



## **Village Annual Meeting Is Set for March 20, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at the Mt. Pleasant Library**

Laura Newland, Acting Director of the DC Office on Aging, will keynote the Village Annual Meeting on March 20. She will speak about DCOA's programs and plans, including the "Safe at Home" program for seniors and disabled persons living in their own homes. She will be introduced by Polly Donaldson, Director of the DC Department of Housing and Community Development and a Mount Pleasant Village member.

Village members and others in the neighborhood are encouraged to attend the annual meeting to learn about the Village's accomplishments in its first year. The Village Board will report on its progress in creating social and wellness programs and establishing partnerships with organizations in our neighborhood and across the city, and membership growth.

Board elections will be held, with half the Board members up for re-election.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Capital Irish Film Festival**

March 3-6, Various local theatres

#### **Art Museum Tour**

Smithsonian American Art Museum

March 11, 1:30 – 3:30

#### **Village Annual Meeting**

March 20, 1:00-3:00, Mt Pleasant Library

### **Village Regulars**

#### **Walk with the Walking Group**

Meet M-W-F, 8:30 am, Lamont Park

#### **Seniors Yoga**

T-Th, 9:00 am, Past Tense Studio

#### **Coffee at Dos Gringos**

Thursdays 9:30—11:00 am

#### **Happy Hour and Game Night, Tuesdays, 5-7 at Marx Café**

Tuesdays, March 2 and 15

#### **at Habit Café**

Tuesdays, March 8 and 22

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## **Village Supports Funding for DC Villages and Dedicated DCOA Staff**

In testimony February 12 to the DC Council Committee on Housing and Community Development, Village Communications Chair Darlene Meskell voiced Mount Pleasant Village's support for boosting the DC Office on Aging's budget to support the work of the City's 11 Villages. Meskell and representatives of other Villages called for added funding and for a full-time Village coordinator. (Subsequently, DCOA designated Community Outreach Specialist Mark Bjorge as its full-time Village coordinator. He will attend the annual meeting.)

## Meet the Villagers: Darlene Meskell, Village Communications Chair

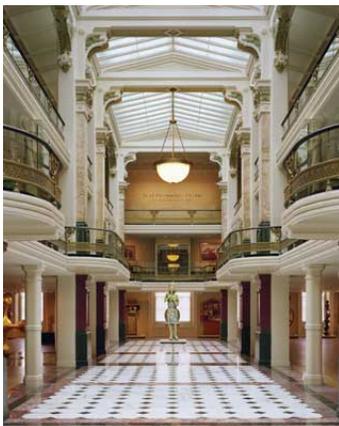


Darlene Meskell became Communications Chair of the Village even before she retired in July 2015 from her job as Director, Inter-governmental Solutions, for the US General Services Administration. Working with her fellow Board members and members of the Communications Committee, she helped get the Village off the ground by producing informational materials and organizing an official ribbon-cutting ceremony last September. She has also been working to build a website for the Village at [www.mountpleasantvillage.org](http://www.mountpleasantvillage.org), which hopefully will be up and running by March 20, the date of the Village's annual meeting.

Darlene and her husband Paddy have lived in Mt. Pleasant since 1989, a year after he relocated here from Ireland and they were married in St. Augustine's Church. He retired in 2012, and has devoted much of his time since then to introducing American audiences to Irish arts and artists, musicians, novelists, poets, playwrights and filmmakers as chair of Solas Nua, a nonprofit organization based in DC. (Solas Nua is a Village partner and offers Villagers discounted tickets.)

Darlene came to Washington after receiving a Masters in Journalism from Northwestern University. After several years as a reporter and editor, she went back to school to get an MBA. She returned to Washington to work as a management consultant for two large international accounting firms and later joined GSA as marketing director. She was a member of the board of the American Council for Technology and a Senior Fellow of the Council for Excellence in Government. Over the years, she has worked with various community organizations and managed the late DC Council Chairman Dave Clarke's last re-election campaign. She and Paddy are currently building a half-time home in Ireland.

## Villagers to Tour the Smithsonian American Art Museum March 11 at 1:30



Mount Pleasant Villagers will get together March 11 at 1:30 at the Luce Foundation Center for American Art in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, 8<sup>th</sup> & F Streets NW, for a special program exploring the Smithsonian's first visible art storage and study center in Washington, D.C. This innovative public space, in what had been the historic Patent Office, offers visitors new ways to experience American art with paintings densely hung on screens; sculptures, contemporary craft pieces, and folk art objects arranged on shelves; and portrait miniatures, bronze medals, and jewelry stored in compact drawers. Led by a knowledgeable docent, participants will experience art from the colonial period to today—an unparalleled record of the American experience.

