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DUPONT CIRCLE Village

Shattering the Stereotype

Adams Morgan • Dupont Circle • Kalorama

> "After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations."— *Oscar Wilde*

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Welcome New Members!

Jim Landfield
Marty Nemirow
Robert Stofferson
Anita Taylor
Genie Wright

The Small Kindnesses That Make Our Village Extraordinary

By Eva M Lucero

November is a month for giving thanks, and as I reflect on what makes Dupont Circle Village (DCV) so special, I find myself thinking about the countless small acts of kindness that happen throughout our Village every day.

As Executive Director, I have the privilege of hearing stories that often go untold. They arrive in a quick email, a volunteer report, or a passing conversation. These little glimpses into the lives of our Villagers never fail to make me smile and remind me how fortunate I am to be part of this extraordinary community.

I'd like to share just a few.

After delivering a homemade meal to a member, a Meal Maven wrote:

"He was a pleasure to talk with as he recited a poem from memory by Rudyard Kipling about the orange that was in the package we gave him."

A simple delivery became an unexpected moment of poetry and connection. I suspect both walked away with something more valuable than the orange.

Another member shared this wonderful reflection:

"It is hard to believe that at my not-so-tender age, due to Dupont Circle Village, I am doing more socializing than ever before and having some of the best times of my life. How blessed we are to be members of DCV. Friends who live outside of our boundaries are envious."

What a lovely reminder that aging in community isn't simply about remaining in our homes. It's about friendship, laughter, discovery, and continuing to enjoy life to its fullest. And apparently, making a few friends outside the Village a little jealous!

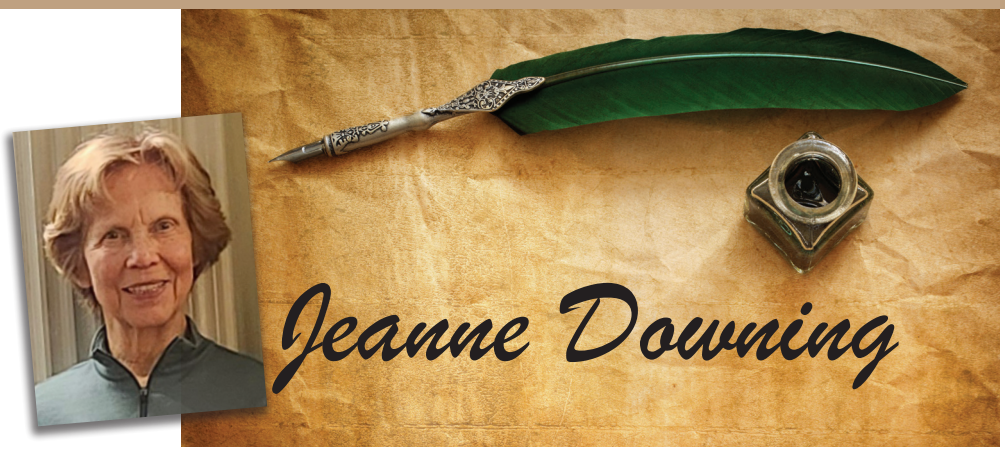
Then there was this volunteer's report after a walk with a member:

"Great time walking and conversing. We headed to the Hilton as it was hot and humid. We're both taking holidays and will reconnect and walk the last week of August. Such an enjoyable friendship."

What strikes me most is that last word: *friendship*. What began as a volunteer service has blossomed into a genuine relationship between two people who simply enjoy each other's company.

These small moments are the heart of DCV. An orange, a conversation, a shared walk, a new friendship. None

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Aging Solo but with a Second Memory (via Alexa)

I have long admired Villager **Lucia Edmunds'** use of technology. She has Amazon Echo devices in almost every room of her house. I thought this was a wonderful safety precaution for someone living alone in a house with lots of stairs. If Lucia were to fall or have a medical emergency, she could call out to Alexa for help. When I mentioned these home-safety benefits, she replied, "Oh, I hadn't thought of that."

So I asked what motivated her to use the technology. Her answer surprised me: "I see it like a second memory."

