

THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jane Eleey



The past few weeks have been incredibly challenging for all of us as we figure out how to cope with Coronavirus crisis. But for me they have also been rewarding as I see the ways we are all coping and our volunteers are stepping up to support our members and the organization itself.

Even while we were forced by the emergency to wind down face-to-face interaction with each other, volunteers were still offering to continue their in-person interactions with Villagers. We found that members in high-rise buildings were stepping up to support one another. In many ways, Penn's Village was proactive early on in adapting and rethinking how we function in a public health crisis.

Many volunteers have come forward to make phone contact with members, making new connections. One member wrote an Op-Ed about the value of reopening Hahnemann Hospital (3/23/20 Inquirer). And so appropriate and timely, April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and we definitely want to let our volunteers know how we value and appreciate them now and always.

We've worked hard to keep communications flowing through emails and forwarding interesting information.

One volunteer put together a list of podcasts and other links, while another stayed up one night designing a Coronavirus tab for our website. Keeping it current is challenging. If you haven't already, please check it out at www.pennsvillage.org. Click on the Coronavirus tab (next to the Welcome tab on the menu bar on the left).

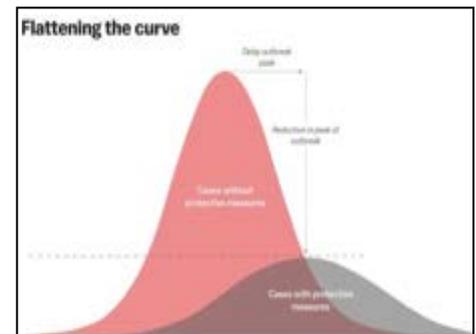
The Program Committee will offer some programs via Zoom. Stay tuned for more information by email.

Have you participated in one of Penn's Village's Silver Binder workshops? The Silver Binder is a suggested way of assembling in one place important healthcare, legal and financial documents in case of need should you be ill or when you die. So much time at home gives us the opportunity to assemble those documents and/or to update them. Consider letting a trusted family member or friend have access to your passwords just in case you get sick. In their recent newsletter, AARP recommended transparency with a family member about your power of attorney, financial assets, health insurance and long-term care insurance. These are weighty matters to consider, but the pandemic highlights their importance.

We will continue to stay connected with you and to pass along new information on our website and by email. Stay healthy until we resume our normal programming and volunteer activities.




The programs and events listed in this issue are subject to either postponement or cancellation due to the coronavirus threat. For Penn's Village programs, coronavirus information, resources and updates, click the new Coronavirus tab on the menu bar on our website. For external events, contact the sponsoring organization. Together, we can "Flatten the Curve."



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ACTIVE AGING

Healthcare Powers of Attorney And Living Wills

by Michelle C. Berk, Esquire

Have you ever noticed that you are always asked if you have a Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will, even at a mundane visit to your healthcare provider just for blood work? Why is that? Attorneys urge everyone to have a Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will, preferably prepared by an Elder Law attorney. They are combined in one document.

The document can be required for admission to a medical, nursing, residential or similar facility or entering into care agreements as well as in making anatomical gifts, etc.

One of the most important provisions is where the Principal (you), appoint a Healthcare Agent, and an alternative Agent or Agents, to enforce your healthcare instructions and provide the Agent's address and telephone number. Naming Agents and alternative Agents in the Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will prevents the absence of authority if you are incapable of instructing healthcare providers of

your healthcare decisions. If you do not have this document, it might be necessary to file a Petition to Appoint a Guardian. The Petition seeks clarification of the Principal's healthcare decisions, determines who will act in their best interests, and who is authorized to make those decisions. Family, medical facilities, and healthcare providers' confusion and even ensuing litigation might result. They can all go to Court to determine who should make your end of life and healthcare decisions if they are not set forth in a properly written Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will. Alternatively, if an Agent is not designated in a Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will, Pennsylvania law provides a hierarchy of healthcare decision-makers related to you who can act for you. To prevent this, you can enforce your wishes by simply drafting and signing a Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will while you have capacity which is not defined by the statute, just that you be of "sound mind."

