

# DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

## SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“Be yourself; everyone else is taken.”

— Oscar Wilde

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### Welcome New Members!

Joseph M. Pomper  
Irene Price

## Three DCV Villagers who pioneered equality for the LGBTQ community

DCV's LGBTQ Friends Group celebrated Elder LGBT Day on May 16, by hosting a luncheon

By Eva M. Lucero,  
Executive Director

at Annie's  
Paramount  
Steakhouse to  
showcase three

pioneering Villagers who paved the way for LGBTQ rights and social acceptance.

The first speaker to share her trail blazing story was **Mary Jean Collins**, a longtime feminist and equal rights activist. She spoke about her Catholic education and the nuns who inspired her to advance women's empowerment and rights for all women. She was a major force in the National Organization for Women (NOW), starting in 1967 as an officer in the Milwaukee chapter and moving on to serve in various leadership roles. She helped to found NOW chapters in thirteen Midwest states on a budget of \$100. Hitting the national stage, Mary Jean was elected as the co-director of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) campaign (1980-1985) and directed the Illinois ERA campaign to secure ratification of the amendment by the Illinois General Assembly. She was also co-chair of the Sears Task Force at NOW, which fought discrimination by Sears, then the largest employer of women in the



world. Many of her policy papers are held by the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.

**Craig Howell** shared about his activism with LGBTQ groups including the Gay Activists Alliance of Washington (GAA), which led to memorializing gay victims of the Holocaust, including at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter established the President's

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# President's Notes



David Schwarz

In the spirit of Pride this month I would like to tell you about my late partner and husband, Stephen Lee — the 37 years we shared as well as the illness that took him from me in 2015. Stephen and I met in a bar in Springfield, Massachusetts, on a chilly night in January of 1978. I was 33 and teaching philosophy at Mount Holyoke; he was 22, a law student at Western New England University. I recall he proposed going home with me saying something like “aren’t there etchings you’d like to show me?”. Within six months we were living together.

We decided to leave Western Massachusetts for DC once he finished law school. For Stephen, this was an obvious place to start his career; for me it offered the opportunity to transition from academics to government, something I had also wanted to do. So, in June of 1980 we made the move, and Stephen was hired as an administrative law clerk at the Department of Labor. After earning a Master of Taxation from Georgetown Law, he moved on to the Internal Revenue Service and then into the private sector for several years, although he ultimately returned to the Department of Labor to work on pension law issues.

When we first arrived in DC, we lived in Adams Morgan, on Euclid Street; then we bought a small house on Capitol Hill. But we both really wanted to live in Dupont Circle, and in 1984, managed to buy our house on Willard Street. We loved Dupont Circle, with its nightlife and easy access to theaters and restaurants. We also loved traveling. We took bike trips in France, opera trips to Germany and Austria, and theater trips to London. I also traveled to Asia for some of my work with EPA, and I took Stephen with me to China, Japan, and Australia.

Hanging over us, however, was the possibility that Stephen might have Huntington’s Disease, a genetic neurodegenerative disorder, inherited from his mother (who had died of it at the age of 49). Stephen seemed an unlikely candidate: he was graceful and athletic (an amazingly good swimmer), an accomplished pianist, and, of course, smart, and energetic. But, In the late 1980s, I began to see very subtle signs of neurological deterioration. I will never forget standing behind him in an aerobics class and noticing for the first time that he was slightly off the beat. I did not share my observations with Stephen, and I frankly did not know how we were going to address this. Fortunately, a genetic test for HD

became available in the early 90s, and a cousin of Stephen’s (who herself later died of the disease) urged him to take it. I was grateful that he agreed. I “hoped against hope” that he would test negative, but I was not surprised that he didn’t.

