



# DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE

## SHATTERING THE STEREOTYPE

ADAMS MORGAN • DUPONT CIRCLE • KALORAMA

“No matter how much we scorn it, kitsch is an integral part of the human condition.

— Milan Kundera ”

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### Welcome New Members!

Drs. Gerry and Wayne Thompson  
Carlotta Ribar

## Some Kitsch, Camp and Fun to Add to Your Holiday To-Do List

Visitors to Washington D.C. usually have a list of must-see monuments and memorials but some will venture off the National Mall to explore some of the District's

By Eva M. Lucero,  
Executive Director

quirky neighborhood delights. With the power of social media and proliferation of selfie photos, the internet is full of pictures of tourists posing at the infamous stairs in Georgetown from the movie, *The Exorcist*, the Big Chair in Anacostia, the performer Prince's purple call

box and the awkward Emancipation Memorial, a statue of a chained slave kneeling at Abe Lincoln's feet on Capitol Hill. One of my personal favorites, *The Barbie Pond on Avenue Q*, is an offbeat attraction that is suddenly drawing visitors from around the world to our neighborhood.

The Barbie Pond is situated between Dupont Circle and Logan Circle in the front yard of a home at 1454 Q Street NW. It is a kitschy collection of Barbie and Ken dolls who commemorate every holiday dressed (or

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# President's Notes



## Live and Learn: Two Great Ideas That DCV Combines

One of the most popular regular events for DCV members is the monthly Live and Learn seminar. Since 2010, the Live and Learn seminars have been informing DCV members about a wide variety

of topics. Most of the seminars are "sold out" (the seminars are free, of course).

Members of DCV consistently rank the Live and Learn seminars as a top benefit of membership. Our members appreciate the depth and breadth of the seminar topics.

Just in 2018, the Live and

Learn events have included:

- Financial topics such as tax savings under the new tax law, financial planning for later years, and daily money management.
- Health care topics like the annual Medicare review, osteoporosis, and living with Parkinson's.
- General information about staying safe online, decluttering, being a savvy senior traveler, and navigating the new public library.

The Live and Learn seminars are

arranged by the hard-working Live and Learn Committee under its chair, **Beth Merricks**. Each of the seminars has two main components that the Committee handles. One is determining a topic and finding a speaker on the topic. The second is finding a location for the seminar.

The speakers are asked to appear for free. Most of the locations are ones that allow us to use the space without cost. As you can imagine, finding both of those requires some effort by the Committee members.

The Live and Learn Committee can use new members to help with both of these tasks. The time commitment is spread over the year and can be as little as a couple of hours a month. If you are interested in helping the Live and Learn Committee, please contact either **Beth Merricks** or **Eva Lucero**. I am sure that you would find participating in the Committee a learning experience.

## The Barbie Pond on Ave. Q

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not) in celebratory garb and are neatly displayed on complete and impressive set designs. Depending on when you visit, you could find the Barbies dressed as pilgrims for Thanksgiving, drinking margaritas on Cinco De Mayo, flying on broomsticks on Halloween, dancing on a rainbow float during PRIDE, decked out in tuxedos and ball gowns during the Presidential Inauguration, or donning nothing but shamrock fig leaves for St. Patrick's day. Staying true to their Washington roots, the dolls don't shy away from politics either. During the recent mid-term elections, the Barbies reminded everyone to vote and included Barbie and Ken on the ballot. Another recent tableau re-created Melania Trump's "I Really Don't Care, Do U?" jacket and another one had the dolls holding signs that read "Barbies not Bullets."

The Barbies aren't always on Q Street. This summer, they shared with their fans a series called "Barbies on Vacay" and their summer vacation des-



tinations were posted on social media, mainly on their Instagram account. They could be seen on the dunes in Provincetown, eating French fries on the Boardwalk in Rehoboth Beach, posing with Mounties in Montreal, and lounging on the beach in Mexico.

