



DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“Openings come quickly, sometimes, like blue space in running clouds. A complete overcast, then a blaze of light.”

—Tennessee Williams

What's Inside

- 1 DCV's First Virtual Gala
- 2 Thank You to Our Sponsors
- 3 Monthly Calendar
- 5 May Birthdays
- 6 Ask Ann: Going Forward With Relationships
- DCV is Hiring
- 7 Meet Member Kenlee Ray
- 8 Member Poll
- 9 Out and About
- 13 Art Archive
- Poetry Corner

Welcome New Members!

Yannick Chevalier
James Reese

DCV's First Virtual Gala— A Triumphant Success!

Just like other organizations, Dupont Circle Village's (DCV) fundraising celebrations look a little different this year. With the leadership of Gala Chair, **Lois Berlin**, and her stellar Gala Committee, DCV pulled off a fun, entertaining and memorable virtual Gala on April 22.

Within an hour's time, the 122 attendees socialized in breakout

rooms, danced like no one was watching and ate dinner provided by Glen's Garden Market in their living rooms. They were then treated to three spectacular performances beginning with concert pianist, **Natalia Kazaryan**, playing Rachmaninov's Etudes Tableaux Op. 39, No 1 in C Minor. Next up was Dance Theatre of Harlem Company Artists, **Allie Hutchinson** and **Derek Brockington** with their lively *Dancing Through Harlem* viral performance. To close out the set, Howard University graduating senior and Jazz vocalist, **Ekep**

Nkwelle, performed "Flor De Lis" accompanied by pianist Cyrus Chestnut, bassist Herman Burney Jr, drummer Kelton Norris, and percussionist Amadou Kouyate. All of the performances were exceptional and exciting to watch!

DCV awarded longtime supporter, **Nancy Hartsock**, with the Linda Harsh Distinguished Service Award. This annual award recognizes the volunteer contributions of DCV

Continued on page 2



Gala

Continued from page 1

members who have gone the extra mile to support DCV's mission. Among the many members whose efforts drive DCV's progress, the recipients of this award stand out for the longevity and intensity of their work on behalf of our Village.

In closing out the event, DCV opened up the silent auction to bidding on 43 items ranging from international destinations to local restaurants to cultural memberships to fine wine. Every item that was generously donated to DCV sold at the auction, contributing \$10,920 towards our

fundraising goal.

What a night! While we were not together in person, we certainly were together in spirit. Thank you. We are grateful for your support and being part of this wonderful community. Please do stay engaged and keep dancing like nobody is watching.

THANK YOU!

2021 DCV Virtual Gala

Individual and Corporate Sponsors

\$2,500 +

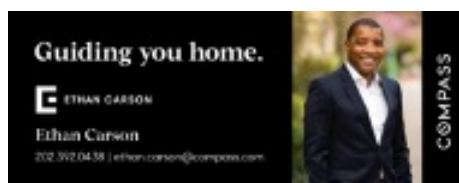
Joe & Lynn Horning; Steve Kittrell & Susan Hattan

\$1,000 +

Lois Berlin & Larry Stuebing; Burke Dillon

\$500+

Bob McDonald & David Insinga; Ann McFarren & Bill Roberts; Lex Rieffel; Barbara & Arthur Rothkopf



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.

Over 80 Group

Tuesday, May 11, 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. Phyllis has over 30 years in private practice, and has counseled scores of clients working through isolation and illness and depression and dysfunction.

French Challenge

Tuesday, May 11, 4:30–6:00 pm

**Location: hosted live on Carol Galaty's back deck:
1910 S St NW**

**RSVP: Carol Galaty, (202) 232-7259 or
carolgalaty@gmail.com by May 8**

This invitation is not only for regular members of the French Challenge, but for any new DCV members (and their friends) who would like to join us, whether you are a native speaker or have studied/spoken French but feel it is rather rusty! As summer will soon be here and many adventuresome members of the French Challenge will be braving the new challenges of traveling. The May meeting would be to "catch up" on what we have been doing during covid and what we plan to do during the summer. We will then start our regular meetings again on September 21, the third Tuesday in September.

