

# Village Voices



**Left:** EFV member Gayle Griffith, second from left, works the info booth at the Convention Center.  
**Right:** COUNTING VOTES: Tabulator Kathy Donner, right, with member of Utah delegation.



## Fallsers Join DNC Volunteers

*By John T. Gillespie*

Blending patriotism with partisanship, Fallsers and Village members turned out in force to help staff the Democratic National Convention the last week in July.

They were among the thousands of volunteers who made the four-day event run smoothly. For many visitors not accredited to the Convention, volunteers were their only connection to America's quadrennial political rite. More importantly, they were the face of Philadelphia, guides to its history and culture.

EFV member Kathy Donner kept track of the nationwide delegate counts for Utah; Eileen Bazelon took care of Arkansas; Village member Gayle Griffith worked the registration booth at the Convention Center; and Nancy Jean Petro handled hospitality at the Constitution Center.

Solicited months in advance, heralded in the media, vetted by the FBI, and trained in their assigned roles, volunteers in their red, blue, or yellow "Ask Me" t-shirts were everywhere, it seemed, as greeters, guides, tabulators, registration takers, information providers, and friendly mediators.

Their venue was the city itself, not just the official Wells Fargo Center and Convention Center, but the full panoply of Philadelphia's rich cultural and historical heritage.

Some like Nancy Jean Petro donned colonial dress as she greeted visitors in replica models of the Oval Office and Air Force One in the Constitution Center. She described the experience as "very positive for the city."

Others, like Jim Sherman, who's been a Philadelphian since his days at Drexel University, had never been to the Atwater Kent Museum where he was assigned to welcome visitors. In such moments, Sherman, the volunteer, doubled as Sherman, the

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## EFV Leads Effort To Restore Mifflin Library

*By Mary Flournoy & Susan Smith*

Like 95% of Philadelphia public elementary schools, the Mifflin School did not have a functioning library – until volunteers from the Village stepped in.

Since 2014, EFV volunteers have been reading to children twice a month in the "Read to Me" program. Susan Smith, chair of the Civic Engagement Team, notes that over half of the 4th graders in Philadelphia public schools cannot read on grade level. Simply reading aloud and making books available can help with this serious problem.



Linda Saltford checks out a book to a young Mifflin student.


Smith and her Civic Engagement Team seek more, however. They understand the potential in the classically designed room with hundreds of books filling the shelves. Adding to the urgency of their task has been the absence of a school

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## Welcome New Members!

- ▶ Roma Kohut
- ▶ Mary Labaree & Barnaby Wittels
- ▶ Nancy Maislin
- ▶ Russ & Donna Scarboro
- ▶ Joanna Schlesinger & Dominic Chielli
- ▶ Rosalind Waxman

For their contact information, log in to [eastfallsvillage.org](http://eastfallsvillage.org) with your user name and password to access the members-only Membership Directory.

 For help on how to log in to the members-only part of the website, see pages 9-10 in your copy of the 2016 Member Handbook & Directory or email [info@eastfallsvillage.org](mailto:info@eastfallsvillage.org).

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](http://www.mountainpaper.com)

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# Don't Forget to Vote!

## Key Dates

**MONDAY, OCT. 10**

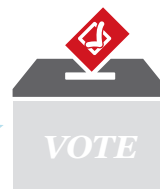
Deadline for Voter Registration

**TUESDAY, NOV. 1**

Absentee ballots must be at Board of Elections by 5pm

**TUESDAY, NOV. 8**

**Election Day!**



**Voting trumps most civic obligations and voting in this year's presidential election is especially important. Be sure to update your voter registration if you have moved, changed your name or switched party affiliation.**

## How to Register

(or Update Address, Name, or Party Affiliation)



**ONLINE**

Visit [votespa.com](http://votespa.com) to register online.



**BY MAIL**

**1.**

Obtain an application on line at PaVotes: [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)

**or**

Pick up one at U.S. Post Offices, Philadelphia Public Libraries, state liquor stores and other state government offices

**2.**

Complete application and mail in or drop off at:

**520 N. Columbus Blvd  
5th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19123**

This office is open  
Monday - Friday  
8:30am - 5pm



**IN  
PERSON**

### Philadelphia Voter Registration Office

520 N. Columbus Blvd, 5th Floor, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm

### Philadelphia County Board of Elections

Room 142 City Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19107, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm

## Vote!

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Call the Board of Elections at  
**215-686-3943** to request  
a ballot by mail

**or**

Download an absentee ballot at  
[votespa.com](http://votespa.com)

Send to:

**Philadelphia County Board of  
Elections  
City Hall Room 142  
1400 JFK Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107**

### POLLING PLACES

Locate your polling place: [philadelphiavotes.com](http://philadelphiavotes.com)



**CANDIDATES FORUM**

**Monday, October 10, 7:30pm**

**Falls Presbyterian Church**

Candidates or their representatives will speak  
at this EFCC Forum.

