

THE EAST FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

eastfallshistoricalsociety.org

September, 2024

Dear EFHS members:

We intend to begin issuing occasional newsletters containing information about the Society, and other items of possible interest to the historically-minded. **First, our upcoming programs.**

On Saturday, October 19 at 10 am, **David Breiner, PhD of Jefferson University will lead a walking tour of the eastern section of the university's East Falls campus.** Dr. Breiner will discuss the history and architecture of some of his favorite buildings, both early and recent. Full details to our members will be sent via email later in the month, before further general publicity. Attendance will be limited. This will be the same day as the revived East Falls Fest, which will run from 11 to 5. But there will be ample time and space for both activities. November 12 is the birthday of Princess Grace of Monaco. Near that date, we plan to host an **informal open house at our Grace Kelly Gallery** on the first floor of the main building of New Courtland on Henry Avenue. There will be light refreshment, and an opportunity to meet other EFHS members, those on the board, New Courtland residents, and other visitors—and to learn more about this beloved daughter of East Falls. Details are not yet confirmed.

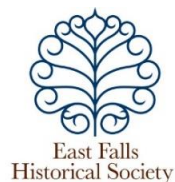
We are planning to resume “live” programs with a talk in early December by EFHS president and historian of medicine Steven Peitzman on **forgotten epidemics of typhoid fever and the movement to (finally) filter Philadelphia water.** This effort led to the building of the **Queen Lane Filters**, a subject of much current interest. On February 19, **Laura Stroffolino**, head of the Prints and Pictures department of the Free Library of Philadelphia will join several EFHS members to show a selection of photos from the Charles K. Mills Collections of the FLP, using Zoom. May of 2025 will bring a reprise of our very successful visit to **Ironworks at Pencoyd Landing** for a presentation on its history and a tour of the site. Of course, full details will follow. Finally, we are thinking about an East Falls Quizzo night – at least, we are writing questions.

Other EFHS Activities:

Oral Histories: Wendy Moody and her interviewers recently completed conversation with Ellen Sheehan, longtime Fallser and a founder of EFHS; Earl Ball, past president of Penn Charter; Sister Dorothy, a sister at St. Bridget many years; and Mary Ousey, a lifelong Fallser whose family goes back generations in our town.

Preservation: Our nomination to place the Queen Anne house at 3343 W. School House Lane on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places was accepted by vote of the Philadelphia Historical Commission on June 14. It was designed by the notable architect Horace Trumbauer for Samuel T. Wagner, who served as chief engineer of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. Work is underway on nominations for the Beaux Arts PWD building on Fox Street, and on a small commercial building on Hunting Park Avenue in *moderne* style. On the downside, a parking lot was installed by Penn Charter in front of the Henry W. Brown House (Timmons House) on the Oak Road, despite protests to the Philadelphia Historical Commission by neighbors and the EFHS. Email if you know of a building that is threatened with demolition.

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Collections: A project is nearly complete to “curate” our collection of books, aiming to keep those most useful for research. Another effort, just underway, will combine our subject folders (known to librarians and archivists as “vertical files”) now found in our space downstairs at the Falls of Schuylkill Library *and* at a small office provided to us at the New Courtland complex. The goal is that we or researchers we are helping would need only look in one set of files. Of course, we have other research resources in our two locations, and increasing amounts on-line.

Other information of possible interest to our members:

The **Rosenbach Museum and Library** is hosting a discussion about **“Princess Grace and Her Irish Library: The Remarkable Story of Prince Rainier III’s Tribute to His Wife Princess Grace of Monaco.” THIS WILL BE 12 SEPTEMBER 2024, 12 to 1:00 PM VIA ZOOM, AND FREE.** Find your way to [Rosenbach.org/events](https://rosenbach.org/events) and scroll down to the information on this program.

The **Roxborough Manayunk and Wissahickon Historical Society** has invited us to their program being held at Cathedral Village on November 14 at 7:00 PM. Dr. Friederike Baer, author of ***Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War***, will speak on this topic. Her book brings to light mostly hidden voices of the Revolution.

HELP WANTED:

We can use some help from members:

Is there someone with particular interest in Grace Kelly to learn and lead occasional tours in the Grace Kelly Gallery at NewCourtland?

One of us can use some help with reconciling the subject files (“vertical files”). Perhaps a few hours per month.

We are always looking for writers who can contribute researched articles on various East Falls topic for both our NOW column and our on-line “Encyclopedia of East Falls History.”

We will soon be looking for two members, not on the board, to serve on a nominating committee.

If you have interest in any of these tasks, please email using castfallshistory@gmail.com.

Newsletter prepared by Steven J. Peitzman, President