

# What's Inside

Nelly Childress

I recommend reading carefully the Message from the President, **Paul Coyne**. He gives a summary of the various projects completed or still in process until 2020.

I also recommend consulting the Message from the Manager, **David Smith**, our General Manager, reminds us that the pool is open and that residents can still apply for membership. He addresses many topics, among which are balcony safety; cart etiquette; forthcoming annual activities; the disposal by residents of empty boxes, and more.

On the *Plan Philly* website is a report of a talk by Rich Villa, Ambit Architecture, on his favorite, underappreciated or misunderstood building in Philadelphia. He explains what makes Hopkinson House the one overlooked work in Society Hill great. See "In the News"

**Concha Alborg** has interviewed two of our interesting neighbors, Gail Winkler and Roger Moss, long-time residents of Hopkinson House. She ended up pondering "why [did] they choose to live in Hopkinson House instead

of having their own restored Victorian Mansion?" Read the article and you'll find out.

What is happening to the Curtis Center facing us from Walnut Street? **Lynn Miller** gives you the answer in his article entitled: "Our Still-Evolving Washington Square."

Everyone knows that our building was named after Francis Hopkinson, that he was an ardent patriot during the American Revolution, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Since 2016 is the 225th anniversary of his death, I thought it appropriate to refresh people's memories about Hopkinson's many talents.

**Janet Burnham** and **Terry Kowalski** collaborated in a picturesque description of the Square starting from 6 a.m. with "joggers, speed walkers and joyful dogs leading their humans" and ending at 10 p.m. with "the park rangers patrolling the Square all night long on their bikes."

For those interested in the proper use of language, read **David Roberts'** observations and comments. ■

# on the HOUSE

The Newsletter of  
Hopkinson House • Summer 2016



## Message from Council

Paul Coyne



Before Lee Anne Oberman, of Oberman CPA, gave her Auditor's Report on the 2015 financial statements and supplementary information of HHOA at the Hopkinson House Annual Meeting, and following the call to order and announcement of a quorum, I gave a brief sketch on the finances and of the projected front as we approach the 2020 HVAC project. Following Ms. Oberman's presentation and questions from the floor, the meeting was adjourned.

A number of residents including candidates for Council remained and expressed their opinions on the HVAC project

and questioned the cost. Because final numbers are difficult to obtain this early, the HHOA Finance Committee and a banker are scheduled to address the residents at a November meeting; we can then have some reasonable assumptions that should help alleviate their concerns. As more information becomes available, it will be published in future issues of *on the House*.

About \$130,000 is deposited monthly into the Capital Reserve Fund. That is around \$1.5 million a year toward the HVAC project.

### Projects

The rate of growth of our Capital Reserve Fund allowed the several projects accomplished recently without any assessment levied on owners: the necessary front plaza renovation, including repair of the damaged east and west structural beams below

continued on page 2

### An Occasional Photo



Rose bush at corner of 7th street & Washington Square

Ah Summer! A time to relax, enjoy the outdoor, the longer days, the swimming pool and the long-awaited vacation!  
The Newsletter Committee is wishing  
"A Pleasant Season" to all.

# Message from Council continued from page 1

## on the HOUSE

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Find past issues of *on the House*  
at [www.thehopkinsonhouse.com](http://www.thehopkinsonhouse.com)

the building's front; the new planters in the front plaza; the ground-floor commercial windows replacement; the garage ramp and switch gear projects. The replacement of the garage ramp wear pad and the repair of its underlying drainage system was completed ahead of schedule without major inconvenience to the garage operations, thanks to the smooth coordination of normal garage activity, trash trucks, moving vans, etc. — a "petit ballet!"

The garage ramp and switch gear projects were necessary to the future HVAC system. The electric power needed for the 2020 project exceeds the capacity of our present switch gear equipment and requires larger quarters. The site of the new switch gear is the bicycle room. The greatest obstacle was the water leaking from the ramp into the bicycle room — water and two lines of 13,200 volts of electricity are not compatible. So, replacing the ramp and its drainage system solved the problem.

The best outcome will be

enough power to support the new HVAC system. The new switch gear will provide greater electrical capacity and allow the present equipment to be retired after more than fifty years of service. We should be ready to send the project out for bids at the end of the year. This project will involve PECO, Hankels & McCoy on contract to PECO, and Holstein White Engineers, our representatives.

The replacement of the two hot-water boilers: these boilers supply hot water to the building and have served us 24/7 for more than ten years. Requests for bids will be mailed in August. This project should be completed by February 2017.

The passage from the building to the rear of the courtyard is to be renovated with new marble and railings on east and west sides that will match the railings leading to the upper courtyard. The leaks into the garage from the area west of the courtyard bridge around the waterfall have been repaired. The area was excavated and waterproofed, water tested and the soil replaced. Finally, there are no more leaks into the garage.

At its May meeting, the Hopkinson House Council approved the ground-floor (lobby) renovations plans. The entire process should take until December 9, 2016. The winning bidder for the contract was Wolf Scott, which worked on the hallways in 2010. All the contracts involved with the project were submitted

to our Counsel, Gary A. Krimstock, attorney-at-law, a member of the College of Community Association Lawyers, for review.

David Smith and Anthony Kelly are organizing the relocation of personnel, files, items, etc. for the demolition/construction/renovation scheduled to start on August 12 and end on December 9. Ordering the materials, products such as carpeting, marble, granite, lighting and custom-made items, must begin soon. The storyboards for the lobby's final renovation plans and sample materials will probably be set up by the time you receive this newsletter.

