

Village Voices



Mike and Sue Burnett at grandson Felix's christening.

Babysitting Grandparents Join Village For One Year

By John T. Gillespie

When retired airline pilot Mike Burnett and his tech-savvy wife, Sue, moved to East Falls from Memphis, Tenn., to care for a newborn grandchild, they decided, one, to stay no longer than a year and, two, to give their time and skills to the community.

The couple signed a one-year lease on a two bedroom unit in St. Bridget's Lofts on Stanton

Street, thus fulfilling the first part of their pledge. Two weeks after moving in June 1, they joined East Falls Village and signed up to volunteer, thus meeting the second condition.

The partnership with the Village was a natural for a couple, who, with busy professional lives behind them, have created a life in retirement serving family and community. That has meant moving where family is.

Five years ago, with the birth of grandchild number one, Emma, the Burnetts moved to Honolulu to help their daughter and son-in-law, who were building careers in medicine and astrophysics. They stayed a year and a half.

Soon there were two more grandchildren to help with. And in April grandchild number four, Felix, was born. The Burnetts spend their mornings caring for Felix while their son is at work and their daughter-in-law is doing research and writing for her dissertation. The couple lives on Merrick Road, a stone's throw from St. Bridget's Lofts.

Tom and Sue learned about East Falls Village on a visit to check out rentals in March. A neighbor introduced them at the Summer Membership Gathering in June and, days later, they were full-fledged members, eager to volunteer.

Here for just a year to help with Felix, the Burnetts don't fit the normal membership profile. But they are more than welcome. Volunteers are the driving force behind the Village and the Burnetts bring a community mindedness and skills set that any neighborhood would find valuable.

(continued on page 2)

SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE GETS PUSH IN HARRISBURG



Pam DeLissio represents half of East Falls.

Recurring efforts to pass a single payer health care plan will get another chance when the State Legislature considers H.B. 1688, The Pennsylvania Health Care plan, sponsored by State

Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio, D-Montgomery/Philadelphia.

Also known as "Medicare for all," single-payer health insurance is a system in which a single public or quasi-public agency organizes health care financing, but the delivery of care remains largely in private hands.

"H.B. 1688, is NOT government-run health care," DeLissio said. "Health care providers and health care facilities would remain in the private sector. State government would be responsible for establishing a system in which a single public or quasi-public agency organizes the health care financing to support health care access. Cost controls (including administrative costs, pharmaceutical costs etc.), and citizens having sufficient 'skin in the game' are critical components of this plan."

There are currently 32 countries on the list of industrialized nations that have universal health coverage. Norway adopted this type of coverage in 1912 and Israel offered universal health coverage as recently as 1995.

In Pennsylvania, legislation has been introduced each session since 2005. Throughout the U.S., single-payer type of legislation has been introduced in 20 states.

Welcome New Members!

- ▶ **Nell Anderson & Manuel Gutierrez**
- ▶ **John Des Jardins**
- ▶ **Carla Heikin**

For their contact information, log in to eastfallsvillage.org with your user name and password to access the members-only Membership Directory.

For help on logging in, see page 10 in the 2017 Member Handbook & Directory or email info@eastfallsvillage.org.

JOINING EAST FALLS VILLAGE

Pick up a membership brochure at the front desk of the Falls Library or print out a membership application from the website, eastfallsvillage.org. Or click on Member Signup to join online and pay with a credit card.

It Takes a Village

EAST FALLS VILLAGE VOLUNTEER STATISTICS FOR 2016

98
VOLUNTEERS
gave
5,698
HOURS
or
142.5
FORTY-HOUR WEEKS
which equals
2.74
YEARS

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER SERVICES

14 volunteers

provided
82 RIDES
(up from 49 rides in 2015)

16 volunteers

provided
19 IN-HOME SUPPORT TASKS

17 volunteers

hosted
20 EVENTS
in their homes

14 volunteers

presented
22 PROGRAMS

6 telephone answerers

were on-duty for
2,425 HOURS!

ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICES

43 volunteers

gave
2,500 HOURS
serving on
11 TEAMS

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

37 volunteers

read to Mifflin School
students and worked in
the school library
for a total of
372.5 HOURS



"I had no idea how easy it was to become a volunteer with EFV. It's nice to give back to the community I live in. EFV is a wonderful organization. I'm glad to be a part of it."

— Laura Marsh, volunteer driver and non-member (she's only 51)

Grandparents

(continued from page 1)

For Sue, longtime PTA volunteer, and founder of Memphis's Association of Independent Schools Technology Education Consortium, the Village tech team is a natural fit. Hank Harrison, co-chair of the Technology Team, calls her a quick study, able to break down computer issues and snafus quickly in easy-to-understand language. She's already made house calls and joined the Komputer Koffee Klatches for Village members trying to master i-phones and i-pads or hook up a printer.

Mike plans to join the Civic Engagement Team and help children at Mifflin improve their reading. Back in Memphis he was active in Big Brothers and Big Sisters. He learned to fly with NROTC and flew Lockheed P3 surveillance and antisubmarine planes for the Navy. Later, he flew DC 9s and Boeing 757s for Northwest (now Delta) Airlines. With mustache and whitish hair, he could double for Chesley Sullenberger, or Sully, of famed US Airways Flight 1549.

The Burnetts spend mornings caring for Felix while their son and daughter-in-law are at work. You can usually find grandparents, baby in tow, in McMichael Park, or strolling through the neighborhood. "Strollers are a magnet," says Sue. "People want to stop and talk."

Felix was christened in July. Sue needed a christening gown – fast—after a century old family heirloom was thought to be too small. She posted a request for a larger christening gown on the Village Bulletin Board. The crisis was averted when the gown was found to fit after all.

Sue Burnett calls the Village concept "fabulous" and hopes to introduce it when she and Mike return to Memphis next year.

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.

Editor:

John Gillespie

Contributors:

Mary Flournoy, Loann Scarpato

Design and Layout:

Kristin Puls of Mountain Paper

www.mountainpaper.com

Copyright © East Falls Village 2017

Need A Ride?

By Mary Flournoy

Providing rides is one of the most important member services of East Falls Village – and of the over 200 villages across the country. While we do not have many members taking advantage of this useful service, those that do are very grateful.

Joan McIlhenny says “It is extremely important to me, as I have vision loss and use the service for all of my medical appointments and occasionally for food shopping.” Some riders can drive locally but use the Village service for long-distance appointments.

Another member, Joan Callan, recently had a knee replacement and has used the service for PT appointments and other doctor visits. She says “It was the most wonderful convenience and she I’m not sure I would have done as well [without the rides].

Other members may need the service once or twice, but are glad to know it’s available to them as members. Two Village couples have needed the service when both were temporarily unable to drive. Phil Hinline said “it took only one call to set up rides to two different orthopedic appointments.”

Janice Smalley, a volunteer driver has even used the service herself, when she was having a procedure. As a driver, Janice said “I found that the vetting process was very simple and the time it took to complete the screening process was fast and efficient. Being a volunteer driver has been a pleasure.”

“Requesting a ride is really simple”, says Anne Hagele, Volunteer Coordinator, “Members just call at least a week in advance. I will send an email to our Driver Roster with your request. The first driver responding that he/she is available on that day will be asked to contact you to make specific arrangements.”

Marie Filipponi, a new driver, says, “There’s no pressure whatever. If you have the extra time, try it. It’s a real feel good experience.”



Mary Flournoy driving Joan McIlhenny to an appointment.

On a personal note, driving is not an inconvenience – I always take a book with me. When I drive someone to an appointment in Center City, I drive to a Whole Foods where I can park for free, have coffee, do some shopping, and use the restroom!

EFV has a cadre of 14 volunteer drivers, but could use more drivers, especially for weekdays when most rides are requested. You do not have to be a member of EFV to be a volunteer driver.

WANT TO DRIVE?

