

What's inside

by Nelly Childress

In this issue Millie Korn, President of HHOA, informs us that our building is getting a facelift this year, and reveals upcoming changes in the commercial units' heating, ventilation and air-conditioning. Manager Judi Forte gives ample notice to owners to consider running for one of the seats on Council in the April 2012 election. She also mentions the conditions of the new lease agreement with Ampco System Parking which now operates our garage. Please read her column in order to follow the proper procedures for obtaining condominium services. David Roberts informs residents on participation in our condominium community. Dan Rothermel introduces newcomers to the many services and activities of the Independence Branch Library on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Since December is the season of giving, Enny Cramer talks about the rewards of volunteer work. But November and December mean also celebrations and we at Hopkinson House celebrated Hallowe'en with small and not so small ghouls and demons; the halls of our lobby and of the solarium resounded with Christmas carols, Hanukkah's commemoration and holiday partying. Let us not forget the arrival of Santa to the delight of young and old. Read the articles by Lynn Miller, David Roberts and Shirley Silverman. For theater buffs Washington Square Citizens' League is offering a new theater class; you will find more information in Susan Tomita's column. ■

Photography: David Roberts

Independence Library celebrates a decade

by Dan Rothermel

It is difficult to believe that Independence Branch Library has been serving our Washington Square neighborhood and serving it superbly for a full decade. Located at 18 South 7th Street in the former Balch Institute building, the Independence Branch, which opened its doors on February 28, 2001, has achieved a number of distinctions. Perhaps foremost it has continuously boasted the highest circulation among the 49 branches of the Free Library system. Only the Northeast Regional Library, a much larger facility with a commensurately larger collection and a geographically wider clientele, is more highly utilized. The local branch also ranks very high in WiFi use.

Its special collections also command particular attention. The most recently instituted of these collections is Critics' Choice, the result of a suggestion by Hopkinson House resident, Faith Abbey. Prominently displayed, the

on the HOUSE

The Newsletter of
Hopkinson House • Winter 2012



The *On the House*
Editorial Committee
wishes residents of
Hopkinson House a
happy, healthy and
prosperous 2012!

Critics' Choice collection includes the *New York Times*' annual top one hundred titles and other award-winning books. Members of the energetic and committed Friends of the Independence Library worked closely with staff librarians to help set up this new special collection, unique among the branches.

With similar emphasis on critically acclaimed fiction, old and new, the Third Monday Book Group discusses significant works of literature chosen by its membership. Because of holidays in both January and February, the group will meet on the *fourth* Monday of those months. The work chosen for discussion on January 23 is Nathanael West's 1939 novel, *The Day of the Locust*. The group convenes at 6 p.m. For further information about literary groups and activities, contact William Irby, the Independence Library's knowledgeable adult and young adult librarian, at 215-685-1633.

Perhaps the special resource for which the Independence Library is best known throughout the city is the Barbara Gittings Gay/Lesbian Collection, the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender collection in the Delaware Valley which honors the late Barbara Gittings (1932-2007). Gittings, who has been called "the mother of the GLBT civil rights movement," fought tirelessly to eliminate discrimination against GLBT persons and particularly promoted relevant literature and audiovisual materials in libraries. In 2003 the American Library Association conferred an honorary lifetime



A patron enters the Independence Branch of The Free Library of Philadelphia, located on 7th Street.

on the HOUSE

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membership on Gittings, a resident of Philadelphia for many years. The Gittings collection, the second largest dedicated collection of its kind in any public library in this country, includes over 1500 items: books, music, DVDs, audio books and periodicals. Appropriately, the Independence Library has been selected to host a Speed Dating Queer Event for singles between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five – men dating men, women dating women – to be held on Monday, February 6 at 6 p.m. The Independence is one of seven branches holding similar speed dating events for singles in that age bracket in early February and the only one organized specifically for GLBT persons. For further information, contact Branch Manager Marianne Banbor or library assistant Bill Clossey

