

DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“It is spring again.
The earth is like
a child that knows
poems by heart.”

—Rainer Maria Rilke

What's Inside

- 1 YouTube Sensation Frank Watkinson
- 2 President's Notes
- 3 Monthly Calendar
- 6 A (He)artful Gift Art Archive
- 7 Ask Ann: Going Forward With Relationships April Birthdays
- 8 Live and Learn: Social Media
- 9 Staying in Touch in Pandemic Times
- 10 Meet Member David Schwarz
- 11 DCV is Hiring
- 12 Volunteering Abroad
- 15 Out and About
- 17 DCV Virtual Gala Poetry Corner

Welcome New Members!

Peter Bloom
Dirk Prevoo
Barbara Sloan

The 68 year-old Retiree who Became the Latest YouTube Music Sensation

One upside of the Pandemic is a flourishing of creative talents and artistic outputs readily available online, accessible to all. For Frank Watkinson, it was never

about popularity, money or fame. Frank just liked to play his guitar and sing. He had been playing since he was 16 and when he retired ten years ago, he was delighted to have more time for his favorite pastime. He experimented with writing his own songs and doing covers

By Eva M. Lucero,
Executive Director

from groups he admired. He would record himself using the app, Photo Booth, on his MAC but for better sound quality, he started uploading his solo performances to YouTube, the online video sharing platform.

Frank is a 68-year-old granddad from Huntingdon, England (12 miles from Cambridge) who lives with his wife, his dog and cat. His solo performances are all filmed in his living room. He had not thought much about the videos he was uploading until last November when he realized



Continued on page 2

President's Notes



Our DCV Connections

Early in 2020 I thought we were doing well keeping our members involved by offering varied and excellent programming. Then COVID-19 hit, and I worried that we would lose the wonderful sense of community we had built. COVID-19 could have really set us back, but this year we have had more people involved with Village activities and we are offering more programs than we offered before the lockdown. This is, of course, due to the creative thinking of many Villagers and our staff, **Eva M. Lucero**, and **Ann Talty**. Working together we are stronger than ever.

This past year it became painfully obvious that some of our members were left out of activities because they did not have internet connectivity or the devices to access the internet. This meant that they were experiencing extreme isolation. I am pleased that we have now resolved

this problem. We were able to access new iPads and data minutes for our members through the DC Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL). The new devices have been delivered; the orientation program has been very useful and now our members can fully access our on-line programming! If you know of a Village member who could benefit from this program, please Eva know.

Dupont Circle Village has other connections that are important too. From time to time our members run into rough patches. These "patches" include challenges such as food insecurity, needing guidance on selecting a rehab center, financial issues that require help finding someone to provide financial guidance. Barbara Scott,

our social worker has ably connected our members to the resources they require. Others are facing health challenges and seek help planning for elective surgery, accessing the health care they need, and communicating with the health professionals. This is the role of a Health Care Navigator. I am filling the Navigator role on a temporary basis. We are actively searching for a part-time registered nurse for our Village. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please let Eva know.

The BIG CONNECTION this month is our virtual **Spring Gala "You are guests of the Earth—behave!"** I hope you will join us on April 22 for an evening of good food, you will have a tough time choosing among the entrees, wonderful music including some music that will get you dancing, and a chance to see and talk with Village friends. Don't miss it! The traditional silent auction will be offered. I have had a peek at the offerings—I bet there is something you'll have to have!

I look forward to seeing you on April 22 at 6 PM.

Frank Watkinson

Continued from page 1

that he suddenly had over 12,000 YouTube subscribers. He started reading the comments that were posted and realized the upsurge in his popularity was the result of his cover of the Indie song, "In The Aeroplane Over The Sea". Somebody had come across Frank's version and shared a clip to TikTok, another very popular sharing platform for videos taken with a mobile phone. The TikTok poster ended the clip with a message, "Do yourself a favour and go listen to some cover songs by Frank Watkinson on YouTube."

He now has over 338,000 YouTube

subscribers and counting.

While there was some luck involved in Frank's skyrocketing popularity, he also has a lot of talent with a voice that's equal parts beautiful and melancholic. As many times as Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" has been recorded, I highly recommend listening to Frank's version. Other artists he covers include Fleetwood Mac, The Beatles, The Cure, Cat Stevens, Snow Patrol, A-Ha, and Johnny Cash. One of his originals titled "This Could be My Last Song" is an emotional track about aging (*My final swan song/Before the curtain call/I hope I played my part well/For I know so well/There's no encore*) and

has already racked up over a million views. All of Frank's songs are available for free on his [YouTube](#) channel.

It wasn't too long before a music label stumbled upon Frank's YouTube videos. Goodieboy, the first virtual music label specializes in bands, singers or rappers who prefer to operate under a virtual identity, fell in love with Frank's covers and original songs and awarded him the YouTube Indie Artist of the Year 2020. Goodieboy, then signed him for his first album, *My Life Unplugged*, which can be heard on their website, www.goodieboymusic.com. For a man who never sought out fame, it sure did come to him.

Monthly Calendar

Currently, activities are being offered online, by way of Zoom. Updates will be posted in the Friday e-blast. Instructions for Zoom can be found under the Library tab at <https://dcv.clubexpress.com/>

We do ask you to register online at www.dupontcirclevillage.net and select "Calendar," find the event, and register. If you can't join an online event or figure out how to register, please email or call Ann Talty at admin@dupontcirclevillage.net or (202) 436-5252.

