

CAPITOL HILL VILLAGE

NEWS

JULY 2011

Five Join Capitol Hill Village Board of Directors

The Capitol Hill Village Board of Directors has selected five new members to fill four seats becoming vacant this summer (for 3-year terms). Each new member seems focused on a particular area of interest, two of them on new areas for the Village.

The new members are:

- ▶ **Ann Grace**, who previously served two years on the board. She resigned when she and her husband, Michael, went West for two winters of skiing. The board asked her to accept a new term.
- ▶ **Donna Barbisch**, a retired Army major general and published expert in emergency preparedness, as well as a speaker on leadership. She has lived on Capitol Hill since 1999.

▶ **Teresa A. Hennessy**, who taught English at public and private middle schools for years, then returned to practicing civil law litigation with three federal agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

▶ **Vira and Bill Sisolak**, who will share a board seat. Well known for their activities on Capitol Hill, she is president of the Capitol Hill Garden Club while he formerly was an ANC commissioner. They are among the founders of Capitol Hill Village.

All are members of Capitol Hill Village and active in the Village, both volunteering and attending social events.

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Joni Bell's Expanded First Floor Is a Friendlier Home

By Courtney Schlisserman

Joni Bell did not want to wait for her health to deteriorate before making her home handicapped-accessible. So, two years ago, when stair climbing seemed to be getting burdensome, Bell approached her friend Byron Buck, a home renovator, about upgrading and expanding her Capitol Hill house to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

"I realized my house was kind of handicapping me," Bell said. "As we age, we have to learn to accommodate the aging process."

Bell, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis thirty years ago, wanted to avoid having to install an elevator or chair-lift in order to continue using of her second floor. Her answer was to create full living

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 2 • 9:00 am
Your home

DC Hazardous Waste Materials Pickup

This is the periodic pickup day at CHV members' homes for hazardous materials and personal papers 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 ensure they are destroyed.

Hazardous wastes for pickup include paint, house cleaners, batteries, old medicines, television, video equipment, and others not accepted in weekly home trash pickup. For the list of accepted wastes, check the

▶ *Upcoming Events continued on page 14*



July 2011 Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 Petanque, 4 pm, see p. 16	28 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16 Contact the office by 3 pm to reserve a seat at the July 5 baseball game	29 Yoga Class, 6:30 pm, see p. 16	30 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16	1 Contact the office by noon to: 1) Reserve a spot to walk with CHV in the July 4 parade; 2) arrange July 2 Hazardous Waste pickup	2 Hazardous Waste Pickup, Starting at 9 am from your house, see p. 14
3 	4 July 4th Parade on 8th Street SE, Meet at 10 am to walk with CHV in the parade, see p. 14	5 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16 Washington Nationals vs. Chicago Cubs, 7:05 pm, see p. 14	6 Yoga Class, 6:30 pm, see p. 16	7 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16 Contact the office by noon to arrange July 9 book pickup	8 Book Donation Monthly Pickup, starting at 9 am, see p. 14	9 FOSEL Monthly used-book sale, 10 am- 3 pm, SE Library
10	11 Petanque, 4 pm, see p. 16	12 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16	13 Yoga Class, 6:30 pm, see p. 16 Contact the office by 3 pm to RSVP for the July 15 dinner	14 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16 Contact the office by 3 pm to RSVP for the July 16 Roast and Toast	15 Dinner in the Dining Room of the National Democratic Club, 6:30 pm, see p. 14	16 Roast and Toast: Good Wishes to Gail and Katie, 2-4 pm, see p. 15
17	18 Petanque, 4 pm, see p. 16 Contact the office by 5 pm to sign up for the July 19 literary club	19 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16 Literary Club, 6 pm, see p. 16	20 Yoga Class, 6:30 pm, see p. 16 Contact the office by 3 pm to RSVP for the July 22 balance class	21 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16	22 Balance class, NEW TIME: 12:30 pm, see p. 15	23
24	25 Petanque, 4 pm, see p. 16	26 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16	27 Yoga Class, 6:30 pm, see p. 16	28 Qigong, 10 am, see p. 16	29	30
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For more information about any event, or to reserve a space at an event, call the CHV office at 202.543.1778 during regular office hours (9 am to 5 pm) or e-mail info@capitolhillvillage.org

Capitol Hill Village News

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a message to unsubscribe@capitolhillvillage.org

To become a member, go to
www.capitolhillvillage.org
and click on "Join." Payment
of dues through PayPal is
available online.

