



Village Voices

A Sunday Singalong with Cole Porter

By John T. Gillespie



Taking A Break Left to right: Joe Leube, Martie Ann Polaski, Jeff Polaski, Peggy Sgarra, Suzanne Schneider, Frankie Jueds, Margaret Sadler.

Cole Porter's lyrics are as memorable as his songs. "Sophisticated and risqué," is how Villager and music enthusiast Wendy Moody describes the Porter repertoire.

The American songster and musical taste setter of the upper classes was celebrated in song – and verse – by more than a dozen Villagers at a recent Sunday singalong hosted by the Moodys.

This wasn't the Mormon Tabernacle Choir but it was all heart and soul nonetheless. "It doesn't matter if you don't know how to sing," said Moody, putting the tone deaf at ease.

Moody added to the spirit of the gathering, interpreting the life and times of Porter between songs. Porter suffered a paralyzing accident in middle age while horseback riding and endured pain the rest of his life.

Musical gatherings are becoming a staple among Villagers who, besides polished and would-be singers, include accomplished pianists and instrumentalists, including the retired first trumpet for the Philadelphia Orchestra, Frank Kaderabek.

"Porter evokes nostalgia and longing for romance and an American past," said Villager Frankie Jueds, in charge of social programming, and a guest at the Moodys.

With Moody at the piano, the group belted out Porter favorites *Begin the Beguine*, *Anything Goes*, *Let's Do It*, and dozens more. Hostess Moody pronounced the recital a great success and is planning a Gershwin festival.

Porter was a prolific composer and lyricist. Everyone knows that "the birds... and the bees do it" in *Let's Do It*, but who knows that by the time you get to rarely sung verse 5, "highly educated fleas do it" or that "Chimpanzees in the zoo... courageous kangaroos... even pekineses in the Ritz do it."

Suzanne Schneider, retired psychologist, and a late-blooming singer who gave a December recital with pianist Gayl Koster at Gayl and Herb Henze's, said music like Porter's fills a gap in her life. "I realized something was missing." Tenor Ted Cheek said "good music gives meaning to life."

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DORIS STEINBERG, "MOTHER" OF EAST FALLS VILLAGE

Doris Steinberg passed away on December 13 at Cathedral Village, where she and her husband Phil lived since 2013, while continuing their participation in our Village as Emeritus members.



Doris and Phil Steinberg

In 2006, after reading an article in the *New York Times* about Boston's Beacon Hill Village, Doris said, "We can do that here in East Falls!" She then gathered a small group together and they met for a number of years around Doris's table. Glennis Pagano recalls that Doris always called herself a convener.

When Doris met Charlie Day at a local meeting, she was impressed with his interest and credentials, and asked him to join the group. Charlie then took the lead as the original aging in place idea morphed into a true village concept.

According to Charlie, "Doris Steinberg was the moving force behind East Falls Village. She pulled the founding group together and through her persistence kept us headed toward our goal. Through her many friendships and connections in the community, she was a key element in building support and memberships in the Village."

Welcome New Members!

- ▶ Pam Ball
- ▶ Francis Gillard
- ▶ Joan Logan
- ▶ Margret K. Mukai
- ▶ Alan & Barbara Schindler

For their contact information, log in to eastfallsvillage.org with your user name and password to access the members-only Membership Directory.

For help on logging in, see page 10 in the 2017 Member Handbook & Directory or email info@eastfallsvillage.org.

JOINING EAST FALLS VILLAGE

Pick up a membership brochure at the front desk of the Falls Library or print out a membership application from the website, eastfallsvillage.org. Or click on Member Signup to join online and pay with a credit card.

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:

Sue Burnett, Mary Flournoy, Loann Scarpato

Design and Layout:

Kristin Puls of Mountain Paper

www.mountainpaper.com

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Members – Get the Most from the EFV Website

By Sue Burnett



To access special features of the EFV Website, go to eastfallsvillage.org and login with your user name and password.