### New Personnel

Three new employees have been added to the staff: Matt Pilcicki is taking over some of the bookkeeping tasks for two days a week, Mondays and Fridays. Brandon Mallory is working at the Resident Services Desk. This has significantly reduced the overtime at the desk. Fitzgerald Roberts will work in Housekeeping on one night shift a week and will fill in on sick-days and during vacation. ■



Matt Pilcicki



Brandon Mallory



Fitzgerald Roberts



### Construction Timeline

June 2016	—	Ramp Complete
August 2016	—	Ground Floor Begins
August 2016	—	Bid Out Boilers
September 2016	—	Bid Out Switchgear
December 2016	—	Ground Floor Complete
January 2017	—	Building Link
February 2017	—	Building Link Complete
2018	—	HVAC Wiring
2020	—	HVAC Project

# Message from Management

David Smith



**W**ith Memorial Day behind us and the summer season now upon us, the Hopkinson House Pool is open! It is not too late to join. Please stop by the Resident Services Desk and ask for a pool membership application.

I would like to take this opportunity to address a few topics that all of us should remember:

## Balcony Safety!

Recently, on a few occasions, items have been blown off residents' balconies. This is a life safety issue as well as an insurance liability. Please make sure you do not have any items on your balcony ledges or light weight items that can easily be blown off your balcony. All items located on your balcony should be secured at all times. Please pay particular attention to tables, chairs, and umbrellas, and make

sure you store them securely when you are not on your balcony.

## Cooking in your home

When cooking in your unit, please refrain from opening your apartment door in an effort to vent your cooking smells or smoke. Opening windows or your balcony door is the appropriate method of venting smoke or cooking smells.

## Cart Etiquette

Hopkinson House provides owners with shopping carts and bellhop carts for use anytime they are needed. When you take advantage of this amenity, please remember to return the carts to where you found them. Frequently, carts are being left in hallways and are not available to owners when they are needed.

The Hopkinson House will be completing the following annual activities soon:

## Window Washing

Jenkintown Building Services will once again be cleaning all of our exterior windows. By the time this issue is printed, they will likely have completed this project.



## Shredding Event

Our annual shredding event will take place in July. This year, we will also be providing owners a service to dispose of any unwanted electronic items including old computers, TVs, and printers. A flyer will be distributed shortly with more information.

## Hopkinson House Census

We will be requesting all owners and residents complete an updated Census Form and Emergency Contact Information. This will be distributed in July and copies will be available at the front desk.

## Welcome, New Residents

Finally, if you are a new owner or resident, please remember the following information:

If you have empty boxes to discard, please do not leave them in the trash room or by the freight elevator. Leave the broken down boxes in your foyer. Call the Resident Services Desk at 215-923-1776, extension 110, and ask for housekeeping to pick up the boxes in your unit.

The Management Office needs a copy of your Home Owner's insurance policy that shows a minimum of at least \$25,000 in dwelling property coverage. Please forward this information to Cathy's attention.

**On behalf of the entire management team, I wish everyone a safe and happy summer! ■**

## High Percentage of Hopkinson House Voters Cast Their Ballot

Gearing up now for the November national election, some of our readers might be interested in the results of the April election returns for our division. Sixty percent of the registered voters

performed their civic duties and cast their ballots. According to City Commissioner Al Schmidt, 39 percent of registered voters in Philadelphia went to the polls.

Thanks go to committee-persons and to Washington Square Citizens League's volunteers who participated in the voter registration drive and in other related programs.



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## In the News

In the *PlanPhilly* website, for its spring *Building Stories*, Philadelphia architects were asked to explain what makes their favorite underappreciated or misunderstood buildings in Philadelphia great.

Rich Villa, Ambit Architecture, chose to talk about none other than **Hopkinson House**. Villa said: "The most famous examples of modernism in Society Hill are I. M. Pei's Society Hill Towers and rowhouses of Bingham Court," but Villa's appreciation goes to "the overlooked work of the area: Hopkinson House, a creation by architect Oskar Stonorov, best known for his residential projects."

"Hopkinson House was made possible by the large-scale mid-century urban renewal project to reshape Society Hill, which included major demolition campaigns that made room for large-footprint buildings."

"The Stonorov 33-story building rises with a stepladder pattern of protruding balconies, alternating with, originally, brick panels that lay flush with the vertical concrete columns. The windows are tucked back into the façade. Together these elements created a dynamic composition full of depth that was accentuated by the play of light on the building and gave a rhythm to the façade. Today, Hopkinson House

is painted a soft buff color, but the color of the brick panels and the gray exposed concrete were making the pattern even more dynamic, each material in its own vocabulary. Through the lobby is a courtyard, one of the building's common spaces, from which more sunlit afternoon views of the architecture were possible." "There is weight, but there is also airiness to the building. It becomes



"...the play of light on the building gives a rhythm to the façade..."

a really interesting and playful building that is of its time. Just like people lament that we'll never build another building like the Wanamaker, sometimes I think we'll never get a building like the Hopkinson House again." ■

You are invited to join

## Washington Square Citizens League

Washington Square Citizens League is a nonprofit organization that has more than 140 members.

The vast majority of the members live in Hopkinson House.

