

## What's Inside

Lynn Miller, [www.lynn-miller.net](http://www.lynn-miller.net)

If the COVID-19 pandemic largely defined 2020, it's little wonder that our new year is still dominated by humanity's hopes for overcoming this terrible virus. Contributors to this issue have explored a variety of topics that encourage readers to expand their horizons, sometimes in our immediate neighborhood, sometimes as far as imagination will take them.

Council president **Theresa Kowalski** makes note of important revisions to our governing documents, and explains how our long-awaited HVAC project is about to roll out. She also urges interested residents to become involved in the work of Council, either by becoming candidates in our April election, or by volunteering their expertise for particular projects.

Our building manager **Erica Alles** provides updates on several matters related to the running of Hopkinson House. She offers suggestions for minimizing the noise we make in our own apartments, which can disturb other residents, especially now that so many of us are home all day. See also our thanks to residents who've volunteered for projects that enhance our lives at Hopkinson House.

**Martha Cornog** gives us a useful directory of the many ways to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. She suggests appropriate eateries, films, books, and experiences you

may choose from on or near the holiday named for him.

Our judge of elections, **Linda Ellsworth**, tells us how it went on November 3rd when, for health and safety reasons, our polling place was moved to our lobby from the solarium.

**Joseph Quinn** provides a fascinating look at our near neighbor on Locust Street, Musical Fund Hall, which was a premier cultural outlet for Philadelphia throughout most of the 19th century. **Martha Cornog** returns with a brain-teasing exploration of words that don't exist in the English language, but ought to.

My offering considers the current effort to make Washington Square an accredited arboretum, by way of a little history about the trees in our front yard. **Concha Alborg** discusses a brand new book whose theme is the French presence in our city from its founding to the present; I happen to be one of its two authors.

Our new representative to the Society Hill Civic Association, **Ramona Johnson**, urges readers to become active in this valuable neighborhood organization. In her Chef's Corner, **Jane Hickman** serves up recipes for two hearty winter soups, sure to contribute to your good health.

Thanks to Robin Siddall of Parallel Design, Inc., for designing this issue. ■

# on the HOUSE

The Newsletter of  
Hopkinson House • Winter 2021



## Message from Council

Theresa Kowalski



If you are reading this, you've successfully lived through 2020 and the worst epidemic since the flu in 1918. Given the number of people who live and work in Hopkinson House, we've been extremely fortunate in the low number of people here who have contracted the coronavirus. For that,

you largely have to thank yourselves for wearing masks, washing your hands, keeping your distance and waiting in elevator lines. But let's also thank all of our employees for working on the Hopkinson House frontline: those who did the interminable cleaning and disinfecting, those at the front door and desk who managed a lot of our contact with the outside world, the maintenance workers who showed up every day to deal with an increasing number of leaks from our soon-to-be replaced HVAC system, and Stephanie in the front continued on page 2

Occasional Photo by Bari Shor



Here's our front yard in the winter. Find photos of the Square's other seasons, as well as a history of its trees, on Page 20.

## Message from Council

continued from page 1

office who found us an inside source for cleaning products, disinfectants, masks and gloves. And, of course, there are our general manager Erica and our building manager Tony. The entire COVID-19 response was developed and coordinated by both, in addition to their normal work, plus the added work of the HVAC project, conducting virtual meetings and town halls, and introducing our first electronic election. Not once did you hear either of them say “it’s evening,” or “it’s nighttime,” or “it’s the weekend, and I’m not on.” Thanks to them all.

At least we won’t have 2020 on the calendar any more. Let’s look ahead to 2021 and some of the first quarter milestones we’ll be dealing with.

### HHOA Governing Documents Revision

It’s hard to believe, but Hopkinson House governing documents have not had a complete revision and update since the condominium converted from apartments. The initial part of this project by our legal counsel and Council is almost completed, and within the next month or two will be distributed to the homeowners for review. One of the major improvements will be the ability to vote electronically and hold electronic meetings which, when used this past year in an emergency because of the pandemic contributed greatly to a higher turn-out and many homeowners expressing great satisfaction.

### HVAC Design and Construction

Some thought it would never come, but the revision of the HVAC system is slated to begin construction mid-2021 and activity is picking up. The contractor for the work surface in the mezzanine has begun to set up and will begin construction on that piece in early January. Our phenomenal project manager, **Ronald Street** from Northstar, has kept every piece of the project organized and moving along at a clip. You met Ron and our design engineers, **Howard Alderson** and **Drew McFadden** of Alderson Engineering, if you attended the Zoom webinar Town Hall.

The design engineers from Alderson have completed their early, preliminary work and will be ready to start drawing shortly, at the same time that the contractors are brought on. The two groups will be working in what’s known as a design assist project delivery method, in which the HHOA hires both the design engineers and the construction team to work closely together during the design phase. Bringing the construction team on early helps to reduce the cost and time for construction and improve constructability. The steering committee and the design engineers interviewed construction engineers, and reviewed their proposals and presentations during the end of December. A final selection will be made in early January, and all of the

possible contractors were able and willing to start work immediately. Actual construction on the replacement HVAC project is still on target to start mid-summer. Each of the possible construction firms identified communication with homeowners as one of the most important issues to be addressed in order to roll out a successful work plan. There will be a dedicated person who will coordinate with the homeowners to advise them of when their unit is scheduled to be worked in, and what will have to be done beforehand, what resources will be available, and how the work will proceed.

Financing for the project is going through a formal underwriting review, and the next six months will be the period during which the actual final number will start to come together. It is not anticipated that the assessment will be finally computed until then and we don’t expect to begin collecting the assessment fee for at least another year.

### Elections and Volunteers

It’s never too early to start thinking of council elections coming up in April. Since the next newsletter doesn’t come out until then, I’ll give my plug for people to run now. We need people who are emotionally invested in Hopkinson House, and are here enough of the time to know what’s going on. It would be good to have general management experience, business

development, knowledge of contracts or employment law, work experience with non-profit boards or councils, and, of course, accounting, budgeting, auditing or finance.

Development of a strategic plan for Hopkinson House will be another emphasis, probably in the second half of the year. Anyone with solid experience in this area would be very welcome. If you have any special interest or skill that you think could benefit the community, feel free to make a case for it. And if you can’t serve full-time on Council, consider being a volunteer “consultant.” It would be great to have a list of people to call on just for project work.

Regarding COVID-19 precautions, things won’t magically change overnight. We still have many months of it ahead of us. We’ll need to keep being careful about where we go, wear our masks, wash our hands and stay home if we’re sick. The vaccine is coming, but distribution hasn’t gone as well as hoped. I’m still hoping that as many as possible do their part to develop herd immunity. And at least we’re done with 2020!

May you all have a safe and happy 2021!! ■



# Message from Management

Erica Alles



Greetings of a fresh new year to all Hopkinson House residents. I hope this little article finds you well. In December we went through the motions and decorated for the winter season, and the building appeared to be in holiday spirit. Some beautiful snow outside helped create a cozy feeling inside. While we missed out on traditional gatherings of people and parties, I imagine that some individuals got a glimpse of the holiday lights and décor in the lobby and might have experienced a moment of cheer or nostalgia. I did.

Thank you to **Nancy Gross** for lighting the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah and to **Bonnie Silverman** for tending to the candles on the remaining nights. Thank you to the staff (**Oliver, Lloyd and Stephanie**) for decorating and lighting the Christmas tree, and placing the Kwanzaa candles and harvest items on display. Hopkinson House collected 500 toys for children for the Salvation Army—congratulations!

