

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JANE ELEEY



Dear Members and Friends,

It is June, again—more than a year since we began our long pandemic journey. Now, it seems that the door to normalcy is opening, especially for those of us who have completed vaccination. Seeing smiles. Smiling back. Hearing that anticipatory buzz just moments before a program begins or before the first ball is pitched. The pure joy of just being there. Shaking hands. Giving a hug. Being hugged. Stopping to chat with a neighbor—bare face to bare face—whose whole face you haven't seen for a year, although you may have seen that neighbor come and go many times.

On May 25th, I joined more than fifty Penn's Village members and friends, some masked and others unmasked, as we gathered for the long-anticipated Happy Hour at Malbec at Headhouse Square. This was the first happy hour after more than a year of no face-to-face Village events. Again, the pure joy of just being there. This May, our Volunteers were grateful to carefully and thoughtfully begin providing many of the services that are so important to Penn's Village. Rides. Grocery shopping. Visiting. Going to the doctor. As of today, our programs are still Zoom offerings, but we are investigating the availability of venues for face-to-face, and even hybrid, presentations. And, most importantly, we are once again able to meet face-to-face with potential new members and volunteers to complete applications.

As is often the case, COVID-19 guidance is far from one hundred percent clear. CDC, Federal, State, and Philadelphia guidelines sometimes seem contradictory and need clarifying. Penn's Village is committed to adhering to the CDC guidelines as we continue to normalcy. As *The Village View* begins its traditional July-August hiatus, I urge you to visit the Penn's Village website for our most current information regarding services. And, by all means, stay engaged and active by checking your emails for new program announcements!

See you in September!



*The Village View* Hiatus — July and August



Our next issue will be published September 1.

**Penn's Village Interest Groups**

Several groups formed around common interests are currently active within our Village. At this time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all groups are still meeting via ZOOM. If you are interested in learning more about any of the groups, please email [info@pennsvillage.org](mailto:info@pennsvillage.org) or telephone 215-925-7333.

**Chat Group**

Every other Tuesday 11:00 am – Noon

**History Book Group**

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00 pm

**Intergenerational Book Group**

4th Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:00 pm

**Men's Group**

Mondays 10:30 am – Noon

**Spanish Conversation Group**

Mondays 4:00 – 5:30 pm

**Support Group**

1st Mondays 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Writers' Group**

3rd Wednesdays 11:00 – 12:30 pm

**Follow us on social media:**



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## Village View Editorial Board

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## Join Penn's Village

To become a member or to volunteer, visit [www.pennsvillage.org](http://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

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[www.pennsvillage.org](http://www.pennsvillage.org)

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## INTRODUCING

### Helen Evelev

by Karen Orman



Helen Evelev recounted her fascinating life story poised in front of two posters: "Support the UN Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons" and "Stop Drone Wars."

For a woman involved in the peace movement for sixty-eight years, these signs are emblematic. Having participated in the 1961 Disarmament Conference in Geneva, campaigned in the 1980s to put the Nuclear Freeze Resolution on the ballot in Philadelphia, and demonstrated over the years for and against many causes, Helen continues to protest peacefully against wars our government continues to wage. Oh—did I mention that Helen is ninety-three years old? And, she has two older siblings. "The key," she said, "is to pick your parents."

As a lifelong activist, Helen calls herself a driven woman who wants to make a difference. She is currently a proud member of the "Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia." You may have seen her protesting in Rittenhouse Square in an effort to promote a peaceful world for all children and grandchildren. Human rights and

economic and social justice are Helen's top priorities.

Helen moved from New York City to Philadelphia to marry a man she fortuitously met at Tanglewood. Not keen on NYC at that time, her husband insisted that he was saving her from Manhattan. Upon arrival, she immediately joined Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, where she snagged a job. She is now a lifetime member. Helen is very critical of senseless perpetual wars, especially those in Afghanistan and Iraq. Another initiative she espouses is to see that the sanctions on Iran are lifted.

From camping in Ethiopia to trekking in Nepal, Helen has traveled just about everywhere imaginable, preferring those countries with a large indigenous population. Fine arts is another of Helen's many passions. She loves ethnic jewelry and costumes and thus has never found a need to buy an evening gown.

