

What's inside

by Nelly Childress

Paul Coyne, president of Council, gives an update on the work involved in our building's ongoing facelift (masonry repair and commercial-space window replacement) as well as on other matters of interest to our community, while Manager Judi Forte reinforces her special recommendations for living in a high-rise building during the summer. It does not hurt to refresh your memory about the dos and don'ts to live harmoniously with your neighbors. Lynn Miller talks about the continuing beautification of Washington Square, our front yard, as he calls it. The flower beds are a symphony of color and shape! Enny Cramer and Dan Rothermel recount the lives of two individuals, a long-term resident, and a long-term member of the staff who keep contributing to our community's sense of well-being and to its social fabric. Susan Tomita's description of the Shen Yun presentation at

Hopkinson House—sponsored by the Washington Square Citizens' League—is as delicate and elegant as the previews of the performance shown in a videotape. David Roberts concludes his discussion on carbon dioxide with this quote: "The pretty bubbles in your champagne are not pollution." Dan Rothermel makes an enticing presentation of the forthcoming 2012–13 program of the Opera Company of Philadelphia. It is worth your while reading even if you are not an opera buff! The *News Around the House* refreshes your memory of some of the programs available within walking distance. ■

Beautifying Washington Square

by Lynn Miller

We residents of Hopkinson House are able to admire the beauty of our front

on the HOUSE

The Newsletter of
Hopkinson House • Summer 2012



The Newsletter Committee extends its condolences to Hopkinson House Council's Lisette Tarragano and her family on the loss of **Sol Lazinger** her father and husband of Jean Lazinger, long-time residents of Hopkinson House.

yard—Washington Square—every day. Since our park came under the jurisdiction of Independence National Historic Park (INHP) in 2002, it has been especially well maintained. Among the improvements over the past decade are new flagstone walkways, both inside and around the perimeter of the square, as well as repairs to the eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and to the surrounding brick wall. The renovated fountain in the circular pool at the park's center flings its refreshing spray into the air all summer.

Yet the grounds could not be maintained so beautifully without ongoing, generous contributions from our own Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA). The plantings can now be better cared for than ever before thanks to a newly installed sprinkler system that SHCA helped to fund. For the first time, it is possible to separate flower beds from grass watering so that water can be regulated as needed for both components during the hot, dry spells of summer. The SHCA also dedicated funds, together with INHP, for planting new trees this spring after past storms had damaged a number of the older specimens. New planting and replanting have also followed installation of the new sprinkler system.

Because these projects were being carried out in the park this spring, the SHCA decided to forego its Washington Square Affair this year, but to resume it again in June 2013. The first two such Affairs, in 2010 and



Photography: David Roberts.

Flowering trees frame doorways along the edge of Washington Square.

on the HOUSE

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2011, were very popular with Hopkinson House residents and other Society Hillers. Last year, some four hundred people circulated under a giant white tent on the park's south lawn, drinking and dining on delicacies contributed by area restaurants. These events have also been hugely successful in their fund-raising goals. Last year's gala evening allowed the Association to contribute nearly \$90,000 to the beautification of Washington Square.

Those who brought us the 2011 Washington Square Affair also produced a tribute book as a keepsake for attendees. It provided the park's history along with photos from the past, including a map of the square as it appeared early in the 19th century, as well as those of contributors to the event. This spring, the SHCA received word that the Library of Congress had agreed to include the tribute

book in its collections. That adds one additional volume to the more than 32 million books and other materials held by the nation's library.

It is still possible in this year without a Washington Square Affair to help replenish the SHCA's fund. All monies contributed to its Beautification of Washington Square account are dedicated solely to that purpose. You can help by writing a check to "The Society Hill Fund" and designating it for Washington Square. Mail it to Society Hill Civic Association, P.O. Box 63503, Philadelphia, 19147-2503. Because of our intimate connection to Washington Square, we residents of Hopkinson House should have even more reason than our neighbors throughout Society Hill to help keep it beautiful. And we can look forward to another Affair in

the Square in June 2013. If you'd like to volunteer to help in the planning, you can do so by e-mailing Matt DeJulio (mattdejulio@aol.com) or Sissie Lipton (momlipton@aol.com) at the Society Hill Civic Association. ■



Message from Management

by Judi Forte

It has been a very wet and windy spring leading into the

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summer. Although we had a mild winter and a very warm March, the weather seemed to turn against us in April and May. The Hopkinson House exterior projects began in early March but the façade repair and painting really lost ground as the weather became extremely windy and wet. The contractors lost many work days before May had ended, delaying their schedules and hindering the full use of the pool deck for the Memorial day opening and several weeks after, as well as preventing our residents from enjoying their balconies. Hopefully, the summer weather will improve to allow the contractors to make up for time lost. As the contractors make their way around the building from west to south to east to north, you will be notified when it is time to clear your balcony of furniture and plants.

