



DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“Be yourself,
everyone else is
already taken.”

—Oscar Wilde

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Welcome New Members!

Ruth Jansson
Naomi Johnson

Closeted Air Force Sergeant Gave Gay Rights Flight

“When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one”

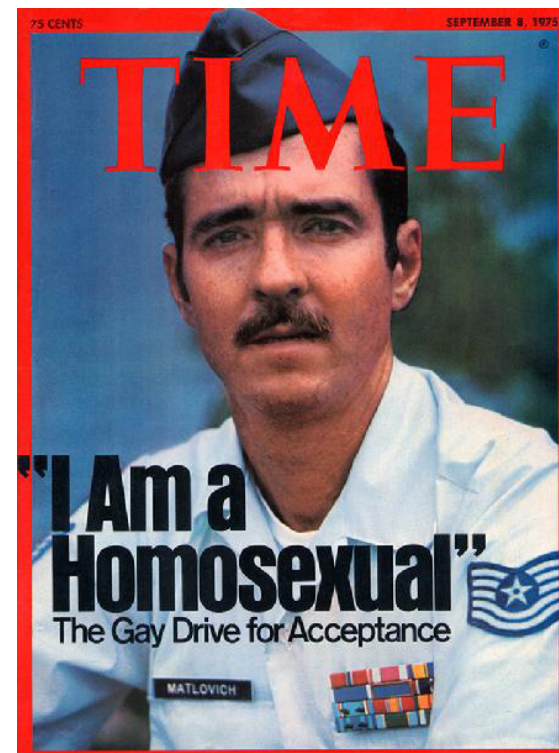
—Inscription on the tombstone that marks the grave of Leonard Matlovich, Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC

By Eva M. Lucero, Executive Director

Leonard Matlovich, an Air Force veteran with an exemplary service record, was forcibly discharged from the military after he publicly announced his homosexuality. In September 1975, Time magazine featured him on the cover with his name clearly visible on his Air Force uniform with the headline: “I Am a Homosexual.”

Matlovich—a career serviceman who followed in his father’s footsteps—was also a political conservative and devout Roman Catholic. He volunteered for three tours of duty in Vietnam and was decorated for killing two men from the Viet Cong army while on sentry duty who were attacking the camp. He was considered an outstanding technical sergeant when, on March 8, 1975, he wrote a letter to his commanding officer at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, confessing his homosexuality. He asked to be permitted to remain in the service.

“I would never have chosen this life style,” Matlovich said of his homosexuality when making his case to an



Air Force board to let him remain in service. “But I don’t have that choice. I have to live with myself, because closets smother you.”

Ultimately, Matlovich abandoned his campaign for reinstatement in exchange for a \$160,000 settlement. In November 1980, U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gessell ordered the Air Force to reinstate Matlovich with back pay at the rank and salary he would have obtained had he not

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President's Notes



Our Life can be told in a Series of Stories

Our stories of the last year and a half have been of pain and loss, perseverance and success—they are quite different than we had envisioned in January of 2020. Now, in the spring of 2021 as COVID-19 guidelines are relaxing, we can return to “normal” I believe the impact of the last 15 months will influence our new stories.

Now that I “can get back to living” I find myself realizing that while I

always have known how important my family and friends are to me, now I value them more. I treasure seeing smiles that have been hidden under masks for so long. The wind and the rain on my whole face is wonderful. And the hugs—they are better than pre-pandemic hugs!

Reflecting on our Dupont Circle Village journey, we have a similar story. This last 15 months have been challenging. Members have lost loved ones, faced tough health problems, and we have all struggled in one way or another with the effects of isolation. Many Villagers have told me how much they have appreciated DCV’s programs and support during this tough time. Seeing people on Zoom has sustained many of us. DCV wants to continue to support all our members as we emerge from COVID-19 isolation.

The opportunity to see people in person is exciting. 99% of Village members have been vaccinated so we can feel comfortable getting together. We have started face to

face meetings and programming. At the same time, we want to be sure we keep the good things we learned in the past. Our Zoom meetings have expanded participation for many of our members. I am committed to having that continue.

