



# Village Voices



Fran Dolan is a founder in 1965 of the Overbrook Bicycle Association and its yearly ride to Sea Isle City. Here with his co-founders from St. Charles Seminary are, left to right: Marty Costello, Joe Fitzpatrick, Dolan, and Jim D'Angelo.

## Fran Dolan: From Seminarian To Non-Profit Leader

*By John T. Gillespie*

Village member Fran Dolan says he wouldn't trade his six years in the seminary for any other training. "It gave me a great education and lifelong friends."

It also inspired a nascent social consciousness that would eventually lead to the Executive Directorship of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Trenton. By the time he retired after 22 years, Dolan had presided over a six-fold increase in budget and staff for the four-county southern New Jersey agency serving 100,000 poor and needy people.

Dolan owes his social awareness to his late father Ed, a tool-and-die worker for the old Midvale Steel plant in Philadelphia's Nicetown. A strong union man given to talk of the poor and needy, Ed Dolan imbued his six sons and daughters with similar sentiments.

The family grew up in the Abbotsford Homes, built in the 1940s to house workers in war-related industries. The eight Dolans shared a bathroom in a two-story, three bedroom house at 3220C McMichael Street. The house is still there.

"My father was a great admirer of FDR and the New Deal," says Dolan, who inherited the same commitment to Democratic politics and progressive ideals.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Over 20 EFV Members Read to Mifflin Students

*By Susan Smith*

Responding to members' interest in "giving back" to the community while deepening their connections to each other, East Falls Village launched its Civic Engagement Team under the leadership of Susan Smith. The Mifflin School and children's literacy became its first focus.

Reading aloud is critical to helping children acquire language skills and positive attitudes about books and learning. Only 13% of Philadelphia's school children read on grade level by the end of third grade. And children who are not proficient readers then are four times more likely to leave school without graduating.



The first ten EFV members who read at Mifflin in December 2014.


The Village is responding with "READ TO ME", a monthly event in which members read aloud to children in

*(continued on page 3)*

## Welcome to New Members!

- ▶ Carol & Bruce Bowers
- ▶ Debra & Jeffrey Feldman
- ▶ Karen Ingram
- ▶ Susan Landau
- ▶ Christina Long & Michael Prestegord
- ▶ Jane & Andrew Pap
- ▶ Alice Sheppard
- ▶ Steve Washburne

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

 For help on how to log in to the members-only part of the website, see page 6 in your copy of the Member Handbook & Directory.

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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## Two Village Members Remember Maggie Kuhn, the “Wrinkled Radical”

By Mary Flournoy



“Learning and sex until rigor mortis” is another famous Maggie-ism.

In 1970, Maggie Kuhn of Germantown, who was forced to retire from her job with the Presbyterian Church in New York because she was 65, got together with five friends in similar predicaments and formed the Gray Panthers. The Panthers, with Maggie in the forefront, championed the role and status of the elderly as no one had before.

EFV member Edith Giese was the Executive Director of the Gray Panthers (Maggie was the “convenor”). Edie was responsible for running the organization, which eventually had 90 chapters all over the country. In 1979, she hired Christina Long, a recent graduate of McGill University to be the editor of the newspaper, The Gray Panthers Network.

Chris had seen the documentary, *The Wrinkled Radical*, at McGill. When she moved to Philadelphia, she wrote and said she’d “do anything to work for Maggie.” She did volunteer for six months before being hired.

Chris served as a coauthor of Maggie’s autobiography, *No Stone Unturned*, which was published in 1991. She said it was difficult: Maggie was constantly on the road (even though she was in her 80s) and the publishers wanted a book about Maggie’s life (including her love affairs) and Maggie wanted to focus on the issues affecting older Americans.

Both Chris and Edie appear in the 2002 documentary, *Maggie Growls*, which will be shown in its entirety on Saturday, March 19, at 2 PM at the Falls Library. Filmmaker Janet Goldwater will be present, as well as Chris.

## Planning Ahead: Making It Easier for the Rest of Us

Do you have a living will? What are your “last wishes”? Do you have an ICE (In Case of Emergency) number on your cell phone?