Who is responsible for creating this wonderful and whimsical neighborhood delight? According to many sources, the artist/owner of the pond wishes to remain anonymous and declines most interviews. What we do know is that he and two of his friends have regular creative consultations to determine and assemble new pond themes.

Much of the success of **The Bar-**

**bie Pond on Avenue Q** is due to its Instagram account. With a following of over 12,000 people, the site has regular photo updates and boasts of "bringing Logan Circle property values down since 2014." Many people love the elaborate installations and recently a neighbor who was about to move away left the gift of a Barbie and Ken set and a note that read "After 8+ years in this neighborhood I'm moving out of D.C. I wanted to leave you with a little something to say thank you for all of the joy you have brought me." Check it out and send us a selfie for the next newsletter.



# Monthly Calendar

## Live & Learn: Falls Prevention

Monday, December 3, 3:30-5:00 pm  
Church of the Pilgrims, 2201 P St. NW (wheelchair accessible)  
RSVP: Register at DCV's online calendar, or contact office at (202) 436-5252

According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), falls are the most common cause of injuries and hospital admissions for trauma. An older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall every 11 seconds. More than one third of adults aged 65 and older, and one in two over the age of eighty, fall each year. What actions can you take to reduce the likelihood that you will be injured by a fall?

At Dupont Circle Village's December Live & Learn Seminar, Helaina Roisman, LICSW, the Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator at The George Washington University Hospital, and Sophia Janson, a board certified Geriatric Physical Therapist, will discuss practical tips and exercises to prevent falls, and community resources. Ms. Roisman taught the Dupont Circle Village's multi-week Falls Prevention class in 2017. Attendees will receive free exercise bands.

## Hillwood Museum Tour: Fabergé Exhibition

Wednesday, December 5, 2:00 pm  
Hillwood Museum, 4155 Linnean Ave NW  
RSVP: Registration online at DCV calendar or (202) 436-5252

This is a private docent-led tour. It is free to members on this tour. Non-members may register for a fee. (contact office if a non-member)  
Treasures created by the firm of Peter Carl Fabergé (1846-1920) have inspired admiration and intrigue for over a century, both for their remarkable craftsmanship and the fascinating histories that surround them. Featuring over 100 objects, Fabergé Rediscovered will unveil new discoveries relating to Hillwood's own collection of Fabergé imperial Easter eggs and other famed works, highlighting new attributions and provenances and providing a new framework to study and understand 19th- and 20th-century jewelry and goldsmithing. The special exhibition will display the greatest examples from Hillwood's Fabergé collection, left by Marjorie Merriweather Post for the benefit of future generations, along with important loans from other museums and private collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Musée d'Orsay, the McFerrin Collection, the Edouard and Maurice Sandoz Foundation, and His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Tickets are good for the whole day. Tickets entitle you to the short film, the rest of the museum and grounds, and an audio set. Go to the Visitor Center and check in under Dupont Circle Village and then your name. Gather at 1:45 in the reception area.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cookie Exchange

Friday, December 7 at 2:00 pm  
Location: 1870 Wyoming Ave NW #603  
RSVP: Ann McFarren at [mcfarrenann@yahoo.com](mailto:mcfarrenann@yahoo.com) or (202) 386-6673 Space is Limited

Please bring 3 dozen cookies to exchange — all of one kind. You will go home with 3 dozen cookies — all different kinds of cookies! If you want more cookies, bring 6 or 9 dozen — just keep it in batches of 3 dozen. For those of you who work and still want cookies, drop off your cookies and I'll be sure you are included. Bring a few extra cookies so all of the cooks can nibble along with beverages, which I will supply.