We are in the process of assessing which programs will remain Zoom offerings, which will be hybrids, and which will return to in person. Your ideas and suggestion are welcome. I’m voting to keep the early morning messages we have received every day. Contact me with your ideas at president@dupontcirclevillage.net

I look forward to seeing you on Zoom and/or in person soon. We all have stories to share.



Closeted Air Force Sergeant Gave Gay Rights Flight

Continued from page 1

been discharged. Gessell ruled that Matlovich’s discharge was unlawful because the Air Force had failed to explain its policy on the retention and discharge of homosexuals in the service. However, an out-of-court settlement, filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, vacated Gessell’s order to take Matlovich back in the Air Force. It gave him \$98,000 in compensation beyond the \$62,000 in back pay he had accumulated since his discharge. His discharge

was also upgraded to honorable.

Matlovich spent the rest of his life at the forefront of the struggle for civil liberties, running for public office, lecturing and counseling gays on their rights before dying of AIDS in 1988. He was 44 years old.

In June 2019, Matlovich was one of the inaugural 50 American “pioneers, trailblazers, and heroes” inducted on the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor within the Stonewall National Monument (SNM) in New York

City’s Stonewall Inn. The SNM is the first U.S. national monument dedicated to LGBTQ rights and history and the wall’s unveiling was timed to take place during the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

Upon his discharge in 1975 he said: “Maybe not in my lifetime, but we are going to win in the end.” While there have been a number of recent legal setbacks in various states, Matlovich certainly helped LGBTQ rights take flight.

Monthly Calendar

Currently, most activities are being offered online, by way of Zoom, although some are now being held face-to-face. All fully vaccinated persons may attend a live meeting/event without a mask, although they may if they want to. Any unvaccinated persons must wear a mask.

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.

CELEBSALON

Edward P. Jones, author and professor

Wednesday, June 2, 6:00–7:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Edward P. Jones is a bestselling author and professor. He is a novelist and short story writer, who focuses his writing on working-class people in the segregated Washington where he grew up in the fifties and sixties. He currently teaches creative writing part-time at George Washington University.

Jones has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize, for fiction, the National Book Critics Circle award, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, and the Lannan Literary Award for The Known World; he also received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2004. His first collection of stories, *Lost in the City*, won the PEN/Hemingway Award and was short listed for the National Book Award. His second collection, *All Aunt Hagar's Children*, was a finalist for the Pen/Faulkner Award.

Over 80 Group

Tuesday, June 8, 2:30–3:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

This monthly program addresses various topics identified by the members. It is moderated by Phyllis Kramer, MSW. Phyllis has over 30 years in private practice, and has counseled scores of clients working through isolation and illness and depression and dysfunction.

CELEBSALON

Mark Levitch, art historian specializing in WWI

Wednesday, June 16, 6:00–7:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Mark Levitch is an art historian whose main interest is



the art and visual culture of World War I. He has worked since 2006 as a researcher and writer at the National Gallery of Art and is currently the Collection Researcher in the Department of Photographs. In 2012 he founded the non-profit World War I Memorial Inventory Project, which aims to document, preserve, and raise awareness about the thousands of World War I memorials in the US. He is the author of *Panthéon de la Guerre: Reconfiguring a Panorama of the Great War* (2008) as well as several essays about World War I art, visual culture, and remembrance. Before starting his graduate studies in art history, Levitch worked for nine years as an intelligence analyst for European affairs at the State Department. At this CelebSalon, he will talk about this book, and about WWI memorials in DC, including the new one that is being constructed in Pershing Park.

NOTE: This will be the last CelebSalon until fall.

Men's Book Group

Monday, June 21, 11:00 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Robert Hirsch (rmhirsch49@yahoo.com)

This month's book is: *Nemesis* by Philip Roth.

