

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Jane Eleey**



Running down the laundry list of possible things to share, I realize that I repeatedly come back to the fact that it does take a village. With the myriad problem-solving skills of our members and volunteers, we at Penn's Village are very "village-y." On both an individual and group basis, we step up every day to solve issues far beyond companionship and lightbulb replacement.

Recently, a very senior active member needed some assistance negotiating a tricky entrance and exit to his gym. We arranged for accompaniment. A short while later, that same member was unexpectedly and urgently hospitalized with no shoes, no glasses, no cellphone charger, and no nearby family to resolve anything. A west-coast family member called to ask that we step in and help. Over the next couple of days, several Penn's Village volunteers helped to locate nearby neighbors, navigate the red tape of permission to get into the member's home, and then retrieve the much needed items. Problem solved.

You'll receive an email from me fairly regularly soliciting help or suggestions on how to do something, or perhaps

to gauge your level of interest in 'X' that originated from another Member/Villager/Volunteer. The creativity of responses to requests for help or to establish an affinity group or to design a new workshop is equally matched by the broad range of member backgrounds found at Penn's Village: from musicology to pediatrics to linguistics to exercise to technology and beyond.

For example, who wants to cast-on, knit 1/purl 2 alone, all the time? A new volunteer offered to host and teach all levels of knitting if "anyone out there" was interested. Now there's the Penn's Village Knitting Group.

Because a member wanted, and asked to have one, a Men's Group was established about a year and a half ago. Today, the group is hugely successful, full to capacity, and often has a waiting list.

Not only are Villagers diverse in terms of their backgrounds and interests, they also are not surrounded just by their peer age group. We've a number of "kids" volunteering. One young man did crossword puzzles with a stroke victim. Another newly-minted CPA has been helping an overwhelmed member to organize paperwork and finances, and to pay bills.

I could talk much more about what Penn's Villagers do, but I really need to move forward on some new to-dos: a diversity task force, a benefactors' reception, fundraising, the Clergy Breakfast...you know, village-y stuff.



## INTRODUCING

**Penn's Village Fall Intern**



*Savannah Seymour*

Meet Savannah, our new Marketing and Communications Intern who joined us in September. She will finish her final year at Arcadia University next spring, receiving a Bachelor's degree in English with minors in both French and Linguistics. Savannah has served as an active member of Sigma Tau Delta - the English Honor Society - for two years, working and coordinating events to encourage reading on campus and at a local elementary school.

As a student, Savannah has traveled in India and England and, most recently, completed study abroad in France. She will be contributing to the Marketing and Communications Committee in a variety of ways, including aiding in event planning, promoting Penn's Village with social media stories, and working with our blog.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 From the Program Committee
- 3 Active Aging
- 4 All Around Town
- 5 October Calendar of Events
- 6 From the Fundraising Committee
- 6 Humor
- 7 Introducing Rose St. Julien

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## FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee, under the leadership of Molly Lenowitz and Mario Oropeza, announces the schedule of programs for October. Please register at 215-925-7333. Check the website for up-to-date information.

**Wednesday, October 2, 10:00 am.** University of Pennsylvania Associate Professor Campbell Grey presents *America's Rome: Mores, Morality, and Models from Cicero and Caesar to the Current Day*. America's founders knew the history of Rome and its leaders almost as well as they knew their own families. Seeking to send powerful messages about the mission and the potential of the new nation, these men turned again and again to the example of a small slave-holding republic that grew into the most powerful empire that the world had ever seen. MacColl Room, First Presbyterian Church, 201 S. 21st Street.

**Thursday, October 10, 2:00 pm.** Buntzie Churchill, former president of the World Affairs Council and Professor Emeritus of Princeton University's Near Eastern Studies Department, will present *Women in Islam* at the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, located in the Bellevue Hotel, 200 S. Broad Street, Empowerment Room - Suite 700. Join us to learn about the practices of the oldest and second largest religion in the world.

**Tuesday, October 15, 2:00 pm.** *The Silver Binder, A Gift for Those You Love*. May peace of mind be in your future! Mario Oropeza, co-chair of the Program Committee, developed this workshop to get you started on what may seem like an intimidating task: organizing the vital details about your contacts and passwords, as well as your legal, health, and financial affairs. The session will be packed with useful ideas and help with the best ways to compile your personal Silver Binder. William Penn House Community Room, 1919 Chestnut Street.