Haven't you experienced the occasional memory lapse that seems to come with age. I walk into a room and forget why I am there. While making the bed, I remember something I need from the grocery store, only to forget it minutes later. Lucia has found a simple solution. When she thinks of something she wants to remember, she says, "Alexa, add this to my shopping list."

She also asks Alexa to remind her of appointments and how long it will take to get there. When cooking, she uses Alexa to set timers or look up recipes. Every Monday and Thursday, Alexa reminds her of DCV's Meditation class. Alexa can also provide reminders about medications, medical appointments, and social events.

In effect, Alexa serves as Lucia's extra memory, helping her organize her day and remember what matters to her.

A little technology can go a long way.

Lucia's first Echo was a gift from a friend's nephew five or six years ago. Since then, she has added devices throughout her house. Although she acknowledges that there is much she still doesn't know, she found the instructions relatively easy to follow—even "self-evident."

Lucia's experience illustrates the possibilities, but research suggests many older adults may not be taking full advantage of them. A study published through the National Institutes of Health interviewed 12 adults aged 65 and older who had used Alexa for at least six months. Participants saw potential benefits but often lacked the training and continuing support needed to explore the device's full capabilities. Lucia agrees that she, too, has more to learn. She notes that classes are available to help older adults become more comfortable with voice-activated technology.

Why might we want to learn more?

Voice-activated assistants offer several potential benefits for people who want to remain independent at home:

- **Preserving independence.** Voice commands can simplify everyday tasks, including controlling compatible lights and thermostats, checking the weather, and managing household routines.
- **Supporting health and daily routines.** Reminders can help us keep track of medications, appointments, and exercise.
- **Making technology more accessible.** For people who find typing difficult because of arthritis, limited dexterity, or impaired vision, speaking a command may be easier than using a small screen.
- **Staying connected and engaged.** Calling features, music, audiobooks, games, and news offer convenient ways to connect with others and enjoy daily activities.

How do Alexa's reminder and calling features work? Through the Alexa app, we can link ourGoogle or Apple calendar so Alexa can announce upcoming appointments and provide reminders. We can ask Alexa to set reminders simply by speaking for example, "Alexa, remind me to take my medication at 8 am." Compatible calling allows us to make calls using voice commands, much like iPhone's Siri, provided you have done the necessary setup. As with any technology, it's critical to review account permissions and privacy settings.

According to AI, these devices do have limitations. They require setup and a reliable internet connection, and again users need to consider privacy. Technology will likely play an increasing role in helping older adults remain in their homes. According to Lucia, we don't need to become experts to benefit. She says that by learning a few simple commands, Alexa has made her daily life easier and more manageable.

Her story has made me reconsider what Alexa might offer—not just as a convenience or a potential safety aid, but as a **second memory**. Perhaps it is worth exploring what this technology could do for each of us and perhaps together we could learn how to use it to age as independently as possible in our homes and community.

November 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

LGBTQ+ Friends Movie Matinee

November 7th, 2:00 — 4:00 pm
Location: DCV Office, 2121 Decatur Pl NW
Registration Deadline: November 6th
Host: tmsndc@gmail.com, Phone: (202) 487-5266

Happy Hour South — Rosemarino d'Italia (1 of 2)

Wednesday, November 11th, 4:00 — 6:00 pm
Location: 1714 Connecticut Ave., NW
Registration Deadline: November 10th
Host: viernesbarb@yahoo.com, (202) 841-0695

Happy Hour North — Code Red (2 of 2)

Wednesday, November 11th, 5:30 — 7:00 pm
Location: 2440 18th Street, NW
Registration Deadline: November 10th
Host: Sjliberto@gmail.com
Phone: (607) 372-2881

Tour — Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden

Thursday, November 12th, 1:00 — 2:00 pm
Location: Inside of the Smithsonian Institute Independence Ave SW &, 7th St SW
Registration Deadline: November 10th
Host: bmerricks@msn.com, (202) 328-0746

Saturday Movie Matinee: No Way Out (1987)

Saturday, November 14th, 2:00 — 4:00 pm
Location: DCV Office, 2121 Decatur Pl NW
Registration Deadline: November 13th
Co-Hosts: mlheppel@gmail.com, (856) 332-0916
patricia.baranek@yahoo.com, 202-812-4854

