



Village Voices

Village Members Display Their Artistry

By John T. Gillespie



Quilt maker Rita Hughes and grandchildren

To those multi-talented Villagers who sing, dance, or play an instrument, you can add a quilter and hat maker.

Yes, hats. Milliners are rare these days, except when in demand by the British royal family. But don't tell that to Villager **Marilynn Shaffer** who's been making hats for herself and others for some 30 years.

It all began when she was unable to find a hat to match a new coral-colored dress. So she made one herself. "It was stylish, covered my neck and ears, and could fold in my purse. People asked me, 'Where did you get that hat?'"

In no time she was making hats for friends, exhibiting in craft shows, and buying the "best" velours, woolens and silks at \$200-\$600 a yard. She begins her designs with the crown, then the brim, and, depending on the hat and season, ends with a fleece lining. A few local milliners still around sell "Hats by Marilynn."

Marilynn was among some 20 artists—mostly Village members – invited by the Village to exhibit at the Library. Some 80 friends and neighbors dropped by on a cold afternoon in December.

Frankie Jueds, a painter, and chair of the Village's social-cultural committee which organized the event, said it "showed how diverse and talented we are as a community."

The enthusiasm by exhibitors and visitors caught planners by surprise. "We thought this would be a one-off event," said Jueds. Now she's looking forward to another show, perhaps even an annual exhibit.

On display were paintings, photographs, drawings, botanical illustrations, hats, quilts, needle work, and examples of mosaic and appliqué art.

EFV member **Rita Hughes** makes quilts "for love, not money." By now, she says, everyone in her family has a bed quilt or two. She does smaller throws as well.

She works from a pattern but occasionally designs on the fly. She uses 100 percent cotton for the cover and pays a finisher with a long-arm quilting machine to stuff the cotton batting and attach the backing. "I can sew a straight line but I'm no seamstress," she says.

For her grandchildren Rita has done animal designs which she fuses to the pattern, a form of appliqué.

continued on page 3

HELPING PATIENT FAMILIES COPE

Hosts for Hospitals, the Gladwyne-based nonprofit agency that recruits volunteers to house spouses and families of hospitalized patients recently signed up its first East Falls Village members as volunteer hosts.

Robert and Donna Rabinowitz of West Coulter Street joined the ranks of close to 200 HfH Delaware Valley volunteers who host patient-families for a suggested token fee of \$20 a night. While there are no income limitations for guest families, HfH is directed towards helping those for whom the cost of



Robert and Donna Rabinowitz

regular hotel lodgings – especially extended stays -- is a burden. Rabinowitz, a community activist and leader in the fight to strengthen Mifflin School, says the opportunity to help long-ignored visiting patient families appealed to the Samaritan in him. "This is an overlooked group; we were happy to help."

Cathy Davis, HfH outreach coordinator, who recruited the Rabinowitzes has been housing patient-families for years. She gave a presentation of HfH at the winter gathering of Village members in February.

"Hosting families in need made every day a teaching moment in our home. Our children witnessed how people all over the world become unified when faced with challenging medical situations," she said.

continued on page 2

Welcome New Members!

- ▶ Vicky Anterola
- ▶ Earl Ball
- ▶ Bill & Debbie Cunningham
- ▶ Julia Davis
- ▶ Gillian Hanlan & Wayne Gaul
- ▶ Glenna Hazeltine
- ▶ Frances Hunter
- ▶ Dave & Bob McClenahan
- ▶ Rebecca & Dale Phillips
- ▶ Max Ronis
- ▶ Sibylle Young

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

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

JOINING EAST FALLS VILLAGE

Encourage your friends and neighbors to join, too!

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.

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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Contributors: Mary Flournoy, Tom Smith

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Computer Wizard

By Tom Smith, Tech Team

A few near-springtime tech tips:

SPRING CLEANING: Computers and cell phones both can accumulate files that do slow down performance—text messages and e-mails on phones, e-mails and stray files on computer. Take a little time to clear them out.

