

# CAPITOL HILL VILLAGE NEWS

## Many Offerings During Second Annual *Stardust Gala*

Are for an evening and dinner to talk about the extensive development coming to 7th and Pennsylvania Avenue? Nationals Baseball in the neighboring SW? Or how about making the Anacostia River a neighborhood-plus again?

All are topics for dinners for sale at the Second Annual Stardust Gala on January 30, along with dinners with economist Bill Niskanen, *Washington Consumer Digest* author Bob Krughoff, Capitol Hill Chorale director Fred Binkholder.

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## Upcoming Events and Programs

Saturday, January 30 • 7:30-11:00 pm  
St. Mark's Church, 3rd and A Streets SE

### Second Annual Stardust Gala

Join members and friends for Capitol Hill Village's Second Annual Stardust Gala. The Combo-Nation Trio will open the evening, later growing into the full SingCo Rhythm Orchestra, led by crooner Doug Bowles. Songs by the Jaynettes, Capitol Hill's group of "vintage women singing vintage music," will inspire dancers onto the dance floor. Gottaswing, from Glen Echo's Spanish Ballroom, will teach us all to swing dance.

Near the music-filled dance hall will be a Quiet Café, where partiers will find snack foods; coffee, tea, fruit punch and wines; friendly tables with chairs, and other tables showing off auction items—vacation homes,

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## Online Banking, Estate Tax Update

**Question from CHV member**  
**Judy:** My question has to do with paying bills on line. I pay my health insurer on line because I don't want to risk missing a payment. Imagine my distress when I received an overdue letter from my insurer. As it turns out, my credit card company denied a payment because my card expiration date had passed and the insurer was not notified of the new expiration date.

What are the pros and cons of paying bills on line? Thank you for your assistance.

**Dear Judy:** I responded to your specific question and other pros and cons of paying bills on line in a story that appeared in the April 2009 edition of the CHV newsletter. The story was entitled "Is Online Banking for You?" so have a look.

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**A second question from a CHV member:** What is happening with the federal estate tax?

**Good question, member:** At midnight on Dec. 31, 2009, the last of the many time bombs planted in the tax code by the giant 2001 tax bill actually went off. Few expected it; politicians and "experts" of all stripes were sure Congress would do something, but it didn't. So, now, the federal estate tax is officially off the books.

So is the special tax on generation-skipping trusts, a device once widely used to transfer wealth from grandparents to grandchildren, giving the estate tax one less bite at the apple.

But, if few heirs are dancing in the streets, that's understandable. First, the repeal is temporary. If Congress continues to do nothing, the tax will spring from its grave at the beginning of 2011, as big and strong as it was in 2001. The threshold at which estates become taxable will drop back to \$1 million, from the \$3.5 million in effect last year, and the top rate will return to 50 percent or more.

Second, the long-standing "stepped-up basis" provision also is repealed. "Basis" is the tax term for the cost a taxpayer must use in calculating a gain or loss on the sale of an asset such as a stock or a house. If you buy a stock for \$2 and sell it for \$3, your taxable gain is \$1 because your basis is the \$2 you paid for the share. If you died last year while owning that stock at \$3, your heirs' basis would have been "stepped up" to \$3, and they could sell it for \$3 and pay no capital gains tax.

While the repeal is in effect, the stepped-up basis also is repealed. This means that heirs instead get the "carry-over basis," basically the price paid by the person from whom the asset is inherited. In the example above, that would mean a basis of \$2 and a capital gains tax on the \$1. Applying this example to the appreciation that baby boomers have seen in their houses demonstrates the negative impact congressional inaction on the estate tax matter may have on CHV members.

However, there is a special provision that allows an executor to designate up to \$1.3 million of assets to receive a "general basis increase," and, if there is a surviving spouse, another \$3 million

as a "spousal property basis increase." This means a widow will be able to inherit \$4.3 million in assets whose basis will be their value at the time of the husband's death. But children and other heirs will be allowed to step up the basis on only \$1.3 million, not a lot when considering today's housing values and other assets, such as stock, that today's elderly worked hard to accumulate.

Finally, for District and Maryland residents, there remain state estate taxes. Both jurisdictions' tax estates valued at more than \$1 million—Virginia repealed its tax in 2007—and these taxes can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars for large estates. State estate taxes were deductible from the federal estate tax, but with the disappearance of the federal tax there is now nothing from which to deduct the state taxes.

All of this, though, assumes that the federal repeal will remain in effect. Most experts—albeit the same ones who thought repeal never would happen—are confident that the federal tax will be reinstated this year. Right now, action is being held up by a debate over whether to reinstate the \$3.5 million exemption that was in effect last year or to raise it to \$5 million or even \$7 million. Since married couples effectively can double their exemption, these amounts would mean that the vast majority of estates would escape the tax. However, in the past, the estate tax has not been indexed for inflation, so that exemption amounts that seemed generous when they were enacted have shrunk in real terms,

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**Capitol Hill Village News** is sent to you every month to catch you up on what's happening, alert you to who's who and ask your participation in other features. We are interested in your feedback.

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## From The Executive Director...

I am sure you would agree that winter is a great time to do inside jobs. Please join the Capitol Hill Village Board of Directors as they lead the way by acting (not planning to act) for the future.

Our "Be Prepared" agenda is intended to ease any ordeal, particularly for you and those who love you. What do you need to do? The agenda now has five categories: communicating with our health and legal systems, knowing how you'll pay for long-term care, adopting a plan to make your home accessible, staying well, and getting rid of stuff.

### Communicating with the Health and Legal Systems

Here's the checklist:

#### \_\_\_ Durable power of attorney for financial decision-making

This document, which can specify under what circumstances you designate powers to another, will get your bills paid, if you are suddenly incapacitated.

#### \_\_\_ Durable power of attorney for health care decision-making

This document, which can include advance directives regarding what medical treatments you do not want at the end of your life, will enable your surrogate to carry out your wishes.