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# Getting to Know our Neighbors

## Gail Winkler and Roger Moss: Synchronicity in Life and Work

Concha Alborg

One of the perks of living in Hopkinson House is how many interesting people live here, like Gail Winkler and Roger Moss. If you are lucky, you will be welcomed into their home and have a chance to get to know them, as was my case a few days ago. Their apartment is beautiful, exquisitely decorated with antique furniture, oriental rugs, paintings and objets d'art as one would expect from a design historian and an architecture historian, respectively.

Gail and Roger met at a conference on Victorian houses and, since then, in their thirty-five years of marriage, have shared common research interests, in addition to both having taught at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate Program in Historic Preservation in the School of Design. Roger, for example, published a history of lighting in American buildings (*Lighting for Historic Buildings*, 1988), while Gail wrote about floor coverings (*Floor Coverings for Historic Buildings*, 1988). They have also collaborated on many projects, like the books *Victorian Exterior Decoration*, 1992, and *Victorian Interior Decoration* in the same year, which launched their careers to a national level. Together they founded LCA Associates in 1981; their clients are house museums and public structures.

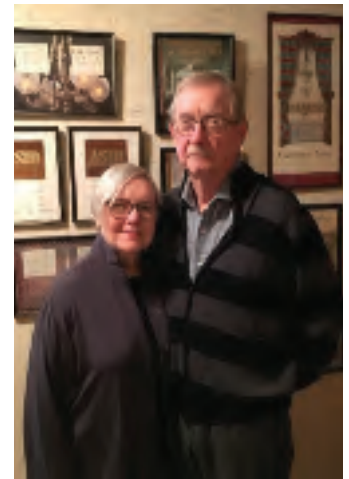
Not to have a list here of their many publications and awards, I asked Gail and Roger what accom-

plishments they are most proud of. According to Roger, who was the Executive Director of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia for forty years, one of his most important contributions to this institution was the revitalization and restoration of the building, including the special collection of 19th-century manuscripts on architecture and design, which includes the drawings of the United States Capitol Building. His favorite book is the middle one of his trilogy on historical buildings, *Historic Sacred Places of Philadelphia*, 2004.

Gail is most proud of her latest book, *Capricious Fancy: Draping and Curtaining the Historic Interior, 1800-1930*, where she not only analyzes and illustrates historical interiors, but introduces ideas to incorporate Victorian style into a contemporary setting. Her favorite design project was the Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where she recreated all the rooms with detailed reproductions of textiles, William Morris wallpapers, upholstery, carpets and window treatments, all based on an 1890 photograph.

Aside from their historical significance and scholarly research, all the books authored by Gail and Roger are beautifully illustrated in impeccable editions; they truly serve as art books of the Victorian era. The book covers alone are carefully framed in a corner of their study as can be seen in the picture above.

While I was talking to Gail and Roger I kept wondering why they chose to live in the Hopkinson House instead of having their own restored Victorian mansion. Their answer was unequivocal — they often finish each other's sentences and speak in unison — they love it here. In fact, they lived in Society Hill Towers first and moved here when the building became a condo because there is more wall space to display their beautiful art collections. Gail and Roger summer in Castine, Maine, and their home there is a small Cape Cod cottage, not a historic house either. ■



