



Dupont Circle Village

Special Interest Articles:

◆ Silent Auction Wrap-Up and Photo Spread

◆ Meet Board Member Curtis Farrar

◆ Villager Cooks Want to Know

◆ New Discount for Villagers

Individual Highlights:

Monthly Calendar 2

Super Sizzling Sidewalk Sale 2

Making Music 4

Girl Friday, Anyone? 4

Live & Learn Series 5

Kalorama News 5

Become a DCV Phtoto-Shooter 6

Verdict on Silent Auction: “Absolutely Fabulous”

“Absolutely fabulous,” was the typical verdict among the more than 150 people who attended Dupont Circle Village’s first silent auction held February 4 at the stately National Trust for Historic Preservation. As the bidders circulated among the 135 items for sale—which ranged from backpacks, crystal vases and candlesticks to a week’s stay in a Paris apartment—the quantity and quality of the pieces won favorable comments.

President **Peggy Simpson** was delighted with the auction. “The enthusiasm and turnout exceeded our expectations,” she said,



Mayor Vincent Gray speaking with DCV President Peggy Simpson at the auction

“and the event netted more than \$10,000, which enables us to pursue new programs and expand existing ones.”

The lively evening was enhanced further when **Mayor Vincent Gray**, a strong advocate of the Village movement, stopped by to lend his support to DCV.

Iris Molotsky, chair of the auction committee, termed the evening “a vote of confidence for the Village and our efforts.” Co-chair

Abigail Wiebenson agreed, adding, “The evening’s success makes it possible for us to reach out even more effectively to the Dupont Circle community.”

The event proved again the wisdom of the adage “it takes a village.” First, we want to thank **Carlos Reyes** and the National Trust for Historic Preservation for providing the magnificent auction venue. The many generous and thoughtful donors—individuals, professionals, and business owners—who contributed the auction items ensured the event’s success. We could not have pulled it off without the 35 volunteers who arrived early in the morning, stayed after the auction closed, and worked throughout the evening. They were the

glue that held the mixture together.

Village board members also provided support and sage advice every step of the process. We want to thank our executive director **Bernice Hutchinson** for all her hard work—along with her daughter **Alexandra**, who did the badges, and her husband, **Garry**, who took a turn at the bar. Finally, we want to thank **Deacon MacCubbin and Jim Bennett**, who generously shared their expertise and knowledge and patiently responded to frantic last-minute emails about procedures. And last, but hardly least, we thank all of you who attended the auction, who bid on the items and who gave us the support it takes to make a Village succeed.

by Iris Molotsky

See more about the auction, page 3

Thanks To Our Business Supporters & Friends

Calvert Woodley Liquors
Comfort One Shoes
Curtis Farrar and Carol Lancaster
Hasenberg/Hartsock Group
Ginsberg & Helfer , CPAs and Management Consultants
House-Works, LLC
Michael R. Kain Company
Mindel Management Company
TD Bank, Connecticut Avenue Store

Meet DCV Board Member Curtis Farrar

Curtis Farrar, one of the Village's newer board members, claims he can't keep up. "The level of commitment and energy on the board is really astonishing," he says. Of course, not only does he keep up, he has also quickly emerged as someone whose sage advice on policy and financial decisions is valued highly by his colleagues. He currently is serving as chair of DCV's ad hoc committee on Village boundaries and the related issue of expansion.



Curt, who was born and raised in Manhattan, is the son of John Farrar, co-founder in 1946 of what is now the Farrar, Straus & Giroux publishing firm and Margaret Farrar, the *New York Times*' first crossword puzzle editor. She was working at the *New York World* when she was assigned to help improve the daily crossword puzzle. The following year she was hired by Simon & Schuster to work on the first crossword puzzle book, which became a phenomenal success and helped the firm gain a foothold in the publishing business. She continued

to edit crossword puzzle books for Simon & Schuster until her death in 1984. In 1942 she joined the *New York Times*, becoming its first crossword puzzle editor where she created the venerable institution of the newspaper's crossword puzzle—no doubt giving many Villagers a heretofore unknown connection to Curt.

Curt got his undergraduate degree at Yale in political philosophy in 1949, having spent his college career in Naval Reserve Officers' Training, and later interrupted his studies for a year to work for the United

World Federalists, a national organization devoted to the promotion of world government. He was awarded a Fulbright scholarship for the United Kingdom, and received his Ph.D.

in economics from the London School of Economics in 1952. Following his return to the U.S., Curt worked as a volunteer for Adlai Stevenson's campaign for president, the failure of which made it difficult to find employment in the federal government. He was fortunate in the following year to be offered a job in San Francisco as an assistant to the executive of the Asia Foundation, an organization committed to supporting non-Communist media and civil groups throughout Asia

A year later Curt was named to open the Asia Foundation's office in *continued, page 4*

Super Sizzling Sidewalk Sale Coming Soon To Our Village April 30; 8:30-3:30 pm—Mark it on your calendar now!