at 215-685-1633, or online via GLBTLibrary@yahoo.com. Less widely known but of intense local interest is the Chinese Language Collection, a vast resource of books, audiovisual materials and periodicals, including Philadelphia's three Chinese daily newspapers. The branch, which maintains computer services with Chinese language software, also sponsors activities for Mandarin speakers including the Chinatown Language Club which helps its members gain experience in English conversation and provides assistance in preparation for the US Citizenship examination. There is even a line dancing class taught in Mandarin. The Independence Library also has one of the finest collections among the Free Library branches devoted to the City of Brotherly Love itself, embracing materials

relating to Philadelphia's history, architecture, and neighborhood development. The Independence Library has a large, busy, welcoming children's department, headed by Children's Librarian Margaret Bernardi. In addition to a large collection of books, DVDs, CDs, and audio books for children and adults, there are numerous activities including the very popular Toddler Story time structured for children eighteen months to four years old but also welcoming their siblings, parents, grandparents, nannies and other childcare providers. These sessions include story telling, classic picture books, sing-along and make-and-take crafts. On January 25 the children's department will host a Community Chinese New Year celebration including a performance by students from the Holy Redeemer School,

the only school in Philadelphia attended primarily by Chinese speakers. For further information, contact Margaret Bernardi at 215-685-1633. Among its special programs, the Independence Branch collaborates regularly with the Wagner Free Institute of Science. On Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. between January 18 and February 22, the branch will offer a series of six lectures on *The Dog and Its DNA*. The lectures, given by Professor Mary Beth Davis, Assistant Dean at Bryn Mawr College, will focus on canine evolution, breeds, morphology, behavior, and health and disease. The final session will focus on canine cancer. In line with the Free Library's commitment to keeping in step with recent technology, Kindle users can now directly download eBooks in the library system by using a member's personal library card number and PIN. By clicking "Get the Kindle," the book will appear on the patron's Amazon account. Another recent innovation is the installation of two new self-checkout computers for members who are borrowing books only. (At this time, audio visual items must still be checked out at the circulation desk.) As previously mentioned, the branch is fortunate in having a large, vital and active organization of Friends of the Independence Branch Library, headed by its dynamic and tireless president, Joe Baker. In 2011, for the fourth consecutive year, the Friends, with the assistance of Councilman Frank DiCicco and his staff, received a grant from the Philadelphia Activities Funds for Friends Present. This year's grant of \$2000 is targeted specifically

for programming for children, teens and adults. Early on in the branch's existence the Friends organized and continue to maintain a corner where library visitors may purchase used books, CDs and DVDs donated by library patrons, all in good condition and at nominal cost. Under the watchful eye of chairperson Lee Gutman, the proceeds from the sale of these materials enable the Friends to support the branch financially in a variety of ways. It is now possible to make purchases even if not checking out library items by putting the exact change in a newly placed deposit box on the circulation desk. Donations of books, CDs and DVDs for resale in the book corner are welcome and actively solicited. Cookbooks, travel books and mysteries are in particular demand. Contact the Friends at Independence Branch Library at indyfriends@verizon.net. Through the end of February with a special donation of \$25 or more, a commemorative bookplate will be placed for you in a book at the Independence Branch Library, an opportunity to honor or remember a friend or to commemorate a special occasion. Why not consider such a special donation to this busy and vital community institution as it celebrates its first decade. Independence Branch Library is located at 18 South 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2314. Telephone: 215-685-1633 or 215-685-1844. Web: www.freelibrary.org. Hours: Monday and Wednesday, noon–8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; closed Saturday, Sunday and national holidays ■



Message from Council

by Millie Korn
President of Council

It seems as though it was just recently that I was writing to the Hopkinson House community about the end of summer as we approached early autumn, but here we are so soon preparing for the Winter Holiday season. Before we can turn around, we are welcoming 2012 and all of us will be mired in our day to day activities, individually and as a community. As a community, we can expect some of the following events to occur:

