What's Inside

Lynn Miller

The President of our Hopkinson House Council, Sarah A. Kelly, begins by reminding us how and where to register to vote, along with voting procedures, in November's all-important election. She then discusses Council's work in preparing for next year's budget. She also remembers with affection our long-time, faithful doorman, the late Cliff Harris.

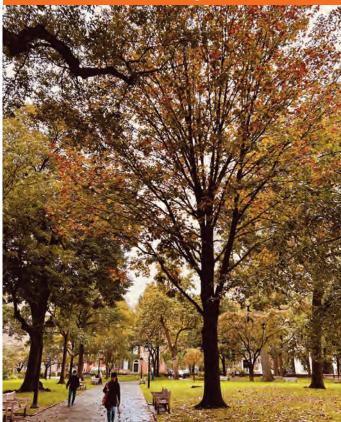
Gary van Niekerk, our

General Manager, reminds us how we make the transition within Hopkinson House as outdoor temperatures change from hot to cold. He then notes a number of building renovations we can expect in the near future. The façade restoration is now expected to start early in 2025.

The Committee Corner is now a regular feature, and includes whatever news our Hopkinson House committees choose to report. You can learn from Jean Papaj what all or most of our residence's standing committees have been up to. (No summary of the Newsletter Committee's work is included, since you are holding in your hand what we produce.) Some readers may be persuaded to volunteer their own service in the work of one or more committees. Our resident volunteers are those who keep things humming here to the benefit of all of us.

On November 5th, those residents not voting by mail will go to the polls in our lobby. In this presi-

Occasional Photo by Bari Shor





dential election year, the contest between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump has consumed by far the most attention. But **Gary Mucciaroni** returns with an article on the down-ballot races. Voters will also elect our representatives to Pennsylvania's state legislature.

Our faithful reporter, **Concha Alborg**, tells us of her interview with resident LJ Steinig, whose unusual career allows her to live at Hopkinson House while teaching full-time in Florida. You'll become acquainted with a most interesting young woman who now serves also as a member of our Council.

In mid-summer, **Bari Shor** recorded the ceremony at the rehanging of the Bicentennial Bell at a new location in Independence Park. Later in the summer, and not long after the **Lower Merion Woodwind Quintet** gave us a program in the solarium, **Michael Neff** captured the season's twilight in his paintings of trees in our front yard.

Philadelphia was at the center of the nation's political universe early in September when the two candidates competing to become President of the United States debated here. They met at the National Constitution Center, whose history I explore.

Summer is, of course, a time for travel, as Joseph Quinn well knows. He reports on his trip to northern New Mexico, where he engaged in the high culture available at Santa Fe's Opera Festival, then journeyed to nearby Ghost Ranch for a week of meditation in the high desert. Joe's account is a wonderful reminder of the marvelous varietyboth cultural and physical —to be found in America's vast landscape.

Because Martha Cornog's topic is bison, you might reasonably suppose that hers is also a story set in the West. But no, she focuses on nearby farms where bison are raised for the commercial value of their meat. She even tells you how and where to shop for bison roasts and steaks.

When you turn to the Chef's Corner, you'll find your tastebuds tantalized by the fall season recipes Johanne Lamarche has cooked up for you. Put together her triple cheese baked eggplant rigatoni, then follow it up with dessert, featuring her maple-glazed apple oatmeal cookies. Bon appetit!

Message from Council

Sarah A. Kelly

Newsletter Committee

- Conmittee Chair Concha Alborg Martha Cornog Jane Hickman Johanne Lamarche Michael Neff Joseph Quinn
- Council Liaison Sarah A. Kelly

Graphic Design Robin Siddall Parallel-Design.com

Advertising Jason Love jasonhhoa@outlook.com

Photography

Concha Alborg Martha Cornog Betta Kolansky David Kurkowski Michael Neff Joseph Quinn Bari Shor

Issue Contributors

Concha Alborg Jim Campbell Martha Cornog Joanna Farber Sarah A. Kelly Victoria Kirkham Johanne Lamarche Lynn Miller Gary Mucciaroni Gary van Niekerk Jean Papaj Ann Roantree Bari Shor LJ Steinig

Hopkinson House Council 604hopkinson@gmail.com

Website

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

t's hard to believe another summer is in the books. The pool is closed, and election season is right on top of us. If you're not already registered to vote, please take time to do so, whether online: www.pavoterservices.pa.qov/ Pages/SurePortalHome.aspx ; in person, at the Philadelphia **County Election Offices:** Voter Registration Office, 520 N. Columbus Blvd., 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19123; or by phone: 215-686-1505, or 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772).

The deadline to register in time for the November 5th election is October 21st. Once you're registered, remember to vote, which you can do in person, right here at Hopkinson House, if this is your polling place. If you prefer to vote by mail, you can ask to receive a mail-in ballot via the same website above. Once you're registered, if you wish to vote by mail, you must submit an application for a mail-in ballot by 5 p.m. on October 29th. Thank you to everyone in Hopkinson House who makes it easier for all of us to participate in our democracy, by staffing voter registration tables and our polls.

Fall also means budget season. Council and the Finance Committee have joined with Gary van Niekerk, and we are all working hard to prepare our 2025 operating budget. We are also working on our five-year capital reserve forecast. Even though Hopkinson House has prepared a capital reserve forecast ever since I purchased my unit here in 1988, and this Council is committed to continuing to do so, our governing documents don't require us to have one. Interestingly, a number of condominiums and HOAs in our region don't, and many buildings similar to ours have dramatically smaller reserves than we do. We are going to be spending a considerable amount of our reserves in the upcoming several years, on the projects which Gary fills you in on in his article in this issue. Planning for and monitoring our ongoing and upcoming capital projects remains a major focus of Council's time.

