



Dupont Circle Village

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Village Gets Grant from PNC

Great news!

The Dupont Circle Village will get a \$1,000 grant from the PNC Financial Services Group.

This is the first corporate grant received by the Village and we hope it will be followed by many others. We are approaching other corporations, including those with drug stores, grocery stores and other outlets in our neighborhood.

Do you have any you especially want us to approach? Let us know!

Many thanks to **Sonia McCormick**, vice president, corporate communications manager of the PNC Financial Services Group. And the next time you are in the PNC's Dupont Circle bank, let branch manager Colleen Hess know you are a member of the DCV and appreciate their support.

Volunteer Spotlight: Ed Wood

When we were starting the Village, we used to worry about recruiting volunteers. If we had known there would be people like **Ed Wood**, it



Ed, shown during a recent trip to Paris

would not have been an issue.

Ed was born and grew up in Boston, where he heard about Beacon Hill Village. The concept of "aging in place" resonated with him and he set out to find out more about the Village movement. "My father died young," he reported, "and I help my mother frequently." He added that serving as a volunteer also helps him feel connected to his father as he believes that some of the work he has done as a volunteer is similar to what he might have done for his father.

"I think it is very important for people to be able to stay in their

own homes," he said. "It gives them a sense of having control over their lives and it also does not set them apart from the community they know," he adds.

Because he believes so strongly in the village movement, he started to search for District villages when he moved to Washington. There were no villages at that time; later the Capitol Hill Village was founded but he wanted to find a group closer to the Dupont Circle area where he lives and works as a realtor with City Houses. He never gave up looking. Every six months or so, he would check the Internet for villages. That's how he found out about DCV, which led him to contact us and become a volunteer.

Ed admits to being very handy around the house and we've challenged his skills in a variety of ways. He's fixed the handle on a toilet, he accompanies a member to a laundromat and he was able to analyze the vexing problem posed by

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Remember When? ...

By Edith Chase

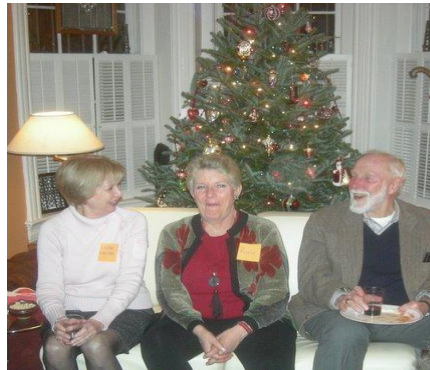
I've lived at the Appoline Condo at 20th Street and New Hampshire Avenue since 1963 when it was a rental building

Before the building was constructed, the land was occupied by a number of row houses. One of those houses on the 20th Street side was owned by Edith Gault, whose family owned a jewelry store in downtown for many years.

The story goes that President Woodrow Wilson, who was a widower at that time, was dating Edith. One night when he visited her he didn't leave the house until the next morning. It was a big scandal at that time. Of course, they eventually married and she moved into the White House. We have a photo of that house, which we got from the D.C. Public Library Washingtonian collection. The artwork on the firebox on the corner of 20th and N Streets is the Galt house.

Several well-known authors lived in the Appoline before it went condo, including Munro Leaf, author of *Ferdinand the Bull*.

The neighborhood has so much history but there is one one thing that is dear to my heart. On New Hampshire Avenue at M Street near to where the



Grillfish restaurant now stands, Goodwill Industries occupied a number of connecting row houses, which I believe was their first and only location in D.C. at that time. They had a big store on the street level and offices on the other levels of the house. One of my first summer jobs as a teenager was with them.



I worked in the bookkeeping office. I spent my first paycheck on books at the store. I still have some of those books.

At the corner of 20th and P



Villagers celebrating at the first holiday party with lots of good spirits and good wine at the home of DCV President Peg Simpson.



on the northwest corner was a Safeway; on the southeast corner there was an A & P grocery store and on the southwest corner was a mom and pop drug store—now Second Story Books.

On the southeast corner of 20th and N Streets was another mom and pop drug store. They lived in the row house on N Street behind the store. When pop died his wife moved into the Appoline. The drug store became Kozy Korner café, where for many years we had Saturday breakfast—a chance to relax and talk. The café is now Eli's Restaurant—a kosher deli. The owner of Eli's recently took over the café at DCJCC.



Wiley Art at The Smithsonian

What's It All Mean? Find out during a free guided tour by a museum docent of an exhibit of works by William T. Wiley. The exhibit and tour is at the Smithsonian American Art Museum on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 1:30 pm.



William T. Wiley

Wiley is a contemporary artist whose works have been described as eccentric, ironic, whimsical and wacky. He has puzzled and delighted viewers over his extremely successful career of close to 50 years. One of his works is pictured above.

