



DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“The summer night
is like a perfection
of thought.”

—Wallace Stevens

What's Inside

- 1 DC Villages Collaborative
- 2 President's Notes
- 3 Monthly Calendar
- 4 Travel Tips
- 5 Meet Members Greg Bolton and Dwaine Rieves
Just Contemplating
July Birthdays
- 6 The Camel and Me
15-Minute Meal
- 7 Meet Operations Manager Francine Bennett-Beasley
Out and About

Welcome New Members!

Greg Bolton and Dwaine Rieves

Shirley Campbell

Juan Cockburn

Charlie and Lolita Ellis

Raquel Sussler and
Shaul Apfelbaum

The 13 DC Villages Launch the DC Villages Collaborative (DCVC)

Aging, the process of growing old, is a “we” activity. Yes, we all age and when we age in community, there are a number of improvements in health and well-being. Central to the aging in community mission is ensuring that older adults are supported and engaged to remain active, healthy, and productive members of the community.

By Eva M. Lucero,
Executive Director

For many years, the executive directors of the 13 DC Villages have met monthly to informally share ideas, lend support to one another, and tackle issues of common concern. Similarly, for the past three years, the Village board presidents have also met regularly to build their network and share best practices. From these interactions, it became clear that the Villages would benefit from a more structured collaboration process.

A consultant was brought in to guide board presidents and executive directors of the 13 DC Villages through a strategic planning and engagement process over a two-year period. The result is the **DC Villages Collaborative (DCVC)**, a new joint effort that respects each Village's uniqueness while advancing our common goals and shared vision. It is a wonderful opportunity to work together to share opportunities for growth, programming, funding, and advocacy.

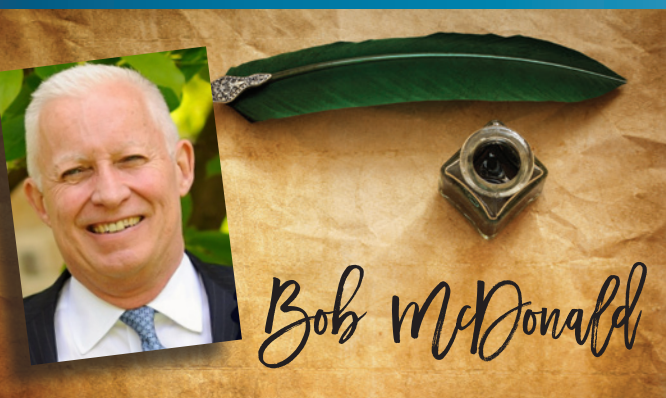


The DCVC was formally launched in June, when all 13 DC Villages signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which included a formal framework to guide and oversee the DCVC. This framework includes a new DC Villages *Collaboration Council*, a strategic oversight body composed primarily of DC Villages' presidents, and the *Leadership Group*, made up of Village executive directors. Together, these bodies will begin their work this month implementing the Collaborative's vision and goals.

Among the first order of business, is for the *Collaboration Council* to hire a DCVC director to lead and manage collaborative efforts in line with the Collaborative's action plan. They will also finalize DCVC's organizational plan.

Expect to hear more about the progress of the DCVC in the coming months. You can stay informed of DCVC's plans by visiting the [website](https://www.dupontcirclevillage.net). We are very excited about the new opportunities it will bring as the collective voice of the DC Villages is heard and the vision is implemented.

President's Notes



expressed how important and wonderful our mission is. Some asked me for more information about villages in their hometowns. It's always good

to spread the word about villages—wherever we are!

We started our adventure in the north, in Inverness. We sailed on a boat through the Caledonian Canal and then into the Inner Hebrides, including the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Mull. I have never seen more beautiful terrain than that which we experienced sailing the waters of Scotland.

On the Isle of Skye, we visited Armadale, which is the spiritual home of Clan Donald, Scotland's largest and most powerful clan. This is the clan of my family with some of my ancestors spelling our name MacDonald and others McDonald. What I found was that there are MacDonalds everywhere, some of whom are famous! One person I discovered was Flora MacDonald who is famous for helping Bonnie Prince Charlie escape from Scotland after the defeat of the Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

After sailing on the ship, we spent time in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The group had a private, formal dinner one night on the Royal Yacht Britannia. We all donned kilts—some of us for the first time in our lives. David and I wore kilts with the tartan of Clan MacDonald for the evening.

