

DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“I did everything
Fred Astaire did,
only backwards
and in high heels.”

—Ginger Rogers

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Welcome New Members!

Ann Bryant & Roy Wyscarver
Carol Farrand
John Long
Veronique & Maurice Sorano
Barbara Sobol

The Caregiver Crisis— We Need a Revolution!

At the 2024 Grammy Awards in February, Tracy Chapman, known for her legendary song “Fast Car,” made a rare appearance. Chapman’s chart-topping hit from 1988 resonated once again, captivating the audience with its enduring appeal. It cannot go unnoticed that

By Eva M. Lucero,
Executive Director

it’s a song about
a caregiver. A
young caregiver.

She drops out of school to care for her ailing father, which has an emotional and financial impact you might expect. She dreams of moving out of the shelter, hopes for better. Her struggle is a big part of what makes “Fast Car” so heart wrenching. Caregiving often comes with enormous struggle and nothing about this common situation has changed much since Chapman released the song almost four decades ago.

Caregiving is a monumental task, one for which many individuals, and American society at large, is ill prepared. Around 42 million Americans are currently providing informal caregiving support to someone 50 or older; many struggle under financial and psychological pressure. That number will only grow as the nation ages.

Being an aging nation also means becoming a nation of caregivers, one that requires new support systems. For most older Americans, care will come from unpaid family members



or friends, who, according to AARP, contributed approximately \$600 billion worth of “free” labor to the economy in 2021. That care is, of course, not free for those providing it. While the details of each caregiver’s story are unique, the stressors they face are painfully common. AARP also reports that family caregivers spend almost a quarter of their income on caregiving expenses such as rent or mortgage payments, home modifications and medical payments.

One reason that care is increasingly falling on family and friends is because there is an alarming shortfall in the Direct Care Workforce (home health aides, personal care aides, certified nurse aides, and certified medication aides). For example, according to DC’s Long Term Care Coalition (LTCC), in the past year, the

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President's Notes



David Schwarz

One of the DCV Board's most important recent accomplishments was the development of a Strategic Plan for 2024–2028. Discussions spanned three regular Board meetings plus a full-day retreat. The result is a consensus-based planning document for the next four years. The Strategic Plan is now available to you on our website, under the "library" tab (and, once you're there, under "Dupont Circle Village Documents"), it's worth a look.

Reading it over, I think you'll find it to be a fairly "conservative" document in the non-political sense. It articulates values and goals that have defined DCV (and probably most villages) since our inception, and it spells out in some detail a lot of what we already do and want to keep doing. This is a good thing. I think most of us are happy with the DCV as it currently is; so, a major goal is to preserve what the hard work of our founders, past Boards and members have created for us.

Within this framework, however, the Plan does address the potential for significant changes. One is reflected in language tucked under **New Member Initiatives**: "Evaluate the factors that might lead to a cap on both membership size and catchment area boundaries." What prompted this item was a proposed expansion of DCV to include Logan Circle and Shaw, where, currently, no villages exist. The Board has rejected this proposal, citing concerns that a sudden influx of as many as 100 new members might disrupt our

operations and that, in any case, the issue of our optimal size needs to be addressed first. So, the questions of how much larger we want to be and whether and how we would implement any limits are on the table.

A second significant change is a renewed and explicit commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The DCV has always tried to be a welcoming organization, open to all who live in our catchment area—indeed, this is also one of our defining values. Nonetheless, it remains a stubborn fact that the demographics of the Village do not match the demographics of our neighborhoods. So, we are recognizing that we need to do better, and over the next couple of years we will develop programs to reach out to our underserved and underrepresented neighbors. Such programs may benefit from our association with the newly formed DC Villages Collaborative, which represents all 13 villages in the District. Our Collaborative participation is also

addressed in the Strategic Plan, and our hope is that our work with villages across the city will offer resources and suggest models that might apply to diversity initiatives here in the DCV.