In 2012 Hopkinson House is required by the City of Philadelphia to undergo a façade inspection. For the Hopkinson House, this inspection will be incorporated with the re-coating of the building which was last done in 1998. The façade inspection and building re-coating will begin in March 2012. We expect this process to take most of the year to complete. In addition we can expect a re-coating of the balconies to occur after the building coating is completed. As in the case with other processes for the exterior of the building, a written announcement will be distributed to all units in preparation for both these

events so that you can properly protect your privacy. This will be especially critical for the balcony re-coating, as all articles will need to be removed from the balconies to allow proper application and curing. The process will also require scaffolding so extra caution will be necessary on the outside of the Building. Another project to be undertaken in 2012 will be the installation of new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning ("HVAC") in the commercial units. Each space is sub-metered for electricity so that each commercial tenant will continue to be responsible for their own electricity. Council will continue to consider all of the nuances related to determining the necessity and timing of replacing the residential units' HVAC system and will keep the HHOA community apprised of the update. Council wishes a Happy and Healthy 2012 to all of you and yours. Cheers! ■



Message from Management

by Judi Forte
The Hopkinson House Annual Meeting and Election is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 19, 2012 in the Solarium at 7:00 p.m. There

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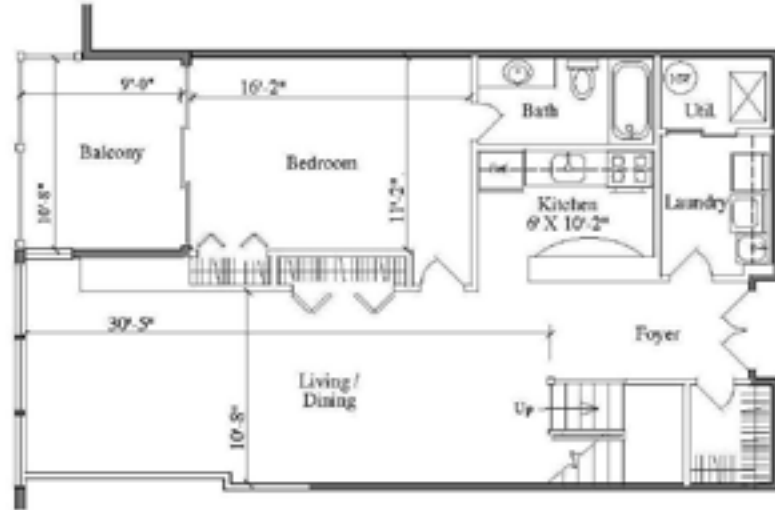
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will be four seats open on the Council in 2012. If you would like to be a part of the future planning of Hopkinson House, complete a nomination form which will be mailed out to you and put your name on the ballot. Council terms are for two years and Council members must be available to attend one meeting per month. All nominees must be in good standing with the Association.

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 times 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 also request that residents do not use the staff phones. Besides the possibility of spreading illnesses, this practice prevents the desk staff from performing their job properly. We sincerely thank you for these courtesies.

Ampco System Parking has a lease agreement with Hopkinson House to operate the garage through the end of 2014. This lease agreement brings in an income of \$450,636 annually, which helps to control your monthly condominium fees. Ampco purchased Five Star's assets in 2010. As part of that lease agreement Ampco is required to make available up to 280 spaces for residents of Hopkinson House at a rate of \$145/month, on a first come, first served basis. If at any time, more than

Meet the Staff: Desk and door



Front row, left to right: Kurt Perez (hired 1988), Richard Alexander (2003), Cliff Harris (2011), and Michael Brown (2005). Back row, left to right: John Davis (2007), Michael Bunting (2000), Bill Reeves (1994), Rodney Perry (1998), Bruce Scott (1995), and Tyhee Curtis (2008). Missing: Jeffrey Simmons (2010) and Paul McGaharn (2001).

280 spaces are made available for residents of Hopkinson House on a monthly basis, the fee for those additional spaces shall be \$290/month.

Residents of Hopkinson House are not permitted to retain resident-rate parking spaces for non-resident family members, friends, aides, vendors, neighbors, etc. All non-residents must pay the full rate of \$290/month for monthly parking.

