socializing the candles were shedding their sweet light.

As the song says:  
*Children of the Maccabees...  
Yours the message cheering, that  
the time is nearing,  
which will see all people free,  
tyrants disappearing.* ■



From top left: Chanukah table laden with latkes, doughnuts and more; a singer leads Chanukah hymns; lighting the first candle of Chanukah; Santa Claus greets children with gifts; residents gather for Christmas cheer; enjoying the day and Hopkinson House's Christmas tree

Photography: David Roberts



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## Social & Activities Calendar at Hopkinson House January 2011

A special insert to  
*On the House*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| January 4<br>And every<br>Tuesday & Thursday | Exercise Class with Byron Fink<br>In the Solarium 10:15-10:45 A.M.<br>Just walk in  |
| January 6<br>And every<br>Thursday           | Golden Breath American Tai Chi<br>with Rev. Rochelle Shakti in the Solarium, 7:00 P.M.<br>Contact Reverend Rochelle Shakti (215-925-1497)   |
| January 17                                   | Washington Square Citizens' League<br>Afternoon Discussion in the Solarium<br>1:30-3:00 P.M.: "Government Transparency<br>in the Age of the Internet"<br>Discussion Leader: David Kurkowski<br>Contact Nelly Childress (215-627-3471)                               |
| January 18                                   | Washington Square Citizens' League<br>Evening Program in the Solarium<br>7:00-7:30 P.M.: A social with light refreshments<br>7:30 P.M.: Guest Speaker District Attorney<br>R. Seth Williams<br>Contact Nancy Snyder (215-627-1731) or<br>Jay McCalla (267-455-7015) |
| January 30                                   | Washington Square Citizens' League<br>Sunday Reel Discussion of "Serious" Film at the Ritz<br>Meet at 4:00 P.M. in the Solarium for convivial exchange<br>in which your opinion counts.<br>Contact Larry Meehan (215-925-8464)                                      |
| January 31                                   | Washington Square Citizens' League<br>Afternoon Discussion in the Solarium<br>1:30-3:00 P.M.: "Green2015, the Nutter 500-acre Goal"<br>Discussion Leader: Paul Coyne<br>Contact Nelly Childress (215-627-3471)  |

\*\* Washington Square Citizens' League at Hopkinson House is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization. Started in 1996 by residents for residents of Hopkinson House, it is dedicated to motivating residents of Hopkinson House to become engaged in the political and social processes of the day

Social & Activities Calendar at  
Hopkinson House  
February 2011



February 1 And every Tuesday & Thursday	Exercise Class with Byron Fink In the Solarium: 10:15-10:45 A.M. Just walk in
February 8 And every Thursday	Golden Breath American Tai Chi with Rev. Rochelle Shakti in the Solarium, 7:00 P.M. Contact Reverend Rochelle Shakti (215-925-1497)
February 14	Washington Square Citizens' League Afternoon Discussion in the Solarium 1:30-3:00 P.M.: "One Book One Philadelphia— Sherman Alexie: <i>War Dances</i> " Discussion Leader: Ray Bentman Contact Nelly Childress (215-627-3471)
February 27	Washington Square Citizens' League Sunday Reel Discussion of "Serious" Film at the Ritz Meet at 4:00 P.M. in the Solarium for convivial exchange in which your opinion counts. Contact Larry Meehan (215-925-8464)
February 28	Washington Square Citizens' League Afternoon Discussion in the Solarium 1:30- 3:00 P.M.: "Reforming the Pennsylvania State Constitution" Discussion Leader: David Kurkowski Contact Nelly Childress (215-627-3471)
Date & Program To be announced	Washington Square Citizens' League Evening Program in the Solarium 7:00-7:30 P.M.: A social with light refreshments 7:30 P.M.: Program Contact Nancy Snyder (215-627-1731) or Jay McCalla (267-455-7015)