LOGGING IN

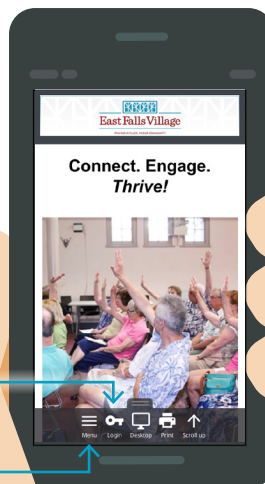
On a desktop or laptop computer, click on **Member Login** on the left side of the screen.

On a smartphone, click on **Login and Menu** at the bottom of the screen.

If you don't remember your user name and/or password, click on **Forgot My Username/Password**. A temporary password will be sent to your email account. After logging in with that password, you will be required to change your password. Be sure to write down your user name and password.

Click on **Remember Me on This Device**. If two village members share the same computer, the second will have to click **Login as a different user**.

From the smartphone home page, **Login** first and then click on the **Menu**.



FEATURES OF THE MEMBERS-ONLY PART OF THE WEBSITE

★ Connect with Other Members

Look up other members by first or last name, or recent membership in the Membership Directory. (If you are on a smartphone, you can email or even call someone this way.)

Post a notice on the Bulletin Board.

★ Events

Go to the Calendar of Events and register yourself for events including Happy Hours. This relieves the burden on our telephone volunteers.

Check to see the names of others who registered for an event.

Look up pictures of registrants by clicking on each name to see their home address, email, and phone. *This helps new members like me who are trying to learn the names and faces of the people attending events.*

★ Service Providers

Access the list of service providers recommended by other members.

Cole Porter

(continued from page 1)

With a love of music, Jean Ruff has no illusions about her talents. “I’m just a walk-on,” she said. But she loves Porter, Gershwin and other 20th Century songwriters while dismissing the contemporary crop with a curt “It’s not music.”

Villager Phil Steinberg, who sings with the Cathedral Village Choir, grew up with popular cabaret pianist and Porter interpreter Bobby Short, in Danville, Indiana. From that he developed a love for Porter. “Matching the words to the music can be difficult but his songs are great and fun to sing.”

Joe Leube, who sings with the Germantown Presbyterian Church choir, likes Porter’s “style and cleverness.”

For Martie Ann Polaski, Porter songs were part of her life. Her husband, Jeff, developed his love of music from his piano-playing mother. Both look forward to an afternoon with Gershwin.

Porter began writing songs as an undergraduate at Yale – more than 300 songs in fact – including the music and words of the Yale fight song, “Bulldog, bulldog, bow wow wow, Eli Yale.”

But it was his output in the 1920s and 1930s that made him a household name and drawing room star. His sexually infused lyrics in such songs as *Begin the Beguine* and *All of You* reflected changing morés and drew the attention the guardians of public morality, including the much feared Legion of Decency.

Porter spanned four decades, beginning with one of his earliest popular songs, *Let’s Do It* in 1928 and running through *True Love* for the movie, *High Society*, in 1956. His musicals include *Kiss Me Kate*, *Fifty Million Frenchmen*, *DuBarry Was a Lady*, *Anything Goes*, *Can-Can* and *Silk Stockings*.



Left to right: Phil Steinberg, Joe Leube, hostess Wendy Moody, Martie Ann Polaski, Jeff Polaski



O’CALLAGHAN MEMORIAL FUND TO SPONSOR CPR CLASSES

Village member Bill O’Callaghan died suddenly November 13 while attending a meeting of the East Falls Community Council. His wife Allison requested that donations in Bill’s memory be made to East Falls Village. Many Village and community members have contributed to this fund.



Bill and Allison O’Callaghan at a Village Gathering.

