

DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN · DUPONT CIRCLE · KALORAMA

66 Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.

- Oscar Wilde

DCV's 2025 Gala, *Springtime in the Park*, was a resounding success! From the online auction, delicious food and music to the dazzling magician and heartfelt awards presentation, the evening was filled with laughter, connection, and celebration. Guests left smiling, having truly enjoyed a night to remember.

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Welcome New Members!

Jock Covey













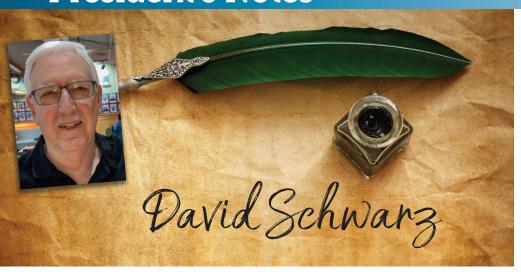






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President's Notes



hen I started coming out to myself, in the mid-'70s, I was in no hurry to come out to my parents. I felt I could always tell them some time in the indefinite future, but once telling them, I couldn't untell them...which would be unfortunate if it didn't go particularly well. Anyway, marrying Arlene at 24, I had thrown them off the scent. My parents hadn't liked Arlene (a favor she returned). In fact, mom was so upset at the prospect of her new daughter-in-law that she had a nervous breakdown a few days before the wedding. So, neither she nor dad attended. That got things off to an excellent start. Arlene and I stayed together for six years before my sexual reckoning unraveled the marriage. But I was so angry about my parents' treatment of Arlene that I waited several years before sharing the fact of our separation and ultimate divorce. Of course, I wasn't prepared to tell them the real reason for the split, and I didn't want to give them the satisfaction of thinking they had been right about Arlene all along...which they weren't.

By the late '70s, my late partner, Stephen, and I were living together, and I decided it was time to come out to my brother, Steven (yes, I know). Steven would periodically turn up to stay with us, and it was getting tiresome pretending that Stephen was just a housemate. I also figured Steven was likely to draw his own conclusions soon enough. I did extract a promise that he would not tell anyone else in the family — that he would wait until I was ready to do it myself. And he did honor that promise...to the letter.

In 1980, Stephen and I moved to DC and bought our little house on Capitol Hill. In case my parents were to visit (they didn't at that time), I had told them that in view of the costs down here I was taking a housemate, and I left it at that. So, one peaceful Sunday afternoon in 1982, a postal van pulls up and I am handed a special delivery letter...from my mom! Special delivery letters had always played a special role in our family: they were how bombs were dropped. And this one went off with a bang. What my mom had written was that she had gone to a medium, who told her that her elder son was (in that generation's terms) a "homosexual". She wanted to know if it was true.

I think my first thought was "betrayed at the highest levels!" — that and miscellaneous curses. However, mom's question had to be addressed — and while I was not happy to be asked, I had always promised myself that I would answer honestly. So, I called her, and I told her. Of course, there were tears and

recriminations (I think dad was on the line, too, but he had very little to say.) But she eventually calmed down, and I think both she and dad expressed genuine curiosity about Stephen and our lives together. So, we agreed that the next time I came to Chicago to visit, I would bring Stephen.

Well, my parents turned out to love Stephen and he responded in kind. I think he was the younger son they had always wanted (my brother, Steven, was not...but that's a whole other story). So, we ended up forming the kind of family I had hoped to have with them and Arlene. We took trips together; we stayed with them when they were in Florida; and they stayed with us in DC. When Stephen and I got married in 2009, they even threw us a party in Chicago and invited a number of their friends.

Many years later, I did learn the back story to mom's session with that medium. She and my brother had a mutual friend, Rhoda. Rhoda was one of mom's spiritualist buddies and they would visit mediums (media?) together. And my brother had told Rhoda that I was gay. As Steven was at pains to point out to me, Rhoda was not family, so this did not violate the letter of his promise to keep my secret. In view of the outcome, I just let it slide.

