

### DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

### SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

66 It was inevitable, the scent of hand sanitizer always reminded him of the fate of un-consummated love.

Love in the Time of Corona
 (Gabriel García Márquez fan on Twitter)

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#### Welcome New Members!

Carol Balassa Giuseppe (Pino) Monaco Brigitte Pichot

### Kindness is Contagious

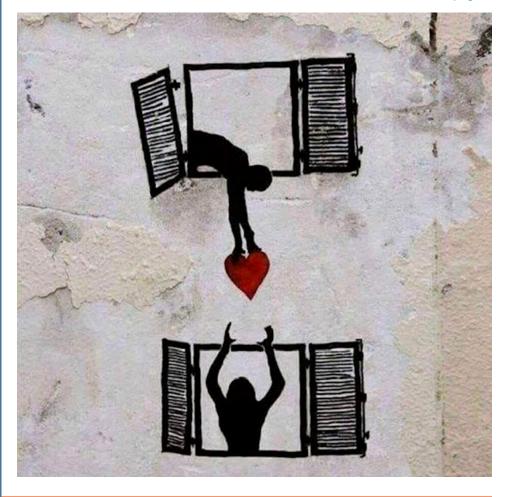
n a matter of weeks, much has changed in our world. Words and phrases such as quarantine, social distancing, pandemic, and shelter in

By Eva M. Lucero, Executive Director place, among others, have become part of our

common vernacular. Most of these words and phrases evoke feelings of fear, anxiety and helplessness, but another narrative is being written at the same time.

This other narrative centers around words such as kindness, courage, sacrifice, community and compassion. Every day we see how acts of kindness are contagious. A person takes action to help someone in need, says a kind word or holds space

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### President's Notes



The do learn a lot about people and what we are made of when we face a crisis. That has certainly been true in the last few weeks. Wow—have we pulled together to help each other.

Our staff, **Eva M. Lucero** and **Ann Talty** have been phenomenal. Within days we had classes, programs and committee meetings available through Zoom. I love the wonderful morning email each day that makes us smile or laugh out loud. People are getting exercise, restoring their souls and getting the business of the Village accomplished. We are adding more activities. Check out Friday's E-Blast for new programming we are open for suggestions so send your ideas.

Our members have been amazing.

When we asked for volunteers to call and check on folks 30 people came forward. They are making calls, and in the process, some are making new friends. I'm happy to report that most of us are doing pretty well. We are coming up with creative ways to help members who need a

hand—such as identifying ways to get medications and other supplies delivered. The process isn't perfect, but we are learning as we go and making progress.

We can help each other get through this pandemic. Members can connect with each other to help combat loneliness. We may have to physically isolated, but we don't have to be socially isolated—we can participate in activities through Zoom and TV and we can with each other on the phone and face time. If you need help to learn to connect using technology, please call the office or email us.

Almost every member of our Village is at high risk for COVID19. Keeping safe is our main job. That means physically isolate so be creative about getting what you need. For example, if your drug store won't deliver your meds or help you arrange for the extra month supply of medication, you can try switching to a mail order pharmacy and have a 3-month supply delivered. If you have having trouble figuring out how to get what you need call us, we'll try to help you figure out what you could do.

The most important thing each of us can do is help avoid the spread of the virus. We all must assume that we are infected and STAY AWAY from everyone. We also must assume that everyone we might come into contact is infected so STAY AWAY from other people. It's hard to do but this is a serious situation and our behavior does make a difference. If we stop contact now, we'll be able to hug each other sooner rather than later.

I received this note yesterday:
"For the first time in history
we can save the human race
by lying in front of the TV
and do nothing.
LET'S NOT SCREW THIS UP"

Well said.

Stay Home, Stay Safe and Stay Well

#### **Kindness is Contagious**

Continued from page 1

for someone to share their feelings, and a ripple effect happens and others join in, including many right here in our Village.

Our office is closed, but we're still working. We have claimed this moment as an opportunity to develop new ways of building community by listening to your concerns and moving quickly to come up with responses that will support you through this challenging time.