CELEBSALON:

**The Mess in Myanmar, Lex Rieffel and
Dr. Kyaw Moe Tun**

Wednesday, May 12, 6:00–7:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Burma/Myanmar has received a lot of news coverage recently because of the military coup on February 1 that stopped the government elected last November from taking office. Popular protests against the coup have been massive, exceeding in scope and intensity the uprising in 1988, from which Aung San Suu Kyi emerged



as the country's preeminent pro-democracy leader, and the monk-led "Saffron Revolt" in 2007.

Lex Rieffel will speak about the main political, social, and cultural context for this country, which has been in a state of civil war since independence in 1948. He will be joined by Dr. Kyaw Moe Tun (PhD in organic chemistry from Yale University) who arrived in the USA at the beginning of May after fleeing from Myanmar to avoid imminent arrest. Dr. Kyaw Moe Tun has been working to establish Myanmar's first private nonprofit liberal arts college and will offer a first-hand perspective on the struggle between the military and the young men and women who are leading the movement to end military rule in Myanmar.

Sunday Soup Salon

Sunday, May 16, 5:00–6:30 pm

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Did you know there are 30 benefits from learning how to use humor...and that anyone can master these skills? One of our TED presenters uses humor to help people make decisions and take actions to lead the life they really want. His granny (approaching 80) is the funniest person he knows (example: her translation of WTF). Audience members call the talk hilarious and full of great ideas.

Another speaker is a "clown doctor" who launched the first professional medical clown program in the United States. He uses research-based strategies from the arts to improve both staff and patient experiences in critical care environments at the nation's top research hospitals. "I design joy," he says. Spoiler alert: This fellow is a polymath and also swallows swords.

You can find the talks on Ted.com: Andrew Tarvin, "The skill of humor"; and Matthew Wilson, "The health benefits of clowning around"

Continued on page 4

Monthly Calendar

Continued from page 3

Men's Book Group

Monday, May 17, 11:00 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Robert Hirsch (rmhirsch49@yahoo.com)

This month's book is: ***The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*** by Walter Isaacson

CELEBSALON:

George Crabtree, expert on electric vehicle transformation

Wednesday, May 19, 6:00–7:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

President Biden is pushing for electric vehicles as part of his climate change agenda. But how realistic is a transformation to electric cars, trucks and airplanes? If it is feasible, how long will a transition from gas to electric take and how much will it cost? George Crabtree—from the Argonne National Laboratory—is an expert on the coming electric vehicle transformation and is in a position to answer a lot of our questions. As a professor of physics and Director of Argonne's newly formed Joint Center for Energy Storage Research, he has led a cutting-edge body of research on how to advance the next-generation batteries—the sine qua non for the kind of transformation we need to affect climate change and the health of our planet.

DC STRONG:

Recognizing our Community's Collective Response to Helping Older Adults Thrive

Thursday, May 20, 10–11:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/DCVillages>

In recognition of Older Americans Month, the 13 DC Senior Villages invite you to this event. There will be a special pre-program at 9:45 a.m. Join us as we celebrate aging in DC! Find out how our city created strong partnerships to support our seniors during the COVID-19 emergency and what to expect in the future. You'll hear from Mayor Muriel Bowser; Department of Aging and Community Living Director Laura Newland; Councilwoman Anita Bonds; Age-Friendly DC Coordinator Gail Kohn; The Washington Home CEO Phyllis Dillinger; Medium Rare Owner and Philanthropist Mark Bucher and the DC Villages community of staff, members and volunteers. We hope to see you there!



DCV Movie Group

Wednesday, May 26, 3:55–5:15 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Details will be announced in upcoming Friday e-blasts.

Zoom Dinner

Thursday, May 27, 6:00–7:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Details will be announced in upcoming Friday e-blasts.

Mystery Book Group

Friday, May 28, 3:00–4:00 pm

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

The book for the May discussion is ***The Serpent's Daughter*** by Suzanne Arruda

Online Meditation with Christina

Mondays & Thursdays, 9:00–9:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

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

Continued on page 5

Monthly Calendar

Continued from page 4

Online Feldenkrais Method Awareness Through Movement

Focus for May: jaw and neck tension

Wednesdays, 10:00–11:00 am (except no class on May 5)

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

These classes will address jaw and neck tension, which once resolved may have a tremendous impact on one's well-being. Who would think that TMJ (temporo-mandibular joint) issues not only relate to discomfort, teeth grinding, difficulty speaking or problems chewing our food, but can even cause sciatica, and that there are connections of the jaw and tongue and overall state? Join this month's (May) Feldenkrais lessons to help deal with jaw and neck issues and to discover how your jaw relates to the whole of you.