DCV's 2025 Gala Continued from page 1



















DCV's Springtime in the Park Gala

By Kari Cunningham

n Friday, May 9th, Villagers noshed on food and raised a glass at the Annual DCV Gala at the American Geophysical Union. This year's theme was Springtime in the Park, and food, friendship, and fun were in full bloom throughout the evening. Many Villagers could be heard catching up with old friends, listening to their favorite tunes, and watching Michael Chamberlin, a roving magician, perform tricks.

A highlight for many was the announcement of this year's honorees of the Linda Harsh Distinguished Service Award. An award bestowed to volunteers who have made significant contributions to the Village. Congratulations to **Ed Sambuco**, **Monica Heppel**, **and Janice Oehmann** for their many years of dedicated service to the Village.

Attendees had a few extra days to bid on excursions both in DC and beyond as part of the Online Auction portion of the Gala. Altogether, over \$30,000 was raised to support ongoing programs and services for DCV members.

The spirit of the evening was best encapsulated by this attendee "What a great event! I'll be back next year!"

A special thank you to the following small businesses for their support. In these uncertain times, please take a moment when you are out and about to share DCV's heartfelt appreciation for their contributions to the Gala.

Anju Restaurant Arena Stage Bistrot du Coin A Brighter Image **Comfort One Shoes Declutter for Good Duke's Grocery Dumbarton Concerts** Lars Etzkorn Law Gerard Street Kitchen Keegan Theater Inspir Embassy Row Lapis La Tomate LuLuu Spa & Salon Tyree Macavoy Training Mansion on O Street Mensch with a Wrench Jose Montecinos Handyman The Phillips Collection Pizzeria Paradiso Secondi Consignment Shakespeare Theater Company Spa Logic Studio Theatre Theater J TOKA Salon Woolly Mammoth Theater



Joyce and Bill O'Brien hosted a very large birthday party for members born in May in their beautiful apartment. L-R Nancy Gamber, Diane Quinn, Gail Snider, Anna Greenberg, Sue Trent, Louise Krumm, Peggy Siegel, Ellen Brody, Beth Merricks, Joan Treichel, Mike Higgins, Joy Rodman, Ken Shuck. L-R on the floor Duane Rieves, Rosemary Winslow, and Barbara Meeker.

June 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

The Keegan Theater: Falsettos Performance and Dinner Option

Sunday, June 1st, 3:00 — 8:00 pm Location: 1742 Church Street, NW Registration Deadline: May 30th Contact patricia.baranek@yahoo.com or (202) 812-4854

Tour of National Inventors Hall of Fame and Museum

Monday, June 9th, 11:00 am — 12:00 pm Location: US Patent and Trade Office, Madison Building, Alexandria, VA Registration Deadline: June 6th Contact cpw.delaware@gmail.com or 608-712-7431

Happy Hour — El Secreto de Rosita

Wednesday, June 11th, 5:00 — 7:00 pm Location: 1624 U Street NW Registration Deadline: June 10th Contact nys2dc@gmail.com or (585) 469-1182

Tour — We Gather at the Edge Renwick Gallery (SAAM)

Thursday, June 12th, 11:00 am -12:00 pm Location: Penn. Ave at 17th St, NW Registration Deadline: June 10th Contact bmerricks@msn.com (202) 328-0746

Tour — Ingleside at Rock Creek Retirement Community and Lunch

Monday, June 16th, 11:30 am — 1:30 pm Location: 3050 Military Road, NW, Registration Deadline: June 13th Contact bmerricks@msn.com (202) 328-0746

Home Social — Walter and Uttecht

Wednesday, June 25th, 5:00 — 6:30 pm Location: 2311 Connecticut Ave NW #706 Registration Deadline: June 22nd Contact fwalterdc@gmail.com (202) 271-7727



