



# NEWSLETTER

## CHEVY CHASE AT HOME

We Are Neighbors Helping Neighbors Live At Home

Post Office Box 15102

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Volume Eight, Number Four

December 2016

### LOOKING BACK ON 2016

#### QUICK CALENDAR

**MEET & MINGLES**  
CC Village Hall

**HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE &  
SING-A-LONG W DAVID SANDS**  
Tues, Dec 13, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**HAVE A LAUGH W VICTOR BORGE  
RAE COOPER**  
Sat, Jan 21, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**FACEBOOK FOR US**  
Tues, Feb 14, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**LUNCH AT LA FERME**  
Dec 5, Jan 16, Feb 6  
11:30 a.m.

**Gentle Pilates**  
(Wednesdays or Fridays)

**Zumba® Gold**  
(Wednesdays)

**Be sure to check our  
website calendar  
for latest event information!**

#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Chevy Chase at Home has had another busy, productive year. Not only will we have fulfilled over a thousand requests from members for volunteer services, but we have also produced interesting educational and cultural programs, provided physical activity classes and special programs for our members and the community at-large. We are continuing our home safety program, in coordination with the **Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service**, and look forward, in 2017, to adding to the 91 homes that have already been inspected and outfitted with new smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

This year we extended our boundaries across Wisconsin Avenue to include almost 500 homes in the **Chevy Chase West** and **Village of Drummond** area. We already have a dozen trained volunteers from CCW and Drummond and several new members. We look forward to more as 2017 begins.

In June, we produced "A Conversation Between **Geraldine Brooks** and **Guy Raz**." Ms. Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize winning writer, and author of *The Secret Chord*, was aptly engaged by Guy Raz of the NPR TED Radio Hour, about her life as an author, and particularly, the challenges of writing highly researched historical fiction. An audience of over 200 people enjoyed one of our most successful community programs.



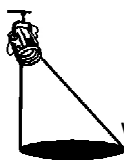
Ken Hartman, B-CC RSC &  
Nathan Billig sign agreement  
for CC@H office space

Another special program, in November, was the post-election discussion by **Charlie Cook**, editor and publisher of the Cook Political Report and political analyst for *The National Journal*.

Our special programs light up the year, but, day in and day out, we provide the valuable services to many of you, which make the real difference in the lives of our members. We are indebted to our cadre of more than 75 dedicated, trained volunteers who drive, fix things, go for walks, take out the recycling and provide computer assistance for our grateful members. We also could not have functioned without the steadfast attention of our Executive Director, **Catherine McCallum**, and our Office Coordinator, **Deb Schmal**.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year.

**Nathan Billig**



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SPOTLIGHT

We are grateful to **Deb Schmal**, who facilitated a seamless transition to our new Office Coordinator, **Laura Fenves**. Laura comes to us with 20 years of experience as a Human Resource professional. After leaving the workforce to gain experience and find employment that better aligns with her interest in directly helping others, Laura began volunteering in the CC@ H office this summer. At the same time, she worked part-time in eldercare to gain direct experience assisting older persons with activities of daily living. Laura lives in Rock Creek Forest.

Other Member news...All Full member households may expect a friendly phone call by mid-December from a **storm buddy** near you.

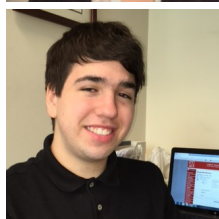
**The Boy Scouts are back!** Eagle Scout candidates are looking for meaningful projects, including home repair for our members in need. Contact the office to learn more.

## AND INTRODUCING - - -



**LAURA FENVES**  
**OFFICE COORDINATOR**

Look forward to meeting her when you contact the office.



**VICTOR MARDON**  
**INTERN**

Provides skillful technical support for our communications and social media.

## IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE VILLAGE . . .

Chevy Chase At Home played a significant role in the Second Montgomery County Villages Gathering, which took place on September 27 at the White Oak Community Center. The Gathering, sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, was a day-long program for representatives of active villages and villages in development, as well as those interested in forming a village, providing an opportunity to learn, network and share ideas. There were over 100 attendees from 18 active villages, 13 in formation and another 11 communities considering the opportunity. Board Member **Lois Fern** and former president **Irene Hoskins** – were among the attendees.

