

# Georgetown Village

# September 2018



#### From the President

Dear Members, Volunteers and Supporters,

I hope that you have enjoyed the summer despite the record rains. At least we've learned to deeply appreciate the sunny clear days. Like many of you, Gary and I have really enjoyed our travels. We were exceptionally lucky on both our trip to northern Italy in May and a long weekend in northern California in July because we encountered more clear and crisp days than we'd anticipated. Our visit to Italy included time with my high school exchange sister who is now the primary caretaker for her ailing husband. We learned first-hand how much help a Village like ours could be for my friend who is struggling to handle it all on her own.

With the end of summer approaching the Village is gearing up for an exciting fall schedule of events. Nancy Regan, Chair of the Program Committee has already announced programs for the first few months including several special speaker events. Please take a look at the articles about speakers we've included in this expanded newsletter and put the dates on your personal calendar. You won't want to miss them. We are fortunate to have experts on climate change, America's education systems, and a speaker on the political situation who have agreed to share their expertise and views with us all. There will be more and certainly several that you will enjoy.

As well as offering dynamic programming, the service side of the Village is booming. So far this year the number of services the Village has provided to members has increased by a remarkable 12% over this time last year. We believe there are several reasons. For one, the Village is seven years old and that means our original members are seven years older too. For some that means additional visits to doctors, therapists and even the hospital while for others it's just more difficult to drive or take the bus so joining a friendly group going to Safeway or Trader Joe's makes sense. We also think that members have grown accustomed to asking for assistance, even for some more unusual services and we're all grateful that somehow the staff is able to find volunteers who are willing to do remarkable things for members.

With our volunteers in mind, I urge you to read the articles about our founding board members, Nancy Roll, Pat Scolaro, Leslie Smith and Bob vom Eigen who due to term limits go off the Board of Directors in September. It's an understatement to say we wouldn't have such a successful Village if they had not stepped up eight or nine years ago to help create, organize and serve the Village. I think you'll be awed when you read about some of their accomplishments in their previous careers and as Village leaders. They deserve our thanks and a hearty round of applause.

A number of newer members and volunteers have also stepped up to help us plan the programs, provide member services, assist with grant writing or soliciting sponsors or journalistic assignments. If you have a little time to share and want to be involved, be sure to let Lynn or me know your interest in any of the committees that help to run our Village. We value your input and suggestions and it's a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors who also care about the Village. I look forward to seeing you at our fall events.

Gail Nordheimer, President

#### We hope to see you at our weekly events

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

**Movie Night** is 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.

Meets at our office at 1680 Wisconsin Ave., 10:30 am.

**Book Group** Monday September 17th at the home of Toni Russin to discuss "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders.

### **Notable Georgetown Village Member Toni Russin**

by Joan Kennan

The Village has been fortunate to have the services of a cadre of committed volunteers, among them the Village's outstanding Toni Russin. Toni wears many hats: GV board member, chair of the Membership Committee, co-chair of the Volunteer Committee and a valuable participant of the Village's book discussion group.

Often, we know our fellow Village members only in the context of their Village membership. But Village members have lived interesting lives – if only we were privileged to know more about them. Fortunately, this will be the case for two of our members when this fall, Toni and Jonathan Russin will give a talk about their extensive Russian experience for the benefit of Village members. At the end of the cold war with the west in the late 1980's, Toni's husband, Jonathan, opened an office in Moscow in 1991 and he and Toni moved to Moscow in 1996, rented (ultimately bought) an apartment which they still own, and have had a presence there until 2013 when Jonathan sold his law practice to his Russian partners and moved permanently back to Washington. Because the headquarters of Jonathan's firm was in Washington, he and Toni

Toni Russin

bought their current house in Georgetown in 1989 to which they would return in between their Russian trips. (Stay tuned for the date and place of the planned talk later this year.)

Although Toni was familiar with the village concept, it was only after the Russin's stopped spending so many months out of the city that she felt free to become involved in the Georgetown Village. It did not take long before she was doing more and more – driving as a volunteer, recruiting new members and volunteers, leading the book discussion group, and attending board meetings – in other words, just about everything. You may have seen Toni wearing her "Ask me about the Georgetown Village" button, and she has not hesitated to seize every opportunity to enlighten possible future members about the benefits of Village membership. Toni can always use more help on the Membership Committee, among other opportunities, so please give the Village office a call. And thank you, Toni, for all that you do.