Gail Winkler and Roger Moss

Picture by Concha Alborg

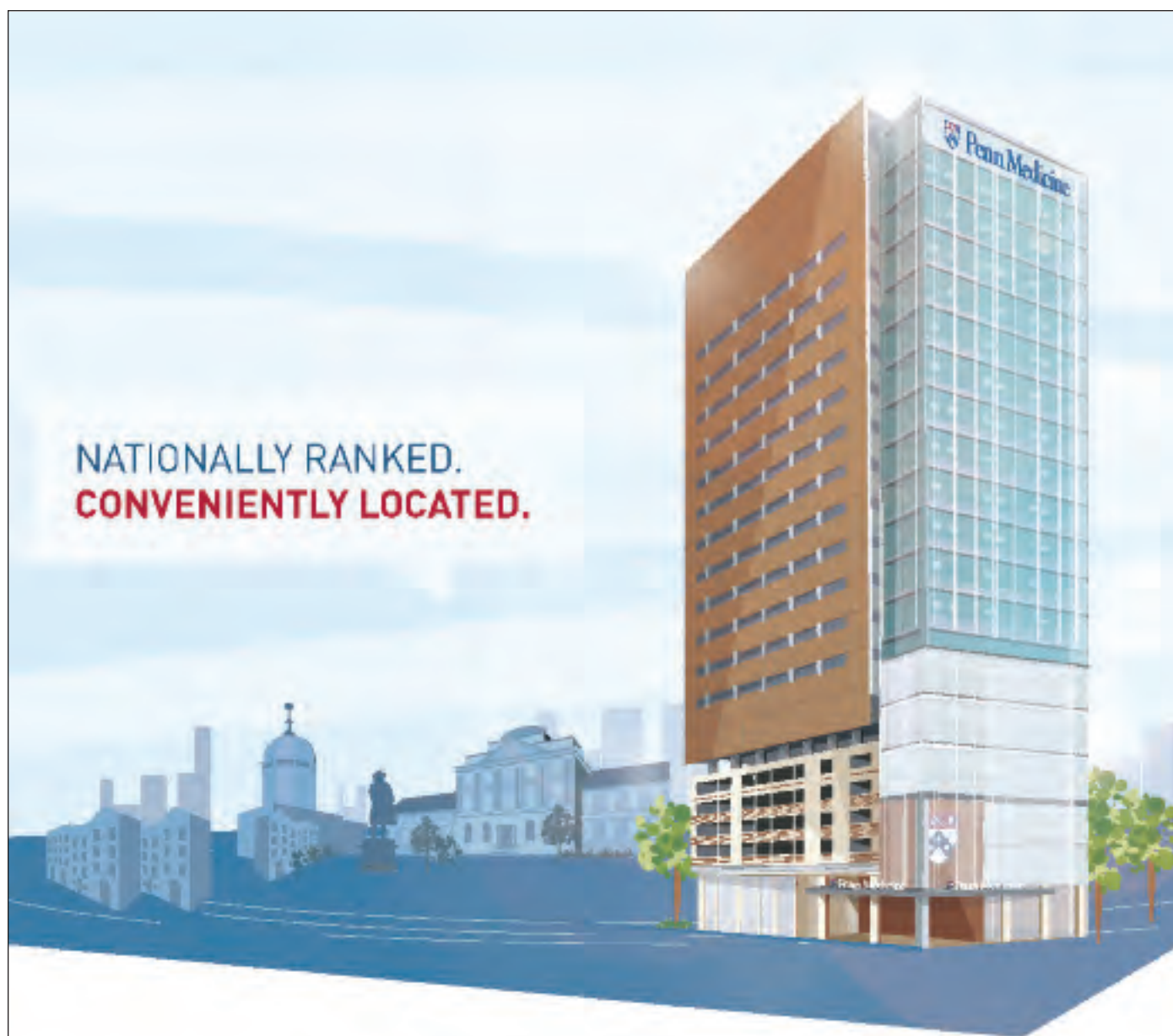


Before: Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, in an 1890 photograph.



After: Gail's recreation with detailed reproductions.





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# Francis Hopkinson, Patriot, Poet, Composer and Scientist

Nelly Childress

May 9th was the 225th anniversary of the death of Francis Hopkinson, for whom our building is named. He is buried in Christ Church graveyard. Hopkinson, the son of Thomas and Mary Johnson Hopkinson, was born on October 2, 1737, in Philadelphia and died on May 9, 1791, at his home on Arch Street between 4th and 5th Streets.



The Hopkinson Coat-of-Arms

Philadelphians and Americans know of his role as an ardent patriot during the American Revolution and as a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Francis was enrolled in the Academy of Philadelphia at its opening in 1751. He was a member of the first class of the College of Philadelphia. (Both schools were part of the same institution and were overseen by the same board of Trustees, and the institution had an important influence on the University of Pennsylvania during its first fifty years of existence.) Hopkinson obtained A.B. and A.M. degrees and received an honorary LL.D. He studied law in Philadelphia in the office of Benjamin Chew, then the attorney general of Pennsylvania. In 1768 he married Ann (Nancy)

Borden of Bordentown. The couple had nine children (four died in infancy).

Francis held several positions in the King's government but resigned in 1776 because they conflicted with the revolutionary cause. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress, served on the committee appointed to frame the Articles of Confederation, and was an active member of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He served as a Judge of the Admiralty in Pennsylvania, and until his death he was United States District Court Judge for the Commonwealth.

He was active in the Library Company and the American Philosophical Society. He enjoyed the friendship and esteem of three of the greatest men of his time — Washington, Franklin and Jefferson.

He was celebrated in his days as a writer, poet, musician, composer, and scientist — Benjamin Rush described him thus: "The person of Mr. Hopkinson was a little below the common size. His features were small but animated. His speech was quick and all his motions seemed to partake of the increasing activity and versatility of the powers of his time. He was well skilled in many practical and useful sciences, particularly mathematics and natural philosophy, and he had a general acquaintance with the principles of anatomy, chemistry and natural history. He was an inventor

and draftsman, and had some knowledge of painting. His forte was humor and satire, in both of which he was not surpassed by Lucian, Swift, or Rabelais. These extraordinary powers were consecrated to patriotism, virtue and science."

Throughout his career Hopkinson wrote poetry and satire on the politically derisive issue of the day. *A Prophecy* illustrates admirably the style of Hopkinson's satire. Below is a small extract of this satire. The "king of islands" is the King of England, the "tree" is the British government in the colonies, the North wind is the Prime Minister of England, Lord North, and the "prophet" is none other than Benjamin Franklin.

continued on page 11



Francis Hopkinson

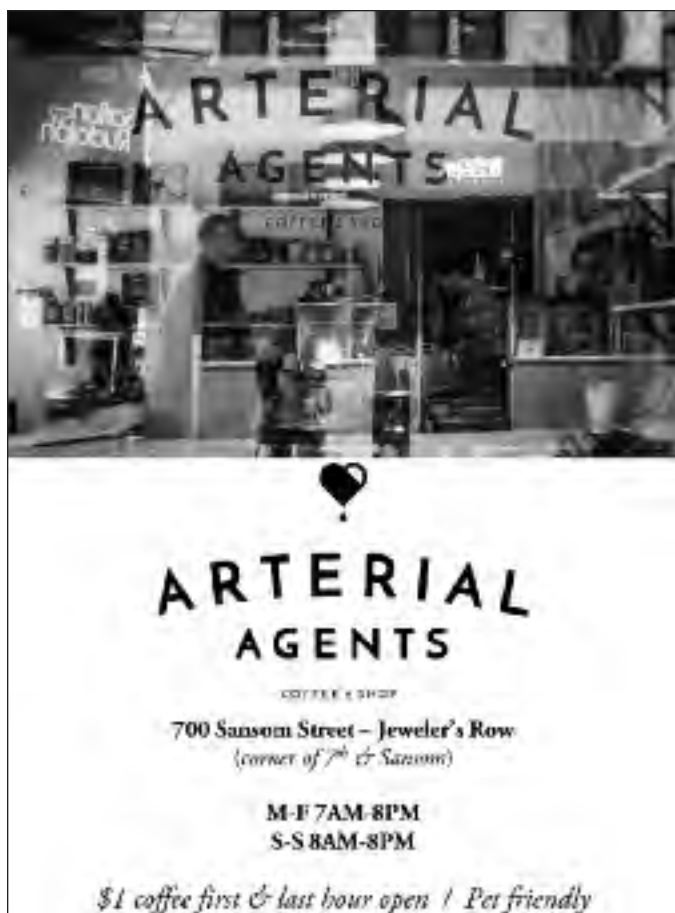
Now it shall come to pass in the latter days, that a new people shall rise up in a far country, and they shall increase exceedingly, and many shall flock unto them; and they shall build cities in the wilderness; and cultivate their lands with the hand of industry, and the fame of them shall spread far and near.