Helen walks daily, pursues her many activities, and is now enjoying many of Penn's Village's programs. Quite a woman, wouldn't you say!

## COMMITTEE CORNER

### From the I & D Committee

The Committee requests that you send us links to diversity articles and news you come across for posting to our blog. Send to [info@pennsvillage.org](mailto:info@pennsvillage.org).

We are looking forward to welcoming Ms. Uda Braithwaite Bartholomew, who will help us with reaching out to the community on Penn's Village's behalf.

[See more committee news on page 4](#)

*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.*

*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.*

## All AROUND TOWN

The city is buzzing again with foot traffic, Center City restaurants are filled with friends who have not seen each other in more than a year; and musicians and actors are staging shows and pop-up performances outdoors, with actual people in attendance. Museums are open for in-person visitors, masks and social distancing required. Here are this month's top picks.

### Outdoor Activities

**Dilworth Park.** Throughout the month on Wednesdays. Free performances begin at 5:00 pm: June 2, BalletX; June 9, Philadanco; June 16, String Ensemble of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia; June 23, Elegance Quartet, Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra; June 30, Lady Hoofers Tap Ensemble, celebrating National Tap Dance Day. Lunchtime entertainment at noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Outdoor markets featuring local vendors on Fridays and Saturdays. Roller skating. People-watching. [CCD Parks | Events Calendar](#) ([centercityphila.org](#)).



### Museums

**Philadelphia Museum of Art.** Renovations to the "Core Project" are completed and new spaces are now open to the public. A new exhibit, *New Grit: Art & Philly Now*, showcases twenty-five



emerging and established artists with strong Philadelphia connections who explore ideas of being and belonging through ceramics, fiber, glass, painting, photography, sculpture, video, and more. Open Friday-Monday. Timed tickets, advance tickets. [www.philamuseum.org](#).

**Faith and Liberty Discovery Center.** This is the newest high-tech and high-touch attraction, located at 5th and Market Streets, Independence Mall East. Designed to guide the visitor in a personal exploration of the relationship between faith and liberty in the American experience by illuminating the influence of the Bible on individuals in key historical and personal moments. The center's galleries and exhibits reveal personal stories of how faith guides liberty toward justice. Open Monday, Thursday-Saturday. Advance tickets. <https://faithandliberty.org/>.

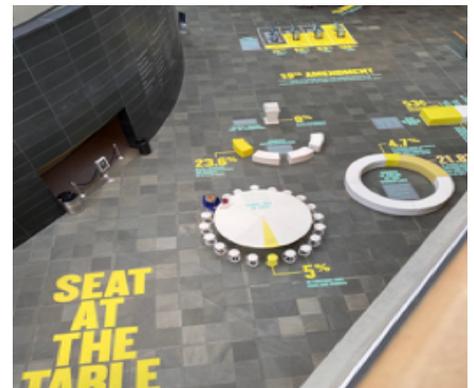


**Library Company of Philadelphia.** *Seeing Coal: Time/Material/Scale.* *Seeing Coal* looks at Pennsylvania anthracite coal and raises questions about the significance of its visible and invisible presence in our world. Through historic images, material specimens, artwork, and digital displays, coal is presented as a material that can help us rethink our relationship with nature and time and act with consideration for future generations. Free exhibit through August 28. Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm. 1314 Locust Street. [www.librarycompany.org](#).

**Parkway Central Library.** *Making Her Mark: Philadelphia Women Fight for the Vote.* Exhibition open by appoint-

ment weekday afternoons in the West Gallery. Offers a look at the stories of Philadelphia women who built and sustained movements dedicated to voting rights. Open through the fall. Pre-register now for your forty-five minute visit via Eventbrite.

**Kimmel Center.** An exhibit on the same theme opened in late 2019 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Called *Seat at the Table*, the exhibition links the past to the present, connecting historical stories with contemporary issues. The goals are to raise awareness and start conversations around women's suffrage and its ties to current social movements, and to inspire the next generation of civic engagement working toward gender equality. The exhibit remains until March 2022. Virtual tour: [Virtual Tour - Women 100](#). In-person once the Kimmel Center reopens in the Fall.



**Maja.** In April, we told you about a bronze sculpture by Gerhard Marcks that survived the Nazis and has been in storage for nearly thirty years. It is now installed on the grounds in front of Park Towne Place Apartments at 22nd Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, and we finally got close enough to take a photo!



