



# GEORGETOWN VILLAGE

October 2017

## From the President



*Gail Nordheimer*

Dear Members and Volunteers,

As we enjoy the beauty of leaves turning, we are reminded it's time for many of us to renew our membership in Georgetown Village. It's also time to consider how the Village has increased the possibilities and choices for all our lives this year.

GV provides more services than ever before, adding weekly trips to grocery stores. More members rely on our volunteers for rides to medical appointments, handy man, gardening, organizing and IT assistance, and much more. The GV board regularly weighs which new services might benefit our members most effectively. This year, following special volunteer training, we added Friendly Hospital Visits and Medical Note Taking. HealthCare Committee members interviewed dozens of assisted living facilities throughout the Washington area to update our database so members and their families can evaluate assisted living facilities when needed.

The Program Committee arranges outings to museums, theatres and special events while our Speaker Series offers local authors speaking informally to us and to our neighbors. Our annual Anniversary Party in December continues to be a favorite way for members and volunteers to enjoy a delicious feast and fun together.

We are pleased to welcome our new board member, Motrya Hanas, who has been an active volunteer. Jessica will remain involved as coordinator of occasional small dinner gatherings for members with local luminaries. Stay tuned for more details, but be sure to renew your membership in time to enjoy all that is planned for members this year and into 2018, as together we help to invent an enhanced future for older adults in America.

*-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.

The Book Group will be meeting on October 16 at the home of Charlotte Streidel to discuss the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

# Directory of Assisted Living Communities in the Washington Area

The Georgetown Village never fails to impress me with the variety of services that it offers our members. One that you may not be aware of is the Village's directory of assisted living facilities in our area. Although the Village provides many services to help our members remain in their homes for as long as possible, some members may someday need care that is more comprehensive than what a Village can provide.

Graduate students from Catholic University School of Social Work started the process of researching and assembling information in 2015. Leslie Smith, Secretary of the Georgetown Village Board of Directors and head of our Health Care Advisory Committee, saw the need to put this information into a more readable format and to update the information. Leslie coordinated a number of Village volunteers to update the information and worked with the office to create a more reader friendly format, making it easy for members to compare one agency with another. This database about assisted living facilities in the greater Washington community (including the Virginia and Maryland suburbs) has been updated to September 2017 and the final version will be available this month.

For those members who are interested in obtaining a copy, please don't hesitate to call the Georgetown Village office at 202-999-8988.

*Article by: Joan Kennan*

## The Interesting Life of Village Member Page Wilson

Page Wilson was an early member of Georgetown Village, long time Washington resident, human rights activist and writer. She recently read from her memoir *Carnage and Courage* (2015) for members of the Village and others. She also published a novel, *AKA Red*, in 2016.

She grew up outside Baltimore. After working in London as an attaché in the U.S. Embassy under Joseph P. Kennedy, she returned to the U.S. and became a reporter for the Washington Times Herald. In 1943 she married Lt. Col. Frazer L.W. Dougherty, and moved to Connecticut, where he was a pilot for Airphibian, an airplane that could become a car. She continued her writing including articles in the *New York Times Magazine* and *Women Today*.

In a New York Times piece, she wrote of attending a dinner with President and Mrs. Roosevelt to celebrate Franklin Jr.'s 21st birthday. Seated next to the President, she told him she was volunteering in Al Landon's Baltimore headquarters. Not surprisingly by the end of evening she was a Democrat.

In 1956, she moved to Washington where she was information director for Americans for Democratic Action. In 1958 she married Thomas W. Wilson Jr., who had worked for the Marshall Plan and later for the State Department and the UN General Secretariat. With three Wilson and four Dougherty children, it was a lively household.

Later she worked for the Population Crisis Council. In the mid-sixties she joined Mr. Wilson when he was a political advisor to NATO in Paris and in Brussels where Page helped organize Democrats for Humphrey. After Mr. Wilson's NATO stint, the family returned to Washington. Page co-edited a cookbook, "How to Cook Reagan's Goose," published by the Women's National Democratic Club. Her husband Tom Wilson died in 1998. She died on August 19, 2017 just shy of 100.

Page Wilson was vital, active and an ardent Democrat until her last days. After 90, she stopped shoveling snow, but still walked to the bus stop to head downtown. Any recent visitor to her house could be photographed beside a life size cardboard figure of Barrack Obama.

*Article by: Ann Satterthwaite*

## NEW MEN'S LUNCH GROUP

AARP reports that social involvement improves one's odds of survival by as much as 50 percent! Did you know that social interaction benefits physical health as well? For this reason, or just to stay current and have fun, please join our new men's lunch group to be held at Martin's Tavern on the second Wednesday each month. Call the office to let us know you will be coming so we can reserve a place for you. Hope to see you there!