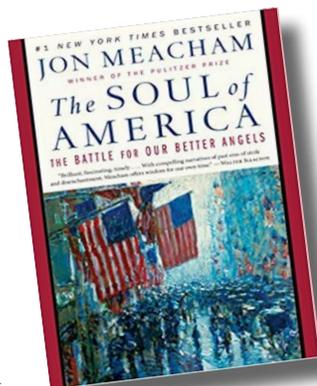
**Wednesday, October 23, 2:00 pm.** Discover *Philadelphia's Street Art with Conrad Benner*. Conrad created the website, [www.streetsdept.com](http://www.streetsdept.com) that documents and celebrates street art and muralism across the city's public spaces. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* says, "He has helped bring national respect to a Philadelphia art scene that deserves it." Conrad, with the help of local artists, has also been instrumental in campaigns to increase voter turnout and raise awareness and money to end youth homelessness in Philadelphia. He was the curator and organizer of *Revolutionary: A Pop-Up Street Art Exhibition*, commissioned by Visit Philadelphia in 2017. The artists' works depicted challenges to the current political and social status quo and were installed at thirteen locations across Philadelphia's historic district. The website also offers podcasts, including a recent interview with the Director of the Tyler School of Art's Department of Exhibitions and Public Programs. Join us and meet this energetic, creative young man who enriches the lives of many Philadelphians (with 140,000+ Instagram followers). MacColl Room, First Presbyterian Church, 201 S. 21st Street.

**Monday, October 28, 11:00 am-2:00 pm.** Excel Physical Therapy-Society Hill, 517 S. 4th Street (near South Street), is offering free balance assessments in honor of Falls Prevention Awareness Day last month (read the new blog post on our website). Call their office at 215-629-1270 and request a free consultation with staff physical therapist, Rachel Maher.

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### **LUNCH AND BOOKS: *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*, by Jon Meacham** **Wednesday, November 6, Noon, Positano Coast**

Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in *The Soul of America* Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln and other presidents, and illuminating the courage of such influential citizen activists as Martin Luther King, Jr., early suffragettes Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt, civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and John Lewis, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Army-McCarthy hearings lawyer



Joseph N. Welch, Meacham brings vividly to life turning points in American history. He writes about the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the birth of the Lost Cause; the back-

lash against immigrants in the First World War and the resurgence of the Ku Klux

Klan in the 1920s; the fight for women's rights; the demagoguery of Huey Long and Father Coughlin and the isolationist work of America First in the years before World War II; the anti-Communist witch-hunts led by Senator Joseph McCarthy; and Lyndon Johnson's crusade against Jim Crow. Each of these dramatic hours in our national life has been shaped by the contest to lead the country to look forward rather than back, to assert hope over fear—a struggle that continues even now. To register, email [info@pennsvillage.org](mailto:info@pennsvillage.org) or call 215-925-7333.

## ACTIVE AGING

### The Strange and Rewarding World of MeTV

by Dick Levinson

Imagine a commercial television network that exists to serve seniors. This would have been impossible when I was growing up in the 1960s. There were just three major networks then, and they all coveted viewers between the ages of eighteen and forty-five. This age group was thought to possess the lion's share of discretionary income. Because many seniors were poor, an even larger group with financial advisors and comfortable lives were ignored.

MeTV is a national network based in Chicago. Its local affiliate is licensed to serve the

Wilmington- Philadelphia market. If you are a Comcast customer living in Center City, this nostalgia-driven station can be found on Channel 2. You'll know you're in the right place because the talking heads are hawking incontinence products and booklets promoting funeral planning. Why would viewers of any age tolerate this? The answer is that while MeTV is the home of the most irritating commercials ever seen, it also features some of the best programs that American tele-



vision has ever produced. *The Twilight Zone*, *Perry Mason*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Rawhide*, and *Have Gun, Will Travel* are all here.

The first television program I ever remember seeing, *Leave It to Beaver*, which aired from 1957 to 1963, is here. How comforting it feels, fifty-six years later, to spend time with June, Ward, Eddie Haskell, and the whole gang again. For those who love classic movies, there are special treats everywhere.