The Village recently presented several programs dealing with these topics. The “Other Resources” section of eastfallsvillage.org has copies of the program handouts, including a Living Will and Designation of Health Care Surrogate

& Agent. It does not need to be notarized – just signed by two witnesses.

EFV member Roger Marsh prepared “The Book” which contains all the information his survivors need – including a draft of his obituary. The website has a copy of his tips on how to create such a looseleaf notebook.

Give your loved ones the gift of peace of mind – write down your wishes!



**Making a Will & Estate Planning**

Look for a special two-hour seminar in April on making a will and other issues of estate planning. The Village website will have information on registration.

# Dolan

*(continued from page 1)*

When the Dolans lived there, Abbotsford was all white. Dolan says he “vividly” remembers the day the first black family moved in.

“People dragged a dummy in blackface through the homes,” he says. The childhood experience –he was a second grader at St. Bridget School – awakened him to racial bigotry, a memory that would carry into adulthood.

After graduating from Cardinal Dougherty high school, Dolan entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 1964, a period of high tide for the Catholic Church with the first Catholic President dead less than a year, a reform-minded Pope in Rome, and Vatican II. Dolan was among 120 candidates for the priesthood that year, a record. About half would go on to be ordained.

Dolan would not be one of them. He says he entered St. Charles “strongly influenced by John F. Kennedy” and the spirit of the times. He left at the end of the tumultuous sixties torn by war, assassination, sexual revolution and growing demands for racial justice. He was two years short of ordination. “In the end,” he says simply, “it wasn’t the direction I wanted to go.”

But if he abandoned becoming a priest, he never forgot the lessons in social justice and service – nor the friends from the seminary, who join him in biking to Sea Isle City every June. The 70-mile trip, now 50 years old, includes over 60 family and friends.

After the seminary, Dolan would earn a master’s degree in social work at Temple and eventually join Philadelphia’s Catholic Social Services in charge of programs for the aging and parish social ministries.

When he was hired as executive director of Trenton’s Catholic Charities in 1988, the non-profit agency was operating on \$7 million a year with 110 employees, mostly in behavioral health and social services. When he retired in 2011, the budget had grown to \$42 million and the staff to over 600. Dolan added numerous programs covering domestic violence, community service, children and family services.

Dolan says that Trenton Catholic Charities reaches one out of 19 people in Monmouth, Ocean, Mercer and Burlington Counties, more than any other social agency. The agency is the 10th largest nonprofit in the state. Ninety cents of every dollar goes to programs and people.

Dolan and his wife, Lena, live on Midvale Avenue. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

## Mifflin Readers

*(continued from page 1)*

Mifflin’s lower grades. Over the course of each two-hour session, members read in 20 minute segments to three or four small groups of two or three students. Over twenty members have become readers and have experienced the joy of working with Mifflin’s engaging young students.

Next up is an initiative to man the school library once a week so that, despite the lack of a school librarian, students can visit and check out books. This is extremely important for children from low-income areas, where there is only one age-appropriate book for 300 children. In areas where families are economically stable, there are 13 books per child. These are stark differences, but a challenge that Village members can help meet.



Tom Smith has read several times – without his wife’s prodding! He enjoys it – as do the other readers.



**Interested in  
giving two hours for  
READ TO ME?**

Available dates:

**JANUARY 6, FEBRUARY 3  
MARCH 2, APRIL 6**

Sign up online or call for more  
information:  
**267-444-4507**



## Need A Ride?

Are you having an eye exam or other procedure that prevents you from driving? EFV can help. Members can call the Village phone a week in advance to book this special service: 267-444-4507.

### **EFCC SUPPORTS EFV...SUPPORT EFCC!**

Our Village would not exist without the support of our community council. East Falls Community Council provides our non-profit status and the EFCC treasurer serves as the Village treasurer.

Join or renew EFCC by sending dues (\$10/person) to EFCC,  
PO Box 12672, Philadelphia, PA 19129.