Third and finally are the many new activities and services we want to provide, especially under the Strategic Plan's **Member-Created Programs** and **Health and Wellness** sections. These include—among many other things—more aggressively addressing villagers' food insecurity, more technology support for members, and programming for healthy eating/nutrition and for connecting members with support groups. The intention is to continue enriching our existing programming, to better meet the goals of social connection and support for our members. Certainly, it will take some work to make these new initiatives a reality. So—in the DCV spirit of volunteering—if you are especially interested in some of these items, you can help them along with your talents and energy. Some of the initiatives will also take additional financial resources...but that is a topic for another time.

Caregiver Crisis

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District lost 4,489 direct care workers, representing 30% of the total workforce. Despite this deepening crisis, meaningful reforms have yet to be enacted by District leaders.

To rebuild this workforce, please consider supporting the 2023 Direct Care Workers Amendment Act. The bill aims to address this issue, particularly by raising wages to competitive levels and reenacting pandemic-era waivers for hiring workers credentialed in Maryland and Virginia.

Your voice as a citizen, consumer, or potential consumer of direct care

worker services is needed; you have an opportunity to speak out on the crisis. The next DC Council hearing on this issue is **Wednesday, March 13**. Each Village executive director has all the information you need on how you can get involved by submitting testimony, testifying, or reaching out to your Council Member.

Caregiving structures must change in order to provide more support for everyone. As Tracy Chapman sings in one of her other popular songs, we need a revolution! Please take action with me.

March Calendar

Visit the DCV website [calendar](#) to find further information for each event listed below.

REGISTER online, or at admin@dupontcirclevillage.net, or contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

Home Social Hour—Schwarz and Nielsen

Monday, March 04, 2024, 4:30 pm–6:00 pm

Location: 1400 20th Street NW #902

Limit: 8 guests

Register by March 1

Sunday Soup Salon—Mindel and Lewis

Sunday, March 10, 2024, 5:30 pm–7:00 pm

Location: 1760 Swann Street, NW

Limit: 13 guests

Register by March 7

Home Social Hour—Lopez

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 4:30 pm–6:00 pm

Location: 1870 Wyoming Ave NW #604

Limit: 12 guests

Register by March 10 online or

Contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252

DCV Happy Hour—Code Red

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 5:00 pm–6:30 pm

Location: 2440 18th Street, NW

Limit: 20 guests

Register by March 10

American University Katzen Arts Center and Lunch at Chef Geoff's after the tour

Thurs., March 14 at 11:00 am–2:00 pm

Location: 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Limit: 20 guests

Register by March 11

TED Talks Curated for Villagers—Mindel & Lewis

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 6:00 pm–7:00 pm

Location: Virtual

Limit: 30 guests

Register by March 18

Live and Learn: Dementia and Alzheimer's

Monday, March 25, 3:30 pm–5:00 pm

Location: Hybrid

DCV Office—2111 Decatur Pl NW

Limit: 12 guests in person

Register by March 24

Mystery Book Group

Friday, March 22, 3:30 pm–4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

No Limit



Men's Book Group

Monday, March 25, 11:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: DCV Office—2111 Decatur Pl NW

RSVP: Robert M. Hirsch at rmhirsch49@yahoo.com

Home Social Hour—Barker

Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 4:30 pm–6:00 pm

Location: 1514 17th St NW # 302

Limit: 8 guests

Register by March 23

CelebSalon—Journalist Brian Ellsworth

Wednesday, March 27th, 4 pm–6 pm

Location: 1852 Columbia Rd NW, Apt 602

Limit 10

Register by March 24

RECURRING EVENTS

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Tuesdays, 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm

