



DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“As you grow older,
you will discover that
you have two hands—
one for helping
yourself, the other for
helping others.”

— Audrey Hepburn

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Welcome New Members!

Vitold Chrzanowski
Barbara Finkelstein
Hamda O'Brien

Washington's Cherry Blossoms and Eliza R. Scidmore's Landscape Diplomacy

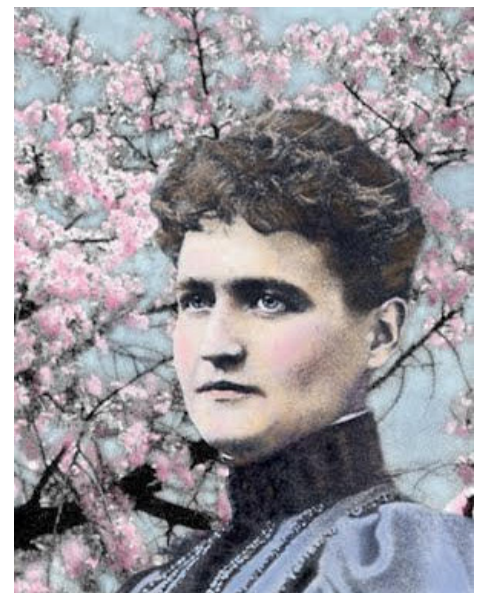
Throughout the month of March, anticipation for Washington's famous cherry blossoms grows. District residents and visitors

By Eva M. Lucero,
Executive Director

alike celebrate
the blossom-
ing of 4,000

Japanese cherry trees around the Tidal Basin, East Potomac Park and the Washington Monument. This 110-year-old tradition symbolizes long-awaited spring, drawing devotees from around the world. Due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the National Park Service discouraged in person visits to the Tidal Basin and instead suggested online viewing. This year, the cherry blossoms reached peak bloom on March 21 and large crowds returned.

It's commonly known that the original trees were a gift from Japan in 1912 symbolizing international friendship. It is less well known that the trees are also a testament to one woman's persistence. Washington socialite, Eliza Scidmore (pronounced "Sid-More") visited her brother George who worked for the US Consular Service in Japan. While there, she developed a great appreciation for the Japanese people, culture, and beauty of the flowering cherry trees. It became her dream and passion to introduce the beauty of Japanese cherry blossoms to the American people.



Upon returning to Washington, DC, Scidmore resumed her life as an author, travel writer, newspaper correspondent, and photographer. Scidmore also began promoting her idea of planting cherry trees in Potomac Park on land recently reclaimed from the Potomac River. As she explained in a 1928 newspaper article in the Washington Sunday Star, "...since they had to plant something in that great stretch of raw, reclaimed ground by the river bank, since they had to hide those old dump heaps with something, they might as well

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President's Notes



Health and Wellness

Early last month at their monthly meeting, the Member Services Committee voted to change their name to the **Health and Wellness Committee**. We thought this new name more accurately represented and communicated the functions of the group to our members. The health and wellness of our members is certainly one of the major functions of the Village's mission.

Under this Committee is a **Providing Extra Help Group** that monitors and checks up on our members who are facing physical and/or behavioral health issues. Every other week we review members' status and their upcoming needs to determine and assign the tasks with which the Village can assist them.

Often our members of concern can benefit from a **Care Group**, which usually consists of five or six volunteers who provide various services including friendly calls and visits, walking with the member, running errands, providing transportation, accompanying them to doctors' appointments, and grocery shopping. These dedicated volunteers work together and document their services until the member becomes independent.

For some time now, this Committee has been conducting a search for a **Health Care Navigator** (HCN) for our Village. A job description for this position was created and then reviewed alongside that for the

Village Social Worker/Case Manager to understand the connections and collaboration between the two positions. We have been searching for a Registered Nurse (RN) or a similar medical professional. The duties of the HCN will include direct support and health-related services to members

and/or their families, coordination of care with the Case Manager (social worker Barbara Scott), and education and guidance for Village members and staff. The HCN can assist a member preparing for surgery, prepare a member for hospitalization, advocate for the member with medical providers, and prepare the member for their discharge and/or referral to a rehab facility. Together, the HCN and the Case Manager will also provide support to our Care Groups.

This position has been difficult to fill because of the status of the health care system and nursing in particular. Some new prospects have come to our attention, and we hope to bring the search to a positive conclusion soon. In the meantime, if you know of anyone who might be interested in this, please let us know.