Stephen bore his diagnosis with great stoicism — much more so than I. Through the 90s and the early 2000s we checked off as many of our bucket list items as we could, while preparing ourselves legally and financially for what was to come. Among other things, we got married (in Massachusetts, in 2009) as soon as DC announced that out-of-state same-sex marriages would be recognized. By 2007, it also became clear that Stephen should be retired, and that we needed home care help. I followed him into retirement in 2010, largely to look after him and to do whatever traveling together was still possible.

I spent the next five years managing his inexorable decline, keeping him at home — with the help of home care aides — virtually till the end. His last year was in home hospice care, although his last few days, in April of 2015, were in a hospital ICU. HD affected him both physically and mentally. Physically, he was almost constantly in motion, with diminishing control over his limbs and head. Mercifully, he did not himself perceive the movement. Mentally, he was subject to mood swings, loss of memory, and inability to focus. He did, nonetheless, know who he was and who I was — and recognized his close friends and family — right until the end. And I think he was happy. On the day that ended with his trip to the ICU, he struggled to tell me something and finally got the words out “I’ve had a great life”. That was his final gift to me.

## Three DCV Villagers who pioneered equality for the LGBTQ community

Continued from page 1

Commission on the Holocaust. The several dozen appointees to this Commission were charged with developing recommendations on how our country should honor the memory of the millions of people murdered during the Nazi era. The Commission spent two years gathering information from a range of sources including Holocaust survivors and their families, historians, religious organizations, foreign governments, and others. Stories were gathered detailing what had happened during the Holocaust and input was provided on how the country should dedicate itself to the motto: *Never Again*. When the Commission issued its final 40-page report in 1979, cataloging categories of people that the Nazis targeted, it omitted gay victims. LGBTQ activists issued a new motto: *This Will Not Stand*. In the meantime, the Commission was replaced by a new, permanent U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council comprised of more than 50 members and chaired by noted writer and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel. With continuous pressure from Craig, the GAA and others, the new Memorial Council corrected the old Commission's failure to recognize gay victims. Craig read about this development in a 1983 story in the Washington Post as GAA activists were not informed of the decision directly. The Holocaust Memorial Council has never wavered from its pledge to explicitly remember the gay victims at every appropriate opportunity.

The final speaker, **Mike Silverstein**, was a longtime neighborhood ANC commissioner and an active organizer of DC's Capital Pride Parade activities. He relayed a touching story of two gay high school athletes from Missouri — Jake Bain (captain of the high school football team) and Hunter Sigmund (captain of the swim team). Both students attended high school in the late 2000s, were openly gay and attended the senior prom together. Mike and the Capital Pride committee invited the couple to be one of 2018 Capital Pride Parade Honorees. After graduation from high school, Sigmund attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as an honors student, while Bain attended Indiana State where he was offered a football scholarship. By being themselves at a time in life that is very challenging, the couple has done a lot to end stereotypes and increase acceptance.

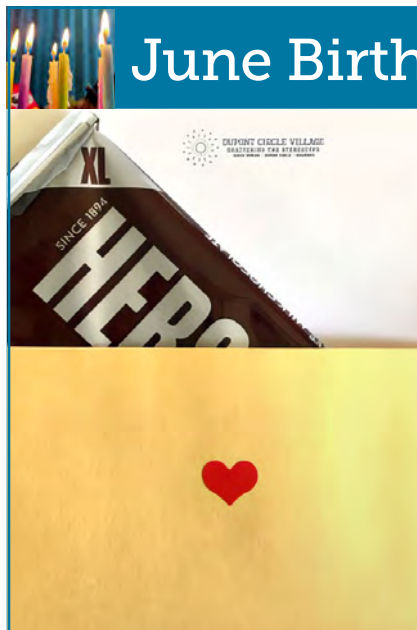
## Neighborhood History



by Larry D. Cohen

The Van Wyck House, which stood on the site of the Imperial House from 1885 to 1961. Designed by prominent local architect James G. Hill for the (then) Chaplain to the United States Army George P. Van Wyck and his family. Members of the Van Wyck family lived in the house until 1929. From 1932 to 1940 the Washington Conservatory of Music and the Dupont Circle School for Children were the primary occupants. In 1941 the house was sold to the District of Columbia Tuberculosis Association, which used it as its headquarters through 1961, when it sold it to make way for the Imperial House, which was built and opened in 1962. Left photo credit: SE 055, William H. Seaman photograph collection, DC History Center; 1613 New Hampshire Avenue is in the rear; circa 1885-1890. Right photo is of the hand-colored original plan for the house published in Volume 17 of *American Architect and Building News*.