There were five panels - legal aspects, range of services, partnerships, marketing strategies, and volunteerism. **Steve Schmal** moderated the latter, discussing how villages can recruit and train volunteers and how villages are organized to use their volunteers, in other words, service administration. Steve also was a member of the planning committee for the Gathering. One member of the panel Steve moderated was **Monique Milhollin**, co-chair of CC@ H's Volunteer Services Committee, who spoke about a topic she knows exceptionally well – volunteer training. **Catherine McCallum** was a member of the panel discussing how to fund and support villages.

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## ARE YOU A CC@ H VOLUNTEER? HERE'S SOME NEWS FOR YOU

The Volunteer Services Committee (VSC) now publishes a monthly electronic newsletter, the "Volunteer Update." Watch your e-mail around December 15 for the next Issue. If you missed the October or November issue, drop a line to [volunteers@chevyCHASEathome.org](mailto:volunteers@chevyCHASEathome.org).

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### 2017 DUES NOTICES

In case you have wondered . . . the 2016 membership year was extended three months so that future years will run April 1 to March 31; current members have received an extra three months because of this change. Dues notices for 2017 will likely be mailed in February.

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## FAREWELL, WITH MANY THANKS

With best wishes, a tinge of sadness, and many, many thanks, Chevy Chase At Home bids farewell to **Joan Urban**, one of the founders of the organization, who has moved out of the Chevy Chase area. Eight years ago, if Joan and Naomi Kaminsky had not walked their dogs together and chatted about how to help their neighbors, Chevy Chase At Home might not exist today. During the formative years, Joan worked tirelessly to organize a group of suburban dwellers into a village of neighbors, and she maintained an interest as the organization grew and matured. Now, in order to be closer to her grandson as he grows and matures, she and Laszlo have moved out of the area. However, she will always be welcome in "the old neighborhood."

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## AN INTERLUDE WITH GERSHWIN

On a beautiful Saturday morning in September, an overflow crowd of members, friends and neighbors gathered at CC Village Hall to hear **Ann Joseph** play some of her favorite Gershwin pieces, including quite a few that some of us had never heard. Ann played the pieces in the order they were composed and, before each one, told the story of what was happening in George Gershwin's life at that time - including his boyhood, his entry into composing music at 15 (jazz), the adult years (classical and musical theater, in Europe and New York), to his early death in Los Angeles (films) - Thank you, Ann for taking us on this journey.



And, many thanks to **Nancy and Charles Wilkinson** for donating their piano to Chevy Chase Village for groups to use in the Village Hall and to **Jane Hughes** for facilitating this process.

## CC@ H HONORS OUR VOLUNTEERS



Volunteer Appreciation Event

Early in November, 45 CC@ H volunteers gathered for the annual appreciation party hosted by the Volunteer Services Committee (VSC) and **Janet and Patrick Regan**. The occasion not only celebrated the services given by our volunteers but also was an opportunity for **Peggy Mercorella**, the new Chair of the VSC, to thank **Monique Milhollin** for her years of leadership and service as chairman of the VSC. Board president **Nathan Billig** introduced **Laura Fenves**, the new Office Coordinator (and already an office volunteer) and B-CC High School student intern, **Victor Mardon**.

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## FAREWELL TO THE SCHMALS

**Deb and Steve Schmal**, friends, colleagues and volunteers known to many of us, have decided that they will age in place in the more temperate climate of San Diego, California.

Steve has held several leadership roles (Membership, Secretary) over the past 4+ years. He is known to many of you as an indefatigable CC@ H volunteer, fulfilling over 560 requests, mostly round trip rides, for 41 neighbors, clocking more than 1100 hours of volunteer time.

Deb started in our office in 2013, first as a volunteer then as Office Coordinator. Besides many other duties, including managing exercise classes, she has assisted in scheduling and assuring that members and volunteers have connected on over 3,000 occasions. We all wish them well and hope that they soon have their schedules filled with rewarding activities in their new home.

## COOKIE EXCHANGE & SING-A-LONG

Celebrate the holidays with our 2<sup>nd</sup> ever Cookie Exchange and Sing-a-Long (December 13, CC Village Hall, 2 p.m.). Bring two dozen cookies (and the recipe to share), a healthy appetite and good spirits to join the singing with **David Sands**. Go home happy (and stuffed) with a sampling of cookies. You bring your cookies, we take care of the rest.

### CLOTHING FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

Montgomery County is collecting new **winter clothes** (sweaters, scarves, hats and gloves) for less fortunate children in the County. A box for your donation will be available at the Cookie Exchange, December 13, 2 p.m. or at the B-CC Regional Service Center until December 18.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT WINTER CAN BE INFORMATIVE & FUN(NY)?