This is a multi-phase project and you will be asked to remove your belongings from your balcony for each phase. Because this project is weather sensitive and it takes several days to complete a drop, it is not possible to give you an exact day when your balcony will be worked on. You will be given a tentative start date for work to begin and you will be notified when both the masonry company and the painter have finished your balcony so you can return your furnishings.

First, D & A Masonry will need your balcony cleared off so they can do concrete repairs, power wash the balcony and then paint the balcony floor. The edging along the floor will be done by the painters.

Second, when D & A is finished, Schnoll Painting will need your balcony cleared so they can power wash and paint

the surface of the building. If your balcony is not cleared, debris from above will land on your furniture and plants. The building façade project is expected to last until late fall or early winter.

We have two other major projects going on at the same time. The commercial windows on the ground floor are in the process of being replaced. This project is expected to be completed by the end of August.

The commercial air handlers in the mezzanine are also being replaced. This will allow for greater flexibility and control of heat and air conditioning in the commercial units. This project is expected to be completed in August.

Most of us love the summer weather and the opportunity to enjoy the world outside. But when you live in a multi family building such as Hopkinson House, summer brings its own set of issues, which are not unique to Hopkinson House. One of the most serious issues is the continued practice of tossing cigarette butts from the balconies. These butts become airborne and can land anywhere. There have been reports of burned patio furniture and mulch fires. A fire is a high price to pay for not extinguishing your butts in a covered ashtray. Currently, the HHOA

Council is considering a ban on smoking in the private areas of the building which would include the apartments and the balconies, based on the wishes of the majority of the owners.

When you are watering your plants on the balcony, don't let the water overflow the drip pan. Your neighbors downstairs or several floors down may be

sitting on their balcony enjoying their meal when your water overflow hits them on the head or ruins their food. This also applies to washing your balcony. Use only a broom and damp mop and don't sweep the debris over the side of the balcony.

Remember that all balcony umbrellas must be closed when they are not in use and taken down when there is danger of a storm or high winds. **All loose or removable objects must be removed from the balconies during periods of high winds.** And please remember that bird feeders are not permitted on the balconies.

In warm weather, residents like to spend more time on their balconies and entertain their guests outside. Sometimes, the entertaining goes into the early morning hours when most residents are asleep, only to be awakened suddenly by loud voices or noises coming from a neighboring balcony. Please remember that your voice carries when you are on your balcony and to use your inside voice so as not to disturb your neighbors' rest. We also would like to remind everyone that residents are entitled to the use of their balconies to entertain guests and have normal conversation without the threat of a neighbor shushing them or calling the Resident Services Desk, especially before 10:00 p.m.

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

Moves in and out of the building are permitted Monday through Saturday. No moves are permitted on Sundays and religious and legal holidays. **Moves may start at 10:00 a.m. and must be completed by 4:00 p.m.** After 4:00 p.m., there is

limited staff in the building and the freight-elevator operator has gone home for the day. Non-employees of the building are not permitted to operate the freight elevator.

The summer months are the busiest time of the year for moves. Only one move per day is permitted and the schedule gets booked up weeks in advance. If you are planning a move, please reserve the freight elevator as soon as you suspect that you may be moving. You can always cancel or change the move date if your plans change. The charge to reserve the freight elevator is \$150 and it is non-refundable. Your move date cannot be confirmed until this fee is paid. We do not accept cash. **Payment is by check or money order only.**

When you are moving, the elevator will be at your disposal to transport your furniture and belongings. Our mission is to get the move finished as quickly as possible. However, the freight elevator is also used to transport contractors, deliveries and bring the trash down from 31 trash rooms. This is likely to occur during your move, but your move will not be delayed because of other building activities.

Some residents do not begin to pack their boxes until the moving truck arrives. This not only delays your move, it may also cost you more money if the movers are being paid by the hour. It is in your best interest to pack your boxes and organize your belongings before the movers arrive.

