

## What's Inside

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

**T**heresa Kowalski, our outgoing president of Council, reflects on issues that our governing body has dealt with during her tenure. She will supplement her remarks here with a letter to all owners and residents so that she can comment in greater detail about matters before Council in the months ahead. We thank her for her service to Hopkinson House and wish her well in whatever comes next for her.

Our manager, **Melissa Port**, takes note of the kinds of changes that spring brings to Hopkinson House, including those that impact how we live happily together under one roof. She also introduces us to two new employees, both on our housekeeping staff. Reminding us of the upcoming Council elections, she provides the essential dates and information so that all owners can participate.

The Philadelphia Flower Show was back where it belonged in the Convention

Center for the first time in three years. **Dennis McGlade** tells us of the difficulties the show experienced when it was held outdoors in often inclement weather in 2021 and 2022. He also reminds us of the importance of this oldest and largest show of its kind in the world to our city's well-being.

**Martha Cornog** acquaints us with the son of the man we know as the architect of Hopkinson House. Oskar Stonorov's son, Derek, is not an architect but a naturalist who has long studied the bears of Alaska. He has now published a book, *Watch the Bear*, which recounts his experiences. Martha shares a bit of its flavor and lets readers know how to obtain a copy.

The Washington Square Citizens' League is fully up and running again after a state close to hibernation (there's that bear image again) during the COVID pandemic. My article should acquaint readers who may

# on the HOUSE

The Newsletter of  
Hopkinson House • Spring 2023



be new to our community with the League's activities and remind others of the variety of ways you can take advantage of, and participate in, the work of our very own civic association.

Our resident illustrator of the beauties of Washington Square, **Michael Neff**, provides close-up views of another wild animal, the friendly squirrels that inhabit our park as well as Independence Square. He gives us a charming pictorial sense of their history, heritage, and relationships to the two-legged creatures that stop by to feed them.

In an essay that is both a reflection on the horrors of war and commentary on fine art, **Concha Alborg** looks at two artists' masterpieces, a painting by Pablo Picasso and a print by Francisco Goya. She sees in them not merely their relationship to particular historical conflicts, but how they provide universal messages in their exploration of the consequences of war.

Back again in our own neighborhood, **Joseph Quinn** tells us the history of the Victory Building, a landmark structure only blocks from us on Chestnut Street. Readers of a certain age may remember when it had fallen into wrack and ruin

and seemed destined for demolition. Read how it came to be reborn.

Older, even, than the Victory Building (by roughly three thousand years), Nefertari's tomb in ancient Egypt is the subject of a fascinating essay by **Jane Hickman**. She lets us see through both words and pictures why this wondrous crypt is considered by many as the finest treasure of all from that long-ago civilization that has given the world so many treasures.

Yet a different kind of departure is **Martha Cornog's** examination of the remarkably acute sense of smell possessed by our canine friends. You probably know how dogs recognize other creatures, including you, with their noses. But did you know that they can also sniff out diseases and are being trained to detect the COVID-19 virus on passengers arriving at airports? Dogs have much to teach us when it comes to scents.

Don't miss our Chef's Corner and two recipes from **Johanne Lamarche** that nearly shout the news that spring is here. Since one recipe is for a main course and the other for dessert, you need look no further for a delightful meal tonight. ■

Occasional Photo by Dennis McGlade



# on the HOUSE

## Newsletter Committee

Nelly Childress, editor emerita  
Lynn Miller, editor and  
Committee Chair  
Concha Alborg  
Martha Cornog  
Jane Hickman  
Theresa Kowalski  
Johanne Lamarche  
Joseph Quinn

## Council Liaison

Theresa Kowalski

## Graphic Design

Parallel-Design.com

## Advertising

Jason Love  
jasonhhoa@outlook.com

## Photography

Jane Hickman  
Johanne Lamarche  
Dennis McGlade  
Michael Neff  
Joseph Quinn

## Issue Contributors

Concha Alborg  
Martha Cornog  
Jane Hickman  
Johanne Lamarche  
Dennis McGlade  
Lynn Miller  
Michael Neff  
Joseph Quinn

## Hopkinson House Council

604hopkinson@gmail.com

## Website

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

## Message from Council

Theresa Kowalski



March at Hopkinson House signals not just the coming of spring but the coming of HHOA Council elections. We also take stock of the year just ended and projects for the year to come as the Council prepares to change. With 2023 being the last year I will serve on the council, I begin by looking back to 2019 when I was first elected, and everything that we had changed or worked on during the interim four years.

When I was first elected in 2019, I explained as my platform that I would focus on three issues:

- Getting the HVAC project underway since it was then 15 years overdue;

- Figuring out the financing for the project since reserves had not been built up enough to pay outright for it; and

- Improving communications since the coordination of such a large project would require more formalized, frequent communication.

I also intended to include updates on some of the more troublesome issues that have continued to follow us, such as the research and fixes that have gone into the problems created by the freezing pipes over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. However as I began writing even the highlights of the last few years and projects, it became a little longer than what is usually printed in *on the House*. So after speaking to the editor, we decided that I would give this short explanation in the newsletter, and that the status report on everything the Council has worked on and accomplished would be sent out separately to everyone as a letter.

But I would like to finish by saying that it has been my pleasure and an honor to serve as president of your Council for these four years and to work with: the talented and generous volunteers who have also served on Council and committees; the general manager, Melissa Port, who stepped into the job on a moment's notice, IMO, which has been the best partner the council has had so far in this building; and the employees who have befriended and helped me so much in the last few years with last-minute meeting arrangements, cleaning the core-ex on one floor THREE times in one day, giving me advice on how to approach "certain" tenants, always coming at whatever hour to open up my garbage disposal, and sharing proud stories of their children's accomplishments whether it's in college or graduate school or medical school or on the collegiate basketball court. Thanks again to everyone! ■

## 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.



## Message from Management

Melissa Port



**H**appy Spring! Hopefully, by the time this edition is published, the weather has warmed, and the winter chill has thawed. The Management team is looking forward to walks in Washington Square park and lunch breaks in our beautiful courtyard. I am sure our residents are also looking

forward to time on their balconies again. Remember to be mindful when watering plants on your balconies. Overwatering spills onto your neighbors below and onto the street, raining on innocent passersby. Also, greenery and furnishings may not be higher than your balcony wall, so please keep this in mind when decorating!

Don't forget to vote in this year's Council election! All votes are due by 5 p.m. on April 19. If you need assistance with e-voting or would like a paper ballot, please contact Stephanie McCool in the Management office at 215-923-1776 x115. Please be sure to attend our

virtual Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 20, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held via Zoom, as well as broadcast on the in-house channel 97.

Springtime brings newness and change to Hopkinson House, including some additions to our wonderful staff. If you've noticed two fresh smiling faces in your hallways recently, vacuuming and mopping up construction debris, you've probably met Rashid Jackson and Anthony Lewis, our newest housekeepers. Be sure to say hello to our dynamic duo if you spot them on your floor and help us welcome them to the HH family.

Better weather means exterior residential window cleaning! Weather permitting, windows will be washed in early May. We understand the most recent window cleaning was less than satisfactory, so our team is coordinating with our washers to make sure this time everything goes smoothly and sparkles. Management will send out and post notices with exact dates and times closer to the cleaning.

Please contact the Management Office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to a bright and pleasant spring season with you all. ■

## Remember to Vote in the May 16 Primary

**V**oting couldn't be easier for residents of Hopkinson House: just take an elevator to our lobby, where you can mark your ballot. Hours are from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16. If you haven't yet registered to vote, you have until May 1 to do so.



