

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JANE ELEEY



Dear Members and Friends,

Change is in the air. If you look closely, you can see buds getting ready to burst on the Bradford Pear trees lining many Philadelphia streets. Crocuses are peeking out. And Trader Joe's even has forsythia and pussy willow branches! After our late-winter snow events, these most welcome signs of the coming spring seem to be pervading the Penn's Village air, too.

Just this past Friday, the number of vaccines approved by the FDA for emergency use in the US has grown to three! Many of us have received at least one COVID-19 Vaccine injection; some have received, or are scheduled for, their second injection; and each day, more and more of us who want to be vaccinated are joining the ranks of the immunized.

One of the less dramatic, but still notable changes at Penn's Village this spring is the availability on our website of a new Membership Directory (see p 8). Log on to the website to take a look at how easy it is to connect with fellow Villagers, Neighbors, and Volunteers. Best of all, your Directory information is password protected (available only to you and other logged-on Penn's Village members and staff). And you are in charge of what contact information is displayed in your listing.

While you are still logged on, let's take a few minutes to visit the **Forums**, another website feature designed to help us connect and engage with one another. To get to the Forums, just mouse over the "For Members" menu and select "Forums."

On this page, you will see (1) **Penn's Village Members** with lists/links to posts about Recipes, House Plants, Recycling of Durable Medical Equipment, and Volunteer Opportunities Around Philly; (2) **Coronavirus Concerns**; and (3) **Interest Groups**.

Let's click on the "Public Covid Announcements" link under the **Coronavirus Concerns** section. There we discover that on February 22, Donna Murphy, our Penn's Village Data Base Manager, posted a COVID Scam Alert. Click on the link, and we can see the information, as well as a link to the original article.

The Forums are a great way to NOT increase traffic to everyone's sometimes seemingly endless number of emails. And if you get stuck, you can visit the website Q & A under the Resources Section on the Home Page. Let's be agents of change and learn something new during this season of change and hope.

I hope to see you in the Forums!



Intergenerational Book Group

The second monthly meeting of the Penn's Village Intergenerational Book Club was held via ZOOM on Wednesday, February 24. The group discussed Nobelist Olga Tokarczuk's novel, *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*.

This recently formed Interest Group encourages Penn's Village members and volunteers (along with family and friends, young and old) to come together for interesting exchanges and explorations of ideas and diverse insights.

The Group meets via ZOOM on the fourth Wednesday of each month, from 4:30-5:30 pm.

Our selection for March is *The Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig. "Between life and death, there is a library, and within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. Would you have done anything different, if you had the chance to undo your regrets?" If you are interested in joining us, please register at pennsvillage.org, email info@pennsvillage.org, or call 215-925-7333.

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From the Federal Trade Commission—Recognizing and Avoiding Scams

At one time or another, practically everyone has gotten emails or telephone calls that they feel pretty sure are scams. In 2020, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), received nearly 500,000 reports of imposter scams, and people reported losing \$1.2 billion, with a median loss of \$850. Government and business imposter scams were also among the top categories of COVID-19 and stimulus-related reports.

The phone is still the top way that scammers reach their intended victims — through both calls and text messages. Last year, there was a sharp increase in the number of reports indicating contact by text message. And, not surprisingly, many of these text messages were related to the pandemic.

Four Signs That It's a Scam

1. *Scammers pretend to be from an organization you know.* They often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government and might use a real name, like the Social Security Administration, the IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, such as a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations. They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID, so the name and number you see might not be real.
2. *Scammers tell you there's a problem or a prize.* They might say you're in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone
3. *Scammers pressure you to act immediately.* They want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.
4. *Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.* They often insist that you pay by sending money through a money transfer company or by putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back. Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), tell you to deposit it, and then send them money.

What You Can Do to Avoid a Scam

1. *Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.*
2. *Don't reveal your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.* Legitimate organizations won't call, email,

or text to ask for your personal information, such as your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy, or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

3. *Resist the pressure to act immediately.* Legitimate businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.
4. *Know how scammers tell you to pay.* Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card or by using a money transfer service. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.
5. *Stop and talk to someone you trust.* Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

Report Scams to the FTC

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

To download a printable brochure containing the information contained in this article, click [here](#).



