

THE CONDUIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALISADES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CATCHMENT AREA: BOB PERILLA

BY ELIZA MCGRAW

Bob Perilla is the leader of the Big Hillbilly Bluegrass Band. Palisades residents have heard him play during July 4th festivities and at other events in the area. He will play at the Hoedown on July 3rd.

How have you gotten to know the Palisades community?

I've actually played on and off there for many years. You guys used to do a nice Halloween party down at the firehouse at the intersection of MacArthur and Reservoir, not so far from the German embassy, and I did that for a bunch of years. And then recently my good friend British Bob booked me to play a couple functions for you guys last year—one at the church there and one at a backyard—and in this stage in my overripe career all bookings are welcome. We also did the pie-eating contest down there, which I think I'm going to do again because the trick is not only getting bookings but keeping bookings. That is sometime in early July.

How did you become a musician?

I was always interested in music, and I am of the ripe old age that I was quite caught up with the British invasion. I remember watching the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show but, less fashionably, I heard a lot of bluegrass music on the radio from WBMD, which used to play bluegrass music, and Ray Davis, who later became a very prominent DJ. I was just a little guy, I guess 8 years old, and I used to listen to Ray Davis. Later on, I wanted to learn to play the five-string banjo. Bluegrass tickled my brain a lot. It's demanding music, technically. It's a different kettle of fish than playing rock and roll, but the thing that I really liked about it was that it was a living tradition, a thing that people just got together and did on their own. This was back in the years before bluegrass festivals got vastly popular, and I liked that, and I was attracted to it, and I started to work on it. I played drums in cruddy rock and roll bands, but I was all the time working on my guitar-playing. It was a much lon-



ger apprenticeship and it took me much more time studying guitar and bass in applying myself to be able to play at a professional level than it does most people, so I kept at it, and I started getting more and more opportunities to play. Then I joined an honest-to-God bluegrass band. Then I was divorced, and in the wake of my divorce I said, well Bob, you are going to do what you want to do. And it turns out what I wanted to do was devote myself to playing bluegrass music.

What have been some of the highlights there?

I got to travel to 30 different countries for the State Department as a cultural ambassador. We went three times to Central Asia, and on a five-week tour of western

and central Africa. These were exotic destinations. And in our day and age everyone gets to London and Paris, but when you get down the list of who has been to Samarkand, the list gets much thinner, and it was definitely the high point of whatever went on. I'm sorry to sound vague, but that is the way I am!

What's the bluegrass scene in DC these days?

We still have plenty of great bluegrass—it's not quite the absolute epicenter that it was 20 years ago. For example, bluegrass drive time on WAMU was a fixture for years and years but they had to make a choice because many of the people who wanted to listen to the Diane Rehm show didn't also want to listen to bluegrass. But they created converts to bluegrass and the day they kicked bluegrass off the air, it was still the greatest source of the pledge money taken in. I think the key to the phenomenon was that during the years of World War II

up through the Korean conflict so many people came from the South to work in Washington, DC. Same with Baltimore. And they brought their music with them, so there was already a taste for the music that became embedded during the war years. So people who could sing and play pretty damn well, thank you very much, saw that those skills were good skills and they could earn money doing it. In Washington and Baltimore, the scenes were largely synonymous. And as soon as you put money in front of folks who like to play music anyhow, the music becomes better. Bluegrass music doesn't earn tremendous money, sad to remark. There came to be so much bluegrass music that it came to be accepted as a casual form of music for people who did not grow up with it. If you go to Richmond, everybody plays bluegrass and not too many are interested in paying for it. If you go up to Philadelphia, no one is even vaguely interested. But here in Washington and Baltimore, too, people like it and they would pay for it. It gives young cub musicians something to aspire to. The Washington bluegrass scene grew in that fashion with the Stoneman family from Southern Maryland, the Country Gentlemen and the Seldom Scene, because bluegrass bands are always in the process of forming and breaking up.

What do you mean?

I've been doing it a long time. It's much more preferable to have a virtuosic band, but I can almost put on a show with trained dogs, too. You want to have a great banjo player, you want to have a great fiddler, but I am a much better entertainer than I am a singer or guitar player, and that's sort of an intangible quality. But everybody who listens to you—you have a couple minutes to reel them in. And I can reel people in. I am a fairly interesting guy and that helps. And moreover, if you're a bandleader, and that's really what I am, your job is to be the least talented person on stage. In my case it's very easy to find players who are more talented than myself. That's your job as a bandleader.

Are you a bluegrass purist?