MONTHLY EVENTS

Men's Book Group

Monday, June 2nd, 11:00 am Location: 2121 Decatur Place NW Register online DCV Office admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Navigating the Path Ahead

Tuesday, June 10th, 3:30 — 4:30 pm Location: Virtual Register online DCV Office admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Mystery Book Group

Friday, June 27th, 3:30 — 4:30 pm Location: Virtual RSVP: Register online DCV Office admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

RECURRING EVENTS

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Tuesdays, 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm Location: DCV Office

Limit: 8

RSVP: Register online DCV Office

admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Online Meditation

Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00 am – 9:30 am Location: Virtual RSVP: Register online DCV Office

admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Chair Yoga

Tuesdays, 10:30 am — 11:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online DCV Office

admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

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June Calendar

Continued from page 5

Accessible Mat Yoga

Mondays, 3:30 pm — 4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online DCV Office

admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Coffee and Conversation

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Annie's Paramount Steak House

1609 17th Street, NW

RSVP: Register online DCV Office

admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Bridge Group

Thursdays, 1:30 pm — 3:30 pm

Location: DCV Office — enter at 2111 Decatur Pl NW

RSVP: Register online DCV Office

admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Mahjong

Thursdays, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: hosted live by Roberta Milman

RSVP: rmilman@comcast.net

or (202) 667-0245

Knitting Group

Every Thursday, 4:00 pm

Location: Online and in the DCV Office

RSVP: Sheila Lopez at sheilablopez@gmail.com



Dupont Circle Walking Group

Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30 am (Winter/Fall) 8:00 am (Spring/Summer)

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

MONTHLY MEAL

Celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month by adding a spice blend to your food.

Ingredients

Mix the following:

2 teaspoons allspice

2 tablespoons brown sugar

½ teaspoon cumin

1/4 teaspoon cloves

1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon black pepper Pinch of cayenne pepper

You can play with the proportions to suit your taste, but allspice is essential as the primary ingredient for Caribbean flavor.

Sprinkle this on vegetables or eggs. Mix it with a bit of oil to rub on fish or chicken





June Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all Villagers born in June!

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



Entertainment and Connection:Watching Together When Dementia Enters the Room

By Dr. Lucia Edmonds

s we age, we notice the shape of memory changing. Names may disappear in the moment, events get jumbled, and attention flickers. But for many families, the changes go deeper.

Dementia is becoming a shared experience in our homes and our Village. Whether it is a spouse, a parent, a sibling, or even ourselves many of us are witnessing its presence.

Dementia is not a single disease but a general term for a decline in mental ability that is severe enough to interfere with daily life. Memory loss is a hallmark, but dementia also includes problems with language, judgment, attention, and reasoning. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60–80% of cases. Other types include vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, and frontotemporal dementia.

While Alzheimer's is progressive and degenerative, some forms of dementia may be more stable or caused by treatable conditions. What unites them is the impact on how a person processes the world—and how that changes relationships and routines.

Common signs include:

- Repeating questions or stories
- Getting lost in familiar places
- Difficulty with words or following conversations
- Changes in personality or mood
- Withdrawal from activities once enjoyed

For caregivers and family members, the emotional toll can be high. Frustration, fatigue, and sadness are common companions. But small moments of connection can make a world of difference. One simple, powerful tool? Shared entertainment.

Why Movies and TV?

Visual storytelling has the ability to soothe, stimulate, and reconnect. For those with dementia, certain kinds of movies and TV shows can:

- Provide comfort through familiarity
- Stimulate long-term memories (which often remain intact longer)
- Reduce anxiety
- Offer caregivers a shared activity and brief respite

What Makes a Show or Movie Dementia-Friendly?