# Mifflin Library

*(continued from page 1)*

librarian since 2010.

Working with Mifflin staff, Smith and Mary Flournoy, co-chair of EFV's operating group, managed to get the school to reopen the library as a pilot project last spring. They also drew on the experience of volunteers at another school.

As part of the arrangement to reopen, volunteers from the Village signed up to staff the library in the absence of a librarian.

The library opened Monday and Friday mornings for visits from kindergarten through 2nd grade. The 3rd grade came Friday afternoon. A volunteer read to half the class; two or three volunteers checked out books for the other students.

Then the groups switched places.

From May 2 – June 10 the library served 131 students - over 41% of the school. Teachers were enthusiastic and contributed to the success of the project by pre-selecting books and helping to get the books returned.

In mid-June, additional volunteers worked to label, stamp, pocket, and shelve over 500 books. A total of 34 volunteers have participated in the Library project so far.

The Engagement Team is planning to open the Library and start "Read to Me" in October – helping students read "on track" and enjoy reading!

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

**Dr. Seuss**

## READY TO HELP?

**Contact Susan Smith:**

**susanbsmith11@gmail.com**

**215-842-1143**

or

**Mary Flournoy:**

**mary.flournoy1@gmail.com**

**215-589-4344**

Background checks are now required for all EFV volunteers at Mifflin. Contact Susan for more information.

# DNC

*(continued from page 1)*

tourist. "It sometimes seemed we had more volunteers than we needed, but there's no question their interaction with visitors brought credit to the city," said Sherman, president of the local Germantown Cricket Club.

For long time Falls resident Kathy Donner, who worked one level up from the Wells Fargo center floor with the Utah delegation, the overwhelming impression was the diversity of the crowd. "It was so America. It filled me up inside." Donner was a tabulator. Armed with a tablet and three hours training, her job was to keep track of the shifting delegate count which became moot when Hillary Clinton was nominated by acclamation. She said the thousands of cell phones and electronic devices in the Wells Fargo Center interfered with the telemetry and her ability to send and receive signals. Following the first-day protest by Bernie

Sanders supporters, she said excitement grew.

Eileen Bazelon kept count for Hillary Clinton's home state of Arkansas, a job that put her just feet away from platform celebrities like Meryl Streep and Sigourney Weaver. Behind her sat turbaned Sikhs from California. Like Donner, she was "incredibly moved" by the diversity.

The Convention Center was the site of Democratic party caucus and council meetings, most of them open to the public. Gayle Griffith worked with DNC staff in registering and ticketing people.

"Wells Fargo was what you saw on television. The Convention Center was where issues got discussed, like Planned Parenthood," said Griffith. "To get on the list (of visitors), a lot of clearance



**SALUTING THE FLAG:** Hospitality host Nancy Jean Petro welcomes visitors to the Constitution Center.

was required."

It is no surprise that East Falls produced its share of DNC volunteers. The neighborhood is politically active with good voter turnout and strong grass roots organization. Mark Green, leader of the 38th ward which covers East Falls, said many voters in the neighborhood are "self starters."

"You don't need a brass band to get them to the polls," he said.

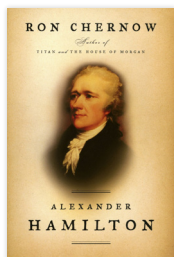
Nor, apparently, to the Democratic National Convention.

# Good Reads

## Alexander Hamilton

By Ron Chernow

Review by Louanne A. Stratton



Ron Chernow's Alexander Hamilton published in 2004, is the inspiration for the multi Tony Awards Winning Broadway Play: Hamilton by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Planning to buy tickets for Hamilton and knowing the play was in 'Hip Hop', I picked up the book to understand the story. I

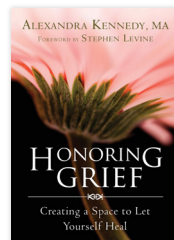
found so much more. While the book is

long—700 pages—it's a page turner! I found myself comparing the politics of Hamilton's time to our own. The untruths, the scandals, the blackmail, as well as the scholarship, the craftsmanship, the genuine desire to build and make better this country were all present then as they are today. Chernow's Hamilton has been back on the New York Times Best Sellers List for 34 Weeks. So even if you're not planning to see Hamilton on Broadway, pick up a copy of the book—it'll be a terrific companion for the current political season!

## Honoring Grief

By Alexandra Kennedy, MA

Review by Reynaldo Ron T. Palacio LCSW



Grief touches each of us at some point during our lives. Usually, we are unprepared for the loss of family members, a family pet, loss of a job, serious illness, sudden relocation, and many other things. Grief is part of our lives, and this book demonstrates in a

gentle and soft manner how best to deal with this feeling.

