

CAPITOL HILL VILLAGE NEWS

APRIL 2010

Tour of the Folger Shakespeare Library

By Mike Canning

On February 19, Capitol Hill Village members were treated to a comprehensive, informative tour of one of the Hill's greatest cultural treasures, the Folger Shakespeare Library (FSL). The tour guide, Mike Neuman, a docent there since 2008, also is a Village Board member and volunteer.

In a half professorial/half-conversational, and always congenial delivery, Mike led his group through a history of the institution, a review of its holdings and activities, a look at its signature spaces—all punctuated with bio bits and quotes from the Bard himself.

Mike indicated that he was in the most recent class of docents, a program that amounted, in



his words, to “a graduate school class.” Those applying are often people trained as English teachers or professors (like Mike himself) or are those with an abiding interest in the theater and Shakespeare.

He provided background on the library's founder, Henry Clay

Folger, an Amherst graduate whose wife shared his passion for Shakespeare. For years, they collected books on or about the writer and his period that they eventually decided to house in DC, a city they had come to admire. The FSL was left as an

(continued on page 10)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Ask Dr. Wonk
- 3 Message from Gail Kohn
- 4 Environmental and Financial Savings for Member Homes
- 4 Balance Class
- 6 Who Doesn't Need a Will?
- 8 Random Musings
- 11 Linda Grover Dies
- 12 Irving Kensler Dies
- 12 Upcoming Events For Opera Lovers
- 17 April CHV Calendar

Upcoming Events and Programs

Tuesday, March 23 • 6:00 pm
506 8th Street SE

Dinner at Trattoria Alberto

Join good company for an Italian dinner at Trattoria Alberto. Diners will have a choice of entrée, along with salad, tiramisu for dessert, and coffee or tea. Seating will be at tables of six for easy conversation. The \$21 fixed-price includes taxes and gratuities. Alcoholic beverages are paid individually. CASH ONLY.

Open to members, volunteers, and potential CHV members, but **reservations must be made by 12:00 noon on Monday, March 22**, so the restaurant can make proper arrangements with our group.

(continued on page 13)

Joint Tenancy and DC Estate Taxes



Q After the death of one of a couple, what is the difference between joint tenancy and tenancy in common? And which regulation is effective in DC?

A *Joint tenancy* means that two or more people hold title to the entire property jointly. So, when one dies, the living owner, or owners, holds the title to the whole property without the one who is deceased without any further action. That is what “right of survivorship” means. Because of the automatic right of survivorship, no part of the property is in the deceased person’s estate. When two or more persons hold property as *tenants in common*, each owner has the title to a fractional part of the property. The fraction is legally transferable without the consent of the other owners (although it would be hard to find a buyer for a fraction of a property). So, when one owner dies, the fraction is part of the deceased person’s estate and must pass through probate, either under the decedent’s will or by intestate succession. In the District of

Columbia, as in all English law jurisdictions, the type of title is controlled by what the deed says.

Somewhat the same principles apply to personal property. For example, ownership of a bank account, investment account, stocks and bonds, etc., is determined by the documents that establish ownership—account applications, stock certificate, etc. Tangible personal property (e.g., home furnishings) would be determined, usually, by

the way the title to the home is held, unless there is some reason to believe that a different way of holding title was intended. For example, a spouse who inherited a valuable antique would be the sole owner unless there is some evidence that he or she intended for the other spouse to own it jointly.

I assume “couple” in the question refers to a married couple. Married couples usually own property as “tenants by the entirety,” which is a variation of joint tenancy available only to owners who are married to each other. Married couples can change the ownership to a tenancy in common if they agree to do so, and a tenancy by the entirety will automatically change to tenancy in common upon divorce. It is rarely to the advantage of a married couple to hold property as tenants in common, but there are some tax advantages for some fairly wealthy couples, or couples who own several pieces of real property, to change the way titles are held. Don’t change your title without seeking the

advice of your lawyer to see if it is really to your advantage to do so. Incidentally, a tenancy by the entirety also is available to same-sex couples married in the District of Columbia.

Q What is the estate tax rate in DC?

A DC estate tax is due on the value of a decedent’s gross estate minus deductions available under the federal tax code that exceeds one million dollars. The gross estate includes all property that changes ownership as a result of death—the probate estate, life insurance, the remainder of IRAs and pension plans, etc. The rate of tax is equal to the credit given against the federal estate tax for state taxes.

The amount of the federal credit for state taxes is graduated from: \$400 plus 1.6 percent of the amount over \$90,000 up to \$140,000; to \$1,082,800 plus 16 percent of the amount over \$1,040,000. The result is that if federal tax is due on an estate, there is a credit for taxes paid to DC, and, therefore, no increase in total taxes.

If no federal taxes are due (for example, on estates of persons dying in 2010), then taxes would be paid to DC in the amount that the feds would credit if federal taxes were due. Complicated enough? Talk to your lawyer if you think you need to do some tax planning for your likely estate.

(The Dr. Wonk advice column this month is provided by Capitol Hill Village Board Secretary Frank Allen.)

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.

To reach us:

Phone: 202.543.1778

E-mail:
info@capitolhillvillage.org

Internet:
www.capitolhillvillage.org

Mail: PO Box 15126,
Washington, DC 20003

To unsubscribe, please send a message to unsubscribe@capitolhillvillage.org

For membership information, please go to www.capitolhillvillage.org and click on "Become a Member"

Capitol Hill Village Leaders

Mary Procter, President of the Board

Gail Kohn, Executive Director

Katie McDonough, Community & Social Services Director

Capitol Hill Village News Team

Editor: Diane Brockett

Activities Coordinator:
Judy Canning

Designer: Roxanne Walker

Photographer: Norm Metzger

Copy Editor: Jim Hardin

From The Executive Director...