The Committee has also taken on the responsibility for reconstituting

the **Live and Learn Program** which for years has served the Village by offering expert resources and lively discussion of vital topics on our health and wellness. During these past two years, we have learned about virtual programming by necessity because of COVID restrictions. Using what we have learned during the pandemic, we plan to design greater flexibility into this program. Look for an announcement later this month about our exciting initial session. A successful initiative into health and wellness education and support has been **Navigating the Path Ahead** monthly sessions where members come together to discuss issues we face as we journey through our lives.

On a different note, I want to encourage everyone to attend our upcoming **Gala: DCV Honors Arbor Day** on Friday, April 29. The virtual Gala includes your choice among three delicious dinners from Dawson's Market, our fabulous silent auction, entertainment, dancing, and the presentation of the **Linda Harsh Distinguished Service Award**. I have been able to preview some of the silent auction items and the entertainment planned for the evening. You don't want to miss this year's Gala. I look forward to seeing you there—online!

JOIN US

on Friday, April 29

for DCV's 13th Anniversary Gala!

DCV HONORS ARBOR DAY

It's a virtual affair with music, dancing, food, entertainment and a silent auction.

Details on our website

www.dupontcirclevillage.net

Monthly Calendar

Currently, most activities are being offered online, by way of Zoom, although some are now being held face-to-face. Anyone attending an indoor event must be masked, whether or not they are fully vaccinated.

We do ask you to register online at www.dupontcirclevillage.net and select "Calendar," find the event, and register. If you can't join an online event or figure out how to register, please email or call Ann Talty at admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252.

Memorial & Reception for Harvey Friedman

Saturday, April 9, 11:00 am–2:00 pm

Friends Meeting, 2111 Decatur Place

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

There will be a brief memorial service with his rabbi, followed by a reception in the Living Room.

SUNDAY SOUP SALON:

Regret—Looking Backward Can Move You Forward

Sunday, April 10, 5:00–6:30 pm

Note: this is the 2nd Sunday of the month

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Regret is one of our most powerful and most misunderstood emotions, says best-selling author Daniel Pink...an expert on the subject. No regrets? That's nonsense...even dangerous, Pink explains. Everybody has regrets. And regret can be an invaluable lesson, leading you to new insights and teaching you about yourself. Pink spent more than a year collecting and analyzing individual stories about regret, from some 16,000 people around the world. One of his conclusions: people tend to regret inactions more than actions, especially over the long term. We'll listen to and explore Pink's findings in his compelling TedTalk, "What regret can teach you about living a good life." As one commentator remarked, Pink "has a knack for teaching in such an entertaining way you'll forget you're learning. Don't miss this one."

Men's Book Group

Monday, April 11, 11:00 am

Location: West End Library conference room, 2301 L St NW

RSVP: Bob Hirsch, (202) 483-7981 or rmhirsch49@yahoo.com

The book is ***The Last Trial*** by Scott Turow. New participants are always welcome.



Navigating the Path Ahead

Tuesday, April 12, 3:30–4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Our lives are a journey. As we make our way on our path, we find others to walk with us. As they share our journey, they support and challenge us. At times, some leave us. And then, others join us. We learn from them and share our experiences. Over time, this new monthly Village discussion group will be covering topics such as: living alone; receiving a new diagnosis; wondering what's next; do I need to make accommodations in my home; dealing with loss; where can I find new experiences; what can bring me joy; how can I reignite the passion in my life.

Art Introspection with Intern Laura Mahon: Alma Thomas Through the Lens of her Art

Monday, April 18, 2:00–3:00 pm

Location: Virtual

For more information contact Laura at lauramahon@gwmail.gwu.edu

Smithsonian Craft Show

April 21–24

Location: National Building Museum, 401 F St NW

Cost: \$10 for DCV members and guests

RSVP: by Monday, April 4 at 5:00 pm

This year's Smithsonian Craft Show, FUTURE FOCUS, celebrates recognized mastery and new directions in craft and design. Come greet 120 jury-selected artists, working in a range of media and price points. You'll see the latest work of returning favorites and outstanding newcomers, and enjoy new approaches to materials, execution and sustainable design. Expect to be surprised and inspired.

There is a group rate for 10+ people, of only \$10 per person. Once you sign up with us, plan on delivering a check to the DCV office for \$10, made out to "Smithsonian Craft Show" no later than Monday, April 11. Tickets are non-refundable.

