



Board Adopts Anti-Racism Statement

On June 6, in response to the murder of George Floyd and the underlying, ongoing violence toward Black people in our society, the Board of Directors of the Village unanimously adopted a statement on racism and an affirmation that Black Lives Matter.

You can read the full statement at

https://mountpleasant.helpfulvillage.com/editable_pages/10069-mount-pleasant-village-opposes-racism.

We have shared this statement with neighborhood organizations and businesses that partner with the Village, and with the other DC Villages.

At its June 20 meeting, the Board acted on a recommendation from the Diversity Committee that calls on each committee (our operating arms) to integrate the seven commitments in the statement into their activities. We encourage all members to engage in this process with us. The seven commitments are:

- We will listen to all among us who have experienced racism in any form.
- We will express solidarity with those endeavoring to address racism in our neighborhood, city, nation, and the world.
- We will engage in efforts to address and combat systemic racism.

Reliable Sources for COVID-19 Information

The following are valuable resources for information on the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- National Institutes of Health (NIH): <https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>
- District Government: coronavirus.dc.gov
- Mount Pleasant Village Website: www.mountpleasantvillage.org

To Request Assistance

The Village/Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative provides volunteers to help with shopping, pharmacy pick-ups, and other tasks, as well as masks and food aid. To request assistance, call **202-573-7548** (please leave a voice message) or email request@anc-volunteering.org.

- We will provide learning opportunities for our members to recognize and understand the roots, underpinnings, and manifestations of racism so that we can each address this scourge on the most personal terms.
- We will govern and operate our Village in a way that rejects racism and demonstrates that every voice counts.
- We will support businesses and other entities that share our anti-racist values.
- We will continue to seek ways to strengthen our resolve and commitment to justice, to stand with our partners and allies, and to amplify and support the voices and leadership of those most affected by systemic racism and oppression.

Tuesday, July 7 at Noon – **Lunch and Learn** – *White People Talking to White People*, by Aaron L. Myers II



The Diversity Committee hosts Mount Pleasant neighbor Aaron Myers and author of **White People Talking to White People**. Village member Joe Eldridge serves as moderator. The essay is available on Kindle and on paper (send an email to judy@judybyron.com).

See Myers in Village Video, [18th Street](#) Clapping, where he is the narrator. <https://bit.ly/2Z02qDe>

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8446121273>

Welcome to the July newsletter! I'm Laura Breeden, and I have stepped into Larry Rickard's role as interim chair of the communications committee and newsletter editor. Larry is enjoying a well-earned retirement from his role as Communications Chair after five years. We are looking for a permanent editor – if you are interested, please see the job description on page 6, and contact me (breeden.lauralee@gmail.com) or Bill Emmet for more information. Many thanks!



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Partners with World Central Kitchen to Feed Our Community

When the District closed all but non-essential businesses to stave off the spread of the Coronavirus, many in our Mount Pleasant community lost much-needed work and income. To address this growing need, Claudia Schlosberg, of the Business Partnership Committee, spearheaded a partnership with World Central Kitchen (WCK) to purchase meals from three local restaurants - Haydee's, Don Juan and Dos Gringos. WCK is a nonprofit organization founded in 2010 by renowned chef Jose Andrés to provide meals to those in need after natural disasters.

Under this model, these businesses have been able to gain revenue during the economic slowdown of COVID, while providing more than 3,500 free meals to our community. As Andrés has said, quoting writer John Steinbeck, "Wherever there's a fight so hungry people can eat, we will be there." The Village's Business Partnership Committee is grateful to join this fight with WCK in Mount Pleasant. At the June 20 meeting, the Board of the Village approved a \$500 donation to support this critical work. (You can support this project at <https://donate.wck.org/fundraiser/2792268>.)

Volunteers from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, the Village's joint initiative with the Mt. Pleasant Advisory Neighborhood Commission, pick up the prepared meals and help facilitate their distribution at designated apartment buildings. Volunteers have also been assisting the Catholic Charities office on Monroe Street NW with food distribution to needy neighbors. Special thanks to Village regulars Jan Fenty, Josephine Escalante, Leo Sanchez, Rob Frazier and others for volunteering every week to help make this initiative a success.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Is There for You

Need assistance with errands, computers, shopping? Call **202-573-7548** or email info@anc-volunteering.org.

Meet the Street Directory Coming Soon!