It's fun to stretch the boundaries a little bit, and the young bands stretch more than I do. I love the traditional aspects of bluegrass music, but I don't feel shackled by them. Bluegrass comes from earlier forms of music. Bluegrass music did not exist



BOB FIELD-JAMMING, GRANITE HILL BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, GETTYSBURG, 1999.

before a particular point in time in 1946, and if you consider bluegrass music from that standpoint, it's only a few years older than the advent of rock and roll. A lot of people date the advent of rock and roll to Ike Turner and "Rocket 88," but bluegrass music is only a little bit older. And bluegrass music occurred at the specific moment that Bill Monroe hired a wonderful and virtuosic banjo player named Earl Scruggs. And that was the bluegrass big bang that was when bluegrass came to be. It is worth noting that, in my mind, bluegrass music is performance music. It was really designed to be listened to and it was the first genre of music designed to be played through amplification. The whole

tradition of gathering around a single microphone exemplifies that fact that bluegrass music did not exist, whereas old-time country music and blues existed, before the era of recordings.

What are some things that might surprise people about bluegrass performing?

I have been in more august situations, but generally in most settings what the bluegrass fan hears is beer and fun. They can have their beers and have a lot of fun with an imprecise performance, but the band owes it to them to give them the very best performance. Even though you are up there smiling or making jokes with a rubber chicken, the timing of the music is the most important thing, and bluegrass music like any good music requires precision-timing breakneck tempos for breakdown music, you want to ensure the precision of the music and vocal pitch, whether duo or trio harmonies, you want to make sure that your timing is good and your precision is, too. So you got to do it really well and you got to make it look easy, that's the hallmark of any professional, bluegrass musicians have to be a little more attuned to entertaining the audience because rock musicians like to ignore their audience. Bluegrass is a little antithetical to that. We aim to please. And you want to make everybody feel included in a performance. You want to make everybody at the performance feel like they are part of something.

What is the future of bluegrass?

I think the future is in very good hands. Alison [Krauss] is still middle-aged and is doing very well, but there are a jillion kids

out there who play the bluegrass instruments very very very well, and there are more of them playing beautifully all the time. There's a little less emotional involvement. All the kids are trying to blaze their own trail, and it's very difficult to beat the bluegrass canon of Bill Monroe and Flatt and Scruggs, and I believe that they will come back, much as I will come back to the traditional forms of the music. On my first CD I did Jethro Tull. When I was trying to learn how to play bluegrass there was no instructional material, and particularly for all these instruments that are technically demanding you had to drop the needle on your 45 record and repeat a passage until you learned how to do it. Today there is a wealth of instructional material. I think some of the most gifted young players are people like Molly Tuttle and Sierra Hull. It used to be that you'd have a couple of crusty old guys and middle-aged men trying to mansplain the music to women who were trying to work their way to the middle of a jam circle. But today women are contributing immensely to bluegrass music.

This interview has been edited.



TIFFANY TAVERN, 21ST ANNIVERSARY, ALEXANDRIA, 2001.



THE BAND: ALEX SENS, TAD MARKS, ELIZABETH DAY, BOB, MARY NADEN.



WHERE SMALL STEPS BECOME GIANT LEAPS

WE'RE GROWING FOR YOU!

- » Since 2000, dedicated to children 18 months-Grade 3. New Upper Elementary Program (Grades 4-6) starts with Grade 4 in 2022-2023 school year.
- » Research-based, one-of-a-kind inclusion model pairs master's level educator and speech-language pathologist in each classroom.
- » Thematic curriculum seamlessly integrates literacy, math, science, drama, visual arts, music, PE and yoga.
- » Progressive, personalized approach featuring experiential learning.



CONTACT US ABOUT AVAILABLE SPACE FOR FALL, INCLUDING **GRADE 4**.

riverschool.net | 202.337.3554
admission@riverschool.net



THE RIVER SCHOOL
 4880 MacArthur Blvd., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007



FROM THE PCA PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

There's nothing like the beauty of Spring and coming of Summer to instill a sense of optimism and appreciation of our wonderful little neighborhood. The blooming of Cherry Blossoms along MacArthur Boulevard and along neighborhood streets brings out the idyllic nature of the Palisades. Even though there is much to worry about at home and abroad, the warm weather and blooming wildlife have the power to uplift and provide moments of joy.

While the trees and homes in the Palisades are a sight to behold, many stretches of our commercial corridor do not necessarily reflect the attractiveness of our neighborhood. The good news is that help is on the way. Our little corner of DC is about to get even more beautiful. Under the leadership of the PCA, the Palisades Main Street Program launched this Spring. This city program, funded in partnership with local stakeholders, aims to revitalize our business district, making it more walkable, inviting and beautiful.