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Monthly Calendar

Continued from page 3

Mystery Book Group

Friday, April 22, 3:00–4:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

The book for discussion is ***Slow Horses*** by Mick Herron.

LIVE AND LEARN

Stronger Memory Program—Back to the Basics for Brain Health

Monday, April 25, 3:30–4:30 pm

Location: Hybrid (on Zoom and in person, more info will be on the website)

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Art Introspection with Intern Laura Mahon: Alice Neel Through the Lens of her Art

Thursday, April 28, 12:00–1:00 pm

Location: Virtual

For more information contact Laura at lauramahon@gwmail.gwu.edu

DCV Gala and Silent Auction

Friday, April 29, 6:00 pm

Location Virtual

Cost: \$100 (non-refundable)

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Mark your calendar for April 29, 2022 from 6:00–7:00 pm with an optional 15–20 minutes of chat at the end of the gala, and plan to celebrate another year, Arbor Day, the glorious trees that make DC the City of Trees, and each other. This year's DCV Annual Gala will once again be a virtual one complete with dinner, dancing and entertainment. We will provide excellent entertainment, we will celebrate one of our own with the Linda Harsh Award and we will have opportunities to visit with fellow villagers before and after the gala main event.

As stewards of the Earth and lovers of trees, we invite you to enjoy food and fun with fellow DCV and community members.

DCV Movie Group: t/b/a

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Watch for details in the Friday e-blasts.

Online Meditation with Christina

Mondays & Thursdays, 9:00–9:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office



Accessible Mat Yoga

Mondays, 3:30–4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Chair Yoga

Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Online Feldenkrais Method Awareness Through Movement

Wednesdays April 6, 13, 27, 10:00–11:00 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

For first-timers: particularly for those with any mobility concerns or limitations or pain they want to ask the instructor about, we suggest that you start with the Seated Feldenkrais (1st Wednesday of the month), read more about Feldenkrais (see below), and contact the instructor zannechri@gmail.com so she can accommodate your needs.

Coffee and Conversation

Thursdays, 10:00–11:00

Location: in person, location t/b/a

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Mahjongg

Thursdays, 2:00–4:00 pm

Location: hosted live by Margot Polivy

RSVP: Bobbi Milman, rmilman@comcast.net or (202) 667-0245

Knitting Group

Thursdays, 4:00 pm

RSVP: Sheila Lopez at sheilablopez@gmail.com

Spring is Sprung, the Grass is Riz, I Wonder Where the Birdies is!



Ask Ann

Every year when the daffodils would bloom, my mother would come downstairs singing this little ditty. It meant that her winter depression was lifting, which in turn helped me with mine. It

also meant that my grandparents would drive from Minnesota to Florida for spring training, and the next leg of that journey was to drive up to the DC area and visit with us and our cousins.

I know that people with allergies have a love/hate relationship with spring. For the most part, I don't have a major problem with that, so these days, I just thoroughly enjoy the season.

Once upon a time, I was oblivious to my surroundings, and didn't have much capacity for joy. I thought that was for other people. In 1996, my various worlds all crashed and burned, and I finally got some



professional help and appropriate medication. My therapist pushed me really hard to leave my apartment, even for a few minutes and walk around the block. My aha! moment about spring came quickly. I can still remember walking along a block where there were tulips blooming

all over. I remember thinking that I ought to think they were pretty.

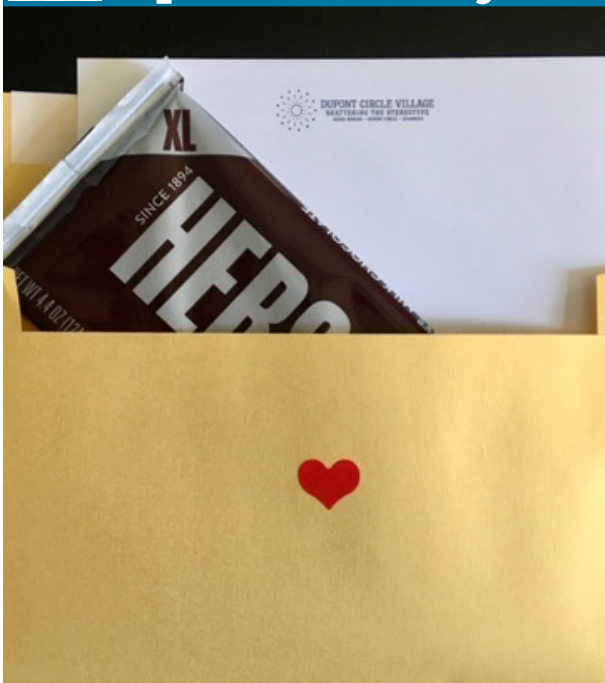
As I woke up that spring, I noticed and started to appreciate each stage of the natural rhythm of spring. By the next spring, I experienced the daffodils, tulips, cherry blossoms, redbuds, dogwoods, azaleas, etc. I don't like forsythia and am allergic to it, but it was part of the cycle. And who knew that new growth on trees and bushes were a very different shade of green!

