

Village Voices



Margaret Neary and son Noah.

Margaret Neary: Coordinator Extraordinaire

By John T. Gillespie

When Margaret Neary joined East Falls Village in 2014, its membership and reputation were growing.

Its success posed a challenge to volunteers trying to deal with the fast-growing programs and services. “We began to see” says Charlie Day, a Village founder, “that there are some routine administrative jobs that have to be done regularly and on schedule and that are very hard to accomplish with volunteer help alone.”

One such challenge was the growing backlog of vendors or service providers such as plumbers and electricians, who must be checked for proper licensing, insurance, and reputation, a process that can require as many as six contacts, according to Tom Sauerman, then head of the vendors. The Village boasts a list of some 80 vendors.

“We decided that the Village needed some part-time paid assistance to hold us together and keep us on track,” says Day.

The 33 year-old Neary was a serendipitous find off Craig’s List, a stay-at-home mom with a teaching certificate, a background in consulting for drug companies, and a 6 month-old child. She and her husband, a developer of on-line programs for business, just moved from Division Street in East Falls to Wissahickon with two-and-half year-old Noah. Another child is due in September. When Sauerman discovered her, she was taking occasional baby-sitting jobs off nextdoor.com.

As the Village’s sole paid staffer, Neary finds it takes some 20 hours a month to complete her work. Her official title is “administrative coordinator.” Unofficially, she also fills the role

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Tom and Sue Sauerman toast each other their new home in Cathedral Village.

Selling in a Buyer’s Market

EFV members Tom and Sue Sauerman sold their home of 35 years on Foxx Lane in the spring of 2013. The following is a personal account of the challenges they faced.

By Tom Sauerman

We put our home on the market in December, the slowest time of the year, and got it ready to show in about six weeks. We left the wall-to-wall carpeting down and pulled up a corner piece of carpet in every room to show that it was over hardwood flooring. The stager team used only things we had in our home; extra furniture went into a ‘pod’ that I rented (\$70/month plus delivery) and placed behind the house. Our home looked bright, cheerful, and inviting to

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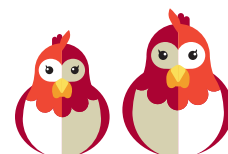
Foxes in the Henhouse?

One of our members recently experienced strange computer problems. On calling for help from a member of the Tech Team,

an unlikely problem emerged. The member had downloaded a new version of anti-virus software—only it wasn’t! Turns out it was actually a virus in disguise, which was producing the strange computer behavior. The sneaky virus was purged, and the genuine anti-virus

package was installed.


The moral: Always be very, very careful when downloading from the Internet. Foxes know how to act like innocent chickens.



Welcome to New Members!

- ▶ Judith Beck
- ▶ Caroline Davidson
- ▶ Meg Greenfield
& David Weinstein
- ▶ Claire Stilley

To find their contact information, log into the website with your user name and password. Click on Membership Directory.

 For help on how to log in, see page 6 in the Member Handbook & Directory.



Need A Ride?

Are you having an eye exam or other medical procedure that will prevent you from driving home? East Falls Village can help. Members - just call the Village phone a week in advance to book this special service: 267-444-4507.

Village Voices is a publication of East Falls Village (EFV), a program of East Falls Community Council. No portion of this newsletter may be copied or reprinted without the permission of East Falls Village. All East Falls Village programs and activities, including Village Voices, are created, developed and executed by Village Member Volunteers.

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www.mountainpaper.com

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Baba Olga's Luncheon Recognizes Volunteers

Thirty three volunteers attended the Annual Volunteer Recognition Lunch April 30 at Baba Olga's. Anne Hagele, chair of volunteer services, announced the following:

Member-to-Member Services

HOURS SERVED IN 2014

12 volunteers provided:

117 rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, or other errands



17 in-home visits for assistance with technology (computers, phones, printers, TV)



4 volunteers were "on duty" for:

2108 hours to answer the Village phone



(Connie Deasy, Joe Terry,
Shirley Ellison, Grant Armstrong)



The "Voices" of East Falls Village:

Our current phone answerers, left to right: Joan McIlhenny, Joe Terry, Connie Deasy, and Deena Pollock.

