# What's Inside

Lynn Miller, www.lynn-miller.net

ow that spring has arrived, the outdoors beckons more insistently than in winter. We residents can take in the serene pleasure of our own courtyard behind us as well as the leafy park just beyond our front door. Washington Square welcomes us any time of year, but especially when springtime bursts into blossom.

Our Council president, Theresa Kowalski, reminds us of the importance of our forthcoming election of Council members, laying out some of the qualities and experience needed for Council membership and explaining how to become a candidate.

Our management team of Monique Roque, Melissa Port and Stephanie McCool remind residents how to make the best use of what Hopkinson House has to offer. They

note how to become a candidate for election to our Council. They remind us, too, how our building's various committees serve all residents. Anyone interested in committee service should contact the management office.

Dennis McGlade has given us a number of photos of the first harbingers of spring that surrounded us in winter's last days. Several of my own reveal the cusp of spring at our doorstep.

Martha Cornog reminds us that the primary election in Pennsylvania takes place on May 17. She provides all the primary schooling we need to acquaint, or re-acquaint, ourselves with the purpose of primary elections, as well as a run-down of candidates seeking to become their party's nominees in the November general election. She provides a useful

# Occasional Photo by Dennis McGlade

Helebore in bloom at Hopkinson House.

# HOUSE HOUSE

The Newsletter of Hopkinson House • Spring 2022



nudge for those who may be inclined to let primary elections pass them by.

Jane Hickman reviews a fascinating exhibition at the Penn Museum. The Stories We Wear displays 2,500 years of wearing apparel and adornment. Clothing and ornaments on display come from across the globe and are organized into five categories, including "dressing for work and play," "dressing for battle," etc. You have until June 12 to see this remarkable show.

In our winter edition, Concha Alborg invited female readers to join her in a workshop designed to encourage them to write their memoirs. Now she reveals some of the fruits of that offer with portraits of two of our neighbors who are cousins, and how they are responding to that invitation. Their story may well inspire others to write their memoirs, too.

Now that we are well into round two—or is it three?
—of the project to replace all the HVAC systems in our building, we welcome a humorous take on our temporarily redecorated hallways. As she did in our last issue, Jo Anna Farber again gives us a chuckle with her elegantly imagined new carpeting to complement the dazzling white poster-board paneling on the walls.

Joseph Quinn explores the history of a dignified building in our neighborhood. His account reminds us that we city dwellers will often find rewards if we just look up above the ground floors of the buildings we pass by. Few American cities offer such abundance and variety of architectural styles as does Philadelphia, which will celebrate its 340th birthday next year.

Hopkinson House residents have often looked out to see people exercising in slow, rhythmic gestures near the central pool in Washington Square. We are viewing a weekly gathering of Community Tai Chi, which meets in the square, when weather permits, or in the atrium of the Curtis building when it does not. Guest contributor Irene Reinke tells you everything you may not have known before about the workings of tai chi, its philosophy, and benefits. She explains how you, too, may practice this ancient form of exercise.

Once again, our Chef's Corner features recipes provided by **Johanne Lamarche**. Whet your appetite with a look at two wonderful salads and a lemon tart.

Thanks to Robin Siddall of Parallel Design, Inc., for the design of this issue.

# on the

### **Newsletter Committee**

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Find past issues of on the House at www.thehopkinsonhouse.com

# Message from Council

Theresa Kowalski



n April 21, 2022, the results of this year's Council election will be announced. All votes need to cast by 5 p.m. the previous day, Wednesday, April 20, 2022. There will be four open seats to be filled on Council. Three incumbents will be running again, along with six new candidates to fill those four seats. We're usually not fortunate enough . Coming prepared for to have such a large selection of qualified candidates, which raises the question: What makes a good Council member, and a good Council?

The HHOA Council serves several functions in its efforts to protect your investments, but there are generally three areas for which they are ultimately responsible.

- **1** Maintaining the common areas and elements of the community;
- 2 Ensuring compliance with the governing documents and regulations; and
- **3** Conducting the financial business of the HHOA.

To accomplish this work, a well-functioning Council is composed of members with experience in different areas, but certain qualities in common:

- An understanding that they are making decisions for what is best for the entire community, not themselves;
- A willingness to take on work that needs to be done, not just what they like;
- meetings and decisions;
- A commitment to fairness, objectivity and respect when dealing with others; the ability to "play well" with other Council members:
- A strong sense of integrity;
- A thick skin and the ability to make hard decisions;
- An ability and desire to work towards consensus.

Be sure to participate in the election; now it's easier than ever with electronic voting. As you select candidates, think of the Council as a whole, and its representation of the building's population, with the necessary capabilities. Is there a good mix of old and young persons? What about their time in the building? Have they shown evidence of being interested in volunteer duty? Is there a good mix of abilities and interests? With only seven members on Council, it would be very easy for it to become heavily weighted towards only one area, such as finance, or legal, or building engineering. The Council should be balanced in this regard to ensure broad representation of the skills and abilities needed to run Hopkinson House, with specialization coming from the committees.

