

# DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.”

—Simone Weil

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## Welcome New Members!

Harriet Fields  
Lisa Lider  
Wes Rivel  
Sharon Wojcieszyn

## Who Wrote Those Catchy Christmas Tunes?

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The time where we're completely inundated by Christmas songs and carols that seem to buzz in our ears well after the music stops. It is hard to deny how catchy and joyful some Christmas tunes can be even if it wears on us and starts earlier with each passing year. Who came up with these catchy tunes that often spark an emotional and nostalgic Christmas experience? Surprisingly, a large number of the most iconic Christmas songs were written by Jews including:

By Eva M. Lucero,  
Executive Director

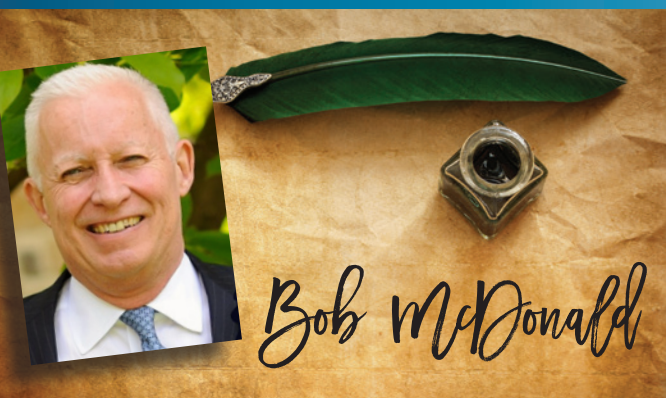
*White Christmas. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year. Let It Snow. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire. Santa Baby. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.*

In the first half of the 20th century, Jews weren't welcome in many entertainment mediums, so they flocked to the industries that would take them, like comics, music and movies. The music industry was one business where Jews didn't face overwhelming antisemitism, according to Michael Feinstein, Emmy Award-winning interpreter of American musical standards. You'll notice these songs are not the ones focused



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# President's Notes



## Celebrating the Holidays

**H**ow did this holiday season come upon us so quickly? I guess I didn't pay attention to the clues when I saw Christmas trees and Hannukah menorahs on sale at Costco during September! Well, here we are!

This is a time to be thankful. I want to express my gratitude to all the Villagers who worked on the Thanksgiving dinner program this year. The Village provided over 50 Thanksgiving meals to members and their guests last week as well as coordinated the links between member hosts and guests who physically came together to share the holiday meal. Once again, the logistics of this project were managed by the Membership and Activities Committee, led by **Abigail Wiebenson, Mary Stevens, Sandra Yarrington, Eva M. Lucero, and Ann Talty**, our guru of logistics. They were assisted by numerous cooks, packers, and deliverers – it takes a Village to make this happen. Thank you, all!

During a recent session of Meditation, Christina Mangino, who provides two sessions for the Village every week, talked about the wisdom of being grateful every day of our lives. Why focus only once a year, on Thanksgiving Day? I know when I take time to remember all that I am grateful for, I have a happier day. In this coming month, we could take some time every day to stop and be

thankful for who and what we cherish.

This is a time to find joy in celebrating with friends and family – whether we celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or all of these. We gather with

people we care for to celebrate the lights, the sounds, the smells, the music, the decorations, the food and drink of the season. Bringing out Christmas decorations always brings to my mind fond memories of holidays past.

But we also recognize that not everyone feels this way. The holidays can be a time of increased stress, of loneliness, of painful memories, of depression, and missing those whom we have lost. In the past year, I have lost both my brother and my mother-in-law. Their absence can be saddening, but I can also remember cherished experiences with them

of holidays past. The "holiday blues" might affect you more than others, but we are all susceptible to them at some point. The Village is offering a Live and Learn session on "Overcoming the Holiday Blues" next Monday, December 5. Christine Bitzer, the Assistant Director of Care Management at Seabury Resources for the Aging, will lead us in recognizing the holiday blues and in developing strategies to cope with them. I hope you will join us.

Throughout the month, the Village offers many opportunities to connect with one another: our regular programming, special happy hours, the holiday bag project, and others. Our care groups and our volunteers continue to reach out to demonstrate the care and the helpfulness of the Village. These connections and caring are something to celebrate during this season.