Program Attendance Policy Change

As of March 1, 2021, Penn's Village will no longer charge nonmembers a fee to attend up to three programs. After three programs, guests will be asked to join or actively volunteer with Penn's Village. We believe this is a great way to welcome new members, and we hope you will share this news with your friends and neighbors!

ALL AROUND TOWN

Daylight saving time is almost here and you may be ready to cautiously venture outside a bit, though only museums appear to be offering in-person visits. Arts groups such as the Philly Pops and Broadway at the Academy are promoting their fall schedules. Look for more information on performances of *The Lion King* and *Oklahoma!* We salute the arts for their continued commitment to bringing free music education to school-age children in Philadelphia through virtual programs and live-streaming.

Virtual Programs

The **Philadelphia Orchestra** continues its concert schedule on the digital stage with tickets at \$17 each. Two March performances are scheduled: *Michelle Cann Plays Florence Price*, from March 4-11; and *Yannick and Mozart*, from March 18-25. *Carmen Suite with the Philadelphia Orchestra + Brian Sanders' JUNK* is a forty-five-minute take on *Carmen* with a one-act ballet, March 4-11. <https://philorch.org>.

Philadelphia Chamber Music Society's live March recital is sold out, but the concert with violinist Miriam Fried and pianist Jonathan Biss (mother and son) is available online for three days, March 24-27. Program includes Debussy, Janacek, and Mozart. pcmsconcerts.org.

If you have not already subscribed to Philly Funsavers, sign up for free virtual programs and when available, half-priced tickets to theater performances. phillyfunguide.com.

Annenberg Theater continues its digital season with a series of exclusive, live performances that bring some of the best dance and music artists from their stage to your home. Designed specifically for the virtual stage, these original livestream performances feature legendary musicians, beloved dance artists, and rising stars per-

forming numerous world premieres, Philadelphia debuts, and more. Two are scheduled this month: on March 4, cellist Thomas Kraines joins forces with cellist, oudist, and composer Kinan Abou-afach. The duo will perform a program of original compositions and improvisations as well as the world premiere of a new work by composer Gene Coleman.

On March 11, Hope Boykin makes her choreographic Philadelphia debut. The former PHILADANCO dancer now returns alongside five other dancers for the world premiere of *Redefine US, from the inside OUT*. annenbergcenter.org.

Manhattan Theatre Club (MTC), with their theatres closed, has created a Virtual Stage to give artists a forum to express themselves and to stay in touch with their audiences. It is more important than ever to find ways to connect and to create art, which helps to explore our shared experiences. They have expanded their digital programming and continue to innovate, experiment, and entertain. manhattantheatreclub.com.

92nd Street Y

Check out their *Classical Concerts Subscription* and the March through May performances with Ana Vidovic, Gil Shaham, and Alisa Weilerstein. www.92y.org.

Museums

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Philadelphia-born artist, Roberto Lugo, created a vase in 2016 of Benjamin Franklin, at the Clay Studio, one of our business partners. Called *All About the Benjamins Century Vase*, it is located in gallery 388 on the third floor. Artist Lugo places Franklin within a constellation of songs, symbols, and rappers' names—ones that shaped his childhood and adult life. The artist also includes his own self-portrait on the other side of the vase, creating an

imagined dialogue between himself and Franklin around the themes of money, history, violence, and success. Museum is open Friday-Monday with new hours. Advance tickets required. philamuseum.org.



The Barnes Foundation

The world premiere of *Soutine/de-Kooning: Conversations in Paint* opens for members-only previews on March 5 and 6. It was organized by the Barnes and the Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, Paris, and explores the affinities between the work of Lithuanian artist Chaïm Soutine (1893–1943) and Dutch-American abstract expressionist Willem de Kooning (1904–1997). The Barnes is open Friday-Monday. Advance tickets required. Through August 8. barnesfoundation.org.

Mutter Museum

The Spit Spreads Death exhibition continues chronicling the flu pandemic of 1918-19. A new exhibit features images by forensic photographer Nikki Johnson, who takes visitors into the Mutter's myriad storage rooms and behind-the-scenes spaces at the bottom of dark stairwells. Advance tickets required. Open Thursday-Monday. muttermuseum.org.

Penn's Village Community Blog

Visit our website to read [our latest Community Blog](#)—Steve Wenick's review of *Fall: The Mysterious Life and Death of Robert Maxwell, Britain's Most Notorious Media Baron*, by John Preston. It is the incredible story of the father of Ghislaine Maxwell, the woman accused of procuring under-age girls for Jeffrey Epstein.