Fortunately, that HHOA tradition of generosity and kindness was not impacted by the pandemic. The Landscape Committee arranged for the beautiful

winter displays in the front planters to carry us over until spring.

In recognition of the many residents who are now home (working from home or otherwise home more often) I thought I should include a request for some **patience and good will** toward neighbors **specifically regarding noises**. Since last spring, the management office has received more calls than ever about noises (which people are now hearing because they are home to hear them, and because people are now home to make the noises). We are in a multi-family living situation and this is especially critical during these sensitive times. If you have not done so recently,

please evaluate whether or not you have carpeting covering 80 percent of your floors as required by HHOA. Consider putting plastic or felt pads on the bottom of furniture legs—that noise really does travel when furniture slides on your floor. And, consider headphones or earbuds when listening to devices, or when on that Zoom meeting. Noises travel easily through walls. Everyone should expect to hear occasional noises, though I believe that paying attention to small actions (do my cabinets make a noise when they close? Should I put a mat under my exercise/medical equipment?) can make a huge difference for someone else. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

The December 2021 **budget meeting** was well-attended, and good questions were asked by the membership. Thank you to the Council and Finance Committee for working on the new budget which carries a 2.75 percent increase.

Our Assistant Manager **Fred Deal** has been busy meeting—and supporting—residents and addressing any concerns. He also supports our Council and committees with various projects as needed.

The **capital projects** slated for 2020 were completed within the year, despite the pandemic-induced restrictions, thanks to Tony Kelly and his team with their flexibility and persistence. The sealing of the courtyard fountain has been delayed due to weather and will be completed this spring.

Please be on the lookout for the 2021 HHOA census form and please fill it out and return it, so we can maintain the most current contact information for you.

Remember, if you have a renovation or any work planned for your unit, please complete the renovation packet (found on Building Link or on paper at the Resident Services Desk) and return it to Tony Kelly in one complete submission for approval. Tony's email is [anthonyhhoa@comcast.net](mailto:anthonyhhoa@comcast.net).

Thank you. **Happy New Year**. Please contact the management office with questions and concerns. ■

## Reflections of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa



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## Our Very Own Library

Of Hopkinson House's many resources, perhaps the quietest and most modest is the little library located at the back of the upper solarium. It holds more than 2,000 books, all of which have been contributed over the years by residents for other residents to enjoy. In recent months, our neighbor, **Diane**

**GaNun**, with assistance from **Kuna Yankell**, has volunteered her time to organize the shelves so that their contents are clear and logical. Most of what's on offer is fiction, wherein mysteries and espionage are separated from general fiction. Smaller sections include memoirs, history, advice, poetry, travel guides, and more.

As is fitting for a community such as ours, rules for borrowing books are nearly nonexistent. Diane has observed that residents typically take the books to their apartments and eventually return them, often adding supplements from their own shelves. She is happy to accept donations, which should

be left in the basket by the door. She sanitizes new books before shelving them. She estimates that she devotes a couple of hours a week to keeping our library in good order. We add our thanks to that of Erica Alles in the last issue of *on the House* for the good work by Diane and Kuna on our behalf. ■

## Residents Show Gratitude to Our Staff

When the holidays approach at the end of each year, residents of Hopkinson House are asked to contribute to a fund to provide extra cash to all of our hard-working and dedicated staff. That effort also requires dedicated volunteers from among our residents to collect the money and distribute it to those who serve us. Last December, those volunteers were **Bari Shor** and **Janet Burnham**. They report a collection of \$53,365 from some 335 residents. Bari and Janet apportioned and distributed these fruits of the Holiday Fund Drive to the staff at their annual



holiday party, along with a letter expressing our appreciation for their hard work.

Unusually, because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this holiday collection was actually the second such effort in our building in 2020. During the summer, other volunteers—**Megan Helzner**, **Betta Kolansky** and **Laura Sadtler**—stepped up to the task of collecting gift funds as a way of saying thanks to our staff for their extra

efforts to keep us safe. More than 200 residents showed their gratitude for the frequent sanitizing of our public spaces and other public health measures by contributing a substantial amount to the COVID-19 Appreciation Fund Drive to benefit our staff. Some residents added cards and notes, a digest of which accompanied the distributions, which were made in August. We give hearty thanks to all the volunteers responsible for these two funding drives, and we salute all the members of our staff for their extraordinary effort in an extraordinarily difficult year! ■

### Residents Corner

Residents wishing to make comments or observations on the current issue may send them to: "The Editor," [lynnm3@comcast.net](mailto:lynnm3@comcast.net). Those who do not have a computer can place their comment in an envelope

addressed to "Editor, *on the House*" and give the envelope to the employee at the Resident Services Desk. Your comments will be published in the next issue of the newsletter. Anonymous comments

will not be accepted. The editor reserves the right to reject opinions/comments, etc., if they are deemed inappropriate or can involve the association in legal troubles.

## on the HOUSE

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



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# Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 18th with Munching, Media, and More

Martha Cornog

This year, honor Dr. King on or near his holiday by sampling edibles from black-owned restaurants and checking out black media. Suggestions follow, plus links relating to MLK Day of Service projects.

## Food in East Philly

Always contact a restaurant in advance to confirm current arrangements.

### Angry Deekin Rib

1019 Spring Garden Street  
"Philly-style" BBQ/soul food  
Delivery: Uber Eats  
[www.angrydeekinribsonline.com/](http://www.angrydeekinribsonline.com/)

### Baby Buns

The Bourse  
Beef, pork, chicken, and veggie burgers and sliders; fries  
Delivery: Caviar  
<https://baby-buns.business.site/>

### Bower Café

263 South 10th Street  
Coffee café with open-faced sandwiches featuring veggies and cured meats  
Delivery: restaurant  
<https://bower-cafe.com/>

### Reef Restaurant

605 South 3rd Street  
Caribbean shellfish, oxtail, jerk BBQ ribs, plenty of sides  
Delivery: Grub Hub  
<https://www.phillyreef.com/>

### Sazon Restaurant & Cafe

941 Spring Garden Street  
Home-style Afro-Venezuelan cuisine  
Delivery; cash only  
<http://sazonphilly.com/>



**Black and Mobile**, a multi-city black-owned food delivery business that services many other Philly restaurants.  
[www.blackandmobile.com/](http://www.blackandmobile.com/)

## Media

All except *The Philadelphia Tribune* and *Woke* are available from the Free Library of Philadelphia; for how to request, see: <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/about/coronavirus>

### The Philadelphia Tribune

The oldest continuously published U.S. black-run newspaper comes out three times each week on paper, plus daily online updates and a free daily e-newsletter.  
<https://www.phillytrib.com/>

### Woke

(TV series: Hulu, 2020-)  
A laid-back black cartoonist gets racially profiled and now can't avoid seeing what he had refused to acknowledge before. Live-action comedy-commentary with animated touches.  
[www.hulu.com/series/woke-034909c6-8c46-4cad-8d0d-062574a9e5f1](http://www.hulu.com/series/woke-034909c6-8c46-4cad-8d0d-062574a9e5f1)



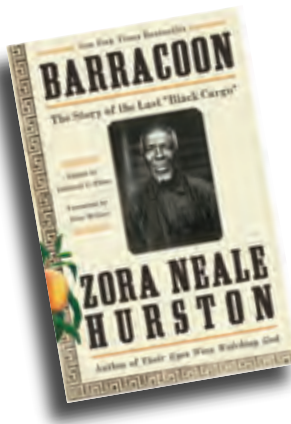
**John Lewis: Good Trouble** (film, 2020) Documentary about the late congressman, a civil rights activist for more than sixty years.