Happy Holidays to you!

## December Birthdays



A very Happy Birthday to members celebrating a birthday in December!

**Matt Abrams, Leslie Carothers, Mary Jean Collins, Mimi Conway, Andres Doernberg, Ginny Finch, Davye Gould, Bob Harlow, Joe Horning, Ralph Johanson, William Kloss, Susan Lindahl, Geri McCann, Jacqueline Meers, Iris Molotsky, Deirdre O'Neill, Kirk Perrow, Helene Scher, Peg Simpson, Nancy Turnbull, Deborah Wilson, Jim Wilson and Ron Wilson**

# 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](http://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](mailto:admin@dupontcirclevillage.net) or (202) 436-5252.

## LIVE AND LEARN:

### Overcoming the Holiday Blues

Monday, December 5, 3:30–5:00 pm

Location: DCV Office—enter at 2111 Decatur Pl NW

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

While many people look forward to the holidays as a season of joy and excitement, not everyone feels that way. For others it can be a season of loneliness and depression, or one of anxiety and apprehension. The Holiday Blues describes these feelings of sadness that extend through the season.

Christine Bitzer, the Assistant Director of Care Management at Seabury Resources for Aging, will speak to us about some of the causes of holiday blues, how to recognize it and how we can work on overcoming it.

## CELEBSALON:

### Seth Jones, Military Analyst—

Update on the War in Ukraine

Wednesday, December 7, 6:00–7:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Seth G. Jones, military analyst, Senior Vice President and Director of the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Millions of people have watched with amazement as Ukraine put up an effective resistance against Russian invaders since late February and then mounted surprise counter-offensive operations that took back considerable land that Russia had conquered. That defied expectations. Most analysts had predicted Russia would clobber Ukraine easily and swiftly. We all know that didn't happen. Probably no group is more transfixed by this drama than the array of U.S. and allied military analysts, who are having to revise their core assumptions about both Russia and Ukraine.

We've asked one of the country's leading military analysts, Seth Jones, to help us understand this unfolding drama, as winter affects both sides. He is senior vice president for international security at Johns Hopkins' Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). His team there has been mapping Ukrainian and Russian force



movements at a detailed battlefield level. Jones looks at defense strategy and military operations. He'll assess for us how the conflict is playing out, how Western support for Ukraine is affected—and what Putin will do.

### DCV Happy Hour

Thursday, December 8, 5:00–7:00 pm

Location: Dawson's Market, 2001 S St NW

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Those of you who like craft beer—this is your event! Join other Villagers for a special happy hour at Dawson's Market (formerly Glen's). On the menu: \$5 local craft draft beer; \$7 specialty wine by the glass. Dawson's will provide a few pizzas and some of their salads for a light snack so everyone can experience Dawson's prepared foods.

### Navigating the Path Ahead

Tuesday, Tuesday, December 13, 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.

### 17th Street Restaurants & Keegan Theatre

Wednesday, December 14, 6:00–9:30 pm

Location: 1 of 4 restaurants,

then Keegan Theatre at 1742 Church S NW

Cost: Theater is free; members pay their own charges at the restaurants.

RSVP: Registration is closed, but you can sign up on the waiting list.

Join fellow Villagers for dinner and a show at Keegan Theatre, which offers free tickets to the preview performance of each of their shows this season. The next

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# Monthly Calendar



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show in the season is An Irish Carol, written by playwright Matthew J. Keenan.

Small groups of up to 8 persons will meet for dinner at 6:00 pm at one of four restaurants on 17th Street: Dupont Italian Kitchen, Annie's Paramount Steakhouse, Trio Bistro, or Agora. Each person will pay for their own meal. Restaurants will not provide separate checks, so please be ready with cash for your payment.

After dinner, the groups will go to Keegan Theatre for the performance of An Irish Carol, beginning at 8:00 pm. The Village will arrange for your ticket and will provide you with ticket information prior to the event. The performance has an estimated run time of 90 minutes with no intermission.

## Mystery Book Group

Friday, December 16, 3:30-4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

The book for discussion: **Harlem Shuffle** by Colson Whitehead.