#### \_\_\_ Vital information on one piece of paper

Studies show that having your contact information (diagnoses, medications, allergies, insurance, powers of attorney, etc.) on one page can facilitate urgently needed health care. If stored on the web, this information can be retrieved if you are ill or injured overseas or elsewhere in the USA.



Please take the time now to make your reservation for the 2010 Gala. We are going to have a great time! Enjoy the music and dancing, make new acquaintances, and maybe enrich your future by signing up for some upcoming events. If you cannot make it, show your support for Capitol Hill Village by making a contribution—in honor of someone you love. glk

#### \_\_\_ Your Driver Retirement Plan (new to the list)

You do not want to injure yourself or others because you no longer have the abilities to drive safely. Why not control the timing instead of worrying when your adult children or concerned friends ask you to turn over your keys?

#### \_\_\_ Last will and testament

Surely you prefer to direct what will happen to your possessions when you die, instead of leaving the choices to local authorities.

\_\_\_ **Notebook**, which tells the trusted person who will act on your behalf what and where

*(continued on page 5)*

# Second Annual Stardust Gala

Dancing Neighbors Wine and munchies New friends  
Fun Old friends Classes Face time with well-known folks  
**Dinners and Conversation**  
Vacation homes Restaurant Meals Music Frivolity



*Continued from page 1*

Or, why not accept an early evening of cocktails and tales of Washington figures told by Library of Congress retiree (and story-teller) Grover Batts, while sharing his near life-time collections of paintings and lithographs, rare signed books, and French medallions. His first \$5 lithograph is valued today at 2,000 times that figure. A museum eventually will house the art collection.

The 7:30 to 11 pm Gala at St Mark's Church is planned for 300 members and other Capitol Hill friends with a night of music and dance, as well as refreshments and opportunities to make new friends who already are your neighbors.

Classes also are being offered as part of the Gala fundraiser for Capitol Hill Village, including lessons on basic knife skills at Hill's Kitchen, knitting lessons

at Stitch, wine tasting through Schneider's Liquors, a Genealogy class, Japanese Flower Arranging, and Kimono Textiles.

Other silent auction features for the evening include vacation homes in France and Mexico, along with three U.S. spots, and gift certificates for a weekend night in Capitol Hill Suites; meals at Lola's & Molly Malone's, Belga Cafe', and Trattoria Alterto, plus a book from Barnes & Noble.

The Jayanettes, known as "Vintage woman with vintage songs," will be performing rock-and-roll favorites familiar to most of the attendees. Dance music will be provided by SingCo Rhythm Orchestra, led by Crooner Doug Bowles. And, of course, Gala-goers will be given a short lesson on Swing Dance, before they are encouraged to take the floor, changing partners so

the whole gathering becomes a dancing group.

Refreshments—including wine, punch, coffee, and tea—will be available in a quieter side room, along with many munches. Nearby will be silent-auction tables offering dinners and other events for the coming winter months, along with many other fabulous items to bid on.

Parking is limited at the church, so walking is encouraged.

CHV members will have received invitations in the mail earlier this month. But, if you haven't purchased your tickets, make reservations now at (202.543.1778) or ([info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org)). Tickets can be purchased by mail (CHV, PO Box 15126, Washington, DC 20003) or through Internet Paypal. Tickets are \$70-per-individual or \$60-a-person for tables of 8 to 10.

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## Executive Director *continued from page 3*

you have stored all the documents, having to do with you and your property.

Any who have coped with organizing another's lifelong accumulated papers and possessions know that finding what needs to be done is the worst part.

Capitol Hill Village has volunteers who will help you get this paperwork done, while it is cold outside... and then join you to celebrate with champagne or some other bubbly beverage.

### Knowing How You'll Pay for Long-Term Care

You have health insurance—wouldn't be without it, right? We all want to die in our sleep, able the day before, but most of us will not. Look to your parents and siblings for guidance on how many years you may need to pay for personal assistance. Or consider the averages for your gender and probable diagnoses.

Do you have enough savings and income to cover the anticipated costs? Would a reverse mortgage

be right for you? Should you purchase long-term care insurance, or will you be among those denied it? Are you eligible for Medicaid?

All of these questions have been answered in presentations offered by Capitol Hill Village. A CHV volunteer can help you review that information and think about your plan for paying for personal care, should it become necessary.

### Adopting a Plan to Make Your Home Accessible and Working

Have you thought about what it would take to adapt your home, if you have difficulty walking? Sorting this out will enable you to know what these changes will cost in today's dollars.

Ask Capitol Hill Village to help you. We can connect you with a professional who will help you develop a list of needed changes.

Any well-thought-out adaptations you make will increase the value of your home. When you or your estate sells the house, there will be an increasing audience of buyers who see the wisdom of

accessibility for their present or future selves.

Contact Capitol Hill Village to arrange a home assessment (which will clarify what may need repair/replacement immediately and in the future), an energy assessment, and help keeping the cold air outside.

### Staying Well

You have a plan. Execute it. Capitol Hill Village has offered you ways to:

- think clearly—remember Capitol Hill Village chess lessons?
- get off the floor—remember fitness trainer, Betsy Agle's, advice?
- stay balanced, limber and strong—remember Chi-Gong and other ongoing classes?

### Getting Rid of Stuff

Friday, February 5th, is the next hazardous waste and paper-for-shredding pick up. Capitol Hill Village also will help you relocate clothes, decorative objects, and furniture.

—Gail Kohn

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## Dr. Wonk *continued from page 2*

helping keep the issue of repeal alive. Pressure is on proponents of higher exemptions, and even estate tax repeal, though, because if nothing at all is done, the tax comes back next year in a much harsher form.

Another issue that needs resolution is what to do with the estates of people who die while the estate tax is off the books. Typically, when Congress makes belated changes in the code, it makes the changes retroactive to cover the gap. But while such retroactive

changes generally have been upheld, it is not so clear that the courts will approve retroactive taxation of someone who died when the law was different. Enough money will be involved to make a court challenge, probably going all the way to the Supreme Court, highly likely.

