



# Dupont Circle Village

## Celebrating The Gift of Volunteering

### Nicolas Shi, Artist And Photographer, Helps Village



*Nicolas with two of his pictures at an exhibition in El Salvador in May*

*by Iris Molotsky*

**Nicolas Shi** is not known to many Villagers by name, but he's the man who created our visual identity—the Village logo. Most recently he designed the Village 2011 calendar, which includes many of his photographs as well. Nicolas, who has lived in this area since 1986, is an artist and photographer whose studio at 15th and P Streets is well-known to passers-by because of the visual impact his work in the bay window conveys.

"I frequently get calls from people walking by who want to buy pictures they've seen," Nicolas says. He also notes that he occasionally gets complaints from people who object to a displayed nude—interestingly enough, he observes, it's only when male nudes are shown.

He finds Washington a city with much to offer. In return, he offers much as well. Nicolas has contributed both his talent and time to the Village because he wants to support local neighborhood organizations.

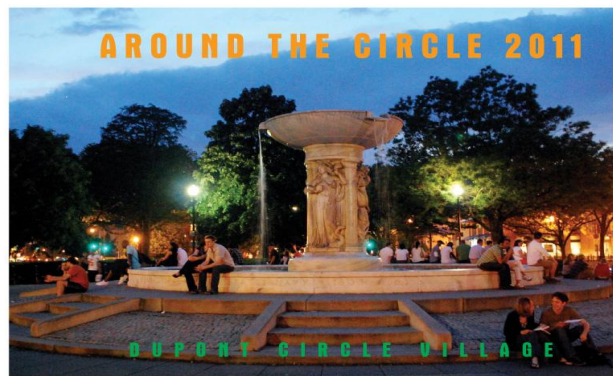
He also served on the DCCA board and designed a T-shirt for it several years ago.

Nicolas came to the US in 1980 from El Salvador, where he was born. After graduating from Oklahoma State University, he worked as an architect/engineer for 10 years.

But he really wanted to paint full-time, not just as a hobby. So, despite the uncertainty, he quit his job and concentrated totally on his art.

Nicolas told of the time he was asked  
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### The Village's Dupont Circle 2011 Calendar Is Available—Order Now



Filled with dazzling photos taken by local photographers **M.V. Jantzen** and **Nicolas Shi**, this calendar is a must for all Villagers and their friends and neighbors. It features neighborhood cafes and gardens, "snowmageddon," Soccer in the Circle, the Gay Pride parade and children playing in the fountain.

This is the Village's major fundraising project this fall and your support will help us build a stronger financial base. We want to thank Nicolas and Mike, who donated the pictures and a special thanks to Mike Silverman who conceived the idea for the calendar.

Prices and an order form are on page 2.

#### Special Interest Articles:

◆ Nicolas Shi, Artist and Photographer

◆ Spotlight On Volunteer/Member Robert Magill

◆ Villagers and The Great Snowstorm Snow Comes But Villagers Go

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DCV's "Red Alert Brigade" Digs Out

#### Individual Highlights:

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## Volunteering: Giving And Getting

The Village is fortunate to have 55 committed, effective volunteers. We've never had to say no to a request, no matter how extraordinary. And we have had some usual requests—like the member who needed a garden replaced after the District destroyed it in order to replace pipes or the member who needed the pilot light in a heater turned on immediately. And

## Sage Advice on Volunteering

by Bernice Hutchinson

At a recent Village event, **Dean Pugh** and I had a wonderful exchange about volunteering. Dean was currently working on a DCV volunteer assignment and shared some of his insights. First, he shared how much he enjoyed the opportunity to get to know so many Villagers through volunteering. He pointed out that the

### *Volunteer? I would have done it anyway.*

Are you a DCV volunteer? I thought about it awhile then signed up, and I've never regretted it.

Here's how it's done: You become a volunteer by contacting Executive Director Bernice Hutchinson ([contact@dupontcirclevillage.org](mailto:contact@dupontcirclevillage.org)), and completing some paperwork. Once you are a volunteer, Bernice will send you by e-mail a request that includes a description of what is needed and an approximate location. You can:

1. decide you don't want to do it and don't respond
2. think you'll give it a try and reply (A word of advice here—if you think you're interested, answer fast. If you don't, someone will beat you to it.)

A mountain to you is probably a molehill to somebody else, and vice versa. It's all about finding each other. When you volunteer, it's not unusual for both parties to benefit. But just remember this: You would have done it anyway. (Go on. Give yourself some credit!)