- Familiar: Classics from the 1940s to the 1970s often resonate
- Simple plots: Avoiding confusing timelines or too many characters
- Gentle pacing: Not too loud or fast-moving
- Positive tone: Uplifting or emotionally warm stories
- Visually engaging: Music, color, and imagery are often easier to follow than dialogue

Recommended Movies

- The Sound of Music (1965) Memorable songs and emotional clarity
- Singing in the Rain (1952) Classic joy and humor
- Cocoon (1985) A story of aging and wonder
- Paddington (2014) Wholesome, kind, and visually engaging
- Babe (1995) Simple story, heartwarming tone

Recommended TV Shows

- The Andy Griffith Show Familiar, moral, and slow-paced
- I Love Lucy Timeless humor, easy to follow
- The Golden Girls Humor and heart, focused on friendship
- Planet Earth (BBC) Stunning visuals, soothing narration
- Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood Gentle tone, emotional clarity

Other Forms of Engagement

- Music programs or sing-alongs from familiar eras
- Photo albums or "memory boxes" with tactile items
- Nature documentaries with minimal narration
- Short-form programs like old variety shows

For the Caregiver

Entertainment can offer more than a distraction. It can open a door to shared joy, trigger an old memory, or simply give you both a chance to sit quietly, together. A good film won't cure dementia, but it might remind you — and your loved one — of who you are to each other.

We in the Village are not alone in this journey. By learning, sharing, and gently laughing together, we find the grace to keep going.

My Way: Reviewing Session Three

By Leslie Sawin

DCV program My Way: Preparing for the Inevitable: Plans and choices for the end of life held its third session, Planning to Ensure a Good Death for You on May 19, 2025. Starting from the premise from Compassion and Choices that "Everyone should have the information they need to make end-of-life decisions with knowledge, power, and support," My Way offers six sessions to introduce the steps necessary to make decisions from personal goals and preferences and achieve these in a personal way.

The sessions are interrelated and synergistic, building upon each other. Our first session, **Getting Your Life in Order**, focused on three basic tasks that represent the first step in our process: getting your house in order: decluttering and downsizing, creating wills and/or trusts, powers of attorney and other legal documents; and preparing a God Forbid list.

Session Two explored the nature of and process for making end-oflife decisions using **My End-of-Life**

Decisions, An Advance Planning Guide and Toolkit provided by Compassion and Choices. Donna Smith from Compassion and Choices was our guest speaker. The twenty participants worked with the Compassion and Choices booklet to talk through what decisions need to be made and how best to think about them.

Session three was held on May 19. The guest speaker was Amy Thomas who focused on roadblocks or challenges that people face in having their end-of-life wishes followed and how to increase your odds of having the kind of death you want. The discussion was lively and substantive. Evaluation data indicated that this session was useful (4.1 out of five), informative (4.2) and the handouts were helpful (4.6) with the speaker getting a 3.7 rating. Written portions of the evaluation questionnaire responses indicated that participants again gained valued ideas, appreciated discussion time with one another and found the session to be very helpful. Responding to concerns about needing more discussion time, adding an additional











half hour to the sessions was discussed. More time will be added, if possible, to the schedule and attendance at the last half hour will be optional.

It is our hope and expectation that some of the ideas and valuable information that come out of these sessions will be shared in the future with the larger DCV community as Live and Learn sessions or other outreach efforts.

Session 1: Getting Your Life in Order

Session 2: Defining a Life Worth Living in its Last Chapter

Session 3: Planning to Ensure a Good Death for You

Session 4: Awareness of and Planning for Physical and/or

Cognitive Decline

Session 5: End of life options

Session 6: Options for Celebrating Lives Well Lived

The program began on March 24th. It will meet on consecutive months except for the summer: April 21st, May 19th, June 16th, September 15th and October 20th.

Susanne Christov, DCV's Tai Chi Instructor

By Tom Carmody

Susanne Christov, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and native of Washington DC, has been teaching Tai Chi to Dupont Circle Village (DCV) members since 2023. Her calm, attentive approach reflects decades of study in movement, healing, and the mind-body connection.

