



# DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

## SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”

—Marcel Proust

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### Welcome New Members!

Laura Thomas  
Frank Walter

## November 1963

DCV co-founder and beloved member, **Peg Simpson**, one of the last surviving witnesses to Lee Harvey Oswald's shooting

To commemorate six decades since the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, 72 Films and National Geographic (NatGeo) have partnered to produce a docu-series, *JFK: One Day in America*, a

By Eva M. Lucero,  
Executive Director

comprehensive account of “the day America lost

its innocence.” The documentary features testimonials from the last living survivors who were at that fateful event including one of DCV's founding members, **Peg Simpson**. At the time, Peg was the only female Associated Press (AP) reporter working in Texas and was an eyewitness to the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald.

A string of events led Peg to be an eyewitness to Oswald being shot.

According to Peg, her bureau chief insisted she attend Texas Governor, John Connally's, closed-to-the-press dinner that night, noting, “that was the way he planned to cover JFK's visit to Dallas.” She began the day by getting her hair done and was planning to attend the Governor's event with a state legislator as her date. However, her plan changed when the President was assassinated as he rode in a motorcade through Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas.

After the assassination, a British reporter tried to persuade her to join him in getting a taxi outside the Dallas city hall so they could track

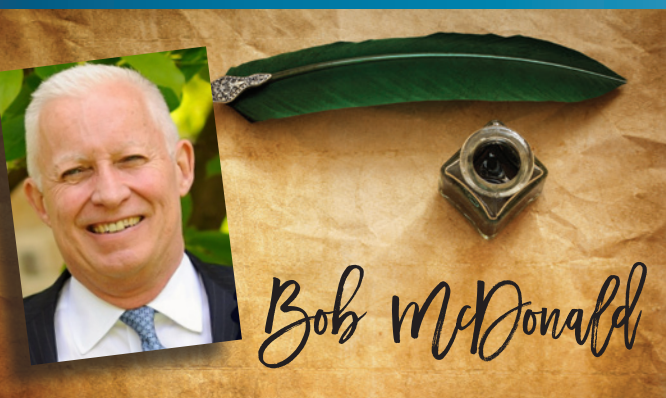


the police car carrying Oswald to the county jail. Peg followed her instinct to stay put in the basement of the jail, which is where she witnessed Oswald being shot. She was also attuned to her instincts the day before, right after the JFK shooting. Peg stayed next to the police and listened to how events were unfolding as they communicated on their radios. This is how the AP got the first reports of a cop being shot [by Oswald] and the erroneous report that LBJ had a heart attack. At the time, Peg was 28 and by far the youngest AP reporter based in Dallas and among the pool of reporters who gathered there.

Peg shared, “I went on autopilot and left any personal reflections until later. I showed that I could take in the horror of the events but not dwell on

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# President's Notes



## Board of Directors Update

According to the Village's Bylaws, the Board of Directors of Dupont Circle Village is responsible for the management of the business and affairs of the Village and "performs all lawful acts and things for and on behalf of the Corporation." That is legal language, for sure, but one might ask "what does that mean in practice?"

The Board of Directors is responsible for setting the policies that govern the Village's activities and operations. The Board also reviews those activities and operations through reports submitted by the President, the Executive Director, the Treasurer, and the various Committees and Task Forces of the Village. It is also responsible for setting the vision for the Village and creating a strategic plan to guide our operations. Through the President, the Board oversees and evaluates the work of the Executive Director.

The Board meets bimonthly for its formal meetings and often meets during alternate months for training or discussion of current issues. Board members are elected for a three-year term, which may be renewed for one additional three-year term. The officers of the Board are elected annually and include the President, the Vice

President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Four years ago, the Board set forth a strategic plan to cover the years from 2020 up to 2024. That plan has served us well as we managed through the pandemic and

into an era of "new normalcy." Later this month, the Board will hold a retreat to review, revise, and update our strategic plan for the next four years. In connection with this, we have been conducting a DCV members survey to get members' feedback. Staff, leadership, committees, and task forces have been working on developing the plans for our future. Stay tuned for updates as our planning progresses.

As I noted in an email sent this past week, we are establishing a Nominating Committee to recommend individuals to fill vacancies on the Board. At this point, there is only one expected vacancy that will need to be filled. If you are interested in being considered to serve on this Nominating Committee or in being considered for the Board membership

position, please contact me directly at [bobmcddc@gmail.com](mailto:bobmcddc@gmail.com).

