

Message from Katie: Let's Get Together More Often and Hear about Books

I have just returned from a very inspiring talk by Villager Jim Srodes about his recent book *Spies in Palestine: Love, Betrayal and the Heroic Life of*



Sarah Aaronsohn. More than 30 people turned out for the presentation that was sponsored by the Village and our partner, the Mount Pleasant Library, which made a room available.

(Thanks to librarian Barbara Dougherty.)

The day was so successful that we plan an ongoing book-discussion program to give our many writer-members the opportunity to introduce their work to other Villagers. Contact Bonnie Cain at 202-483-2727 or bonniecain@gmail.com if you have a book to discuss or can suggest other local authors.

Speaking of authors, the Village will show a live-streamed presentation by Atul Gawande, the author of *Being Mortal*, the seminal book about end-of-life decisions from 4 to 6 pm February 13th at Suns Cinema, 3107 Mt. Pleasant St. If you are interested, please contact me at 202-468-0364 or at katharine.e.tyler@gmail.com. Space is limited.

A group of us had a terrific visit to the Dollhouse Exhibition at the National Building Museum last month to see miniature houses that ranged in style from the 18th Century to today. Let me know if you'd like to borrow the exhibition book.

Thanks to all who contributed to the Village last year. I'm delighted to report we met our \$5,000 target for year-end donations. And remember, we welcome your donations at any time during the year.

Katharine Tyler

President, Mount Pleasant Village

Upcoming Events

Author Atul Gawande on *Being Mortal*

Monday, February 13, 4:00-6:00, Suns Cinema

Mount Pleasant Village Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, February 18, 3:00-5:00 pm
Stoddard Baptist Home, 1818 Newton St.

Friends of Mount Pleasant Library Book Sale

February 17, 18 and 19, Mt. Pleasant Library

Village Regulars

Walk with the Walking Group

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

Mindful Meditation

Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30, tbd

Mah Jong

Mondays, 5:30 pm, 1735 Lamont St.

Coffee at Dos Gringos

Thursdays 9:30—11:00 am

Seniors Yoga at PastTense

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am

Body Fit at PastTense

Saturdays, Time and location TBD

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

Tuesdays, February 2 and 16

at Purple Patch's Habit Café

Tuesdays, February 9 and 23



Meet the Villagers: Gerry Fitzgerald Divides his Time between Here and Ireland



Gerry Fitzgerald has lived with his wife Julie Byrne in their Newton Street home for more than 30 years, though they spend a large part of the year in Drogheda, Ireland. Julie, an epidemiologist, grew up in Drogheda and serves today as scientific director for a 16-nation research group on childhood cancer from a small research [institute](#) she founded there in 1992.

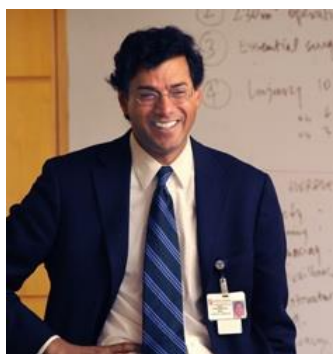
Gerry was born in Gloucester, MA, and raised in New York City, the descendent of Irish immigrants who came to the U.S. beginning in the 1850s. With a keen eye for history, he has also traced the origins of his name to the Normans in France.

He has had an active career in journalism, getting his start at the *Baltimore Sun*, with stints at the Associated Press, *The Washington Post*, and the Center for Foreign Journalists; and teaching journalism at the Dublin City University and at Brooklyn College. Today he is a freelance journalist and has begun work on a book about the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In addition, Gerry volunteers as a facilitator with the Alternatives to Violence Project International, a program of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) that helps participants deal with potentially violent situations in new and creative ways. Gerry has focused on prison populations in Dublin and in the Maryland Correctional Facility at Jessup. An ardent fruit and vegetable gardener, he recently had to relinquish his space at the Rock Creek Community Garden—temporarily he hopes--because he is away in Ireland so often.

Gerry earned a degree in English from George Washington University, attended the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism on a Rockefeller fellowship for race relations reporting, and studied sociology at New York University.

Join Villagers for an Atul Gawande Live Talk on *Being Mortal*, Monday, February 13



Mount Pleasant Village will arrange a live-streamed broadcast of Atul Gawande, author of the inspirational book, *Being Mortal*, discussing his thoughts about life and attitudes about end-of-life conversations. His talk marks the 15th anniversary of the founding of Beacon Hill Village, the first one established in the United States. The viewing will be held at Suns Cinema, 3107 Mt. Pleasant Street, on Monday, February 13, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm. Gawande's presentation will be broadcast from 5:00 to 6:00. Refreshments and socializing will follow. Contact Katie Tyler at Katharine.e.tyler@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

***Helping Hands* Volunteer Orientation Set for Saturday, February 18, 3:00 – 5:00 pm**

The Village will hold another orientation session for those interested in volunteering to help fellow Villagers as part of its *Helping Hands* program. It is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 3:00-5:00 pm, at the Stoddard Baptist Nursing Home, 1818 Newton St. All *Helping Hands* volunteers must attend an orientation session before performing volunteer services for the Village.