French Challenge

Tuesday, June 22, 4:30–6:00 pm

Location: hosted live outside at 1910 S St NW

RSVP: Carol Galaty, (202) 232-7259 or carolgalaty@gmail.com by June 19

This invitation is for those members who had to be "uninvited" to our small May gathering, because of Covid limitations on numbers of people at an indoor gathering. But it is also for all members of the French Challenge, as well as any new DCV members (and their friends), whether you are a native speaker or have studied/spoken French but feel it is rather rusty. We hope you will join us for stimulating conversation in French, wine (or other drinks) and French snacks.

Sunday Soup Salon

This event meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month, 5:00–6:30

Details will be announced in upcoming Friday e-blasts.

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Monthly Calendar

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DCV Movie Group

This event occurs on the last Wednesday of the month, 3:55–5:15 pm

Details will be announced in upcoming Friday e-blasts.

Mystery Book Group

Friday, June 25, 3:00–4:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Details will be announced in upcoming 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, 10:00–11:00 am

Location: Virtual

Coffee and Conversation

Thursdays, 10:00–11:00

Location: LIVE IN PERSON—upper terrace at Friends Meeting, entrance on Decatur a few doors up from Florida Ave.

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



May Birthdays



DCV hosted its first in-person birthday celebration in 15 months. May celebrants attending include **Peggy Siegel**, **Beth Merricks**, **Mike Higgins**, **Kenlee Ray**, **Barbara Meeker**, **Ken Shuck**, **Brigitte Pichot** and **Leslie Sawin**.

How To Exit in Style, But on the Cheap

The way people want their lives celebrated after they die can differ markedly.

A Kentuckian asked his family to sprinkle his ashes on Churchill Downs. A German elected to have her favorite opera played at her funeral. A Frenchman purchased three burial plots in a cemetery—one for his wife, one for himself, and one for his mistress. Queen Elizabeth's husband, Prince Phillip, designed the vehicle he wanted to transport his body after his death.

Whether you wish to depart the world stage with a lot of fanfare, or more modestly, surely you would like to get the most bang for your buck. Two experts on the subject gave us Villagers valuable guidance on how to do so at a virtual Village Live and Learn Program on May 24. They were Brian Ditzler and Dimitrios Rizos, trustees of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maryland and Environs. This is a regional chapter of a national nonprofit consumer education and advocacy organization called the Funeral Consumers Alliance. One of its missions is to help the public avoid financial traps and costly mistakes when they plan their exits.

Plan for your departure now and put your wishes into writing, Ditzler and Rizos urged us Villagers. This way decisions won't have to be made by your grieving relatives after you die, causing them aggravation and perhaps unnecessary expenses.

Various types of exit plans have different price tags, Ditzler and Rizos continued. The most expensive is the traditional funeral and burial. It involves body transfer from the place of death to the funeral home, visitation at the funeral home, and then transfer to a burial site in a cemetery. The cost is \$7,000 minimum for the funeral, \$4,500 more at least for burial of the casket or urn. Keep in mind

that funeral homes and private cemeteries are for-profit businesses eager to sell customers numerous bells and whistles. For instance, a casket purchased from a funeral home can run anywhere from \$2,500 up to \$10,000. Moreover, the Federal Trade Commission found that one out of five funeral homes are deceptive and manipulative.

How about an environmentally friendly burial, or what's called "a green burial"? It is becoming more popular, the speakers reported. The body is transferred from the place of death to the funeral home; is given an ecofriendly bathing and embalming if desired; is placed in a wood or wicker casket or cloth shroud instead of in a traditional casket; and is then transferred to, and buried in, what is called a "green cemetery." However, there aren't many of these cemeteries, and plots in them are likely more costly than in a traditional cemetery. The price tag for a green burial is \$6,500 minimum.

A new form of ecofriendly burial is also emerging, Ditzler and Rizos noted—the composting of human remains. But while the process uses much less energy than cremation, it is still pricey—\$5,500.

Less high end than green departures is a home funeral, Ditzler and Rizos said. It will set you back about \$1,600. For this price, you'll get a body transfer from the place of death to your home in a casket or modest container. Your body will be placed on dry ice to keep it cool for two or three days. After viewing, it will be transferred to a funeral home for basic services, followed by burial or cremation.