I am very grateful to be serving as your President with such a dedicated group of board members. I am looking forward to our upcoming discussions as we plan the ways for the Village to serve our members and our community into the future.

### Current Board members include the following:

- Patricia Baranek
- Sarah Burger
- Charletta Cowling
- Jeanne Downing
- Gretchen Ellsworth
- Katharine Gresham
- Jim Hambuechen
- Charlotte Holloman
- Bob McDonald, President
- Bill O'Brien
- David Schwarz, Vice President
- Michael Speer
- Abigail Wiebenson, Secretary
- Steve Kittrell, Treasurer (non-board member)
- Eva Lucero, Executive Director (non-board member)

## October Birthdays



A very Happy Birthday to all Villagers celebrating October birthdays! **Jane Hauser, Nancy Hartsock, Alaire Rieffel, Sondra Cohen, Joyce W. O'Brien, Geri Nielsen, Dianna Eshman, Donald Symmes, Courtney Rogers, Jerry Sandridge, John Richardson, Lisa Duperier, Shubh Schiesser, Sharon Wojcieszyn, Dennis Houlihan, Judith P. Lambart, Hamda O'Brien, Judith Meguire, Philip Solano, Lex Rieffel, Maria Higgins, Ann von der Lippe, and Kat Miller**

# October Calendar

Full descriptions of each event can be found on the DCV website [www.dupontcirclevillage.net](http://www.dupontcirclevillage.net) Calendar page

## DCV Home Social Hour

Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 5:00–6:30 pm  
Location: 1738 Seaton Street, NW  
Limit: 8 guests  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## DCV Picnic

Thursday, October 05, 2023, 11:30 am  
Location: Garden of Heurich House Museum  
1307 New Hampshire Ave NW  
Limit: None  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## Tour of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and Happy Hour

Monday, October 9, 2023, 3:00–4:30 pm  
Location: 1811 R Street NW  
Limit: 15 guests  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## DCV Happy Hour

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 4:00–6:00 pm  
Location: Perry's Rooftop 1811 Columbia Rd, NW  
Limit: None  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## Genealogy Group

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 1:00–2:30 pm  
Location: Virtual  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## DCV Vaccination Clinic

Friday, October 13, 2023, 12–4 pm  
DCV Office  
(appointments can be made by calling the DCV office)

## Dupont Circle Volunteer Recognition Ceremony (Invite Only)

Saturday, October 14, 2:30–4:30 pm  
Location: Dresden Rooftop 2126 Connecticut Av NW

## SUNDAY SOUP SALON—In Person

Sunday, October 15, 2023, 5:00–6:30 pm  
Location: 1760 Swann Street., NW  
Limit: 8 guests  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## DCV Home Social

Monday, October 16, 2023, 4:30–6:00 pm  
Location: 1800 R. Street, NW, Apt. 205  
Limit: 6 guests  
Register online or contact DCV Office



## DCV Home Social

Monday, October 16, 2023, 5:00–6:30 pm  
Location: 1800 R. Street, NW, Apt. 606  
Limit: 4 guests  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## Navigating the Path Ahead

DATE: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 3:30–4:30 pm  
Location: Virtual  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## Canal Boat Tour

Friday, October 20, 2023, 10:00 am–12:00 pm  
Location: Georgetown Heritage  
Canal Lock 3  
(between Thomas Jefferson & 30th St—enter at 30th St)  
Limit: 12 guests  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## LIVE AND LEARN: Medicare Basics

Monday, October 30  
Location: Hybrid  
DCV Office—2111 Decatur Pl NW  
Limit: 12 guests in person  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## Men's Book Group (New Date)

Monday, October 23, 2023, 11:00 am  
Location: DCV Office—2111 Decatur Pl NW  
RSVP: Robert M. Hirsch

## Mystery Book Group

Friday, October 27, 3:30 pm  
Location: Virtual  
No Limit  
Register online or contact DCV Office

## RECURRING EVENTS

### Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Tuesdays, 2:00 pm  
Location: DCV Office  
Limit: 6  
RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

*Continued on page 4*



# Monthly Calendar

*Continued from page 3*

## Online Meditation

Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00–9:30 am

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

## 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 am

Location: Kramer's

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 PI 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: [rmilman@comcast.net](mailto:rmilman@comcast.net)

or (202) 667-0245

## Knitting Group

Every Thursday, 4:00 pm

Location: DCV Office and Zoom

RSVP: Sheila Lopez at [sheilablopez@gmail.com](mailto: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 Roads bordering Kalorama Park

## 15-Minute Meal

### Butternut Squash Soup with Avocado & Chickpeas

Jazz up a can of soup by adding protein with chickpeas and flavor with curry powder. Stir in a little Greek yogurt to make it creamy.

