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Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1 - February 2023

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Welcome New Members!

Patrick Ahern - 19th Street NW

David Tseng - Park Road NW

Carol Falk - Kilbourne Place NW

Angela Allison and Grant Herring - Park Road NW

Derek Campbell - Kingle Road NW

Trina Dutta and Will Stephens - Irving Street NW

Marsha Griffin and Mark Seifert - Brown Street NW

Mary Wilson - Kenyon Street NW

Suzanne Carreiro - 16th Street NW

Alan and Donna Brandes - Kenyon Street NW

Ken Goldstein - 17th Street NW

Emilie Schmeidler - Park Road NW

Anita Visser - Kenyon Street NW

Jude Crannitch - Columbia Road NW

Fantue Kebede - 16th Street NW

*Since publication of July 2022 Newsletter

Capital Nature Offers Outdoor Experiences



New Village member Stella Tarnay (pictured above in green scarf with her co-founder Ana Ka'ahanui) created Capital Nature, a DC nonprofit that focuses on the amazing nature within our city's boundaries. Some readers may have participated in Capital Nature's Mount Pleasant tree walk last summer, when we learned that we have a redwood in our midst, as well as historic elms that escaped the disease that devastated most of America's elms more than a century ago.

Coming up on Valentine's Day, February 14, is a virtual program on "The Beauty and Magic of Winter Trees". [Register here.](#)

What were the seeds of Capitol Nature? From their web site:

Capital Nature started in 2014 when a group of citizens inspired by [E.O. Wilson's](#) book [Biophilia](#), and the new [Biophilic Cities Network](#) started discussing how to make Washington DC more "biophilic." Biophilic Cities are beyond "green." They are cities where nature experience is a part of daily life, and where a culture of nature engagement and stewardship thrives.

Stella, an original member of this group, and her co-founder, Ana Ka'ahanui, came together to formalize Capital Nature in 2018, with the goal of bringing nature closer to DC residents and deepening biophilic practices. They are also admitted "nature nerds." One of Stella's favorite activities in Mt. Pleasant, where she lives, is to take daily walks in the neighborhood and adjoining Rock Creek Park, to observe the beauty and seasonal changes of our abundant trees.

For Capital Nature activities you can join, watch the Village's weekly announcements or check their calendar at <https://capitalnature.org/calendar/>.

New Steps to Improve Safety on Mt. Pleasant Street

You may have noticed increased foot traffic on Mount Pleasant Street during COVID, as neighbors stayed closer to home. This has been an overall boon to businesses on the Street, just as the street eateries were a lifeline to the restaurants. But these Covid-related positives (if there is such a thing!) came with some negatives too. Several places have become hangouts for alcohol and possible substance abuse, and simply bad behavior. Here is something the Village Visioning Project is doing about it. (For more on the Visioning Project, see the [July 2022 newsletter](#).)

Mount Pleasant Street is getting safer! The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) has assigned two officers to patrol on foot during daytime hours. Pictured at left are Officers Trina Hughes-Stewart and Emmanuel Canahuate. The Village was actively engaged in working with MPD's Third District to address safety problems on Mount Pleasant Street.



Some background: For several years, the Village Partnership Committee, chaired by Jan Fenty and Josephine Escalante, has worked with local businesses to develop strong relationships. In preparing to advocate for improvements to Mount Pleasant Street, the Partnership Committee and other Visioning Project members sought input from local businesses and Village members about their priorities. A survey of Village members revealed that some had concerns about safety, creating a

possible barrier to using the businesses. Business owners expressed concern about purse-snatching from “streateries,” occasional harassment by panhandlers, and crime that could deter customers. There are also people on the street with substance abuse issues who may need mental health or addiction services.

Bill Emmet (Village President) and Tom Conway approached the head of the MPD Third District, Commander James Boteler, to ask for an increased police presence on Mount Pleasant Street. As a result, the two new officers were assigned to patrol Mount Pleasant Street. On January 24, DC Police met with Villagers and business owners at Purple Patch Restaurant to introduce the team, Officers Hughes-Stewart and Canahuate. They are happy to be working in Mount Pleasant and would enjoy meeting Villagers.



Attending the meeting were business owners or managers from Each Peach Market, Taqueria Nacional, Beau Thai, Purple Patch, El West, Mt. Desert Island Ice Cream, Best World, and Past Tense. Other business owners expressed interest in attending, but staff shortages and/or the meeting time precluded their attendance. Bill Emmet, Robin Sandenburgh, Josephine, and Jan were there also.

Jan commented that Commander Boteler is very enthusiastic about having the "beat cops" in Mount Pleasant. He grew up in DC and does not want to see increases in vagrancy and possible drug dealing. Other Third District DC Police at the meeting were Lieutenant Michael Dae, Officer Michael Cohoon, and Officer McGinnis.

