

What's Inside

Nelly Childress

The Message from Council by its president, **Paul Coyne**, includes a brief report of projected work on our building and a year-end review of accomplishments for those interested in **WHAT** and **WHY**.

David Smith, CAMCO General Manager of Hopkinson House, announces the next Annual Meeting, where Council members will be elected, and outlines the nomination procedure, among other information. He also reiterates the owners' and residents' responsibilities to follow the current procedures and rules.

Get to know two young neighbors who are students of the Pennsylvania Ballet, both having appeared in the recent production of *The Nutcracker* at the Academy of Music. They have been mentioned in several newspapers for their language skills — they are fluent in English, Spanish and French. Read more about 11-year-old Maria and 9-year-old Tino Karakousis in the article by **Concha Alborg**.

Neighbor **Eric Sellin** collaborated with Mbarek Sryfi in the 2014 published English translation from French of Abdelfatah Kilito's book *Arabs and the Art of Storytelling: A Strange Familiarity*, with a foreword by Roger Allen. The translation of the book was a 2015 French-American Foundation Translation Prize finalist. Sellin's comment was: "After nearly three years of hard work this translation project recently saw the light of day.

It was an honor to have had our efforts acknowledged."

We announced in a previous issue of *on the House* the publication in 2015 of **James McClelland** and **Lynn Miller's** book entitled: *City in a Park: A History of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park System*. In this issue you will find out how the writers achieved a goal that was some four years in the making. The book is a great gift for anyone interested in Philadelphia's history.

Janet Burnham tells us about beautiful predators, the red-tailed hawks of Washington Square you often see gliding effortlessly in the sky.

The recently projected redevelopment of the 5th Street Acme market area raises the possibility of the loss of this community asset. **Diane Rossheim**, Hopkinson House representative to the Board of Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA), addresses the issue and reports on the work of the SHCA task force. For up-to-date information on this issue, contact SHCA info@societyhillcivic.org

David Roberts' article warns about two kinds of fraud that have recently been inflicted on residents of Hopkinson House.

Chef Luigi gives us mouth-watering recipes for Bruschetta [pronounced in Italian Bru'sketta] or Crostini prepared with garlic and good Italian olive oil.

David Roberts and **Bari Shor** share photos of our holiday celebrations. ■

on the House

The Newsletter of
Hopkinson House • Winter 2016



Message from Council

Paul Coyne



This message includes a report of projected work on our building and a year-end review of accomplishments.

Projected Work: Garage Ramp

Replace the garage ramp 5½-inch ware slab. Bids have been accepted and work is scheduled to start

in the late spring. Chipping of the garage ramp concrete causes rain to leak into the bicycle room. Replacing the concrete of the ware slab will allow the removal of the aged heating tube between the slabs. This will take about 250 gallons of glycol and the installation of a waterproof membrane between the lower 18-inch slab and the concrete.

The repair of the ramp and the relocation of the present transformer will result in a larger bike room and allow the installation of a power source for the HVAC system, which is anticipated around 2020. continued on page 2



on the HOUSE

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at www.thehopkinsonhouse.com

Message from Council,

continued from page 1

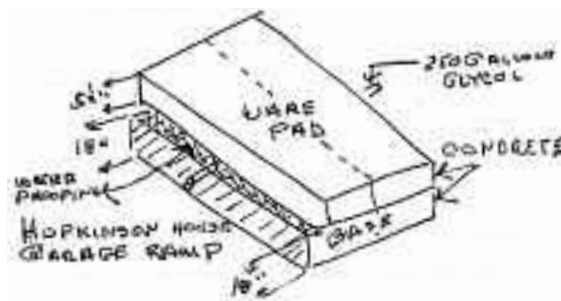
The new power source will require running electrical cable up 31 floors through each floor's service room on the west side of the trash room and into each apartment, including the HVAC system.

Projected Work: Lobby Renovation

Council authorized the request for the lobby's renovation project without prior approval of a plan. As expected, cost is always a major consideration. Incidentally, this is the fourth attempt at remodeling the lobby since 2003.

The plan for the renovation of the Hopkinson House lobby will update the long-neglected and inadequate floor spaces. We should address:

- ♦ the clutter in the space in front of the service desk;
- ♦ the inadequate office spaces in order to increase efficiency, and provide up-to-date equipment;



Detail of garage ramp slabs and layers.

- ♦ the inadequate space for storage, processing and sorting the large and over-size packages that are delivered daily;
- ♦ a mail room that will maintain Stonorov's design;
- ♦ replacing the worn furniture, while maintaining the architect's vision.