# SERIES ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUES Climate and Climate Change: What is it, and Why Should We Care?

by Hans Kaper

Climate and climate change are hot topics of conversation, especially when temperatures soar and weather extremes occur with ever increasing frequency. But what is climate, what is climate change, and why should we care? On Wednesday, September 26, Georgetown resident and Village founding member Dr. Hans G. Kaper will answer some of these questions in a presentation for our members and guests.

Dr. Kaper is an applied mathematician who studies current climate events from the perspective of past climates. Our climate has changed over time, sometimes quite dramatically, so what is special about today's climate? While there is almost unanimous agreement in the scientific community that Earth's climate is changing faster than in pre-industrial times, and that the changes are happening because of human activities, the public finds it difficult to accept this



Hans G. Kaper

judgment, and some people remain skeptic. Scientists face a conundrum: How to convince the public that climate change is real, that it is caused by human activities, and that it is happening now.

In his presentation, Dr. Kaper will highlight some of the evidence to show that our climate is indeed changing and discuss some of the techniques scientists use to interpret the evidence. He will introduce the concept of scenarios for future action, and point to possible socioeconomic consequences of climate change.

He will be pleased to take questions from the audience. The presentation will take place on Wednesday, September 26, at St. John's, starting at 6 p.m. Please call the Georgetown Village office at 202-999-8988 to reserve your space. Refreshments will be served.

#### **Leading Expert on Educational Issues to Speak**

by Gail Nordheimer

Plan now to hear Michael D. Usdan, Senior Fellow, The Institute for Educational Leadership, who will discuss "America's Future: Some Perspectives on the Role of Education "on October 4, 2018 at 6:00 PM St. John's Church. Dr. Usdan, who worked on the staff of the late Dr. James B. Conant in the latter's famous studies of American education has taught at Columbia University, City University of New York, Northwestern and Fordham Universities. He served as

President of the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) from 1981 through 2001 when he

became a Senior Fellow at the organization.

Several themes dominate his writing: problems relating to urban education, the relationship of government and politics to education, and the growing interest in developing closer relationships between elementary- secondary and higher education. A consultant to local and state boards of education and educational organization throughout the country, he has spoken at and participated in meetings in the Unites States and internationally.

Refreshments will be served and space is limited so please RSVP to lynn@Georgetownvillage.org or 202 999-8988 by no later than October 1st. This discussion with Dr. Usdan is part of Georgetown Village's fall speaker series on Significant Contemporary Issues.



Michael D. Usdan

### **Martin Tolchin to Speak**

On October 25, 2018 at 6PM at St John's Episcopal Church, 3240 O Street., Martin Tolchin will speak about Mid-Term Elections: President Trump, recent policy decisions and the upcoming midterm elections. Martin Tolchin spent 40 years at the New York Times as a reporter and Bureau Chief and then founded The Hill newspaper and Politico. He authored, with his wife Susan, seven books. Mr. Tolchin's talk last year was thoroughly enjoyed by many GV members. You won't want to miss this evening!



Martin Tolchin

#### La Dolce Vita! The rewards of the Silent Auction

by Andrea Kiernan

One of the many wonderful prizes offered in the Silent Auction at Georgetown Village's May 10 Fund Raiser was a private wine tasting for ten people at Via Umbria, the delightful market, cafe and restaurant on Wisconsin Avenue, purveyors of all things Italian. My husband and I were the lucky winners and in mid-June, joined by a group of friends including several "Villagers", we gathered in the cosy bottle-lined cellar for a great evening, hosted by Via Umbria's charming co-owner, Bill Menard.