Our new Council secretary, LJ Steinig, has reinstituted the practicing of sending out a "Council Highlights" message, letting you know about some of the more interesting work the Council is doing. Keep in mind that these messages are not the official record of Council meetings. The official records are the minutes of each meeting, which are published on BuildingLink once they have been approved by the Council, They are generally posted about one month after the meeting they record, because minutes of one meeting are approved at the next meeting.

Finally, I would like to take another opportunity to remember our long-time doorman Cliff Harris, who, as his wife, Sharon put it, "changed his address" on September 7, 2024. A life-long Philadelphian and graduate of Bok Technical High School in South Philadelphia, Cliff's first love was his wife and family. He also loved working at Hopkinson House, and we loved having him as part of our community. He is already, and will continue to be, missed.



Sarah A. Kelly is a retired lawyer, who is serving her second stint as HHOA Council President, almost 20 years after the first time she served in that capacity.

Residents' Corner

Residents wishing to make comments or observations on the current issue may e-mail them to: "The Editor," lynnm3@comcast.net.

Those who do not have a computer can place their comments 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

Gary van Niekerk

The summer has been a busy time for the Team at Hopkinson House, and in the blink of an eye we see fall, fast approaching.

Michael Perez (Chief Engineer) and his team are preparing to complete the annual switch from cooling to heating. We anticipate that the switch to neutral mode (no heating or cooling) will take place on Monday, October 14th, and the switch to heating on Monday, October 21st. These dates are subject to change. In addition to the switch to heating, the maintenance team will also be performing the next filter change, which is scheduled to begin in late September and continue through October. Please note that due to the building's HVAC system, the filter change and switch over to heating may require two separate visits from our maintenance team for some units (one for the filter change and another to adjust the thermostat).

Events

We are hoping to host a few fall events, such as a music performance and a Halloween Party.

Commercial Units

The commercial space, which was used as a

construction office for the past several years, has now been renovated and leased. The new tenant is an ophthalmologist, Dr. Zoraida Fiol-Silva, M.D. The office manager is Sofia Morales-Fiol and they can be reached at 215-928-3182.

Hopkinson House Projects

Updates to our capital projects are as follows:

Façade Restoration

The request for proposals was sent to five masonry contractors. We anticipate selecting a contractor by the end of October. Once the contractor is selected, we will begin working on the schedule. Work will most likely commence in the early part of 2025.

Domestic

Hot Water System

Additional documentation and reports which were requested as part of the project's due diligence have now been received. The next step will involve obtaining proposals, followed by the selection of a suitable contractor.

Garage and Courtyard Restoration

The engineering firm of Joseph B. Callaghan, Inc. was selected as the engineer of record for the project. They have completed the initial site inspection and selected locations for further exploratory investigations.

Trash Compactor Replacement

The trash compactor room floor was repaired and recoated. The housekeeping team is now able to spray down this floor on a daily basis without causing damage to the building structure. This will help with pest control. The new trash compactor has been installed as has the cardboard baler. As a reminder, please break down your cardboard boxes.

Pool and Roof Deck Renovation

The Association Council is still reviewing proposals from the engineers and expects to make a selection before the end of October.

Bike Room

A new pin number or push button lock will be installed on the bike room door. The code will be sent to all current registered bike permit holders. The code will be changed each year.



Gary van Niekerk, has been managing condominiums, including both the Ayer and Lippincott condos on Washington Square, for more than fifteen years.

Advertise in House

Standard ad sizes	(w x h)	1 Issue	4 Issues
Full page	7.75 x 9.75″	\$280	\$1008
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Quarter page	3.5 x 4.75″	\$120	\$432
Eighth page	3.5 x 2.25″	\$90	\$324
Contact Jason Love, assistantmanager@thehopkinsonhouse.com			

Credit and Debit Card Payments

The Association will soon be accepting credit and debit cards payments for additional services such as move-out fees, bulk trash fees, pool memberships or daily passes, and so forth. More information will be forthcoming. Owners will NOT be able to pay their monthly Association fees using this service and must continue to use ClickPay for any such payments.

Laundry Room

The laundry room equipment lease is scheduled for renewal in the early part of 2025. The renewal will include new laundry equipment. As the existing equipment will be removed, we are tentatively planning a refresh of the laundry room space. It is anticipated that there will be no laundry facilities available to residents for approximately two to three weeks while this renovation is completed.

There are several laundry facilities within close proximity to Hopkinson House.



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Welcome to the Committee Corner!

Jean Papaj

Being a member of a Hopkinson House committee requires hard work and commitment. We thank all committee members for their investment. Here is a summary of what they have been working on.

Pool Committee

JoAnna Farber

4

Every cloudy pool has a silver lining! Though members were disappointed by early September's unexpected temporary closure, a lot was learned and shared at a meeting with Gary van Niekerk, Michael Perez, Hopkinson House Council reps and Pool Committee members. This information will be useful to management for shaping future in-house pool upkeep and service contracts. In other news, Toni O'Neil remains on the committee and Diane GaNun will serve as Chair. The committee looks forward to working with management as future pool renovation plans develop.

We are pleased to report that not only were free water fitness sessions provided, but there were 211 Season Passes, and 353 Day Passes sold in the 2024 pool season!

History Committee

Victoria Kirkham, Chair The Hopkinson House History Committee "seeks to preserve, protect, and research the modernist gem in which we live," as stated in the preamble to our Charter, approved in 2024 by Council. We first met on June 27th, 2024, and will continue monthly, as of now in an organizational phase. Tasks for which we are developing procedures with both actual and virtual storage include: a historic archive of artifacts and articles, a catalogue of memorable residents, interviews with long-time current residents and staff, and an inventory with photos of our furnishings and art.

Engineering and Environmental Committee

Jim Campbell, Chair The Engineering and **Environmental Committee** meets once a month before the Hopkinson House Council meeting to discuss plans and progress on a number of issues including current and future building repairs and maintenance and future potential capital projects. Our biggest challenges include: How do we balance our repair, and replacement needs with forwardlooking projects? Can environmental concerns and innovative technologies be integrated into current repair and upgrade projects? What can we do to realize cost-savings and energy efficiencies? How will our work



impact the quality of life of our residents?