#### Ingredients

1 can of Butternut Squash Soup  
¾ cup canned chickpeas, rinsed  
1 tablespoon lime juice  
1 teaspoon curry powder  
Pinch of salt  
2 tablespoons diced avocado.  
1 tablespoon nonfat plain Greek yogurt

#### Directions

Heat soup in a small saucepan with chickpeas, lime juice, curry powder and salt. To serve, top with avocado and yogurt.



# Meet Member Michael Whalen

**M**ichael was born in Manhattan, near Columbia University. He ended up in DC as an undergraduate at Catholic University studying English Literature.

His job upon graduation was a high school English teacher. Michael then went on to become a business news reporter at the Gallagher Presidents Reporter, he covered business in every sector, focusing

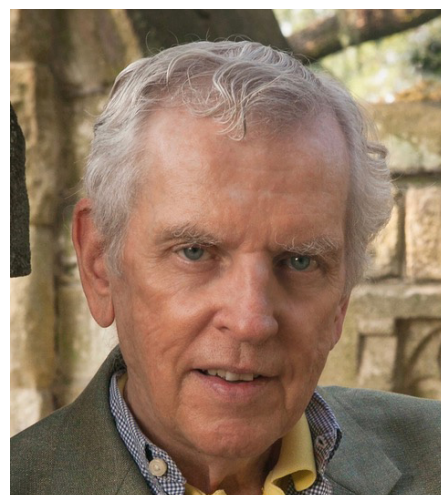
## DCV Member Profile

exclusively on corporate chief executives. Bill McGowan, the president of MCI, was a new source in telecom, and in 1976 he offered Michael a position as manager of marketing communications at MCI, headquartered on 17th and L Streets NW. It was

the first company ever to compete with AT&T in long-distance phone service. An exciting place to work.

After a few years at MCI, Michael went into business for himself as a writing consultant, mainly with the World Bank. In that role, he taught his own course, Ten Secrets to Powerful Business Writing, to World Bank staff in more than 30 countries around the world. In recent years, he has taken to writing poetry and published AFTER GOD, a memoir in verse. One of his poems was recently featured as Pick of the Week at Best American Poetry

In his free time, Michael writes poetry and is also the chair of the Literary Committee at the Arts Club of Washington. He loves walking through the streets of Dupont Circle, savoring the diverse architecture and



Eden-like gardens. He has a warm spot in his heart for Ireland, where he has many family and friends. He has been to Ireland about 30 times and circled it on a motorcycle in 1976.

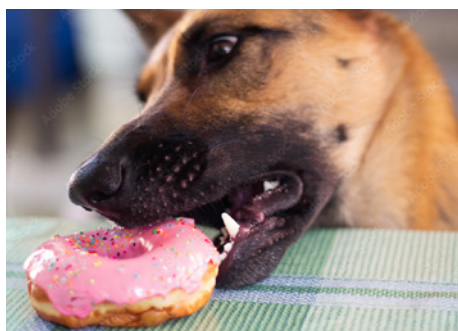
Michael enjoys his Village membership as a chance to discover and get to know fascinating new neighbors.

## Why The Sunday Market Banned Dogs

**A**bout a year after my son and his first wife were married, 1998, they decided to adopt a dog. Since neither of them had ever adopted a puppy before, they knew nothing about how puppies grow. They definitely did not know that the size of a puppy's feet is a dead giveaway to its ultimate size as an adult. They adopted this darling puppy with feet the length of his legs and named him Caleb.

*By Caroline Mindel\**

Within a few months Caleb's body started to catch up with his feet. His doggy parentage also started to show. One of his parents was obviously a Great Dane and the other parent was a dog slightly shorter in stature. Full grown, Caleb would have to bend to put his head on the dining room table. Fortunately, this was not acceptable behavior and discouraged immediately.



Caleb, though very large, was a sweet, loving dog. He just did not realize how big he was. When he pulled, you knew you were being pulled. He must have realized that he should not pull me, because I was old (at least in comparison to his owners) Besides he was my grand dog and he had to behave for grandma.