To support the Village, go to
www.capitolhillvillage.org
and click on "Support/
Donate." Or support CHV
through the Combined
Federal Campaign # 55474.
All donations are welcome!

Capitol Hill Village Leaders

Mary Procter, President of
the Board

Katie McDonough, Executive
Director

Julie Maggioncalda, Community
& Social Services Director

Gail Kohn, Advisor to the Board

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From the Executive Director...

Living and working on Capitol Hill affords me a prized possession in DC — a walkable commute. These early morning walks take me through Stanton Park, across East Capitol Street and right through the heart of our community, Eastern Market.

As I watch the city awaken each morning, I often think how wonderful it is to live in a neighborhood that has not only beautiful parks, gardens, markets, restaurants, and cultural centers, but is knit together by a sense of community. Capitol Hill is an extraordinary place where we all want to remain and live fully, and that's the heart of the mission of Capitol Hill Village.

As we settle into the leadership changes, CHV remains committed to this mission. To prepare for the coming year, the board, staff and I have worked diligently to define several goals to move the organization forward. I would like to share a few with you.

Making CHV Financially Sustainable

Many of you know that regular membership dues only cover 60 percent of the costs of our organization. Although CHV remains committed to increasing membership, we need to look for other methods to make the organization sustainable in the long-term. For this reason, the board hired former Executive Director Gail Kohn as an advisor on financial sustainability as well as increasing accessible housing options on Capitol Hill. During the coming year, CHV will seek funds from a broad base of supporters, including foundations, programs such as the Combined Federal Campaign and



United Way, local businesses, and individuals in our community who believe in our mission. We also will be working both to bolster the organization's endowment trust and the annual January fundraising Gala. The board and staff will call on each of our members, volunteers, and supporters to help in their unique ways toward this effort.

Retaining and Increasing Membership

Our retention rate of 85 percent — high for a membership organization — shows that our members understand the value of our services and impact on the community. However, there is always room to grow, and we are committed to retaining our current members and encouraging future members to join. Knowing that word of mouth is our best source of new members, we will focus on responding to the changing needs of our members, emphasizing excellence and quality. We also want to reach out to younger members of our community to encourage membership so they will be prepared for life's unpredictable curve balls.

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CHV Board Welcomes New Members *continued from page 1*

The Board's Nominating Committee for 2011 also initiated an action soon to be finalized by the full Board, proposing a new title for Geoff Lewis — Lifetime Ex-Officio Member of the Board. Lewis initiated the group of longtime Capitol Hill residents who worked for over 18-months to create Capitol Hill Village, then served as the first CHV President and has been a member of the Board for two terms.

Ann Grace

Ann Grace is known for quickly identifying problems and being a self-starter at fixing them. An enthusiastic organizer, she has assisted with gardening and other needs for several members, is always quick to call those she thinks might want a ride to a Village event.

Ann grew up in El Salvador and moved to the Washington, DC, area with her family 43 years ago. She and Mike moved to Capitol Hill six years ago, Ann retiring after 38 years working for the federal government, Mike after serving 28 years with the US Coast Guard and then working for a private company.



Donna Barbisch

Donna has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, Knollwood, and various Armed Forces Foundations, including the Army Women and Reserve Officers Association.

She says she joined Capitol Hill Village because her sister had cancer, came to live with her, and needed help.

Her military ties could prove to be useful in fundraising, as Donna has extensive contacts within the military community. She says the Village should explore possible ties with Veterans in Your Backyard, as well as retired senior military leaders who live on Capitol Hill. She noted that additional fundraising activities such as a golf tournament can bring in thousands of dollars. Aiding veterans should be one goal, she added.

Donna said she hopes to contribute her experience in strategic planning/thinking in workplace efficiency and organization, maximizing the efforts of Board members, staff, and volunteers.

A special interest of Donna's is to help organize and define the Village's use of volunteers and the supporting tech-supported communications.

Teresa Hennessy

Teresa Hennessy currently works part-time, focusing on wills, trusts and agencies, so she can devote more to her Capitol Hill community. The nominating committee noted she has a "calm, thoughtful demeanor" and continued, Teresa will be "a balanced and reflective asset to the Board."

Teresa is concerned about "community tension" in some areas of Capitol Hill, and says Capitol Hill Village can work on easing



problems in neighborhoods that are again in transition. The needs of younger people in these areas "truly are not being met."

Vira & Bill Sisolak

Vira Sisolak is an economist who has worked in several federal agencies over the past 45 years.