CELEBSALON

Saul Lilienstein, Musician, Director, Professor

Wednesday, April 7, 6:00–7:00 pm

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

A musical Renaissance man, Saul Lilienstein has had a storied career as a musician, music historian, opera and choral director, conductor, professor, and writer about music. For the past several years, he has transformed his deep knowledge and broad experience into a series of phenomenally popular courses, ranging from opera to jazz, Bach to the Beatles, at the Smithsonian Institution, the Levine School of Music, and many other educational settings. His commentaries for symphonic concerts at the Kennedy Center and for The Washington National Opera (WNO) are legendary, and his highly acclaimed set of 85 CDs for WNO analyzing the opera repertoire remains the most extensive series of its kind in the English language. A former student of Leonard Bernstein, Lilienstein holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in music from Queens College, NY.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Caring for Family Caregivers: Finding Support in Your Village

Wednesday, April 7, 12 noon

Host: Mt Pleasant Village

This class is part of the Wellness Wednesdays series offered by DC area Villages.



Cooking with Claire: Crêpes

Friday, April 9, 1:30–3:00 pm

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Learn to make crêpes in a virtual cooking class with DCV member, Claire Erbes-Wagner. Claire earned her Baccalaureate in 1951 in Strasbourg, France, and then studied at the Institute of Home Economics, where she obtained her teaching degree. She taught in Alsace and in Charente Maritime before moving to New York in 1967. There she met Florence Fabricant of the *New York Times*, who pushed her into teaching French cooking for adults. Claire obtained her Teaching Certificate from the State of New York Education Department and taught in New York.

French Cooking at that time was in high demand. Claire converted her recipes to American standard and discovered then that her program was very close to the one of Julia Child, with whom she started correspondence. She taught from 1969 until 1990 when she moved to Washington, DC.

Over 80 Group

Tuesday, April 13, 2:30–3:30 pm

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

This monthly program addresses various topics identified by the members. It is moderated by Phyllis Kramer, MSW.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Falls Prevention

Wednesday, April 14, 12 noon

Host: Foggy Bottom West End Village

This class is part of the Wellness Wednesdays series offered by DC area Villages.

Men's Book Group

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Robert Hirsch (rmhirsch49@yahoo.com)

This group meets monthly. Watch for details in upcoming e-blasts.

Continued on page 4

Monthly Calendar

Continued from page 3

SUNDAY SOUP SALON

Smell—the forgotten sense

Sunday, April 18, 5:00–6:30 pm

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Throughout history, the role of smell has largely been underplayed. But millions of people have lost their sense of smell to Covid 19, prompting *The New York Times Magazine* to run a feature story, "The Forgotten Sense." "If smell was ignored before, off in the hinterlands," the writer remarks, "you could say that Covid put it on the map."

This Soup Salon will turn a spotlight on this mysterious but vital sense. We'll learn about the historical significance of smell and why it is often overlooked, though on a par with deafness or blindness. For an unusual sensory adventure, please have something strong-smelling (like coffee or chocolate) by your armchair.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

Nutrition as We Age

Lecture and Cooking Demonstration

Wednesday, April 21, 12 noon

Host: Glover Park Village

This class is part of the Wellness Wednesdays series offered by DC area Villages.

CELEBSALON

Marvin Kalb

Wednesday, April 21, 6:00–7:00 pm

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Details will be announced in upcoming Friday e-blasts.

DCV Virtual Gala

Thursday, April 22, 6:00 pm

Cost: \$100

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office (with meal selection, please)

Mark your calendar for April 22, 2021 from 6:00–7:00 pm with an optional 15–20 minutes of chat at the end of the gala if you so choose, and plan to celebrate the new year, the Earth and each other. This year's DCV Annual Gala will be a virtual one complete with dinner, dancing and entertainment. We will provide excellent entertainment, we will celebrate one of our own with the Linda Harsh Award and we will have opportunities to visit with fellow villagers before and after the gala main event.



As stewards of the Earth, we invite you to enjoy food and fun with fellow DCV and community members. We will have a silent auction of destinations for travel, eating, and adornment for your home and yourselves for your bidding enjoyment. We will be posting a sneak preview in April, so stay tuned!

2021 Online Silent Auction

Thursday, April 22, 7:30 pm–Sunday, April 25, 8:00 pm

Immediately after the Virtual Gala is over, the online Silent Auction will begin. Auction catalogues will be delivered to attendees in advance of the Gala. The items will also be on our website, so you will have plenty of time to line up your favorite items. There are around 40 great opportunities, loosely grouped under 3 categories: Destinations Far and Near; Wining, Dining & Good Eats; and Home, Décor & Self-Indulgence.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

Cooking Demo with Monica

Wednesday, April 28, 1:00–2:00 pm

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

This class is part of the Wellness Wednesdays series offered by DC area Villages. In this session, star baker and DCV member Monica Heppel will lead a cooking demonstration on multigrain pancakes.

DCV Movie Group

Wednesday, April 28, 3:55–5:15 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Details will be announced in upcoming Friday e-blasts.

Mystery Book Group

Friday, April 30, 3:00–4:00 pm

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

The book for the April discussion is *Dead Land* by Sara Paretsky.

Online Meditation with Christina

Mondays & Thursdays, 9:00–9:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Continued on page 5

Monthly Calendar

Continued from page 4

Accessible Mat Yoga

Mondays, 3:30–4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Chair Yoga

Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Online Feldenkrais Method Awareness Through Movement

Focus for April: Feet and Ankles

Wednesdays, 10:00–11:00 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office



Virtual Mahjongg

Wednesdays at 3:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Bobbi Milman, rmilman@comcast.net or (202) 667-0245

Villagers are currently playing virtual Mahjongg with the computer app **RealMahjongg**. Contact Bobbi Milman if you are interested in details.