**Rae Cooper**, former neighbor, will share some of her **Victor Borge** shows, complete with her personal commentary, at CC Village Hall on Saturday, January 21, 11 a.m. What better time to get out of the house and get rid of those winter blahs?

Would you like to know more about **Facebook**? or **Twitter**? **Kathleen McGuinness** will show us how Facebook works and talk about other Social Media, on Tuesday, February 14, 2 p.m., CC Village Hall.

COMING THIS SPRING --

### MEDICAL CARE ISSUES FOR AN AGING POPULATION

Chevy Chase At Home is currently planning a three-part series on medical care decisions that many of us will face as we age. The series will include:

1. **New Models of Care for Chronically Ill Seniors**
2. **End-of-Life Care**
3. **Innovations in Residential and Long-Term Care**

Watch for more information about these important discussions after the first of the year.

- **Mark Nadel**, Event Co-chair

## YEAH! LUNCH AT LA FERME

Once again, Alain Roussel will host CC@ H for lunch on **December 5, January 16 and February 6 (11:30 a.m., 7101 Brookville Road)**. The fee will be **\$21**, including the meal and the tip. Please register by sending an e-mail to [info@chevyCHASEathome.org](mailto:info@chevyCHASEathome.org) or call the office at 301-657-3115.

### WHAT DID JUST HAPPEN?

An audience of over 100 CC@ H members and neighbors attended a fascinating analysis of the presidential election given by Charles E. Cook on November 17 at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

**Charlie Cook** is the editor and publisher of the **Cook Political Report**, which he founded in 1984. He has been described as "one of the nation's leading authorities on American politics and U.S. elections." Mr. Cook is an engaging speaker and his talk, sprinkled with relevant anecdotes, confirmed this evaluation.



A rapt audience listened attentively as Mr. Cook explained why Mrs. Clinton lost despite nearly unanimous opinion that she would win. A combination of unanticipated circumstances contributed to her defeat. Her base stayed away from the polls in surprising and unexpected numbers. The expected surge of Latino voters did not occur. She received a lower percentage of Black votes than President Obama. Rural voters surprisingly voted for Trump, as did many of the outer (and poorer) suburbs.

She and her staff made a major tactical error in not spending more time in the "rust belt" states. She lost these states and their electoral votes by less than 60,000 votes. Mr. Cook also pointed out that it was rare for either political party to win three consecutive presidential elections.

The Democrats also misjudged the mood of many Americans. Mr. Cook cited a poll in which 62% of the respondents declared that the country was



not “going in the right direction.” These Americans represented voters who wanted change, despite their dislike and distrust of **both** candidates. The protest vote of those who felt ignored by Washington and harmed by globalization also added to Trump’s total.

The audience benefited from Mr. Cook’s lucid presentation of polling statistics and how to interpret them. He acknowledged that the polls (and almost everyone else) did not predict a Trump victory. Indeed, only several days before the election, Trump staffers privately told journalists that they expected to lose. However, Mr. Cook

defended the final polls, which were accurate. Given the margin of error, they indicated that either candidate could win.

After he concluded his talk, Mr. Cook took a good number of questions, which he answered candidly. He was generous enough with his time to remain even after the questions ended, engaging political junkies who had points they wanted to make or argue.

All who attended this talk came away knowing not only what happened, but why.

### A SHOUT-OUT TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS

CC@ H extends special thanks to our loyal donors. We count on the many **charitable individuals, local businesses, foundations and grant makers** who generously support us year after year, providing up to 25% of the funds needed for our operations. In addition, our donors-in-kind, including **Montgomery County** and our **neighborhood governments and associations**, provide much needed professional services, meeting space and publicity that are crucial for our success.

## RECENT DONATIONS

### DONATIONS IN KIND

#### FACILITIES

CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE  
TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY/B-CC RSC  
CC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

SCOTT BOYD, ACCOUNTANT  
CHRISTOPHER REGAN, ATTORNEY  
EVERS & CO. REAL ESTATE INC.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT\*

#### BUSINESSES

##### SILVER LEVEL

TW PERRY

##### BRONZE LEVEL

ASSISTING HANDS OF POTOMAC

#### NON PROFITS

CATALYST FOUNDATION



**!! HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!**



CC@ H NEWSLETTER

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