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♦New Dogs and Continuing Challenges

♦Lots to Choose From: Jazz and Opera

♦AARP to Survey DC Village Activities

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A Story of Love, Dogs and Civic Duty

By Peg Simpson

It all started with a dog.

Brad Edwards and **Alan Lopez** met in April 1990. Alan was living in Woodbridge, Brad in Germantown. Both do research for high-powered government contractors around Washington.



Alan started taking his dog Amigo along when he visited Brad. But the dog kept getting confused: Brad's front door opened one way; Alan's opened the opposite way. The dog would stand expectantly at the wrong side of Brad's door. "So we decided we should live together," they said. There were other reasons as well, such as their shared love of dogs and cats. They moved to Dupont Circle in 1991,

buying a house on Swann Street. "We've always loved the neighborhood," said Brad. "Alan became president of the block association soon after we moved in."

They gave pets to each other as special presents, which included Alan's dream dog, a Scottie named Cedric, who died in January 2009. This summer they returned to

the same breeder and brought home two Scottie puppies, Bonnie and Mac. Just in time to break in the S Street dog park.

They joined the Dupont Circle Village partly because they clearly see the need to care for residents as they "age in community." Both had major responsibilities in helping their mothers in their final decade of life.

They now want to contribute to others. Brad said, "There is a strong tradition of nurturing within the gay community, including years of caring for friends and strangers in the HIV crisis." Many people fear going into a nursing home and Brad believes this is even more pronounced for gay men, noting the lack of gay retirement communities.

Alan sees it differently: "I feel strongly there is a need to help one another, especially for those without partners. It makes no difference to me if they're gay or straight."

Discovering Family Roots

Brad and **Alan** share much, but not similar backgrounds. Brad is from Jewett, Illinois, Alan from Alice, Texas. Alan, who thought he was Mexican-American, learned later in life that his family was Spanish and can document land grants from 1740 in what had been Spanish-ruled Mexico but is now in the southern tip of Texas. Alan, who grew up Catholic, found out he is descended from rabbis in Spain who converted. It was their descendants who immigrated to Mexico. "What is shocking is that they followed Jewish traditions—but did it secretly," Alan says. This June, Alan and Brad traveled to Burgos, Spain and found tombs belonging to ancestral cousins and documents in the local cathedral. Because the family was literate -- one was a high government official—there is a very good record, Brad said.

Lots to Choose From: Villagers Enjoy Jazz and Opera

Night at the Opera

Several Villagers were among the more than 19,000 people at the Nationals' ballpark to see a free simulcast of the Washington Opera's season opener, "The Barber of Seville." **Dan Gamber** reports that he saw more than when he goes to the opera house. "I considered the evening a great success," he adds. **Susan** and **Bob Meehan** took the metro to the opera and Susan blogged that "thousands of young people, some out on dates, some bringing small children, and a sprinkling of seniors were [on the trains] and out to have fun. What a great way to introduce children

to the opera," she noted.

Jazz at the Madison

Fifteen Dupont Circle Villagers paid an inaugural visit in late August to a new piano jazz series at the Madison Hotel. Dick

Morgan was on piano with Dave Einhorn on bass.

Villager **Burke Dillon** found the evening relaxing and enjoyable. **Mary Haber** agreed,



Enjoying Jazz. (left) Nancy and Dan Gamber (right) Judy Werdel and Mary Haber.

adding, "I could walk here too." A number of Villagers said this would be a good monthly event; more will be scheduled, so watch the Website (www.dupontcirclevillage.org) and for email alerts about future jazz shows.

There is a \$10 cover charge, which goes to the musicians. Drinks and food can be ordered. Seating is casual—comfy chairs, small couches, and a few small tables.

"Piano Jazz at the Madison" is the creation of Elana Byrd, sister-in-law of the late Charlie Byrd.

Boston's Beacon Hill Village—the first in the country-- and the National Cooperative Bank in Bethesda.

Board members **Abigail Wiebenson** and **Mary Braden** and several DCV volunteers attended a DC Village meeting earlier.

AARP Surveys Villages' Activity

The Dupont Circle Village will be one of the pioneering villages spotlighted in new research by the DC AARP chapter. Board members, DCV members who have requested services and DCV volunteers who have provided services were interviewed in an early stage of the AARP research.

The survey will lead to an

at-a-glance snapshot of different models of villages here. DC Villages already launched include Capitol Hill, Kalorama, Palisades, Dupont Circle, Northwest Neighbors and Pennsylvania Avenue East.