Coffee and Conversation

Thursdays, 10:00–11:00

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

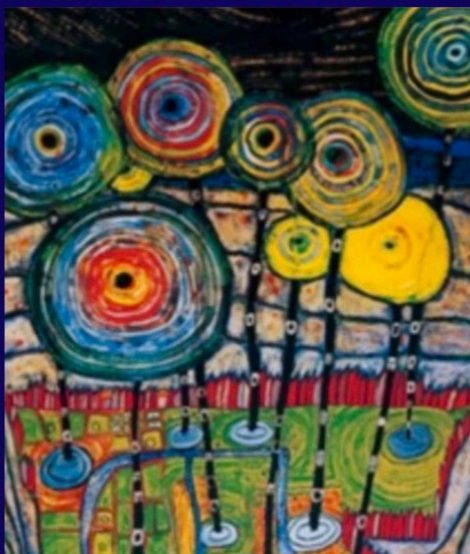
Knitting Group

Thursdays, 4:00 pm

RSVP: Sheila Lopez at sheilablopez@gmail.com

PURCHASE A TICKET TODAY!

www.dupontcirclevillage.net



You Are A Guest of the Earth...Behave

Dupont Circle Village
2021 Virtual Gala
Thursday April 22
6 p.m.

A (He)artful gift: An Afghan, a Profusion of Animals, and a one-of-a-kind Pillow

From a knitted square to a rabbit... At the last meeting, out of a knitted square we made a rabbit. Making seams, stuffing, squeezing, creating a face, a body, and a pompom for a tail. We forgot for a while stay-at-home restrictions, misery, unemployment, fear of the virus. It was good for heart and soul.

—Claire Wagner, June 2020 Newsletter

DCV knitters have been meeting bi-weekly since 2014. Upholding the tradition, the group has continued to meet during the pandemic to share ideas, patterns, projects, conversation and concerns. Over the years, the group has worked on various common projects, such as premie hats and blankets for Children's Hospital, head bands, knitted stuffed animals, and fingerless gloves.

As the pandemic began in 2020, the group moved online for weekly ZOOM meetings and to provide support for one another. As **Gretchen Ellsworth** noted: "DCV knitters have found that contact with each other and creation of delightful, useful things, are a vaccine for what ails us." Knitters became interested in working together on a group project. The group's bunny project, an early response to the pandemic, was featured in the June 2020 DCV newsletter. After the bunny experience, we were hooked.

Later in the year, knitters became interested in undertaking another joint project. Once we began to understand the breadth of the pandemic, we looked for a way to contribute to the community as part of our effort. The results are: a sampler afghan created by 15 women, a cornucopia of knitted animals and a one-of-a-kind pillow designed and made by our resident master knitter, **Claire Wagner**.

We donate these projects to the DCV Gala with thanks for the loving

support that the Village has provided throughout this unusually difficult Covid year. As expressed by one member, "valued most is our deepening sense of friendship, enhanced by much laughter or—when appropriate—furrowed brows of concern, occasioned by a personal dilemma, or more seriously, wondering where the lost stitch went." Here are our gifts:

The Afghan: Fifteen knitters created this lovely afghan by contributing 52 squares. The afghan is made up of sampler squares in different patterns selected from the classic work, **A Treasury of Knitting Patterns** by Barbara G. Walker. There are also two squares designed by Claire Wagner. From the beginning it was destined for the auction, created for you. A counterweight to the stress, anxiety and cabin fever of the pandemic, the palette of soothing soft colors invites calm. You will love snuggling up in

the DCV afghan.

The yarn used is Berroco Vintage, a machine washable blend that is made in Peru. It is composed of 52% acrylic, 40% wool and 8% nylon, so the afghan is machine washable.

The Animal Families: The animal families grew out of our bunny project and a desire to further explore the animal world. Knitters selected animals, both wild and domesticated, to knit and group together into families. They make excellent keepsakes, presents for new babies or as a group display of creativity, ingenuity, color and harmony.

The Custom Pillow: With four squares left over from the afghan, Claire designed and crafted this unique pillow that showcases the patterns of the squares and brings them together with a subtle variegated yarn. A knitted rose completes the design.

Art Archive



Primavera (Spring) Sandro Botticelli (1445–1510, Italian), Uffizi Gallery, Florence

Going Forward with Relationships



Ask Ann

Like most Villagers, I have not been with friends in person for a long time until recently, and even then, very carefully.

In the past four months, I have been texting, using Facetime, Zoom, and of course, the telephone. I had never used any of that except the telephone, partly because my closest friends didn't either. Texting was really good for health crises and sharing information with a 2-person care group. So was Facetime—that way, the three of us (including the patient) could gauge how we were all doing, and really discuss what was going on. I am amused that my friend who never answered her home phone, now has her cell phone turned on always and answers it. And she got so used to Facetime that it is her preferred form of communicating.

I am realizing that I will need to figure out when to use any of those methods, and when I need to just be with someone. I may even need

to keep my cell phone on all the time, or at least some of the time. It all depends. I have learned to like texting stray thoughts, cartoons, etc. with the care group, and it keeps me more in touch with my co-leader. If it is raining, snowing, too hot, whatever, there is an alternative to just canceling a planned activity.

I don't like going out in the evenings—I have never seen well in the dark, and these aging eyes have made that worse. Also, I'm tired, I don't want to find a place to park, etc. So, these e-communication methods could well keep me more involved with people and some activities. That's a good thing. I know I will want to do some things in person, no matter what. And that's a good thing, too.

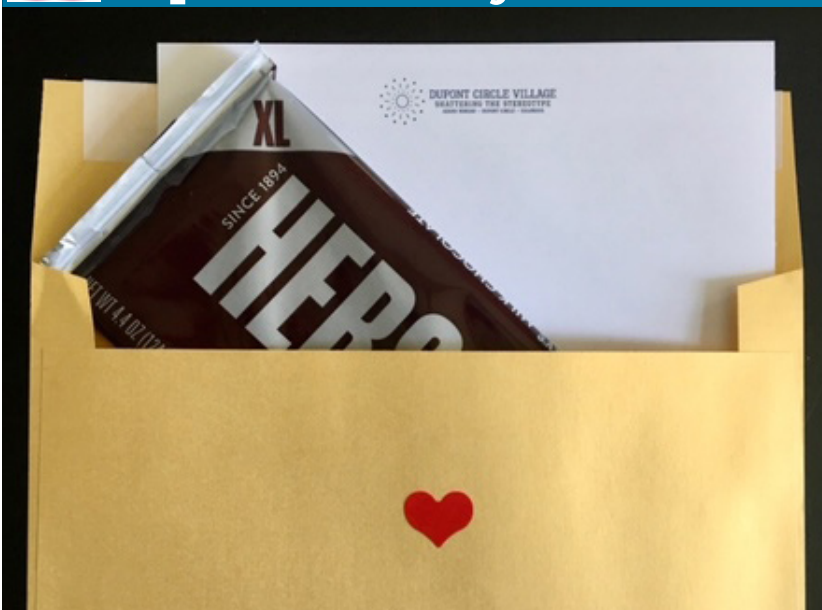
Then there are my relationships with Villagers. I do feel part of and in a relationship with two committees—Membership/Activities Committee, and CelebSalon Committee. I have always been connected to the first. I know them all better because of

