President’s Message

by Bruce Holberg, President, Society Hill Towers Owners Association

This is an unusual month for this column in that we have no regular Council meeting on which to report! The minutes for the July Council meeting have not only been reported to you, but also posted on BuildingLink (which will be a monthly occurrence). Meanwhile, the August meeting had only one agenda item, although it was an important one — our first review of the preliminary draft of the 2018 Capital Budget. Even though we are going to be making a very large investment in our HVAC system starting next year, it is vital that we do not neglect the condition of the Towers complex. This is especially true where we have opportunities to increase the efficiency of our systems and thus reduce our energy consumption. When you see a more fully developed version of the capital budget, you will notice that the bulk of the major items are oriented toward improving efficiency and reliability.

As for the HVAC project, things are moving apace. As I reported last month, a committee consisting of our consultant Howard Alderson, George Yocum from our Project Management firm Wolfe-Scott, Towers General Manager Beverly Sherman, Operations Manager Dennis McVeigh, Executive Assistant to the General Manager Brett Scioli and myself meet on a bi-weekly schedule. Now that the Request for Proposal has been distributed to construction firms, we use the meetings to review progress, discuss unresolved issues, and keep the process on track. We have moved the date on which a contract will be awarded slightly, from September 28th to October 12th, in order to allow ourselves more time in which to evaluate proposals. Shortly, you will receive notice of an upcoming “Town Hall” meeting on November 20th, 2017 at the Society Hill Sheraton at which the HVAC project, firmer cost figures, timeline, contractor selection, and other details will be discussed. Keep your eyes open for this invitation and reminders. Your attendance and participation are important.

Last month, Council members Mary Purcell, J Otis Smith, and I were treated to a “behind the scenes” tour of the physical plant of the Towers. The two-hour tour was conducted by Mrs. Sherman, Dennis McVeigh, and Brett Scioli, and took us to the water pumps, operations centers, transformer rooms, boilers, chilling towers, and more. Our facilities are extremely well organized, efficient, and frequently monitored. Many have been updated to the point that they can be operated remotely in a pinch, and we have many redundant systems. Dennis designed or improved many of the systems himself, and we are grateful to him and his staff of talented engineers. The reliability of our systems is another reason that the Towers is a wonderful place to live.

September is always a transitional month. We look back at a summer that went all too quickly with sultry days and evenings around the pool and a slightly slower pace. Thanks to Adam and his crew for making the pool experience even nicer. Our pool is unmatched in the city. Simultaneously, we look forward to fall, with new Towers activities, rediscovered energy, and lots of opportunities to come together. As the Jewish High Holy Days are celebrated starting in September, we’ll take that opportunity to wish all of our residents, regardless of their faith, health, fulfillment, and peace.

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Attention All Owners

Town Hall Meeting

Monday, November 20th
Society Hill Sheraton

Come hear about timeline, cost, contractor selection, and other details for the upcoming HVAC project.
Wednesday, October 18th: “Patriots and Pirates”

Exclusive Tour of Independence Seaport Museum

Towers Residents are invited to an exclusive “for the Towers” event at the Independence Seaport Museum on Wednesday, October 18th, at 5:30 p.m.

You’ll have the opportunity to meet and listen to a short presentation by John Brady, the distinguished President and CEO of the institution, accompanied by a brief wine and cheese reception.

Through the Museum’s new “Patriots & Pirates” exhibit, we will discover Philadelphia’s connection to the founding of the United States Navy and the little-told story of America’s conflict with pirates when it was still a very new nation. We will climb aboard a replica of the schooner Diligence, constructed by staff and volunteers from “Workshop on the Water,” a traditional boat shop located inside the Museum.

Nearby, the “Tides of Freedom: African Presence on the Delaware River” features uncovered artifacts from the Museum’s collection, gripping first-person accounts, and interactive elements exploring the themes of enslavement, emancipation, Jim Crow laws and Civil Rights.

Other exhibits include “Rescues on the River” exploring disasters that unfolded as the Delaware developed into a watery highway; and “Titanic Philadelphians,” stories that spotlight the personal lives of the more than 40 Philadelphians who sailed on the Titanic’s maiden voyage.

There will be a small fee of $15. Before October 10th, please register at the office, or drop off your check and contact information at your front desk.

We look forward to learning together and getting to know more about this special treasure on the Delaware. Ship ahoy!

Welcome aboard! Climb aboard the replica of the schooner Diligence.

Activities Calendar

Movie Discussion Group
Thursday, October 26th, from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the community room. Movie TBA.

Ongoing Exercise Activities
Lisa Levine offers a Yoga Class on Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the community room.

