

THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JANE ELEEY



Dear Members and Friends,

Every year around this time, Spring seems to create an atmosphere of change and anticipation. Days become longer and warmer; new growth appears as crocuses, then daffodils and tulips appear; and redbud, cherry, and crabapple trees burst into bloom to decorate the Central Philadelphia cityscape. Soon we begin to spot neighbors out and about, many of whom we haven't seen for months.

On Tuesday, March 7, our Village will convene our first in-person Town Hall meeting since January 2020. The excitement generated from that meeting, on what turned out to be the coldest night of the year, was soon dampened a bit as we all scrambled to deal with a mandatory lock-down in response to the COVID pandemic.

Now, finally, we can once again greet each other face to face at a Town Hall meeting! Penn's Village survived the lock-down and, in fact, has flourished during the past three years. Please join us to reunite and greet friends old and new; enjoy wine, sushi, and snacks; and share and celebrate each other, our accomplishments, and our plans for the future.

There is, indeed, much to acknowledge and celebrate—the formation of the Penn's Village Endowment Fund that will help to ensure our continued ability to achieve our mission; our appreciation and gratitude for our departing Database and Membership Manager, Donna Murphy, and thanks to long-time serving volunteers who are stepping down from their leadership roles, Program Committee Chair, Mario Oropeza, and Chair of the Board, Kristin Davidson; and extend a warm welcome to our new PV Board of Director members—Mary Ann Forcica, Tania Giovanetti, Wanda Mitchell and Brandon Stiff.

We welcome all new Villagers, Neighbors, and Partners who have joined Penn's Village since January 2020, as well as the many who are celebrating five or ten years of membership, as well as our recently appointed Volunteer Manager, Anne Park, and our new Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist, Camara Jordan.

Tuesday will be an opportunity for each of you to hear the results of the membership survey that many of us completed in December, to witness the drawing for prizes for completing that survey, and to hear about the upcoming development of a new three-year strategic plan that will take us into the future!

I hope you will join the celebration; I am so looking forward to seeing you all face to face!




Welcome!

New Penn's Village Members & Volunteers

Ellen Berger
Jeffery Berger
Cathleen Cardinal
Christopher Crowe
David Vaux
Molly Vaux
Alan Windle
Kathleen Wright



Follow us on social media:



IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Introducing: Michèle Haines
- 3 All Around Town
- 4 PV Interest Groups Schedule
- 5 March Programs
- 5 Recycling News: Books
- 5 Scams
- 6 March Calendar
- 7 Book Review: *The Diary Keepers*
- 8 In Memoriam

The Village View

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Join Penn's Village

To become a member or to volunteer, visit www.pennsvillage.org

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
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www.pennsvillage.org
201 South 21st Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

INTRODUCING

Michèle Haines

by Karen Orman



Once you meet Michèle Haines, you won't forget her. She is one of a kind. A very engaging woman, brimming over with energy, Michèle loves meeting people and savoring new experiences. Behind every unique encounter, there's always a story—and it's a good one!

Michèle was born in Paris. After being raised in Tours by her mother and grandparents, she returned to the capital to pursue studies in political science at Sciences Po, language interpreting, and law. Before long, at a very young age, she was off to New York City as an interpreter at the United Nations, then to Tallahassee, followed by Providence, Rhode Island, where she pursued graduate studies in the Russian Department at Brown University. Michèle finally settled in the Philadelphia area, where she has lived for the past fifty-five years. She spent her first few years in Philadelphia teaching at Germantown Friends School, where she created a Spanish and an Anthropology Department.

Thanks to her family, Michèle developed a lifelong love for food and cooking. This passion resulted in her

opening the Spring Mill Café forty-four years ago. The offerings at this French restaurant in Conshohocken are influenced by Michèle's insistence on using only fresh seasonal food and the best quality ingredients. She admits that she is not an easy customer when she, herself, dines out!