Finally, committees will be reforming and recruiting, so look for the relevant emails. And if you plan to prepay your HVAC assessment, remember to have your check in by May 15, 2022. ■

### Residents' Corner

Residents wishing to make comments or observations on the current issue may send them to: "The Editor," 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.

# Message from the Editor

Lynn Miller, www.lynn-miller.net

s your editor, I'm reaching out to our readers to invite others to become contributors to on the House. I'm sure that our happy little band of regulars will agree that the writing they do for our quarterly newsletter is as rewarding as any (non-paying) job can be.

If you have an idea for a story that you think would be of interest to the residents of Hopkinson House, by all means, let me know. And if you might like to contribute on a regular basis, please do be in touch. Good writers are always welcome. Contact me at lynnm3@comcast.net.

# Message from Management

Michele Rogue, Melissa Port, and Stephanie McCool



Melissa Port, Assistant Manager; Stephanie McCool, Executive Assistant, Property Management Coordinator; Michele Roque, General Manager

pringtime is upon us, and with it comes a boost of fresh air, warmer weather, and brighter days, all welcome changes that are sure to reenergize our spirits.

Undeniably, the past few months have been challenging. We've had a management transition, the start of the HVAC

riser project, and inclement weather, all during a pandemic, while enduring the daily task of following restrictions and safety protocol. But sunshine and better days are coming.

Spring also brings several community events, such as the Council election, which helps shape the future of the building. If you are

interested in being a part of Council, remember to submit your candidate form. The election will be held Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m. via Zoom, so don't forget to vote!

It's also busy season for many HHOA committees. The landscaping and design committee, for example, has been meeting and preparing for the season, ensuring our flowers and foliage are ready to shine. If you're interested in learning how to participate or would like to become a member of a committee, please contact our management office, and we will forward your interest to Council.

In more good news, the HVAC riser project continues to progress with much success, thanks to the cooperation (and patience!)

of our residents and unit owners, the oversight of Council, and an effective collaboration between contractors, resident coordinators, Management and HHOA staff.

Now that the sleepy haze of winter is lifting, our community can look forward to enjoying the outdoors again, whether it be sitting by the pool, having lunch al fresco in the courtyard or strolling Washington Square Park. Residents can also expect spring cleaning, including window washing and another shredding event, with details to come.

The Management team is excited to enter this new spring season with our residents and looks forward to the collective breath of fresh air!

# The Washington Square Affair Returns!

t long last, it is almost Ttime for a return of the Washington Square Affair. This will be the sixth of these events, which began in 2010 and continued every two years through 2018. But because of the pandemic, no Affairs have been possible during the past two years even though plans were made that had to be cancelled. Now, at last, this year's party will unfold on May 18 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. beneath a majestic, opensided tent on the park's south lawn—mere steps

from our front door. Sponsored by the Society Hill Civic Association, the evening features food and drink from area restaurants and is an unparalleled occasion to socialize with friends and neighbors while supporting an excellent cause. All proceeds from the Affair contribute to the upkeep and continued beautification of this piece of a national park that serves as our front yard. If you haven't yet bought your tickets, go to societyhillcivic.org/service/ washington-square/.



Patrons of the Washington Square Affair enjoy fine food, drink and company while supporting a worthy cause. There's a discount for Society Hill Civic Association members. See you there!



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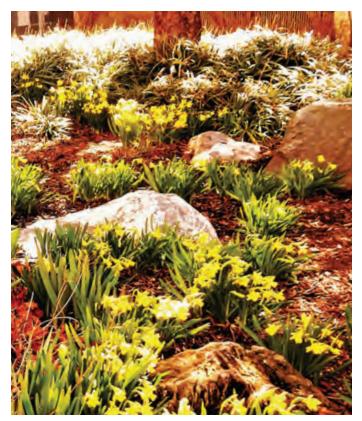
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# **Spring in the Square**

Photos by Dennis McGlade and Lynn Miller







Cherry tree in blossom in our front yard.



Snow drops in the square.



Mahonia japonica blooming in Washinton Square.



Bees visiting new blossoms in February.

You are invited to join

# Washington Square Citizens League

A nonprofit organization consisting of more than 140 members, the vast majority who live in Hopkinson House.

# 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, or find a link to the membership form at https://thehopkinsonhouse.com/activities/



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# **Primary School for Hopkinson House Residents**

### Martha Cornog

Some people spend more time picking kitchen cabinets than choosing public servants to vote for. Now we can leave it up to others to pick these folks—whose decisions affect all our lives—but do we really want to do that? We can pick them in the upcoming May primary, and also in the November general election.

# What is a "primary election," anyway? What's it for?

The Philly primary on May 17 is a preliminary election within major parties to choose the candidates each party will support for the November general election. Unlike in some other countries, U.S. voters can choose not just who wins the office but also the people running. Isn't that a fine thing? Philadelphia's is a "closed primary" in which only registered Democrats can vote for Democratic candidates, and the same for Republicans. Independents and members of minor political parties cannot participate unless there are statewide ballot questions—and there are none this time.