Cremation alone runs \$850 minimum, the speakers pointed out. The body is transferred from the place of death to a crematorium. Remains are returned to the family in a plastic bag and small box if no urn

is provided. Scattering or keeping cremains costs little or nothing, yet having them interred in a cemetery can be pricey, as noted above.

And here is deal that sounds too good to be true: A free trip to the "Other Side." In exchange for the free trip, you donate your body to advance medical science and education of medical professionals and students.

You can contact local medical schools or the State Anatomy Board to learn who might want your body for such purposes, Ditzler and Rizos proposed.

(If you would like to donate your body to medical science and education, this reporter would personally recommend that you use the Anatomy Gifts Registry, headquartered in Hanover, Maryland, to do so. Some years ago, both my husband and I signed up with the AGR. When he died six years ago, at home, staff from the AGR respectfully took his body back to the AGR. Various parts of his body that researchers and educators could use were shipped to them. The rest of his body was cremated, and the cremains returned to me. Moreover, the AGR ultimately sent me a letter detailing how his body parts had benefited medical science and education—for example, advancing shoulder reconstructive surgery, advancing hip and knee replacement options, and teaching neurosurgeons enhanced surgical procedures for conditions of the ear, nose, and throat.)

For more information about price tags for various types of exits, visit the Website of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maryland and Environs: www.mdfunerals.org If you have any questions about the subject, contact Brian Ditzler at bditzler@gmail.com.

So How Are You Going to Live Your Life Differently?



Ask Ann

This is the question my therapist asked me when I was in the hospital the summer of 2003. I had a history of working way too many hours, stressing about

work, and having no life outside of work and church. During the summer of 2002, I was laid up with excruciating

By Ann Talty

sciatica. For a few months before that, I had worked almost around the clock, sleeping for 3–6 hours a night though I knew I needed 8 hours. My therapist asked me in 2002 whether I was interpreting the sciatica as a wake-up call. I thought I was. I started working fewer hours and did a few things just for me.

So, in June of 2003, I left an evening meeting early because I wasn't feeling well. The next time I went to work was in September. My doctor and I initially tried an antibiotic. When my fever just kept going up and up, and I got sufficiently scared, I remembered what my doctor had advised the day before: if I got worse over the weekend, I should go to the emergency room. So I did. At the ER I found out I had a huge abscess on an ovary and needed massive IV antibiotics and surgery. Even after I had recovered from the surgery, my digestive tract decided it was going to refuse to kick in again, so I had to stay in the hospital even longer—a total of 3 weeks. During this time the doctors also found a small amount of self-contained cancer.

This all prompted my therapist to pose the question in the title of this article. She implied that the answer might be: “because the next time this happens, you’re going to die.” Yes, it kind of got my attention. We discussed the fact that even though I had cut back on my hours, they weren't where they should be. And that although my activity of singing in the choir was great, that was also a responsibility weighing on me. And that having a subscription to Shakespeare Theatre for 5 plays a year was great, but if that was the only life I had, it wasn't relaxing enough, nor was an occasional dinner with a friend.

So, my homework during my recovery was to make a list of how I would live my life differently, building



in more components of “what Ann would like to do and enjoy and look forward to” and eliminating more of the “ought to” or “should” thoughts as criteria. I've been working on this list ever since that memorable summer. It has been hard to do during the pandemic, but I'm determined to build in as much quality of life as I can before it's too late.

So, as I address my often over-scheduled friends in the Village, might I suggest that you ask yourself the question: So how are you going to live your life differently post-pandemic rather than just going back to your life pre-pandemic? Stress can be self-imposed, so we now all have an opportunity to find new paths. Because yes, stress can kill you.

DCV IS HIRING!