Coffee and Conversation

Thursdays, 10:00-11:00

Location: currently Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office

Mahjongg

Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 pm

Location: hosted live by Margot Polivy

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

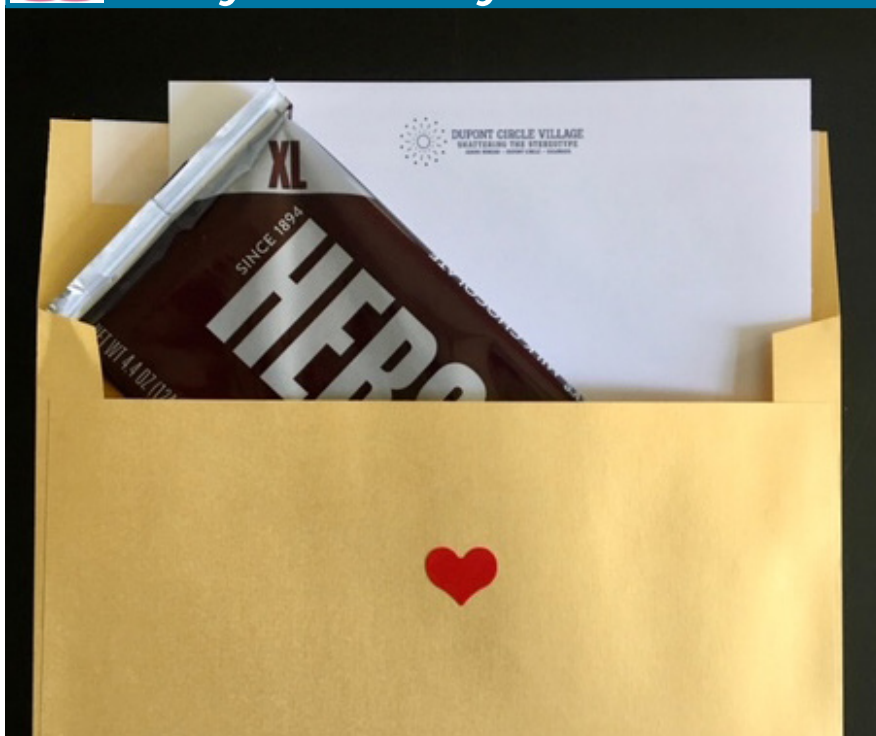
Knitting Group

Thursdays, 4:00 pm

RSVP: Sheila Lopez at sheilablopez@gmail.com



May Birthdays



Happy Birthday to DCV members born in May!

Marcia McDonell, Gene Calvert, Pete Klempay, Jo-Anne Hersh, Gail P. Snider, Fred Gladstone, Kenlee Ray, Jagdish Gill, Beth Merricks, Leslie Sawin, Kenlee Shuck, Holly Van Fleet, Barbara Meeker, Joan Treichel, Nancy Gamber, Mike Higgins, Peggy Siegel, Richard Suisman, Jean Mudrick, Brigitte Pichot

Decision-Making



Ask Ann

Do you find yourself dithering endlessly when trying to make a decision? Or perhaps you make decisions quickly and are frustrated by the dithering of others.

By Ann Talty It is healthy to validate both types of people and find a place somewhere in the middle.

Years ago, I took a 2-week workshop in organizational development. There were twenty of us divided into two groups. Halfway through, we did a short Myers-Briggs test, and one of the instructors charted how each of us as a group functioned, and how what adjustments the group needed to make to operate as a real, healthy unit.

Two of us in my group tested highly on the introvert scale—the others were cautioned that we had a lot to contribute, but don't expect us to be quick to jump in. They needed to remember to include us because we probably had a lot to say, but needed to process first. There were a few wincing from the extroverts.

Two other people tested highly in the area that is essentially decision-making and its timing. They needed to keep things open and explore other possibilities. The other eight of us were oriented toward making a decision, now let's implement. We were cautioned that we should respect the need of the others to explore, and they might come up with something that would be a better alternative, so don't rush them. All eight of us slid down in our seats as we remembered how we had ganged up on the other two on the very first day because we wanted to move on. We learned to respect one another.