A promise I made to myself then was that I would stop and enjoy the whole miracle of spring. I have kept that promise, and have been rewarded with that special joy each year. I have lived in this area since 1964—how did I never notice all of this? Well, I do now. I love spring. I love the sense of joy that was a foreign concept my first 40+ years. A couple of Sundays ago, I looked out my window and saw blue sky plus all the cherry blossoms in my courtyard. My heart nearly burst with that feeling of joy and hope. That night, I drove through Kenwood (in Bethesda) to see the magic fairyland of all the streets lined with mature cherry trees, creating a gorgeous canopy of blossoms.

May you all have a lovely spring!



April Birthdays



Happy Birthday to members celebrating April birthdays!

Carol Balassa, Jeanette Barker, Duffy Campbell, Rose Darby, Angela Elkins, Ed Elmendorf, Anita Gottlieb, Charlotte Holloman, Naomi Johnson, Dan Leathers, Janet McMahon, Bob Meehan, Joele Michaud, Jane Pierson, Margot Polivy, David Schwarz, Mike Silverstein, Bob Spiegel, Alice Tetelman, Jan Vandevanter, and Diana Wright

Meet Kathy Spiegel and Richard Fitz

Kathy was born and grew up in Fairfield, Connecticut, secure in the company of numerous relatives, neighbors, and friends. As a suburb of Bridgeport, however, Fairfield was short on diversity, and Kathy felt stifled by the pace and scope of everyday life there. Time spent in her father's Bridgeport liquor store and grandmother's dry-cleaning business exposed her to a very different cast of characters.

DCV Member Profile

After three years at Simmons College in Boston and a year at Tel Aviv University, Kathy took a job as a patient advocate at the UConn Medical Center in Hartford, Connecticut. Serving others in need appealed to her, but the Medical Center could only address a small fraction of patient needs. Kathy decided that reference work in a library might better meet her interest in solving problems for others, while satisfying her curiosity about a wide and novel range of issues.

Kathy eventually found two part-time library jobs nearby in Farmington that paid the grand sum of \$2.35 an hour. Her new boss advised her to get an MLS. With this in mind—and a boyfriend headed to Washington—Kathy enrolled in 1979 in the graduate library program at Catholic University in DC. Then, with her degree in hand, she went to work as a law librarian at the Federal Trade Commission and later at HUD. Her library career would last for another 30 years, her old boyfriend for only one.

During these years, with \$500 in hand for a down payment, Kathy bought a small duplex in south Arlington and started a lifelong interest in and love for Labrador retrievers. She tried to raise a puppy for Guiding Eyes for the Blind but flunked the discipline requirements.

Kathy's next career move took her

to the reference staff of the United States Information Agency (USIA). In that job, she spent her days researching and responding to questions about American legal, political, and social issues from influential US-embassy contacts around the world. Much of this information was used by other countries in implementing their own policy goals.

These were also the early days of the Internet and online information retrieval, and Kathy regularly trained and supported foreign librarians working in the 100+ USIA libraries overseas. Incidentally, the central USIA library in Washington was also where Kathy and Richard first met.

Richard was born and grew up on the near-north side of Chicago. His small, progressive school served a wide variety of kids from all over the city, taught largely by West-European refugees. His interest in other countries and cultures stems in part from that experience.

After his physician father's early death, Richard stayed close to home for college. He lived and studied for two years at the University of Chicago in math and philosophy, but then began to question his goals and dropped out.

Richard joined the Army that November and entered a very different world than the one he grew up in. He spent the first six months developing survival skills. With that in progress, he got himself assigned to the Army Language School in Monterey, CA, then worked the next two years as a German linguist with the Army Security Agency in West Berlin. During those years, Richard lived "on the German economy." He associated primarily with German friends and spoke and listened to German day and night.