## June Birthdays



### Happy birthday to all Villagers born in June!

Kay Marlin, Erik Neumann, Robyn Lipton, Laurie Thomas, Lindsey Holaday, Bob Hirsch, Stephen Benzek, Barbara Sobol, Ann Bryant, Marie Lovenheim, Joan Rogliano, Judith Neibrief, Chris Frantz, Mary Stevens, Susan Meehan, Pat Daniels, Michael Freedman, Marie Matthews, Rick Busch, Lisa Lider, Laurie Calhoun, Patty Zweibel, Sharon Wildstein, and Bryna Brennan



# June Calendar

Visit the DCV website [calendar](#) to find further information for each event listed below.  
**REGISTER** online, or at [admin@dupontcirclevillage.net](mailto:admin@dupontcirclevillage.net), or contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

## **CelebSalon: Alice McDermott**

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 4:00 pm—6:00 pm**

Location: Home of Sheila Lopez,  
1870 Wyoming Ave NW #604

Limit: 20

Register by June 2 online or

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

## **LGBTQ Friends Group Gathering: Gay Trivia Party**

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 4:30 pm—6:00 pm**

Location: 2004 18th Street NW

Limit: 60

RSVP by June 2 to [fwalterdc@gmail.com](mailto:fwalterdc@gmail.com) or  
call 202-271-7727

## **Home Social Hour—Berlin & Stuebing**

**Monday, June 10, 2024, 6:00 pm—7:30 pm**

Location: 1414 22nd St NW #63

Limit: 12

Register by June 7 online or

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

## **Tour of the Contemporary Sculpture in the Federal Triangle**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 11:30 am—12:30 pm**

Location: Federal Triangle Area  
Pennsylvania Ave NW, Constitution NW and 15th St  
Limit: 15

Register by June 8 online or

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

## **DCV Happy Hour—Perry's Restaurant (rooftop)**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 4:30 pm—6:00 pm**

Location: Perry's Restaurant  
1811 Columbia Road NW

Limit: 15

Register by June 10 online or

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

## **DC Chamber Musicians: Juneteenth Concert with Social Hour Option**

**Saturday, June 15, 2024, 2:00 pm—5:30 pm**

Location: St. Thomas' Parish 1517 18th St NW  
Limit: 24—8 per restaurant

Register by June 7 online or

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252



## **Decatur House Tour**

**Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 11:00 am—12:00 pm**

Location: Decatur House, 748 Jackson Place NW

Limit: 15

Register by June 15 online or

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

## **Home Social Hour—Burger**

**Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 5:30 pm—7:00 pm**

Location: 2301 Connecticut Ave NW # 7-A

Limit: 10

Register by June 15 online or

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

## **Celebrate Silver Pride!**

### **Pepco Edison Place Gallery**

**Thursday, June 20, 2024, 4:00 pm—7:00 pm**

Location: 702 8th Street, NW—All are Welcome!

