



# CAPITOL HILL VILLAGE



The **Capitol Hill Village News** will be 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, as we want you to find Capitol Hill Village News useful and worth reading.

If you prefer not to receive Capitol Hill Village News, please send a message to [unsubscribe@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:unsubscribe@capitolhillvillage.org).

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## **Capitol Hill Village Governance Leadership Changes**

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## **Remainder of January and February Calendars**

Join and meet other members. Transportation is available to any event or activity.

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## **Patient Advocacy**

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## **Genealogy**

You can still sign up to join the DAR Library Tour.

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## **Executive Director's Message**

Consider this: Without donors and volunteers Capitol Hill Village would not exist. We are fortunate to have so many on Capitol Hill who recognize that.

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## **Memorable Gifts for Yourself and Others**

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## **January 2008 Calendar**

**Sign up on-line at [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778. Do you need transportation?**

### **Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10 AM**

#### **Sister Circle**

The Sister Circle at D.C.'s Southeast Library is seeking new members who knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, or engage in other handcrafts. The Circle gathers Wednesdays and Saturdays in the newly refurbished library (403 7<sup>th</sup> Street SE) to work on individual projects, chat and share refreshments. A librarian/skilled needlework coach is a Circle regular. No registration needed. Call 202.543.1778 if you desire transportation. (Members and interested persons)

**Wednesday, January 16th at 7:30 PM**  
**"Sighting Birds of Brazil."**

An illustrated talk by Capitol Hill Village board member Ed Missiaen. He and wife Margaret Missiaen visited Brazil this year and previously lived there intermittently. CHAW, 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. (Members and interested persons) E-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 to let us know you are coming.

**Thursday, January 17 from 6-8 PM**  
**"Food Tasting at Zack's Taverna"**

Limited to the first 25; call 202.543.1778 or e-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org). Join Gail Kohn, Executive Director, and Capitol Hill Village members at Zack's Taverna. This is an opportunity to learn about Greek food and other menu items. With food samples free, you'll be full when you leave. The only charge will be for beverages — no drink discount that night. (Any other time you take-out or dine at Zack's, Capitol Hill Village members get a discount on any purchase.) 307 Pennsylvania Ave. SE (Members only)

**Sunday, January 20th at 5 PM**  
**"Staged reading of Brett Busang's A Spiral Staircase"**

A new play based on the role artist Jo Hopper played in the life and work of her famous husband, Edward Hopper, with a post performance discussion with the cast and playwright. The Corner Store 900 South Carolina Ave. SE (Open to all. Members receive a \$5 discount on the suggested \$10 donation.) Call 544.5807

**Tuesday, January 22 at 10 AM**  
**"DAR Library Tour"**

(Members and interested persons) This guided tour at 1776 D Street NW is open to genealogists and wannabes.

The DAR Library is one of the largest Genealogy and Family History Libraries in the United States. Among its collection of 185,000 books are 20,000 volumes of unpublished Bible, cemetery, vital and other records collected and transcribed by DAR members.

The DAR Seimes Technology Center has scanned copies of all DAR applications and much of their supporting documentation. DAR's large collection of microfilm and microfiche includes both federal and state censuses, vital and other federal, state and local records. In addition, the Center will arrange for researchers to borrow film from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Without question, the DAR Library owns the largest collection of printed and filmed Revolutionary War materials in the United States.

(Meet Hazel Kreinheder at Security) E-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 for further details.

**Thursday, January 24 at 3:30 PM**  
**"Surviving an Emergency Medicine Crisis"**

A talk and discussion by Dr. Michael Williams, Emergency Services Director of the DC Fire Department, to be held at the American Legion Post, 224 D Street SE. Dr. Williams, also a trauma surgeon at Washington Hospital Center, will tell of improvements in the District's emergency medical services since the death of David Rosenbaum called attention to serious problems two years ago. And he will lead a discussion on what residents and Capitol Hill Village can do to better prepare for emergencies and facilitate EMS team services when they are needed. (Members and interested persons) E-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 to let us know you are coming. *(Read more about this event and others to help you organize for whatever happens to your health in the future.)*

**Mondays, January 28th - May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11:30 AM**  
**FREE PC Basics Class (including use of Microsoft Word and e-mail)**

Limited to 12 participants at the D.C. Southeast Library. To register, call 202.698.3372 on or before 1/18/08. (Open to all adults, but those who are members or are interested in Capitol Hill Village are invited to register early.)

**Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 PM**  
**"Capitol Hill Village Authors Book-of-the-Month Discussion Series"**

Bring your brown bag lunch to this new, monthly collaborative event at the D.C. Southeast Library, one of Capitol Hill Village's partners. January's Book: *An Infinity of Little Hours* by Nancy Klein Maguire (a CHV member and Folger Shakespeare Library Scholar-in-Residence since 1985). This book is non-fiction that reads like a novel, a cultural history, a coming-of-age story and a mystery.

The library branch has some copies available, and others can be purchased by members, who can show their Capitol Hill Village membership card at Trover Books and Gifts (221 Pennsylvania Avenue SE—202.548.8011), for \$11.16 (20% off their retail paperback price).

This chronicle describes the difficult five-year spiritual journey of five young men who, in 1960, entered the gates of the most rigorous and ascetic monastic order in the Western world--the Carthusians--a society unchanged since its foundation in 1084. *An Infinity of Little Hours* provides an intimate look inside this secretive world. And the final chapter recounts a reunion of the five men forty years later to reveal which of them succeed and how the others incorporate their monastic experience as they rejoin the world outside. E-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 to let us know you are coming.

**Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM**  
**"Reading: Crab Cakes, Bundt Cakes, and Other Kitchen Stories, by Talking With My Mouth Full author Bonny Wolf "**

The Corner Store 900 South Carolina Ave. SE

Bonny Wolf is NPR's Weekend Edition Food Commentator. (Optional) Bring a dish from a favorite recipe for a potluck buffet before/after the reading. (Open to all. Members receive a \$5 discount on suggested donation.) Call 544.5807.

**February 2008 Calendar**

**Sign up on-line at [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778. Do you need transportation?**

**Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> 2-4 PM**  
**"Update and Discussion about Capitol Hill Village" at the Eastern Market North Hall**

Join us (and bring your friends) for A GROUNDHOG DAY gathering at Market. Five at which we will talk about what the Capitol Hill Village has accomplished over the past three months and look ahead six weeks-like our friend. (For members; bring your friends. All who are interested are encouraged to come.) E-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 to let us know you are coming.

**Saturday, February 2 at 2-3 PM**  
**Tree Pruning Workshop**

Margaret Missiaen, gardening coordinator for CHV, will provide a workshop on winter pruning of trees common to Capitol Hill yards. Known in the neighborhood as "Capitol Hill Tree Lady," Missiaen will be demonstrating work needed on four types of trees at the home of Diane Brockett, 325 South Carolina Avenue SE. Freezing weather would require the session be moved to Feb. 9. (Open to all who are interested) E-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 to let us know you are coming.

**Saturday, February 9th at 8 pm**  
**"Valentine's Dance Party with The Fabulettes!" The Corner Store 900 South Carolina Ave. SE**

(Open to all. Members receive a \$5 discount on suggested donation of \$35. If you were here last year, you know to reserve space NOW!. Call 544.5807.

**Monday, February 11 at 7:30 PM "February Sing-along"**  
**324 G Street SE**

Parker Jayne returns to the piano to lead us through Rogers and Hammerstein and Elvis songs—at the home of Mary Procter and Bill Matuszeski. (For members and interested persons. Bring your voices and your friends.) E-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 to let us know you are coming.

**Monday-Wednesday, February 11th to 13th****Valentine's Glass & Jewelry Gift Show**

The Corner Store Gallery 900 South Carolina Ave. SE will be open from 5 to 8 pm each evening featuring work by Laurie Siegel, Kris Swanson & Sadye Stern

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 at 8 PM "Madiva Winds Concert for Capitol Hill Village"**

Madiva Winds, an ensemble of flute/piccolo, clarinet, oboe and piano professional musicians who regularly appear on Capitol Hill, will be performing an evening of music by Saint Saens, Roger Nixon, Madeline Dring and Johannes Brahms. Tickets are \$18, and one-fourth of the evenings proceeds will be donated to Capitol Hill Village. Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Indiana Avenue SE.