The program provides direct assistance to our local businesses, strengthening them from the inside out. Business grants can be used toward façade improvements, interior and exterior renovations, as well as investments to help the business run more smoothly, such as new POS systems, website upgrades and new inventory management hardware. The Palisades Main Street district includes commercial properties along Foxhall Road from the intersection with Reservoir Road to 44th Street and those along MacArthur Boulevard from the intersection with Arizona Avenue to the intersection with Foxhall Road. Go to PalisadesMainStreet.org for more information.

Any improvement to our local businesses is a rising tide that lifts all boats. I'm so grateful that our businesses are soon going to receive help so they can shine as bright as the rest of the neighborhood. As Spring fades into Summer, there is a lot to celebrate in the Palisades. I'm looking forward to celebrating with everyone at our July 4th parade, which promises to be even bigger and better this year thanks to our volunteers.

Cheers, Jenny Wieroniey

56TH ANNUAL PALISADES 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION 2022!



BY JESSICA DAVIS

The community planning of the Fourth of July activities has been galloping ahead, and before you know it, the merriment will be upon us!! The parade will roll along MacArthur Boulevard with costumes, dancers, cool cars, horns, drums, politicians and dazzling smiles and waves! The crowds will be awed by the sounds of music, marching and good old-fashioned celebratory cheer as they enjoy the fifty-sixth annual Palisades parade.

Let's make this the biggest and best parade ever!!! Did you know: you and you and you can join the parade as an individual or a group! Bring out your chess club, your soccer team, your acapella chorus, or invite friends from outside the neighborhood to perform or parade! Build a float or ride on the back of a neighbor's truck with signs and decorations! Put on a funny hat, stroll your ten chihuahuas in their pink tutus, turn cartwheels, drive your balloon-filled great-aunt's 1940 convertible, carry a flag! All this is not only fun in itself, but it will actually give you a chance to **win a prize!** Yes... that is correct, there are prizes for all kinds of parade participants, and you could be a winner!

Fun fact: Every one of the Palisades parades has been **100% planned and run by Palisades!** It is often thought that the parade is a city-run event, but all the magic is actually very much homegrown from our local Palisades Community Association and many, many volunteers who make this such a special event. So, you're not sure marching is the right fit for you? No problem. There are plenty of other ways you can volunteer! There are opportunities at the hoedown, parade and picnic, and even some for early morning before the heat!

July 3rd Hoedown!!

To get everyone in the cheering and dancing spirit, the festivities will kick off with our annual

Hoedown on the Green at the Palisades Rec Center under the tent. You'll find your feet moving to the happy sounds of **bluegrass music**, enjoy ice cream and cheer on the pie-eating contestants as they show their chops with those cherry pies! And new this year, we'll be hosting a **pie-baking contest!** Dust off those recipes and keep your eye on the listserv for full details on how to enter!

Parade picnic!!

Each year, the parade ends at Palisades Park, and you can follow the fun all the way to the tent for hotdogs, watermelon and lemonade, and lots of fun for kids and adults! We will have shaded moon bounces, the ever-fun dunk tank (which is open to all), misting stations and balloon-animal-making for all to enjoy! The picnic is from noon to 2 pm and will be filled with the sounds of Frying Pangaea! Prize winners will be announced at the picnic.

Palisades T-shirts!!

Right here you can see this year's Palisades t-shirt, which is already on sale! They will be sold at the Farmers' Market each Sunday (unless it's raining) and at several pop-up sales events throughout the neighborhood all the way until we run out. Get one today!

Stay tuned! Keep an eye on the listserv for updates on events and t-shirt sales and reach out to Jessica Davis if you want to volunteer!

davis.jessicaL@gmail.com.



NOVEL STORIES AND HISTORY OF THE PALISADES & BEYOND BY NICHOLAS CARSON



THE LAY OF THE LAND

One may find that as the Earth becomes more urbanized and technology enables us to move around in new ways, we tend to become detached from nature and lose touch with the topography around us. Below is an interesting fragment of the first topographic map of the Territory of Columbia, which shows Ward 3 in detail.