Location: DCV Office

Limit: 6

Online Meditation

Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00–9:30 am

Location: Virtual

Chair Yoga

Tuesdays, 11:30–12:30

Location: Virtual

Accessible Mat Yoga

Mondays, 3:30–4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

Coffee and Conversation

Thursdays, 10:00–11:00

Location: Kramerbooks

1517 Connecticut Ave NW

Bridge Group

Thursdays, 1:30–3:30 pm

Location: DCV Office—2111 Decatur Pl NW

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March Calendar

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Mahjongg

Thursdays, 2:00–4:00 pm

Location: hosted live by Margot Polivy

RSVP: Bobbi Milman, rmilman@comcast.net

or (202) 667-0245

Knitting Group

Every Thursday, 4:00 pm

Location: Virtual until further notice

RSVP: Sheila Lopez at sheilablopez@gmail.com

Dupont Circle Walking Group

Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:00 am

Location: meet at the fountain in Dupont Circle



Adams Morgan Walking Group

Every Tuesday, Thursday at 8:00 am

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

15-Minute Meal

Southwestern Lettuce Wraps

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 small red or green bell pepper, diced
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 (15-ounce) can corn kernels, drained and rinsed
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/4 cup packed minced fresh cilantro
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- Salt, to taste
- Juice of 1/2–1 lemon
- Large lettuce leaves (romaine, butter lettuce, iceberg, etc.)
- Avocado slices
- Diced tomatoes
- Hot sauce

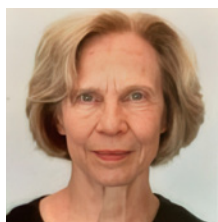


Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the bell pepper and onion and sauté until the veggies start to become tender, 1 to 2 minutes.
2. Add the corn and garlic and sauté for 5 minutes.
3. Stir in the beans, cilantro, chili powder, salt, and lemon juice (start with 1/2 of the lemon and add more at the end if you'd like more tang) and cook just until heated through.
4. Allow to cool for 5 minutes, then serve in lettuce leaves.

Volunteer of the Month: Jeanne Downing

Jeanne Downing grew up in Charlottesville, VA and Ithaca, NY, with two older siblings, a brother, and a sister. She received her bachelor's degree in architecture from Washington University in St. Louis; a Master of Policy Planning and Regional Analysis degree from Cornell University; and a PhD in Geography at the University of Washington in Seattle. While it may seem that these degrees have no relation



**Volunteer
of the
Month**

to each other, Jeanne says their commonality is their link to spatial perspective on the world.

Jeanne's first post-doctoral position was as a research professor at Clark University in Worcester, MA. Jeanne joked that

she experienced three blizzards a week in the winter of her six months in Worcester. She was delighted when her position necessitated a move to Clark's Washington, DC office, where she experienced DC's largest number of consecutive days of weather over 95 degrees.

When Jeanne first moved to Washington, she assumed her time here would be a few months and lived with the family of a friend in Friendship Heights. When it became clear that her time in the District would more likely be years, she opted to move to Dupont Circle and has lived here since 1986.

Jeanne joined the Dupont Circle Village in 2017, when she was close to retirement and wanted to create a sense of community outside of the office (she worked in International Development for USAID). She decided the best way to do this was to volunteer. A friend introduced her to an active member of Mt. Pleasant Village, and he encouraged her to

explore the volunteer opportunities at Dupont Circle Village.

At that time, **Mike Gould** was the Volunteer Coordinator. She responded to a request to drive a 100-year-old member (Gabriella Zoboli) to a doctor's appointment at Georgetown University Hospital. This woman had walked to and from work every day, from Massachusetts Avenue to L Street NW, where she was a dressmaker, only retiring when she was 93 years old. Jeanne was fascinated by Gabriella's stories and continued to visit and learn more about Gabriella's life growing up in Italy before WWII. **Carmela Vetri** also visited, offering Gabriella the pleasure of speaking Italian. At the same time, **Abigail Wiebenson** delivered meals to Gabriella during some challenging times. And others visited. One day, the Concierge in Gabriella's building commented on the number of people coming and going to Gabriella's and remarked on how many friends she had. Jeanne knew they were mostly village members! The Happy 100 Year birthday party for Gabriella (organized by Abigail) touched Jeanne's heart and demonstrated the power of DCV's Care Groups to positively impact this woman at the end of an exceptionally long life.

