

CLEVELAND & WOODLEY PARK VILLAGE

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



Spring 2015

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A Life with Books



VOLUNTEER



In their Tilden Gardens living room, with Persian rugs, a fireplace and comfortable sofas, Di and Steve Elkin are surrounded by books. "Nearly 4,000," says Steve. "It's insane."

It reflects their backgrounds: Steve in teaching and Di in translating, teaching and computer training. They met in London in 1964 when he

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Director's Notes: First Impressions



Mark Ohnmacht, Executive Director, plays piano while Village member, Marcia Kass, sings along.

Wikipedia says, "It takes just one-tenth of a second for us to judge someone and make a first impression." Well, I've now been Executive Director of the Cleveland & Woodley Park Village since January 8, so I'd like to share some of my first impressions.

I inherited the reins of a solid organization that is well-regarded, well-run, well-managed and well-governed. This is due to the solid foundation laid by my predecessor, Susan Hester, and to the vision, dedication and hard work of three extraordinary volunteer leaders: Barbara Stevens, Elizabeth Fox and Suzanne Rooney.

Hillary Clinton reminds us that it takes a village to raise a child. Our Village is raising something too - the quality of life for our senior neighbors.

But we are only as strong as our members, volunteers and donors. Much has already been accomplished: we now count 98 members, upwards of 170 volunteers and 350 donors. But more people in our community need to know about the Village and sign on.

When I came on board, I said my short-term goals included fundraising, recruiting more members and volunteers, and scheduling more social events. I'm having great fun getting to know everyone, and I'm constantly asking for ideas to help the Village welcome more of our community.

Down the road I hope to continue a careful expansion of services and opportunities for all of us to know one another better. In the meantime, I am working with the Spring Fling Committee to help assure the success of the Village's first major fundraising event: May 7th at the Kennedy-Warren. I hope you will plan to attend!

Let me hear from you, and thanks for all you are doing to keep us a vital and healthy organization!

Mark

was a student and she was working as a German and French translator. They married and lived in Northampton, MA, and Philadelphia before moving to Washington in 1978. He taught at the University of Maryland and she trained computer users and edited software manuals.

Now, she says, "The field moves too quickly. It's hard to keep up," and she has other interests. One is the Cleveland & Woodley Park Village.

The couple became involved early because Steve "thought it was an intelligent idea. I asked, after hearing about the Northwest Neighbors Village, if there was one in our neighborhood. At a series of small gatherings, I made it apparent that I would do anything to help get a village underway."

Now he drives people to appointments, distributes posters and brochures "up and down Wisconsin and Connecticut Avenues," and has "convinced someone to design Village posters for free." He's on the Communications and Outreach Committee and would like the Village to sponsor a social occasion every week. "Isolation is a problem for many of the members," he says.

Di participates in the monthly Lunch Bunch, game days and outings, and she is the village's "professional" photographer.

"I use a simple Canon point-and-shoot camera, and I just photographed the Village outreach effort at the opening of the new Newark Street Giant," she says.

Both Steve and Di want volunteers to be more involved in organizing activities, but they realize that people need to be "inveigled" into spending time on it.

Neither Steve or Di needs the Village's services now, but they are happy that the Village exists to help people age in place. "The state won't do it, the private sector won't do it, and if we don't do it, no one will," Steve says. "I don't want to be taken care of in my old age by someone I don't know."

Take the Membership Challenge! Win a Lunch Bunch lunch

March 20th officially marks the first day of Spring and with Spring comes new growth and energy. So Village Board Member Marjorie Dick Stuart is challenging members and volunteers to help grow and energize the Village. Anyone who signs up a new member between March 18 and June 30 gets a free Lunch Bunch meal! The popular Village event meets every second Wednesday of the month at a local restaurant (separate checks, reservations required). Marjorie will wine and dine successful "member-finders" at Lunch Bunch on July 15th.



Elizabeth Fox and Marjorie Dick Stuart invite you to take the challenge!