RSVP by June 17 to [mikesilversteinusa@yahoo.com](mailto:mikesilversteinusa@yahoo.com)  
or call (202) 833-4440

## **Home Social Hour—LaVerda**

**Thursday, June 27, 2024, 5:30 pm—7:00 pm**

Location: 1280 21st St NW #606

Limit: 9

Register by June 24 online or

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

## **MONTHLY EVENTS**

### **Men's Book Group**

**Monday, June 24**

Location: DCV Office—2111 Decatur Pl NW

Limit: 12 guests

RSVP: Bob Hirsch

### **Live and Learn:**

#### **Daily Dental Rituals for Seniors**

**Monday, June 24, 2024, 3:30 pm—5:00 pm**

Location: Hybrid

DCV Office—2111 Decatur Pl NW

Limit: 12 guests in person

Register by June 23 online

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

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# June Calendar

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## **Mystery Book Group**

**Friday, June 28**

Location: Virtual

No Limit

Register online or contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

## **RECURRING EVENTS**

### **Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention**

**Tuesday, June 4, 2:00 pm—3:30 pm**

Location: DCV Office

Limit: 6

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

### **Awareness Through Movement® + Bones For Life® Workshop**

**Tuesday, June 11—June 25, 2:00 pm—3:30 pm**

Location: DCV Office

Limit: 6

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

### **Online Meditation**

**Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00 am—9:30 am**

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

### **Chair Yoga**

**Tuesdays, 10:30—12:30**

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**

New Location: Annie's Paramount Steak House  
1609 17th Street, 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

### **Mahjongg**

**Thursdays, 2:00—4:00 pm**

Location: Hosted by Bobbi Milman

RSVP: Bobbi Milman, [rmilman@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:sheilablopez@gmail.com)

## **Dupont Circle Walking Group**

**Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:00 am**

(Summer/Fall hours)

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 and Columbia  
that borders Kalorama Park



**Happy Pride!**

**Capital Pride Parade**  
Saturday, June 8  
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm

**Capital Pride Festival**  
Sunday, June 9  
12:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
Pennsylvania Avenue

**Silver Pride**  
Thursday, June 20  
4:00 pm 7:00 pm  
Pepco Edison Place Gallery  
702 8th St NW

For more information visit  
<https://www.capitalpride.org>

# Volunteer of the Month: Leslie Sawin



## Volunteer of the Month

Born in Baltimore, Leslie Sawin grew up in Great Neck on Long Island. She is the first born of five children, all of whom are female and have a nine-year age range. Her father was a psychiatrist with an interest in groups. Her

mom was a great fan of the theater. In addition to attending as many shows as possible on Broadway, off-Broadway and off-off-Broadway, she was active in community theater. Leslie's sisters had diverse interests: one is a music theorist, one worked in education for the deaf and blind, one has a PhD in rhetoric, which she utilizes in grant-writing for non-profits. Leslie received her undergraduate degree through Columbia University's School of General Studies. Her master's degree is in Health Policy and Management at Harvard's School of Public Health.

Leslie lived in Manhattan in her twenties and then got married and

moved to Boston for her husband's job. She worked as a special assistant to the Dean of the Medical School at Tufts University and ran a student opinion course evaluation unit for seventeen years. She worked on her master's at Harvard while employed by Tufts. She met her second husband, who was the Chief of Endocrinology at the Tufts Medical School second-year curriculum. She is the stepmother to three children and two grandchildren.

Leslie moved to DC when Hillary Clinton was engaged in Health Care reform. She enjoys living here. Her husband remained in Boston when Leslie worked for the Clintons. He was offered a position as the Medical Inspector for the Veterans Administration health care system, and he joined her in DC.

Their first home was a row house on Leroy Place NW, where she lived for twenty years. In addition to doing consulting work in healthcare, Leslie studied the principles of Carl Jung and then changed career paths and worked at the Jung Society in Washington, D.C. Her interest is to bring Jungian principles to the

public for people to use in their everyday lives. Following the loss of her husband twenty years ago, she moved to her current home on California Street NW.

Leslie has co-authored three books: Jung And Aging: Possibilities And Potentials For The Second Half Of Life; Research in Analytical Psychology: Applications from Scientific, Historical, and Cross-Cultural Research; and Our Uncertain World: Challenges and Opportunities in a Dark Time.