Sunday Soup Salon — Mindel & Lewis

Sunday, November 15th, 5:30 — 7:00 pm
Location: Home of Caroline Mindel & Lynn Lewis
Registration Deadline: November 12th
Co-Hosts: lynnlewis940@gmail.com, (202) 365-7055
carolinejmindel@gmail.com, (202) 271-1760

Leaving a Legacy Through Estate Planning

Monday, November 16th, 5:00 — 6:30 pm
Location: Home of David Schwarz
Registration Deadline: November 11th
Host: Jeanne Downing bjdowning8@gmail.com
(202) 494-8159

Textile Museum Tour — Weaving an Empire: Textiles of the Inka Empire

Tuesday, November 17th, 2:00 — 3:00 pm
Location: George Washington University, 701 21st St NW
Registration Deadline: November 15th
Host: cpw.delaware@gmail.com, (608) 712-7431

Film Noir Screening & Discussion

Saturday, November 21st, 2:00 — 4:00 pm
Location: DCV Office, 2121 Decatur Pl NW
Registration Deadline: November 20th
Host: patricia.baranek@yahoo.com, (202) 812-4854

Thanksgiving Meal Delivery and Pickup Requests

Wednesday, November 25th, 12:00 — 2:00 pm
Location: DCV Office, 2121 Decatur Pl NW
Registration Deadline: November 11th
Host: execdir@dupontcirclevillage.net, (202) 436-5252

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November Calendar

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MONTHLY EVENTS

Men's Book Group
Monday, November 2nd , 11:00 am
Location: 2121 Decatur Place NW
RSVP: Register online DCV Office
admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Navigating the Path Ahead
Tuesday, November 10th, 4:00 — 5:00 pm
Location: Virtual
RSVP: Register online DCV Office
admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Mystery Book Group (November & December)
Friday, December 4th, 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 (Levels 1 & 2)
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 — 9:30 am
Location: Virtual
RSVP: Register online DCV Office
admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

Chair Yoga
Tuesdays, 10:30 — 11:30 am
Location: Virtual
RSVP: Register online DCV Office
admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252

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 — 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 — 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 — 4:00 pm
Location: hosted live by Bobbi Milman
RSVP: rmilman@comcast.net or (202) 667-0245

Knitting Group
Every other 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

November Birthdays



DUPONT CIRCLE Village
Shattering the Stereotype

A very happy birthday to all Villagers born in November!

Harlan Rosacker, Tommy Sams, Kathy Davin, Sandra Desautels, Darrell Totman, Carmela Vetri, Miriam Schottland, Michaela Buhler, Louise Levathes, Brad Edwards, Mandi Lisbona, Rich Marquart, Jim Chamberlin, Victor Wexler, Suzanne Wolk, Elisabeth Groninger, Greg Milman, Judith Kirvan, Paul Argabright, Selma Thomas and **Jim Hambuechen**

What I Learned from Tai Chi

by Dwaine Rieves

- Tai Chi is a way of moving that helps you realize your body is moving.
- It is a kind of exercise that makes you aware.
- It slows you down enough to realize that you need to slow down and appreciate what your body needs to be doing.
- It only lasts about an hour.
- It is done with a neat instructor at the Dupont Circle Village Headquarters—so it's easy.
- It starts with registering online for the free class.
- I discovered Tai Chi at the Village after I tripped and fell on a DC brick sidewalk.
- I had a concussion that knocked some sense into me. The sense said I needed to do Tai Chi.
- It also said I needed to remember leaves change colors in the fall for a reason.
- There are lessons to be found in needing to change, I think.
- Leaves fall. I fell. And I learned Tai Chi is a good way to behold our seasons, which include some colors that can resemble bruises or bleeds. It all depends on how you move and what you realize is moving you. Like Tai Chi.

What I learned is I also put it in a poem, which has the ring of a jingle.

What I learned from Tai Chi

My body belongs to me.

My body can help me, if I help it.

It's all about who's in control—
my body or me?

The answer is, above all, what I learned from Tai Chi.

Preventive Maintenance Beats Emergency Repair

by Lucia Edmonds

My brother was an engineer. He used to say that as a machine gets older, it breaks down more frequently—and stays down longer.