Inspired by discussion on the Village Bulletin Board, and in consultation with Allison, it was decided that a fitting way to honor Bill’s memory would be to sponsor a series of CPR classes. This prompted further thought, yielding a plan to purchase an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the Falls Library, where many EFV and other community programs are held. We have consulted with representatives of the Philadelphia Fire Department regarding the AED and the CPR classes.

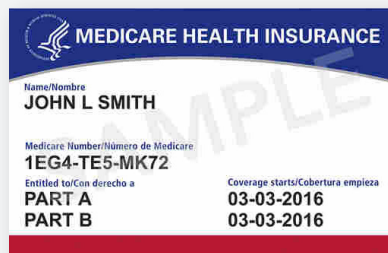
After the AED is installed, EFV will be scheduling a series of CPR classes – first for Village members and then open to the East Falls community.

NEW MEDICARE CARDS ARE COMING

Beginning in April, Pennsylvania residents will be getting new Medicare cards. To help combat identity theft, they will not have Social Security Numbers, but each person will have a unique Medicare ID number.



Current design



New design



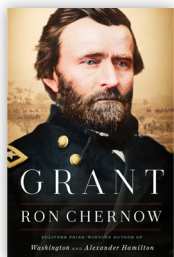
CUT UP YOUR OLD CARD WHEN YOU GET YOUR NEW CARD.

Good Reads

Grant

By Ron Chernow

Review by John T. Gillespie



Dismissed by critics in his time and since as a philistine, a boor, a drunk, and a butcher who prevailed at bloody Shiloh, Vicksburg, and other battles because of superior arms and manpower, Ulysses S. Grant emerges in this 965-page portrait as a far more complex and nuanced figure than earlier histories have portrayed. Brilliant at arms

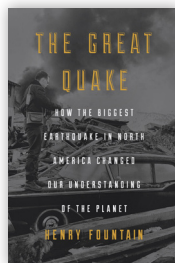
and grand strategy— compared to Robert E. Lee's tactical genius – Grant was also generous in victory, forgiving, trusting to a fault, kind, and tolerant. The scandals that beset his presidency and his personal business and financial failures do not cancel out his qualities as a man and leader. Ravaged and in agony at the end from throat cancer – Grant at one time smoked as many as 20 cigars a day – he pushed himself to complete his acclaimed memoirs before he died so that his wife and family would have security. He completed them one week before he died.

Perhaps owing to Chernow's masterful biography, Grant has moved up seven places – from 28 to 21 -- in the latest survey of presidential "greatness" rankings by US political scientists. You'll know why when you read the book.

The Great Quake: How the Biggest Earthquake in North America Changed Our Understanding of the Planet

By Henry Fountain

Review by Loann Scarpato



In 1964, plate tectonics, the theory that the earth's outer layer is made up of large, moving pieces called plates, was far from settled science. In the wake of the magnitude 9.2 earthquake that struck Alaska on March 27th, 1964, that began to change, due in large part to one remarkable scientist and one

unremarkable species of barnacle. George Plafker was a mineral resources geologist, not even a seismologist, when, less than 24 hours after the quake, he began documenting its effects. What he observed and measured during months of fieldwork provided convincing evidence of subduction, a missing link in tectonic theory. Subduction occurs when one tectonic plate sinks under another, causing earthquakes and volcanoes. Eyewitness accounts of the Alaskan quake and the tsunamis that followed form the bulk of the book, which includes photos and maps.

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.

Help Mifflin Students with Reading!

Volunteer for Read to Me! and/or the School Library Project. Clearances are required.

READ TO ME!

Wednesdays
10 am - noon



SCHOOL LIBRARY PROJECT

Mondays
8:45 am - 11:15 am
12:45 pm - 2:30 pm

Fridays
8:45 am - 11:15 am

For information, contact Kathi DiMenna: kadmmenna@aol.com or 215-848-6735.

Thursday

March 29
1 pm - 3 pm

Flower Arranging with Peicha

Vault + Vine, 3507 Midvale Ave.