**Saturday, February 16th at 8 PM****"Sally Martin sings Edith Piaf"**

The Corner Store 900 South Carolina Ave. SE

Join us for an evening of gorgeous music. Sally Martin's new CD, *Another Time, Another Place*, has been nominated for a WAMMIES award in the category of Best Jazz Recording. Sally has also been nominated in the category of Best Cabaret/Musical Theater Artist. (Open to all. Members receive a \$5 discount on suggested donation of \$35.) Call 544.5807

**Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM****"Paperwork to Simplify Communication in the Health Care World"**

Join Dr. Deborah Edge and Gail Kohn at Marty's on Barracks Row 527 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE upstairs. Come and have dinner first, then we will discuss the importance of collecting and maintaining up-to-date information on your health so the cast of characters who need to know about you are informed when necessary. Members only. E-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 early. SPACE IS LIMITED.

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**Executive Director's Message**

Capitol Hill Village is in its start-up years. If annual dues are not adjusted, until memberships reach somewhere around 600 dues, expenses will not be covered by dues revenue. So thank you to all who gave part of the \$108,429 raised in 2007 for general operations; half was used. Depending on when and whether staff will be added (which will not be necessary if volunteers continue to help with office work) the remainder will be used over the next two years.

Capitol Hill Village has an inclusive vision. All who live within the boundaries are welcome to join. With our Membership Plus program underway, you can help those with limited incomes to join. Read more about this program at [www.capitolhillvillage.org](http://www.capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 and ask to speak with me. Many of you want to help others join Capitol Hill Village. In 2007 \$6,520 was given to the Steven C. Rogers fund, which adds to Capitol Hill Village's foundation support for neighbors with limited incomes.

As for volunteers, so far we have filled four requests with volunteers for each one that requires a preferred vendor. Volunteers-first is working, because so many want to help. Of course volunteers needs and wishes grow and change. Most who join us will want to pursue different assignments as time goes by. It is important to Capitol Hill Village's success that volunteers have the opportunity to leave behind their initial volunteer activity and get involved in other ways. We hope that regularly asking volunteers about their assignments gives them the outlet to say when it is time to make changes.

Our Capitol Hill Village leaders are demonstrating how volunteers can change their assignments and remain involved. Many thanks to Geoff Lewis, Norman Metzger and Mary Procter for starting with Capitol Hill Village in their initial roles and then taking on new assignments. *(For more detail, go to Leadership Changes)*

—Gail Kohn

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## Leadership Changes

Geoff Lewis, who initiated the creation of Capitol Hill Village, is stepping down as its President on February 1,

"Now that Capitol Hill Village is up and going successfully, I think it is a good idea to change leadership," Lewis says. "This gives the organization a chance to breathe and expand in different ways."

The CHV Board of Directors has approved Vice President Norman Metzger as the new President, while board member Mary E. Procter will become Vice President. Then, next Oct. 1, Procter is to assume the presidency.

Lewis will remain on the board until his three-year term expires July 1, 2009, most likely, he says, "involved in seeking grants and other funds" for the non-profit organization.

Capitol Hill Village, which aims to insure residents can remain in their homes as they age, opened its doors officially on October 1, 2007.

However, Lewis, who has been a Capitol Hill resident for 37 years and grew up in the area, first heard about a village program for older Boston residents in late 2005. He jumped into exploring the idea, and then held his first "meeting" with friends and neighbors in March 2006, inviting the dozen "to be a working board" for creating Capitol Hill Village.

Lewis said that some of the other long-term players -- for whom work to get the village up and running became their main activity -- also will be stepping down from the board in the coming months, as their terms end.

Yet, the board also has just named two new members for 3-year terms, Louis Kincannon and Edith Lanum.

Metzger, a Capitol Hill resident since 1970, says that while he is assuming the presidency for only 9 months in order to give Procter more time to finish other work, "my intention is not to be a caretaker."

First on his list, Metzger says, is to "make sure we are in good shape financially. We are OK for 2008, but now we must worry about 2009. We need a strong marketing campaign, both to expand our memberships, including strengthening and enlarging the Membership Plus program. And we in fact have in place a very strong marketing effort, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Judy and Mike Canning. Regrettably and certainly understandably, they have elected to leave the Board when their terms end June 30, 2008."

Currently, there are 120 single and couple memberships, involving 180 individuals.

This more than meets the first year goal of 100 members. In 2008 the goal is to double to memberships, and, as Capitol Hill Village has developed, it has become clear Capitol Hill Village needs 600 members, if dues at their present annual levels are to cover expenses.

Procter notes that Board Treasurer Larry Molumby "has calculated we can break even without significant gifts and grant funding at 600 members....Gail wants us to grow up to that size, and I want membership to grow as high as possible so it will be somewhat independent of major grant funding." Grants and donations are useful, she says, but "being heavily dependent on them makes a weaker organization."