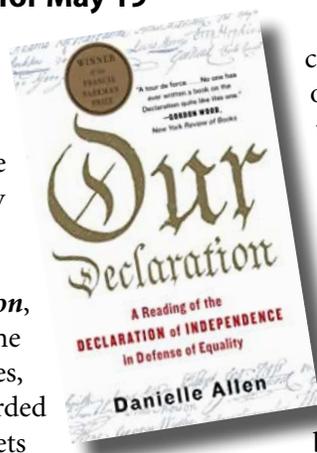
In the Living Will section of the document, the Principal selects by writing "I DO WANT" and also by initialing their choices from a menu of healthcare options in the event of an end-stage medical condition or other extreme irreversible medical condition. If you do not want to receive any life prolonging procedures, you leave the spaces blank. The Living Will only applies "IF I HAVE AN END-STAGE MEDICAL CONDITION (WHICH WILL RESULT IN MY DEATH, DESPITE THE INTRODUCTION OR CONTINUATION OF MEDICAL TREATMENT) OR AM PERMANENTLY UNCONSCIOUS SUCH AS AN IRREVERSIBLE COMA OR AN IRREVERSIBLE VEGETATIVE STATE AND THERE IS NO REALISTIC HOPE OF SIGNIFICANT RECOVERY."

It is important that you update your Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will whenever you have changes in your personal situation, including a move to Pennsylvania from another state.

Lunch and Books Planned for May 19

Lunch and Books will meet on Tuesday, May 19, at 12 noon at Positano Coast, 212 Walnut Street (2nd Floor). Lunch will be followed by a book review led by Mark Raymond.

Featured book is *Our Declaration*, by Danielle Allen. Featured on the front page of the New York Times, *Our Declaration* is already regarded as a seminal work that reinterprets the promise of American democracy through our founding text. Combining a personal account of teaching the Declaration with a vivid evocation of the colonial world between 1774 and 1777, Allen, a political philosopher renowned for her work on justice and



citizenship reveals our nation's founding text to be an animating force that not only changed the world more than two hundred years ago, but also still can. Challenging conventional wisdom, she

boldly makes the case that the Declaration is a document as much about political equality as about individual liberty. Beautifully illustrated throughout, *Our Declaration* is an "uncommonly elegant, incisive, and often poetic primer on America's cardinal text" (David M. Kennedy).

2020 Census Has Begun

Full rollout of the 2020 Census began in mid-March and for the first time, you will be able to respond online. By now, your household has received an invitation in your postal mailbox to respond to the census online, along with an ID that matches your home address. You are encouraged to use the ID if you are using the Internet to complete the form. If you have not responded by mid-April, you will then receive a paper questionnaire. You may also answer the questionnaire by telephone and, of course, the old fashioned way – by mailing back the paper form.

There has been a U.S. Census every decade since 1790. The results determine how many congressional seats each state gets and how \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is distributed.

FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee, under the leadership of Molly Lenowitz and Mario Oropeza, announces the schedule of programs for April. Please register at 215-923-7333 or at info@pennsvillage.org. Check the website and look for emails for up-to-date information. We hope we can resume programs in April.

A wide range of programs are planned to fit your interests and needs, including the popular trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. It will feel great to be outdoors again!

Thursday, April 2, 2:00 pm. My Mother, That Stranger. Concha Alborg's unique memoir is a microhistory of the Spanish Civil War. MacColl Room, 2nd floor, First Presbyterian Church, 201 S. 21st Street.

Tuesday, April 7, 9:45 am. Tour of the Philadelphia Zoo. Docent Arlene Dascola leads the tour on location. Meet at the Zoo entrance. A purchased admissions ticket is required as is your own transportation.

Thursday, April 16, 2:00 pm. The Biology of Aging. Dr. Peter Slavin will present the results of his research and address some of the leading theories of senescence (the condition or process of deterioration with age). Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, 200 S. Broad Street, 7th floor.