### Harriet

(film, 2019)  
Dramatic action/adventure biopic about abolitionist leader Harriet Tubman, who helped more than 70 people escape from slavery through the Underground Railroad.

### Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"

(book, 2020)  
In 1927-1931, anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston interviewed Cudjo Lewis, the last living African brought to the United States on a slave ship. Her fascinating account records the only oral testimony ever provided from an actual victim of the Atlantic slave trade.



### Black Heroes of the Wild West

(graphic novel, 2020)  
The REAL wild west was much more racially diverse than commonly recognized. All ages will enjoy these profiles of a stagecoach driver, a U.S. marshal, and a cowboy, all former slaves.

### Black Man in a White Coat

(book, 2016)  
A black psychiatrist, Damon Tweedy, relates stories from his upbringing, medical education, and practice. A readable and deeply empathic account of challenges both doctors and patients face—and sometimes overcome.

## Additional Possibilities

[www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/black-owned-restaurants-to-look-out-in-philadelphia/](http://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/black-owned-restaurants-to-look-out-in-philadelphia/)

**Philly 2021 MLK events** Events will also appear here: [www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-day-of-service-events-in-philadelphia/](http://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-day-of-service-events-in-philadelphia/)

### Blanche on the Lam, and sequels

(books, reprinted 2014-2015)  
Pennsylvania native Barbara Neely penned this addictive four-volume mystery series, starring a full-figured black domestic worker who sometimes skirts the law but solves the crime. Humor and biting commentary about relationships, both black and white.

### Hot Comb

(graphic novel, 2019)  
With wit and hard realism, Ebony Flowers drew on her own life for these fictionalized vignettes that testify to black hair's uniqueness and to the many ways it is experienced.

### LaGuardia

(graphic novel, 2019)  
Nnedi Okorafor's playful sci-fi allegory marries evocative art with a wild imagination that comes off as both sad and hopeful. A creative commentary on xenophobia and recent U.S. immigration bans.

## Experiences

### African American Museum in Philadelphia

Members can sample exhibitions online through a "virtual campus" and learn of local events relating to the 2021 MLK Weekend Celebration.  
<https://www.aampmuseum.org/>

### Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service (volunteerism)

<http://mlkdayofservice.org>



**THANK YOU**

## FOR THESE AMAZING COVID COMPLIMENTS FROM OUR BUYERS AND SELLERS DURING THESE CRAZY TIMES

Johanna and Jody are extraordinary and the very best realtors ever! They are incredibly focused and know the market. We used them to sell a property and it felt like we were their only clients-although we were by far only one of many-because they were always available and accessible. Sometimes it felt like they had answered my emails or text before I pushed the send button. They are very smart, talented and capable. I would highly recommend Johanna and Jody without reservation!!!  
**Sara and Elihu Goren**

I would highly recommend Johanna Loke and Jody Dimitruk if you are looking to buy or sell quality Real Estate in Philadelphia. Our father passed away at the very beginning of the Covid crisis, leaving us to deal with rental property he owned in downtown Philadelphia. In addition to Covid restrictions, we all live over an hour away making active management much more difficult. The condo had been occupied by the same tenant for 17 years and needed extensive renovation work in order to get it ready for sale. Johanna and Jody were amazing! They took over property management and coordinated every aspect; from tenant relations, to finding an outstanding contractor (who completed the work in record time and on-budget), they supervised the construction, helped to redesign the kitchen and bathrooms, picked out the fixtures and finishes, arranged for a staging company, and then professionally marketed the property. The on-line video and photo array was viewed hundreds of times, and our property sold at a price above our prediction! They are amazingly easy to work with, extremely professional and responsive. This whole experience was emotional for us, but Johanna and Jody understood the dynamics, and were compassionate and sensitive to our needs. My only regret is that (because of Covid) I was not able to give them a big hug and thank them personally for the amazing job they did. If I ever need to buy or sell property in Philadelphia again, there is only one team I would ever call. **Michael J. Leventhal**

Johanna and Jodi were exceptional in assisting with my home purchase (in the Rittenhouse area.) Their knowledge of the area, experience with the market, and responsiveness to my inquiries made them an incredibly efficient team. We have been clients of Johanna and Jodi in the past and return to them whenever we have real estate needs. They have consistently provided us with the most current information and assisted us in making best choices. Their knowledge, extensive experience, and patience, make them an efficient and enjoyable team to work with.  
**Lisa and Judy Washington**

Jody and Johanna were a delight to work with. We used them to facilitate renting our center city apartment ---to three different renters---as well as to sell this property. They are extremely professional, responsive, and caring. They anticipated our every need and attended to all the myriad details. We will miss working with them. Best wishes for health and happiness in this crazy world  
**Michael and Andy Rieder**

Johanna and Jody-they are the best. They responded very quickly to my questions/requests. They were very efficient and orderly. As a first time buyer, I felt comfortable and hope to work on my next one with them too. (Sometimes they worked too hard-day and night, weekdays and weekends).  
**Hyeron Helen Jeon**

What a great job Jody Dimitruk and Johanna Loke of BHHS Fox and Roach Realtor did selling our Dad's apartment during the COVID shut down. We sold the apartment sight unseen, due to the excellent online presentation of the property. They also helped us get through the remote paperwork and needed repairs. They were very responsive and helped move the closing along. As an executor for my Dad's estate and living in another state, I found them an excellent local presence.  
**Susan Monteverde**

It was a pleasurable and profitable experience working with Jody and Johanna. They assisted in every aspect of the rehab of a center-city condo which I purchased with the intent of reselling. They worked hand-in-hand with the contractor selecting materials and overseeing construction. They performed an outstanding job and were able to secure a buyer within a month of listing. If you're looking for a knowledgeable team who are dedicated and responsive to your needs, I highly recommend these ladies.  
**Robert H Levitt**

Just wanted to send a note to say thank you for all of your help getting our condo in Independence Place sold in the midst of the COVID pandemic. Your help navigating all of the social distancing rules and coming up with creative new ways to market our home to potential buyers who were unable to visit in person was invaluable. You helped us determine the right price and made every step of the process easy. Most of all, I can't say enough about what a pleasure it is to work with both of you. Thanks for always being available and going the extra mile to make our sale a success!  
**Chris and David Arenson**

**Jody & Johanna**

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# November Election Voting in the Hopkinson House Lobby

Linda Ellsworth, Judge of Elections

The polling place for Ward 5 Division 3 returned to Hopkinson House for the general election on November 3rd, 2020. Concerns about COVID-19 and not enough poll workers meant that the division polling place for the primary election in May was consolidated with six other divisions at Alexander McCall School. After consultation with Hopkinson House management and Council, it was decided that the polling place could return if it was located in the lobby rather than the solarium, as it had been for most past elections. (Voting machines were in the lobby several years ago during renovations to the mail room.)