And it shall be that the king of islands shall stand over and plant in the midst of them a certain tree. Its blossoms shall be delightful to the eye; its fruit pleasant to the taste, and its leaves shall heal them of all manner of diseases. And the people shall cultivate this tree with all possible care, and they shall live under the shadow of its branches, and shall worship it as a God.

But in process of time, there shall arise a North wind, and shall blast the tree, so that it shall no longer yield its fruit, or afford shelter to the people, but it shall become rotten at the heart; and the North wind will break the branches thereof, and they shall fall upon the heads of the people, and wound many.

Then a prophet shall arise from amongst this people, and he shall exhort them, and instruct them in all manner of wisdom, and many shall believe in him; and he shall wear spectacles upon his nose; and reverence and esteem shall rest upon his brow. And he will cry aloud, and say—Seeing that this tree hath no strength in it, and that it can no longer shelter us from the winds of the North, but is become rotten in the heart; behold now, let us cut it down and remove it from us: And in its place we will plant another tree, young and vigorous; and we will water it, and it shall grow, and spread its branches abroad. And moreover, we will build an high wall to defend it from the winds of the North: that it may be well with us, and our children, and our children's children.

An extract from "A Prophecy"



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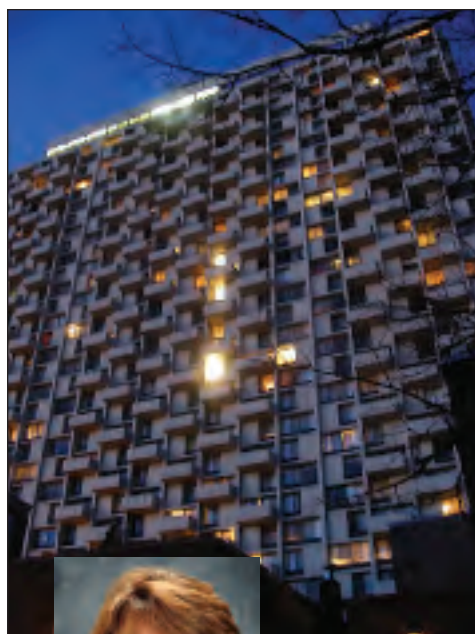
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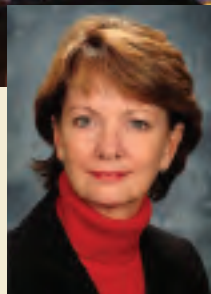
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## Francis Hopkinson continued from page 9

He played the harpsichord and organ well enough to give public performances and composed music for these favorite instruments. He composed several hymns and published a book of songs. His composition under the title *"My Days Have Been So Wondrous Free"* in which he set to music Thomas Parnell's *"Love of Innocence"* is a very important song in the history of American music. Hopkinson was declared to be "on the basis of present knowledge (before 1926) the first native American composer of songs of whom we know, and the song mentioned

above is the earliest secular American composition extant, dating back to 1759."

Hopkinson's scientific work was more ingenious than important. His improvements on the harpsichord (the method of quilling the harpsichord), and on the candlestick (he invented a cheap, convenient and useful appendage to a common candlestick, which keeps the flame from being flared by the wind). These were useful in his day. But since the harpsichord has been superseded by the piano, and since the candlestick has become

an object of ornament rather than use, they have given him no great permanent fame as an inventor.



The Orrery Seal

Hopkinson was the designer of the Orrery Seal of the University of the State of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pennsylvania). He designed coins, paper money, and seals for the federal government. He designed the seal of the Board of Admiralty and conceived or participated in the design of the great seal of New Jersey. Hopkinson was credited with designing the American flag that Congress adopted on June 14, 1777. The pattern shown was six-pointed stars. The U.S. had

a national flag before the flag of 1777. Colonists used a "national" and naval flag consisting of thirteen alternating red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the top inner quarter of the flag. Although unofficial, the Continental colors also served as the national and naval flag of the U.S. from July 4, 1776 until June 14, 1777. On that date, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution from the Marine Committee "that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternating red and white; that the union of the thirteen stars, and white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." ■



Hopkinson's American Flag design adopted by Congress on June 14, 1777.



Hopkinson's composition *"My Days Have Been So Wondrous Free"* is the first song composed by an American.