Michèle's philosophy is that food brings people together. She enjoys introducing people who would not normally find each other. Michèle subscribes to the idea that sharing a good dinner can mellow even heated conversations. Her goal is to inspire and encourage people, as well as to bring them hope, joy, and laughter.

An appreciation for good food and wine was not the only thing that Michèle learned from her moral and generous family. At a very early age, she was distressed by inequality. Later, she participated in sit-ins in Montgomery, Alabama and continues to advocate for civil rights and freedom of speech and expression.

Michèle has enjoyed many of Penn's Village's programs and has been kind enough to offer our members opportunities to attend festive dinner parties in her home. What a treat! And what a special treat to have Michèle among us.



*All you need is love ...
to make a Village*

SHARE YOUR LOVE

**DONATE TO THE 2023 PENN'S VILLAGE
VALENTINE'S/WINTER FUNDRAISER**

Donate online (www.pennsvillage.org) or mail a check to
Penn's Village, 201 S. 21st Street, Phila., PA 19103

DON'T DELAY! THE FIRST 15 PEOPLE TO DONATE \$250 OR
MORE WILL RECEIVE A BOX OF 36 GODIVA BELGIAN
CHOCOLATES (TWICE AS MUCH AS LAST YEAR!)
ENDS MARCH 31ST



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.

Penn's Village welcomes and actively encourages an inclusive and diverse community of members, staff, Board of Directors and volunteers. Inclusiveness and diversity mean welcoming all and excluding no one because of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, physical abilities, religious beliefs or political beliefs.

MARCH PROGRAMS

The Program Committee announces the schedule of programs for March. Registration is required for all programs; you can register on the Penn's Village website by emailing info@pennsvillage.org or by telephoning 215-925-7333. Check the website and your email for updated information and/or newly scheduled programs. All programs this month are Zoom presentation for which login information will be sent prior to the event.



Wednesday, March 1, 11:00 am. *Dancin' in the Seats*. This is a free sample class of fun, seated dances to a variety of music choreographed by Steven Weintraub that can be done at home without having to rearrange the room. Visit his website to learn more <http://www.dancinintheseats.com/>. Zoom Presentation.

Monday, March 6, 2:00 pm. *What's It Take to Share Philly's Streets Safely?* Nicole Brunet, Policy Director of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia (BCGP) and Lor Song, BCGP's Education Programs Manager will address environmental modifications, personal behavior, and policies in process to promote safe road sharing in Philadelphia. Nicole believes in making the political process more accessible for all, and Lor advocates and educates local communities about cycling safety, sustainability, and a healthier lifestyle. Zoom presentation.



Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 pm. *PV Reads*. Polly MacIntyre will read excerpts from two short stories, "Getting it Right" by Maeve Binchy and "Goodbye and Good Luck" by Grace Paley. In "Getting It Right", the author shares her unique insight on how to write, from finding a subject and creating good writing habits to sustaining progress and seeking a publisher. "Goodbye and Good Luck" is a heartwarming tale of a woman in pursuit of love and her struggles with tradition in her journey to attaining it. Zoom Presentation.



RECYCLING NEWS YOU CAN USE

A New Home for Your Books

by Kristin Davidson

Books are some of the items we may need to find a home for as we downsize. We love them, but often we have too many of them. There are a number of options for parting with our books in central Philadelphia. Here is information about three of them.

The Book Angel

Jessie Burns is devoted to rescuing books and thoughtfully redistributing them to people and places where they might best be used. She and her husband pick up from homes.

Phone: 215-327-7161

Email: jessiewb@gmail.com

Neighborhood Books

This store sells used books and a few new books. They accept donations and over the phone can discuss buying books in very good condition.