Recent successes recommended to and implemented by the Council include our new HVAC upgrade, installation of EV charging stations in the garage, and whole building composting.

Current agenda items for discussion include reduction of our energy and water use, timing and scheduling of building repairs and maintenance and improvements to the pool and rear patio.

Finance Committee

Ann Roantree

Hopkinson House Management, Council, and the Finance Committee are working on 2025 budgets.

Jean Papaj, MBA is a marketing, communications and business development executive with additional experience as an adult educator.

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LJ Steinig: La Vie en Rose

Concha Alborg

have an easy gig, writing profiles of our neighbors; I meet all kinds of interesting, gifted people and share a short time getting to know them. Come to think of it, we residents of Hopkinson House are lucky to have such diverse, friendly people in our midst.

LJ Steinig is one of those people. She grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Pittsburgh in English Writing and her Masters in Secondary English Education at Duquesne University. After some years of classroom English teaching in Dallas and Miami, she changed to full-time online teaching. She has taught at Florida Virtual School—the first and largest online school in the country—for more than 18 years.

LJ loves the flexibility of her schedule and working from home. She works one-on-one with her students and their families, and often gets to follow their progress by looping (having the same students through multiple grade levels). Many of her students are homeschooled or may have been bullied or have special needs. Her teaching is asynchronous, creating a more personal experience and giving each student what they individually need, and the classes are offered year-round, with rolling admissions. LJ also specializes in instructional coaching, working oneon-one with teachers and



leading workshops for professional development.

A way in which LJ expresses her individuality is by using only her initials (don't ask her what they stand for!). In 2009, after learning of the impact of factory farming, she became vegan. One of the reasons she loves Philadelphia is for the many restaurants that suit her lifestyle, such as Triangle Tavern, Miss Rachel's Pantry, and Crust Vegan Bakery, where she finds the best vegan cakes for our social events. While veganism is one of the healthiest ways to eat, that is secondary to LJ's passion for animals and the planet. Still, her commitment to healthy living extends to powerlifting, which she practices three to four times a week at MASS F.I.T., a small community gym in Headhouse Square.

LJ's studio apartment is a statement to her distinct style. Starting in her homey

foyer there are splashes of bright colors, mostly pink, everywhere. Her kitchen is all pink, including the refrigerator and cabinets. Her dinette is a lovely vintage wrought iron set, you guessed it, also pink. Her antique desk sits cozily in a corner. The L space of the studio houses the bed, framed by a dark pink wall of glitter. Needless to say, LJ has decorated most of her apartment herself, including art pieces from her great-grandfather, local artists, and European artisans. The standing reading lamp is one of my favorites.

A profile of LJ's would not be complete without mentioning her whimsical, colorful and thoughtful tattoos. Her Russian dolls on her right arm, for example,



Although LJ has only been in Hopkinson House less than three years, she has made an impact with her presence. She served as chair of the Social Committee, was one of the hosts of our progressive party last spring, and has been elected to Council where she can share her organizational skills. She has already been instrumental in organizing the first compost program in our building. "It's important to me because one of the big reasons I ran for Council is to work on long-term sustainability solutions for the building," she tells us. Recently, LJ has become a member of the executive committee of the Philadelphia Green Multifamily Building Group.

As you can see, of all the people I have interviewed, LJ Steinig stands out as one of the most creative and friendly; she truly is a breath of fresh air amongst us.



Concha Alborg, PhD, is a retired academic and author originally from Spain. She writes fiction, creative non-fiction and a blog, "Epilogues/Epílogos." www.conchaalborg.com

November Elections: The Down-Ballot

Gary Mucciaroni

ith the immense media attention paid to the presidential race between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, it is easy to forget that Hopkinson House residents will be voting for an array of other offices on November 5th (or earlier, for those who vote by mail). Because our political system is one of multiple levels of government (federal, state, and local) and shared powers, we cannot lose sight of the fact that many public officials besides the president make policies that affect our lives. With that in mind, here are the offices up for election and the major party candidates who are vying for them, including four key state-wide offices:

U.S. Senate

U.S. Senator Bob Casey, Jr., the Democratic incumbent from Scranton is running against Republican challenger David McCormick. Casey received his law degree from the Catholic University of America. He was first elected to the Senate in 2006 (after serving as Auditor General) and is Pennsylvania's longest-serving Democratic Senator. On Senate roll call votes, Casey votes with the Biden administration about 99 percent of the time. He receives very high ratings from progressive political organizations and very low ratings from conservative ones. Casey is favored to win this race, but he faces a serious challenge in a state

deeply divided between the two parties. His victory is essential for the Democrats to hold on to their razorthin Senate majority.

McCormick, a native of Washington, Pennsylvania, graduated from West Point, earned a PhD from Princeton in international relations, and served in Iraq. He also served in the George W. Bush administration in the Treasury Department and as a national security adviser. Until recently, he was the CEO of Bridgewater, a major hedge fund. McCormick lost to Dr. Mehmet Oz in his 2022 bid to get the Republican nomination to run against the Democratic candidate John Fetterman.

Pennsylvania Attorney General

As the chief law enforcement official in the state, the Attorney General decides which crimes to prioritize for prosecution. The office is also often a springboard to running for Governor of the Commonwealth. The Democratic candidate, Eugene DePasquale, is from Pittsburgh, where he earned a Master of Public Policy before getting his law degree from Widener University. He spent much of his career in York, representing that area in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. For eight years he served as Pennsylvania Auditor General where he released continued on page 9

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November Elections: The Down-Ballot continued from page 8

reports on gun safety in the wake of a shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue, of problems with the Department of Environmental Protection's testing water in areas where fracking occurs, and the backlog in testing rape kits by law enforcement agencies. DePasquale's Republican opponent, David Sunday, from Cumberland County, also earned his law degree from Widener. He has served as the York County District Attorney and special U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Working with York County's Agency on Aging, he started an Elder Abuse Task Force and initiated an effort to equip police with medicine to reverse opioid overdoses. As Attorney General, he promises to prosecute the possession of illegal firearms. He does not believe that the state constitution guarantees a right to abortion and argues that is an issue for the legislature to decide.