Last year after David's mother died, in her belongings, we came across a letter that had been written to David's great aunt from a British friend of hers the day after the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. It was a marvelous description of her experience seeing the Queen going to and from



Westminster Abbey. Along with the letter, we found an embroidered linen napkin with the Queen's initials and the date of the coronation. There was also a remarkably preserved London newspaper from the coronation day.

David read the letter that night at dinner on the Britannia. He gave the linen napkin to our tour director who lives in Scotland and who was deeply moved as were a number of our fellow travelers. David showed the newspaper to the manager of the yacht. He was so excited to see the newspaper that David decided to give it to the Britannia to keep on display for their visitors. It was a remarkable night!

Throughout this trip, I felt connected to my family, my history, my roots, and to the mission of what we do together as a village for our contemporaries. I am grateful for those connections in a new way.

You can see some of our photos in another section of this newsletter. Also, if you are interested in studying your own family's genealogy, the Village is offering a Genealogy Group next Thursday, July 6th. Check it out.

Random Thoughts on a Trip

David and I returned last week from a three-week trip celebrating his retirement. We visited Amsterdam, Scotland, and London. It was an amazing trip, and we were fortunate to have less than a couple hours of rain throughout. I would like to share some random thoughts and reflections I had along the way.

In the last couple of years, I have become interested in learning more about my family's genealogy with the help of Ancestry. My background is primarily Irish and German on my mother's side and Scottish and Irish on my father's. As I have done some genealogical research, it has been easier to trace family in Ireland and Germany and less so in Scotland. Having never been to Scotland before, I wanted to experience a connection to the land and its people.

The Scotland part of our trip was organized by a gay travel company we have used previously. For 13 days we traveled with a group of 30 gay men and lesbians, mostly from the U.S. Our travel group had fascinating individuals with various backgrounds. All were our "contemporaries." In getting to know one another, I spoke of the concept and the work of the village. Almost all of them had never heard of villages. But all of them

Monthly Calendar



Genealogy Group

Thursday, July 6, 2:00 PM–3:30 PM

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

If you have ever wanted to know how to identify or locate your ancestors, join other Villagers in learning about genealogical tools and records repositories to help you conduct that search by attending the DCV Genealogy Group meeting. Time is allocated to learning about ways for you to do your research, as well as, discuss your goals, problems, and advances. Meetings are facilitated by Ken Shuck and Wes Rivel, both experienced family tree researchers for over 30 years. If new to the group, contact Ken Shuck (kenneth19442000@yahoo.com) and let him know what your experience is in researching your ancestors and what you would like to gain from the meetings. All levels of experience are welcome.

Home Social Hour

Monday, July 10, 4:30 PM–6:00 PM

Location: 2555 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, #209

Limit: 10 Members

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Join us for cocktails and conversation at Matt Abram's home. Event will be held on his lovely outdoor patio (weather permitted).

NOTE: Patio has a raised sliding door track which will not accommodate wheelchairs. Guests will be buzzed in at the front desk. Street parking is usually available within a block or two.

DCV Happy Hour

Thursday, July 13, 5:00 PM–6:30 PM

Location: Kramers, 1517 Connecticut Ave NW

No Limit

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Join DCV members for talk, drinks and tasty bar snacks in the air conditioned, relaxing atmosphere of Kramers. Surrounded by books and indoor-outdoor dining, the bar offers a wide selection of drinks and snacks for members to purchase.

CELEB SALON

Meet DC's New Theater Power Couple

Wednesday, July 26, 6:00 PM–7:15 PM

Location: Virtual

No Limit

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Fresh from Minneapolis, welcome Hayley Finn, Theater J's new Artistic Director, and Andrew Dolan, Solas Nua's new Executive Director, who have settled with their son in our very own Dupont Circle area. Discover who they are as artists and individuals, the experiences that shaped

them and what drew them to DC's rich cultural scene. Learn about their respective visions for how culturally specific organizations that are also dedicated to universal themes can address the opportunities and challenges facing them. Take a deeper dive with them into what they have in store for us in their respective inaugural seasons. It's a not-to-be missed evening!

Tour of MLK Library

Wednesday, July 26, 1:30 PM–3:30 PM

Location: 901 G Street N.W

Limit: 12

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Join other Villagers for a one-hour Highlights Tour of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library led by Villager and Library docent, Barbara Sloan.