the venue, but miss the private chats before and after the meeting. Zooming with the CelebSalon Committee as it morphed to a virtual platform, has allowed me to really get to know the members of the Committee. With the virtual Salons and working from home, I can easily walk from my living room to my dining room and host the Salons, so I have learned a lot from each Salon, and have gotten to know attendees at the same time. Would I go to as many if they were all in-person again? Nope—time, darkness, and parking again.

So the bottom line is, we now have so many more tools that it opens up a swath of possibilities. Both personally and as a Village, we can have the best of all possible worlds—to interact one way does not mean it is cast in stone. In person, some form of e-platform, telephone—all make it possible to pick one, switch out, or have an occasional in person combined with another method. The possibilities are endless.



April Birthdays



Happy Birthday to DCV members born in April! **Edward Elmendorf, Bob Spiegel, Angela Elkins, Janet McMahon, Jeffery Paine, Jane Pierson, Alex Jordan, Carol Balassa, Alice Tetelman, Faith Williams, Nancy Duff Campbell, Joele Michaud, Ted Bracken, Charlotte Holloman, Diana Wright, Anita Gottlieb, Jan Vandevanter, Barbara Friday, Rose Darby, Dan Leathers, Margot Polivy, Mike Silverstein, Jeanette Barker and Bob Meehan**

Social Media: Should You Take the Plunge?

"What do you think of social media?" A social-media expert from the DC Library in Tenleytown asked Villagers this question during a March 22 virtual Live and Learn Program on the subject.

By Joan Treichel

Here were some of their answers...

"Time-consuming."

"Overwhelming."

"Addictive."

"Scary."

"Potentially dangerous."

"Yes, they can be all of the above," the social-media expert agreed. "But they can also be a lot of fun and keep us engaged in the world today. So I'm going to tell you a little about all of this to help you decide whether you want to use any of it or not."

First off, let's be clear about terms, the expert—Biljana Milenkovic, who goes by the nickname of "B"—said. An "account" and a "channel" are not exactly the same. Nonetheless you can use the terms interchangeably.

Secondly, social media are big moneymakers, B pointed out. They want you to spend as much time as possible on them because that increases the odds that you will click on their ads, and even better, buy what those ads promote.

B likewise noted two interesting, perhaps surprising facts: The most visited social media channel in the United States is YouTube, and 60 percent of American adults get their news these days from social media.

B also said that she would focus on only three popular channels (accounts) to give Villagers some idea of how each of them works. They are Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. All three depend on Internet access via a laptop computer, a desktop computer, or a smartphone.

People use Facebook to connect with their friends and families or professional communities, B reported. If



you want to sign up for a Facebook account, it is easy. Once you have an account, you see your home page. On this page, where it says "Search Facebook," type in the name of the person with whom you want to connect. Learn to ignore options that you don't want, as well as ads that are not of interest to you, B advised.

Moreover, you can type a subject of interest to you in the "Search Facebook" box in order to access information about it. And if you type a hashtag—a "#"—in front of the subject that you type in the "Search Facebook" box, you will be connected with what other Facebook users have said about it, B noted.

And having a Facebook account also provides you with an entry to Facebook accounts of entities that say "Visit us on Facebook" at the bottom of their Web pages. All you need to do is click the "f" icon to access the account of interest. Only people with Facebook accounts can use these icons.

This, however, is not the case with Twitter, B pointed out. When an entity, say the PBS Newshour, says "Visit us on Twitter," anyone—not just people with a Twitter account—can click on the Twitter icon—a bird—at the bottom of their Web page and access

their Twitter feed.

However, if you have a Twitter account, you can also access information posted on the Twitter platform that is of interest to you. B uses Twitter to get her news, she said. An advantage of Twitter posts is that they are short forms of written communication—essentially headlines.

Now, Instagram texts are even briefer forms of written communication, but you can include photos or videos to illustrate them as well. B uses Instagram to exchange messages and photos with her nieces and nephews in Serbia, she said. To deploy Instagram, you not only need an Instagram account, but a smartphone, B explained, because you can send and receive Instagram posts only via a smartphone, not via a computer.

B's email address is biljana.milenkovic@dc.gov. She also teaches free classes about social media. To learn more about them, visit www.aroundtowndc.org/event/tuesday-technology-workshops-with-b/2021/. She likewise recommends a documentary if you want to learn more about the origin, present, and future of social media. The film is called "The Social Dilemma" and is available through Netflix streaming.

Staying in Touch in Pandemic Times

In March of 2020 when Covid-19 shut down the world, DCV executed a quick pivot. Pre-pandemic about a dozen people received regular friendly calls, but within weeks,

By Annie Groer regular check-in calls for all 250

Villagers were arranged, to ensure they were okay, or at least okay-ish. "The idea grew from a friendly-call system the Membership/Activities Committee had going for some years", explained **Abigail Wiebenson**, who chairs the committee that meets every other week. About a dozen people were on the pre-pandemic contact list.