Contest-winning *I Voted!* sticker designed by Katie Fish

Our Washington Square Citizens League makes that easy as well; they will staff a desk in the lobby where you may register either on Friday, April 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. or on Saturday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This spring's primary election is mostly about how Philadelphia is to be governed over the next several years. It presents slates of would-be nominees for mayor, members of City Council, and various row offices. Registered Democrats will choose their candidate for mayor from a field of twelve wannabes and then choose five hopefuls for at-large seats in City Council from a list of 29. Yes, there are

choices for Republicans to make as well—though not for mayor, where a single Republican is in the race—but Democrats who are successful in the primary are far more likely to win in November, given the far greater number of registered Democrats than Republicans in Philadelphia. Keep in mind that the list of candidates could shrink by May 16, depending upon the outcome of legal challenges alleging problems with nomination petitions or other procedural violations in a number of cases.

Voters will also select candidates to sit on Municipal Court and the Court of Common Pleas.


Finally, voters will weigh in on four ballot questions regarding:

- ♦ creating a Division of Workforce Solutions within Philadelphia's Department of Commerce;
- ♦ increasing minimum appropriations to the city's "Rainy Day Fund;"
- ♦ exempting employees of the Citizens Police Oversight Commission from civil service requirements; and
- ♦ establishing the Office of the Chief Public Safety Director to coordinate Philadelphia public safety responses.

Check your registration, study up, and we'll see you at the polls! ■

# Do a crazy Wonderful thing



at Penn's  Center for Living Donation

Not as crazy  
as it sounds!

**Save a Life, Change Your Own.**

Checking the donor box on your driver's license is great. But, with over 90,000 people on the waitlist for a kidney transplant, there still aren't enough organs. Today, while you're alive to feel great about it, you can become a living donor and save a life. And, if you donate a kidney to a stranger and a family member needs one, they get top priority for living donor transplant, too. Wonderful, huh?

Learn more wonderful things at [1.800.789.PENN](https://1.800.789.PENN) or [PennMedicine.org/LivingDonor](https://PennMedicine.org/LivingDonor)



**Penn Medicine**  
Transplant Institute

# Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 2023 Flower Show

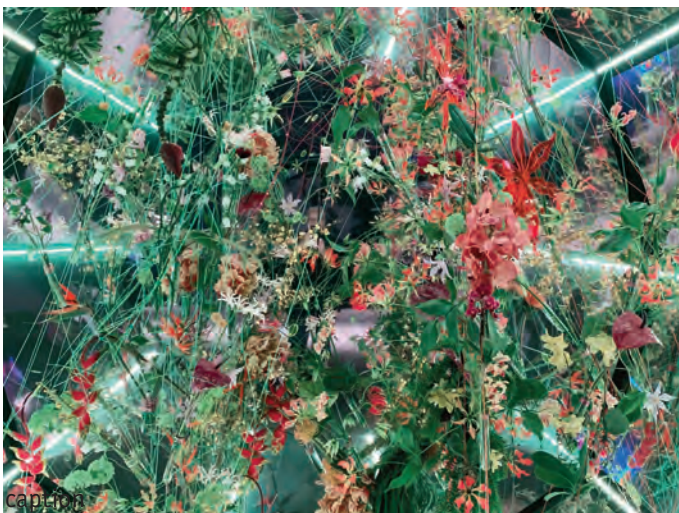
Dennis McGlade

The flower show was back in the Pennsylvania Convention Center this year after two years in exile in FDR Park, way down in South Philly. The move to the park in 2021 was in response to the COVID-19 lockdown and the need for social distancing due to the health risks to people gathering indoors. The weather for the show that was held in June of 2021 did not cooperate. It rained almost every day, with temperatures in the 90s. The humidity was like that in a tropical rain forest. Also, as this was the first outdoor flower show ever for PHS, the organization did not have years of experience working out of doors in that park as it did in the Convention Center. In spite of this litany of misfortunes, some people enjoyed the show outdoors. Unfortunately many more did not.

PHS was a quick learner and the 2022 flower show in FDR Park was much better organized. The weather was more cooperative. Of those who went to

the show in 2022, most were quite happy with the experience. However, not enough people went. Too many people who did not like the 2021 show stayed away from the 2022 show. Both of the FDR Park flower shows lost money. Endowment funds had to cover costs.

Anecdotal evidence seems to indicate that the crowds were back in the Convention Center this year. The financial success of the flower show is not only good for PHS but also for the city of Philadelphia. Historically, pre-COVID-19, the flower show drew one quarter of a million visitors and raised 1.5 million dollars. The proceeds from the show are used to support neighborhood programs, create community gardens, provide low-cost gardening programs, design and maintain free public gardens, and plant trees. The PHS programs contribute to the civility of living in Philadelphia. It's in everyone's interest who lives in the city to support PHS and the flower show. ■



Photos by Dennis McGlade

# Unlocking the future of medicine.

What if you could get health care, at home?

What if one mRNA discovery could cure multiple diseases?

What if we could cure more cancers, stop dementia and offer treatments so personal, they're invented for you alone?

At Penn Medicine, our history of finding answers comes from our courage to ask the big questions.



Penn Medicine | What's next.

# Watch the Bear: Another Stonorov Accomplishment

Martha Cornog

**P**atriot Benjamin Franklin's son broke with his father to side with the British in the Revolutionary War. Singer Paul McCartney's daughter makes pottery for a living. Actor Willem Dafoe's son wields words and ideas as a public policy researcher. And the son of Hopkinson House architect Oskar Stonorov studies bears in Alaska.

The Summer 2018 issue of *on The House* ran an interview with Derek, which concluded: "And I'm working on a book about my life with bears." Now, five years later, Bison Books has come out with his captivating *Watch the Bear: A Half Century with the Brown Bears of Alaska*. Another word used for those "brown bears" is *grizzly*.

We in Hopkinson House can watch birds and squirrels in Washington Square, but watching thousand-pound, unpredictable animals in unpredictable Alaskan weather is another thing altogether. Except to Derek, brown bears are not unpredictable. Every individual bear differs in appearance and personality, yet all

bears show general behavior patterns that an experienced and devoted naturalist can "read" as they could read the mood of a family member from the way they walk into a room.

Now Derek's skill with bears did not come easily or quickly. In *Watch the Bear*, we follow our narrator as an eager-eyed college student, on his first Alaska bear-watching trip with his girlfriend Molly and an equally naïve collaborator named Howie, a couple of borrowed boats, and tons of supplies. All the towns had Russian or indigenous names, and a local Aleutian delicacy consisted of sugar, powdered milk, blueberries, and Crisco. The temperature often dropped into the 40s, with severe wind and rain always likely, and this was during an Alaskan *summer*. Fortunately, the local people were friendly, and Derek soon found himself on "Aleutian Standard Time"—taking everything slowly and savoring his new education.

After a half-dozen or so bear-watching summers connected with academic work, Derek and Molly



Photo by John Schoen

Bear-watching with Derek Stonorov and a female brown bear, July 2014, Alaska Peninsula

moved to Alaska and raised a family, Derek taking on carpentry and building log houses (an echo of his dad's career?) to pay the bills. But later he returned to full-time bear-watching, working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, leading tourist trips to McNeil River Falls and other viewing sites, assisting film crews, and always keeping journals of what the bears did.

The next time you spot birds and squirrels in

our park, maybe even a hawk swooping in on a tasty pigeon, you can remember Derek Stonorov enthralled with the Alaskan wild. His new book will take you there with appealing immediacy.