Richard returned to the University of Chicago after his military service, finished his studies in philosophy and German literature, married his Berlin girlfriend and headed off to UC Berkeley to study European history



for four years. No more cold and lonely Chicago winters!

At the end of his twenties, Richard decided against an academic career. Work in European history had become too highly specialized for his taste by then, student interest was waning and there were few if any teaching jobs available in his field. In addition, a first child was on its way.

Richard joined the foreign service in 1969, with a USIA assignment option, and moved his family, meager savings and an old VW bug to Arlington, VA. A year later, after months of one-on-one Polish language training, he landed in Warsaw with his family.

During the next 12 years, Richard worked overseas on regular assignments in Poland, Frankfurt, and Bonn, long-term Temporary Duty (TDY) assignments in India and Japan, and dozens of six-week inspection assignments to countries in East and West Europe, the Near East, Asia and South America.

Richard's primary work responsibility was to conduct and manage USIA and State-Department cultural programs. He directed US cultural centers, arranged speaker programs, managed Fulbright and other international exchanges, staged exhibits, organized film and performing arts programs, managed USIA libraries and library-outreach programs and

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developed professional relationships with leading cultural contacts.

In addition to the day-by-day work of the foreign service, Richard highlights the personal benefits provided by the foreign service of just living and working in another country for several years. In his experience, investing yourself fully in someone else's language, developing deep friendships in their culture, eating their food, breathing their air, putting yourself in their shoes, struggling to understand their values and mind-set—all that inevitably challenges and changes your assumptions and your perspective on them and on yourself.

In 1981, on an inspection trip to Ecuador, Richard contracted a chronic disease (a fairly common foreign-service hazard) and lost medical clearance for future foreign assignments. He returned to Washington at that point and spent the next 20+ years in senior management positions at USIA and the State Department until his retirement in 2004.

Richard and his first wife took a

baby boy to Poland, had a second child there (a girl), who died soon after birth, and a third child (another girl) in Frankfurt. Richard and Kathy were married in 1988 and added a third child (a second boy) to the family. All three children are successfully engaged in non-for-profit or charitable work.

Since Richard's retirement, both Richard and Kathy have enjoyed yearly hiking trips to national parks. Glacier stands at the top of their list since they pushed themselves hardest there. Another favorite was a 100-mile walk along the Cotswold Way in England, with a change or two of clothes, climbing stiles between fields with an eye out for unpredictable bulls, calling ahead daily for the next B&B. Closer to home, they often head out to Sugar Loaf and the C&O Canal.

Kathy has also been walking three times a week with several villagers for the pleasure of their company, and to help deal with the challenges of Parkinson's disease (PD) (16 years now). She also participates weekly in

a PD dance/movement program at the Kennedy Center and a PD boxing program at a local gym that keeps her sweating. While Kathy dances, Richard has been meeting for the last several years with a DCV memoir-writing group that he finds deeply rewarding.

Kathy and Richard have volunteered in various ways over the years and been enlightened by their experiences. For example, they and their youngest son prepared and ate dinner once a month for several years with men at a transitional shelter, many well educated, acknowledging bad decisions or bad luck, and now climbing out of deep trouble.

Kathy also volunteered at a DC public-school-based reading program and an end-of-life program called "No One Dies Alone" at Georgetown University hospital. Both experiences have been gratifying.

Richard and Kathy are grateful for the DCV community. "We thought DCV might help us develop a deeper, more active sense of community," they say, "and it has."

Art Archive



Primavera, Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510, Italian), Tempera on panel (1470), Uffizi Gallery, Florence

Landscape Diplomacy

Continued from page 1

plant the most beautiful thing in the world—the Japanese cherry tree.”

Over the next 24 years, she presented her idea to every Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, but her pleas were met with little interest. Scidmore persisted. When Helen Taft became the nation’s first lady in 1909, Scidmore started her entreaties anew with the new Administration. Knowing that Mrs. Taft was familiar with the beauty of Japanese cherry trees from some of her husband’s diplomatic posts around the world, she appealed directly to the first lady. Scidmore sent the first lady a letter about her idea and two days after sending it, she received a positive response from Helen Taft’s office. Not only did Helen Taft like the idea, she used her connections and immediately made arrangements to acquire some cherry trees for Potomac Park.