Bill and his wife, Suzy are passionate ambassadors for Italy and the evening was punctuated by entertaining anecdotes about their villa in Umbria and the trips they lead there. But the serious focus of our visit were the four wines we were tasting, two sparkling, a white and a red (not to mention the extra red Bill opened for us after the official tasting was done.) These were not well known wines but we enjoyed them all and learnt a lot, especially as they came paired with delicious small bites like Gnocchi with Bufala Ricotta. Before we broke up we were also able to chat with Chef Liam LaCivita to thank him and ask questions. We went home promising ourselves that we would soon participate in one of his Chef's Table dinners or in a cookery class - or just come back for another wine tasting. If this particular prize is offered again next year - and we hope it will be - the bidding in the silent Andrea and Jim Kiernan and quests auction will be fierce!

enjoyed a delightful evening of wine tasting at Via Umbria.

### **Four Founding Board Members To Retire**

#### **Nancy Roll**

by Joan Kennan

One of our members who will be stepping off the Georgetown Village board this fall, is long time board member, Nancy Roll. Nancy is one of the founding members of the board and has been involved since its inception. Nancy and her husband, author, David Roll, moved to the DC area in the early 70's. Both she and David grew up in Michigan



Nancy Roll with her husband David Roll

and met in high school. They married after their respective graduations from college. David took a job with the Federal Trade Commission in Washington. When that ended, he joined Steptoe & Johnson and, fortunately for us, the Rolls moved to Georgetown and have been here ever since!

Nancy had a college degree in Special Ed, and soon became involved in the very early years of the Lab School (for children with learning disabilities) where she was a teacher for many years. She continued as a reading specialist, teaching reading to younger children at the Lab School for many years after her official retirement. The Rolls have a son and a daughter, both of whom live quite far away in California and Colorado, respectively. Although they sold their property in Michigan, they still spend several weeks there during the summer, along with

As a board member, Nancy served on the Membership Committee and the Health Care Committee. She has also served as a Village volunteer driver, driving our members to doctor appointments. The Georgetown Village could

never have gotten off the ground as successfully as it did without the help of founding board members like Nancy Roll,

their white retriever, Hopkins, who I'm sure many of you have seen being walked by Nancy around Georgetown.

and the Village will always be grateful for her many contributions.

#### **PAT SCOLARO**

by Gail Nordheimer

Pat Scolaro arrived in DC from Eastern Pennsylvania in 1956 ready to fight for a career in business management, specializing in human resource management. She landed a job at Woodward and Lothrop where she remained until her retirement in 1998. Pat was able to succeed when the business world was resistant to women in executive positions, but she brought her attitude and abilities to Burleith, our ANC, Georgetown Village and other community efforts as well as to her work at Woodies. Pat and her husband, Joe bought their home in Burleith in 1974. At first Pat and Joe enjoyed participating in neighborhood activities interspersed with their jobs, trips to the Caribbean, and stays at their vacation home in Marbella, Spain. Then Pat



Pat Scolaro

stepped in to complete a vacant ANC term. She served two terms as Burleith Citizens Association president as the Georgetown 2000 Campus Plan became a major issue in the community. Pat knocked on doors for a house-by-house survey of Burleith—a survey that became instrumental in the Campus Plan negotiations that led to the current quieter, calmer and extremely desirable neighborhood.

About that time Pat became actively involved in founding Georgetown Village. For nearly two years she met with a very small group of founding board members to establish how the village would be run before the Village could open its doors. Her expertise was especially helpful when the village was ready to select its first Executive Director. Pat read through about 100 resumes and led the board's efforts to recruit Lynn Golub-Rofrano. Following four years as the Village's first treasurer,

which demanded much of her time, she became Chair of the Special Events committee and serves on the board of the Washington Area Village Exchange (WAVE). She regularly represents the Village at meetings of the ANC, the DC Council and other community meetings. This past year she served as Vice President of the Village.

