



# GEORGETOWN VILLAGE

December 2017



## From the President

Dear Members, Volunteers and Special Donors,

I look forward to seeing you at the Village's special 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> when we will celebrate the 2017 accomplishments of the Village, its volunteers, staff and members. Once again the Village has made major contributions to the welfare of our members with new programs, extensive services and the warmth of a close community. We have seen growth in services and participation

in the many stimulating, fun programs offered. Without all of you none of this could happen, so do come and enjoy a delicious dinner, great raffle prizes, and let us thank you for your participation and friendship this year. Please accept your invitation no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Membership renewals are now due for many members . As you may know, dues help to cover the costs of our excellent staff, payroll taxes, subsidized memberships, rent, insurance, accounting, and so much more - all necessary for us to deliver quality services and programs. You have a choice; you can be a regular member receiving services or a social member, which entitles you to a tax deduction. Just renew soon so that your membership doesn't lapse.

Sadly membership dues don't cover the total cost of running the Village so we need your help and hope that you will consider adding a contribution to the Village. There are several easy ways to make a tax deductible gift to the Village, which is an IRS designated 501 (c)(3): cash, stock or from your IRA.

May your holidays be full of health, happiness and the joy of our community,

- **Gail Nordheimer, President**

## We hope to see you at our weekly events

**Happy Hour** is always on the 1st Monday and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

**Movie Night** is always the fourth Tuesday of the month (unless there is a conflict).

**Coffee Talk** is every Thursday morning at 10:30 at St. John's, 3240 O Street, NW.  
Please use the Potomac Street entrance.

**The Portable Electronics Help Session** is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at the GV Office, 10:30 am.

**Book Group** will meet on December 11 at the home of Joan Kennan to discuss "*Speak Memory*" by Vladimir Nabokov."

## ROGER STONE EVENT

On Thursday, October 26, 2017 several members and guests of Georgetown Village (GV) gathered at St. John's Episcopal Church for a presentation by Roger D. Stone, a member of GV, on his most recent book "The Lives of Dillon Ripley."

A Yale-educated Renaissance man, Ripley (1913-2001) was an ornithologist, conservationist, and war-time spy, who led the Smithsonian Institution (SI) to a formidable presence in Washington, DC during his tenure as Secretary of the organization from 1964 until 1984. For his leadership at the Smithsonian, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Ronald Reagan in 1985.

As Stone explained, Ripley was well connected to the country's highest decision makers. He received lavish praise from members of the U.S. Congress and was able to acquire funds from several foundations that enabled him to realize his vision and expand the scope of the Smithsonian. Under his leadership, the SI added eight new museums, seven research centers, and began publication of the Smithsonian magazine. He transformed the SI from a dusty archive ("the nation's attic") to a vibrant educational and cultural institution, just as he had transformed Yale's Peabody Museum before it. The S. Dillon Ripley Center on the National Mall next to the Smithsonian Castle honors Ripley's many contributions to the institution.

Ripley's work as an ornithologist began in New Guinea in the 1930s and continued through his PhD from Harvard in 1943. Ripley culminated his work in a landmark 30-year project documenting the bird life of India. His lifelong passion for ornithology led him to positions of leadership in worldwide nature conservation. On a personal note, Stone explained how Ripley had had a decisive influence on Stone's career focusing on conservation issues as a correspondent and bureau chief for Time magazine. Stone served with Ripley on the Board of the World Wildlife Fund for over a decade.

Ripley's wartime career as a spy master started in 1944 when he was recruited to the Office of Strategic Services, a Yale club that was the forerunner of the modern CIA. Posted to Ceylon, Ripley recruited and ran agents who reported from and infiltrated Japanese-held Southeast Asia. This post finished with the end of World War II. While serving in the OSS, he met his future wife Mary Livingston (and her roommate, Julia Child). *By Hans Kaper*



Jonathan Russin, Lee Gravatte, Gary Nordheimer, Bob vom Eigen, Jim Kiernan



Hans Kaper, Michael LaCour-Little, Henry Townsend, John Lange

## JOIN OUR GROWING MEN'S LUNCH GROUP

The Men's Lunch Group, which at last count numbered 9 men, has been enjoying interesting speakers. At the first meeting, Georgetown Village member Hans Kaper spoke about Earth's Climate System. Dr. Kaper moved to Washington, DC to serve as Program Director for Applied Mathematics at the National Science Foundation. Currently he holds a research faculty appointment at Georgetown University. He discussed how our climate system is affected by the carbon cycle and the interaction between the Earth's atmosphere and oceans. He showed some of the evidence for climate change and indicated what we could expect to happen in the future, and what we might do to mitigate or adapt to extreme events under various scenarios.

The second get together included GV member Jonathan Russin who was a lawyer in Russia for many years. He spoke about "What Makes Putin Tick?" addressing the Russian economy, population, international events and Putin's early days. Word has it that these lunches have been very informative and enjoyable events. Feel free to join them at their next meeting on December 13th at the Daily Grill. Please call Lynn to let her know you will be attending so we can reserve your place.