Our community spirit is strong. We see members eagerly volunteering

to call other members, make them meals, run errands, share creative ideas and offer support. Other acts of kindness and concern are in the many emails I've received from George Washington University students, neighbors, local businesses, and local politicians. I feel a profound sense of gratitude for our resilient and compassionate community.

Beyond DCV, stories of kindness abound. Young people are posting messages in public spaces offering to buy goods, walk dogs or run errands for older neighbors. Big-hearted strangers are leaving nonperishable food in the Little Free Libraries that dot our neighborhoods. There is

a surge of volunteer activity in the online forum Nextdoor. Neighbors in New York City celebrate a beloved, isolated neighbor by singing to her from their balconies for her 95th birthday. The Four Seasons Hotel offers New York City medical workers free rooms so they don't infect their families. Foster pet applications are at an all-time high. And of course the good will and inspiration that flow daily from the likes of José Andrés, Yo-Yo Ma and many others.

All of these acts of kindness are heartwarming, uplifting and hopeful. They are contagious in the best possible way.

### Monthly Calendar

All face-to-face events in April are cancelled or postponed. We are in the process of adapting some of our usual events to being online, by way of Zoom. Updates will be posted in the Friday e-blast.

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. Some of the events are doable with phone, so not having a computer does not necessarily rule you out.

#### Coffee and Conversation

We are exploring ways to do this online.

#### Accessible Mat Yoga Online

Mondays, 3:30–4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252 or admin@dupontcirclevillage.net

#### Gentle Chair Yoga Online

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252 or admin@dupontcirclevillage.net

#### Online Feldenkrais Method Awareness Through Movement

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 am

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252 or admin@dupontcirclevillage.net
The classes are about improving function and wellbeing in our day-to-day activities, which is why they are good for improving walking, running, sitting, standing,

gardening, relieving pain, breathing, working, and playing. The classes are usually done on mats on the floor, sometimes lying, sometimes sitting, or even standing. You may also do it on your bed.

#### **Mystery Book Group**

Friday, April 24, 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register online or contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252 or admin@dupontcirclevillage.net

The book is **The Messenger of Athens** by Anne Zouroudi.



#### Live and Learn

Streaming Alternatives to Your Cable TV Package

Monday, April 27, 3:30-5:00 pm

Location: Virtual

RSVP: Register Online or contact DCV Office at (202) 436-5252 or admin@dupontcirclevillage.net

#### DCV Annual Gala-postponed

This will be re-scheduled, probably for the fall. We already have some great items for the Silent Auction lined up!

#### CelebSalons—postponed

The CelebSalon Committee is looking at re-scheduling the Salons, and exploring whether some of them could be adapted online.

#### Arena Stage: Mother Road—postponed

Arena Stage has cancelled the rest of its season, but it trying to re-book for the fall. We will keep you posted as this develops

#### DCV Happy Hour

We are exploring ways to do this online

#### DCV Movie Group

We are exploring ways to do this online

#### Sunday Soup Salon

We are exploring ways to do this online

#### Men's Book Group

We are exploring ways to do this online

#### French Challenge

We are exploring ways to do this online.

## Meet Mike Silverstein, neighborhood activist and broadcast journalist

ike was born and raised in Pittsburgh. He lived in the East End of the city, in an extremely diverse neighborhood, and his childhood friends were of all races, religions, and nationalities. He

### DCV Member Profile

worked in radio and TV news for 40 years. 31 of those years for ABC News in the He's still in touch with many of

them. He first came to DC to attend American University (AU), where he majored in government and public administration. A single course in Broadcast Journalism, however, changed his plans for the future. After his years at AU from 1966 thru 1972, Mike did radio and TV work in Pittsburgh and Cleveland before returning to DC in 1978. And he's been here ever since.

Mike worked in radio and TV news for 40 years, 31 of those years for ABC News in its Washington Bureau, as an editor, a news writer, an occasional radio correspondent, and, for a number of years, as head of the Washington news desk for ABC News Radio. That meant getting up each morning at 4:19 am (timed to the minute), in order to shower, get dressed, and be downstairs at 4:55 am to get his daily five minute cab ride to the bureau on DeSales Street. He would hand over desk duties between noon and 1pm and walk home. These were great years, according to Mike.