Pennsylvania Auditor General

The Auditor General monitors government spending and investigates fraud, corruption, and mismanagement. This race pits Republican incumbent Timothy DeFoor against Malcolm Kenyatta, the Democratic challenger. DeFoor is from Pittsburgh and earned his degree at Penn State. He investigated Medicaid fraud in the attorney general's office before being elected as controller for Dauphin County (Harrisburg), where he won national auditing awards. DeFoor has focused on traditional auditing functions and rooting out "wasteful government spending." Kenyatta has been a state representative for North Philadelphia since 2018. He chaired an advisory committee to President Biden about advancing education and economic opportunities for Black Americans. He promises to prioritize wage theft and union-busting activities if elected.

Pennsylvania Treasurer

Another position commonly used as a stepping-stone to higher office, the state treasurer uses tax revenue to pay the state's bills and invests the state's savings, notably large pension funds for state employees. The Republican incumbent is Stacy Garrity who is running for her second term. She reduced fees and minimum deposit requirements for PA 529, the commonwealthadministered college savings program, and for PA ABLE, a savings program for people with disabilities. She is opposed by Democrat Erin McClelland, a former substance abuse counselor and project manager for the Department of Human Services in Allegheny County. McClelland has remained apart from the Democratic Party's establishment in the state. She has opposed the privatization of public sector

pensions and investments in Israeli bonds. She promises to rebuild supply chains, enforce labor and environmental standards and improve contract oversight.

Offices where the incumbent faces no opposition

For the U.S. House of Representatives, Hopkinson House is in Pennsylvania's Second District. Democrat Dwight Evans is running unopposed. The Democrats need to flip just four seats to retake control of the House. For the Pennsylvania Senate, Nikil Saval, and for the Pennsylvania House, Mary Louise Isaacson, are also running unopposed. The Democrats need to pick up four seats to take control of the state Senate (which has been in Republican hands for 30 years) and the Republicans must pick up two seats to retake control of the House.



Gary Mucciaroni is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Public Policy Program at Temple University, and a long-time resident of Hopkinson House.

Important Election Dates

October 21: Last day to register to vote **October 29:** Last day to apply for mail-in ballot **November 5:** Election Day

To apply for a mail or absentee ballot go to: https://www.pa.gov/en/services/vote/apply-for-a-mailin-or-absentee-ballot.html

If you are voting by mail, your ballot must be **received by 8:00 PM on November 5th** (not postmarked). To ensure that your vote will be counted, you must sign your name and the correct date on the outside envelope.

Further Reading

For more information here are some non-partisan sources: https://ballot.seventy.org/

https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2024/09/pennsylvania-general-election-2024-legislative-house-senate-racescandidate-vetting-guide/

https://whyy.org/articles/pennsylvania-treasurer-electionerin-mcclelland-stacy-garrity/

https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/biden-congressvotes/robert-p-casey-jr/

https://whyy.org/articles/dave-sunday-pennsylvania-attorney-general-primary-election-2024/

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Our Evening with a Woodwind Quintet

On a mid-August evening, residents filled the solarium to enjoy a concert presented by the Lower Merion Woodwind Quintet, which came to us courtesy of David Kurkowski, the group's oboist and longtime Hopkinson House resident. The program included works from old masters such as Bach, Haydn, and Bizet, as well as Leonard Bernstein and Harold Arlen, 20th-cen-

tury American composers for stage and screen. Easily the youngest composer whose work we heard was Dave Kurkowski himself, who was described in the program notes as "still alive." He gave us his charming little composition, "Joyous."

The members of the Quintet, pictured left to right, are Carolyn Giardini, flute; Sherman Leis, clarinet; Drew Skinner,



French horn; Vanessa Taylor, bassoon; and David Kurkowski, oboe. It is clear that the five of them enjoy making music together just as their Hopkinson House audience enjoyed hearing them do so.

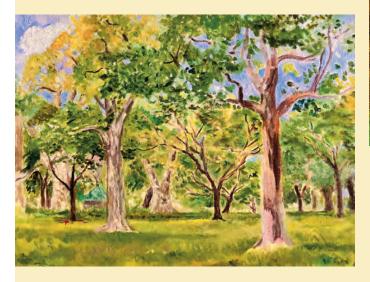
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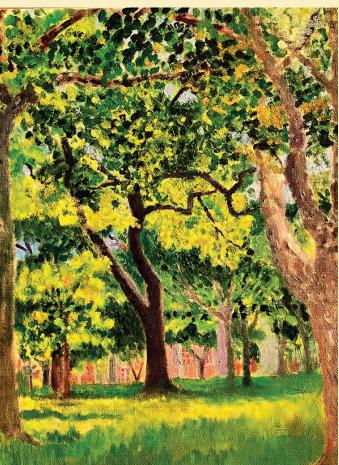
Michael Neff

The sunlight that Passes Through the branches and leaves.

> The patterns of Shadows In Japanese.

August 20, 2024







Michael Neff paints in Washington Square in summer, fall, and spring. You can see some of those, and other, pictures on his Instagram account, @paintinginthepark.