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Join Penn's Village

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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INTRODUCING

Mike Pulsifer

by Sherrill Cresdee



Reaching Out

"Born and raised in an Oklahoma oil town and with a strong Christian faith," Mike Pulsifer attended the then-all-male Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, where Winston Churchill had given his historic "Iron Curtain Speech." Majoring in math, Mike eventually became president of his fraternity, graduated, and married his seventh-grade sweetheart, Marion. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and completed a year of post-graduate work at the University of Edinburgh's New College, where, as Mike says, "Presbyterians think God lives."

While overseas, the young couple traveled Europe and Russia before returning to serve in a church in El Reno, Oklahoma. Over the course of his fifty-year career as a Presbyterian minister, Mike also served congregations in Indianola, Iowa; Santa Ana, California; Ridgewood, New Jersey; and Ardmore, Pennsylvania. Along the way, he and Marion became the parents of two sons and grandparents of five, and moved to Philadelphia fifteen years ago after never having lived in a large city.

Having retired from full-time ministry

thirteen years ago, Mike is currently the part-time volunteer Minister for Outreach at Arch Street Presbyterian Church, serving the congregation's one-hundred-fifty members who reflect Philadelphia's diversity. Looking back, he feels that "growing up in a not particularly racist home environment, but in a segregated society where twelve percent of the town's population lived on the other side of the tracks," contributed to a lack awareness of the inequities that existed in his hometown; he has found his journey of learning and transforming rewarding and life giving.

Given today's environment, Mike is happy to have been an early questioner and to have participated in diversity activities and discussions in the numerous communities in which he's served and lived, including having written a sermon given numerous times, titled, "Confessions of a Repentant, Recovering Racist." At Penn's Village, Mike serves with five others on the Inclusiveness and Diversity Committee, whose goals include discovering how our community can be more welcoming and hospitable to Philadelphia's diverse population. Ever modest, given his learning, teaching, and living, Mike admits to "still making mistakes and working every day to correct them."

Service Volunteers Needed

Penn's Village is looking for service volunteers who would be willing to run errands for Villagers, such as going to the cleaners, picking up or dropping off a package, picking up a prescription or other pharmacy item, etc. Volunteers would not enter any home but would leave or pick up items at the front door of a house or in the lobby of high-rise building if visitors are not permitted beyond the first floor. Please let Jane Eleey know if you are willing to offer this service (jane@pennsvillage.org).

Don't forget to read the [Community Blog](#) on our website.

Penn's Village welcomes and actively encourages an inclusive and diverse community of members, staff, Board of Directors and volunteers. Inclusiveness and diversity means welcoming all and excluding no one because of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, social-economic 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.

MARCH PROGRAMS

The Program Committee, under the leadership of Mario Oropeza, announces the schedule of programs for March. Self registration is now available; for members, please review the [Self-Registration Instructions](#) on the website. You can also register by emailing info@pennsvillage.org or calling 215-925-7333.

Nonmember guests may attend up to three free programs before being asked to join and/or volunteer with Penn's Village.

Check our website and look for emails for up-to-date information, a fuller description of each program, and any additional programs scheduled in March.

All programs are offered as ZOOM Teleconferences; Registrants will be sent ZOOM login information a day or so before the event.



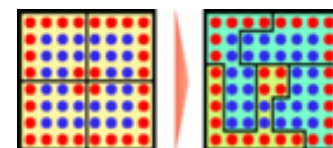
Tuesday, March 2, 9:00 am. Beginner's Mind: Learn the Basics of Meditation. Penn's Village member, Olivia Walling, a trained and long-time Zen practitioner, will lead us in a participatory workshop to learn techniques used in Zen to meditate, including concentration practice and loving kindness meditation. The workshop is an opportunity to use techniques to discover the sweet, solid ease under the storm of thoughts. You do not need any physical abilities and can participate fully sitting, standing, or in any other comfortable posture.

Wednesday, March 3, 3:00 pm. Art Meets Climate Change. This program, moderated by Jean Haskell, will consist of a series of one-act plays on the issue of climate change. The plays were developed by an organization called Arctic Cycle and were written by playwrights from around the world. Each play is approximately ten to fifteen minutes long and will be read in one presentation. Performers are acting students at OLLI.