Let's hear a few anecdotes in Mike's own words:

"Here are two highlights that happened early in my career, in Pittsburgh."

"The first was when I was working as a stringer (freelancer) for ABC Radio Sports, making \$25 a pop for every piece of interview tape they

used or for every voice report. I was covering the legendary 1972 NFL playoff game between the Steelers and the Raiders, made famous by Franco Harris' miracle catch, dubbed the 'Immaculate Reception.' Immediately after the play, I jumped on the press elevator to beat the crowd to get down to the locker room for post-game interviews. The Steelers' owner and founder, Arthur J. Rooney, Sr. was on the elevator and had not seen the play. And so I am the famous 'man on the elevator' who told the Chief what happened on what was recently voted the most famous play in NFL history. I also went down onto the field—even before the game was officially over—and interviewed Franco. Still have the tape."

"I had a TV talk and variety show on a UHF station in Pittsburgh for a brief time. And I gave a kid who was working as a stagehand at WQED for Fred Rogers his first commercial TV gig. It was one appearance along with a musical troupe headed by Don Brockett (Chef Brockett on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood). The young man was named Michael John Douglas, and I thought he was terrific. Good looking, great personality, terrific sense of humor, and a perfect sense of timing. He was always a split second ahead of me. My show struggled financially, and I never followed up with Michael Douglas, but heard he went to Hollywood. For several years, I wondered what happened to him. There was already a Michael Douglas in Hollywood, and that was Kirk's son. And there was also a Mike Douglas, the TV talk show host. So, in order to get his card in the Screen Actors' Guild, Michael John Douglas had to choose another professional name. He was a big fan of Buster Keaton. Yep. Changed his stage name to Michael Keaton. I gave Michael Keaton his first commercial



TV appearance on a little-watched TV talk show in Pittsburgh".

"I've met at least three future Presidents while they were still in college (at least three, because you never know about future Presidents). When I was at AU, there was a guy at Georgetown trying to organize an anti-war political group called Citizens for Kennedy-Fulbright. Good looking kid from Arkansas who could talk a hungry dog off a meat wagon. Then, on my first job in DC—working for Capital Cities Broadcasting's radio new division—one of our stations was KTRH in Houston. I covered Congressman George Bush, and, one day, his son came along with him to Capitol Hill, all splendid in his military dress blues. A decade later, I was shooting hoops on a playground near Queen's Surf in Honolulu with a young guy who was on spring break from college. After a few minutes of shooting around, we chatted a bit, and I thought he said his name was Brock. Buh-rock, he said. But since I've always had some hearing loss, I didn't get it right, and he had to correct me twice. He asked me a lot of

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# June Edmonds wins inaugural \$10,000 AWARE Prize for women artists at the Armory Show

Highlighting the work of June Edmonds, niece of Dupont Circle Village member, Lucia Edmonds

he first-ever winner of the Armory Show's AWARE Prize is artist June Edmonds. The \$10,000 juried prize was given for the excellence of the artist's work and for the Luis de Jesus Los Angeles gallery's courage to present a solo-female artist's work in a market that has systematically undervalued art made by women. The prize's short list of five finalists also included Rina Banerjee, Yuko Nasaka, Aase Texmon Rygh and Alexis Smith.

AWARE co-founder Camille Morineau said, "Edmonds was unanimously selected by the jurors, who coalesced around the discovery of her new Flag Paintings—a breakthrough body of never-before seen work by the artist presented by Luis de Jesus Los Angeles at this year's Armory Show."

Edmonds began her Flag series in

February 2017, following her Artist Residency in Paducah, KY. With these paintings, she explores the representation of the alignment of multiple identities including race, nationality, gender, and/or political leanings. Among the paintings on view at The Armory Show is Shadd Cary Flag, a work inspired by Mary Ann Shadd Cary who was born a free African American woman in Wilmington, Delaware in 1823, and was an American and Canadian anti-slavery activist, journalist, publisher, teacher, and lawyer. She was the first Black woman publisher in North America and the first woman publisher in Canada. Shadd Cary was an abolitionist who became the first female African-American newspaper editor in North America when she edited The Provincial Freeman in 1853.