WHASSUP?? Sometimes these electronic guys don't do what you expect or want. Check to make sure you've gone about what's needed in the right way, and in the right sequence. If still no go, save open files and reboot the machine (turn phones off and back on). A great deal of small troubles can be handled that way.

WHO'S WATCHIN'? Anti-virus and anti-snooping software is available (often for free). Take time to investigate the choices, and use one.



DORIS STEINBERG REMEMBERED WITH BENCH IN McMICHAEL PARK



Phil Steinberg, seated center, surrounded by family

About 50 family, Village members, and Fallsers – gathered in McMichael Park in November to dedicate a bench in memory of Doris Steinberg. The bench was given by her nephew, Randy Slemmer, who shared memories of "Aunt Doris." Her husband Phil said it was very appropriate that the bench faces Netherfield Road, their last address in East Falls.

Rev. Jesse Garner, who recently retired as the minister of their church (First Presbyterian in Center City), said "Doris Steinberg was a very good neighbor, a neighbor in every sense of the word, which is why there are so many of us here today She was kind, generous, and always willing to help. She was the kind of person we'd all like to have as our neighbor. Which is why it is so appropriate that there should be a bench in her honor here in McMichael Park, the heart of East Falls because Doris was herself the heart and soul of East Falls."

Mary Flournoy said that Doris was the "mother of East Falls Village." In 2008, she read an article in the New York Times on Beacon Hill Village in Boston and said "we can do that right here in East Falls!" She organized a planning group and In June, 2011, EFV was launched. Mary still has some emails from Doris – all signed "Your Friend, Doris."

Village Artists

(continued from page 1)

She won a quilting contest for her American flag design in the Pocono town of Tunkhannock, Pa. and later was surprised to learn it appealed to the judge's patriotism. "Can you believe that?" she asks.

Rita tried painting and pottery before turning to quilting. She gives herself low grades for oil painting but turns out a water color now and then.

Ron Palacio is a traveled amateur photographer who still uses 35 millimeter film for its "dynamic range" and quality with black and white. His landscapes and portraits—all taken with film-- were on display at the Library. Two of his photos hang at Le Bus at Ridge and Midvale ; another hangs in the Trolley Car Café at the foot of Ridge and Kelly Drive.

A native New Yorker, raised in Queens, Ron is familiar with the urban scene. His portrait of a homeless woman on a bench in Independence Square, surrounded with bags from Lord & Taylor, Saks and Bloomingdales captures, as only a photograph can, the contradiction between wealth and poverty in the modern metropolis. His settings are as varied as his subjects – a cave in Mexico , Mayan ruins in Chichen Itza, a beach in the Caribbean, a streetscape in San Francisco, a scene in Budapest.

Glennis Pagano, onetime docent at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, has worked in both digital and analogue photography (film), praising the latter for its "elegance." When film dropped off, she donated her darkroom to Germantown Friends School. She and a partner ran a business called Paper Images. Glennis will photograph your home and present you with a book of favorite images. She attends class once a week at the Philadelphia Photo Arts Center in Kensington.

Beth Hymel, who teaches art at Waldron Mercy Academy in Merion, is into mosaics. She begins with clay, cuts and glazes the pieces, then assembles them "like a jig-saw puzzle." On display were yellow, blue and white layer cakes, topped with icing and looking edible. Her house on Penn Street which she shares with husband Bill Epstein, is a showcase for her art. "There's a ton of mosaics," she says, "...every bathroom, the kitchen backsplash, and dining room."

Richard Weisenberg paints flowers – daffodils, tulips, and orchids. He belongs to the Society of Botanical Illustrators and has exhibited at the annual Philadelphia Flower Show. He credits his hobby to a Florida butterfly – the Red-banded Hairstreak – which surprised him in the garden of his Apalogen Road home and sparked his interest in painting nature. Why flowers? "You can't always get a butterfly but you can always get a flower," he says.