[Continued on page 4](#)

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Philip Roth: The Biography, by Blake Bailey**

reviewed by Dick Levinson

At first glance, Philip Roth, a literary giant of the 20th and 21st centuries, seems to have little in common with the fictional Henry Higgins, a star of the 1956 Broadway sensation, *My Fair Lady*. Yet, in one of the numbers from the show, Higgins sings:

“I’m an ordinary man who desires nothing more than just an ordinary chance to live exactly as he likes and do precisely what he wants an average man am I of no eccentric whim who likes to live his life free of strife doing whatever he thinks is best for him...”

This unofficial credo (Roth would have bellowed in protest) carried the master novelist through eighty-five years of life, thirty-one books, two failed marriages, and enough awards to fill an entire bookshelf. Three of his most familiar works are *Goodbye Columbus* (1959), *Portnoy’s Complaint* (1969), and *The Plot Against America* (2004).

The truth is, that this new biography by Blake Bailey is hugely entertaining and fun to read. However, you may have trouble getting hold of a copy. It is one of life’s great ironies that Roth, who was often charged with being dismissive and contemptuous of women, should prove to be a mere piker next to Blake Bailey, the biographer whom Roth handpicked for this project. Bailey has joined the “me

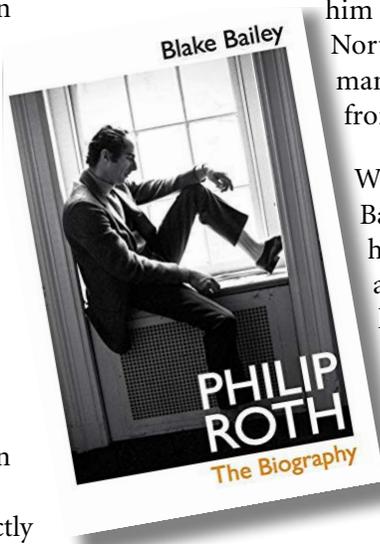
too” ranks—and, so much credible evidence has surfaced against him that the publisher, W.W. Norton & Company, has permanently withdrawn the book from print.

While the case against Bailey is very serious, and he deserves to be held fully accountable, I feel that this kind of literary censorship is a serious mistake. In cases of this kind, I doubt that publishers are, as a general rule, well equipped to serve as judges and juries. Perhaps

a new preface, written by an independent investigator would be helpful.

If you’ve ever wondered what Philip Roth was like as a person, or how he was raised by two striving, ambitious Jewish parents, or what kinds of women he pursued well into old age, this is the book for you. However, readers of this volume will be left with a final mystery to solve: all of his life, Roth depended on women as lovers, friends, and professional advisors, yet his ability to understand their deepest needs and feelings so often fell far short of the mark.

**BREAKING NEWS!!!** *The Washington Post* has reported that Skyhorse Publishing has announced plans to release a paperback version of Bailey’s *Philip Roth* on June 15. Remarkably, it appears that the upcoming Skyhorse edition will even have the same cover as Norton’s canceled version. Since the hardbacks were not recalled from stores and are still for sale online, *Philip Roth* never disappeared, and now does not seem likely to.



## ALL AROUND TOWN

(Continued from page 3)

### Virtual

**The Philadelphia Orchestra.** Beethoven’s Symphony No. 2. June 10-17. [www.philorch.org](http://www.philorch.org).

**Manhattan Theatre Club.** *The Niceties*. The presentation reunites the original stars Lisa Banes and Jordan Boatman, and has been reimaged for the virtual stage since its original production in MTC’s 2018-2019 season. Streaming through June 13. Free. RSVP required. [www.manhattantheatreclub.com](http://www.manhattantheatreclub.com).

**A New View Camden.** Six sites in the City of Camden have been transformed by public art. There are three virtual tours on Fridays at 4:00 pm on June 18, August 20, October 15. There is also an audio program for self-guided tours. <http://www.anewviewcamden.com>. For background information on this exhibit, here is a recent article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. <https://www.inquirer.com/arts/public-art-camden-invincible-cat-20210421.html>.

Watch for Fall Schedule announcements from the performing arts community. We are returning to a new normal – social distancing and indoor masking required! Or not!