In essence, we will be addressing the issue of a fifty-year-old outdated lobby. Residents had a chance to see the original proposed plan during the six-week display in the lobby. The final version will reflect some residents' concerns. Finally, upon receipt of the bid, Council will discuss the feasibility of the plan.

Year-End Review

What has been accomplished?

- ♦ Reconstructed the elevator cabs
- ♦ New look of the front plaza planter
- ♦ Repaired the damaged structural beam across the front plaza

You may ask, "What occurred between the time of inception of the plan, the selection of the bids and the completed constructions on the plaza?"

You will not get a syllogistic answer.

The project was:

- ♦ complicated by the discovery of a leak from the planters to the pavement and into an underground structural beam across the front of the building;
- ♦ subjected to 30 days of rain and 25 individual concrete pours, as well as freezing temperatures, dropping almost to single digits;
- ♦ delayed by the use of multiple contractors.

We lived 11 months with the ever-present constructions going on in the front plaza! We are glad, though, that the leaks were stopped and the beam was repaired. ■

Occasional Photo



Picture by David Roberts

Message from Management

David Smith



The Hopkinson House Annual Meeting and Election is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 7 p.m. in the Solarium. If you would like to be a part of the future planning for Hopkinson House, complete a nomination form, which will be mailed out to you in March, and put your name on the ballot. Council terms are for two years, and Council

members must be available to attend one meeting per month. All nominees must be in good standing with the Association.

Entry Permits

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 in your absence. Faxing and e-mailing permission may not guarantee such persons' entry to your apartment. The fax machine is on from 8 a.m. to 5 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 email to may be on vacation or out sick and this may prevent your visitor from gaining access to your apartment.

Certificate of Insurance

Now that we have your homeowner's insurance information on file, please be sure to have your insurance carrier send us a certificate of insurance when your policy renews each year. The certificate can be emailed to cathyhhoa@comcast.net or faxed to us at 215-829-1510. Please remember that your homeowner's policy is responsible for the first \$25,000 in any damages that occur in your unit, regardless of the cause.

continued on page 5



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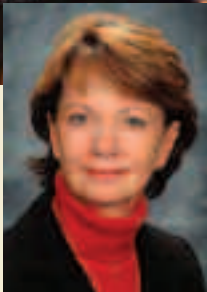
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Message from Management, continued from page 3**Renovation Requirements**

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 at 215-923-1776 ext. 110.

Work Orders

Work orders must be processed through the Resident Services Desk. The maintenance department and the management office cannot accept work orders. The Resident Services Desk is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is always someone available at the Resident Services Desk to complete a work order for you.

Bike Storage

As a reminder, if you use the bike storage room, your annual dues will be billed on your January statement. Owners will receive one reminder towards the end of January. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact David in the management office.

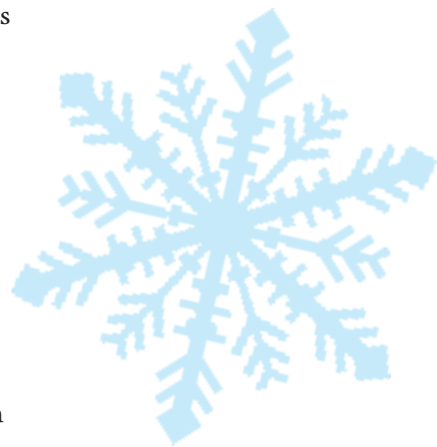
Package Pickup

Please make arrangements to pick up your UPS, FedEx, overnight 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 eight hours.

Holiday Decorations

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.**

**2016 Holiday Dates: No Contractor Work, Deliveries, Move-Ins or Move-Outs**

Contractor work, deliveries and moves are not permitted on Sundays or legal and religious holidays throughout the year. We are posting these holidays for your convenience. No exceptions can be made.

Friday, January 1, 2016	New Year's Day
Monday, January 18, 2016	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, February 15, 2016	Presidents' Day
Friday, March 25, 2016	Good Friday
Saturday, April 23, 2016	Passover*
Monday, May 30, 2016	Memorial Day
Monday, July 4, 2016	Independence Day Holiday
Monday, September 5, 2016	Labor Day
Monday, October 3, 2016	Rosh Hashanah*
Wednesday, October 12, 2016	Yom Kippur*
Thursday, November 24, 2016	Thanksgiving
Saturday, December 24, 2016	Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 25, 2016	Christmas Day
Friday, December 25, 2016	Hanukkah*
Saturday, December 31, 2016	New Year's Eve
Sunday, January 1, 2017	New Year's Day

*Holiday begins at sundown the day before it is listed.



