



Mount Pleasant Village Welcomes Website Manager Claire Thompson

The Village is delighted to welcome Claire Thompson as the new manager of our website.



Since taking on her new duties at the beginning of March, Claire has been busy meeting Board and Committee members, assessing the website, cleaning up outdated materials, and thinking about redesign to make the site more

user friendly. She is the Village's first paid employee, devoting six hours per week to nurturing our website and distributing program announcements.

Born and raised in Falls Church, Virginia, Claire attended Woodson High School. She graduated from the University of Mary Washington with a degree in English. Post-graduation, Claire developed new marketing strategies for jazz music productions in D.C. and was an intern with the ONE Campaign on Capitol Hill. She is currently the Office Manager of Cleveland & Woodley Park Village, but fortunately has time to devote her knowledge and skills to helping our Village. When not working, Claire enjoys reading, writing, playing the guitar, viewing art exhibits, and hiking.

Search for New Village Newsletter Editor

The Village is seeking a new editor for the monthly newsletter. This is a wonderful volunteer position for those who enjoy writing, being informed about Village programs and activities, are creative, and enjoy meeting other Villagers. The position has many satisfactions and greatly benefits our membership. For additional information, please contact Lawrence Rickards, Communications Chair, at news@mountpleasantvillage.org.

Upcoming Events

Meet-the-Street – Haydee’s Restaurant
Thursday, April 19, 6:30 pm (details on page 3)

Mt. Pleasant House & Garden Tour
Saturday, April 21 (details on page 3)

Mt. Pleasant Village’s Annual Alley Sale
Saturday, June 2 (details on page 4)

Village Picnic in Rock Creek Park
Sunday, June 24 (details on page 4)

Village Regulars

Walk with the Walking Group
Meet M-W-F, 8:30 am, Lamont Park

Mah Jong
Mondays, 5:00 pm, 1735 Lamont Street, NW

Mindful Meditation
Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 pm, tba

Coffee at Dos Gringos
Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 am

Seniors Yoga at PastTense
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am

Happy Hour and Game Night
Tuesdays 5:00-7:00 pm

at [Marx Café](#)
April 3 & 17

at [Purple Patch’s Habit Café](#)
April 10 & 24



Villagers Meet *A Date for Mad Mary* Film Editor at the Capitol Irish Film Festival

A group of Villagers came together to see the popular Irish romantic comedy, *A Date for Mad Mary*, at the Capitol Irish Film Festival in Silver Spring March 4.



Paddy Meskell, chair of the Irish arts organization, *Solas Nua*, which produced the film festival, and a Villager, introduced the group to the film's editor Tony Cranstoun, who came from Ireland for a Q&A session with the audience. Cranstoun and Meskell (2nd and 3rd from the left) are here with Villagers Mary Rojas, Sharon and Tom

Conway, Cecile Srodes, Bonnie Cain and Darlene Meskell.

Villagers Visit *Women House* Exhibit at the Women's Museum

A group of 10 Villagers enjoyed a docent-led tour of the new *Women House* Exhibit at the National Museum of Women in the Arts on March 14. Exhibits included work by 36 women artists, and was inspired by the landmark 1972 show *Womanhouse*, created by Judy Chicago and Miriam Schapiro. Like its predecessor, the NMWA show challenges conventional ideas about gender and the domestic space in multiple artistic media.



B.L. Johnston, Susan Hansen, Sharon Conway and Louise Meyer hear from a docent about the doll's house in the exhibit. Dollhouse by Miriam Schapiro

Meet-the-Street: *La Clínica Del Pueblo* Tour & Lunch at *Dos Gringos*

Thanks to the planning efforts of Bonnie Cain and Jan Fenty, Villagers had an opportunity to meet



with *La Clínica Del Pueblo* staff and learn about their health and wellness programs that serve a primarily Latino population in the District and Maryland. From Senior Director of Health Equity and Community Action Suyanna Barker and Health Promotion Manager Rodrigo Stein, the group learned about the beginnings of *La Clínica* in 1983, serving primarily refugees fleeing the violence in El Salvador, to

their becoming a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center in 2007. They currently have five sites in the DC area: The Mount Pleasant site is slated to become their reception and health promotion center; clinic services are provided at their 15th Street and Hyattsville locations; and there are sites addressing women's health and safety issues and the needs of the LGBTQ community. *La Clínica* also addresses behavioral health issues for persons with mental and substance use disorders, as well as serving the needs of unaccompanied minors who have immigrated to the U.S. The health promotion



program, operating in Mount Pleasant, has the goals of increasing health literacy and self-advocacy, increasing client ability to navigate the health care system, health education, and helping clients take charge of their health. They have the ability to provide interpreter services in 62 languages.