Carmela Vetri began calling fellow Villagers several years ago, after inheriting phone duties from a departed member. "I check in monthly; it pleases me. Sometimes I have to leave a few messages before I make contact. Some calls last only a few minutes, others about 10 or 15. My take is they are saying 'I'm really busy, thanks for the call,' or 'I really wouldn't mind some contact with another person.' Since I began doing this, my personal goal was to meet each person for a coffee or tea, put a face to a name. I accomplished two such meetings. Then came Covid-19."

"When the pandemic hit, our constant vigilance about isolation and loneliness became heightened with quarantine mode. We sought and found callers, who volunteered after being solicited on our member listserv, and matched them with the remaining Villagers," explained Wiebenson. The callers might not be able to find Clorox wipes or cake flour for their cocooning neighbors but they could, and did, provide the gift of a caring human voice to those who'd grown weary of talking only to themselves, the cat or the TV. The reconfigured program became a phone bank of 25 callers who inquired about how their assigned Villagers were faring. When the initial awkwardness between strangers



subsidied over time, more substantive conversations ensued.

Gratifying, and in some cases surprising, are the number of genuine connections and lovely friendships that have developed. "A brand-new member I'd never met spent 90 minutes on the phone with me, and at the end she told me 'I've never talked about so many personal things with someone I hadn't met,'" said **Carol Galaty** in describing one of her nine callees. Turns out the two women and their husbands had so much in common that Galaty has since invited the simpatico duo for dinner on their rooftop patio.

She also discovered how fellow Villagers spent time in seclusion. "One woman does strenuous exercises once or twice a day," said Galaty, who had three couples and three individuals on her list. "A single guy I talked to was accustomed to eating out every night. Covid stopped that. Now he's cooking at home every night. Each person has found a different way of coping."

Mary Stevens, another caller, observes that she may have benefitted more than her callees. "After a while we became more familiar with each other and more comfortable. I look forward to talking to my new friends each month. I learned about different

people's careers, hobbies, about their kids. Our Village is filled with fascinating people. The monthly calls helped me get to know people more quickly than a group event or seeing someone in passing." She is particularly delighted by the friendship she cultivated with one of her phone buddies. "We see each other for walks, chats and a meal outside. He has been interviewed by my college-aged daughter about life in the '60's. I can't wait to have him in our home for a meal once it is safe." Said her buddy, "I thank DCV for providing me with the first new friend I've made in 10 years. And, I expect her to be a friend long after the pandemic."

Lex Rieffel decamped to his country retreat in Virginia's Rappahannock County when Covid hit, driving back to the city only to pick up mail and run errands. Calling fellow Villagers made perfect sense. "I had been spending up to five hours a week driving DCV members to physical therapy and medical appointments before the pandemic. Accepting the invitation to take on a calling group assignment seemed a logical way to fill that space, consistent with my commitment to DCV as an original member in 2008." Rieffel had mixed

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

results with his five people. "One person told me it was unnecessary to call, so I didn't. One couple was hard to reach and rarely responded to my voicemail messages, two members were often not home." And then came an only-in-Washington conversation with a Villager he'd been talking to every week for at least 15 to 30 minutes. "It was amazing to discover that this member's father worked in the US Treasury Department on the same issue—state insolvency/sovereign debt—that I did there at the agency 25 years later," Reiffel marveled.

A year later, the program has been an evolving success, with lessons learned all around. Over time, as more Villagers cobbled together their own audio and video networks, including extensive DCV virtual programs, and took part in socially distanced outdoor activities, they no longer needed or wished regular calls. Some of them, however, asked to be callers, replacing those from the original list who asked to be relieved. Other members remained eager to be called. The Membership/Activities Committee shifted gears yet again. The new structure has about 80 Villagers being called by about 20

callers. Stevens has taken over the original pandemic phone tree and created a proper data base.

"We'll keep revisiting this program as we notice people getting out more," explains Wiebenson. "In addition to what the callers report to our Executive Director, **Eva Lucero**, we also track Village activities participation: who's attended what and when. That way we can identify who has and hasn't been seen, heard about or from in a while and follow up on that information." In multiple ways the Village continues to maintain its mission of enabling members to feel responded to and connected.

Meet Member David Schwarz

Growing up in Chicago, David Schwarz had his first contact with Washington during a high school trip the spring of 1959. He remembers the White House tour (Blue Room, Green Room, class photo) and actually remembers driving by Dupont Circle. The next year he went off to college—Ripon College, in Wisconsin—majoring in math and

DCV Member Profile

philosophy. To his parents' chagrin, he fell in love with the idea of a career in academic philosophy, and so, after college, he embarked on a seven-year "voyage" of graduate study. He started with a two-year Fulbright to the United Kingdom and earned a B. Phil in philosophy from the University of St. Andrews—with plenty of breaks to explore Europe and the British Isles. Then he was offered an open-ended fellowship at the University of California-Berkeley, where he spent five years to get his doctorate, including a year at Oxford on a traveling fellowship.

When he finally (and reluctantly)

finished at Berkeley, in 1972 he found his first job as a junior professor in the philosophy department at Mount Holyoke College. That was also a lovely place to be, and—at least in retrospect—he found it somewhat magical developing his teaching skills there and building his fledgling academic career—writing papers, going to conferences, publishing journal articles and, ultimately, a book. The only trouble was that all those doctorates produced by all those sixties fellowships were beginning to fill up the available tenured slots across academe. So, after six years at Mount Holyoke he found himself facing a tenure freeze and had considerable difficulty finding a second tenure-track position. He finally landed at the University of Connecticut, a good department, but financially in bad straits. After six months he discovered that he was holding what was termed "The Folding Chair of Philosophy".