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Getting to Know our Neighbors: Maria and Tino Karakousis

Concha Alborg

Maria and Tino Karakousis are 11 and 9 years young, respectively, and they are already famous! Both of them are dancing in the Pennsylvania Ballet production of *The Nutcracker* this season and have been mentioned for their dance and language skills in several newspapers. The children of Giorgos and Robin Rocío Karakousis have lived in Hopkinson House all their lives. Their parents met at Yale University as undergraduate students. Giorgos is a cancer surgeon and professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and Robin was a corporate lawyer in Manhattan before their children were born.

Brother and sister are very bright, polite and friendly, with a beautiful look that mirrors their parents' Greek and Mexican ethnicities. We met at the Solarium for our interview, and both of them took turns playing the piano while we conversed in Spanish and English simultaneously. They were playing classical pieces, Debussy, Mozart, Bach, Chopin; at one point Tino asked if he could play one of his own compositions, a more contemporary, tango-like creation. Maria also played the violin and now plays the harp, which she says is very similar to an upright piano. No wonder that they played recitals in Carnegie Hall at very tender ages.

In addition to being fluent in English and Spanish,

they both speak French; Tino attends the French International School of Philadelphia, where he is in the 4th grade. Maria moved on to Masterman Middle School, and she is in 6th grade. Her favorite subject is science; perhaps she will be a physician like her dad. They also studied Mandarin at ethnic Chinese schools and had a chance to practice it during family trips to Beijing and Shanghai.

Maria has been dancing for nine years at the School of the Pennsylvania Ballet, and she has two parts in this year's *Nutcracker*. She is at the party in Act I and Polichinelle in Act II. Of the 27 shows, she dances in 14. Tino started dancing five years ago and he is the Prince in some shows and Fritz in others. His favorite scene is the party in Act I, where he gets to do battle with the mice. He and his sister dance on alternate days, so they have to attend all the performances this year. The organizational skills from corporate law serve Robin well as the mother in charge of their schedules!

The children are happy to attend lengthy daily ballet classes, and say they are able to get their homework done at school. In their spare time, Maria likes to do origami and other arts and crafts, while Tino likes to play basketball and soccer. In the summer they take classes in computer science, math and electrical engineering.



Maria and Tino Karakousis

Being a grandmother myself, I can only imagine how proud their grandparents, who visit often, must be of Maria and Tino. When I asked their parents what was their children's most important accomplishments, they immediately said that they are most proud that they are kind, good children. How is that for family values? ■



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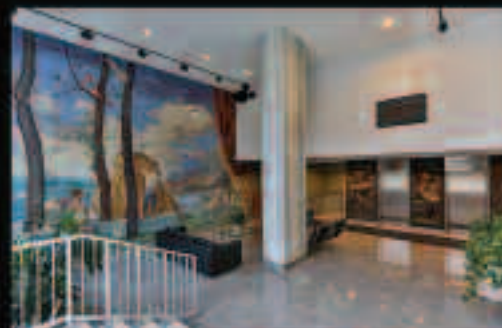
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A Strange Familiarity

Nelly Childress

Neighbor Eric Sellin collaborated with Mbarek Sryfi in the published translation from French to English of Abdelfattah Kilito's *Arabs and the Art of Storytelling: A Strange Familiarity*. Foreword by Roger Allen. Syracuse, NY; Syracuse University Press, 2014.

For centuries, poetry has overshadowed narratives. Kilito, in this book, has given new life to classic stories that are cultural treasures; he demonstrated the key role that narration has played in the development of Arab Belles lettres and moral philosophy, making this translation an invaluable contribution to an English-speaking audience.

The review by Peter Thompson in the Winter 2014 issue of *Ezra*, an on-line journal of translation, states: "University of Pennsylvania scholar Roger Allen's foreword locates this book of essays in the context of Kilito's other critical

works, asserts that his contemporary perspective and accessible style will interest non-specialists, and points up Kilito's emphasis on the (poorly understood) influence of Arab literature on European genres." Thompson further states: "The general reader, aware of such classics as *A Thousand and One Nights*, will learn more about them, including the traditions from which they derive, and will gain entry into many other works."

The translation of the book by Sryfi and Sellin was a 2015 French-American Foundation Translation Prize Finalist. Sellin's comment was "After nearly three years of hard work this translation project recently saw the light of day. It was an honor to have had our efforts acknowledged."