Procter and fellow board member Patrick McClintock are creating social programs for village members, "and that will surely be a very effective way to draw new members," Metzger says, "especially the NYR category -- not yet ready."

Procter says that while serving as Vice President, she and McClintock will continue to work

on village events and activities. "There are some things in the Village that residents need to learn and to prepare for, such as reverse mortgages, physically adapting your house to meet aging needs, and medical emergencies. And then there is the fun, the getting to know each other."

Membership Plus, which allows discounted memberships and other assistance to lower-income Capitol Hill residents, "is something we should be doing, but also it is important for us financially." Metzger continues.

Capitol Hill Village Executive Director Gail Kohn is exploring Membership Plus funding with D.C. officials, and Lewis and Metzger both expect foundations will be a growing funding source,

"Geoff has said he wants my becoming President to coincide with the board becoming a more traditional, policy board," Procter adds.



*(Left to right) Geoff Lewis, founding and outgoing president; Mary Procter, incoming vice-president, who will become president in the fall; Norman Metzger, former vice-president and newly elected president.*

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### **Thanks to Geoff**

It was Geoff Lewis' late mother who started him and his wife, Terry, thinking: How do we remain for all of our later days and years in the home we love on Capitol Hill?

"My mother lived in four assisted-living places, and she hated all of them. She called them geriatric boarding schools, and you could see why," Lewis recalls.

Then, he read an article on Boston's Beacon Hill Village in an AARP magazine. "I carried that around with me. I said that's really neat. I want to stay in my house, this house, right here."

Several longtime Capitol Hill friends encouraged Lewis to investigate further. "I'd never done anything like that," he says, and the friends agree. "Many of us who have known him for years never have seen him so energized," says Mary Procter. "It was interesting to watch him ramp this up as fast as he could."

Lewis sat down with Nickie Cymrot of Riverby Bookstore, they drew up a list of other possibly interested Capital Hill residents, and a small group started meeting. And then

meeting, and meeting, each taking assignments and meeting again.

"We just took off from there," smiles Lewis, pointing out that 18 months later, Capitol Hill Village had its launch celebration party in the October afternoon sunshine on the grounds of Friendship House.

And most of his informal planning group was there, along with scores of new members and interested maybes. Lewis's group of twelve was identifiable because they wore Board of Director badges.

Now, Geoff Lewis is stepping down as President of Capitol Hill Village, explaining that Capital Hill Village is a healthy organization, "fully solvent and in good order. So this is a natural time for a fresh thinker to be taking the reigns."

"I'm sorry he is stepping down, but I'm delighted he is staying on the board," says Norman Metzger, who is moving from Vice President to President. "I don't know if the Village would exist without him. Geoff is the one who got it going, who did it."

"It has been "two intense years for Geoff," points out Michael Canning, who along with his wife Judith, was among the original group. The Cannings' board terms end this coming June, and they say they also are ready to "have a bit more distance" from the village. Yet, the Cannings, just like Geoff, expect to continue to be active volunteers.

In addition to fostering the idea, Lewis is credited with a running sense of determination that meant a planning group led to a formal non-profit organization ready to hire an executive director in little more than a year.

Lewis points out that the board operated by consensus, and that board members voluntarily took on issues or tasks related to their individual areas of expertise. For instance, Village Treasurer Larry Molumby had a financial background in D.C. elections, techie Neal Mann offered to create a website, Mike Canning said he'd do publicity.

"A year later, we were utterly astonished how much we had accomplished, how quickly we moved forward," recalls Judith Canning.

Significant initial funding was raised through contributions and/or early memberships from interested Capital Hill residents who were invited to numerous chats in board members' living rooms. Then, in the midst of trying to find the right candidate for the new post of executive director, Lewis sat across the aisle from Gail Kohn on an airplane flight to Boston.

Both were going to an April 30-May 1 conference at Beacon Hill Village. Gail, an aging services expert, told her seat mate all about Beacon Hill Village and the a venture underway in Washington, DC, called Capitol Hill Village. Then Geoff introduced himself to Gail, explaining that he was the Capitol Hill Village president. They began talking and..."Gail started work as our executive director May 21," Lewis adds.

Gail then sold the board on a second major theme to Capitol Hill Village's central idea of providing necessary services so aging residents comfortably can remain in their homes. That theme was to emphasize volunteerism – first meeting the needs and wishes of members with volunteer aid and only turning to paid services when necessary.