- Be sure to file a change of address with the Post Office.
- Trucks over 12 feet in height will not be permitted into the garage. Large moving trucks have to park on Sixth Street and the movers will have



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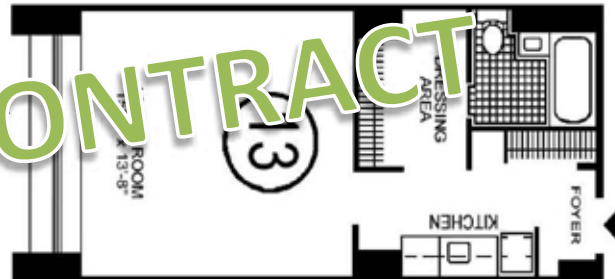
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to transport furniture and belongings up the ramp to the truck.

- Take your bike from the bike room before leaving. Unclaimed bikes are disposed of periodically.
- Make arrangements with Comcast to return your cable modem, digital boxes and remotes.

When using the passenger elevators, please stay alert when entering the elevators. There have been instances of residents being distracted by conversation and looking away from the elevator door while entering. The door may have already started to close causing the resident(s) to walk into the door. Please be careful.

Hopkinson House, as required by the City of Philadelphia, participates in single stream recycling. This means that the recycled items are mixed together on the truck and are sorted at the dumping station. However, you will see three different colored containers in the trash rooms. We still ask that you follow the recycling instructions on the signs posted in the trash room. This separation in the trash room makes it easier and safer for the staff to pull out anything that may be un-recyclable or broken glass which cannot be recycled. **Please rinse out bottles and jars before putting them in the recycling bins. Unrinsed bottles can attract rodents and insects which can find their way into the apartments.**

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.

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. It is also helpful for us to have your e-mail address on file. Forms can be obtained at the Resident Services Desk.

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



Message from Council

by Paul Coyne
HHOA Council President

Our masonry inspection, repair, power washing and painting are progressing nicely. Well, that is if you take into consideration the 25 days of bad weather that prevented the use of the scaffolds.

As it stands, the west side of the building and the southwest section including units ending in numbers 17, 15, and 13 have been completely painted. South section units ending in numbers 11, 9 and 7 are now getting a primer, while units ending in 5 and 3 are at the power-washing stage. In the meantime on the east side of the building the first three stages of masonry repair have been completed and the painting will be finished shortly.

While it has been tedious and the noise was annoying,

we are getting close to passing the travails along to the north face of the building. Phew! It's almost over for the south and east sides!

The second phase of the commercial-space window replacements is past the east side of the north face. The west side of the façade is almost completed (at the time this article was written). Following PNC Bank's window replacements—beginning at this time—the Hopkinson House main entrance glass will be replaced.

The air handlers in the mezzanine are a marvel of technology. Equipment the size of a small shipping container has been squeezed through an opening that just fits the equipment. This opening is located on the south face of the building, east of the main entrance.

These state-of-the-art undertakings will not only give a necessary facelift to the building but will maintain the safety and prolong the life of Hopkinson House.

On another topic, we received, as of the writing of this article, more than 200 responses to our smoke-free building

survey/questionnaire. It's great to have a community that cares enough to take part in helping shape the future of our homes!

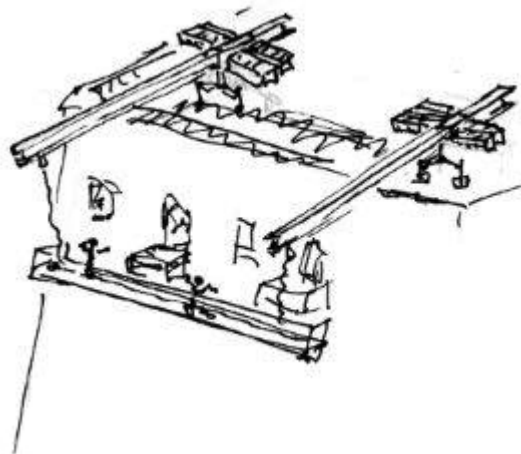
With hope we are examining the possibility of real-estate tax relief. As soon as legislation is passed, the city of Philadelphia will offer a homestead exemption. A possibly short deadline makes it important to act in a timely fashion. Watch for notifications regarding the procedure to follow to apply. This is a joint project involving Millie Korn, Larry Meehan, Enny Cramer, Bari Shor, David Roberts and others.