June Edmonds with Nicole Berry, Armory Art Show director

#### **Member Profile**

Continued from page 4

questions about my job. Years later, when he became a Senator, I realized who Buh-rock was."

Mike was first elected as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) in 2003, and he is still at it. After he retired from ABC News in 2009, he was nominated by Mayor Fenty to serve on the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. So he went from (wait for it, says Mike) ABC News to ABC Booze, and he served for three terms under three different mayors. He still has his Screen Actors' Guild union card, and he still does occasional background acting and has haunted the sets of such shows

as House of Cards and Veep.

His favorite places in DC are the S Street Dog Park and Montrose Park, where he and his partner Tom spend happy hours with their beloved field spaniel Katie. They have favorite dining spots, including Floriana's and Annie's on 17th Street.

They have traveled to Palm Desert, CA every year since 1985, but have also developed an affinity for Canada. They've been to Vancouver and Victoria, Toronto, Montreal, and Sault Sainte Marie, and they even drove from DC to Halifax with Katie.

When asked what he liked about the Village, Mike replied, "Certainly it's

the people and the camaraderie. I'm still meeting new friends and having more opportunities to interact with old friends. It's not just a new friends group, it's also a new mutual support group. Helping one another is the best way to get through anything."

### **Anxiety is Normal—How to Mitigate** Its Effects



ight now, it is normal to feel anxious, overwhelmed, have a sense of loss, etc. These are difficult times with a lot of uncertainty. So, how to cope?

By Ann Talty

Breathe.

Seems obvious, but a symptom of anxiety is shortness of breath and a weight on your chest. Deliberately taking some deep breaths can help you know if there is something medical going on, or if it's anxiety. Take a series of breaths—start with one, concentrate on making each additional one deeper and longer. Sometimes it only takes 3-5 breaths to feel better.

Some form of exercise. Tricky at

the moment, but consider taking one of our yoga classes online. Try just walking along a deliberate path around your house, yard, block, whatever.

**Light.** Open all of your curtains and shades. Turn on all the lights in the room. You need maximum light to keep from getting depressed.

Fresh air. Preferably while going outside, but at least through open windows. I'm spending a little time each day on my balcony, which gives me light, fresh air, and a sense of having been outside my 4 walls.

Stop focusing on COVID-19 and worst possible scenarios. This pushes you into never-ending circular

thinking patterns, it becomes the only thing in the universe. Turn off the TV, social media, newspapers limit the focus to once a day.

Embrace repetitive motions. Whether it is knitting, crocheting, painting, woodworking, all can help you re-focus onto something positive and these types of things have been proven to help calm you and get you in touch with the rational part of your brain.

**Reach out.** Even introverts need to connect with other people some of the time. Extroverts definitely need to connect. Check in with someone. Learn how to Skype or use Facetime so you can see them as well as talk to them. Sign up for some of our Zoom activities.

Maintain routine. Do this as much as possible. Keep to your usual bedtime, getting up time, dress, including jewelry if you wear it, mealtime, fun time. Keep hydrated for many reasons, including that it helps stress.

Alone time for spouses/partners. It's probably a good idea to spend some time each day apart, even if it's a set time in different rooms of where you live.

**Learn something new.** We have a whole page of online activities, tours, etc. on the website under the menu item COVID-19. Pick one and explore. Have a friend do it at the same time, and then you can chat about it.

Offset dashed plans. For years I have planned a tour of the Canadian Rockies & Glacier Park. Last summer I finally was able to book it for this June. It helped motivate me when I went through hip replacement surgery. Hopes were dashed, and it took a while to accept the cancellation. So I'm watching tours of national parks and planning for 2021.



### March Birthdays



March birthday celebrants (L-R) Lois Berlin, Deb Mendelson, Carol Galaty, Richard Fitz, Abigail Wiebenson, Craig Howell and Caroline Mindel.

## **CelebSalons**

### 2020 CelebSalon Lineup

We've got a great lineup of special people for our CelebSalons 2020. We hope you'll be excited by them, too, and decide in your mind which ones you want to see. Of course, we can no longer promise that you'll be able to meet the Celebs on a certain date. We've had to postpone all CelebSalons due to the coronavirus. When it's safe to gather in a living room, we'll negotiate new times with our Celebs and start selling seats to the Salons.