# What offices are open? What do these people do?

### U.S. Senator

The term of Pennsylvania's U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (Republican) ends in November. He is not seeking reelection. The U.S. Senate is the upper house of the U.S. Congress. Each state is represented by two senators. The Senate and the House of Representatives

debate and pass national laws affecting us.

# U.S. Representative, Congressional District 3

The House of Representatives is the lower house of the U.S. Congress, composed of 435 people elected from congressional districts allocated on the basis of population. Hopkinson House is in the 3rd congressional district, and our representative is Dwight Evans. He is eligible for reelection.

# Governor of Pennsylvania

The Governor, currently Tom Wolf (Democrat), is the CEO of Pennsylvania, overseeing its executive branch while working closely with the state legislature and the heads of state governmental units. The governor has veto power over the legislature (vetoes can, however, be overridden by a two-thirds majority), so choice of a governor can be key for controversial policies and decisions. Wolf's four-year term, his second, ends in November. Governors may not serve more than two terms.

# Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania

The Lieutenant Governor is the second highest officer of the state, standing in for the Governor should he or she be absent, ill, die, or leave office. The Lieutenant Governor also serves as President of the state senate and handles many other duties. Our Lieutenant Governor is John Fetterman (Democrat), who could serve one more four-year



Poll workers man a table at the Charles Santore Library in Philadelphia. Photo by Katherine Rapin.

term. He is, however, running for U.S. Senator. (See "Who's running?" below.)

# Pennsylvania State Representative

The House of Representatives is the lower house of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania state legislature that debates and passes state laws affecting us. Members are elected for two-year terms, with no limit to number of terms. Hopkinson House is in state House district 175, and our State Representative is Mary Isaacson. She is eligible for reelection. Our state senator's six-year term does not end until 2024.

# Democratic and Republican City Committee-people

Voters of each major party may elect up to two Committee-people per polling precinct. Committee-people promote their party's candidates in their precinct, and work to turn out the vote. They also report back to the party on how their voters feel about candidates and issues.

### What are the issues?

Democrats have to decide who's most like to win offices in a politically complex state. Pennsylvania has isolated areas of blue surrounded by large expanses of red, with a range of lifestyles and priorities. The gubernatorial races are especially important since the current governor's Democratic priorities can offset and sometimes override those of the Republican controlled legislature.

Top issues Democratic candidates have been touting include climate change/alternative energy sources, education, health care, jobs, LGBT rights, community safety/policing, and addressing racial/social disparities. Reducing gun violence, maintaining access to abortion, and ensuring voting rights (i.e., can all eligible people vote?) are also mentioned by many of these candidates.

Republicans must choose potential new faces of their party. How much should candidates adhere to former president Trump's politics, and how can they reach voters who rejected him then or would reject him now?

Republican candidates usually identify as pro-gun continued on page 9

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# **Primary School for Hopkinson House Residents**

continued from page 7

ownership, anti-abortion, and supporters of election integrity (i.e., are all votes counted coming from legally approved voters?). Some mention preserving current fossil fuel energy use, supporting school choice in education, and ensuring freedom from medically-related mandates such as masking and vaccinations.

To find out a given candidate's position, Google his/her name plus "campaign." Many have Wikipedia entries and/ or profiles on Ballotpedia (ballotpedia.org).

# Can I vote with a mail-in ballot as in the last few elections?

Yes. See this link:

www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/ OnlineAbsenteeApplication/ #/OnlineAbsenteeBegin

# Why should I bother to vote?

Only 21% of Philadelphians voted in the last primary. That doesn't show much interest in selecting our public servants. Do we want to let everybody else—including those we may disagree with—pick these people who control our lives? We should vote

as a show of confidence not just in individual candidates who claim to want to serve our interests, but confidence in the voting process. We must demonstrate to the world

that democracy works, and that we're all involved. We're citizens of Philadelphia... of Pennsylvania... of the United States, And we vote. Try to stop us!

### **More Information**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022\_United\_States\_Senate \_election\_in\_Pennsylvania

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022\_United\_States\_House\_ of Representatives elections in Pennsylvania#District 3

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022\_Pennsylvania\_ qubernatorial election

https://ballotpedia.org/United States Senate election in Pennsylvania, 2022

https://ballotpedia.org/Pennsylvania\_state\_executive\_ official elections, 2022

# Who's Running?

# U.S. Senator, Pennsylvania (in descending order of popularity according to available surveys)

### Democrat

John Fetterman—current Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Conor Lamb—member of the U.S. House of Representatives, District 17 Malcolm Kenyatta—member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, District 181

### Republican

David McCormick—former CEO of the world's largest hedge fund Mehmet Oz—cardiac surgeon with a controversial media career Kathy Barnette—commentator for conservative news media Jeff Bartos—in 2018, a losing Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor

### U.S. Representative, **Congressional District 3**

Democrat (alpha order after incumbent) Dwight Evans—incumbent, running for reelection

Michael Cogbill—community and union organizer

Alexandra Hunt—public health researcher

Austin Rodill—property manager with the Bozzuto Group

Republican (none listed yet)

### Governor of Pennsylvania

### Democrat

Josh Shapiro—currently Pennsylvania Attorney General

Tega Swann—clergywoman

# Republican

Lou Barletta—U.S. House of Representatives, District 11 Doug Mastriano—State senator, Pennsylvania District 33

### Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania

Democrat (alpha order)

Austin Davis-State representative, Pennsylvania District 35 Brian Sims—State representative, Pennsylvania District 182

Ray Sosa—banker, insurance broker; 2018 candidate for lieutenant governor Republican (those with prior elected office, alpha order)

Jeff Coleman—State representative, Pennsylvania District 60

Carrie DelRosso—State representative, Pennsylvania District 33

Russell Diamond—State representative, Pennsylvania District 102

Rick Saccone—State representative, Pennsylvania District 39

### Pennsylvania State Representatives, District 175

### Democrat

Mary Isaacson—incumbent, running for reelection

Republican (none listed yet)

# Committee-people (Hopkinson House)

### Democrat

Larry Meehan and Robert Krebsincumbents

### Republican

Hopkinson House's voting precinct doesn't currently have any Republican Committee-people.

# 2,500 Years of Style at the Penn Museum

# By Jane Hickman

The Stories We Wear, an exhibition on dress and adornment at the Penn Museum, is open to the public through June 12, 2022. Showcasing 2,500 years of style through approximately 250 objects, The Stories We Wear invites guests to identify common threads woven into stories that transcend language, culture, and time.

Curated by Dr. Lauren Ristvet, Robert H. Dyson Curator in the Penn Museum's Near East Section: Dr. Sarah Linn, Research Liaison in the Academic Engagement Department; and Dr. Jane Hickman (your reporter and HH neighbor), Consulting Scholar in the Mediterranean Section and former Editor of the Museum's Expedition magazine, the nearly 3,700 square-foot exhibition features an extensive array of clothing, jewelry, uniforms, regalia, and tattoos—all powerful expressions of identity that have purpose and meaning.

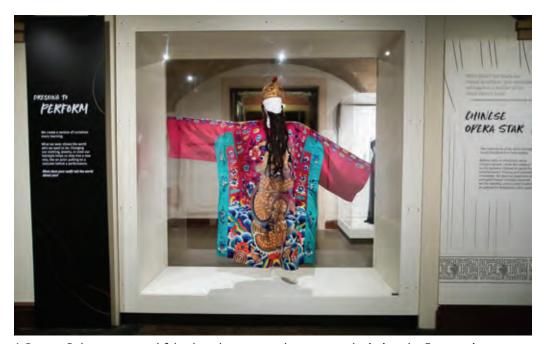
Objects were selected from five Museum sections: American, Asian, Mediterranean, Near Eastern, and Oceanian. Some clothing is on loan from Philadelphia's National Marion Anderson Museum and Historical Society, the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection at Drexel University, and several local individuals.

The exhibition is organized into five themes:

**Dressing for Work and Play** is illustrated by a full Eagles



Jewelry, like this brilliant 6th-century CE gold chain from Beth Shean, is among the highlights of the "Dressing to Rule" section. Photo by Eric Sucar, University Publications.



A Dragon Robe, crown, and false beard were wore by an actor depicting the Emperor in a 19th-century CE opera. Photo by Eric Sucar, University Publications.

uniform loaned to the Museum by former line-backer Connor Barwin, and the outfit worn by chaski runners as they delivered important messages in the mountains of Peru during the Inka (or Inca) empire.

### **Dressing for Battle**

includes the armor of Samurai warriors from Japan, with a sword dating to 1603, along with Kiribati coconut fiber armor and shark's teeth weapons from the South Seas given to Robert Louis Stevenson in the 1800s.

# **Dressing for Performance**

highlights a stunning satin opera robe from China that dates to the Qing Dynasty

continued on page 11

# 2,500 Years of Style at the Penn Museum

continued from page 10



The helmet of a Samurai warrior was meant to protect the man wearing it as well as frighten his opponents. Photo by Eric Sucar, University Publications.



This Coclé chief's burial regalia from Panama shines in the "Dressing to Rule" section of The Stories We Wear. Note the large emerald set into the gold pendant. Photo by Eric Sucar, University Publications.



Buddhist priests who wore this intricate *mukuta* or headdress from the 16th century took on the qualities of a bodhisattva (one who seeks awakening), leading others to enlightenment. Photo by the Penn Museum.

(19th century), a velvet gown (ca. 1938) worn by Marion Anderson, and a theatrical costume from 2018 Drag Queen of the Year Eric Jaffe. Dressing for Ceremony features the traditional wedding attire of a Hopi bride (ca. 1900), the headdress of a Buddhist priest from 16th century Nepal, and objects used for tattooing from Sarawak, a Malaysian state in Borneo.

**Dressing to Rule** includes gold ornaments

and jewelry that were recovered from the burial of a Coclé chief from Panama (ca. 750–1000 CE), and precious metal, glass, and semi-precious stone jewelry that may have been worn by an elite woman from Palmyra in Syria during the 2nd to 3rd century CE.

"Museum work is about telling stories, and the timeless stories behind what we wear are fascinating," said Dr. Christopher Woods, the Williams Director at the Penn Museum. "The Stories We Wear opens up another way to make anthropology and archaeology accessible to all: through style and fashion."