## READING CORNER

### *The Road to Character*

by David Brooks / review by John T. Gillespie

In a world of shallow values and fleeting commitments *New York Times* columnist David Brooks tackles the challenges of building character.

His latest book, *The Road to Character*, is as much an introspective look at the author's struggles with finding true meaning in life as it is a primer on ways to attain good character. "I wrote it, to be honest, to save my own soul," he says.

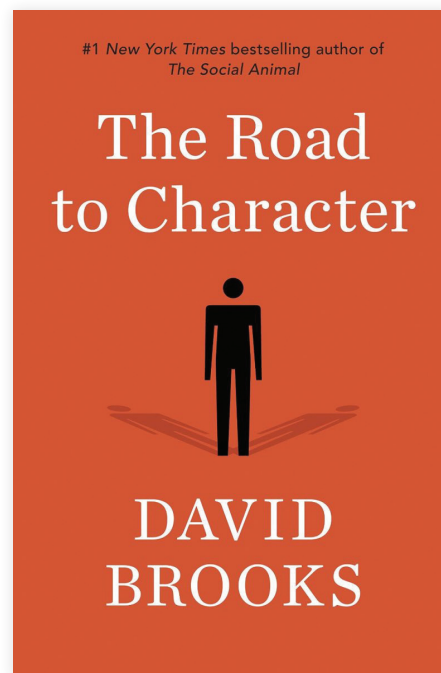
It may strike some readers as disingenuous that a high achiever like Brooks, living the American dream, would criticize the very traits and goals that helped him succeed. He calls these the "résumé virtues" – money, fame, careerism, ambition – that feed the ego but not the inner soul.

Opposed are the "eulogy virtues"—charity, fidelity, honesty, courage – that give depth and meaning to life and that people hope to be remembered by. Instead of focusing on self, we become focused on others, and in so doing, find greater happiness and reward.

Modern society is in constant tension between the two sets of virtues—the résumé and the eulogy. Brooks's analysis doesn't so much break new ground -- many of the world's religions deal with the dichotomy – as suggest ways of achieving the higher virtues. Here he resorts to the largely Christian injunctions to humility, self-denial, surrender and serving others. "Character," he writes, "is a set of dispositions, desires and habits that are slowly engraved during the struggle against your own weakness."

Brooks models his analysis on individuals who have sacrificed self-interest to pursue a higher cause and, therefore, a greater good. Some are better models than others, but all, according to Brooks, have built stronger inner character.

Labor activist Francis Perkins championed workplace reform; Dwight Eisenhower led allied forces to victory over Nazi Germany; Dorothy Day, the Catholic convert, championed the poor;



George Marshall engineered recovery of postwar Europe; A. Phillip Randolph and Bayard Rustin organized the March on Washington; St. Augustine influenced the development of Western civilization.

*The Road to Character* offers lessons in personal transformation that lie at the heart of a serene inner life. Those seeking ways to deeper meaning may find the messages and personal examples useful guideposts.



**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.

*Tuesdays*

**January 5  
- March 29**  
10AM - 11AM

## **Stretch & Tone With A Yoga Twist Winter Series**

*East Falls Presbyterian Church, Vaux St. & Midvale Ave.*

The cost for the 13-week series is \$130 for EFV members and \$150 for non-Village members, paid in advance. Members may register and pay online with a credit card under the January 5 entry on the Calendar of Events. Make checks payable to EFCC and send to EFCC, PO Box 12672, Philadelphia, PA 19129. **REG Required \$**

*Thursday*

**January 14**  
9:30AM

## **Destination "Walk" to the LaSalle Art Museum**

*Meet at Falls Library at 9:30am to carpool.*

The LaSalle Art Museum has paintings and sculpture from the Renaissance to the present. Free, but donations are accepted.

*Tuesday*

**January 19**  
2PM

## **The Winter Garden**

*Falls Library, Warden Drive & Midvale Ave.*

EFV member and landscape designer Chris Spolsky, of Beau Soleil Gardens, will present an illustrated talk on creating an attractive winter garden.