The map was commissioned by George Washington and surveyed by Andrew Ellicott in 1794. It illustrates how early on humans developed the land and built trails that would later become tracks, then the paved roads and highways of today. The grid that Pierre L'Enfant overlaid on Washington doesn't always work so well with the contours of the land. This map is not precise (you may notice that Little Falls Branch is shown originating in DC when in fact the source lies on the grounds of the Chevy Chase Country Club in Bethesda), but it does give us a good sense of the overall lay of the land we inhabit. Originally, before L'Enfant came along, humans took the easiest route, whether most direct or most sensible. This map shows one of the earliest routes, present-day Wisconsin Avenue, which was called the Road to Frederick Town. You can see that it follows the high ground, takes a more direct course to minimize stream crossings and

unpleasant encounters with mud. It was originally a trail used by Indigenous Peoples leading from the Piscataway settlement at the mouth of Rock Creek north to meet the Susquehanna River. In contrast, Connecticut Avenue, essentially paralleling Wisconsin to the east, was completed over 100 years later and required two major bridges to cross Rock Creek and Klinge Valley.

Sometime when you're walking, riding your bike or even driving your car, try to strip away what the last few centuries have put on this land and connect with the flow of the water and the contours of the Earth. Taking such a look just might give you new insights and connect you to the land and people of the past.

If you would like to learn more about the history of Ward 3, I suggest reading the excellent Ward 3 Heritage Guide. Produced with our tax dollars by the DC Historic Preservation Office in 2020, which gives a wealth of information about the establishment and development of what is our home: bit.ly/Ward3HeritageGuide.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE....

Many Palisaders (Palisadians?) know Sycamore Island, home of the Sycamore Island Club, but did you know that there is another island not far from it that has been called "the most thoroughly studied island in North America"? You most likely have passed within 100 yards of it multiple times....



Answer to the question from the spring issue of *The Conduit*: The champion Chestnut Oak. If you have ever traveled on Chain Bridge Road, down from Nebraska Avenue, you drove right by the tree several feet off the road on your left. The tree is growing on the downhill side of the spot where the battery at Battery Kemble Park was located, across the street from 3000 Chain Bridge Road.

IN OUR BACKYARDS: A FASCINATION WITH FLOWERS BY LINDSEY TRUITT



I am fortunate that I can vividly remember my earliest encounter with a flower. And when I say remember I mean that I can still recall the sweet and perfect fragrance that caused me to stop and look around for its source, then discover the dainty flowers of a lily-of-the-valley right at eye level, on top of a low wall that I was walking by. I did not know its name for many years but what I saw were tiny white bells evenly spaced on small but very sturdy-looking stems. I loved that it was diminutive, as was I, but not fragile, and the powerful fragrance made it seem like a strong plant to me. Though my love of the natural world now includes everything from birds and trees and insects to decaying wood and clouds, it all definitely started with a fascination with flowers.

The world really is a bit more like Alice in Wonderland when you are a child: in many ways surreal, sometimes overwhelming but also ever so full of delights. It is understandable that the perfume of a tiny flower stopped me in my tracks and that if I'd never seen another one, I would still be able to describe those perfect little bells. Every year you can see kids discovering buttercups and dandelions as if they were the world's greatest treasures. So it makes good sense to give kids reasons to spend time in a garden.

Every seed is a miraculous little kernel of life, and I believe

that there is almost no excitement as sweet as waiting for them to germinate and then watching as they get going, with new leaves unfolding. May and early June are good months to begin warm weather annuals right where they will grow. Because success is a good motivator, choosing your plants carefully is important. So many seeds are available and their packages are so beautiful that it is easy to make mistakes, so just bring home a few good choices. Plan on finding a fully sunny spot even if you need to put a large pot on a patio or sidewalk. The best flowers to start with are zinnias and the orange cosmos. Both will grow fast in the heat, come to flower quickly and keep going all summer and into the fall. Morning glories are also fun—and glorious—but they won't begin flowering until later in the summer and they need something to twine around. I put them in a pot on my porch and use the rail as support.

There is also great satisfaction in growing something that you can eat. Few seeds grow as vigorously as a bean, and that is a great choice for a young gardener. I prefer the pole bean plants to bush beans because they are more elegant and using a trellis or a tomato cage gives enough support to these robust plants. Bees love the small flowers and the beans form quickly as miniature beans and then grow to full size—the whole process is great to watch.

My memory of that first amazing lily-of-the-valley is more than just my beginning of loving plants and the natural world. The stopping and noticing, the appreciation of the beauty, the moment of loving the world are things that I have carried through my life. There is not a day that hasn't been made better by a moment's pause and a feeling of gratitude for the beautiful world all around us.

Free small trees

I have the perfect small trees for kids to plant (most are 1'-2' tall) and can be planted with a trowel or small shovel. River Birch and various Oaks. Please email me at truitt.Lindsey@gmail.com to arrange pickup and to get advice on good planting spots, which don't have to be on your property!