At 96, I'm beginning to understand that I am that machine.

But I've decided to change my brother's rule to: **"Preventive maintenance beats emergency repair."**

When we're younger, we can abuse the machinery and get away with it. We skip sleep, work too hard, eat badly, ignore an ache, and assume we'll bounce back. And usually we do.

An older machine requires a different operating manual. Rest isn't necessarily evidence that something is wrong. Sometimes rest *is the maintenance*. So are walking, moving, eating reasonably well, keeping appointments, staying connected to people—and occasionally saying, "No, I'm not doing that today."

The trick, I suspect, is learning the difference between maintenance and repair. Maintenance is what we do before the machine forces us to stop. Repair is what happens after we've ignored it.

I'm trying to get better at maintenance.

The Small Kindnesses That Make Our Village Extraordinary

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may seem extraordinary on its own, yet together they tell the story of a community built on kindness, connection, and caring.

Most of these stories never make it beyond my inbox, but they deserve to be shared. They make me smile, fill me with pride, and remind me why our Village matters.

This Thanksgiving, I'm especially grateful to our members, volunteers, and staff who make these moments possible. Please keep sharing your stories with me. They are among the greatest rewards of my work.

Sometimes the smallest gestures remind us just how extraordinary our Village truly is.

Remembering Dorothy Marschak

By Carol Galaty

Dorothy Marschak was born in New York City and passed away on July 29, 2026, in Washington, D.C. She attended Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C., before receiving a full scholarship to Swarthmore College, where she earned her bachelor's degree in 1951. She continued her education, earning advanced degrees in economics and statistics from Columbia University and the University of California, Berkeley.

Dorothy enjoyed a distinguished and varied career in economics and statistics, serving as an economist, instructor, lecturer, researcher, evaluation specialist, and consultant. Her professional work included positions with the Arabian-American Oil Company, Barnard College, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, UC Berkeley, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Model Cities Program, the California Public Utilities Commission, and the World Bank.

Dorothy met Thomas Marschak at Stanford University, and the couple married in 1956. Together, they raised three children: Deborah, Madeline, and Timothy.

Following the unexpected death of their daughter Deborah in 1968, Dorothy and Thomas established the Deborah Marschak Memorial Fund to make music education more accessible to children in public schools. The organization later became known as CHIME (Community Help in Music Education). Dorothy served as its president and received numerous honors in both Berkeley and Washington, D.C., in recognition of her dedication to music education.

A lifelong learner with wide-ranging intellectual interests, Dorothy pursued studies in linguistics, Zen Buddhism, music, poetry, Gestalt therapy, and many other subjects. Her curiosity and love of learning remained central to her life.

Dorothy was also deeply engaged in her community. She was active in numerous organizations, including





the Woman's National Democratic Club, Friends of Mount Pleasant Library, and the Society for International Development.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved daughter, Deborah. She is survived by her daughter, Madeline, and her son, Timothy.

Dorothy will be remembered by her family for her fierce spirit, intellectual curiosity, determination, and lifelong commitment to learning, community, and making a difference in the lives of others.

Pender McCarter shared a link to Jim Bedore's obituary featured in the Washington Blade.

Flying Solo, Not Alone Session 5
End of Life Planning

By Abigail Wiebenson

Session V

Session *Five of Flying Solo, Not Alone,* "End of Life Planning" on Monday, October 6th made everyone realize what a complex subject this is. No easy answers. No guarantees that wishes will be followed. Lots of new vocabulary, some of which can be confusing. Finding the person to be your advocate at our age can be daunting.

Nonetheless, 18 participants willingly plunged into the materials provided, two helpful and detailed booklets. Five Wishes addresses categories that apply if you are seriously ill: finding the right advocate, stating the preferred medical treatment, clarifying the degree of comfort desired, outlining how you wish to be treated and what you want people you care about to know.

The other booklet put out by Compassion and Choices is *My End of Life Decisions*, *An Advance Planning Guide and Toolkit*. This comprehensive, 40 page workbook addresses in detail how to state what's important to you in a range of areas. The group explored and discussed both the documents involved in creating an Advance Directive and the conversations needed to let people know specifically what you want when you are of sound mind and, if in fact, you are no longer able bodied or have cognitive impairment.