Commander Boteler also noted that the police department is understaffed, making for some hard choices about how to deploy officers. The budget for the department, he said, is tight. The officers assigned to Mount Pleasant also work the shopping mall at 14th Street NW and Irving.

Thanks to Purple Patch Restaurant for hosting this meeting; to the business owners who attended; to Jan, Josephine, and the Vision Project team for organizing it; and to MPD for responding to our needs.

Award Winning Member Andrea Heithoff



Village member Andrea Heithoff (of the Bancroft Cluster) won Blue Ribbons in *two* bread baking categories, "Sweet Bread" and "Yeasted Bread," at the DC State Fair held on September 11, 2022. She won for her entries for Banana Bread and Milk Bread. You can see a video interview with Andrea by our own Rick Reinhoff [here](#).

Three New Board Members Elected in December

At the Village Annual Meeting, three new Board Members were elected to two-year terms. The Board meets four times a year and is responsible for the sound management of the Village. They also approve special projects, create the strategic plan for the Village, monitor its progress, and approve the annual budget. For more information about board members, go to the [Board page](#) on our website. For minutes of board meetings, go to [Documents/Archives > Minutes](#) from the Village Info link.

David Arnold, Secretary
(Term beginning Jan. 2023)



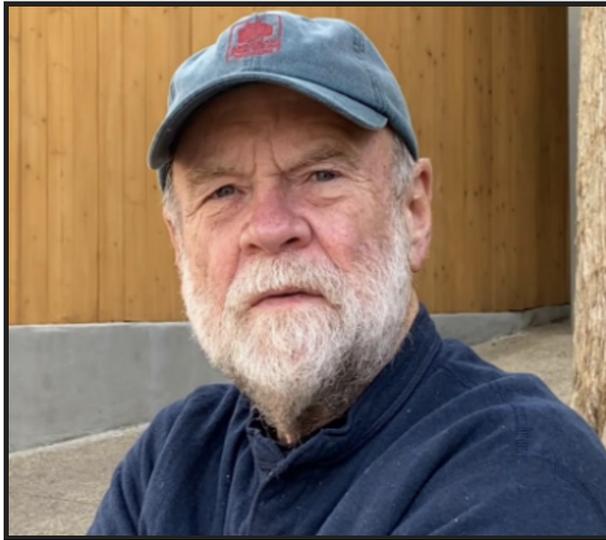
David came to Mount Pleasant in 1992 from two years working in Kenya. He and his wife, Courtney discovered the tree-lined row houses on 19th Street and fell in love with the neighborhood. His professional life has included editing a national magazine about the underserved regions of the world for the National Peace Corps Association and working with Ethiopian journalists producing daily shortwave news programs to Ethiopia and Eritrea. He is very interested in the intergenerational nature of Mount Pleasant and its potential for the Mount Pleasant Village.

Josephine Escalante
(Term beginning Jan. 2023)



Josephine Escalante began volunteering for the Mount Pleasant Village in 2018, assisting in the Village's Raffle Fundraiser. Since then, she has assisted many committees and currently serves on the Partnership (Co-chair) and Volunteer Management Committees. Josephine is an attorney and mother of three. She has lived with her family on Newton Street since 2005. In 2018, Josephine suspended her work as a federal litigator specializing in intellectual property law to devote more time to her non-profit work. In addition to her work for the Village, Josephine serves on the Board of Visitors and Governors for St. John's College, her alma mater. Prior to her legal practice, Josephine was the founding Executive Director of New York non-profit, Filipino American Human Services Inc. (FAHSI). Her work at FAHSI garnered The Banaag Award, among nominees from all over the world, for exemplary service to the Philippine community.

Fred O'Regan
Vice President (term beginning 2023)



Fred and his wife Nancy first moved to Mt. Pleasant in 1983. Fred's career has focused on poverty alleviation and environmental conservation, both domestically and internationally (mainly in Africa, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union). He holds a BA in Philosophy and Biology and an MSW. He began his career as a community organizer in Cambridge, MA after serving in the Peace Corps as a science teacher in eSwatini (formerly Swaziland).

Join Mount Pleasant Village!

Membership Fee: \$50* annually per individual. For more information, contact Michael Burke at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org.

Donate: Make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to Mount Pleasant Village at 3213 Mount Pleasant Street NW #2, Washington, DC 20010 or clicking the “Donate Now” button on our home page (mountpleasantvillage.org).

*Dues can be supported through a “scholarship” fund if the cost is a hardship.

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The newsletter is a cooperative effort! If you have questions, comments,
or news to share, contact: info@mountpleasantvillage.org



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