Organizational Services

HOURS SERVED IN 2014

55 volunteers gave:

2344 hours serving on **10** teams



(Steering Committee, Operating Group, Active Learning, Civic Engagement, Communications, Membership, Service Provider, Social-Cultural, Tech, and Volunteer Services Teams)



Volunteer Drivers: These volunteers and others take members to appointments or shopping, left to right: Grant Armstrong, Kathi DiMenna, Frankie Jueds, Gus Krebs, Deena Pollock, and Mary Flournoy.

Interested in volunteering your time and wheels?
Call 267-444-4507 for more information!

Thanks!



To **all members who took the Member Survey** as part of the National Village Evaluation Project; at the June 14th Membership Gathering, we will draw the name of the lucky winner of the gift certificate to Fiorino. All the members who participated in the survey have been entered into the raffle.

To **Franco Faggi** for donating a gift certificate to East Falls Village (as well as the proceeds from the Cooking Class he gave for EFV at Fiorino).

To **Peicha Chang** of Falls Flowers for donating the door prize for the June 14th Membership Gathering.

Coordinator Extraordinaire

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of “corresponding secretary” as minute taker for meetings of the Operating Group. Besides organizing the service providers and posting the information to the website, Neary spearheaded a local survey of Village members for a national study. Sponsored by the University of California at Berkeley and the Village to Village network, the National Village Evaluation Project seeks to measure the impact of the

Village movement on retirement trends and ways it might be improved.

Phil Hinline, co-chair of the Operating Group, calls Neary “indispensable and remarkably efficient.” Co-chair Mary Flournoy says that Margie spent breaks entering data while substitute teaching at Cheltenham High School “in a great example of multitasking.”

Neary developed administrative skills as on-site manager of international and domestic training events for United BioSource Corporation (UBC), a leading provider of support services for pharmaceutical companies, in Wayne, PA.

She brings a strong social conscience to the job. At Villanova, where she earned a Master’s in English literature, her thesis was *Slavery and the Unknown World: America’s Cultural Amnesia and the Literary Response*.

Among the things that drew her to the job with East Falls Village were the volunteers -- “so many people helping each other out.” Neary has become, in effect, the volunteer facilitator.

“She’s become a most valuable asset,” says Day.

I’ve Fallen... Now How Do I Get Up?

Check out this ten-minute video showing ten different ways to get up after a fall, using the “MacGyver” style.

► www.techenhancedlife.com/articles/fallen-how-get-up

Selling One’s Home

(continued from page 1)

potential buyers, with no clutter and no family photos. What initially seemed to be a ‘bare’ presentation of our home grew on me in the following weeks.

Today, selling and buying a home is done largely on the Internet. Every detail of the house is available with lots of photos. Buyers know ten times as much as we did in the ‘80s when we purchased the house. When we purchased this house, we paid list price – it was non-negotiable; it was a seller’s market. Selling in the buyer’s market of today is very different.

We had two serious bids. The first couple demanded that we not be home when they and their inspector came. We were confident that the house would pass with flying colors. We had hired our own inspector and made all the recommended

corrections before we listed the house. Following their inspection we received a four-page, single spaced list of all the “issues and questions” they wanted corrected. I was shocked and angry. The issues were in two categories: potential problems we couldn’t see and had to prove didn’t exist; and upgrades the buyers wanted us to pay for. We said no; they withdrew their offer, and that little nightmare was over.

The second couple was thrilled with the house and made an offer. One of their mothers became their ‘authority’ on septic systems. She was sure that having one would be a disaster. We had documentation of the septic inspection and a 36” soil test that indicated the soil was permeable. We followed all the City’s required steps and had the Public Health Department come to observe the test. Still not satisfied, the couple and the mother wanted a deeper test. So, for a

second time, the backhoe came into the yard to now dig six 5’ holes. The ground passed again, to everyone’s satisfaction.