Another DCV Care Group grew up to meet the needs of Villager **Gretchen Ellsworth** suffering from Parkinson's. Before COVID, Gretchen was going to one or two Parkinson's classes daily. Scheduling was a nightmare. Jeanne joined this care group to help organize and match the (five or six volunteer drivers with the complicated web of transport needed. She created a Google spreadsheet, with which the care group members could sign up to drive. The spreadsheet also enabled flexibility by allowing members to switch days or times when a conflict arose in their own schedule.

Jeanne also managed **Kathy Cardille's** care group, organizing

visits, food, and transport. **Ann McFarren**, however, offered Kathy the care and advice that only a seasoned caregiver with medical training could provide. For Jeanne, Kathy's was one of the more impressive care groups with as many as 7 Villagers offering to drive, cook, visit, do runs to the drug store, and offer help wherever needed. The experience was a testimony to what Care Groups can do for Villagers in need.

Jeanne herself developed an acute appreciation for Care Groups when she had sinus surgery. Jeanne learned online about the horrors that can result from this surgery, including prolific nose bleeds in the middle of the night. Ann McFarren assuaged Jeanne's fears by offering her phone number and the freedom to call at three in the morning, if Jeanne needed help or was simply scared. Just knowing that Ann was there for her made Jeanne's recuperation at home so much less stressful. She remains grateful to Ann for her care and support.

Jeanne also facilitated the Movie Group for several years, first in-person with dinners made by Abigail (followed by one of **Monica Heppel's** unforgettable desserts) and a discussion of a movie. The group met via ZOOM during the pandemic. Eventually, Zoom fatigue set in and the group disbanded.

Jeanne wants to remind all Villagers that if you ever feel the need for a care group, they can be both helpful and comforting. Call Eva and let her know what you need and when you need it.

On a Scale of 1 to 10

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate these?

- Getting a cauldron of gardenias and a gold dagger from an infatuated, unappealing Saudi prince,
- Being accepted to be a Rockette,
- Being a Playboy bunny,
- Being a white GoGo dancer in a black bar
- Being a Whammy Girl and escorting Emmy Lou Harris in a vintage convertible

By Lynn Lewis and
Caroline Mindel

All of the above
happened to
either myself,

Caroline Jonas Mindel and my mother Edith Jonas, or to my housemate Lynn Lewis and her mother Virginia.

Virginia (Ginny) was a 17-year-old, ingénue, traveling in Europe with her parents, when a Saudi prince spotted her. He was immediately smitten and pledged his eternal love, if she would only marry him. She refused and he was crushed. Somehow, he found out about her itinerary and pursued her around Europe with flowers, and eventually a gift of a gold dagger embossed with her name. Alas, Ginny and the dagger returned to the US and the prince remained in Saudi Arabia with a broken heart.

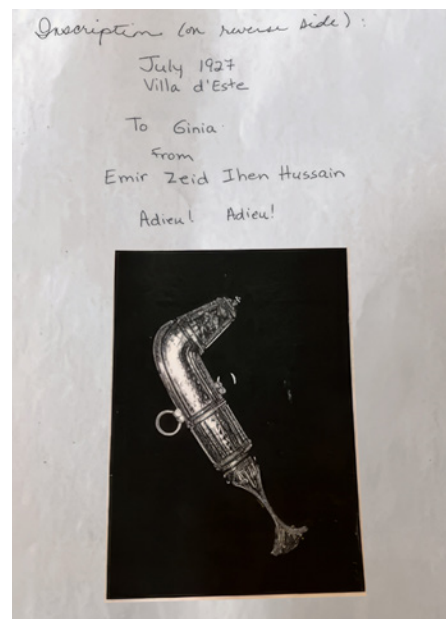
Edith, my mother, was working in a doctor's office after college when a close friend proposed that they both audition for the Rockettes. My mother was doubtful but went along anyway. She did have beautiful legs, which was an asset to be a Rockette. After the audition my mother was offered a position which she considered. When she told her mother, my grandmother, about the offer my grandmother was horrified. No nice Jewish daughter was going to disgrace the family by becoming a showgirl. End of story and back to the doctor's office.

