



THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jane Eleey



Dear Villagers, Neighbors, and Volunteers:

Happy New Year and welcome to 2019! At our January 10th Town Hall Meeting we will toast the new year in celebration of past successes and anticipation of exciting future plans. I hope you can join us to hear about what's in the works and to share your opinions and suggestions for Penn's Village (see page 5 for full event details).

Looking back on 2018, I am grateful and amazed at the interest and swell of volunteerism our Village is generating. In just four years, the number of service

encounters we have been able to provide our members has more than doubled; last year alone, we had sixty new inquiries about volunteer opportunities, twenty of whom have become active participants in our volunteer pool. Interestingly, for the first time, in 2018, companion visits surpassed transportation as the number one requested service. From octogenarians to those who are college age, our ninety plus volunteers are helping ensure that Penn's Village remains a vibrant, supportive, and caring organization.

Our robust 2018 event schedule, developed and implemented by our creative Program Committee, included fifty separate events that attracted a total of 1,000 attendees. Those numbers do not include Penn's Village groups, such as the Men's Group, our Support Group, and the highly popular Pop-up Happy Hours! A new French Conversation Group, first conceptualized last year, will soon begin meeting as well.

Not all of the buzz is as visible as the events and the helping hands are. The devoted and talented

members of our Board of Directors spend many volunteer hours behind-the-scenes shepherding our efforts and joining other volunteers on committees, including Marketing/Communications, Finance, Governance, Fundraising, Member and Welcoming, and Member Services. And, of course, the volunteers who help with office and service-provision administration deserve special thanks for somehow making sure everything runs smoothly. With all these volunteers, though, we still do not have enough to take on all the many management tasks that our committees undertake. We hope you will step up!

With great gratitude and amazement,
Jane

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JANUARY 2019

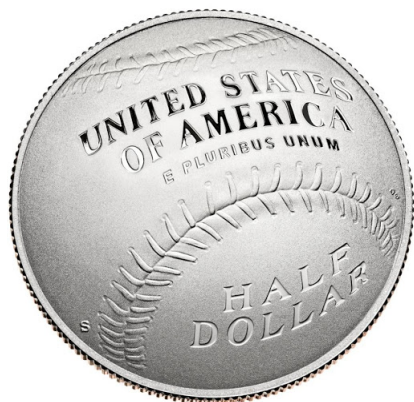
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Happy New Year! ~~~ Free Celebration at the Kimmel	2 Editorial Board Meeting	3 Program Committee Meeting	4	5 Last Day for Christmas at Peddler's Village
6 Feast of the Epiphany - Three Kings Day	7 Penn's Village Event: Military Commanders of War Part 1	8 <i>Beautiful - The Carole King Musical</i> Begins	9 Fumo Family Library Event: Senior Housing Assistance Repair Program	10 Penn's Village Town Hall Meeting	11	12 National Pharmacist Day ~~~ Winterfest Live at Xfinity Live
13 Center City Restaurant Week Begins	14	15 Penn's Village Event: Military Commanders of War Part 2	16	17	18	19
20 World Religion Day ~~~ <i>Beautiful - The Carole King Musical</i> Ends	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22 Penn's Village Event: A Conversation On Race	23	24 National Compliment Day	25 Center City Restaurant Week Ends	26
27	28	29 Blood Drive at Society Hill Towers	30 Muse Behind the Artist	31		

PENN'S VILLAGE BY THE NUMBERS

Number of zip codes served	8
Available volunteers	>90
Services provided by volunteers	>1,000 (range 68-98/month)
Most requested services	1. Companion 2. Transportation
Programs presented	50
Total Program attendees	>1,000
Blogs posted since 3/18 launch	18
Total views	~6,000
Average views	358

FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Don Everhart treated Penn's Village members to a wonderful slide show of the work he produced as one of five engravers at the US Mint in Philadelphia from 2004-2017. He designed and sculpted the obverse of the Nevada, New Mexico, Hawaii and the District of Columbia quarters as well as the 2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame Half Dollar, minted and issued in accordance with legislation passed by Congress in recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



