

## Message from Katie: A Very Successful Year for Mount Pleasant Village



The Village celebrated the achievements of its 2nd year with a capacity crowd and addresses by restaurateur Andy Shallal and Councilmember Brianne Nadeau at its annual meeting March 25<sup>TH</sup> in the Library.

We asked **Andy Shallal**, owner of Busboys and Poets restaurants and a former mayoral candidate, to talk about his experience as an advocate. He offered a wonderful perspective on what it

means to be an immigrant and naturalized citizen in the



U.S. He has worked to make his restaurants places where racial and cultural connections are “consciously uplifted,” where people with differing viewpoints can mix and share ideas and world views. Andy reminded us that immigrants never take democracy for granted. He also stressed the importance of being informed on local and national issues, especially as they are impacted by race and culture.



**Councilmember Nadeau**, newly named Chair of the City Council Human Services Committee, spoke about her priorities, including affordable housing for lower-income residents and the need for more units for both homeless families and individuals. She also delineated the benefits of the new Main Street program that links the Mount Pleasant business community with Columbia Heights.

The members re-elected me and six other board members to 2-year terms. Congratulations to **returning board members Rebecca Shannon, Rob Fleming, Sharon Hart, Susan Rees, Tom Conway and Larry Rickards**. Here’s to another great year ahead.

## Upcoming Events

### **Protecting Yourself from Scams, Identity Theft & Elder Abuse**

Thursday, April 6, 6 pm, 3240 O Street NW

### **Mount Pleasant Village Annual Yard Sale**

Saturday, June 3

## Village Regulars

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

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

### **Mindful Meditation**

Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30, tba

### **Mah Jong**

Mondays, 5:00 pm, 1735 Lamont St.

### **Coffee at Dos Gringos**

Thursdays 9:30—11:00 am

### **Seniors Yoga at PastTense**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am

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

Tuesdays, April 18

### **at Purple Patch’s Habit Café**

Tuesdays, April 11 and 25



**Annual Report to Members.** Before the meeting, I sent all Village members the *Mount Pleasant Village 2016 Annual Report*, which highlighted some of our achievements over this past year. I am delighted to report on our successes as we begin our 3rd year of operation: the Village is on a very sound footing – we now have 175 members (quite good for a community of our size); our financial condition is solid; we have productive relationships with the Mt. Pleasant business community and other DC senior groups; and the Village remains committed to enriching the lives of our members.

The Village offered a variety of social, wellness, cultural, and educational opportunities this past year, including trips to the theatre, musical events, and art galleries, as well as excursions to Mount Vernon and Hillwood. We offered fun activities to help bring Villagers together – parties, a picnic, and ongoing groups. Through partnerships with local arts organizations, we got discount tickets for plays at Gala Hispanic Theatre and theatre and performances by the Solas Nua Irish arts organization. We also co-sponsored information-sharing sessions with Iona Senior Services and All Souls Unitarian Church that addressed aging in place, legal and financial issues for seniors.

We are gratified by the reception of the *Helping Hands* program, now approaching its first full year of operation. The program can now tap 36 trained and vetted member-volunteers to help their neighbors with daily tasks. We take great pride in this neighbor-helping-neighbor community effort.

Informed by the recent Member Survey, the Village is looking towards developing new events and activities for the current year. Thanks to all those who contributed time and made donations to help make the Village a success.

Finally, I want to recognize the contributions of retiring Board members Brenda Krieger, Membership Chair, and Darlene Meskell, Communications Chair – who gave tirelessly to the creation of the Village and were vital to its success.



Brenda Krieger (l)  
Darlene Meskell (r)

*Katherine Tyler*

President, Mount Pleasant Village

## More Scenes from the Annual Meeting



Andy Shallal with Marianna Ohe  
and Paddy Meskell



Bob Hoffman reports election results

## Meet the Villagers: Nancy Mills



Nancy Mills and husband Samuel Leiken have lived in their Ingleside Terrace home for 10 years, and love the access Mount Pleasant gives them to the arts and culture of D.C. Born in Baltimore, Nancy spend her early years on a small island in Japan, where her father was stationed as a lawyer in the U.S. Army. As is the norm for “Army brats,” she survived many postings, finally graduating from high school in Virginia. Nancy continues to reinvigorate her early language fluency by watching Japanese movies, and has added smatterings of several more.

Nancy graduated from Antioch College with a focus on history and the Far East. She joined the US labor movement in 1976, held a variety of positions in the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the AFL-CIO and two labor-sponsored non-profits, and managed the Solidarity Center, an international organization working for safe and healthy workplaces, family-supporting wages, and worker rights. Nancy retired as AFL-CIO Deputy Chief of Staff after 35 years. During the recent presidential campaign, she managed the AFL-CIO’s Cleveland Region PAC supporting Hillary Clinton.

