

Village Voices

Working for a Senator

VILLAGE REMEMBERS ARLEN SPECTER

By John T. Gillespie

As a political moderate Arlen Specter would have found the current Washington climate alien, if not a threat to the democratic process.

The longest serving US Senator in Pennsylvania's history and his good friend Joe Biden were remembered recently by staffers, including this writer, at a symposium sponsored by the Village and the Specter Center for Public Service at Jefferson University's East Falls campus.



Remembering Arlen Specter Top, left to right: Joan Specter, John Gillespie, moderator Phil Hinline, Rob Skoromucha

support. He would say 'It's a bill in name only and will never leave the hopper.' Specter-backed bills more often than not made it through committee and to the floor.

The Center is a fitting memorial to a man who was the longest serving United States Senator in Pennsylvania history and who made public service his life's calling. He ran for office 21 times, beginning with his victory as Philadelphia's district attorney in 1965. He won 16 times and lost four before claiming a U.S. Senate seat in 1980 where he would serve five terms, losing a bid for a sixth in 2010.

The setting for the event was one Specter—and Biden -- would have appreciated, a room with a conference table surrounded by a captive audience of Villagers on the second floor of the Center. An adjoining room contained memorabilia of Specter's career—awards, honors, campaign mementoes, and perhaps most telling of all, a wall full of photos of the Senator with world leaders.

Specter was a political centrist. He voted for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), the auto bailout, the Economic Recovery Act, and, finally,

Specter had a reputation among staff for being a demanding employer. He was but he also ranked high in loyalty, a more telling judgment.

"Working for him was an amazing roller coaster ride," said Mike Oscar, his long time legislative and political aide in Philadelphia.

"'No' was not an option. One never brought him a bill that lacked bipartisan

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**NEED A LYFT? WANT AN UBER?
DON'T HAVE A SMARTPHONE?**

By Sue Burnett and Mary Flournoy

Ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft are changing the way people of all ages get around, but you need a smartphone to use them. EFV Tech Team member Sue Burnett has used both Uber and Lyft in traveling. When she heard about a new service, GoGoGrandparent, that did not require a smartphone, she put together a program for East Falls Village. She and her husband Mike even used GoGoGrandparent to try it out.

GoGoGrandparent was founded by a young man who worried about his grandmother getting around safely. Now it serves over 8,000 cities. The top two destinations are hospitals and hair salons.

You don't have to be a grandparent to use GoGoGrandparent! "You don't need a 'smart' phone or any whiz-bang apps... The operators are passionately dedicated grandchildren doing their best to make you proud." They are called "Professional Grandchildren."

Of course members of East Falls Village can request rides, but EFV requires a week's notice. With Uber, Lyft, and GoGoGrandparent, you call about 15 minutes before the ride is needed and a driver who is in the area will come. These services can be useful to Village members if a volunteer driver is not

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Welcome New Members!

- **Nancy James**
- **Penny Scott-Sedley**
- **Louise Wright**

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 2018 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, Herbert Henze

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Kristin Puls of Mountain Paper

www.mountainpaper.com

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VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED



Last year 87 Village member volunteers put in 5,356 hours serving the needs of other members; helping children to read at Mifflin; organizing, presenting, and hosting social and cultural events; providing rides; and training other volunteers.

In all, nearly half the Village membership – currently 190 – volunteered helping other members, serving the community, or leading a team or committee. Non-members are welcome to volunteer as well.

"We're fortunate that our membership is especially vibrant," said Anne Hagele, director of volunteer services. "The opportunity to volunteer may be part of the reason people join the Village."

Volunteers were recognized at the annual volunteer luncheon at Cin Cin in Chestnut Hill. While guests dined over chicken cashew and shrimp in garlic sauce, Hagele ticked off the accomplishments for the past year.

16 VOLUNTEERS provided
107 RIDES (up from 82 in 2016)

23 VOLUNTEERS hosted
22 EVENTS in their homes

14 VOLUNTEERS presented
18 PROGRAMS

5 TELEPHONE ANSWERERS
manned phones for **2,384 HOURS**

23 VOLUNTEERS READ to Mifflin students
or worked in the library for **380 HOURS**

Volunteers also provide organizational support through service on committees and teams, among them active learning, civic engagement, communications, membership, social –cultural, tech team, volunteer services, the operating group, and the steering committee.



Sue and Michael Burnett were recognized for their outstanding volunteer service during their brief time in Philadelphia.

"WE'RE FORTUNATE THAT OUR MEMBERSHIP IS ESPECIALLY VIBRANT..."



◀ Michelle Shaw-Carpenter of the Mifflin School, left, thanked the "Read-to-Me" and school library volunteers for their service and presented gift silver key chains to the school volunteers. Shown here with Kathi DiMenna, chair of Civic Engagement.