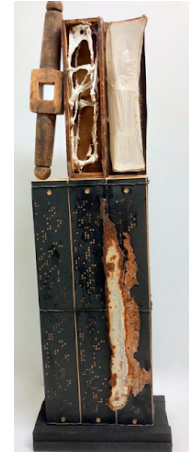
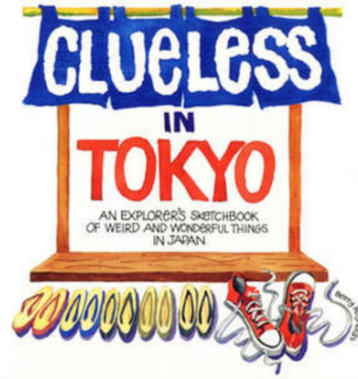
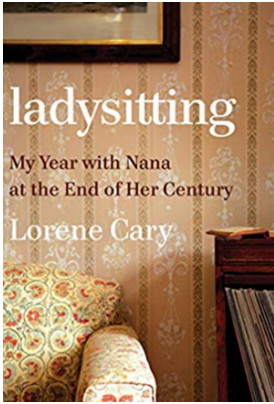
Call 215-925-7333 or email info@pennsvillage.org to register for Penn's Village programs

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Muse Behind the Artist | Wednesday, January 30 | 4 - 6 PM

Join Penn's Village for our annual celebration of Philadelphia artists as we cajole them into sharing their inspiration, the muse behind their art.

We once again meet in the Clay Studio at 139 N. Second Street, a wheel chair accessible venue. We so appreciate the year after year generosity and hospitality of the Clay Studio. See a preview from our artists below.



A Conversation on Race | Tuesday January 22, 2019 | 3:00PM

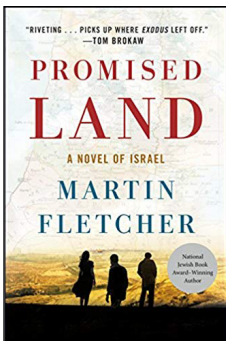
It would be so nice if, in the year 2019, the topic of race relations was confined to history books, but, alas, we all know there is still much work to do.

Delores Brisbon, an African-American woman, was born in the South, educated as a nurse, served as the Chief Operating Officer for the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and is a well-respected consultant on race relations. Mike Pulsifer, a Caucasian man, was raised in a mid-sized segregated city in Oklahoma, educated as a Presbyterian minister and is now the Pastor for Outreach for a multi-cultural congregation in Center City Philadelphia.

Sharing their own diverse life and work experience, Delores and Mike intend to start a conversation among us that will:

- reveal some of the misunderstandings about our cultural differences
- encourage all of us to rediscover our own unconscious biases
- acknowledge the progress that has occurred and the challenges that still exist in racial equality & justice
- offer some suggested practical remedies and actions
- invite others to share their own experiences and insights

For those interested in some background reading, two suggested resources are "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" by Austin Channing Brown and "Waking Up White" by Debbie Irving.



Lunch and Books | Tuesday, February 26 | 12-2 PM

Positano Coast

212 Walnut Street, 2nd Floor

"Promised Land: A Novel of Israel"

by Martin Fletcher

ACTIVE AGING

Organic Foods and GMOs

by Anna T. Meadow, MD



Have you wondered what is really meant by “organic” when referring to foods? And, whatever does “genetically modified organisms” or GMO really mean? What are we really talking about when we use those terms in connection with the foods we eat?

As a young college student, I learned that scientists use “organic” to refer to a class of molecules that contain carbon, especially those involved in the chemistry of life. Now foods claiming to be organic must be free of artificial food additives, and are often processed using fewer artificial methods, materials and conditions, such as chemical ripening, food irradiation, and genetically modified ingredients. Pesticides are allowed as long as they are not synthetic. So organic produce and other ingredients are grown without the use of pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, genetically modified organisms,

or ionizing radiation. Animal products such as meats, poultry, eggs, and dairy cannot have antibiotics or growth hormones to be considered “organic.”

That all sounds good, but what are genetically modified organisms, or GMOs? Fear often accompanies the unknown and may explain why people are afraid of them. Humans and other organisms that reproduce are actually “genetically modified.” The process of reproduction renders each human genetically different, or “modified” from the original male and female. This is not a discussion about manipulating human genes in the laboratory, but rather plant products.