### COMMITTEE CORNER

(Continued from p. 2)

#### **From the Marketing & Communications Committee**

If you missed the May screening of *Duty Free* offered by Penn’s Village and Senior Living Specialists Philly, you can go to [dutyfreefilm.com](http://dutyfreefilm.com) to explore alternate ways to view it. The film tells the poignant story of a seventy-five year old housekeeper fired from her job and how she prevailed with the help of her son.

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## JUNE PROGRAMS

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

Check the website and look for emails for up-to-date information, a fuller description of each program, and any additional programs scheduled in June. All programs are offered as ZOOM Teleconferences; registrants will be sent login information a day or so before the event.

**Tuesday, June 8, 2:00 pm. *Dangerous Friends: How the Friendship between McCarthy and the Kennedys Blighted the Lives of John and Robert Kennedy.*** Prize-winning biographer, David Nasaw, explores a complex friendship between the



Kennedy men (Joe, Jack, Bobby) that began in the early 1950's; it includes jobs, money, romance, and politics. He weaves the story right into Senate and White House deliberations during McCarthy's reign of terror in the Senate hearings on alleged communism in America. Its influences reverberate even today. Dr. Nasaw recently retired from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he was the Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Professor of History. He has written the definitive biographies of William Randolph Hearst and Joseph P. Kennedy. He recently published *The Last Million: Europe's Displaced Persons from World War to Cold War*. Dr. Nasaw presented this program for the Free Library of Philadelphia and has graciously agreed to offer it to Penn's Village.

**Thursday, June 10, 11:00 am. *Why Does the United States Have a Filibuster? And Should the Democrats End it Now?*** The American political system contains several features that enable minorities to thwart majorities. One such procedure is the filibuster, whereby a single U.S. Senator can delay legislation until a super majority of senators votes to override. Historian Howard Green will explain the development of the filibuster, consider its current implications, and discuss the pros and cons of eliminating it.



**Wednesday, June 16, 10:30 am. *Wonder***

***Woman and Female Unruliness.*** When the movie *Wonder Woman* debuted in 2017, it elevated its powerful female superhero, known since 1941 through comic books and a campy 1970's TV series, into a worldwide phenomenon that gave hope and a feeling of solidarity to millions of women around the globe. Using examples from on screen and off, Cinema Studies Professor Kathleen Rowe Karlyn will draw on her work on female unruliness to explore intense and often ambivalent responses generated by Wonder Woman and other women who seek power. Professor Rowe Karlyn is the author of the award-winning books, *The Unruly Woman: Gender and the Genres of Laughter*, and *Unruly Girls, Unrepentant Mothers*, as well as numerous articles on film, television, feminist theory, and cultural studies.

**Tuesday, June 29, 2:00 pm. *London, Linnaeus, and the Chelsea Flower Show.*** Presenter is avid traveler, John Whitenight, who takes us on a tour of some of the lesser-known natural history institutions in London such as the Grant Museum of Zoology, the Linnean Society of London, and the more familiar British Museum and the Victoria and Albert. This arm-chair tour concludes with the Chelsea Flower Show and includes a look at the exterior garden displays that surround the Great Pavilion.



# JUNE 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Sunrise 5:33 am Sunset 8:23 pm	2 11:00 am Tour of New & Improved Website Zoom	3	4	5
6	7	8 2:00 pm Dangerous Friends Zoom	9	10 11:00 am Filibuster Zoom	11	12
13	14 FLAG DAY 	15	16 10:30 pm Wonder Woman Zoom	17	18	19
20 Father's Day Summer Solstice 	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 2:00 pm Great Britain Armchair Tour Zoom	30 Sunrise 5:35 am Sunset 8:33 pm			

## CALENDAR NOTES



Solstice at Stonehenge.

The Summer Solstice is on Sunday, June 20th.

We've been watching the days lengthen since the beginning of the year.

On the 20th, we will have 14 hours, 58 seconds of daylight and a lot to celebrate as we move to normalcy.

