



## Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 6 · November 2018

[www.mountpleasantvillage.org](http://www.mountpleasantvillage.org)

### From the Village Board of Directors

The holiday season is fast approaching and we wish each of you Happy Holidays.

**Year-End Donations.** In this busy period, we hope you will consider making a year-end donation to the Village. Although we are proud of being an all-volunteer Village, we do incur expenses. We are grateful for donations to our growing Village! The Mount Pleasant Village enhances the vitality and welcoming nature of our neighborhood. You can make a difference in our community by becoming a contributing supporter. To make a tax-deductible donation on-line by credit card, click here <https://tinyurl.com/y9dltm2r>.

We also want to help you meet the IRS requirements for charitable deductions, and urge you to read the text box on page 5 regarding IRS rules for how charitable contributions can be applied in this current calendar year. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we must follow IRS rules regarding donations.

**Village Annual Meeting.** Please plan to attend the Mount Pleasant Village Annual Meeting, to be held on Saturday, December 8, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, at the Mount Pleasant Library. The meeting will be an opportunity to:

- Meet and voice your concerns and provide feedback to the Board.
- Learn about Village accomplishments and programs and accomplishments over the past year and plans for the future.
- Help launch a Village initiative to make 2019 the "Year of Active Aging."
- Hear keynote speaker William Yates, a leader in D.C. on senior fitness, discuss fitness resources and demonstrate exercises to get us all moving in healthy and safe ways.

### Please Remember to VOTE

Tuesday, November 6; Polls Open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

#### Upcoming Events

Book Discussion of *Chocolate City*  
Sunday, November 18, 2:30-4:30  
Mount Pleasant Library

Mount Pleasant Village Annual Meeting  
Saturday, December 8, 1:30-3:30  
Mount Pleasant Library

**For Other Activities and Events**  
see the calendar on the Village website

[www.mountpleasantvillage.org](http://www.mountpleasantvillage.org)  
or the weekly *Mount Pleasant Announcements*

- Vote to elect five members to the Village Board of Directors.

**Village Goal for 2019.** The Village Board of Directors September retreat developed objectives to support the primary goal to "increase member engagement by expanding Village relevance." The eight objectives to support this goal are included in an addendum on page 6.

### Flu Seasons Precautions

The flu season has arrived. Now is a good time to get a flu shot to help stay healthy. The Centers for Disease Control notes that flu vaccination is especially important for people age 65 or older and those living with serious health conditions. Flu shots are free for those with Medicare or health insurance, and may be administered by your doctor or at local pharmacies. For more information on immunization, click on [Learn more](#).

## Meet the Villagers: Judy Byron

Judy Byron is a D.C. artist and activist whose works on paper, installations, and art books explore



issues of identity. Her works are in museums, private, and international collections. Her work, recognized for excellence by the National Endowment for the Arts and the D.C.

Commission on the Arts, can be viewed at [www.judybyron.com](http://www.judybyron.com).

Judy Byron with grandson Biosah Byron Mokwunye (now age 4). Photo by Rick Reinhard

Judy was raised in Syracuse and received her BA in Theatre and Speech Education from Ithaca College. She has also studied at the Corcoran School of Art. After college, Judy was the Youth Coordinator for Northern California for the Eugene McCarthy California Primary campaign and then the organizer for the San Fernando Valley consumer grape boycott with Cesar Chavez and the National Farmworkers Organizing Committee.

Judy brought her activism to the District. She founded CAMP (the Corcoran Art Mentorship Program) matching D.C. public school art students with “Artist Mentors.” The program was recognized as a national model, winning “The Coming Up Taller Award” from the National Endowment of the Arts and the President’s Commission on Arts and Humanities. For the Village, Judy and husband Rick Reinhard were instrumental in organizing and establishing the Diversity Committee to enhance inclusiveness in our programs and membership. In addition, she is a volunteer with Reading Partners at Bancroft Elementary School. In December, Judy will stand for election to the Village Board of Directors.

Judy and Rick have lived in D.C. since 1971, moving to Mount Pleasant in 1973. Their house on Park Road, named Blue Skies, was originally purchased by a group of housemates. Their two daughters attended Bancroft, Deal, Wilson and School Without Walls. One daughter lives locally with her husband and son. The other daughter and her husband live in Oakland, California.