Farmers and agricultural scientists have for centuries been using grafting, crossbreeding, radiation and chemicals to introduce new

genes into plants. What is different now is that the genes that are introduced into plants may come from other species. For instance, a gene that instructs lettuce to resist frost may come from fish that thrive in icy waters. And how would you like an apple that does not turn brown? Most of the genes now being introduced into crops offer clear benefits: golden rice that contains extra vitamin A can prevent blindness in much of the developing world that subsists on rice alone; soybeans and corn that resist insects, toxins and fungi that do not require pesticides but produce greater yields. So far, no harm has come from billions of animals that have been raised on genetically engineered feed.

Climate changes are making it impossible to grow crops in areas that suffer from drought, floods and changes in the composition of soil. Famine, malnutrition and problems with immigration as populations seek better lives are the results of these climate changes. Genetic engineering of plants is here to stay and provides us with hope for the future in an ever-changing climate.

PENN'S VILLAGE TOWN HALL

Thursday, January 10

5:30 – 8:00pm

**Thomas Jefferson University
Alumni Hall**

***Learn about future plans and
toast to 2019. Snacks, wine and
soft drinks will be served.***

Hamilton raffle tickets will be sold.

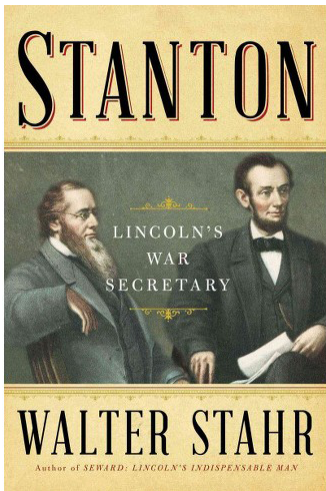
To register:

email: info@pennsvillage.org

phone: 215 - 925 - 7333

BOOK REVIEW

Stanton: Lincoln's War Secretary By Walter Stahr | Published by Simon and Schuster Paperbacks, 2017
by Dick Levinson



He was a short, fat sparkplug of a man with piercing eyes and a hair-trigger temper. Edwin McMasters Stanton (1814-1869) was the rare Washington bureaucrat who actually did work himself to death in the service of his country. It is unlikely that Abraham Lincoln and the Union could have prevailed without him.

As Walter Stahr makes clear in this comprehensive and vastly entertaining book, this son of Steubenville, Ohio, fatherless from adolescence and plagued by asthma, was an unlikely national

hero. This former bookstore clerk not only worked like a fiend, but remembered everything he read. Stanton was the administrative wizard who kept the troops fed, clothed, and armed, no matter how many hundreds of miles from home they were.

Since the Civil War was a desperate struggle for survival, Stanton's challenges included suppressing anti-draft riots, closing important opposition newspapers and getting huge numbers of Union troops home to vote in key state and federal elections. When Union generals were less than aggressive in pursuing their Confederate adversaries, Stanton frequently emerged as the excuse in such situations. Such charges were almost always false.

This impressive volume highlights one episode that may surprise many readers. Towards the end of the war, Stanton authorized an operation that targeted the civilian leaders of the Confed-

eracy, beginning with President Jefferson Davis. This proved to be a disaster leading to the deaths of many Union participants and posing absolutely no threat to the intended targets. The leader of this undertaking was among those killed. Papers found on his person discussed killing Davis and others. Lincoln must have known something about this plan, but the idea that he would authorize the murder of Confederate civilian leaders conflicts with everything we know about the character of the 16th President. Given the opportunity to imprison Clement Vallandigham, an Ohio Congressman who many Unionists considered a traitor, Lincoln opted to exile him instead.

The more disturbing question raised by this episode is: did this ill-conceived plan become the trigger for the plot to murder Abraham Lincoln? It is a haunting question that is destined to remain unanswered.

Connect with Penn's Village:

215-925-7333

info@pennsvillage.org

www.pennsvillage.org

201 South 21st Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Follow us on social media:



Join Penn's Village:

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

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.

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.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Lorene Carey

by Karen Orman



As a senior lecturer in the University of Pennsylvania English department, Lorene Cary teaches both fiction and non-fiction writing. She tells her students that writing is “the now” and counsels them to write about what matters to them.

