

For me, events of last year, or yesterday, have lost their content...only persons are memorable.

Caresse Crosby (1891-1970)

SPECIAL INTEREST ARTICLES:

An Office, A Challenge, An Opportunity

Caresse Crosby

Annie Leibovitz

An Exploration of Hidden Washington History

Time to Move

Tackling Difficult Conversations Early On

Silent Auction Goes With Sensational Swing!

Silent Auction Sponsors and Donors

COLUMNS

From the President	3
Monthly Calendar	3
Where Are They?	4
DCV Cooks	5
Yoga Tips	5
Kudos	6

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome three new members to the Dupont Circle Village

Jagdish Gill
Kenneth Hansen
John Versteeg

Spring is a time of growth and renewal and we urge all Village members to make it a time of membership growth as well. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could spring ahead with 10 new members by summer?

DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

An Office, A Challenge, An Opportunity

We're moving! And you can be a part of it as we pass from the virtual to the real world in this latest, and most exciting, phase in the life of the Dupont Circle Village.

It's exciting and it's a challenge—a challenge we hope you will help us meet.

In May, we will be moving into a newly renovated office in the Quaker House, run by the Friends Meeting. It's located on Decatur Street, behind the Florida Avenue Friends Meeting House. The space, located on the easily accessible ground floor, includes a large room where volunteers can meet and work, a separate private office where executive director **Bernice Hutchinson** can work with members and volunteers individually and confidentially, and a handicapped-accessible restroom. We will share the use of a conference room and share a lovely garden with the other occupants, including four international nonprofits.

Can we afford it? Yes, but...

It will cost approximately \$15,000 the first year, including one-time purchases or leases of copying machines, office furniture and other necessities. We can do this; it means fewer initiatives and a strict austerity budget, however. But it also means opportunity and progress. And it means you have to believe in angels—which we do, because we have them.

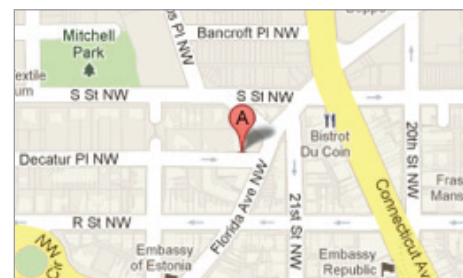
Here's the challenge.

A donor who wants to remain anonymous has given us a \$5,000 grant. Villagers **Kenlee Ray** and **Burke Dillon** have each pledged \$1,000 in matching grants and Villager **Abigail Wiebenson** has added \$500 to help us reach our goal of \$15,000 to cover the first year's rent and related

office expenses. So, we already have raised \$7,500, half of our goal. With your help, we easily can reach our target before May 1.

You have been so generous in the past and it has enabled us to provide the kind of benefits and services that have made our Village a leader in the metropolitan area. This is a unique opportunity for the Village and, with your help now, we will continue to grow and expand our community services.

Please, help us reach our goal by matching these grants and adding to them. We've accomplished so much and we're poised to enter a new phase. Help us meet this challenge now! It's easy. Just send your pledge to Dupont Circle Challenge Grant, Dupont Circle Village, 9 Dupont Circle, Washington DC 20036. Remember, the Village is a nonprofit organization so your pledge is tax deductible. ■



Caresse Crosby— A Literary Presence in Dupont Circle

Idealists are all crackpots until they become heroes or saints—CC

—Nicholas Ludlow

In honor of the Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary and the International Women's Day (March 8th), we thought it would be appropriate to honor a Dupont Circle resident who was a 'women for all seasons.' Not only was she initiated and pronounced the Original Girl Scout of America by Lady Baden-Powell in 1910, but, after World War II, was also a crusader for world peace, establishing the organization *All Women Against All Wars* and traveling the world to convince world leaders—including Mahatma Gandhi, to accept the idea of *One World*.