Snow and What It Produced

Here we are with signs of spring all around us. The challenging winter of 2010 is behind us. I again want to thank all who shoveled snow for other members. Capitol Hill Village volunteers were ever ready and the Boy Scouts on Capitol Hill helped tremendously. Capitol Hill Village preferred vendors, who usually perform other trades, joined the snow-removal effort.

My favorite stories from our winter experiences?

Attending the 2010 Gala was challenging. The question arose on that snowy Saturday, should we cancel the event? NO, we should not, clearly was the answer when the GottaSwing band announced they would be able to make it from Silver Spring. All afternoon before the Gala, I received calls from participants, asking, "Is it on?" The answer was, YES, and what a great time we had with most of the participants arriving in boots!

One of our members, who had his hip replaced, was to return home from the hospital on a sunny Sunday after the last snow. His wife called Capitol Hill Village Saturday to ask that the four-foot long, snow-sided path from the street to the sidewalk be cleared again -- the sidewalk, inadvertently, had been refilled by a city snow-removal truck. Our member had been warned that, if there were not a clear path to the front door, he would be returned to the hospital. Capitol Hill Village volunteers arrived Sunday morning, as close as they could make it to the appointed arrival time of the ambulance carrying our member home. The path was cleared. Our



member, who was in the hospital longer than expected due to the snow, was assisted into his home. That experience makes answering the Capitol Hill Village telephone, when the office is closed, well worthwhile.

Consequences of Procrastination

During the winter, you were encouraged to take the time to complete a vital piece of the Capitol Hill Village "Be Prepared" agenda. The documents associated with Communicating with the Health Care and Legal Worlds not only need to be completed, they must be revisited regularly to keep them up to date. Here again is the entire list of assignments that Capitol Hill Village urges you to undertake... and update (see the checklist on page 5).

Spring rain will make some days unfit for outdoor activities. Please take one of those days to complete these documents. Call or email the Capitol Hill Village office (202.543.1778 or

(continued on page 5)

Environmental and Financial Savings for Member Homes

By Joan Keenan

Two environmental groups are joining with Capitol Hill Village and William Penn House to help CHV members turn environmental and financial savings into reality—both a healthier and happier household/neighborhood environment.

To observe the possibilities of both projects, you can participate in a neighborhood rain garden walk on April 19 for Village members, chaperoned by the professionals. Features will include environmentally friendly landscaping and gardening, plus home weatherization. Refreshments and more discussion, plus some written materials, will be provided at the William Penn House afterwards.

The DC Department of Environment has a RiverSmart Program underway, according to Leah Lemoine of the DDOE, to audit homeowners properties on reducing storm-water runoff

from roofs and gardens. The department also has funds available to assist with fulfilling their recommendations, including installing rain barrels (a real bargain at \$30), shade trees, pervious pavers, rain gardens, and native plant gardens.

The department has a waiting list and will be able to do new inspections at Capitol Hill homes this coming fall or spring 2011. That translates into initiating your recommended changes next summer.

Heather Deal of Weatherize DC, says the local nonprofit is offering reduced-priced home assessments on ways to reduce energy use in your home, plus advice on applicable “green jobs.” Some lower-priced home improvements include caulking, weather-stripping materials, lowering hot-water costs, and replacing some home equipment with energy-saving units that eventually pay for themselves.



Leah Lemoine of the DDOE

To sign up for the April Rain Garden walk, please call 202.543.1778 (9 am to 5 pm) or e-mail info@capitolhillvillage.com. See page 14 for more details.

To sign up for the individual visits for assessments by RiverSmart or Weatherize DC home improvements, contact CHV's Katie McDonough at kmcdonough@capitolhillvillage.com.

Balance Class

How about enjoying your increasing desire to be outdoors as spring keeps promising to arrive?

A balance class, initially tried with a smaller group, is being expanded for all Capitol Hill Village members on the 4th Friday of the month, to add insurance that springtime pleasures don't bring on new aches and pains. The next two sessions two are March 26 and April 23.

The 12:30 pm sessions at the Southeast Library will offer tips to address preventing falls and fractures preventative strategies to reduce your fall risk, common causes of falls and more.

The monthly class, conducted by physical therapists of Physiotherapy Associates of Capitol Hill, will focus on ways to deal with those changes that are inevitable as we age and make us susceptible to falls—changes in

vision, hearing, muscle strength, coordination and reflexes.

Preventing falls especially is important for people who live alone, or who have osteoporosis.

The monthly program also will create home exercise programs so you can improve your overall strength, coordination and flexibility.

RSVP to Capitol Hill Village at 202.543.8995 (9 am to 5 pm) or info@capitolhillvillage.com.

Executive Director *continued from page 3*

gkohn@capitolhillvillage.org) for copies of DC model documents.

Last will and testament. Attorney and Capitol Hill Village board secretary Frank Allen has written in this issue about the consequences of dying without a **last will and testament** in DC (see page 6).

For even more help with writing your will, come to April Capitol Hill Village programs, "Writing Your Own Will and Durable Powers of Attorney... or Get a Lawyer to Help" (*Saturday, April 17, 11-1 pm at Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church Seminar Center, 4th and Independence Ave. SE*) and "Tough Conversations" (*Wednesday, April 14, 7 pm, Citizens for Global Solutions, 420 7th Street SE*). See page 14 for more information on both programs.

Vital information on one page.