All things being equal we can look forward to having our building's fiftieth anniversary as a multi-day event. Watch for more on this topic. ■

Carbon dioxide: A gas for life on Earth, part 2

by David Roberts

In the spring 2012 issue, Part 1 of this article described the role of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in both the



Have you wondered how they keep those scaffolds hanging off the side of Hopkinson House?

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production and the enjoyment of many foods and drinks. The bubbles in champagne are CO₂. Technically CO₂ is a greenhouse gas but the amount in the atmosphere, about 0.04% by volume, is too slight for CO₂ to contribute appreciably to the greenhouse effect. This warming effect, which is due mainly to water vapor, prevents Earth's surface from being frozen in a permanent ice age. In man and other animals, metabolism generates CO₂ which is released through the lungs, where its concentration regulates breathing. The CO₂ in the air is the sole source of carbon for the growth of green plants but the low concentration of CO₂ limits plant growth. For better results greenhouse operators supply their plants with extra CO₂.

Now please read on:

Changes with time

From geological and other evidence, scientists generally conclude that billions of years ago the planet Earth was a white-hot molten mass with a temperature of thousands of degrees. Its molten state enabled gravity to pull the planet into a fairly uniform spherical shape. Since then, Earth has gradually cooled, first forming a thin, solid crust that folded to form the mountain ranges. Billions of years later, Earth is much cooler and is mostly crust with a small, hot, molten core.

The cooling has not been a straight-line decrease, however, but has been interrupted by cycles of heating and cooling. In the most recent millions of years there have been ice ages, lasting roughly 100,000 years, separated by interglacials averaging about 10,000 years. The present interglacial, known as the Holocene, has been in

Meet the New HHOA Council



Following the 32nd Annual Meeting of April 19, 2012, the results of the election of four Council members for 2012–2013 were announced. Congratulations go to Edward Kurilla, Lawrence Meehan, Lisette Tarragano, and Howard Zakheim. Top row [left to right]: Paul Coyne, president; Lisette Tarragano, vice president; Larry Meehan, secretary. Bottom row [left to right]: Edwin Rothong, treasurer; Millie Korn; Edward Kurilla. At left: Howard Zakheim.

progress for about 11,000 years but there is no evidence that it will soon end. (Heaven forbid!)

Within this Holocene period there have been mild warming and cooling cycles of 1,000 to 1,500 years. In the past three millennia the historical record supports physical evidence (tree rings, ice cores, etc.) indicating three warming periods (about one degree Celsius per 100 years.) These are known as the Roman warming, which includes the year 1 BC; the medieval warming, which includes the year 1,000 AD; and the modern warming, which is said to have begun in about 1850 AD. Separating these three warmings were first, the dark

ages and then, the little ice age whose temperatures reached their lowest point in about 1700 AD, a mere 76 years before Independence was declared in Philadelphia. (See, for example, Singer and Avery, 2007, "Unstoppable global warming every 1,500 years." Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., and Roy W. Spencer, 2008, *Climate Confusion*. Encounter Books.)

What does all this have to do with CO₂? The answer is: a great deal. Earth's main reservoir of available CO₂ is the seas and oceans. It is a well-known fact of physics that gases, including CO₂, are much more soluble in cold water. For example you have probably

observed that the release of CO₂ from a carbonated drink is practically explosive if you open the bottle when it is warm but much slower and gentler when it is cold. During the warm periods the seas and oceans slowly warm, and release CO₂ into the atmosphere where, as a result, its concentration gradually increases. During cold periods the opposite occurs; the colder water absorbs CO₂ from the air and its concentration decreases. During the past 100 years of warming, atmospheric CO₂ has risen by one-third—from about 0.03% to about 0.04%.

The higher temperatures and increased CO₂ of the warm periods result in faster plant

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growth. Crops can be planted at higher altitudes and closer to the poles. In an earlier warming, for example, there was extensive agriculture in Greenland. Environmentalists have recently pointed out that the current warming will cause melting of parts of the permafrost and that this will release large amounts of CO₂ trapped under the frozen soil. As a result, land that is now frozen will be available to grow crops, and the increased CO₂ will better nourish the crops. History records that the warm periods are marked by abundance and prosperity, the cold periods by famine and hardship.

The modern warming has seen unprecedented population growth, and breathtaking progress in science, technology, and industry. The industrial revolution started very slowly during the little ice age but it accelerated enormously during the warming of the past century.