Caresse Crosby, a worldly, free-loving, vigorous spirit intent on liberating women's lives and challenging norms, radically changed the literary and artistic atmosphere in Dupont Circle. But before that she made women more comfortable.

In her early twenties, Caresse first invented the modern bra, registering the first US brassière patent in November 1914. Tired of whale-bone corsets that flattened her buxom self at débutante balls in Boston's Back Bay, she fashioned the bra using two silk handkerchiefs, pink ribbons and cords. The patent was bought by the Warner Brothers Corset Company for \$1,500, a fortune in those days, giving Caresse a first taste of business. From then on she maintained a non-traditional colorful existence, despite being raised in elite society in which she consorted with Cole Porter and met the King and Queen of England—and, in 1915, married a Boston Peabody.

Although the first half of her life was spent in Boston, the Left Bank in Paris, and later at her 500 acre estate near Fredericksburg, VA (where her friend the Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali hung a grand piano from a magnolia tree as part of an 'enchantment'), in 1940 Caresse came to live at **2008 Q St NW**, a two-story, four-bedroom building just off Dupont Circle, which, until at least 1956, housed herself, a constant round of guests, and her office. Here she continued to publish

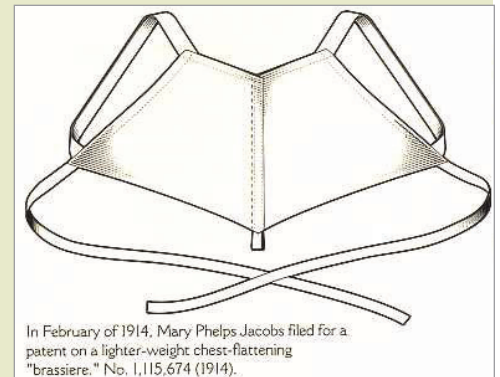
and edit the *Black Sun Press*, originally founded in Paris with her second husband, Harry Crosby, in 1927. The first book they published was Harry's *Sonnets for Caresse*. In the years before WW II, her peerless authors included Hart Crane, James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway, Edgar Allen Poe, Ezra Pound, Marcel Proust, D.H. Lawrence, Dorothy Parker and Oscar Wilde.

Through the war years, she published poems by Sharon Vail and Paul Eduard, *Misfortunes of the Immortals* illustrated by Max Ernst; plays by Ramon Sartoris, and etchings by Pietro Lazzari.

In 1944, Caresse opened the *Crosby Gallery of Modern Art* round the corner from 2008 Q St, at **1606 20th St NW**, where she exhibited modern paintings, engravings and sculpture. The Gallery was proclaimed an "oasis in Washington." Henry Miller was one of the first to exhibit there. A surrealist show featuring Salvador Dali and Max Ernst caused a sensation. The next year, Anne Conover notes, Caresse mounted *The Private and Public Life of the Animals* at the Gallery, the proceeds of which were used to buy clothing and chocolates for school children in France, to honor heroes of the French underground who led patriots across the almost impassable Alps during the war. Her printer in Paris, Roger Lescaret, was one of them.

At 2008 Q St after the war, Caresse established, edited and produced the first issues of her new international avant garde *Portfolio* magazine. Her prose advisor was Henry Miller and her galaxy of contributors included Albert Camus, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Federico Garcia-Lorca, Anaïs Nin, Pablo Picasso, Man Ray, Arthur Rimbaud, Jean-Paul Sartre, Stephen Spender and Leo Tolstoy.

Although described as "elegantly if exotically dressed and well-coifed, and, though warmly welcoming, indeed vivacious, also dully reserved," (Hamalian), Caresse's presence belied her establishing beach-heads of knife-edge, *avant garde* culture in Dupont Circle. In addition, at one point, she wrote scores of pornographic pages for an oil-man in Oklahoma, the job passed on to her because Anaïs Nin, who initially produced tender erotica at a set rate per page (encouraged



by Henry Miller), eventually wearied of the task and asked Caresse to contribute. When Caresse did, according to the bookseller go-between, her stories were just what were wanted—"no literary aspirations, just plain sex."