*Watch the Bear: A Half Century with the Brown Bears of Alaska*, by Derek Stonorov, Bison Books, 2023, 209p., \$21.95. Available through Head House Books, 619 South 2nd Street, or from online booksellers. ■

## NickMeli, Jr. CONTRACTING

**Specializing in:**  
Interior/Exterior Reonvations  
Kitchens and Bathrooms  
Electircal/Plumbing  
Soundproofing  
All Carpentry/Drywall  
**Free estimates, just ask!**

PHONE  
215-342-9961

FAX  
215-942-9118

WEB  
nmjrcontracting.com

E-MAIL  
info@  
nmjrcontracting.com

Licensed and  
Insured

LOUIE  
DICICCO  
CONSTRUCTION  
215|694|6443  
Ldcinc@hotmail.com

SPECIALIZING IN BATHS,  
KITCHENS, CARPENTRY  
AND TILE WORK

• LOCAL REFERENCES  
• FREE ESTIMATES  
• LICENSED & INSURED



# Our Very Own Civic Association

Lynn Miller

No doubt, most of our readers are familiar with the Washington Square Citizens League (WSCL), but for those who are not or would like to know more, this is for you.

The WSCL was organized in 1996 and registered as a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2009. But years earlier, residents were treated to periodic presentations in the solarium by local politicians and others on the major political issues of the day. That was largely thanks to the initiative of the late Nancy Snyder, who was both a resident owner of Hopkinson House and a realtor responsible for a number of apartment sales in our building after it became a condominium in 1980. She shared her dream with another owner, Nelly Childress (who is now the editor emerita of this newsletter) and together they breathed life into the project. Over time, the two women concluded that to ensure a genuine residential community, such efforts called for an organization to promote civic-mindedness. The result was the 1996 creation of today's League. (Full disclosure: I served as WSCL president long ago, succeeding each of those ladies, who were the first two presidents of the organization.)

From the start, the purpose of the WSCL has been to foster and encourage involvement in the political and social issues then current. The organization itself is

nonpartisan. For about the first decade of its existence, its most visible feature was its regular presentations exploring current issues—typically related to the political life of Philadelphia—by local experts. Usually evening events held in our solarium to which all residents are invited, they have continued to the present, although with a hiatus for much of the last two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. From the beginning, League members have been encouraged to inform lawmakers and other decision-makers of their views on current issues.

Over the years, the League has offered additional activities in keeping with its mission. These include member-led discussion groups which deal with specific political issues. Examples of recent topics include the challenge posed by disinformation in our political discourse and the recent increase in anti-Semitism in the U.S. Shortly before we went to press, a program presented the platforms of the candidates for mayor in May's primary election. Another subset of members meets to discuss recent films of note, while a third acts as a book club. Now a mah-jongg group is also in the mix (its members undoubtedly discuss political and social issues while moving their tiles about). When elections are approaching, the League also sponsors days when residents may register to vote. See "Remember to Vote in the May 16

Primary" (p. 3) for the spring registration dates. That, like voting itself, takes place right in our elevator lobby.

All of this is offered to residents for the price of membership, which is yours at the shockingly low annual fee of \$10. No dues at all were collected from 2020 to 2022 when League activities came nearly to a halt because of the pandemic. With collections resuming this year, membership is lower than in pre-pandemic days and is currently at about the one hundred mark. That includes several individuals who don't live in our building but are neighbors. The fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

When evening presentations resume, they will surely draw large numbers of residents again. I was recently reminded that when *The Philadelphia Inquirer's* long-time columnist, Trudy Rubin, spoke in our solarium several years ago, the audience was the largest ever assembled in that space, and chairs had to be scrounged from elsewhere. Yes, all building residents, whether or not they are League members, are welcome to attend such presentations by local experts. But why be a free rider when membership fees are the best bargain in town?

Because the solarium will be off-limits during April and May thanks to HVAC work being done there, no League events are scheduled for that space during these months. However, two evening discussion groups will proceed in our court-



Photo by Lynn Miller

Gary Mucciaroni, Hopkinson House resident and Temple Professor of Political Science, leads a discussion group.

yard in May, dates and topics to be announced. The solarium is expected to reopen after Memorial Day. Then early next fall, Hopkinson House resident and Penn professor David Silverman will provide what is sure to be a fascinating look at ancient Egypt. He will focus on the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun, which was found almost intact a century ago, filled with great treasures. Dr. Silverman is the long-time curator in charge of the Egyptian collection at the Penn Museum and one of the leading authorities on that ancient civilization.

If you tell your friends and acquaintances in other Philadelphia condominiums about our Washington Square Citizens League, they are likely to react with amazement, for few others have created such organizations. Ours is the kind of extra amenity that makes living here special.

My thanks to the current president of the WSCL, David Kurkowski, for the information he contributed to this article. ■

# Our Squirrels

Michael Neff

If you live near Washington Square or Independence Square, you notice how delighted the tourists and their children are by the antics of our squirrels. Sometimes I wonder, “Don’t you have squirrels back home, where you come from?” Then I think, “Maybe our squirrels and their frolicking are truly special amongst animal performers? Like the apes of Gibraltar, or the lemurs of Madagascar?” Of course, some of my friends think the squirrels are just rats with fluffy tails.

In the 1850s, after *Walden* made Henry David Thoreau a hermit-celebrity, Ralph Waldo Emerson urged him go on the lecture circuit to promote his book.

Being a stay-at-home sort, Thoreau needed coaxing. He didn’t need the money. Fame didn’t appeal to him. And the woods of New England satisfied his travel urge. But Emerson insisted, and Thoreau traveled to Philadelphia to speak at Independence Hall. In her biography of the man, Laura Dassow Walls describes his visit:

*“Thoreau stayed in America’s first capital for just one day. First thing in the morning he*

*headed for the State House, where the Declaration of Independence had been signed, and climbed to the top of the cupola to look over the city (though he preferred the squirrels bustling around his feet to the great historical sites).”*

Sitting in the same park as had Thoreau and watching the squirrels, I thought, “These are the descendants of the squirrels back then!”

Lost in reverie, I saw two men exit the rear door of Independence Hall and



Scampering squirrels on a sycamore



Squirrels

Paintings by Michael Neff



Squirrel on a ribbon (after Copley)



Squirrel with acorn

thought, “Franklin and Washington must have looked like that when they stepped out from their great negotiations for a breath of air. Two regular guys. And the ancestors of our squirrels probably hustled them for nuts.” Squirrel Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution.

In their centuries of life on the squares, the squirrels have become entertainers. Their best act is with the

dogs. The squirrel taunts, the dog chases, the squirrel runs up a tree just in time. We watch this countless times. The dog never catches the squirrel. He’d be appalled to. The squirrel *tempts*; the dog *chases*; we *watch*; and the squirrel runs up the tree. We never tire of the drama. Everyone goes home exercised, and happy.

Some humans want a part in the play. They are the feeders. Peanuts and popcorn. Beneficiaries are the Nuts to You store on Walnut Street, and pigeons.

There are several styles of human feeder. Some throw one nut or popped corn at a time, and the animals scramble for it. Some hold the morsel

in their fingers and wait for the critter to eat from their hand. And some scatter the feed around themselves and play St. Francis.

Unbridled levity, of course, is mere frivolity, so the role of the grim reaper is played by the hawk. Rare and noble visitor to the ground, majestic and fearsome when he lands, the hawk culls the flock, sits for a while, then ascends to his gyre. The park is hushed in awe, then goes back to its circus. ■

**SHOP SMALL. SHOP LOCAL. SHOP FRESH.**



**Congrats!**  
#1 Public Market  
in America

Shop in store or order online for  
curbside pickup or Mercato delivery.



ReadingTerminalMarket.org  
51 N. 12th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215.922.2317  
Open Daily 8AM-6PM





**SMART  
RESPONSIVE  
EXPERIENCED**  
**Bari Shor**  
**Real Estate  
MatchMaker**

Whether you're selling or buying  
a home in amazing Center City,  
Bari Shor cares and *delivers* for you.

I am your neighbor,  
let me be your Realtor,<sup>®</sup> too!



**BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices  
Fox & Roach, REALTORS<sup>®</sup>

**215-287-5260**  
**BARIBSHOR@GMAIL.COM**  
**215-627-6005**



**Hi Tech. Hi Touch.**  
A Winning Combination—  
in Person and on the Web!

**Buying? Selling?**  
Call or email your neighbor,  
Rosemary Fluehr.

**Know someone who's  
Buying or Selling?**  
Let me know. Referrals are  
the strength of my business.



**Rosemary Fluehr**  
Associate Broker, GRI  
215-514-9884 – Cell  
215-440-8195 – Direct  
215-627-6005 – Office

rosemary.fluehr@foxroach.com  
www.rosemaryfluehr.com  
530 Walnut Street, Suite 480  
Philadelphia, PA 19106



**BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices  
Fox & Roach, REALTORS<sup>®</sup>



**mediacopy**

**Your vision is our mission**  
Print with the team that prides itself in  
customer service and satisfaction

**MORE THAN JUST COPIES**

- Virtual Meeting Materials
- COVID-19 Resources
- Product Management and Fulfillment
- Nationwide reach
- Business Printing
- Fabric and Vinyl Printing
- Envelopes
- Postcards
- Booklets
- Media Kits
- Posters
- Banners
- Architectural Drawings
- Signage
- Brochures
- Promotional Items
- Stickers
- Packaging Labels
- Screen Printing

Philadelphia: 215.717.5151 | Media: 610.566.8499  
www.mediacopyonline.com | www.goody-guru.com

# Women and War

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

I write these words on March 8, International Women's Day, and am thinking about the one-year anniversary of the Russian War on Ukraine. At the beginning of the war, Trudy Rubin, *The Philadelphia Inquirer's* foreign correspondent, compared the bombing of Guernica to the destruction in Mariupol, Ukraine.

Guernica, the Basque town destroyed by German planes during the Spanish Civil War, was immortalized by Picasso in his monumental painting by the same name. Picasso painted it in just three weeks to commemorate the bombing of the Basque town by the German Luftwaffe that supported Franco's forces during the Spanish Civil War. More than one thousand residents of Guernica were killed in the air raid, and the painting represented Spain in the Paris International Exhibition of 1937.

The Cubist mural measures 11.5 feet by 25.5 feet, and it is structured in the classical shape of a triptyc. On the right rectangle, a woman cries with her arms extended to an opening, trying to



*Que Valor!* from *Disasters of War* series, Francisco Goya, ca. 1820.

escape from the house in flames. On the left side, a mother—of the five human figures represented, four are women—screams with a dead child in her arms. On the middle triangle, one woman carries a light and the other drags her broken knee on the ground. The only man, perhaps a peasant working in his field, lies shattered with a knife and a flower in his hand. The people are noncombatants since they are barefooted. The horse in the middle also cries in despair and the proud bull on the left could represent Spain.

Francisco Goya (1746–1828), another Spanish painter, also illustrated war

and its consequences. After a serious illness that rendered him deaf and sickly for the rest of his life, he made his *Caprichos*, a series of 80 aquatint etchings, full of wit and sardonic humor, which depicted human foibles. When the French troops of Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Spain, Goya was traumatized by the horrors he witnessed and he produced his next series of etchings, *The Disasters of War* (1810–1820), which serve as prelude to his *Dark Paintings* at the end of his life when he was dying, isolated from the court, and practically in exile.

What Goya appraises in his 82 *Disasters* is not only

violence itself, but what violence brings with it, like hunger, desolation, death, rape. It's worth noticing that at least 18 of these etchings emphasize the role of women as victims and protagonists during the war: *Women Give Strength*, when they are fighting alongside the men; *And They are Fierce*, when a mother with a child on her hip attacks a French soldier; *To Bury and to Silence*, the woman who cries in the presence of dead bodies; *The Woes of War*, the bombing of civilians with a woman in the foreground; *Unfortunate Mother*, whose orphan child cries behind her body. And so many more. Perhaps the most famous of these brave women is Agustina de Aragón in *What Courage*, referring to her defense of Zaragoza, Goya's hometown, as she fought with a cannon over the bodies of her dead allies.

On one of my trips to Madrid I saw an exhibit, *Goya, Chronicler of All Wars*, that showed Goya's *Disasters of War* as if it were an early example of war photography. Its poignant catalog includes photographs of the Crimean War of 1854–56, the American Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Spanish Civil War, World War II, Vietnam, up to the First and Second Gulf Wars when television brought us direct coverage for the first time. Needless to say, an exhibit of this magnitude would have to include nowadays the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian forces. ■



*Guernica*, Pablo Picasso, 1937. Image source: Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía.

# The Victory Building

Joseph Quinn

The structure occupying a large chunk of the 1000 block of Chestnut Street, known as the Victory Building, began life in 1875 as the home of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.<sup>1</sup> What we see today is much different than the original building designed by Henry Fernbach (1829–1883). It has survived several major structural changes, not to mention a near-death experience when it was almost lost to demolition. That fate was avoided, thanks to a crusade by the preservation community, press, and public opinion, that ensured the survival of this architectural treasure.

Prussian-born Fernbach received his architectural training at the Building Academy in Berlin and emigrated to New York in 1849. Architectural Historian Joy Kestenbaum notes that before his untimely death at age 54, Fernbach had gained a reputation as “the preferred architect of the Jewish community.” Of several synagogues he designed, the most prominent is the Central Synagogue (1870–1872) in Manhattan, which, according to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, is “the finest example of Moorish Revival architecture in New York City.”

While many of Fernbach’s synagogue commissions were in the Moorish Revival mode, he also demonstrated an affinity for the French Second Empire school in his

non-religious New York projects. His design for the now-demolished Harmonie Club (1865–66) features a mansard roofline and other details associated with the French Renaissance Revival, anticipating his work in Philadelphia.

For the Philadelphia outpost of the insurance behemoth, Fernbach designed an imposing edifice on a prominent corner, with frontages on both Chestnut and 10th Streets. It has three substantial stories (with a raised basement “half story” at street level). He capped it with a steeply sloping mansard roof, the primary signature of the French Second Empire school (1852–1870).<sup>2</sup>

The Victory Building is faced in gray Rhode Island granite, giving it a unified surface appearance. But look closely between the third and fourth floors, and you can see where a major alteration was made. In 1891, the mansard roof was detached and three stories, designed by Phillip W. Roos, were added, slightly set back from the original. A simplified version of the mansard roof replaced the original, giving us the seven-story structure we see today. The additional stories retained the rounded corner that defines the building’s profile and distinguishes it from its boxy neighbors.

Fernbach used many features of French classical design to enliven the building. The Chestnut Street façade is defined vertically by three layers of recessed



Image source: Athenaeum of Philadelphia

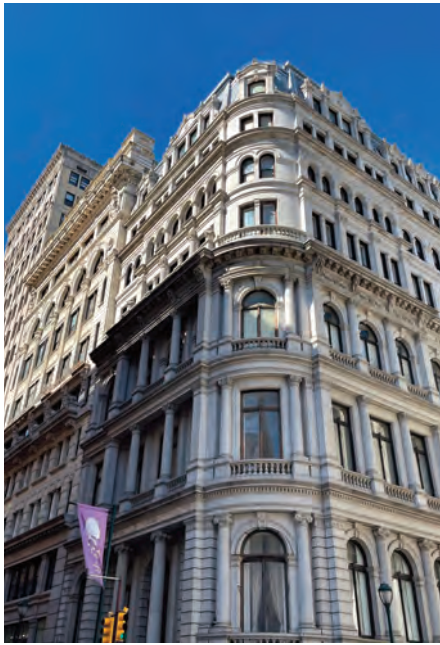
The Victory Building as it looked in 1901, with additional three stories on top and annex to the left. Moses King, *Philadelphia and Notable Philadelphians*, 1902.

window bays fronted by balustraded balconies, framed by majestic, fluted Ionic columns. Broad steps lead to an imposing entrance of oversized doors. Prominent cornices provide horizontal definition between each level. Tall arched windows grace the first floor. Moving upward, the window treatment alternates between arched and flat. On the floors he added above, Roos repeated many of the patterns used by Fernbach, but on a smaller, more restrained scale.