By the time the 1950s came along, the great stars of the 30s and 40s still needed to work, but juicy movie roles were few and far between. And so it is that Bette Davis can be found

guest-starring on *Wagon Train*, John Carradine pops up in *The Rifleman*, and Burgess Meredith continues to terrify and delight us in the famous "Book-worm" episode of *The Twilight Zone*.

If this doesn't ring a bell, please Google it. On the far classier *Turner Classic Movies*, host Ben Mankiewicz never mentions the current bitter divisions in our society. Ben simply points out that the past is a wonderful place for those seeking temporary escape. He's right!

### Meet Penn's Village New Administrative Coordinator Linda Karp

Linda Karp joined the Penn's Village team in June after thirty-five rewarding years of teaching Graphic Design in a Bachelor's program. She wanted to do something different after the school closed. She reports that she's happy to be working with people a little bit closer to her own age!



Linda lives in Center City (Washington Square West) with her husband and loves walking to work.

When not working, her passion is creating figure sculptures. If you see Linda at the office or a program, please introduce yourself — because she'd love to get to know you. If she looks confused, it might be her identical twin that you're talking to!



Linda's award-winning torso

### Hamilton Happenings



This pop-up display tells the story of Alexander Hamilton. It is on view at the Kimmel Center in the Plaza near the North staircase. You can learn about Hamilton's role in American history before you see the musical, now playing at the Forrest Theater. Tickets are still available at [www.telecharge.com/hamilton](http://www.telecharge.com/hamilton).

A FREE singalong to the soundtrack of *Hamilton* will take place on Saturday, October 19, at 12:30 pm in the Kimmel Center's Commonwealth Plaza. Sign up to Sing at Hamiltunes! Or, just come and listen.

### Série de Conversations d'Automne: "Les Grands Bâtisseurs"

The autumn series continues with one session in October – Monday, October 7, at 2:30 pm, and two in November – 11 and 25. Open to members only. If you are not a member of Penn's Village and wish to participate, please visit



our website – [pennsvillage.org](http://pennsvillage.org) – for an application and membership information. To participate if you are not a member of this group, respond to Jane Eleey at [jane@pennsvillage.org](mailto:jane@pennsvillage.org). All levels of French proficiency are welcome.

## Village View Editorial Board

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Marianne Waller

### Design and Layout:

Linda Karp

### Contributors:

Patricia Callahan  
Kristin Davidson  
Molly Lenowitz  
Dick Levinson  
Harriette Mishkin  
Mario Oropeza  
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## Join Penn's Village

To become a member, visit [www.pennsvillage.org](http://www.pennsvillage.org) and click on "Join." There you will find our membership levels & application.

To become a volunteer, visit [www.pennsvillage.org](http://www.pennsvillage.org) and click on "Volunteer." We have a variety of volunteer opportunities to suit different interests, skills, talents, and schedules.

*Do you know that talking about Penn's Village to family, friends and strangers is the best way to grow Penn's Village?*

### Connect with Penn's Village

215-925-7333  
[info@pennsvillage.org](mailto:info@pennsvillage.org)  
[www.pennsvillage.org](http://www.pennsvillage.org)  
201 South 21st Street  
Philadelphia PA 19103

### Follow us on social media:



## ALL AROUND TOWN

### Selected Cultural Events and Activities for October

The Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine Street, announces a speaker series highlighting three *Giants of the 50s*: Edward R. Murrow - October 23 at 11:00 am; Senator Margaret Chase Smith - October 30 at 11:00 am; and Adlai Stephenson on November 20 at 11:00 am. For more information, call 215-686-5331 or email [levinsonr@freelibrary.org](mailto:levinsonr@freelibrary.org).

Two must-see blockbuster movies: *The Cotton Club Encore*, originally released in 1984 and remade by the writer/director Francis Ford Coppola with virtuoso tap dancing to the music and drama of Harlem's Cotton Club, opens October 11 for one week. *Judy*, starring Renee Zellweger, just opened and gets a 100% rating from Rotten Tomatoes. It is a biographical drama film about the life of American singer and actress Judy Garland as she arrives in London in 1968 for a run of sell-out concerts. Check film times at Ritz Theaters.