She joined DCV in 2019 just before meetings in person were changing to ZOOM. Her hobbies are knitting (she co-coordinates the knitting group) and she serves on several DCV committees. She learned about the village concept when she lived in Boston. She heard about the Dupont Circle Village from her Leroy Place neighbors. She enjoys reading mysteries and launched the Mystery Book Group, which Laurie Calhoun and Susan Hattan now lead. She also serves on the Health and Wellness and the Gala committees.

## 15-Minute Meal

### Apple Lemon Breakfast Bowl

Fresh and deliciously filling, this apple-lemon breakfast bowl is beautifully flavored with dates, cinnamon, and walnuts.

#### Ingredients

4 to 5 medium apples, any variety  
5 to 6 dates, pitted  
Juice of 1 lemon (about 3 tablespoons)  
2 tablespoons walnuts (about 6 walnut halves)  
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon

#### Directions

1. Core the apples and cut them into large pieces.
2. Place dates, half of the lemon juice, walnuts, cinnamon, and three quarters of the apple in the bowl of a food processor. Puree until finely ground, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed.
3. Add the remainder of the apples and lemon juice and pulse until the apples are shredded and the date mixture is evenly distributed.





# Susan Meehan Poems

A memorial overflowing with friends and family celebrated the life of Bob Meehan at Friends Meeting of Washington on May 4, 2024. Following are three poems from Susan Meehan's The Color of Truth recalling her husband of almost 60 years.

## To Bob

When you were four  
your father died  
without saying goodbye.  
Your mother never told you  
he was gone.  
She sent you away from home,  
a big boy for your age,  
to live among strangers  
earning your keep  
pulling weeds.  
How soon did you wonder  
where he had gone —  
vanished in the early morning air?  
And did you wonder  
what it was you had done  
to make him go?  
Did you call his name  
again and again  
and promise to be good,  
obedient  
to rules beyond your understanding  
If only he'd return  
And did you wait a child's forever  
by the mailbox?  
Your mother sent you away  
when your father was dead  
and you were five years old  
Let me hold you tight  
so I may whisper urgently into your ear  
that I am going nowhere,  
nowhere.

## As We Are Aging

As I lie in the crook of his arm,  
I wonder what I will remember the most  
If Death were to take him first —  
Would it be hidden laughter, eye-signed,  
Across a crowded room,  
The surprising silk of male flesh,  
The warmth of fingers gripping mine in the cold,  
Our talking for hours in the early morning,  
The steady reach of a protective arm,  
The many courtesies of a gallant man?  
We anticipate cruelly our fear of separation  
Knowing it will come too soon  
An unbearable parting of one into twain  
Our complementarity like both sides of one hand  
Inseparable in function,  
Inseparable in love.

## Forever

Shall we not meet again somewhere  
On one warm spring morning?  
And shall I not recall your step,  
Your brisk tread as familiar to me  
As the pulse of my own heart?  
And will not your hot breath  
Upon my nape make my  
Body shiver once again,  
Oh yes, once again?  
Surely, my dearest,  
The both of us,  
Hand-in-hand  
Once again,  
Shall stroll  
You and I  
together  
forever —  
At last  
One.





# Out and About



▲ **Jim Chamberlin** took photos in the neighborhood and near downtown. Showing their PRIDE is the Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church near the DC Convention Center at 9th & Massachusetts.



▲ Villagers enjoyed DCV member and SAAM docent, **Joele Michaud's** tour of the Alma Thomas exhibit in May. **Judith Kirvan, Mike Higgins, Judi Lambart, Mary Wheeler, Peg Simpson, Joele Michaud, Nancy Turnbull, Kathy Price and Karen St. John** attended.



▲ Back by popular demand! 15 Villagers returned to the beautiful Darcy Hotel for a May happy hour.