First Lady Taft reached out to noted Japanese chemist Dr. Jokichi Takamine who was in Washington,

DC visiting with Japanese consul general Kokichi Mizuno. Takamine asked Mizuno to inquire whether Mrs. Taft would accept a gift of 2,000 trees for the city. The consul general liked the idea and suggested donating the trees in the name of Tokyo. Takamine generously agreed, and Mrs. Taft accepted the offer.

The Japanese gift of cherry trees arrived in Seattle, Washington in January, 1910. An inspection of the trees by US Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials revealed that they were infested with insects, nematodes, and diseases, requiring the saplings to be destroyed immediately. This created a tense diplomatic situation and the Secretary of State and the Japanese Ambassador were engaged to resolve the issue. Their plan included a second donation of cherry trees grown in a more controlled environment that would be given on behalf of the citizens of Japan.

A second shipment of 3,020 Yoshino cherry trees was sent from Japan and arrived in Seattle in March 1912. The trees were then placed

on specially heated, insulated railroad freight cars and were sped to Washington, D.C. After their arrival, the trees were successfully planted along the Tidal Basin and in other areas of Potomac Park. Among the nearly 4,000 cherry trees growing in West and East Potomac Parks, on the Washington Monument grounds and in several other park locations, fewer than 100 of the original trees are with us today.

The gorgeous trees serve as a powerful symbol of friendship between nations and an inspiring reminder of the difference one person can make by faithfully pursuing a dream.

As part of her cherry tree legacy, Eliza Scidmore wrote an insightful travel guide that was published in 1902 about her encounters in Japan, the land, the people and their way of life entitled, *Jinrikisha Days in Japan*. She was also the first female correspondent for National Geographic and wrote extensively about the Far East. However, few records of her life have been preserved, and her life is shrouded in mystery.

Out and About



◀ **Geri McCann** shared these beautiful shots. The first is a sunset in Mexico and the 2nd is locally, one morning on N Street NW.

Out and About



▲ Numerous early rising Villagers (and **Eva's** pug, Kiko) showed up for the Sunrise Over the Tidal Basin to get the first peek at the Cherry Blossoms. This wonderful event was hosted by **Ann McFarren** and **Bill Roberts**.



Out and About



▲ **Ted Bracken's** children, Jennie, Emily, Lane and Todd, hosted a celebration for their father on a very cold and rainy Sunday afternoon in his home. Many Villagers attended and the children read memories that people submitted. A long-time DCV member, Ted passed away on March 9th at his home due to complications from cancer.



▲ **Kenlee Ray** shares from her trip to South Carolina. The live oaks and Spanish moss at the Hilton Head Island Coastal Discovery Museum.



▲ **Mary Latka** celebrated her 97th birthday with family, who came to town from southern Maryland.

The Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

In 1962 **Ed** and **Sarah Burger** were stationed in Beaufort, SC where Ed was a flight Surgeon for a Marine Air Squadron for two years. We took our military housing money and rented a house from Dr. Herbert and his wife Harriet Keyserling. This is the segregated south, so we had much to learn. They were the most exciting two years of our 60 years of marriage. I had a chance to revisit Beaufort in March, staying with the Keyserling son Billy who retired after 12 years as Mayor of Beaufort. He and his brother Paul have remained committed to the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, part of the National Park Service.

The Beaufort Park is in three parts, Camp Saxton in Port Royal where the US Army of SC freedman camped and heard General Saxton read the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