One Sunday morning in the early summer I was charged with dog sitting for him. Since it was market day at the Dupont Circle market, I

decided to bring my grand dog with me for a stroll. I put him on his leash, and we took a leisurely amble to Dupont Circle. I, of course, had no idea of what lay ahead. Fortunately, it was the early days of the market, and it was much smaller in size and popularity than it is now in 2023.

Well, Caleb and I started browsing the stands, but as I only eyed the produce, Caleb started licking things. Due to his size, he got a lot of licking in. I came home with a great deal more fruit and vegetables than I had planned to buy—and this was only passing a few stands. I was able to get him out of the area with little incident and we walked home with our heavier than expected load.

Two weeks later a sign went up at the market. NO Dogs.

*\*Caroline Mindel is a member of the DCV memoir writing group.*

# Meet Volunteer Meaghan McMahon

**M**eaghan grew up in North Tonawanda, New York (which is fifteen miles north of Buffalo). She is the oldest of six, with one brother and four sisters. She attended college at Cornell University, where she graduated magna cum laude.

In 2012, Meaghan moved to DC after receiving her master's degree from the University of Michigan's School of Social Work. Her first job out of graduate school was working for the National PACE organization, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. PACE is a program that allows older adults who need nursing home care to continue living in their homes for as long as possible.

At that time, Meaghan lived in Columbia Heights and was a volunteer at the Capitol Hill Village. She found her first apartment in DC on Craig's List, which is also how she met her husband. He lived in the basement apartment, and she lived on the second floor. The rest is history! They celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary this year.

Meaghan decided she wanted to volunteer closer to home and reached out to Dupont Circle Village. She became friends with one of the members she volunteered for, who then became her mentor and helped Meaghan establish her own consulting organization helping non-profits conquer grant funding and grant writing.

Meaghan loves collaborating with older adults. She is remarkably close with her grandparents and discovered later in life that not everyone had the high-quality relationship they blessed her with. One of the reasons she enjoys volunteering at Dupont Circle Village is that there are volunteers of all ages, and everyone has unique talents to share.

Her favorite hobby is walking around DC and appreciating everything the city has to offer. Meaghan lives close to the Philips Gallery, which she often enjoys visiting. As a reader, she enjoys her proximity to Second Story Books, Kramer Books and Politics and Prose. Inspired by the local bakers she meets every



week at the Dupont Circle Market, Meaghan enjoys baking and has made it one of her hobbies. She has started gardening on her balcony and harvested her first crop of strawberries this year.

Meaghan, her husband Phil (a trained Chef) and her rescue dog Lyla, currently live at the intersection of 14th and U Street NW.

## Volunteer Accolades

I called to tell you what a wonderful person Michael S is. He escorted me to and from my cataract surgery (on both eyes) and proved himself to be a very nice and helpful man. *DE*

Craig is a great guy. He installed my new TV, which was far more complicated and took much more time than either of us imagined. He persevered and stayed until the job was completed. He is a wonderful man! *JR*

Meaghan M. was the kindest and friendliest volunteer. She explained everything to me about my email Yahoo account. I could not have been more impressed! *SC*

The ride with Kristen D. was great! She's quite friendly and interesting. She said she'd give me a ride this coming Monday. *RM*

Jeanne, Thank you so very much for your help with cleaning my closet today! You are so generous to have contributed your time and

energy to helping me! If you have an idea about how I could help you or another DCV member, please let me know. I'd love to pass it on. *LC*

All went well on Thursday. My continuing gratitude to Phillip for escorting me to and from my cataract surgery. Thank you. *RS*