"For the Village to remain vital, its membership, services and activities all must grow. We've had 108 people join as full members since our opening in May 2013, and with over 170 trained volunteers now, we are ready for more! "Marjorie's generous offer makes our spring Membership Campaign more fun," said Elizabeth Fox, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors. "I invite anyone interested in joining the campaign to contact me through the Village office. You can help your friends and neighbors learn what the Village offers."

Another Memorable Village Outing: Visiting the Stars at the Naval Observatory



Village People Michael Lewis, Martha Baron and Linda Singer were awed by a visit to the U.S. Naval Observatory in January.

Copernicus and Galileo were waiting at the U.S. Naval Observatory on January 20 when 18 members of the Cleveland & Woodley Park Village paid them a visit.

Chief Librarian Sally Bosken showed the visitors the observatory's stunning collection of scholarly books, including first editions of works by both Copernicus and Galileo. She said the first Chief Astronomer began the collection in the 1840s when John Quincy Adams gave him \$800 to buy the best scientific books in Europe as a sound basis for U.S. research and discovery.

Scientific Director Dr. Brian Luzum raised and lowered the observatory floor under the huge main telescope (and the visitors) by several feet to show how it adjusts viewing angles. He said the observatory's main function since its opening in 1830 has been to keep accurate time for the U.S. government, especially for the military, and now also for 40 percent of the world's other countries.

Timekeeping has become increasingly accurate, due in part to nighttime observances of "double stars" that continue to this day.

Associate Member Mary Sue Flanagan arranged the trip to the venerable sky-watching institution, which is perched above Massachusetts Avenue at 34th Street on the grounds that now also house the Vice President's official residence. "We particularly enjoyed the history from the librarian and the tour of the enormous telescope," said Village visitor Linda Singer.

Now we know: If it's a clear night, an astronomer is under that dome you can see from Massachusetts Avenue, staying up late to observe double stars!



MEMBER



Village member, Patty Frakes

Patty is a Westport, Connecticut native but during her 80 years she has traveled the world and lived all over Washington. She raised four children in McLean, Virginia, but also lived in Alexandria and Bethesda, Maryland plus Georgetown and several other DC locales before buying a cooperative apartment in Tilden Gardens, the complex of buildings at the northern edge of the Cleveland & Woodley Park Village, in 1986.

In those days, she says, banks wouldn't give mortgages to co-ops, so sales had to be handled quietly as private transactions, either for cash or with a loan from the seller. She laughed, recalling the mild-mannered Mr. Hughes who was then the exclusive and very discreet handler of such sales. She knows about being discreet, because she used to work for the CIA herself.

It was only for three years and it was right after she graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but it brought her to Washington. She moved to New York afterward to do research for a public relations firm, and there she married. When she came back to Washington in 1972, she had four children. After divorcing in 1975, Patty re-entered the job market after 13 years as a homemaker to become an editor at National Geographic. She stayed on until she retired in 1998.

"It was a wonderful place to work," she says. "There was a sense of

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Save the Date: May 7, 6:30 - 9:30 pm First Annual Spring Fling

The Cleveland & Woodley Park Village invites you to its first annual Spring Fling! Join us May 7th from 6:30pm-9:30pm at the historic Kennedy-Warren, 3133 Connecticut Avenue NW. Come celebrate our second anniversary and lend your support to this important civic enterprise. Join us to dance or toe-tap to Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra. Enjoy a cocktail buffet provided by Open City from the National Cathedral. Bid on a variety of items donated by local merchants, or sign up for a salon event for a chance to speak with local celebrities and experts on a variety of topics. Tickets are \$150 per person (including a \$100 tax-deductible donation). Visit our Spring Fling page at: www.clevelandwoodleyparkvillage.org/spring-fling for the most up-to-date information and watch for your invitation in the mail!