Clothing and adornment can tell stories about who we are and the messages we want to send to others. What we wear can be protective, comforting, and even powerful. It can show our allegiance to a group and reinforce who we are. It can also help us change how others perceive us. We encourage those who visit The Stories We Wear to think about their own choices in dress and adornment.

The Penn Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. *The Stories We Wear* is included with Museum admission. For more information, visit www.penn.museum or call 215-898-4000. The 42 and 40 buses both stop near the Penn Museum. At the time of this writing, face masks are required by all visitors to the Museum.

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# Getting to Know Our Neighbors

# **Irish Writing Cousins**

By Concha Alborg, www.conchaalborg.com

ary Tracy has lived lat Hopkinson House for ten years. She moved here when she downsized from the Overbrook Farms neighborhood in Philadelphia where she raised her three children. When her cousin Denise Shuttleworth wanted to move from Pittsburgh to be closer to her son and family in Narberth, Pennsylvania, she steadfastly advocated for Hopkinson House instead of the Philadelphia suburbs. In fact, Mary chose the unit where Denise has lived since 2018, and Denise has been delighted here ever since, although she moved in sight-unseen.

Mary is not new to promoting causes close to her heart. A teacher in the Philadelphia School District, where she taught subjects from computer skills to tennis, she became an activist for improving her community appearance.

Her efforts against billboard blight brought down over 1,200 illegal billboards throughout the city and earned her an Environmental Leadership Award from the Pennsylvania Resources Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania, among many other awards. After co-founding the Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight (SCRUB) in 1990, Mary's volunteer work turned into a full-time career in 2000, when she became Executive Director of Scenic Philadelphia. From 2009 to 2018 Mary was the President of Scenic

America, a national nonprofit in Washington, DC where she developed many projects at local, state, and federal levels. You can view "The Mary Tracy Story" on You Tube to find her full list of accomplishments.

Denise had a brilliant career herself in Pediatric Health. She worked at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (UPMC) for twenty-four years. During her retirement, she continued working there part-time, and even before her move to Philadelphia, she secured a job at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) where she is still working as a Project Manager. Living in Philadelphia, Denise is not only closer to her son in Narberth, but to another son and a daughter in Massachusetts, as well as her six grandchildren. She feels empowered making the five-hour drive up North to visit them.

Both Denise and Mary take great pride in their Irish heritage, although Denise always wondered why she had a French name instead of an Irish one like all her other siblings and relatives. She was named for an aunt who took the final vows to be a nun with the name of Sister Marita Denise. Mary has been playing the fiddle for over forty years with an Irish band, Irish Mist. They play locally. Perhaps some of our neighbors have heard them at Cavanaugh's, The Plough and the Stars, or the Black Sheep before

the pandemic. Mary was looking forward to playing again on Saint Patrick's Day with the three other players: two guitars and a banjo. Of course, for Denise's 70th birthday party, which was attended by their entire Irish clan, Irish Mist provided the music.

The two cousins are a perfect team; Denise says that Mary is "her Ying to my Yang." They share many interests and participate in many activities together. They have a subscription to the Walnut Street Theatre, and they like to attend Happy Hour at P. J. Clarke's. Not surprisingly,

when I offered a women's writing workshop for our neighbors at Hopkinson House, they both signed up. It is true that they compliment each other in every way; I'm hoping that they will be "writing buddies" for a long time to come.



Mary Tracy, Denise Shuttleworth. Photo by Concha Alborg.

# Magic Carpet by Jo Anna Farber



Something about that long white hall makes my imagination run wild! What about you? Thanks to my graphic designer cousin, Alison, who helped me take this magic carpet ride!

# The Press/Beck Building

# Joseph Quinn

The next time you pass the northwest corner of Seventh and Sansom Streets (number 701), avert your eyes from the blue tile and plate glass windows on the ground floor and look up. What you'll see is a sixstory building quite out of keeping with the diminutive commercial storefronts that line Jeweler's Row. Both its size and intricate ornamentation set this structure apart from its surroundings and lead to questions about how this architectural gem got there and how it has survived intact and fully functional for 124 years. (Figure 1)

The January 1897 issue of the Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide reported that "Plans are being prepared in the office of Theophilus P. Chandler... for the new Press office building and printing house at Seventh and Sansom streets. It is to be of light colored brick, with terra cotta and limestone trimmings and granite base."

The reference is to a newspaper called the *Press*, later known as the *Philadelphia Press*, published from 1857 until 1920. The original Press Building stood at 7th and Chestnut Streets, back-to-back with the new one; the two were connected with a bridge over Bennett Street (now Ionic). Chandler's Press Building eventually came to be known as the "Press Annex."

Boston-born T. P. Chandler (1845-1928) arrived in Philadelphia in 1872 with impeccable academic



Figure 1. Chandler's Press Building at the corner of 7th and Sansom Streets today, after 1960s renovation of the ground floor.