Donna Cotzen continues to lead Exercise With Donna in our community room most Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 9 a.m. This is a 40-minute exercise group that entails 10 minutes of warm-up stretching and 30 minutes with the group using a DVD from the Aging Backwards series of Miranda Esmond White. We do a different segment each time. Come and sample a session! Its a good workout and easy to modify to any special needs. We do not get up and down from the floor repeatedly in a session, but we do do some exercising on the floor. If you need help getting back up we will be glad to help. Things really stop hurting!

Beat the Heat with Summer Sweets
by Mansi Thakkar

The Towers Residents “Beat the Heat” in August with a Summer Cook-off featuring desserts and drinks. The event was held on Wednesday, August 9th, in the Community Room and was well-attended by about 30 residents. We had some very delicious desserts and drinks, such as a Berries Frozen Pie, Kulfi Ice-cream, Italian Champagne-Vodka drink, and Fennel Juice.

The quality of the desserts and drinks, and the enthusiasm of all of the participants and attendees, was evidenced by two facts: we ran out of all items before the end of the night, and the winners were decided by a margin of a couple of votes. As one attendee put it, “there were a number of flavors which I have never had, but fully enjoyed. My palate was saying ‘MORE’ but I restrained myself, to my surprise.” Included below are two recipes from the desserts that were made for the cook-off. If you try these out, be sure to give a shout-out to the ‘creators’.

We will most likely hold another cook-off around Halloween, with the theme of ‘All Chocolate, Everything’.

Who said Treats are just for Kids?!!!

Summer Cook-off Winners

Mansi’s Kulfi Ice Cream
by Mansi Thakkar

Blend the condensed milk, evaporated milk, and heavy cream together and freeze the mixture for 4 to 6 hours.

Once the ice cream is semi-solid, remove from freezer and blend in the flavors of your choice. I used almonds, pistachios, cardamom, and saffron, but any flavors/ingredients should work.

Freeze again until the ice cream is hardened.

Note: Kulfi, an Indian ice cream is typically denser and harder than traditional ice cream.

Roz’s Berries Frozen Pie
by Roz Holberg

For the crust:
2/3 cup graham cracker crumbs
1/3 cup brown sugar
4 oz butter, melted
Mix everything together. Line the bottom/sides of a 10-inch pie plate.
Bake at 350º F for six minutes. (If using a glass pie dish, reduce temperature to 325º F.)
Let completely cool.

For the filling:
1 8-oz container of Cool Whip
6 8-oz containers of yogurt
(I like Dannon, fruit on the bottom. I usually use three blueberry and three strawberry, but any combination that you like will work.)
Mix yogurt and Cool Whip until smooth and well incorporated. Pour into cooled pie shell.
Freeze at least 12 hours.
Take out of freezer 10 minutes before serving.
In 1974, peasants digging a well near the city of Xi'an (pronounced “shee-ahn”) came upon the torso of a clay figure, ultimately leading to the remarkable discovery of the 22-square mile tomb complex of Qin Shi Huang (“chin shoo hwan-dee”), the First Emperor of China (“chin-a”).

From September 30th through March 4th, you can see 10 of the more than 8,000 life-size warriors that were built to protect Qin, plus more than 170 other artifacts from ancient China, in the Franklin Institute’s exhibition Terracotta Warriors of the First Emperor.

Who was Qin, and why did he have such a massive tomb? Qin was born in 259 BCE during the Warring States period and became the king of the state of Qin in 246 at the ripe old age of 13. After conquering the six other warring kingdoms in 221, Qin declared himself the emperor as of this new unified empire, China (the name deriving from Qin).

In his time as head of state, Qin standardized writing, money, weights and measures, and began building the Great Wall of China to prevent invasion from barbarians. (He, too, was unable to get Mexico to pay for the wall.)

Qin proved to be an unpopular ruler, no surprise given that he massacred the armies of six states to get the job, punished hundreds of thousands of people through forced labor, imposed high taxes, and suppressed any kind of dissent.

It was only natural then for Qin to devise a way to protect himself from assassination attempts and revolution in the afterlife, which the ancient Chinese believed in. And, since the practice of servants being buried with their rulers was falling out of favor, it was decided that clay warriors would stand guard instead.

Construction of the tomb proved a monumental feat of engineering, taking more than ten years to complete by roughly 700,000 workers (about the population of Seattle). Workers used an assembly line process, centuries before Henry Ford. Some worked on the feet, others on the legs, some on the torsos, hands, and heads. Once put together, the clay soldier was put in a kiln for firing at about 1,800º Fahrenheit. After cooling down, workers applied raw lacquer and painted the warrior.