After the war, from 1947 until at least 1956, Caresse continued in perpetual motion from her house on Q Street, becoming a relentless crusader for world peace. As feminist and pacifist, she established *All Women Against All Wars* and urged women to join her *One World* movement, for which she issued *One World* flags and passports.

In her diaries her friend the eloquent Anaïs wrote "Stories surround Caresse like a perfume, a necklace, a feather. She always seems fresher and younger than all the women there, because of her mobility, ease, flowingness... A pollen carrier, I thought, as she mixed, stirred, brewed, concocted friendships together; who encouraged artistic and creative copulation in all its forms and expressions, who tailed behind her; like the plume of peacocks, a colorful and fabulous legend." Caresse herself wrote "I have learned that personal life is the individual's only means of expression in a cosmos forever mysterious... I believe there can be no compromise. The answer to the challenge is always 'Yes.'" ■



MONTHLY Calendar

MONDAY, MARCH 26:

3:30-5:00 pm. Live and Learn Series:

Medic Alert Response Systems:

Learn how to summon help immediately when you fall or have a health emergency. International Student House, 1825 R Street NW. For reservations, contact Linda Harsh, 202-234-2567 or Lindajkh@mac.com. The talk is free for Village members and \$10 for others.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27:

12:00-2:00 pm. Group luncheon at Scion.

2100 P Street NW (entrance on the south side of P Street, just past 21st Street). Prix fixe 3-course lunch, \$20, drinks not included. RSVP no later than Saturday, March 24, to Linda Harsh at lindajkh@mac.com. Please put "SCION" in the subject line of your e-mail.

MONDAY, APRIL 23:

3:30-5:00 pm. Live and Learn Series:

Keeping Yourself Safe on the Streets. John McDonald, Police Officer.

How to avoid being a victim of incidents on the city streets. YMCA, 1711 Rhode Island Ave NW. For reservations, contact Linda Harsh, 202-234-2567 or Lindajkh@mac.com. The talk is free for Village members and \$10 for others.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24:

10:30-11:45 am. Historic tour of the National Building Museum.

followed by lunch and a tour of the *Unbuilt Washington* exhibit. 401 F Street NW. Wheelchair access is at the G Street entrance. Tour will be no more than \$5, with lunch on your own tab. RSVP by April 9, to Judith Neibrief at jneibrief@aol.com. Please put "BUILDING MUSEUM" in the subject line of your e-mail. Limited to 20.

continued on page 4

Taking the Village to Another Level President *Great news!*

—Peggy Simpson

The board voted to rent a renovated set of rooms in Quaker House, operated by the Friends Meeting, as an office for the Village as of May 1.

This will enable us to take the Village to another level, providing space for volunteers to come in to help us with many jobs that are key to the Village operation.

And, starting in April, we welcome Robert McDonald as a volunteer who will help us with volunteers. He has a wealth of management experience and people-skills as well and we'll do a full profile on him in an upcoming issue.

First, some background on our office.

Nearly three years ago, soon after we formally launched as a membership organization in February 2009, we looked at several options for an office. We decided we were too fragile, financially, to take on \$650 a month rent for a splendid suite in a law office. We opted instead to use the money to hire an executive director—to help us build the Village in all sorts of ways. We know we made the right decision on that.

When we contracted with **Bernice Hutchinson** to be our second executive director, starting in January 2010, we were clear in saying that we would aim to get a bricks-and-mortar office but, for now, would keep our "virtual" office—which was Bernice and the Village cellphone, wherever she might be.

We had used an elegant front room on occasion at the Universalist Church at 16th and S, which they gave us free, and we held several seminars and meetings there. But it was not appropriate as a full-fledged office.

Last summer, we began looking again. Board member **Curtis Farrar** pushed us forward, saying we risked being "penny wise, pound foolish" in not getting an office—and to face up to raising the money to pay for one.