## Stoddard Baptist Home Hosts Community Tea: A Report by Courtney Arnold

Several members of the Mount Pleasant Village were among the guests who attended a Community Tea, entitled “Hands Within Reach,” in September at the Stoddard Baptist Nursing Home on Newton Street. For some of the members this was their first visit to the nursing home. Several guests asked about how to volunteer. One Village member expressed an interest in helping with gardening and another in giving a special reading to residents.



Louise Meyer, Caroline Tanner, Courtney Arnold & Robin Van Der Pool. Photo by Remy Johnson



Lutricia Lewis Quarles of cosmetology services, Robert Hood of therapeutic recreation, and administrative staff hosted the event. The tables were filled with beautiful teacups from Ms. Quarles collection and delicious food prepared by the Stoddard culinary staff.

Photo by Courtney Arnold

A tour of the facility followed a program of vocal music, original poetry and information about the growth of Stoddard by Steven Nash, president and CEO, and Remy Johnson, the nursing home administrator. Robin Von Der Pool, director of volunteer services, encourages individuals and groups interested in volunteer opportunities to call her at 202 328 7400 ext. 1362.

## A Thumbnail History of Ingleside Mansion and the Stoddard Baptist Home

The Stoddard Baptist Home and the old mansion at the core of its operation have a long and interesting history in Mount Pleasant. Originally built as Ingleside mansion in 1851, it is the oldest surviving building in the neighborhood. The original owners never resided in the home; it remained vacant until 1854, when it was auctioned to Hiram Walbridge (Walbridge Place is named for the family). In 1889, the Ingleside estate was purchased by a syndicate, represented by Chapin Brown, the son of Samuel P. Brown, the original developer of Mount Pleasant (for whom Brown Street is named). In 1896, the mansion was purchased by Frank Noyes, editor of the *Washington Star*. After passing through additional hands, the Presbyterian Home for the Aged move into Ingleside mansion in 1917. Stoddard Baptist Home purchased the property in 1961, and currently serves 164 residents. [From *The History of Mount Pleasant (Images of America)* by Mara Cherkasky]

## Meet-the-Street: Fascinating Mount Pleasant History Session

A group of Villagers recently gathered at Lamont Park for a Village “Meet-the-Street: Saturday with Mara” event, to sample local carry-out fare and learn a bit of Mount Pleasant history. Mara Cherkasky, Historian Laureate of Mount Pleasant, talked about the history of Mount Pleasant Street and the businesses operating near the trolley (now bus) turn-around over the years. She noted that the oldest commercial building, dating to 1906, stands at 3215 Mount Pleasant Street; Heller’s Bakery (now Elle) opened in 1928; and Sportsman’s Liquors, formerly FD Liquors, opened 1934.

Joining the park event were two owners of Mt. Pleasant Street’s impressive carry-outs – Taqueria Los Compadres (at 3213) and Sabydee Thai & Lao Cuisine (at 3211). Nellie Romero and Daovome, their owners, talked about their lives and how they came to Mount Pleasant.

Photos by Lawrence Rickards



Jan Fenty, organizer  
and MC



Mara Cherkasky & Villagers



Mara Cherkasky & Villagers



Nellie Romero from  
Taqueria Los Compadres



Daovome from  
Sabydee



## Upcoming Event – November 18: *Chocolate City* Book Discussion

You are invited to a Village-wide book reading and discussion of *Chocolate City*, the vividly detailed, and beautifully written, account of first four centuries of the District of Columbia. The date for the book discussion is Sunday, November 18, 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Mount Pleasant Library. This is a “don’t miss” event. We anticipate a fascinating and stimulating discussion session with author George Derek Musgrove and moderator/interviewer Mara Cherkasky.

**George Derek Musgrove** is an Associate Professor of history at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He received his Ph.D. in U.S. history from New York University in 2005, and lives with his wife and two sons in Washington, D.C. **Mara Cherkasky**, the author of *The History of Mount Pleasant (Images of America)*, is a historian, researcher, and writer/editor specializing in D.C. neighborhoods, institutions, and agencies. She lives in the District.