Our guest this session was DCV member **Monica Heppel** who has become a trained death doula. She explained the role of death doulas and how they provide companionship, emotional comfort and support for those who wish to plan for death, are dealing with a terminal diagnosis or are facing imminent death. Highly trained listeners, they help their clients state their preferences at this delicate time of life. She explained how death doulas interact with families as well as hospice caretakers and medical staff to ensure that your wishes are followed.

Participants left with gratitude for the information provided and a determination to dig into the materials and complete them with more discussion in the final session of *Flying Solo* on November 2nd.



October Birthdays



Carol Galaty and **Ken Shuck** hosted the October birthday celebration. Celebrants included **Dennis Houlihan, Lex Rieffel, Sue Heineman, Phillip Solano, John McColl, Dan Hicks, Mimi Higgins, Geri Ferber and Dianna Eshman.**

Meet Longtime Member, Charlotte Holloman

By Tom Carmody



Charlotte Holloman joined Dupont Circle Village about 10 years ago. She, like many Villagers, first heard of the Village through neighbors. For Charlotte, this was **Abigail Wiebenson** and **Carol Galaty**. Charlotte met both in the No Pretenders senior exercise class and, after attending a few Village events, she joined. All three still attend this now virtual exercise class.

Charlotte lives in a duplex condo at the corner of 19th and Corcoran Streets and loves her home and its location. She found it while walking through the neighborhood one day in 1978 and saw an advertisement for a future condo development. At the time she was living in a rental apartment at 16th and Riggs Place. She liked the location and bought the condo pre-construction off a blueprint. Interestingly enough, she didn't actually live in the unit until 10 years later. Besides a great location and a parking spot, Charlotte says the walk-up stairs to her front door and the two levels inside her unit help to keep her fit and healthy.

Charlotte originates from New York City, born in Harlem and raised as an only child in Queens. Her father was a prominent Harlem physician and public health advocate. While practicing medicine and serving in various medical organizations, he marched for civil rights with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and for hospitals to admit black patients and employ black professionals.

When she was 16, her parents purchased a waterfront home on Martha's Vineyard, and she regularly vacationed there until the property was taken and torn down in 2013 via eminent domain so the State could rebuild a nearby drawbridge.

Her mother was a classically trained opera singer, traveling both nationally and internationally to perform. In her later years, she became a teacher of classical vocal arts in area universities. She converted a portion of her DC home into a private studio to accommodate her teaching. She owned three grand pianos, two in her living room and one in her studio.

Charlotte's young life was interrupted by a bone cancer diagnosis at the age of 9. Because of chronic pain, first in her shoulder and then in her thigh bone, she spent more time, first at Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Institute in New York and then in other medical facilities more than she cares to remember. Even though she beat the cancer, pain dominated the next 20 years of her life.

While she excelled at school, her high school and college years were dictated by her health. It took her 10 years to earn a bachelor's degree as she was constantly forced to take time off. In total, she attended 5 different undergrad colleges before getting her degree. Her battle with cancer resulted in a difference in the length of her legs, which affected her lower back. She battled this additional pain for several years until finding a doctor able to address the problem.

Charlotte received her Bachelor of Science from the DC Teacher's College (now the University of the District of Columbia). With her degree, she became a teacher in a DC Public School's adult education center, focusing on teaching government and civics subjects to high school dropouts returning to school to advance their careers. During these five years, she earned a Master's degree in teaching from Trinity College.

Both of Charlotte's parents were Washingtonians having met while attending Dunbar High School. Her parents and all four of her grandparents were college educated blacks with both of her grandfathers serving as college presidents. This was extraordinary because at that time not many Black Americans had advanced degrees. Her father's father was a Baptist minister with a doctorate in theology and served as president of the Washington Baptist Seminary and as pastor for 53 years of DC's Second Baptist Church in NoMa.

In addition to her family's tradition of higher education, a love of music was also prevalent. While in college her mother's father was an early member of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, an a cappella ensemble that still performs Negro spirituals originally sung by slaves prior to the Civil War.