--Kirk Perrow III

we've had some difficult requests like having pavements shoveled during the terrible snows this winter. Members are appreciative and have benefitted from these services, as the many letters and emails we receive demonstrate.

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the smallest assignment can have big rewards, if the volunteer is strategic and the Villager is willing. The approach that Dean uses is one worth repeating. He meets each assignment with a genuine interest and curiosity about the requester.

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## How To Order Calendars

❖ Cost: \$12; add \$3 for shipping and handling 1 to 2 calendars; add \$1 for each additional 1 or 2 calendars ordered.

❖ Order online at [www.dupontcirclevillage.org](http://www.dupontcirclevillage.org). Click on the link at the end of the calendar section on the homepage. The system accepts MasterCard, Visa and Discover. Provide the requested information

❖ Once you order the number of calendars you want, the system will automatically calculate the shipping and handling and provide a final cost for credit card transactions. You will receive confirmation of the completed order.

❖ Calendars are available at several locations: 1719 Swann Street NW, 202-265-2113; 1735 T Street, NW, 202-328-1121; 1709 Q Street, NW, 202-387-2311; Please call in advance to arrange a pickup time. Expect to see a number of businesses in the neighborhood promoting and selling the calendars.

## Monthly Calendar

### Live and Learn Series:

Monday, October 25: TBA, check website for details

### Cooking Class:

Wednesday, November 27, noon: Carol Galaty's house, 1910 S Street, NW,

### Taste of Dupont:

Tuesday, October 5; 6-9 pm. Create your own progressive dinner with \$5 individual tasting tickets. For participating restaurants and purchasing tickets: <http://bit.ly/TasteDupont2010>

### Jazz at the Madison:

Saturday, October 9; 7 pm. Madison Hotel, 1177 15th Street, NW. Artists Stef Scaggiari and Dick Durham (piano duo). \$20 cover charge.

### George Washington Senior Advantage Seminars at the GW Hospital Auditorium

Thursday, October 14: Get A Good Night's Sleep

Thursday, October 21: Understanding Alzheimer's: Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment

Thursday, October 28: Stroke—Are You at Risk?

### Dupont Circle House Tour:

Sunday, October 17: This year's tour includes Village vice president Nancy Hartsock's house. Dupont Circle Village will be selling calendars at the House Tour tea.

### Save The Date!

Wednesday, November 10: 6:30 pm. Seminar on Planned Giving at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art

### ***In Memoriam:*** ***Mike Dwyer***

Village member **Mike Dwyer** died August 23, 2010. His good friend and neighbor **Joan Von Drehle** was with him through his last days and remembered him fondly in a eulogy at his memorial service. Excerpts follow:

He was a kind and generous soul and I am proud to have known him. He attended Georgetown University, graduating in 1950. He worked for over 30 years in the copyright division of the Library of Congress.

In so many areas, he served and he listened. He wrangled with political buffoonery, and hated arrogance, especially in politicians. He was old school about voting—it wasn't just an option, it was imperatives. Plus, he could run into neighbors on the way. He was so Dupont Circle. He knew all the neighborhood shopkeepers, almost like family. He joined the Dupont Village in its beginning year, liking the idea that it was set up to help aging neighbors stay in their homes. And the Dupont Village was a tremendous support to Michael and me these last couple of months; we were blessed in ways big and small by their caring members.

May we all remember him fondly, have a Manhattan in his honor, and remember to be a good citizen: be involved, be giving, and CARE.

### **Nicolas Shi**

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to contribute something for a silent auction to benefit earthquake relief efforts in El Salvador sponsored by the Latin American embassies, where Placido Domingo was the guest star. He agreed, adding that if Placido Domingo was willing to sit for a portrait and then autograph it, they could probably raise a lot of money. Domingo agreed, and a wealthy Texan bought it. When Domingo saw the finished portrait he said to Nicolas, “syeh-syeh, Chinese for thank you.” Domingo was quite surprised when Nicolas replied “de nada,” you're welcome in Spanish.

He works mostly in acrylics and does a lot of commissioned portraits, still lifes and flowers. “I'm inspired by bold and bright colors as they are found in nature or in manmade objects,” he's written.

He's also interested in digital photography because he can manipulate the photo to create the images he seeks. “It was hard for the first few years,” he recalls. “I entered a lot of competitions and made the rounds of studios.” He entered and won the first competition sponsored by the government of El Salvador to showcase achievements of Salvadorian artists living abroad.