1. Print the Volunteer Application from the bottom of the home page of **eastfallsvillage.org** or from the Volunteer Info. Section. (You may request a paper copy by emailing volunteers@eastfallsvillage.org). Complete the form and send it in.
2. After personal references are contacted, you will be asked to request a background/driving record check (a pass/fail report at no cost to you).
3. Once approved, provide copies of your driver's license, registration, and insurance.



EFV member Janice Smalley has been both driver and rider.

Philadelphia Villages Lose Two Leaders

Peter Javsicas, the President of Northwest Village Network, died as a result of a tragic accident on June 13. Peter and his wife Anne were two of the founders of our sister village, which launched as Mutual Mt. Airy in 2013.

Tom Sauerman died June 21 of a stroke. Tom played several roles in East Falls Village – as the President of the East Falls Community Council, he supported the formation of EFV as a program of EFCC and he established the service provider list which is available to members.

VILLAGE MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Joanne Petrone has received the Living Faith Award from St. Bridget Church for distinguished service to the Church and parish community as Eucharistic minister, member of Church choir, sandwich maker for the poor, member of the prayer shawl committee, and collections taker.

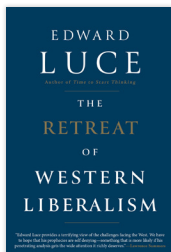
East Falls Town Watch has awarded its Good Neighbor Award for 2017 to **Meg Greenfield** for her many years of service to the community and East Falls Community Council.

Good Reads

The Retreat of Western Liberalism

By Edward Luce

Review by John T. Gillespie



Western liberal democracy is under attack, and the United States and its allies remain complacent at the risk of chaos and even war. So concludes Edward Luce in this harrowing picture of the cultural, economic, and political changes confronting Western democracies.

The election of Donald Trump, BREXIT, and the rise of populist movements in Europe, he writes, are deeply alarming symptoms but not the underlying cause of these threats. The causes he lists are income inequality, decline of the middle class, automation, immigration, nationalism, and distrust of “elites.” The sustaining American dream of a better life for succeeding generations is fading, adding to the malaise at home.

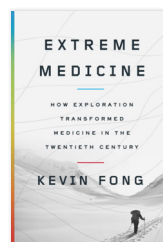
“Western liberal democracy is not yet dead, but it is far closer to collapse than we may wish to believe...This time, we may have conjured up the enemy from within. At home and abroad, America’s liberal traditions are under assault from its own president. We have put arsonists in charge of the fire brigade.”

The prognosis is not all bad. “The good news is that the fight back has a lot of room for improvement,” writes Luce. Amid the remedies, he lists universal healthcare, humane immigration laws, tax reform, and a Marshall plan to retrain the middle class.

Extreme Medicine: How Exploration Transformed Medicine in the Twentieth Century

By Kevin Fong, M.D.

Review by Loann Scarpato



This is a book of stories that elucidate the outer limits of human survival. We see Antarctic explorer Scott slowly die from hypothermia, a burn victim receive a full-face transplant, a doctor survive a plane crash and subsequently revolutionize the field of trauma

medicine, a crew from the International Space Station sweat out a problematic re-entry, the author frantically struggle to keep from being swept away while SCUBA diving. The last chapter introduces emerging attempts to understand senescence and its flip side, longevity.

Fong has a brilliant gift for explaining physiological processes to the lay reader. One comes away amazed at both the fragility and resilience of the human organism and by the medical innovations that provide life support in hostile environments and when the body is overwhelmed by injury or disease.

**Village Voices
Welcomes
Book
Reviews!**

**WE WANT TO
KNOW WHAT
YOU’VE BEEN
READING!**

- ✓ No more than 150 words
- ✓ Include: brief synopsis, reviewer’s opinion, title and author
- ✓ Submit to john.gillespie1@verizon.net

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

**September 1
December 1
March 1
June 1**



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.

Thursday Morning Walks & Stop at a Local Café

All are welcome to join us for some exercise, good company, and a snack. For same-day information, call 215-817-9430.