In the meantime, planning remains extremely difficult. Moving to Virginia continues to have appeal, at least from the tax standpoint, but there are things Congress could do to eliminate

the advantage. One possibility is to restore a federal credit from the pre-2001 law that allowed an estate a credit against the federal tax for state taxes paid. Some 37 states had what was called a "pickup tax" that set their tax rates at exactly the amount of the federal credit so that state taxes cost estates nothing. About all one can do is wait and watch.

*(Both responses are by Al Crenshaw, CHV member and former financial writer for The Washington Post.)*

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# The Graces Scrub and Serve so They Can Ski

Serving guests' meals or scrubbing kitchen dishes each day before taking to the ski slopes—sounds like young people taking a college semester break?

This winter it is the daily schedule of Ann and Mike Grace—Capitol Hill Village members and full Village activists. Ann served on the board and organized office volunteers, Mike a frequent friend and driver, Apple computer expert, and assistant with a heavy household chore.

For six months this winter, the Graces have taken on days common for younger folks, employed at the Alta Ski Area in Utah's Cottonwood Canyon outside Salt Lake City.

In reality, the day schedule is a little upside down for ski slope employees: catch the 8:05 a.m. bus, ride a ski-lift to work (where they nightly leave their skis), ski two hours before going to work at 11:30, and get all work done so they can catch the return bus by 6:00 pm.



The goal of their winter adventure, Ann says, is to improve their skiing, and their job perks include free lessons. The routine skiing has improved both their slope abilities. "We both want to progress to skiing off the groomed runs and skiing in powder," and Mike has moved along quickly—"he has no fear" while "I have twice as much as I should have... I'm comfortable on the 'blue' groomed runs (above green and below black diamond), but still freeze up when I get into deeper snow."

Mountain scenery is beautiful, she continues. "Every morning we get to see the sun begin to shine on the Oquirrh Mountains

on the Valley's west side. It's glorious. The run up and down the Canyon also is spectacular—very high; craggy mountains on either side of the road... frost of snow on the trees."

The Graces find work isn't bad, "Mike enjoys table bussing because of the people he meets... I opted to wash the dishes that is pretty routine—not as yucky as I expected." Christmas vacation days were demanding, extra work hours. "I ended up on the line, serving food on a couple of days. Zingoweeee. I haven't moved that fast since I played on our elementary school soccer teams."

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# Hill Chorus Offers Chance To Sing

If you haven't sung for a while and are looking for a fun, stress-free group to harmonize with, it's time to try Second Wind.

This Hill-based community chorus will sing a variety of music such as classic American songs, spirituals, classical repertoire ... and occasionally perform a few pieces. There will be no formal concerts.

C.J. Redden-Liotta is Second Wind's newly appointed Artistic Director. He is a professional musician in the DC area who performs with numerous local ensembles. Redden-Liotta has been the tenor section leader with the Lutheran Church of the Reformation since 2003, maintains a private studio, and teaches at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW).

Second Wind meets for a six-week session at CHAW, Mondays,

7-8:30 pm. Next sessions: Feb. 1, 8, 15; March 1, 15, 22. Sessions will continue in April-May. No auditions are held, but some prior singing experience is useful. The first rehearsal is free; if you join the group, a modest fee is requested.

For more information on Second Wind, call Bill Matuszeski, 202-544-2691, or Judy Canning, 202-543-2386.



## Scrub and Serve to Ski *continued from page 6*

After those days, "Mike and I would walk into our condo, take our shower, and sit on the couch without moving until around 9 pm, then "slowly move into our bed... drained."

When they do miss the last 4:30 lift down the mountain, that means skiing down (not fun in the dark), or walking down the mountain. They now own Yaktraks—a metal spring and rubber contraption for your boots

—that allows walking down ski trails. The one issue there has been the giant snow cats coming up the trails to groom the slopes, huge tractors that don't move off the path.

A positive new adventure, they agree, is snowshoeing, an activity shared on Fridays with other local friends, followed by lunch. Their friends are members of "the Newcomers," a social organization they have joined. Many of

the group are retirees. Salt Lake City isn't wonderful for public transportation, but does offer some cheaper adventures than Washington, D.C. These include Metropolitan Opera simulcast in movie theaters and a Roseanne Cash concert.

Even with the demanding work/ski days, Ann says "we live a much quieter life here, spending more time at home, reading, relaxing, reflecting more." They also spend considerable time at the library. Mike is sending a log by snail mail every couple of days to age 3-5-7 grandchildren, "making a real art of explaining such things as dressing for skiing to children who never have skied."

The couple arrived in Utah considering this "a one shot deal," but now are "tentatively discussing doing a repeat," based at least partially on whether the grandchildren blossom during an Easter visit. However, they also are not sure they want to move away from their "real life" for another six months.

One thing is assured, Ann added. "We will be back in town by mid-May."

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## RANDOM MUSINGS

# A Major Deflation

By Leo Orleans

**A**lthough an octogenarian, I thought I had managed to adjust pretty well to the technological advances that have engulfed me in the course of the past two decades.

I mean, I may not twitter or facebook (I was asked!), and I don't have an i-Pod, but I do have a cell phone with fourteen phone numbers in it. I may not be sure what a blackberry is, but ever since I fell and broke my camera I have been in possession of a digital camera. And I may not remember the name of the car gadget that could tell me where to turn, but I have had a computer from way back and I even know how to get directions from mapquest.

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*As I am writing this, my DVD player continues to provide us with admirable images on the beautiful flat screen (as it did for two days)—the only thing now missing is the sound.*

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Then, an unexpected happening initiated a process that brought me to reality and deflated my technological self-esteem. It happened only a couple of weeks ago, but the progression of the densely packed events already has become a bit of mishmash in my head. I will try to make my story short.