Lorene’s novel, *Black Ice*, published in 1991, is a memoir, as is her new novel that will come out in May 2019, *Ladysitting, My Year With Nana and the End of Her Century*. Both are an expression of emotional and spiritual impact. Her first novel, *The Price of a Child*, about an 1855 liberated fugitive, was chosen as the first One Book, One Philadelphia selection in 2003. She writes part of virtually every day and devotes herself to stories she feels compelled to explore. Her current project is a play commissioned by The Arden Theater entitled “My General Taubman.”

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Lorene wanted to be a doctor when she entered Penn. Little

time elapsed before she switched her major to English so that she could pursue a career where she would “feel stuff.”

Lorene describes herself as a woman trying to give and receive love. She searches to find ways to do this, especially when it is difficult. She wants to feel the fullness of being, in the context of family, community, tribe and nation. As an Afro-American, she feels challenged every day in America to respond meaningfully rather than react instinctively to people’s misguided assumptions.

Lorene is a woman with many passions and accomplishments. She founded Art Sanctuary in 1998 to create unique programs of African-American arts and letters in urban Philadelphia; served on Philadelphia’s School Reform Commission; and was accepted into New York’s American Lyric Theater 2017 Composer and Librettist Development Program. In 2015, Lorene founded, with the help of her Penn students, Safe Kids Stories to emphasize safety, peace, and non-violence. The goal of last semester’s ambitious and successful project was to bring new young voters to the polls.

For arts activism, writing, and teaching, Lorene received the Philadelphia Award, the city’s highest honor. Lorene has M.A. degrees from both Penn and

Sussex University in England. She lectures nationwide and has received multiple honorary doctorates.

Lorene and her husband, Bob, an Episcopal Priest in Center City, joined Penn’s Village because of the importance they attach to the care of our senior population. Penn’s Village is looking forward to hosting Lorene for a panel discussion entitled “The Muse Behind The Artist” on January 30. It is bound to be a highlight of the year.

An American Cookie-Ginger Snaps

Have you ever wondered where the name for the gingersnap cookie came from and why the cookie is so good?

Did you know that reference to the cookie dates back to colonial America in 1805?

Courtesy of the Museum of the American Revolution, cookbook author Anne Byrne (*American Cookie*, published by Random House), long-time Penn’s Village supporters Peggy Duckett and husband George Drach, and Penn’s Village member and volunteer Mark Raymond, we invite you to read all about it and bake the ginger snap cookie yourself!

<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/read-the-revolution/history/american-cookie>

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

John H. Erickson Learning and Giving *by Sherrill Cresdee*



Arriving in the office of long-time Penn's Village volunteer John Erickson for our interview, I was immediately struck by the pervading calm, open sky, clarity and charm.

In 2009, John and his spouse, Harry Zaleznik, listened to a presentation about volunteering with Penn's Village at Hopkinson House...they applied. In the nine years he's been a visitor companion, John has had four 'clients' and admits to being quite nervous about the "How do I do this?" of his first introduction. He soon realized that if you go into a situation with, "...no agenda, an open mind and heart, the way to engage naturally presents itself. Each time."

Raised outside Chicago, John came east in 1974 to join Erie Community College [Buffalo, NY] as an English professor after finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. Rising through

ECC to become Chair of the English Department for this 10,000 student, three-campus institution, John moved south to Philadelphia in 1989 for a new opportunity...and hasn't left.

With the skills honed by his academic experience at EEC, Erickson joined the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which conducts accreditation activities for institutions of higher education. With co-responsibility for strategic and financial planning, governance and issues related to accreditation, budgeting, collective bargaining, liaising with several hundred institutions, etc., for eighteen years and little down time, John resigned and took himself off to a thirty day retreat to ground himself.

Today, still busy professionally as a higher education consultant to a range of public and private institutions, John and Harry volunteer as tutors at the McCall School; John with 3rd and 4th graders and Harry with kindergarteners. [In addition to being a PV volunteer, Harry is also an educator, having taught at Simon Gratz High School for 31 years.]

Most recently, John really enjoyed the PV Lunch and Book program and is a regular member of the Men's Group and its free flow of topics, both of which, "...are much nicer than meeting at a local diner and

allows PV members to connect outside of lectures or formal events."