## Men's Book Group

Monday, December 19, 11:00 am

Location: DCV Office—enter at 2111 Decatur Pl NW

RSVP: Contact Bob Hirsch at (703) 994-5205 or [rmhirsch49@yahoo.com](mailto:rmhirsch49@yahoo.com)

We've been saying we want some alternation between fiction and non-fiction. December we are turning to fiction. The book is "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. It was published this year and was on the New York Times bestseller list. The book jacket makes it look like a romance novel or "chic lit" but it isn't.

We found a good choice for indoor lunch (after several nice months of outdoor lunches). Hope you can join us for the meeting and for lunch afterwards.

## Holiday Happy Hour

Thursday, December 22

Watch for details in future 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 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

## Feldenkrais Method—Awareness Through Movement—Chair Lessons

Wednesday, December 14, 11:15-12:15 pm

Location: In Person, DCV Office—

enter at 2111 Decatur Pl NW

By Zoom if you have mobility issues requiring you do this remotely

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Feldenkrais classes—Awareness Through Movement (ATM)—use verbally guided movement explorations comprised of novel combinations of movements and awareness that improve your overall abilities. These classes use slow, mindful movements to achieve powerful effects in terms of strength, flexibility, and holistic integration of body and mind. Unique to the Feldenkrais Method is that these lessons tie directly into functional movements of daily life, such as walking efficiently, safely lifting objects and improving one's dynamic posture and comfort while sitting or standing.

## Coffee and Conversation

Thursdays, 10:00-11:00

Location: Emissary Café, 2032 P St NW

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](mailto:rmilman@comcast.net) or (202) 667-0245

## Knitting Group

Every other Thursday, 4:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Sheila Lopez at [sheilablopez@gmail.com](mailto:sheilablopez@gmail.com)

# Who is Your Neighbour?



Ask Ann

Recently I heard a very good talk on this subject by one of my hero/mentors. I have given a lot of thought to what he said, so I share some of it with you.

By Ann Talty It is very natural for most living things to band together and form "tribes." Humans are no exception to this. We tend to form our groups with others with whom we have something in common. Sometimes it is geographical, sometimes it is views and beliefs, sometimes it is interests or other reason. We have a great need to belong—even those of us who are introverts.

However, the challenge is that in defining who "we" are, the flip side is that it defines who "they" are. It is so easy to pay attention only to the "we" and ignore or sideline the "they." In it's extreme, "they" can become objects to scorn, hate, and marginalize.

We are all busy with our lives, and it is so easy to let others become invisible to us. Any little gesture for these people is usually appreciated, but the fact that you don't see them does not mean they don't exist. We all need reminders to include them in our sphere. The immediate neighbourhood is a good start, and it can grow from there.

We all know that our country has become more and more polarized—the "us" and "them" that has been taken more to the extreme. It is easy to categorize and demonize people who aren't like you or believe like you or think like you.

How do we bridge the gap? We first need to remind ourselves that we are all individual people, not whatever label you may be applying. Then reach out to your neighbour and listen, ask them to explain so you can understand them, and ask them to do the same. Most important, find all the things you have in common and celebrate that, rather than focusing on what is different. I have found that when I really talk and listen, rather than judge, I usually have a good 80–90% (at least) in common.

There used to be a saying—never talk about sex, politics, or religion. There are so many other topics. Discuss, don't argue. Agree to disagree. Celebrate life rather than keep fear or hate in it. I don't know my half-brother very well, and he and I have very different views on many subjects. I stay friends with him on Facebook, though, because I need to learn about his reality since I mostly hang out with liberals. So just when I get ticked off at one of his political



postings, I remember that he also has many postings about his 6-year-old daughter and his older daughter who has Downs. He is definitely a loving father when it comes to family. Always a good lesson for me.

During this holiday season, I challenge you to think of and have a relationship with your "others."

## 15-Minute Meal

Treat Yourself This Month. Here are two Trader Joe's finds that hit the spot, not the wallet, and give you a night off. Villager **Michaela Buhler** recommended the savory tart. It's a delicious meal-in-one and ready within the 15-minute time limit, once the oven is heated. While I love to make soups, the corn chowder is easier than creating and was a welcome, filling meal on the day I was recovering from cataract surgery and not up to cooking.



## Catchy Christmas Tunes

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on the birth of Jesus but rather the more secular themes surrounding Christmas: light, joy, snow and reindeers.