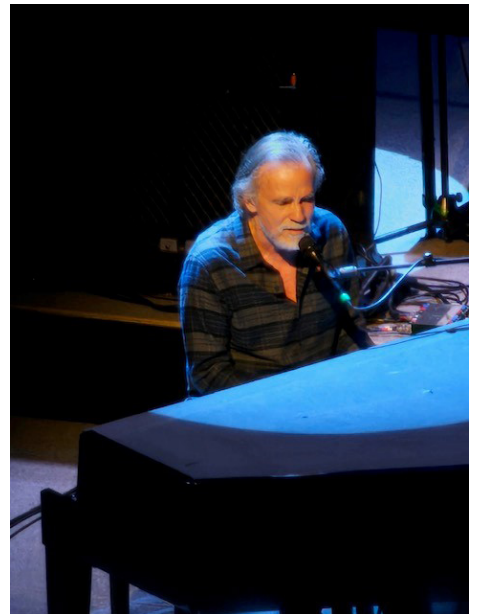
# Out and About



▲ Members enjoyed a walking tour of Capitol Hill. The theme of the tour was "Lincoln's Road to Emancipation," and our volunteer guide is DCV's own **Craig Howell**. Starting from the top of the escalators of the Capitol South Metro Station at 1st & C Streets SE at 10 a.m., Craig will take us to a number of sites on Capitol Hill to illustrate how Abraham Lincoln evolved from an obscure one-term Western Whig Congressman into our most revered and esteemed President, the Great Emancipator and Savior of the Union.



▲ Villagers enjoyed Happy Hour at Code Red in the heart of Adams Morgan in September. Back l to r: **Peggy Long, Carol Galaty, Karen St John, Sheila Lopez, Caroline Mindel, Ken Shuck, Anita Gotlieb, David Schwarz, Jerry Sandridge, Olga Hudecek, Helene Diener**; front: **Marie Matthews, Nancy Turnbull, Judith Neibrief, and Chris Hannah**



▲ **Donna Batcho** spent 10 days in NYC and thoroughly enjoyed it. She saw her 70s rock heart throb Jackson Browne in concert at the Beacon Theatre and went to the Natural History Museum and visited their new Gilder Center, as well as the Hall of Gems.



# Out and About



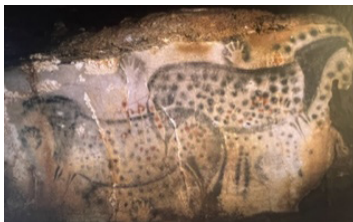
▲ **Lois Berlin and Larry Stuebing** enjoyed a great few days visiting **Barbara Friday** and her wonderful standard poodle Maggie in Stone Harbor, NJ at her summer home in late August. The first night there included country line dancing (which Larry chose to watch) and a gorgeous sunset at the Stone Harbor Yacht Club. The threesome also enjoyed a bird and wild life viewing boat ride out of Cape May as well as perusing the Google (mid-century) architecture in Wildwood and the Victorian architecture in Cape May.

▲ **Carol Galaty** had a great hike on the C&O Canal with her grandson, David, and his girlfriend, Tuva, visiting from Sweden...It seems ages does matter. They started at the Great Falls Tavern in the rain, walked to the falls, which were very low on water, then the age difference started to show. David and Tuva did the "Billy Goat" trail and Carol, to avoid steep drops and scrambling over rock ledges, had to take the easy upper path around "Wide Water" to Old Angler's Inn and go back along the towpath to meet them along "Wide Water." Fortunately, the rain stopped to provide a dry ending!





# Out and About



▲ **Lynn Lewis** and her sister visited France's les plus beaux (most beautiful) villages; visiting the iconic Pont Valentre at Cahors, reportedly the oldest intact medieval bridge in Europe, and a visit to the Grotte de Peche-Merle: spectacular limestone formations and prehistoric drawings estimated at 23,000 years, the artist's "signature" ...their handprint.



◀ 60 members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon for the annual Ice Cream Social.



◀ Numerous friends and neighbors turned out to celebrate **Dan Gamber** who died in September. His wife **Nancy** is flanked by **Peg Simpson** and **Kenlee Ray**.



# Out and About



▲ In September, DCV's monthly Live and Learn session focused on DCV's commitment to community with a full array of healthcare support services for aging in place. Each panelist spoke of their work with Villagers and their expertise in their respected fields.



▲ Members enjoying the new Tai Chi class with master instructor, **Suzanne Christov**. It was a gorgeous day, and she taught the class outside.



▲ Members were vaccinated as DCV partnered with Giant Food Inc. and National Council of Aging (NCOA) to host another vaccination clinic for our members and others in the community. DCV will host one more fall clinic on October 13.



# Out and About



▲ **Leslie Sawin** hosted Villagers who were celebrating birthdays in September. L-R **Joe Auslander**, **Karen St. John**, **Sarah Burger**, **Nancy LaVerda**, **Pender McCarter** and **Raquel Sussler**.



▲ **Abigail Wiebenson** was recently in Paris. Some of her favorite features are the "passages". Sometimes covered, sometimes open to the sky, they are home to uniquely interesting small restaurants and shops. The temp on this day in September was a steamy 95!