Thanks to Our Generous Spring Fling Sponsors (as of March 25)

Gold

Marjorie Dick Stuart, WC&AN Miller
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Silver

Elizabeth and Tom Fox
Hatfield Weir Team at Washington Fine Properties
Sheila Mooney and Ty Hreben, Beasley Real Estate
Barbara R. Stevens and Rufus King III
Margot Wilson at Washington Fine Properties



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Interested in learning how YOU can become a Spring Fling sponsor or donate to the Spring Fling auction? Contact the Village at 202-615-5853 or at springfling@clevelandwoodleyparkvillage.org

community and you really got to know people—and of course there was the travel!” She also did volunteer work for 25 years as a mentor for 10-12-year-old inner city youngsters.

Patty heard about the Cleveland & Woodley Park Village from an active member and immediately saw its promise. She held an early recruitment party at Tilden Gardens that drew 40 interested people, and she joined soon after. She uses Village drivers mostly to take her to swimming sessions twice a week. For other help, she relies on a son who lives in the city and wears an alert-necklace device in case of emergencies. She’s full of ideas for the Village future: a book group, a Meals on Wheels connection, shopping trips and more. She plans to take part in it all.

It Takes a Village



SUPPORTER

Donations are welcome

We rely on your generous support to keep the Village going day-to-day. Please consider a tax donation by visiting us on [our website](#) or by calling us at 202-615-5853.

Village Staff

Staff

Mark W. Ohnmacht, Executive Director
Chris Covell, Program Assistant
info@clevelandwoodleyparkvillage.org
202.615.5853

Newsletter

Joanne Omang, Editor
Rona Mendelson, Contributing Writer
Cathy Crouch, Communications & Outreach

Cleveland & Woodley Park Village is a welcoming Village. Call us to learn how you can be part of our community.



Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

Take a look at our upcoming events and join us when you can. Everyone is invited to Village events - members, associate members, volunteers and supporters. **Please RSVP to attend. Members can also schedule a ride at 202-615-5853 or [email info@clevelandwoodleyparkvillage.org](mailto:info@clevelandwoodleyparkvillage.org)**

Knitting, Crochet and Needlework Club

Tuesday April 7, 2 PM - 4 PM

Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Avenue NW

All skill levels welcome! What we create we donate to those in need.

Save the Date - Every 2nd Thursday of the month

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday April 15, Noon - 2 PM

Lebanese Taverna, 2641 Connecticut Avenue NW

Meet new friends at this very popular Village social event. Separate checks.

Save the Date - Every 2nd Wednesday of the month

Cards and Games

Thursday April 16, 1 PM - 3 PM

Woodley Park Towers, 2737 Devonshire Place NW - Community Room

What's your game? Scrabble, Bridge, Mahjong? Advance sign-up is required.

Save the Date - Every 3rd Thursday of the month

Cultural Outings

Friday April 24, 12 PM - 1 PM, A tour of National Public Radio

Tuesday May 19, 11 AM - 2 PM, A tour of Hillwood Museum and Gardens

June, Date TBD, A tour of the National Cathedral

Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday April 22, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

The Broadmoor, 3601 Connecticut Ave NW

Come for a Volunteer Orientation to learn more about the Village, our programs and ways you can volunteer. Explore many opportunities to assist our senior members and/or to work in the office or be part of the organization's development by serving on a committee.

Join the Cleveland & Woodley Park Village!

Member

Individual: \$500 Annually, Household: \$750 Annually

Reduced fee (call for information)

Associate Member

\$250* Annually *Tax-deductible donation

Donor

Make a tax-deductible donation to ensure the vitality of our village. Send a check or donate online at www.clevelandwoodleyparkvillage.org/donate

Volunteer

Provide member services and/or organizational support. Attend our 2-hour Volunteer Orientation and then volunteer on your schedule and for activities that please you. Volunteers Cathy Crouch and Stephanie Zobay (pictured right) look like they're having fun in the Village office with Chris Covell and Danna McCormick!