Social & Activities Calendar at  
Hopkinson House  
March 2011



March 1 And every Tuesday & Thursday	Exercise Class with Byron Fink In the Solarium 10:15-10:45 am Just walk in
March 8 And every Thursday	Golden Breath American Tai Chi with Rev. Rochelle Shakti in the Solarium, 7:00 P.M. Contact Reverend Rochelle Shakti (215-925-1497)
March 14	Washington Square Citizens' League Afternoon Discussion in the Solarium 1:30-3:00 P.M.: "Federal Deficits, Fiscal Reform, and Washington Politics" Discussion Leader: Lynn Miller Contact Nelly Childress (215-627-3471)
March 27	Washington Square Citizens' League Sunday Reel Discussion of "Serious" Film at the Ritz Meet at 4:00 P.M. in the Solarium for convivial exchange in which your opinion counts. Contact Larry Meehan (215-925-8464)
March 28	Washington Square Citizens' League Afternoon Discussion in the Solarium 1:30-3:00 P.M.: "What are Obama Accomplishments as President?" Discussion Leader: Faith Abbey Contact Nelly Childress (215-627-3471)
Date & Program To be announced	Washington Square Citizens' League Evening Program in the Solarium 7:00-7:30 P.M. a social with light refreshments 7:30 P.M. Program Contact Nancy Snyder (215-627-1731) or Jay McCalla (267-455-7015)

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***(Comfortable clothing is encouraged including socks)***

# Occupational therapy for arthritis

by **David Roberts**

On Tuesday, October 19, at the request of the special events committee, Judith Folweiler came to Hopkinson House to show us how arthritis sufferers can make their lives easier. Ms. Folweiler is an occupational therapist specializing in arthritis at Jefferson University Hospital. She first laid out basic principles for easing the pain and stiffness and then demonstrated a series of gadgets and contrivances that are designed to help. All the devices are simple and cheap.

## The principles

1. Avoid deforming positions.
2. Use your strongest muscles and joints when performing a task.
3. Move often.
4. Avoid spending a lot of time in one position
5. Support sore joints with splints and other devices.
6. Do not start an activity that

cannot be stopped before completion.

7. Prioritize your activities to make the most of your available energy.
8. Learn to recognize fatigue, and balance activity with rest.
9. Pay serious attention to having a comfortable chair and bed.

## Tools designed to help

In rheumatoid arthritis many of the most disabling effects are on the hands, and most of the tools and devices Ms. Folweiler described are designed to help the hands do their work. Tools with plump handles are easier for an arthritic hand to grip; the fingers don't have to close as far. **OXO** is a good source with their **Good Grips** series of kitchen tools. Among the many devices Ms. Folweiler demonstrated were:

1. Extension handles for hair brushes and combs so the

hands don't have to be raised as high.

2. A gadget for pushing buttons



*Occupational therapist Judith Folweiler demonstrates a device.*

through button holes. Velcro closures are an alternative.

3. A tool to bring dishes and food containers down from high shelves.
4. A long-handled shoe horn.
5. Spring-loaded scissors and pliers that stay with the

hand as it opens and closes.

6. A soft rope with a loop at one end for attaching to the bed frame, and knots every 10 or 12 inches, for pulling oneself up in bed.
7. A strainer with a handle that fits in a saucepan and holds food as it cooks. Lifting out the cooked food is much easier than using both hands to pour off the water.
8. Ms. Folweiler showed how to grip a tool to stir food by wrapping the fingers around it as in gripping a rail. Holding the tool like a pen, with forefinger and thumb pointing down puts stress on the thumb, which is very vulnerable.

## Concluding comment

Ms. Folweiler pointed out that good sources of suitable tools and gadgets include Bed Bath and Beyond, dollar stores, and of course the internet. ■

# Bright new look for the hallways

**HALLWAYS, FROM PAGE 1**  
of maroon and cream. The wallpaper on the north wall is similar in color to the paint on the south wall but its delicate pattern dances in the light, providing a pleasant contrast. In the photos note how the gray-brown (taupe) color on all doors harmonizes with the carpet and walls. Note also that, on the south side, the door color is continued into the recessed area above the door, making dark columns that help break the long wall into shorter sections.

The same color is used in the vinyl base strip, making

the strip and the door frames appear continuous. Replacing the previous, carpet-wrapped wooden base board with the flat vinyl strip adds about three inches to the width of the floor, a useful gain in a narrow hallway.

In the photos you can see that the carpet is laid as square tiles with each tile set at right angles to its neighbors. This breaks up the long lines that would have run up the corridor, like train tracks, had the carpet been laid as broadloom. The corridor would have seemed even longer. As an added benefit,

when a tile is stained or damaged it can be lifted out and replaced.