Phone: 215-545-BOOK

1906 South Street

Email: neighborhoodbooks215@gmail.com

Hours: Fri-Mon, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Website for purchasing books online:

<https://bookshop.org/shop/neighborhoodbooks215>

The Book Corner

The Free Library operates this used-book store. They accept donated books (no encyclopedias and no text, travel, or cook books) in bags or boxes that can be left with them. If you have more than one or two bags worth, phone them to make arrangements.

Phone: 215-567-0527

311 North 20th Street

Hours for donations: Mon-Sat,
10:00 am-5:00 pm

Scams Keep Coming

Scams are widespread and can be costly. Below are two scams that recently received attention in the news. The best way to avoid being scammed is to keep informed and be cautious.

Romance Scams

Did you know that romance scams cost adults over the age of sixty \$139 million in 2020? This sharp rise from \$84 million during the previous year appears to have been caused by the isolation of the coronavirus pandemic. It has now become a leading type of fraud aimed at older adults.

Such scams can occur on dating apps or on Facebook. Older men and women have been cheated out of their life savings by fraudsters preying on their gullibility and loneliness. It appears that older adults are more often the targets for scams because they have more money.

There appears to be little chance of recovering funds that have generally already

[*Continued on page 7*](#)

ALL AROUND TOWN

This month we welcome spring, daylight saving time, and Women's History Month. What a great trifecta! So, it's time to enjoy more daylight and warmer weather with tickets to events all around town. A few theater premiers, along with a few classics, are available to suit many cultural tastes. And, we have also included a few unique events for those who are adventurous.

MUSIC



Kimmel Cultural Campus

In Verizon Hall, the **Philadelphia Orchestra** offers *A Modern Carmen Fantasy* featuring a local dance company, **JUNK**, March 10-12; **Marvel Studio's Black Panther**, March 17-19; *Poulenc and Sibelius* featuring an organ concerto, March 23-25; and *Who is Florence Price?* on March 25.

In the Perelman Theater, **The Chamber Music Society** features several performances featuring cello and piano (March 7), mezzo and piano (March 12), *Takacs Quartet* (March 16), and *Jupiter Ensemble* (March 17).

At the Academy of Music, **Broadway Series** offers *Cats* at the Miller Theater, March 14-19; and *SIX*, March 21-April 9.

Online tickets for all Kimmel Cultural Campus events available at kimmelculturalcampus.org.

At The College of Physicians of Philadelphia's Mutter Museum, **The Sunday Love Project** presents a *Music for Food Benefit Concert*, Sunday, March 26, 3:00 pm. Music for Food is a national, musician-led initiative for local hunger relief. To learn more, go to www.musicforfood.net. For tickets, go to <https://muttr.org/MusicforFood>.

DANCE



At the Academy of Music, **Philadelphia Ballet** presents *The Sleeping Beauty*, classical ballet in one of the most celebrated works in the ballet repertory. Tchaikovsky's score is set to the story of the beautiful princess cursed until kissed by the prince, March 2-12; and *Dancing with Gershwin*, works by George Balanchine, with the music of Gershwin, Tchaikovsky, and Stravinsky, March 16-29. [Welcome to Philadelphia Ballet](http://www.philadelphiaballet.org).

At the Zellerbach Theatre, **Penn Live Arts** presents *Muse*, the Philadelphia premiere of acrobats who challenge themselves physically while playfully slipping between traditional gender roles, presented by **Canadian cirque troupe, FLIP Fabrique**, March 25, 2:00 pm. For tickets, go to <https://pennlivearts.org/>.



THEATER

At the Proscenium Theatre at The Drake, **Azuka Theatre** and **Teatro del Sol** present a world-premiere, bilingual play, *All My Mothers Dream in Spanish*. The paths of three generations of women collide under a mango tree. Their ancestor, Guioimar, was a queen who possessed a capacity for magic. She passed her gifts on to her descendants and now visits them as their collective past meets their future. Inspired by Afro-Venezuelan folk history. March 1-19, 302 S. Hicks Street. To make no-cost reservations, go to AudienceView

Professional (ovationtix.com). Pay what you decide after you have seen the show.