Leaving John, I realized his office was a physical reflection of exactly who he is - calm, open, clear and charming.

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs offer taxpayers who earned less than \$55,000 in 2018 free face-to-face tax return preparation and free e-file from IRS-trained volunteers. For more information and locations, go to [IRS.gov/VITA](https://www.irs.gov/VITA).

If you are interested in becoming a trained volunteer for these IRS programs that provide free tax preparation services for 2019, you may also contact IRS at:

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-tax-volunteers>.



The next
Center City
District
Restaurant Week
will be **January**

13-25, which means \$35 dinners and, in many cases, \$20 lunches at 110 downtown restaurants.



PHONE SCAMS KEEP COMING

*Adapted from Integer Wealth Advisors
by Kristin Davidson*

Phone scams continue to circulate and continue to annoy us or, even worse, catch us. The following five phone scams haunt our society. Just take time to remind your friends and family. It only takes a moment of distracted attention for the scammers to get what they want.

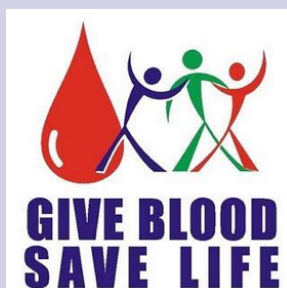
1. DHS OIG Hotline Scam – Callers claim to be from Homeland Security or the Office of Inspector General. The idea is to have the victim give up personal information including date of birth, social security number, credit card numbers or other sensitive information.
 - a. DHG and OIG do not use hotline numbers to make outgoing calls, only to receive information.
2. FBI Spoofing Scam – The fraudsters in this one claim they are from the FBI and the victim is being investigated for certain federal violations. The victim is told that if they don't pay a fee immediately they will be arrested. What makes this one particularly believable is that the scammer spoofs the local FBI field office phone number and it displays that way on caller ID.
 - a. The FBI does not call or email private citizens to demand money or threaten arrests.
3. “Can You Hear Me” Phone Scam – Scammers are calling victims hoping to get them to say the word “yes” during the conversation that's being recorded. The fraudster will later use the recording of the victim saying yes to authorize unwanted charges on the victim's utility or credit card account.
 - a. The FCC reminds people to simply not answer calls from unknown numbers.
4. Social Security Phone Scam – Here scammers call claiming to be from the Social Security Administration saying you owe more money and asking for your Social Security Number and sometimes to send cash.
 - a. Do not respond. The Social Security Administration never contacts citizens by phone.
5. Smishing – The new texting scam looks very legitimate. Scammers are spoofing banks' phone numbers and sending text messages to customers claiming that their debit card has been used to make a purchase and you need to call the fraud prevention helpline. A phone number is provided for you to call.
 - a. Do not call the phone number. Disregard and call your bank using the number on the back of your debit or bank card.
 - b. Never reveal security details like your passwords or PIN Code. A bank will never ask for your password.
 - c. Never assume that a text message or email is genuine. Scammers spoof phone numbers and email addresses.
 - d. Trust your instincts. If a text or email seems suspicious, delete it immediately.
 - e. Take your time – If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from your bank, do not let them rush you into giving sensitive information.
 - f. Don't feel pressured – if they are pressuring you to give sensitive information, stay calm, refuse, and hang up.

6. Phishing Call Scam - People are receiving phone calls from swindlers pretending to be from Apple support. The scammer tells the victim that the iCloud has been hacked and they need to verify their account details.
 - a. If you are receiving a call from Apple support remember Apple will NEVER call you to warn of a security problem.
 - b. Scammers will try multiple times in a row before the scammer gives up.
 - c. Let the call go to voicemail.

So, some things you can do to protect yourself:

1. Just by reminding others about these scams, you remind yourself. Just like air travel, there's a reason they always do the safety videos! Share this information with your friends and family so that they do not experience a moment of distractedness and get caught in the snare.
2. Get a spam call blocker for your phone. AT&T Call Protect, Nomorobo, RoboKiller, Truecaller and Hiya Caller ID & Block are some of the more popular apps on Apple App Store. Similar ones are available for Android.
3. Let all calls that are not identified go to voicemail. You can confirm legitimate numbers yourself. Don't trust the caller.

