

DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“It’s never too late
to be what you might
have been.”

—George Eliot

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Welcome New Members!

Jane Masri and William Collins
Mirella Shannon
Marcia Shia

Take Time, Be Kind

Sometimes a poem just strikes a precise moment. “Small Kindnesses,” by Danusha Laméris, feels appropriate for this fractured time. It’s a lovely, simple poem celebrating minor, reflexive actions that happen all the time but mostly go unnoticed. In the distractions of our hurry, we miss opportunities to impact others through small acts of kindness. I figured we all could use a lift.

By Eva M. Lucero,
Executive Director

Danusha Laméris was born in 1971 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is the author of *Bonfire Opera*, and her

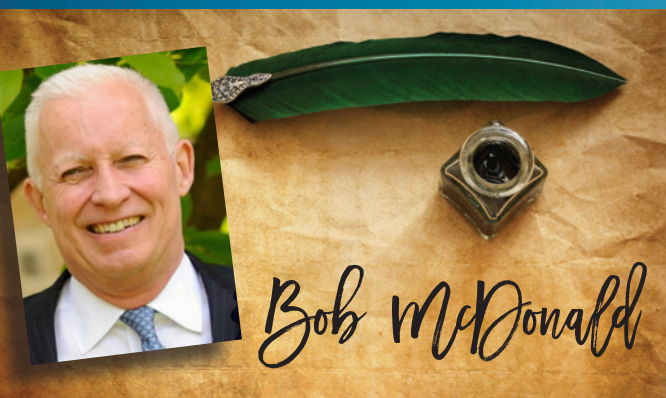


poems have been published in *The Best American Poetry*, *The New York Times*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The SUN Magazine*, *Tin House*, *The Gettysburg Review*, and *Ploughshares*.

Small Kindnesses

I’ve been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say “bless you” when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. “Don’t die,” we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don’t want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, “Here, have my seat,” “Go ahead—you first,” “I like your hat.”

President's Notes



Spring: A Time of Growth and Change

I love spring. Seeing the barren tree branches start to bud with leaves is always a welcome signal that the cold, dark winter is behind us. Taking a walk around our neighborhood, it is refreshing to see the colorful burst of cherry blossoms, tulips, daffodils, and azaleas. Spring is a time of growth and change. And so it is with the Village this spring.

First of all, we have moved our office—this is a big change for us. I remember helping the Village open our office in Friends Meeting of Washington (FMW) more than 10 years ago when I was the Volunteer Coordinator. At the end of February this year, one of the other tenants moved out of their FMW offices and DCV was given the opportunity to switch our space. The Board made the decision to move and in mid-April we transitioned into our new office. The space is larger and much more efficient. Our new conference room is large enough not only for Village meetings, but also for programs. I want to thank Eva and Ann on our staff who spent days packing up, as well as Steve Kittrell, Mike Higgins, and Craig Crutchfield who made the move happen.

The Village is growing. Since the beginning of the year, we have added 14 new members. This is record growth for us. Last year by this time

we had added 9 members. Responding to this growth, the Membership and Activities Committee has initiated a New Member/Mentor Program. For those who wish, a new member is connected with a mentor who will assist in initiating them into Village life.

Our staff is growing. In mid-April we welcomed **Mike Persley** onto our staff as the Volunteer and Activities Manager. Mike is responsible for all volunteer services, assisting in setting up Care Groups, and providing volunteer recruitment and training. He is also involved in managing our Live and Learn Program. This is a part-time, 20 hours per week position and is the first time we have employed a staff member to fulfill these functions. You can read more about Mike in another section of this newsletter.

I want to thank **Mike Gould** who has managed our volunteer program as a volunteer over the past six years. Mike has done an outstanding job matching members' needs with volunteers, recruiting volunteers, and diligently working with Care Groups.

We have all experienced the limitations of COVID over the past two years, but we are now seeing signs of new life here as well. We have

begun to offer more opportunities for in-person meetings and programs. Last week we had a hybrid (in-person and virtual) Live and Learn session on the Stronger Memory program. Barring any new COVID restrictions, we will continue to offer monthly Live and Learn sessions as hybrid as well as other programs and social gatherings in-person.

