October 2011 Volume 3 No. 9

D U P O N T C I R C L E V I L L A G E

Dupont Circle Village

Comfortable Throughout the World; At Home in Washington

Special Interest Articles:

- ◆Jane Cave and Eugene Versluysen
- ◆DCV Awarded \$5000 Matching Grant
- ◆On Call Health
 Care Program
 Available to Villagers
 Evenings and
 Weekends

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Eugene Versluysen and Jane Cave on their front stoop.

Comfortably relaxed in the kitchen, listening to Jane's soothing British accent and Eugene's soft accented English—he was born in Belgium, she was born and raised in England—it was easy to imagine one being in a European café discussing current events over an espresso.

Jane Cave and Eugene Versluysen are citizens of the world by birth and experience, but residents of Washington by choice.

When Eugene, an economist, got a job at the World Bank in 1980, he and Jane moved to Washington. They are still living in the house they bought on T Street, in 1983. Jane said that the house is an on-going renovation project. Their two cats let them share the house with them.

They met in London and were married before moving to Washington. When I asked how they met, they looked at each other and laughed. It turns out Jane answered an ad placed by

Eugene in the "lonely hearts" column of *Time Out*, a London weekly. "That was before online dating," Jane quipped. On their first date Eugene realized that he'd already seen her when she presented a paper at a feminist conference at the University of Leeds They have been happily married since 1980.

After their move to DC, Jane, a human rights advocate, became executive director of the Poland Watch Center, a nongovernmental organization that monitors human rights violations in Poland. This was in 1981 and martial law was imposed in Poland during this period. As a post-graduate student, Jane had spent three years in Warsaw. Fluent in Polish she has translated articles and books into English. When she moved to Warsaw she spoke Russian, but no Polish. To help her learn that language, she read newspapers, with a dictionary at hand. She remembers that the one of the first Polish words she learned was "camel." It came up in an article about the Middle East.

In addition to her English and Polish, she speaks French and German, and she learned Russian at the University of Birmingham, where she earned a B.Sc. in Soviet Studies. Eugene is also a bit of a polyglot.

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At a recent Village outing, President Lincoln welcomes Villagers Iris Molotsky (left) and Carol Galaty to the grounds of his Summer Cottage.

Cave and Versluysen

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Growing up in Antwerp he has two "mother tongues" – French and Dutch. He speaks English as his third mother tongue, and learned Spanish and some Portuguese when working in Latin America.

After spending ten years at the American Association for the Advancement of Science — she was let go during a staff cutback —Jane turned to what has proved to be her great love, photography. She has never regretted the change. As she put it; "It has liberated me from the written word." Today, Jane is a member of Mid-City Artists and had an Open Studio at her home on October 22 and 23.

Eugene is the author of several books and articles. Defying the Odds: Banking For the Poor, which was published in 1999, is an analysis of micro-finance in East Asia, West Africa and Latin America. Talking about the World Bank he was quite critical, citing a Bank-funded forestry project in Brazil. That project eradicated hundreds of thousands of acres of native forest, replacing them with Eucalyptus ... to make chopsticks and toilet paper for export to Japan.

Eugene has degrees in law and economics from Brussels University, and has studied and taught economics in London. talking about the current global financial crisis he shook his head in disbelief: "They're doing all the wrong things, cutting budgets and social welfare programs in this environment will only make the crisis even worse. Look at what is happening in Greece!"

After they retired, both Jane and Eugene worked as volunteers in the office of Street Sense, a paper produced for and by the homeless. Jane regularly takes photographs for the paper, and Eugene contributes occasional articles. They are also keen sailors. They have crewed on a sailboat from Tahiti to Hawaii, and have been to New England and Maine on their own boat. Eugene said "nothing beats sailing at night."

--Iris Molotsky

Join Us For A Potluck Dinner October 30

Come and meet members who have recently joined, chat with our incredible DCV volunteers, and bring a guest. Join us at a potluck dinner at **Peg Simpson's** home, 1719 Swann Street, from 5-7 pm on Sunday, October 30. Bring a dish if you want, but it's not required. RSVP to bernice@dupontcirclevillage .org and indicate if you need transportation or an escort to walk you over to Peg's. Share time with friends, eat, drink and be happy.