At the Kimmel Center's Hamilton Rooftop Garden, **Theatre Philadelphia** will host a free *2023 Philly Theatre Week Kick-Off Celebration* on March 20 to preview scenes, songs, and interactive performances by companies participating in the *2023 Philly Theatre Week*, March 23-April 2. Join in celebrating the artists, organizations, and audiences that have made Greater Philadelphia one of the most vibrant theater regions in the nation. For more information about the Kick Off Celebration as well as Pay-What-You-Can tickets for the Theatre Week performances, go to www.phillytheatreweek.com.

At St. Stephen's Theatre, 923 Ludlow Street, **The Lantern Theater Company** presents *The Lifespan of a Fact*, a Philadelphia premiere of a timely topic about the meaning of words, truth, and art. Ends March 5, so get tickets quickly at www.lanterntheater.org. (Masks required.)

At the Walnut Street Theatre, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning play ends March 12; and **Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville** which starts March 28. [Walnut Street Theatre -- Philadelphia, PA -- Official Website](http://www.walnutstreettheatre.org).

At the Arden Theatre Company, *Clyde's* completes its run March 12, and August Wilson's *Radio Golf* opens March 23 and runs through April 23. www.ardentheatre.org.



MUSEUMS

At the Museum of the American Revolution, *Black Founders—The Forten Family of Philadelphia*, an exhibit introducing free Black Philadelphia James Forten and his descendants as

Continued on page 5

they navigated the American Revolution and cross-racial relationships in Philadelphia to become leaders in both the abolition and the women's suffrage movements; through November 26. For more information and tickets, visit Museum of the American Revolution - [Museum of the American Revolution \(amrevmuseum.org\)](http://amrevmuseum.org).

The African American Museum, in collaboration with PAFA, presents an exhibition of new art installations spread across multiple galleries at both institutions. *Rising Sun: Artists in an Uncertain America* showcases the work of twenty artists engaging in the theme of the rising sun at a time when perspectives about human rights, equality, and free speech are radically disparate; March 23 through October 8. [HOME \(aampmuseum.org\)](http://aampmuseum.org).

[org](#)). [Exhibitions | PAFA - Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.](#)

The Museum for Art in Wood (formerly known as the Wood Turning Center), presents *The Mashrabiya Project*, which examines intricate wooden window screens called "mashrabiya" and explores the significance of this architectural element in Islamic culture. Opens March 3. 141 N. 3rd St. For more information, go to [Visit & Contact - Museum for Art in Wood](#).

OTHER



At the Morris Arboretum, the *Witch-*

hazels Tour features one of the largest collections in the country. Join an experienced guide to discover many varieties of these delightful winter beauties that add surprising bursts of color and fragrance to the winter landscape. In Chestnut Hill, Saturday, March 11, 11:00 am, weather permitting. Meet at Widener Visitor Center, 100 E. Northwestern Avenue. For more information visit [Witchhazels Tour | Morris Arboretum](#).

At The Weitzman Museum of American Jewish History, **The Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival 42** is commemorating International Women's Day with the screening of *Valeria is Getting Married* on March 8 at 7:00 pm. For more information and tickets, visit *Valeria Is Getting Married* - [Philadelphia Jewish Film and Media \(phillyjfm.org\)](http://philadelphiajewishfilm.org).

PENN'S VILLAGE INTEREST GROUPS

Following a tip that appeared in last month's *All Around Town* column, the PV Walkers West Interest Group topped off a recent self-guided architectural tour around Rittenhouse Square with a visit to the new, welcoming Garces Trading Company café in the lobby of the Kimmel Center.

PV Interest Groups Current Schedules

Chat Group (*any and all subjects are open for discussion!*): **11:00 am-12 noon every other Tuesday, March 7 and March 21.**

Cooking and Restaurant Group (*for people who like to cook and are interested in learning more/sharing food via potluck, and people who like to eat and will go to either potlucks or experience new/good restaurants*): No formally scheduled meeting time and date.