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Since 1978, she has been senior economist for the General Counsel's office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Bill Sisolak worked for years with major satellite communications firms. In the mid-80s, he sold his own international software computer hosting firm.

Bill is a driver for CHV members. He and Vera assisted a Village member in applying for a District program that provides grants to low-income residents in historic preservation districts to renovate their home exteriors.

They voice concern about the lack of assisted living on Capitol Hill, an issue they will be interested in exploring while on the Village board. Both indicated they will work on bringing long-term financial stability to CHV, including seeking more grant sources, assistance for low-income members, and encouraging younger Capitol Hill residents (age 50-65) to join and become active members.

From the Advisor to the Board

My new mission is Capitol Hill Village sustainability. I hope that you are thinking, "Good. Gail Kohn can listen well and tell the Capitol Hill Village story."

As for listening, I am told by those who know about raising funds that support for Capitol Hill Village will appeal most to those living in the neighborhood. I also am told that the same people grow weary of being asked to help.

How can we have both? Capitol Hill Village is part of the Combined Federal Campaign and the Catalogue for Philanthropy. I hope you will help to enlighten the multitude of Capitol Hill neighbors who know little about the Capitol Hill Village message that staying in homes in the neighborhood is very appealing. More financial support for the organization is needed to have Capitol Hill Village around in a generation. It will take that long and longer for members to receive full benefit of what Capitol Hill Village can do. And we want all to be able to do so, including those with income challenges.

In addition to fund raising to fill in the gap between membership dues and covering expenses, there is the need on Capitol Hill for accessible housing to enable those who want



to remain in the neighborhood to do so. As I have listened, I know there must be close-to-the-action accessible housing—meaning

horizontal, not three-story living.

Moreover there has to be somewhere on Capitol Hill for attractive housing for those who find that their cognitive difficulties interfere with functioning without assistance. No one wants to be banished from Capitol Hill—and in the four years I have been with Capitol Hill Village, ten members have had to move away to live elsewhere in assisted living and nursing homes. A few have returned; most have not.

Just ahead? Hine School will be replaced. I hope that the developers will resolve the possible conflict between the need for horizontal accessible housing with close-neighbor desire for less bulky and monolithic scale. Hine is located in the center of action, where most know in their heart-of-hearts that many people want to be. We also know that the project must be financially viable to investors to succeed.

—Gail Kohn

From the Executive Director *continued from page 3*

Improving Administrative Structure

In our quest to improve Village administration continuously, we already have made great strides in developing a new online database that allows us to manage member, volunteer, service, and event information in an efficient and safe

way. CHV also will begin quarterly orientations for new members and volunteers together to better inform our community on their roles and how to get the most out of CHV.

We have an exciting year ahead of us, and I am honored to take this journey with all of you.

—Katie McDonough

A Friendlier First Floor Living Space *continued from page 1*

space on the first floor, and then consider a second-floor tenant.

Joni asked architects Missy and Joe Boyette to design a first floor that would meet ADA standards, such as doorways, kitchen space, and bathroom layouts wide enough to accommodate living via a wheelchair. The addition included a new bedroom and full bathroom. In May, after seven months of construction, Bell moved back into her home.

Major renovation changes included reducing the size of Bell's dining room so the kitchen could be widened and a large bathroom with a stall shower could be added. Bell also had hardwood floors laid, added a bedroom at the back of the house and changed the kitchen entry from the living room to the dining room.

"It's so much easier to get around," Bell said, even though she is not yet confined to a wheel chair.

Because the renovation included expanding her house, Bell had to seek zoning board approval. The builders also had to pour a new foundation. The only real set-back, though, was that Bell had an allergy to something in the original wood



floor the builders had installed, and it took about a month to figure out what it was.

Bell, who teaches Qigong classes once a week at Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church (as a gift to fellow Capitol Hill Village members), credits friends with helping her get through the process. She knew Buck and the Boyettes from the church. Another church friend housed Bell and her dog during the renovation. And, yet

Above: Joni's new downstairs bathroom, with helpful bars throughout, including a shower to the left of the washer/dryer, set up so she can use it from a wheel chair if necessary, and the medicine chest moved to far wall so it is not difficult to reach behind the sink. A new mirror and shelf will be placed atop the sink.

Below: The redesigned kitchen is purposely narrow, with open cupboard across from the sink and work area, numerous items stored in baskets for easy selection. The bath is immediately behind, then her bedroom with wall-to-ceiling cabinets and computer workstation. The glass-walled bedroom opens on to her garden.