His winning picture was then turned into an air mail stamp in 2000. As a result the Salvadorian embassy and consulate in Washington

recognized and promoted his work. Later the Salvadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs inaugurated a new building by sponsoring two art exhibitions. Nicolas was invited to put together a solo show, which was then turned into a traveling exhibit. The first stop was in Venezuela, but he was not asked to go, he says sadly. He also has exhibited at the Inter-American Development Bank on New York Avenue. He is a member of the Mid-City Artists Group and participates in its semi-annual exhibitions.

The Village is extremely fortunate to have a benefactor like Nicolas and we gratefully thank him for the work he has done on our behalf.

If you'd like to see Nicolas' work, stroll by his studio at 1500 P Street, NW, visit his website: [www.nfshi.com](http://www.nfshi.com) or call him at 202-667-6674.

### **Dolcezza Gelato Offers 10% Discount**

Dolcezza Gelato, at 1704 Connecticut Avenue, is the seventh business to offer discounts to Villagers. Open 7 days a week, the shop also has coffee and sweets.

Some of the tantalizing choices: lemon ricotta cardamom gelato, Valrhona chocolate amargo, Bartlett pear, and lemon opal basil.

## **You Can Make A Difference**

It's easy to give a gift to the Village—and each donation does have an immediate impact.

There are a variety of options to choose from: check, credit card, or designated bank transfer payments. The forms for enrolling in an ACH (bank transfer payments) are available on our website: [www: dupontcirclevillage.org](http://www.dupontcirclevillage.org).

You also can leave a bequest to the Village in your will. It's simple and easy and we can supply sample language for you.



Here's why DCV **President Peggy Simpson** made a bequest to the Village in her will-- “The death of a close college friend forced me to focus on rewriting my 20-year-old will—and prompted me think hard about how I'd like this accumulated wealth to be dispersed. Some choices were simple. This included making a bequest to the Dupont Circle Village, which I'm convinced is an increasingly valuable and visible part of our community, but it needs to build a sounder financial base.”

## Sage Advice

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The actual request is only secondary to the person, how they are living, and what the assignment will do to enhance their quality of life. “Getting to know the person you are assisting is so important to establishing rapport and trust,” Dean instructs. That rapport and trust, he says, are critical before anything can be done.

Getting to know a little about a person’s preferences and way of doing things can only shed light on the task. Village volunteers often report that original requests are modified following a little conversation and a lot of give and take on the part of the Villager and volunteer. Small assignments can become big ones. And sometimes, the smallest request can make a big difference. When a volunteer has that initial conversation with the Villager by phone or e-mail, it only scratches the surface. Once an appointment has been arranged, the volunteer can assist with helping the Villager think through the value, practicality and purpose of the request.

In some instances, an assessment can yield a longer timeline for completing the assignment. Take the assignment that Dean was working on. Following a wonderful chat with the Villager, Dean was able to parse out the work, add additional refinements to the assignment, and coordinate schedules, all based on the Villager’s needs, strengths, and interests. “You have to meet the Villager where they are. Get to know them, and position yourself to make it all happen.” So I began to think Dean’s great insights – slow down, get to know the person, figure out their goals and vision for the assignment, determine if there are additional elements to consider (season of the year, height restrictions, mobility challenges, storage limitations), and take the time to schedule multiple visits, if needed. All in all, my conversation with Dean was a great, as usual, and worth sharing with other volunteers and Villagers to enhance volunteer encounters, big and small. Thanks for sharing, Dean.

## Village Spring Alley Sale

Our fabulous alley sale is set for this spring. Please think about items you could donate for the sale and talk to your neighbors to see if they have anything to donate. We have storage space and can hold items until the sale date. This is a good opportunity to clear some space for the upcoming holidays. Contact **Abigail Wiebenson**: [abigailwiebenson@gmail.com](mailto:abigailwiebenson@gmail.com) or 202-332-6857.

## Villagers Visit Consumers’ Checkbook

Seven participants, including three of our newest members, joined **Kevin Moss**, circulation manager for Washington Consumers’ Checkbook, for a hands-on session about how to get the most from its services. All DCV members are automatically enrolled in this program.

Kevin explained that WCC rates service providers—not products—in 75 core topics, such as plumbers, roofers, dentists. Providers are

*“Being a homeowner, one of the hardest things is to find good and reasonably priced people to help with everyday maintenance. The Checkbook is an invaluable tool! I already am using it to find a plumber and a plasterer.”*

*-Linda Harsh, DCV Member*

updated yearly. The ratings are based on surveys—each topic is based on a minimum of 10 surveys. Price ratings are readily available and consumers’ comments are listed separately.