Village Blog Offers Advice about Planning for “The Conversation”

The [Village blog](#) this month focuses on the importance of planning a discussion with elders about their needs for support and assistance. The post, addresses “Tips for Having *the Conversation* about Needed Assistance: Preparation,” on the importance of discussing care concerns with family before raising them with the older loved one, and trying to have everyone on the same page.

Books Wanted for Friends of Mount Pleasant Library Book Sale February 17-19

The Friends of Mount Pleasant Library will hold a book sale at the library, on February 17, 18 and 19. They are currently soliciting donated books. Book donations may be delivered to the library during open hours from February 4 to 16. Volunteer (and Village member) Barbara Berrie will also pick up book donations or collect them at her home. Contact her at 202-232-5279 (home), 202-842-6448 (work), or at barbaraberrie@gmail.com. Proceeds from the sale help support library programs.

Village Partner, Bancroft Elementary School, Receives Prestigious Award

The DC Public Education Fund awarded Village partner Bancroft Elementary School its prestigious Standing Ovation Award for Top Academic Leadership Team. The award recognizes principal Arthur Mola and the Bancroft Academic Leadership Team, who will be honored at the March 13 Standing Ovation Awards ceremony at the Kennedy Center. The school will also receive a \$25,000 grant to further its educational activities. Several Villagers have volunteered for Bancroft’s after-school programs (Chess Club, Reading Partners, Principal’s Advisory Committee) and the Village will continue to seek additional ways we can collaborate.

Robberies and Burglaries Are Down in Mt. Pleasant, Police Report

At a January 5 meeting, 4th District Police officers reported that robberies and burglaries in Mt. Pleasant have declined 18% during the past year, although auto theft continues to be a problem. They urged owners to remove “convenience keys” placed in glove boxes in newer models to facilitate valet parking, as they also facilitate theft. The officers recommended homeowners install security lighting and cameras and report suspicious behavior to the police. DC’s [Camera Incentive Program](#) provides rebates for purchase and installation of a security camera system. See www.ovsig.dc.gov.

‘Tis the Season to Think About Snow

The weather outside has yet to be too frightful, but a heavy winter storm can make an appearance at any time. DC law requires that sidewalks be cleared of snow/ice within the first 8 hours of daylight after a storm, with fines for non-compliance. Village members unable to shovel snow, may (1) Contact the Village **Helping Hands Program** helpinghands@mountpleasantvillage.org to request a volunteer to shovel your walkways; or (2) Those age 65+ or those with disabilities, may request a shoveling exemption from the DC government at www.snow.dc.gov/service/sidewalk-shoveling-exemption.

Rebecca Shannon and Mary Rojas led the Village Walking Group on a snowy morning (r)



Helping Hands Program: Ready for Jobs Large and Small

With winter rapidly approaching, 31 Helping Hands volunteers are ready to provide that helpful assistance that can help your life move more smoothly. If you are a Village member and need a ride to medical services, snow-shoveling, or small home repairs, you can request 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; or
- **Online:** Login to the Village website at www.mountpleasantvillage.org, and click on the blue “Get Help” button on the home page.

Help Wanted for the Village Board’s Committees

Mount Pleasant Village is operated on an all-volunteer model. This means that all Village programs and administration are managed by board members. Now that we have grown to serve 166 members, we need your help to keep up the pace. Working on a Village committee provides an opportunity to meet and make new friends, share your experiences and help build our vibrant organization. Please contact someone listed below to help keep the Village running smoothly:

- The **Volunteer Committee**: Contact Elinor Hart at volunteer@mountpleasantvillage.org if you are willing to help with volunteer management for the Village *Helping Hands* Program.
- The **Communications Committee** needs help managing the Village website. Contact communications@mountpleasantvillage.org.
- The **Membership Committee** is looking for help with programs to increase and maintain membership. Contact Brenda Krieger at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org.
- The **Program Committee** is looking for help with cultural programs. Contact Bonnie Cain at events@mountpleasantvillage.org.
- A **Development Committee** is being formed to raise the Village’s visibility/funding. It is looking for those with nonprofits experience. Contact Katie Tyler at president@mountpleasantvillage.org.

JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE

Membership Fee: \$50 annually for an individual; \$100 for a couple. For more information, contact Brenda Krieger 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.