Photos: Diane Brockett



another helped her shop for and install inexpensive shelves in her pantry and bedroom closets.

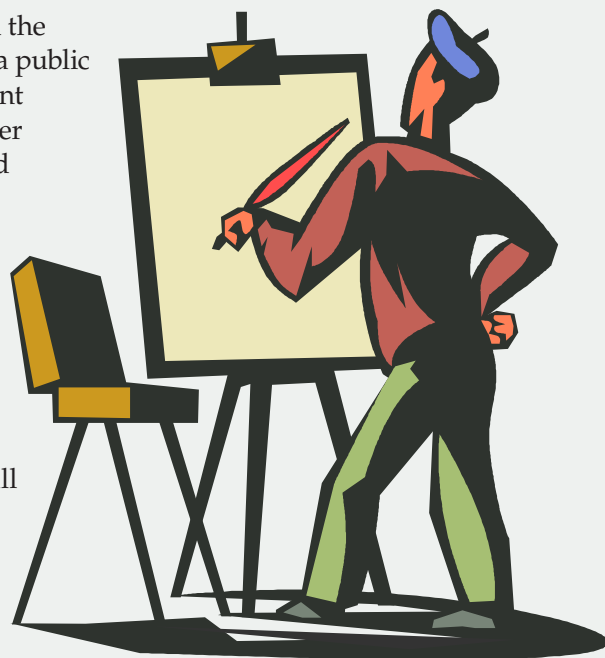
Bell now considers "home" the first floor, although she still is sorting items. She said she most likely will find someone to rent the second floor or maybe close it off except for guests. She is committed to staying in the house she bought 26 years ago.

Apples & Art Celebration on Hill Center Grounds October 2

We will celebrate Capitol Hill Village's fourth anniversary on the grounds of the new Hill Center, where the Village will open a public office in August 2011. Called Apples & Art, the October 2 event will honor our volunteers, provide delicious desserts, and offer everyone a chance to bid on works of art by our members and other local artists.

Call for Artwork

Capitol Hill Village is seeking artistic members and friends who are willing to donate a work to be auctioned during the Apples & Art festival. All media (including painting, drawing, sculpture, glasswork, and pottery) are welcomed to this auction, which is sponsored jointly by Capitol Hill Village, Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW), and Capitol Hill Art League. Artists will receive 50 percent of the proceeds from their work. The Village and CHAW will split the other 50 percent. The Village will use money raised for operating expenses. Call the Village office at 202-543-1778 with questions or to let us you would like to participate in the auction.



Hine Project Still Moving During Summer Months

The Hine Project developers, Stanton.Eastbanc, have released a slightly revised set of plans that update the 8th Street apartment/condo buildings and the two buildings that face the eastern Market Metro Plaza.

The new set of drawings is viewable at <http://bit.ly/iqHrIH>.

On the 8th Street residential building (a single apartment building inside), the developers have suggested a more unified look with palette materials and similarity of style. Previously, their proposal was for a series of differing styles—from simple to more complex—and different materials and colors along the row.

On the Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Ave. (D Street) building, they have set back the sixth floor about 15 feet, forming a terrace on the south and east sides, to help reduce the apparent building height. To help mitigate the flatness of the building, they introduced four 4-story square bays along Pennsylvania Avenue and one on 8th Street.

On the Seventh Street and Penn building, they have set back the 7th floor about 12 feet from the front and 7th Street sides.

The District Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) has scheduled a hearing on the new plan June 30. Both the ANC and the Capitol Hill Restoration Society are

expected to testify on that hearing, along with other neighborhood residents. If needed, the hearing will continue July 7.

The ANC scheduled a special meeting June 21st to discuss the new plan with community members and vote on its resolution.

At its July 28 meeting, HPRB will consider the remaining portions of the Hine Project, the C Street residential buildings (both north and south) and the Plaza.

The HPRB meets at 441-4th Street NW (One Judiciary Square), meetings starting at 10 am. The July 28th session could be extended for a second day, August 4. Otherwise, the board does not meet in August.

Memories In a Museum-Quality African Art Exhibit at Home

Capitol Hill Village member Lydia Puccinelli Robbins has an African Art museum alive with memories in her home.

“African Art museum” is not an overstatement—the art pieces were the personal collection of Lydia’s late husband, Warren M. Robbins. Coming full circle, a few special pieces of his renowned collection are on display in the Robbins’ home.