There is also new life across the DC Villages. For over eight years, the Executive Directors of the DC Villages have met monthly to share their experience and programs with each other. Over the past year, the Presidents of the Villages began to meet as well. It became obvious to us that the two groups should also meet together to advance the collaboration among all of the villages in DC. That first meeting will be taking place later this month. This is a major step in exploring how we can more effectively serve our larger community.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who participated in last week's Gala and our silent auction. This celebration is not only a sign of the life of our Village but is also a vital part of our financial stability. The Gala Committee with the leadership of Lois Berlin made it all happen! I especially want to express our gratitude to all of our sponsors who outdid themselves in their generosity this year.

Enjoy spring in the Village!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Carol Galaty and Ken Shuck graciously hosted the first in-person birthday celebration since Covid. Celebrating April birthdays include **Dan Leathers, Alice Tetelman, Bob Meehan, Susan Meehan and Charlotte Holloman.**

Monthly Calendar

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

We do ask you to register online at www.dupontcirclevillage.net.

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

Picnic on Sycamore Island

Tuesday, May 3, 12:30–2:00 pm

Meet at 1916 S St NW

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Come picnic at Sycamore Island on May 3rd. We'll gather at 12:30 and return at 2pm. Located on the Potomac River a few miles north of Chain Bridge, reached via Clara Barton Parkway, picturesque Sycamore Island is a privately owned club since 1889. The short trail from the parking lot to the pull ferry to the island is somewhat steep and rocky. Wear sturdy shoes.

Limited to 12 guests, member Abigail Wiebenson, will provide directions and organize car pooling, leaving from her house on S Street. Participants bring their own lunches. If foul weather, we'll reschedule.

Navigating the Path Ahead

Tuesday, May 10, 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.

SUNDAY SOUP SALON

Slow Down, Pay Attention, Connect: a Simple Tool

Sunday, May 15, 5:00–6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Drawing is an essential tool to help us look closely and connect with one another, sparking deeply human, authentic rapport, says illustrator and graphic journalist Wendy MacNaughton. Much of what we see is our expectations... our brains are so busy trying to process information, they rely on patterns as a kind of shorthand. The result? We



miss out on a lot of the depth and detail of the world around us. Drawing is the gateway to slowing down, paying attention, and falling back in love with the world and everyone in it. For more, join us to hear this engaging TedTalks speaker at our Swann Street Zoom Studio on Sunday, May 15. No matter whether you're a stick-figure artist or Grandma Moses, have pencil and paper handy.

Men's Book Group: t/b/a

Monday, May 9, 11 am

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

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

Our book this month is *The Accidental President: Harry S. Truman and the Four Months That Changed the World*

Bike Ride/Picnic to Sycamore Island

Tuesday, May 17, noon–3:00 pm

Register online or contact DCV Office

Watch for details in the Friday e-blasts

Mystery Book Group

Friday, May 27, 3:00–4:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

The book for discussion is *The Girl Who Died* by Ragnar Jonasson.

DCV Movie Group: t/b/a

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Watch for details in the Friday e-blasts.

Online Meditation with Christina

Mondays & Thursdays, 9:00–9:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Accessible Mat Yoga

Mondays, 3:30–4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Chair Yoga

Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

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Monthly Calendar

Continued from page 3

Coffee and Conversation

Thursdays, 10:00–11:00

Location: in person, location t/b/a

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Mahjongg

Thursdays, 2:00–4:00 pm

Location: hosted live by Margot Polivy

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



Knitting Group

Thursdays, 4:00 pm

RSVP: Sheila Lopez at sheilablopez@gmail.com

15-Minute Dinners

For a variety of reasons—you fill in the blank—many Villagers eschew the enjoyment of making meals for themselves. When

By Abigail Wiebenson I became a widow in 2003, I was wary of how lonely it might be to prepare food for one and eat alone. So, I began exploring recipes that were quick to fix, interesting to look at and gave me pleasure to eat by myself. Much to my surprise, I totally enjoy eating solo much of the week, with NPR music in the background. It gives me time to think and sort out either where my day is headed or what I've accomplished—or not—during the day. I don't eat in front of television, though I sometimes read an article in the newspaper (yup, I still get the print kind) while dining.

