



# Dupont Circle Village

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- ◆ DCV's 2011 Calendar Project
- ◆ Volunteer Happy Hour
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- ◆ Update from President

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*Marilyn Newton and Judy duBerrier painting the callbox at 25th and N Streets*

## Dupont Circle Goes Green With Help From Volunteers

Energized by DCV board member **Marilyn Newton**, Dupont Circle is undergoing its own green revolution—our 22 call boxes are sprouting a vibrant new leaf color. Marilyn reports, “As we were painting, people passing by told us they really liked the boxes and appreciate our work. Artists **Elaine Faye** and **Carol Galaty** assured me that the bright green will make the boxes stand out—which they do.”

Two types of call boxes were placed on District street corners in 1860 so residents could call for help from the police or fire departments. By the 1920s they were no longer being used and fell into disrepair.

The refurbishing of the call boxes was a citywide effort started in 2000 by Cultural Tourism DC and the District Department of Transportation.

The Dupont Circle Call Box Committee was founded in December 2002 and seven of the 12 original members remain active, including DCV members **Marilyn, Carol Galaty, Gil Hill, and Gerry Schwinn**. Other committee members include community activists **Michael Beidler, Jim Mears, Phil Carney and Steve Hogland**. The Committee worked closely with the Dupont Circle Conservancy and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association. Funds were solicited from local businesses, DCCA sponsored a major fundraising dinner, and individuals were contacted as well. The group raised \$39,675, of which \$6,075 has been held in reserve for further maintenance. The Historic Preservation Committee of the Cosmos

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## Think 2011: Help The Village

We're producing a 2011 calendar!

It features fabulous photos of familiar sights from Dupont Circle area by local photographers. It's called "Around the Circle" and it is the first fundraising project by the Village.

Many thanks to **Mike Silverstein** who help us brainstorm the idea and then persuaded **Michael Jantzen** to donate his photos for the calendar.

And many thanks as well to **Nicolas Shi**, the artist who designed our DCV logo in 2008 and who also designed the Dupont Circle Citizens Association t-shirt based on his painting of the Dupont Circle fountain. Nicolas agreed to be a part of our calendar working group and then, after the second meeting, volunteered his talents as our graphic designer for the calendar as well. He also turns out to be a splendid photographer as well and shares credits with Jantzen for the calendar photos.

**Alaire Rieffel** took the lead on the calendar committee as project manager. The calendar should be available at Village's booth at the DCCA Street Fair on 17th Street on Sept. 25.

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## Greening Our Call Boxes

*continued from page 1*

Club recently gave the Committee a \$1,000 grant for the repainting effort.

Before bad weather interfered, Marilyn, who is heading the latest effort again, had planned a painting party at her house on July 10 for pairs of volunteers from the Village, DCCA and the Conservancy. They were to have been served coffee and then sent out to paint. Marilyn had prepared kits with paint, brushes, plastic gloves, paint remover, rags, newspaper, and wet paint signs.

She, Rick Busch, Gerry Schwinn and Phil Carney had previously prepared the boxes by brushing them with wire brushes, covering bad areas with white primer and taping areas to protect them from spilled paint. Unfortunately, it was raining too hard to paint so pairs were assigned boxes to do at a later date. Despite the heat, almost all of the boxes have been painted.

**Judy duBerrier**, who along with Carol Galaty painted two boxes, says drivers had plenty to say as they worked. “Good job! You missed a spot! Awful color! Can I help? (as he whizzed by in full throttle),” Judy says. She recalls they started at 6 am to beat the heat and because she had a dentist appointment at 8:30 am. “I thought I had plenty of time to work and go home to change my clothes,” she says.



*Ingrid Peterson puts the finishing touches on a call box at the 1700 block of Massachusetts Avenue.*

“Wrong.”

We worked right up until 8:05 and then I had to hoof downtown. I arrived at the dentist’s office covered in green paint, perspiring profusely, and disheveled to say the least.” She says luckily the dentist was amused and plied her with water and wiped her down.