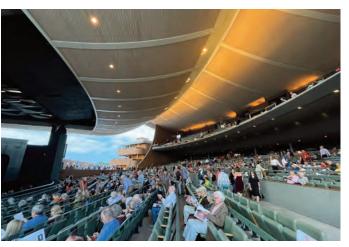
From Santa Fe Opera to Ghost Ranch

Joseph Quinn

n August, I spent two weeks in the high desert of northern New Mexico. The first week I was with a group of music lovers at the Santa Fe Opera Festival. After that, I joined a different group for a week-long meditation retreat at the Ghost Ranch. about an hour's drive from Santa Fe. I was able to enjoy, back-toback, two of my favorite things-music and meditation—in two places famous for offering these pleasures in stunning locations that enhance their artistic and spiritual powers.

The annual summer Santa Fe Opera Festival takes place in one of the world's most unique settings. The opensided auditorium, and the variable nature of desert weather-frequent bursts of cold, wind, and rain contribute to a memorable experience. I won't soon forget the disorienting effect of listening to the Rococo splendors of Strauss' Der Rosenkavalier, shivering in a thin jacket and sitting on my hands to keep them warm. Many stoic Santa Fe regulars came prepared with mittens and blankets, conveniently available in the gift shop!

The second week was at Ghost Ranch. The property consists of 21,000 acres of desert scrubland, punctuated with mesas, canyons, and stunning, 700-foot cliff formations surrounded by distant, mist-shrouded mountains. The ranch has a long, colorful history, evolving from a desert wasteland to an education and retreat center dedicated to improving the "well-being and spiritual health" of its visitors.



Audience at a Santa Fe Opera Festival performance



Casa del Sol, the isolated retreat house where we practiced Zen Buddhist meditation



Rancho de los Burros, Georgia O'Keefe's summer home

The land was home to Navajo and Apache Native American tribes until circa 1600, when the Spanish arrived and colonized Nuevo Mexico. In the late1800s, the sprawling property was a notorious "badland," occupied by a criminal gang known as Los Animales, whose specialty was cattle rustling. They called their headquarters Rancho de los Brujos, or Ranch of the Witches.

It passed through various owners and incarnations until the 1930s, when, rechristened Ghost Ranch, it morphed into a decidedly more law-abiding "dude ranch." It became a desert getaway for asthma and tubercular patients seeking a healthy climate, and by wealthy easterners looking for an escape into a faux "cowboy" experience, complete with horseback riding, campfires, and outdoor plumbing.

Every summer, literary and cultural celebrities (e.g., Leopold Stokowski, post-Philadelphia Orchestra, pre-Fantasia) and such corporate titans as the Rockefellers and the Johnsons trooped to the Ghost Ranch with their nannies and bodyguards, where they savored simple pleasures and communed with unspoiled nature, notwithstanding the native population of rattlesnakes and scorpions. According to Lesley Polling-Kempes in her chronicle of Ghost Ranch, it became "a paradise, aloof from the despair and desperation experienced by the vast majority of Americans during the Great Depression," populated by "privileged expatriates waiting out the '30s deep in the indigenous Southwest."

Arthur Pack, philanthropist publisher of *Nature Magazine*, acquired the

continued on page 13

From Santa Fe Opera to Ghost Ranch continued from page 12

ranch in 1935. He tried for decades to maintain its dual identity as a rustic getaway for the privileged few and a wilderness preserved for its own sake, safe from commercial exploitation. But the dwindling dude ranch clientele and the stress and costs of maintaining the ranch facilities led to financial ruin and forced him to consider other options.

In 1955, Pack reached out to the Presbyterian Church, then headquartered in the Witherspoon Building at 1321 Walnut Street. The church accepted the property as a gift free and clear, declaring"We are not going to 'beautify' the ranch; God already has done that." While retaining ownership, in 2017 the church transitioned operations of the ranch to the non-profit National Ghost Ranch Foundation.

Undoubtedly, the person most associated with Ghost Ranch is celebrated American artist Georgia O'Keeffe (1887–1986). When she first visited in 1934, she considered dude ranchers a "lower form of life." But seduced by the stark, primordial natural beauty of the land, she came to consider it "the most wonderful place you can imagine." In 1940 she purchased an adobe-style house called Rancho de los Burros in a part of the desert "badland" that sparked her imagination and informed the imagery of her late works. These canvases are filled with austere, almost abstract, images of desert vegetation,



Flat-topped Pedernal Mountain, one of O'Keefe's favorite subjects





Walking through the Ghost Ranch is like walking through a gallery of Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings, minus the frames.

cliffs, mountains, rocks, skeletal bones, boundless sky and clouds. They radiate with the many colors of the landscape she captured in her work—vivid reds and browns, delicate lavenders and pinks, bone white, sky blue. On canvas she reduced her environment



A dead cedar, still standing, is the subject of O'Keefe's painting, *Gerald's Tree*.

to the spiritual essence of a place inhabited by Indians thousands of years ago, creating visual equivalents to their myths, legends and rituals. Her house is not open to visitors, but you can see it from the entrance road and sense its almost mystical creative energy. The O'Keefe association draws thousands of curious art lovers, and the ranch capitalizes on their interest with guided tours that take you to the exact spots where she planted her easel and captured the scenery that enthralled her, including the flat-topped Pedernal Mountain, a personal talisman she painted 28 times. When O'Keeffe died at age 98, her ashes were scattered on the mountain.

The ranch's modern facilities include a welcome center, convenience store/gift shop, dining hall, library, swimming pool, hiking trails and a variety of accommodations for the visitors who arrive in all seasons. Despite the constant activity, there's still a vast amount of land among continued on page 14

From Santa Fe Opera to Ghost Ranch continued from page 13

its 21,000 acres where solitude and peace prevail, and where groups and individuals from diverse spiritual traditions can "reflect and rediscover their inner selves."

A long unpaved road leads to Casa del Sol, the isolated retreat house, a u-shaped adobe-style structure enclosing a central patio with a view of the Pedernal in the distance against a panoramic blue sky. In the morning, we listened to Native American chants and with arms outstretched

welcomed the sun as it rose over the clifftops. During the day, we practiced sitting and walking meditation in the Zen Buddhist tradition. At night, in utter darkness and profound silence, we marveled at crystalline constellations above, a sight so rare to us city slickers! In retreat temporarily from our busy, urban lives, we grounded ourselves in the earth of ancient indigenous ancestors and opened ourselves to receive whatever spiritual knowledge the desert breeze blew our way.