This same grandfather graduated from Yale with a master's in economics and from Harvard with a PhD in History, only the 3rd black man to do so. He went on to serve as president of two HBCUs (Historically Black College and Universities) in Ohio. He authored multiple black history books and monographs also co-authoring history books with Carter G. Woodson, considered the father of black history.

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As her parents were frequent travelers, Charlotte often stayed with her grandparents in Ohio and as well as with her father's parents in DC. A fond Ohio memory is of being introduced by her grandfather to tennis legend Althea Gibson who had come to the school to play an exhibition match. To this day, Charlotte is an avid tennis fan. Because her parents were adventurous and traveled, Charlotte became a regular traveler herself, making 4 trips to Europe by the time she was 21.

Following five years as a teacher, Charlotte shifted to getting more involved in politics. She worked in several national political campaigns, starting with the Jimmy Carter/Walter Mondale campaign in 1980. She fondly remembers being invited to the White House when Jimmy Carter lost to Ronald Reagan.

Four years later, she worked in California for Rev Jesse Jackson's first presidential campaign and then for the WalterMondale/ Geraldine Ferraro campaign in 1984. This was followed by the Michael Dukakis/Lloyd Bentsen campaign in 1987-88 in Boston, MA.

At the end of her last political campaign, Charlotte in 1989 moved into her Dupont Circle condo. The timing was right as her parents had divorced and her mother had moved back to DC to care for her parents. Charlotte in turn cared for her mother until her death in 2015. She is still a caregiver, looking after the affairs of her father's youngest sister, now 103, who lives in a nursing facility not far from where she grew up in Shaw.

But, her political work was not done. Ron Brown, former Secretary of Commerce under Bill Clinton, was then Democratic National Committee (DNC) chairman. He asked Charlotte to serve as the party's Public Liaison.

Her time at the DNC led to a desire to more directly support and promote causes important to her. She had earned a law degree from Catholic University (CUA), and in her last year at CUA, she received a Congressional Research Fellowship. Through that program, she worked for a Republican Senator from Maryland on his Judiciary Committee staff and learned her way around the Hill.

The Fellowship provided an excellent transition into a new lobbying career, with Charlotte working for Planned Parenthood's international family planning program, Taiwan/ US relations, and various other programs. She tracked the Congressional foreign aid authorizations and appropriations bills.

Charlotte never married and says she has yet to meet a man she thought she could look at and talk to every day. She has many fond memories of love, but is very happily single. Cohabiting, says Charlotte, requires you to make compromises of self in order to get along in a shared space. Having been an only child, she says she's adept at entertaining herself, and rarely gets lonely. She enjoys a wide circle of friends, male and female, with many located in other US cities, and she prides herself on being a good friend.

She is a self-proclaimed "news junkie", an avid reader of the New York Times, the Washington Post and her iPhone's Apple News feed. She follows many sports teams with New York – Mets and Knicks – receiving a clear bias. Just to be fair, she also loves the Wizards and the Washington Nationals baseball team! A lover of music, Charlotte listens to jazz, opera, classical, hip hop and R&B.

Charlotte enjoys driving having accomplished some notable road trips. She fondly remembers driving cross-country to California with a friend. They shared driving through the long days and, at the end, Charlotte stayed in Los Angeles to work in a small law firm and her friend flew back to DC. The first car she purchased for herself, when she was 21, was a white1968 912 Porsche.

Another memorable road trip was to visit her father's family in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. In addition to visiting cousins, she visited her family's cemetery in Ahoskie, North Carolina (about 1 1/2 hours south of Richmond, Virginia) in the northeastern corner of the state. On 27 acres of property, the cemetery contains 28 graves. A cousin still lives in a house on the property and oversees the care of the land and the cemetery.

Beyond being active in the Village and in exercise classes, Charlotte belongs to several professional organizations. One is the National Smart Set, a private African American women's social and civic club composed of over 700 accomplished women nationwide. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority of which an aunt was a national president and author of its first history.Charlotte served six years on the DCV Board, enjoying meeting many members and learning much about senior services and Village programs. She recognizes that her time on the Board made her more socially connected than previously. She also took the opportunity to participate in a memoir writing group.