One evening, without warning, the DVD player stopped working. Since it had been with us for quite a few years, and since now and then we had considered replacing

our massive TV set with a flat screen, we thought this was a good excuse to go all out and kill two birds in one fell swoop.

I went to Costco and returned with a 32-inch (space limits) Samsung TV and a skinny black Toshiba DVD player. My friend, Geoff, kindly volunteered to set it up, connect all the cords, and to my amazement it all worked. He then told me, as others have, that it is all a waste of time and money if we don't get "the box," otherwise known as HD for high definition.

No problemo. I got in touch with Comcast and two days later the postman delivered "the box." Now what?! Apparently I should have told them that I need someone to connect it to

the TV. The next day a nice guy came by, examined "the box," and told me it was the wrong one. Fortunately he had the right one in the truck (I couldn't tell the difference between them), answered my pretty basic questions, and departed. Hallelujah! Finally, by acquiring "the box" and a flat screen TV we were ready to enter the second decade of the 21st century.

The next day I turned on the set and... no picture.



Here I was, all alone with three clickers: one for the TV, one for HD, and one for DVD. The first had 36 buttons (is that what you call them?), the second had 52 buttons, and the third had 48, for a total of 146 buttons! Yes, I counted them twice. If you subtract the 10 standard 1-to-0 buttons from the three clickers you still end up with 116. I was sure I screwed up and that one of the 146 buttons had the answer to my problem. But which one?

As my mind focused on the unmanly image I was communicating to my wife, I unsuccessfully leafed through the instruction booklet and diddled with the buttons. The next day, I again called Comcast, another fellow came by, identified my stupidity, and cooled my look of futility by telling me that this was his third call for an identical problem.

And, then, a very TV-savvy friend dropped by and told us that "the box" we got was the wrong box and that we had to get something that would not only significantly expand our viewing horizons but record anything we might wish

*(continued on page 9)*

## Coold Weather Assist

**H**as our unusually cold December/January weather reminded you that your home is not as “tight” as it might be?

Then call Capitol Hill Village. That’s 202.543.1778.

Village member Judy Bardacke has a lovely housing unit, but the building dates to the 1920s. She became too aware of cold leaking under her doors and around her windows, so she made the call.

Two days later two comfort specialists arrived, said, yes, your home has lots of leaks. Students from Georgetown Day School have been scheduled for two, or three, working visits. They will be trained in weatherproofing Judy’s home, and warm comfort will be back for Judy.

And similar weather pluses can be brought to your home just as quickly. As we said, call 202.543.1778.

CHV Community and Social Services Director Katie McDonough arranged the helping hand for Judy. “We have several groups willing and interested in giving our members such assistance in this raw winter,” she said. “So please call, and we will arrange to have your home tightened again against this winter weather, whatever type of leaks are making your home less than warm and cozy.”



### Random Musings *continued from page 8*

to see at a future date. I called Comcast, was told that they do indeed have “the box” I asked about and could exchange it the next day.

I said OK, but when my friend left, I started thinking. After all, so far I have had nothing but miseries with my three clickers while managing to familiarize myself, at best, with one-third of the 116 buttons. Do I really want to get an even more sophisticated box which probably has even more sophisticated buttons to click? No. I called Comcast yet again and, with temporary relief, canceled the exchange.

As I am writing this, my DVD player continues to provide us with admirable images on the beautiful flat screen (as it did for two days)—the only thing now missing is the sound. None of my friends had an answer.

Please advise me who to call, Comcast, Costco, Toshiba, Samsung, my mother...?

**Postscript:** Three days later I decided that I must “do something.” And since Costco’s “Technical Support” pamphlet promised free assistance for any problem one might encounter, it seemed like a reasonable first step. The techy who answered the

phone was very solicitous and, after following his testing directions for 20 minutes, he gave me his diagnosis and remedy: faulty cables or unit, call Toshiba.

Don’t! Try as I might (including O, O, O), I never was able to talk to a live person and the lifeless one mentioned and re-mentioned only three choices, none of which include my soundlessness. Took almost a week for me to take my Toshiba to Costco and exchange it for a Sony, which I attached almost by myself and which we now are enjoying.

Yesterday my cell phone pooped out. I’m not kidding.

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# Terry Nicholetti's Characters Search For Their Souls

By Mary Procter

Terry Nicholetti spun around in her bathrobe and blue suede heels. She was twirling the flimsy, frilly dress her character, Rosie, planned to wear to dance with famous Latin Pop singer Chayanne, after screwing up the courage to redeem her prize and appear with him in Madison Square Garden.

All went black for a second. Then Terry pulled her hair back, took off her heels and transformed herself into Father John, a gay priest in ever deeper spiritual distress. When all went black the second time, she became a character that made Rosie's blue heels look as sober as saddle shoes. The character, Zelda, attempted to be the inner critic of character Helen (never shown), who persisted in ignoring and defying Zelda's sensible advice. Zelda used flamboyance in her effort to reach Helen, with an enormous

flaming-red wig and a short red coat over a black slip.

The setting was the cozy venue of The Corner Store and the occasion was a "workshop" performance of *Holy Trinity: Three Souls In Search Of Self*. This was a staged reading of a solo performance, written and performed by Terry Nicholetti (a Capitol Hill Village member) and directed by Laura Zam. We were a group of 45, welcomed by the Corner Store with cider, wine, and goodies, to watch and then critique this performance. As Terry told us, we were the perfect audience for this work in progress that is being refined under the guidance of solo performer Laura Zam, who teaches aspiring solo writers and performers.

In a 45-minute, post-performance critique, we told Terry her writing was rich, her acting was subtle, her range, wide. We said the repression of Father John helped set off the exuberance of Rosie



and the flamboyance of Zelda. We wondered if Rosie's motivator might evolve from an obsession with her weight in the course of her scene and whether Zelda's role in Helen's life might be made clearer. But we urged Terry on to polish the scenes and maybe realize her stated goal at a recent motivation conference—to perform off-Broadway in three years. Terry will be performing again at the Corner Store on March 14 at 3 pm.