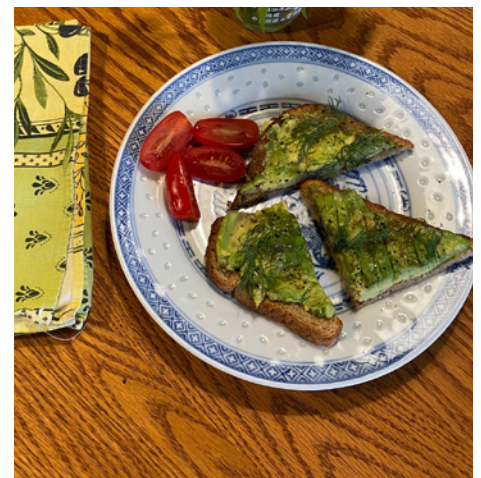
The Membership/Activities Committee is always looking for ways to have Villagers feel more engaged and connected. The 15 Minute Dinner is our latest idea. Recipes must take less than 15 minutes to prepare. The need for a recipe to be roasted or baked—like a pizza, fish or roasted vegetables—does not count in the time limit. Here's our first offering.

Avocado Toast

Preparation:

- While you are toasting a piece of your favorite bread, grab an avocado and slice it all around from top to bottom. Pull it apart in two pieces and discard the pit.
- Using a soup spoon, scoop out the avocado onto a small plate or dish and use a fork to mash it to a consistency that appeals to you.
- When the toast pops up spread the mashed avocado on it and top with salt and pepper.
- Cut the loaded toast into squares or triangles and put on a plate to enjoy fully while sitting in a favorite place in your home, with a favorite beverage and maybe a mandarin or a bunch of grapes.

Variations. Depending on your taste and the time of day you enjoy this recipe, you can vary your avocado toast to your palate's delight. Having dried herbs on hand—my go-tos are Herbes de Provence and dried dill for this recipe—along with salt and pepper, and you're set. Other toppings to consider include sliced salmon, shrimp (take a few from a package of frozen shrimp, thaw in running water and slice up), lime or lemon zest or juice, hot sauce, grated cheese,



chopped cucumbers or tomatoes, salsa, and different herbs and spices such as crushed red pepper, parsley or cilantro. You could even plop a fried, poached or scrambled egg on top and still stay within the 15 minute limit.

See what you think. Send us comments and suggestions. Include any tips you've discovered that ease your task, like buying already chopped veggies. We invite you to submit nutritious and creative speedy meal ideas to me (abigailwiebenson@gmail.com) asap and anytime. We look forward to sharing Villager recipes in the months ahead. Yum!

Slipping into Old Habits



Ask Ann

Oh, how easy it is to throw out all acquired good habits and go back to the old ones! I know that you know what I mean!

April has been a crazy month for me—office move, new phone system,

By Ann Talty new Wifi network, new internet, new employee, Gala, Silent Auction (with a kazillion items to bid on), doctor appointments relating to upcoming cataract surgery, and singing 20 hours during Holy Week.

Just as I did in the old days, I put my head down and buried myself in the work. I had been making strides in weight loss—those newer habits went out the window. Exercise? What is that? Regular bedtime and sleeping through the night? Oops! Eating food I have prepared and is balanced and at regular times? Nope. Eating because I'm tired—oh yes. Not sleeping well because I ate too late at night because I wasn't paying attention to time—yup.

On Saturday, I realized that I hadn't done anything for myself all month.



I called a friend, and we went out to Violette's Lock and watched the water, birds, people, etc. Then had a late lunch. Ah yes, this is what life is supposed to be about. I was still quite tired, but felt much refreshed.

Years ago, my driver education teacher had a saying that I have always remembered. Major error requires major correction; minor error warrants minor correction; minor error with major correction—major error. He referred to all of that as course corrections.