Why complete and update regularly the **one-page summary of vital information** about you? Because you are not at your best to prepare for a trip to the emergency room when you are hurting and apprehensive. Who knows when that will be? This is the document that changes whenever you have a new diagnosis or different medications or a new cell phone number.

Durable power of attorney for health care decision-making.

Why must you have a **durable power of attorney for health care decision-making**? This document is critical if your decision-maker is unrelated to you. Health care facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living residences want to know to whom to turn when you are unable to speak for yourself. An unrelated person is able to present the

authority you have granted, if you have completed a durable power of attorney for health care. (You do not want the court to have to assign a decision-maker for you. What does a stranger know about your wishes?) All of us need to take the time to share our views regarding end-of-life views with our decision-makers. Here are the key topics to discuss with your decision maker.

- ▶ Should you be kept alive on a respirator (breathing machine) or with a tube that feeds you (nutrition) or provides fluids (hydration) to you artificially? Under what circumstances?
- ▶ If your breathing stops or your heart stops beating, do you want to be resuscitated? Under what circumstances?
- ▶ If you are in a great deal of pain, and can't make clear decisions, knowing you'll be given high doses of pain-killing drugs that will make you foggier, do you want that pain relieved?

If you keep an original of this document and your one-page summary of vital information with you at all times (or a note about the one-page website source) in your wallet, you are likely to communicate well with the health care system. Equally significant is keeping these two items in an obvious spot at home, along with the little red-and-white Vial of Life sign on your front door so emergency medical personnel know they are available if and when they arrive for you.

Giving a copy to your doctors is also a good idea, but your doctor may not always be available with access to your vital information. And, of course,

CHV Be Prepared Checklist

- ___ Last will and testament
- ___ Vital information on one piece of paper
- ___ Durable power of attorney for health care decision-making
- ___ Durable power of attorney for financial decision-making
- ___ Your Driver Retirement Plan
- ___ Last will and testament
- ___ Document Location Notebook
- ___ Knowing How You'll Pay for Long-Term Care
- ___ Adopting a Master Plan to Make Your Home Accessible and Working
- ___ Staying Well and Fit
- ___ Getting Rid of Stuff

originals should also be among the papers of your health care decision-maker and your attorney. If your decision-maker no longer is capable of helping you, choose another...and change your durable power of attorney for health care designation.

As for your **durable power of attorney for financial decision making**, you want that document completed to make it easy for those you love to assist you when you cannot pay your bills, or to obtain funds to help you in other ways.

Contact Capitol Hill Village, if you need assistance completing these documents. We have attorney volunteers who will work with you. We also can recommend an attorney you can pay.

—Gail Kohn

Who Doesn't Need a Will?

By Frank Allen

Bar associations, relatives, practicing attorneys, civic associations and all sorts



Attorney Frank Allen

of people and entities interested in orderly civic life constantly urge everyone to have a will. So, I thought I would begin by suggesting some people who don't need a will.

- ▶ People who own absolutely nothing. But wait before you put yourself in that category. Do you own furniture? Do you have clothing or objects that could be of use to someone else? You must have a bank account of some amount where you deposit your pension and social security checks.
- ▶ People who are under eighteen years of age. Wait again, as most people live well past that age and then die at an unpredictable time.
- ▶ People who are mentally incompetent. And, wait again. If you think you are mentally incompetent, you probably aren't.
- ▶ People who are so under the influence of another person that they lose their ability to make informed decisions about their own affairs. If you believe you are in this situation, find another companion or advisor. Remember that anyone can give advice, but you decide what to put in your will.
- ▶ People who are immortal.

There may be others, but I can't think of who they might be. Perhaps you suggest that the list

includes people who are content to let the law decide what should be done with their property upon their demise. Not so.

The reason such people also should have a will becomes apparent when the nature and necessity of probate—the process of transferring ownership of a deceased person's property—is examined. An efficient and cost effective way of disposing of a deceased person's property is a social necessity. There is also a necessity to ensure that anyone who may have a legitimate claim to a decedent's property has an opportunity to assert that claim.

To accomplish both these objectives, the law provides that someone be appointed a personal representative—what we used to call an executor or administrator—to take possession of the decedent's property, pay the decedent's creditors, and distribute the remainder of the property in kind or in the form of the cash proceeds from the sale to the people who are entitled to receive it. The law sets out the order of priority as to who that person should be.

The first person in order of priority is the person named personal representative in the will. So, a will settles that question without debate, unless the person named is unwilling or unable to do the work. (Name an alternative in case your first choice declines to or is unable to serve.)

If No Will

If there is no will, or the person named doesn't pan out, the law furnishes a list of people in their order of priority—surviving spouse and adult children, persons entitled to the residual estate, etc. But each description usually includes more

than one person, and all persons in the same category have an equal priority. My experience is that people agree to become a personal representative reluctantly because the work required interrupts their lives. On the other hand, if it turns out that all in a priority category want the job, they may wind up being appointed co-representatives and can accomplish nothing until all sign off on every act.

The law requires that a personal representative furnish a bond secured by a qualified bonding company—an expense to the estate—unless the will waives the bond, or all the persons entitled to inherit waive the bond. Obviously, the easiest way to avoid that expense is to waive the bond in the will. Yet, in rare cases, there may be a good reason to require the personal representative to be bonded—for example, where a lack of trust among the heirs and legatees is anticipated.

