

Village Voices



Villager Johan Chrol prepares to welcome visitors to the Rosenbach.

Touring the Rosenbach, a Book Lover's Dream, with Johan Chrol

By John T. Gillespie

Where but amid a setting of unmatched elegance and stateliness might one expect to find the collected works – in some cases original manuscripts and first editions – of John Bunyan, Geoffrey Chaucer, Herman Melville, Lewis Carroll, Joseph Conrad, Charles Dickens, L. Frank Baum, Edgar Allan Poe, James Joyce, and myriad other famous authors?

The Rosenbach Museum and Library at 2008 Delancey Street is a bibliophile's dream. New York may have its Grolier Club, San Francisco its Roxburghe Club, St. Louis its Bixby Club, and Minneapolis its Ampersand Club. But the Rosenbach alone matches a historic book collection with an assemblage of decorative arts and priceless furnishings from around the world. The 20 foot ceilings and expansive rooms in this once private home add to the experience and grandiloquent setting. Here and there can be seen a Gilbert Stuart.

And guiding visitors with a curator's knowledge is East Falls Villager Johan Chrol, who joined the Rosenbach eight years ago as a volunteer docent.

Johan will host a tour for East Falls Villagers on April 20. Given the relative intimacy of the setting, expect a close-up, personalized visit. After eight years Chrol is a master of detail. During a recent tour by a group of collectors, called the Questers, from outside Philadelphia, Johan kept up a running dialogue, punctuated with frequent questions from visitors.

(continued on page 3)

Village To Co-Sponsor "Death With Dignity" Forum March 26

By Phil Hine

EFV, Weavers Way, Northwest Village Network, Ralston My Way, and Mt. Airy USA will co-host a forum on the choices facing the dying and terminally ill Sunday, March 26, from 3pm to 5 pm at 1st United Methodist Church of Germantown, 6001 Germantown Ave.

The forum is part of an ongoing series dealing with the challenges confronting the elderly, their families and caregivers. It originated with a panel discussion inspired by *Being Mortal*, Atul Gawande's book on the mixed blessings of medicine's role in steps to prolong life. The book by the noted surgeon and health issues commentator has become a catalyst for public discussion.

The forum will feature a speaker from Compassion and Choices in Philadelphia, who will discuss pending legislation in Pennsylvania on personal rights and choices for death with dignity, and Barbara Mancini, who will offer her perspectives, based upon a compelling personal story, concerning the legal issues that stand in the way of making life and death choices.



Welcome New Members!

- ▶ **Carla Bednar**
- ▶ **Sandra Dozier**
- ▶ **Lorraine Gutowicz & Charles Weinberger**
- ▶ **Nancy Pontone**

For contact info, log in to eastfallsvillage.org to access the members-only Membership Directory.

For help, see pages 9-10 in your copy of the 2016 Member Handbook & Directory or email info@eastfallsvillage.org.



COMPUTER WIZARD

By Tom Smith

"Restart" your computer or laptop just to be sure everything is healthy. Be sure you don't have any open files or programs when you do. It only takes about a minute to get you back up and running.

Village Voices is a publication of East Falls Village (EFV), a program of East Falls Community Council. No portion of this newsletter may be copied or reprinted without the permission of East Falls Village. All East Falls Village programs and activities, including Village Voices, are created, developed and executed by Village Member Volunteers.

Editor:

John Gillespie

Contributors:

Mary Flournoy, Phil Hinline, Tom Smith, Margaret Sadler

Design and Layout:

Kristin Puls of Mountain Paper
www.mountainpaper.com

Copyright © East Falls Village 2017

2017 Winter Gathering at Tuttleman

On January 22, approximately 75 Village members attended the Winter Membership Gathering. Kathi DiMenna was the winner of the door prize – a gift certificate to Fiorino.

Plan now to attend the next membership gathering in June!