I was newly married and living in Baltimore for the summer, working at the Office of Protective Service. One of my fellow workers happened to know my husband from college. We

started chatting. This man also happened to manage the Baltimore Playboy Club. Ten minutes into our conversation, he offered me a job as a bunny. I could have had a furry tail and rabbit ears, but I turned down the offer. I was young and my husband was scandalized. I guess it was not meant to be. Oh well!

My husband and I returned to Philadelphia at the end of that summer and lived in Center City for the next fourteen years. Some of our homes were in changing neighborhoods. We were renting a house in one of these neighborhoods and had a toddler son by this time. On the corner at the end of our block was a black bar. I got to know the owner and he offered me a job as a GoGo dancer in his place of business. I thought about it, but again my husband was scandalized, and I said no. It would have been a hoot, however.

Lynn Lewis was married with two young children when she became a whammy "girl" for the DC Music Awards. She drove Emmy Lou around to different venues and made sure they were where they were supposed to be. The car upstaged Emmy Lou, however. We mere mortals cannot compare to a 30's power convertible.



Lynn and I decided the dagger and being a Rockette deserves a 10. The other choices, maybe an 8.5. What do you think? No matter what the score, they were/and are amusing and true. As we look back at them now that we are in our 80's, we still remember when we were so young, and these seemed like momentous events.

What are the momentous events in your life that set you smiling with their memories?

March Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to members born in March! **Charlie Ellis, Rebecca Martin, Abigail Wiebenson, Pierre Wagner, Craig Howell, Daniel Abele, Glenn Engelmann, Lois Berlin, Pat Kelly, David DeLeon, Mark Goldstein, Richard Fitz, Michael Tanner, Michele Teitelbaum, William Collins, Mary Latka, Caroline Mindel, Frank Walter, Michelle Engelmann, Carol Galaty, and Alan Lopez**

A Journey Into the Past, from a Challenging Present

The year is 1957! I am 14, a giddy 8th grader, sliding onto the smooth front leather bench seat of my parents' car, excitedly heading out for a family camping trip. No, wait, wrong! The year is 2024. I am an 80-year-old, sliding onto the smooth front leather bench seat of a beautifully refurbished 1957 car in Cuba, about to head out on new, exciting adventures in Havana, Trinidad and in-between!

Our (**Carol Galaty** and **Ken Shuck**) adventures began with a plane ride from Miami, followed by an extraordinarily long wait for our bag. It arrived, sandwiched between huge, mysterious, blue plastic wrapped bundles. The driver we had hired in advance, patiently waited for us to emerge from the airport. With a smile he led us proudly to a shiny 1957 chevy and treated us to a frank and fascinating running dialogue on the scenery, state of affairs, and life in Cuba as he drove us to our hotel.

On the drive, we realized we were about to experience and become familiar with a wide array of transportation types, Cubans at all social and economic levels, colorful clothing, architecture from disintegrated to elegantly decorated buildings, and lively music everywhere at all times of day and night. We were also to become increasingly aware of the hard realities of the lives of most people who live in Cuba, dealing with food and equipment shortages and the economy and culture changing slowly, as more parts of their world became privatized. As one person noted, the people who benefitted the most from socialism in Cuba, are those who in the US we would consider to be people with very low-income, street people and beggars. In general, 9/10ths of the people on the street were neatly and reasonably well dressed. You saw no beggars and almost no crime. There were

some old, elegant neighborhoods and cars that people had poured their love into maintaining. Yet no government money for most of the neighborhoods to pay for repairs to buildings, houses, and roads.