Lydia recently invited CHV members to enjoy her home museum. The personal display includes a pair of headdresses from the Banana people of Mali, a door lock with primordial figures from the Dogon people, an animal nail figure from Kongo people, and a basket with an attached headdress and covered with antelope skin, displaying an elaborate coiffure of the Ejagham people.

Warren Robbins, who passed away in December 2008 at age 85, was known as the collector of African art in Washington, DC. He first was smitten with a carved-wood figure of a man and a woman representing the Nigerian Yoruba people, which he bought for \$15 in Germany while there as a State Department cultural attache’.

Warren carried that first and 32 more newly acquired African Art pieces home from Hamburg and created a display in his Capitol Hill house. In 1963, to house his new, ever-growing love, he bought a house behind the Supreme Court that had been the home of abolitionist Frederick Douglass from 1871 to 1877. This became Warren’s Museum of African Art, eventually including 9 town houses, 16 garages and 2 carriage houses.



Top: On the wall are a pair of head dresses (ChiWara) made by the Bamana people, Mali.

Right: Another ChiWara on the right and on the lower left, a doorlock with two (primordial) figures made by the Dogon people, Mali.

The Smithsonian, under pressure from Warren’s many friends at the U.S. Capitol, accepted his collection of 9,100 African objects in 1979, and in 1987 opened the National Museum of African Art as their new home on the National Mall.



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African Art

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Lydia describes herself as a “minimalist,” while “Warren was a collector.” Yet she does feel it is her role “to protect his legacy.”

She studied art, including African art, at the Cooper Union in New York, but focused on textiles in later studies. She and her first husband split when he was hired by Yale University, and she remained to continue textile design work in NYC.

“Then a call came from Warren Robbins and he asked how I’d like come work on his African Art museum and I thought it might be fun.” She became a curator, doing considerable research, on the museum staff. And Warren had a roving eye for ladies.

“We married late, in February 2008 [only 10 months before his death], and I knew I would be responsible for his collection,” Lydia recalls.

But Lydia also has returned to designing fabrics, and has sold several recently. She proudly tells of being noted as a fabric designer in a recent national publication article. And her home is full of books, one of her other loves.



Top: Headdress (attached to basket) covered with antelope skin and showing elaborate coiffure, Ejagham people, Cross River region, SE Nigeria and Western Cameroon.

Above: Event host and CHV member Lydia Robbins discusses the collection with Sharon House. To the right: Animal nail figure (Nkisi), Kongo people, Congo.

Left: Mask with raffia, which comes out during boys coming-of-age rites, Suku people, Congo. Photos: Roxanne Walker

Honduras Open House: Help a Farming Family; Protect a Tropical Forest

On a recent May evening, about seventy people came to an open house to hear about the work of Sustainable Harvest International (SHI) and its country affiliate, SHI-Honduras. Five members of Capitol Hill Village (Betsy and Collie Agle, Mary Procter, Bill Matuszeski, and Susan Sedgewick) had been part of a February trip to live and work in several mountain communities in the small Central American country of Honduras.

(The Agles have been active with these communities for years—dating back to Collie’s Peace Corps days—and increasingly drawing more Capitol Hill neighbors into the program.)

The open house was an evening about community—the Capitol Hill community learning about life in communities very different and far away. Through storytelling and mini-slide shows, the trip participants demonstrated how SHI-Honduras helps villagers build lives of hope while also learning practices of sustainable agriculture and reforestation.

Mary Procter recalled how five families in the village of La Majada had learned how to clear their land and plant crops without relying on the destructive slash-and-burn



Above: Collie and Betsy Agle and others explore a new mountain farm.

Below: Bill Matuszeski helps Hondurans and Americans carry a post for a farm shelter.

method frequent to this area for clearing land for farming. These families are working toward buying the land and owning their own farmland for the first time.

Betsy Agle explained the deal struck between the community of La Majada and Doña Miriam, a large nearby landowner. In return for a water supply to the community, they promised to plant 25,000 trees with SHI-Honduras help.

Betsy emphasized that reforestation in this situation isn’t merely buying small trees from a nursery and planting them. It means finding seeds in the forest, making a potting soil from local materials, growing the seedlings in nurseries, and then transporting bags of seedlings into the forest and planting them—only to find later that some have been eaten by a small armadillo-like animal.