▲ DCV walkers were out and about on Memorial Day. **Irene Price, Sharon Wildstein, Judi Lambart, Nancy Turnbull, Dennis Houlihan, Charlie Bien, Peggy Long, Paul Argabright, Karen St. John, and Pat Black.**



▲ **Kathy Cardille and Lucia Edmonds** in Barcelona, Spain, sharing a colorful, undulating bench in La Placa (The Square) in Park Guell, an enormous garden conceptualized by the architectural genius Antoni Gaudi.



# Out and About



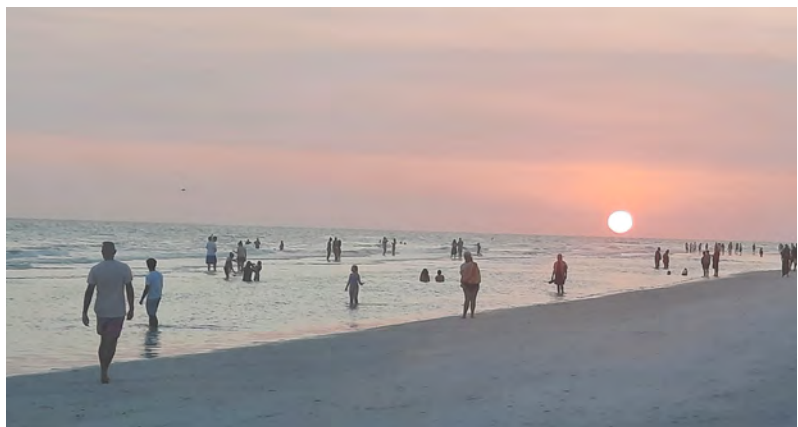
▲ **Gretchen Ellsworth** and her aide, Daisy out and about with **Sarah Burger**.



▲ **Nancy La Verda** was recently in Sarasota Florida. She visited the beautiful Selby Gardens and snapped a photo of Siesta Key Beach.



▲ **Carol Galaty** surprised **Ken Shuck** for his 80th birthday with his three sons and two of their wives magically appearing at the door of a mountain top Airbnb in Asheville, North Carolina. Adventures ranged from the sublime watching Ken play in the famous Asheville Friday drum circle, a scenic, multiple waterfalls hike in Dupont State Forest, two incredibly interesting days at the Biltmore Estate, a visit to studios in the Art District, to the absurd as the “kids” (ages 49 to 54) played antique games in a retro-arcade and enjoyed making purchases at an amazing toy store and a comic book shop.



▲ **Deb Mendelson** was recently in France and Copenhagen and shared some photos.



# Out and About



▲ **Charlotte Holloman** shared some snaps from the DCV Gala in May. Happy! ▶



▲ 20 Villagers enjoyed a tour of "Lafayette Square in the Civil War Era" by DCV member and longtime tour guide, **Craig Howell**.



▲ **Bella Rosenberg** hosted 10 Villagers for a May social hour. Besides the delicious food spread, Villagers were treated to view her eclectic art collection.



# Out and About



▲ Once again, students from Washington International School (WIS) spent a Saturday morning in May hosting the Tech with Teens for the Villagers. DCV is forever grateful for these remarkable students.



## May Birthdays



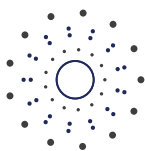
**David Schwarz** hosted a large May birthday celebration. **Joy Rodman, Anna Greenberg, Charles Timbrell, Gail Snider, Ken Shuck, Kenlee Ray, Barbara Meeker, Yvonne Mishler, Sawin, Dwaine Rieves, Mike Higgins, Joan Treichel and Beth Merricks** all enjoyed a delicious 3-layer chocolate cake, made by baker extraordinaire, **Monica Heppel**.

# Out and About



Over 30 Villagers attended the Spring picnic at the Heurich Mansion garden in May. The day was beautiful and the fried chicken delicious!

**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.



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SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE  
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