## Reception at the WNDC

Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
Monday, December 10, 6:00-8:30 pm

1526 New Hampshire Ave NW

Cost \$0, but pre-register at <https://democraticwoman.org/events/events-upcoming/>

Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights | A Tribute to Arvonne

In honor of the 70th Anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the WNDC welcomes the presence of Mayor Muriel Bowser as she signs a proclamation declaring the week of December 10th as Human Rights Awareness Week. Join the Mayor and the granddaughter of Eleanor Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves, as we sign this proclamation and follow up with a brief discussion with Immediate Past President and great granddaughter, Anna Eleanor Fierst, of the connection between Women's Rights and Human Rights.

Please stay for a celebration of the life of Arvonne Fraser, pioneering women's rights activist, political campaigner and the US Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Arvonne Fraser, one of the nation's foremost leaders in women's rights, passed away on August 2, 2018, at the age of 92. She was at the forefront of the women's movement in America, fighting against sexual discrimination and violence; discrimination in the workplace, educational institutions and the political

# Monthly Calendar

arena. Arvonne helped found and was President of the Women's Equity Action League.

She was director of the International Women's Rights Action Watch, director of the Office of Women at the AID and served as Ambassador for the UN Commission on the Status of Women from 1993 to 1994. Ambassador Fraser was also a founder of the Center on Women and Public Policy at the Humphrey School of the University of Minnesota, the nation's first teaching, research and outreach center devoted to women and public policy.

## Are You 80 or Older?

Tuesday, December 11, 2:00 pm

Location: Woman's National Democratic Club  
Corner of Q and New Hampshire

We've had some excellent initial response and enthusiasm to a call for those 80 and over to get together monthly. We will have our first gathering on Tuesday, December 11 at 2:00 at the Woman's National Democratic Club, corner of Q and New Hampshire. We hope to see you there!

Would you like to get together with others and hang out, drink some coffee, and enjoy each others' company on a weekly or monthly basis? If you're hesitant, are you willing to try it out? What do you have to lose but an hour or so on one afternoon!

Let us know what you think and let's see if the idea of a low-key, hanging out activity is interesting. Hope so!



## Film Screening: High Tide in Dorchester

Thursday, December 13, 6:30-8:30 pm

Woman's National Democratic Club

1526 New Hampshire Ave NW

Price: \$20 Members; \$20 with Promo Code DCV2121;

\$25 non-member

Register at <https://democraticwoman.org/events/events-upcoming/>

A film by Tom Horton, Dave Harp and Sandy Cannon-Brown

Speaker: Sandy Cannon-Brown

If the consequences of global warming and rising sea levels and the worsening erosion and the high tides they bring seem a little hazy to you, come take a tour of Dorchester County, which is already experiencing the future that increasingly faces coastal areas worldwide. High Tide in Dorchester is a film that encourages discussions and actions concerning sea level rise, erosion and climate change in Dorchester County, MD. The film creates a powerful, intimate story that looks at a worsening global threat through the lens of Chesapeake Bay's most vulnerable county.



## Birthday Tea



October and November birthday celebrants **Dick Arndt, Ann Van der Lippe, Judi Lambart, Joan Ludlow, Nancy Burnham, Dianna Eshman, Lex Reifel, Janet Kegg, Olga Hudacek, Carmela Vetri, Lucy Cooney, Mimi Higgins, Joyce O'Brien and Kathy Jordan.**

# Some Guidance On Negotiating The Medicare Maze

**I**f you could give us only one piece of advice about Medicare, what would it be?" someone asked at a Village Live and Learn Seminar about Medicare on October 22.

"Make sure that you have Medicare Part A," the speaker, Cheryl Smith,

replied. Smith is acting director of the Health Insurance

Counseling Project of George Washington University Law School and a Medicare expert.

Why is Medicare Part A so vital? Because it helps cover inpatient hospital costs, short-term stays in a nursing facility, home health care, and hospice care that could possibly wipe you out financially if you didn't have Medicare Part A, Smith explained. Moreover, you usually don't have to pay a monthly premium for Part A if you or your spouse paid Medicare taxes while working for a certain amount of time.