Fernbach embellished the 10th Street side with a free hand, scattering balconies, balustrades, pillars, pilasters (flattened pillars), keystones, swags, and medallions across an expansive façade more than twice the size of that on Chestnut. In the middle hangs a ceremonial balcony fit for a royal visit. Perhaps because of the vast scale, the ornate touches are not distracting, but blend into a richly detailed, dramatic panorama. continued on page 13

## The Victory Building

continued from page 12



The distinctive curved profile of the Victory Building on the NW corner of 10th and Chestnut Streets. To the left is the annex attached in 1901.

With its ten-story height, white brick surface, and thick frosting of terra cotta ornamentation, the extension conjoined to the Victory in 1901, designed by the Roos & Brosam firm, seems determined to outdo and overshadow its neighbor on the corner. However, before we judge its operatic exuberance too harshly,

consider an alternative one block away—a new skyscraper monotonously sheathed in opaque wavy glass walls.

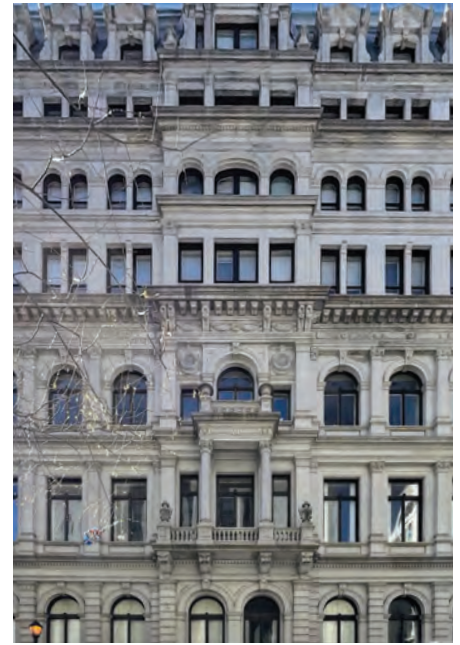
Beauty and the beast?

Since its days as the dignified home of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, the Victory has undergone a series of undignified



On the architrave over the first floor, one can see where the name of the building's first tenant—the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York—was erased.

tribulations. After years of neglect by a notorious owner/developer, and a damaging fire in 1982, the building was widely deplored as an eyesore and a “blighting influence on Chestnut Street.” This neglect and deterioration occurred despite its inclusion in the Philadelphia and National Registers of Historic Places.



The expansive 10th Street façade, twice the size of that on Chestnut, is a festival of ornate French Revival design.

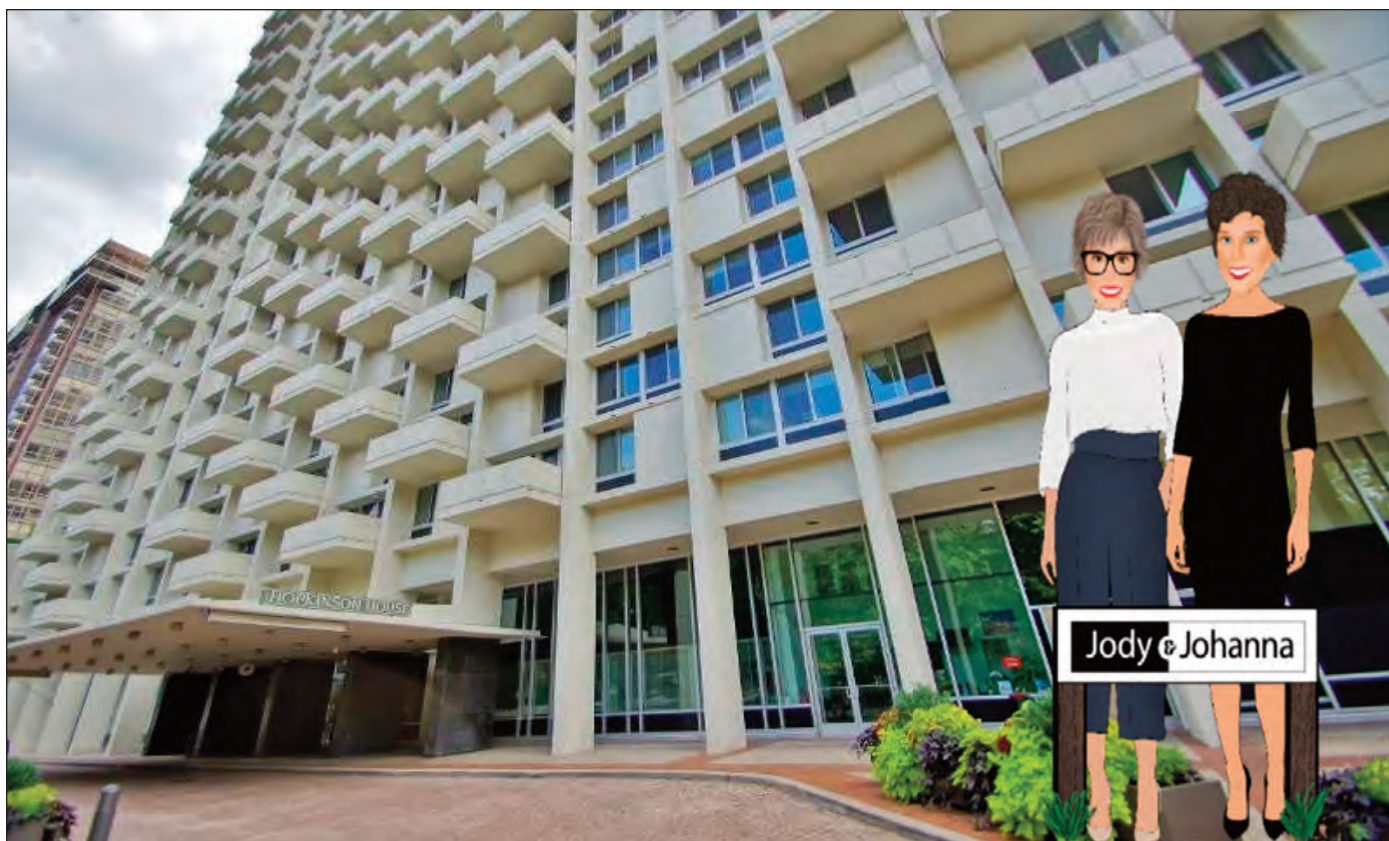
In 1992, the landlord received a permit to demolish after refusing to make much needed repairs and improvements to the deserted shell. That final indignity was avoided thanks to a concerted effort spearheaded by the Preservation Coalition (now the Preservation Alliance), progressive elements of continued on page 15

Photos by Joseph Quinn



Image source: Athenaeum of Philadelphia

A view of the North side of the 1000 block of Chestnut Street. Fernbach's Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York is at far right. Note the elaborate mansard roofline. *Baxter's Panoramic Business Directories*, 1880.



**“Smart people don’t take unnecessary chances. If you faced a legal or medical challenge, you would want the best experts you could get standing by your side. In the world of Philadelphia Real Estate, Jody Dimitruk and Johanna Loke are the team you need. In a highly specialized world that can be confusing to outsiders, Jody & Johanna know what is possible---and what is not. Widely respected for their candor and integrity, Jody & Johanna are careful listeners who understand what their clients need---and help them to find it.”**

**Dick Levinson**

### **EXPERIENCE MATTERS**

Johanna Loke and Jody Dimitruk have been selling condominiums in Philadelphia for over 35 years. You deserve to work with real estate agents who are completely focused on your needs. Whether buying or selling a condominium in Philadelphia, Contact us and experience the difference. See the results!