Figure 2. Sketch of Chandler's Original design for the Press Building, 1898. The Athenaeum of Philadelphia



Figure 3. 1918 photo showing the original Romanesque arches on the ground floor. City of Philadelphia 2021.

credentials that eventually led to his appointment as the first Director of the Department of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania (1890-91). His marriage to Sophie Madeleine du Pont solidified his social position and his status as the preferred

architect for wealthy clients. In Church and Estate: Religion and Wealth in Industrial-Era Philadelphia (2013), Thomas F. Rzeznik emphasizes how social connections helped to advance Chandler's career, calling him "one of Philadelphia's most sought-after

'society architects."
According to Rzeznik,
Chandler "kept in nearconstant contact with
members of the upper class,"
resulting in "hundreds of
commercial, residential, and
ecclesiastical commissions."

continued on page 15

Photos not otherwise attributed by Joseph Quinn

# The Press/Beck Building continued from page 14

Several notable examples of Chandler's work exist in Center City. The flamboyant façade of the Scott-Wanamaker townhouse at 2032 Walnut (1886) and the Gothic-inspired Church of the New Jerusalem at 22nd and Chestnut (1881) have fortunately been partially preserved and repurposed.

In those buildings Chandler applied elements borrowed from the antique European traditions he studied at the *École des beaux arts* and personally sketched or photographed on his extensive foreign travels. He was especially enamored of Gothic cathedrals and French chateaux.

The Press Building, however, was unique in Chandler's oeuvre. He abandoned fussy ornamentation in favor of a tall box with nearly flat surfaces on all sides and relatively austere decoration suited to the needs of a commercial tenant. Not that it lacks aesthetic appeal. On the contrary, Because the surface

designs are applied with finesse and are not overpowered by bulk and clutter, they are easily readable and all the more pleasing.

Fortunately, we have sketches showing the building in its original state, before a 1960s modernization obliterated the first-floor exterior. Chandler situated the building on a substantial granite base featuring an array of Romanesque arches and Corinthian columns that stretched around three sides of the building. By another stroke of luck, you can see a remnant of those arches and columns on the back of the building down the sadly dilapidated Ionic Street. (Figures 2 and 3)

In a 2015 Inquirer article about the surviving columns, Architecture Critic Inga Saffron noted how we "don't expect to run into such archaeological remains in Philadelphia." She describes the 1960s renovation of the ground

floor as resulting in a "disconcerting contrast between the modernist shop front and the elaborate Venetian floors above." (Figure 4)

More than one observer has described Chandler's building as resembling a Venetian palazzo. What we think of as the Venetian style, however, is an amalgam of different architectural genres and eras: Byzantine, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Neoclassical. Some architects, including Chandler, enjoyed mixing genres in a single building. (Figure 5)

The facades on three sides show a consistent design program unifying the overall look of the building. The two stories above the first consist of rows of tall boxy windows separated by slender pilasters, half carved, half plain, and topped with Corinthian capitals. The Italian Renaissance flavor emerges clearly on the next story

with its gracefully rounded double arched windows within a larger arch, each centered with a "lollipop" pillar topped by a circular window. If they had stained glass, they would not look out of place in a cathedral. (Figure 6)

On the next two floors, more arched window enclosures and slim columns proliferate. The two top stories are separated by a belt course of delicate truncated arches that unfurls around the building like a ribbon of lace. Barely visible just below the windows on the top floor, Chandler added a Gothic touch in the form of animal-head gargoyles.

To give some depth and visual interest to the front, Chandler placed a cantilevered balcony in the center and added another unexpected touch, two carved eagles perched on the balustrade. The final flourish is a stubby pediment crowning the top continued on page 17



Figure 4. Remnants of the original ground floor arches and columns visible behind the building on Ionic Street.



Figure 5. Palazzo Vendramin Calegri, Venice. A photo by Chandler showing what might have inspired the Venetian elements of 701 Sansom Street. The Athenaeum of Philadelphia.



Figure 6. Gracefully arched windows that would not be out of place in a Gothic or Renaissance Cathedral.



Jody & Johanna were really fun to work with. They have clearly "seen it all" & from their depth of experience offered excellent advice for negotiating the market & strategizing an offer. They replied promptly to all questions, from finding a mortgage lender to replacing a missing refrigerator drawer. We highly recommend them if you're looking for a new home in Philadelphia.

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# The Press/Beck Building

continued from page 15



Figure 7. The cantilevered balcony with two eagles perched on the balustrade.



Figure 8. Crowning the building, a pediment with the word BECK.



Figure 9. Press release for the home of the Beck Engraving Company. Special Collections, Temple University Library

inscribed with the word BECK. (Figures 7 and 8)

BECK? It refers to the Beck Photoengraving Company, established in 1896. It skipped around different locations in the Washington Square area, gaining a reputation for supplying high-quality printing services to newspapers, advertising agencies, and magazines.

In 1922 the company released a PR pamphlet with an illustration of their most recent base of operations: "The Beck Building in Philadelphia. Owned and occupied exclusively by the Beck Engraving Company, 7th and Sansom Streets." (Figure 9)

In 1947 Beck Engraving moved across the street to the NE corner of 7th and Sansom into a low-rise quadrant of the Public Ledger Building, as evidenced by an undated name stone embedded in the brick wall. It continued to flourish in the area until the mid-1980s when it moved south and reconfigured itself in Atlanta.