Art seems to advance by different rules. The little ice age produced not only the glories of the Renaissance but the works of Shakespeare and Milton, Velasquez and Rembrandt,

and Bach and Mozart. Perhaps artists really do thrive in adversity, and political philosophers also. The founding of the United States was based on ideas generated in the latter part of the little ice age.

The future

Undoubtedly we are in a period of global warming. Atmospheric CO₂ is still very low but slowly increasing. Whether human activity is contributing to these trends is a matter of dispute beyond the scope of this article but most writers on both sides of the argument make the questionable assumption that increases in temperature and CO₂ are harmful. Given the need to feed a world population that is now seven billion and still growing, I believe those increases are highly beneficial. In the next cooling period, producing sufficient food for so many people will be a major challenge for agricultural science.

Conclusions

CO₂ plays important roles in both the manufacture

and the enjoyment of foods and drinks. In most cases the gas is generated during the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or bacteria or both—living creatures. Green plants depend on CO₂ in the air for carbon, a major constituent of their tissues. Without CO₂ there would be no plant life as we know it. Without plants there would be no animals. They would have nothing to eat, and without plants and animals there would be no people. We would have nothing to eat. All of this is equally true of life under water. Without CO₂ there would be no seafood.

A growing human population of over 7 billion people requires huge quantities of food produced by extensive, highly productive agriculture. This, in turn, depends heavily on sufficient warmth and on sufficient CO₂, the one major nutrient for plants that is always in short supply. More would help.

It is difficult to think of any substance more important for life on Earth than CO₂, and we have barely touched on its

medical and industrial uses. Given also that the CO₂ in the air is non-toxic, odorless, and invisible, only a bureaucrat could have labeled it a pollutant. By contrast, coal smoke contains CO₂ but it also abounds with real pollutants such as toxic compounds of sulfur, arsenic, and mercury. The successful effort to restrict the release of serious pollutants like these has probably done more than anything else to improve our environment. CO₂ does not deserve to be classified with these vile substances. The pretty bubbles in your champagne are not pollution. ■

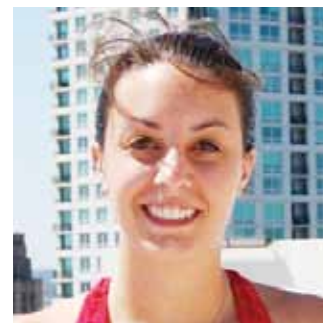
News Around the House

by Nelly Childress

Welcome summer! Our pool with a panoramic view of the city is open and running with our lifeguards' team [pictured below].

Meet the Lifeguards

Top row, from left: Head lifeguard Louis DiDomenic, Tylar Colleluori, Christian Gunsenhouer. Bottom row, from left: Kathryn Ross, Aja Uhlman, Leif Uhlman, Erica Ungarini.



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Being close to the Delaware River, we are offered a number of outdoor activities. These are some of the programs that you and your house guests can enjoy:

The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation 2012 Summer Program Season (May-September) includes free concerts, different multicultural festivals, large-screen outdoor movies, fireworks displays. For information visit www.delawareriverevents.com or call 215-922-2FUN.

Beyond the Bell, a pamphlet sponsored by SEPTA and produced by the Philadelphia Historic Neighborhood Association, lists and describes over 50 cultural activities within walking distance of the Liberty Bell. To consult it you may visit www.beyondthelibrarybell.org

Between Friends, the Friends of Independence National Historic Park newsletter list includes: Every night from June 15 until Labor Day, at 6:00 p.m. Twilight (walking) Tours of Independence National Historic Park. Tours leave every evening from Signer's Garden, 5th and Chestnut Streets. On July 8, at 11:30 a.m., the National Historical Park staff and Friends of Independence will commemorate the 236th anniversary of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. This will take place on the South side

of Independence Hall. All events require registration; you may visit www.friendsofindependence.org or call 215-861-4971.

For those who do not receive the *Society Hill Civic Association Newsletter*, please note the **Sixth Annual Philly Phyz Phest** at the Physick House, 321 S. 4th Street on July 7 from 1–5 p.m. Landmarks is celebrating “Soda’s Pop” to commemorate Dr. Physick’s life, achievements and contributions to Philadelphia history. Admission to the Phyz Phest is Free but tours of Physick House will be available for a \$5 fee.

Peace Day Philly 2012, an observation of the United Nations International Day of Peace. This day of ceasefire and non-violence is celebrated worldwide on September 21. To learn more visit www.peacedayphilly.org.