Tuesday, March 9, 10:00 am. Trees for Healthy Living. Mindy Maslin founded the Tree Tenders program at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in 1993. In her presentation, you will learn why trees are critical to healthy living and how they impact our environmental, economic, social, and physical health. She will tell the story of the Tree Tenders program and how it helps increase the tree cover in Southeastern Pennsylvania. You will get answers to the ten or more most common tree questions. This is your chance to find out what the real story is with tree roots and pipes, and what the deal is with mulch volcanoes!

Thursday, March 25, 2:00 pm. Gerrymandering and Redistricting Reform. Dr. Jack Nagel, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, will provide a general discussion about how gerrymandering evolved in the United States, with a focus on Pennsylvania. There will also be a discussion of current efforts to reform the practice.



Grocery Pick Up and Delivery

Jane Eeley, our Executive Director, recently announced that Penn's Village is now offering grocery pick-up and delivery through a small group of volunteers. Because of COVID-19, volunteers are not able enter your home, but can drop items either in the lobby of your building or on your door step, and will arrange in advance to meet you there. You will need to pay for your items at the time of delivery. The volunteer may ask you to sign a receipt.

If you would like to use this service,

contact the office during normal business hours Monday through Friday at least three days in advance of your need, via email at info@pennsvillage.org or phone at 215-925-7333. We must have on file a recent Member Agreement, which most of you have submitted. If we have not yet received the form, we will let you know.



When you contact us, please let us know approximately how many bags there will be so that those volunteers



who don't have cars can still help out by carrying smaller orders to you. The assigned volunteer will contact you directly to get your list, ask any questions he or she may have, and arrange to meet you for drop-off.

We are hoping that in the near future we will be able to offer other errands, but not just yet—stay tuned! As always, we do our very best to find a volunteer to fulfill each request, but it may not always be possible.

MARCH 2021 - Women's History Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Green - Penn's Village Event	1 Sunrise 6:34 am Sunset 5:51 pm	2 9:00 am Beginner's Mind Meditation. ZOOM	3 3:00 pm Art Meets Climate Change ZOOM	4	5	6
7	8 International Women's Day	9 10:00 am Trees for Healthy Living ZOOM	10	11	12	13
14 2:00 am Daylight Savings Time Begins 	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20 First Day of Spring
21	22	23	24	25 2:00 pm Gerrymandering ZOOM	26	27 Passover Begins at Sundown
28 Palm Sunday	29	30	31 Sunrise 6:46 am Sunset 7:23 pm			

CALENDAR NOTES

March is the month of the vernal equinox in the northern hemisphere, when day and night are of equal length, marking the start of spring, the hope-filled season of new beginnings.

Women's History Month is celebrated every March to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8. It commemorates the history of women's impact in the world and raises awareness of issues women are facing worldwide. International Women's Day was established to commemorate the movement for women's rights.



Photo courtesy of Harriette Mishkin: Philadelphia in the welcome light of spring as seen from the 15th floor of the COVID-19 Vaccination Site in the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine.

BOOK REVIEW

***Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women*, by Kate Moore**

reviewed by Clare Novak

What teenage girl wouldn't want a well-paying job in a bright, airy studio? Clock dial painters were the glamour girls of factory workers in the early 1900s. They could afford fashionable clothes and they glowed from the radium dust that clung to them. It was all wonderful, until it wasn't. The girls were repeatedly told that the radium paint they meticulously painted on dials was more than safe—it was healthy. Since radium was safe and the best way to keep the hairs on the brush lined up was *Lip, Dip, Paint* - why not do that?

Radium was newly discovered and all the rage on clock dials and other products. In 1917, when the US entered World War I, demand increased sharply.



The military purchased watches and dials that could be read in the dark. Many of the three-hundred-seventy five girls employed in the industry were motivated by the idea of helping the troops during both World Wars. Radium continued to be used through the 1960s, but the practice of *lip, dip, paint* ceased by 1930.

Likely, with our knowledge of radioactivity, you've already begun to picture the horrible consequences of ingesting radium. This factual account does not shirk the horror of the cancers and diseases these women eventually experienced. What elevates this book out of that horror is the women's fight for justice. With sheer dogged persistence, the women took legal action that eventually was settled in their favor. Along the way, they caused changes in

workers' protection law that benefit workers even now.