I have a friend who worked at the Fed in the international division. She was well placed—she looks at every angle and possibility of every question or variable. World economy could in fact be affected by her recommendations to the board of governors. The flip side is she uses that same characteristic to make any decision in her personal life. I have been known to remove a menu from her hands after 15–20 minutes of her dithering over what she wants to order. She tended to go to the same restaurants, so the menu hadn't really



changed. And then she would order one of the two things she initially identified. I tend to identify something that sounds good and stop. We have learned to each give a little on that—that has helped save our friendship!

Not that I can't dither! A co-worker once told me to stop torturing myself—a useful observation, and a phrase that I use to make myself just stop and pick one. There are so many choices these days that one gets bogged down in minutiae about many aspects of life. A former supervisor worked hard to teach me that making elaborate methods of doing something didn't necessarily merit the time involved. We both came to realize that I was motivated by trying to make sure everything was perfect so nobody would yell at me, and that I was afraid of not being able to think on my feet to come up with solutions under pressure. I learned to figure out when good or very good were good enough, and how to simplify processes. Some people would always be dissatisfied, and my supervisor would have my back. He learned to listen to my concerns and work through plans and solutions that would satisfy both of us.

Compromise can work. Less than perfect can work. Quality of life and friendship are both more important.

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.

Meet Member Kenlee Ray

Kenlee Ray spent her early years as a “free-range” child outside Allegan, MI, a small county seat 20 miles from the shores of Lake Michigan. Allegan County had one of those old courthouses with grand corridors where she and her brother rode tricycles while their father, a prosecuting attorney at the time, tried cases in the courtroom.

DCV Member Profile

Kenlee grew up in a house that started out as an 1830’s cabin with an upright addition that her great-grandfather and his sons built before the Spanish-American War. They felled and dragged a huge virgin pine tree from the woods on the other side of the Kalamazoo River which was close to the house. Kenlee’s parents bought the house from her grandfather with poker winnings that her father won when he skippered a PT boat in WWII.

The Rays were one of those “It followed me home, can I keep it” families, as Kenlee’s mother tolerated any “pets” with the exception of members of the rodent family. At one time, the family had a dog, a cat, a rabbit, horse, duck, turtle and, in the summer, a black snake that lived in the corner of the basement. The duck was destined to be Thanksgiving dinner until Kenlee and her older brother threatened a hunger strike.

Kenlee finished her masters in Information Science at The University of Michigan and worked in Ann Arbor for a while, but most of her friends were moving to California or to DC. She wanted to join her friends, so she started looking for jobs in both locales. She moved to Arlington in 1969 after she got an offer to work for the Civil Service Commission Library.

In 1978 she moved into 1930 15th Street, which shares an alley with Caroline Street, one of the



closest-knit neighborhoods in the city. Her house was built in 1882, and she really loves the five minutes when everything works. The ‘hood’ is currently experiencing a baby boom, and Kenlee is looking forward to the post-COVID return of Caroline Street’s block parties so she can play with the new arrivals.

Kenlee first ventured into the “business world” at age 8 when she raised pumpkins with the help of a great uncle. She sold most of her crop to the local grocery store for the grand sum of \$3.25. At age 14 she became an assistant piano teacher for four years. Sadly she rarely plays anymore.

She had planned to follow her mother into teaching, but starting her senior year in college she had a series of student jobs that piqued her interest in the information field: She worked for a couple of psychology professors who were studying how library patrons use card catalogs to figure out how to best automate them, and at the Institute for Social Research on the Political Data Recovery Project. Her friends say that

she’s gone from cave drawings to AR/VR (augmented/virtual reality.)

Kenlee gave school librarianship a try until two-months into a stint at an elementary school a 7-yr-old thrust his pet snake into both of her hands. She is terrified of snakes, but fortunately a sixth grader came to her rescue. She didn’t return to working with kids until she started volunteering in libraries in a few DC public schools, in Zimbabwe and in Zambia. Her most unusual volunteer experience has been driving a donkey-powered bookmobile in rural Zimbabwe for a day.

After working as a law librarian at a private firm, Kenlee went to the World Bank as its first law librarian. She left the World Bank 25 years later as a Senior Information Officer and an Acting Division Chief of the Records Management Division in the Bank’s Corporate Secretariat.