"The Christmas songs that are popular are not about Jesus, but they're about sleigh bells and Santa and the trappings of Christmas," Feinstein said. "They're not religious songs."

There are so many examples of these secular, nostalgic themes such as *Feeling cozy in your home and, not caring about the weather outside, feel the need to declare, "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow?"* Sammy Cahn (born Samuel Cohen) and Jule Styne (born Julius Kerwin Stein). You've left your home and are now enjoying "*Walking in a Winter Wonderland?*" Felix Bernard wrote just the song for you. The classic, "*Silver Bells*," describing the quiet joy permeating the city at Christmastime, is brought to you by the duo Jay Livingston (born Jacob Harold Levinson) and Ray Evans. For something more romantic, Joan Ellen Javits (the niece of New York Senator Jacob K. Javits) and Philip Springer can get you in the mood with their "*Santa Baby*," famously performed by Eartha Kitt and later Madonna.

This pattern holds true even for the most quintessential Christmas song, "*White Christmas*." "White Christmas" is not only the most recorded Christmas song, the classic version sung by Bing Crosby is the world's bestselling Christmas single. This song, which begins with the lyrics "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas/Just like the ones I used to know" and conjures up nostalgic childhood images of glistening treetops and sleigh bells in the snow, was written by Irving Berlin, previously known as Israel Beilin, a man born in a shtetl in the Russian Empire.

Although Christmas is not a Jewish holiday, much of the music that gives Christmas its tone and atmosphere is attributed to their creative gifts. And what a gift!

## Meet new member, Joan Rogliano!

Joan was born in Bronxville, NY, a small town 25 miles from Manhattan. After leaving NY for college she worked her way west to Colorado where she had a varied career and raised her daughter. While she enjoyed living out west, Joan always had a deep sense that she

### DCV Member Profile

would eventually return to where her heart was, the East Coast.

While out west, Joan had a number of

interesting career ventures from teaching, to being a flight attendant, then gravitating to nonprofit work and finally finding her calling in real estate. She wasn't well-suited for corporate structures, so in 1998, she started her own company. That began the journey of a lifetime as she focused on real estate ventures with families navigating divorce and struggling to decide what to do with the marital home. Through that experience, Joan realized how women faced major financial challenges post-divorce, so she created a national nonprofit organization to support women. The organization provided financial assistance grants and held special events to empower women and build community. The organization was featured on the TODAY show, which catapulted the efforts onto the national stage.

DC wasn't initially on Joan's radar. She had not visited because as one of six children, "we didn't travel much and our junior high class trip was cancelled because our class of 104 students was "too rowdy". But, her daughter attended college in DC and Joan was able to visit her every few months for a taste of East coast energy. She fell in love with the area and its diversity. Following a four-day drive from Colorado, Joan and her dog, Hudson, arrived in DC



on September 1st, 2022 to start their new adventure.

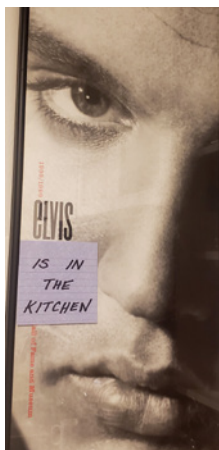
For Joan, DC is a wonderland of choices, and every day is filled with new discoveries, options to learn and ways to contribute to others. Running is her favorite pastime and has introduced her to a myriad of gorgeous locations and, as that takes fuel, exploring the restaurants became a mini global experience. The options of theater, symphonies and art galleries are truly overwhelming right now as everyone she meets is eager to share their favorites.

Her longing to travel will take her to Egypt next which is an unexplored part of her world. She would greatly appreciate any tips!

Dupont Circle Village has played a major role in her assimilation to DC and the staff and members could not be kinder or more enthusiastic in welcoming her to the fold. I've enjoyed the diversity of activities and it's exciting to share that, "I can now participate in a lengthy pickleball volley!"

# Elvis Citings

**E**lvis is alive and well and living in my kitchen. A blocked vent is responsible.



*Peggy M. Siegel*

Twenty some years ago, my Aunt Bertha left me some funds in her will, which I used to renovate my kitchen and bathroom. Aunt Bertha would have approved. Unfortunately, DC Government did not. This year, our condo board learned that blocked ventilation ducts throughout the building were violating city code. Consequently, I learned that a gleaming white cabinet door in my kitchen was about to become history.