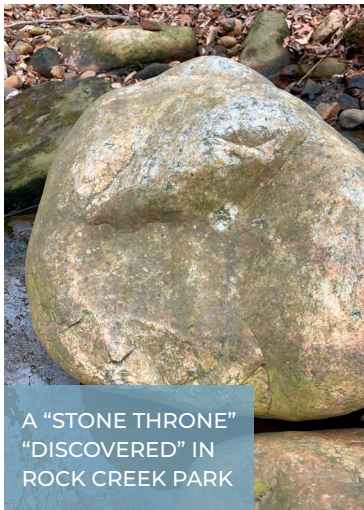


HISTORY ON DISPLAY

BY DOUG DUPIN

In recent months, several people in the DC area have reached out to me in hopes of learning about their newly found Native American artifacts. I am usually quite open to such inquiries because they can give me an opportunity to learn more about our region's prehistory. But in the interest of time management, I now realize that I have to pare back my responses to these inquiries. The verdict I often have to give to the disappointed finders of what they hope are treasured artifacts is that these are nothing more than naturally occurring rocks, and construction gravel, unusually shaped stones or slag pieces. In an Arlington apartment last month, after I waded through trays upon trays of ordinary rocks, the occupant insisted we go to see the ceremonial site he had discovered. Located in the middle of road construction, the site had some quartz rocks (common!), but nothing even remotely relevant to the past. A couple of weeks later, another gentleman living in the District sent me an email that began: "what I am about to say next is going to sound like I am a crazy person who doesn't understand math or like someone that is very enthusiastic but is just looking at rocks. . . I would estimate [I found] well over a million artifacts present." As more details trickled in—"effigy of a bear, the lower half of a cat head, a carved stone throne" (see photo)—it became clear to me that the man's first intuition of insanity held the one definite truth.

I would characterize these relic hunters as mostly harmless since they are surface collecting and usually finding things of no particular import. The unfortunate consequence of these treasure hunts, however, is the way they shape government policy around cultural preservation. This policy favors keeping the public in the dark about our history. For example, after my three inquiries to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) whether any archeology had been conducted at Carolina Park during its recent renovation, I got this reply: "the full summary will not be shared for public consumption due to the sensitivities



A "STONE THRONE"
"DISCOVERED" IN
ROCK CREEK PARK

of the site. Site locations are protected information under ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) because of the prevalence of people looting artifacts, which is why we limit the information released. Unfortunately, we have had bad experiences with the public poking around, digging on, and looting District property, which is a crime." Signed by DPR's Peter Nohrden, who further on specified that information for public consumption can



be found on the signs DPR put at the two ends of the park.

Having closely followed the construction at the Palisades Park over the past eighteen years, I knew DPR's track record. During the construction of the soccer field, no archeology was conducted, and the bulldozers exposed hundreds of American Indian artifacts. When I published and exhibited my findings on the Palisades listserv and in the Palisades Museum of Prehistory, I was labeled a looter (those "looted" artifacts were documented with their *correct* provenance). After that episode, DPR's subsequent construction at the Palisades Park, including the children's playground, was preceded by archeological investigations—or at least this was the claim. Similarly, DPR told me that there had been archeological excavation at Carolina Park with some of the results published on the park signs (see above).

This sign in front of the park tells us that the artifacts at top are from Carolina Park. But as you can see in this photo, the lab's label dates to 2017, while Carolina Park's archeological investigation allegedly took place in 2020/2021. The archeologist's name and the date suggest that it came instead from a report done at the Palisades Park during the 2016 playground renovation (the document is online at bit.ly/palisadesplaygroundhistoriclandmark). The other image shows a prehistoric pot actually found in Anacostia!

So why did the DPR choose to include artifacts that were not actually found in Carolina Park in this report? The first explanation is that no excavation took place there and DPR needed to pretend that it had. But this plausible explanation contradicts the fact that people dug test pits in Carolina Park in 2020. Whether they found anything remains a secret, and yet judging by my "poking around," it would be hard not to find anything. What is more likely, I suspect, is that DPR chose to use images in its report of crude-looking artifacts so as to minimize the site's importance. This disinformation would serve to deter looters and to make a playground standing on top of a significant archeological site more palatable to the public.

Last year I gave a talk on the items that a friend and I had found at the Carolina Park construction site and provided some interpretations about how some of the artifacts had originally been used. I hoped to get more information about the site and, ideally, carbon dates from the city, but unfortunately I only received this short reply: "have you seen the signs?"