Medicare Part B is very valuable too, of course, Smith pointed out. It helps pay for doctor services both in and out

of the hospital, home health services, mental health services, a number of preventive services, durable medical equipment, ambulance transport, and some other medical services. You need to pay a monthly premium for Part B coverage. The standard Part B monthly premium, as of 2018, is \$134.

You can also purchase a Medigap policy to help pay for Medicare A and B-approved services that are not totally reimbursed by Medicare A and B, she noted. Some of these policies likewise cover a few things that Medicare A and B would not pay for at all – say, medical care while traveling outside the United States. Generally Medigap policies do not cover dental care, eyeglasses, hearing aids, long-term nursing home care, or private-duty nursing.

Finally, you can purchase a Medicare Part D plan to help pay for your prescription medications. Not all Part D plans cover the same medications. So you'll want to select one that is appropriate for your needs. Most drug plans charge a monthly fee that varies by plan.

Seniors are being issued a new Medicare Part A and B card that does not have their Social Security number on it, but rather another number, in order to reduce the danger of identity theft, Smith continued. The District of Columbia has been one of the first areas in the United States to mail the new Medicare cards to seniors. If you have already received yours and have already discarded your old Medicare card, it

probably isn't going to matter. But if you still have your old card, it would be a good idea to keep it for various reasons. For instance, if a keystroke error were made during the typing of your new Medicare card number, you would still have the old Medicare card with your Social Security number on it to straighten things out.

Smith also reported that seniors with limited income may possibly qualify for financial help with Medicare Part A and Part B monthly premiums, deductibles, and copayments through something called the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program. To qualify for this program, a senior must be a D.C. resident and have a monthly income under \$3,055. Minimum required distributions taken from pension money annually rather than monthly are not included in the \$3,055.

Smith likewise offered the audience a few more Medicare tips. For instance, nearly all hospitals accept Medicare as payment. But that doesn't necessarily mean that all the physicians, nurses, and physical and occupational therapists working there do. So if you are going to a hospital for an elective surgical procedure, ask the hospital surgical coordinator ahead of time whether not only your surgeon, but also your anesthesiologist and other clinical staff participate in Medicare.

Vastly more information about negotiating the Medicare maze can be found in the *Medicare & You 2019* booklet that all of us seniors should have received in the mail. If anyone has specific Medicare questions, they can contact Smith by calling (202) 994-6272 or by e-mailing her at [casmith2@law.gwu.edu](mailto:casmith2@law.gwu.edu).





# Peace of Mind for You and Your Loved Ones



Ask Ann

**What is a smartphone?** It's a cell phone that, in addition to phone calls and texting, also has internet access and various apps.

**What are apps?** The word is short for applications – basically computer programming for specific functions.

**How do I get an app?** If you have an Apple product (iPhone), there should be a pre-loaded app that takes you to Apple's app store. For an Android (Samsung, LG, etc.), you would go to the GooglePlay store app.

**Are apps free?** Some are. Some will say they are free, but there are in app purchases available. For those listed below, the app is free, but the service you request must be paid for.

**Why would I want an app?** There are some that can help keep you self-sufficient.

**Grocery apps:** Order groceries to be delivered. Perhaps just heavy and bulky items. There is a small delivery fee, and a minimum order. If you have a **Safeway** card or a **Giant card (Peapod)**, you will receive your usual discount. Pick a delivery time, which may have a dis-counted fee or be free. Harris Teeter doesn't have this service in this area. **Whole Foods** can be ordered using **Amazon Prime Pantry**.

**Delivery from restaurants:** the two main apps are **Grubhub** and **UberEats**. Is it raining or snowy? Or you just have a hankering for something and don't feel like going out to get it? Get the apps and see what restaurants, categories of food can be delivered to you, look at their menu and order.