Marilyn’s involvement in the call boxes stems from her long-held interest in Dupont Circle’s rich historical background. She is a member and former officer of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association and the Dupont Circle Conservancy, as well as DCV. She also served as an ANC Commissioner from 1997-2003. Recently, she helped gather photographs for a newly published book, *Washington at Home*, edited by **Kathryn Smith**. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and generous woman working on our behalf on this and so many other projects throughout the years.

## NEW VILLAGE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

The Village’s Executive Board in May approved creation of an **Alumni Membership** category. It will be open to DCV members who have moved to retirement homes or no longer reside within our boundaries. These members will be eligible to switch their status to alumni. Annual dues are \$200 per household and alumni members will be listed in the Membership Directory, receive the newsletter, and may attend all DCV general events but *are not eligible for services*. This category was formed at the request of several members who are no longer living in our neighborhood but want to remain involved with the Village.

## Calendar

### LIVE & LEARN SEMINARS

#### Monday, August 23:

3:30-5 pm: refreshments: Steve Sharaman of FlexAware will discuss issues of balance. Scion Restaurant, 21st and P Streets, NW. (see story, page 3)

#### Monday, September 27:

Stephen Hage, a leading regional specialist in home safety will discuss ways to make your home safer. Scion Restaurant, 21st and P Streets, NW. (see story, page 3)

### Other Events

#### Thursday, August 26:

6-8 pm. Village get-together at home of Alaire and Lex Rieffel, 1709 Q Street, NW (see below)

#### Thursday, September 23:

1 pm. Last chance to see the exhibit *Remembering the Running Fence* by Christo and Jeanne Claude on a docent-led tour

#### Saturday, September 25:

Community event to celebrate the newly renovated 17th Street Corridor from Riggs Place to P Street.

#### Sunday, October 17:

Noon to 5 pm . DCCA House Tour. Tea from 2 to 5 pm. (see story page 5)

## End of Summer Village Gathering

Our next get-together will be **Thursday, August 26** from 6-8 pm at the home of **Alaire & Lex Rieffel**, at 1709 Q Street, NW.

*Please join us.*

And bring a neighbor or

anyone else you’d like to introduce to the Village.

We’re making a special effort to get our new members to come—as well as prospective members.

See you there!

## Summer Days On The Circle

◆ **Isaac Long** raised a bumper crop of green peppers this year but the rain did his tomatoes in.

◆ **Carol Galaty** is headed to Sweden for 12 days with her daughter.

◆ The Village rallied around **Mike Dwyer**, who has been in the hospital. He is appreciative of all the cards and good wishes he received.

◆ **Jeanette Barker** recently returned from Seattle where she attended a poetry workshop.

◆ **Abigail Wiebenson** broke her left hand in a horseback riding accident but it's not preventing her from going to Rabat to do

a coaching session on life skills.

◆ **Caroline and Michael Mindel** and **Larry Turner** are headed for Ireland shortly.

◆ **Iris and Irv Molotsky** return to Washington after an extended stay in Europe

Villagers have one last chance to see the exhibit *Remembering the Running Fence* by Christo and Jeanne Claude in a docent-led tour on September 23 at 1 pm.. Meet at the G Street Lobby of the American Art Museum on September 23 at 1 pm. The museum is located between F and G Streets and 7th and 9th Streets, NW. Exit Gallery Place (red line) at 9th Street.

## Live & Learn Seminars

The next two **Live & Learn Seminars** will cover how to keep your balance and how to improve safety in your home.

On Monday, August 23, **Steve Sharaman** of FlexAware will discuss all issues of balance, including how not to fall, exercises that will increase your flexibility and make you more stable on your feet.

On Monday, September 27, one of our region's foremost specialists in home safety, **Stephen Hage**, will talk about how to improve home safety. This will include ways to retrofit your home

inside and out, today or in anticipation. Hage heads Strategies for Independent Living and frequently speaks at regional aging-in-place conferences.

Both seminars will take place from 3:30 to 5 pm. in a back room of the Scion restaurant, 21st and P Streets. **THIS IS A SEMINAR, NOT A MEAL.** The lecture is free to Villagers, \$10 for visitors. All are invited.