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## The Book *Triumph & Hope* by Barbara E. Joe

By Lynne Boyle

Barbara Joe's book title is apropos on so many levels, as we learned when she discussed her book Jan. 10.

Barbara's journey to Honduras actually began 60 years ago. In 1941, her father, Leonard Currie, an architect packed his wife and two children up in their Model A Ford and drove from Minnesota to Copan, Honduras, to join an archaeological dig. Her account of night they arrived starts the book.

Of the 13 listeners that evening, five were former Peace Corps

Volunteers, and one was a Global Volunteer. All of the Peace Corps volunteers joined right out of college, and the Global Volunteer went at a much later date. Curiously enough, all had been stationed in Central and South America. Barbara waited until her 60th birthday to announce to her children that she was going to join the Peace Corps. She didn't recount in the meeting what the catalyst was, but thought perhaps the loss of a son, a foster son and husband in the late 1990's may have shaped her decision to

use her time to follow her the spirit of adventure somewhat ingrained in her and satisfy her natural spirit of humanitarian involvement. We were interested to learn how she was accepted by the other volunteers, if she felt that her age made any difference in her acceptance. Apparently, there were some other older volunteers and they formed a group "OAKS" Older and Knowing Souls!! We discussed the politics, and, with the input of the former volunteers, coupled

(continued on page 11)

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## Village Play Readers Bring Northeastern WASPS To Life

Bill Matuszeski kept ducking out to get more light as he read lines under the table in his dining room from A.R. Gurney's *The Dining Room*. The play presents 18 scenes from five decades in various WASP dining rooms. Playing a stockbroker turned appraiser, Bill was trying to show Adele Robey, playing a divorced housewife—also under the table—how her not-quite-antique dining room table could be “re-screwed, re-glued, and renewed.”

The occasion was the January meeting of the Capitol Hill Village Literary Club and the eight participants took turns at playing various types of Northeastern U.S. WASPs in this Gurney play.

Svato Schutzner, reading a crusty old grandfather being approached by his grandson (Judy Canning) for money, complained to his maid Dora (Harriet Rogers), “This one wants to go to one of those



fancy New England boarding schools.... He'll come home talking with marbles in his mouth. We won't understand a word, Dora.” Dora agreed: “Yes, sir.”

Most of the eight were quite surprised that the play came to life as they read it aloud.

One has suggested that, every month or two, we should do

All the family silver is laid out on the dining room table of Mary Procter and Bill Matuszeski

another play (we read about five of the scenes in *The Dining Room*). Mary Procter is on the lookout for other plays that could be read aloud successfully in a living room. Watch this newsletter for announcements.

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## Triumph & Hope *continued from page 10*

with Barbara's first-hand and more current experience, the discussion was lively.

She described her living conditions, her daily routines, her interesting accounts of different people she met. She passed around crafts that people had made for her and for sale.

She felt her experience as an older volunteer in the Peace Corps had great merit and she is an enthusiastic spokesman for joining as a possibility for later in their life. She brought that up often in our discussion.

The publishing of the book was difficult and she ended up self publishing. The title and the art work were turned down by different publishers. They thought “Triumph and Hope” was trite. However the places that Barbara lived in Honduras were El Trinufu “Triumph” and La Esperanza “Hope”, so she did not want to change the title. They also had so many other superficial criticisms that she was becoming a bit discouraged. As luck would have it, a young man staying with her was graphic designer and he assisted with

the artwork, and the whole job of putting it together. It was published through a program at Amazon, and is [available on line](#).

Barbara is a strong advocate of the Peace Corps. She dropped a note off in my mail slot, in fact, telling me that she had forgotten to mention; “Former volunteers who completed their service years ago can go back for only 6 months as Peace Corps Response Volunteers. She said she knows some people who are doing that right now and are loving it.”

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# 2009 Ends as a Good Year

By Bill Phillips

(Capitol Hill Village Board member William Phillips, in his work as an Investment Counselor, writes a monthly newsletter for clients and friends. Following is his 2009 end-of-year letter.)

For the month, the Dow was up 0.80 per cent; the Nasdaq rose 5.81 percent, and the S&P 500 gained 1.78 percent. For the year, the Dow gained 18.82 percent, the Nasdaq is up 43.89 percent and the S&P 500 rose 23.45 percent. Interest rates were mixed with a 3-month Treasury bill unchanged at 5 basis points (.0005 percent). The 30-year Treasury note rose 45 basis points to yield 4.64 percent at the end of the month.

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Well, we had a good year, although many would say any year has to be a good year compared to 2008. At this point, we have seen a good run up in most equity prices, while interest rates have remained low as set by the Federal Reserve.

Of course, the end of 2009 was also the end of the first decade of the 21st century, and a good number of analysts compared the decade rather than the year. The decade numbers were not good.

It was the first decade in 60 years in which there was no job growth. Household net worth was also lower by 4 percent in 2008 than in 1999 — and the 2009 number will be less when those numbers come out.

There was little of true economic value that happened in the last decade. The housing and credit bubbles distorted the true economic picture of the macroeconomy in the United States, as well as Europe. All that borrowed money should have been paid back, but a substantial amount of it won't be and will haunt both the borrowers, who lost everything, and the nation as we try to get back to being a productive economy and society.

The twin impact of the housing bubble and the credit crisis should cause us to rethink where we are and how we should behave as a nation in the decade to come. I believe the government's response of not letting the financial system collapse will be proven correct. The anticipation of a rise in jobs in December did not prove correct, and job losses continued to the tune of 84,000. Nothing will improve on a permanent basis until the economy adds jobs, and the Obama

Administration will have to focus critically on how to do just that.