DCV Awarded \$5,000 Matching Grant

The Dupont Circle Village has been selected by the Village to Village Network for a new Business and Operations Sustainability Grant Initiative funded by the MetLife Foundation.

The \$5,000 matching grant will enable the Village to continue to build a sound and sustainable organiza- tional foundation "We received an overwhelming response, which made it a very difficult decision for the review committee," stated **Candace Baldwin**, codirector of the Village to Village Network. The

speaks volumes for the quality and relevance of Dupont Circle Village's application.

Funding will be used to launch a benchmarking project to study the Membership Plus subsidy program. The project will include a cost-benefit analysis of membership numbers, track the delivery of services and the balance between full- and subsidized members needed to achieve sustainability. Next steps include development of a formal agreement and creation of a work plan and timeline.

Monthly Calendar

Sunday, October 30:

5-7 pm: Village Potluck Dinner. Fall gathering at home of Peg Simpson, 1719 Swann Street, NW. Food dishes welcomed, but not obligatory! RSVP: bernice@dupontcirclevillage.org.

Tuesday, November 8:

11:30 am-12:30 pm: Free docent tour of the exhibition *Seeing Gertrude Stein: Five Stories* at the National Portrait Gallery. RSVP no later than Wednesday, November 2 to jneibrief@aol.com. Please put GERTRUDE STEIN in the subject line of the e-mail.

Wednesday, November 9:

Dinner for prospective members at the home of Abigail Wiebenson, 1916 S Street, NW.

Tuesday, November 13:

Noon-2 pm: group lunch at Agora, a Turkish-Greek restaurant at 1527 17th Street, NW. \$20 per member. RSVP to Judith Neibrief at jneibrief@aol.com. Put AGORA in subject line.

Sunday, November 20:

6-8 pm: Sunday Soup Salon at the home of Iris and Irv Molotsky, 1735 T Street, NW. The speaker, Cynthia Margolies, is a clinical psychologist who will discuss "News You Can Use From Emerging Brain Science." RSVP to Linda Harsh, 202-234-2567 or lindajkh@mac.com.

Tuesday, December 13:

2-3 pm: See Chinese imperial portraiture through two exhibits at the Sackler Gallery—Power Play: Chinese Empress Dowager and Family Matters: Portraits from the Qing Court. Tour will be led by Jane Washburn Robinson. RSVP to Judith Neibrief at jneibrief@aol.com. Put IMPERIAL IDENTITY in subject line.



From The President

Would you like to know how Facebook works? And why we want to bother with it?

Soon after we launched our Village Facebook page, Bernice Hutchinson began getting lots of calls asking about the difference between Facebook and our Google group's listserv. She cautioned villagers to never post any personal or sensitive information on Facebook. You don't ask for an electrician there. either. That's a question for the Village listsery if you can't find someone through Washington Consumers Checkbook.

Bernice, NOMAD partner Wendy Hagen and I, strategizing about next-step marketing moves for the calendar, realized we'd all benefit from a how-to-use Facebook session. We're in the process of finding a venue where we can project images on a wall and we'll recruit one of our technovolunteers to do a Facebook 101 session. (True confessions: I've had a Facebook account for three years, have been "friended" by many dozens of people – but never update my page and frankly don't know how to make much use of it.)

The calendar has helped us multiply our intergenerational connections. We've benefitted enormously from our volunteers who rise to the occasion, making small repairs, troubleshooting computers or being a Girl Friday for a villager.

The calendar project has brought us even more. Patricia Overend, a volunteer who works fulltime at an international organization, was so struck by the calendar that she immediately suggested: "This is just great – why don't you do a Facebook page around it?" She had some free time that threeday weekend and would start working on it if we gave the word. We did and she did.

I connected her to **Michael Lipin**, another volunteer who works for a U.S. international office, and had offered to help equip us with social media. They worked together, virtually, and he finished what Patricia started – that weekend.