Abdelfattah Kilito is an acclaimed Moroccan novelist, essayist, and critic. He has written several important works on classic Arabic



Eric Sellin

literature, both in French and Arabic, many of which have been translated in several languages.

Mbarek Sryfi is a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania and an adjunct assistant professor at Mercer County Community College in New Jersey.

Eric Sellin is professor emeritus at Tulane University. He is the author of two books on Antonin Artaud and on early twentieth-century avant-garde movements. ■



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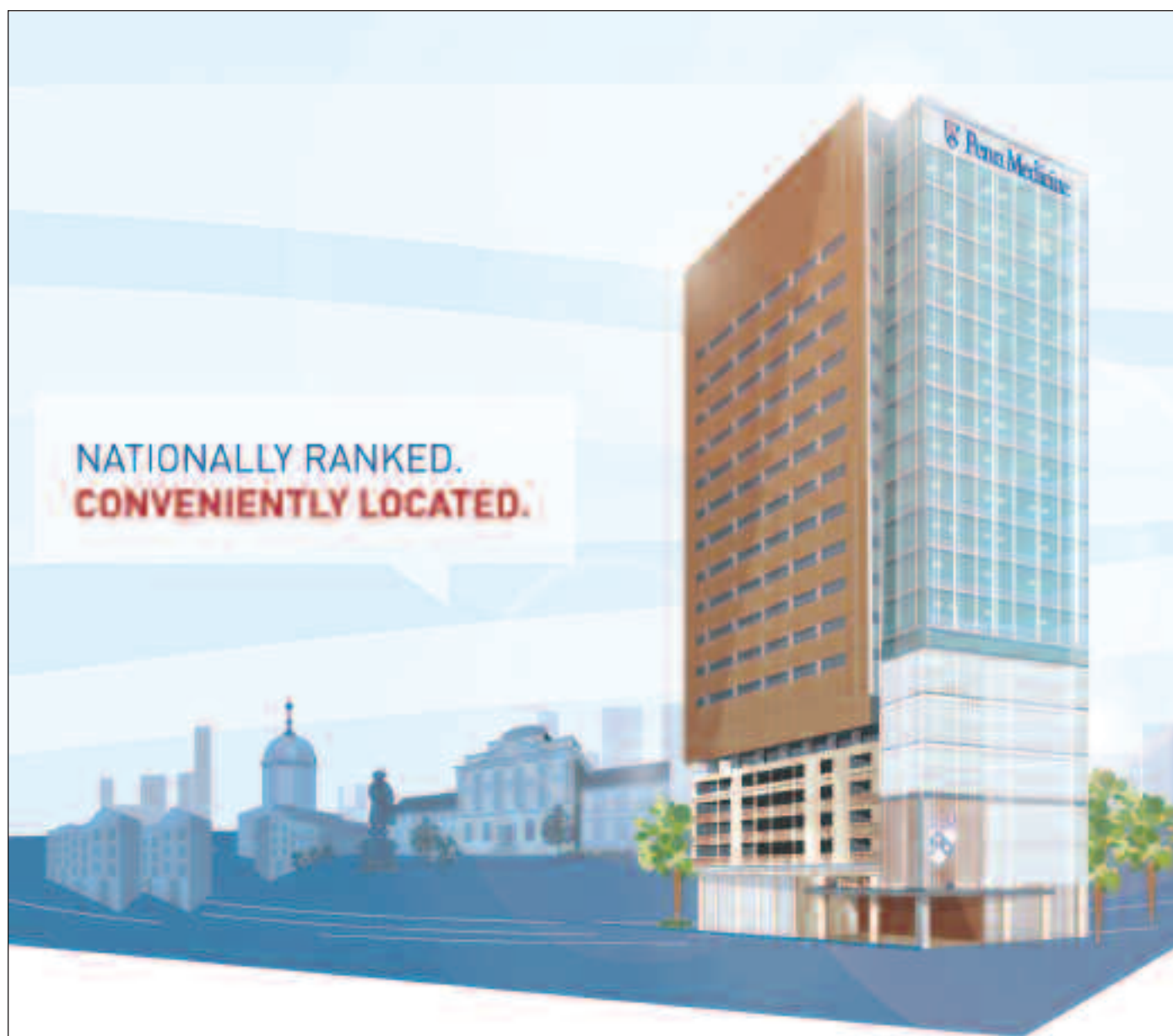
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Putting it to Bed: How Two People Collaborated to Write a Book

Lynn Miller

In November, my partner, Jim McClelland, and I achieved a goal that was some four years in the making: the publication of our book, *City in a Park: A History of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park System*. We're long-time residents of Hopkinson House, so the staff from *on the House* kindly suggested that we might explain to our readers how we got from the initial idea to a fairly weighty book that you can actually hold in your hands (and we hope you will!).