What about the married couple that owns everything jointly, so everything goes to the survivor? Clearly, the survivor needs a will, no matter who survives. Married couples should prepare wills together while both are alive and competent, so each knows where their joint property will go when the survivor dies. The wills also name guardians on whom the couple agree for their minor children. The wills can say how estates should be administered when they die very close together, or under circumstances where it cannot be determined who died first. If the wills do not say which spouse is to be treated as dying first in simultaneous, or closely timed, deaths, then the law requires that half of all jointly-owned property

(continued on page 7)



must go through probate as if each person died first—two probate proceedings instead of one.

Then there is the married individual who owns a house and other substantial property individually. This often occurs in the case of second marriages. Don't assume that everything will go to the surviving spouse by operation of law. Rather, the surviving spouse and minor children will receive a family allowance of \$10,000 and \$15,000 worth of real property. The rest is divided according to a complicated formula:

(Note: In the following material, Descendant means a son or daughter or grandchildren.) The surviving spouse or domestic partner receives:

- (1) The entire intestate estate, if no descendant or parent of the dead person survives him or her;
- (2) Two-thirds of any balance of the intestate estate, if the dead individual's surviving children

or grandchildren also are descendants of the surviving spouse or domestic partner and there is no other descendant of the surviving spouse or domestic partner who survives the dead person;

(3) Three-fourths of any balance of the intestate estate, if no descendant of the decedent survives him or her, but the dead person's parent(s) survives;

(4) One-half of any balance of the intestate estate, if all of the decedent's surviving descendants also are children/grandchildren

of the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner and the surviving spouse or domestic partner has one or more surviving descendants who are not also close family of the decedent; or

- (5) One-half of any balance of the intestate estate, if one or more of the decedent's surviving descendants are not children/grandchildren of the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner.

Nearest Living Resident Can Inherit

Next, there is the single individual with no children, no spouse, and no grandchildren. If there is no will, aside from the difficulty of finding a qualified personal representative, then the estate will be divided among the people who are closest in kinship, e.g., siblings, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, first cousins, second cousins,

etc. Often, all class relatives are hard to locate, particularly if they are distant cousins, or estranged siblings, or half-siblings.

The law provides that if a diligent search can locate no one within the fifth degree of kinship, the property will escheat to the District of Columbia. Why would anyone want that to happen? Why would anyone want their property to go to distant cousins that they haven't seen in years, or perhaps, never met? Why would anyone want a paid personal representative to undergo the time and expense of searching for estranged relatives? If there is really no one who you want to benefit when you pass on, why not give your property to a local church, charity, or nonprofit, such as Capitol Hill Village?

Next, the family home presents particular issues that should be resolved by a will for potentially surviving spouses and individuals who do not own the house jointly with a spouse or other person, such as never married, widowed, or divorced. Remember all those real property taxes you pay in March and September every year? They don't stop just because you die. Moreover, when the sole owner who is getting the senior citizen and homestead exemption dies, those exemptions disappear.

To further complicate matters, the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue has no way of knowing when a single owner dies. So, when heirs stop squabbling over what is to be done with the house, and decide to sell it, they will find that the title company will hold back a substantial amount of the purchase price to protect the buyer from the reassessed taxes back to the date of

(continued on page 9)

RANDOM MUSINGS

Just a Thought

By Leo Orleans

I have a problem. So what else is new?

It is obvious that a lot of thought and technology went into the creation of man – and woman, of course. We have all sorts of built-in invisible buttons, of sorts, that automatically respond to a variety of rather basic bodily and mental needs. You know, like eat when you are hungry, put a sweater on when you are cold, duck when someone is shooting at you, and stuff like that.

My problem falls into the rest-when-you-are-tired category and stop doing what you are doing if it hurts. For example, if you knock yourself out digging a ditch or playing tennis – stretch out on a bed or couch and take a couple of Tylenols, Ibuprophins, or whatever. It's simple and it works.

Unfortunately, my problem does not seem too have a button: I

really, really am tired of thinking. I would just love to turn off my brain and live without thinking for a day or two—or even a few hours. I don't have much of a brain but it truly needs a rest. Pills don't do it and neither does sleep, 'cause when I wake up in the middle of the night, which I do, the first thing that happens is that I start thinking again. No matter that every now and then I have pleasant thoughts—I still would like to shut down my brain and let it hibernate for a while.

But, I'm optimistic. Just read an item in our paper's science section that every year the distance between the moon and the earth increases 2.4 inches. With all this incredible knowledge now available to us, surely someone will concoct an "off" button for my brain.

Just the thought of it really makes me think.



GALLANT GAIL

A great big hail to our
director Gail,
A female nightingale,
in no sense frail.
On a major scale, she
handles every detail.
If you look pale or unable
to inhale,
Have eaten something stale
and desperate for a pail,
Gail will not fail your
problems to curtail.
If you like fried snail with a
side of kale,
She will provide you with
some ginger ale.
Even if you find yourself
in jail
And are desperate for bail,
You can safely exhale,
'Cause your distress our
Gail will unveil.
And if you have to fly or sail
Or even wait for a
transport whale,
Indispensable Gail will find a
ready volunteer
To drive you to the beach
or airport.

Corny Orleans

Put Some "Delicious Dessert Recipes" in Your Easter Basket

Remember all those delicious desserts you tasted at the 2009 Harvest Fest? Capitol Hill Village has published a collection of recipes from the event, including the three prize-winning recipes from the "best desserts" contest. The booklet includes Pam Causer's Cranberry-Apple-Raisin Pie (first prize), Patrick McClintock's Limoncello Bread Pudding, Lori Genderson's Chocolate Heaven Balls, and many more. Original cover illustration by Mary Procter. Recipe booklets are \$4 or three for \$10. Send a check to CHV or call the office to order your copies.