RN/HealthCare Navigator

Tired of what you are doing and need a change? Consider working with our Village! Dupont Circle Village (DCV) in Washington, DC has more than 250 members and more than 100 trained volunteers who help with everything from replacing light bulbs to dedicated involvement in care groups. Many of these members have medical issues that require direct care assessment and planning as well as oversight. The duties of this position include direct support and services to members and/or their families, coordination of care with DCV's Social Worker and education, information, and guidance for Village members and staff. This is a contract position that offers flexible hours with occasional specific requests, an independent nursing practice, and a chance to work with a caring community that will advance your practice. You must have or be willing to obtain a DC Nursing License. The position also requires good people, telephone, and computer skills.

Please submit a letter of interest and a cv/resume to info@dupont-circlevillage.net.

Meet Member Dorothy Marshak

Dorothy Marshak has been a DCV member since 2015. She bought her Adams Morgan co-op apartment in 1985, where she has lived ever since.

Born to a New York artist and a London-born economist, Dorothy lived in seven locations and three countries as her father studied and taught at various institutions before

DCV Member Profile

settling in Washington, DC to work for the U.S. government.

In 1960, Dorothy moved to Berkeley,

California to study (Ph.D.) and then was an instructor in the Statistics Department. She developed successful methods for overcoming math anxiety, and a statistical model generalized to many applications. She took graduate courses (faculty privilege) in linguistics, environmental, and economic development which would lead to moving back to DC in 1984 as a consultant to the World Bank.

Two of her three children were born in Berkeley. Following the accidental death of her oldest child, born in Paris in 1957, she spent a year on a memorial project to provide after-school music lessons for poor kids at time when school busing began (the precursor of the non-profit, CHIME, that she started in DC). Her daughter's death changed the direction of her life, changing her career goals from academic achievement to being of service.

After some health issues beginning in 1990, Dorothy has worked almost entirely as a volunteer, mainly dedicated to the organization she founded and has been the sole staff member since 1997. CHIME (Music Help In Music Education), although having no paid staff, did recruit teaching volunteers originally, until raising funds to pay its musicians. CHIME has reached over 28,000 kids from 35 DC schools with in-school participatory "Around

the World" presentations, support of instrumental programs in 11 schools, distribution of over 500 donated instruments, professional development workshops for DC music teachers. CHIME developed Music Connections programs between schools with different demographics. Over 20 of the programs are on DVDs, that have been aired on DC Public Access TV. CHIME has also partnered with the Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum on a 2006–7 exhibit "Banding Together: School Bands as Instruments of opportunity" and successfully lobbied the DC City Council to allocate \$250,000 for a 2005 summer music program in conjunction with summer school. CHIME has twice been a finalist for the Mayor's Arts Award for Excellence in Arts Education and has received a number of other awards, TV appearances, and news write-ups.

In addition to all the time spent on CHIME, Dorothy also organizes programs for the Woman's National Democratic Club, many of them for two series she started, "Social Role of the Arts" and the "US Role in the World". This year alone she organized

11 programs of which the last is on June 10. She also takes courses at Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI) and in July will teach her first class on E.L. Doctorow's "Ragtime"—the book and the movie. Additionally, she participates in several book clubs, plays weekly Trivia games with her kids in California over Zoom, but has lapsed in piano practice since giving up going to chamber music workshops.

Dorothy is grateful to friends and volunteers who have taken care of her shopping and other needs through the pandemic, and says "when I have felt blessed that I have everything I need and am such an introvert that I was happy to relate to others over ZOOM without suffering at all from my isolation from direct contact—but so glad that's ended!"



Out and About



▲ The second memoir writing group participants, **Peg Simpson, Michael Speer, Lucia Edmonds, Gretchen Ellsworth, Richard Fitz and Abigail Wiebenson** listen to the helpful advice from **Monica Heppel** about continuing the class without Bea Epstein, the teacher. According to one participant, the group has become very close and wants to continue regularly meeting even though the class ended in April.



▲ **Abigail Wiebenson** was delighted to meet her four-weeks old twin granddaughters, Abby and Annie, while recently in Colorado.



▲ The DCV French Speaking group, **Stephen Grant, Yannick Chevalier, Brigitte Pichot, Gretta Powers, Astrid Klick, and Carol Galaty** recently reunited in person. There are four native French speakers in the group, the discussions were fast and funny! New friendships were made and incredible old connections discovered!