I have a tendency to be all or nothing (like many others) in the way I look at things. I had two instinctive reactions before I placed that call to my friend for the outing: (a) I don't have time for this, and (b) I'd better make time as a first step to taking better care of myself.

It never works to make all needed changes at once—hence broken New Year's resolutions. So as the pressure eases a little, I will make several course corrections. And I have two huge things to look forward to in the meantime: better eyesight, and in June, my dream vacation, postponed twice because of Covid—a tour of the Canadian Rockies and Glacier Park, staying at all the grand old hotels. A real incentive to start making those course corrections!

May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all Villagers born in May!

Marcia McDonell, Pete Klempay, Laurie Coburn, Gail Snider, Fred Gladstone, Charles Timbrell, Kenlee Ray, Beth Merricks, Leslie Sawin, Peggy Long, Ken Shuck, Holly Van Fleet, Barbara Meeker, Joan Treichel, Brian Doyle, Joy Rodman, Nancy Gamber, Mike Higgins, Massimo Righini, Peggy Siegel, Jean Mudrick and Gigi Pichot

Meet Patty Zweibel and Dan Leathers

Born on opposite coasts, Patty in New York (Defreetsville) and Dan in California (Santa Rosa), the couple met in 1985 while stationed in Annapolis, Maryland. After leaving the Navy they both got jobs in Washington, DC. They initially lived in Arlington but their home was damaged by Hurricane Sandy and so they moved into DC and ended up renting at the Gables Apartments on

DCV Member Profile

P Street at the suggestion of Patty's friend and fellow bridge player, Kathy Cardille, who also recruited them to DCV. They loved living in the city and bought their own place in west Dupont in 2016.

Dan joined the navy in 1973 and Patty joined after college in 1984. They eventually both ended up in Annapolis and were members of the United States Naval Academy Band, Dan played bassoon and saxophone and Patty was a trombonist. After 24 (Dan) and 14 (Patty) years respectively, they left the Navy and pursued new careers. Dan worked in accounting as a federal employee for the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and has since retired. Patty pursued her law degree at the University of Maryland and started working for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), did a corporate law firm and non-profit stint, and is now back working with the IRS, Office of Chief Counsel.

In their free time, they both play in various bands/orchestras and are impressed with the quality of the amateur music scene in DC. One of the orchestras that Dan plays in was started in the basement of Larry's Lounge on 18th Street and he says "it was fun trying to play Verdi while Donna Summer was being blasted out of a boom box upstairs!" In addition to music, they love to travel and are avid bikers. Last September



they biked through Northern Italy and prior biking trips included Slovenia, Austria and Vietnam. This June, they will be in Portugal for 10 days and then another bike trip in the fall that will include Poland, the Czech and Slovak republics and Austria. Closer to home, they regularly travel to Wildwood, NJ for a long beach weekend and have been doing this summer trip since the 1980s.

They both have met some fun and wonderful people in the Village and enjoy the many activities offered.

NEW DCV EMPLOYEE

Mike Persley, Dupont Circle Village's new Volunteer and Activities Manager, comes to us from the League of Women Voters of the US, where he helped organize responses to redistricting efforts in states throughout the country.

Mike has more than ten years' experience as a professional organizer, and he specializes in volunteer recruitment and leadership development. He's excited about the opportunity to develop the volunteer program here at Dupont Circle Village.

"This feels like a great community," he says. "I want to do my part to make it stronger."

Mike began his organizing career in 2008 with Organizing for America, the campaign to elect then-U.S. Senator Barack Obama as President, when he organized twelve wards within the city of Chicago. Seeing his success in recruiting and training volunteers, his superiors sent him to lead door-to-door canvassing efforts in Indiana. The areas of Indiana where he organized helped flip the state

for Obama, the first time a Democrat had won Indiana since 1964.

Since then, he's organized electoral, issue, and labor campaigns in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and Wisconsin. He originally moved to D.C. in 2012 and returned in January 2020. In his free time he's an avid reader and writer. His favorite author is George Orwell and he works part-time as a copy-editor for The Progressive magazine, as well as several literary magazines. To Mike, books are a view into another person's world.