Who Doesn't Need a Will? *continued from page 7*

death with penalties and interest. Clearly, wills should be designed to avoid squabbling over what should be done with the house. Generally, for most estates, the personal representatives should sell the house as quickly as possible. The longer a piece of real property is in an estate, the more it costs the estate, and, ultimately, the heirs. Where there are sound financial reasons to postpone selling a house, the Personal Representative should be free to rent the house to provide estate income to pay the costs of maintaining it.

Stories from No Planning

Here are some true stories of estates that either had no will, or had one poorly thought out.

Story One. Shortly after the death of her husband, a widow prepared her will specifying bequest of the family home to the six adult children, with the condition that selling the house required the consent of all six. At her death, one daughter was living with the widow and owned no residence of her own. The other five either owned or rented their own residences. The daughter living in the house wanted to buy out the other five. However, four of the five wanted more than the buying daughter was willing to pay.

While the house was in probate, the daughter occupying the house paid the taxes and utilities and had necessary repairs made. The four filed a petition asking the court to force the other two to sell to an outsider for as much as could be obtained. The court delayed action seeking an agreement, finally denied the petition, holding that the condition in the will was valid and enforceable.

Lesson: if you want to restrict the sale of the house to one of a group of persons, set the price in the will, such as a fractional share of the assessed value for tax purposes, unless you just want to make money for attorneys.

Story Two. The surviving spouse of a couple who owned the house jointly died without a will. The six adult children agreed that one of the six should have the house and pay all the bills. However, without a will, the law provides that the estate must be divided equally between the six. So, after about three years, the daughter who was employed and who wanted to keep the house hired a lawyer to get the house through probate, thinking that everything had been decided.

But, without a will, the law required that all six share equally in the estate. So the house was deeded over to the six as tenants in common. This means all have the same rights and the same responsibilities. Half neither wanted nor needed the house; one of the six was in prison and would need a home when she was released, but had no means of paying maintenance expenses; one son wanted to live in the house, but was willing only to provide "sweat equity" to the common property. The daughter who was gainfully employed was able to pay the mortgage and utilities and taxes, as she had been since the mother's death, but would have a great deal of difficulty in buying out the others unless they were willing to take a very low price.

The end of the story has not yet arrived.

Story Three. The decedent was divorced over twenty-five years prior to her death with custody of

the house, but with some ambiguity as to the title. She either owned one half the house by virtue of the divorce, or all the house by virtue of the former husband failing to live up to his obligations under the decree and failing to assert his rights, if any, in the title for over fifteen years. She had a lawyer prepare a will leaving her entire estate and the house to her live-in male companion.

The companion delivered the will to her at the hospital. She signed the will, but not before witnesses. After her death, the companion persuaded two friends to sign as if they had been witnesses. He then submitted the will with a petition for probate and routinely was appointed personal representative. Needless to say, wrongdoing will out: the companion wound up pleading guilty to second-degree fraud, and the will was declared invalid. The dead woman had no known relatives.

A successor personal representative was appointed from the list kept by the court. He hired a company that searches for missing heirs. If no cousins are found, which is likely, the estate, or what is left of it after the payment of all fees, including the cost of litigation with the former husband, will escheat to the District of Columbia.

#####

For a final good note: prepare your will when you are in good health and not concerned about eminent death. When you are in pain, expecting to die, or even wanting to die, it is unlikely that your thoughts will be on saving the courts, the survivors, and society the time and expense of resolving disputes and getting your property into the right hands.

Tour of the Folger Shakespeare Library *continued from page 1*

endowment to the Trustees of Amherst College, who administer the library through a Board of Governors. The library itself was designed in Art Deco style with neoclassic elements to harmonize with other monumental buildings. It opened in 1932.

Neuman outlined the library's background while the tour group was stationed in the Great Hall, a Tudor-style gallery replicating the stately manses of Shakespearean England. Those Great Halls in the fine old English homes were sites of dinners and dances, as well as the running room for youngsters held inside on rainy days, Neuman said. The Folger hall is used for receptions, banquets, and public exhibits.

While in the Great Hall, Mike also described the massive holdings of the library, including its singular collection of 79 First Folios, then demonstrated an intriguing digital reader of one of the folios. He also allowed his visitors a peek into the Old Reading Room, which is available only to registered scholars and researchers, several hundred of whom use it every year.

The tour continued with a relaxed visit to the Founder's Room, a handsome space filled with a club-like long table and chairs, photos of the Folgers, plus stained glass windows with figures from the plays. The room also houses a significant portrait of Elizabeth I painted in 1579, in the midst of her reign.

Mike ended his tour with the group seated in the library's Elizabethan Theatre, where he discussed period elements of the space, such as the thrust stage--so actors can offer soliloquies directly to the audience--and the theater's inside awning, built to mimic

Upcoming Events at Folger Library

The Folger Library offers extensive public activities. Following is Folger's April calendar:

April 7

Ian McEwan Celebrated British author Ian McEwan reads from his forthcoming novel, *Solar*. McEwan is the bestselling author of thirteen books, including *Atonement*.

April 8

Jane Hirshfield on Georgia O'Keeffe Jane Hirshfield reads poems selected in response to The Phillips Collection's current exhibition on Georgia O'Keeffe: *Abstraction*.

April 9-10-11

A Musical Banquet: Songs for Lute, Voice, and Viol The Folger Consort returns to its English roots with music from a 1610 anthology of songs entitled "A Musically Banquet," published by Robert Dowland, the son of the great lutenist John Dowland.