**Jody & Johanna**

Jody Dimitruk | Johanna Loke  
215.480.4964 | 215.350.0922  
jody@jodydimitruk.com | johanna@johannaloke.com

**BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY**  
HOMESERVICES

**FOX & ROACH,  
REALTORS®**

112 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 200, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-546-0550

## The Victory Building

continued from page 13

the city government, and fueled by prominent coverage in the press.<sup>3</sup> The controversy brought the issue of architectural preservation into the limelight and put pressure on “the powers that be” to develop measures to protect structures certified as historic. The struggle to preserve such buildings is ever-present in our city, with its abundance of architecturally significant properties spanning more than three centuries. Even today, with the efforts of preservation groups, city ordinances, committees, and review boards, an outcome in favor of preserving threatened

historic structures is never assured.

In 2005, new owners completed a full-scale renovation of the Victory Building. It houses a mix of commercial, non-profit, and residential tenants. While its exterior is fully restored, the commercial street-level spaces hardly reflect the spirit or letter of the magnificent craftsmanship on display above.

Every time I approach that corner, I take a moment to feast my eyes on its opulence and remind myself to be grateful for the survival of this iconic Center City landmark. ■

## Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> The building acquired its current name when it was sold to the Victory Realty Company in 1920.
- <sup>2</sup> This makes it kin stylistically to another local version of the Second Empire style, Philadelphia City Hall (1871-1901), designed by John McArthur Jr. and Thomas Ustick Walter.
- <sup>3</sup> The building’s declining fortunes were chronicled over the years in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. For example, see: “The sad decline of the historic victory building,” Thomas Hine, April 7, 1991, F1.

## Sources and Further Reading

Samuel D. Gruber, “Remembering Architect Henry Fernbach,” *Jewish Art and Monuments*, November 12, 2015.

Joy Kestenbaum, “Henry Fernbach. His Associates and His Legacy,” *Jewish Architects—Jewish Architecture?*, Michael Imhof Verlag, 2021.

“Landmark Victory Building victorious again,” *Philadelphia Business Journal*, June 10, 2002.

Patrick M. Starr, “Victory on Chestnut,” *My City Paper*, February 12-18, 2004, originally published in the *Philadelphia City Paper*.

**Celebrate CINCO DE MAYO and  
Spring with your neighbors at  
HOPKINSON HOUSE**

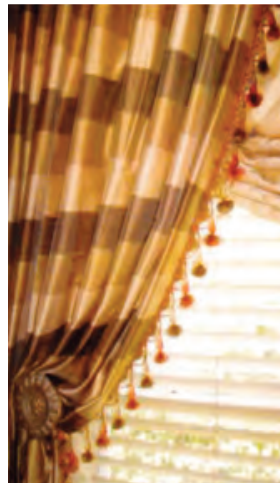


**When:** May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 5:30 to 7:30 pm  
**Where:** Hopkinson House Courtyard  
**BYOB (bring your own beverages)**  
**Wear your favorite colorful apparel**  
**Appropriately themed snacks will be provided**

*This event brought to you by the  
Hopkinson House Social Committee*

Questions? Email HHsocom@gmail.com

## CUSTOM DRAPERIES by Merritt J Salvatore



Draperies	Professional
Blinds	Drapery Cleaning
Shades	Old-World
Shutters	Re-Upholstery
Verticals	Alterations
Valances	and Repairs

You are entitled to a complimentary, on-site consultation (\$90 value) for any of the services we provide. This certificate is also good towards

**20% OFF  
YOUR ORDER**

**SINCE 1970  
LICENSED & INSURED  
ALL WORK FULLY GUARANTEED**

Call 215-547-2880 today to schedule an appointment or email [merrittcdi@aol.com](mailto:merrittcdi@aol.com)

[customdraperiesbymjs.com](http://customdraperiesbymjs.com)

# The Enduring Beauty of an Egyptian Queen

Jane Hickman

On a trip to Egypt in December, 2022, I was fortunate to have a guided tour of the Tomb of Nefertari Merytm, the Egyptian queen and royal wife of Rameses II (the Great). Nefertari was the first wife of this famous pharaoh, who ruled for 66 years during the New Kingdom's 19th Dynasty (1279 BCE – 1213 BCE). Rameses II had many queens and over 100 children, but Nefertari was considered his favorite wife. Her name is said to mean “most beautiful one” or “beautiful companion.”

Rameses II built a spectacular tomb (QV 66) for Nefertari in the Valley of the Queens as well as a temple dedicated to her and the goddess Hathor at Amu Simbel. The Valley of the Queens, near the Valley of the Kings, is a cemetery containing the graves of over 90 queens. From a distance, the tombs are barely visible; the sandy landscape is desolate with rectangular tomb entrances covered today with metal grates.



Two depictions of the queen without her plumed headdress. On the left, she holds an ankh (the symbol of life) and a was scepter. On the right, she offers pots of wine.

Most of these tombs were robbed in the past, including the tomb of Nefertari.

Some call the tomb of Nefertari the most stunning in all of Egypt, as the colorful wall paintings depict her being led by gods on her journey to the afterworld. She played a role in foreign diplomacy, writing letters and sending gifts to royalty in other lands. In one wall painting, she wears a pair of Greek earrings, which were sent to her as a gift. They

appear as white earrings, which probably means they were made of faience or silver. Nefertari died c. 1256 BCE at about the age of 44.

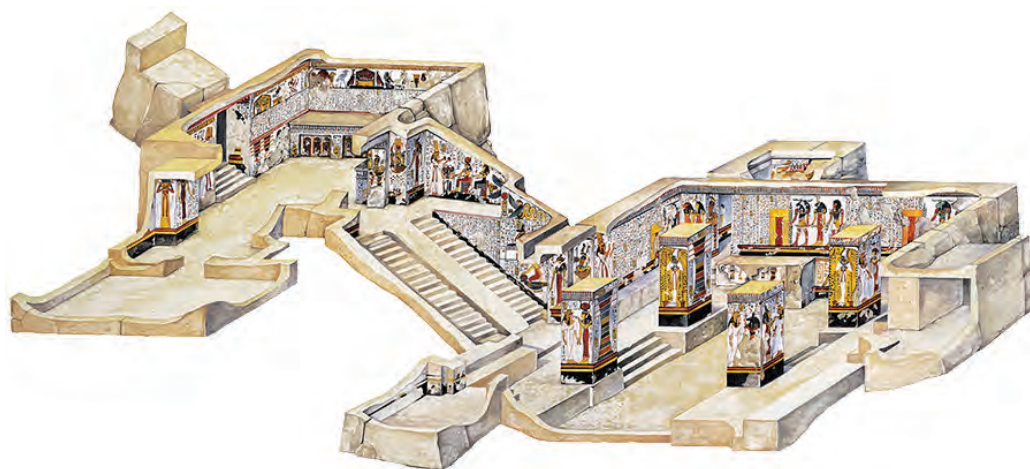
To protect the fragile wall paintings from moisture, the tomb was closed to the public for many years. In 1986, the Egyptian Antiquities Organization and the Getty Conservation Institute began a joint effort to conserve the paintings. Loose pieces of paint were secured, and the paintings

were cleaned and stabilized. No additional painting (in-painting) or restoration was done. The paintings are still vulnerable, and today, a limited number of people are allowed to enter the tomb each day.

*Note: Do not read further if you are uncomfortable reading about mummies.*

The mummy of Rameses the Great can be seen in the lower level of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in old Cairo, along with 19 other royal mummies. Out of respect for the deceased and sensitivity toward visitors, the mummies are not displayed in a sensational way. The galleries are dim, and no photography is allowed.