## Happy Hour at Malbec!!



## Journeying Back to Normal... Whatever That Will Be

by Harriette Mishkin and Sherrill Cresdee

Within an hour of the April 27 CDC announcement that the fully vaccinated could be outside, unmasked, socially distanced, alone or in a small group, Harriette and her husband Ron sat on a bench outside their condo and greeted neighbors they could finally recognize. We chatted with Betty and Frank, cancer survivors “stuck” on San Juan Island and unwilling to travel through Seattle-Tacoma airport [Washington state had the first confirmed case of coronavirus]; Marsha, a public arts curator, who told us about a new exhibit in Camden, and Barbara, who works two days a week, having lost her full-time job a year ago, now putting her jewelry expertise to good use by volunteering with a local thrift shop.

As a high percentage of older adults became double dosers, the PV Program Committee hosted *How Has the COVID-19 Pandemic Affected You?*, exploring members' experiences and what, in the words of one attendee, “baby steps” they might be taking back to normal.

Program participants, itching to see friends, hug, travel, and attend live events talked about valuing and strengthening their family and far-flung relationships; investing more time growing recently dormant interests and hobbies such as exercising, gardening, movies, and audio books; learning how to communicate and attend events – like Penn's Village



Harriette Mishkin and Ron Friedman enjoying sitting outside maskless.

programs – virtually with ZOOM. Most importantly, they reported that they learned how resourceful they were and how they are continuing to cope with a real unknown, a pandemic.

Here's hoping that the rest of the world will also return to normal soon, so that travel can commence and theater, symphony, and opera welcome us back to entertain and enthrall.

With masking and social distancing requirements frequently revised for Philadelphia, check for the latest updates under the Blogs tab at [pennsvillage.org](http://pennsvillage.org) (under Health and Wellness).

## Penn's Village U.S. History Book Group

by Howard Green

We are a discussion group of readers of recently (mostly) written books about American history. We welcome a few more members; our aim is to keep the group small so that everyone has a chance to participate. Meetings are on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm with intervals based on the length of the book. Usually, we meet every four to six weeks.

I organized the first organizational in-person meeting shortly before the pandemic shutdown began. By the time we met to discuss our first book, we were virtual. To date, all of our discussions of books have been on Zoom. We have not yet had a serious conversation about returning to face-to-face meetings.

The books we read cover all facets and time periods of U.S. history. We've read books about the early seventeenth century and the late twentieth century. They are mostly about political and social history, but a book about the Civil War in the west is on the schedule for June or July. Our discussions usually last around ninety minutes.

For more information and/or to join the group, call the office at 215-925-7333.

## Green Thumbs Take on Food Insecurity

by Kristin Davidson

Did you know that many of the community gardens dotted throughout the area covered by Penn's Village are



City Harvest plot at Schuylkill River Park

playing an important role in battling food insecurity? This particular issue became much more severe during the pandemic; fortunately, many of these community gardens were already enrolled in City Harvest, a program dedicated to bringing fresh produce to those in need.

Penn's Village members, Mark Raymond and Linda Zaimis, are among those who put their gardening skills to work for the broader community through their involvement in City

Harvest—Mark in the Southwest Queen's Village Community Garden and Linda in the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden. These gardens contributed approximately 1,000 pounds of vegetables each in 2020, a truly amazing number. They donated tomatoes, onions, garlic, leeks, collard greens, cabbage, kale, many varieties of peppers, radishes, spinach, lettuce, arugula, bok choy, eggplant, green beans, cucumbers, squash, Swiss chard, herbs, and more!

Why do they do it? Because they love



South Queen Village Community Garden with a view of the senior high rise, where the produce goes.

to garden and to share the results. As Mark says, "One of the pleasures of life on a beautiful day is to dig in the dirt, plant, grow and harvest. Knowing that what you are doing is providing fresh vegetables to senior citizens who have difficulty getting them is very rewarding. Food is medicine." Linda, who inherited her love of gardening from her father, shared that "the City Harvest program fills that passion for me and, at the same time, gives me satisfaction knowing I am helping to create nutritious ingredients for thousands of meals for people in our neighborhood who need them."

Donations from these community gardens have gone to the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, St. John's Hospice, the Church of the Holy Trinity, and a senior high rise. The next time you pass a community garden on a stroll around your neighborhood, consider the joy the gardeners get from the garden and the nourishment they distribute throughout the community.

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Please support all our business members. See [www.pennsvillage.org](http://www.pennsvillage.org) for a complete list.



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