*Navy Yard Tree Walk* will be held on October 12, from 10:00 am to noon. The Navy Yard is a waterfront habitat home to over 2,000 trees, hundreds of shrubs and perennials, and an array of wildlife. The Walk is hosted by The Philadelphia Horticultural Society, which manages and maintains this historic landscape. Get ideas for your home garden. Register online at [PHSonline.org/events](http://PHSonline.org/events) or call 215-988-1698.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art will host *Design Philadelphia: Groundswell* at the Perelman Building on October 12 at 2:00 pm. Hear from David Fierabend, whose organization created Spruce Harbor Park and other popular public parks, land art installations, and pop-ups. And, hold the dates of November 7-10 for the 43rd Annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show.

New season openings this month: *Don Quixote*, one of the most popular ballets of all times, dances on Broad Street at the Academy of Music from October 10-20, [paballet.org](http://paballet.org); Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia – *Mozart*, on October 6 and 7, [chamberorchestra.org](http://chamberorchestra.org); *Come from Away* – October 22-November 3, [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org); *Musicians from Marlboro I* - October 23 at 7:30 pm, [pcmsconcerts.org](http://pcmsconcerts.org).

*Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, October 4, 2019, through January 12, 2020, at the National Museum of American Jewish History, Fifth and Market Streets. NMAJH will be the first East Coast stop for this new exhibition about Justice Ginsburg. Tracing a career that traveled from trailblazer to pop-culture icon, the special exhibition is a retrospective about the extraordinary life of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg. It is based on *The New York Times* best-selling book of the same name and includes her days as a student, her pioneering work as a lawyer and advocate for women's rights, and her precedent-setting role on our nation's highest court.



*Don't forget to read our blog.*

*A very sincere thank you to The First Presbyterian Church for generously providing space to Penn's Village and for always being there for us.*

# OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 10:00 am America's Rome MacColl Room	3	4 9:00 am -7:00 pm Blood Drive Society Hill Towers Community Room	5
6	7 2:30 -4:00 pm Le Cercle Francophone d'Histoire Athenaeum	8	9	10 2:00 pm Women in Islam Chamber of Commerce	11	12
13	14	15 2:00 pm Silver Binder Wm. Penn House Community Room	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 2:00 pm Philly Street Art with Conrad Benner MacColl Room	24	25	26
27	28 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Free Balance Assessments Excel Physical Therapy - Society Hill	29	30	31	GREEN - Penn's Village Event  PURPLE - PV Member Only Event	

## Penn's Village Joins Society Hill Towers in 3rd Red Cross Blood Drive



On Friday, October 4, Society Hill Towers will host their third Red Cross Blood Drive in collaboration with Penn's Village and Society Hill Civic Association. All are welcome – either as blood donors or as volunteer greeters. Location is the Society Hill Towers Community Room (behind Zahav) at 285 St. James Place. Hours are from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

**Blood donors** may register at the Red Cross website: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>. Click on "Donate Blood." Enter zip code "19106" or SOCIETY HILL TOWERS to select your appointment time. You will get a reminder email on October 4. You can also call 1-800-Red Cross.

**Volunteers** are needed for two-hour blocks of time to welcome donors - primarily between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm - check them in, verify their appointment times, and provide Thank You stickers. Contact drive organizer Mary O'Neill at [mconeill210@gmail.com](mailto:mconeill210@gmail.com) to register for your preferred volunteer time.

### What to expect

- Bring photo ID or your Red Cross donor card.
- Before the blood drive – drink an extra 16 oz. of water or other non-alcoholic fluids.
- Be sure to have a healthy meal that day. Get a good night's sleep.
- Red Cross staff will also check your blood pressure, pulse, and iron on-site before you donate.
- Take time to enjoy a snack and a drink in the refreshment area after donating.

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### Clergy Breakfast Planned for November 20

Under the leadership of Penn's Village board member Jesse Garner, the Marketing and Communications Committee will host a meeting with clergy from faith communities in central Philadelphia. Our aim is to build a partnership between congregations and Penn's Village that supplements and supports one another's work with older adults who wish to stay in their own homes. Our Health Pals program will be showcased as an example of a service we offer our members that fosters independence while providing support for medical appointments.