DPR's sustained dishonesty prompted me to remove the exhibited prehistoric artifacts I and other Palisadeans had found from the Palisades Recreation Center exhibition. I believe that the collection was far too important to be housed by this negligent DC government agency. (Plus, I was not thrilled when an indoor pickleball court used the displays enclosed in glass cases as backstops!) So now, our new 501c Palisades History Museum is looking for a place to exhibit the collection. We have our sights set on the Conduit Road Schoolhouse, which has been empty for years and could definitely use an organization to bolster proper stewardship of the structure. We continue



DEVELOPMENT AT CAROLINA PARK, 2021

to make inquiries to the National Park Service about potentially using this atmospheric schoolhouse as a local museum. The most recent communication was that we could expect the issuing of a Request For Proposals later this year or next year.

Keep Your Teeth for Life

- Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
- Full Mouth Reconstruction
- Invisalign Certified
- Lumineers, Veneers,
- Implant restorations
- 1-hour Whitening
- Accepts Most Insurances
- Emergencies Welcome
- Payment Plans/ No interest Financing

WASHINGTONIAN MAGAZINE
TOP DENTIST SINCE 2013

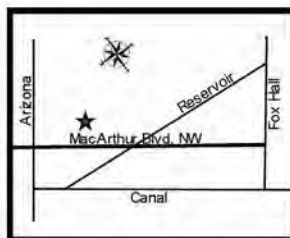


Dr. Tirdad Fattahi

*Free Consults

Schedule your appointment today
202-338-7499

Admin@drfattahi.com
www.drfattahi.com



TIRDAD
FATTAHI
D.D.S.
P.C.

4840 MacArthur Blvd. NW
Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007
202-338-7499

\$95
New Patient Special
Cleaning, Comprehensive Exam,
Full Mouth X-Rays and Fluoride
Without third party billing

Invisalign
Free Consult
+\$500 OFF
Full Case Without financing
or third party billing.

\$200 Teeth Whitening With Trays

With Current Cleaning, X-Rays and Exam
Without Third Party Billing

*Offers cannot be combined

Across from Black Salt Restaurant



ARTISTS OF THE PALISADES at the Palisades Post Office

SERENA ARDIZZOIA June–July

I'm Italian, but I moved to Washington in 2010. I'm a photographer, a very particular one because often I still shoot with a film camera in black & white. What is the purpose of a picture for me? For myself, a photo intends to tell a story, regardless of the number of pictures. Even just one photo can tell a lot. Through pictures I want others to understand what I was feeling in that moment, and what my eyes saw.

I fell in love with photography when I was around 15 or 16, but with the black & white photography when I was in college here in the United States. I try to "play" with darkness & lights. I like to capture the essence and atmosphere of what is around me. Also, I believe a picture is time travel without the machine. Pictures are forever.





KAREN EPSTEIN August–September

Painting for me is fun, absorbing, stimulating and frustrating. Above all else, what drew me to painting is love of color. I love what bits of colored paint can do when dabbed, brushed and scraped (with a paint knife) on a canvas. Most of my paintings are landscapes, which I create either plein air or in the studio from photographs I have taken. Much of my inspiration has come from our travels. I particularly love to paint trees, flowers, water and clouds.



I have lived in the Washington area for close to 50 years. I worked for almost a decade as a social worker, mostly at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. After getting a doctorate in psychology, I spent many years

doing psycho-educational assessments and psychotherapy. Many of those years were part-time as my husband and I raised two daughters. After my retirement, I began to take art classes, initially at the Yellow Barn in Glen Echo and then elsewhere with many other wonderful teachers. Through my classes, I have joined a community of painters. I owe much to their support and encouragement.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MERIDENA KAUFFMAN has recently returned to the Palisades neighborhood after a 23-year career as a commissioned officer with the United States Coast Guard. Among her many assignments, Commander Kauffman, Ret., served in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charleston, South Carolina; Seattle, Washington; Headquarters, Washington, DC and retired as Deputy Commander of the Detroit Sector of the Great Lakes Region. She was on the team that facilitated the transition of authority of the Panama Canal from US to Panamanian control. She served with the US delegation to the Arctic Council, which implemented a State Department treaty among countries that border on and have interests in protecting and managing Arctic Ocean waters. This responsibility required her to travel to Denmark, England, Finland, Quebec and Russia. Commander Kauffman, Ret., is a graduate of Key Elementary School, Hardy Middle School and Wilson High School. She will soon take a civilian position with the National Pollution Fund Center which oversees the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.



KEY SCHOOL HAWAIIAN DANCE
ORGANIZED BY MS. IVY CALDITO.



