



Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 12 · May 1, 2016

www.mountpleasantvillage.org

First Member Renewal Notices Go Out

Mount Pleasant Village has begun to notify members to renew their annual membership fees. All who joined the Village in March or April 2015 have been asked to renew their membership by paying the \$50 annual dues.

Those who joined later than April will be sent similar notifications at the beginning of the month following the anniversary of the month they joined the Village.

In renewal letters and emails that first went out in April, President Katie Tyler and Membership Chair Brenda Krieger remind members of the Village's accomplishments in its first year and plans to expand its offerings in the near future. They note that the Village has:

- Met the goal of recruiting 150 members and set out to reach 200 in 2016
- Qualified as a 501(c)(3) non-profit
- Sponsored a wide range of social, wellness and educational activities for members
- Created an interactive website, a monthly newsletter, and events emails to keep members informed
- Set about forming relationships with strategic partners like the DC Office on Aging, Iona Senior Services, and neighborhood institutions and businesses.

The Village's primary objective in 2016 is to establish a robust Volunteer Services program, with training for volunteers to begin on May 22. Villagers can renew their membership and pay their dues by sending a check to Mount Pleasant Village, 1735 Lamont St. NW, 20010; or online at www.mountpleasantvillage.org, under the "Membership" tab.

Upcoming Events

Mount Vernon Tour

Thursday, May 5, 9:00 am

Solas Nua *Wild Sky* Performances

May 5-8 on Hobart Street

Mah Jong Interest Group

Thursday, May 12, 5:00 pm, 1735 Lamont St.

Urban Farming Interest Group

Wednesday, May 18, 1819 Newton St.

Third Thursday Cinema Group

Thursday, May 19, Avalon Theater

Volunteer Orientation/Training Session

Sunday, May 22, 1:30 pm, 1818 Newton St.

Mount Pleasant Village Alley Sale

Saturday, June 11, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Mount Pleasant Village Picnic

Sunday, June 19, Pierce Mill

Village Regulars

Walk with the Walking Group

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

Villagers' Yoga at Past Tense

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am

Mindful Meditation Group

Wednesdays, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, 1820 Kenyon St.

Coffee at Dos Gringos

Thursdays 9:30—11:00 am

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

Tuesdays, May 10 and 24

at Habit Café

Tuesdays, May 3, 17 and 31

Like us on 

Visit our website at mountpleasantvillage.org

Meet the Villagers: Mary Rojas, Village Co-Secretary

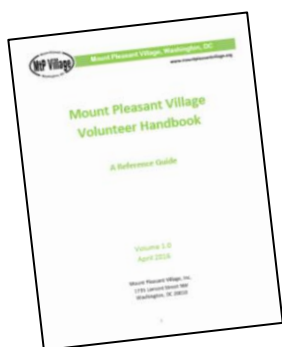


Originally from Minnesota, Mary Rojas has lived an international life. Her two children were born in Montevideo, Uruguay, where she lived with her family for 13 years. Her then-husband was from Chile, where they visited frequently. She worked over the years with a variety of international development organizations which took her to over 45 countries on issues related to education and the environment. One client with whom she worked for many years was the Government of Finland, where she still has close ties. During this time, she was very involved with women's rights around the world and served as the president of the international Association of Women in Development. She served on the Virginia Tech faculty for 14 years and later ran her own consulting firm, Rojas International.

Mary is the co-secretary and one of the founding mothers of Mount Pleasant Village. She started the Village interest group, The Mindful Meditation Sangha. She is active in her church, All Souls Unitarian, where she has served on the Board of Trustees and is part of a group that discusses the spiritual dimensions of aging.

Mary's son, daughter-in-law and her three grandchildren, Sidney, Alice, and Lewis, live in Manhattan, so she sees them frequently. Her daughter lives Cleveland Park, so they often hike together and generally hang out. Now that spring is here you will find Mary out birding in Rock Creek Park or along the Chesapeake.

Volunteer Orientation Set for May 22



The Village will launch its Volunteer Services training with an orientation session on Sunday, May 22 at 2 pm at Stoddard Baptist Home, 1818 Newton St. We will explain how to request services, how to volunteer to provide them, and how volunteers are assigned, and volunteers in other villages will speak about their experiences. Orientation is a requirement for Village members who want to volunteer. Mount Pleasant Village volunteers will provide services such as transportation to appointments and stores, basic home maintenance, and computer assistance. The 2-hour orientation is open to all Village members, but reservations are required. Contact Elinor Hart at 202-387-2966 or at volunteer@mountpleasantvillage.org.