Removing the cabinet door in September 2022 had exposed four shelves. My Elvis Schlock Collection moved in, along with the spirit of The King of Rock & Roll.

Here is how, in eight acts, all this came to be:

## Act One: 1956, Pre-Teen Music Rebellion

When I was ten, my dad took me to Record Rendezvous, a local record store. Both my parents were avid classical music fans. They frequently took me with them to concerts performed by the world class Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall. I had also inherited my father's  $\frac{3}{4}$  violin as well as William Brown, a violinist with the Orchestra. For five years he tried valiantly to teach me how to play it.

"This is Beethoven, Bach, and Tchaikovsky," my dad noted proudly, pointing to the classical music bins. "And this is Elvis," I responded excitedly, running up to another bin that contained an entirely different species of music—and a special performer.

I never did convince my dad about the virtues of Elvis, especially after we watched him perform on the Ed Sullivan show. But we did reach a respectful detente. He tolerated my music preferences as long as I did not blast my records too loudly, while hiding his disappointment at my lack of interest in practicing. I, in turn, continued to appreciate classical music as a listener, just not with the same level of enthusiasm dedicated to Rock & Roll, especially once puberty kicked in.

## Act Two: 1958, Military Haircuts Suck



On March 24, 1958, I was on my way to Hebrew School with two other neighborhood kids whose mom, our chauffeur, actually enjoyed Rock & Roll. We were listening to the car radio when the deejay broke in with shocking news. "Elvis Presley has just enlisted in the Army," he announced.

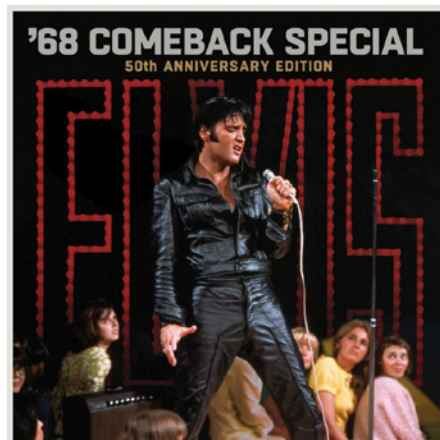
I started to cry. Once assured that I was ok, at least physically, my friends assumed that my outburst was just a ramped-up version of our typical frustration of having to attend Hebrew School following a full day of public school.

Little did they understand. "Elvis has just gotten a buzz cut," the deejay had announced. The news flash about the King of Rock & Roll had rocked my world—and not in a good way.

## Act Three: The 1968 Comeback Special is Just That

THE KING WAS BACK, LONG HAIR AND ALL!

How fitting: Elvis "had shaken up" instead of "first shook up..." teenage



America on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1956. Now TV was returning him to sender yet again in 1968. Sexy as ever, clad in black leather, slimmed down to fighting weight, survivor of mainly inane movies, his voice immaculate.

The timing was perfect. Not just the music. His presence represented redemption. The prodigal son had returned, a ray of hope timed, whether knowingly or not, to counter multiple horrors—the MLK and RFK assassinations, a relentless Vietnam War, and a violent Presidential Convention—that had torn us apart during the same year.

## Act Four: 1992, A Pilgrimage to Graceland

I was in Memphis on a business trip



with Sandra Byrne, a good buddy and colleague. Our schedule allowed for time to visit Graceland, home of the King. I was overjoyed, Sandra less so, as she rolled her eyes at my Elvis obsession.

Visiting Graceland is an experience in contrasts. The graceful Colonial Revival mansion faces a busy street in downtown Memphis across from souvenir shops, a gas station, and

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fast-food hangouts. The building interior pays homage to Elvis' design preferences, particularly the Leopard Room with its distinctive animal wallpaper.

A large glass display in the basement showcases Elvis' life story, documented by the progression in size and glitz of his various outfits: Svelte, sexy Black Leather Elvis in prime form succeeded by bloated, cape and jewelry-laden Vegas Elvis.

The family burial plot, located on the mansion grounds, includes Elvis' remains (allegedly.)