To join the group, RSVP to David at [dalfuth@verizon.net](mailto:dalfuth@verizon.net). You can also join Villagers for lunch beforehand in the Gallery's beautiful Atrium at 12:30 pm. Bring lunch or purchase food in the café.

## Urban Farmers Meet to Discuss Spring Planting

Urban Farmer met on February 17 to discuss plans for spring gardens. They reviewed garden plans and talked about soil preparation and fertilization, seed sourcing and seedling cultivation, and planting schedules. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 7:00 pm, at 1819 Newton Street, NW. For additional information, contact John Carhart, [jcarhart@jcarhartarch.com](mailto:jcarhart@jcarhartarch.com).

## Two New Interest Group Forming:

### Intermediate-Level Spanish Conversation Group

Mount Pleasant Villager members who are intermediate-Spanish speakers and want to improve their conversation skills are invited to join a new Spanish Conversation Group. The group will meet weekly in the home of a Village member. Contact: Bob Hoffman, 202-320-6252 or [hoffharmonica@gmail.com](mailto:hoffharmonica@gmail.com).

### Mindful Meditation Group

Villagers will hold an initial planning meeting of The Village Mindful Meditation Group on Wednesday, March 4, at 4:30PM at Mary Rojas' house, 1820 Kenyon St NW. Bring your ideas and suggestions, your expectations and experience with both mindfulness and meditation. How can we use both to enrich the opportunities and challenges of aging? Please RSVP to [Mary Rojas](mailto:m.h.rojas@verizon.net) [m.h.rojas@verizon.net](mailto:m.h.rojas@verizon.net)

## Partnerships and Opportunities



### Past Tense Offers Villagers Discounts for Seniors Yoga and Other Classes

Experienced yoga teacher [Kethia Clairvoyant](#) will begin twice-a-week seniors' yoga classes on Tuesday March 1 at Past Tense yoga studio at Park Rd and Mt Pleasant St. All Mount Pleasant Village members over 50 are eligible for discounted prices for the classes, which will be held from 9 - 10 am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Village members will be charged \$10 per drop-in class, rather than the normal \$16, They also offer a 10-class pass for \$90, which is good for 6 months, and unused classes can be rolled over into the next pass. Participants can register online at: <https://clients.mindbodyonline.com/classic/ws?studioid=6512&stype=-7&sVT=56&sView=week&date=03/01/16> Villagers may also buy a general pass to the Past Tense studio that is good for the Senior Yoga classes AND regular Yoga, Pilates and Foam Rolling classes, for 10% off. Use the promo code **Village10** at checkout. Questions? Contact Kelly DiNardo at [kelly@pasttensestudio.com](mailto:kelly@pasttensestudio.com).

## Sign up for Iona Senior Services List-serve

As a result of a Partnership Agreement Mount Pleasant Village members are invited to sign up for the Iona Senior Services list-serve, which posts events, classes, and other activities. Contact: <http://www.iona.org/email-sign-up.html>.

## Villagers Get a 50% Discount on Capital Irish Film Festival tickets March 3-6



Solas Nua, a Village partner dedicated to bringing Irish arts to America, offers Village members 50%-off tickets to its [Capital Irish Film Festival](#) March 3 - 6 at various theaters in downtown DC. The discount does not apply to festival passes or the Sunday Shorts. Villagers might particularly enjoy the opening night film, "[Older than Ireland](#)," at E-Street Cinema, 7:30 pm, Thursday March 3. Director Alex Fegan will be there to discuss the film and the delightful centenarians it portrays. See the entire festival schedule at [www.solasnua.org](http://www.solasnua.org).

Villagers can purchase discounted tickets to any film or program--online, using the promotional code **Pleasant**, or at the theaters, by identifying themselves at the Solas Nua table.

## The Village Seeks Partners in Mount Pleasant and Beyond

The Village Partnership Committee is seeking new members to help negotiate agreements of mutual support between the Village and local businesses, professionals, institutions, and service agencies. If you are interested in joining, please contact Susan Rees, chair of the committee, at [susan.e.rees@verizon.net](mailto:susan.e.rees@verizon.net) or 202-667-1928.

## Looking Towards the Future: Summer Yard Sale on June 4th

Are you starting to Spring Clean? Remember the Summer Yard Sale - Saturday, June 4th - and save items you would like to donate to the Village. More details to come. If you have questions or would like to help with the organization of the sale, call Katie Tyler 202-468-0364.

### JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE

**Individual Introductory Membership Fee:** \$50 annually. For information, contact Brenda Krieger at [mpvillagemembership@gmail.com](mailto:mpvillagemembership@gmail.com).

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

**Contact us.** If you have questions or comments or news to share, contact [ldrickards@msn.com](mailto:ldrickards@msn.com).