Pat learned from her father, a political activist, that you should give back and whatever the need, she steps up to respond and get the job done. In the recent Burleith Bell article by Forrest Bachner it was revealed she had given her fellow committee members working on the 2010 Campus Plan a quote by Margaret Mead which read: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

#### **Leslie Smith**

by Jessica Townsend

The Board will miss Leslie Smith, its reliable Secretary, but more importantly it will miss a steady guiding hand that has played an important role throughout the years. Leslie was a guiding light long before the Village opened. Together with Sharon Lockwood and Nancy Roll, she embraced the vision of a Village and was a driving force in getting it off the ground. The three of them hosted events at which they floated the idea of an organization that would help people stay in their homes as they age and assist with organizing health care, which is one of the most difficult chores of aging. Time passed and Leslie stuck with the Village vision and became a leader in the years leading up to the opening. Leslie was

the legal liaison to the Village's pro bono attorneys and a member of the founding Board. Her background, certified Montessori teacher, lawyer, political activist and community volunteer, brought together much that the Village needed. Apart from being a volunteer driver and Secretary for the Board, Leslie has been a leader in bringing a new area of activity to the Village. As many of us know, finding our way through the maze of medical language and hospital admissions can be difficult, confusing and lonely. Perceiving this Leslie chaired the committee that organized training for Village volunteers who can accompany members to visits with medical personnel and take notes to assure that all of the conversation is recorded. Leslie also chaired the committee that produced a survey of local assisted-living facilities, and she arranged a partnership with IONA to train volunteers to become Friendly Companions when a member is admitted to the hospital. With these two programs in place members can have increased confidence in their ability to navigate crucial periods in their health care experience.



Leslie Smith with her husband,

Married to Joe Goulden since 1979 and long-time Georgetown resident, Leslie and her Labradors are familiar figures. She can be seen in the company of the beautiful Helen (a big, gentle, yellow lab) walking on our rickety sidewalks. Her special loves include Joe, family, rock and roll, folk and country music and the beach at Rehoboth. The Village is lucky to have had Leslie involved for so many years.

#### **BOB vom EIGEN**

by Barbara Downs

You may have seen him dashing around the streets of Georgetown, helmeted and goggled, on his powerful motorbike. But did you know that Bob vom Eigen, who is leaving his board position as the Georgetown Village's Founding Vice President, has been seriously involved with the Village since its inception. He participated in the early planning stages, helping to write bylaws and obtain necessary insurance for the board and the organization.

After retiring from a distinguished career as a lawyer with Foley & Lardner where he was a member of the Government and Public Policy Practice, Bob retained an office at the firm in Washington Harbour. He arranged for us to have an office at Foley Lardner at much reduced rental for several years. Foley also has invited the Village to use its spacious penthouse reception rooms as the location for the annual celebratory fundraising party.

In addition to serving on the board, Bob has logged hundreds of volunteer hours driving his luxurious cars on medical

visits and field trips. Jessica Townsend recalls Bob's stint as a bartender at meetings in Blake Hall. "Undoubtedly the most popular bartender in Georgetown, Bob made it such fun that others happily joined him." In addition to his duties at the Village, Bob has served as President of the Friends of the Georgetown Waterfront Park, where he shepherded the building of the Park through a maze of local and federal roadblocks. He has also served as President of the Citizens Association of Georgetown, where his most recent initiative is Fair Skies, aligning Georgetown with neighboring communities in an effort to calm the incessant disturbance of aircraft noise in residential areas.

Bob intends to use his anticipated free hours to improve his golf game and travel. He and his wife, Ann, recently returned from an extensive cruise to Scandinavia. Bob will continue to volunteer for the Village and to continue in his role as an outstanding pillar



Bob vom Eigen

of this community. The staff and members sincerely thank him for his years of gracious service to the Village.



Georgetown Village founder, Sharon Lockwood with her husband, David Lockwood, and Nessa and Vinod Busjeet at our Spring Benefit.

#### **GV Exercise Class**

We are very excited that Mr. William Yates from the YMCA is going to lead an exercise class for Georgetown Village members! The class is Basic Training 4 your Body. This is a fitness class that focuses on the basics of functional movement. Great for first timers, deconditioned adults, and anyone looking to improve their activity level. We work on balance, memory, flexibility, breathing, strength, cardio...everything. The class includes a variety of seated and standing exercises, it's a perfect start for most Seniors.

This class will be held on Mondays at Christ Church: 3116 O Street NW and will start on September 17 at 11:30 am. Call the Georgetown Village office to sign up at 202-999-8988.