When calling for a particular service, please speak with the correct department. If you have a maintenance request, have the Resident Services Desk complete a work order for you or, for questions, ask to speak to the maintenance department. Leaving a message in the manager's voice mail will only delay your request. The same applies for exterminator service, lock changes, keys, unit renovations, etc. Tell the person answering the phone what your call is in reference to, so that they are able to direct it to the correct department or, in many cases, they will be able to help you.

It is the responsibility of every resident to complete an

entry permit for your guests, contractors and anyone you wish to have access to your unit. Faxing and e-mailing permission may prevent that person's entry to your apartment. The fax machine is on from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Faxes will not be received after hours and on weekends. E-mails are not a reliable method of sending an entry permit. The person you send the e-mail may fail to arrange access for your visitor.

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 less 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 \$2,000,000 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.

- Monday, February 20, 2012: Presidents' Day
- Friday, April 6: Good Friday
- Monday, May 28: Memorial Day
- Wednesday, July 4: Independence Day



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- Monday, September 3:
Labor Day
- Monday, September 17:
Rosh Hashanah*
- Wednesday, September 26:
Yom Kippur*
- Thursday, November 22:
Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 24:
Christmas Eve
- Tuesday, December 25:
Christmas Day
- Monday, December 31: New
Year's Eve
- Tuesday, January 1, 2013:
New Years Day

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
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 your 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 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 from
Thanksgiving through January
6th. Please remove them in a
timely manner.

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

Residents volunteering at the Women's Law Project

by Enny Cramer

Three retired residents
of Hopkinson House, Evelyn
Bouden, Shirley Silverman and
I, have been volunteers at the
Women's Law Project for more

than ten years and loving it!

The agency is a public
law center, located in the one
hundred block of S. 9th Street.
Since 1974 it has been devoted
to women's rights, using three
essential strategies: high-
impact litigation, public policy
advocacy and community
education. It is funded by
public and private grants and
donations, and staffed by
attorneys and well trained
volunteers.

The three of us function
as Telephone Counselors,
providing information regarding
legal and social issues to women
calling for help. We have a
large, up-to-date, computerized
data base, which enables us
to provide our callers with
concrete, easy to understand
information about the many
legal and social issues they could
face. We always emphasize
that we are not Pennsylvania
licensed attorneys, and that
they should use our suggestions
not as legal advice, but just as
available options.

Shirley has been a
telephone counselor for
more than fifteen years.

She is a retired speech and
language therapist in the
public school system in North
Philadelphia. In addition to
her three children, she has six
grandchildren and one great
grandchild. Shirley considers
the people she counsels as the
most rewarding aspect of this
volunteer work and particularly
because counseling does make
a difference in these women's
lives, many having been abused
by men or society.

Evelyn, a twelve-
year volunteer, is a retired
pediatrician, whose last
job was the directorship of
Pennsylvania's Division of
Maternal and Child Health
in Harrisburg. Before that
she worked as an inner-city
hospital physician in New York
City, where crisis intervention
was the norm. Evelyn's vast
medical crisis experience
makes her a "natural" telephone
counselor. She often hears the
same type of problems she
was confronted with in the
hospital emergency room. She
appreciates the fact that in this
setting she has more time to
discuss issues with her callers



Residents of Hopkinson House volunteering for the Women's Law Project (left to right): Enny Cramer, Evelyn Bouden, and Shirley Silverman.

Photography: David Roberts

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

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as to what they can do to help their children.

I joined the Women's Law Project eleven years ago, after spending my whole professional life in jobs related to "helping people, and especially women, helping themselves", on both sides of the Atlantic. Originally I was trained as an attorney, and subsequently I became a social worker and public health administrator. Volunteering at the Women's Law Project was also "natural" for me after I retired as Executive Director of the Joseph P. Petersen Institute, here in Philadelphia. As a volunteer I have been able to use my diverse skills in an exciting and positive environment.