"I'll never be able to travel to every place on earth, although I'd love to," he says. "Books are a way for me to see things from another person's perspective, to put myself in their shoes."

Mike also plays guitar, is learning to cook South American food, and loves baseball, especially the Chicago White Sox. He's praying they win the World Series this year.



Family Civil War Memorabilia Obtain a Public Home

Hunkering during Covid, with octogenarian status, led me to ponder this question: "At this point, for me, what's one thing that would really count?"

I came up with a goal to write and to donate in an interrelated fashion.

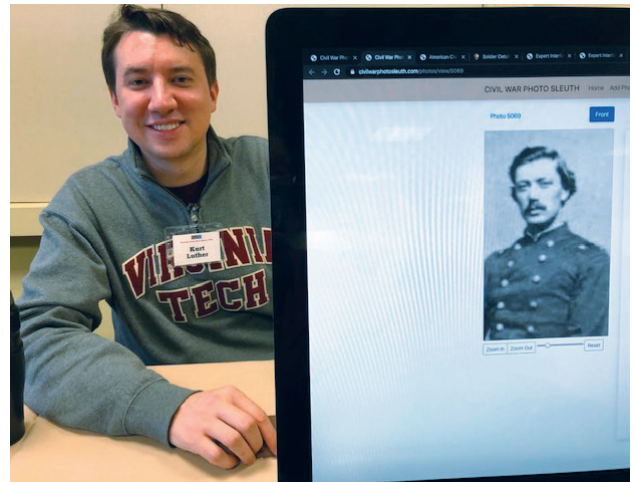
By Stephen Grant

Those who have received an email from me over the last few years often turn to Google for the last word. Under my name and pedigree (EdD) stands the double billing, "Biographer, Deltiologist." A deltiologist is someone who collects and analyzes picture postcards. Two of the five books I've written are biographies. The others are books about picture postcards of countries in three continents: Africa (Guinea 1991); Asia (Indonesia 1995); and Americas (El Salvador 1999).



▲ Postcards Announcing DC Antique Photo, Postcard & Civil War Shows 2021, 2022

Alerted to the event thanks to a postcard, I entered the Civil War room in March 2020 armed with a 1919 photo of my great-grandfather Major Hiram L. Grant (1843–1922). Behind a table and propped behind a computer screen, Kurt Luther was wearing a VIRGINIA TECH sweatshirt and looked to me like a graduate student. Actually, he's an Associate Professor of Computer Science and Director of the Crowd Intelligence Lab. "The Civil War counted three million combatants on both sides," he informed me. "Our data base includes photographs of thirty thousand. What did you say your great-grandfather's name was again?"



▲ Va. Tech prof Kurt Luther on left, Major Hiram Grant on right

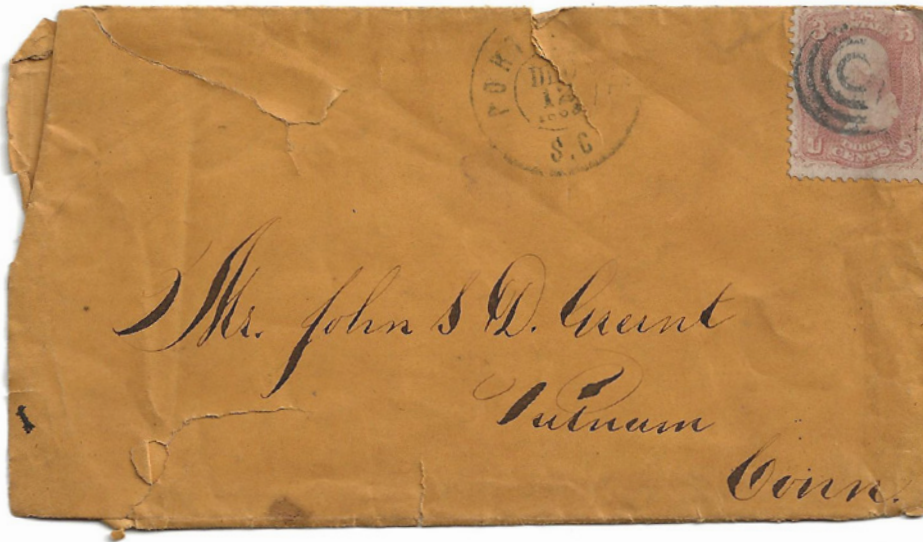
After a few KurtKlix on www.civilwarphotosleuth.com we had two bingos! The professor flipped the monitor around so I could look Hiram in the eye. It was amazing! On the spot, Kurt sent me hi-res copies of the two photos of the handsome dude (one seated, one standing with sword, white gloves, and hat). I was not to leave Luther's computer station, however, without becoming the subject of a one-minute video. Anne Coddington, who leads Social Media for Military Images magazine, was on the lookout for a story. She overheard us talking: <https://www.facebook.com/militaryimages/videos/566446857292885>.