Our hotel in Havana, once a large elegant private home in "Old Havana" had been taken over by the government at the time of the cultural revolution, and only recently turned over to private owners. It was on a narrow, cobblestoned, decaying street with no streetlights. Entering a non-descript door we were greeted by an elegant, long flight of very steep, marble stairs ending in a lovely modern lobby. To get to our room we had a long dark hall and another long set of narrow cement back steps to climb. For breakfast on the roof, we had an additional set of the same cement steps to climb, a small terrace to cross, and a long, narrow, set of cylindrical metal stairs to descend. The view from the roof terrace was grand. We could see all the way to the golden dome of the capitol (paid for by Russia), but the surrounding buildings were in terrible shape.



Like several other new, privately owned and renovated hotels and restaurants in Havana, they were once elegant old houses that were recently purchased or given by the government to the owners. These houses in old Havana, tended to be narrow, attached townhouses. Renovations generally started on the second level as the very high ground floor was used for horses, animals, carriages, and passages to the back of the house, so stairs were omni-present in most the houses in old Havana. Our hotel in Trinidad, was also private but it was a totally refurbished, beautifully landscaped,



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ultra-modern Hacienda.

Unlike the general population, these new entrepreneurs were able to access good food and needed supplies, much of it coming from the ubiquitous blue plastic bundles arriving at the airport and by ship from abroad.

We as tourists were much in demand for our cash infusion. The preferred currency, crisp American "greenbacks." Our two excellent guides, one American living 1/2 time in Cuba and one Cuban, were widely known in Cuba. Loved not just for the tourist money they could offer people, but for their warm, kind, and lively personalities. They tried to give us a wide range of experiences, while spreading the American dollars as widely as possible to Cubans on all economic levels.

There were two fun, fascinating and unusual activities our guides arranged for us:

One was a shopping challenge. First, they took us to a neighborhood government food distribution center where Cubans, only from that neighborhood, could use the ration coupons the government gave them to obtain their small, allotted amount of meat, flour, rice, sugar, and oil (there may have been one of two other items, but I don't remember). Then the guides divided us into small groups and gave each group the equivalent of \$4.00 in Cuban pesos that local people used. We had 30 minutes, in a crowded neighborhood open market to supplement the government rations and purchase a healthy meal for a family of two. It was amazing how difficult it was to find healthy food for a meal with only \$4. Our drivers acting as judges, declared that the group Ken and I were in won for buying the healthiest meals. All the purchased "meals" were given to the drivers. Our guides also arranged a special, personal, magical, musical event for our group... Although we had signed-up for the Cuba trip understanding



that we would be taking part in the Havana Jazz Festival, the Festival was so disorganized we were never able to attend it, or any of the music clubs we had hoped to visit. HOWEVER, our guides did organize a fantastic, romantic, rollicking night on the rooftop of our Havana hotel featuring one of the few surviving founding members of the Buena Vista Social Club, Alberto Valdés. Well into his 90's, he played an outstanding, fast, rhythmic drum, and his 40 or 50 year-old daughter sang as did her

husband and his band. Two dozen or so young (20/30 year-olds) friends of our guides joined us for hours of energetic dancing, both with members of our group and among themselves. It was hard to get up the next morning.

Our trip to Cuba provided a fascinating, active, and wonderful learning experience and happy memories. It was a journey into the past while living in the challenging, changing present. We had great fun in this beautiful, colorful, tropical country with its unexpectedly friendly and pro-American people...with their love of American cars, music, clothes, food and of course dollars. But, we also left Cuba with a deep anger at the Cuban Americans living in Florida. Yes, they send money and supplies to their own families in Cuba, but they wield undeserved power and are preventing our American politicians from allowing a mutually beneficial friendship to bloom again, as Obama tried to do, that would help all the people of Cuba.



Out and About



PART I: Villagers' Take on Tom Minter's Play

by Joan A. Treichel

Five Dupont Circle Villagers had the privilege of attending the reading of Tom Minter's new play at the Kennedy Center on January 25.

They were **Lucia Edmonds; Anna Greenberg; Monica Heppel; Charlotte Holloman**, and this writer.

Here are a few of their impressions of the play and of its presentation...