Christian Bielski, one of our newer volunteers who works fulltime at a social-media marketing firm, is helping us generate new traffic on the Facebook page and will look for college students needing community service who could help sell the calendar. Our youngest volunteer, Ally Hutchinson, is notifying her 1,500 Facebook contacts about the Village's Facebook page. (And we're grateful to the generations of Burns family members who "like" the page and are adding comments!) GWU computer guru Aaron **DeNu** is going to help update the existing Village website.

Dynamic Village—

We wish Alaire and Lex Rieffel safe travels and a wonderfully adventurous time as they depart on October 25 for a three-month sojourn in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), where Lex will be helping the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry upgrade its capacity to analyze economic policy issues and make recommendations to the government.

Linda Harsh has agreed to serve as treasurer, replacing Alaire. Linda, who worked at a major national foreign policy nonprofit, had budget oversight responsibilities and is well positioned to take on this new assignment. We are fortunate to have such an able replacement.

Abigail Wiebenson has taken a leave of absence from the board and her position as secretary because her highly successful leadership coaching practice is demanding increasing amounts of time. She has agreed to continue her position as co-chair of membership and fundraising committee. She wrote, "Thank you for the time with you as we have advanced the future of our beloved Village." We know she will remain an essential part of the Village.

The Village first met Lipin and DeNu a year ago in the launch of our 2011 calendar; they had a lot to do with the Soccer in the Circle activities which we captured in our 2011 photographs. Aaron said he was astonished at the depth and breadth of information he found on the existing Village website. We agree – kudos to our original webmaster, **Seth Art** – and here's to more partnerships in the future!

Villager Matthew Evans Honored at Retirement

Matthew Evans was feted at the U.S. Botanical Gardens at a celebration marking his retirement as Senior Landscape Architect and Horticulturist of the U.S. Capitol, ending a 37-year career. He is the author of one book on landscape architecture and is working on a second book, *Our Capitol Grounds: A Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow Story.*



Our best wishes to Seth, Emily and Jonas

Congratulations to DCV Webmaster **Seth Art and his wife Emily** who are the proud parents of **Jonas Wilson Art**, born September 1. Seth developed the website for us when we began in 2009 and has worked on it for us since then. He recently took some time off for parenting, after discovering just how much your life changes when you start a family!

A Ten Dollar Bid — Do I See Twenty?

Great News!

Dupont Circle Village will soon launch its very own eBay account. This new account will establish a presence and identity for the Village within the international buying and selling community. It will allow the Village to directly sell items and receive monetary donations.

"We've heard a lot of exciting news about organizations using eBay as a continuous fundraising strategy," stated DCV President **Peg Simpson**. Treasurer **Alaire Rieffel** worked hard behind the scenes to create the portal and public face for the Village on eBay. Next steps will include testing the site, finding a DCV eBay account manager and launching the site with a tutorial for members.

Until now, the Village has been very pleased and fortunate to work with **Paul Williams**, executive director of Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, who has used his own eBay account to sell Village objects. "We are very grateful to Paul for his enthusiastic partnership with the Village. His efforts have garnered additional income for us," said Simpson.

If you have an interest in eBay and would like to serve as the DCV eBay manager, we'd love to hear from you.

Help The Homeless—You Can Walk (Even Virtually) to Benefit Charlie's Place

You can still help the homeless by participating in the last event for Charlie's Place: the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon on Saturday, November 18.

Participation is easier than ever: You can register online as a "virtual walker" and count as a Charlie's Place walking supporter without taking a step (deadline is 5 pm on Friday, Nov. 18. Follow these five easy steps: 1) go to www.helpthehomelessdc.

- 2) select "Register to Walk"
- 3) Under "1" (pre-register online...) select Charlie's

Place at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church – DC017 as the beneficiary organization and click on Go.

- 4) On the next screen select "Virtual Registration"
- 5) Follow the instructions to complete the registration.