Sources used and quoted: Everett Hastings, *The Life and Works of Francis Hopkinson*. Chicago, Illinois, The University of Chicago Press, 1926; and Jean K. Wolf, *Lives of the Silent Stones in the Christ Church Burial Ground, 50 Family Profiles*. Christ Church Preservation Trust, 2003.

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# Our Still-Evolving Washington Square

Lynn Miller

The Curtis Center facing us from Walnut Street is undergoing a renovation that will further transform Washington Square. This marks a third chapter in the life of the block-long building that began there at the start of the twentieth century to house the operations of the Curtis Publishing Company, whose *Saturday Evening Post*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and other magazines once found their way into millions of American homes.

After the publishing company's demise, the Curtis entered its second phase in 1980 when it was repurposed as an office building. The great open court in its heart, from which delivery trucks began their journeys with the latest issues, was made a towering atrium with a glass roof and a tiered fountain pool at its eastern end. That space became a favorite for special events while serving mostly as a pleasant passage for employees and others who happened through.

Now the building's new owners hope to create a "central hub" and twenty-four-hour destination for the Washington Square neighborhood. In addition to more retail on the ground floor, the fountain in the atrium will be replaced with a bar and cafe, while the Sixth and Walnut corner will house a new restaurant: P.J. Clarke's. That's an upscale hamburger palace with locations in New York, Washington, and Brazil. The neo-Egyptian pillars topped with palms that

were a central feature of the atrium courtyard have already been removed. Once the makeover is complete, that space will continue to be available to rent for weddings and receptions. Happily, the Sixth Street lobby will continue to house the Tiffany/Maxfield Parrish glass mosaic, "Dream Garden," and will remain unchanged.

Fifty-five deluxe apartments are being carved out of the upper floors, mostly on 6th Street with a few facing our square. Professional offices will remain where they are on the middle floors. That arrangement is no doubt meant to ensure that any late-night hoopla on the ground floor won't disturb the sleep of those in their expensive aeries at the top of the building.

Those apartments will be the latest addition to the high-end stock of condos that increasingly surround our park. Hopkinson House began what eventually became a trend: our 1963 building was the first multi-family high-rise on the square. Twenty years later came Independence Place. Then, early in this century, along with the construction of the St. James, the headquarters of two publishing companies — J.B. Lippincott and W.B. Saunders — were converted into luxury



The Curtis Atrium

apartments to the east and west of us. The N.W. Ayer building, the nation's oldest advertising company, followed suit. If you also count the residences at 50 Walnut Street now rising a block away, our quarter is becoming one of the wealthiest residential neighborhoods in Center City.

There's a nice historical irony in how our park has spawned such development. Like the other four squares William Penn had laid out in the 1680s, the founder intended that it, like the others, should be a green amenity for the citizens of his planned city. But for the first century and more, it was a desolate and undeveloped field, first used for grazing and as a burial ground for the poor and cast-off and then, during the Revolutionary War, to hold the mass graves of dead prisoners and soldiers. The irony is that by that era, neighboring Society Hill and other nearby blocks held many, very proper homes for the city's elite

while this presumed park was a place for the living to avoid. In 1805, one observer noted that the dwellings around it were "as miserable and deformed a set of huts and sheds as could well be imagined."

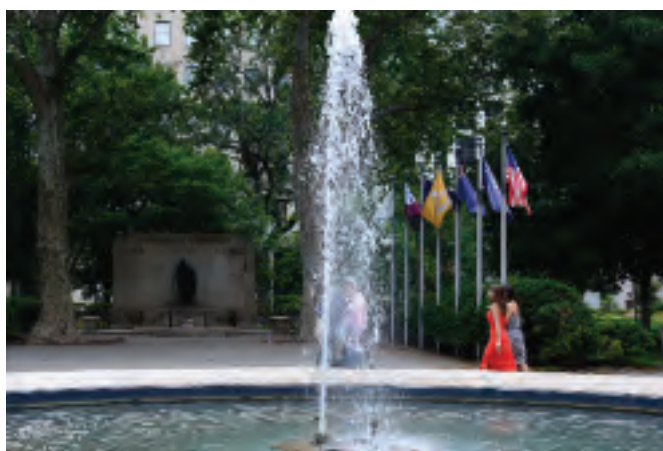
That began to change once the burials ceased and the park was landscaped. By 1833, it took on much of the appearance familiar to us today. For the rest of the nineteenth century, the neighborhood prospered as a quiet and genteel residential neighborhood. But by the post-Civil War period, the city's business center was moving to Broad Street. The elite built their grand new mansions around Rittenhouse Square, leaving our park to the publishing houses. Now, after another century, we've again become a residential neighborhood, but an increasingly bustling one. William Penn would no doubt be astonished if he could see what surrounded his little park today. But he'd surely be pleased at how it had improved the neighborhood. ■



Occasional Photos from Washington Square



Pictures by David Roberts



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# Twenty-four Hours on Washington Square

Janet Burnham and Terry Kowalski

**H**opkinson House residents of every age share the wonders of Washington Square throughout a summer day and night. Here are some “snapshots.”

## 6:00 AM

Here come the joggers, speed walkers and joyful dogs leading their humans. Several stop at the new dog-friendly Arterial Agents Coffee (700 Samson St) for a latte and Kermit's Bake Shoppe's goodies, a treat before beginning their busy days.

## 8:00 AM

Poetry in motion as our Chinese neighbors take advantage of this perfect setting for morning Tai Chi. Have you seen the ribbon dancers?

