



Mount Pleasant Village Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 7 · December 2018

www.mountpleasantvillage.org



Happy Holidays

From the Village Board of Directors

The holiday season is upon us and we wish each of you **Happy Holidays**. Whether you celebrate the December holidays of Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Eid-al-Adha, La Posadas, Diwali, or Christmas, we are proud to have you as our neighbors and wish you a joyous celebration.

Year-End Donations. 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 4 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:

Upcoming Events

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

or the weekly *Mount Pleasant Announcements*

- Meet and voice your concerns and provide feedback to the Board.
- Learn about Village accomplishments and programs 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.
- Vote to elect five members to the Village Board of Directors.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the death of our oldest Villager. Hil Langrall died on November 12, at home, after a long illness and decline. Born and raised in Baltimore, Hil moved into his Lamont Street home in 1965. He served as a Navy Chaplain, as clergy in the United Methodist Church, and after retirement, as Chairman of the Board for Quality of Life Retreats (for persons with HIV/AIDS). He leaves two nephews.

Chocolate City Book Discussion a Fascinating Look at D.C. History

Asked by moderator Mara Cherkasky how he came to write the book, author George Derek Musgrove



revealed that he was scheduled to teach a D.C. history course, but knew very little about the city's past, nor could he find a single, up to date, text, so he and co-author Chris Myers Asch wrote their own. More than an academic text, it's a book to be "read and appreciated by neighbors." Dr. Musgrove discussed how each chapter begins with a D.C. location, provides a description of what it was like in historical context, and its current reality. The chapters were designed tell their stories through the characters of the time, such as Boss Shepherd and Walter Fauntroy. He used Walter Fauntroy as an example of effective D.C. leadership. As the District's first non-voting delegate to Congress, Fauntroy developed a successful strategy to obtain District home rule and was able to have a

D.C. voting rights amendment to the Constitution passed by congress in 1978, only to have it fail to gain sufficient state support. Dr. Musgrove closed with three points, that statehood will be easier for the District to achieve, requiring only a 51% congressional vote, than a new voting rights amendment, requiring a 75% state ratification vote. That most of the U.S. population is unaware that the District doesn't have congressional voting rights. And finally, the authors wanted *Chocolate City* to serve as a blueprint for addressing the issues that "devil" the city today – continued racial inequality and growth based on the displacement of the poor, largely African-American population.

If you would like a copy of *Chocolate City*, to read or give it as a gift, the UNC Press is offering a holiday discount. You can click on: (<https://www.uncpress.org/book/9781469635866/chocolate-city/>), type in the sale promo code, 01HOLIDAY, and receive the special 40% discount.

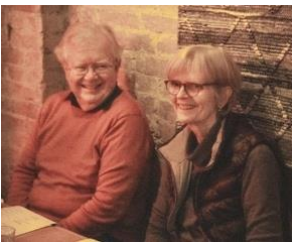
Photos. Top: Rick Reinhard introducing the book discussion. Bottom: George Derek Musgrove and Mara Cherkasky discussing the book. Photos by Lawrence Rickards and Rick Reinhard.

Meet-the-Street at Mola Ushers in the Holidays

Villagers recently gathered for a Meet-the-Street event at Mola restaurant, on Mount Pleasant Street, to enjoy Spanish tapas and conviviality. Owner and general manager McCealaig "Mickey" O'Clisham



described how she and her two partners started the restaurant and their commitment to "buy locally." Their produce is purchased from local farmers, the Green Hat gin they serve is made in D.C., and a local potter made their entrée dishes. The dining tables were built by one of the partners, and their Andalusian wines are produced by women-owned vineyards. Mola's menu focuses on Spanish coastal cuisine, featuring fresh vegetables, seafood, and meats. The restaurant's goal is to



serve delicious food and foster a sense of community. As a measure of their success, Mola received a coveted Michelin Gourmand award this year and will be featured in the 2019 edition of the Michelin dining guide. They also received a high Villager rating.

Photos. Top: Mickey O'Clisham. Bottom Left: Tim Tyler and Susanne Skibiak. Bottom Right: Louise Meyer, Margaret Goodman, Susan Rees and Mary Rojas. Photos by Lawrence Rickards.

Reminder: Discount Theatre Tickets for Village Members



Mount Pleasant Village is partnering with the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company to offer Village members a 20 percent discount on any tickets for this season. Tickets may be ordered online at www.woollymammoth.net or by calling 202-393-3939. To obtain the discount, use the code *MTPV* when ordering tickets. Please DO NOT share this code with those who are not current members of the Village.

Villagers Invited to Open House Art & Sale Event on Saturday

Villagers Judy Byron and Rick Reinhard are hosting an open house art and community gathering event at their home at 1910 Park Road NW on Saturday, December 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The open house is being held to support women artists and there will be gift items for sale by artists Karen Loeschner, Julie Farrar, and Linda Blackburn. Ayanna Blue Williams will add to the festivities by singing two sets. Come, relax by the fire, and enjoy snacks and beverages.



Upcoming Educational Experiences in Drama, Literature and Photography

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University (OLLI) is offering three classes, beginning in January, at sites adjacent to Mount Pleasant. OLLI is inviting Village residents to register for this unusual learning experience. The three classes being offered are:

Understanding Families through Plays. This study group, led by Dr. Karen Gail Lewis, will explore family dynamics and conflicts through reading and discussing two powerful plays: *Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, and *Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe DiPietro. Classes will be held at the Simpson-Hamline United Methodist Church, 4501 Sixteenth Street NW, on Mondays, January 7, 14, 21, & 28, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Cost: \$10. To register, go to www.oli-dc.org/events/Jan631.

Contemporary Literature by African-American Writers. This study group, led by Ellen Siegler, will explore the short-story writing of Edward P. Jones, Chimamanda Adichie, Roxane Gay, and James McBride; the writing of new authors; and provocative essays. Classes will be held at All Souls Unitarian Church, 1500 Harvard Street NW, on Tuesdays, January 15, 22, 29, and February 5, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$30. To register, go to www.oli-dc.org/events/Jan684.

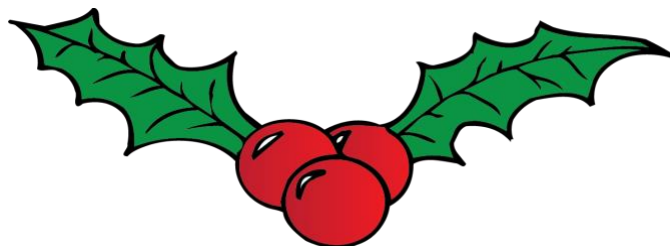
Four Photographers Documenting 20th Century America. This study group, led by Elly Greene, will focus on the work, historical context and life experiences of four photographers – Dorothea Lange, Gordon Parks, Roy DeCarava, and Esther Bubley. Classes will be held at All Souls Unitarian Church, 1500 Harvard Street NW, on Thursdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$30. To register, go to www.oli-dc.org/events/Jan710.



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, 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.



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.

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.

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.