Being counted as a walker is important because Fannie Mae awards bonuses based on the number of walkers an organization recruits. For more information, contact Tom Goss tgoss@stmargaretsdc.org or Susan Dunn sed@kestrelgroupllc.com

Villagers And Friends Meet À Table New Member Member Recruitment Dinner Dinner

Iris and Irv Molotsky created a festive and delicious new members dinner on the evening of October 5 at their house on T Street. It is always a delight getting to know neighbors better and this gathering was no exception. Gill Lindt and her guide dog, Bridget, have moved back to Washington after a long absence. Gill loves being in a neighborhood that allows her to be able to walk everywhere and fulfil all her domestic needs; she's already found DCV helpful to her settling in. Laurie Coburn arrived on her scooter and regaled us with her determined troublemaking of the best continued on page 7

As DCV does on alternative months, we'll host a dinner for prospective members on the evening of Wednesday, November 9 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the home of Abigail Wiebenson, 1916 S Street. In addition to describing the Village, the dinners widen our circle of neighborhood friendships and, quite often, add to our volunteer list. We depend on current members to give us the names of prospective members. Please take a moment to e-mail or call Abigail with suggestions: abigailwiebenson@gmail. com or 202-332-6857. Many thanks in advance for you imput!

Yoga Tip Of The Month:

from Judy Silberman, DCV Yoga Master



This month's tip: Remember to breathe. Focusing on your breathe can improve your lung capacity, increase your energy levels, decrease your stress, and lighten your mood. Take time each day for a session of 10 slow and deep breaths (in-

hale/exhale equals one breathe), and see how the quality of your life improves. Close your eyes. Use your nostrils and keep lips relaxed and closed. Inhale, filling up the abdomen, ribcage, and upper chest. Think of the oxygen going up an escalator in your body. Exhale in the same order: belly deflates, diaphragm relaxes, chest lowers. At first, the inhales and exhales may be the same length. As you practice, try to elongate the exhales to be double the length of the inhales. (Example: inhale for 3 seconds; exhale for 6). Enjoy how you feel.

Live And Learn Series

At this month's Live and Learn seminar participants learned just how much there is to learn about Medicare. Chris DeYoung, co-director of the Health Insurance Counseling Project at the George Washington **University Community** Legal Clinics, spoke. He was extremely informative and comforting as well, assuring participants that, despite the variety of programs, most cover the same things and free help is readily available



The final program for this year, scheduled for December 5, will focus on "Women and Heart Health," and will be held at the Heurich Mansion/Brewmaster's Castle.

For More Information about Medicare Part D or health insurance call:

GW Health Insurance Counseling Project 202-994-6272 dchicp@gmail.com

from the George
Washington Health
Insurance Counseling Project. Many questions can
be handled by telephone
and may not require a visit.
DeYoung discussed three
major points that current
Medicare users should
know:

- * The open enrollment date for Plan D has changed: it is now November 15 to December 7;
- * There has been a change in the "donut hole" and people will have to pay only 50% of the costs of medicine; and
- * The DC Medical Savings Program has been expanded (more about this program in the next newsletter).

Live & Learn Series Calendar

The last Monday of the month from 3:30-5 pm.

December 5: "Women and Heart Health." Heurich Mansion, 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, NW

2012

January 23: Consumer Empowerment: Cutting Costs and Getting Deals

February 27: Adapting Your

Home for Safety

March 26: Nutrition for Seniors

April 23: Memory/Brain Health/Alzheimer's

May 28: Securing Your Home: Alarms and Locks

June 25: Hospice Services: In Home or In Facility

Village "On Call" Health Care Program Is Up and Running For Evenings, Weekends

Phase I of the Village's "On Call Program" is up and running. This free service to members ensures that health care needs can be addressed evenings and weekends. "On Call" is administered by HouseWorks, an innovative private home care company that provides home care and strategic advice to Villages in the Washington metropolitan area and in Boston.

We are proud to be the first Village in the Washington metropolitan area to offer this valuable program.

Here's How the Plan Works:

- You can call
 HouseWorks at
 240-821-9800 after
 5 pm on weekdays and
 throughout the weekend
 if you have a health related issue that needs
 to be addressed.*
- * Medical emergencies always require a call to 911.
 - A professional HouseWorks staff member will work with you to help find a solution to your concern

• If in-home assistance is From HouseWorks is needed, an associate will be sent to your home.

As part of the program, the Village will receive activity reports that detail service(s) rendered. Members will be asked to sign a release form permitting HouseWorks to share names with DCV for the activity report.