Out and About



◀ **Jane Cave and Eugene Versluysen** just spent two delightful weeks in Puerto Vallarta, where they did nothing much apart from enjoying the sea breeze and the change of scenery.

▶ Members who regularly attend the Thursday Coffee and Conversation met in person maskless for the first time in over a year. They enjoyed the reunion on the Friends Meeting House terrace.



Out and About



▲ **Kathy Cardille** was out and about and noticed the flowers and gardens in the neighborhood are exceptionally gorgeous this year.



▲ Many Villagers can identify with the newfound (vaccinated) freedom of enjoying a beautiful spring day with their grandchildren. This May 2nd photo of my sister, Martha Taylor, taken by Martha's daughter outside my sister's home in Beaverdam, Va., with her two grands—Noah (left), three, and Zoe (right), five—conveys the pride and joy that we all feel (including great uncles) on being reconnected with family as we're emerging from the pandemic. — **Pender M. McCarter**

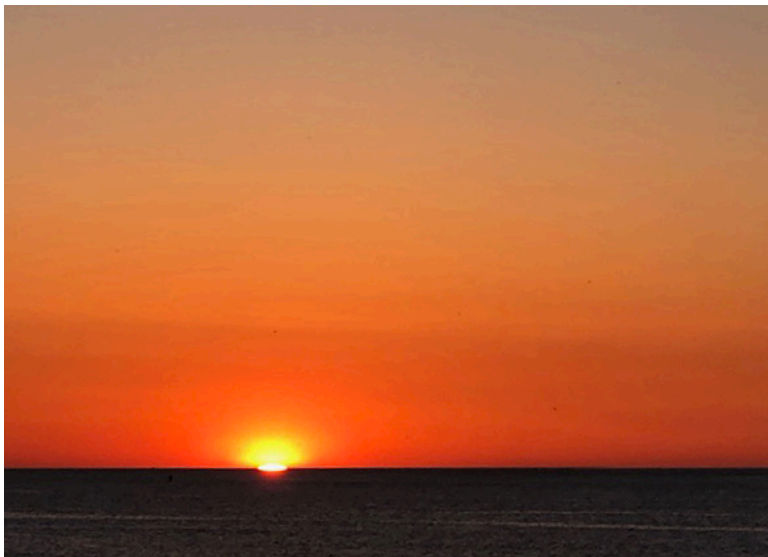


▲ **Iris Molotsky** enjoys puppy love and treats in **Caroline Mindel's** garden.