As for 701 Sansom now, it endures as a curious architectural hybrid reflecting tastes both past and present. The renovated ground floor is home to a jewelry store. Rising serenely above, Chandler's ornate façade with its echoes of Venetian grandeur encloses an apartment complex.

After 124 years, unheralded, and even unnoticed by many who fail to "look up," it continues to bring a touch of Italianate elegance to our gritty urban streetscape.

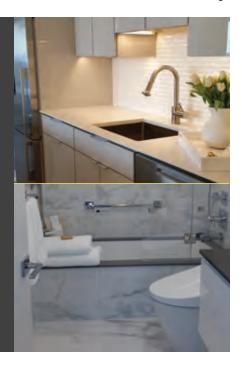


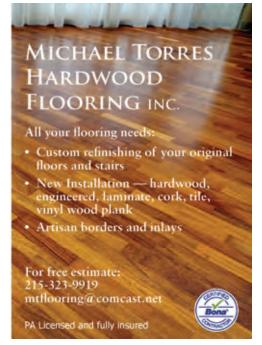
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# Tai Chi in Washington Square

### Irene Reinke

n article from the Harvard Medical School on tai chi begins with this sentence: "Tai chi is often described as 'meditation in motion,' but it might as well be called 'medication in motion." There is growing evidence that this mind-body practice has value in treating or preventing many health problems. And you can get started even if you aren't in top shape or in the best of health." To read the entire article, go to www.health.harvard.edu/ stayinghealthy/the-healthbenefits-of-tai-chi.

It's important to understand that the principles underlying tai chi are different from many Western-based exercise programs. Tai chi is not about pushing your body to its limits; it is about understanding and embracing your body so that you discover and learn how to move in the most energy efficient and beneficially healthy way for you. It does take a while to let go of many of our preconceived notions of what exercise should be and how we should feel while and after exercising. Here are just some examples of how a tai chi practice can differ from what you may think about exercise:

- The movements in tai chi are usually circular and never forced.
- The muscles are relaxed, not tense.
- The joints are not fully extended or bent.
- + Connective tissues are not stretched.



- · Although practicing tai chi over a period of time will increase your flexibility, in tai chi we also think how this massages our internal organs, giving one a different focus.
- Movement originates from the core, using many muscles in concert rather than focusing on one muscle or set of muscles.
- Relaxation and not tension is key to being able to move in the most beneficially healthy and effective way. Most of us have no idea what it feels like to be relaxed as we exercise.
- Learning breath work plays an essential role in both energizing and relaxing the body.

Once more quoting from the Harvard article. "some benefits of tai chi are: improving both lower body and upper body strength, flexibility, and balance. When practiced regularly, tai chi can be comparable to resistance training and brisk walking."



Curtis/Lyndon Building

So, where can you go if you are interested in tai chi?

You can begin by visiting our free "Community Tai Chi" group which meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the atrium in the Curtis/ Lyndon building at South Sixth and Walnut Streets, or in Washington Square Park, weather permitting.

Our Community Tai Chi has been meeting weekly for the past 1½ years! The idea of Community Tai Chi is simply to have a place and time where anyone who is interested can come to practice, follow along, or simply observe tai chi in person. But even more than that, it is a community of very supportive and welcoming folks who simply love tai chi. This current community came together because we all missed doing tai chi as the result of the pandemic. You, of course, can (and should) do tai chi on your own, but there is just something special about practicing with a group of fellow tai chi-ers.

# Please note that Community Tai Chi is not a class, but is free and open to all.

There is no instruction, but that should not keep a novice from coming to observe or just to follow along. There is a warm-up portion of the session (we call it "tai chi breathe and flow") which anyone can jump right into. It is designed to help relax you, through simple movements and breath work.

If you are interested in learning in a structured way, you can book private lessons.

Private lessons take place outside in Washington Square or, if you have access to either, a patio or similar outdoor space. You do not need much room to learn tai chi.

In either case, if you have questions about Community Tai Chi or are interested in private lessons, you can contact Irene Reinke at ireinke56@gmail.com or go to www.PhillyIrene.com.

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# **Spring Has Sprung!**

# Johanne Lamarche

Spring is finally here, and even if the thermometer is still fluctuating, I am ready to transition away from stew/soup season and wake up my taste buds with some fresh cuisine. Here we have three bright and flavorful recipes to kickstart your spring.

First, a hearty dinner salad packed with crisp vegetables, multiple protiens, and a tantalizing lemon dressing. I love serving this deconstructed salad in a large rectangular platter with tongs so everyone can dig in. Looking for something a little lighter? My straw-

berry, chèvre, and arugula salad is a seasonal favorite sure to please. To round off your meal, how about a zesty and satisfying lemon tart? If you are wild for all desserts lemon, then this little lemon tart may very well become your "go to" spring dessert.