However at the first sign of good news, politicians will want to close down what has kept us out of a depression. The studies of what happened in the 30s after the Great Depression all say that the supports of the recovering economy were pulled away too soon. And if there needs to be a more recent example, just look at Japan in the 1990s.

The rise in Gross Domestic Product that is likely for the last quarter of 2009 can be anticipated by companies rebuilding their inventories. Yet there is much misery still embedded in our economic life. We won't replace all those millions of lost jobs this year, and all those without jobs will have no income to spend. They will just consume what savings they may have.

The big economic threat for 2010 seems to me to be the political threat of removing the stimulus the government has given to the economy. We do have to be careful about the rise of inflation, but 1937 is such a good lesson to observe and learn from, and not re-live.

The elections at the end of this year will tell us much about what the people of this country have learned. Let's hope reason and common sense prevail over partisan wrangling and that the common good of this country will once again become something that the people can appreciate and believe in.

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## Upcoming Events and Programs *continued from page 1*

dinners with book authors and politicians, classes for exploring untried (by you) crafts.

Reservation prices are unchanged from last year. After January 15th, reservations will cost \$70 individually and \$60-per-person for a group table.

Invitations to the 2010 Gala should have arrived in the mail in early January.

[Open to all: If you have not received an invitation, call the CHV office at 202.543.1778]

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**Monday, February 1 • 7:00-8:30 pm**  
Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, 547 7th Street SE

### Second Wind

Come join this new singing group on the Hill for the first session of 2010. Three CHV members already sing with this group, and hope other members (and non-members) will consider joining. For more information, see article page 7.

[Open to all]

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**Tuesday, February 2 • 6:00-7:30 pm**

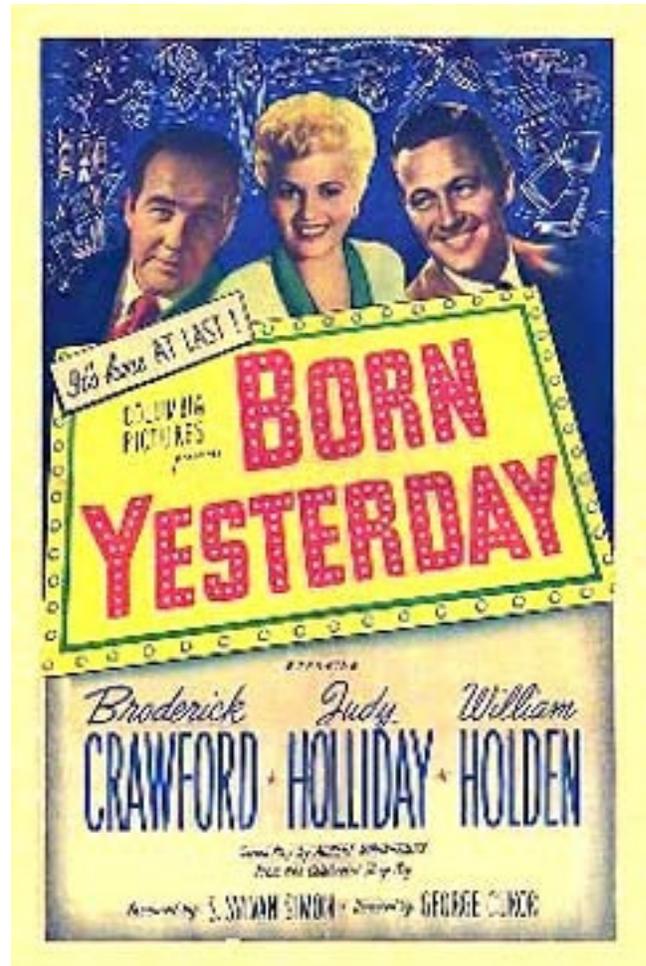
### Literary Club

We will meet at the home of Claire Kincannon to discuss *Dreyfus: A Family Affair* by Michael Burns. "Mr. Burns takes us through the familiar facts of the case: how Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish officer with the French General Staff, was accused of selling secrets to the Germans; how evidence was withheld in his court-martial and he was sent to Devils Island; ... how Dreyfus and his family and supporters worked 12 years to win his rehabilitation, and how the case polarized the country, militarist and nationalist elements against republican, socialist and anticlerical factions." (NYT 10/11/91)

The author gives a straightforward narrative focusing on the Dreyfus family, beginning with his great-grandfather and ending with his granddaughter dying in a Nazi concentration camp.

Call the office to sign up and find out the address. Newcomers welcome.

[Members and volunteers]



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**Tuesday, February 2 • 6:30 pm**  
SE Library, 7th & D Streets SE

### Born Yesterday

**Sponsored by the Friends of the Southeast Library.** This film continues the Capitol Hill Film Festival landmark motion picture series featuring Washington, DC and Capitol Hill. This classic 1950 comedy stars Judy Holliday in her most famous role (she won an Oscar) as Billy Dawn, the ditsy blonde girlfriend of a crass businessman (Broderick Crawford) who eventually falls for an earnest and intelligent journalist (William Holden), getting a good dose of American civics in the bargain. The story, based on a hit play of the day, takes place in Washington and features distinctive scenes shot in and around the Capitol and Library of Congress. The film is shown in the ground floor basement room of the library.

[Open to the public]

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## Upcoming Events and Programs *continued*

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Wednesday, February 10 • 10:30 am

### Trip to Target and Lunch

Make your shopping list now for another jaunt to the Target in Columbia Heights. At 12:30 we will cross the street to have lunch at The Heights (the same restaurant as last time last time). Attendees then thought the food was delicious and the ambience very attractive. Sign up now so we can plan on the number of drivers we need. Please say if you are willing to drive. **Sign up by Monday, February 8.** You will receive a call telling you who is picking you up.