Not the run of the mill clean-out your attic junk sale, this terrific collection of classy, vintage and useful items will brighten your day, your house and your wallet.

If you'd like to volunteer to work on the sale or donate items, contact Abigail Wiebenson: abigailwiebenson@gmail.com or call 202-332-6857

Monthly Calendar

Monday, February 28

3:30-5 pm: Live & Learn Series: "How To Be Your Own Best Medical Advocate," with guest speaker Roberta Milman. 1917 Swann Street, NW. Free to members; \$10 fee for others. Contact Linda Harsh, 202-234-2567 or lindajkh@mac.com for reservations. (*see story page 5*).

Tuesday, March 15:

Noon-1:45 pm. Group lunch at Bistro La Bonne, 1340 U Street, NW. Chef Daniel Labonne will prepare a pre-fixe \$20 three-course meal. RSVP no later than March 12 to Judith Neibrief at jneibrief@aol.com and please put Bistro in the subject line.

Monday, March 28:

3:30-5 pm: Live & Learn Series: Rightsizing: Dealing With Clutter In Your Life.

Tuesday, April 5:

1-2 pm: American Art Museum docent and Villager Mary Braden will lead a tour of "Alexis Rockman: A Fable for Tomorrow."

Sunday, April 10:

7:30-9:30 pm: Join Villagers for a play, Photograph 51, about the unacknowledged life of Rosalind Franklin, one of the great female scientists of the 20th century. RSVP no later than March 26 to Judith Neibrief at jneibrief@aol.com and please put Theatre J Play in the subject line.

Saturday, April 30:

8:30-3:30 pm. Village's Super Sizzling Sidewalk Sale.



Gene Smith celebrates a winning bid!

Scenes From The Silent Auction



Judy duBerrier captures attention as she rings Todd Warner's "Blue Bird of Happiness" bell, a auction item.

Below: Jacky Spindler (left) and Frances Oakley, two of the auction's many volunteers.



Stefanie Ortoleva and Frank Della Pena celebrate after winning the week in the Paris apartment.



Our special volunteers from the Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School. From left: Molly Gurdon, Katherine Baker and Alexandra Hutchinson.



Bill Rice from The Georgetown Dish takes photo of auction planners (from left: Jim Bennett, Abigail Wiebenson, Iris Molotsky and Deacon MacCubben.

Still smiling despite the crush at checkout time. From left: Alaire Rieffel, Bernice Hutchinson and Michele Molotsky



Lolita Ellis checks out one of the auction tables.

Special thanks to Village photographers Harvey Friedman and Irv Molotsky

Farrar

continued from page 2
Lahore, Pakistan. He and his family spent two and a half years there, during which time his second child was born. He studied Urdu and did learn to speak it, but found that many times the people he worked with preferred to use English.

He remained with the Foundation for 11 years, much of it spent as country representative in Cambodia and Pakistan. For a short period he was responsible simultaneously for programs in both Karachi and Phnom Penh. Even for a seasoned traveler, this was quite a commute. As Curt noted, "I got to know the Bangkok airport pretty well."

Curt and his wife, **Carol Lancaster**, who is dean of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, moved to Dupont Circle 31 years ago. Their first house was at 13th and S Streets and in 1984 they moved to their current home in the 1700 block of S Street. Carol is a native Washingtonian. Curt has four children from a previous marriage and he and Carol also have a son. He's quite proud of the seven grandchildren they have.

Curt served as an ANC Commissioner for one term in 2007-08. When asked if he thought that service informed his work

on the Village board, he said it did but indirectly in terms of familiarity with the community and DC government. "The ANC deals with a lot of liquor license and zoning issues," he said, "which of course are not Village concerns. However, I think it is very important for Dupont Circle civic organizations to work together." He added that he thought it would be a good idea for the Village to designate a liaison to attend ANC meetings.

Talking about the Village's future, Curt emphasizes the importance of achieving stability and sustainability. He cautions against undertaking overly ambitious projects because "it's hard to continue to attract capable, dedicated people to replenish the original board members as the Village matures."

Making Music Together

by Don Jones

Half a dozen Village members with the potential to make, as well as enjoy, music gathered in late January at the attractive music studio of



Don Jones, left, with John Benaglia

John Benaglia for a discussion and demonstrations on a number of instruments on which they might unleash their talents.

Benaglia, who has been teaching music for almost 50 years, and says "I hope to teach for many more," opened up his studio at 19th and T Streets, where he teaches piano, organ, recorder, harpsichord and guitar, for the DCV event.

Benaglia treated

Villagers to demonstrations on each of the five instruments he teaches, as well as the viola da gamba, a wonderful model of which he owns and plays.