Bill Matuszeski told of introducing crafts to adults and children—including making maps of the places in their community that were “closest to their hearts.” Another trip participant described how the program helps families plant gardens and build chicken coops so they can move from subsisting on corn and beans to a more varied and nutritious diet. And, another recalled the personal connections visiting workers made living in family homes for five nights.

Mary summarized what the experience of going on these trips to these communities over the past three years has meant for this group of Capitol Hill residents. “We’ve seen real changes as the gardens and projects have become more diverse and more productive. More importantly, we have seen people become more confident and willing to speak out about the changes they are making that are helping their families thrive.”

For more information and how you might become involved, email Mary Procter (mprocter@olg.com) or Betsy Agle (betsy@agle.net).



Global Solutions Is Next Door

The Capitol Hill Village office has a neighbor—in two adjacent green brick buildings known by most of us for the pleasant backyard and site for Village peach tasting and other gatherings.

Recently, Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS) officials invited Village members indoors for an informal talk on the purpose of Global Solutions. It's always good to know your neighbors.

Global Solutions has a broad vision: creating a world in which nations cooperate on critical global issues, explained Executive Vice President Robert A. Enholm and Outreach Coordinator Anu Joshi. Nuclear weapons, genocide, and the treatment of women are among the group's current issues. The leaders note their work is slow, that achieving a "more cooperative, peaceful, and just world happens one step at a time."

Global Solutions is divided into advocacy and educating programs, encouraging its 30,000 US members (basic dues of \$25-\$45 for singles and couples) to become students of global issues and then actively lobby Congress and others.

During the current Congress, a major focus for the group is building support for the United Nations. More specifically, CGS is a loud critic of House Foreign Relations Committee Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), whose legislation would move United Nations funding to a voluntary basis, and of other members seeking to cut UN funding.

Ros-Lehtinen and other Republicans are using the UN "as a convenient target they can try to bully while

scoring political points," said CGS Chief Executive Officer Don Kraus. Global Solutions is launching a conference and other campaign measures toward increasing US support for UN peacekeeping forces. Major points, Kraus said, are to ensure and increase US funding for the effort, as well as increasing equipment and military personnel.

Global Solutions applauded the recent Senate ratification of the New START (New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) between the US and Russia, a treaty CGS worked on for years. Next comes support work for what the group admits is not front and center on the Senate agenda, the proposed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which would ban all forms of nuclear explosion.

Genocide is another major topic for Global Solutions. It served as a member of the working group behind the passage in late 2010 of a bipartisan resolution condemning genocide and suggesting steps for the United States to be more effective on the issue. This year, binding legislation on genocide prevention was introduced.

Global Solutions has a hefty list of steps and urges the US government to carry them out in order to turn the current rhetoric of "never again" into action. These include:

- ▶ improve government agencies' ability to detect potential atrocities and act quickly to prevent them;
- ▶ train security forces to protect civilians, while keeping weapons out of the hands of abusers; and
- ▶ strengthen multilateral peacekeeping operations.



CGS Executive VP Robert A. Enholm

Citizens for Global Solutions has been active in recent UN activities aimed at stopping the flow of illegal arms by creating an Arms Trade Treaty. CGS predicts the treaty, which the United States only recently voiced support for, will be completed in 2012.

Every two years, prior to a national election, the group issues its Congressional Report Card, basing grades on how Senators and Representatives voted on legislation impacting global issues. For 2010, this included climate change, energy, humanitarian crises and torture, human rights, nuclear proliferation, and UN peace-keeping funding.

Likely no surprise, Ds and Fs showed heavily among Republicans, both House and Senate members, while Democrats earned primarily A+ to B. Among Republican Senators, the one B+ was given to Richard Lugar of Indiana, while Maine Senators Susan M. Collins and Olympia Snowe earned Bs and George Voinovich of Ohio a B-.

The Global Solutions website is www.globalsolutions.org.

George W. Parker Sr. Dies

Capitol Hill Village member George W. Parker Sr., a lifelong resident of Washington, DC, who retired from the White House staff in 1977, passed away on January 30, 2011.

A service was held for Parker at the Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Catholic Church on East Capitol Street SE on February 8.

George worked more than 35 years at the White House and retired as Chief of the Messaging and Correspondence Department. His wife, Marguerite Parker, notes that he worked for seven Presidents from Truman to Carter. "He always thought Roosevelt was the best."

Marguerite said she and George attended several White House

parties where they spent time with the First Families and others over the years, many times at staff picnics. George "loved to play pinochle" and "we did lots of traveling, mostly on ships."

