

Death Café Comes to Mt Airy (446 words)

What do Weavers Way, Mt Airy USA, Ralston My Way, East Falls Village and the Northwest Village Network all have in common? They have formed the Northwest Coalition for Healthy Aging and are working together to bring a Death Café to Mt Airy on Wednesday, February 7th from 6:45 to 8:30pm at Lovett Library's beautiful new community meeting room.

A Death Café is an opportunity to join people of all ages and backgrounds for a group-directed discussion of death while eating cake! It provides an open, supportive forum for people to discuss mortality free of taboo and social stigma, over coffee, tea and snacks. A Death Café has no agenda, objectives or themes. It is not a grief support group or counselling session, but rather an evening of respectful, open sharing about death in a relaxed atmosphere.

Over the past seven years, the Death Café phenomenon has spread quickly across Europe, North American and Australia with thousands of Death Cafés being offered throughout the world. Since the Death Café movement began in 2011, more than 5,000 pop-up cafés have been held in 51 countries, with the majority being held in the United States, including one ongoing group in Philadelphia since 2013.

East Falls Village member Ron Palacio and his wife have attended Philadelphia Death Café events. Ron says that about 25 attend the monthly sessions, breaking into small groups, which are different each time. "The group provides a very relaxed and nurturing setting where we can join in an open and honest discussion to explore and share the curiosities of a very difficult topic. Despite the fact that we certainly talk about life, dying, and grief, there is a lot of humor from the many different stories and cultures and venues that people experience."

The organizer of the Philadelphia Death Café is Pat Bubb and she hosts the monthly events in Center City along with Simcha Raphael. Both Pat and Simcha will be facilitating the very first Death Café in Mt Airy on February 7th. There is no cost to this event and people of all ages are welcome. Registration will begin at 6:45, with the Death Café being held from 7:00 until 8:30 at Lovett Library, which is located at 6945 Germantown Ave. on the corner of Sedgwick St.

Please register in advance for the February 7th Death Café at Lovett Library. You can secure your spot or get more information by emailing Barbara Adolphe at barbaralynn427@gmail.com or by leaving a message at 973-903-2018 so that she can return your call. More information about Death Cafés can be found at www.deathcafe.com or in a recent *Philadelphia Inquirer* article, <http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/death-cafe-philadelphia-barnes-and-noble-20170921.html>