Home Social Hour

Thursday, July 27, 4:30 PM–6:00 PM

Location: 1910 S St, NW

Limit: 12 Members

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Join DCV members for cocktails and conversation at a member's home.

Mystery Book Group

Friday, July 28, 3:30–4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Book for discussion: **A Rising Man** by Abhir Mukherjee.

LIVE AND LEARN

Elder Financial Abuse

Monday, July 31, 3:30 PM–5:00 PM

No Limit

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Topics include Money Smart for Older Adults, Affinity Fraud, Reverse Mortgages, Romance Scams, Covid-19 Corona Virus Scams, Protecting Your Assets. Idriys J. Abdullah, a Consumer Protection Advocate from the District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking.

Continued on page 4

Monthly Calendar

Continued from page 3

RECURRING EVENTS

Online Meditation

Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00–9:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Chair Yoga

Mondays, 12:45–1:45

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

Coffee and Conversation

Thursdays, 10:00–11:00

Location: Kramerbooks

1517 Connecticut Ave NW

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Bridge Group

Thursdays, 1:30–3:30 pm

Location: DCV Office—enter at 2111 Decatur Pl NW

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Join other Villagers who like to play bridge



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

Every Thursday, 4:00 pm

Location: Usually DCV Office

RSVP: Sheila Lopez at sheilablopez@gmail.com

Dupont Circle Walking Group

Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:00 am

Location: meet at the fountain in Dupont Circle

Adams Morgan Walking Group

Every Tuesday, Thursday at 8:00 am

Meet at northwest corner of Kalorama & Columbia
that borders Kalorama Park

TRAVEL TIPS

Travelling can be great. But there are some hazards to keep in mind. Here are some:

On safety:

Accessibility is something we take for granted. Don't expect it overseas.

- There often are no railings on stairs. Keep a buddy close to lean on, if need be.
- There are stairs, and more stairs. Escalators are rare.
- Few tour buses have a "kneeling" feature. And that means you might find an 18-inch drop from the last step to the ground.
- If you're short, you may have to get the person behind you to

give you a rump-boost up—and a hand to steady you as you go down.

On tours:

- Most cruises offer their own tours in cities they visit, for a price. With a bit of web research, you can find your own English-speaking guide to do a boutique tour for 5–10 people versus three busloads.
- Eat locally. Look for small cafes, not massive tourist eateries. It's one way to absorb the culture.



(My favorite find: a cold garlic soup in Cadiz, Spain.)
And enjoy!

By Peg Simpson

Meet New Members Greg Bolton and Dwaine Rieves

Greg Bolton and his husband Dwaine Rieves have lived in the Dupont neighborhood for over 30 years and in June became proud members of the Village. Greg

DCV Member Profile

and Dwaine married in 2014 after having been a couple for 20 years. They first met over coffee at Jolt n Bolt on a date arranged via the old want-adds section of the Washington Blade. Dwaine placed the ad and was careful to note that the guy he might be interested in would hopefully be local—"Dupont A Plus!" Turns out, Dupont has indeed become a plus,

the couple has resided in an old townhouse just north of the Circle for these past many years.

Greg has recently retired after working for over 30 years as a school psychologist. In his retirement life, he volunteers with the DC public schools as a tutor and also volunteers at the National Gallery of Art. Dwaine calls himself "semi-retired", after retiring as a medical officer from the FDA in 2013, he continues to work part-time as an independent medical imaging scientific advisor to various companies and academic institutions. Dwaine and Greg work together to keep up their 100+ year old house, including the small front and backyard gardens. Greg has a



special interest in music and continues working to refine his skills on the piano. Dwaine writes in his off time, having published a poetry collection (When the Eye Forms) and a novel (Shirtless Men Drink Free). He has a new poetry book coming out in January 2025 from the University of Wisconsin Press.

The Bolton-Rieves duo treasures their Dupont world and is looking forward to cultivating even more friends through the Village's many venues.

Just Contemplating*

"Can you believe—our immediate family has dwindled to two, you and me", queried Sloan-Girl, as referred to by her twin.

The reply from Rayshine was
By Sloan Rogers pensive and softly spoken, "Yes, it is just you and me. We only have each other now".

She continued, "Do you ever wonder who will go first?"

In seconds SloanGirl responded, "It does cross my mind every now and then, when something nudges my consciousness."

"Do you realize, Rayshine, that not too many years ago we would have already lived beyond our expected life span? Facts indicate we get another ten years added to that great expectation."