George also loved listening to classical music, jazz and rhythm and blues. "He was a 'gentle man' who talked softly and smiled infectiously," notes the obituary from his funeral service.

Parker, born in 1922, was reared as a Catholic and educated in Washington Catholic schools. He received a certificate as a tailor from the Lofton School of Tailoring and served in the Army in World War II from 1942-45. The tailoring



continued only as a hobby, making slacks, says Marguerite.

The Village helped the couple obtain help with fixing and painting their dining room, she said, adding, "and Katie keeps in touch with me."

Leo D. Smith Dies

Leo D. Smith, 89, a long-time resident of South Bend, Indiana, had been living with his daughter on Capitol Hill for five years when he passed away on March 24, 2011.

A watchmaker in Indiana for 50 years, Smith made his later friends mostly with neighbors of daughter Marilyn "Lynn" Ringenberg, chatting on the front porch of her home in the 1300 block on Massachusetts Avenue SE, sharing a beer, and still rooting with gusto for the Cubs. He liked the Arboretum, "but mostly just took walks around the block," recalls Lynn.

"And all this was a special gift for me—Dad was back."

She signed him up as a Capitol Hill Village member, "but I couldn't get him interested in the social activities. However the services provided to us were wonderful." These included access to a plumber

and an electrician, and home care assistance when needed, the latter most important when his daughter was away.

"Katie McDonough was a good friend," especially important in helping the family locate services. "She visited Dad often," Lynn added. (Katie, recently appointed CHV Executive Director, was previously the Village's Director for Community and Social Services.)

Known as "Smiley" since childhood, Leo Smith worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps after high school, and enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942, becoming a maintenance crew chief for C-47 transport aircraft during flight. He also met his future wife, Mary Louise "Marylou" Short, during the war.

Following the war, Leo earned degrees in business and



watch-making from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, then moved to South Bend, becoming owner and watch-maker for River Park Jewelers for 50 years. His hobbies included bowling, golfing and rooting for the Cubs.

Leo was preceded in death by his wife Marylou. A memorial service will be held for him this summer near Peoria.

CHV Receives Capitol Hill Community Foundation Grant



Capitol Hill Village Office Manager Pamela Weiss and Village Director Kathy Washburn were on hand when the Capitol Hill Community Foundation issued grants for Hill groups recently, including \$1,500 for CHV. The new grant is for the Village's Membership Plus program. Over the previous four years, the foundation had awarded Capitol Hill Village \$27,000 for programs.

RANDOM MUSINGS:

the bell curve of life

you are born an unknown
you go from school to school
you graduate
you embark on a career
you work and progress in your profession
you establish a reputation
you are respected by friends and colleagues
you retire
you continue to go to meetings and conferences
your colleagues retire and gradually disappear
you soon become surrounded by a new generation
you become a stranger among strangers
your memory starts playing tricks on you
you withdraw to your house and garden
you die an unknown.

—Leo Orleans

Upcoming Events *continued from page 1*

DC hazardous wastes website: <http://dpw.dc.gov/DC/DPW/Services+on+your+block/recycling/household+hazardous+waste+-+E-cycling-document+shredding>

Call 202.543.1778 or e-mail info@capitolhillvillage.org by noon, Friday, July 1, to request a pickup or volunteer to assist with the drive.

Members only

Monday, July 4 • 9:30 am

July 4th Parade on 8th Street SE



Once again, Capitol Hill Village members will march in Capitol Hill's own 4th of July parade. Marching behind a large CHV banner, this year we will have Frisbees to toss to the crowd. Join us for this festive occasion. We will assemble about 9:30 am under the freeway at 8th and I Streets SE. Bottles of water will be provided.



The parade starts at 10 am and proceeds north on 8th Street SE, ending at the Eastern Market Metro Plaza. **Call the office by Friday, July 1,** to let us know if you can walk with the Capitol Hill Village group.

Members and volunteers

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

Tuesday, July 5 • 7:05 pm

Nationals Park, N and ½ Streets SE (Accessible)

Washington Nationals vs. Chicago Cubs

We're going to a ball game! The Washington Nationals are playing the Chicago Cubs at 7:05 pm on July 5. We have a block of 20 seats at \$24 each. They are first come, first serve, so make your reservations early. Send a check to the CHV office no later than June 28. The tickets will be available for pickup at the CHV office on or after June 30th. WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE BALL GAME. GO NATS!!