While struggling with the academic job market, he had started living with Stephen, a law student who was to become David's life partner. So, there was the question of Stephen's



career as well. And, since this was the late 70s, they wanted to settle in a major metropolitan area, to be able to live comfortably as a couple in a supportive community. But while big cities have plenty of legal jobs, they

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

don't necessarily offer lots of good academic positions. At this point David began to consider a career change. He knew that some of his humanities colleagues were finding work with the federal government, so he began exploring the possibilities. Things came together when Stephen was offered a job with the U.S. Department of Labor, and David found a one-year position at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. The position only involved a couple of days a week on campus—offering lots of free time to explore transitioning into government. So, the two decided to move to DC. David remembers piling all their stuff into their two cars and driving down from Massachusetts to DC the summer of 1979, during one of the gas crises. For some reason—he didn't know why—David felt incredibly hopeful.

As it turned out, the feeling was justified. Stephen went on to earn a Master's in Tax at Georgetown, going from Labor to a good job at the IRS, and then to a couple of private law firms, before returning to Labor to work on pension issues. David ended up at the Environmental Protection Agency, in the Policy office. Initially he was just a part-time consultant, but within a year he was full-time, and then landed a management position as a Branch Chief. From his training as a philosopher, he brought abilities to write and think and learn new things—and also to teach—and those skills stood him in good stead throughout his 30 years at EPA. He ended up focusing on information technology issues, ultimately leading the effort to move EPA to electronic reporting and—in partnership with the Department of Justice—writing a regulation governing electronic signatures on federal compliance reports. He also served for several years as chair of a UN-sponsored working group on international standards for electronic exchange of environmental data. This position gave him the opportunity to travel the world and meet many interesting people.

And David and his partner were able to settle in Dupont Circle, buying a house on Willard Street in 1984. The two found in DC and in Dupont Circle everything they had wanted in a city and a neighborhood.

As David and his partner were building their lives in Washington, Stephen's mother began showing the symptoms of Huntington's Disease, which, tragically, has run rampant on her side of his family. His mother's illness raised the question of Stephen's risk, and as he approached 40, Stephen began to feel very subtle but worrisome signs of neurological change. Stephen was persuaded to take the genetic test for Huntington's Disease that had just become available; it confirmed his worst fears. David and Stephen responded to the diagnosis by focusing on doing all the things they wanted to do together, for as long as possible. They traveled to Europe twice a year; they went to the operas they both loved, in DC, in New York, and in Europe; they spent a theater week in London every fall; they cruised in the Caribbean, in Alaska and in Europe; and they visited Australia, China and Japan. Stephen lived and worked through the symptoms until he couldn't, finally retiring on disability in 2008. David retired two years later to spend as much time with Stephen as he could, and to become his caregiver. David was able to keep Stephen at home, with a lot of home care help, until he died on his 60th birthday in 2015.

Since Stephen's passing, David has stayed busy by traveling again (until Covid), spending at least a couple of weeks a year in New York and taking several trips to Europe. He also normally visits his mom (who is 102) in Chicago every couple of months and has been overseeing her care. He has become involved with the community, serving as president of Bet Mishpachah (Washington's LGBTQ synagogue) for three years, and has now joined the Board of DCV.

In normal times, he does a lot of theater and concerts and is active in four book groups. He tries to stay

fit, too, working out with a trainer three or four times a week, currently over Zoom. When he finds the time (and energy), he also plays the piano, which glares at him accusingly when he tries to ignore it. And he has returned to his philosophical interests, writing papers and giving conference presentations again. Strangely, his work at EPA on electronic reporting revived his interest in the work he was doing before he moved to DC—who would have guessed?

DCV IS HIRING!

RN/HealthCare Navigator

Tired of what you are doing and need a change? Consider working with our Village! Dupont Circle Village (DCV) in Washington, DC has more than 250 members and more than 100 trained volunteers who help with everything from replacing light bulbs to dedicated involvement in care groups. Many of these members have medical issues that require direct care assessment and planning as well as oversight. The duties of this position include direct support and services to members and/or their families, coordination of care with DCV's Social Worker and education, information, and guidance for Village members and staff. This is a contract position that offers flexible hours with occasional specific requests, an independent nursing practice, and a chance to work with a caring community that will advance your practice. You must have or be willing to obtain a DC Nursing License. The position also requires good people, telephone, and computer skills.

Please submit a letter of interest and a cv/resume to info@dupont-circlevillage.net.

Volunteering Abroad

The Hardest, Most Rewarding Job of My Life

My two-year Peace Corps experience, 1964 to 66, living and teaching in Ghana, West Africa, laid an exciting and formative base for the rest of my life.

To my surprise my liberal, supportive father told me *by Carol Galaty* I shouldn't join the Peace Corps. He said I was used to a comfortable life; I wouldn't enjoy it and I'd be off the marriage market for two years. He was wrong on all accounts. I enjoyed most of it tremendously. I learned a lot, had a lot of fun, and I found and married Dave Galaty.

To be truthful it wasn't all enjoyable. We were loaded with shots and had our wisdom teeth pulled to prevent as medical emergencies. While they taught us language and cultural skills, and tools to cope with the ups and depression-downs experienced living in a different culture, they didn't prepare me for the effects of the early contraceptive pills (which caused depression). This, combined with living through the military coup deposing the Nkrumah Government resulted in my ending the Peace Corps prematurely with psychological issues.

Nonetheless, I had far more incredible experiences and exciting adventures than I can recount here. So, I'll just give a few snapshots of my teaching and traveling.

I taught biology, zoology, health science, math and French at junior and high schools. I was challenged trying to answer questions from students living in equatorial Africa like "Does it hurt when snow falls on you?" and "How can there be fossils when ants eat everything left on the ground?" I was confused when the chemicals I used testing canned luncheon meat from "Red" China for carbohydrates, proteins and sugar,

showed no proteins yet later the same chemicals then showed protein in slices of meat. I also learned a great deal from my students. Once, when I was upset because something I did wasn't working, my students assured me that I "had tried" which was more important than succeeding.