Plan Philly announced that plans for a design for the American Revolution Center on a site at 3rd and Chestnut Streets have been presented

by architect Robert A. M. Stern (who worked on the Comcast building). A formal announcement was made of a \$40-million donation from H. F. (Gerry) Lenfest, as well as a contribution of \$30 million from the state toward about \$150 million needed to build and endow the museum. ■

A familiar face at the front

by Dan Roethermel

If the Hopkinson House has a public face of hospitality it may well be that of William Reeves, at his post—usually at the main entrance—weekdays from 4:00 p.m. until midnight. Bill has been a smiling, welcoming presence here for nearly 18 years having arrived at our Washington Square home in August of 1994. Bill came to us directly from the Tower at Oak Hill in Gladwyne where he was a member of the concierge staff. Before that he served for six

years as security department supervisor at the Presidential Apartments on City Line Avenue.

“My passion is helping people,” says Bill, “my assignment on earth.” That passion is supremely evident but what immediately impresses those of us who reside at Hopkinson House is Bill’s exceptional memory for names and faces as well as for relevant details of residents’ interests and concerns. This knowledge extends to family and friends of residents as well as to people who are returning to the building after short or even prolonged absences. Bill attributes this ability to skills he acquired during his career in the police department from which he retired on medical disability after 17 years of active service. Bill served in the 16th police district, both on the vice squad for two years and as the lieutenant’s chauffeur. While at police headquarters at 8th and Race Streets, commonly known as “the roundhouse,” he worked in the radio room and also in research and planning.

Bill, who enjoys travel among his leisure time activities, hails from North Philadelphia. He is, however, a long-time resident of Southwest Philly where he is very active in his home church, New Fellowship Baptist. Bill is the father of two daughters and two sons. All are Philadelphia residents except his eldest son who resides in New Jersey, and he is the proud grandfather of five. However, of Hopkinson House Bill says, “This is also my family.” Indeed, he considers his working hours “spending time with my family.” These feelings are warmly reciprocated by those of us



Longtime employee and friend Bill Reeves mans his familiar post at the front desk weeknights from 4:00 p.m. to midnight.



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who make the House our home for whom Bill Reeves is an irreplaceable contributor to its sense of well-being and to its social fabric. ■

Asian heritage on display

by Susan Tomita

Strains of Chinese music and the scent of steamed dumplings filled the solarium on the evening of April 25. In a special multi-media presentation, Hopkinson House residents got a glimpse of traditional Chinese culture and the world-renowned **Shen Yun Performing Arts**. Two weeks later, a global tour brought the New York-based classical dance and music ensemble to Philadelphia in performances at the Merriam Theater.

Shen Yun's local presenters offered an educational preview at Hopkinson House in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The Washington Square Citizens' League made the arrangements after an inquiry from Dr. Faizi Ahmed of the Greater Philadelphia Falun Dafa Association. He and several associates set up hot appetizers and a video projector before mingling with curious residents.

Video clips narrated by Dr. Ann Corson illustrated classical Chinese dance, music, and animated backdrops with excerpts from company shows. Shen Yun seeks to revive "5,000 years of divinely inspired Chinese culture" lost during Communist rule. Its storytelling performances draw from ancient legends as well as modern episodes, including persecution of falun dafa (falun gong) practitioners for their system of exercises and teachings.

All Hopkinson House residents were welcome to attend the event sponsored by the Washington Square Citizens' League, a not-for-profit, non-partisan educational organization started in 1996. ■

Nancy Snyder

by Enny Cramer

We all know Nancy Snyder as one of our oldest residents, in residential years in our building and in years on this earth. But who knows that she was a true tomboy in grade school, taking on any student who challenged her, preferably boys? Who knows that she climbed a church steeple on a dare? And would you believe that she was rescued from that lofty place

by a fire truck ladder?

Nancy was born in 1920, and raised in North Philadelphia, the youngest of three children of Russian immigrants. Both her parents entered the USA by boat directly to Philadelphia at Delaware Avenue. They did not come together, however, but met and married over here.

Nancy's older sister is still living by herself on Roosevelt Boulevard; her older brother died in 1993 at the "young age" of 76.

The family lived behind her father's tailor shop, on 7th and Berks Streets. She was a good student at Ferguson Elementary school, where she developed her fighting skills to keep the bullies away—they teased her because she was cross-eyed. She graduated from Kensington High School in 1937. A year later she had her eyes operated on, after which she felt a "new person," no longer different from others and full of self-confidence.