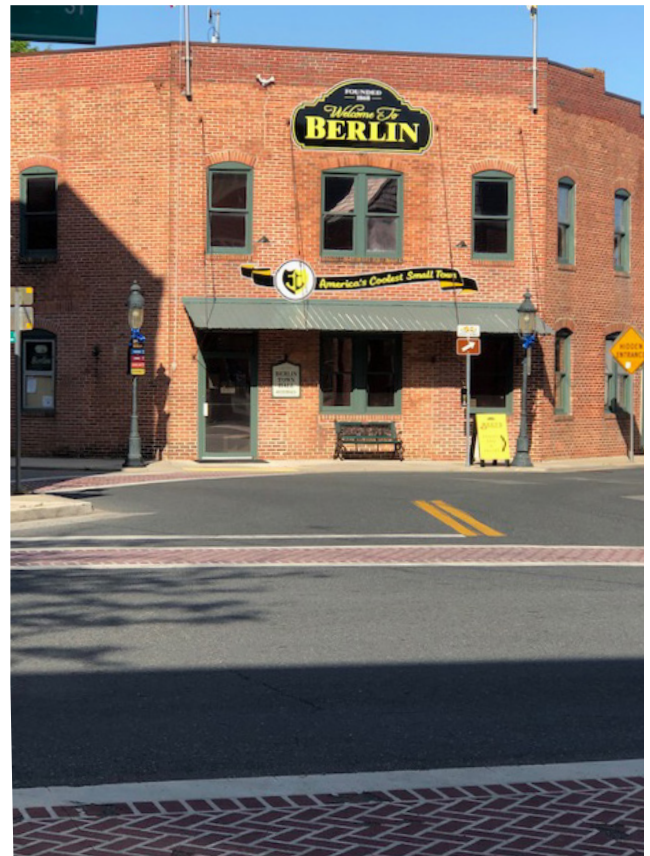
Out and About

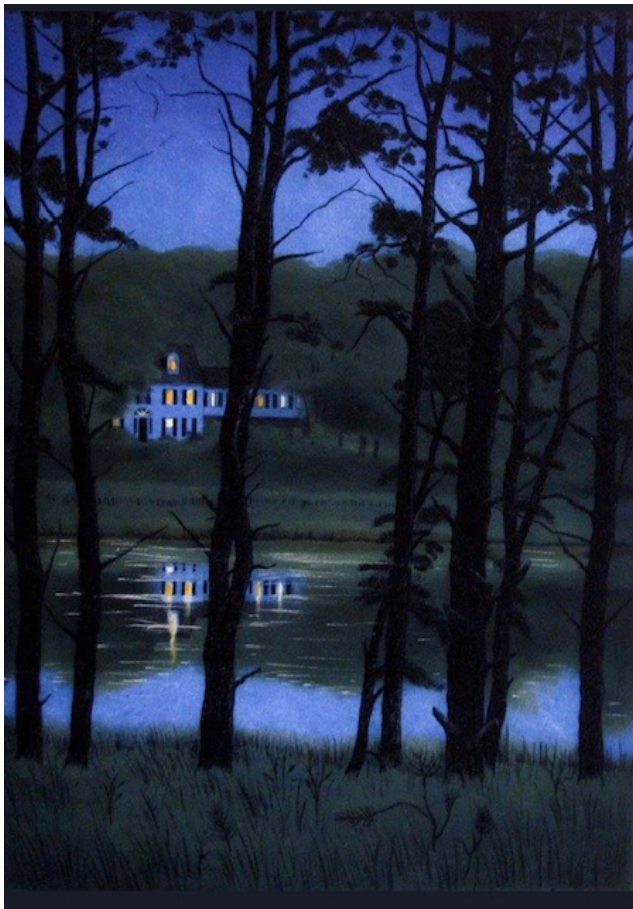


Carol Galaty and **Ken Shuck** were in Florida recently to see the “Van Gogh Alive” exhibit. One of the most astounding, wondrous exhibits she and Ken have ever viewed. Ken got tickets and took Carol to Florida for her birthday to see the exhibit only to learn it is coming to Washington, DC this fall. Carol urges **EVERYONE** with any interest at all in art, or even with no interest in art, to get tickets. Although they have not yet announced where the exhibit will be held in DC the tickets for September, October, most for November and few for December showings are already sold out. It is showing around the country with multiple, multimedia traveling exhibits. Each exhibit has dozens of screens, ranging from 10 to 25 feet high, with simultaneous and rotating blow-ups of van Gogh’s paintings in various degrees of detail. Some have even been partially animated with moving water, clouds, petals from flowers, waving wheat, windmills, trains and birds.



This is as close as **Deb Mendelson** could get to the real Berlin—a quaint little town not too far from Bethany Beach with gorgeous sunrises.





Lynn Shaler (1955, American)
One Summer Evening

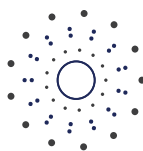
Poetry Corner

Under Limestone

It rained in fluted torrents,
the earth smelled of manure.
It was like desire
entering and possessing you quietly.
We undressed.
The sun through the windows made shapes
on the couch I lay face down on.
Our jeans were soaked
and wrinkled on the radiator, our socks heavy.
Then your eyes were opening a little.
Then you could hear the mopeds starting up again.
When it was dry enough, we found a small bistro
where we had prosecco and fries,
and took pictures of one another in our damp clothes
under trees and buildings
of the hated regime.

Richie Hofmann

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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