*[Members only]*

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Friday, February 12 • 9 am

Your Home

### Book Donation Monthly Pickup

Friends of SE Library will be picking up (boxed or bagged) donations of used books, records, music and movie CDs and DVDs from Capitol Hill Village member's front porches. The items will be used in the monthly used-book sale Saturday, February 13, 10 am to 3 pm, at the library at 7th Street SE off Pennsylvania Ave. CHV members who want to receive a tax-related contribution thank you, include a list of donated items, plus your name and address.

For pickup, **contact CHV by WEDNESDAY, Feb. 10,** at 202.543.1778 or [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org).

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Friday, February 19 • 9:30 am

200 block of East Capitol Street,  
entrance near 3rd Street SE

### Folger Shakespeare Library

The Folger Shakespeare Library may be Capitol Hill's best-kept secret. The Folger's resources and programs support its claim to be the world's preeminent research center for the study of

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Shakespeare's works, life, and times. On our tour, we will visit the intimate Elizabethan Theater, discuss why the First Folio (on display in original and digital form) may be the most important work in the English language, glimpse scholars at work in the Reading Room, browse the new exhibit, and consider how and why a 400-year-old portrait in the Founder's Room was altered to look like Shakespeare. After the tour, stories about the ghost of Henry Clay Folger (who died suddenly before the library opened in 1932) will be available on request. Mike Neuman, formerly an English professor and now a docent at the Folger (and CHV Board member), will be our guide.

Participants limited to fifteen. **Call the office to sign up and request a ride if you need one.**

*[Members and their guests]*

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Saturday, February 20 • 6:00 pm

Private home

### Potluck Dinner

Kathryn Powers is hosting Village members at a potluck dinner in her home. She will prepare a main dish and you may bring hors d'oeuvre, vegetable, salad, dessert, bread or wine or other drink. Purchased dishes also welcome. The goal is to socialize with other members over good food. We will try to coordinate dishes, either when you sign up, or in a later phone call.

If you never have attended one of these enjoyable dinners, now is the time. Call the office to sign up and find out the address.

*[Members and their guests]*

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Friday, February 27 • 9 am on

Your home

### DC Hazardous Materials Pick-up

This is the periodic pickup day for hazardous materials and personal papers at CHV members' homes that will be delivered to the District's safe disposal site. Personal papers (medical records or financial files) will be shredded at the drop-off site, viewed by the CHV delivery team to insure they are destroyed.

Hazardous wastes for pickup include paint, house cleaners, batteries, old medicines, televisions, video

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## Upcoming Events and Programs *continued*

equipment, and others not accepted in weekly home trash pickup. For list of accepted wastes, see the DC Hazardous Wastes web site.

Call 202.543.1778 or e-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) to request a pickup or volunteer to assist with the drive.

*[Open to members only]*

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**Friday, February 27 • Noon**  
DC Southeast Library

### Let's Talk about CHV

Capitol Hill Village members are invited to a brown bag lunch for the latest of periodic sessions to talk about what CHV is doing, ask questions, make suggestions, express views and preferences about CHV activities and responses.

To let us know you will attend, call 202.543.1778 or e-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org).

*[Open to members only]*

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**Sunday, February 28 • 4:00 pm**  
Home of Ponthella and Reverend Paul Abernathy

### Village Open House

Village Board Member Ponthella Mack Abernathy and the Reverend Paul Abernathy are holding a Capitol Hill Village Open House. Bring your questions, meet current Village members, sample wine and nibbles, and enjoy the company of your neighbors on this last day of February.

Call the Village office on 202.543.1778 to RSVP and learn the address.

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**Sunday, February 28 • 3:00 pm**  
Metro Stage, 1201 North Royal Street, Alexandria

### Mahalia

By Tom Stolz, directed by Thomas W. Jones II, music directed by S. Renee Clark. A musical biography of Mahalia Jackson, starring the incomparable Bernardine Mitchell, winner of the 2005 Helen Hayes Award for this role. Mahalia chronicles the life of the "Queen of Gospel Music" from her beginnings in the segregated South to her debut on the stage

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of Carnegie Hall, culminating in her triumphant performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. This brilliant musical tribute also features William Hubbard, who received a Helen Hayes nomination for this performance. Running time: 2 hours with 1 intermission. For more information, see the theater

Website: [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org)

We have reserved 10 tickets for this show. Call the office to sign up **by Friday, Feb. 19**, then send checks for \$40 per ticket (group rate) to: CHV, P.O. Box 15126, Washington, DC 20003-126

*[Members and their guests]*

### ADVANCE NOTICE

**Sunday, March 21 4:00 pm**  
Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H Street NE

### Feelin' Groovy: A 1960s Cabaret

The Congressional Chorus presents songs by the Pete Seeger; Simon & Garfunkel; Peter, Paul, & Mary; the Temptations, and Smokey Robinson. They also will sing Broadway hits from Oliver, The Fantasticks, Cabaret, and Hair. Silent auction, beverages, and desserts. Last year's cabaret sold-out several weeks before opening!

Tickets are \$35 (a \$10 discount for reserved seating). CHV member Jim Hardin has purchased two tables of six for Sunday, March 21, at 4:00. Call the office by March 1 to reserve a place. For individual tickets, visit [congressionalchorus.org](http://congressionalchorus.org) or call the Atlas Center 202.399.7993.