Nancy entered the workforce after high school as a stenographer in various offices. She was the secretary of Morris Perlman, the son of Raymond G. Perlman, owner of the American Paper Products in Philadelphia. At the age of 27 she took the

summer off and worked as a cashier at an adult summer camp in the Poconos, where our late resident Bill Harris—then a student—worked as a bellhop.

Her real estate (RE) career took off shortly after that summer. Initially she learned RE bookkeeping, after which she passed the RE sales and broker examinations. In 1959 she started her own business in a rented office at the new 2 Penn Center Plaza. In 1979 she purchased an office in Academy House and engaged two salespersons, with whom she still is in touch. Nancy broke a piece of the "glass ceiling" by being among the first three women selling residential homes in Center City. Not only was Nancy a successful businesswoman, outstanding in her field, she also demonstrated her broad interest in the pursuit of knowledge by attending evening classes at Temple and Pennsylvania Universities throughout her working life. She even attended a one-month class in French at the Université de Grenoble (University of Grenoble, France) in 1975.

Her quest for self-improvement combined with a search for enjoyment led her to many extended vacations abroad, throughout

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Europe and South America. In 1965 she stayed at the Savoy in London for \$19.00 a night. Those were the days!

As far as hobbies are concerned Nancy used to love ice-skating and swimming, both indoors and outdoors. She has had a life-long interest in the theatre. During high school she acted in Regional Theatres and was a member of the Berekeley Players near Broad and Olney.

Nancy is one of the original residents of Hopkinson House, where she arrived in 1963. She is one of the founders of Washington Square Citizens' League, where she still participates actively. She has been an active member of several Hopkinson House Owners' Association Committees including the Newsletter Committee from which she recently resigned.

Nancy's zest for life and for all it has to offer to those who search is evident in her interest in local and national politics, its intrigues and foolishness. She stays informed and has her opinions. She is a joy and an asset to our building. Happy ninety-second year, Nancy! ■

A season rich with new titles

by Dan Rothermel

The forthcoming season of the Opera Company of Philadelphia promises to be a bold and exciting one. Of the five operas being produced in 2012-2013, only two will be of the standard repertoire, or "chestnut" variety. Of the remaining three, two will be



Retired real estate professional Nancy Snyder is an original Hopkinson House resident.

Philadelphia premieres and the third will be receiving its first fully professional local production.

The season opens September 28 with Puccini's *La Bohème* in a new production which derives its visual inspiration from late nineteenth and early twentieth century impressionist painting. Directed by David Livermore, the production will star Norah Amsellem, the radiant, silver-voiced Desdemona of the Opera Company's impressive 2010 production of *Otello*. Singing Rodolfo opposite Amsellem's Mimi will be the Academy of Vocal Arts' Bryan Hymel. Leah Partridge and Troy Cook are paired as the passionate but quarrelsome lovers, Musetta and Marcello. *La Bohème* will be conducted by former Hopkinson House resident, Corrado Rovaris, whose contract as OCP's music director has been extended to 2016. As with last season's *Carmen*, there will be a free live simulcast

on opening night for those who prefer to view the opera informally under the stars in the environs of Independence Hall.

The season's second production, also at the Academy, will be the East Coast premiere of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night*, with music by Kevin Puts and libretto by Mark Campbell. The Opera tells the moving true story of a Christmas Eve truce honored by Western Front troops on both sides who, in defiance of their superiors, laid down arms for one night in the midst of the grim carnage of World War I. Longtime local favorite, tenor William Burden, appears as the opera singer whose music inspires the bold move, with Kelly Kaduce as his beloved, Anna. Liam Bonner, in his Opera Company debut, appears as Lt. Audebert, and Troy Cook returns as the Scottish priest, Father Palmer. A co-production with Minnesota Opera, *Silent Night* will be next season's manifestation

of the Opera Company's "commitment to produce an American opera in each of the next ten seasons," according to General Director David Devan. *Silent Night* will open on February 8 with subsequent performances on February 10, 13, 15 and 17.