Afterwards, **Abigail Wiebenson** capped off the enjoyable afternoon with a tea at her nearby

home. The attendees, who found the session delightful, appreciated Don's efforts in arranging the gathering.

Girl Friday, Anyone?

by Bernice Hutchinson

How long has it been since you have heard the term "Girl Friday?" I mean, this term really takes you back to another place in time! When I researched the term "Girl Friday" I found that it is a term that is all but obsolete, but back in its day, it referred to a female assistant/personal secretary usually for a man in an office environment. A *Girl Friday* might be expected to perform all manner of duties, as required by her boss. Back then, a *Girl Friday* might even be asked to do certain "duties" that would be considered improper in today's workplace, such as picking up personal laundry or dry cleaning, washing a car or banking.

Dupont Circle Village is bringing this old term back with a new twist. Our *Girl Friday* could even be a *Guy Friday*. And, if we could be so politically correct, our Person Friday would be honored to do the laundry, personal errands

continued page 6

Yoga Tip Of The Month: Practical Steps from Judy Silberman, DCV Yoga Master

- * Three-Part Breathing: A big inhale into your belly, then slowly exhale out from belly, chest and throat. Feel belly rise on inhale, fall with exhale.
- * Figure 8s: Make figure 8s with your thumbs, chin, elbows and toes.
- * Seven basic spinal poses: Reach up, fold forward, bend to the right, bend to the left, twist right, twist left, slight back bend.
- * Relax: Lie down. Take five full breaths. Let breath become more shallow. Scan body. Tense, then release body parts, starting north. Rest five minutes; slowly move arms, legs and neck before getting up.

New Discount For Villagers

We now will get a 10 percent discount on wine ordered from Martin's Wine & Spirits at 1919 Florida Avenue, NW.

Martin Vigderhouse, who opened his shop 18 years ago, is excited about working with Villagers and says that he also offers party-planning specialists.

Store hours are 9am-8:30 pm, Mondays through Thursdays and 9am-10 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Free deliveries can be arranged: call 202-986-1701, with deliveries up to 8 pm on weekdays or to 8:30 pm on weekends.

Many thanks to **Jane Pierson**, a new member from the Kalorama area, who has patronized Martin's for years and alerted him to the opportunity to give a break to Dupont Circle Villagers.

Six other businesses give discounts to DCV:

- Dolcezza Gelato
- Java House
- Mandu
- Rosemary's Thyme
- Scion
- Steam Café

You can find more information about our discounts and locations on DCV's website:

www.dupontcirclevillage.org

Don't forget to take your membership card when you ask for discounts. And if you have suggestions for other restaurants or stores we might approach about giving villagers a discount—speak up!



January's Live & Learn

January's Live & Learn session was devoted to the myths and the reality of Alzheimer's Disease.

Carolyn Ward, Program Administrator of the Georgetown University Memory Disorders Program discussed the disease, how it affects patients and caregivers and responded to



Glenn Lehmann listens as Carolyn Ward discusses ways to cope with Alzheimer's complications.

the audience's many questions. Among the myths she dispelled was the idea that memory loss is a natural part of aging. She also noted that one of the great barriers to detecting Alzheimer's in its early stages is that people are reluctant to acknowledge or recognize the symptoms, which include difficulty with short-term memory, inability to carry out complex tasks, failure to complete tasks, confusion with time or place and behavior changes.

February's Live & Learn

"What should I ask my doctor?" "Is that nurse giving me the right meds?"

These are some of the questions that **Roberta Milman** will help answer at February's monthly Dupont Circle Village Live & Learn seminar. She will discuss "How To Be Your Own Best Medical Advocate."

LIVE & LEARN SERIES

"How To Be Your Own Best Medical Advocate"

Date: Monday, February 28

Time: 3:30-5 pm

Place: 1719 Swann Street, NW

For reservations contact Linda Harsh, 202-234-2567 or lindajkh@mac.com. The talk is free for Village members and \$10 for others.

Ms. Milman has 35 years of experience in hospital management, healthcare policy, public health and Medicare.

Her career posts have included work at a Johns Hopkins affiliate, Children's National Medical Center and Georgetown Hospital.

Best of all, she has had personal experience with the health care system both as a patient and as a caregiver.

Don't Forget! Dues increase on April 1. Join now or renew early to take advantage of the lower dues rates.

Kalorama News

by Peggy Simpson

DCV always has included some members from Kalorama—**Burke Dillon**, **Dixie Kain**, and **Harvey Friedman**—but recently because of Kalorama Village's inactivity, we are pleased to welcome additional Kalorama members, including **Jane Pierson**, a former KV steering committee member, **Joan and Nicholas Ludlow**, who were attracted by our vitality and varied activities and **Roberta Wasserman**.