Kenlee finished her career as a consultant for a small company that worked on government contracts. The recent Mars landing recalled a fascinating interview she and a

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

colleague had in 2009 with James Garvin, NASA's Chief Scientist, while they were working on an information needs study of scientists and engineers at Goddard.

Kenlee spends a fair amount of time as a volunteer for the University of Michigan's School of Information, and she is a member of that school's External Advisory Board. Next week she will need to bone up on e-sports because the Board will be discussing the gift that UMSI just received to develop a multidisciplinary e-sports program.

Although a country girl at heart, Kenlee really loves attending plays

and concerts and visiting DC's museums. Two of her favorite places in DC are the Spanish steps and Saint-Gaudens' Clover Adams Memorial in Rock Creek Park Cemetery. In the early days of the COVID shutdown, she found that the cemetery was one of the few undiscovered places to walk.

Kenlee insists that asking her to pick her favorite places to travel is akin to asking a mother to name her favorite child. She loves pristine places where there is an absence of noise, air pollution and crowds. When she tires of the city's hassles, her mind retreats to memories of twilight reflecting off icebergs in Antarctica, the

flapping sound of prayer flags from across the Paro valley in Bhutan, and helicoptering down the Fly River to Goroka from the Ok Tedi mine near the Irian Jayan border over forests punctuated with a few huts covered with blue tarps stolen from the mining company.

Kenlee has met some very interesting people through the Village. She especially enjoys the Celeb-Salons, because she comes away from them with a different take on the topic and a wonderfully nuanced glimpse of the celeb. Lately she has watched the videos of the Celeb-Salons instead of attending them live as she gets "Zoomed-out" easily.

Member Poll

Is there a change you've made that you plan to maintain even as protective measures are relaxed?

When I'm making my grocery list

I'll continue to be more careful about checking the status of my stocks of paper towels and toilet paper. Who knows where the next glitches in the supply chains will show up? KL

Six months before lockdown, *I started a weight-loss program of my own invention. I quit drinking (but would not give up chocolate), and I began eating way more vegetables and less junk food. By mid-March, 2020, I'd lost 15 pounds. In seclusion, I decided to keep going. On my weekly Trader Joe's outings (double masked and only during senior shopping hours) I loaded up on fruits, veggies and fish. I ate as clean as I could manage, with rare swan dives into*

the potato chips. Today, I'm down 30 pounds and feeling terrific. I'm sure that part of the weight loss is diminished muscle mass, so I will now add frequent walking and enough exercise to continue the wellness regime. Vanity is a very powerful driver. AG

I learned a lot about myself *during the pandemic, including new recognition and appreciation of my own resiliency, but also the need for new friendships. I found myself crushed with loneliness far too often, especially after learning that my closest friend had become much more of an introvert than I thought possible. I will be participating in many more DCV events than before the pandemic, once we can meet again in person. Meanwhile I am trying to regain some of my long-dormant skills in playing the piano. HS*

In a word, Zooming. *It will be an asset in my personal and professional life for the foreseeable future. I don't think I will ever return to an in person WSC class; Tyree's online workout accessibility allows me to keep fit more times a week than ever. Likewise, I can connect easily with clients individually or in groups across the country in ways that makes travel unnecessary, saving time and money. I've seen more of my far-flung family than ever though nothing replaces being with them. AW*

We will still wear masks, *avoid people not wearing masks, eat outdoors in restaurants, refrain from going to movies. RM*