We share the same feeling about our Telephone Counseling work. It is rewarding and it adds meaning to our retirement years. ■

Make the most of your community

by David Roberts

Hopkinson House accommodates a diverse community of nearly a thousand people. Most of us own our apartments but a substantial number do not. On Candidates' Night last April a gentleman who rents his apartment asked why tenants may not take part in the election of Council members. The president kindly explained that tenants do not hold equity in the condominium. That is why tenants may not vote but it also answers a slightly different question: Why are tenants *not encouraged* to run for election?

Photography: David Roberts

Meet the Staff: Maintenance



From left to right: Robert Cheaty (hired 2009), John Barker (1997), Andre Dicks (1991), Anthony Kelly (1994), Richard Simon (2004), Robert Forte (2007), and Joseph Izzy (2006). Not pictured: Charles Kemeza (2003) and Larry Maddox (2001).

According to our condominium's Code of Regulations, any resident of Pennsylvania aged at least 18 years may run for election to the Council of the Hopkinson House Owners' Association. The Association, however, is under no obligation to invite such people to run for election and, no doubt, few owners would wish to have non-owners on the Council voting to determine the amount of their maintenance fees or how their money is spent.

Some tenants may have the impression that the Owners' Association is a social club but nothing could be further from the truth. The Association exists and meets for only one purpose, to ensure that the property of its members—Hopkinson House—is suitably operated and maintained. They do this by electing a governing Council. The owners of nearly 30% of the apartments do not live in Hopkinson House but lease their apartments to tenants. These investor owners usually do not participate in the life of our community but

they are full members of the Owners' Association and many of them exercise their right to vote at the Association's Annual Meeting.

The tenants of our rented apartments typically pay a high price to live here and they fully deserve their place in our community. We welcome them and we appreciate their contribution to the life of the building, especially those with babies or small children. Young life brings joy to all of us.

Although tenants cannot be members of the Owners' Association they may join everything else and are welcome at all our social events. The Washington Square Citizens' League is based in Hopkinson House and it is open to all residents for a nominal fee. The League conducts social events but it also does more serious things. It stages meetings addressed by guest speakers on subjects of current interest, and groups of League members hold discussions on similar subjects [the Discussion Group, the Reel Discussion Group (movies) and the most recent:

Another Opening, Another Show (theater)]. Refreshments are usually served.

The Council has a number of committees, and all residents are eligible to serve on them. The committees do not make executive decisions but, in most cases, exist to provide advice or recommendations to the Council. These include the finance, engineering, landscape-and-design, swimming-pool, and dispute-resolution committees (DRC). The DRC has a legal responsibility, which is to provide due-process hearings for residents accused of breaking the rules of the community. Each hearing is followed by a recommendation to the Council on guilt or innocence, and punishment if appropriate. Only the Council may decide guilt and impose a penalty but, by state law, it may not penalize a resident until a due-process hearing has been held and a recommendation received. As its name implies, the DRC also tries to settle disagreements between residents but, thanks to the good work of our general manager, the committee has

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been assigned few such tasks in recent years.

There are two committees that do not advise the Council but have a specific job to do. The special-events committee conducts social events and entertainments including parties to celebrate the holy days of winter, in particular Christmas and Hanukkah. The newsletter committee, which is really a production staff directed by an editor, puts out this newsletter four times a year. The staff writes most of the articles and takes most of the photos but any resident may submit material for consideration.

The Washington Square Citizens' League holds an annual party for all residents where it provides application forms for those who wish to join the League. Members, old and new, later receive an invitation to join the discussion groups.

Any resident who would like to be considered for appointment to a committee of the Council should advise the general manager of his or her interest. The best time to do that is in April, before the Annual Meeting of the Association. The new Council usually organizes the committees at its first monthly meeting, in May.

The League and the committees provide good opportunities to meet people with similar interests and thereby to make new friends. Owners and tenants should make the most of these opportunities. Does it matter to our community whether you are an owner or a tenant? Clearly it does not. In the every-day life of Hopkinson House we are all fellow residents.

David Roberts is a former president of the Hopkinson

Meet the Staff: Office personnel



From left to right: Ruth Cruz (hired 2008), Judi Forte (2006), and Cathy Kavalkovich (1980).