The museum is located between 7th and 9th Streets and F and G Streets, NW. Take the Red line Metro to Gallery Place and exit on 9th Street next to the building. Enter at the G Street entrance. Wheel chairs are available.

RSVP to Amy Gyau-Moyer at 202-436-5252 or reply to this email: amy@dupontcirclevillage.org.

Driver Refresher Course Pays Off

Half a dozen Villagers took advantage of a driving course for seniors designed to resharpen their skills in the face of whatever it is that the years whizzing past do to them.

The course consisted of two four-hour sessions over two days at the Foundry United Methodist Church. It was conducted by AARP, which charged \$14 per person (\$12 for members), a sum that will be quickly returned and multiplied by reduced car insurance rates.

The course had its moments. The nice people at AARP had trouble making the DVD work, but a Villager helped them out and the video was shown.

The Villagers learned what the most frequent cause of accidents was among seniors. The multiple-choice answer: failing to yield the right of way, a surprise to most, who thought it was carelessness while making left turns. Another good hint was to constantly scan ahead, looking beyond the car in front of you to a block ahead in the city and a quarter mile on the highway. The teachers also emphasized continual glances at rear-view and both side-mirrors.

Another session will be offered in January, so check our Web calendar.

Villagers Get Price Break At Local Restaurants

Dupont Circle features a nationally famous mix of interesting cafés and restaurants.

Now Village members can dine out at some of these restaurants and also get a break on prices.

The Village began negotiating discounts for members in November and has partnered with five restaurants and cafés.

■ **Scion** owner Joanne Liu hosted the first Dupont Circle Village fixed-price dinner for 18 Villagers. She now offers two types of discounts for DCV members at her restaurant at 21st and P Streets.

*25% off on weekday meals before 6 pm
*\$10 off any bottle of wine Sundays, Mondays or Tuesdays

■ **INTI** is a family-owned Peruvian restaurant at 1825 18th Street. The second Village group meal will be here: a fixed-price lunch for \$15, on Tuesday, December 29 from 1-3 pm. We have reserved 10 places. Call Amy Gyau-Moyer at 202-436-5252 or reply to this email: contact@dupontcirclevillage.org. to reserve one of the 10 available places. (see calendar

page 4 for details)

*Owner Jane Rodriguez also is offering Villagers a 15% discount on all meals from noon to 5 pm every day.

■ **Steam Café** is a family-owned pannini-plus café at 17th and R Streets. Owners Driss Ouadrhiri and his wife Giselin offer Villagers a 20% discount on food and drinks at any time of the day.

Rosemary's Thyme, a Turkish-Italian restaurant on the corner of 18th and S Streets, has also agreed to a discount as has its neighboring Korean café, **Mandu**, on 18th Street. Details about both restaurant offers will be available shortly.

If you have a favorite café or store, feel free to approach the manager or owner about participating in the Village discount program. You get the ball rolling and we'll follow up to negotiate the details. It's a win-win situation: Villagers get a discount and owners get more business.

News Notes



We're happy to report that **Gil Hill** is back home. Many Villagers have followed Gil's progress and **Carol's** herculean efforts to support and heal him, so it is with great joy that we send best wishes to the family, who can be together for the holidays.

Village Techies Conquer the iPhone

By Peggy Simpson

Michael Stein dissected the intricacies of using an iPhone for Villagers in a recent-hands-on problem-solving session.

He's not selling them or even promoting them. But he is passionate about his own iPhone and when a need arose, Michael volunteered to do an hour-long session at his office on how it works.

The idea came from a frustrated Burke Dillon, who said at the Sumner School meeting in November that what *she* wanted from the Village, right now, was someone to explain to her how to work her iPhone.

The room erupted in laughter, a shared appreciation of the challenges of techno-toys. Michael and his wife, Doria Howe, own and operate a company which develops software for nonprofits. When Michael heard of Burke's request, he readily agreed to do a hands-on tutoring session for a limited number of people. Six people attended, including several wannabe iPhone users.

The venue was Michael's office on T Street, where the device could be shown on a wall-sized screen for easier questions and answers.

The information included the basics—turning the iPhone on and off,

Monthly Calendar for December/January

Wednesday, December 16

7-8:30 pm—Stress Testing and Cardiac Imaging: What Can It Tell Me? One in the series of free seminars for members given as part of the George Washington's Senior Advantage Program. The presenter is Dr. Brian G. Choi and it will be held in the GW Hospital auditorium. You do not have to be 65 to attend. Register for seminars by calling 1-888-4GW-DOCS.