April 17

Elizabethan Garden Tour Explore the garden, inspired by herbal references in Shakespeare's plays and also incorporating plants popular in his time, including lavender, creeping thyme, and English ivy.

April 21-June 6

Hamlet The classic Shakespeare tragedy gets a new production directed by Joseph Haj.

April 25

Shakespeare's Birthday Open House Celebrate Shakespeare's birthday with jugglers and jesters, music and theater performances, Will's birthday cake, and a tour of the Folger's normally closed reading rooms.

April 30

Isabel Allende An evening of readings and conversation with the celebrated Chilean-American author of *The House of Spirits* and *The Sum of Our Days*.



those of Shakespeare's time to protect the costumes of the players from rain. He also described the current Folger Theater season (three plays a year) and then quizzed his charges about Shakespeare and his time.

Neuman reaffirmed the FSL's varied activities, including its significant outreach to local schools (who get to perform on the Elizabethan stage), to the local community (offering space

for events), and to the world of international scholarship and the arts. Wrapping the tour up with a commercial, Mike added, "individuals interested in the Library's activities are encouraged to become 'Friends' of the Library" and contribute to its goals.

Visits to the library are free, and more information about it and its programs can be found at www.folger.edu.

Linda Grover Dies

Linda Grover, a Capitol Hill Village member who carried a special mantle of peace, passed away February 20.

Ms. Grover, 76, had worked more than a decade to have January 1 considered a world-wide day of peace—what now is recognized as “Global Family Day.”

The day is recognized by the US Congress, UN general Assembly, and many heads of states, encouraging people to share food (especially with the needy), pledge nonviolence, and spread a message of people by ringing bells and beating drums in hopes of making the world a safer place.

In recent months, Linda had lived at the Washington Home and Community Hospice. She passed away of uterine and ovarian cancer.

Ms. Grover was a member of Capital Hill Village for some



time. Yet, her one public time with other Village members was a sharing Thanksgiving Dinner, to which she and her son, James, brought home-baked nibbles on a silver tray.

The family is starting a Global Family Day Fund on the Internet to further her efforts.

Linda’s idea of Global Family Day grew out of talk with her children growing up the 1970’s, how people of the world surely would come together on the First day of 2000 to live in peace and harmony. She wrote a novel on the topic in 1955, *True Island*, and organized a large 1998 meeting in Oregon on the issue.

In addition to working as a TV soap-opera writer in New York City, where she married a Broadway actor and singer, Linda worked in Washington as a House legislative aid. Later, in 2001 and 2002, she got six members of both the House and

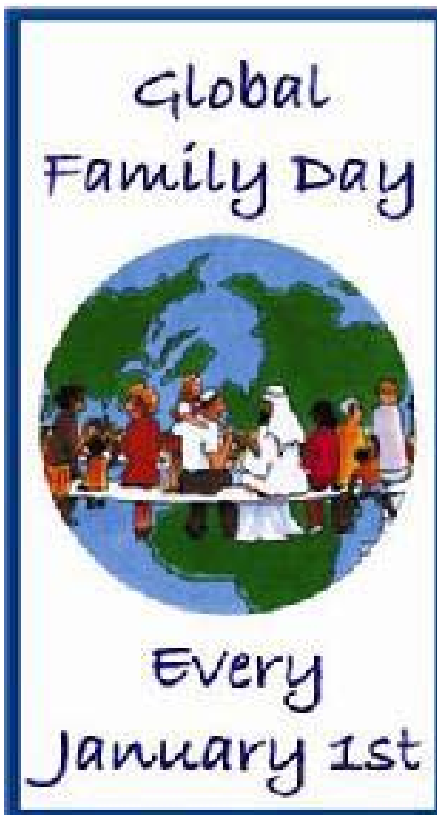


Top: Linda with her three children, three weeks before she passed away.

Above: Global Family Day Co-Founders Linda Grover and Representative John Conyers, Jr.

Senate to pass resolutions recognizing Global Family Day. She appeared in China on behalf of the Congressional Caucus in 2008 to push the issue.

Ms. Grover worked for 11 years out of her Capitol Hill apartment, focusing with volunteers on how to make the next January 1 more peaceful. She counseled her supporters to have patience that their Global Peace View was not yet worldwide.



Irving Kensler Dies

Capitol Hill Village member Irving Kensler died Feb. 16 at age 84.

Many Capitol Hill residents knew Irving from breakfast and coffee stops at Pete's Diner across 2nd Street SE from the Library of Congress, run for many years by his wife, Pranee. Kensler often was there as her supply runner.

In more recent times, Irving spent days at the Adult Recreation Center in China Town, dementia problems limiting his activities. He died of Parkinson's Disease.

Kensler had studied for two years at Michigan State University after high school, then became a Marine during World War II, serving in the Pacific. After the war, Pranee says, he worked in a lumberyard, used his free-time casting a favorite fishing rod, then began his career in Dallas with West Publishing, involved in selling legal materials.

Pranee said she and Kensler met in Dallas, where her daughter was working with the Chinese Embassy.

Computers had changed the legal book world by the time he retired, Pranee says, causing them to move to Virginia, where he opened a used-law book store. In Washington, Pranee ran the well-known Pete's Diner. Irving spent much time in the Library of Congress, among the Law Library shelves.

Even in Washington, Pranee says, "Irving wore his Michigan State shirt."

Pranee, having sold Pete's, now works in the kitchen for the U.S. Senate dining room. She also is a member of Capitol Hill Village.