"Honoring Grief" is simply and clearly written. The author teaches us, with examples and models, how to trust ourselves as our grief unfolds. She reminds us that this is always an act of love. In the transition we must always be able to nurture ourselves. Reading this book is helpful in integrating loss with family and friends as our relationships begin to change. The loss makes room for something new as we begin to heal. I would recommend this book to anyone who has experienced any grief in their lives.

**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.gillespe1@verizon.net](mailto:john.gillespe1@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.

Friday

**October 14**  
noon

## Lunch of the Month: Germantown Cricket Club

411 Manheim St.

Meet at Falls Library at 11:45 to carpool or meet at the Cricket Club at noon.

Enjoy a price-fixed buffet (\$30 cash only) and eat inside or on a large porch. Cash bar will be available. **REG Required by Oct. 11**



East Falls Village is a program of the East Falls Community Council. Items in this blue box are featured EFCC events – join us and get involved!

Get more info about EFCC at [www.eastfallscommunity.org](http://www.eastfallscommunity.org).

Saturday

**October 15**  
11 am - 5 pm

## Autumn Street Fest

Inn Yard Park

Food trucks, beer garden, craft vendors, live music, and a kids' zone. Info and demonstrations by the Fire Department. Sponsored by East Falls Community Council.

Sunday

**October 23**  
noon - 4 pm

## East Falls House Tour

This self-guided tour features Falls homes with a variety of architectural styles. Tickets are \$20 preordered or \$25 on the day of the tour. Send checks to EFCC, P.O. Box 12672, 19129 by Oct. 19. Pick up a map at Presbyterian Church from 11:30 am to 2 pm on Oct. 23.

Sunday

**October 23**  
3 pm - 5 pm

## Whose Life (and Death) Is It?

Alma Mater Restaurant, 7165 Germantown Ave.

Panel discussion with Dan Ross, an attorney, and Linda Good, a physician who served as an advocate for her aging parents. Presented in cooperation with Northwest Village Network, Weaver's Way, My Way, and Mt. Airy USA.

Tuesday

**October 25**  
noon

## Lunch in the 'Hood: Las Cazuelas

426 W. Girard Ave.

Meet at Falls Library at 11:30 to carpool or at the restaurant at 12. After an authentic Mexican lunch, join Fred Vincent for an optional walk around the neighborhood. **REG Recommended**

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.

## Thursday Morning Walks & Stop at a Local Café

All are welcome to join 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



Sunday

**October 30**  
3 pm - 5 pm

## A Musical Afternoon with Jessica Graae

Private home

An award-winning recording artist, Jessica blends her folk-rock style and classical training to create haunting, soulful songs.

Refreshments.

Members and guests only. **REG Required**

(over for more programs)



# EFV Events

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Click on Calendar of Events

267-444-4507

TO  
REGISTER

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Friday  
**November 4**  
10 am

## Cuppa Joe

Chestnut Hill Coffee Co  
Falls Center, 3300  
Henry Ave

Join us for a Friday  
morning coffee break  
and good company.

## Thursday Morning Walks & Stop at a Local Café

All are welcome to join  
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

Thursday  
**October 27**  
2 pm

Friday  
**November 11**  
11:45 am

Sunday  
**November 13**  
4 pm

Thursday  
**November 17**  
2 pm

Tuesday  
**November 29**  
2 pm

Monday  
**December 12**  
11:45 am

## Medicare Update for 2017

Falls Library

Learn about changes to Medicare plans for 2017. Christine  
McBennett of APPRISE will answer your questions about Medicare,  
including the difference between Medicare, Medigap, and Medicaid.

## Lunch of the Month: Adobe Café

4550 Mitchell St.

Meet at the Falls Library for carpooling at 11:30.

The Adobe Café has been serving Mexican, Southwestern, and  
Vegetarian specialties in Roxborough for over 25 years! An  
extensive gluten-free menu, too. Free parking lot across the street.

**REG Recommended**

## Stolen, Smuggled, Sold: On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures

Private home

Nancy Moses will discuss her book about works of art and other  
treasures, such as the Gustav Klimt portrait featured in the film  
Woman in Gold. **Members only. REG Required**

## Let's Talk: Dealing with Difficult Topics

Private home

Kathy Donner, EFV member and Clinical Social Worker, will lead a  
small group discussion on how to help friends and family members  
face difficult situations. **Members only. REG Required**

## Piano Suite – Film by Ron Kanter

Cunningham Piano Factory, 26 E. Coulter St., Germantown

View the short film by local filmmaker Ron Kanter that weaves  
three piano “movements” to reveal how pianos resonate in the lives  
of the people who restore, play, and love pianos. Followed by a tour  
of the Piano Company.

## Lunch of the Month: Winnie's LeBus

4226 Main St.

Meet at the Falls Library for carpooling at 11:30 or meet us at the  
restaurant at 11:45. Join us at this 13-year-old Manayunk favorite.  
Space is limited. **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)