



East Falls
Historical Society

East Falls Historical Society newsletter, January – March 2021

Despite constraints on in-person events and meetings during the coronavirus pandemic, East Falls Historical Society moved forward on a number of fronts during the first three months of 2021.

Moving into dedicated space at the NewCourtland Apartments at Henry Avenue

We eagerly accepted the kind offer of NewCourtland Apartments on Henry Avenue to provide dedicated space to East Falls Historical Society. Most the space provides a venue to display our extensive collection of memorabilia related to Grace Kelly, the late Princess Grace of Monaco. While public access is restricted because of the pandemic, we look forward to a public opening in the near future.

The facility is also providing a small space nearby as a central location for our office.



An overview of the Grace Kelly gallery space. (© AMP Studios, Inc.)



A sampling of the items on display. (© AMP Studios, Inc.)

Restoring a historic quilt

The “daisy quilt,” donated last year to East Falls Historical Society by former Fallsers the Clayton family, dates to the period 1894-1897, and it has suffered from the passage of time. Thanks to an extensive volunteer effort by Carla Bednar, an expert conservator and a longtime resident of East Falls, the quilt has been patched and stabilized for the future.



Images of the daisy quilt. Not visible in these images are the hundreds of family names stitched into the flowers, representing members of the congregation – mostly East Falls families.

More information about the quilt, including detailed views of each of the “daisies” and an index of family names, is on our website at [Daisy Quilt | East Falls Historical Society](#).

Program activity

Thanks to Zoom, we were able to offer two programs during the First Quarter.

On February 24, we joined with the Concord School House and Upper Burying Ground to present a program on two of the oldest school buildings in this area – the Concord School House on Germantown Avenue, built in 1775, and Old Academy, built in 1819. Both buildings were originally “one room schools,” and the program traced their evolutions into a dedicated historic site and a community theater venue, respectively. This program was free and open to the public.

On March 30, EFHS members received discounted access to a Zoom presentation of Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia. Dr. David Breiner, Associate Dean of the College of Architecture and the Built Environment at the East Falls campus of Jefferson University, presented a program, *Mid-Century Modern Houses of School House Lane in their Context*, focusing on several architecturally significant houses on Apalogen Road and Timber Lane and on their visionary and often prominent owners.

Dr. Breiner will present a modified version of this talk to East Falls Historical Society (via Zoom) on Tuesday, June 1. Please check our website, [East Falls Historical Society](#), for event details.

Historical certification activities

Our member Nancy Pontone has submitted an application to Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC) to recognize Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd on The Oak Road as a historic site in Philadelphia.

EFHS has engaged a graduate student in the historical preservation program at Jefferson University to research documentation needed so that we can apply to PHC for certification of the Falls Bridge – a particularly important issue in light of initial planning by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to reconstruct the bridge to address significant structural issues.

Extensive additions to the EFHS website

Thanks to the untiring efforts of our member Roger Marsh, our website ([East Falls Historical Society](#)) has been reconstructed to provide in-depth resources for anyone interested in East Falls history. These include transcripts of dozens of oral histories based on years' worth of interviews, an interactive map of historic sites in East Falls with information about each location, the Chadwick papers on local history from 1900 to 1937, an archival version of the "Blue Book" published in 1976 as a summary of East Falls history, and links to many other resources.

Get in touch!

- Questions about East Falls history? Send an email to eastfallshistory@gmail.com .
- Want to join or renew your membership? You can now pay online. Just follow the link from our homepage (click **About/Join** near the top of the homepage.) We now accept online payments!