She is a big believer of the Village concept with particular benefit to seniors who live alone. Villages serve well to keep people engaged and minds active. She recalls a recent bout of pneumonia where Villager friend **Abigail** picked up and delivered her medications and soups to her, allowing her to rest and recover.

While Charlotte has long enjoyed Washington, DC, she is not certain she will remain here because she has no family here to look after her when that time comes. As she is very close to her half sister and her husband, she is considering a return to New York for her next chapter in life.

Now, Charlotte has her eye on an assisted living facility in Manhattan, as a possible future home. You can see both Harlem and Queens from the building she says and it is easily reachable by her attorney sister whose law firm is in Manhattan and by other NY family members and friends.

Wow, I don't know about you, but I think **Charlotte Holloman** deserves a Wikipedia page!

Good Eats

Pre-Thanksgiving Pumpkin Pie Tasting

By Tom Carmody

On the afternoon of 21 October, 16 Villagers gathered around the conference table at the DCV office for the Village's first ever "Pre-Thanksgiving Pumpkin Pie Tasting"! A very creative way to get the Village excited for Thanksgiving!

Monica Heppel and **Beth Merricks** from the Membership/Activities Committee (MAC) organized the event. Five pies were on the agenda, all, except one "mystery pie", came from local stores and shops.

To get started, Monica and Beth invited each participant to think of what important criteria they would consider when picking their favorite. Maybe they liked the crust? Maybe the texture? Spices? Maybe the pumpkin flavor? Whatever each person may think is important.

To demonstrate my full commitment to the event, I participated as well! Here are my very scientific comments:

- Pie #1 – Nice crust, nice texture, good taste of nutmeg, nice pumpkin flavor.
- Pie #2 – Much less of a pumpkin flavor, nice crust, nice texture.
- Pie #3 – A very nice flavor but almost "pumpkin pudding"! Nice spices, distinct taste of cloves, moist/crunchy crust.
- Pie #4 – Another slice of pudding! Strong flavor of cinnamon. Very sweet. Crust least interesting, sweet, taste of sugar.
- Pie #5 – Taste of pumpkin, nice color, moist mushy crust

With the tastings complete, Monica tabulated the votes to determine the winner!
And, the final votes were:

- 1st Place (tie) Wegman's, $10.00
- 1st Place (tie): Libby's Recipe, #1 (made by Monica!) approximately $8.00
- 3rd Place: Giant, $7.00
- 4th Place: Whole Foods, $15.00
- 5th Place: Costco, $6.00

The "mystery pie" came in tied for #1, made by Monica following the "Libby's Easy Pumpkin Pie Mix" filling recipe. And, great pumpkin napkins for everyone!

A very fun event which, personally, I vote to become an annual activity! Nicely done **Monica** and **Beth!**



Out and About



Great turnout for DCV's Villagers visiting the Italian American Museum of DC.



DCV's fall picnic is always fun and well attended. Thanks to the partnership we have with the Heurich House Mansion for always being a gracious host and allowing us to use their garden.



Villagers on a tour of the National Gallery of Art's Italian Renaissance collection. **Tom Spinelli**, ran into an old friend, artist **Jeff Koons**, during the tour. He's the most famous person to graduate from Tom's high school, Dover Area High School Class of 1972.

Out and About





Carol Galaty and **Ken Shuc**k hosted the "Know Your Neighbor's Art" Home Social in October. After getting food and drinks, 18 of us sat down and each person gave a four sentence introduction to who they were and what their interest in was in art. What a diverse, interesting with active group of artists, art historian, art teachers, art collectors and art admirers.

Three of the artists, **Carol Morgan, Olga Hudacek** and **James Morrison**, each brought and shared two samples of their work and talked about their involvement with art. It was amazing they had such very different styles, approaches and backgrounds!

This was followed by Carol telling stories about the purchase and the creation of some of her pieces. The group was then challenged to look at two pieces of art, a sculpture and next a print and tell the group what they saw a happening in the piece. Bohr various responses were fascinating! After that people socialized as they wandered through the apartment looking at the art and the history and story labels by each piece.



Janet McMahon traveled to Oregon, where she went to college and lived for another two decades, to visit longtime friends, then accompanied a few sheepdog trial aficionados to the national finals in Alturas, CA. Photo is the Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach, OR.