▲ Left to right: Joan McIlhenny, Cathy Sharrar, Frankie Jueds

Specter

(continued from page 1)

the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), signature accomplishments of the Obama administration that facilitated the economic recovery and health care reform but that cost Specter the support of the Republican establishment. He soldiered on defiantly with that streak of independence that marked his career. “Never give in” he would say and mean it, whether talking politics, naming his book, or fighting his years-long battle with cancer.

His independence made him hard to pin down on occasion. As a member and later chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he participated in two of the most contentious Supreme Court nominations in history – Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas. He voted against Bork due to Bork’s originalist interpretation of the Constitution. After his searing interrogation of Anita Hill, who testified about Thomas’s alleged lewd behavior, he voted for Thomas. His support for Thomas and his charge that Hill lied nearly cost Specter his third term in the Senate in 1992.

He was a quick study. “If a memo exceeded one page, the second page wasn’t worth reading,” said Oscar. “His mantra was ‘Get to the point!’”

Specter liked to quote John F. Kennedy that “Sometimes party loyalty asks too much.” He was immune to party labels and never asked a staffer or new hire, including this writer, their party affiliation. He often told the story that he only learned that future District Attorney, Mayor, and Governor of Pennsylvania Ed Rendell—someone he considered a protégé – was a Democrat following Specter’s loss for DA in 1973. Until then he assumed Rendell, whom he had hired as an assistant DA five years before, was a Republican. Specter’s Senate staff included Democrats and Republicans.

When Villagers turned to discussion of Specter’s legacy there was agreement that among the cumulative achievements of a long political career, he would be remembered for one in particular -- his willingness to talk to one’s enemies. “To jaw-jaw” he would say in a quote attributed to Churchill, “is better than to war-war.”



Specter Center for Public Service at Roxboro House.

The champion high school debater from Russell, Kansas, liked nothing more than to test wits with opponents, whether that opponent was a tyrant, a corrupt Philadelphia magistrate, or a critic of the “single bullet” theory for JFK’s death.

“He was confident enough in himself and in the greatness of his nation that he – and we—could work to solve the worst of our problems,” said his son Shanin.

John Gillespie is an East Falls Village member, who was a special advisor and writer for Senator Specter from 2008-2011. Rob Skoromucha, Director for Corporate, Foundation, and Government Relations at Jefferson University, worked as a staff assistant and project director for Senator Biden from 1989-1998.

GoGoGrandparent

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available or if there’s not enough time to schedule one.

All three services require that you set up an account in advance— using a credit card and a smartphone with an app for Uber and/or Lyft and using a landline or cellphone for GoGoGrandparent. If you have a computer, you can go to GoGoGrandparent.com to apply or for more information. GoGoGrandparent acts as an agent to help you use Lyft or Uber. It does add a “concierge fee” (now 27¢ a minute for the duration of the ride).

Unlike Uber and Lyft, you can schedule routine rides in advance – for weekly trips to the hairdresser, doctor, shopping, or visiting. GoGoGrandparent has other features to help you as well. On the application, you can identify all special needs – cane, walker, wheelchair, service dog, hard of hearing, visually impaired, oxygen tank, and/or poor memory. You can also put in the name and contact information for a family member or someone else to be notified when you’ve been picked up and have arrived at your destination.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

See the [Program Handout](#) section of our website, Eastfallsvillage.org.

We have posted Sue’s handout, “[Need a Lyft? Transportation Options for Seniors](#),” which includes links to useful tutorials on Uber and Lyft.

For more information on GoGoGrandparent, see GoGoGrandparent.com or call **1-855-464-6872**.

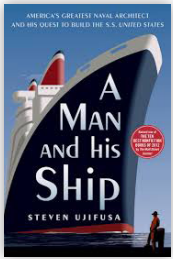
You can get a free informational brochure with no obligation. When you register, GoGoGrandparent will put a \$20 deposit on your credit card to open the account; this can be used towards future rides.

Good Read

A Man and His Ship

By Steven Ujifusa

Review by Herbert Henze



The SS United States, which lies rusting in the Delaware River, was for a brief time queen of its class, noted for its safety, speed and luxury. Launched in 1951, its reign was cut short by the advent of jet travel.

Now author Steve Ujifusa has made sure the legacy of America's flagship will live on even as

the 67-year-old vessel succumbs to age and neglect while its final fate is determined. The protagonist in this tale of engineering ingenuity and daring is the great naval architect and marine engineer, Philadelphia-born William Francis Gibbs.

The boy Gibbs was absorbed by journals, engineering articles and books about maritime construction. He and his younger brother, Frederick, spent their youth sketching, designing and modeling imaginary ocean liners, and eventually established a small naval architectural office along with Daniel Cox, a successful yacht designer.

Eventually the firm, Gibbs and Cox, secured contracts to design navy vessels of superior speed and power during World War II.

Gibbs was an advocate of high temperature and high pressure steam to increase power and efficiency in ship propulsion, as well as of water-tight compartments and fire-proof construction.