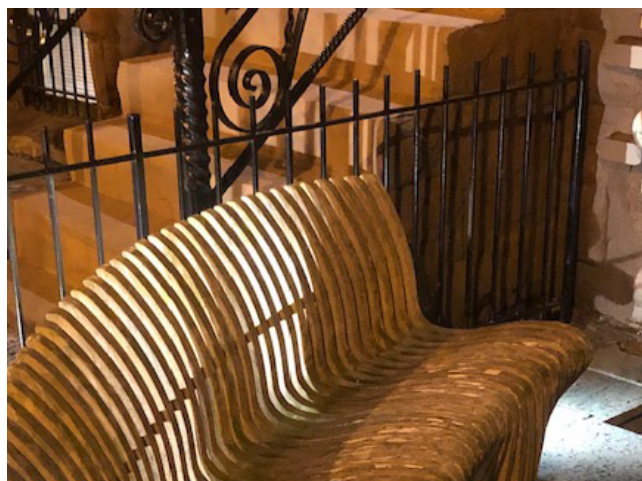
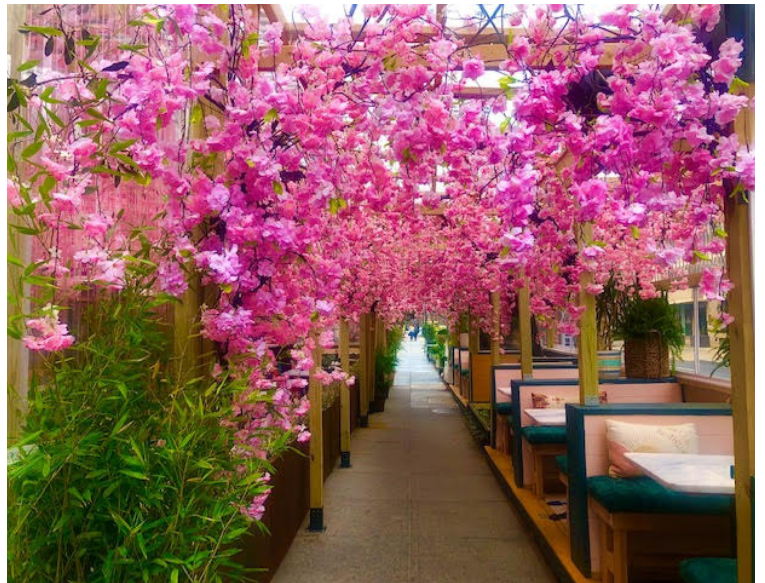
The second part is the Penn Center on St. Helena Island where slaves built the brick Baptist Church in 1855. This beautiful two-story church is still active and along with the buildings across the street, the slaves, then the freedmen, taught each other sometimes with help from the north. The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. stayed at the Penn Center while planning the March on Washington in 1963.

The third part of the park is in downtown Beaufort in the Reconstruction Era visitor Center, a 1912 firehouse donated for the purpose. Reconstruction was more successful in the Sea Islands which were 80 % slaves and the whites fled at the start of the war. Nearby is the Robert Smalls house and Billy and Paul Keyserling gave us a tour. Many of you know, but for those who don't, Robert Smalls was a slave whose owner allowed him to learn navigation skills in Charleston. The US army captured Port Royal Sound and the secretary of the treasury sent Edward Pierce to implement a new social and economic order in the Sea Islands where 80% of the population were slaves and the whites had fled. At that point, Robert Smalls on a confederate ship, while the white owners were away, collected his family and others and delivered the ship into the hands of the north. This short story is written to entice you to visit this park and the Smalls house which he purchased from his former owner with the cash reward for delivering the prize of war. Put this on your list of places to visit.

By Sarah Burger



Out and About



▲
Jim Chamberlin was wondering through the Dupont Circle neighborhood and took these pictures including the dueling rowhouses directly facing each other across the street at 17th & T NW and the Ukrainian solidarity in the Barbie Pond on Avenue Q.

Poetry Corner

Spring

Somewhere
a black bear
has just risen from sleep
and is staring

down the mountain.
All night
in the brisk and shallow
restlessness
of early spring

I think of her,
her four black fists
flicking the gravel,
her tongue

like a red fire
touching the grass,
the cold water.
There is only one question:

how to love this world.
I think of her
rising
like a black and leafy ledge



to sharpen her claws against
the silence
of the trees.
Whatever else

my life is
with its poems
and its music
and its glass cities,

it is also this dazzling
darkness
coming
down the mountain,
breathing and tasting;

all day I think of her
her white teeth,
her wordlessness,
her perfect love.

by Mary Oliver



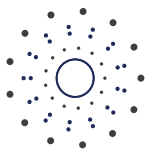
FRIENDLY CALLS

DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

During the pandemic, DCV instituted a very robust Friendly Calls Program. It is still going strong! Volunteer, **Frank Walter**, is the coordinator. If you would like to receive check-in calls on a regular basis, please be in touch with Frank.

His email is fwalterdc@gmail.com or contact the DCV office at 202.436.5252. We are also looking for callers who want to make friendly calls to other members too!

The Dupont Circle Village is a non-profit volunteer organization that connects neighbors to services and educational, cultural/social and health and wellness activities. Please consider a donation now or remember us in your will.



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