#### **CHOOSING THE RIGHT SENIOR CARE SERVICE PROVIDER**

Are you feeling unsure or confused about your senior care options, or what may (or may not) be needed at this time for yourself or a loved one? While no one can tell you who to hire, it is wise to create a checklist to help you sort through the options as you narrow down prospects for senior care services. We asked our board member, John Bradshaw of Georgetown Home Care, to offer some general tips for making this decision. He recommends the following 7 tips for finding a qualified senior care provider:

- 1) Get a long-term senior care plan: The senior care services you require now will evolve and change with aging. Service providers should be able to provide you with a clear outline of how the senior's long-term care will progress. This plan provides a fact-based assessment outlining: where you are now; what is expected in the short-term; projection of changing needs over time and services offered to support increasing needs.
- 2) Always Seek Consistency and Reliability: Change is never easy and seniors will feel more secure with a more consistent senior care plan. Take time to assess which senior care options make the most sense for your senior now and over the course of the next 5, 10 or 15 years. A reliable plan provides peace of mind.
- **3) Verify Licensure:** A home care services license is required when hiring any caregiver or home health aide. Not only is a license a sign that the agency or caregiver is serious about what they do, it gives you a resource of who to seek action from if anything goes wrong during the course of care.

There is a sense of professionalism involved with licensed caregivers because it is proof that the agency or individual goes the extra mile to fulfill licensing requirements. Licensing requirements cover: education; professional training; health standards and safety requirements.

A commitment to licensure reflects a willingness to be registered with various authorities and to submit to inspections. All licensed healthcare providers should include license numbers on their websites, letterhead, business cards and upon request. Licenses can be verified online or via the phone. Be sure licenses are current and research whether or not there are violations associated with that particular license number.

- **4) Obtain a Free No-obligation Assessment:** This can not be done over the phone or via email. In-hone assessments are critical in establishing the baseline of senior care. A tour of the home is necessary to assess safety and accessibility and to make recommendations. Assessments should be no strings attached and free of charge.
- 5) Check for Industry-recognized Affiliations such as Uber Health, IONA, the Better Business Bureau, The Senior's Choice, Long-term Care Community Coalittion and Doctors to You.
- **6) Get a Full List of Services and Referrals:** The agency should be able to provide these if your senior will need services beyond what they will cover.
- **7) Have 100% Confidence:** Always trust your instincts when choosing a senior care provider. Never feel obligated or pressured to make a quick or uninformed decision. Seniors, especially those requiring memory care services are vulnerable. It's important they receive trustworthy, experienced and knowledgeable caregiver support.

#### SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE JOINING ANY BOARD

As we recognize four of the founding board members who made sure Georgetown Village would get established and run well, we encourage you to consider whether you might want to be a candidate for the Georgetown Village or other boards in the future. The checklist below can help you evaluate whether serving on the Georgetown Village board makes sense for you. If so, we hope you will let us know. Also, it demonstrates how dedicated our current and new board members are to our Village.

- **1. Mission:** Do you have an emotional connection to the mission? Do you believe the Village makes a difference? Have you been actively involved as a member, a volunteer or on a Village committee?
- **2. Time:** Do you have a solid grasp of the time required each month to be an engaged board member? Do you have enough time to commit to this group, or are you too busy right now?
- **3. Personal Giving:** Are you clear about the level of personal financial giving expected of each board member? Can you meet that expectation either with personal contributions or by raising significant funds for the Village?
- **4. Leadership:** Are you willing to step up and assume a leadership role as Chair of a Committee or head of a new program? If most leadership roles (officers, committee chairs, etc.) are not currently filled, will you be expected to immediately assume one of them? If the latter, are you prepared to get yourself up to speed?
- **5. Governance:** Do recent meeting agendas show attention to a full range of governance duties, such as financial oversight, legal compliance, risk management, mission impact, fundraising, and executive oversight? Does the board's committee structure support good governance? For example, are there active governance, membership and fundraising committees?
- **6. Fundraising:** Are you willing to serve as an organizational ambassador and talk about the organization and its mission to your personal and professional contacts? Are you willing to help secure donations for the organization? Is it clear what's expected of the entire board when it comes to fundraising? Are you clear about your individual role?
- **7. Financial:** What do financial statements for the organization show? Georgetown Village has reserves but we must continue to work hard to maintain membership levels and successful fundraising efforts to maintain them. Does the board include a qualified financial expert or two to provide strong, fiduciary oversight?
- **8. Recruitment:** Does the organization have a board commitment form (or job description) that clearly outlines what will be expected of you? Is it clear exactly which skills or expertise the board needs from you? Is there an orientation process for new members to ensure you will have all the information you need in order to be a knowledgeable and effective board member?
- **9. Board Management:** Does the board have a formal process to assess itself? Does the board evaluate the executive director? Are meetings scheduled regularly?
- **10. Board Development:** Does the board educate its members about governance roles and responsibilities? Does the board allocate time for strategic planning every few years and then ensure that its plans are implemented?