*[Members only]*

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## Continuing CHV Events: *Remember to check schedules around the holidays!*

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**Mondays • 2:30 pm**

Garfield Park, S. Carolina Ave. at 3rd Street SE

### Capitol Hill Petanque

Join a group of Capitol Hill game enthusiasts each Monday for a friendly game of Petanque. Beginners are welcome, no personal equipment needed, and instruction will be provided. Game continues except on snowy days. *[Members, volunteers and friends]*

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**Every Tuesday • 12:15 to 1:15 pm**

St. Mark's Yoga Center, Arts Studio, 301 A Street SE

### Class Offering: Easy Does It Yoga

Yoga is an outstanding form of exercise for seniors, and is encouraged by the American College of Sports Medicine. Its benefits include increased flexibility, improved breathing, better balance and nerve function, and relief from a number of ailments. The classes are designed to strengthen, stretch, and restore body, mind and spirit. Your first class is free, and yoga mats and blankets are available at no cost. Consult the web site for details on these affordably-priced classes: [www.stmarks.net/arts/yoga.html](http://www.stmarks.net/arts/yoga.html), or call Christine Romero at 202.544.6356. *[Open to All]*

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**Every Tuesday • 3:00 pm**

**Every Wednesday • 7 am**

Le Pain Quotidien, 7th and Pennsylvania Ave SE

### Stammtisch / MorgenStammtisch

"Stammtisch" is German for a local restaurant table reserved for friends who meet there regularly. Lively discussion with other CHV members and friends — and delicious teas, coffees, and pastries. *[Open to members and friends—no sign-up necessary]*

You DO NOT need to RSVP for continuing events, but let the Village Office know if you need a ride, by calling 202.543.1778, or by e-mailing [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org)

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**Tuesdays and Thursdays • 10:00 am**

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church

4th Street and Independence Ave SE

### Class Offering: Chi-Gong

The gentle but powerful Chinese movement exercise known as chi-gong [pronounced chee gong] is offered for Capitol Hill Village members by Joni Bell (the classes began in May). Joni, herself a CHV member, has practiced this discipline for the past ten years. Her strength and balance have improved remarkably, and she credits the activity with helping her as a 30-year patient with multiple sclerosis. The twice-weekly classes are free and last 30-40 minutes. *[Open To Members Only]*

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**Monday–Saturday • See times below**

Corner Store, 9th Street and S. Carolina Ave SE

### Corner Store Phys Ed

The Corner Store Phys Ed offerings continue with:

- Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 8:00 am, **Walk** for 1 hour through Capitol Hill
- Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am, **Workout** with Ariel
- Wednesday 6:30 am, **Yoga Flow** with Pattie
- Wednesday 11:30 am, **Gentle Pilates** with Katherine

For more information, please call 202.544.5807 or visit <http://cornerstorearts.org>. *[Open to all]*

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**Every Saturday • 8:00 to 9:00 am**

Lincoln Park, 13th Street and East Capitol Streets

### Tai Chi Practice

Practice Tai Chi outdoors on Saturday mornings at Lincoln Park, weather permitting. Another gentle form of exercise for all ages, and especially useful to seniors. It promotes strength and balance, as well as deep breathing and relaxation. It has been described as "moving meditation." Under the direction of Dr. David Walls-Kaufman, tai chi is not difficult to learn, and can be performed at whatever physical level one brings to it. For additional information, call Capitol Hill Chiropractic Center at 202.544.6035. Consult the web site for details on the classes: [www.capitolhilltaichi.com](http://www.capitolhilltaichi.com). *[Open to All]*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am <b>Petanque</b> , 4:30 pm  <b>Second Wind</b> , 7:00 pm, see pp 7 and 13	<b>2</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am <b>Stammtisch</b> , 3 pm <b>Literary Club</b> , 6 pm, see page 13 <b>Born Yesterday</b> , 6:30 pm, see page 13	<b>3</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Yoga Flow</b> , 6:30 am <b>Morgenstammtisch</b> , 7 am <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am <b>Gentle Pilates</b> , 11:30 am	<b>4</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Tai Chi</b> , 8 am <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Petanque</b> , 4:30 pm  <b>Last Day to signup for Target trip</b> , see p. 14 <b>Second Wind</b> , 7:00 pm, see pp 7 and 13	<b>9</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am <b>Easy Does It Yoga</b> , 12:15 pm <b>Stammtisch</b> , 3 pm	<b>10</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Morgenstammtisch</b> , 7 am <b>Last Day to signup for Book Donation Pickup</b> , see p. 14 <b>Target &amp; lunch</b> , 10:30 am, see page 14	<b>11</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am	<b>12</b> <b>Book Donation Pickup</b> , see p. 14	<b>13</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Tai Chi</b> , 8 am <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am
<b>14</b> 	<b>15 President's Day</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am <b>Petanque</b> , 4:30 pm  <b>Second Wind</b> , 7:00 pm, see pp 7 and 13	<b>16</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am <b>Easy Does It Yoga</b> , 12:15 pm <b>Stammtisch</b> , 3 pm	<b>17</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Yoga Flow</b> , 6:30 am <b>Morgenstammtisch</b> , 7 am	<b>18</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am	<b>19</b> <b>Folger's Shakespeare Library</b> , 9:30	<b>20</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Tai Chi</b> , 8 am <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am  <b>Potluck Dinner</b> , 6:00 pm, see page 14
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am <b>Petanque</b> , 4:30 pm	<b>23</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am <b>Stammtisch</b> , 3 pm	<b>24</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Yoga Flow</b> , 6:30 am <b>Morgenstammtisch</b> , 7 am	<b>25</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am	<b>26</b> <b>Pick up of Hazardous Materials</b> 9 am, see p. 14 <b>Let's Talk About CHV</b> , Noon, see page 15	<b>27</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Tai Chi</b> , 8 am <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am
<b>28</b> <b>Mahalia</b> , 3:00 pm, see page 15 <b>Village Open House</b> , 4:00 pm, see page 15	<b>1</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am <b>Petanque</b> , 4:30 pm <b>Deadline to sign up for 60's Cabaret</b> , see page 15	<b>2</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am <b>Easy Does It Yoga</b> , 12:15 pm <b>Stammtisch</b> , 3 pm	<b>3</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Yoga Flow</b> , 6:30 am <b>Morgenstammtisch</b> , 7 am <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am <b>Gentle Pilates</b> , 11:30 am	<b>4</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Workout</b> , 8:30 am <b>Chi-Gong</b> , 10 am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> See p. 16 for: <b>Tai Chi</b> , 8 am <b>Neighborhood Walk</b> , 8 am

For more information about any event, call the CHV office at 202.543.1778, or e-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org)