Joseph Quinn is a retired technical writer who likes to write about architectural treasures in our neighborhood and his travel adventures.

Further Reading

B. B. Lynes and A. J. Lopez, *Georgia O'Keeffe and Her Houses: Ghost Ranch and Abiquiu*, 2012.

L. Poling-Kempes, Ghost Ranch, 2005.

L. Poling-Kempes, Georgia O'Keeffe and New Mexico: A Sense of Place, 2004.

R. Robinson, Georgia O'Keeffe: A Life, 1989.





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The Bicentennial Bell Rehung

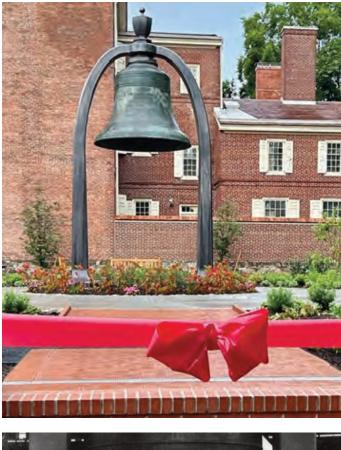
Lynn Miller

he Bicentennial Bell was **a** gift from the people of the United Kingdom to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution. It originally hung in Independence National Historical Park, but was put in storage in 2013 when the site was prepared for construction of the Museum of the American Revolution. This past summer, the bell was transported from storage to what is now called the Bicentennial Garden, formerly the Benjamin Rush Garden at 3rd and Walnut Streets, as part of the preparation for the semi-quincentennial of the United States in 2026. It was rehung there on Friday, July 12th.

The bell hangs from a large armature in the center of the garden, and its stone base is engraved with thirteen interlocking rings, each containing the name of one of the original thirteen colonies. Trees and flowers in the garden are all plants traded between the U.K. and the American colonies in the 18th century. The project was designed by studio Bryan Hanes and Holzman Iron Studio. The garden is on the site of the former home of Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The bell weighs 12,466 lbs. Its composition is copper and tin alloy. The note it peals is the G below middle C. Dignitaries attending the July ceremony included Hannah Young, the British Consul General; Steven Sims, Superintendent of Independence National Park; and Joseph Glyn, Director of the Landenberger Foundation, which donated \$1 million to the project.

The Bicentennial Bell was originally presented on July 6th, 1976, by Queen Elizabeth II, who said, "on the side of the Bicentennial Bell are the words 'Let Freedom Ring.' It is a message in which both our people can join and which I hope will be heard around the world for centuries to come."





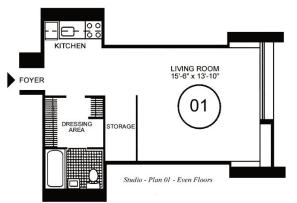




Jody © Johanna

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Philadelphia at the Center of the Universe

Lynn Miller

n September 10th, millions of people across the globe were tuned into Philadelphia's National Constitution Center to watch the first—and what now will be the only—debate between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump in November's presidential election. This national debate between the two major party candidates for the presidency was a first for the Constitution Center, though not for Philadelphia, which, in 1976, hosted a debate at the Walnut Street Theater between President Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, his Democratic opponent. That event is best remembered as one in which the sound system failed, leaving both candidates speechless for 27 minutes and many among their millions of viewers cursing the gods of TV technology. No such mishap occurred at this September's event although it, like most of those telecasts over the past 48 years, was less a debate and more an occasion for the candidates' two press interlocutors to attempt to interview each of them sequentially. Interaction between Harris and Trump was largely confined to verbal assaults and disdainful looks.

We do not take sides regarding who won and who lost in these pages, nor do we endorse candidates. My only intent here is to say a few words about the building in which the September 10th "debate" took place. Why the National Constitution Center's home is in Philadelphia is obvious to all who know that this is the city where the United States of America came into being. The Pennsylvania State House (which we of course know as Independence Hall) was the site of the Second Continental Congress whose delegates produced the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Just a few years later, after the Revolution was won and our republic established, the leading political figures of the 13 newly independent—but only loosely connected states returned to Philadelphia's State House to hammer out a document that would create a true Federal government responsible for centralized action in important matters to the United States as a whole.

For more than 200 years, Independence Hall told the story of both chapters in the creation of the United States as we know it today. But by the time of our Bicentennial in 1976, sentiment was growing among many of those who studied our beginnings that a new museum focused solely on the Constitution would enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of this document that is so fundamentally important to our democratic system of government. By the closing years of the 20th century, sufficient funds were raised from private sources to create this institution. Its ground-breaking took place on September 17, 2000, 213 years to the day after the Constitution was signed. It stands above Arch Street facing

Independence Hall across a three-block-long, grassy mall.

The National Constitution Center officially opened on July 4th, 2003, with Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor leading the ceremony. In the years since, it has been the NCC that annually awards the Liberty Medal to individuals around the world "who have committed themselves to the blessings of liberty," in the Center's words. Among those receiving the award have been Presidents G. H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton (2006), John McCain as well as Mikhail Gorbachev (2008), British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Muhammad Ali (2010), Hillary Clinton (2013), Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2022), and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (2022).

The Constitution Center bills itself as the Museum of We the People, since it is the nation's chief resource for viewing and studying the history of our Constitution. It seeks to be America's town hall, calling itself the headquarters for America's civic education. In that role, it staged the April, 2008, debate in the Pennsylvania Democratic primary for the presidency between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, then two months later hosted the Republican candidate,

John McCain. In the years since, the Center has also hosted debates between Pennsylvania senatorial and Philadelphia mayoral candidates.