The third entry will be Benjamin Britten's *Owen Wingrave*, the first of the season's acclaimed Aurora Series of chamber operas. *Owen Wingrave* will be performed in the more intimate setting of the Kimmel Center's Perelman Theater by the young singing actors of the Curtis Opera Theater with members of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra in the pit. Composed expressly for television and first performed on a BBC2 live telecast in 1971, *Owen Wingrave* will be receiving its Center City premiere, although the work was performed by the Temple University Opera Theater in 1994. Based, like Britten's better-known *The Turn of the Screw*, on a short story by Henry James, *Owen Wingrave* deals with pacifism and loyalty, a subject of passionate concern to Britten, who as a conscientious objector spent the years of World War II as an expatriate in New York City. (Incidentally, Britten's expat days with his partner, tenor Peter Pears, figure prominently in the saga engagingly recounted in the Gabriel Kahane/Seth Bockley musical, *February House*, a recent production at Manhattan's Public Theater. Britten and Pears shared this almost mythic Brooklyn Heights residence with

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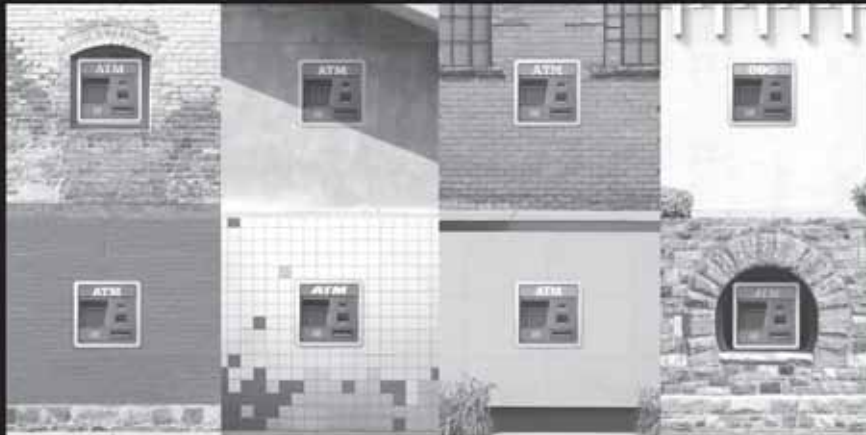
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such literary luminaries as W. H. Auden and Chester Kallman, Carson McCullers, Jane and Paul Bowles, Erika Mann and the otherwise-gifted Gypsy Rose Lee, then uncharacteristically at work on a mystery novel, *The G-String Murders!*) Owen Wingrave will open on March 13 with additional performances on March 15 and 17.

The second work from the standard repertoire will be Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (*Die Zauberflöte*), returning to the stage of the Academy of Music on April 19 with subsequent performances on April 21, 24, 26 and 28. *The Magic Flute* will be directed by Robert Driver who retired as the Opera Company's artistic director at the close of the 2011-12

season but who will return to direct individual productions in future years. In a new production designed by Guia Buzzi, *The Magic Flute* will in fact be the third Academy production in which this richly human masterpiece is performed in an Amazonian rain forest setting, perhaps inspired by Driver's Brazilian upbringing. Among the principal artists are Elizabeth Zharoff (Pamina), Rachele Gilmore (Queen of the Night), Antonio Lozano (Tamino) and Mark Stone (Papageno). Both Zharoff and Lozano made impressive Opera Company debuts this past February in Driver's imaginative production of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* which drew its inspiration from silent spy films of the 1920s.

Undoubtedly, the Opera Company is saving its edgiest entry for the season's final slot. British composer Thomas Ades' *Powder Her Face*, first performed in London in 1995 and here receiving its Philadelphia premiere, is one of the most successful operas of recent years, despite, or perhaps because of its rather scandalous subject matter. The libretto by Philip Hensher derives its inspiration from the career of the notorious Margaret Duchess of Argyll, whose lascivious sexual activities and rather lurid divorce in the 1960s, kept the British tabloids endlessly supplied with racy subject matter. Dubbed "The Dirty Duchess," Margaret whose emotional life was by turns comic and

somber, is sung by Nancy Gustafson, an internationally renowned artist who has performed at the Met, at London's Royal Opera House and at La Scala, Milan. In the role of the Hotel Manager is another Academy of Vocal Arts alumnus, Ben Wager. Ashley Emerson who, like Gustafson is making her Opera Company debut, and Christopher Tiesi are cast in other supporting roles. Maestro Rovaris will once again be on the podium. *Powder Her Face*, the second opera in the Aurora Series, will receive performances on June 7, 9 and 12 at the Perelman Theater.

For further information, visit the Opera Company of Philadelphia online at operaphila.org or call 215-732-8400. ■

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