We had splendid presentations in June and July from Genworth's **Brad Funk** on long-term care policies and from the Alzheimer's Association's **Ian Kremer** on ways to keep your brain healthy.



*Villagers enjoying jazz at Dalak's, a neighborhood restaurant.*

### Jazz Night At Dahlak

A half-dozen Villagers took up ANC's Chair **Will Stephen's** invite to attend the special jazz night at Dahlak, a neighborhood Eritrean restaurant that has live jazz on Sunday nights.

We agreed that the food was great and the music was, too—even more so, with Will playing the drums for much of the night. There is no cover charge and many neighborhood musicians of all ages join in. This is a listening crowd, not one where music can hardly be heard above the conversation.

Villagers included **Judy Neibrief, Judy duBerrier, Peg Simpson, Victor Wexler, Marcy Logan, Abigail Wiebenson** and **Michele Molotsky**, a Village friend.

### Calendar Facts

- ❖ 8x10 wall calendar
- ❖ \$12 each; \$15 if mailed
- ❖ 1,000 printed

## continued from page 1 Village Calendar

It will be on sale at the tea following the Sunday, Sept. 17 Dupont Circle House Tour. We plan to take orders online at the Village's Website.

The monthly photos feature places and events, including the 2011 snowmagedden and the massive 2010 World Cup Soccer in the Circle crowd. A back section displays photos and mini-profiles of several long-time Dupont Circle Villagers. The final two pages contains Village information, a photo of the current executive board taken at the Dupont Circle fountain and pictures from Village events.

Please think of friends and relatives who might like a gift Dupont Circle calendar—or of current and present neighbors who would like to buy some.

This *is* a fundraiser. We need to raise money for the Village. We also hope the calendar will raise our visibility as well as forge new alliances with Dupont groups and businesses. Future plans include possible publication of Village notecards.

## If You Can't Stand The Heat ...

Our Village's first Happy Hour was hot...in more ways than one. First, the thermometer outside at Scion Restaurant rose to a scorching 103<sup>0</sup> as Villagers stood shoulder to shoulder on the patio sipping cool drinks while tasting warm bites. Simultaneously, the buzz about a mysterious fall fundraiser project took the heat to new heights.

The gathering had all the earmarks of a power happy hour where professionals broker deals at the end of the day and plot strategies for tomorrow's coup.

**Don Keller** and **Don Jones** arrived first and were soon followed by **Judith Neibrief**, **Abigail Wiebenson** and **Carol Galaty**. Then **Peggy Simpson**, **Kirk Perrow** and **Dean Pugh** joined the crowd. **Barbara Reck**, a friend of Villager **Gene Calvert**, stopped by and wowed us with her knowledge of marketing. After she left, the talk was whether she will join the Village—and we hope so! **Maureen Lynch** arrived just in time to give the party new life. She made the point of rushing over after work, braving the heat to share a frosty drink with cool friends.

More memorable than the heat that day was the great energy, enormous laughter, and good times. Eventually, the group

happily moved the party inside and spent a couple of hours in the cozy back room at Scion sipping, chatting, and enjoying great food.

Oh, did we mention—thank you volunteers, for all the great work you do. See you at the next happy hour.

--Bernice Hutchinson

## A Volunteer Provides A New Lease on Walking: There are Many Ways to Help

by Bernice Hutchinson

Our Village has been buzzing with volunteer activity this month, with 21 requests for volunteer support and one lease agreement. Villagers have e-mailed and phoned in requests for transportation to medical appointments, help with organizing closets, changing light bulbs, emergency technical support for DVD malfunctions, assistance with laundry, rose bush trimming and consultation on a new computer purchase. The following story chronicles the lease agreement. Not your typical volunteer request, but an excellent example of how Villagers meet, connect, and make wonderful deals in the process.