# 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. Thank you!

# Seared Ahi-Tuna Niçoise Salad with Creamy Lemon Aïoli Dressing

Serves 4

Salads are always more appealing in sunnier weather, and this take on a Niçoise salad is bursting with flavor, color, and interesting texture. With protein coming from the tuna, eggs, and white beans, it is hearty enough for dinner and will satisfy the most demanding of appetites. It is a great option for a meat-free Lenten meal. The pièce de résistance of this salad comes from the lusciously creamy lemon aïoli dressing, bursting with tangy, bright, citrusy notes that will surely lift you out of the winter doldrums!

# **Ingredients**

For the salad:

- 1 pound fingerling potatoes, halved lengthwise
- 1 tablespoon olive oil sea salt to taste
- 1 14 oz can of white kidney beans, rinsed, drained, seasoned to taste with salt, pepper, 2 tablespoons fresh parsley and a squeeze of lemon juice
- 1 pound fresh Ahi tuna steaks (about 2)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced ½ cup black olives

- 2 roasted red peppers cut in ¼ inch strips
- 1 pound haricot verts, blanched and drained
- 1/4 cup non-pareil capers
- 2 cups of cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 4 hard boiled eggs, peeled, halved lengthwise

For the dressing:

- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard zest and juice of 2 lemons ½ cup olive oil
- ½ cup sour cream salt and pepper to taste





# **Directions**

- 1 In a frying pan, melt butter and oil and sauté garlic for a minute then add tuna steaks. Sear on each side for two minutes for rare or three minutes for medium doneness. Remove from pan, rest, then slice into ½ inch thick slices across the grain while maintaining shape of steak. Hold until ready to assemble salad.
- 2 Preheat oven to 425°F.
  Toss the potatoes in
  1 T oil then spread on a
  foil-lined cookie sheet and
  roast about 15 minutes,
  stirring once to prevent
  sticking. Generously
  sprinkle with sea salt.
  Reserve.
- 3 Divide the green beans in four portions and place in four corners of the platter. Divide the potatoes in two and

- place at both ends of the platter. Divide the red peppers in two and place on either side of the center then add the tomatoes divided in four on either side of the peppers. Heap the white beans in the center of the platter.
- 4 On top of the beans, slide the tuna steak in neat slices, fanning across the length of the platter. Sprinkle the whole tray with the capers and olives and finish with the eggs halves as shown.
- 5 To make the dressing, mix lemon juice, zest, garlic and Dijon together. Slowly whisk in the olive oil to emulsify. Incorporate the sour cream. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve alongside the salad.

# Strawberry Chèvre Arugula Salad with Orange Poppy Seed Dressing

Serves 4-6

One of spring's greatest joy is the arrival of local strawberries. Plump, ruby red and oh-so-sweet, they are worth waiting for all year! After eating my fill of luscious berries one-by-one from their slender stems, the windfall of sweet juicy berries begged to be showcased in a recipe where their sweetness could be enjoyed simply. I decided on a big layered salad. I like to make salads in shallow and wide vessels so the toppings are spread across the whole salad. The dressing is light and citrusy, perfect to highlight the sweetness of the strawberries with the added nice crunch of poppy seeds. A bright and fresh salad to herald the strawberry season!

# **Ingredients**

For the salad:

- 9 cups arugula
- 1 cup mint leaves
- 2 cups strawberries, hulled and sliced in half
- 3 thin slices of red onion, the rings cut in half and separated into segments freshly ground pepper
- 2 oz crumbled chèvre
- 2 oz toasted pecan halves

For the dressing: (Adapted from Cooking Light)

- ½ cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup blood orange flavored olive oil (or plain is fine)
- 1 pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon poppy seeds



### **Directions**

- 1 In a blender or in a bowl using a whisk, emulsify all the ingredients except the poppy seeds. Finish by adding the poppy seeds and mix once to distribute.
- 2 Place the arugula in a large shallow dish. Top with the strawberries.
- 3 With a few grinds of the peppermill, season the strawberries. Layer with, in this order, the mint, onion slices, goat cheese and pecans.
- **4** Toss with the dressing. Enjoy the jewels of spring!

### **Lemon Tart**

Serves 6

I first tasted this tart when it was served to me at a dinner party more than 10 years ago. I just had to get the recipe and have since made it dozens of times. Yes, it's that good. Plus it always turns out, even for a non-pie baker such as I. If consumed the day of baking, it will sing with the tanginess of the lemon. If eaten the next day, the crust will have softened and the flavors a bit mellowed but either way it will be irresistable.

Make it with your favorite pastry dough. You can vary it by making a shortbread crust, a crushed ginger cookie crust or a graham cracker crust. You can stud it with blueberries or raspberries or serve them on the side. Anyway you choose to serve it, it will be a taste of sunshine!

### **Ingredients**

- 1 9" pie crust of your choice
- 2 large eggs
- 3 large egg whites
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons lemon zest powdered sugar for dusting

### **Directions**

- 1 Preheat oven to 375°F. Bake pie crust for 10-12 minutes.
- 2 In a medium bowl, with an electric mixer, beat eggs and egg whites, add sugar, lemon juice and lemon zest. Mix well.



- 3 Pour the filling into the par-baked pie crust and bake an additional 20 minutes.
- 4 Cool, then dust with powdered sugar just before serving.



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