He noted that we need to find ways to engage more members and volunteers into helping with the innards of Village operations.

There are limits to doing this with a "virtual" office, Curt kept reminding us.

So we looked at office space that had come on market. We found that many nonprofits were out-sourcing space to shore up their bottom line. We decided, at the time, we still needed to protect our own and walked away from the offers.

We subsequently accepted a generous offer from former board member **Caroline Mindel** to use a dedicated room in her Swann Street townhouse as our office, mostly for administrative functions. Since then, we have held board meetings there as well as many committee meetings and sit-downs between board members and Bernice.

Last winter, a small group of us looked at a space in the Friends Meeting House which was under construction. **Steve Coleman**, co-clerk of property, said many groups were vying for the space but the Dupont Circle Village was first on the Friends' wish list of potential tenants. Four other nonprofits housed there are international in scope. The Friends congregation was committed and intrigued by the idea of renting to a local group. Some of the Friends are Village members. Many more want to know more about the Village and to see how they could participate in its activities, Coleman said.

He envisioned many "synergies" that could be forged between the Friends and the Village.

We, too, liked the idea and we also liked the space: a 300-square-foot room and another 70 square feet, with a shared bathroom. It is fully accessible, something that was not the case in our two other free office spaces. There is

continued on page 4



MONTHLY Calendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 26:

6:30-10:00 pm. DC Preservation League Annual Fundraiser. Equitable Co-Operative Building, 915 F Street, NW. The organization promotes preservation and protection of the DC historic and built environment through education and advocacy. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served. There is an admission charge. For more information, contact www.dcpreservation.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 29:

3:00-5:00 pm. A musical from the book *Working* by Studs Terkel. The Keegan Theater is holding twelve tickets for DCV members through Tuesday, April 24 (\$25 each). Individuals purchase their own tickets from the DCV block either by logging onto the website <http://keegantheater.com/2011/11/16/working-opens-april-14-2012/>, selecting "adult" and then entering "VILLAGE" or by calling the box office at 703-892-0202.

Where Is She?



Judith Neibrief is enjoying two weeks in sunny Egypt. Starting in Alexandria, she goes on to Cairo, Luxor and Abu Simbel. We look forward to her return and hearing of her adventures!



Great Sun Temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel
Photo by: Mrs Logic, Creative Commons

Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage

A Serendipitous View of America

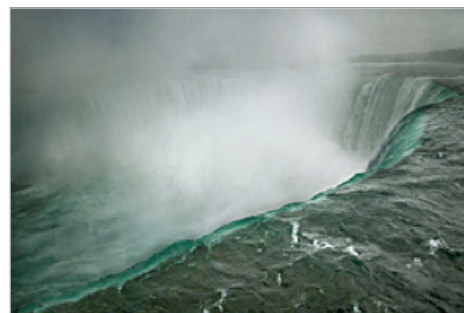
On a sunny, March day twenty DCV members and a guest ventured forth to the Smithsonian's American Art Museum to tour the Annie Leibovitz Photography Exhibit. Mary Braden, who is a DCV member and museum docent, was fortunate to have been on a special tour of the exhibit led by the artist herself, said "It was just a wonderful experience to have the artist's perspective; so many times artists do not want to discuss their art."

Ms. Leibovitz had a difficult two years (2009-11), with deaths in her family and financial problems that threatened the loss of her home, studio and life's work. After working out solutions to her difficulties, she decided to take her three children on a Sights of America tour, taking photographs as the spirit moved her; a complete departure from her famed portraiture photographs. She combined this tour with various trips to accept awards (London, the Southwest). It was a time of peace and pleasure—quality time with her children, no work deadlines and the challenge of taking a different type of photograph.

During the pre-exhibit tour led by Ms. Leibovitz, when asked by a docent about the technical issues in photographing the items and locations, she indicated that she was only interested in content; not the technicalities of photography. For example, her shots of Yosemite were not Photoshopped. She visited the Yosemite site three times before capturing the desired pictures.