In retirement, Nancy has put her organizing skills to use as a volunteer for community organizations. In addition to serving on the Village’s Membership and Volunteer committees, she is Volunteer Manager of Volunteer Services for the Mosaic Theater; a volunteer for J Street, which works to advance peace between Israel and the Palestinians; and she was a marshal for the Women’s March on Washington. Nancy also relishes being with family, her two sisters, a recently married daughter and son living in Brooklyn, and having “away time” with husband Sam. They have traveled in China and Europe, loving the opportunity to become friends with new people and cook international dishes.

## Bonnie Cain Hosts a Sold-out Irish Music Concert; Discounts for Village Members

Villager Bonnie Cain hosted a rollicking concert of Irish music at her Lamont St. home during the week of St. Patrick’s Day. The concert, performed by three young Irish musicians—Cat Dowling, Lizzie Donnelly, and Hannah McPhillimy—was sponsored by the Irish arts organization Solas Nua, a Village partner. Village members were offered discounted tickets and constituted much of the sell-out crowd of around 45.



## In-Home Support Services for Elders: Village Blog #4

The [Village blog](#) this month describes in-home services available to older adults in our community. The post “In-Home Support for Elders – *Helping Hands* and Seabury Resources for Aging,” is the first of a two-part series on supports that can help and assist older persons in remaining in their homes.

## Georgetown Village Sponsors: *Protecting Yourself from Scams, ID Theft & Elder Abuse*

Georgetown Village will sponsor a talk Thursday, April 6 at 6:00 pm on *Protecting Yourself from Scams, Identity Theft and Elder Abuse*. Marti Bailey, head of the Sibley Senior Association and Community Health, will talk about identity theft, what it is, how it happens, prevention, and actions to take after your identity has been stolen. Learn about scams, types of scams, situations to avoid, at-risk activities, targets, perpetrator's intentions. Learn about caregiver abuse and avoiding family perpetrators as well as what signs to watch for. The talk will be held in Blake Hall, St. John's Episcopal Church, 3240 O St. NW. **RSVP: 202-999-8988/ [lynn@georgetown-village.org](mailto:lynn@georgetown-village.org)**. Wine, Cheese and Light Refreshments will be served

## **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](mailto:helpinghands@mountpleasantvillage.org), describing what you need; or
- **Online:** Login to the Village website at [www.mountpleasantvillage.org](http://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 175 members, we need your help to keep up the pace. Volunteering on a Village committee provides an opportunity to meet and make new friends, share your experiences and help build our vibrant organization. For information on committee needs and opportunities contact:

- The **Volunteer Committee** needs help in managing the increased number of requests for the Village *Helping Hands* Program. Contact Elinor Hart at [volunteer@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto:volunteer@mountpleasantvillage.org).
- The **Communications Committee** is looking for writers for publicity brochures and help in managing the Village website. Contact [communications@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto:communications@mountpleasantvillage.org).
- The **Membership Committee** is looking for help with programs to increase and sustain membership and in interviewing new members. Contact [membership@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto:membership@mountpleasantvillage.org).
- The **Program Committee** is looking for help in developing activities, outings, and cultural programs. Contact Bonnie Cain at [events@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto: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](mailto:president@mountpleasantvillage.org).

## **New Mah Jong class to begin in Mount Pleasant on April 24**

The newly published April mah jong card has arrived. In honor of this occasion, a new mah jong class will begin on Monday, April 24, at 5:00 pm. All levels of mah jong players are welcome - beginner to advanced – and all playing materials provided without charge. Classes will meet every Monday through June. For more information contact Village member Bob Hoffman (Hoff) at 202-320-6252 or [hoffharmonica@gmail.com](mailto:hoffharmonica@gmail.com).

## **Help Needed for Mount Pleasant Village Annual Alley Sale**

The Mount Pleasant Village Annual Alley Sale is planned for Saturday, June 3, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. A variety of volunteer help is needed to organize this fundraising event, including:

- Storage of some items prior to the sale
- Collecting donated items
- Pricing sale items before the sale
- Helping with set up and/or take down and clean up
- Staffing stalls on sale day

For further information, contact Katie Tyler at [president@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto:president@mountpleasantvillage.org)

### **JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE**

**Membership Fee:** \$50 annually for an individual; \$100 for a couple. For more information, contact [membership@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto:membership@mountpleasantvillage.org).

**Donor:** Make a tax-deductible donation payable 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](mailto:news@mountpleasantvillage.org).