Villagers and neighbors gathered at the Townhouse on S and 19th Streets to say goodbye and to thank employees who have, over the course of many years, become an integral part of the community. The farewell was held Saturday, August 7 in front of the store. With the closure, the Village is ready to coordinate transportation, provide grocery pickup and make recommendations for home delivery options for those who need it. Kudos to Villager **Judy duBerrier**, who is the first to sign on as a volunteer to provide transportation and grocery pickup for Villagers who may need it. Please let us know if you need assistance or would like to offer assistance.

First things first: let's get clear on terminology. There are *walkers* and then there are *rollators*. A rollator is a lightweight version of a walker that uses three instead of four wheels, and makes outdoor travel a breeze. It incorporates the latest technology for safety and maneuverability.

During a recent gathering **Burke Dillon** observed **Julia Cuniberti** using a walker on challenging city terrain. Burke thought that she could help improve Julia's ability to get around—but she had no idea it would lead to a rollator lease agreement.

Burke recalls her own introduction to the rollator. "When I was recovering from hip surgery, a friend lent me one. It made getting out and walking around more fun; I liked it so much I ordered one

for myself, which I now keep and lend to others." Burke loves it so much she named it "The Porsche."

When Julia and Burke met at another recent Village event they talked about walkers and rollators. By the end of the evening a deal was struck and a lease agreement finalized. Burke delivered The Porsche to Julia, who loves the flexibility of the wheels. "It is light, folds neatly, and has a red hot fire engine paint job. I'd highly recommend it," Julia says. Julia is still uncertain about purchasing a rollator, but the loaner has been great. As for Burke, well, she will simply collect the loaner when Julia is done, be on her way, and keep on the lookout for the next test driver.

## Washington Consumers' Checkbook: Do You Use It?

*Members of the Village are automatically enrolled in Washington Consumers' Checkbook. Have you taken advantage of this benefit? If not, contact Bernice and find out how to use this useful program. Villager Kirk Perrow, who uses it regularly, shares his experiences with us.*

*Checkbook* is your opportunity to find good service and tell others about it. *Checkbook* also gives you pointers. It tells you how jobs are done, shows you diagrams and illustrations with terms you need (to discuss your air-conditioner or furnace, for example), and it tells you what to look for—good and bad. All this, not to mention being a member of *Checkbook* empowers you to assess those who have done work for you and to tell others. On the positive side, of course, is the opportunity *Checkbook* gives you to reward good people with praise.

My individual subscription to *Checkbook* had two more years to run when I joined the Village so I wondered what good a “free membership” would be for me. Plenty. I went online to look something up and I saw I had been transitioned smoothly into a Village membership, without duplication, without losing anything my individual subscription had

except the mailings (which will cease after my individual subscription runs out) but everything on paper is online anyway, and ratings can change drastically—even in a year as businesses are bought and sold, rise and fall—so it's a mistake to refer to the print edition anyway. And if you want to see something on paper? Just print it out.

The Village is planning a site visit to the downtown office of *Washington Consumers' Checkbook* in September.

Get your questions ready!

Watch for an email with the exact date.

The Website is easy to navigate. You can sift through providers in specific categories and select them by location, by quality, by price, with phone numbers and complete addresses provided. All you need to do is chose your criteria and press “enter.”

If you have any trouble using *Checkbook* online, I'm sure there are Village volunteers who would be glad to come by and walk you through. Me, for one. After you've done it a couple of times? It's a breeze.

## DCCA House Tour Set For October 17

The Dupont Circle Citizens Association's yearly House Tour is scheduled for Sunday, October 17. Tickets include admittance to the homes and sites from noon until 5 pm and the Tea Party will run from 2 to 5 pm.

Villagers have been invited to serve as volunteers to staff houses and to help set up the afternoon tea. Help is also needed a few weeks before the Tour to distribute posters. Volunteers will receive a free ticket for the tour and are invited to the volunteer party after the tour ends. Please contact Jara Freeman, chair, Volunteer Committee, [jyvfreesman@gmail.com](mailto:jyvfreesman@gmail.com) or Deborah Schreiber, chair, House Tour Committee, [SchreiberDeborah@aol.com](mailto:SchreiberDeborah@aol.com) 202-321-8449 to volunteer.