Unlike Ford’s decree that you could get a Model T in any color so long as it’s black, none of the 8,000+ warriors were the same. Each featured a different hairstyle and facial expression, and warrior ranks were indicated by their unique headgear. In fact, the ten terracotta figures on display show a variety of army personnel: a general, an armored officer, a kneeling archer, a standing archer, an armored soldier, a cavalryman, a saddled horse, a charioteer, a civil official, and a kneeling musician.

In addition to the soldiers, Terracotta Warriors of the First Emperor includes more than 170 other artifacts from the pre-Qin, Qin, and Han dynasties (as dynasties go, Han succeeded Qin), including weapons, jade pieces, bronze bells, ceremonial vessels, gold ornaments, coins, architectural pieces, and ornate bronze chariot replicas. (All of these artifacts were made in China, beginning a trend that continues to this day.) The exhibition also includes details on the ongoing conservation and preservation work at the archaeological site.

Don’t miss these grand defenders of history who have been standing vigil for more than 2,000 years. Their incredible story of survival into our modern world will undoubtedly amaze and inspire.
Residents of Society Hill Towers celebrated the end of summer with an elegant and delicious Champagne Dessert Party. They gathered around the champagne bowl, talked about their summer experiences and were sad that the season was drawing to an end. The desserts were a beautiful and delicious treat. Thank you to Towers’ employees Mike Conaway and Elijah Weinberg, and Manager Beverly Sherman for planning the event.

Poolside Champagne Punch Party
Not Just Desserts!

Residential staff hosted a Poolside Champagne Punch Party to ring in the fall. New residents and attendees gathered around the champagne bowl to get into the spirit of things and meet their neighbors. Photos by J Otis Smith and Fred Squires.

Staff Celebration
Exceptional Kindness and Scholarships Awarded

The Scholarship Committee, comprised of Annie Westcott, Peter Conn, Wayne Franks, and William Johnson, selected two students from among the children and grandchildren of our staff members to receive this year’s scholarship awards. The awards were given out as a part of the annual staff party. Since the various members of the committee were unable to attend, Beverly Sherman had the honor of making the ceremonial presentations in their stead.

The awards, in the amount of $2,500 to be applied towards college tuition, went to Krista Davidson and Quyntyn Gaston. Krista is the granddaughter of Chief Engineer George Trimbur. Quyntyn is the son of Security Officer Ken Pendleton. Quyntyn was accompanied to the stage to accept his award by both of his proud parents. Krista’s award was accepted on her behalf by George, because a certain storm ravaging Florida interfered with her travel plans, as it did with so many others.

A separate award, altogether unrelated to academics, was presented to Sharon Gordy for “Exceptional Kindness” to her co-worker, Welton Mosby.

Quyntyn Pendelton accepting a scholarship award from Beverly Sherman, pictured with his father Ken Pendelton and his mother.

George Trimbur accepting the scholarship for his granddaughter, Krista Davidson, from Beverly Sherman and Bruce Holberg.
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Jody Dimitruk  215.480.4964  jody@jodydimitruk.com
Johanna Loke  215.350.0922  johanna@johannaloke.com
All of the contractors who are bidding on the upcoming HVAC project were invited to a “prebid meeting.” The contractors attended a presentation, were taken on a behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities, and were shown the convectors within a unit in order to inspect the property first-hand and gather the facts they needed to generate accurate bids.
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### Recently Sold at Society Hill Towers

#### Recently Renovated Corner One Bedroom

Recently renovated corner one bedroom boasting panoramic views of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, Delaware River, and southern city views. This home has been completely customized with designer finishes and appointments, open chef’s kitchen, modern bathroom, hardwood floors, and walls of floor-to-ceiling windows. **803 sf | Offered for $369,900**

#### Beautifully Renovated, Corner Two Bedroom Plus Den, Two and a Half Bath

Seamless combination of a corner two bedroom and one bedroom. The living room features floor-to-ceiling windows, modern bathrooms, and den with views of the Delaware River and Benjamin Franklin Bridge. There is a magnificently updated kitchen, family room/den, spacious great room with a wet bar, master suite with a large walk-in closet, built-ins, and marble appointed ensuite. **1,913 sf | Offered for $950,000**

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#### Designer-appointed Three Bedroom Plus Den, Four Bath

The custom combination of three homes boasting jaw-dropping views of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, Delaware River, and Center City skyline. The heart of the condominium is its great room that includes a den, wide living room, dining room, and beautifully appointed open kitchen. The contemporary, fully upgraded kitchen features an oversized island/breakfast bar with three-person seating. There are marble and hardwood floors throughout. Additional highlights include custom closets, two wet bars, and recessed lighting. **2,650 sf | Offered for $1,275,000**

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