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: Tuesday, June 28, 3:00 pm

Members, volunteers, and friends

Friday, July 8 • Starting at 9:00 am

Your home

Book Donation Monthly Pickup

Friends of the SE Library will be picking up donations of used books, records, music and movie CDs and DVDs from Capitol Hill Village members' front porches. The items will be included in the monthly used-book sale on Saturday, July 9 (10 am to 3 pm), in the basement of the library at 7th Street SE, just off Pennsylvania Avenue.

Sign up by noon, Thursday, July 7

Members only

Friday, July 15, 2011 • 6:30 pm

30 Ivy Street, SE (between New Jersey and Canal) Accessible to all

Dinner in the Dining Room of the National Democratic Club

Free parking across the street; 2 ½ blocks from Capitol South Metro elevator

A CHV volunteer is providing entree into the private dining room of the NDC. The restaurant is offering us a 3-course meal for \$30. This includes taxes and gratuities, and provides a choice between two appetizers, two entrees, and two desserts. It does not include the cost of wine, beer, or coffee. CASH ONLY payable to our

Upcoming Events *continued from page 14*

host, Paul Cromwell. No more than six diners at a table to ensure easy conversation. **You Must call the CHV office (543-1778) by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13th, to reserve a place.** If you reserve and cannot attend, please call the office to cancel.

Members, Potential Members, and Volunteers

Saturday, July 16 • 2:00-4:00 pm

Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, 545 7th Street SE,
3 blocks south of Eastern Market Metro station.

Good Wishes to Gail and Katie!

There are stairs up to the entrance and several steps within the "black box" theater.



You are invited by the Capitol Hill Village Board of Directors to the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop for a short program/performance about Capitol Hill Village and its staff leaders. CHV President Mary Procter and her spouse, Bill Matuzeski, are the skit producers. Expect spoofs and fun at the expense and pleasure of Gail Kohn and Katie McDonough. Refreshments and a reception will follow in the CHAW gallery.

The main purpose of this event is to have fun but contributions of any amount in honor of Gail Kohn and Katie McDonough will be gratefully accepted, aimed at covering modest Capitol Hill Village operating deficits this year and next due to the extra expense of expanding to the Hill Center.

As always, door-to-door transportation or a friend to walk with are available.

RSVP by Thursday, July 14

Members, volunteers and friends of Capitol Hill Village

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

Tuesday, July 19 • 6:00-7:30 pm

Private home

Literary Club

Instead of reading a new book, each person attending is invited to talk about two or three favorite books. If you have copies which you are willing to loan, please bring them. We will not meet in August, so let's call this meeting "Light in July."

Call the office to sign up by Monday, July 18, and find out the address.

Members and volunteers

Friday, July 22 • New time: 12:30-1:30 pm

Southeast Neighborhood Library,
7th and D Streets SE

Balance Class

Join other members in this monthly balance class, which will help you recognize that strength and agility are the best defenses against falls. Practice skills that will keep you on your feet. The class is taught by a physical therapist volunteering from Physiotherapy Associates.

Please RSVP to the CHV office by Thursday, July 21.

Members only

Continuing CHV Events

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Townhomes of Capitol Hill, 750 6th Street SE

Yoga

The Townhomes Yoga class is a beginners class that incorporates the fundamentals of yoga, including step-back sun salutations, standing poses, hip-openers, seated poses, twists, backbends, and basic inversions. Breathing exercises are explored as students begin to link movement through the postures with inhale and exhale. This class provides a nurturing environment to help you gain

flexibility, strength, balance, and relaxation. Whether you practice on a yoga mat or in a chair, this class serves those new to yoga and anyone seeking a refresher on the basics.

Members and volunteers



NOTE: You do NOT need to RSVP for continuing events.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 am

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 4th Street and Independence Avenue SE

Qigong

The gentle, but powerful, Chinese movement exercise known as Qigong (pronounced *chee gong*) is offered by CHV member Joni Bell. Joni has practiced this discipline for ten years. Her strength and balance have improved and she credits the activity with helping her as a 30-year patient with multiple sclerosis. The twice-weekly classes are free for CHV members, last 30-40 minutes.

Members only

Every Monday 4:00 pm

Garfield Park, South Carolina Ave. at 2nd Street SE

Petanque

Join a group of Capitol Hill game enthusiasts each Monday for a friendly game of Petanque. Petanque is the French game of boules, similar to the Italian game of bocce. Petanque players gather at Garfield Park at 4:00 pm on Mondays. Paul Cromwell provides instruction for beginners. For further information, call Paul at 543-7530.

Open to all