A guard told us what to expect before we walked down a ramp to enter the galleries. According to a study published in 2016 in *PLoS One*, the journal of science, the mummified legs of Nefertari may have been found when her plundered tomb was excavated in 1904. Tomb robbers in the past worked fast to find valuables in the mummy wrappings and may have taken the upper part of her body. Although the legs that were left in the tomb are of a woman of Nefertari's age, and the mummification process is consistent with what would have taken place at the time of her death, scientists who examined the remains cannot say conclusively that they belong to Nefertari. ■



Drawing of Queen Nefertari's tomb. By AUC Press, Elisabetta Ferrero/Archivio White Star

## The Enduring Beauty of an Egyptian Queen

continued from page 16



Nefertari with her twin-plumed headdress. The white earring she wears was a gift from Greece.



Photos by Jane Hickman

Main entrance to the tombs of queens and princesses from the 18th to the 20th Dynasty. Some princes are buried here as well.

### References & Further Resources

- Habicht, M.E., Bianucci, R., et al. 2016. Queen Nefertari, the Royal Spouse of Ramses II: A Multidisciplinary Investigation of the Mummified Remains Found in Her Tomb (QV 66). *PLoS One*, published online Nov 30, 2016.
- Hawass, Z. n.d. *The Royal Mummies Catalogue, and Their Final Resting Place*. Cairo: The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.
- McDonald, J.K. 1996. *The Tomb of Nefertari: House of Eternity*. Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press.
- Nasr, M. n.d. *Valley of the Queens: Queen Nefertari*. Cairo: Tiba.

**AJ Wehner**  
General Contracting, LLC

**Custom Kitchens and Baths**  
**Crown Moulding - Ornamental mill work**  
**Tile work - flooring**  
**\*need repairs and small jobs?**  
**When you call, ask for our**  
**handyman division**

**Fully insured**  
**A-1 Rating with the Better Business Bureau**

**609-654-8385 office**  
**609-923-5103 cell**  
**wehnercontracting.com**  
**jimwehner@comcast.net**

**Servicing the Philadelphia and**  
**South Jersey areas since 1989**

**PA. H.I.C. Reg. #PA061648**



**MICHAEL TORRES**  
**HARDWOOD**  
**FLOORING INC.**

All your flooring needs:

- Custom refinishing of your original floors and stairs
- New Installation — hardwood, engineered, laminate, cork, tile, vinyl wood plank
- Artisan borders and inlays

For free estimate:  
215-323-9919  
mtflooring@comcast.net

PA Licensed and fully insured



## Their Noses Know

Martha Cornog

The Shih Tzus, the pugs, the poodles, and a magnificent Borzoi take their morning meanders through Washington Square, leading their humans as they sniff their way among benches, sidewalks, and tree pits for the perfect place to squat or lift a leg. But elsewhere, other dogs with that sniffer of theirs lead their humans towards other, absent humans. Do the dog owners who walk their critters in our square realize the benevolent applications of their beloved pets' noses?

In sniffing out people, one type of canine-assisted team combs through woods, wilderness, and avalanches to find folks gone missing—hikers and skiers, hunters, children, boaters, “despondents,” or Alzheimer’s patients. Another such team staffed with “cadaver dogs” paws through earthquake sites, collapsed buildings, and burned-out structures.

Canine-detected cadavers may be not just people who have died accidentally but those killed on purpose. Dogs have found murder victims, putting killers behind bars, and have located burial sites of mass executions dating from World War II through the 1990s Balkan conflicts. The dogs can pick up scents from specific chemicals produced by decaying flesh. One dog found a dead wife more than four feet down and covered by a cement patio newly laid by her guilty husband.



Drug detection dog at airport searching luggage.



Mexico sends rescue dogs to help with Turkey Earthquake.

Some cadaver dogs hunt for humans dead for centuries, and have located ancient burial grounds in Croatia as well as early Native American gravesites. It seems that best results come when dog teams supplement ground-penetrating radar, geophysical data, soil analysis, and excavations. Lost slave cemeteries and Civil War sites also offer potential for dog-assisted investigations.

Astonishingly, dogs can be taught to smell our diseases. As of this past January, the University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Vet Working Dog Center is training Labrador retrievers to detect COVID-19 at airports, hospitals, and other places where humans congregate. Dogs can also smell certain forms of cancer when exposed to patients’ breath, plasma, urine, or saliva.

Some dogs search out much smaller forms of life—bedbugs, for instance. Many pest-control companies advertise the services of canines trained to pick up traces of bedbugs. But apparently the industry lacks controls, and so dogs from some services receive inadequate training and come up with false positives. Consumer advisers counsel homeowners to insist on seeing actual bugs before paying large sums for full-scale extermination treatments.

Dogs can also be educated to zero in on plant and industrially-produced compounds, like explosives, accelerants in arson, and illegal drugs. Penn Vet Working Dog Center trains canines in finding people, health threats like cancer and infections, explosives, and narcotics. Preferred breeds for successful sniffers include spaniels, retrievers, shepherds, and collies.

What’s so “know-sy” about dogs’ noses, anyhow? Dog noses don’t look like our own noses, and they don’t smell things the same way, either. The inside of their noses splits into two airways, one devoted solely to smelling. Moreover, the exhaled air doesn’t leave through their nostrils but through a side slit. So dogs can sniff pretty much continuously, assisted by their noses’ 300 million olfactory receptors. We humans have only about 6 million.

And the “smelling” part of a dog’s brain is forty times continued on page 19

## Their Noses Know

continued from page 18

larger than ours. Even wilder, dogs can wiggle their nostrils independently and can tell which nostril carries the strongest scent—it's like the dog can smell in stereo. This helps them zoom in on what direction to take to find the source of the scent. To seal the deal: dogs exhibit neophilia in relation to smell, meaning that they are drawn to new and intriguing odors. In fact, the sense of smell is the most dominant of the dog's senses, with hearing and sight next. Actually, though, the dogs themselves aren't personally attracted to all these various smells that interest people. It's a game for them—they work for a reward from their “best friend” handler-human.

So what can we poor humans do in the smell department? One test for wannabe wine stewards starts with 54 vials organized into aromatic groups—fruit, vegetable, and herb categories. Presumably, working wine staff in top restaurants can recognize at least as many. Certainly human noses, like muscles and voices, get more skillful with practice. The nose is way more sensitive than the tongue, and most of taste is actually smell. So one common side-effect of COVID-19, persistent changes in taste and smell, has proven devastating to chefs and wine people.

A little while ago, neuroscientists at West Philly's

Monell Chemical Senses Center put blindfolded human volunteers through a scent-tracking trial, even getting them down on all fours to follow the scent of chocolate essence across a grassy field. Results proved them much worse than dogs for the same task, but they got a good deal better after practicing for a few weeks.

Certainly, K9 rescue dog handlers can vicariously excel in the sniffer game through their enthusiastic canine comrades. It's not easy, however. Many handlers are volunteers, yet put in long classroom hours plus hours more away from their families while hiding in the woods or other wild areas. Considerable additional time must be spent on

in-the-field practice. Plus there's the cost of equipment, gasoline, and mileage as well as wear-and-tear on the body.

An acquaintance of mine heads up his family's successful high-end housewares business, but he's happy to delegate much of the managing to others while he and his wife run K9 teams in the rural south to find those missing hikers and skiers, hunters, children, boaters, despondents, and Alzheimer's patients adrift in the brush. For such dedicated people, rescue work can provide camaraderie and personal satisfaction like few other endeavors. Running these special dogs is their life. ■

### For Sale:

UNIT #2609 \$240K 1 BED 1 BATH, W/D

### For Rent:

UNIT #1115 1 BED 1 BATH W/D

### Under Contract:

UNIT #2006 LRG STUDIO (BUYER REPRESENTATION)

**kW** PHILADELPHIA  
KELLERWILLIAMS®

**JENNIFER GROSSKOPF**

*Give me a call today!*

Cell 215-498-4010

Office 215-600-0123

jengrosskopf@gmail.com

TheGrosskopfGroup.com

YOUR HOPKINSON HOUSE NEIGHBOR  
CAN BE YOUR REALTOR ® TOO!