The most recent appearance here of Vice-President Harris and former President Trump reminded us that they have engaged with our Constitution in very different ways and clearly have very different views of its meaning and importance. You could see that for yourself (perhaps wincing occasionally, as I did) when you watched them together on September 10th.

You weren't allowed into the building to watch the Harris-Trump event in person. But on virtually every other day of the year, the NCC welcomes you, as it does hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, to its many events and activities. A visit there really does tell you why all Americans need to know what the Constitution says and why it is as important now as it has been at any time in our history. The National Constitution Center will surely again be at the center of our political universe in 2026 when we celebrate the nation's 250th birthday. Meanwhile, isn't it reassuring to know that it's in our neighborhood and available to us almost every day of the year?



Lynn Miller is a professor emeritus of Political Science at Temple University, now a sometime writer and painter. www.lynn-miller.net



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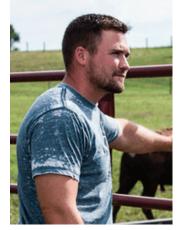
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Oh Give Me a Home Where the Buffalo Roam – In New Jersey?!

Martha Cornog



Shane of Buck Wild Bison

Shane Robbins loves to talk about Buck Wild Bison, the business he founded in Port Norris, New Jersey. The company has another herd near Spring Mills, Pennsylvania, but his first herd was special. Perhaps many of us would associate bison with "wild west" states like Wyoming or Texas, but Shane avers that herds may be found all over the country.

Operating since 2019, Buck Wild Bison doesn't sell to supermarketslarger producers handle that market—but only direct to game-lovers. "Most of our business," he says, "comes through our website." But other customers are attracted through local farmers' markets, like the Saturday **Rittenhouse Square** Farmers' Market where I met Shane. Another New Jersey bison purveyor is the larger D'Artagnan Foods, headquartered in the Garden State but with outlets nation-wide. D'Artagnan contracts with small ranches that meet their requirements, and distributes to restaurants



Shane's bison herd in Port Norris, New Jersey

and supermarkets as well as selling online.

Bison loom large in American history—and literally, also. A mature male can reach six feet in height and 11 feet nose to butt, about the size of my bathroom. When threatened, he comes on with 2,000 pounds of hairy hell—about the weight of a small car. These huge critters are not domesticated animals, and will attack humans unpredictably. "Treat them as dangerous wildlife," advises a South Dakota State University

But bison loom small on that antique token dubbed the Buffalo nickel, a fivecent coin produced by the U.S. Mint from 1913 to 1938 as part of a drive to "beautify the coinage." However, sculptor James Earle Fraser's design was eventually replaced because of problems it caused in coin-operated machines.

website about bison ranching.



Shane is proud of bringing "America's national mammal" to southern New Jersey. In Pennsylvania, Shane's partner herd is Brush Mountain Bison, originally established in 2011 by Herb Grove and his family."We had no clue what we were getting into," Grove confessed to the Lancaster Farming Industrial Hemp Podcast last year. Joining the Eastern Bison Association got him networking with other local bison farmers, and then he partnered up with Shane.

Managing bison herds has unique differences from managing dairy cows or beef cattle beyond accommodating their wilder natures with super-heavy fencing and cautious handling. Bison pretty much live outdoors all year around, grazing local grasses and sedges. They're not fed antibiotics or growth hormones. And breeding is handled naturally, with no artificial insemination. But getting the guys and gals together doesn't always happen naturally, and sometimes the rancher has



A Buck Wild Bison mother protecting her calf

to psych out what gets the animals going. Bison calve without human intervention and, interestingly, deaths from calving run much lower than with cattle.

The bison industry also describes bison meat products as "natural." Judging from today's healthy number of bison ranchers in all states but Rhode Island, and the meat's ready availability in supermarkets and online, there are plenty of people who enjoy it. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and WebMD report that it's higher in protein and lower in both fat and calories than beef. Our Acme sells two brands of ground bison: Open Nature and D'Artagnan. A taste test of those two plus Buck Wild Bison revealed a more intense, savory flavor in D'Artagnan and Buck Wild Bison compared to Open Nature. Ground bison can be grilled like hamburgers; the meat works well in chili and spaghetti sauce, too. Online distributors also sell a variety of steaks, chops, and jerky. continued on page 21





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Oh Give Me a Home Where the Buffalo Roam—In New Jersey?! continued from page 19

The ancestors of what are now termed "American bison" evolved in Asia, meandering and nibbling their way across what is currently the Bering Strait down to North America more than 100,000 years ago. What's open sea today was then a fertile, grassy land bridge. Those early bison and other large animals (many now extinct) had the North American continent to themselves for millennia. Bison multiplied to tens of millions and roamed south to the Gulf of Mexico and east to, perhaps, Pennsylvania. (Here, however, archeological evidence has not matched historical reports.) Then maybe 15,000 years ago, early humans in Siberia managed the same trek out of Asia while following game trails into Alaska—and from there, fully colonized North and South America.

Did these game they were following include "buffalo," or "bison"? ("Bison" is considered the correct term, but both words have been used for North American animals since the 1600s.) "True buffalo" include the African Cape buffalo and the Asian water buffalo all in the same biological Bovidae family as bison, but constituting different subclasses.

Long before European settlers claimed North America, Native American tribes incorporated bison fully into their lives. The meat: a staple protein that could be smoked for preservation; the hides: for warmth; the sinews: for sewing; the manure ("buffalo chips"): for fuel. But those European settlers expanded into a nation wanting to take over the continent and its riches. George Washington fancied the meat, hunted the animal himself, and acquired a couple for his estate. Throughout the 1800s, U.S. militia battled with tribes in numerous deadly conflicts and tried slaughtering bison to reduce tribal food supplies. Adventurous trophy hunters were encouraged to go after bison en masse, from horseback and trains.