Each year in August, thousands of fans still flock to Graceland during what locals referred to as "Dead Elvis Week" to mark his passing (allegedly.)

#### **Act Five: 2005, Vegas Wedding, Elvis Style**

Helen Horwitz and I have been close friends since elementary school as well as frequent traveling buddies as adults. In 2005, I took advantage of a free weekend offer in Las Vegas, courtesy of Hilton, to realize a long-time dream: attending a wedding officiated by Elvis. Not my own wedding, so first Helen and I had to figure out how to attend someone else's.

Turns out not to have been a problem. The Hilton concierge had our backs. She quickly checked with an Elvis chapel, which then contacted a soon-to-be wedded couple from Maryland of all places, to secure their consent. (A practice that appeared, in hindsight, as routine as making dinner reservations.)

We were in.

The wedding took place in a converted garage in a Las Vegas suburb. Elvis drove up—and in—to the chapel in a pink Cadillac convertible. Allowing for the presence of a car as the star witness, the ceremony was surprisingly normal. Once the ceremony had concluded, Helen and I joined the rest of the wedding party outside. All of us waved good-bye to Elvis behind the wheel, off to his next gig.

Mission accomplished. Then Helen and I went shopping.

#### **Act Six: My Elvis Schlock Collection Takes Form**



are many things, with my kitchen now ground zero.

Above the doorway is a three foot wide, green license plate with white letters. A gift from Motorola University for consulting services successfully rendered (during which I had revealed my Elvis fixation) it proclaims the entranceway leading to my kitchen as "Elvis Presley Blvd."

A few noteworthy items inside: An Elvis purse with a 6" high spiked heel (capable of being used as a weapon); bobbleheads, clocks, pens, as well as numerous coffee mugs, porcelain figurines, and magnets; Elvis apparel—earrings, tie, and ball cap; and three Elvis Pez dispensers—Black Leather, Vegas, and Military Elvis, the last of which makes him look like a German storm trooper.

One shelf of my new, liberated vent space pays homage to the younger, authentic, trailblazing Elvis whose unique R&B/gospel-laden singing style transformed American music forever. A second shelf acknowledges the older Elvis, as multiple excesses, weight gain, declining health, drugs, and parody began to take their toll.

Despite the physical contrast, a single Elvis constant runs through both: The Voice, a divine musical instrument embedded in pure charisma.

By this time, it was time to take my Elvis-ness to a new level. Inspired by Las Vegas, the schlock capital of the universe, I decided to become a devoted collector of all things (really, most things) Elvis. And there

Given limited shelf space, the schlock collection peacefully coexists with a bunch of cookbooks rarely consulted, except for the Elvis Cookbook. "He lived like a king, but he ate like the common people who loved him," according to a quote on the inside cover. Which kinda says it all.

#### **Act Seven: The Grapes of Elvis in San Francisco**

During the mid-2000's, I attended a conference in San Francisco. The meeting remains unmemorable, except for what occurred on the way home.

Walking past a liquor store, I couldn't believe it. In the window was a bottle of wine with Elvis' picture. A must have!

It never occurred to me that San Francisco airport officials might think otherwise. Standing in the TSA line, having checked my bags and without a cork screw, I started to panic. My flight was close to boarding. Then a limo driver who had overheard my emotional exchange with the TSA stepped up. She volunteered, for a fee, to mail me the bottle. My first thought: Elvis angels in search of their wings must exist among us!

We struck a deal. "I hope that you enjoy the wine," I said, hugging her on my way back in line. "I'm an alcoholic," she laughed, "but have a buddy who will know what to do with the contents."

The empty wine bottle arrived two weeks later. Eternally grateful, I still can't help but wonder: Was the wine closer in quality to Francis Ford Coppola Cabernet Sauvignon or Mad Dog 20/20?

#### **Act Eight: Finding Elvis Mecca in Baltimore**

Any Elvis collection worth owning is incomplete, absent one key item: a Velvet Elvis. I had been



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in the hunt forever, but unwilling to settle for less than perfection: 1. The picture had to be velvet and 2. It had to look like Elvis. An unusual back story would earn bonus points.

Several years ago, I spotted perfection rummaging around in the fabulously idiosyncratic gift shop in the American Visionary Art Museum overlooking downtown Baltimore. And there it was. The picture had been smuggled across the border from Mexico, claimed the salesperson.