History Book Club (*members read and discuss recent publications on U.S. history from the colonial period to the recent past*): **1:00 pm Tuesday, March 21.**

Men's Group (*the longest running PV Interest Group; anything can be discussed; any member may propose a topic*): **10:30 am Mondays, March 6 and 20.**

PV Walkers West (*meet at the Goat in Rittenhouse Square, then depart to explore Center City on foot*): **9:00 am Mondays March 6, 13, 20, and 27.**

Short Story Group (*enjoy and learn from finely crafted short stories suggested by the facilitator or participants*): **2:00 pm Wednesday, March 22.**







Spanish Conversation Group (*a mix of members with various levels of proficiency who discuss current affairs, personal activities, and more*): **4:00 pm Mondays, March 6, 13, 20, and 27.**

Support Group (*members discuss issues of aging such as loss of a loved one, health problems, and any issue where mutual support might be beneficial. The support group is co-facilitated by two retired clinical social workers*): **11:00 am Monday, March 6.**

Writers' Group (*members share their short written pieces of fiction or non-fiction and receive feedback from one another*): **11:00 am-12:30 pm Wednesday, March 15.**

If you are interested in starting, joining, or just finding out more about a Penn's Village Interest Group, please send us an email at info@pennsvillage.org or telephone 215-925-7333. If a Group is full, you can get on a waiting list or even start your own group!

MARCH 2023

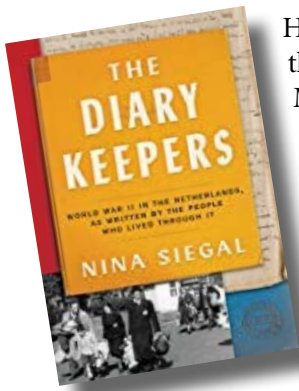
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 11:00 am Dancin' in the Seats Zoom EST Sunrise: 6:34 am Sunset: 5:52 pm	2	3	4
5	6 2:00 pm Share Philly Streets Zoom  Purim Begins	7	8  INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY	9	10	11
12  Daylight- Saving Time Begins 2:00 am	13	14	15 7:00 pm PV Evening Reads Zoom	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20  FIRST DAY of SPRING	21	22  Ramadan	23	24	25
26	27	28 EDT Sunrise: 6:44 am Sunset: 7:24 pm	29	30	31	

BOOK REVIEW

***The Diary Keepers* by Nina Siegal**

reviewed by Steve Wenick

This article originally appeared in The Algemeiner on February 14, 2023. Reprinted by permission (<https://www.algemeiner.com/>).



History records that on Friday, May 10, 1940, the roar of propellers overhead heralded the arrival of a shower of Luftwaffe paratroopers that fell from the sky onto

Dutch soil. Recently, a deluge of histories, accounts, and diaries of World War II has come to light, which illuminates the Netherlands' response to the Nazis' genocidal aims against the Jews of that country.

The Diary Keepers (HarperCollins Feb. 21, 2023) is a collection of diaries, gathered by a “second-generation survivor” — author and New York Times journalist Nina Siegal — who reveals the heretofore little-known stories of the Nazi conquest of the Netherlands, leading to the Dutch Holocaust. Siegal gleaned much of the history for her book from interviews of survivors and from the archives of the Netherlands State Institute for

War Documentation. The institute serves as a repository where ordinary people can deposit their notebooks, scrapbooks, letters, index cards, photographs, and diaries to serve as written witnesses to the greatest crime of man against man in human history.