A prominent feature of the new decor is the Nuvacor paneling opposite the elevators. This is a very tough

material (polycarbonate) that is expected to resist the scrapes and bumps from carts being dragged on and off the elevators. The paneling was designed to interrupt the long

SEE HALLWAYS, PAGE 19

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# Resolve to be better neighbors

MANAGEMENT, FROM PAGE 7

- Monday, July 4, 2011 (Independence Day)
- Monday, September 5, 2011 (Labor Day)
- Thursday, September 29, 2011 (Rosh Hashanah)\*
- Saturday, October 8, 2011 (Yom Kippur)\*
- Thursday, November 24, 2011 (Thanksgiving)
- Friday, December 23, 2011 (Christmas Eve observed)
- Monday, December 26, 2011 (Christmas Day observed)
- Friday, December 30, 2011 (New Year's Eve observed)
- Monday, January 2, 2012 (New Year's Day observed)

**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 House rules mandate that every unit have 80% carpeting in the living room, dining room, bedrooms and hall. The

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

kitchen and the bathrooms are exempt from this rule. If you have a chair in an uncarpeted area, please consider rubber or felt tips to alleviate any scraping when it is moved.

**Please make  
arrangements to pick up  
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packages and all other**

deliveries within 24 hours of their arrival. Large packages will be taken up to your unit by staff members if they are not picked up within 8 hours.

**If you have not  
completed and returned  
your emergency information  
form, please do so. The  
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is vital in helping us to assist you in the event of an emergency.

**Holiday decorations  
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on the apartment doors  
from Thanksgiving through  
January 6. Please remove  
them in a timely manner.**

**Enjoy the winter season.  
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# Bright new look for Fifty is the new 30 hallways

**HALLWAYS, FROM PAGE 15**  
 lines of pointy cinder blocks on the south wall, and to work with the elevator landing to break the long hallway into two shorter ones. The paneling was also intended to remove the sense of stepping from an elevator into a cinder-block wall. This it does but the bright off-white color and the matte finish seem to bring the panels forward making this exiting passenger feel confined. A slightly darker color and a touch of gloss would have had the opposite effect, moving the paneling back and giving some sense of space. You may learn more about Nuvacor, and its properties and uses, at <http://www.nuvacor.com>.

The big closet double doors at each end of the corridor can have a powerful effect on the apparent length of the corridor. The deep red of the previous decor made the end of the corridor seem a mile away. The new gray-brown color is a bit lighter and brings the doors slightly closer but I think a lighter shade of the same color would have worked even better.

Overall the new decor fulfills the original objectives. The hallways are certainly brighter and more pleasant. For many years Ambassador Tom Foglietta was the main force driving the move to refashion the corridors, and the objectives of this project were faithful to his prescription. Had he lived, I believe Tom would have been mostly satisfied with the result. ■

**ANNIVERSARY, FROM PAGE 2**  
 at the 1964 Worlds Fair; and more locally, co-designed Casa Fermi at 1300 Lombard Street and the Carl Mackley Houses at 4301 E. Bristol Street. With Louis Kahn, he co-wrote: *Why City Planning Is Your Responsibility* and *You and Your Neighborhood...A Primer for Neighborhood Planning*. Stonorov frequently worked on affordable and union funded projects.

During 2011, on *the House* will present a series of articles highlighting the history of Hopkinson House in anticipation of its 50<sup>th</sup>

anniversary in 2012. A variety of documents and resources are available including those used for the 1985 *Hopkinson House: Monument to History* and the January 2008 Solarium Exhibit: *The Way We Were*. The Editorial Committee will review these sources and bring selected items to your attention.

Residents who have lived in the building since the 1960s and persons knowledgeable about the history of Hopkinson House and the redevelopment of Society Hill will be interviewed and asked to share their memories with our readers. New residents

will also be asked to comment about living in this historic house and neighborhood.

The committee will appreciate old photographs (bragging rights for the best photo of prior hallway decors) and documents of interest that could be used in the newsletter (we will handle them gently and carefully return them to you). We welcome your suggestions for this series. Please direct them to [ralphr011308@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphr011308@yahoo.com) or drop off materials and ideas at the front desk for Ralph Rodriguez, Apt. 617. Thanks. ■



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