**Remember To Renew Your Membership.** If you have an invoice that is due, remember to renew promptly.

# "MY VILLAGE"

## What Georgetown Village means to its members

As we are approaching the end of the year and for many people, the time for renewing membership, we thought we would ask some individual Georgetown Village members for their thoughts on what membership has meant to them personally. Georgetown Village's mission statement is "to help older residents live longer and better in their homes." James Shannon would certainly agree with that. Calling himself a "Frequent Flyer", Shannon says that the Georgetown Village services, especially the volunteer drivers who take him and his wife to medical and dental visits, are indispensable. After fifty years Shannon and his wife want to stay in their home they love, but could not manage without the Georgetown Village. Gordon Joiner, who thinks it's a "great organization", also relies on medical transportation. Joiner added that taking taxis would be prohibitively expensive. As a former volunteer driver, Sara Mashek has seen it from the other side and knows how enjoyable the interaction can be.

Sometimes the role of the Georgetown Village can change for members. While Charlotte Streidel's husband was alive, medical transportation was predominant. Nowadays, she is benefitting from the social aspects also. Friendship was frequently mentioned as one of the great pleasures of membership. For Rita Sharon, a serious back injury meant she could no longer visit her many friends outside the city. The Georgetown Village brought wonderful local friends into her life. Charlotte Streidel also delights in the new friends she has made. Sara Mashek has very much appreciated meeting people she would not otherwise have met who, because they are in the neighborhood, share the same civic and social concerns.

Georgetown Village activities have proved very popular. The book club, museum visits, and recently initiated theatre outings were all specifically mentioned, as well as coffee mornings and cinema trips. As Rita Sharon explained, "they helped you stay positive and not get depressed." Georgetown Village means many things to many people but, in the words of Charlotte Streidel, "It's a wonderful, wonderful organization and I love it!"

**By Andrea Kiernan**



Wayne Adams, Nancy Taylor Bubes and Ankie Barnes following Ankie's presentation to members at Nancy's home.



Village members hear Ankie Barnes speak about how he designs older homes to make them liveable for his older clients.

## New Village Program Launch in November

How often do we recognize a name as being somewhat familiar, but we know nothing else about the person or what they have accomplished in their lifetimes? In the Washington area, especially, there are people of every kind of professional background – political, academic, scientific, and artistic, who we may never have heard of, or know little about, and probably never will.

With that in mind, the Georgetown Village launched something new in November called "Chat Series." The program will consist of small, intimate gatherings in a member's home in which a person of note from the Washington area will speak informally about their topic and give those in attendance a chance to ask questions. The chats will be scheduled for every other month. The first talk took place on November 19th. The speaker was Ankie Barnes, an architect who has, among other things, renovated houses specifically designed with seniors in mind.

On January 14th, the scheduled speaker is Isabel Sawhill, and the Chat will take place at the home of Pam Godwin from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Isabel Sawhill is a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and is also the author of several books. Her research has spanned a wide array of economic and social issues, but over the past decades, her major focus has been on how to improve opportunities for disadvantaged children in the US.

If any of our members know someone in the Washington area that you think would be an interesting speaker to consider for future events, please give Jessica Townsend a call at 202-333-9343.

This new program will afford our members the opportunity to hear from speakers they may not have otherwise, in a comfortable home setting, small enough in number to encourage questions and participation. We look forward to seeing you at a Georgetown Village chat in 2018!

**By Joan Kennan**

***Our editor, Henrietta LaMotte thanks our writers: Joan Kennan, Carol Cavanaugh, Ann Satterthwaite, Andrea Kiernan, Hans Kaper, Toni Russin and Joann Serrani and our proof readers: Motrya Hanas and Nancy Shaffer.***

## Join Us For These Upcoming Tours

### **December 15, 10:30 AM - A docent-led tour of the “Renoir and Friends” exhibit at The Phillips Collection.**

This exhibition tells the story behind Renoir’s “Luncheon of the Boating Party”. Focused on the people who inspired that famous lunch scene, the 40 watercolors, pastels, paintings, drawings, and photographs reveal Renoir’s inner circle of friends and the context behind his masterpiece. You’ll also be able to see what the museum has learned about the painting through such technology as X-radiographic and infrared images. **BE SURE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TRIP BY DECEMBER 5.**

**December 21, 11 AM - National Gallery of Art, West Building Lecture Hall** – A slide introduction to **Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Paintings** (45 minutes) followed by a film, “Vermeer, Beyond Time” in the East Building auditorium (86 minutes). After the slide show and the film we will tour the exhibit, “Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting”. The highlight of the National Gallery of Art’s fall season is an exhibition curated by its longtime curator of Dutch art, Arthur Wheelock, who has gathered 10 paintings by Vermeer (many not seen in this country in many years) as part of a show that puts the artist in the context of other genre painters from the Dutch Golden Age. Some 65 works will be on view, including paintings by Gerard ter Borch, Gerrit Dou, Pieter de Hooch, Gabriel Metsu, Frans van Mieris, Caspar Netscher, and Jan Steen.

### ***And Looking Forward to the New Year...***

**January 14** Small Chat with Isabel Sawhill at the home of Pam Godwin (from 1:00pm to 3:00pm)

**January 15** Book Group to discuss “The Sympathizer” by Viet Thanh Nguyen

**February 8** Carol Schwartz to discuss her new book



Georgetown Village

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