A licensed physical therapist in both Virginia and Washington, D.C., Susanne currently works at George Washington University Hospital and Inova Fairfax Hospital in their Acute Rehab departments. In addition, she enjoys teaching classes in the community through the Village, allowing her to get to know members, to further wellness, and to slow down and offer participants a deeper, more integrated experience of movement and awareness.

Susanne was first introduced to the DCV in 2018 when a member contacted her looking for Feldenkrais classes. Following a presentation workshop in 2019, she began offering online group Feldenkrais Method® Awareness Through Movemen® lessons in 2020. These transitioned to in-person, seated classes at the Quaker House in 2022. In response to growing interest, Susanne became certified in and began teaching Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention in 2023 — a movement program developed by Dr. Paul Lam, designed to improve balance, joint health, and overall well-being.

Although Tai Chi is the most recent discipline she has added to her practice, it has quickly become a meaningful part of her work. Her true foundation, however, lies in the Feldenkrais Method® — a neurological approach to movement and

learning (feldenkrais.com). Based on the work of Moshe Feldenkrais (1904-1984), a physicist and judo master, the method uses gentle, exploratory movement to engage the brain and nervous system in new patterns. It is grounded in the idea that the way we move affects how we think, feel, and function, and that greater awareness of movement can



Learning tai chi
'trains the brain to
form connections
between regions of
the brain that regulate
movement, mood, and
cognitive function,
thus improving brain
neuroplasticity'." UCLA
Health.

Helen Lavretsky, MD, UCLA Integrative Medecine: "Tai Chi as mind-body medicine? A UCLA Health psychiatrist aims to take the practice nationwide." Sept 20, 2023. improve balance, coordination, and resilience at any age.

Susanne became a certified Feldenkrais practitioner in New York in 2013 after completing a four-year training program. In 2013 she also moved to the Dupont Circle area, offering private and group community Feldenkrais lessons. She continued her studies in Italy, Greece, and the U.S. with renowned practitioners, whose work has extended the Feldenkrais approach into new therapeutic settings.

Before entering the field of physical therapy, Susanne's academic path began in the humanities. She earned a degree in literature and art from the University of Rome (La Sapienza) and taught at the law faculty in Strasbourg, France. She then entered physical therapy training in Belgium, earning her diploma before returning to the United States, where she passed certification exams and began working at Georgetown University Hospital in 2007.

Outside her clinical practice, Susanne has volunteered for local initiatives such as tree planting, urban gardening, and food distribution for seniors. She sees her Tai Chi and Feldenkrais classes as another form of service — one that brings together her deep training with her desire to support others in aging with grace, awareness, and vitality.

Susanne teaches Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention every Tuesday at the Quaker House, with two class times:

2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. New participants are encouraged to attend the 3:30 p.m. class. All are welcome.

https://www.uclahealth.org/news/article/tai-chi-mind-body-medicine-ucla-health-psychiatrist-aims



Sue Heineman carrying her new foster cats, one on front and one on back. Anyone looking to adopt a cuddly companion?



During one of their regular walks, members of the Dupont Circle walking group stopped for coffee with **John Wiebenson**, director of the Georgetown BID and son of Abigail.

DCV Member Barbara Meeker welcomed several dozen family members, friends and colleagues to a memorial in honor of her husband of 37 years, **Joe Auslander**, at the Mathematical Association of America in Washington on May 9th. As noted on the University of Maryland Department of Mathematics website: "Joe joined the mathematics department in 1963 and remained an active participant in the intellectual life of the department into his retirement, attending a departmental conference two days before his death on April 7th. He was a committed advocate for younger mathematicians, especially those from historically underrepresented backgrounds. Joe loved classical music, art, literature, storytelling, and Jewish-inflected humor. He was himself a masterful teller of jokes. As an amateur clarinetist, Joe particularly enjoyed the music of Mozart and Haydn, and above all Beethoven. He loved to cook and presided with Barbara over many dinner parties with friends old and new." Village members fondly recall seeing Joe rounding the running track at Stead Park and walking with Barbara in their 17th Street neighborhood. — P.M. McCarter





DCV member **Craig Howell** led a wonderfully detailed tour of Rock Creek Cemetery in May. As one Villager commented, "Craig, thank you so much for a delightful tour yesterday. It was my first time at the cemetery, but not my first time with you as a guide, which is what prompted me to sign up! You are so knowledgeable of history, and such an accomplished raconteur, that I came away learning new things about people and enjoying every minute of our walk."