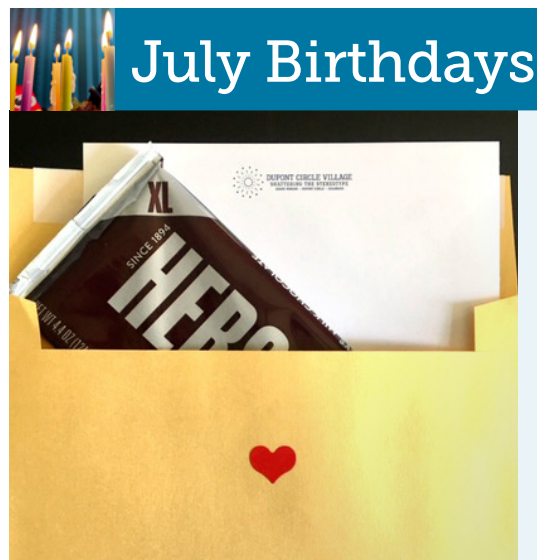
As we sisters gazed at each other, there was a sense of only having to look at your sibling to know the effects of the passing years. We couldn't deny the added wrinkles, the declining muscle tone, the increased

curvature from scoliosis and the once youthful lilt in our steps now taken over by neuropathy. Now we struggled slightly to focus clearly on all the changes. Wait, I think we may appreciate the lack of clarity.

"You know Sloan Girl, you got me

thinking about your concept that there is an order in the universe. I keep thinking that I was born first—what might that mean?"

**a submission from the DCV memoir writing group member.*



A very happy birthday to all Villagers celebrating July birthdays! **Cathy McClannan, Jane Masri, Sandra Yarrington, Ellen Kirsh, Margaret Dunkle, Michael Speer, Ann McFarren, Anthony L Harvey, Helene Diener, Diane Perlman, Ceceile Richter, Helen J. Dye, Betsy Stewart, Marie Marcoux, Romaine P Johnson, William Rogers, James Reese, Claudette DuCran Susan Bien and Irving Rosenthal.**

The Camel and Me

I don't have anything against camels.

I've ridden a lot of them over the years, for brief periods of time as part of the please-the-tourist routine in exotic places.

That was true for the me and four friends on our last of five days in Marrakech, Morocco.

We were five in a group of about 15 going on a camel ride. I was the last to get on a camel.

This was a somewhat scrawny seven-year-old camel. No problem. He kneeled and I hoisted myself up on the makeshift saddle: a thick pile of blankets and a foot-wide rag-bound iron device that served as the equivalent of a saddle horn.

The camel lurched to his feet. But he was having none of this camel cavalcade—or of a rider.

As his owner pulled on the rope to get him to join the other camels, he twisted and turned his head and neck.

That camel must have thought this Texan on his back was primed for a feisty rodeo creature where he bucked as the corral door swung open.

Not really. I had no idea what to do with an agitated camel. I held on tight to that iron "saddle horn" as four men yelled and screamed at the camel.

No one gave me a passing glance. I could have been a sack of potatoes.

No one talked to me—let alone give me advice on how to react to the camel's increasingly frenetic moves.

I no idea what to expect. I remember wondering if the camel would take off running if he got free. OR, worse, if he might roll over to get rid of me, as rodeo mustangs sometimes do.

I could feel the rug saddle and the rag-bound handle slipping slightly sideways as the camel got more agitated.

That went on for many, many minutes.

And then the camel kicked his owner.

The owner let loose of the rope. And the camel reared up, throwing me off balance for good.

I let loose of the handle and went flying.

I landed hard on my butt and then my back and then hit my head hard. But I wasn't knocked out.

Meanwhile, the others in the camel caravan were watching all of this from 30 feet away and with horror. A doctor on the camel behind my friend Clyneice Chaney said something to the effect of "well, good, at least she managed not to get kicked in the head."

Those who'd been yelling at the camel crowded around to see if I'd been hurt. Not apparently. I got to my feet with no help.

I could walk and talk. Everything seemed to work.

The camel cavalcade then went on its way.

Our guide was traumatized, however, and told me what he'd seen, including the camel kicking the owner and the aftermath.

After 10 minutes, the camel riders returned.

The doctor rushed over to see how I was, to see if I could see the two fingers he held up in front of my face. He said I should monitor myself for signs of a concussion. I assured him I knew all about that and would watch out for any weird behavior (beyond the norm!).

That night, every bone in my body ached. But I slept well.