It turns out our family had saved several original documents of historical importance related to Hiram's Civil War service:

- Envelope addressed using steel pen with 3-cent brown stamp of Washington issued in 1861.
- Letter dated July 17, 1863 from Hiram to his parents in Putnam CT written while camped on Morris Island SC.
- Wound report dated the following day, July 18, 1863 by United States Sanitary Commission. Hiram was wounded at Fort Wagner trying to secure Charleston port with the 6th CT volunteer infantry, and hospitalized 8 mos. in Beaufort, SC.
- Diagram annotated by Grant: The Execution of Prisoners.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7



▲
**1863 Envelope from Hiram Grant to his father
John S. D. Grant in Putney CT**

In Oct. 2021, I donated these items along with a 1912 photo of Hiram at age 69 with one of his children and three of his grandchildren to the Wayne County Public Library in Goldsboro NC. I didn't feel quite right about donating the documents, however, without delving more into Hiram's footprint during the Civil War which I shared in April 2022 as a blog post: <https://stephenhgrant.com/civil-war-footprint-of-my-great-grandfather-maj-hiram-lewis-grant/>

Although Hiram fought for the north he fell in love with the south. After he mustered out in Oct. 1865 he returned to Putney CT and persuaded his sweetheart to accompany him to Goldsboro where they spent more than 50 years and raised five children. I feel enriched having spent some Covid hunker time learning about my ancestor Hiram, who died 100 years ago, and transferring some private ephemera to a public library.



▲
Sixty years later, in 1972, the next three generations of male Grants gathered in Wellesley MA: my father Stephen, my son Yonel Steve, and me. Black and white photos have given way to color, formal to informal dress, and studio to a backyard setting. I was having a good hair day.



▲
**Maj. Hiram Grant with his eldest child John and his
three children, 1912**

DCV's Spring Gala—Success!

With the leadership of Gala Chair, **Lois Berlin**, and her stellar Gala Committee, DCV pulled off another fun, entertaining and memorable virtual Gala on April 29.

Within an hour's time, the 94 attendees socialized in breakout rooms, danced like no one was watching and ate dinner provided by Dawson's Market in their living rooms or at various watch parties. They were then treated to three spectacular performances beginning with concert pianist, **Natalia Kazaryan**, **Allie Hutchinson** and **Derek Brockington** dancing through the downtown DC, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Memorial Library, in *Library Reimagined: A Tour in Dance*. To close out the set, singer songwriter **Linda Rosch**.

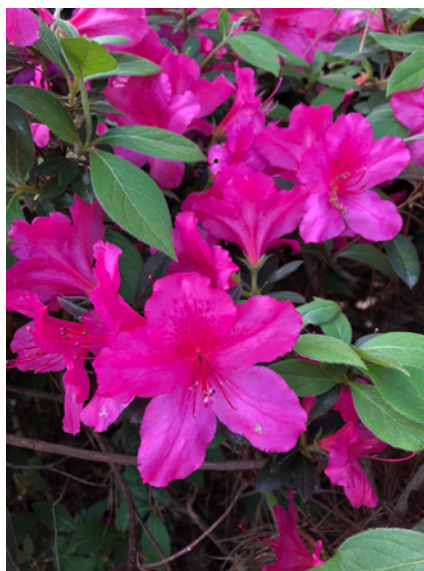
All of the performances were exceptional!