In September, **Judith Neibrief** spent two weeks on a Central Asia-Silk Road trip that at least touched down in 5 'Stans. She especially enjoyed the architecture (oh those minarets and yurts) and craft-filled madrassahs of Uzbekistan, including Bukhara.

Out and About



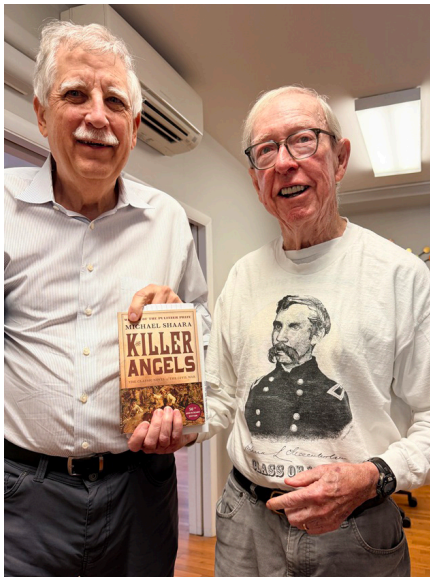


◀ DCV launched its Legacy Giving program with a joyful evening at Inspir on Friday, October 15, celebrating the programs, activities, and people that make our Village special. Nearly 100 attendees learned about Soup Salons, book clubs, volunteer opportunities, health and wellness programs, MAC activities, knitting, and more. Big thanks to **Joan Rogliano** and **Anna Greenberg** for making this happen.

These offerings do more than fill our calendars—they build friendships, foster belonging, and create a safety net as we age. By including DCV in your estate plans, you can help ensure that future Villagers find the same connection, care, and support that enrich our lives today.



▲ Fall Soup Salons in September launched featuring **Gayraud (Andy) Townsend**, media and political strategist with local roots and experience building bipartisan relationships across Capitol Hill, statehouses, the progressive ecosystem and the press. Andy encouraged Villagers to reflect on our own experience, leading to a lively, thought-provoking discussion where someone suggested each of us plan just one thing we could do to move society forward.



▲ DCV's Men's Book Club recently read *The Killer Angels,* featuring Civil War hero Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, who earned the Medal of Honor for his bravery at Gettysburg. Chamberlain was also a proud Bowdoin College graduate and later its president—a connection not lost on fellow Bowdoin alum **Bill O'Brien**, pictured sporting a Chamberlain T-shirt! Bill's Bowdoin pride runs deep, with two of his children also graduates. And joining Bill is fellow book club member **Steve Kittrell.**

Out and About



Joyce and **Sam Liberto** took a trip up to Alaska to cruise into Glacier Bay National Park.





Halloween is in the neighborhood. Thanks to **Jim Chamberlin** for sharing photos of the celebratory homes.

Kathy Price and **Jock Covey** experienced an unforgettable African adventure with Jock's son, a diplomat based in Kenya, and his family. Highlights included spotting the Big Five—lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino, and elephant—meeting the tall, gracious Maasai people, and witnessing extraordinary wildlife. With a fabulous tour guide, spectacular views from the Land Cruiser, and a surprise picnic in Tanzania (TZ), it was a wonderful family experience filled with memories to treasure!

Out and About



DCV's October Wine Sampling

By Monica Heppell

The goal of the Village's October wine sampling was to identify the group's favorite dry Italian red wine. Based on an increasingly rowdy blind taste-testing of eight possibilities, the group was able to stay on task enough to identify a clear winner in that category — the Claudio Quarta 2019 Negroamaro from Puglio, available for about $20. Our choice was confirmed by the experts as this wine had won the gold medal at the Concours Mondial de Bruxelles in 2024.

However, one participant failed to read the not-so-fine print and arrived with a Cabernet Sauvignon from California. We decided to simply offer it as one of the contenders. Reactions were "this is very good - it's different from the others" and "it's very smooth with a wonderful finish." One especially discerning participant remarked "it actually tastes like a Cabernet." This offering, a 2022 from the Method Cellar in California, ended up with the highest score of all the wines we sampled. It also sells for about $20.

Salud!

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
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