The initial idea was Jim's. He announced one day that he thought we should collaborate on a history of our city's parks. My surprised response was "Why would I want to do that?" He explained that no thorough history of the Fairmount Park system had ever been done, then said that he'd like to do it, but it was so big a project, he could use my help. That was not all the hook I needed, but it made clear that he was serious. While we chatted about what we both knew of the subject, it gradually dawned on me that our parks' history was wonderfully multi-faceted and rich, exactly the kind of subject that it would be fun to learn more about. We plunged in.

Our first step was to draft a proposal to Temple University Press, the obvious publisher, we thought, because of its interest in subjects about Philadelphia and the region. Writing a book proposal is a good way to concentrate the

mind, since you have to develop a clear and fairly comprehensive outline of how you plan to proceed, and why. Once Temple expressed an interest and made suggestions, we got more deeply into the research. We spent a good many days at the Fairmount Park Archive, laptop in hand to take notes, and more at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Athenæum, and the Library Company, among others.

Over the course of a year or so, we learned a lot and began drafting some chapters. We'd decided from the beginning that although we would proceed more or less chronologically, we wanted each chapter to be, as much as possible, a self-contained essay. We knew that we'd devote chapters to the Zoo, boating on the Schuylkill, hiking the Wissahickon, music in the park, the nation's greatest collection of outdoor public art, and the 18th-century country mansions in the park. We came to appreciate, as well, the ongoing rejuvenation of our parks and a number of exciting new initiatives over the past couple of decades. We scoured recent periodicals to build that story, which we explore fully in the final chapters.

We also interviewed important park players, including members of the now-defunct Fairmount Park Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commissioner, and his deputy. We got feedback on draft chapters from

them and other city officials as well as the anonymous readers Temple Press engaged to critique our work. We wrote, and rewrote.

When two writers work together, the challenge is to make the writing sound like that of one voice. Because I took charge of what I'll call "polishing" the drafts before submitting them, Jim would say that the final voice is more mine than his. I say, that's what he gets for asking me to join him at the start.

Jim laid the groundwork for the grant awarded by the William Penn Foundation to Temple University Press to publish our work. That made possible what we think is a beautiful book, one lavishly illustrated with more than 150 illustrations, mostly in color. We took many of the contemporary photos ourselves, but had to obtain permission from various sources to reproduce archival materials, mostly from the 19th century.

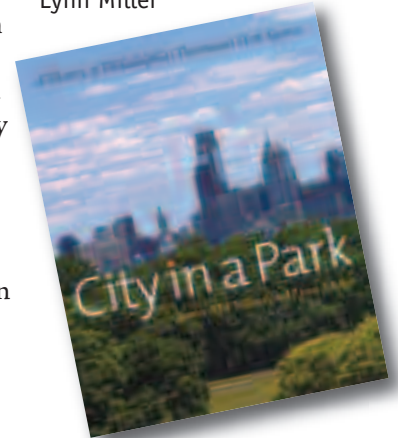
So, now our baby has been born, just over nine months after the final manuscript was delivered to our editor. During that period of gestation, we've proofread and updated the entire contents twice—including page-proofs with the final layout, approved all photo captions, written a foreword, and created the appendix (ugh!). Since mid-November, there have been book-signing and lectures to ward off post-partum depression. Brisk sales should keep us smiling. ■



Jim McClelland



Lynn Miller



Events of the Festive Season

Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols



Menorah Lighting and Hanukkah Celebration



Pictures by David Roberts



Recital by the Bel Cantos of the Agnes Irwin School



Bel Cantos with Yanick N  zet-S  guin in the middle



The Christmas Party

Pictures by David Roberts and Bari Shor



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The Red-Tailed Hawks of Washington Square

Janet Burnham

Pigeons and squirrels beware! There are beautiful predators among us. These avian neighbors derive their name from the brick-red tail of mature adults. You can recognize them from a distance when, pursuing a meal, they take a slow, controlled dive with outstretched legs. They are 18 to 26 inches long, with a wingspan between 43 and 57 inches.

The vigilant Hopkinson House resident, not much into the thrill of the hunt, has much else to admire. Courting males and females

fly in wide circles, and the male demonstrates how terrific he is by diving steeply and then climbing again. We can also watch young hawks, known as eyasses, taking short practice flights.

