

The Village Potluck Picnic for All Ages!

Sunday, June 16, 3:00-6:00 pm



The Village's annual picnic will be on Sunday, June 16, 3:00 to 6:00 pm, in Rock Creek Park, in the picnic area across from Peirce Mill.

This very family friendly event welcomes all. Bring the kids, the grandkids! There will be fun and games – soccer, face painting, singing, juggling lessons and more. Bring your own games or activities to share!

We will grill: hamburgers, veggie burgers and hotdogs and provide plates, napkins, cups, ice and eating utensils. We will need: salads sides desserts.... chips condiments finger food; and non-alcoholic drinks. We have plenty of plates, napkins, cups, and cutlery.

Please let us know us know if you are coming! Tell us what food you will bring by a quick email to Rebecca Shannon at: shannonr120010@gmail.com.

Don't Let **FAME** Pass You By: Ends June 9



Don't miss this outstanding production of the musical *FAME* at GALA Theatre. This magical production, in both English and

Upcoming Events

Village Potluck Picnic

Sunday, June 16, in Rock Creek Park

Free Blood Pressure Screening

Saturday, June 1 & 15 (see details on page 4)

For More Activities and Events

see the calendar on the Village website

www.mountpleasantvillage.org,

the weekly *Village Announcements* or the new *FYI*

Spanish, is directed by Luis Salgado, who won nine Helen Hayes awards for his 2017 direction and choreography of musical *In the Heights*. Set in New York City's School for the Performing Arts, this GALA production is the U.S. premiere of the musical's bilingual adaptation. What we see on stage is a cast of performers equally adept at singing, acting, and dancing, all performed seamlessly. While the entire cast is bursting with talent, of particular note is the spectacular break-dancing by Romainson Romain, and outstanding vocal performances by Paula Calvo and Alana Thomas. But, it is almost a crime to mention only three members of this immensely talented cast. *FAME* should not to be missed.

Village partner GALA Theatre is offering our members tickets at \$40, instead of the standard price of \$65. FAME's run will end June 9. To order tickets, call the theatre box office, at 202-234-7174, and mention your Village membership. The theatre entrance is 3333 14th Street NW.

No July Newsletter

Dear Villagers, your newsletter editor is going on vacation and will not return in time to publish a July issue.

Meet the Villagers: Jan Fenty



Jan Fenty brings abundant energy and enthusiasm to her volunteer work for Mount Pleasant Village. She serves on the Diversity Committee and frequently hosts the Mindful Meditation interest group. With Bonnie Cain, she co-founded the “Meet-the-Street” events, where Villagers gather periodically at Mount Pleasant Street restaurants to socialize and sample the diverse cuisines of our neighborhood.

Jan was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, graduating from Buffalo State College with a degree in special education. She is a first-generation Italian immigrant; her father came from a small town near Rome, in the 1920s, when he was only age 16. He settled in Buffalo, where his older brother lived, and later met his wife, also an Italian immigrant. After leaving Italy, Jan’s father never saw his parents again. Jan says that her parents valued education and her father worked in construction to put Jan and two siblings through college. During college Jan participated in an exchange program in Italy, where she was able to connect with her Italian cousins, a relationship that continues to this day.

While in college, Jan worked at the local Sears department store, where she met future husband Phil Fenty. Jan said that neither family was initially supportive of their interracial marriage, so, in 1967, she and Phil decided to move to Washington, D.C., and have been here since. The couple quickly fell in love with D.C.’s international flavor and openness. Jan pursued her chosen field of special education and Phil worked at a nearby Sears. As this was the Vietnam war era, they both became involved with the peace movement. And, as anticipated, once they began having children, the families quickly reconciled.

In 1984, Jan and Phil obtained the first Fleet Feet franchise on the east coast and opened their running store in Adams Morgan. It quickly became a mecca for serious runners and made the Fentys known throughout the region. All of their three boys worked in the store as they were growing up. In 2009, Jan and Phil retired and son Shawn took over the thriving business.

The Fenty name is also well-known due to their middle son, Adrian, who served as the District’s mayor from 2007 to 2011. Jan said that being the mother of the mayor was an exciting experience.