WHAT WE DID THIS SPRING



ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT



Spring was lively, and community activities included concerts at the Hub and an outrageously well-attended and loud St. Patrick's Day street concert by **40 Thieves**, with pizza from new local favorite **Café Vino** and beer from the **Hellbender Brewing Company** as an added bonus. The now annual Eggstravaganza followed in April with lawn games, a visit from our local police accompanied by the Easter bunny and a giant slide.

As Ukraine's ordeal continues, neighbors have been involved in organizing events and donating. **We are hoping to have a Ukrainian presence in the July 4th parade, so please let me know if you have ideas.**

You can buy a lawn sign of the Ukrainian flag at the PCA table at the Farmers' Market. Proceeds will go to the **Universal Reading Foundation**

in Warsaw, which has been supplying Ukrainian-language books to the million refugee children currently staying in Poland. Check out the foundation to see what they do or to donate at <https://fpc.org.pl>

Would Palisades be Palisades without the July 4th celebration? Uuuuum... probably not! I hope all of you will join in the festivities. **Please send me your favorite picture, and we will try to fit them all into the next issue.** See you on the 3rd and 4th! —Maya Latynski





ET VOILA!

Congratulations to Rafael Beltran and Sylvain Frances for being nominated in the **DC Rammy awards 2022!** <https://www.therammys.org/#save-the-date>
 Rafael was nominated for Employee of the Year and Sylvain for Manager of the Year. Please congratulate them next time you visit Et Voila!

French Seams

Custom workroom for:

- **Window Treatments**
- **Bed Treatments**
- **Pillows**
- **Other Custom Items**



We will work with your fabric or provide a fabric of your choice.

Call Mary at 202.966.1196
frenchseams@verizon.net

WINNERS OF THE PALISADES LIBRARY HAIKU COMPETITION

MEREDITH MORRIS/ALECE ROCKLER

Child Winner: Cate

Hildegard the goat
 She eats eggshells and old trash
 Isn't she lovely

Child Honorable Mention: Zoe

The tree grows very big
 I collect flowers from the pink dogwood
 The chickens eat blueberries.

Teen Winner: Derek

Books are my passions!
 Libraries contain the keys
 To open passions

Honorable Mention: Callie

Escaping the heat
 Biking along the canal
 Oh! A blue heron

Adult Winner: Heidi

An American looks
 At cherry blossoms and sees
 A short lived flower

A Japanese friend
 Says we think their short life is
 Part of their beauty

Adult Honorable Mention: Anne

July 4th parade
 Laughter, cheer, music galore
 I love living here

Adult Honorable Mention: Samantha

With a swift kerplunk
 The stone fell in the water.
 Sunk to the bottom.

Adult Honorable Mention: Alison

Pink blossoms floating
 warm sunshine and welcome smiles
 Spreading light and hope

Thank you so much to everyone in the community who submitted a Haiku. We were so impressed by the imagination and hard work that went into all the poems. Look out for future contests!

With its large meeting room, smaller conference room

and three study spaces, the PALISADES NEIGHBORHOOD

LIBRARY is an attractive gathering spot for neighborhood meetings and activities. The library's programs include yoga for seniors on Wednesdays and a writer's workshops series.

For more information, and dates and times, please visit the library at dclibrary.org/palisades. And don't forget to sign up for summer reading which starts shortly!

AGING IN PLACE

BY JOHN P. GIACOMINI

I am sure that you have often heard comments about the rise in the numbers of older adults and how well- or ill-prepared we, as a society, are to deal with the various social and practical issues that affect this growing segment of our population, and those who care about them and care for them. More than 13 percent of DC's population is 65 and older, but the concentrations in Wards 2 and 3 are much higher.

How to deal with the growing numbers of older adults and the issues that their growth generates? Not an easy task and one that implies the need for resources. A consistent managerial structure is called for. And there is no

question that “resources” implies not only human but, more importantly, financial.

Two decades ago several thoughtful friends and neighbors in Boston recognized the need to assist seniors to age gracefully and in place, to remain engaged socially and educationally in their communities, in familiar surroundings. They began the Village Movement, and its first village was called Beacon Hill Village.

Villages are driven by members and volunteers who respond to local needs. The services the volunteers offer may range from changing a light bulb to identifying reliable professionals to putting on educational seminars to providing local transportation. Funding

Northwest Neighbors Village, Palisades Village. We collaborate and share programming at www.dcvillages.org. In 2021, 2,326 older adults benefited from Village membership, and 517 volunteers performed 17,512 hours of service. To see the latest impressive report, go to bit.ly/DCVillages2021Report.