As usual, we've gotten Celebs from the worlds of media, literature, music and restaurant chef/owners, as well as activists on global warming and understanding art.

We're excited to feature Wall Street Journal columnist/ editor *Gerald Seib*, former network correspondent *Marvin Kalb* and NPR reporter *Lynn Neary*. We look forward to hearing from *Azar Nafisi*, an Iranian American author who wrote the best-seller "Reading Lolita in Teheran" and has been talking with the current generation of young Iranians. *Fanchon Silberstein* has drawn standing-room crowds when she lectures about new ways of understanding art and how it can affect your life. *Christopher Tucker* is challenging rank and file folks to tune into the global warming debate with his "Citizen's Guide to Saving the Planet." Restaurateur, *Chris Ricci* of I Ricci letting us know the secrets to staying in the DC restaurant scene for over 30 years.

We have two standout musical Salons: one with concert pianist *Shai Wosner* and a second with a trio from the Kennedy Center orchestra that plays with opera and other groups there.

And, for the first time, we have an ambassador, *Karin Olofsdotter* of Sweden!

So look over the Celeb bios and backup material on the DCV website under the CelebSalon section and stay tuned for news about when the Salons are rescheduled.

Peg Simpson, co-chair, and CelebSalon committee members

### Where Are They Now?

#### Onto the Snow: Into the Ice

inter seems to have bypassed Washington in the last number of years and like plants seeking sun, Ken and I have been seeking winter.

Carol Galaty and Ken Shuck Ken and I landed in Kirkenes, at the

top of Norway at 11am, January 24. The sun had just come up, the temperature was -12 degrees C (10 F) and went down to -16 degrees C (2 F) with the sunset at 1pm. To our surprise, the sun had first peaked over the horizon in Kirkenes, only 4 days earlier, for the first time since the first dark sunless November 24th day and the sun only rose as far as the horizon, never climbing up into the sky.

Thus, began, in the far northern

reaches of Norway and Sweden, one of the most magical, unusual trips we have ever taken. We traveled in the Hurtigruten ferry descending the crenulated coast of Norway, flew across barren snow-covered landscapes and took trains and a car were possible. We stopped in the usual "tourist "places, Bergen and Oslo, Norway and had a long stay with our children and grandchildren who live in Stockholm. We visited museums, walked city streets and ate a lot of fish. But the excitement and magical adventures occurred in the snow and ice, when staying in an ice hotel, sleeping on an ice bed, and staying in our own hotel room 25 up in a tree. We hiked out into the barren snow-covered wilds, went dog

sledding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling always looking for the northern lights at night and we spent an educational day in her tent and



feeding reindeer with a fascinating young Sámi woman.

If you are interested in seeing more photos and reading more details, click on this link. We are also planning to have, Covid-19 Coronavirus permitting, a gathering at our house June 21 to celebrate the first day of summer with slides and videos of these snowy/ice adventures, accompanied by Scandinavian snacks.

### Where Are They Now?



In March,
Jane Cave and
Eugene
Versluysen were
lucky enough
to spend two
carefree and
virus-free
weeks in Puerto
Vallarta. Photo:
An exuberant
Sunday scene at
the beach in PV



Ted Bracken was in Ethiopia with a Dartmouth Alumni group. And reported that on March 17th, there were only two cases of the virus there to date.







Bella Rosenberg was on an all-art, all-the-time trip to southern France in mid-February. This is in Fondation Maeght in Saint Paul de Venice.



Karen St. John was in India in February.



Stephanie Ortoleva speaking at a women's issues gathering, supported by the UN Population Fund and the Government of Spain before the advent of virus. There were attendees from Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and others.

### **Quarantine Stories**



◀ An ad for Zoom. The DCV CelebSalon committee was working hard during their first Zoom meeting. Top I-R Jane Pierson, Kathy Cardille, Andres Doernberg, Mid l-R, **Eva** M. Lucero, Ann Talty, Ann McFarren, **Bottom** l-R. **Jeanne** Downing, Peg Simpson.