Plans will be announced for a local Washington service for Irving, and then another family gathering will be held in May in



Pranee and Irving Kensler

her hometown in Thailand. Some of his ashes will be spread by nearby Manchester, making him close to his beloved fishing once more, she said.

Pranee said Kensler had a previous marriage, and leaves five sons and daughters.

Upcoming Events For Opera Lovers

The Atlas Performing Arts Center on H Street NE started showing HD television performances of opera and ballet in March and continues through May 12. The Atlas website www.atlasarts.org has the complete listing. Tickets are \$20.

If you would like to go with a CHV group to one of these performances and perhaps have a meal out before or afterwards, call the office and leave your name. **We will try to organize this but need to hear from you**

by April 7. These performances at other movie theaters have sold out quickly, so call the office now. The list below is toward the end of the series, for which we would have a better chance of getting tickets.

Members, volunteers, and their friends

Otello, Verdi

Wednesday, April 21, 7 pm;
Sunday, April 25 at 2 pm.
Performed at the Salzburg Festival

Falstaff, Verdi

Wednesday, April 28, 7 pm;
Saturday, May 1 at 2 pm.
Performed at Opera Royal de Wallonie

Don Carlo, Verdi

Wednesday, May 5, 7 pm; Sunday,
May 9, 2 pm
Performed at Teatro alla Scala

Norma, Bellini

Wednesday, May 12, 7 pm;
Saturday, May 15, 2 pm
Performed at Teatro Comunale, Bologna

Upcoming Events and Programs *continued from page 1*

Saturday, March 27 • 2:00 pm
Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington
(Shirlington)

Stephen Sondheim's Sweeney Todd



It's time to re-visit the "demon barber of Fleet Street." Washington favorite Edward Gero stars in this classic horror musical about betrayal and revenge that is full of

gothic gore, lush songs, and romantic melodrama.

This event is for members who reserved a ticket by **Thursday, March 4.**

Members only

Tuesday, April 6 • 10:30 am to noon
Private home

Have Fun Getting Dressed

Marge Benjamin, CHV member and wardrobe consultant, will talk about enlivening your wardrobe. She will offer tips on accessories, discuss aspects of color, and suggest ways of finding affordable, quality clothing. If there is enough interest, Marge will lead a shopping trip to her favorite consignment shop (at a future date). Limited to 10 people. Call the office to sign up and find out the address.

[Members and their friends]

Friday, April 9 • 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. Items will be used in the

monthly used-book sale Saturday, April 10, 10 am to 3 pm, at the library at 7th Street SE off Pennsylvania Avenue. 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 NOON on THURSDAY, April 8, 202.543.1778 or info@capitolhillvillage.org.

Sunday, April 11 • 2:00 pm
Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 641 D Street NW

Clybourne Park

"A white community in 1950's Chicago splinters over the black family about to move in. Fast forward to our present day, and the same house represents very different demographics as we climb through the looking glass of Lorraine Hansberry's classic 'A Raisin the Sun'. The hilarious and horrifying



neighbors pitch a battle over territory and legacy that reveals how far ideas about race and gentrification have evolved—or have they?" (*From brochure*) This should provide much food for thought for those of us living on Capitol Hill. *Clybourne Park* is currently running in New York.

Once again, we will only order tickets when we know how many people wish to go. Tickets are \$40 if 6-14 people sign up (\$35 for 15 or more). Please call or e-mail the office by **Thursday, April 1** (no fooling!). You will receive a call later if we can form a group with details about payment.

Members and their guests

Please RSVP to all events, and also let the Village Office know if you need a ride, by calling 202.543.1778, during regular office hours or by e-mailing info@capitolhillvillage.org

Upcoming Events and Programs *continued*

Wednesday, April 14 • 7 pm
Citizens for Global Solutions
420 7th Street SE

Tough Conversations

Retired arbitrator, mediator and former administrative judge Carolyn Parr, JD and retired mediator and foreign service officer Sig Cohen will offer ideas and techniques for handling tough conversations with family members about changing residence, legacy issues and pre-death decisions regarding health and medical concerns. Their aim is to provide participants with ways to initiate, carry out, and bring to closure life changing dialogues so that conflicts are resolved and the family remains in tact.

Saturday, April 17 • 11 am to 1 pm
Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Seminar Center
4th Street and Independence Avenue SE
(enter at courtyard left of main church entrance,
elevator in main entrance)

Writing Your Own Will and Durable Powers of Attorney in DC...or Get a Lawyer to Help

Capital Hill Village presents a discussion, led by CHV Board members Frank Allen and Jim Hardin, on thinking through and preparing end-of-life documents, and naming a personal representative and attorney to help you carry out your wishes. Frank is an attorney whose practice has concentrated on estate planning, probate, and trusts. Jim has served as a personal representative in the District of Columbia and created his own will and other essential letters of information and instruction. Copies of helpful documents will be available, and the event is open to the public. Free to members of Capitol Hill Village and Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church. A donation is requested of all others.

Please RSVP to all events, and also let the Village Office know if you need a ride, by calling 202.543.1778, during regular office hours or by e-mailing info@capitolhillvillage.org

Monday, April 19 • 2:00 pm
(Rain date: Wednesday, April 21)
Meeting place to be announced

Rain Garden Walk

Join fellow Capitol Hill Village members and friends on a walk around the Hill to observe various types of landscaping techniques that help control storm water runoff. Representatives from the District's Department of the Environment and DC Greenworks will lead the tour.

Techniques will include: rain gardens, rain barrels, bayscaping, green roofs and shade tree. Tour will end with light refreshments at William Penn House. Rides can be provided for members who have limited mobility. RSVP to the Village Office.