Pennsylvania requires sellers to fill out a ten-page, single-spaced, “Sellers’ Property Disclosure Statement.” It requires the seller to identify all known material defects. You get the feeling that a buyer could come back years later with a lawsuit claiming you failed to tell all.

All ended well. We sold the house in about 90 days at 91% of list price we had asked.



Tom has written a detailed description of the two-year process from thinking about moving to moving. It includes topics like de-cluttering, selecting a realtor, choosing a new home, etc. If you’d like a copy, contact him at tomsauerman@gmail.com or 267.975.5814.

READING CORNER

Can't We Talk About Something More PLEASANT?

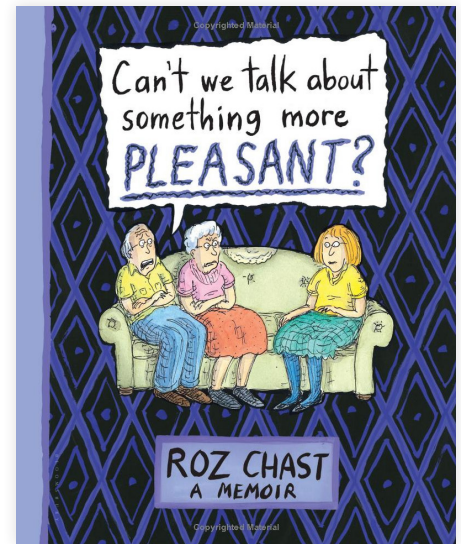
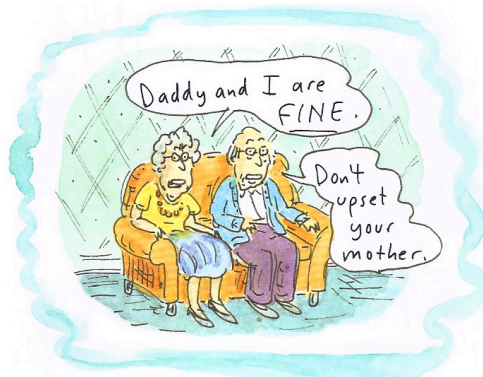
by Roz Chast | review by Charles Day

If you're a reader of the New Yorker Magazine—either by subscription or by occasional perusing in a waiting room, you're undoubtedly familiar with the cartoonist Roz Chast.

She has a wonderful way of mixing the serious with the humorous, and nowhere is there a better example than in her "Memoir" of her parents' final years and her role in helping them, with both a loving eye and a cartoonist's sense of humor. The book's title: "Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?" (Bloomsbury USA, New York, 2014) She is dealing, of course, with a very serious, tension-producing subject, but she does

it with a light touch that leaves us chuckling or outright laughing at the challenges in trying to assist two elderly parents who have been dependent on each other for decades and in the process have developed unique quirky behaviors and perceptions of their situation.

This is a story told entirely in cartoons, an adult comic book. When Chast visits her parents' apartment in a declining Brooklyn neighborhood, she's appalled at the extensive dust and disorder and attempts to set things straight. Immediately her mother protests, and her father adds a rejoinder:



Roz Chast follows her parents' story, step by step, as her father's forgetfulness and her mother's injury from a fall lead them to leave their Brooklyn apartment, saddling her with its cleaning and closing, and move to what she refers to only as "the Place", a retirement community near her in suburban Connecticut—and then to their final days.

It's a story that will resonate with anyone who has assisted parents, friends or relatives in this kind of situation. Yes, there's pain and grief, but through it all there's humor, forgiveness, and love. Pick up a copy and see for yourself!



East Falls Village

P.O. Box 12672
Philadelphia, PA 19129

Deliver to:



EFV Events

KEY

REG = Registration
Required or Recommended

\$ = Fee Required
in Advance

EastFallsVillage.org
Click on Calendar of Events

267-444-4507

TO
REGISTER

Post on your refrigerator! PLEASE NOTE This is a partial listing. Details may change. For more information, check EastFallsVillage.org or consult the EFV Weekly Update, emailed to members on Tuesdays.