## Martine de Lusignan, Village Member and Volunteer



Georgetown Village's motto "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" drew Martine de Lusignan to become an early Village member. She has seen the benefits of being a member of the Village from many perspectives: as a caretaker, a recipient of help, and now as a volunteer.

"I'm a social person. I like to meet people." Martine says, as this propensity helped her throughout her life. Born in Brussels, she received a scholarship to study in the United States in 1972. She says, "When luck comes, grab it." When she learned of the World Bank hiring secretaries, she returned. A year later, she met Guy de Lusignan while he was visiting the World Bank during his posting to Saudi Arabia. They married,

beginning what Martine describes as "an exceptional life" with him.

Martine had met Georgetown Village founder Sharon Lockwood when their children were young. In 2007, after Martine's husband Guy was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and knowing help would be needed, she shopped around for aid services. Her relationship with Sharon and the concept of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" gave her the impetus to join Georgetown Village.

Martine says "She and Guy benefited right away". In what could have been an isolating circumstance, they were meeting people, learning tai chi, and going on field trips. Volunteers helped her put a chain and a grab bar on her door, resolved computer problems and helped with transporting Guy. Martine describes the Village as "the best place I could imagine."

The considerable age difference between her and Guy has given her a preview of how life changes with increasing age. Of the Village concept, she is convinced that "This is the way to age." She notes that, even if one is a longtime resident of an urban area, "With age, things are shrinking. You can't go so far, but you find a rich environment around you. You can't run around as much, but next-door neighbors are so interesting." When you share the same issues with your neighbors, that's a Village. "It's comforting. You fit right in."

Following Guy's death in 2015, Martine developed new connections with the Village. She benefited from the Village's help when she needed an operation. The support she received from volunteers gave peace of mind not only to her, but also to her daughter in Paris and her sister in Chicago. Martine now serves as a volunteer, happy to pay back the help she has received. Again, her sociability has provided her with new opportunities. She says "She always learns something from helping a member. It's so important. You feel useful."

Currently, a Georgetown student from Kazakhstan is living at Martine's home and gave her this quote: "When you have talked to someone, it is lighter on the soul. The day seems sunnier, troubles step back and start seeming smaller." Those thoughts might apply as well to the experience of membership in the Village.

*Article by: Carol Cavanaugh*

### **LGBTQ Older Adult Gathering and Documentary Screening**

Palisades Village, Sibley Memorial Hospital, and Iona Senior Services invite other Villages and adults over 60 who identify as LGBTQ to a gathering and screening of "GEN Silent." The free event will be held on Monday, November 13 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at Sibley Memorial Hospital, Building A, Medical Office Building, Conference Room #1 (5255 Loughboro Road NW). "GEN Silent" is a critically acclaimed documentary that focuses on the aging LGBTQ community. To register please call 202-364-7602

*Our editor, Henrietta LaMotte, thanks our writers: Joan Kennan, Carol Cavanaugh, Ann Satterthwaite, Andrea Kiernan and Hans Kaper and our proof readers: Nancy Schaefer and Motrya Hanas.*

## Join Us for These Upcoming Tours

**October 6, 11AM-2PM, Smithsonian Craft2Wear Show and Sale**, National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW produced by the Smithsonian Women's Committee. A curated show and sale of unique wearable art benefitting the Smithsonian. Limited-edition jewelry, clothing and accessories from 60 acclaimed designers. Tickets \$15 at the door. \$2 discount for advance online purchase, smithsoniancraft2wear.org or 888-832-9552. We will have lunch at one of the nearby restaurants if there is interest.

**October 26, 5:30-7 PM**, St John's Episcopal Church, 3240 O Street. **Roger D. Stone**, local author and founder of the Sustainable Development Institute, **will talk about his new book, "The Lives of Dillon Ripley"**. A Yale-educated Renaissance man, Ripley was an ornithologist, conservationist, and led the Smithsonian Institution for twenty years. Under his leadership, the SI added 8 new museums, 7 research centers and began publication of the Smithsonian magazine. Ripley's vision transformed the SI into a vibrant educational and cultural institution.

Ripley's work as an ornithologist culminated in his landmark 30-year project documenting the bird life of India. His lifelong passion for ornithology led him to positions of leadership in worldwide nature conservation.

In 1944, he was recruited to the Office of Strategic Services, a Yale club at the outset that became the forerunner of the modern CIA. Posted to Ceylon, he recruited and ran agents who reported from and infiltrated Japanese-held Southeast Asia. The evening will begin with a wine and cheese reception.

Be sure to look in our weekly emails for details about our **upcoming trips in November** to the **Freer/Sackler Galleries** and **Phillips Collection** and also a **Capitol Steps** performance.