What we cannot see, but is nice to know, is that red-tailed hawks are family oriented. They often mate for life (their average lifespan is 21 years) and are devoted, attentive parents. The female lays one to five eggs each year in their stick nests high above the ground and, while she is the primary incubator,

the male pitches in when she needs a break. He also makes sure she is well-nourished while performing this important task.

After 28 to 35 days, the eggs hatch and dad arrives with food that mom tears into baby-sized pieces. When the young are around four months of age, they become independent of their parents.

Occasionally a red-tailed hawk will decide that a Hopkinson House balcony would be a good place to rest. Watch your kittens! ■



Susan Tomita took this photo on her balcony when a hawk came to visit.



Red-tailed hawk in flight.

5th Street Development Updates

Diane Rossheim

We at Hopkinson House and all Society Hill residents have a concern and a need to have a full-service grocery store as part of our daily quality of life in Society Hill.

Our Superfresh market was part of a chain of A&P stores that went into bankruptcy and was taken over by Acme Markets. Currently we are enjoying the use of this market, but its lease will run out and the Alterra Property group has a contract to purchase the site, the former Superfresh Market, as well as the retail strip across the street (314-26) South 5th Street. Though it obtained a Zoning Use Permit from

Philadelphia Licenses and Inspections on August 27, everything is speculative until the developer submits plans to the Historic Commission. That may not occur for another three years. In the meantime, to quote Adam Smith's economic theory: "If the demand is there, supply will follow." If we want to retain the Acme Market, then it is essential for us to patronize it.

A petition at the front desk of Hopkinson House states that walkable access to a supermarket is vital to the livability of many of the residents who don't own cars, as well as to the many residents who are seniors. Over 200 people in the building have signed this

petition that would require the developer to include a grocery supermarket in their planned redevelopment of those lots. The Acme lease will run out in three years.

The task force of Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) is deeply involved in seeking the best possible outcome of this development. On November 21 the task force met with Leo Addimando of Alterra Properties, who reported "Alterra was now considering a condominium instead of a rental building that would include forty underground parking spaces and, if negotiations regarding some 'minor' variances are obtained, the guarantee of a supermarket." These are

anticipated for 2018. If so, plans could be altered several times according to the market's conditions. This is indeed a very fluid situation.

On December 14, SHCA's Zoning/Historic Preservation Committee met to discuss the important job of creating a remapping and rezoning of Society Hill. This is a crucial step to get the proper alignment of zoning to match the actual use of properties. Remapping and rezoning is key to shielding Society Hill from improper developments. A protective overlay will rule out undesirable developments once and for all.

Stay tuned. ■



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Caution: Don't Be Scammed

David Roberts

Bad people are eager to relieve us of our money. We must always be on guard against them. The scammers seem to prefer old people as their victims, perhaps because they find the elderly less alert to their tricks.

Two kinds of fraud have recently been inflicted on residents of Hopkinson House. In one scam, confidence tricksters pose as representatives of Publishers Clearing House. In the other, they post a notice on one's computer screen warning that the computer is infected with a virus.

The Publishers Clearing House Scam

The scammer either calls by telephone or mails a very official-looking form, advising that the recipient has won a substantial prize in the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes. The recipient is required to provide money to cover the costs of sending the prize money.

You may be sent an advance on your "winnings," a check for several thousand dollars, and asked to send back a check for a few hundred dollars to cover costs. Unless you act promptly to stop payment the perpetrator will be able to cash your check, provided there is sufficient money in your account, but the check you received is worthless and will fail to clear.

If you have not entered the sweepstakes, you should know at once that you could not be a winner and that any notification of a win is phony. In addition,

Publishers Clearing House insists that it absolutely never asks people to send money. You don't even have to pay to enter the sweepstakes. You have to fill out and submit a form, but there is no fee.

If you are advised that you are a winner and are asked to send money, hang up the telephone immediately or throw the notice in the trash. Incidentally, Publishers never advises prize winners of their good fortune by telephone, so any telephone notification of a win will be bogus. Publishers Clearing House is located in Port Washington, New York, but scammers will ask you to send money to a different address.

This scam is so common that Publishers has established a separate number for reporting scams: 1-800-392-4190. The operator will quickly determine whether your experience is genuine or fraudulent.

The phony computer-virus notice

In this scam you will typically be sitting at your computer, with the browser open at a web site, when a notice suddenly appears on the screen warning that your computer has a virus. A telephone number will be provided for you to call for help. There may be other information such as the identity of the virus and a warning not to restart your computer.

If you think about it, this makes no sense. If your computer really did pick up a virus, the only warning

would come from your own antivirus system—if you have one. The only person who would know would be the perpetrator who installed the virus and he would want it to stay in your computer—unknown to you.