Election Day was quiet and the voting process was quick and efficient. Although most voters are Hopkinson House residents, the number of non-resident voters is increasing and includes

residents of the Lippincott Building, 500 Walnut Street, The Lyndon at the Curtis Center, Saint James Court, and the 200 block of South 7th Street. Of the 675 division residents who voted, more than 75 percent (510) cast their ballots by mail. Only 168 individuals voted in person, an average of about 13 voters per hour. At 7 a.m., when the polls opened, 20 voters were in line—the longest line all day. In the last hour, from 7 until 8 p.m., there was one voter!

Voting in the lobby required everyone (even Hopkinson House residents) to enter the polling place through the south patio. This meant that non-residents were not using the elevators to reach the solarium—a plus for building security and for limiting the possible spread of COVID-19. The set-up in the lobby also meant that it was easier for the election workers to maintain appro-



Photo by Lynn Miller

priate social distancing for their health and security. However, the lobby location is noisy, thanks to residents going in and out on the elevators, having conversations with other residents, and making requests of staff at the front desk.

Weather could have a significant impact on this arrangement. We were fortunate that it was a clear, crisp November day with no rain or snow. There isn't much space for voters to line up after entering the south lobby, and a line of voters waiting in the patio

on a rainy day is not a nice thought. Also, there is limited lighting in the patio area, which hadn't been anticipated. Hopkinson House staff had to set up special lights, so that voters who came after sunset didn't have to fumble their way to the entrance.

Many residents have asked if voting will be in the lobby in the future. That decision will be made before the primary election scheduled for May 18th, 2021. But we definitely plan to have the polling place in Hopkinson House again. ■

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# Musical Fund Hall

Joseph Quinn

Walking west on Locust Street you may have glanced at number 810 and wondered about the significance of the words inscribed over the entrance: **Musical Fund Hall.**

It's a free-standing, three-story building (with basement), symmetrical in design, of buff-colored brick with Corinthian pilasters and decorative terra cotta embellishments. It does not announce itself ostentatiously, but claims its space with quiet dignity. It's crowned with a copper pediment; a lyre displayed on the tympanum is another signal that this address has some connection with the musical arts.

A plaque on the building proclaims that "this was the first dedicated concert hall in Philadelphia." A Pennsylvania historical marker documents its importance in American political history as the location of the first Republican Party national convention to nominate a slate of candidates, held in June 1856. The main topic debated at that gathering was the extension of slavery into new territories, opposed by the Republicans. As reported by the *Evening Bulletin*, "a more important convention than the one in question has not been assembled in our city, perhaps not the country, since the days of 1776."

(Historical Note: The party nominated John C. Frémont of California for president and William L. Dayton of New Jersey as vice

president. Dayton was chosen over another candidate for VP: Abraham Lincoln. The Democratic ticket of Buchanan and Breckinridge won the election.)

It would be hard to underestimate the importance and centrality of this building and its founding organization, the Musical Fund Society, in the cultural and social life of our city during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Judge John K. Kane, the Society's first secretary, records that it was established in 1820 for "the relief of decayed musicians and their families, and the cultivation of skill and diffusion of taste in music."

In his indispensable study, *Annals of Music in Philadelphia and History of the Musical Fund Society* (1896), **Louis C. Madeira** maintains that an important goal of the Society was "to advance music to the highest point, and to present to the public the finest compositions, both sacred and secular."

Madeira's colorful history is filled with historical insight, as well as flashes of wit. He notes that regarding concerts in public, "there was still a goodly remnant of old prejudice," and "a suspicious taint still clung to the professional musician," especially, it seems to female musicians, as the Society felt it necessary to resolve "That no female professional members be admitted without a written certificate from continued on page 13



Exterior of the Musical Fund Hall showing the 1847 renovations by Napoleon LeBrun. Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion (1854). Courtesy of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia.



This is what it looked like at the time of the Republican convention in 1856. The caption at the bottom of the sketch reads: "Republican Convention--Announcement of the Nominations at Musical Fund Hall, Philadelphia." Scharf & Westcott. Free Library of Philadelphia Digital Collections.

*"To prevent an inconvenience... it is most respectfully requested that ladies attending the concert will avoid wearing large bonnets or high head-dresses."*

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## Music Fund Hall

continued from page 11



Sketch of the Interior of the Musical Fund Hall by John Skirving. Thomas Ustick Walter Collection. Courtesy of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia.

some lady of established character in this city.”

Nor did ladies in the audience escape scrutiny, per this request: “To prevent an inconvenience that has formerly been complained of, it is most respectfully requested that ladies attending the concert will avoid wearing large bonnets or high head-dresses.”

Of interest to Hopkinson House readers, he refers to an amusing exchange of correspondence, filled with musical puns, between the Society’s secretary and two members-elect: James Henderson and one **Francis Hopkinson**, likely the son of our building’s namesake.

Today the Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia describes itself as “the oldest continuing musical organization in the United States.” Their membership

“represents an unusual cross-section of the Philadelphia community that includes professional and amateur musicians.”

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Society to curtail celebrations of its bicentennial anniversary in 2020. But since its founding it has maintained a robust and influential presence in the city’s cultural life by promoting concerts, sponsoring emerging artists, and commissioning new compositions.

In 1824, the Society acquired the “dilapidated” ruins (and graveyard) of the Fifth Presbyterian Church and selected one of its own founding members, William Strickland, to convert it into a space suitable for formal concerts and other public gatherings. Strickland, a former scene-painter, had

gained notice in theatrical circles with his design for the Second Chestnut Street Theatre (1822), which accommodated up to 2,000 theatergoers in three tiers of boxes arranged in a horse-shoe formation. He would achieve greater recognition and fame for designing two other buildings that still grace our historic district. For the Second Bank of the United States (1824), Strickland drew inspiration from no less than the Parthenon. He would later employ a similar Classical Revival vocabulary for the Merchant’s Exchange Building (1834).

After the first concert in the new hall on December 29, 1824, a reviewer, Madeira notes, praised the space as simple, elegant and “exceedingly neat in its decoration... and admirably calculated for the conveyance of sound.” The second-floor

auditorium, or “grand saloon,” featured a balcony, and could accommodate up to 1,500 listeners. The total cost, including lot, building, furniture and incidentals, came to \$23,547.08.

Vintage prints and photographs show a shoe-box-shaped room adorned with subdued but tasteful décor. Straight rows of simple pew-like benches, oddly reminiscent of a Quaker meeting house, face an elevated stage at one end.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries the hall was constantly in use for a wide range of social and artistic activities. Crowds flocked to hear renowned speakers and authors, including Dickens, Emerson, and Thackeray.

Over time it became a neighborhood gathering place for political meetings, pageants, weddings, commencements, and holiday celebrations by the city’s many ethnic clans. Depending on the occasion, it might be thronged by laborers at a union meeting (during the 1920s it was headquarters of the Philadelphia Labor Institute), or resound to the city’s social elite dancing and supping at a glittering assembly.

In 1847 there was a flare-up of racial animosity when, after a performance by the abolitionist Hutchinson Family singers, Mayor John Swift declared that “no Anti-Slavery lecture shall be delivered” and “no colored person may form a portion of any audience.” continued on page 14

## Musical Fund Hall

continued from page 13

It's not clear exactly what effect the ban had or for how long it was enforced. We do know that it presented no barrier to the appearance in the 20th century of such celebrated African Americans as civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois, poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, and, in what may have been her public debut, Philadelphia's own Marian Anderson.