In Moore's well-written story, as much a page turner as any popular legal mystery, the women demonstrated a practical getting on with life and not one ounce of pity seeking. The corporation was exposed as having lied for years, restructuring the company to avoid liability and simply dragging their feet waiting for the plaintiffs to die off.

Moore engages her audience's emotions through crisp writing. We feel sorrow, admiration, and righteous anger. The desire for Old Testament "eye for an eye" justice was part of my emotional reaction. I wanted the men who lied and cared more about making money than these women's lives to be sentenced to *Lip, Dip, Paint*.

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

February 2021

Alan Zuckerman

May His Memory Be a Blessing



Free-Library Lecture Series on Joe McCarthy

The Central Senior Services Department of The Free Library of Philadelphia is proud to present *Trust No One: Joe McCarthy and the Politics of Fear*, a special series of five free lectures that explore the life of an American demagogue and the dangerous legacy he left behind.

Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 pm.
Distinguished Presidential Historian,

Richard Norton Smith, will present "**The Rise of Tail Gunner Joe.**" McCarthy's chief aide, Roy Cohn, later served as both a tutor and a mentor to a young Donald Trump. [Click here](#) for more information and to make reservations.

Wednesday, March 24 at 7:30 pm.
Yale Historian, Dr. Beverly Gage, will discuss "**The Man Who Knew Everything: J. Edgar**"
[continued on page 8](#)

Penn's Village Membership Directory Available

Thanks to a new online Membership Directory, it's easier than ever to connect with other Penn's Village members. Access to the directory is password protected, and members can control their own information.*

The Directory is so easy to use!

1. Log on by clicking the Login Button at the top right-hand corner of any page on the Penn's Village website.*
2. Once you have logged on, a For Members menu appears directly below the Welcome button on the left of your screen.
3. Point your cursor to For Members, then choose Membership Directory from the drop-down menu. This is what you will see:

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- Search Criteria** (Section Header)
- Search Text** (Text input field)
- Search by member name (first name or last name or full name) or work company
- Interests** (Dropdown menu showing "< Any >")
- Within** (Dropdown menu showing "< any distance >")
- of zip:** (Text input field)
- Recent Membersh** (Dropdown menu showing "< any join date >")
- Reset** (Button)
- Search** (Button with magnifying glass icon)

Experiment with a few of the search options:

1. Enter a name in Search Text and click Search.
2. Choose a Group listed in the Interests pulldown menu and click Search.
3. In the Recent Members pull down menu, search by length of membership and click Search.
4. Leave all fields blank and click Search to see the full directory.

* If you need help logging onto your account or would like more information about updating your listing in the Membership Directory, check out the Member Questions in our Q&A section. Should you need more help in finding the information you are trying to locate, there is a full explanation that also appears on the search page.

Thank you Penn's Village Staff and Volunteers for making it even easier to connect, engage, and thrive in the Village!

Free Library Lecture Series

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Hoover & Joe McCarthy. Dr. Gage is a contributing writer for the *New York Times Magazine* and is currently writing a biography of J. Edgar Hoover. [Click here](#) for more information and to make reservations.

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:30 pm.
Prize-winning biographer, Dr. David Nasaw, will discuss **"Dangerous Friends: How the Friendship Between McCarthy and the Kennedys Blighted the Lives of John and Robert Kennedy."** Dr. Nasaw has written the definitive biographies of William Randolph Hearst and Joseph P. Kennedy; he recently published a book about the plight of displaced persons during World War II and the Cold War. [Click here](#) for more information and to make reservations.

Wednesday, April 28 at 7:30 pm.
Arcadia University Professor, Dr. Peter Siskind, will discuss **"Death by a Thousand Cuts: How a Broken Promise Destroyed Joe McCarthy."** Dr. Siskind is an expert on 20th-century American politics and the rise of the suburbs. [Click here](#) for more information and to make reservations.

Monday, May 10 at 7:30 P.M.
Vanity Fair contributing writer, Marie Brenner, will discuss **"The Strange Afterlife of Roy Cohn."** Brenner has succeeded in turning so many of her feature articles into movies that she is now also working as a Hollywood producer. [Click here](#) for more information and to make reservations.

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