If a warning of this kind appears on your computer screen, close the browser by clicking on the x button (Windows) or the red traffic light (Mac). For reassurance you could then run an antivirus scan.

If you fall for the scam, and call the number provided, you will be asked for \$200 or \$300 from your credit card or checking account to pay for the removal of the virus. The scammer will then work with you for perhaps an hour, ostensibly to remove the virus. The procedure will seem authentic, just like what happens when you have a computer problem and have called for help. At the end of the procedure you will be advised that the virus has been successfully removed. Your computer will then continue normal function.

During the process, you may become aware of what is happening. Hang up the phone, close whatever is open on your computer, and restart it. Whenever you realize you have been defrauded, call your bank or credit card company immediately to report the scam and stop payment. You will have to cancel the account that you used and arrange for a new one. You will then have to switch

any automatic transfers to the new account.

If you fell for the scam, partly or completely, the perpetrator would have had a good opportunity to plant malware (malevolent software)—a virus, worm, adware, Trojan horse, etc.—in your computer. Therefore you would be wise to have a qualified computer technician run a diagnostic scan and remove any malware he may discover.

When false notices like this come into your browser, your computer sees them as advertisements. Consequently, installing ad-blocking software such as Adblock Plus (adblock-plus.org) will prevent this type of scam from happening. It will also make your browser work faster and more smoothly. Ad-blocking software does not block ads coming as emails—or scams that may come by email.

In the two cases of this scam that I am most familiar with, no malware was detected; evidently all the scammers wanted was the money and, perhaps, further use of the victim's bank account or credit card. In both cases, quick action in reporting the scams avoided any loss of money.

General advice

These two types of scam are not the only ones you may be exposed to. If you are offered something that doesn't seem to make sense, that seems too good to be true, or that just makes you feel uneasy, your suspicion is probably justified. Firmly reject the offer. ■



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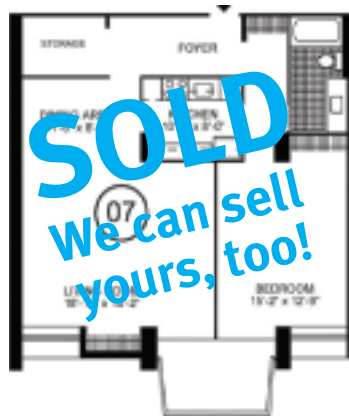
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Devora G. Wigrizer

Byron Fink

Everyone called her "Dee."

Dee Wigrizer, the cherished wife of Leon G. Wigrizer, died on December 12, 2015.

Dee and Leon moved into Hopkinson House in 1985. Leon had been named the very first Inspector General of the City of Philadelphia and, later, Inspector General for Philadelphia's SEPTA, both of which mandated a Philadelphia residency.

Dee successfully ran for a seat on the Council of the Hopkinson House Owners' Association in 1999. She served on the Council for the next four years, specializing in Hopkinson House

personnel matters. She was also Volunteer Coordinator for United Way.



Dee Wigrizer

Before that Dee and Leon had had busy lives while living in Bethesda, Maryland, Dee as a school-teacher and Leon on the

General Staff of President Jimmy Carter. Leon had previously served, for 10 years, as Inspector General of the U.S. Treasury.

Dee graduated with a degree in political science from Wellesley College and furthered her teaching career by obtaining a master's degree in education from Philadelphia's Temple University.

Beside her husband, Leon, Dee is survived by a son, Steven, a daughter, Fay Ellen, and six grandchildren.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Leon Wigrizer and his family. ■

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Bruschetta and Crostini: What's the Difference?

Louis DelSoldo

So, what's the difference between bruschetta and crostini? A question most difficult to answer! Both appetizers consist of slices of Italian bread, rubbed with garlic, drizzled with olive oil, toasted and then covered with an almost infinite variety of toppings. After some research, I discovered that basically the difference comes down to the type and size of bread used. Crostini are generally made with an Italian white flour baguette, cut into small rounds. Bruschetta employ a heartier loaf, including whole grain, and the slices are thicker and larger. Both bruschetta and crostini may be used as appetizers or as a first course.

If you are setting out to make the heartier bruschetta (pronounced, by the way, in Italian *bru' sketta*, not *bru' shetta* as it is commonly called here), I suggest slicing the loaves horizontally, rubbing firmly with garlic cloves which have been cut in half, drizzling with good extra-virgin olive oil and then toasting in the oven, cutting the bread into good-size chunks only after it is toasted and the toppings are on. If you are setting out to make crostini, and these are more difficult, cut the bread into thin slices before brushing with the garlic and drizzling the oil. Toast the little rounds, turning them so that both sides crisp up.

