



GEORGETOWN VILLAGE

July/August 2017



Gail Nordheimer

From the President

Dear Members, Volunteers and Friends,

The lazy days of summer are approaching, but Georgetown Village staff and volunteers won't be relaxing at the beach. Georgetown Village will continue to offer its many services and activities throughout July and August so take a look at the listing below and on page 4 to update your calendar. We will also be looking forward to the fall as many of our committees will meet soon to begin planning future activities. I hope you will let Lynn or me know if you are interested in joining a committee even if you are away during some or all of the summer. We encourage you to share your ideas and participation as the board and committee members are

very important components in ensuring that our Village meets the needs of every member. We need lots of creative input and willing workers to keep the high quality of services and programs going.

I am thrilled to report that our May 4th fundraiser was our most successful ever, raising \$53,325 from Sponsors, Ticket Buyers and Silent Auction purchasers, which provides nearly half of our annual budget. Remarkably, our costs for the event were 6%. We want to express our heartfelt thanks once again to **Foley & Lardner** for donating their beautiful spaces, **Leopold's Kafe** for the delicious appetizers and our most faithful and generous supporter **Nancy Taylor Bubes** for the wine, flowers and goody bags.

Please take a look at the Donors tab on our web site, Georgetown-village.org to see the names of all our generous 2017 supporters. While on the web site take a look at the wonderful photos taken by **Cookie Tager** and **Dan Rumelt** to see **City Councilman Jack Evans'** presentation of our annual award to **Tom Birch**, the evening's highlight. Although we have now organized a fundraiser for five years, it never stops impressing me how many people contribute to its success. I can't name them all, but special thanks go to **Jessica Townsend** and **Pat Scolaro** for coordinating the event, **Barbara Hall** and all the members of the joint Development and Special Events Committees who solicited sponsors and gifts for the Silent Auction and other volunteers who helped in many ways to make this such a special evening for all.

Whether in town or on vacation, we hope you have a wonderful summer,

-Gail Nordheimer, President

We hope to see you at our weekly events

Happy Hour is always on the 1st Monday and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Movie Night is always the fourth Tuesday of the month (unless there is a conflict).

Coffee Talk is every Thursday morning at 10:30 at St. John's, 3240 O Street, NW. Please use the Potomac Street entrance.

The Portable Electronics Help Session is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at the GV Office, 10:30 am.

Book Discussion Group will not meet in July or August. The book for September is "Death Comes to the Archbishop" by Willa Cather. Date and time for the meeting will be announced later.

Young Volunteers Helping Seniors



In today's world, as many seniors have moved into retirement communities or live far from their families, there are fewer opportunities for younger people and seniors to come together. Thanks to some of our younger volunteers, starting with middle school on up into young adulthood, Georgetown Village members are fortunate to benefit from this intergenerational coming together.

Currently, our student volunteers come from Holy Trinity, Georgetown Visitation, and the Washington International School. Some have been recruited through personal contacts, and in other cases, the parents of teenage children have contacted the Village to learn more about student volunteering believing it important that their children learn the value of helping others, many of whom may be their neighbors, while also fulfilling their schools' community service requirements. All Georgetown Village volunteers, including the younger ones, are vetted and undergo training.

What kinds of services are youthful volunteers able to provide? More than you might think. In addition to dog walking and caring for pets, yard work assistance, snow shoveling in the winter and keeping an eye on your home while you are away (picking up papers and flyers from the doorstep), there are other possible services that one might not have thought of such as: helping a member to set up WiFi, new electronics, TV's, printers, laptops, iPads, cell phones and email, or introducing them to the world of social media, Facebook, Instagram, etc.; also, making holiday cards online, electronic photo albums, downloading photos; and during the holiday season, putting up and taking down holiday decorations (who wouldn't love that!).

Fortunately, many of our teenage volunteers will be around this summer, so if you have been thinking about projects that could benefit from some youthful assistance, do give the Village a call!

Article by: Joan Kennan

Caroline Ramsay Merriam



Georgetown Village members have extraordinary stories and Caroline Ramsay Merriam is no exception. Describing herself as a "caricature of a liberal, straight out of Central Casting", her working life has revolved around Civil Rights and community development, both nationally and internationally. In 1962 she worked for the nascent Peace Corps before moving to the Civil Rights Commission. Hospitalized in August 1963, she was determined to participate in the March on Washington to hear Dr. Martin Luther King speak. She hid in a laundry cart and escaped onto 23rd Street. Her doctor was furious but she was jubilant. She was actively involved in getting Senators and Representatives to vote for the 1964 Civil Rights Bill and then found herself in Alabama and Mississippi attending hearings by the States' Advisory Committees.

in 1968 she began working for the Office of Economic Opportunity which led to a life-long passion for craft cooperatives and grassroots communities. She helped found cooperatives from Alaska to Alabama, reconnecting in the latter with many of her former Civil Rights friends. She also organized the annual Christmas Opportunities Boutique for the OEO, creating a market for crafts made by low-income cooperatives.