For now, the DCV Board will continue to accept applicants on a case-by-case basis who live nearby in contiguous neighborhoods, including Kalorama, Logan and Georgetown.

Curtis Farrar's ad hoc committee, created after KV leaders talked about cutting back on activity levels, will continue to examine key issues this spring. Expanding our boundaries might be one option. Another, however, would be to intensify member recruitment within our core DCV territory, rather than seeking newcomers outside our original boundaries of eight census tracts (approximately 14th Street to the East, U Street/Florida Avenue on the North, Rock Creek Park on the West and Pennsylvania Avenue on the South—you can see the map on our website.)

Dupont Circle Village Welcomes 8 New Members

As of January 1, we are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Village:

- Lois Berlin and Larry Stuebing
- Joan and Nicholas Ludlow
- Jane Pierson
- Roberta Wasserman
- Faith and Stephen Williams

Girl Friday

Continued from page 4

and even wash the car!

Meet **Marilyn Lutter**, our Dupont Circle Villagers extraordinaire, who does crew, yoga and keeps a rigorous social calendar. Her limited vision is merely a technicality. But she is falling behind in her reading of mail and that is not so good. Having just lost her routine administrative reader, her volunteer request seemed quite simple. Let's post a request for a reader. But, not so fast, as our exploratory conversation continued, there seemed to be more that could be done to support Marilyn. How about a little filing, organizing papers and, while you are at it, perhaps throwing in a load of laundry here and there? "Sounds like a Girl Friday," I said. Marilyn quickly agreed. Posting the volunteer request was easy. While posting, I thought, "now here comes the hard part, I hope we get a rapid reply." Before the day's end, three eager volunteers all posted

Dupont Circle Village
9 Dupont Circle
Washington, DC 20036

Web:

www.dupontcirclevillage.org

Email: contact@dupontcirclevillage.org
202-436-5252

Executive Board

Peg Simpson, president
Nancy Hartsock, vice president
Abigail Wiebenson, secretary,
Alaire Rieffel, treasurer
Brad Edwards
Curtis Farrar
Iris Molotsky
Marilyn Newton
Judith Neibrief

Executive Director

Bernice Hutchinson

interest and the same problem. The problem was busy schedules. The solution was three, rather than one Girl Friday, with a rotating the schedule. *Mission accomplished!* In this new age of high tech to accomplish high touch, we will have a teleconference call with everyone and work out details and schedules. We'll keep you posted. By the way, why not call us if you need a Person Friday. Volunteers await!

New Monthly Feature

Village Cooks Want To Know



A Villager Asks: Why use cornstarch instead of flour in Asian cooking?
Answer: Cornstarch is a wonderful product. Not only does it thicken a sauce or soup without adding cloudiness or aftertaste, it leaves no lumps like flour. Note: be sure to mix it in cold water before adding to hot liquids

No Fuss Stir Fry

1 cup skinned chicken pieces (use whole chicken)
3 cups mixed frozen vegetables—or any combination of fresh vegetables
1 smashed garlic clove and 1 knob of peeled ginger
1 ½ tbsp. cornstarch and 2 tlbs. soy sauce mixed with 1 cup low sodium chicken broth
½ small can diced water chestnuts, rinsed (can substitute diced celery)
3 chopped scallions
3 tbsp. crushed peanuts or toasted sesame seeds.

Prepare ingredients before cooking. Heat a wok at high temperature. Add 2 tbsp. peanut or vegetable oil. Cook garlic and ginger until fragrant, then discard. Saute vegetables until crispy tender, stirring constantly. Add chicken, water chestnuts and cornstarch mixture. Cook until hot, about 90 seconds. Add more liquid if needed. Garnish with scallions and nuts. Serve over rice if desired.

Become a DCV Photo-Shooter

If you are a DCV member, and you think photography is or might be your thing, check this out.

Villager Harvey Friedman is organizing **DCV Photo-Shooters**. All DCV members are welcome to join this new group. It doesn't matter whether you are a neophyte, amateur or world renown professional, and you can come armed with anything from a brownie to the most high-tech digital camera.

In April, the first Photo-Shooters outing, members are going to walk around together and focus on some of the great exterior architectural features in Dupont Circle. Later monthly forays include the zoo, monuments, bridges, the C&O Canal and anywhere the group fancies.

Post-shoot wrap-ups over lunch or coffee will offer opportunities to learn from one another—about techniques, cameras, interesting places to shoot, but best of all they will foster camaraderie.

For intra-group discussion, members may post their photographs on Flickr or a dedicated DCV Photo-Shooters' Facebook page or perhaps even on DCV's own website. Who knows?

If you are interested, contact Harvey at harvelah@gmail.com

Next month:

What to do with left-over chicken carcasses.

Questions/Comments: judydubierrier@verizon.net