What will you find in the newest product of the Partnership Committee? A directory of neighborhood businesses, including a map and phone numbers. The final version will go to print in July. Stay tuned, and look for some great places to explore.

<<COVID-19 Scam Alert>>

Beware scams!

Suspicious phone callers claiming to be Medicare representatives? Miracle cures for COVID in your email? Requests for personal health information over the phone? There are a lot of scams in the air. These sites can help you find out more.

- Medicare (<https://blog.ssa.gov/coronavirus-related-medicare-scam-alert/>)
- Cell phone (<https://www.fcc.gov/covid-scams>),
- AARP tips (<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2020/expert-tips-fraud-pandemic.html>)

COVID Health and Safety Information

DC <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/> Information about prevention, testing, rates of infection and mortality, and trends over time.

**Walk-up Coronavirus testing is available FREE at some
DC firehouses, 4-8 PM**

Our nearest site is at 3420 14th St NW, the corner of 14th and Newton in Columbia Heights. For complete information see <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testing>.

Federal <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> Check their Frequently Asked Questions page (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>) for information about everything from disinfecting surfaces to how contact tracing works.

Welcome New Members! **Bill Panici**, Adams Mill Road NW, and **Bill Wulp** and **Sandy Misage**, Kenyon St NW

Educating Ourselves about Race and Racism

The Ad Hoc Book Group (best name ever) has more than 20 active members and meets regularly to discuss books chosen by group members. Jodi Crandall chairs the group, which kindly prepared this list of books with themes of diversity and race that they have read together over the past year or more. Members are already submitting new titles that respond to the Village statement on racism. Join them! Contact Jodi at crandall@umbc.edu.

Frederick Douglass, by David W. Blight

Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital, by Chris Myers Asch and George Derek Musgrove

A Particular Kind of Black Man: A Novel, by Tope Folarin

Stony the Road, by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

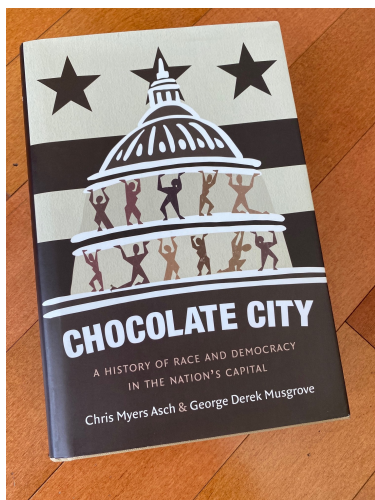
Becoming, by Michelle Obama

White Fragility, by Robin DiAngelo

How to Be an Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi

Born a Crime, by Trevor Noah

American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America, by Colin Woodard



Seeking Interviewers

Want to get to know your fellow members better? We are launching a project to conduct interviews of new and renewing members. Our current membership is just over 200 people and we hope to conduct 50 percent of the interviews by the end of November.

The focus will be on interests, needs and hopes for involvement with the Mount Pleasant Village. This information will help us tailor our offerings and services as our members' needs change.

It is a good opportunity to connect with each other during these isolating times, and you will get all the help you will need to set up Zoom meetings and record your findings.

If you are interested in participating in this project please contact Josephine Escalante (301-646-7292) or Katie Tyler (202-468-0634).

Mount Pleasant Village Recruitment for the position of Newsletter Editor

Mount Pleasant Village is recruiting to fill the vacancy of Editor of the Village's monthly newsletter. Responsibilities and benefits of the position include:

Responsibilities

- Work with the Communications Committee Chair and an experienced writer to develop newsletter content;
- Collaborate with the Village Board of Directors, Committees, and Cluster Coordinators to produce features for the newsletter;
- Perform the mechanics of designing and compiling a monthly newsletter;
- Contribute to the success of the Village.

Benefits

- Enjoy Village programs, activities, and events while developing newsletter stories and articles;
- Meet a wide range of interesting Villagers;
- Learn more than you ever imagined about the workings of the Village and the Mount Pleasant neighborhood.

Interested? Contact Bill Emmet, President of Mount Pleasant Village, with any questions: wemmet@gmail.com.

JOIN MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE!

Membership Fee: \$50 annually per individual. For more information, contact Michael Burke at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org.

Donate: Make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to Mount Pleasant Village at 1735 Lamont Street NW, Washington, DC 20010 or clicking the “Donate Now” button on our home page (mountpleasantvillage.org).

Contact us. If you have questions, comments, or news to share, contact: information@mountpleasantvillage.org