The first training session on the newly revised Member Services Platform (MSP) was held in May. Our goal is to train as many volunteers as possible on the MSP to help ensure our Care Groups operate as smoothly and effectively as possible.





Nancy Turnbull and **Judith Neibrief** spent six culture-filled days in Havana at the end of March, including walks in (and atop) the old city.



DCV continues to organize tours of assisted living facilities. Recently, a large group of members visited Inspīr Embassy Row, a community located right in the DCV neighborhood.



Like so many other Villagers in recent weeks who have been out in the sun marching for good causes, Joan Rogliano and Carol Galaty marched from Franklin Park at 13th and I Street via 14th, R and 16th street to the White House for "Justice for All."



Friendship, humanity and compassion...and an identity born of two worlds...are the driving forces behind the 17 awardwinning books, novels, short stories and essays, written by Korean American Frances Park and Ginger Park and inspired by their parents' memories of growing up in northern Korea. Their magical presentation captured the attention of 20 plus Villagers at the May Soup Salon hosted by Caroline Mindel and Lynn Lewis. Besides writing together and separately, they've presented at the Smithsonian, the Korean Embassy, the Kennedy Center and schools throughout the DC area, and have been interviewed by NPR, CNN, Good Morning America and Radio Free Asia, among others. They also owned and operated tiny Chocolate Chocolate, DC's oldest independent chocolate store. Says Ginger: "Chocolate can put you in a good mood, no matter the circumstances." Pictured: Ginger Park, Frances Park, Caroline Mindel, Lynn Lewis, and Beth Merricks.





In May, over 25 volunteers were honored at the DCV Volunteer Celebration. These remarkable individuals are the heart of the Village model—DCV thrives because of their generosity, commitment, and tireless support. Our community is stronger, more connected, and better served thanks to each and every one of them.



Susan Hattan received the Washington English Center's Pilar Laugel Award for Exemplary Service on May 15. She was also the first recipient of a new "Enduring Impact" award for being the first person to teach 55 terms at WEC.



Carol Galaty and Ken Shuck celebrated two events in Texas: Ken's oldest grandchild, Paige's graduation from Southwestern University in Cedar Park/Austin, and, after a birthday cake party in a nursing home with Ken's 99-year-old Aunt in Mesquite/Dallas they had a birthday dinner at a way-out, youngish hippy neighborhood called Hawkers.



Judith Neibrief enjoyed Tuscany and Liguria, Italy in May, including stops in Florence (after 50+ years, and quite crowded).





Master baker Villager **Monica Heppel** shares biscotti-making techniques with an attentive and appreciative group. The result? Yum!



Pat Black, Peggy Long, Judi Lambart, and Judith Neibrief (photographer) enjoyed the current exhibits at the Mexican Cultural Institute, including *Revive tu Cancha* after one of their walks with the Dupont Circle walking group.







DCV's Spring Picnic is always a delightful event. This year, members enjoyed the beautiful weather in the Heurich Mansion garden while sharing delicious food and great company.

DCV Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Dupont Circle Village (DCV) is committed to being a diverse, equitable and inclusive organization. We condemn all forms of discrimination in our society. We aim to make our organization one that is open and welcoming to all. We recognize that the human experience comes in all colors, shapes, abilities, economic circumstances, ages, backgrounds, gender expressions and identities, and sexual orientations. We strive to celebrate these differences and recognize how they benefit our community. To this end, we will do what is necessary for us to grow as a community and as individuals who respect and care for one another.



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