Bella Rosenberg, Sandra Yarrington and Eva M. Lucero strolled up Mass Avenue to the Kahlil Gibran Community Garden one quarantine afternoon. Also visiting the garden was Marian Wright Edelman, civil rights activist and founder of the Children's Defense Fund, and this curious, social distancing doe.



What to do? Go for a walk by myself. We are not supposed to go to the Tidal Basin but there are lots of cherries in bloom in other places, like next to Daniel Webster. **Barbara Meeker** 

### **Quarantine Stories**

#### COVID-19 Down in Beijing, Up in Berlin Joan Treichel

Having one daughter living in Beijing, China and another living in Berlin, Germany, I am receiving frequent reports from both about how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting them and their countries. Here is some of the information they have shared with me....

#### Daughter Tamara in Beijing

Tamara and her Chinese partner Jackie have been holed up in their little apartment in Beijing for eight weeks now. Since Tamara works as an editor and writer for the Chinese news media, she has been able to continue her work from home. However, Jackie, being a film actor, has not. The Chinese film industry has been closed until further notice. Nonetheless, they are able to leave their apartment periodically to go to the supermarket. First they have to go through a scan at the end of their street indicating that they have no fever. Then they can proceed to the supermarket. The supermarket is open until noon, then closes for disinfection. Both news reports and their own observations suggest that COVID-19 is slowly loosening its grip on China.

#### Daughter Heidi in Berlin

While COVID-19 appears to be easing its hold on China, it is now sweeping Germany with a vengeance. The German government is orchestrating an enormous financial relief package for the many people affected. Heidi, like so many others, is hunkered down in her apartment. She plans to video chat with two friends this evening. She limits her exposure to the news to one hour a day so that she won't become too anxious about the situation, she says.



In case of emergency, rip open bag, with both hands. It's called self-medicating in quarantine with the best chips ever, and the most fun I've had in two weeks of near-total seclusion.

Annie Groer

Members of the early morning walking group still gathering to walk every other day. On this particular day, they were headed down to see the cherry blossoms.



### Quarantine Stories

### Facebook, ZOOM, Google Chat and more keep Villagers connected.

Caroline and I on Friday had an East Coast/Midwest Shabbat dinner (sharing prayers, lighting candles, trading stories), and breaking virtual bread with my sister and niece at our respective kitchen tables in Dupont Circle and Crystal Lake, Michigan. Just before sundown, we realized challah was missing. Glen's Garden Market (our neighborhood grocery) came to the rescue, even providing curbside pickup. Truly a Sabbath miracle.

Workarounds turned lemons into lemonade when social distancing upended Lynn's family reunion over the weekend: disappointed but undaunted, her four brothers and sisters, their adult kids, grandkids, and dogs numbering 26...gathered virtually beaming in from DC to New York to Chicago, St. Louis to San Francisco...catching up, swapping news, and oohing and aahhing over the little ones (including one in the oven). Bonds like these are rays of light and hope as we negotiate today's unfamiliar, unsettling terrain. Lynn Lewis and Caroline Mindel



Unable to paint the town red, **Steve Kittrell** settles for painting the blues in the living room.

Sorry I don't have a picture to send, but I have so, so many interesting things to do that I would need a whole year to partake of all of them. I don't even have time to do my art work which I thought I would work on during this pandemic! Olga Hudacek

### **Poetry Corner**

#### **Beloved**

−E. Ethelbert Miller

Please forgive me for forgetting. I wanted to go outside to look for you. I was told this was impossible.

I was instructed to stay indoors. But my words for you need sun. My heart needs air.

I love you Spring. I miss your warmth. Come unlock my door.

### Yoga Tips



Judy Silberman, Yoga Master



Assume the Wonder Woman (person) pose standing with feet more than shoulder width apart and the back of your fists on your waist. Draw up internally, arches up, knees soft, abs in, chest lifted. Let a small smile grace the lips. Level your gaze. Maintain this pose for 30-60 seconds silently repeating:

"I am healthy and strong."

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



#### DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE ADAMS MORGAN . DUPONT CIRCLE . KALORAMA

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