On June 23rd, 1915, the Musical Fund Hall was the site of a "Popular Benefit Concert to assist in Musical Education of Miss Marion [sic] E. Anderson." In the

first of several appearances at the hall, the eighteen-year-old budding contralto, featured as a member of the African-American People's Chorus, sang Saint-Saëns' "My Heart at Thy Sweet Voice."

Miss Anderson claimed her place in a long and distinguished line of fabled soloists and singers who had graced the Hall's stage. Jenny Lind, Adelina Patti, and Maria Malibran, who were the toast of opera houses worldwide, thrilled enthusiastic audiences.

Surely a high point occurred on February 8th, 1841, when the American premiere was given, in concert form and in English, of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, drawing music lovers all the way from New York and Boston. The program for the event, given for the benefit of St. John's Orphan Asylum, was printed that day in *The National Gazette and Literary Register*. It boasted that "no expense has been spared securing the services of the most distinguished Vocal and Instrumental Performers." A long,

laudatory review appeared the following day, and reported: "The singers were in excellent voice... the audience demanded an encore from every one."

The Society's own Germania orchestra presented regular concerts in the hall between 1856 and 1868, introducing listeners to works by Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart and other European masters.

The opening of the Academy of Music in 1857 inevitably stole the spotlight from the Musical Performers." A long, continued on page 15



Interior of the Musical Fund Hall showing 1847 renovations by Napoleon LeBrun. Courtesy of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia.



Renovations to the interior of the Hall were made in 1891 by Addison Hutton. Courtesy of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia.



MUSICAL FUND HALL.  
LOCUST STREET.  
INSTITUTED 1836.

In 1891, Addison Hutton also made renovations to the exterior of the Musical Fund Hall. Note the third story addition. This is essentially the façade still in place today, which was incorporated into the condominium makeover in 1982. Courtesy of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia.

## Musical Fund Hall

continued from page 14

Fund Hall. Sentiment had been building among the city's cultural elite in favor of a new facility. One commentator sniffed that the "Musical Fund Hall... was not a suitable auditorium for anything like grand opera." The Academy's *Proceedings* refer, with a certain patrician hauteur, to "the confusion & personal exposure which all of us have witnessed in the neighborhood of the Musical Fund Hall."

The alluring new Academy, modeled after Milan's La Scala, became the preferred venue for musical events, especially elaborate productions of grand opera and the fancy cotillions and assembly balls favored by the wealthy and socially prominent.

The Society moved its Germania Orchestra performances to the Academy in 1868, and it became a core element of the Philadelphia Orchestra, which gave its first concert on November, 16th, 1900.

The history of the Musical Fund Hall is one of visible changes both inside and out and the evolution of activities that occupied the space. Evidence of the various transformations has been preserved and can be examined in archives and public records, many available online.

As early as 1847, the hall received its first makeover by none other than Napoleon LeBrun, who would later design the building that would hasten the hall's eclipse—the Academy



The Music Fund Hall today. Photo by Joseph Quinn.

### *Addison Hutton's impressive 1891 façade remains for us to admire.*

of Music. LeBrun extended the front of the hall by 16 feet, thereby lengthening it to 122 feet, enlarged and repositioned the stage from north to south, and redesigned the façade. This is the version of the Hall that hosted the 1856 Republican Convention.

In 1891, Addison Hutton changed the appearance considerably by adding a third story. He also replaced the arched windows with square ones, and redecorated the interior in "Victorian style." Two years later he completely rebuilt the frontage, which is essentially the one still in place today.

By the early 20th century, the hall's glory days as a musical showcase were fading, and it became more of a community and recreational center. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* published an article on March 27th, 1921, lamenting that the "Music Hall May Soon Disappear." It went on to describe the neighborhood as "deteriorating badly," and "as near real slums as Philadelphia [has] to offer."

Unable to keep up with the costs of maintenance and staff salaries, the Musical Fund Society sold the hall in 1924 to

the Philadelphia Labor Institute. From 1937 to 1942 boxing matches and other athletic events were on the bill. And in 1946 it was acquired by a cigar company and converted into a tobacco warehouse by architect Howard Carter Hill.

In 1964 it passed into the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, and suffered its final indignity in 1980 when, due to serious structural deterioration, it was declared "imminently dangerous."

Soon thereafter it was acquired by a developer, gutted, and in 1982 converted into condominiums. In a win for historic preservation, Addison Hutton's impressive 1891 façade remains for us to admire.

The building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974. But as part of the condominium conversion, historic elements such as the auditorium and balcony were removed. As a result, the designation was withdrawn in 1989. However, it still retains a position on the National Register of Historic Places.

The next time you walk past 810 Locust, take a minute to admire the gracious exterior. Look up until you can discern the lyre on the copper pediment. Try to imagine a time when the building resounded with glorious music and played an indelible role in Philadelphia's cultural history. ■



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# Loss for Words?

Martha Cornog

**T**weetstorm, selfie, cosplay, incel—these new words popped up in the last few decades. The scholarly journal *American Speech* used to run a feature titled “Among the New Words,” and the Merriam-Webster dictionary folks post their own lists online each year. The English language continues to expand, reflecting our new ways of acting and thinking.

But what’s interesting are the words that have NOT appeared in these features or dictionaries, words or expressions that could help us nail down concepts that we refer to all the time, but not currently with apt or precise language. Let’s look at some of my favorite words that don’t exist in American English... yet.

## A word for one’s significant other without marriage

In the late 1970s, the U.S. Census Bureau decided to count couples cohabiting together, using the sanitized phrase, “person of opposite sex sharing living quarters.” This acronymized to *POSSLQ* (pronounced “poss-el-kyew”), which drew jokes and giggles until the Bureau replaced it with the blander, “unmarried partner.” Now, *POSSLQ* taken literally would also include housemates keeping separate bedrooms and separate love lives. Moreover, not all significant others share domiciles. Certainly, neither *POSSLQ* nor *unmarried partner* attracted fans among English speakers. Nor has

*ummer*, another joke word, as in: “Mom, Dad, I’d like you to meet my—um, er...”

The coy *ladyfriend* and *gentleman caller* conjure earlier eras, but can still be mobilized for a slightly racy effect. *Companion* implies a subordinate, supportive role, not necessarily romantosexual.

Today, many people use simply *partner*, but that can refer to a business relationship. Some duos fall back on *fiancé/fiancée* without intending to tie the knot. *Boyfriend* and *girlfriend* are old standbys, but the terms don’t imply long-term and may not appeal to older couples. A waggish drinking buddy used to refer to his live-in lady as “my future ex-wife.” Yes, they fought a good bit! I suppose *mate* isn’t bad, but it can imply male-male collegiality. *Mistress* and *lover* have charm, but imply the relationship is only sexual. *Better half* seems both old-fashioned and derogatory.

Concha Alborg tells me that Spanish uses *mi pareja*, literally, “my couple,” but understood as the person coupled up with the speaker. As for English, would *life partner* work? What words or expressions have you heard or used yourself?

## A word for a parent whose child has died

I know a couple whose only child passed away several years ago, and they both lament that no English word or expression parallels *widow* or *widower*.

*Bereaved parent* just doesn’t seem specific enough. Indeed, linguist Judith Kaplan has described an acquaintance who felt her very identity was challenged by the absence of such a word.

Kaplan’s acquaintance has numerous sympathizers, judging from Internet exchanges among multilingual speakers. Apparently, only a few languages do have words: Arabic, Hebrew, Chinese, and German.