Members and friends

Tuesday, April 20 • 6:00 pm
Private home

Literary Club

This month's book is *Out Stealing Horses*, by Per Petterson. Summary from *The New Yorker*:

"In this quiet but compelling novel, Trond Sander, a widower nearing seventy, moves to a bare house in remote eastern Norway, seeking the life of quiet contemplation that he has always longed for. A chance encounter with a neighbor—the brother ...of his childhood friend, Jon—causes him to ruminate on the summer of 1948, the last he spent with his adored father, who abandoned the family soon afterward. Trond's recollections center on a single afternoon, when he and Jon set out to take some horses from a nearby farm; what began as an exhilarating adventure ended abruptly and traumatically in an act of unexpected cruelty. Petterson's spare and deliberate prose has astonishing force, ... Loss is conveyed with all the intensity of a boy's perception, but acquires new resonance in the brooding consciousness of the older man."

Please call or e-mail the office to sign up and find out the address.

Members and volunteers

Upcoming Events and Programs *continued*

Friday, April 23 • Beginning at 9 am
Your Home

Hazmat Pickup – Opportune for After-Tax Days

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

Members only

Sunday, April 25 • 2:30 pm

Atlas Performing Arts Center, Sprenger Theatre
1333 H Street NE

The Mikado

Gilbert and Sullivan's hilarious Mikado returns to the Washington Savoyards stage under the direction of Cindy Oxberry, with Shawn Burke-Storer as music director. Nanki-Poo is escaping marriage to Katisha, Yum-Yum thinks Nanki-Poo is cute and would rather marry him than Ko-Ko, Ko-Ko wants to marry Yum-Yum but would also like to keep his head, and the Mikado would like this son back. Pooh-Bah is, of course, Lord High Absolutely Everything, but Ko-Ko has his little list.

The price for seniors is \$35. Please call or e-mail the office by **Friday, April 9**, so we know how many tickets to order. You will receive a call later if we can form a Village group with details about payment.

Members and their guests

Please RSVP to all events, and also let the Village Office know if you need a ride, by calling 202.543.1778, during regular office hours or by e-mailing info@capitolhillvillage.org

Tuesday, April 27 • 6:30 pm
322 Massachusetts Avenue NE

Dinner at Café Berlin

Sign up by 3 pm, Monday April 26.

Join us for dinner at Café Berlin, a popular Capitol Hill dining spot since 1986, serving traditional German dishes "with a lighter touch." We are being offered a 3-course, \$25 fixed-price meal with a choice of: appetizer or soup, one of three entrees, and dessert. The \$25 cost includes taxes and gratuities. Beverages (including coffee) are additional and charged on an individual basis. CASH ONLY.

Please call the CHV office (543-1778) with your reservation by 3 p.m. on Monday, April 26, so that the restaurant can set up appropriate seating. For easy conversation, we request tables for no more than six diners.

Members, volunteers, and their guests

Thursday, April 29 • Depart 10:00 am

Visionary Store Visit & Lunch

Please join fellow Capitol Hill Village members in a trip to the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind's Visionary Store in Silver Spring. You will be able to view interesting assistive devices and other items that help with low vision. The group will enjoy lunch together in Silver Spring following the visit. Whether or not you have vision challenges, this trip is sure to be interesting and a fun way to meet members. Rides will be provided. Just call the office to sign up.

Members only

Continuing CHV Events

Every Tuesday • At 4:00 pm Starting April 6
Wednesday have been discontinued

New Location starting April 6: Sizzling Express,
600 Pennsylvania Ave SE

Stammtisch / MorgenStammtisch

"Stammtisch" is German for a local restaurant table reserved for friends who meet there regularly. The meetings will now be hosted by a CHV Board member. *Members and friends—no RSVP needed*



More Continuing CHV Events

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]*

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 during regular office hours, or by e-mailing info@capitolhillvillage.org

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:

- Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am, **Workout** with Ariel
- Wednesday 11:30 am, **Gentle Pilates** with Katherine

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

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. 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. *[Open to all]*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1 Deadline to sign up for <i>Clybourne Park</i> , see page 13	2	3
4	5	6 Have Fun Getting Dressed, 10:30 am, see page 13 New time and place for the weekly <i>Stammtisch</i> , 4 pm, see page 15	7	8	9 Book Donation Pickup, see page 13 Deadline to sign up for <i>The Mikado</i> , see page 15	10
11 <i>Clybourne Park</i> , 2:00 pm, see p. 13	12	13	14 Tough Conversations, 7:00 pm, see p. 14	15	16	17 Writing Your Own Will and Durable Powers of Attorney, 11 am -1 pm, see page 14
18	19 Rain Garden Walk, 2:00 pm, see pages 4 and 14	20 Literary Club, 6:00 pm, see page 14	21 <i>Otello, Verdi</i> , 7:00 pm, see page 12	22	23 Balance Class, 12:30 pm, see page 4 Hazmat Pickup, see page 15	24
25 <i>The Mikado</i> , 2:30 pm, see page 15 <i>Otello, Verdi</i> , 2:00 pm, see p. 12	26 Reservations Due by 3 pm for Apr. 27 Dinner at Café Berlin, see page 15	27 Dinner at Café Berlin, 6:30 pm, see page 15	28 <i>Falstaff, Verdi</i> , 7:00 pm, see page 12	29 Visionary Store, 10:00 am, see page 15	30	1 <i>Falstaff, Verdi</i> , 2 pm, see page 12

For more information about any event, call the CHV office at 202.543.1778 during regular office hours (9 am to 5 pm), or e-mail info@capitolhillvillage.org