I also had incredible travel adventures. Sitting in "Benz" buses, known as "flying coffins," small children would surreptitiously, with obvious fear, touch my strange blond hair or my white skin. One time, arriving late for a "Mammy Lorry" ride that was already jammed with passengers, I had to travel three hours along wet beach sands tied to the top along with crates of chicken. Another time,



in Nigeria I rode on the top of a big truck on a tarp covering its full load of Kola nuts. After 8 hours in 100-degree heat and a sudden rainstorm, I arrived with a raging fever. I traveled in dugout canoes and hiked in the desert hallucinating from lack of water. I was once stranded in a village where they spoke none of the languages I did, and they led me to believe they would bring me the head of my friend, which, to my relief, turned out to be a photo.

Would I do it again? Absolutely! I wouldn't miss the experiences, but I'd have to be young again.

Marie Marcoux's Three Peace Corps Assignments

My ex-husband's dream was to enter the Peace Corps. That the Peace Corps recruited him to begin at the time

By Marie Marcoux of our wedding in 1973 required me to scramble to complete the long application.

Colombia

For my assignment, I was considered a "non-matrixed spouse", PC admin-speak for a usually female spouse who became a volunteer because the Peace Corps wanted her husband's skills. Only after arriving in Colombia did we learn that the Peace Corps planned for me to teach child care and nutrition in the town where Don was to be posted I was a newly-wed who looked like she was

about age 12 and had neither children nor child-care skills.

I had two years of professional journalism experience with newspapers and in cable newscasting. Don had no experience in agricultural business management, his college major.

I was having my early-out physical when the physician asked why the Peace Corps did not choose me for an audio-visual PC position. I asked and learned that the PC wouldn't permit women to travel, which was part of those jobs.

Peru

After Don and I were assigned to a state-level office of the Ministry of Agriculture in southern Peru,

Continued on page 13

Volunteering Abroad

Continued from page 12

I worked in the ministry's communications office, advising on and preparing educational media to inform Peruvians about the ministry's work.

In less than five months after our arrival, PC/Peru was ordered to remove the volunteer who was in charge of the ministry's Planning Office (Don), since the zone bordering Chile was considered militarily sensitive. Don had been working as an econometrician, part of a number-crunching team and not in charge of anything.

Awaiting other assignments 250 miles northwest, we learned that the Peruvian government had asked the Peace Corps to leave.

Tunisia

The Peace Corps then assigned us to Tunisia where I advised Tunisia's National Office of Tourism in various campaigns to increase tourist traffic. Some of my work was published internationally.

Don was to lead a team at the Ministry of Agriculture, to convert the organization of the Ministry's regions from a geographic basis to a political one. He was assigned to Bizerte, the northernmost city, where the director opposed the project and refused to meet him, permit him to work or otherwise be useful. Don spent mornings teaching English to and playing cards with his colleagues and snorkeled in the Mediterranean during the afternoons.

Meanwhile, I left Bizerte by 5 a.m. to commute to Tunis. The Peace Corps, valuing Don's non-existent job, expected me to pay for and take transit up to five hours a day. The PC would not support me with a motorcycle, transit reimbursement, or anything else. The PC wanted me to teach English in Bizerte, a position regarding which I had ethical objections. And I was really valued at the tourism office.

Don and I gray-marketed our excess living allowance out of

Tunisia, subsidizing his graduate studies, while I ran a Pennsylvania newspaper.

From the Peace Corps, I gained fluency in French and Spanish, languages in which I am now an interpreter. I appreciate the cross-cultural sensitivity I developed, plus the ability to be resourceful. I learned how to mobilize quickly for the international work I've regularly undertaken for



much of my life, particularly in human rights, justice sector reform and election observation.

Getting More Eggs from Happier Hens

When people ask me what my job was during my two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in India, I say: "Getting more eggs from happier hens". When they ask what I accomplished, I say: "I got more eggs, but the hens weren't happier".

The fundamental irony of my Peace Corps service is that we were showing poultry keepers how to earn money by converting from free range husbandry (roaming around the village) to raising chickens in cages. Now, here in the USA, we are taking chickens out of cages and moving to free range husbandry.

In June 1965, I arrived on the campus of St. John's College in Annapolis, MD, to begin three months of training in modern poultry keeping, together with almost 100 other trainees. This was an exceptional training program, ostensibly because it built upon the "Great Books" curriculum of St. John's College. The main feature of the program was its seminar style, led by a faculty of the top India scholars in the USA. Stories from our training program could easily fill a book.

The most amazing part of India XVI's experience was spending five

weeks in Israel. When we assembled at JFK Airport in New York City for our flight to New Delhi, we were stopped from boarding because fighting between India and Pakistan had just broken out. President Lyndon Johnson decided it would be wrong to send more Peace Corps volunteers to India before the fighting stopped. After three days in a hotel awaiting our fate, the Peace Corps sent us to Israel. We spent the first week in Israel touring the whole country, and then we were assigned to four kibbutzim that had poultry operations among their multitude of activities. Stories from our time in Israel could fill another book.

We finally arrived in New Delhi in November 1967 and were scattered among 6–7 different states in Northern and Western India. I ended up in Ghaziabad, just 15 miles East of New Delhi. Peace Corps staff had learned of my keen interest in small industry. By chance, a site in Ghaziabad had prepared for a volunteer from an earlier small industry group, but the volunteer had never arrived, so the Peace Corps posted me there.

It's not easy to sum up my experience within the Newsletter's word

Continued on page 14

Volunteering Abroad



Continued from page 13

limit. Here are some highlights:

■ My poultry work was more of a failure than a success. My “clients” ranged from a brewery raising more than 1000 chickens for their eggs, to a Christian mission, to a family in a remote village selected by my counterpart as a pilot project for modern poultry keeping in rural India. My most spectacular failure was starting an egg-laying operation on the flat roof of a large residence on Ghaziabad’s main road. Nothing about this effort was smart.