Consumers’ Checkbook has been published since 1976. Members can do general searches or limit the search by category, geographical area, or cost. For an additional fee, WCC can do customized searches such as seeking competitive bids on a product.

Contact **Bernice Hutchinson** if you do not have your access code that enables you to use this valuable service.

## Giving And Getting

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But have you ever thought about the benefits that you, the volunteer, receive in return? The obvious one is the pleasure you get from helping a neighbor or friend. Knowing that you are making a difference in your community contributes to your well-being and connects you with your environment. It makes you feel good.

In its August newsletter, Kaiser Permanente HMO examined this subject.

They stated that “volunteering can give you a healthy distance from your own worries by allowing you to focus on others.” Focusing on the doctors and nurses who volunteered to go to Haiti after the earthquake the article cited some of the reactions the volunteers had.

**Dr. Hernando Garzon**, an emergency medicine physician at Kaiser’s Sacramento Medical Center, said, “Despite the tragedies I saw, I came back rejuvenated. The personal rewards that came with being of service to others are beyond measure. The satisfaction of helping somebody else will stay with me all my life.” One of the most gratifying aspects of our volunteer program is that it is multi-generational.

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**Giving And Getting**

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Many of our volunteers are too young to join the Village, but they care enough to assist their older neighbors. And older and younger participants agree that the interaction works on several levels; providing needed services, gaining insights into problems, and developing new friendships and interests.

The Village leadership commends our volunteers often for the extraordinary work they do for others. Now, maybe it's time to salute you for the good you're doing for yourself.



Villagers enjoying an afternoon at the opera in the outfield. The Washington Post reported 11,000 people attended Un Ballo In Maschera at the Nationals' ballpark. Front row from left: , Josefina Ducusin, Gill Hill, Carol Galaty, Bob Meehan. Top row from left: Peg Simpson, Susan Meehan, Dan Gamber

**The Village Needs Help For Special Projects**

- ◆ We are looking for additional people who have experience in communications and publications to help with publicity. Anyone want to start a DCV blog?
- ◆ Do you like to plan seminars, locate meeting places and find interesting speakers? We need additional volunteers to work with the activities committee on planning programs for the coming year.
- ◆ Finally, we need someone who knows his/her way around e-bay who could help us sell items that were donated to the Village.

**Village October Phonathons**

In early October, the Village will stage two phonathons to recruit new members. We will be calling people whose names were collected from our "Each One Reach One" project earlier this year.

The calls are scheduled for the evenings of Sunday, October 3, and Sunday, October 10.

If you would like to help make calls on either of these dates, please contact **Iris Molotsky** at 202-328-1121; iris.molotsky@gmail.com.

**Dupont Circle Village**  
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Washington, DC 20036

Web: [www.dupontcirclevillage.org](http://www.dupontcirclevillage.org)  
Email: contact@dupontcirclevillage.org  
202-436-5252

**Executive Board**

- Peg Simpson, president
- Nancy Hartsock, nancy president
- Abigail Wiebenson, secretary
- Alaire Rieffel, treasurer
- Mary Braden
- Brad Edwards
- Curtis Farrar
- Iris Molotsky
- Judith Neibrief
- Marilyn Newton
- Executive Director**
- Bernice Hutchinson

**Yoga Tip Of The Month**

*Here are a few quick stress relievers:*

1. Take a short walk. Focus on your surroundings. Try to clear your mind of all else.
2. Close your eyes, relax in a chair, place a hand on abdomen, and take 5 slow, deep belly breaths.
3. Look away from the computer to an object in the near distance. For 10 seconds, observe the object's shape, size, color, think of how it might smell, feel, sound.

*Judy Silverman, DCV Yoga Instructor*

**Health Insurance Counseling Project: Valuable Senior Resource**

The Health Insurance Counseling Project, part of the George Washington Law School, provides free information, assistance, legal services, and education about health insurance to people with disabilities and seniors living in the District.

It helps people with Medicare understand their options and their rights. It can help resolve unpaid medical bills, obtain denied medical services or insurance coverage, and secure public health benefits.

For District residents with Medicare or who are 60 years or older, HICP provides a telephone help line, legal representation, community education programs and publications. It charges no fees for its services.

A Villager recently used the services to understand which health insurance coverage would be best for her and her husband and reports it was extremely helpful.

Call: 202-739-0668  
TTY:202-973-2079

**Like Our Newsletter?**

If you like our newsletter pass it along to friends so they can find out about us.

Joining the Village is easy. Just go to [www.dupontcirclevillage.org](http://www.dupontcirclevillage.org) and download the membership application form. Tell your friends and neighbors how to join.