**Ride service:** the main ones are **Uber** and **Lyft**. You can use your phone to take you somewhere, get you home if stranded or can only get transportation one way. The app locates where you are,

and just needs to know where you are going. Little cars will appear on the screen, and once selected, you can watch the progress of the car. You know immediately what it will cost, the make of the car, license plate and driver's name. The ride is charged automatically, so you don't need to fumble with cash or credit card before you get out. This gives great peace of mind!

**Isn't this expensive?** It can be, but you don't need to spend a fortune. Perhaps a family member could give you the phone for Christmas or birthday. You probably see ads in AARP materials about two services – **Consumer Cellular** (5% discount for AARP members) and **Jitterbug**. Both have low fees, and no contracts, so you can change your mind without

a penalty. Consumer Cellular runs around \$25+ fees, and Jitterbug is under \$20+ fees.

**Grocery delivery and ride services too expensive for you?** Again, a family member or friend could set up the accounts for you and have the service charged to their credit card.

**Peace of mind for loved ones?** Those who may worry about you feel a lot better knowing that you aren't out on icy sidewalks, lugging groceries around, getting good hot food, etc. This is something tangible they can do for you. You don't have to use the apps, but they can be there for times when they might be useful.

**Questions & instructions?** Just Ask Ann at (202) 436-5252 or admin@dupontcirclevillage.net

## Member Profile

### Meet the Vandevanthers!

**P**eter and **Jan Vandevanter**, new members of Dupont Circle Village (DCV), are a travel team. Peter is the writer and Jan is the photographer. They recently collaborated on a book entitled "Home Exchange" (available on Amazon as a paperback or e-book) about their experiences with the new travel trend. They have exchanged their previous home in Denver, CO and their Dupont Circle condo 25 times since 2013, allowing them to get to know people from around the world.

They have been married 42 years and have a daughter who is a librarian in Nyack, NY and a son in York, ME, who has his own internet security business. He and his wife have a daughter, who recently turned three. Peter and Jan

enjoy visiting their children and granddaughter and other family members on the east coast.

Peter is leading DCV's newest group, the men's book club. Jan enjoys entertaining others in their home. Jan has been a Montessori teacher and real estate agent. Peter has been a journalist. They recently retired to Washington after living in different parts of the country for Peter's work. Jan enjoys her activities with the international women's group, *Wel-come to Washington*. Peter is an instructor for AARP's Safe Driver program.





# Where Are They Now?



▲ **Nancy LaVerda** was recently in Southern California where she visited the bluffs at Carpinteria and the Santa Barbara harbor.



▲ In October, **Jane Cave** and **Eugene Versluysen** spent three weeks visiting family in London and Milan and enjoyed the sights in Rome, Bologna, and Turin. Along the way, they had plenty of opportunities to indulge their passion for photography. This pic is an unexpected street scene in Rome.



◀ Thanks to the DCV's Gala silent auction, **Ken Shuck** and **Carol Galaty** stayed at **Lex Rieffel's** cabin in Woodville, VA and hiked in Shenandoah National Park. The picture is the two atop of the Hawksbill Summit which is the highest view point in the Park. Carol reported that the hiking is stony and steep but the leaves and views are spectacular and the crafts fantastic.



# Where Are They Now?



▲ **Kathy Price** spent Thanksgiving with her family in New York City. Her sons are Photoshop pros — there are no triplets in her family — just two dogs, three kids and a son-in-law.



▲ **Lucia Edmonds** and her niece June were in Paris at **Iris and Irv Molotsky's** apartment over Thanksgiving week. The photo with four people includes my niece (far right) me and the daughters of one of my best friends growing up, Daniella and Valentina. Daniella stayed with me for a couple of summers but I hadn't seen her since she got married some 30+ years ago.



▲ In September **Frank Della-Penna** invited five hula dancers from China to attend the Hawaiian Steel Guitar festival in Fort Collins, Colorado. The China Dance Hula Studio is the only group teaching and performing Hawaiian dance in China.



◀ **Steve Kittrell** and **Susan Hattan** enjoying Thanksgiving with family in Kansas and their healthy turkey.