The exhibit has 64 photographs taken between 2009 and 2011. The photographs cover a wide range of items and geographic areas—many of which Ms. Leibovitz came upon serendipitously. For example, on her way to Walden Pond, she stopped at Amherst to visit Emily Dickinson's home; while in London she chose to visit Dr. Freud's home, taking a picture of the famous couch. As Ms. Leibovitz stated, "One thing led to another." One viewer saw these pictures as "precise and sharply focused, just as her portraiture photos." **Mary Braden** said one of her group visitors described the photographs as "portraits in absentia."

The exhibit will run until May 20, 2012 at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, G Street and 9th, NW. ■



Annie Leibovitz, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, 2009, © Annie Leibovitz. From *Pilgrimage* (Random House, 2011)



Front, from left: Joan Ludlow, Abigail Wiebenson, Bridget the dog, Judith Neibrief, Jeanne Duffy.
Back, from left: Lucia Edmonds, Peg Simpson, Gillian Lindt, Laurie Coburn, Caroline Mindel.

continued

FROM THE President

access to larger rooms for programs and use of courtyard gardens. We went away impressed but made no commitments.

Coleman called in early March to say he had a May 1 occupancy date and, if we wanted both rooms, he could slightly reduce the price.

Treasurer **Linda Harsh** had brought the board audited figures through 2011 which indicated we were not flush with money but could more than hold our own even if we held no more fundraisers after the Silent Auction.

Vice President **Nancy Hartsock** told the executive committee that we should seize the moment and develop a strategy for raising the money for rent, that we should not let this opportunity pass us by.

The board voted unanimously to do just that. We notified Coleman we would take the space.

You'll be hearing more about how you can help us furnish it. You can learn how you can help us raise money to pay for it on page 1. And, later in the spring, we'll identify specific jobs we'd like volunteers to help out with from the office.

It is an understatement to say that we value our existing volunteers, who answer calls from Village members on all sorts of requests every day, with Bernice as match-maker. That won't change.

But we know that other successful Villages also bring in volunteers to help carry the load of operating the village itself. Palisades Village has four; Mt. Vernon Village has a half dozen including a full-time data-entry volunteer; Capitol Hill Village has 40.

Bernice and Bob McDonald will help us flesh out ways we want to approach this.

And we'll keep you posted on how you can help! ■

Silent Auction Couscous

The couscous prepared by Village chef **Judy duBerrier** for the silent auction was one of the biggest hits of the evening, so we decided to make it the recipe of the month.

Couscous, originally a Berber North African dish, is made from semolina, a type of wheat. The original way of making it was very labor-intensive and involved sprinkling the wheat with water and rolling it with hands to form the small pellets. It was then sieved over and over until the semolina formed into tiny couscous granules. This process was then repeated over several days. Today the process is mechanized and couscous sold in supermarkets has been pre-steamed and dried, making it a simple dish to prepare.

Couscous is among the healthiest grain-based products and contains more vitamins than pasta.

INGREDIENTS:

1 ½ cups couscous
2-3/4 cups water (can substitute chicken broth, which adds flavor)
¼ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons olive oil
¼ cup toasted pine nuts
¼ cup dried cranberries
3 chopped scallions (green onions), including green stems
¼ cup raisins
cinnamon

Yoga Stretching Positions for the Hands

—Judy Silberman, DCV Yoga Master

Arthritis may cause finger swelling, shortening of muscles, and pain, with fingers veering toward the pinkie side of the hand. The Namaste or Prayer position may help straighten fingers and improve flexibility by stretching the muscles in the hand.