Of course, only the best bread available should be used. If you are not making your own, Metropolitan

bakery at the Reading Terminal Market has a very good Italian baguette, as does DiBruno's. Many swear by Sarcone's bread (located on 9th Street, between Catherine and Fitzwater), and I find it good for crostini, but not hearty enough for a good bruschetta.

Classic

A note on ingredients: One of the most popular and easy-to-make bruschetta is one topped with tomatoes, basil, olive oil and perhaps some balsamic vinegar. Unfortunately, it is difficult for us to get good tomatoes in the winter (see suggestions below for winter bruschetta), and I would suggest either Roma plum tomatoes or heirloom. In either case, I would remove seeds, peel (not essential), cut into small dice and set them in a strainer over a bowl to drain out some of the water in the tomatoes. This will yield a firmer and less soggy bruschetta. Basil retains more of its flavor if it is torn, as chopping it leaves lots of the flavor on the knife.

Diced tomatoes (one small one for each bruschetta.)

2 cloves of minced or pressed garlic

Olive oil

Salt

Basil or other fresh herbs such as thyme or oregano

Spread diced tomatoes on top of toasted bread (see above). Add salt. Drizzle with olive oil and top with torn basil.

Cannellini

A note on ingredients: Fresh cannellini are better and cheaper, but more trouble. Canned beans (especially Goya) are quite good. If using fresh beans, rinse them and soak overnight in enough water to cover them. Rinse next morning

and boil with a clove of garlic and a bay leaf. Cook for about 40 minutes, adding salt half-way through. (Marcella Hazan claims that the salt can be added at the beginning without any harm.)

Cannellini beans (either a 15 oz. can or $\frac{3}{4}$ cup prepared as above)
2 cloves of minced garlic
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup olive extra virgin olive oil

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup torn basil or chopped parsley

1 tsp. dried oregano
salt and pepper to taste

Put all ingredients in the bowl of the food processor and pulse until they reach a cream-like texture which can be spread over the bread. Drizzle a little olive oil over each bruschetta.

Olivada

A note on ingredients: Various types of olives can be used. I prefer black or green Cerignola, but certainly Kalamata, or oil-cured black Sicilian olives work. I prefer to buy olives with pits and remove them myself, but pitted olives also work. We are fortunate to have several sources of good olives close by. Whole Foods, DiBruno's and the domestic cheese shop at Reading Terminal are good sources.

2 cloves of minced garlic
8 large torn basil leaves

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups olives

2 T lemon juice

3 T extra-virgin olive oil

Put all ingredients into the bowl of the food processor and pulse. Put on top of toasted bread and drizzle a tiny bit of olive oil over the top.

Chef Luigi's Corner



Olivada, cannellini, classic, and tuna cannellini crostini.
Picture by Dave Gordon

Other Ingredients

There is almost an infinite number of ingredients that can be used in bruschetta or crostini. Some suggestions:

Italian tuna, cannellini beans and parsley

Spinach, sautéed in olive oil with garlic and mashed cannellini

Roasted red peppers (jarred or from DiBruno's) with basil

Sliced mushrooms sautéed in olive oil with parsley (portabelllos are especially good)

Zucchini (cubed) sautéed well in olive with minced garlic, salt, and pepper ■



*Enjoy the delights of this Holiday Season
and
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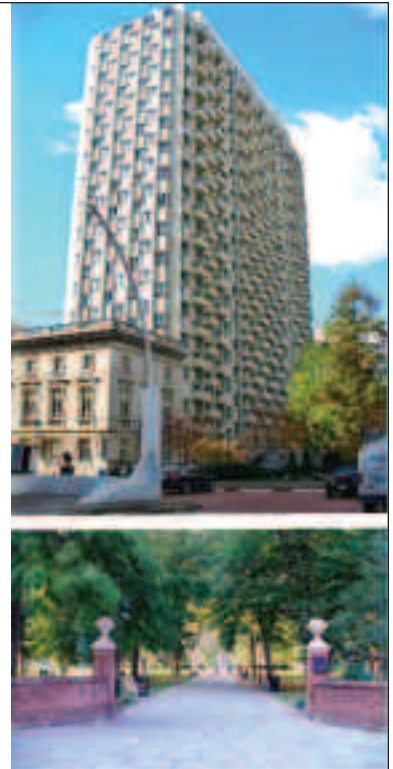


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