Sunday

June 14

4-6PM

Summer Membership Gathering

Tuttleman Center, Philadelphia University

School House Lane & Vaux St.

Learn about the results of the member surveys and a review of the past year. Stay through the Social Hour to mingle and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres. Door prizes. Bring a guest, but please register. **REG**

Wednesday

June 17

11:30AM

Lunch of the Month: Trolley Car Café

South Ferry Road off Kelly Drive

Enjoy good food, good company, and the outdoor patio (weather permitting). Park in the lot under the Twin Bridges. **REG**

Wednesday

June 24

9:30AM



Private Tour of PECO's Green Roof

2301 Market St.

This 45,000 square-foot roof offers stunning views of the city. The plantings capture 60 – 70% of the rainwater and keep the roof's summer temperatures

60-80% lower than conventional roofs. Photo ID and registration required. Optional lunch afterwards at Bistro San Tropez, 2400 Market St. (Village Members & Guests) Carpool from the Falls Library or meet at PECO by 10:15 to go through security. **REG \$10**
Register and pay at www.pennhort.net/pecoeastfallsvillage.net by June 19 or register with East Falls Village. \$5 for PA Horticultural Society members (give PHS member number).

Sunday

June 28

3PM

Delaware Valley Opera presents Die Fledermaus by Strauss

Venice Island in Manayunk, 1 Rector St.

Sung in English. Make your own reservations at www.dvopera.org; \$25. If you wish to carpool and possibly have dinner afterwards, register online or call 267- 444-4507. **REG**



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Tuttleman Center,
Philadelphia University

School House Lane &
Vaux St.

Thursday Morning Walks & Stop at a Local Café.

For same-day
information, call
215-817-9430.

Every Thurs 9:30AM

Meet at the Falls
Library Garden

(over for more summer programs)



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**Every Thursday
9:30AM**

Meet at the Falls
Library Garden

Thursday

**July 2
11:30AM**

Lunch in the 'Hood: Zorba's

2230 Fairmount Avenue

Great Greek food, followed by an optional, short walking tour of the Fairmount neighborhood. Meet at the Falls Library for carpooling or meet at the restaurant at noon. **REG**

Tuesday

**July 7
11:00AM**

Quill & Brush: Pennsylvania German Fraktur and Material Culture

Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine St.

Tour this special exhibit of traditional Pennsylvania German Folk Art in the Rare Book Department. Tour begins at 11am; meet at Falls Library at 10:15 to carpool. **REG**

Sunday

**July 19
3PM**

Delaware Valley Opera presents The Magic Flute by Mozart

Venice Island in Manayunk, 1 Rector St.

Sung in English. Make your own reservations at www.dvopera.org; \$25. If you wish to carpool and possibly have dinner afterwards, register online or call 267- 444-4507. **REG**

Thursday

**July 23
11:30AM**

Lunch of the Month: Shan Chuan

4211 Ridge Avenue

Enjoy good food (Chinese, plus sushi and other Japanese fare) and good company. **REG**

Wednesday

**August 12
11:30AM**

Pot Luck Picnic at Blue Bell Park

842 W. Walnut Lane

Bring a dish to this potluck picnic, just minutes from Henry Avenue & Wissahickon Avenue. Covered picnic area, parking, and restrooms available. Register online or call and let us know what you're bringing. Rainedate – next day. Meet at the Falls Library to carpool or meet us at the park at 11:45. **REG**

Sunday

**August 16
3PM**

Delaware Valley Opera presents Tosca by Puccini

Venice Island in Manayunk, 1 Rector St.

Sung in Italian. Make your own reservations at www.dvopera.org; \$25. If you wish to carpool and possibly have dinner afterwards, register online or call 267- 444-4507. **REG**



The Delaware Valley Opera Company presents three operas this summer in the new Venice Island Performing Arts & Recreation Center. Join the Village for the Sunday afternoon presentations.

(over for more programs)