Motrya Hanas, a co-host, enjoys the Make Up Party.

## Villagers Enjoy Make Up Party at Neiman Marcus

Village board members, Jessica Townsend, Motrya Hanas and Gail Nordheimer, purchased the Neiman Marcus' contribution to our Silent Auction at last May's fundraiser. It allowed them to bring 10 ladies to Neiman Marcus for a demonstration by Marc Jacob's cosmetologists and for each to be made up while enjoying light bites and champagne.

With thanks to Carol Robinson, a dedicated member and longtime Neiman's employee who arranged for this special gift, everyone had fun and learned a few new makeup tricks and trends.

#### **Join Us For These Upcoming Tours**

**September 14, 2018 @11AM**, Arts in Foggy Bottom Outdoor Sculpture Biennial. The docent led tour will begin at 842 New Hampshire Ave. "Absence and Presence" is inspired by what we can see, what is visible and invisible. The artists have used natural elements and selected fabricated or found materials to create sculptures for contemplation. THIS IS A WALKING TOUR, please bring water and wear comfortable shoes.

**October 5, 2018 @11AM**, One hour walking tour (we will avoid hills and stay in flat areas) of the Georgetown Heights neighborhood led by Dwane Starlin. The tour will begin and end at the Georgetown Village offices. We will have lunch after the tour at Martin's Tavern and Dwane will join us.

**October 19, 2018 @10-3.** The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway, Triangle, VA. dedicates itself to preserving and sharing the traditions, history and culture of the U S Marine Corps. The National Museum of the Marine Corps shares the story of the Corps' contributions, sacrifices, valor and victory. Overlooking the museum, the Semper Fidelis National Park is a place of remembrance and reflection. Visitors can walk its paths to view the monuments and visit the Memorial Chapel. We will also view the 38- minute film, "We, the Marines" at the Medal of Honor Theatre.

Our editor, Henrietta LaMotte thanks our writers: Joan Kennan, Carol Cavanaugh, Ann Satterthwaite, Andrea Kiernan, Hans Kaper, Toni Russin, Jessica Townsend, Barbara Downs, Gail Nordheimer, John Bradshaw and Sandra McElwaine and Joann Serrani and our proof readers: Motrya Hanas and Nancy Shaffer.

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



Georgetown Village P.O. Box 3563 Washington, DC 20007 202-999-8988



# Georgetown Village

# **Calendar of Events - September 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Labor Day Office Closed	4 Happy Hour 5:30-7:00 PM	5 IT Portable Electronics 10:30 AM	Coffee Talk 6 10:30 AM Trader Joe's Shopping 1:00 PM	Safeway 7 Grocery Shopping 8:00 AM	8
9	10	11	Men's Lunch 12:30 PM Location TBD	13 Coffee Talk 10:30 AM	Safeway 8:00 AM Arts in Foggy Bottom Outdoor Sculpture Biennial 11am	15
16	17 Exercise Class Book Group 10:15 AM	18 Happy Hour 5:30-7:00 PM	19 IT Portable Elect. 10:30 AM Georgetown Village Office	20 Trader Joe's Shop. 1:00 PM Coffee Talk 10:30 AM	21 Safeway Grocery Shopping 8:00 AM	22
23	24	25 Dinner & Movie Night – 5:30 PM	26 IT Support 6 PM  "Climate and Climate Change" 6:00 PM St. John's	27 Coffee Talk 10:30 AM	28 Safeway Grocery Shopping 8:00 AM	29
30						