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



On Tuesday, January 29, Society Hill Towers will host a 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 am to 7 pm.

Blood donors may register at the Red Cross website: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>. Click on "Donate Blood" and enter zip code "19106" or **SOCIETY HILL TOWERS** to select your appointment time. You will get a reminder email on January 29. You can also call 1-800-Red Cross.

Volunteers are needed for a two-hour block of time to welcome donors, check them in, verify their appointment time, and provide Thank You stickers. Contact drive organizer Mary O'Neill at mcneill210@gmail.com to register for your preferred volunteer time.

What to expect:

- Bring photo ID or your Red Cross donor card – use RapidPass (*described below) – sent to you on January 29 in your email appointment reminder.
- Before the blood drive – drink an extra 16oz. 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 donating.

Take time to enjoy a snack and a drink in the refreshment area after donating.

*What is RapidPass?

RapidPass offers you a way to complete pre-reading and donation questions online from home or office, reducing your time on site (about one hour). You will be sent RapidPass in your reminder email the day of your appointment – just read the information and answer the questions. Use a laptop or desktop computer. Print the pass or email the PDF to yourself – bring the paper pass or the email on your phone. ***RapidPass cannot be completed on a smartphone or tablet at present*** and it can only be completed the day of ... not before.

ALL AROUND TOWN

Local Events and Activities for January 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR from all of us at Penn's Village to all of you!

Welcome in the New Year on January 1 at the Kimmel Center. Come for a day of fun for you and your family. **FREE. Includes Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Demonstration. Watch the Mummers' Parade as it passes by the front door.**

MUSEUMS

LAST CHANCE to see Berthe
Morrisot at THE BARNES
Closes January 14, 2019
Spectacular! Must See!



Young Girl with a Dog, 1887
Through fashion and dress,
Berthe Morrisot depicted con-
temporary women in the late
1880's.

A French-born woman (1841-
1895), Morrisot was a colleague
of Renoir, Monet and Degas
and became a major avant-gar-
de artist of her day. She married
the brother of Edouard Manet,
Eugene, who gave up his own
artistic practice and dedicated
himself to his wife's career.

Fabric Workshop and Museum

Suzanne Bocanegra: *Poorly
Watched Girls*

Visual art and theater

Through February 17

fabricworkshopandmuseum.org

Philadelphia Museum of Art

*Fabulous Fashion. From Dior's
New Look to Now.*

Through March 3

Philadelphia Museum of Art

*Little Ladies: Victorian Fashion
Dolls and their Feminine Ideal*

Through March 3

SELECTED CONCERT PERFORMANCES

Vox Amadeus Ensemble

Symphony Orchestra

Gershwin Forever

Peter Donohoe, piano

Jan 11

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel
Center

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Music of Faith

January 24 & 25

Verizon Hall at the Kimmel
Center

The Philadelphia Orchestra

All Tchaikovsky

January 31-February 2

Verizon Hall at the

Kimmel Center

The Philly Pops

Jazzed! Big Band with Terrell Stafford

January 18-20

Verizon Hall at the
Kimmel Center

Philadelphia Chamber Music
Society

*Mark Padmore, tenor & Paul
Lewis, piano*

January 22

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel
Center

AVA Opera

Rusalka by Antonin Dvorak

January 26, 29, 31, & Feb. 2

Helen Corning Warden
Theatre

Curtis Symphony Orchestra

American Images

January 27

Verizon Hall at the Kimmel
Center

www.curtis.edu

PENN'S VILLAGE EVENTS

Newsletter Editorial Board Meeting
January 2

Penn's Village Town Hall

Jefferson Alumni Hall

January 10

PV Program on Race Relations
January 22

Blood Drive at Society Hill Towers
January 29

SELECTED THEATER PERFORMANCES

11th Hour Theatre Company
Bonnie and Clyde
(A Musical) The Proscenium
Theatre at the Drake
January 5-13
267-987-9865

Academy of Music
Beautiful-The Carole King Musical
January 8-20

Merriam Theater
National Geographic Live!
View from Above
January 17

Merriam Theater
An Evening with Bob Woodward
January 10

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M.C.T.
MY COMPUTER TECHIE

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