Enter our young and not so young professionals on the way to work, admiring the window of the new Evantine Designs and picking up a bagel and coffee at Knead's.

## 10:00 AM

Young parents bring their babies and toddlers to discover our mini zoo of pigeons, squirrels and birds and to frolic on the grass. Nannies meet and chat while keeping a sharp eye on their charges.

Budding young artists find the walkways a perfect canvas for their chalk creations and an older artist carves his beautiful canes right before our eyes.

## Noon

Workers from surrounding office buildings pour out to enjoy their lunches on a bench in a lush green setting. Families and couples picnic on the grass. Sushi from Fat Salmon is a good bet, as is a burrito from El Fuego. Fink's Hoagies has a loyal following among locals and visitors.

Tourists stroll diagonally from Independence Park to learn about the Square's deep history, pause at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier, admire the bronze statue of George Washington, and contemplate the eternal flame.

## 2:00 PM

While the very young and the very old nap, for others it's a good time to get in a little exercise. There is always the Hopkinson House pool with its stunning views. Or, try out Philadelphia's great public bike share program, Indego. Rent an Indego bike on Walnut Street between fourth and fifth streets, and explore the Spruce Harbor Park or Northern Liberties.

## 4:00 PM

The first wave of workers returns, walking more slowly on the way home. A good escape from the heat of the day and segue to the evening is a visit to the Locks Gallery: the current exhibition, entitled “Summer of '16” is a collection of several artists' works devoted to themes about water.



Picture by David Roberts

## 5:00 PM

Time for Happy hour! The M Restaurant's lovely garden is a great place to meet friends for an evening that often includes jazz. Other places within easy walking distance include Positano Coast, and other surprising venues include Nomad Pizza and the Good King Tavern, both on 7th Street.

Time to plan dinner. There is always home, but gourmet take out from Di Bruno Brothers' makes it easy (the roast chicken is great!). Special occasion? Try Talula's Garden or Talula's Daily with their monthly seasonal menus. For comfort food, try Jones; for Italian food, visit Ristorante La Buca or LaScala's. For French food it is worth a few blocks' walk down 6th Street to Bistro la Minette.

## 7:00 PM

Catch that last hour of daylight. While many of our neighbors begin their out-

ings to the movies, the theater or a concert, the Square is bustling with children and dogs thrilled to romp with dads and moms finally home after a long day of work. Frisbee anyone? Game-toss? Hopscotch?

Before the reluctant return to homework, paperwork and organizing the next day, visit Sweet Charlie's, not your typical ice cream parlor. Watching them make your goodies is as much fun as eating them.

## 10:00 PM

All return: evening shift workers from local hospitals, theater and concertgoers, late diners. The gracious Hopkinson House staff welcome the stragglers. All is well.

## Until Tomorrow

And so to bed, knowing the park rangers patrol the Square all night long on their bikes, making sure all is well until the songbirds greet the dawn. ■

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# Medical English: They Save our Lives but Murder our Language

David Roberts

In recent years members of the medical profession have twice saved my life. I hold their profession in the highest regard, but I do wish they would treat the English language with more respect. Their use of precise, unambiguous language would help to prevent the misunderstandings and errors that sometimes endanger the life or health of patients.

In case you think this is a trivial matter, consider that medical errors are now the third leading cause of death in USA, behind only cancer and heart disease. Research workers at Johns Hopkins University Medical School recently reported (British

Medical Journal on line — BMJ 2016; 353: i2139) that medical errors now cause 251,000 deaths annually, 9.5% of all deaths in USA. A high proportion of these deaths is attributed to errors in communication when patients are transferred from one hospital department to another, for example, from the emergency department to surgery. If you are the subject of such a transfer, make sure the second department knows exactly what it is expected to do for you.

A probable major cause of errors is the growing burden of record keeping imposed by government regulation,

which leaves the physician with insufficient time to practice medicine. During a medical visit you will have noticed that your physician spends at least half his time at the keyboard of his computer. If you are a Medicare patient, and your physician fails to provide Medicare with every trivial detail it demands, Medicare will not pay for your visit. No wonder some physicians do not accept Medicare patients.

## What has changed?

Most of the great pioneers of science and medicine in the 18th and 19th centuries were true amateurs, the sons and daughters of wealthy families, who

worked not for money but for the love of their subject and the need to understand it. Most of them had received a liberal or classical education from the ancient universities of Britain or Europe and, as a result, were able to record their ideas and findings clearly in plain language. A good example is this passage from Charles Darwin's famous *Origin of Species* (1859):

"In the water-beetle, the structure of its legs, so well adapted for diving, allows it to compete with other aquatic insects, to hunt for its own prey, and to escape serving as prey to other

continued on page 19



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**Medical English** continued from page 17

animals." Simple, clear, and unambiguous.

What has changed is that science and medicine have been democratized; many more fine brains have been brought to the tasks and that, of course, is a good thing. Your physician may be the son of a store clerk or a lathe operator, the first member of his or her family to go to college, and an excellent physician.

A problem for people whose education is mainly technical is understanding that in English, unlike French, nouns are used as adjectives as often as — perhaps more often than — actual adjectives. A wall built of bricks is called a

brick wall; a shop that sells books is a book shop; a cage for birds is a bird cage; a store that sells liquor is a liquor store, et cetera ad infinitum. (In French a bird cage is *un cage d'oiseau*, a cage for a bird) Often there is no adjective available but, when there is an adjective, its use may be misleading as in the following example.