Calls and advisory conversations are free to members. Please note: If you contract HouseWorks for home health care services, you will be billed by HouseWorks for these services. DCV members receive a 10% discount on HouseWorks services.

DCV members shortly will receive a welcome kit that contains additional information about the program, including a list of HouseWorks services and fees

DCV members will receive a welcome kit that contains additional information about the program, including a list of HouseWorks services and fees.

DCV Small Business Survey

Many thanks to the members who have already returned the small business survey. The data we collect will help us greatly as we approach local businesses for support. We know we shop locally and support local restaurants — now we will have the facts to prove it.

If you haven't returned the survey, please set aside a few minutes to complete it and send it to **Iris Molotsky** at iris.molotsky@gmail.com. If you need another copy of the survey, please contact her and she'll send it to you. This is an important initiative and we appreciate your cooperation.

Sunday Soup Salon Learns About "The Birth Certificate of America"



Margrit Krewson explains the difficulties involved in acquiring the map.

Most of us would quickly identify the two most important American documents – the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. What's No. 3?

According to Margrit Krewson, a retired Library of Congress specialist who spoke at a DCV Sunday Soup Salon, it is a map that first identified our landmass as America. That map, published in 1507, is now on display at the Library, although it is safe to say that most people are unaware of it.

The map was made by **Martin Waldseemüller** and was owned by the family of **Prince Johannes Waldburg-Wolfegg** in southern Germany, hidden

away for 350 years before it resurfaced a century ago.

It was Ms. Krewson's privilege – and burden – to arrange for the Library's \$10 million purchase of the map, an assignment that continued well into her retirement and one that led to ups and downs that she described in her talk.

"It is the birth certificate of America," Ms. Krewson told the Villagers as they enjoyed Tuscan bean soup and corn-and-cheddarcheese chowder, along with a bit of wine.

While most DCV events are open to everyone, the Sunday Soup Salons are limited to members. The next Sunday Soup Salon will be held November 20 at the home of Iris and Irv Molotsky, at 1735 T Street NW. The speaker will be **Cynthia Margolies**, a clinical psychologist, whose subject will be "News You Can Use From Emerging Brain Science."

--Irv Molotsky

DCCA House Tour

The Dupont Circle Citizens Association's 44th Annual House Tour was another smashing success.

Sunday, October 16 was a glorious, sunny fall day – once again DCCA's weather karma held out!

An early estimate places attendance at about 600. People visited 15 sites – 8 homes, 4 condos, 2 nonprofits and the Woman's National Democratic Club, which was host for the tea.

Two of the condos on the tour were penthouses in The Portsmouth, a classic turn-of-the-20th century building designed by Thomas Franklin Schneider.

One house on the tour, a three-story Edwardian home, had an elevator added in the back of the house for use by its seriously disabled owner. It also serves as an example of how a home can be retrofitted as owners age in place.

Lots of News Fit To Print and Google

There is lots of exciting media news about the Village, members and volunteers this month.

Dupont Circle Village made a big media splash with the launching of our 2010 calendar. The September 28 edition of The Current Newspaper featured a story about the calendar. In the article, entitled Calendar Aims to Smash Stereotypes, reporter Jessica Gould interviewed President Peg Simpson, who described the calendar as "a vehicle for us to say this is who we are. We're a bunch of interesting people with interesting stories." http://currentnewspapers.co m/admin/uploadfiles/DP%2 009/28.11%201.pdf. Scroll down to page 13.

Shortly after the *Current* article WAMU Radio 88.5 FM aired a great interview on the calendar on its Metro Connections show. The segment, "Redefining the Transition to Retirement," featured June's poster girl, Villager Julia Cuniberti, as well as Peg Simpson. To listen to the interview, log onto

http://wamu.org/programs/metro_connection/11/10/07/redefining_the_transition_to_retirement_beyond and hit "play" located to the left above Julia's picture.

To prove just how "cool" we are, DCV now has a Facebook page. It contains out-takes from the calendar shoot and lots of comments. Take a look and leave a comment:

http://www.facebook. com/dupontcirclevillage?sk =wall.