Arabic and Hebrew are both Semitic languages, so perhaps it is no surprise that those words sound somewhat similar. In Arabic, *thakla* is a mother whose child has died, *thakil* a father. Hebrew uses adjectives: *shakula* to describe such a mother, *shakul* for a father.

The Chinese *shidú fùmǔ* (“lose-only-[child]” parents) came into use recently after the country’s former one-child policy left at least a million aging parents alone when that child died. *Shidú* parents get a modest government subsidy, but nothing replaces the personal support of a daughter or son. A reportedly common saying in China: “the white-haired ones see off the black-haired ones.”

The German *verwaiste Eltern* translates literally as “orphaned parents.” The expression was coined by 19th-century poet Friedrich Rückert in his *Kindertodtenlieder*, over 400 poems mourning the

deaths of two of his children. (Composer Gustav Mahler set five of the poems to music.) In one poem appears the phrase: “there we sat, orphaned parents.” But the expression wasn’t popularized until a 1978 English-language book by Harriet Schiff, titled *The Bereaved Parent*, appeared in German translation as *Verwaiste Eltern*. German self-help groups welcomed the idiom, and formed an association: Das Bundesverband Verwaiste Eltern—Federal Association of Orphaned Parents.

Concerned Internet wordsters have proposed various English neologisms; *kithblorn*, *mommow/daddow* (mom/dad/widow), *morphphan/forphan* (mother/-father/orphan), *tethlimom* (based on a Greek word), and *vilhomah* (repurposed from a Sanskrit word). Perhaps following the German approach would be easiest, but the field is certainly open to more ideas. *Reave-mom* (“bereaved mom”), perhaps?

## A word for someone related through a significant other when “step-” or “in-law” expressions don’t work

Once upon a time, nearly everybody married someone of the opposite sex for life, and the words for collateral relationships thus established have “in law” after them. But spouses did die in childbirth (women) and war (men), and folks did remarry, so we’ve long had *step-father* and *step-* continued on page 19

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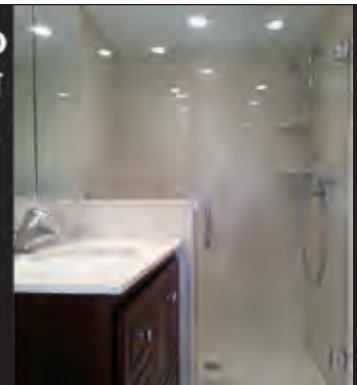
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## Loss for Words?

continued from page 17

*mother* for the new parent, *step-sister/brother* for the new sibling.

Much more commonly today, living partnerships split and then reform with new mates and their kids previously sired. And sometimes there wasn't much partnership to begin with. Hence, the new words *babydaddy* and *babymama*, meaning your child's other bio-parent whom you've never married and aren't partnered with.

But when parents repartner, and one or both have children, the search for words becomes creative and sometimes contentious. If there's both a biological mom and a stepmother,

what words does the child use? The children of Kamala Harris' husband use *Momala*, a play on Harris' name plus a Yiddish diminutive for mother. Yet in other families, it becomes a struggle among what the various parents want and what the child may want. Is one parent *mother* and the other one *momma*? No one likes *stepmother*.

Four patterns seem to be emerging for the step-parent term: a different common word like *momma* vs. *mother* or *mummy*, a combination of a common word for "mother" or "father" plus the person's name or other word

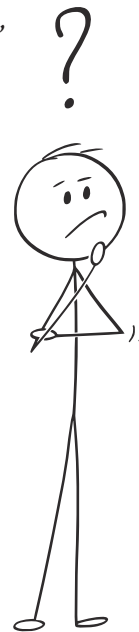
(like *Momala*), a parental word from another language, (like the French *maman*), and simply using first names—more typical with older children. But judging from Internet comments, bad feelings do bubble up. Supposing, for example, the step-mom does more and better mothering than the bio-mother, and wants to be called *mother* or similar, but other adults in the family won't hear of it. Letting the children choose the words has been widely recommended.

In gay families with same-sex parents, similar patterns are emerging. Sometimes the sperm donor may also get a special name like *uncle*

[name], *bio dad*, or a nickname.

Now as for *in-law* expressions, different challenges await. How does one refer to the ex-wife of one's life partner? I used to refer to Maria as "my sister-in-law," since "my late husband's ex-wife" seemed like too much information.

We became friends, you see. And it doesn't seem like much more of a stretch than *widowed parents*. ■



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# The Glorious Trees of Washington Square

Lynn Miller

When we residents of Hopkinson House have strolled through Washington Square recently, we must have noticed that many of the magnificent trees in our front yard sport new labels giving us their botanical and familiar names. The labeling is the work of a volunteer committee under the auspices of the Society Hill Civic Association and the National Park Service (NPS) to have our venerable park accredited as an official arboretum. That certification will place our square in a world-wide register of arboreta. Labeling the trees is one step in that process, as explained by Sherley Young, the Society Hiller who is co-chair of that committee. She works with officials at Independence National Historical Park (INHP), which took charge of our square in 2005, to secure accreditation. Only some paperwork remains to complete the application.

Once that is done, Washington Square should become a Level I Arboretum as designated by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. That would place our park in the same category as the arboreta at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Germantown Friends School, and Chanticleer Gardens in Wayne. Higher levels of classification require the arboretum to maintain a paid conservation staff or to participate in scientific activities regarding trees. In our area, Longwood Gardens and the Morris Arboretum are Level IV



Photos by Lynn Miller

## Spring

arboreta, the highest category.

Although Washington Square has been an open space from the day that Philadelphia was first dreamed up by William Penn in the 1680s, it was not always a beautifully manicured park. For a century and more after our founder designated Southeast Square as one of the four he placed in each quadrant of his planned city—a fifth, at the center, is where City Hall stands today—this land served as a burial ground for paupers and a public common where sheep and cattle were grazed. A stream, a gulch, and two rough roads ran through it. During the American Revolution, as many as two thousand British and American soldiers were buried

in long pits thirty feet deep that were dug, first, along Seventh and Walnut Streets and, when those filled up, on the south side. The last burials were in 1793, when the worst yellow fever pandemic in our history swept the city. In the next decades, the land took on the nickname “Congo Square” when it became a gathering place for Philadelphia’s African Americans, who often sang and danced while visiting the graves of their friends.

In 1825, the city officially named each of Penn’s squares after a prominent historical figure, giving Southeast Square the name of the nation’s first president. Turning it into a landscaped park was the next step. By 1833, symmetrical walkways and trees were planted in a design we can still see today. The trees were

selected by a prominent French botanist, François-André Michaux. As a young man, he had traveled across the new nation with his father, the royal botanist to King Louis XVI, who had sent him to America to study native species of plants. Twenty years after Michaux *filis* planted our front yard, the noted landscape architect, Andrew Jackson Downing, wrote that Washington Square contained “more well-grown specimens of forest trees than any similar space of ground in America.” An arboretum in all but name had been established. In 1915, a count was made of the number of trees from that original planting which still survived.

Approximately 104 varieties remained. Although the NPS has continued on page 21



Summer



Autumn

planted dozens of new saplings in recent years, a great many trees a century and more old still tower overhead.