In retirement, Jan enjoys traveling and the theater. One of her joys is her relationship with ten-year-old granddaughter Aerin. Fortunately for us, Jan is also dedicated to the success of the Village.

Helping Hands Launches New Buddy System to Assist Seniors

If you need assistance from our Village Helping Hands Program that goes beyond a ride to a medical appointment or help with a specific task, consider contacting Helping Hands for a Buddy. Here is how our new Buddy System works: A Village member who wants additional support, such as more social contact, or has other ongoing needs, is paired with a vetted Village volunteer. The volunteers and members decide together the buddy activities will be, such as: a daily check-in call, a weekly walk together, grocery shopping together, or friendly visits. The pair remain buddies for a mutually agreed upon time, as long as both are satisfied with the arrangement.

Ask for a buddy through the Helping Hands Request Service on the Village website at www.mountpleasantvillage.org.

Know Your Neighbors, Know Your History: Mount Pleasant Lore



More than fifty people attended the Village Diversity Committee's first in a series of **Know Your Neighbors, Know Your History** programs. "Hear Mount Pleasant" was a conversation with some of the leaders involved in the successful effort to bring live music back to Mount Pleasant Street restaurants and who helped begin dismantling the "voluntary agreements" imposed on our neighborhood Latino restaurants.

Village member Rick Reinhard introduced the program and speakers. Villager Olivia Cadaval, former



Smithsonian Folklife curator and former Director of El Centro de Arte, served as program moderator. The conversation was anchored by the leaders of the movement, Village members Claudia Schlosberg and Wayne Kahn, along with Mount Pleasant Street restaurant owner Don Jaime Carrillo, who was committed to bringing live music back to his venue. Also participating were musicians Roger St. John and Eugene Stevanus, both active in the campaign.



Claudia Schlosberg, a leader of "Hear Mount Pleasant," described the actions of the leadership of the



Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance, who from the late 1990s to early 2000s forced "voluntary agreements" on seven Mount Pleasant Street restaurants. While the agreements initially focused on such issues as trash, advertising, happy hours, and alcohol service, they were extended to essentially ban live music, karaoke and dancing in local restaurants, including restaurants that had

provided musical entertainment for several years.

Rather than work with local restaurants to address concerns as they arose, the Alliance Leadership took an adversarial approach, threatening the primarily Latino business owners with loss of their liquor licenses and income if they did not sign the agreements. Claudia, Wayne Kahn, and Don Jaime Carrillo described the Alliance as a small group of people who imposed their vision for our community without input from the residents, many of whom supported live music. To appreciate the context of how this came about, the Alliance actions took place soon after the Mount Pleasant riots in 1992, and their actions were driven, in part, by a desire to keep Mount Pleasant from becoming the raucous Adams Morgan. However, many feel they went too far and were too heavy-handed in their approach, particularly against Latino businesses. "Hear Mount Pleasant" galvanized broad community support for live music in our local restaurants and worked with volunteer lawyers to wage legal challenges to the "voluntary agreements" and the Alcoholic Beverage



Control Board's (ABCB) failure to take into account Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) support for live music. Court rulings in 2009 and 2011 supported the ANC positions and overturned the "voluntary agreements," allowing the ABCB to relax the restrictions. Currently, only Purple Patch is still operating under the stricture, but has applied to terminate the agreement.

(Continued on page 4)

Following the conversation, many participants retired to Haydee's Restaurant to enjoy good food, friends, and music.



Photo credits: Page 3 – From the top: Louise Meyer & John Stewart; Rick Reinhard and Olivia Cadaval; Wayne Kahn & Claudia Schlosberg; Don Jaime Carrillo and Ward One Councilmember Brianna Nadeau.

Left: John & Bobbie Stewart. Right: Olivia Cadaval and Haydee's Restaurant owner Haydee Vanegas.

Photos by Judy Byron and Lawrence Rickards



The next event in the ***Know Your Neighbors, Know Your History***, to be held in the fall, will address housing and gentrification.