1. Gently press palms and fingers of both hands together. With each exhale, try to move the fingers toward the thumb side of the hands. Slightly release with each inhale. If wrists are



Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

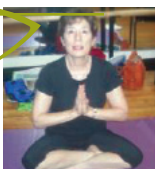
PREPARATION:

Toast the pine nuts by heating them in a dry pan over medium heat, shaking frequently to prevent them from burning. Alternatively, you can heat them in a hot oven, checking frequently to make sure they don't burn. It takes about 3-5 minutes, using either method.

Chop the scallions into small pieces

In a saucepan, bring water or broth to a boil. Add salt, olive oil and stir. Add couscous, cover and remove from heat and allow to sit for about 5 minutes. Couscous should be light and fluffy, not gummy. Be sure to allow the couscous to absorb all the liquid.

When cooked add the pine nuts, cranberries, scallions and raisins. Season with cinnamon to taste. If you prefer a moister version, mix the cinnamon with olive oil before adding to the couscous. ■



involved, try doing this with forearms clasped together. Repeat for 3-4 breaths.

2. With hands in prayer; smoothly open fingers as wide as possible, and encourage them toward the thumbs. Hold and stretch 3-4 breaths.
3. In prayer; focus on the top of the palms and the base of the fingers. Pressing, stretch fingers backwards away from each other; increasing with each exhale, for 3-4 breaths. ■

An Exploration of Hidden Washington History

Mt. Zion Cemetery, the oldest black cemetery in Washington, should be iconic, but in fact it isn't celebrated as it should be.

—Iris Molotsky

The cemetery can be traced back to 1816, established by the first group of organized black Methodists in the Georgetown area. It served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Mr. Carter Bowman, Jr., historian of the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, was our guest speaker at the February Sunday Soup Salon, and it was a thought-provoking evening. Mr. Bowman, a native Washingtonian, attended Francis Junior High. He is a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute and taught graphic arts in Washington schools before he retired. Although he downplayed his credentials as an historian, he treated us to an impressive presentation of the history of the cemetery, including a sense of what it meant, then and now, to be part of the black community associated with the Church.

Originally, the ground was purchased in 1808 for use as a burial ground by the Dumbarton Street Methodist Episcopal Church. About half of the congregation was black, which included both free blacks and slaves. At that time blacks constituted about thirty percent of Georgetown's population. In 1816, black members of the Dumbarton Church broke away and formed a separate church, the Mt. Zion Methodist Church, which eventually acquired the burial ground in 1879.

The cemetery actually comprises two separate adjacent burial grounds: the old Methodist

cemetery and the Female Union Band Society graveyard. The Female Union Band Society was a cooperative benevolent society of free black women whose members pledged to assist each other in sickness and in death. The Society, founded in 1842, purchased the burial ground in the same year. The two share the three-acre plot. There is no fence or other form of demarcation.

The cemetery was neglected for most of the twentieth century until, in 1976, volunteer workers under the direction of the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation cleared away undergrowth and trash to reveal the cemetery again.

One of the treasures revealed was the existence of wooden grave markers. Mr. Bowman brought one of the few surviving wooden tombstones with him so the group could see what they looked like. He explained that the wooden markers fell out of favor and were replaced by stone. Today, we don't know how many people were buried there at that time. However, there are records of later burials, thanks to the meticulous records of Joseph F. Birch, a Georgetown cabinet maker who noted the names, date of death and burial plots of the blacks for whom he made coffins. These death records form an important piece of American African history. ■



The Mount Zion Cemetery is located at 27th and Q Streets, NW and is open daily during daylight hours. You can arrange a tour by contacting the Mt. Zion Church at 202-234-0148.



TO ALEXANDRA HUTCHINSON

Our youngest Village volunteer, **Alexandra Hutchinson**, has won a coveted summer internship with the Alvin Ailey Ballet in New York City. She'll spend six weeks with the troupe, housed in Fordham University dorms in Manhattan.