The next day, the five of us flew to Barcelona and boarded a chartered Holland America ship for a seven-day Dave Koz jazz cruise. The music was great and got me into another world.

I got in my 10,000 steps walking from one concert to another, at either end of the ship.

When I wobbled, I blamed it on being on a ship.

And I never gave that camel any more space in my head.

15-Minute Meal



Watermelon and Feta Salad

Watermelon feta salad is the ultimate fresh summer treat!

- Ripe watermelon
- Crumbled Feta cheese
- Fresh herbs: basil or mint
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Cube the watermelon, drizzle with oil, and sprinkle with Feta and herbs. It's that easy! A fresh bite of watermelon, feta, and mint is delicious, but it's nearly as delicious with fresh basil.

Meet DCV's Operations Manager— Francine Bennett-Beasley

Francine moved from Brooklyn, NY to Washington, DC to attend Howard University in 1983. After receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in marketing, she worked for two federal agencies before gravitating to the nonprofit sector where she gained over 25 years of experience at various national membership organizations.

She is a member of several professional societies, serves on two local Boards and is a marketing consultant for a non-profit based in North Carolina. "I love serving and engaging with members and I enjoy working on projects where I can be creative and experiment with new ideas and ways to engage members."

Francine is a lifelong learner and is always focused on personal development and acquiring new skill

sets. She loves listening to Ted Talks, following influential bloggers and joining online groups of like-minded learners. She is also a co-caregiver to her 80+ year old in-laws who live nearby her home. "I know how important it is for the elderly to have a support network around them. Many elderly people do not have this and often live in isolation. The Villages connect members to a wide array of practical support services and social connections that enable them to enjoy a rich, independent, and healthy quality of life. I am excited to be a part of this very important network."

In her free time, Francine enjoys traveling, the theatre and outdoor concerts, visiting local wineries with her husband and friends and hiking on Saturdays with her local Girl Trek group.



Out and About



◀ Numerous Villagers attended **Ann Talty's** retirement party. Ann was a beloved employee and her send off was fun and joyful.

Out and About



▲ **Abigail Wiebenson** and her grandson, Owen, eating carrots on an organic farm, finding millipedes and marveling at nature on a trip to Costa Rica. Every day is extraordinary!



▲ **Kathy Cardille** with her son Jeff and grandson Simon on Simon's first tour overseas. They are pointing to their fingers because the Pantheon is where Kathy's daughter and son-in-law became engaged.

June Birthdays

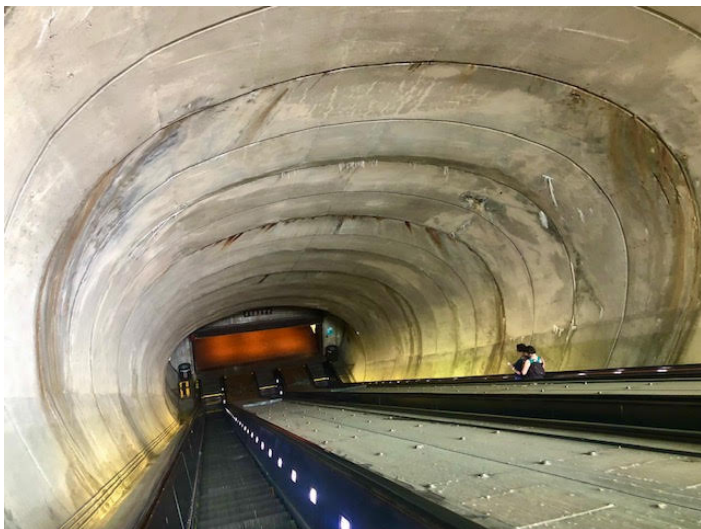


Villagers celebrating birthdays in June attended a small but lovely celebration at **Joyce and Bill O'Brien's** home. Left to right **Joan Rogliano**, **Bob Hirsch**, **Lindsey Holaday** and **Chris Frantz**.



▲ The 13 DC Villages had a table at the DC Pride Festival in June. Left to right: **Tomeka Lee**, Capitol Hill Village, **Eva M. Lucero** Dupont Circle Village and **Leo Sanchez**, Mt. Pleasant Village.

Out and About



◀ **Jim Chamberlin** shares photos while walking in the Dupont Circle neighborhood.



▲ **Joele Michaud** spent a week painting in Provence, France. A dream of a trip to be in the land of Cézanne.