Monday, April 20, 4:30 pm. Tour of Curtis Institute of Music, 18th and Locust Streets, followed by a student recital at 6:00 pm. Music selection and instrument for the recital will be chosen closer to the date. (fully subscribed)

Penn's Village Salutes Older Americans Month in May

Around the nation, older adults make their mark every day as volunteers, employees, employers, parents, grandparents, mentors, and advocates. They offer their time, talents, and experience to the benefit of our communities.

For 57 years, Older Americans Month (OAM) has been a special time to recognize these contributions. This year's OAM theme, **Make Your Mark**, highlights older adults' unique and lasting contributions to their communities—everything from sharing a story with grandchildren to leaving a legacy of community action. In the spirit of this theme, the Penn's Village Marketing and Communications Committee has chosen to volunteer in the kitchen for MANNA, on Wednesday, May 13, from 1-4. MANNA's mission is to use nutrition to improve health for people with serious illnesses who need



nourishment to heal. By providing medically tailored meals and nutrition education, they empower people to improve their health and quality of life.

Volunteers work in the kitchen under the guidance of MANNA's chefs, working on supervised tasks such as chopping vegetables, packing meals, filling meal trays, baking, and other like tasks.

MANNA is located at The Steven Korman Nutrition Center, 420 N. 20th Street (across from the Barnes Museum and the Target). Dress guidelines (hats, shoes, jewelry) will be provided once you register. Group size is limited to 20. Let us know if you'd like to join us and we'll then send you the MANNA link to officially register. Email:

communications@pennsvillage.org.

Philadelphia City Institute Plans April Opening

The Philadelphia City Institute Library may reopen in April. No exact date is available at this time. In the meantime,

- Beginning on April 1, you will again be able to select Philadelphia City Institute Library as your hold pickup location.
- Beginning on April 1, if you have holds that are currently available at the Parkway Central Library and you want them sent to PCI instead, you will need to contact library staff in Philbrick Hall (215-686-5320) to request that your items be sent to PCI.
- If you checked items out at PCI before it closed and your items had a special due date of March 16, your items will automatically be given a new due date.
- PCI's drop box will reopen when the library reopens.
- LEAP and other regularly scheduled programming will soon resume.

The PCI Friends group is planning an exciting afternoon celebrating their newly accessible building and will set a date when the CDC and Philadelphia Health Department indicate that it is safe to do so. Stay tuned for more details.

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To become a member, visit www.pennsvillage.org and click on "Join." There you will find our membership information.

To become a volunteer, visit 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

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ALL AROUND TOWN

Selected Cultural Events and Activities for April

Many of us are choosing to limit our large group activities during the outbreak of the coronavirus. This month, instead of listing community events, this column will highlight just one: the special exhibit in the lobby of the Kimmel Center, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. You can visit FREE any day beginning at 10:00 am through 6:00 pm, now through September 30. When you visit **Vision 2020's A Seat at the Table**, you will discover what it took for women to win voting rights and how gender inequality persists today.

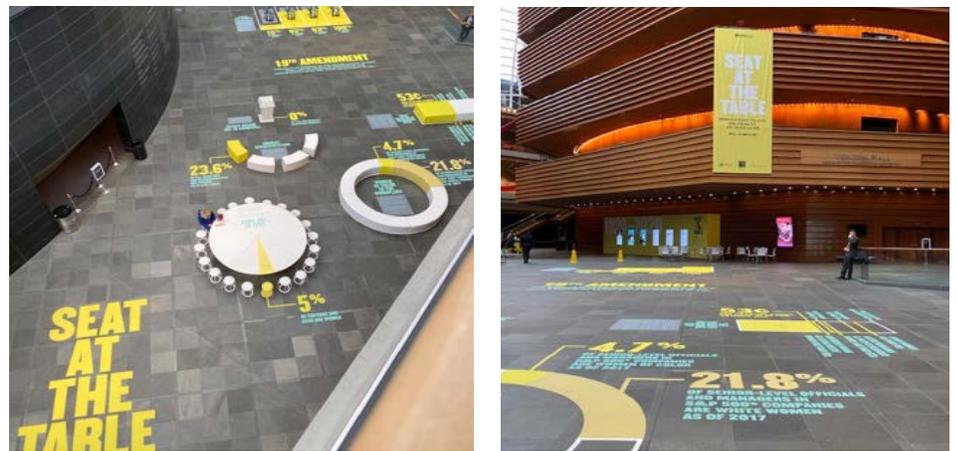
"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women's Right to Vote, 1920