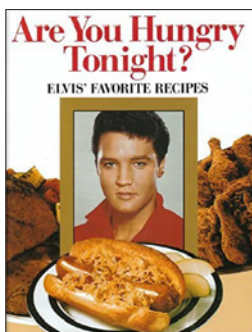
No way to verify, but sure hope it's true!

### Post Script

Back to my kitchen.

A hunka, hunka "Burning Love" is one of my favorite Elvis tunes. Regrettably, it's also an accurate description of my culinary skills: more hunka and burning than love.

Hopefully, Elvis will decide to stay put anyway. To paraphrase the King, all I can do is dream... **Elvis Presley—If I Can Dream ('68 Comeback Special)—You-Tube**



...Or tempt him with endless grilled peanut butter and banana sandwiches from his own cookbook.

## We've Lost Mary Haber to Sarasota Florida

Mary Haber is many things: a friend, a neighbor, a real-estate developer, and an early Dupont Circle Village member whom you may remember from

By Lucia Edmonds a photo on the cover of DCV's 2012 calendar. I knew Mary from our Saturday walks in the Arboretum. Mary was one of those people who liked to talk but she couldn't talk and walk at the same time because she liked to face you and I was always pulling her, "Come on Mary, let's keep walking." Over the years, Mary made regular visits to Sarasota, Florida, always coming back with glowing reports about Sarasota and its ballet, symphony and theater, everything that DC has but within walking distance.

After years of splitting her time between Sarasota and DC, Mary sold her properties here and moved lock, stock and barrel to Sarasota. Because I always listened with a skeptical ear to Mary's talk of the glories of Sarasota, Mary invited me for a visit and I'm here to tell you that not only have we lost Mary to Sarasota but she is over-the-moon happy. And why not? She lives in a penthouse with a 60-foot-long balcony that overlooks Bay Park, Sarasota Bay, and the barrier islands of Long Boat Key, St. Armand's and Lido Key and, in the distance, the Gulf of Mexico. She swims 30–60 minutes in her building's lap pool every morning and finds this an excellent way to stay fit. Mary has made friends in the building as well as friends from the building trades with whom she can talk "shop", a holdover from her DC life as a developer. In addition, Mary has hiking friends from Virginia and New Hampshire who sold their places up north and followed her to Sarasota.

Mary's apartment is a mini museum, filled with folk-art that she has collected from her travels around



the world, as well as art that she has created out of her ability to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. An example of the latter is a 10'x4' cardboard box cut flat, that her new air conditioning (A/C) equipment came in. The A/C mechanics helped her nail it to the wall. She then layered it with thin coats of white artists' paint leaving a hint of the tan cardboard beneath and sought out a local artist to fashion paper mâché sandpipers which she positioned to "run along" the base creating an eye-catching work of art.

Mary lives across from Sarasota's Art Center—a display area for local artists and an art school that sells interesting "themed" art. During presidential election years, the Center sends out a call to artists to, "Create what reminds you most of the candidate." Mary found a "Dangerous—Out of Order" collage of a former president and since she did not want to look at it all the time, located

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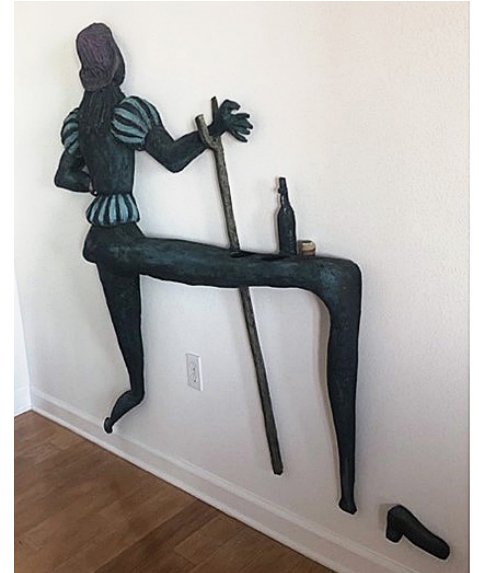
*Continued from page 9*

a cabinet maker to put it in a box which she leaves closed except to surprise curious and unsuspecting visitors.