Ellie Kip, Sandy Montimore, and Rosemarie DiStefano



Tom Smith & Frankie Jueds



Peg Vincent, Cynthia Kishinchand, & Peg Hallenbeck

Summer Membership Gathering

Sunday, June 11
3pm to 5 pm

Tuttleman Center of Philadelphia University

Members, guests, and prospective members can enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres while learning about Village activities.

Kathi & Rick DiMenna



Connie Deasy, Chris Spolsky, & Thomas Uzzell



Wendy Moody & her neighbor and guest, Jimmy Stratton



Many thanks to Sue Harrison and Wendy Moody for contributing these photos!
For more pictures, see "Event Photos" on eastfallsvillage.org.

Rosenbach

(continued from page 1)

Photos are permitted in the museum, including rooms with rare book collections but not the traveling exhibits. Because of age and condition, not all books or manuscripts are on display. That would include Chaucer's 14th century *Canterbury Tales*.

The Rosenbach was founded in 1954 through a gift by Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach (1876-1952) and his brother, Philip (1863-1953). Renowned dealers in books, manuscripts, and fine art, the brothers played a central role in the development of private libraries that later became our nation's most important public collections of rare books, such as the Folger and Huntington Libraries.

The brothers' own personal collection, now the core of the Rosenbach, features treasures the brothers were unable to part with, including the only surviving copy of Benjamin Franklin's first *Poor Richard's Almanac* and the manuscript of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The collection has since grown to include the papers of poet Marianne Moore, and Bram Stoker's notes for *Dracula*, adding richness and relevance to the experience of visiting the Rosenbach.



Chrol conducts tour in rare book library.

Tour the Rosenbach with Johan

Thursday, April 20

Carpool from the Library at 10:30.

Registration Required
(267-444-4507). \$8 fee at the door.

The greater part of the house is furnished much as the Rosenbach brothers lived in it. The furniture is mainly 18th-century English with notable examples of the work of Chippendale, Adam, Hepplewhite and Sheraton.

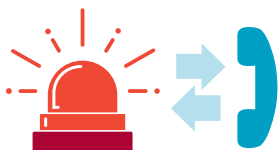
Village Movement Is 15; Celebration Postponed

By Mary Flournoy

Boston's Beacon Hill Village, the first retirement-in-place community, turned 15 in February. To mark the occasion, its leaders had intended to celebrate the nationwide Village movement – now grown to 350 communities – February 13 until severe snow storms in New England forced postponement. A live broadcast with Dr. Atul Gawande, author of best selling *Being Mortal*, will be rescheduled. One hundred and sixty five Villages had been prepared to host watch parties as far away as the Virgin Islands.

East Falls Village, Penn's Village in Center City, and Northwest Village Network cancelled what was to have been a joint watch party at the Parkway Central Library. Almost 230 people had registered for the event not just village members, but people from the region – from New Jersey to King of Prussia – who are interested in the Village or are admirers of Dr. Gawande's work. Erin Arvedlund wrote about the event in the *Inquirer*. (To read the article, see eastfallsvillage.com.)

Due to Dr. Gawande's busy schedule, the event may not be rescheduled until early fall. Stay tuned...



RAND Plans Emergency Preparedness Survey

By Phil Hinline

East Falls Village is collaborating with Village to Village Network, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and AARP, to develop guidance for handling emergencies – both individually and collectively.

As a result, most Village households will soon receive, if they haven't already, a call from ISA Research (Interviewing Service of America) with some questions

about emergency preparedness. The survey is a project of the RAND Corporation which is seeking practical answers on how best to respond to emergencies homeowners may face. Homeowners may opt out of the survey via e-mail or at the time of the call. Those who choose to participate in the brief survey will receive a \$20 cash gift card. If 50 households participate, East

Falls Village will receive \$500.

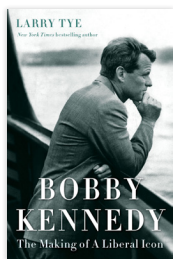
The information will help guide individual actions and arrangements for mutual support among members in emergencies in keeping with RAND's mission of developing solutions to public policy challenges and making communities safer throughout the world.