At *La Clínica*: Judy Byron, Tia Pratt, Larry Rickards, Rodrigo Stein, Darlene Meskell, Anna Jeide, David Sitomer, Jan Fenty Suyanna Barker & Bonnie Cain. Photos by Rick Reinhard

Following the *La Clínica* tour, several Villagers join owner Alex Kramer for lunch at *Dos Gringos*. As with prior Meet-the-Street events, this was an opportunity to learn about the origins of the café and Alex's pathway to becoming the hands-on owner. Although Alex had prior experiences in restaurants, waiting tables and bartending, her intended career was to be a private investigator, focusing primarily



on insurance claims, which she pursued for several years. She expected to be the silent partner in *Dos Gringos*, but when the managing partner moved out of the area, Alex eventually became the sole owner-manager, and has focused on the restaurant since. Now, she wouldn't have it any other way.

Marianna Ohe, Jan Fenty, Susan Rees, Bonnie Cain, Darlene Meskell, David Sitomer, & Alex Kramer. Photo by Lawrence Rickards

Sights & Sounds of Ireland Today Art Exhibit

Village partner *Solas Nua*, in collaboration with Dupont Underground, presented "Sights and Sounds of Ireland Today." The exhibition explored the field of contemporary video art production in Ireland, projecting the work of 21 artists on the walls of the former trolley tunnel under Dupont Circle. This was the first significant survey of Irish visual art to be presented in the Washington DC area.



Curator Jackie Hoysted with Villager Paddy Meskell and U.K.'s *Secretary of State for Northern Ireland*, Karen Bradley
Photo by Lawrence Rickards

Seabury Annual Donation Drive: "Stuff-the-Shed"

Village partner Seabury Resources for Aging is holding its annual donation drive through May 5th. Instead of simply seeking money, the drive is asking for donations of yard-work materials and/or house cleaning supplies, all of which will be used by Seabury in providing services to local older adults. Donations can be dropped off at Annie's Ace Hardware, 1240 Upshur Street NW. Seabury will also accept online financial contributions through their website.

Upcoming Event: Meet-the-Street – Haydee's Restaurant

The next Meet-the-Street dining event will take place on Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 pm, at the long-time favorite, Haydee's Restaurant, 3102 Mount Pleasant Street. Diners will have the opportunity to meet owner Haydee Vanegas, and husband-chef Mario Alas, and learn about their immigration from El Salvador in 1996 and the founding of their very successful restaurant. Diners will also be entertained by Rock Creek Jazz, from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Wonderful food and great music.

Upcoming Event: Bancroft's Mount Pleasant House & Garden Tour

Village partner Bancroft Elementary School will hold the 5th Annual Mount Pleasant House & Garden tour on Saturday, April 21, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. All of the proceeds from the ticket sale will benefit school programming and services to students. To buy tickets, click on: [Ticket Purchase](#).

Upcoming Event: Village Annual Alley Sale on June 2.

Mark your calendars and start cleaning out your attics and basements, the annual Mount Pleasant Village Alley Sale will take place on Saturday, June 2, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Details to follow.

Upcoming Event: Village Picnic on June 24 in Rock Creek Park – Save the Date

The second Mount Pleasant Village Picnic will be held in Rock Creek Park, across from Pierce Mill, on Sunday, June 24, in the afternoon. This will be a pot-luck event, with fun, games and surprises for kids of all ages. Information about volunteer and grill needs will be forthcoming. Save the date.

Helping Hands Program: Ready for Jobs Large and 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.

Help Wanted for Village Committees

Mount Pleasant Village is operated on an all-volunteer model. Working on a Village committee provides an opportunity to meet and make new friends, share your experiences and help build our vibrant organization. For more information, please contact the Committee Chairs listed below:

- The **Communications Committee** needs help with the monthly newsletter. Contact Larry Rickards at communications@mountpleasantvillage.org.
- The **Diversity Committee:** contact Judy Byron at judy@judybyron.com for information.
- The **Governance Committee** would like help with writing policies and procedures and in developing the Village governance structure. The committee has also begun work to form a **Development Committee** to raise the Village’s visibility/funding, and is looking for those with non-profit experience. Contact Tom Conway at thomasbconway@gmail.com.
- The **Membership Committee** is looking for help with programs to increase and maintain Village membership. Contact Cecile Srodes or Katie Tyler at membership@mountpleasantvillage.org.
- The **Program Committee** is looking for leadership with cultural and social programs. Contact Bonnie Cain at events@mountpleasantvillage.org.
- The **Volunteer Committee:** is seeking help with volunteer management for the Village *Helping Hands*. Contact Elinor Hart at volunteer@mountpleasantvillage.org.

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.