Villager and photographer Rick Reinhard’s images of District history germane to *Chocolate City*.



A Neighbor



No Taxation  
Without  
Representation



Mount Pleasant Latino Festival



Hands off  
Home Rule

## Upcoming Event: *Beacon* Exhibition Celebrating Senior Artists

The Beacon Newspaper’s “*Celebration of the Arts*” exhibit will show the work of the 2018 winners and honorable mentions of a year-long program, in partnership with the Maryland Federation of Art, designed to encourage individuals 50 and over in the District, Maryland and Virginia to try new artistic expression, and then to enter their best work in a regional competition. This year’s program focused on photography, painting, multi-dimensional art (sculpture, jewelry, pottery & glass), and poetry. The exhibition will be held from November 28 to December 19, at the E Street Gallery, 702 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW. Admission is free. For additional information about the arts program, click on

<https://www.thebeaconnewspapers.com/celebration-of-the-arts/>

## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the death of two of Villagers. **Elizabeth Young** passed away on October 14, in her Mount Pleasant home, after a long struggle with cancer. She spent her adult life in the District working for the Bureau of National Affairs. Elizabeth was an active member of the Village Meditation Group. She leaves behind a sister and her life-long friend, Margaret Myers. **Rob Low** died on October 24, also from cancer. After retiring as an accountant, Rob joined wife Linda as a managing partner of the Linda Low Team, a successful Mount Pleasant residential real estate firm. They were strong supporters of the community and the Village.

### **IRS Rules About Year-End Donations to Mount Pleasant Village**

Mount Pleasant Village has been fortunate to receive year-end donations in prior years, which greatly help our ability to provide programs and activities to members. The following IRS rules will help the Village accurately account for your donation and gain you a tax deduction for the current year. If possible, make your donation in time to process it by check or credit card before December 31. The IRS rules are as follows:

- Charitable contributions are deductible in the year that you make the donation.
- When you mail a check, the mailing date of the check determines when the donation can be claimed.
- Credit card donations are deductible in the year that the charity charges your card.

For more information please see IRS Publication 526 (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p526.pdf>). The current online version of this publication is dated 2017, but the rules still apply. For questions about donations, please contact Board Treasurer Laura Breeden at [Breeden.lauralee@gmail.com](mailto:Breeden.lauralee@gmail.com).

### **Wanted: New Members for the Mount Pleasant Village Finance Committee**

Villagers with accounting and finance backgrounds to advise the Treasurer (Laura Breeden) and the President (Mary Rojas) about the budget and financial oversight of the Village assets (generally, our bank account, which is small but healthy). Some experience with budgeting, bookkeeping, non-profit accounting rules or fundraising is desirable. Meetings will occur not more than four times annually. Please inquire! Contact Laura at 617-271-4128 or [breeden.lauralee@gmail.com](mailto:breeden.lauralee@gmail.com).

### **Helping Hands Program: Ready for Jobs Large or Small**

*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, gardening chores, or small home repairs, and so forth, 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.

### **JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE**

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

## **Addendum**

### **Village Goal and Objectives for 2019**

#### **From the Board of Directors:**

The Mount Pleasant Board of Directors retreat in September resulted a Village strategy for 2019 with the overall goal to “increase member engagement by expanding village relevance.” Together with the Village members we will accomplish this goal through a variety of objectives including:

1. Engage more members in Village operations and leadership [Committee of Committee Chairs (COC) and Board].
2. Increase member participation in Village activities and programs (COC).
3. Create and implement a communication plan to include members, community and partners (COC).
4. Work to ensure that the Village membership and activities reflect the diverse community of Mount Pleasant (Board and COC).
5. Increase Board accessibility and visibility (Board).
6. Identify and address gaps in Village policies and procedures (Board).
7. Strengthen committee operations to align with Village mission and improved communications between COC and Board (Board and COC).
8. Assure Village has accurate understanding of member interests, needs and wants.

We are an all-volunteer run organization and therefore, most, if not all, Village activities/programs are to be member created and led. The Board and the Committee of Committee Chairs serve as the coordinating hub assuring policies and procedures are in place, including how to deal with initiatives that do not fit neatly into an existing committee purview, and that activities fit the Village Mission.