■ My small industry work got nowhere. I tried making egg cartons from a European design. I designed

a “better” feeder for chicken houses that turned out to be worse than what was already there. I tried to help a friendly carpenter make yoyos with a fine lacquer finish, but we were not able to master the lacquering.

■ Having acquired an interest in family planning in college, I spent chunks of time advocating family planning and providing encouragement and support to the nascent family planning movement in Ghaziabad. I’m sure my efforts had no effect on the birth rate.

■ The worst part of my experience was getting pneumonia about four months after my arrival and spending a full month in Holy Family Hospital in New Delhi.

■ The next to best part of my experience was being able to travel to most of the states of India and even visit Nepal for a few days. The most memorable trip was to Chandigarh,



the capital of Punjab State, as the guide to the daughter of the interior designer who worked with LeCorbusier in designing Punjab’s new capital.

■ It should come as no surprise that the best part of my Peace Corps experience was the friends I made. I stayed in touch over the years with three Indian friends, and I’ve visited them five times since completing service in 1967. And I have done quite a bit of work to promote the Peace Corps and international volunteer service over the past 17 years.

American Friends Service Committee

The spring of my senior year in college in 1965, I was accepted to teach English in northern Thailand with the Peace Corps, which was one of the few alternatives to

By Ted Bracken being drafted to fight in the Vietnam war which I opposed. In the end I turned down the invitation but in a similar vein I opted to spend several summers during graduate school serving with the similarly purposed American Friends Service Committee (the Quaker service arm) in what is now the Czech Republic which, in its own way was a life-changing experience for me. I was in Prague and witnessed personally Dubček’s “Prague Spring” revolution in 1968 which was brutally put down as 200,000 Soviet troops and 2,000 tanks invaded the

country. Life-long friends from those years include a Czech contemporary who went on to become the nation’s deputy minister of finance after Vaclav Havel’s 1989 “Velvet Revolution” and whose job it was to privatize the entire Czech economy. In later years, both his daughters came to live with us in Washington and we remain Facebook friends.

Out and About



▲ An amazing display of gratitude for **Abigail Wiebenson** on her 80th birthday. Villagers flooded the Abigail Appreciation Garden with notes of gratitude for all she has done for our Village.



▲ **Geri McCann** out on a walk near the Kennedy Center shared this beautiful snap of the Potomac River.



▲ **Lynn Lewis** strolling with a few Village friends in the National Arboretum. Spring has sprung.

Out and About



◀ **Deb Mendelson** saw these beautiful and colorful murals in the windows of the former Betsy Fisher store on Connecticut Avenue.



◀ **Judith Neibrief, Judi Lambart and Nancy Turnbull** enjoy their dinner from Dupont Circle restaurant Agora as part of the new DCV Zoom dinners.



▲ **Nancy LaVerda** came upon a masked Einstein while on one of her walks.

2021 DCV Virtual Gala: An Event Not to Be Missed!!

A little less than a year ago, we were looking forward to our annual DCV Gala at the American Geophysical Union (AGU). The 2019 Gala at AGU was such a success, we decided to hold it there again. The delicious menu was in place complete with wine, the DJ was booked and the silent

*By Lois Berlin,
2021 Gala Chair*

auction promised a wide array of destinations and other goodies for your bidding pleasure. Then came

Covid and, as the saying goes, the rest is history. We all retreated to our respective corners and did our very best to stay safe and well. Our social interactions were reduced to phone calls, Zoom sessions and visits with folks in our "bubble" if you had a bubble!

While we're not quite ready to trip the light fantastic in person this year, we do think it's important to gather this year and celebrate the coming of spring, the extremely high percentage of our vaccinated members and, of course, our planet. We will do that virtually and have planned an event to remember. Please plan to join a host of DCV members, friends and community members on **Thursday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m.** as we enjoy fabulous entertainment, eat delectable food from Glen's Garden Market, celebrate the accomplishments of one of our own, dance to the music that continues to make us dance like no one is watching, and simply enjoy each other's company.

Tickets are available for \$100 (\$75 tax deductible) until April 17, so hurry and purchase one now on the DCV website. The evening will include opportunities

Poetry Corner

Spring Oak

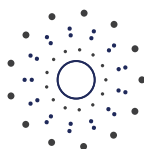
Above the quiet valley and unrippled lake
While woodchucks burrowed new holes, and birds sang,
And radicles began downward and shoots
Committed themselves to the spring
And entered with tiny industrious earthquakes,
A dry-rooted, winter-twisted oak
Revealed itself slowly. And one morning
When the valley underneath was still sleeping
It shook itself and was all green.

by Galway Kinnell

to chat in break out rooms at the beginning and end of the Gala and, of course, a silent auction complete with destinations near and far, opportunities for self-pampering, wine and other culinary indulgences, and gorgeous handcrafted items, many made by our own DCV Knitting Group. I only regret that we are not in person so you can see all the fantastic creations up close. Trust me, they are spectacular.

I look forward to seeing you on April 22!! Be there or be square.

The Dupont Circle Village is a non-profit volunteer organization that connects neighbors to services and educational, cultural/social and health and wellness activities. Please consider a donation now or remember us in your will.



DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE
SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE
ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

Dupont Circle Village
2121 Decatur Place NW
Washington, DC 20008

www.dupontcirclevillage.net
admin@dupontcirclevillage.net

202-436-5252

Board of Directors

Ann McFarren, president
Steve Kittrell, treasurer
Abigail Wiebenson, secretary
Patricia Baranek
Sarah Burger
Andrés Doernberg
Gretchen Ellsworth
Mike Gould
Mike Higgins
Charlotte Holloman
Michael Kain
Bob McDonald
David Schwarz

Eva M. Lucero
executive director

Mike Gould
volunteers chair and coordinator

Newsletter co-editors

Eva M. Lucero, editor
Sherri Monson, copy editor
Helene Scher, copy editor

Design

Saiz Design