Workshop with Peicha Chang, the owner of Vault + Vine. Fee includes flowers and a container. Members and guests only. \$35 in advance. **\$ REG Required**

Monday

April 2
6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

Gerrymandering; What It Is, Solutions, Why You Should Be Involved.

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

Will the "new" map solve our problems? Speakers: Charlie Day of Fair Districts PA and Chris Satullo of the Committee of 70.

Tuesdays

April 10 - June 26
10 am - 11 am

Stretch & Tone with a Yoga Twist

Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, 3820 The Oak Road

Gentle yoga. Members - \$70; non-Village members - \$80. Sign up and pay online on the April 10 listing on the Calendar of Events or send a check to EFCC, PO Box 12672, Phila. PA 19129

\$ REG Required

Saturday

April 14
10:30 am - noon

Working for Senators Specter and Biden,

Arlen Specter Center for Public Service, 3420 School House Lane

John Gillespie and Rob Skoromucha talk about working for Senators Specter and Biden. Tour the Specter Center, located in the historic Roxboro House on the University campus.

\$ REG Required

Friday

April 20
11:30 am

Lunch of the Month: Founded Coffee & Pizza

3300 Henry Ave. Carpool from the Library at 11:30 am or meet at Founded at 11:45 am.

Enjoy pizza, soup, or salad at the Falls Center.

REG Recommended



Tuesday

April 10
6:30 pm

**Glorious Shade:
Dazzling Plants,
Design Ideas, and
Proven Techniques
for Your Shady
Garden**

Vault + Vine, 3507
Midvale Ave.

Jenny Rose Carey will talk about her latest book. The book and some of the recommended plants will be for sale after the talk. Members and guests only.

REG Required

(over for more programs)



EFV Events

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in Advance



EastFallsVillage.org
Click on Calendar of Events



267-444-4507

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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

Saturday
**April 21
9 am - 11 am**

Wednesday
**April 25
10 am - 12:30 pm**

Thursday
**April 26
10:30 am**

Sunday
**May 6
2:30 pm - 5 pm**



Sunday
**June 10
3 pm - 5 pm**

Summer Membership Gathering

Tuttleman Center,
Jefferson University

Followed by a wine and cheese social hour.

Guests welcome, but please call to register.

REG Required

Birding at Houston Meadow

Meet at basketball court at Houston Playground, 900 Grakyn Lane. Local birdwatcher Navin Sasikumar will lead a walk around this meadow in Andorra. BYOB (Bring Your Own Binoculars) if you have some! **REG Required**

Tour of Williamson College of Trades

106 S. New Middletown Road, Media

Founded in 1888, this unique residential trade school has buildings designed by Frank Furness and beautiful grounds. (Horticulture, Landscaping, and Turf Management is one of the main courses offered.) The tour will include lunch with the college president. Members and guests only. **REG Required**

Egypt, the Nile, and Petra

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

Roger Marsh will share slides of his recent trip down the Nile, to the pyramids, and to Petra, Jordan.

Isolation: The Wolf at Our Door

First United Methodist Church,
6001 Germantown Ave.

Join a lively discussion led by three experts in gerontology and psychotherapy on how isolation negatively impacts the aging process and what we can do about it. The panelists are Lois Evans and Neville Strumpf, retired professors from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and Claudia Apfelbaum, a social worker. Presented by the NW Coalition of Healthy Aging.

Lunch of the Month: Trolley Car Café

South Ferry Road off Kelly Drive

Carpool from library at 11:15 am or meet at restaurant at 11:30 am. Enjoy lunch in the newly-completed indoor addition.

REG Recommended

Can You Hear Me Now?

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

Audiologists Gail Brenner and Sarah Kelly discuss hearing loss, hearing tests, hearing aids, and other assistive devices, and tinnitus.



**Got an Idea for a
Program?**

Email [info@
eastfallsvillage.org](mailto:info@eastfallsvillage.org)

(over for more programs)