### Adjectives in medical English

Immunology is one of the newer branches of medical science and it is one of the worst offenders in its misuse of adjectives. A bank that serves its community is called a community bank and a college that serves its community is called a com-

munity college, with the noun used as adjective in each case. In the same way, a body system that provides immunity should be called an immunity system, and a response that confers immunity an immunity response. But no — the immunologists, in their confusion, call them an immune system and an immune response. This is a misuse of an adjective and it is illogical; the system and the response are not immune to anything. They provide immunity, making their owners immune. If you have an effective immunity system you can be an immune person, immune to whatever diseases you have been

vaccinated against or infected with.

### Autoimmunity or autoallergy?

When the immunity system performs correctly it provides immunity. When it malfunctions it may produce allergy, a disorder that varies enormously in seriousness from annoying but harmless, to lethal. Allergy may be experienced as hay fever, hives, or asthma or, in extreme cases, as anaphylactic shock, which can cause death. These maladies are all induced by foreign antigens such as pollen, pet dander, or substances in food.

continued on page 21

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**Medical English** continued from page 19

Sometimes, however, we become allergic to a substance that is a part of our own body. An example is rheumatoid arthritis, an allergy to a substance in the lining of our joints.

Another is Guillain-Barré syndrome, an allergy to a substance in the nervous system, causing paralysis that is sometimes permanent. Rheumatoid arthritis may be triggered by an infection, but no specific infection has been incriminated. Susceptibility is hereditary. Guillain-Barré syndrome has always been associated with influenza, but many recent cases have followed infection with the Zika virus. Psoriasis is an allergy

to a substance in skin cells. It is hereditary, but flare-ups are triggered by various forms of stress and by respiratory infections.

All three diseases are true autoallergies — allergies to oneself. To call them autoimmunities or worse, autoimmune diseases, is quite meaningless. None of the three diseases involves immunity to anything, certainly not to oneself (whatever that would mean).

The term autoallergy describes the disease state quite accurately, although ordinary dictionaries do not usually contain the term. My medical dictionary defines autoallergy as autoimmunity, which

is false and unhelpful. The precise use of words is essential in science and medicine. Scientists and physicians should think carefully about the meaning of the words they use. They should always be prepared to discard an unsatisfactory word and replace it with one that matches their intended meaning. ■



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## Chef Luigi's Corner



## The Ritz Carlton's Blueberry Muffins

This recipe for blueberry muffins was published in the *New York Times* years ago, and we, Scott and Nelly, have used it ever since. It was labeled "The Ritz-Carlton's Blueberry Muffins." Our families always expect to find these muffins at breakfast or at any time of the day when visiting Philadelphia.

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### Ingredients

3½ cups sifted all-purpose flour  
2 tablespoons baking powder  
¾ cup sugar  
Pinch of salt, optional  
5 eggs, slightly beaten  
½ cup milk (maybe more if needed at times)  
5 ounces unsalted butter, melted and cooled  
4 or 5 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen\*

Additional sugar for topping

*\*We find 3 cups of berries to be adequate. We tried frozen blueberries and found them to be inadequate.*

### Directions

1. Heat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Mix all dry ingredients together. Stir in eggs, milk and butter; do not overmix. Carefully stir in the berries.
3. Grease the top of large muffin tins. Insert paper cups and spoon batter to the top of the paper cups. Sprinkle generously with sugar.
4. Reduce heat to 400 degrees, place tins on middle shelf of oven. Bake about 25 minutes, until muffins are golden brown. Remove tins and cool.

Yield: 15 to 16 large muffins.



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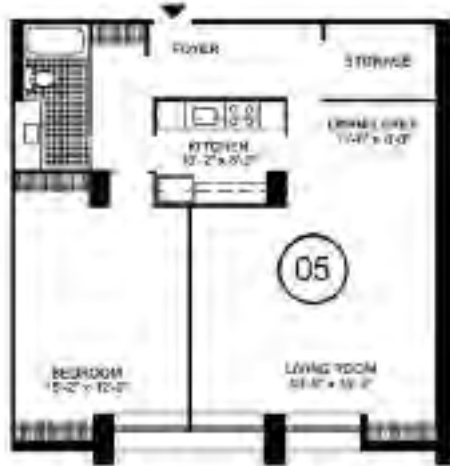
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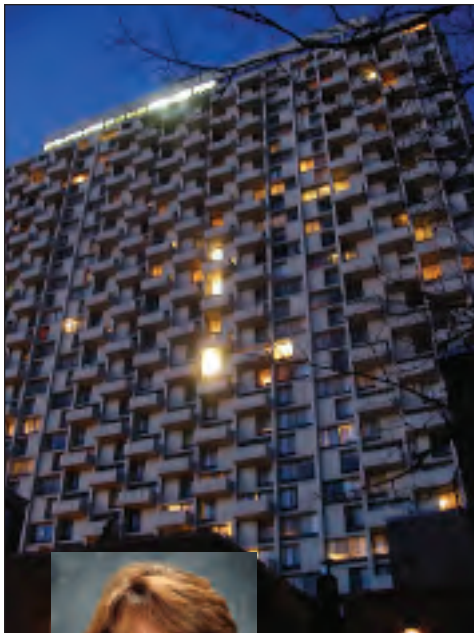


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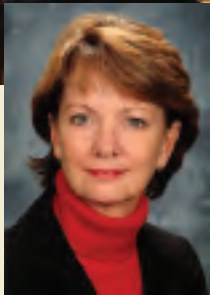
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