And, no she's not allowed visitors! ■

TO ED WOOD

DCV volunteer stalwart **Ed Wood** has been named volunteer of the year by the Mautner Project, a national lesbian health organization. He was one of few men volunteering there at first—and he said that while he'd seen a lot of lesbian women supporting gay men's organizations, he didn't find many men contributing their "payback" to groups focusing on lesbian women's issues. ■

Time to Move

Short Bursts and Sitting Less

Dr. Loretta DiPietro, Chair of the Department of Exercise Science at George Washington University, and researcher of the role of physical activity in the health of older adults, discussed her most recent findings regarding the clinical and psychological benefits of exercise at the February Live and Learn session.

Physical activity, carried out at the right time for short periods, provides older adults maximum benefits. Dr. DiPietro's research indicates that short bursts (15 minutes) of post-dining exercise have greater benefits for older people than longer (45 minute) single-time activities. The secret to success is that the exercise has to be repeated three times daily to result in sustained benefits.

The benefits of physical activity, such as walking, increases muscle tone and helps your body keep glucose and insulin in balance. Adding weight lifting to your regimen minimizes bone loss and helps to increase your strength, endurance and flexibility.

You can also improve your health by standing more and sitting less. According to Dr. DiPietro, "sitting too long is worse than not doing any exercise. You should break up your sitting time as often as every 20-30 minutes—stretching, taking a quick walk around the house, or just standing while talking on the phone—all help to support greater muscle mass and flexibility." In fact, the group followed the advice of Dr. DiPietro and stood up during the next part of her presentation!

Too much sitting can increase the risk of various illnesses such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The Thursday, March 8th *Washington Post Wellness* page indicates that "sitting is the new smoking." The exercise industry is addressing standing as the newest health initiative by designing a treadmill desk, a bike desk and an old fashioned standing desk.

You can never stand or move too much, but you can sit too long. These days, it's time to move! ■

Tackling Difficult Conversations Early On

How Mediators Can Break the Cycle of Avoidance

—Peggy Simpson

Mediators increasingly get called in on generational disputes that have gotten too hot to handle for parents and their adult children.

As a neutral third party, they don't make decisions but create an environment where difficult conversations can be held. This was the subject of a seminar March 15 co-sponsored by the Dupont Circle Village, the Georgetown Village and the D.C. Jewish Community Center, with a social worker and three lawyer-mediators as speakers.

Jeanette Twomey described a typical case. A father dies and his three children launch a search for an assisted living institution for their mother.

They are sure she won't be safe at home on her own. The only problem: the kids talk only to each other, not to their Mom. And she doesn't want to move and says she'll be fine alone. Things get fractious, exacerbating the emotional roller coaster the mother is already on as she grieves for her husband.

Jeanette is brought in as mediator. She sets some ground rules, including:

- hearing everyone's full thoughts, without interruptions.
- helping all parties realize they are neither victims nor villains.

"The kids had made assumptions about how Mom wouldn't be safe. Mom had made assumptions that exaggerated how easy it

would be for her to live independently," she said. "The mediator can help change this process into a partnership."

Social worker Beth Shapiro said it's crucial to "break the cycle of avoidance" and tackle these difficult conversations early on. Her own Mom did this on something seemingly simple while in good health.

She invited in Beth and, separately, another daughter to choose jewelry they would want after the mother died. It was a way to open up a conversation about end-of-life choices, something the daughters had avoided, which gave the Mom time and space to think through her preferences.

"You can practice these conversations before having them," she said. "Breathe deeply! But avoid struggles later by having that conversation now."

Elder law attorney **Myrna Fawcett** said that the same "time and thoughtfulness" should be spent as you make decisions on your will, power of attorney and advanced directives. Do move forward, however, she said, noting that 55 percent of people don't have wills or powers of attorney.