**2022**  
**FIVE STAR**  
REAL ESTATE AGENT



Jennifer Grosskopf

10 Year Award Winner



Out of the 40,000 condos  
we've sold over the past 42 years,  
How many were at The Hopkinson House?  
Well over a thousand.

Looking to buy or sell a home here?  
Call us. We're Hopkinson House specialists.



## Allan Domb Real Estate

PHILADELPHIA'S LARGEST SELLING CONDOMINIUM REALTOR® WE COOPERATE WITH ALL REALTORS®  
1845 Walnut St. Suite 2200 Philadelphia 215.545.1500 allandomb.com domb@allandomb.com





**AD**  
**SELLING**  
**HOPKINSON**  
**HOUSE**

ALLAN DOMB REAL ESTATE



### Sunny Studio

Well proportioned efficiency with south-facing views and great natural light, a main space with parquet wood floors and ample room for both a bed and living area, a fully equipped modern kitchen, and an updated bathroom with pebbled tile floor and walk-in shower.

**415 sqft | Offered for**  
**\$169,900**



**PHILADELPHIA'S LARGEST SELLING CONDOMINIUM REALTOR® WE COOPERATE WITH ALL REALTORS®**  
1845 Walnut Street, Suite 2200, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215.545.1500 domb@allandomb.com allandomb.com



### Customizable Three Bed

Spacious, three bedroom, two bathroom residence with a private balcony showcasing views overlooking Washington Square, stunning natural light throughout, generous living space and great opportunity to update and customize to buyer's desires.

**1,700 sqft | Offered for**  
**\$700,000**



### Bright Two Bedroom

Sun soaked two bedroom one and a half bathroom providing a great open floorplan, parquet wood floors, walls of windows, see-forever southern views from the unit's private terrace, and generously sized bedrooms with excellent closet space.

**1,200 sqft | Offered for**  
**\$459,900**

# Spring Is in Season

Johanne Lamarche

When spring comes around, we are all craving some fresh, bright flavors. I want to be outdoors as much as possible and don't want to be stuck in the kitchen. This lemony shrimp and asparagus risotto showcases in-season asparagus and

is made start to finish in the microwave in less than a half hour. If you have shied away from making risotto in the past because of the labor involved, this is the recipe for you. Fool-proof, it only *tastes* like you were at the stove stirring it the whole time.

The easy rhubarb pound cake is moist, light and offers the flavors of spring in every delectable bite. The pretty pink rhubarb glaze dresses up the cake. The recipe can be divided and baked in smaller loaves that can be frozen. Enjoy! ■

## 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 Johanne Lamarche, frenchgardener@comcast.net.*

### Asparagus and Shrimp Microwave Risotto

Serves 6 to 8

#### Ingredients

Although risottos are often associated with colder weather this recipe is bursting with spring flavors and colors: in-season asparagus, fresh dill and lemony shrimp. I call it the cheater's risotto, since, unlike stove-top risottos that require nonstop stirring, this recipe is done from start to finish in the microwave with just a couple of quick stirrings. I have made it dozens of times, and it is always delicious and foolproof. Give it a whirl and see for yourself.

- 2 T butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1½ c Arborio rice
- 8 oz chicken stock
- 3½ c water
- ½ c white wine
- ½ lb asparagus, cut into ½-inch slices
- 1 yellow bell pepper, diced
- ½ lb cooked large shrimp, shell and tail off
- ¼ c fresh dill, chopped finely
- 1 c freshly grated parmesan or pecorino cheese
- zest of a lemon
- salt and pepper to taste

#### Directions

- 1 In a 12-cup microwave-safe dish, microwave butter on high for one minute, or until melted.
- 2 Stir in chopped onion. Cover the dish with plastic cling wrap and microwave for two minutes. Be careful uncovering after each step, as the content will be steamy hot.
- 3 Stir in rice and coat with butter. Cover and microwave for another two minutes.
- 4 Stir in broth, water and wine, making sure it is well combined. Cover and microwave for 10 minutes, stir, and then microwave for an additional 10 minutes.
- 5 Add asparagus and peppers and microwave covered for 10 minutes.
- 6 Stir in dill, shrimp, lemon zest and cheese. Let stand, covered, for five minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.



Spring ingredients for a seasonal risotto.



Delicioso!

Photos by Johanne Lamarche

## Spring Is in Season

continued from page 22

### Rhubarb Yogurt Pound Cake with Rhubarb Glaze

Serves 8

It's rhubarb season, and everywhere in farmers' markets the gorgeous stalks are awaiting transformation in the kitchen. This pound cake showcases tart slices of the fruit encased in a batter made with olive oil, yogurt, and scented with aromatic cardamom and orange zest.

Each bite still lets the beloved tartness of rhubarb shine. The result is a moist, delectable cake with a gorgeous pink rhubarb glaze. I divided the batter in mini loaves so I could freeze them. The recipe can make a classic loaf as well.



Making rhubarb syrup to glaze the pound cake.



Mini loaves fresh out of the oven.

### Ingredients

For the cake:

1½ c plus 1 T flour  
2 c rhubarb, cut in ½" slices  
1 c Greek yogurt  
1 c sugar  
3 large eggs  
zest of 1 large orange  
½ t vanilla extract  
½ c olive oil

2 t baking powder  
½ t ground cardamom  
½ t kosher salt  
butter to grease your pan

For the glaze:

1 c chopped rhubarb  
1 c sugar  
1 c water

### Directions

- 1 Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease either a mini loaf pan or full loaf pan with the butter. Toss the rhubarb with 1 T flour.
- 2 Combine the dry ingredients in a bowl: flour, baking powder, salt, cardamom.
- 3 Mix together the wet ingredients: eggs, sugar, zest, olive oil, yogurt, and vanilla.
- 4 Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet until just combined. Fold in the rhubarb. Pour batter into the prepared pan.
- 5 Bake in the center of the oven for 40–45 minutes if using a mini loaf pan or 50–60 minutes if using a full loaf pan.
- 6 To make the rhubarb syrup, bring the rhubarb, water and sugar to a boil, reduce heat and continue cooking until syrup is pink and able to coat the back of a spoon, about 10 minutes. Puncture the cake with a toothpick and pour the strained glaze over, while it is still warm.
- 7 Serve plain, or with a dollop of whipped cream, if desired.



Pound cake sliced and ready to eat!

# Washington Square Pharmacy

241 South 6th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Prompt Delivery Service!

Most 3rd Party Plans Accepted

Independently Owned

## **Business Hours**

Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Closed Sundays

Phone: 215-925-0300

215-925-1466

Fax: 215-829-0820



Some of our most recent sales at Hopkinson House

2517 | 2609 | 1710 | 813 | 2715

2507 | 1312 | 2407 | 2515 | 513 | 2605

2707-09 | 1517-18 | 2710 | 1809 | 1209

605 | 1513 | 209 | 1417-18 | 1312

Thinking about buying or selling a Hopkinson House  
condominium? Call us. We get the job done.



@AllanDombRealEstate



@AllanDombRealEstate

bright  
MLS



**Allan Domb Real Estate**

PHILADELPHIA'S LARGEST SELLING CONDOMINIUM REALTOR® WE COOPERATE WITH ALL REALTORS®

1845 Walnut Street, Suite 2200, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: 215.545.1500 allandomb.com domb@allandomb.com