The AARP plans to deliver the results at a regional Village conference October 26. It is one of the sponsors, along with

DCV Elects New Board

In an election held September 15, the following officers were selected:

President

Peggy Simpson

Vice President & Secretary

Abigail Wiebenson

Treasurer

Mary Braden

Directors

Nancy Hartsock

Caroline Mindel

Iris Molotsky

Marilyn Newton

Brad Runyon

Nominating Committee:

Don Jones, Linda Dunyan and Julia Cuniberti

Village Members Speak Out

DCV Executive Director **Amy Gyau-Moyer** recently contacted members to solicit their opinions and suggestions about DCV activities. Some results are listed here.

Member Needs

- ◆ companionship
- ◆ errands—to the grocery store or post office
- ◆ light housekeeping
- ◆ more programs and activities
- ◆ help with caring for ill loved ones

Knit One—And More

Susan Meehan would like to start a Village knitting, quilting and needlework group. She suggests meeting every other week but is flexible according to participants' needs. If you are interested, please contact Susan Meehan at smeehan@wap.com



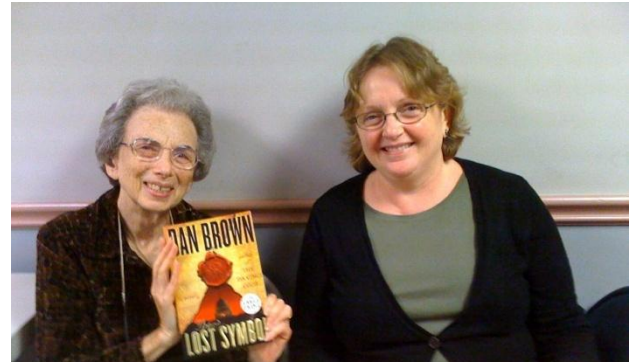
Executive Director Reports

I would like to thank the volunteers of Dupont Circle Village for demonstrating their commitment to us by sharing their time and talents. Service and the feeling of wanting to make a difference is what have drawn many of us to this very important cause.

As a Dupont Circle Village volunteer, you have the capacity to utilize your skills and talents to help our members while

cultivating positive, long lasting relationships along the way. With the help of dedicated people like you, Dupont Circle Village can advance its mission of connecting and supporting the people in our unique community. We look forward to interacting and hearing from you through volunteer meetings, orientations and recognition events. If you should have any questions in the interim, please contact me via email at amy@dupontcirclevillage.org or by phone at 202-436-5252.

Amy Gyau-Moyer



Edith Chase (left) and Marianne Anderson, registered nurse case manager and guest speaker at the Volunteer Orientation session on September 16. This latest activity, which augments the strong volunteer program developed and begun by Rick Busch and Elaine Rand, provided guidance to DCV volunteers. Ms. Anderson discussed characteristics of adults who may have seeing, hearing or mobility problems and gave tips on working with seniors. Volunteer Eva Sterner said, "I enjoyed this chance to share experiences with other volunteers and to absorb ideas that will help as I volunteer." Ms Anderson presented Edith Chase with a large type copy of Dan Brown's latest book.

News Notes 

Jewel and Guido Fenzi took a delayed trip to Woodside, CA to visit 8 and 5 year-old grandsons, a bit later than scheduled after Guido's cardiac episode. He tested his energy levels by hiking and has resumed long walks in Washington and his volunteer work with Russian coins at the Smithsonian's American History Museum.

Bradley Runyan and his partner, **Steve Nelson**, spent two weeks luxuriating in the surf and sun with friends on Cape Cod in late August and early September with their

three dogs. Although Bradley had to work part-time at Stewart Title, where he is president/managing attorney, he still enjoyed late afternoon beach time and great seafood.

Doria Howe and **Michael Stein** usually get a breather from the software company they own and operate by going to Ashokan Old Time Fiddle camp for a week each summer (they're expert mid-level Old Time-fiddlers). This year, however, they went to Emerald Isle, North Carolina, for a week at the beach—where it rained

almost the whole time.

Judy duBerrier took a nasty tumble recently and fell into **Mary Braden** while participating in the Village's morning walking group. Judy took a cab home and both she and Mary are fine. Unfortunately, no one in the group had a cellphone or identification, which has led them to send this advice for walkers, runners and bikers—don't leave home without money, identification and some way to communicate. If you would like to join the DCV walking or biking group, please contact Amy Gyau-Moyer: 202-436-5252 or amy@dupontcirclevillage.org.

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Executive Board

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

Executive Director
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