Mediator **Steve Altman** said the focus should be on the process, not the details, as "difficult conversations" are tackled. Practice "active listening, which is not just 'hearing,'" he said, and to make sure everyone is on the same page, repeat and summarize decisions as they are made. ■

Plan Ahead! Metro Trip Planner



Member **Judith Neibrief** recommends using the Metro Trip Planner when traveling by the MTA. She finds it especially helpful when subway transfers are required. The site also notes delays and stoppages which has helped her plan ahead. For example, Judith found that the delays on the Red Line the night she was going to the theater allowed her to plan ahead by having small bills for the taxi she planned to take home. ■

Silent Auction Goes With Sensational Swing!

—*Iris Molotsky*

When the Village throws a party, people come. When we throw a great party, they come in droves. The March 10 silent auction attracted over 150 people to what turned out to be a very festive occasion. Villager Laurie Coburn wrote, "I think my guests were a little skeptical about how a silent auction could be the fun event I promised it would be. It surpassed even my own expectations." **Some Like It Hot**, the band that made the evening swing, had sensational rhythms. **Abigail Wiebenson** and **Judy duBerrier** were the food team and they prepared a feast. Although neither is planning a career change, the menu and the preparation convinced us that they have what it takes to be successful restaurateurs.

The National Woman's Democratic Club was the perfect setting for the auction and the amazing variety of items were shown to great advantage. Bidding was vigorous and we are happy (and relieved) to report that few items were left unsold at the end of the evening. At the time this is being written, we do not have a final accounting, but we do know we exceeded last year's event in income as well as attendance.

The silent auction is the Village's major fundraiser of the year, so your generous support is much appreciated. We also are pleased we had many friends and neighbors, including representatives from other area villages. So many people remarked during the auction and afterwards that the best thing about the evening was the fact that everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves—lots of smiles, good-natured camaraderie, and enough vino to ensure conviviality. The Village strives always to promote connectedness and on this evening we achieved our goal.

There are so many people to thank for their combined effort to make the evening a success. First, **Lyn Stout** and **Brad Iliesh** and their colleagues **Barack** and **Vally** at the Woman's National Democratic Club were patient and unflappable, no matter what questions arose. **Jim Bennett** and **Deacon Maccubbin** were our steady enders from beginning to completion. Their recommendations, coupled with the ability to come up with solutions when needed, were invaluable. **Cecele Richter**

stepped forward and secured delicious desserts and ended up diving into kitchen work because she saw it was needed. **Suzanne Legault** generously allowed us to store the items in her house prior to the auction and was also our jewelry consultant.

Our transporters—**Veronica Parke**, **Alaire Rieffel** and **Margaret Flood**—were on call and we did call often. No trip was too difficult for them.

The auction committee were stalwarts in getting the set-up accomplished over a two-day period: **Iris Molotsky**, chair; **Jim Bennett**, **Bettina Del Sesto**, **Judy duBerrier**, **Lucia Edmonds**, **Kay Eckles**, **Margaret Flood**, **Rush Fritz**, **Nancy Gamber**, **Linda Harsh**, **Bernice Hutchinson**, **Suzanne Legault**, **Deacon Maccubbin**, **Michele Molotsky**, **Marilyn Newton**, **Janet Passonneau**, **Alaire Rieffel**, **Peggy Simpson**, **Roberta Wasserman** and **Abigail Wiebenson**.

Jim Kingsley, the graphic artist partner for NOMAD, the firm that developed our brochure and calendar; designed the auction brochure. He worked continually on a very short lead time, and did a superb job. We offer him a well-deserved round of applause.

Our many volunteers who were essential on the night of the auction deserve a special thanks for helping: **Devon Bolton**, **Alexandra Hutchinson**, **Gillian Irvin**, **Deb Martens**, **Tony Razauskas**, and **Jess Rybka**. And finally, kudos to the spouses and partners who went without meals, who were pressed into service and didn't complain: **Garry Hutchinson**, **Rush Fritz**, **Stephen Grant**, and **Irv Molotsky**. ■



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We gratefully acknowledge and thank our many wonderful sponsors and business owners who contributed so generously to making the silent auction a success. We encourage you to patronize these local businesses and thank them for their support.

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