Every Thursday 9:30 am
Meet at the Falls Library
Garden

Tuesdays
Sept 26 - Dec 19
10 am - 11 am

Stretch & Tone with a Yoga Twist

Presbyterian Church

Gentle yoga. Members \$80; non-Village members \$85. Sign up and pay online on the September 26 listing on the Calendar of Events or send a check to EFCC, PO Box 12672, Phila. PA 19129

\$ REG Required

Tuesday
October 10
11:30 am

Lunch of the Month: Shan Chuan

4211 Ridge Ave.

Meet at the Falls Library at 11:30 am, restaurant at 11:45 am.

Enjoy Chinese or Japanese food at this local restaurant.

REG Recommended

Wednesday
October 11
9:30 am

Tour of Wastewater Treatment Plant

25 E. Pattison Ave.

Meet at the Falls Library at 9:30 am for the 10-12 noon tour.

Join us for a fascinating two-hour tour of the Water Department's sewage treatment plant. Members and guests only.

REG & Photo ID Required

Wednesday
October 18
10 am

Walking Tour of the Wissahickon Watershed

Meet at Saylor Grove, Wissahickon Ave. & Rittenhouse St. at 10 am

Learn about the role that the Wissahickon Hills play in the watershed in this two-hour hike. Members and guests only.

REG Required by 10/10

Wednesday
October 25
10 am

Louis Kahn: The Power of Architecture

Fabric Workshop, 1214 Arch St.

Meet at the Falls Library at 10 am.

Visit this extensive exhibit devoted to the famed architect.

REG Recommended

Thursday
November 2
2 pm

Medicare Update for 2018

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

Learn about changes to Medicare plans for 2018 from Christine McBennett of APPRISE.



Wednesday
November 8
1:30 pm - 4 pm

Tour of the News Offices of the Inquirer and Daily News

Meet at the East Falls train station for the 12:24 train or meet us in the 8th St. lobby at 1:30 pm.

Our spring tour (seen here) was so popular that we are repeating it! The highlight of the tour is the news meeting where editors discuss their stories for the next day's paper. Members and guests only.

REG Required

(over for more programs)



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.

Thursday Morning Walks & Stop at a Local Café

All are welcome to join us for some exercise, good company, and a snack. For same-day information, call 215-817-9430.

**Every Thursday
9:30 am**

Meet at the Falls
Library Garden

Wednesday
**November 29
6:30 pm**

Can You Hear Me Now?

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

Audiologist Dr. Gail Brenner discusses hearing loss and the latest in hearing aids and other devices, including the Caption Call phone.

Wednesday
**December 13
10 am**

Cuppa Joe

Founded Coffee & Pizza, Falls Center, 3300 Henry Ave.

Drop in for a cup of coffee or tea, maybe a pastry, and some good company for a Wednesday Morning coffee break.



GOT AN IDEA FOR A PROGRAM? Email info@eastfallsvillage.org.

Reading Programs at the Mifflin School

East Falls Village has two reading projects to help children at our local public school, Thomas Mifflin. Kathi DiMenna, the new chair of the Civic Engagement Team, is coordinating the two projects.

Read to Me! East Falls Village volunteers read to children in several groups of two or three the first Wednesday of each month. The first "Read to Me!" will be Oct. 4 from 10 to 12.



Winnie Fessenbecker put on the "Cat in the Hat" to read at Mifflin.

Library Project In the spring of 2016, EFV volunteers reorganized the school library and classes came to the library for a read-aloud and to check books out. We anticipate resuming the program in November on Monday and Friday mornings, and every other Friday afternoon.

A teacher says "the children are very excited. They don't get much opportunity to be read to, or to show off their reading skills. They love it."

**You're never too old,
Too wacky, too wild,
To pick up a book
And read to a child.**

- Dr. Seuss



VOLUNTEER TO HELP CHILDREN READ

Volunteers are needed for both "Read to Me!" and to check out books in the school library. You do not need to be a member of East Falls Village, but we do require that you complete clearances.

Go to the Volunteer Info.
Section of

eastfallsvillage.org.

Click on "Help Children to Read" to find information about required clearances and detailed instructions on completing the clearances online. You may email Kathi DiMenna at kadimenna@aol.com, with questions or to request paper copies of the required forms.

(over for more programs)