House Owners' Association and is the author of the Association's current election forms and procedures ■

News
Around the House

November 2011 General Election Return

It gives us great pleasure to inform you that Philadelphia Ward 5 Division 3 (that is us and our closest neighbors) had the highest return rate in the November election. Out of the approximately 500 eligible registered voters (Republicans, Democrats and Independents), 256 (50%) showed up and voted. Considering that throughout Philadelphia the average return rate was 20%, we did *much* better! Congratulations.

American Institute of Architects Bookstore & Design Center

Good news for those who are looking for unusual

gifts. The AIA Bookstore and Design Center, Philadelphia's premier shopping location for architecture books, quirky and classic design gifts, and engaging creative toys for children, has opened a second location at the intersection of 7th and Samson streets—almost around the corner from Hopkinson House. Working in cooperation with the Charter High School for Architecture and Design (CHAD), the Bookstore is bringing its unique line of products to the Washington Square neighborhood. Visit the store, it's worth it! Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 12 to 5 p.m.

The Race Street Connector

The "Marquee" by artist Richard Torchia, a new public art project, is topping the Race Street Connector. A horizontal LED screen has been mounted on the west-facing side of the I-95 overpass over Race Street in Old City. It displays, 24 hours/day, images of the surface of the Delaware River captured by cameras

at the water's edge—a new destination for our out-of-town visitors! ■

Hallowe'en at Hopkinson House

by David Roberts

It was the eve of All Hallows Day and, as darkness descended, ghouls and demons gathered and ghosts hovered overhead. A member of the special-events committee climbed a ladder to fix the ghosts in place but, at floor level, the ghouls and demons milled about, happily devouring the treats the committee had provided. Adult beverages were served to those who qualified.

The ghouls and demons were mostly too young to go trick-or-treating—three was a typical age—and their understanding of what Hallowe'en is about was probably elementary at best but they obviously enjoyed themselves. For that matter, how many older children understand that



Digital Mammography

at the Tuttleman Center

Pennsylvania Hospital outpatient radiology at the Tuttleman Center provides patients with outstanding personalized care from board certified radiologists.

Mammography remains the most accurate screening method for detecting breast cancer. Digital mammography offers several advantages over traditional mammography including:

- The ability to detect tumors difficult to identify by traditional mammography
- Flexible plates for greater comfort
- Completion of exam in half the time of traditional mammography
- Less radiation exposure than traditional mammography
- Enhanced imaging details for radiologists; allowing greater precision and eliminating the need for repeat screening
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treats are like protection money, insurance against the dastardly tricks that would otherwise follow?

Praise is due to the parents who went to the trouble of dressing up their children for the occasion, and to the members of the special-events committee who labored to make the event a ghoulish success. ■

Another festival of lights

by Shirley Silverman

Good grief! It's the end of December! Time for the Hopkinson House annual Chanukah party and candle-lighting. This festival of the lights was held on Tuesday, December 20 and, as always, we had a good turnout. The lobby looked beautiful. Flowers, plants and candles creating a warm ambiance, the rainy weather and the darkness outside added to the coziness inside

The word *Chanukah* means dedication and is one of the most joyous Jewish holidays, commemorating the rededication of the Temple after the Maccabee victory in 165 BC. The name can be spelled Chanukah or Hanukkah. However we spell it, we remember the heroes under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus. It is said that a miracle occurred because, when they entered the Temple, they found only enough oil to light it up for one day, but, lo and behold, the oil lasted for eight days, so we celebrate in song, with dreidel games and the famous potato latkes. The latkes with sour cream or applesauce, and the little, round doughnuts disappeared quickly.

Photography: David Roberts

Hallowe'en



Chanukah



Of course, Hopkinson House has the privilege to hear the wonderful music of Murray Savar, our pictures taken by our house photographer, David Roberts and the candles lit by Minna Savar. The entire event was organized by Lisette Tarragno. A good time was had by all! ■

Celebrating the holidays

by Lynn Miller

Residents of Hopkinson House welcomed the start of the holiday season with lobby-to-solarium parties in mid-December. We started with a

warm-up late in the afternoon of December 7, when Murray Savar's students from the Agnes Irwin School sang carols for the pleasure of residents arriving home at the end of the workday. Nearly a week later, we welcomed in the Christmas and Chanukah seasons with more carol singing around the



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Christmas—uh-h, Holiday—tree. Again, Murray Savar was the masterful musician who accompanied the sing-along.