Out and About

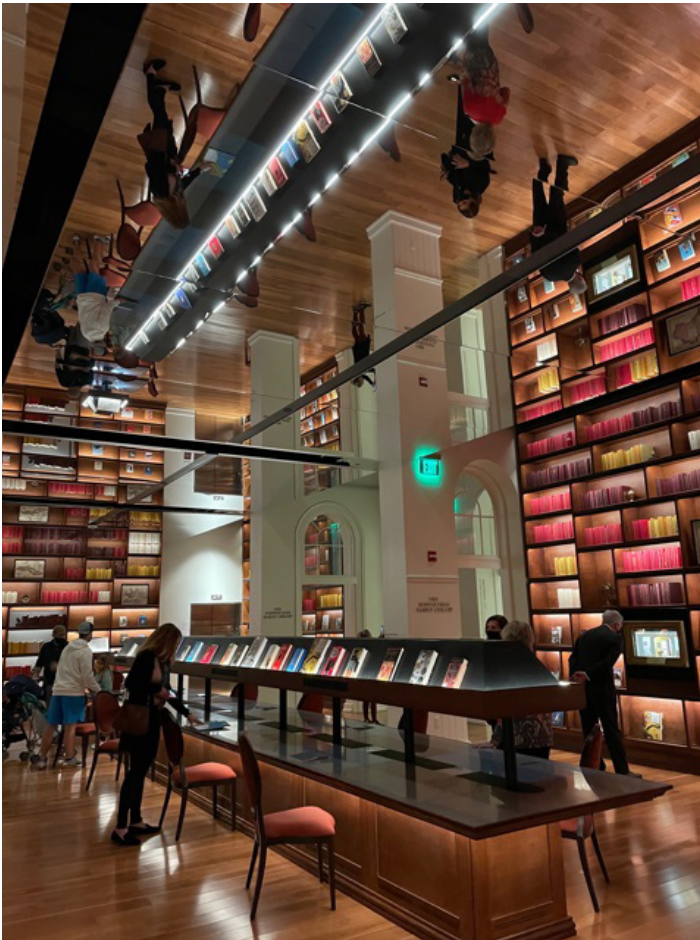


◀ **Caroline Mindel and Lynn Lewis'** Zen and oasis on Swann Street NW



◀ **Brigitte Pichot and Carol Galaty** picnicked on the Potomac recently. The weather was perfect and the picnic, beautifully prepared by Carol, was wonderfully delicious and fun. They took a nice walk afterwards

Out and About



▲
Donna Batcho recently enjoyed the outdoors at Glenstone in Potomac, Maryland and visited the Planet Word Museum in DC.



▲
Kathy Price and Jock Covey took a two-week sailing class in the Gulf and Kathy is now a certified sailor—able to charter! “Really tough course but I DID IT! Did something that scared me—everyday!” Kathy and Jock intensely learning to sail and motor a BIG boat around Captiva and Sanibel.



▲
Ted Bracken with newborn grandson, Kaden Bracken, on Bodega Bay beach north of San Francisco. First plane trip since March of last year.

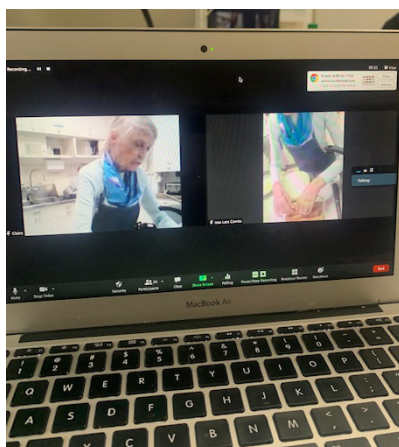
Out and About



▲ **Jeanne Downing** was on a recent trip to Wilmington, NC where she visited the Airlie Garden and houses on the Historic District of Wilmington



▲ DCV member **Claire Wagner** provided a virtual cooking demonstration from the Friends Meeting of Washington kitchen. The lesson was crepes.



▲ **Abigail Wiebenson** hosted a luncheon for the DCV Meal Mavens on a beautiful day in April. (L-R) **Michaela Buhler, Annie Groer, Joyce Liberto, Monica Heppel, Sam Liberto, Sandra Yarrington** and **Sheila Lopez**.

Out and About



Mike Silverstein took his first plane flight in 15 months and enjoyed his first golf vacation in a year and a half. He went to Palm Desert, CA with his friend Tim, who has run an emergency room in a hospital in upstate New York during COVID and lost his mother-in-law to COVID in January. To say they needed to get out on a golf course is an understatement and CA is the home of his favorite fast food. It's time to start living again!



▲ **Mary Latka** celebrating her 96th birthday with a banana split!



▲ **Judith Neibrief, Nancy Turnbull, Judi Lambart** and Peggy Long enjoying the Tudor home/garden tour one Sunday in April.



Untitled 1982
Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960–1988, French)

Poetry Corner

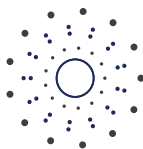
May Night

The spring is fresh and fearless
And every leaf is new,
The world is brimmed with moonlight,
The lilac brimmed with dew.

Here in the moving shadows
I catch my breath and sing—
My heart is fresh and fearless
And over-brimmed with spring.

Sara Teasdale
(1884–1933, American)

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 Wiebensohn, 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