DCV awarded longtime leaders, **Steve Kittrell** and **Lois Berlin**, with the Linda Harsh Distinguished Service Award. This annual award recognizes the volunteer contributions of DCV members who have gone the extra mile to support DCV's mission. Among the many members whose efforts drive DCV's progress, the recipients of this award stand out for the longevity and intensity of their work on behalf of our Village.

In closing out the event, DCV opened up the silent auction to bidding on 59 items ranging from international destinations to local restaurants to cultural memberships to a plethora of knitted animals and their stories. The silent auction sales exceeded our \$12,000 fundraising goal we set for the auction.

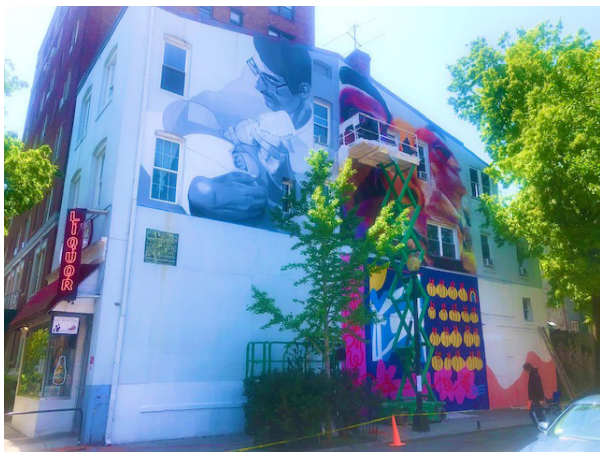
What a night! While we were not together in person, we certainly were together in spirit. Thank you. We are grateful for your support and being part of this wonderful community. Please do stay engaged and keep dancing like nobody is watching.

Out and About



◀ **Kenlee Ray** was at the WRAL Azalea Gardens in Raleigh, NC in April and shared these beauties.

Out and About



◀ **Jim Chamberlin** was out and about in Dupont Circle and snapped these photos.



▲ June Edmonds, niece of DCV member **Dr. Lucia Edmonds**, capped a year of recognition by winning a Guggenheim Fellowship. Chosen from a rigorous application process of almost 2500 applicants, June received one of the 180 Fellowships awarded for the year 2022. In the photo above, she is shown signing a catalog from her 40-year retrospective, Full Spectrum, at Loyola Marymount University's Laban Gallery in Los Angeles. Looking forward, June, will be fulfilling a one-month residency at the Vermont Studio Center in July before returning home in July to prepare new works for view in the prestigious Armory Show in New York in September. June is represented on a full-time basis by the Luis De Jesus Gallery of Los Angeles.



◀ **Charlotte Holloman** attended a wedding event in March outside of Jaipur, India, in the garden of the Samode Bagh.



▶ 11 days out from knee replacement surgery and **Peg Simpson** is out and about.



▲ In March, **Joe Auslander** and **Barbara Meeker** enjoyed the cherry trees at the Tidal Basin.

Out and About



◀ One of the things **Caroline Mindel** does to stay healthy and vital is to walk in the Arboretum every Saturday and Sunday. Here, she stands among the lilacs. She also celebrated a birthday on March 29 at a marvelous local restaurant, El Secreto de Rosita. Caroline never asks where did the years go, she just appreciates that she is still here.



▲ **Kathy Price** ran into handsome hikers (**Claire and Pierre Wagner**) with their dog Penelope in the Dumbarton Oaks garden among the Virginia bluebells and Carolina wrens. A vibrant couple and so obviously in love and full of life.



◀ **Nancy LaVerda** went snowshoeing on a recent trip to Aspen, Colorado.

▶ **Judith Neibrief** attended the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival to see a performance by C.J. Chenier & the Red Hot Louisiana Band. Also there for her zydeco fix was **Ceceile Richter**.

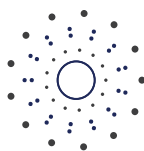


Art Archive



Kraloërweg,
Siemen Dijkstra
(Dutch, 1968—)

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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