Gibbs and Cox was chosen by the United States Lines to design the SS United States. Construction began in 1950 at Newport News Ship Building Co. The ship departed New York on its maiden voyage on July 3, 1952. It was the fastest, most beautiful, safest ocean liner ever built. It crossed the Atlantic in 3 days and 12 hours, taking the speed record held by the Mauretania for 20 years.

Herb Henze sailed on the SS United States in 1955 as an 18-year-old on a family trip to Europe. The ship was tied up at Pier 86 on the Hudson River, its great black hull looming above the West Side Highway. From their berths in Cabin Class, Henze and his 15-year-old brother explored the ship, swam in the pool, watched movies and tried to sneak into forbidden First Class. After four memorable food-filled days, they arrived at Le Havre, disembarked and boarded the "Boat Train" to Paris; an unforgettable experience for a pair of teenagers.

**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.

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*

Tuesdays
July 3 - August 28
10 am - 11 am

Stretch & Tone with a Yoga Twist

Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, 3820 The Oak Road
Gentle yoga. Members - \$65; non-Village members - \$75. Sign up and pay online on the July 3 listing on the Calendar of Events or send a check to EFCC, PO Box 12672, Phila. PA 19129 and register by calling 267-444-4507. **\$ REG Required**



Thursday
June 28
12:30 pm - 3 pm

Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden

1829 County Line Road, Villanova.

Meet at the library at 12:30 pm to carpool.

The newest public garden in the area was donated by the Haas family as a land preserve. Members and guests. **REG Required**

Saturday
August 4
9:30 am - 11 am

**Modern Times:
American Art
1910-1950**

Philadelphia
Museum of Art

Meet at the library at
9:30 to carpool.

Beat the crowds and get a private tour at 10 am of this exhibit of early 20th century art – Georgia O'Keefe, Jacob Lawrence, and other artists who forged new styles in this time of great change. Members and guests.

**REG Required
& Payment of \$26
by July 27.**

Thursday
July 12
11:15 am

Lunch of the Month: Cooperman's Deli

7060 Germantown Ave.

Meet at the library at 11:15 am to carpool or the deli at 11:45 am.

This new restaurant in Mt. Airy has traditional deli food.

REG Required

Wednesday
July 18
5:30 pm

Dinner at Yards Brewing Co

500 Spring Garden St.

Meet at the library at 5:30 pm to carpool or at the restaurant at 6 pm.

This new brewery and restaurant has 20 beers on tap and a full menu. **REG Recommended**

Wednesday
July 25
9:30 am - 1 pm

Andalusia Historic House and Garden

1237 State Road

Meet at the library at 9:30 pm to carpool.

Guided tour of this Greek Revival home and a self-guided tour of the gardens. \$20 payable at the door. Members and guests.

REG Required by July 17.

Wednesday
August 8
10 am

Cuppa Joe: Founded Coffee & Pizza

3300 Henry Ave. (Falls Center)

Drop-in for coffee and a bagel or pastry and some conversation!

REG Required

(over for more programs)



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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

**Tuesday
August 14
12 pm**

Lunch of the Month:

Shan Chuan

4211 Ridge Ave.

Meet at the library at 11:45 am to carpool.

Enjoy Chinese food or sushi at our local restaurant.

REG Recommended



**Got an Idea for a
Program?**

Email info@eastfallsvillage.org

**Sunday
August 19
12:15 pm**

Hope Lodge

553 S. Bethlehem Pike, Fort Washington

Meet at the library at 12:15 am to carpool.

Guided tour (\$5) of this early Georgian house, which was used by Continental troops in 1777. Members and guests.

REG Recommended

**Friday
September 7
11:30 am**

Lunch of the Month: Santucci's Pizza

6164 Ridge Ave.

Meet at the library at 11:30 am to carpool.

Enjoy the square pizza, salads, or other Italian dishes in this new addition to "the Ridge." Cash-only. **REG Recommended**



**Saturday
September 15
9:45 am**

Trolley Tour of Valley Forge

Meet at the library at 9:45 am to carpool.

The 90-minute trolley tour starts at 11 am.

The trolley is ADA accessible. The senior fare is \$14.50.

Members and guests.

REG Required

**Wednesday
May 16
11:15 am**

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

**Sunday
September 23
5 pm - 7 pm**

Village Social at the Canoe Club

4900 Ridge Ave.

Join us for our 3rd Annual Member-Guest get-together. When you register, let us know if you're bringing a beverage, appetizer, or dessert. **REG Required**

**Thursday
September 27
11:30 am**

Lunch in the Hood: The Belgian Café

21st & Fairmount.

Meet at the library at 11:30 am to carpool or the restaurant at 12 noon.

Enjoy mussels and other Belgian specialties (including beer), followed by an optional neighborhood walk.

REG Recommended

(over for more programs)