Joan Treichel: "The play concerns a middle-class African American family. Although various themes run through it, the major focus is on suppression of information and memory, as underlined by the play's title **By Me You'll Never Know**.

"The father in the play lost his wife early in life, when his son was only five years old. He attempted to suppress all memories of her and move on, soon remarrying. The son is now middle-age, and the father is elderly. The son only now confronts him about why he, the son, knows virtually nothing about his mother and the first five years of his life. The father confesses to having tried to suppress all of those years because he believed it was the right thing to do. His son disagrees, arguing that this suppression deprived him of his mother and early childhood—in effect, a part of himself."

Anna Greenberg: "Up close and personal would be the words I would use to describe the theatrical experience. Although it took me a while to grasp the concept of the story in the play, I found the actors' interpretation of their characters outstanding. The story took

its time to come alive, but once it did, it became engrossing."

Lucia Edmonds: "I couldn't hear the first part and have no knowledge of what it was about. So I will talk about the part that begins with the stepmother and her sister. I found the dialogue clever and believable and thought each of the actresses did a good job...."

"The son's inability to remember his early life began to make sense giving his father's decision to bury all memories. It was touching to join the son on his journey to find out more about his mother and his early life...."

Charlotte Holloman: "I told Tom I really enjoyed the reading and thought that the casting and acting were quite remarkable. The whole was a little long, though; maybe it was just those hard seats! I also pointed out that the role of the character Greer in the family dynamic was unclear beyond her being in place to read occasional selected quotes from Black literati, and that opening the play with her character was off-putting since she pretty much disappeared after that."

PART II: Villager CelebSalon Playwright Receives Kennedy Center Residency

by Joan A. Treichel

Tom Minter is a successful playwright and a member of our Village. You may recall him from his virtual appearance last year in one of the Village's CelebSalons. His plays have been produced in London; New York City; Philadelphia; St. Paul, Minnesota; Washington, DC; and Auckland, New Zealand.

And now his latest play, which has been in the making since 2019, was awarded a Kennedy Center Local Theatre Residency last October. The residency took place January 22 through 26 of this year. The residency allowed him to use a skilled director and a seasoned cast to practice reading his latest play and to actually conduct the reading before an audience on January 25.

The reading took place in Studio Seven of the Kennedy Center annex known as the REACH. The REACH was built in 2019 to make the Kennedy Center's many riches more available to artists in the DC community.

Tom had invited some 30 friends and acquaintances to the reading. But other people arrived as well, whom Tom didn't know and presumed were affiliated with the Kennedy Center.

After the reading, a number of people in the audience offered their opinions of it. Some of these individuals also returned on January 26, the last day of Tom's residency, to offer further critiques of the play. "In the honesty of the comments, it was clear that my story touched people's emotions and resonated with their personal experiences," Tom told this writer.

And he was gratified even further when he learned that the Kennedy Center was offering him yet another residency this coming August 24, this time with some production embellishments, which will sit in a broader Kennedy Center program that will be promoted.

"It's amazing, and exciting, and an incredible opportunity to advance my play," he said.

Out and About



◀ The Valentine Social Hour at **Carol Galaty** and **Ken Shuck's** was filled with food, fun, chatter, laughter, tears, and sighs. Each person shared a poem or story about love to everyone's delight and applause. Carol started off the valentine sharing with an "Ode to Love, a Kumquat, and Life", **Grethen Ellsworth** shared a story with the moral "Don't throw away things that may have value" **Bob Spiegel** reduced everyone to laughter with his series of irreverent and funny poems. **Ceceile Richter** started a trend for moving stories that were tributes inspired by love and DCV connections, and **Shubb Schiesser** with her funny, bad love poem, led to many other romantic loves, sigh inducing poems.

Out and About



▲ DCV hosted its new member gathering in January. DCV welcomed 35 new members in 2023. This gathering was for those joining since June.



◀ **Mark Goldstein** and **Michael Speer** celebrate Carnival and Rio as they cruise around all of South America. Next stop: The Amazon!