This interactive exhibit is a modern installation that uses 3D infographic furniture to tell the story of where we are now. "Tables" indicate the places where important decisions are made that affect society such as in corporations and United States Congress. "Seats" indicate the percentages of men and women at each of those tables. The percentages of women versus men are differentiated by color – Yellow signifies women, White signifies men - in order to indicate the stark statistics of inequality. A lighter Yellow provides the statistics for women of color in the workplace.

A wall of interactive screens introduces some of the pioneering women whose stories of breaking through gender barriers continue to inspire the women's equality movement today. The bikes offer you a chance to spin and learn about voter participation throughout four U.S. presidential elections beginning in 1920. The goal is 100% participation in 2020.

Pick up an exhibit guide at the Information Desk and enjoy your historical journey.



Don't forget to read our blog on our website.

Penn's Village supports and actively encourages a diverse and inclusive community of members, staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers. Diversity and inclusiveness means excluding no one because of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, physical abilities, religious beliefs, or political beliefs.

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.

APRIL 2020 ~ Stress Awareness Month

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

			1	2 2:00 pm My Mother, That Stranger MacColl Room	3	4
5	6 2:30 -4:00 pm Le Cercle Francophone d'Histoire Athenaeum	7 9:45 am Philadelphia Zoo Tour	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 2:00 pm The Biology of Aging Chamber of Commerce	17	18
19	20 2:30 -4:00 pm Le Cercle Francophone d'Histoire Athenaeum 4:30 pm Tour and Concert Curtis Institute	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	GREEN - Penn's Village Event PURPLE - PV Member Only Event



“Le Cercle Francophone d’Histoire” is a group that combines love of the French language and of history. Lectures are conducted exclusively in French. According to an established calendar, a pre-selected theme is discussed during each presentation. Prior to the sessions, participants may do their own research in order to familiarize themselves with the period and theme. However, there is no need to be an expert in any of the historical subjects discussed.

The group lecturer and moderator, Eric Simonis, is a native French speaker and a private French language instructor. He is a member of The American Friends of Lafayette and of The Napoleonic Historical Society. He taught for six years at Walnut Hill College and is a French language tutor at The University of Pennsylvania. “Le Cercle Francophone d’Histoire” meets on Mondays from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. Regular attendance is not mandatory but is encouraged. You are also welcome to frequent as a listener if you wish to improve your French comprehension skills but are unable to participate in the conversation. (members only)

PROCÈS CÉLÈBRES DE L’HISTOIRE DE FRANCE

LE LUNDI 6 AVRIL 2020

Le Maréchal Ney, “Le Brave des Braves”

“Règlement de comptes à la Seconde Restauration”(1815)



LE LUNDI 20 AVRIL 2020

L’affaire Dreyfus

“Complot judiciaire et antisémitisme”

(1894-1906)



WOW! – I DIDN’T KNOW THAT!

Voting Changes Ahead of the June 2 Primary

Recently, a host of changes were made to the way we can vote that will hopefully make your life easier. Those changes will be in effect for the upcoming Primary Election, which is currently scheduled for June 2.

There are several new and convenient methods of voting to ensure your voice is heard:

- You can register to vote up to 15 days before an election, if you have a new address.
- You can register to vote online.
- You can vote by mail and not have to provide an excuse.
- You can receive applications for a

mail-in or absentee ballot for all elections up to 50 days before an election. Pennsylvania is considering doing this automatically for all registered voters.

- You can mail in your absentee ballot by 8 pm on Election Day.