Villagers Tour UDC Green Roof

A group of Villagers recently toured the University of the District of Columbia's green roof, learning



about some innovative practices taking place in our own city. In 2015, the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences inaugurated a 20,000 square foot green roof on top of Building 44 on the Van Ness campus. Green roofs promote energy efficiency, help to cool buildings, and reduce storm water runoff. What makes UDC's green roof unique is that it is food-

producing. Also a showcase for green infrastructure, a storm water harvesting system has been installed to collect rainwater in two 500-gallon cisterns. The system is designed to capture water which is then circulated through hoses embedded throughout the rooftop and in the plant boxes and beds. In addition to the outside green space, the roof includes a greenhouse and classroom. An interesting tidbit: UDC is the only exclusively urban land-grant college in the nation.

Board of Directors Nominations Open

The Village's Governance Committee is seeking nominations for three seats on the Board of Directors that will become open as of the December 2019 Annual Meeting. Three founding Board members will have reached the three-term limit specified in the Village bylaws. Those who will be retiring from the Board are: Mary Rojas, President; Bonnie Cain, Vice President; and Robert Hoffman, Secretary. Nominations to the Board may be submitted to Tom Conway, Governance Committee Co-Chair, at thomasbconway@gmail.com.

New Members Recruitment Table Offers Free Blood Pressure Screening

Diversity Committee Co-Chairs Judy Byron and Rick Reinhard will staff a table for free blood pressure screening on Mount Pleasant Street. The Medstar Washington Hospital Center Outreach Program will provide two professionals to do the screenings and counseling. The first screening will be held on **Saturday, June 1, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, in front of the Mount Pleasant Pharmacy**. The second screening will be held on **Saturday, June 15, also from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, in front of Irving Wines and Spirits**. All are invited to stop by, help, and have a free blood pressure screening. For additional information on volunteering or being screened, contact Rick Reinhard at 202-494-4447 or rick@rickreinhard.com.

2019 Fitness Initiative: GET MOVING

Exercise & Physical Activity: Your Everyday Guide from The National Institute on Aging.

This 120-page, illustrated guide describes the benefits of exercise and physical activity for older people, with sample exercises and tips.

It is free from: <https://order.nia.nih.gov/publication/exercise-physical-activity-your-everyday-guide-from-the-national-institute-on-aging>

Highly recommended by various Village members in pdf or hard copy, in English and in Spanish.

From the Membership Committee

The Village is delighted to welcome the following new members:

- Patrick and Mary Patricia Ahern, 19th Street
- Anita Shelton, Lamont Street
- Martha Sipple and Farzin Illich, Clydesdale Place in Lanier Heights
- Stephanie Mintz, Irving Street
- Jackie Flanagan Pangelinan, Kilbourne Place

Member Benefit: Discount Tickets to Woolly Mammoth Theatre

As part of our efforts to partner with other institutions in D.C., we reached out to Woolly Mammoth Theatre and they were excited to connect with the Village. They have offered a generous benefit to Village members: effectively immediately, the members of Mount Pleasant Village may purchase reduced price tickets for the last two shows of this season, as well as next year's full season. Woolly has granted us a code (MTPV) to get a 20% discount on any ticket, any day, any seat. Please DO NOT SHARE THIS CODE with third parties who are not members of the Village.

Website Update

Progress continues to be made in the development of the Village's new **Helpful Village** website. Many details are being worked out. We will keep you updated on when the transition to **Helpful Village** will take place.

Helping Hands Ready with Assistance

Villagers who want help with a task should contact Helping Hands, and the Service Coordinator will try to find a helpful volunteer. For more information about what Helping Hands can, and cannot, do, contact Rob Fleming at rhfdc@comcast.net or phone 202-797-2388. You can request Helping Hands assistance by:

- **Phone:** Call the Helping Hands Hotline 202-854-8381 to leave information about the help you need
- **Email:** Send an email to helpinghands@mountpleasantvillage.org, describing what you need.

JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE

Membership Fee: \$50 annually for an individual; \$100 for a couple. For more information, contact Cecile Srodes at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org.

Donor: Make a tax-deductible donation to Mount Pleasant Village at 1735 Lamont Street NW, Washington, DC 20010.

Contact us. If you have questions, comments or news to share, contact news@mountpleasantvillage.org.