Good Reads

Bobby Kennedy, The Making of a Liberal Icon

by Larry Tye

Review by John T. Gillespie



Bobby Kennedy died at 43, leaving a mountain of might-have-beens and promises unfulfilled. Among unanswered questions were those dealing with character. Was he “bad” Bobby or “good” Bobby? The ruthless Machiavellian and political enforcer or a true man of conscience? Larry Tye comes down in favor of the latter and many posthumous judgments agree. This son of privilege and strict Catholic morality, who

worked for the Communist-baiting Joe McCarthy and led a vengeful years-long pursuit of Jimmy Hoffa so that it was said “He made people feel sorry for Jimmy Hoffa,” was a civil rights convert and conscience of the poor by the time he ran for the Senate in 1964. McCarthy was dead and the Justice Department’s “Get Hoffa Squad” would soon be a memory. Bobby Kennedy stands for an idealism that links political office with service to others. Whether remembered as “liberal icon” or “a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it” in the words of his brother Ted’s funeral eulogy. Kennedy inspired hope and confidence at a time that, arguably like today, were in short supply.

The Romanovs

By Simon Montefiore

Review by Margaret Sadler



Most of us are familiar with Catherine the Great and Peter the Great and the tragic end of the Romanov dynasty, but you are missing all the political intrigue, European royal

cross marriages, abundant sex scandals, murder, death and mayhem in courtly life all in full view in this epic history. Mother Russia held her sons and daughters (many related to Queen Victoria) in a tight hold of loyalty to Emperor, Church and country. The first Romanov – Michael I – came to power in 1613 and the last – Nicholas II – in 1894. The family tree includes the greats and the not-so-greats and all the powerful men and women that led to Russia’s collapse and rebirth. Montefiore is a historian who makes history talk to the reader.

**Village Voices
Welcomes
Book
Reviews!**

**WE WANT TO
KNOW WHAT
YOU’VE BEEN
READING!**

- ✓ No more than 150 words
- ✓ Include: brief synopsis, reviewer’s opinion, title and author
- ✓ Submit to john.gillespie1@verizon.net

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

**September 1
December 1
March 1
June 1**



East Falls Village

P.O. Box 12672
Philadelphia, PA 19129

Deliver to:



EFV Events

KEY

REG = Registration
Required or Recommended

\$ = Fee Required
in Advance



EastFallsVillage.org
Click on Calendar of Events



267-444-4507

TO
REGISTER

Post on your refrigerator! PLEASE NOTE This is a partial listing. Details may change. For more information, check EastFallsVillage.org or consult the EFV Weekly Update, emailed to members on Tuesdays.

Tuesdays

April 11 - June 27

10 am - 11 am

Stretch & Tone with a Yoga Twist

Presbyterian Church

Gentle yoga. Members: \$100; non-Village members: \$120. Sign up online on the April 11 listing on the Calendar of Events or send a check to EFCC, PO Box 12672, Phila. PA 19129. **REG Required.**

Saturday

April 8

9:10 am

"American Watercolors in the Age of Homer and Sargent"

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Carpool from the Library at 8:40 am.

Enjoy a private tour (before the exhibit opens!) with EFV member and museum docent Sue Sauerman. Members and guests.

\$ REG Required by April 2.

Saturday

April 8

2 pm

Behind the Voting Booth Curtain

Falls Library

City Commissioner and Falls resident Al Schmidt explains absentee ballot rules, registration details, and will answer questions about voting machines and procedures in Philadelphia.

Wednesday

April 26

11:30 am

Lunch of the Month: Winnie's LeBus

4226 Main St.

Carpool from the Library at 11:15 am.

Enjoy lunch at this longtime Manayunk favorite, followed by an optional walk. **REG Recommended**

Friday

April 28

11 am

Morris Arboretum Tour with Linda Koons

100 E. Northwestern Ave.

Carpool from the Falls Library at 10:30 am.