"Slaughtered for a Pastime," engraving in Frank Leslie's *Popular Monthly,* May 1883

Bison were also seized upon as cheap, local meat for workers building the Kansas Pacific Railroad. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, known for his touring Wild West Show, got his nickname from an earlier contract to supply bison meat to railroad workers. He is said to have killed over 4,000 buffalo during 1867-1868.

So the millions of bison living in pre-human North America were reduced to fewer than 1,000 by 1890. Fortunately, U.S. government conservationists got together to breed back the bison for historical and conservation reasons, and then ranchers supported these efforts because they wanted to sell the meat to consumers.

Today, about 30,000 American bison survive in publicly held conservation herds (some managed by Native American tribal groups) and about another 500,000 are managed commercially as livestock ataround 2,000 ranches. Sothe once nearly-extinguished bison are back in Pennsylvania and now in New Jersey, as well.

As with Buck Wild Bison materializing in our Rittenhouse Farmer's Market, buffalo pop up in the darndest places. Take "Buffalo wings," deep-fried chicken wings coated in sauce and served with blue cheese dressing, cooked up in Buffalo, New York in the 1960s. Naturally, the subsequent Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant chain uses for their logo a bison sporting wings. Guess you just can't keep a good icon down. 📕



Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant chain logo



Martha Cornog reviews graphic novels for Library Journal.

Further Reading

Buck Wild Bison: https://buckwildbison.com

How to run a bison ranch: https://extension.psu.edu/bison-production

Articles from the National Park Service: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/bison/bison-bellows.htm

For recipes:

https://buckwildbison.com/blogs/bison-meat-recipes/transforming-your-meals-with-nutritious-ground-bison-recipes

Heating up the Kitchen with Fall Flavors

Johanne Lamarche

Fall is upon us and the kitchen is humming with tempting aroma. The first recipe brings you a hearty meatless, baked, one-pan dish that can be assembled ahead of time and cooks in about a half hour for those busy fall schedules.

The cookies are moist and chock-full of apples and oatmeal. They have a lovely maple drizzle that fancies them up and introduces a big dose of extra fall flavor. You will want to make these over and over again! Bon appétit!



Johanne Lamarche is a French Canadian who came to the U.S. to study periodontics, stayed for love, and is enjoying a second career as an artist.

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 at frenchgardener@comcast.net.

Triple Cheese Baked Eggplant Rigatoni

"Very well, I will marry you if you promise not to make me eat eggplant." —Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*

Unlike Gabriel Garcia Marquez, I love eggplant. This baked rigatoni dish is a satisfying meatless main dish chockfull of eggplant, ricotta, mozzarella and parmesan cheeses giving it ooey-gooey richness. The addition of pesto punches up the flavors. On a busy weeknight, you can assemble it in advance and bake it when ready. Dig in!

Ingredients

For the base:

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 pound rigatoni
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 2 medium eggplants, cut into ³/₄-inch dice
- coarse salt
- freshly ground pepper
- ¹/₄ cup pesto
- 1 cup full fat ricotta cheese

For the sauce:

1 large yellow onion, diced

Directions

- 1 Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- 2 Toss the diced eggplant in 2 tablespoons of olive oil and spread on the baking sheet in a single layer. Season with salt and pepper. Roast for 30 minutes, stirring a few times to avoid sticking.
- **3** In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook the rigatoni until al dente,

- 8 garlic cloves, chopped 28-oz can San Marzano whole
- tomatoes, with juice, cut into pieces with kitchen shears
- 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper flakes
- For the topping:
- 8 ounces fresh mozzarella, torn or shredded
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- 1/4 cup of parsley, chopped

about 8 minutes. Drain, then transfer to a greased 9 x 13 inch baking dish.

- **4** Toss with the pesto, mix in the eggplant and the ricotta. Set aside.
- 5 In a large non-stick skillet or sauté pan, heat two tablespoons of the oil. Add the onion, garlic. Cook over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until the onion is soft, about five minutes.



- 6 Add the tomatoes and cook, stirring occasionally, until they have broken down and thickened to a sauce consistency, seven to eight minutes. Stir in the four tablespoons of butter and the hot pepper flakes.
- **7** Fold the tomato sauce into the pasta and eggplant.
- **8** Top with the mozzarella, Parmigiano-Reggiano.

Cover in foil and bake for about 20 minutes, until bubbling and golden on top. Finish with a prinkling of the chopped parsley. Let the dish rest for 10 minutes before serving.

Chefs' Corner

Heating up the Kitchen with Fall Flavors

continued from page 22

Maple-Glazed Apple Oatmeal Cookies

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." -Martin Luther

When I came across this cookie recipe in *Family Circle* Magazine, I knew I would be trying it out. Oatmeal and apple? Count me in! With less than a cup of flour, 3 cups of rolled oats, egg whites, no leavening agent and chockfull of chopped apples, it was a pretty healthy version of a classic oatmeal cookie. The texture is a bit granola-like with big soft chunks of apple and a nice spicy note. The maple glaze puts these over the top. I give these delicious back-to-school lunch-box cookies with a big dose of fiber and fruit, an A+!



Ingredients

- For the cookies:
- 3 cups rolled oats
- 3/4 cup unbleached flour
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- ¹/₄ teaspoon salt
- 1 stick of unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 egg whites

Directions

- **1** Preheat oven to 350°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
- 2 Combine oats, flour, spices, and salt in a large bowl. In another bowl, beat butter, sugar, egg whites, and maple extract until smooth. Combine with dry ingredients, then mix in the apples.
- 3 Drop heaping tablespoonful of batter on your prepared sheets.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon maple extract (or substitute maple syrup)
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup cored, peeled and diced apples
- For the glaze:
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon pure maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon water
- 4 Bake in center of oven for 15–18 minutes until the bottom of the cookie is golden. Remove from oven and cool for a few minutes before glazing.
- **5** To make the glaze, whisk together the confectioners' sugar with the maple syrup and water until smooth. Drizzle over the cookies.



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