Jay McClellan paints portraits, mainly dogs, and has become a favorite of Main Line dog owners whose commissions help support him and his family. Working from photographs, Jay has preserved on canvas countless images of beloved canines for their masters, including his next door neighbor and exhibit organizer, Frankie Jueds. Fittingly, his paintings hang at the White Dog Café in Haverford and University City.



Marilynn Shaffer displays her hats



Richard Weisenberg with botanical watercolors

HOSTS FOR HOSPITALS

(continued from page 1)

To become a host, the terms are simple. You only lodge guests you want, when you want, for how long you want. You'll need a private bedroom with at least a double bed and you must live in the Greater Philadelphia area within reasonable distance of the hospital.

Philadelphia's concentration of world class medical institutions draws patients and families from around the globe. There's even a guest application in Mandarin to accommodate growing numbers of Asian visitors.

The Rabinowitzes joined HfH in the fall and are still awaiting their first guests.

Hosts Marie Killian and Eugene Mattioni, who live on Gypsy Lane, described the experience as "easy and not disruptive to our lives. The guests realize that we will continue with our normal routine , whatever that may be -- going to work, attending our own appointments, scheduling our meals at our traditional times."

Local veterinarian Caroline Patten says that "Hosting families through Hosts for Hospitals has been a wonderful experience for me and my family. It has been an easy way to help a family in need who is going through a stressful medical situation."

Since its founding, HfH volunteers have hosted 3,500 patient families for a combined total of close to 138,000 nights of lodging, saving guests more than \$11 million in equivalent hotel expenses.



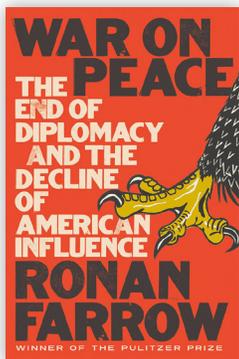
For more information and videos about the program, see hostsforhospitals.org or contact Outreach Coordinator **Cathy Davis** at **484-380-2999** or e-mail cathy.davis@hostsforhospitals.org

Good Reads

War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence

By Ronan Farrow

Review by Mary Flournoy



Ronan Farrow may be best known for his New Yorker articles on Harvey Weinstein, but he has accomplished a lot in the 15 years since he graduated from Bard College (at 15!) He is a lawyer, served as a UNICEF Spokesperson for Youth, and from 2009-2012, held two positions at the State Department.

His firsthand experience there affords a personal look at how diplomacy has changed. He was able to interview every living Secretary of State from Kissinger to Rex Tillerson, but also warlords, whistleblowers, and policy makers. Some of the real-life characters in the book are Richard Holbrooke, a traditional diplomat who brokered peace in Bosnia and died while trying to do so in Afghanistan; “Lady Taliban”, a US diplomat investigated for espionage; and General Dostrum, the most feared warlord in modern Afghan history. Farrow describes his Vice Presidential Palace as a “cross between a James Bond villain’s lair and Liberace’s dressing room.” He

recounts that in the 18 days that US diplomats worked on the Iran Nuclear Deal, they consumed 10 pounds of Twizzlers, 20 pounds of string cheese, 30 pounds of mixed nuts and fruits, hundreds of Rice Krispie Treats, and espresso pods.

Among the most interesting interviews was Rex Tillerson, who told State Department staffers “I do read all those memos that come to me... I appreciate those of you that get them on one page, because I am not a fast reader.”

While Farrow begins the book with a quote from 1000 BC about the importance of the “ambassador”, who alone makes and separates allies, and then discusses the organization (or lack of it) in the Trump State Department, he credits the start of the breakdown in diplomacy to the 1990s, when domestic issues took priority. By 9/11, the State Department was 20% short of staff and then a militarized form of foreign policy and counterterrorism took priority over diplomacy. Many of the former Secretaries of State expressed concern for the future of the Foreign Service. In 2014, most FS officers had less than ten years’ experience, a decline from the 1990s – and this was before Trump!

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

REG = Registration Required or Recommended.