A trove of first-hand accounts written by ordinary Dutch citizens shatters the illusion of Dutch neutrality, revealing the Dutch authorities' shameful complicity of silence in the face of the persecution of their fellow Jewish citizens. The reasons for the cooperation were as varied as they were deceitful. There were government officials who said they felt helpless, defenseless, and afraid, while others were eager accomplices. The Dutch government felt the horrors visited upon the two percent minority population of Jews was better than it being put upon the rest of the population. As they explained, it was “the lesser of two evils.” Therefore, they discouraged any resistance against the Nazis by the majority population. But not all Dutch citizens remained silent. During February 1941, the Nazis, with the aid of local NSB (Dutch Fascist

Party) thugs, unceremoniously dragged more than four hundred Jews out of their homes, beat them, and then pushed them into trucks destined to haul them to terminals of death. Unlike their government, outraged Dutch citizens did not remain silent; they courageously called a two-day strike of 300,000 workers. It was a landmark event of resistance and valor, known until this day as The February Strike.

But what is particularly shocking is that the Netherlands, which has always been considered a progressive country famous for its tolerance and broad-mindedness, had the worst survival rate of Jews in all of Western Europe. Of 140,000 Dutch Jews, only 35,000 survived, a meager 25%. That, compared to Belgium's 60% and France's 75% survival rate, is hard to square.

The answer, in part, is that it happened with the active participation of the Dutch police. They aggressively hunted down Jews and turned them over to the Gestapo. Dutch government officials were no better, as they expelled Jewish children from public schools, fired Jewish em-

[Continued on page 8](#)

Scams Keep Coming *continued from page 3*

been spent, but a family member's involvement can often stop a scam before more damage is done. Family members can file an emergency petition for temporary guardianship and seek a judge's order to freeze bank accounts.

Adapted from *The New York Times: Retirees Are Losing Their Life Savings to Romance Scams* by Emily Schmall, 2/6/23.

Tax Scams

At this time of year, we all need to be alert for tax scams. *The Philadelphia*

Inquirer reported on one of the latest, where scammers are sending a phony letter with a demand for final payment on a lien. The letter claims that unpaid taxes are owed to the “State of Pennsylvania” rather than the “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania”. There is no return address, which is always included on legitimate mail from the Department of Revenue.

Should you receive such a letter, never give personal information or money to

an entity that contacts you unless you have confirmed it is legitimate. If you are unsure whether the contact is legitimate, you should call the Department of Revenue's Customer Experience Center at 717-425-2495, ext. 72267, with the name and phone number listed in the letter.

Adapted from *The Philadelphia Inquirer: Beware of 'Final Demand for Payment' Scam* by Erin McCarthy, 2/7/2

You're Invited to the 2023 Spring Town Hall!

Tuesday March 7 at 5:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church
Old Buttonwood Hall
201 S. 21st Street

RSVP

Self-registration is now available on the Penn's Village website! Please review our Self-Registration Instructions and register here: Penn's Village Town Hall. You can also register by emailing info@pennsvillage.org or calling 215-925-7333. If you find that you cannot attend, please cancel your reservation to make room for others.

This program is free of charge to our members, volunteer partners and non-member guests. Group photos may be taken during this event.

BOOK REVIEW *continued from page 7*

ployees, invalidated professional licenses of Jews, shuttered Jewish businesses, and forbade Jews from owning radios, telephones, and bicycles. They were also forced to wear the Star of David.

However, there were instances of non-Jews who at great personal risk and peril wore the Star of David in support of the Jews; some of those who did so were arrested and never heard from again. Another example of resistance was when a Dutch church organized a group they called The Triad. It was established specifically to save Jews by employing various surreptitious strategies; their efforts achieved a high rate of success.

By reading Nina Siegal's collection of accounts of events, as written by the resisters, the collaborators, and the Jewish victims of Germany's monstrous undertaking, you will learn, but not understand, how humankind could have willfully turned a blind eye to the Holocaust occurring in the Netherlands and throughout Europe.

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

January 2023

Carl Steele

May His Memory Be a Blessing

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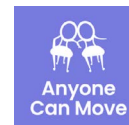


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