These days, the volunteers who have been shepherding the arboretum project have also supervised the planting and replanting of the flower

beds that line the brick wall of the park's perimeter. Sherley Young and her co-chair, Fred Manfred, meet with INHP staff members

twice a week by telephone during the growing season, and once a month when the beds are fallow. Their mutual goal, she says, is to establish three seasons-worth of interest, from spring through autumn, using only native plants. It's a mammoth task, considering that the shortest of the park's fifteen beds is 75 feet in length. But the results of our neighbors' sweat equity are most impressive, as any of us can attest who've admired the changing blooms throughout the past year. The displays have been a far cry from the day, which some long-term residents will remember, when our park was sadly neglected. Then a walk across Washington Square seldom drew your eye to its blossoms, which were few and far between.

So, applause to the groundskeepers at INHP and especially to the Society Hill volunteers who are doing so much to maintain and improve our park. While it should soon be designated a world-class arboretum, Washington Square is already a world-class amenity for all of us who live around it. Never has that been clearer than in the past year when we've had to live with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our park has been our haven and a peaceful refuge for many fellow-citizens, who have flocked to our outdoor living room for respite. Thank you, William Penn, and thanks to all who are helping to make our park a beautiful year-round oasis! ■

# Review: Lynn Miller and Therese Dolan, *Salut! France Meets Philadelphia, a Tour de Force*

Concha Alborg, [www.conchaalborg.com](http://www.conchaalborg.com)

**S**alut! France Meets Philadelphia (Temple University Press, 2020) by Lynn Miller and Therese Dolan is a gorgeous book about the French influence in our city's history and culture from its foundation to the present times. Beautifully written and illustrated with countless photographs taken by Lynn, it contains thirteen chapters, an introduction and a conclusion, with copious endnotes, an impressive bibliography and an index.

Therese Dolan and Lynn Miller decided to collaborate on this book when both served on the board of the *Alliance Française de Philadelphie*. Given professor Dolan's expertise in arts and architecture and professor Miller's in political science, their collaboration seemed like a perfect idea. And, indeed it was; Dolan is the author, among other publications, of *Manet, Wagner, and the Musical Culture of Their Time* (Routledge, 2018) and Miller's latest book is *City in a Park: A History of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park System* (Temple University Press, 2015) in collaboration with James McClelland.

The first five chapters of *Salut! France Meets Philadelphia*, deal with the historical events that shaped the development of the new American nation from colonial times to its foundation. Despite being fundamentally a British colony, Philadelphia was

influenced by French *philosophes* from the start. William Penn studied in France, where he became well acquainted with the Protestant Reformation, the Enlightenment and the beliefs of the Society of Friends, all crucial elements of Philadelphia's history. Given the animosity between Britain and France, due, in part, to the French help to the revolutionary cause, by the time Philadelphia became the capital of the new American nation—between 1790 and 1800—10 percent of its inhabitants were French.

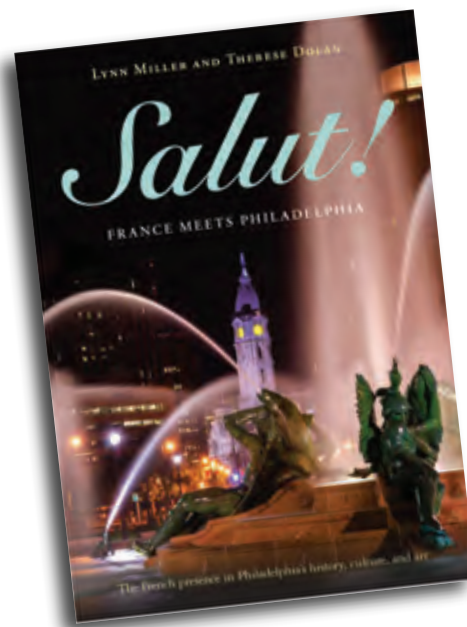
Among the many historical figures examined in the book, the Marquis de Lafayette stands out due to his relationship of filial affection for President George Washington. The young Lafayette was an orphan and Washington treated him like the son he never had. Lafayette, in turn, named his first-born son Georges Washington. All throughout the book, I was impressed by the relevance of the textual quotes, which brought the history alive. Take this example from one of Lafayette's last letters to Washington:

*The sails are just going to be hoisted, my dear General, and I have but the time of taking my last leave from you... I hope your French friend will ever be dear to you... and tell you myself with what emotion I now leave the coast you inhabit, and with what affection and respect I'll forever be, my*

*dear general, your respectful and sincere friend* (p. 29).

For residents of historic Society Hill, the references to nearby buildings, like our next door neighbor Holy Trinity Church, Saint Joseph's Church, Washington Square, the Athenaeum, the American Philosophical Society and many more historical edifices are poignant and relevant.

Not surprisingly, the architecture of the city was highly influenced by French aesthetics. Napoleon Le Brun, for example, son of Napoleon's ambassador to the United States, was the architect of the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, the Academy of Music and the Musical Fund Hall on nearby Locust and 7th. Memorial Hall, built in 1876 to commemorate one hundred years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, was among the first in America in the French Beaux-Arts style, while Philadelphia's City Hall, from the same date, belongs to the French Renaissance Revival. But the most iconic of all French-inspired architectural spaces remains the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, dating from the first decades of the



twentieth century and inspired by the Champs-Élysées, and Logan Square, similar to the Place de la Concorde in Paris. Both were designed by Paul Philippe Cret.

Cret, a native of Lyon, joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in the early twentieth century and was responsible for the design of Rittenhouse Square, the Philadelphia Zoo, the chemistry building at the University of Pennsylvania, the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and the Henry Avenue Bridge over the Wissahickon. Cret, with Jacques Gréber, another French native, also planned several other buildings in the French Beaux-Arts style, such as the Rodin Museum. In fact, as illustrated in Miller and Dolan's book, the list of French-influenced buildings and sculptures in Philadelphia is endless. continued on page 23

**Book Review**

continued from page 22

Think of the three generations of Calders: the eldest created the statue of William Penn atop City Hall; his son, Alexander Stirling Calder, created the Swann Fountain in Logan Square; and grandson Sandy Calder's mobile hangs in the grand hall of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Being an art lover myself, I found the detailed descriptions of the paintings and comparisons with their European models read like a museum tour with an expert docent. See the portraits of the aforementioned Lafayette and George Washington on page 55, for example. One of my favorite chapters deals with Thomas Eakins. A Philadelphia native,

Eakins studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, but like so many other American artists, his studies in the French capital would modernize his style by painting everyday occurrences *en plein air*, as did his Parisian counterparts. He accomplished this and much more in his famous "Max Schmitt in a Single Skull," first exhibited at the Union League in 1871.

The chapter dealing with Mary Cassatt and Henry Ossawa Tanner is also memorable. Both of these artists considered themselves Philadelphians but found their well-deserved fame in France where women and people of color met with less prejudice than in America. In addition

to the photographs taken by Lynn Miller, there are numerous illustrations of famous paintings housed in museums from around the world and, more importantly, many found in private collections that enrich our knowledge.

A book about the French artistic influence in Philadelphia would not be complete without a chapter on the extensive collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Rodin Museum and the Barnes Foundation. The Barnes, originally built by Paul Cret in Lower Merion, owns more Renoirs and Cézannes than are owned in all of France! The last chapter of the book deals with present day Philadelphia and its

restaurant renaissance, which owes much to French gastronomy led by famous chefs like Georges Perrier. Philadelphia may not be as French as New Orleans or Quebec, but it's rich with French traditions, culture and food, without forgetting the excellence of many Francophiles. And, after all, we have a Quebecois, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, as the director of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

I would recommend *Salut! France Meets Philadelphia* to all lovers of our city—our neighborhood in particular—and of French culture in general. What an escape to read this book about cultural connections in the midst of these anxious and isolated times! ■

You are invited to join

## Washington Square Citizens League

Washington Square Citizens League is a nonprofit organization with more than 140 members. The vast majority of the members live in Hopkinson House.