\$ = Fee Required in Advance

HOW TO REGISTER (AND PAY, IF REQUIRED) FOR EFV EVENTS

Members: Log in to the website (eastfallsvillage.org), then go to the Calendar of Events, and register under the date of the program. If payment is required, you may pay, safely and securely, with a credit card.

You may also call the Village phone at **267-444-4507** and then send a check to **EFCC, PO Box 12672, Philadelphia, PA 19129**. Make the check payable to EFCC- EFV.

Spring Yoga Classes

Church of the Good Shepherd
3820 The Oak Road
\$ REG Required

Tuesdays
10 am - 11 am

April 9 – June 25

Thursdays
2pm - 3pm

April 11 – June 27

Register and pay for each series separately. Each series of 12 classes is \$84 for EFV members and \$108 for non-Village members. If paying by check, write Tuesday or Thursday Yoga on the subject line. Mail to EFCC at address shown above.

Tuesday
April 9
2 pm

Magnify Your Knowledge: Visual Impairment & Low Vision Aids

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

Learn about cataracts, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy and aids to help people with low vision – high-powered reading glasses, special magnifiers in this program presented by the Eye Institute at Salus University.

Monday
April 15
noon

Lunch of the Month: Founded Coffee & Pizza

3300 Henry Ave. (Falls Center)

Enjoy pizza, soup, salad, or a sandwich – and good company.

REG Recommended

Friday
April 19
9:20 am

Explore Philly with Fred – Schuylkill Walkway

Meet at Henry & Queen Lane at 9:20 for the 32 bus.

Walk from the Art Museum to the Boardwalk over the Schuylkill at South St. Optional lunch at Figs, a cash-only Moroccan restaurant at 25th & Meredith. **REG Required**

Tuesday
May 7
10:30 am

Cooking Matters at the Store

Fox Street Shop Rite, Fox St & Roberts Ave.

Take a special tour of the Shop Rite and learn more about healthy shopping. **REG Required**



Stoneleigh

1829 County Line Road,
Villanova
Carpool from library at
10:15 am for 11 am tour.

Thursday
May 9
10:15 am

Tour the house and gardens at this new public garden \$15 payable at the door.

REG Required

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

(over for more programs)



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Explore Philly with Fred – Delaware Waterfront
Carpool from the Library at 10 am

Friday May 17 10 am

Explore the Race Street Pier, the Cherry Street Pier, and the Riverwalk Skating Rink. Lunch at the Race Street Café.

REG Recommended

Friday May 10 noon

Lunch of the Month: A Tutti Ristorante Italiano

5154 Ridge Ave

Carpool from the library at 11:45 am

Enjoy pizzas and/or salads in this new spot on the hill between Manayunk and Roxborough. **REG Recommended**

Saturday May 11 10:30 am

What's Bugging You

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

Learn about mosquitos, fleas, ticks, bedbugs, roaches, and the spotted lantern fly – and safe, effective control methods from an Associate Certified Entomologist with Penn State Extension Services.

Saturday May 16 12:30 pm - 3 pm

Screening for Hand Strength and Risk of Falling

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

Drop in for a free screening by Jefferson Occupational Therapy students. In about 20 minutes, they will test your risk for falling – and also your hand strength.

Wednesday May 22 1 pm

New Courtland Senior Apartments & the LIFE Center

Falls Library, 3501 Midvale Ave.

Learn about the new apartments being built on Henry Ave. and about the LIFE program, which provides healthcare and transportation for qualified seniors.

Sunday June 2 3 pm to 5 pm

Summer Gathering

Jefferson University, School House Lane & Vaux St.

For EFV members, guests, and anyone interested in learning more about East Falls Village. Plan to stay for the wine and cheese social hour from 4 pm to 5 pm! **REG Required**

Post on your refrigerator!

PLEASE NOTE This is a partial listing of programs. Some details may change. 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. For more information, check EastFallsVillage.org or consult the EFV Weekly Update, emailed to members on Tuesdays.

(over for more programs)