Explore the grounds of this Chestnut Hill Arboretum with EFV member and guide Linda Koons. **\$ REG Required**

Wednesday

May 3

11:30 am

Lunch in the 'Hood: Banjara Indian Bistro

Carpool from the Library at 11:30 for lunch at noon.

Enjoy Indian specialties in this new restaurant in the "Top of the Hill" center. **REG Recommended**

Monday

May 15

9:30 am

"From Homer to Hopper: Experiment and Ingenuity in American Art"

Brandywine Museum, Chadds Ford

Carpool from the Library at 9:30 am.

View 54 paintings created from 1870 to 1950. **\$ REG Recommended**

Thursday Morning Walks & Stop at a Local Café

All are welcome to join us for some exercise, good company, and a snack. For same-day information, call 215-817-9430.

Every Thursday 9:30 am

Meet at the Falls Library Garden

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Wednesday

April 19

9:30 am - 12 pm

Tour of the Inquirer and Daily News

801 Market St.

Take 8:53 train from East Falls.

The highlight of the tour, led by reporter Sally Downey, will be the morning news meeting. Members and guests. **REG Required**

(over for more programs)



EFV Events

KEY

REG = Registration
Required or Recommended

\$ = Fee Required
in Advance

EastFallsVillage.org
Click on Calendar of Events

267-444-4507

TO
REGISTER

Post on your refrigerator! PLEASE NOTE This is a partial listing. Details may change. For more information, check EastFallsVillage.org or consult the EFV Weekly Update, emailed to members on Tuesdays.



Thursday
June 1
9:30 am

CIRA Roof Garden: Special Thursday “Walk”

30th St. between
Chestnut & Walnut Sts

Carpool from the
Library at 9:30 am.

Visit this green roof
“park” atop the garage of
the new CIRA Centre
and then walk along
Schuylkill Banks, ending
at Rittenhouse Square.

Thursday Morning Walks & Stop at a Local Café

All are welcome to join
us for some exercise,
good company, and a
snack. For same-day
information, call
215-817-9430.

Every Thursday
9:30 am

Meet at the Falls
Library Garden

Wednesday

May 17
2 pm

Thursday

May 18
11:45 am

Tuesday

May 23
2 pm

Thursday

May 25
9:30 am

Friday

June 8
9:30 am

Wednesday

June 14
11:30 am

Monday

June 19
9:30 am

Live Your Life to the Fullest

Falls Library

Occupational Therapy faculty and students from Philadelphia University provide tips for safety, comfort, and efficiency in your home for years to come.

Lunch of the Month: The Corner Bakery

153 E. City Avenue, Bala Cynwyd

Meet at the Falls Library for carpooling at 11:30 am or meet us at the restaurant at 11:45 am.

REG Recommended

Reverse Mortgages: What You Can Expect

Falls Library

There are a lot of TV commercials about reverse mortgages. What are they and can they help you? Presentation by the PA Department of Banking & Securities.

Chanticleer Garden : Special Thursday “Walk”

786 Church Road, Wayne

Carpool from the Library at 9:30 am.

Another return trip to “one of the most delightful gardens in the world.” \$ REG Recommended

Tour of Graeme Park House and Garden

859 County Line Rd, Horsham

Carpool from the Library at 9:30 am.

Built in 1722 as a summer residence, this is the only surviving residence of a Colonial Pennsylvania governor.

\$ REG Recommended

Lunch of the Month: Golden Crust

3732 Midvale Ave.

Enjoy variety of Mediterranean food or a pizza.

REG Recommended

Tour of Coast Guard Sector HQ

Philadelphia, Delaware & Washington Aves.

Carpool from the Library at 9:30 am.

Learn about the Coast Guard and perhaps board a Coast Guard vessel. Lunch in the cafeteria. Photo ID needed. Members only.

\$ REG Required by June 9.

(over for more programs)