"Money Smart" Seminar Held at Columbia Heights Community Center

Villagers attended "Money Smart," a Village-sponsored seminar on preventing senior financial fraud and exploitation. The seminar was led by the DC Elder Abuse Prevention Committee at the Columbia Heights Community Center. For materials that describes types of scams and how to report various fraud attempts, contact Susan Rees, partnership@mountpleasantvillage.org.

Visit our website at mountpleasantvillage.org

Hoffman to Help DC Become an "Age-Friendly-City"

Village Board Member has been asked to assist Mayor Muriel Bowser's initiative to get DC designated an official "[Age Friendly City](#)" by the World Health Organization (WHO). He will serve on the committee for "Increased Social Participation," one of the working groups established to examine each of the eight domains that are evaluated by the WHO. One requirement for certification is collaboration among DC Villages and with the Washington Area Village Exchange (WAVE), which works with senior and inter-generational organizations to encourage growth of the Village movement.

Urban Farming Interest Group



The Urban Farming interest group met April 12 over tomato and pepper seedlings. Above, Steve Munoz, Katie Tyler, Severina Drew and John Carhart discuss gardening methods in Mount Pleasant. Contact John Carhart at jcarhart@jcarhartarch.com or 202-812-1951.

Third-Thursday Cinema Group Gets Cut-rate Tickets at Avalon Theater May 19

The Village's Third-Thursday Cinema Group will take advantage of the Avalon Theater's offer to show its current feature once a month at a special discounted price (usually \$5) for seniors. Villagers will travel together to the shows at 10:30 am on the third Thursday of each month. The Avalon Theater is at 5612 Connecticut Ave. Contact: Mary Anne at magibbons50@gmail.com.

Consumer Information Tip of the Month: Senior Scam Alerts

The Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Information blog cautions seniors to be wary of scammers trying to get personal information from people by pretending to help with applications for disability benefits and claims. For updates on current scams, go to https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/scammers-offering-help-disability-applications?utm_source=govdelivery.

Learn Mah Jong with Other Villagers, May 12

Learn to play Mah Jong with Mount Pleasant neighbors. In this fun and interesting table game, similar to gin rummy, four players arrange a series of tiles to match up with a designated "hand" on a standard Mah Jong card. Villager Bob Hoffman (Hoff) will offer free lessons for beginners and all equipment needed to play. The next gathering will be on Thursday, May 12, at 5:00 pm, 1753 Lamont Street. Contact Hoff at 202-320-6252 or Hoffharmonica@gmail.com.

Upcoming Event: Villagers to Tour George Washington's Mount Vernon May 5



Join Mount Pleasant Village members for a day at George Washington's Mount Vernon on Thursday, May 5. Tour highlights include a private Archaeological Tour and Talk, a private Horticultural Tour and Talk, and Mansion and Distillery Tours. A recent archaeological survey of the estate's 425 acres identified more than 100 separate sites, documenting almost 4,000 years of habitation within the plantation boundaries. Contact Brenda Krieger at brendakrieger1@gmail.com. See [the flyer here](#).

Upcoming Event: Mount Pleasant Village Alley Sale Fundraiser June 11

The annual Mount Pleasant Village Alley Sale fundraiser will be held June 11, 10:00 to 3:00 pm, in the 1700 block alley between Park and Lamont Streets. Start organizing your clutter and what-nots into shining objects of other people's desire. Contact Katie Tyler with questions and to join the Alley Sale Committee at 202-468-0364 or President@mountpleasantvillage.org. Help make this fundraising event a success and top last year's take of \$1,000.

Upcoming Event: Mount Pleasant Village Picnic at Pierce Mill June 19



The Village will hold its first picnic celebration on June 19 at the intersection of Beach Drive and Tilden Street, across from the historic Pierce Mill. The picnic area is complete with pavilions, grills, tables, and a large grassy field for fun and games. Help to make it an annual event and join with members to design and organize this old-fashioned potluck. Contact Katie Tyler at 202-468-0364 or President@mountpleasantvillage.org.

JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE

Individual Membership Fee: \$50 annually. For information, contact Brenda Krieger at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org. **Donate:** Make a tax-deductible donation to Mount Pleasant Village at 1735 Lamont St. NW, Washington, DC 20010.

Contact us if you have questions, comments or news to share, at news@mountpleasantvillage.org.

Visit our website at mountpleasantvillage.org