Above: DCCA House Tour Committee Members (from left) DCCA President Debbie Schreiber, Mary Lord, Vice President Robin Diener and Stacy Minott

2012 Calendar Sales Reflect Rave Reviews

We got great reviews for our 2012 calendar from the *Dupont Current* and from WAMU's Metro Connections. And people had heard about it when they came to the Village's sales table across the street from the Dupont Farmers Market. Some of the people bought calendars; many wanted to know more about the Village. A few said they would volunteer.

By mid-October, we had sold nearly \$4000 worth of calendars.

This is one of our three major fundraisers. It is a way to support the Dupont Village – and to get a great calendar, in the bargain.

We plan to sell the calendar, and the Village, for at least a month of Sundays to crowds coming to the farmers market. We'll pair the calendarcelebs with villagers and volunteers at the sales table - if you'd like to sign up, email Bernice Hutchinson, bernice@dupontcirclevillage. org and say when you're free. The first calendarceleb to appear at the Village table selling calendars was Julia Cuniberti, who spent nearly three hours at the table set up outside the DCCA house tour tea. People recognized her from the calendar!

Iris Molotsky prepared postcards promoting the calendar and we'd like you to pass them around to cafes and businesses where people might want a calendar. Mary Haber, our calendar cover girl, also is on the postcard. You can get postcards from Iris, Peg

or Bernice.

And before the week was out, we had a Village Facebook posted – focusing on the calendar and comments about it – and taking in Facebook fans. Feel free to tell your friends and relatives, especially the younger ones, about the Village Facebook page.



Order your calendar online from our Webpage: www.dupontcirclevillage.org
Or you can contact Peg, Iris or Bernice to place your order. Calendars are \$15 and add \$3 postage if ordered online.

Dupont Circle Village

9 Dupont Circle Washington, DC 20036

Web:

www.dupontcirclevillage.org

Email: contact@ dupontcirclevillage.org 202-436-5252

Executive Board

Peg Simpson, president Nancy Hartsock, vice president Linda Harsh, treasurer Lucia Edmonds Brad Edwards Curtis Farrar Iris Molotsky Judith Neibrief

Executive Director
Bernice Hutchinson

Monthly Feature

Village Cooks Want To Know



By Judy DuBerrier

Q: A Villager asks what's the best way to have pasta without all the fattening sauces?

A: Pasta salad, warm or cold. It's good in all seasons. Incorporate color (what looks pretty is more inviting) and crunch (takes longer to eat and is more satisfying).

(Very Little Guilt) Pasta

12 oz. pkg. campanelle or

other multi-colored sturdy pasta 2 tbls. olive oil + 1/4 cup 1 small red onion, chopped 2 cloves garlic, minced 1 can tuna in oil, drained 8 oz. pkg frozen artichokes,

defrosted

1 pint cherry tomatoes,

halved 2 tbls. capers, rinsed and drained

2 tbls. fresh thyme leaves, chopped

1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped Salt and pepper

Boil pasta until al dente. Drain; reserve 1 cup of the pasta water.

Heat 2 tbls. oil in large skillet. Cook onion five minutes. Add garlic and cook about 30 seconds, until fragrant. Break tuna into chunks in same skillet. Add tomatoes, artichokes, capers and thyme. Cook and stir until tomatoes begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Add pasta, 1/4 cup cup olive oil and parsley. Toss well, adding pasta water as needed for consistency. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve with a green vegetable or crisp lettuce and avocado slices.

Note: I still need a few more recipes from Villagers for upcoming holidays. Simple appetizers, desserts, etc. Send to: judyduberrier@verizon.net or call me at 202-328-9123.

New Members Dinner

kind through a group called

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Ragin' Grannies. She hopes some Villagers will join her efforts. Bettina Del Sesto told of her Rhode Island roots and also her running an antique store in New York City for many years. **Deborah Holmes**, born in Ohio, was an Air Force brat. She attended George Washington and Columbia Universities. She currently is an editor at a Public Policy Institute that focuses on employment issues. (Given this subject, we are happy she was able to spare time to come to the dinner.) She's lived in Dupont Circle, in the same apartment, for more than

All our members have led such engaging lives. Many thanks to our hosts for their gracious hospitality.

25 years.

--Abigail Wiebenson