Tuesday, December 29

1-3:00 pm—DCV group lunch at INTI, a family-owned Peruvian restaurant at 1825 18th Street, NW. We have arranged a three-course fixed price meal for \$15. Contact Amy, 436-5252 or email her at contact@dupontcirclevillage.org to reserve one of the 10 available places. (see restaurant discount story, page 3)

Sunday, January 10

3 pm Sunday matinee—DCV Theatre Outing: Keegan Theatre production of *Rent*. 1742 Church Street, NW

Tuesday, January 26

6-8 pm—The Village's next group meal, a \$25 fixed price dinner, is at James Hoban's Irish Restaurant, One Dupont Circle, set in a private room. R.S.V.P. to Amy, 436-5252 or email her at contact@dupontcirclevillage.org.

Upcoming Events—visit our website: www.dupontcirclevillage.org

February: We will be at La Tomate Restaurant at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and 20th Street. Details will be available shortly.



Happy Holidays to Everyone



silencing even a “vibrate” command—to ways to personalize the ring tone for different frequent callers. One caller might generate a marimba tune, another a doorbell—you can tell who's calling by listening.

Other useful tidbits:

- accessing emails without getting overwhelmed by them
- using the GPS feature, with Villager Mary Haber saying that it's possible to buy extras that will “speak” the directions to you while you're driving, going beyond the printed directions to you while you're driving; going beyond the printed directions on the

(relatively) small screen.

- taking, cropping and transmitting photos by email
- pairing photos with your contacts: they call, you see their photo, not just their name
- and exploring some of the thousands of different apps now available.

One favorite used by Villager Caroline Mindel: an application that gets you to the location of the closest restroom, called Have 2p.

Ed Wood

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a malfunctioning telephone recorder which was critical for a member with hearing problems.

Ed also volunteers for the Mautner Project, a support organization for lesbians with cancer and their loved ones. He frequently provides transportation to and from hospital appointments, and is busy now delivering holiday gift bags. Singing has been a part of Ed's life going back to grade school. Today he sings in *Not What You Think*, a 12-person mixed *a cappella* lesbian

and gay chorus. The group specializes in songs of social justice leavened with humor. They have sung in District churches and on the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center. And he's extending his musical interests to include learning to play a ukulele, which he modestly claims he picked because it's only four strings and is therefore easy to learn. Ed moved to Washington 19 years ago. "I'm here to stay," he says with great conviction, which strikes the right note with the Village, especially for the many people he's helped.

Village Welcomes New Members and Volunteers

The Village is pleased to welcome new members **Beverly Losch, Susan Mulhall** and **Lori Karin**. We now have 75 members and we are continuing to grow. Many members have a January renewal date, so please send your dues in now.

We also have added three new volunteers to our ranks: **Ingrid Peterson, Dean Pugh** and **Robert Magill**. This brings the number of volunteers to 53, a wonderful affirmation of our community.

Jazz Sounds a Popular Note

By Irv Molotsky

Members of the Village have taken to attending jazz sessions at the Madison Hotel, a fine attraction in the Dupont Circle area.

An earlier outing was to a performance by Harmonious Wail, noted in the October newsletter. That was followed by a trio that performed in homage to the late Washington-based guitarist Charlie Byrd and then a week later by a trio headed by Dick Morgan, a pianist who played with Byrd. Morgan was the featured headliner at the first jazz concert Villagers attended.

Nat Najar was the guitarist for the Byrd tribute, and his link was that he studied with Frank Mullens, a friend of Byrd's. The Byrd family brought Charlie's guitar to the Madison for Najar to play, and he was clearly delighted by it, as was the audience. It is an unamplified acoustic guitar with a very sweet tone that matched its honey-red finish, and Najar played it gently. It was the first time that Najar had ever played on a Byrd guitar, and he treated the Villagers to a lovely rendition of a piece by Hector Villa-Lobos, which is not exactly jazz, but it will do.

The other members of the trio were the bassist Tommy Cecil, who has played with Byrd, Cab Calloway, Teddy Wilson and Chet Baker, among others, and has performed with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, and Chuck Redd, who played drums with Byrd for 19 years.

For all that talent, we paid a cover charge of \$20 each, as was the case with the Harmonious Wail. The concerts are put together by Elana Byrd, the wife of Joe Byrd, who played bass for his older brother Charlie's trio. Elana, who produces jazz performances in the Washington area and Annapolis, explained that the musicians get all the cover charge except for a little for her expenses. The Madison provides the room without charge and makes whatever profit it does on the sale of food and drink. Good for them.

The most recent Dick Morgan session was not produced by Elana Byrd, which had pluses and minuses. Since it was presented by the Madison as an amenity to its guests, the hotel paid the musicians and did not take a cover charge. The minus was that while the audiences for the Byrd sessions were attentive, those for Morgan yakked away, oblivious to the music.

Morgan was joined by bassist David Einhorn, who by days works at the World Bank, and drummer Gary Duchaine. Morgan is a real pro with a great touch on the keys, and the trio played three sets.

Dupont Circle Village

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