Caroline set up her own foundation in 1981, the Crafts Center, a non-profit that worked with many international agencies to improve the lives of the world's poor. Eschewing top down management, she encouraged cooperatives to make decisions for themselves but helped locate local technical assistance and micro financing possibilities. Her work took her as far as Africa and Australia. She encouraged peer-to-peer connections, at one point putting Hmong refugee cooperatives in touch with those run by Native Americans so they could learn from the latter's experiences.

Not one to slow down, Caroline now runs the Ramsay Merriam Fund. She continues to care deeply about the world's poor but has expanded her focus to include child labor and human trafficking. She is also an ardent supporter of prison reform, especially with regard to solitary confinement. A liberal to the core!

Article by: Andrea Kiernan

Meet Volunteer Jim Smith



Georgetown Village is truly fortunate that the position of Treasurer currently rests in the capable hands of Jim Smith. Originally from the mid-west, a 34-year career with Bell/AT&T eventually brought him to DC to run their Regulatory Affairs Office. Now retired, Jim spends many hours a week ensuring that the Village is fiscally sound. Working with the Village's outside accountants, preparing information for tax returns, dealing with insurance, ensuring there is money in the bank and that it is wisely invested are just a few of his responsibilities. It could be a full-time job.

But Jim's involvement with the Village is much wider and he also volunteers on a more practical level. Seeing his own parents' needs change as they grew older he realized the same needs existed in his local community. He is a very competent handy-man and approached Lynn Golub-Rofrano to offer his services. Many of our members have been the lucky beneficiaries. Jim has done everything from changing lightbulbs and repairing toilets to helping a member buy and install a new kitchen cabinet. He also re-discovered the skill of mowing a lawn with an old-fashioned push-mower, something he last did as a teenager.

Dealing with medical bills and coping with an influx of mail can be a daunting task, especially if a late partner has formerly taken care of it. Jim regularly meets with some members to help with these complexities. He never gives financial advice but says it is a comfort to members to talk to someone from the Village that they trust. He helps with IT problems too, although he is modest about his skills. As he says, there are so many ways one can volunteer.

When not helping the Village, Jim likes to play golf and is also involved with covenant control in his neighborhood. One wonders where he finds the time.

Article by: Andrea Kiernan

Our annual spring party on May 4th was our most successful ever raising \$53,325 which provides nearly half of our annual budget. In addition to all our social programs, Georgetown Village has provided 320 services so far this year. Please call the office to join us for any of our events or to request services. We look forward to hearing from you.



Members enjoying the Azalea Walk at the US Arboretum



Jack Evans, Founding Board member Ann Satterthwaite, Tom Birch and Gail Nordheimer at the spring fundraiser

Join Us for These Upcoming Tours

July 14 @ 9:30, NPS Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, 1505 Anacostia Ave, NE. A tranquil preserve with short trails through pond and marsh, gardens, greenhouses and visitors' center, a lovely place for birding. Arrive at 9:30 to view peak bloom of famous water lilies and lotus flowers. Leave Georgetown at 9. Please confirm attendance NO LATER THAN JULY 10.

July 21 @ 11:30, Union Market, 1309 5th Street, NE **and the Dolcenza Gelato Factory & Shop**, 550 Penn Street, NE. Union Market is a warehouse food market with 40 local artisans offering charcuterie, empanadas and more at an indoor bite bazaar. Shop and eat for an hour then tour the gelato factory. Leave Georgetown at 11. Please confirm attendance NO LATER THAN JULY 17.

August 11 @ 12:30. Frederick Douglass House, 1411 W Street, SE. Frederick Douglass was an African-American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer and statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement. We will take the 1:15 tour arriving 45 minutes early to see the exhibits and film. CAUTION about this trip, the house is at the top of a 51 foot hill, no elevator, either 85 steps or there is a ramp. \$1.50 for reserved tickets. Leave Georgetown at noon. Please confirm attendance NO LATER THAN AUGUST 4.

August 18 @ 7:30-8:45PM, US Air Force Memorial Concert featuring the USAF Concert Band and the Singing Sergeants Soloists at 1 Air Force Memorial Drive, Arlington, VA. Bring a lawn chair. The USAF Memorial honors the service and heritage of the men and women of the United States Air Force. Besides the awe inspiring design of the memorial, it provides picture perfect views of the Washington, DC skyline. Please confirm attendance NO LATER THAN AUGUST 11 so we can arrange carpools.