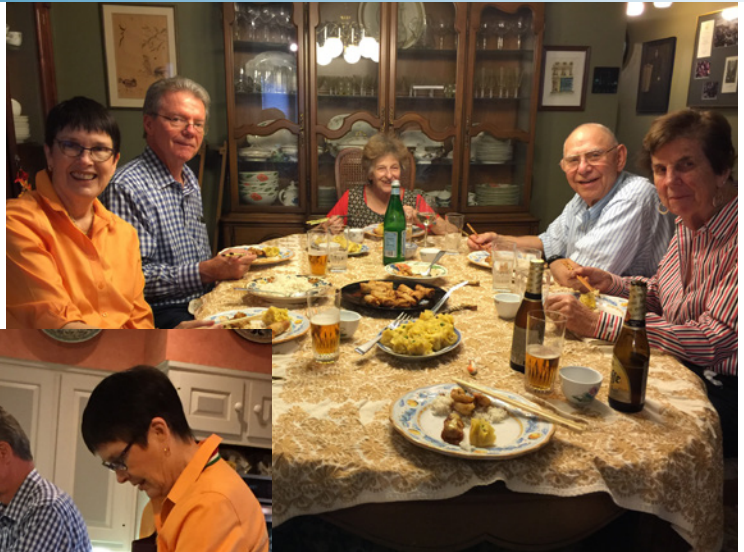


# Out & About with DCV

The last joyful event connected with the 2018 Gala took place on November 2, even as plans for the 2019 gala are beginning to unfold. Villagers **Eileen** and **Michael Tanner** and **Audrey** and **Sheldon Katz**, winners of the Chinese Cooking Class offered at the 2018 Silent Auction, gathered at the home of teacher **Iris Molotsky** with knives and cutting boards and ready for action.

The Chinese chefs-in-training learned three traditional Chinese cooking styles: shrimp stir-fried in a wok, Sui Mai dumplings cooked in bamboo steamers, and deep-fried egg rolls. After a brief introduction about where to buy authentic Chinese ingredients and a demonstration of how to chop and dice (not timidly) the kitchen became a clanging beehive of vigorous activity. Each person participated in every step of every recipe—thereby learning and experiencing new techniques, including cooking with woks. Learning new cooking styles was paramount, but the mood in the kitchen was relaxed and the banter contagious—especially after each dish was successfully completed.

After the three dishes were done, the final step was sitting down to lunch—a Chinese feast of our own making. The four new chefs, joined by teacher Iris and her husband, Irv, enjoyed a wonderful Chinese meal that was very special. The meal ended with tea, almond cookies made by Iris, and lots of laughter.



▲ After much discussion about the shortage of the shingles vaccine on the DCV list serv, DCV swung into action and decided to host its own vaccination clinic. Board Member **Ann McFarren** made the calls and our local Giant Food agreed to help us out and hold a private clinic in the comforts of the DCV office. DCV vaccinated 40 members. A huge thank you to Dr. Sydney Wang, Giant Food Pharmacy Manager who administered the vaccinations.



▲ DCV continued its annual tradition of preparing and delivering Thanksgiving meals to members who asked for one. Huge thanks to the **Turkey Crew** — Ted Mann, **Annie Groer**, **Larry Stuebing**, **Lois Berlin**, **Harvey Friedman**, **Jeanne Downing**, **Eva Lucero**, **Sandra Yarrington**, **Ann Talty**, **Marcy Logan** and **Abigail Wiebenson**.



▲ Partnering with the Women's National Democratic Club, **Dorothy Marschak** helped organize the Anacostia connection series — "Social Entrepreneurship in Anacostia". Dorothy is posing with Kymone Freeman, the co-Founder of We Act Radio and the Community Bookstore (soon to partner with Andy Shallal's bookstore in his new Anacostia Busboys and Poets). That's the only exciting place she's been this year, aside from GW Hospital.