▲ **Rebecca Martin** and her birding friends enjoying a lovely evening on Sycamore Island. Rebecca won the outing and a dinner at the 2023 DCV Gala. **Lois Berlin**, **Larry Steubing** and **Abigail Wiebenson** provided a dinner for the winning bidder.



▲ **Karen St John** visited the North and South Dakota badlands in August. She got caught up in a Buffalo traffic jam.



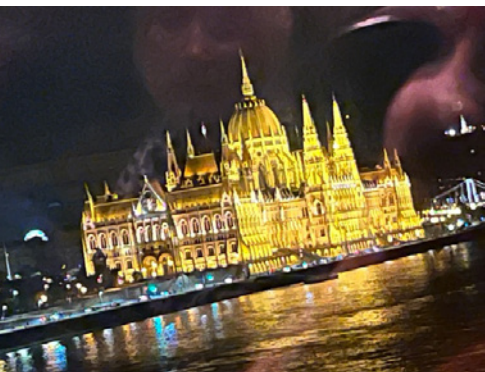
# Out and About



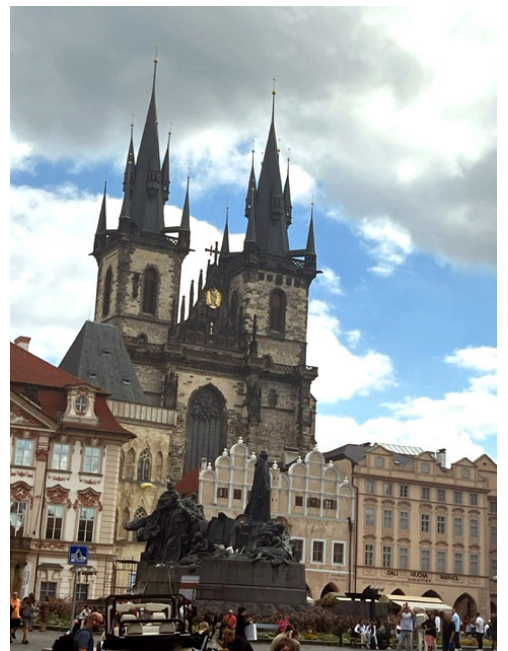
▲ A few DCV walking group members walk the Mall to see Beyond Granite art pieces. L to R **Phyllis Klein**, **Nancy Turnbull**, **Peggy Long**, **Paul Argabright**, and **Chris Hannah**



▲ Members enjoyed a National Gallery of Art—East Building Architectural Tour in September. **Mary Wheeler**, **Kathleen Davin**, **Marie Matthews**, **Jeanne Downing**, **Joan A. Treichel**, **Judith Neibrief**, **Sheila Lopez**, **Caroline Mindel**, **David DeLeon**, **Walter Albano**, **Anita Gottlieb**, **Pender McCarter**, **Karen St John**, and **David Insinga**



▲ **Deb Mendelson** recently traveled to Budapest, Vienna and Prague and shared these scenes.





November 1963

Continued from page 1



*it. I was able to keep my focus and get the job done. When I learned that JFK had been shot, I found out the location and went right to the scene of the shooting and stayed put next to the cops to see what I could*

*learn. When Oswald was shot, I instinctively went for the phone on the desks and kept reporting..."*

Peg had a long and successful career with AP, reporting for 17 years starting in 1962 in Dallas. In 1968, she transferred to Washington, DC to cover Congress and a southwestern regional beat.

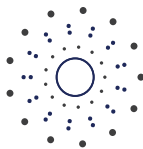
On Monday, October 9, the Sixth & I Synagogue (600 I St NW) will present "Assassination" of "JFK: One Day in America" followed by a conversation with Peg and the film's director Ella Wright. The event is a free but you must RSVP [HERE](#).



## The DC Villages Collaborative Is Hiring!

The DC Villages Collaborative, a joint project of all 13 Villages in Washington DC, seeks an inaugural Executive Director who will lead and manage collaborative efforts among the Villages in DC. The ED must possess strong leadership and consensus building experience, along with the desire to build and nurture the Village movement in DC. The ability to think strategically and work well with people at all levels, from the community to the government is required. You can see the full position description and application instructions at [dragonflycentral.org/executive-search](https://dragonflycentral.org/executive-search). Please share this announcement broadly with your friends and network!

**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

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[admin@dupontcirclevillage.net](mailto: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