It is clear that Mary has the unusual ability to see what is, imagine what might be and find a crafts person to help her bring it into being. For example, Mary's dining area is small and she needed a sideboard on which to put bottles. She remembered a Salvador Dali sketch of what he called, "A sideboard that can be used as a table." She blew it up to the size she needed and found a plasterer who usually works on construction sites. He created the sideboard out

of plumbing pipes and plaster and used a sisal broom for hair. The sculpture is glued to the wall and the thigh of the sculpture is thick enough to hold bottles and other small table items.

I treasured my visit with Mary. We went to a ballet, walked to a very large farmer's market, and had several meals at cafes which are plentiful, in walking distance and offer inside and outdoor seating. In the evenings, we sipped wine from the comfort of her balcony and watched the sun go down, a treat which she gets to enjoy daily. I was skeptical before my visit but I can now see why Mary loves Sarasota.



## Out and About



▲ **Kenlee Ray** was recently in Cary, North Carolina and shared this photo from the North Carolina Chinese Red Lantern Festival.

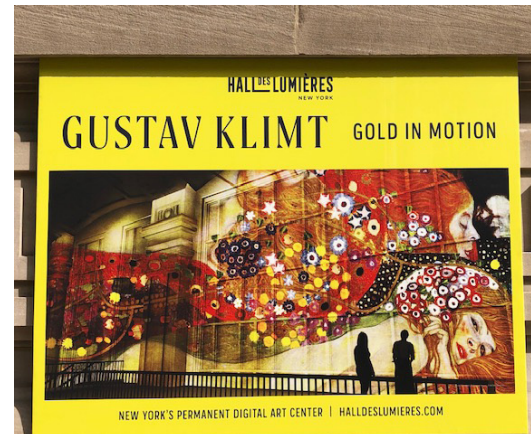


▲ **Bill and Joyce O'Brien** spent two wonderful weeks in Egypt in October. They concluded that their first camel ride, was also their last!

# Out and About



▲ DCV Walking Group members **Abigail Wiebenson, Sarah Burger, Anna Greenburg, Kathy Spiegel, Monica Heppel, Mary Wheeler** and **Yvonne Mishler** stopping and taking various photos of Flat Stanley for Monica's grandnephew.



▲ **Deb Mendelson** was recently in NYC and saw this fabulous exhibit.

## November Birthdays



▲ **Sheila Lopez** hosted the intrepid November birthday trio, **Michaela Buhler, Carmela Vetri** and **Nancy Barnum**, who showed up for a lovely party despite a fierce chilly rainstorm. The chocolate 3-layer cake was a huge hit!



▲ **Leslie Sawin** welcomed Villagers to her Social Hour. Attendees included **Michaela Buhler, Lois Berlin, Larry Steubing, Nancy Turnbull, Peg Simpson, Karen St. John, Judith Neibrief** and **Deirdre O'Neill**.

# Out and About



▲ 54 lbs. of turkey, six gallons of gravy (shout out to **Lois!**), 51 separate containers of green beans, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and a slice of pie! Thanks to all DCV cooks **Lois Berlin, Abigail Wiebensohn, Katharine Gresham, Marie Mathews, Beth Merricks, Bob McDonald, Carol Galaty, Sam & Joyce Liberto, Sheila Lopez, Eva M. Lucero, Ann McFarren, Leslie Sawin** and **Frank Walter**. The meal deliverers, **Kathy Davin, Joan Rogliano, Michaela Buhler, Mike Silverstein, Cecile Richter** and **Laurie Calhoun**. Special thanks to office staff, **Ann Talty** and **Sandra Yarrington**. We are grateful to all of the above who contributed to the effort for our members. It takes a Village!



▲ **Jim Chamberlin** shares a beautiful photo of the Spanish Steps. He notes that these are just a stones throw from the DCV office on Decatur Place.



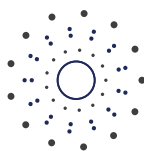
▲ **Abigail Wiebensohn** shares this pic of a red shouldered juvenile hawk gracing her backyard dragon fountain.

# Out and About



Joan Treichel hosted a DCV Social Hour in November. Attendees included Katharine Gresham, Jerry Sandridge and Jeanne Downing.

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.



**DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE**  
SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE  
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