### Activities include:

Monday Afternoon Discussion Group  
 Monthly Evening Programs  
 Book Club  
 Reel Discussion  
 Theater Discussion Group  
 Socials, including potlucks and dinners at La Buca

**Membership Fee: \$10 per year.**

If you are not a member and would like to join, contact Susan Tomita at (215) 925-8464, or [susan.tomita@gmail.com](mailto:susan.tomita@gmail.com) or find a link to the membership form at <https://thehopkinsonhouse.com/activities/>

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# The Society Hill Civic Association Is Here for Hopkinson House Residents

Ramona Johnson

I am pleased to be the Hopkinson House community's liaison to the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA), stepping into the role that Concha Alborg filled before moving up to become the board member now serving on the SHCA board as a District Director for the northwest quadrant of Society Hill.

With my husband Curt, I moved to the Hopkinson House in 2014 when we downsized from our house in Queen Village where we had lived since 1975. As a bonus, living at Hopkinson House kept us close enough to be able to keep our old friends as well as make new friends in our new home here. The proximity to our old neighborhood made it a smooth transition, and it has been easy to settle into the Society Hill neighborhood of which we are now a part. For me, the Society Hill Civic Association is a vital part of the neighborhood, and membership in the organization is a means of doing my part to support the work of enhancing and preserving this extraordinary place.



SHCA pays for immediate removal of graffiti on public spaces.

Here are just some of the things that the Society Hill Civic Association does for our quality of life:

The SHCA pays the Center City District to keep our sidewalks clean and sponsors spring and fall neighborhood clean-up days.

SHCA contracts with a graffiti removal expert to keep our surrounding neighborhood free of graffiti and stickers.

An active Tree Tenders group is part of SHCA.

There is a "Fix the Brix" program that offers a subsidy to maintain the safety of the picturesque sidewalks that we all use.

On a bi-monthly basis, SHCA publishes the *Society Hill Reporter* and makes it available to all of us.

Welcome Baskets are delivered to new residents. If you are a new property owner, you'll receive a basket of goodies including fresh foods, information and gift cards for local places.

The weekly e-newsletter sent to all members is one of my favorite benefits. It keeps us informed as



SHCA pays the Center City District to sweep our sidewalk debris on Mondays and Fridays.

to local happenings. The newsletter has been especially useful to us during this pandemic because it includes an up-to-date list of local restaurants offering take-out and delivery. This list alone justifies the cost of membership.

And of course, SHCA supports the maintenance and beautification of our favorite park, the historic Washington Square.

The SHCA sponsors the Washington Square Affair, a fund-raiser to help the National Park Service to maintain the park and preserve its rich beauty.

Visit the website at <http://societyhillcivic.org/> to learn more about the work of the organization, and join me in supporting it with your membership.

There are several levels of membership, beginning at the Senior/Student rate of \$40/year.

You can sign up via the website with a credit card at <https://societyhillcivic.org/>. Or if you'd prefer, you can send a check. The website provides the address and a membership form that can be completed and mailed.

Please contact me, [ramona.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:ramona.johnson@gmail.com), if you have any issues or concerns that you'd like to pass along to the SHCA. ■



SHCA provides funds and volunteers to help keep Washington Square beautiful for visitors and residents alike.

# Winter Soups to Warm You Up

Jane Hickman

**B**elow are two of my favorite winter soups. Both produce excellent leftovers for a second dinner or lunch, and both freeze well. The first is a hearty and nu-

trititious **turkey soup**. If you don't want to use turkey, you can substitute chicken, ground turkey, or even beans for a vegetarian soup. The second soup is quick

and easy to make: Julia Child's **leek and potato soup**. With a few ingredients and a short cooking time, this soup can be made just before dinner. ■

## Chefs' Corner

*Note: If you have a favorite recipe, we would love to test it and put it in this column. Send your recipes or requests to [jhickman@upenn.edu](mailto:jhickman@upenn.edu). Thank you!*

### Turkey, Kale, and Brown Rice Soup

*After recipe by Giada Laurentiis*

#### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 5 to 6 large shallots, chopped
- 3 medium carrots, cut into ½-inch pieces (about 1⅓ cups)
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into ½-inch pieces (about 1 cup)
- 8 ounces turkey meat, cut into small pieces (about 1 cup) (Substitute chicken, ground turkey, or beans!)
- 1 tablespoon Herbs de Provence
- 4 cups low-sodium chicken broth, plus more as needed (Substitute vegetable broth for a vegetarian soup.)
- 1 15-ounce can diced tomatoes in juice, drained
- 1 cup cooked brown rice
- 1 small bunch kale, coarsely chopped (about 4 packed cups)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- ¼ cup freshly grated Parmesan, optional

#### Directions

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the shallots, carrots, and bell pepper and sauté, stirring frequently, until the vegetables begin to brown and soften slightly, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the turkey or chicken and stir until the meat begins to color very slightly around the edges, 5 to 7 minutes. (If using beans instead of meat, add them now.) Add the Herbs de Provence and stir, 1 minute. Add 4 cups broth, tomatoes, and rice. Bring to a boil. Stir in the kale and season with ¾



teaspoon salt and the freshly ground black pepper. Reduce the heat to medium-low. Cover and simmer until the vegetables are tender, about 15 minutes. Season with the remaining ¼ teaspoon salt.

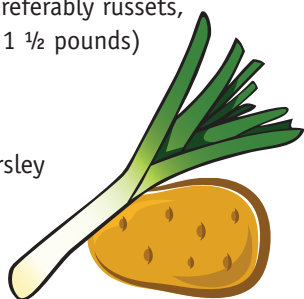
Ladle the soup into bowls. Sprinkle each serving with parsley and Parmesan.

### Leek and Potato Soup

*After recipe by Julia Child*

#### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 cups sliced leeks, white and palest green parts, trimmed, and carefully rinsed to remove dirt
- 1½ cups sliced onions
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 6 cups water (or chicken broth)
- 4 cups peeled, diced potatoes, preferably russets, cut into 2-inch chunks (about 1 ½ pounds)
- 1½ teaspoons salt, or to taste
- ½ teaspoon pepper, or to taste
- Optional garnish: chives or parsley



#### Directions

Melt the butter in a large, heavy-bottomed 3- or 4-quart saucepan. Stir in the leek and onion pieces to coat with butter, cover the pan, and reduce the heat. Cook slowly, stirring occasionally, for 10 to 15 minutes, until the vegetables are very soft but not colored. Uncover, sprinkle on the flour, stir to distribute it well, and cook for two minutes over moderate heat. Remove from heat and let cool for a moment. Stirring continually, gradually pour in 1½ cups of the water or broth, and

bring to a simmer. When the liquid is smooth and starts to thicken, stir in the rest of the water or broth, then add the potatoes and season with salt and pepper. Quickly heat the soup to a gentle boil, cover the pan, and lower the heat. Simmer for about 20 minutes, until the potatoes are tender.

Mash, blend, or purée the soup to the desired consistency and adjust the seasonings. If you are using a blender, let the soup cool for a few minutes before blending. Serve the soup. Optional garnish: chopped chives or parsley.

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