The House Tour is the major fund-raising event for DCCA. The organization, founded in 1922, supports neighborhood activities and contributes to the Dupont Circle community in multiple projects, working closely with Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, Clean Teams for Dupont Circle Park, Ross Elementary School and, of course, Dupont Circle Village.

## Now You Can Use Credit Cards

We're making financial support of the Village easier for you!

The Village is joining the modern world in putting in place both a credit card and automatic-funds-transfer mechanisms for Village members and donors as well.

Until now, dues and donations were paid only by checks.

As of August, you can pay by credit card. You also can authorize an automatic transfer of funds from your bank to ours, paying a specified amount of money each month.

We offer these financial tools through our new banker, the Bank of *continued on page 6*

## DCV Welcomes Five New Members

The Village is pleased to welcome four new members who recently joined us:

- Dianna Eshmann
- Linda Harsh
- Kassie Lynch
- Marilyn Lutter
- Sandy Yarrington

We also have eight additional neighbors who have promised to become members as well. This raises our total membership to 81. Adding members is a slow process but it's vital for our future and our ability to provide services. Please join us in increasing the Village.

## Update from DCV President Peggy Simpson

The Dupont Circle Village board is launching several fundraising projects and will make plans for a major fundraiser late this year or early next year.

Budgets are tight everywhere. Last year we got \$40,000 from the D.C. government and from a fund earmarked for community groups as part of funds set aside for villages. This is not available again.

We need to raise our own investment money through recruiting more members and donors, supporting our fundraisers and thinking creatively.

We know that the Village is still in the early stages of its growth but we are making steady progress in getting more members.

We are putting a lot of work into our initial fundraising project this fall and winter, producing and selling a 2011 calendar with splendid photographs of Dupont Circle. We plan a garage sale for next spring.

All members of the Village board have pledged to donate funds, ranging from the “dollar-a-day” \$365 fund to a donation of \$2,000. Some have paid their dues in advance, which also adds to our reservoir of money now.



In July, the board voted unanimously to renew the contract of our executive director, Bernice Hutchinson, crediting her with helping us “grow” the Village membership and expand its financial base as well. She played a major role in our grant application to the Cafritz Family Foundation

In September you’ll be getting a formal fundraising letter from us. This was suggested by my friend and neighbor **Bev Losch**. She told me recently, when I said we had renewed Bernice’s contract with very little financial wiggle room, that “if the Village needs money, you ought to be asking the members for help.”

You can help in other ways, too, including giving us your own fundraising ideas, hosting recruitment parties, marketing the calendar—and bringing your friends and neighbors to Village events.

See you at the Summertime Gathering at Alaire and Lex Rieffel’s house on August 26!

## Credit Cards

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Georgetown.

It’s easy to pay your dues—or make a donation—using a credit card. You simply provide us with your name as it appears on your credit card, billing address, telephone number, the amount to be charged, the type of card (Visa, MasterCard, etc.), the card number and the security code on the back.

See our Website for additional information.

Dupont Circle Village  
9 Dupont Circle  
Washington, DC 20036

Web:

[www.dupontcirclevillage.org](http://www.dupontcirclevillage.org)

Email: [contact@dupontcirclevillage.org](mailto:contact@dupontcirclevillage.org)  
202-436-5252

### Executive Board

Peg Simpson, president  
Abigail Wiebenson, secretary, vice president  
Mary Braden, treasurer  
Brad Edwards  
Nancy Hartsock  
Caroline Mindel  
Iris Molotsky  
Marilyn Newton  
Alaire Rieffel  
Bradley Runyan

### Executive Director

Bernice Hutchinson



DCV Board Members at Dupont Circle Fountain  
from left: Marilyn Newton, Nancy Hartsock, Abigail Wiebenson, Peggy Simpson, Alaire Rieffel, Mary Braden and Caroline Mindel. Members Brad Edwards, Bradley Runyan and Iris Molotsky are not pictured.

## Correction

The person pictured with Jeannette Barker in the July-August newsletter was incorrectly identified. He was Mike Feldstein, not Mike Silverstein