*Wednesday*

**January 20**  
11:30AM

## **Lunch of the Month: DiMeo's**

*Andorra Shopping Center, 8500 Henry Ave.*

Meet at Falls Library for carpooling or meet us at DiMeo's at 11:45. Enjoy Neapolitan pizzas from the wood-fired oven and other Italian specialties. **REG Recommended**

*Thursday*

**January 21**  
2PM

## **Book Discussion: Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters at the End by Atul Gawande**

*At a member's home. Address will be emailed upon registration.*

Join us for a small-group discussion of this book, which has generated much interest in end-of-life care. Members only; limited space. **REG Required**

*Saturday*

**February 6**  
2PM

## **Navigating Facebook**

*Falls Library, Warden Drive & Midvale Ave.*

Larry Benjamin, EFV member and social media expert, will demonstrate how to use Facebook to keep in touch with family and friends. Bring your tablet or smartphone and Larry will answer questions.

## **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*



*Sunday*

**January 10**  
3PM-5PM

## **Winter Membership Gathering**

*Tuttleman Center,  
Philadelphia University,  
School House Lane &  
Vaux St*

Join us for our  
semiannual gathering,  
highlighting upcoming  
programs and projects.  
Plan to stay through the  
social hour to enjoy wine  
and hors d'oeuvres. Feel  
free to bring a guest, but  
please register.

**REG Required**

Programs not listed here, such as bridge, memoir-writing, hands-on help with smartphones or tablets, are for members only and are scheduled month-by-month.

(over for more programs)



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## Wednesdays 10AM - noon

### READ TO ME!

Reading Aloud at Mifflin  
School, Conrad St. &  
Midvale Ave.

Sign up online or call to  
read on one or more of  
these dates:

**January 6**

**February 3**

**March 2**

**April 6**

Read with three or four  
small groups over each  
session. Books are  
provided.

**REG Recommended**

Thursday  
**February 11**  
**9:30AM**

Sunday  
**February 21**  
**2PM**

Tuesday  
**February 23**  
**2PM**

Thursday  
**February 25**  
**10AM**

Tuesday  
**March 1**  
**11:30AM**

Saturday  
**March 19**  
**2PM**

Thursday  
**March 24**  
**11:30AM**

## Special Thursday "Walk" – Strawberry Mansion

Meet at the Falls Library at 9:30am to carpool for 10am tour.

Tour the largest Fairmount Park Mansion, filled with antiques and art from the 18th and 19th centuries. Pay at the door for the tour (\$6 - \$10). Optional lunch afterwards. **REG Recommended**

## A Day at the Theater: Harvey at the Walnut St. Theatre

825 Walnut St.  
Purchase your tickets at 215-574-3550. Register with the Village if you want to carpool and/or have dinner afterwards.

## Road Scholar: Traveling the World & the U.S.

Falls Library, Warden Drive & Midvale Ave.

Formerly Elderhostel, Road Scholar has over 6500 educational tours in all 50 states and 150 countries.

## Special Thursday "Walk": Grace Kelly Collection

Falls Center, 3300 Henry Ave.

Meet at the Falls Library at 9:30am to walk over or meet at the Falls Center at 10 AM for the Tour.

Ellen Sheehan will give a guided tour, followed by refreshments at the nearby Chestnut Hill Coffee Co. **REG Recommended**

## Lunch of the Month: Laxmi's Indian Grille

Conrad & Tilden Sts

Enjoy classic Indian food—mild or hot—in our neighborhood restaurant.

## Remembering Maggie Kuhn, the "Wrinkled Radical"

Falls Library, Warden Drive & Midvale Ave.

Screening of *Maggie Grows*, a documentary, followed by a discussion with filmmaker Janet Goldwater and biographer Christina Long.

## Lunch in the 'Hood: L'Angolo

1415 W. Porter St.

Meet at the Falls Library at 11:30am to carpool or meet at the restaurant in South Philadelphia at 12 noon.

This two-time Best of Philly Award winner features traditional Italian cuisine. BYOB.

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(over for more programs)