Older Adults Dominate at the Polls

Remember when the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1971? That year had record turnouts at the polls. Now it is predicted that the 2020 turnout will be even higher, a new record since women got the right to vote 100 years ago, in 1920 (see related article in the All Around Town column).

What hasn’t changed over the years is the importance of the older voter: 66

percent of Americans 65 and older voted in the 2018 midterm elections; in 2016, 71 percent of those 65 and older voted. Since the older voter may not be plugged into social media and therefore may not know each candidate’s stance on issues they care about and their impact (like social security and Medicare, prescription drug costs, long term care insurance), candidates will have to rely on traditional means – like TV commercials and local newspapers – to reach this audience.

Your Guide to 2020 Primary Voting is available to help you with your choices. If you care about the issues, find out where the candidates stand so you will be an educated voter. And tell your children and grandchildren to vote too!

INTRODUCING

ERIC SIMONIS

by Sherrill Cresdee



Bonjour! Arriving in 1990 from Alsace-Lorraine speaking very little, "...no..." English, Eric Simonis cast about figuring out how and what it was

he was going to do. Having become a registered dietitian in France, he embarked on an extensive hospitality career making stops at Lacroix Restaurant, the Bellevue Hotel, and Walnut Hill College where he taught restaurant/hospitality management for six years.

Having a lifelong attraction to words, language (receiving French literary awards in prose and poetry along the way...why isn't he writing this?) and history, and wanting to step away from the hospitality industry, Eric added his enjoyment of teaching to the mix. After leaving Walnut Hill, he began offering his native and learned French expertise as a one-on-one instructor to friends, Francophiles, neophytes, professionals, children, retirees, etc., who wanted to learn or fine tune their own language skills [ouifrenchphila.com]. In addition, Simonis also tutors interested students at Wharton's Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies.

Three years ago through a colleague of his wife's, Eric met Jane Eley who mentioned that there had been a French conversation group at Penn's Village which, bien sûr, led to discussing the re-establishment of such a group. It was quickly determined that First Presbyterian Church couldn't accommodate a regularly scheduled group and the Athenaeum of Philadelphia was suggested. So began Le Cercle Francophone d'Histoire. This is a group of like-minded Penn's Village and Athenaeum members who meet for a more structured-than-conversational session every two or so weeks. There is core membership of 45 (attendance ranges from 15 to 25) who listen to pre-selected, "...lecture cycles of subjects, say, women spies, the life of Stephen Girard, French court proceedings..." in French. "In this way, both beginners and advanced speakers participate and learn..." together, with Eric.

The personal enrichment gained by Eric Simonis in participating comes from the fact that, "...I really like lecturing and moderating, the challenges of the research and questions asked." And, last but not least, Eric believes that, "...you get as much, or better, out of volunteering the more you give it", which falls nicely into line with Penn's Village: Connecting, Engaging, Thriving.

Program Highlights – Vietnam – A Country, Not a War

More than 50 members, volunteers and guests attended the March 2 program at the Chamber of Commerce with Dr. Peter Siskind, assistant Professor of History and Associate Provost at Arcadia University. Here are some of the highlights (with thanks to Barbara Nodine for her contributions).

- It is now more than 45 years since the end of the "American" war (as it is known in Vietnam) and the majority of its young population does not remember the fighting and devastation.
 - Ho Chi Min City (formerly Saigon) is an economic driver of a booming economy, with the presence of large international companies and their glass skyscrapers.
 - Its citizens are largely middle class, doing much better economically than its neighbors – Laos and Cambodia. Nevertheless, there is much income disparity between those at the top and the workers in the garment industry.
 - There is a working relationship with the United States as a safety net against a potentially encroaching China.
 - The United States has documented 58,220 deaths of American servicemen and women, whereas the Vietnamese reported nearly 400,000, including civilian deaths, many from Agent Orange.
- Dr. Siskin's most striking point was that if the equivalent of our Vietnam Veterans Memorial were constructed in Vietnam, it would be 9 miles long!

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