▲ **Caroline Mindel** is clearly one of the most fashionable people in the Village (photo by **Lucia Edmonds**).

Out and About



▲ DCV Staff and Board welcomed and celebrated new members who joined since January at a reception in June. Some of the new members who attended include **Juan Cockburn, Sara Steinmetz, Shirley Campbell, Diane Laughlin, Rob Newitt, Dwaine Rieves, Greg Bolton and Naomi Salus.**

Out and About



▲ **Bob McDonald** and **David Insinga** recently spent three-weeks on a trip to Amsterdam, Scotland and London, celebrating David's retirement. Photos include the Caledonian Canal on the Scottish western coast, Armadale Castle on the Isle of Skye, Dunrobin Castle and Gardens, the MacDonald tartan kilts, and dinner on the Royal Yacht Britannia. (See *Presidents Notes on Page 2 for more information on the trip*).

Out and About



◀ Villager and docent, **Joelle Michaud**, led Villagers on a tour of the 'Artist to Artist' and 'Experience America' exhibits, as well as other treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) collection.



◀ **Lynn Lewis** visited Maupin, Oregon, and Berkley, California in June. First pic is of her paddling with her grandson at the helm on the Deschutes River and the person who's boogie boarding in the water is her daughter. The second pic is a comment on homelessness in America, Berkeley CA to be specific.



◀ An enthusiastic contingent of Villagers attended the excellent Juneteenth concert at St Thomas Church. Many went to dinner afterwards either at Rakuya or The Pembroke, enjoying each other's company as much as the food. Left to right: **Ceceile Richter, Jeanne Downing, Nancy Turnbull, Greg Milman, Roberta Milman, Sarah Burger, Laurie Calhoun, Bella Rosenberg, Diane Laughlin, David Schwarz, Peg Simpson, Mary Wheeler, Anna Greenberg and Geri Nielson.**

Out and About



▲ **Gretchen Ellsworth** and **Bob Hirsh** hosted one of DCV's social hours in their lovely Adams Morgan Apartment in June.

▶ **Carol Galaty** and her granddaughter **Julia** spent 13-days in Italy. They did the usual things, The Peggy Guggenheim Museum, Gondolas, Murano & Burano, St Marks Square, the Basilica, and the Doges Palace while walking miles and miles of tiny, alley-like streets and trillions of stairs on arching canal straddling bridges crowded with people, BUT no cars, bikes or motorcycles! The most unusual thing for them was walking through the high tide flooded, light reflecting St. Mark's Square at 10 pm.



▲ **Patricia Zweibel** (second from right) and her brass quintet playing a concert at Sunrise Senior Living on Connecticut Avenue in May.



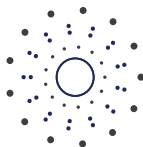
▲ **Susan Hattan & Steve Kittrell** enjoyed a week of hiking, swimming, and visiting at a family gathering in Hays, Kansas.

Out and About



◀ Villagers enjoyed a lovely outing to the Hillwood Museum and Gardens in June. Left to right: **Chris Hannah, Joan Rogliano, Beth Merricks, Marie Matthews, Cecile Richter, Louise Krumm, Anna Greenberg and Peggy Long.**

DCV Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Dupont Circle Village (DCV) is committed to being a diverse, equitable and inclusive organization. We condemn all forms of discrimination in our society. We aim to make our organization one that is open and welcoming to all. We recognize that the human experience comes in all colors, shapes, abilities, economic circumstances, ages, backgrounds, gender expressions and identities, and sexual orientations. We strive to celebrate these differences and recognize how they benefit our community. To this end, we will do what is necessary for us to grow as a community and as individuals who respect and care for one another.



DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE
SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE
ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

Dupont Circle Village
2121 Decatur Place NW
Washington, DC 20008
www.dupontcirclevillage.net
admin@dupontcirclevillage.net
202-436-5252

Board of Directors
Bob McDonald, *president*
David Schwarz, *vice president*
Steve Kittrell, *treasurer*
Abigail Wiebenson, *secretary*
Patricia Baranek
Sarah Burger
Charletta Cowling
Jeanne Downing
Gretchen Ellsworth
Katharine Gresham
James Hambuechen
Charlotte Holloman
Bill O'Brien
Michael Speer

Eva M. Lucero
executive director

Newsletter co-editors
Eva M. Lucero, *editor*
Sherri Monson, *copy editor*

Design
Saiz Design