▶ Sasha Mabry hosted a Village Social Hour in her wonderful apartment in February. Members who attended included **Bob Spiegel, Ceceile Richter, Judith Neibrief, Chris Frantz, Holly Salamido, Peggy Long, Sam and Joyce Liberto.**



Out and About



Over 20 former and current DCV board members and staff turned out to celebrate and honor **Bob McDonald**, outgoing Board president. Bob started his affiliation with DCV over ten years ago as a volunteer.



February Birthdays



February birthday celebrants gathering and having cake at **Joyce & Bill O'Brien's** home include **Kathy Cardille, John VerSteeg, Barbara Sloan, Eileen Tanner, Kathy Price, Gretchen Ellsworth, Arlene Luttenegger** and **Mary Wheeler**.



Sarah Burger hosted the DCV walking group for a breakfast. L-R **Patricia Black, Marie Lovenheim, Peggy Long, Sharon Wildenstein, Judi Lambart, Mimi Conway, Nancy Turnbull, Dennis Houlihan, Judith Neibrief, and Chris Hannah**.

Out and About



How has African American art changed in the 21st Century? To learn more...to enjoy camaraderie and to break bread with our welcoming community, some 18 Villagers in February gathered for an at-home Soup Salon hosted by **Caroline Mindel** and **Lynn Lewis**. Star attraction: Villager **Joelle Michaud**...gallery docent and video presenter to remote classrooms and audiences for several Smithsonian museums, including the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Among the changes she explained: using more divergent media, connecting to relevant events and concerns, and revisiting history with new viewpoints. Rapt listeners commented feeling inspired, participatory, and better informed.

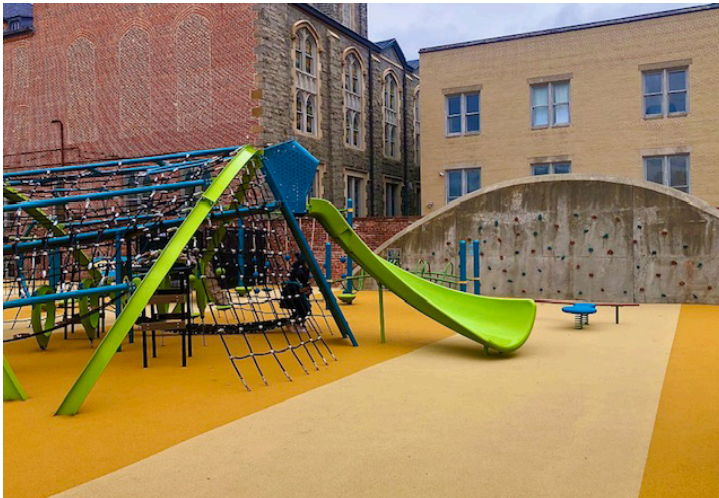


Over 20 Villagers enjoyed a fun evening at Baby Shank on U Street for Valentine's Day.

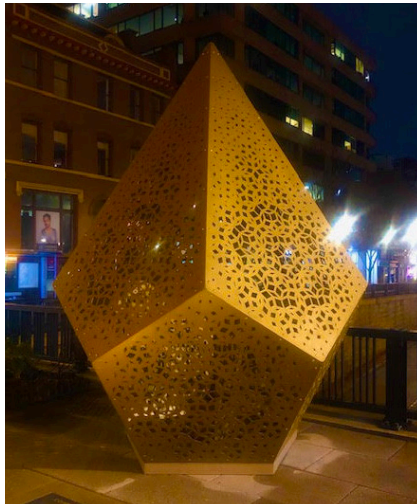


Docent and DCV member, **Sheila Lopez**, led a group of 15 Villagers on a tour of the Portrait Gallery in February.

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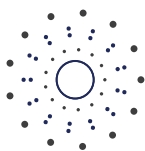


▲
Jim Chamberlin out
in the neighborhood.



▲
Joan Treichel at her home in Sherwood Forest, MD.
Photo by **Charlotte Holloman**.

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

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