Santa Claus soon climbed up to the lobby from the garage, grateful to have valet parking for his sleigh and reindeer. The waiting children and elders welcomed him with cries of delight. Then each child was treated to a package of goodies Santa had arranged for them, thanks to the able assistance of Enny the Elf, George the Good Goblin, and others. One little boy came dressed in a fur-lined, red velvet suit that exactly matched St. Nick's, but when his grandmother plopped him on Santa's lap for a photo, the little tyke shrieked his disapproval. Happily, the other boys and girls didn't seem terrified by S. Claus and his flowing mane of curls and whiskers.

Once Santa took his leave, on the grounds that he had many more boys and girls to visit that night, the party adjourned to the solarium for further festivities. There, wine and other potables, which included the favorite holiday punch concocted by Scott Childress, were ably served by the usual suspects. Some who had been Santa's helpers downstairs continued to help, serving hot hors d'oeuvres and replacing platters of other goodies as needed. A possibly record number of guests

Christmas



nearly filled both rooms of the solarium.

Gail Winkler handed out free tickets for a door prize to all the guests when they entered. At the party's climax, Paul Coyne announced the drawing to a suspenseful crowd. A young man who had chatted shyly with Santa Claus earlier drew the winning ticket: a \$100 gift certificate for dinner at La

Buca, our always-supportive fine restaurant around the corner on Locust Street.

Our thanks go to all who helped prepare for these events. These included, from the Special Events committee, decorators, procurers of food and drink, servers and other helpers. Our Hopkinson House staff were also able assistants. ■

Philadelphia, even within walking distance, why not resolve to enjoy more plays and get more out of those you see in the new year?

Beginning in January, theater lovers in Hopkinson House will have a new monthly opportunity to learn and talk about plays in Philadelphia. Another Opening, Another Show will be an informal class led by resident Harry Segal for the Washington Square Citizens' League. WSCL is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization started by Hopkinson House residents in 1996 and dedicated to motivating their engagement in political and social processes.

Are you interested in joining a reading discussion group?

If so, come to an organizational meeting on
Wednesday, January 25, 2012 in the Library at 7 p.m.

If you cannot attend this meeting, but are interested
in the reading group call Myra Kurkowski at
215-740-2563 or e-mail myrakurkowski5@gmail.com.

The play's the thing: New theater class in January

by Susan Tomita

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Harry has been teaching a popular theater/film class for many years for OLLI, Temple University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. At Hopkinson House, Harry will provide cultural and historical information to encourage attendance at plays and appreciation and understanding of the theater. A retired attorney, he encourages discussion and disagreement!

The first session will be in the third week of January from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the solarium. Possible subjects are the recently featured plays *Our Class* (at Wilma Theater) and *New Jerusalem, The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza* at Talmud Torah Congregation (which returns to the Lantern Theater in September). Dates for future months will be decided after the first session.

Another Opening, Another Show is open to all WSCL members. Annual dues are \$10 per individual, \$20 per couple for the July 2011–June 2012 membership year. There is no additional charge for the classes.

If you are interested in participating in any of the sessions, please drop a note to Susan Tomita in unit 2602, or send email to Susan.Tomita@gmail.com. Please indicate a date preference—for Tuesday, January 17, or Wednesday, January 18—to help schedule the first class. If you are not yet a WSCL member, provide your unit number to receive a membership application/renewal form. ■

Photography: David Roberts

Meet the Staff: Housekeeping



From left to right: Carlton Stephenson (hired 1996), Euston (Lloyd) Holdson (1998), Oliver Williams (1983), Craig Stone (2011), and David Ray (2006). Missing: Walton Martin (1997) and Gary McQueen (2011).

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