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## FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Did you know that membership dues cover less than fifty percent of Penn's Village's expenses? While grants contribute another ten to fifteen percent, we must rely on individual donations to cover the remaining forty percent of our budget. The Fundraising Committee was formed to help grow the financial sustainability of Penn's Village by cultivating business and individual donors and hosting fundraising events and campaigns. Members of the Committee include Sherrill Cresdee, Dave Lewis, Michele Mathes, Ted Robb, and Brian Wengenroth.

Earlier this year, we hosted a very successful raffle for Hamilton tickets. Thank you to all who purchased tickets! We have plans for another exciting raffle, with ticket sales to start later this fall for a drawing early next year. Stay tuned for the details!

In the meantime, we are reaching out to individuals asking them for additional support. Please consider an additional donation; even the smallest amount can help so much in our being able to continue delivering services and programs to our wonderful Penn's Village members.



### Maybe This Has Happened to You, Too?

Last week while waiting for an appointment with a new dentist, I actually paid attention to the name on the DDS degree and my mind flashed back to a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy who had been in my thirty-plus-years-ago high school class. Could he possibly be the same guy I had a secret crush on way back then?

When I saw him, any such thought was quickly discarded. This was a balding, gray-haired man with a deeply lined face who was obviously way too old to have been any classmate of mine.

After he examined my teeth, I asked if he had attended Heatherfield Park High School.

"Yes. Yes, I did. I'm a Mustang," he gleamed with pride. I went on, "When did you graduate?"

"In 1975. Why?" he asked.

"You were in my class!" I exclaimed.

Looking at me closely, that ugly, bald, wrinkle-faced, fat-bottomed, gray-haired, decrepit SOB said, "What subject did you teach?"

*Dear Reader:*

*This new column for the VILLAGE VIEW is meant to bring a smile to your face and is also a place where you are welcome to share and submit your written amusements for publication.*

**Submit your humor pieces of 300 words or less to:**

[marianne.waller@verizon.net](mailto:marianne.waller@verizon.net) by the first day of each month for consideration.

**Enjoy!**

## INTRODUCING



**Rose St. Julien**

by Karen Orman

To say that Rose is open to new experiences and is active and interesting is an understatement. After practicing group and individual psychotherapy in her own private practice for twenty years, she is now adding even more activities to her already busy life.

Rose was born in Troy, New York, and taught elementary school for twenty years in Rochester, New York. She loves to work! She recently started volunteering at Penn Hospice at Rittenhouse. Rose likes to read and includes nonfiction as one of her preferred types of books. She also loves taking in movies at the Ritz theaters and occasionally at the Roxy. Philadelphia never ceases to amaze her with its many offerings—she thinks there is always something to do, and is now exploring OLLI as a source for interesting classes.

Interested in trying different groups and activities, she joined Penn's Village after hearing about it from our Director at an exercise class. Shortly after joining, Rose attended several Penn's Village programs. She thinks that

the members and volunteers are very welcoming and easy to be with. Based on her experience, Rose cautioned that not all groups have the mix of people and interesting programs that Penn's Village has. Rose enjoys discussing various issues, including political ones, with intelligent people and is impressed with the number and compelling content of the Penn's Village programs.

Given the fact that she organized and led a women's therapy group for ten years, she might be interested in leading a women's group for Penn's Village. Similarly, since Penn's Village does not have a movie group, she may be interested in forming one. That's the kind of enthusiasm and energy we need!

## Highlights of September Artificial Intelligence Presentation

More than sixty Penn's Village members and guests attended Dr. Gary Weissman's presentation on Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) in Health Care. A.I. refers to a machine system that can learn.

Examples of A.I. exist today in several familiar areas: self-driving cars, computer-based management programs, and IBM's chess-playing computer (remember Chess Grandmaster Garry Kasparov losing to IBM's



super computer Deep Blue in 1997?).

Although American media often promotes the success of A.I., Dr. Weissman feels that they operate in a "hyped bubble" because A.I.'s transfer to health care is harder to achieve. While there are a lot of start-up companies working to produce "machine learning," there is concern that the data they use may be biased and that

stringent FDA guidelines have not been developed or applied.

Dr. Weissman reminded us that

- Artificial Intelligence is an overly-inflated term that, in most cases, just refers to statistics.
- There is little evidence so far that fancy predictive models are very effective for improving clinical care.
- There are important ethical and policy questions that still need to be answered.
- The robots are not about to take over.

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