As for Lewis, how much assistance has he sought? "I got my windows washed," he offered after thinking a few seconds, adding "one of the reasons I joined the village is that there are some things around I can do, but don't want to do anymore."

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### **New Board Members**

Capitol Hill Village by-laws allow for up to fifteen members. Until recently there were twelve. At its December meeting two more were added for 3-year terms there are now fourteen. (After the annual meeting in June, as some board members staggered terms

end each year, additional board composition changes can be anticipated.) Here are brief biographies about Capitol Hill Village's newest board members.

**Louis Kincannon** Louis Kincannon was nominated as Director of the Census Bureau by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate in 2002. He served from 2002 to 2008, the longest serving director since the Eisenhower Administration. He began his career as a statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau in 1963 after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin. Louis held various posts at Census and also at OMB. He was Deputy Director at Census from 1982 to 1992. In 1992, he was appointed as the first chief statistician in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris to coordinate the organization's statistical programs, as well as advise the OECD secretary general on statistical policy. In the 1960s he lived at 518 G St SE, 121 12<sup>th</sup> St SE, and 636 G St SE, where he and his wife Claire met and married. He served on the vestry of Christ Church and the initial board of Capitol Hill Day School. He and Claire returned to the Hill in 2002 and reside on 10<sup>th</sup> St SE. The Kincannons read a NY Times article about Beacon Hill Village, and attended an informational meeting on CHV hosted by neighbor Alice Norris. They joined CHV shortly thereafter, since it offered a good way to fill current and future needs for them and many other neighbors.

**Edith Lanum** For over twenty-seven years, Edith Lanum has held several positions within the District of Columbia Government. Currently she is a Customer Service Manager with the DC Water and Sewer Authority. Edith's interest in Capitol Hill Village was prompted by the former lack of a program such as ours that would have aided her ailing dad to remain in his home as his needs changed. She is recognized as a dedicated and conscientious person who strives to make a difference by her service to others. She strongly believes that lives will be enhanced greatly by programs such as Capitol Hill Village.

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### **Patient Advocacy**

Capitol Hill Village wants you to help yourself by communicating well with the health care system. To that end a series of presentations over the next few months intended to assist you to organize for whatever may happen.

- On January 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM please take the time to come to the American Legion Post, 224 D Street SE, to learn from Dr. Michael Williams what the DC emergency medical services can do for Capitol Hill Village members.
- On February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM join Dr. Deborah Edge and Gail Kohn at Marty's on 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE. Come and have dinner first, then we will discuss the importance of collecting and maintaining up-to-date information on your health so the cast of characters who need to know about you are informed when necessary.
- In March (on a date, time and location to be determined) we will create an opportunity to get your paperwork done. Do you have what you need to convey medical and financial decision making authority to others? Have you looked at your advance directives lately?
- In April (on a date, time and location to be determined) we will return to the importance of having an advocate accompany you when you visit your physician; especially when chronic ailments and serious new diagnoses are involved. That may be your spouse or an experienced Capitol Hill Village volunteer.

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### **Memorable Gifts for Yourself and Others**

Here is a special gift you can give you and the world! Is catalog overload a frustrating part of the daily mail delivery at your door?

If so, there is a free Internet service, run by The Ecology Center, that will help you discontinue those you don't want to receive – [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org). The Catalog Choice site says that, to date, over 350,000 people have used it to opt out of over 4 million catalogs.

But, before you contact the site, have on hand at least one of the undesired catalogs, as you will need to indicate how your name appears on the mailing label, plus the customer number. The latter is either on the label or inside on the order form.

Once you have enrolled with the site, log on as more catalogs arrive and add to your reject list. The center site indicates it will contact the business with your request, but expect it to take at least six weeks for it to be effective.

E-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778 about these gifts.

- **Capitol Hill Village Membership** – Give a year of fun and peace of mind to a friend or relative.
- **Capitol Hill Village Gift Certificates** – Buy one or many of the \$25 gift certificates, which can be used with our preferred vendors to pay for home repairs or personal services. (For members only.)
- **Contribute to Capitol Hill Village in memory or honor of loved ones** – Think of those who could not stay in their homes because they did not have a “village”.
- **Buy a home inspection – For those you care about to plan ahead. \$200 for home safety and awareness of what will need repair when.** (For members only.) Read about this in the January CHV News, e-mail [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org) or call 202.543.1778.

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