I have been a member of Palisades Village since it began more than ten years ago. I have seen it mature successfully both managerially and programmatically. It offers social and cultural events to reinforce community-building and to renew and create friendships. Thirteen members make up the board and bring to bear various skills and experiences in nonprofit management, law, leadership,

economics, accounting and public relations. Palisades Village now has 217 members and 154 volunteers. I can vouch for the excellent volunteer service.

An important factor for those approaching elder status is to plan ahead. What will my needs be? Do I have a network of relatives, friends and professional associ-

The services they offer may range from changing a light bulb to identifying reliable professionals to putting on educational seminars to providing local transportation.

ates that I can count on? How often might I need transportation and who will provide it? Will I be able to continue living in my home? Have I identified congregations with older adult groups who meet regularly? What might the costs be to address my needs? Do I have friends who have planned ahead? Do I have home care providers in mind and are they in it for the long run? Where can I get assistance to help me sort through the possible options? Do I have special dietary needs? These are just a few thoughts that would surely generate others. Keep in mind that Villages are one capable source of assistance.

Take the time to check out Palisades Village at www.palisadesvillage.org or call 202-244-3310. I encourage all older adults and those who care for and about them to plan ahead!



A VOLUNTEER DELIVERS SOUP TO A MEMBER.

WHAT'S THE HUBBUB?

BY KIM SNEDDEN



Its timing couldn't have been worse. But with people finding ways back to each other, especially in smaller settings, the time for the Hub couldn't be better.

finding ways back to each other, especially in smaller settings, the time for the Hub couldn't be better.

Looking for a history series with nationally known speakers? Keen for live music but you'd rather not battle downtown or the Wharf? Need a spot to hold a reception or a birthday party? How about an exercise class you can walk to? The Hub has got you covered.

It took me a while to get my brain around the role of the Hub because it was so broad, so open, so unformed. What exactly was it?! Answer: whatever you need it to be. The Palisades Community Church had seen the numbers and knew its future wasn't strictly in the liturgy. The property as it is now has been there nearly 100 years. While they could have sold it off and taken the money and run, they wisely held the asset. Their conservative play is our neighborhood's gain. Looking past its first life as a church, we can embrace this local gem and make the most of this gift.

I want this property to work for everyone in the Palisades. I'm loving my role as a deputy to Director Julie Simonton, as well as learning to lead my neighbors to uncover the treasures the Hub has to offer. Together with our Community Advisory Board, Polly Johnson and Lynda Cokinos, not to mention a generous set of volunteers leaning in to make this work, I am confident that the amenities and resources we can offer will make a difference for all Palisadeans. Come see us sometime and make the Hub yours.

Typically I've spent my professional and volunteer career faithfully executing the plans of my trusted "General," whether as the personal accountant to a real estate developer, a treasurer to Caroline Ervin's PTA president or Queen of Special Projects at Rocklands Barbeque & Grilling. I know my strengths and they lie in having someone's back, picking up the slack, adding a flourish, holding a line. So when Sylvia Becker

and Robin Anne Floyd asked if I would step up from my board member position at the Palisades Hub and hold the co-chair position with Sylvia, I balked. Leading is not my happy place and I'm feeling the growing pains now, at age 57.

But very soon I saw that the Palisades Hub is one of the best things to be happening in the Palisades for a while. Born in the midst of a global pandemic with a goal of providing a place to bring neighbors together, its timing couldn't have been worse. But with people

THE CONDUIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE PALISADES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

THE PALISADES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 40603
PALISADES STATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

PRESIDENT Jenny Wieroniey	jennywieroniey@gmail.com
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT Nick Keenan	nickbkeenan@gmail.com
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT Jessica Davis	davis.jessical@gmail.com
TREASURER Ken Buckley	toground@rcn.com
SECRETARY Karen Schaar	schaarkaren@gmail.com
GENERAL COUNSEL Stephen Gardner	sgardner.gardnerlaw@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

AIRCRAFT NOISE Ken Buckley	toground@rcn.com
BUDGET & FINANCE Ken Buckley	toground@rcn.com
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Jenny Wieroniey	jennywieroniey@gmail.com
COMMUNITY OUTREACH Mary Ann Floto	mafloto@verizon.net
EDUCATION Heather Halstead Gustafson	hhgust@gmail.com
ENVIRONMENT Suzanne Morrell	stmorrell@gmail.com
FARMERS' MARKET Spence Spencer	williamspencer@yahoo.com
MEMBERSHIP Brendon Mills	brendon.mills@compass.com
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Karen Schaar	schaarkaren@gmail.com
NOMINATIONS Jenny Wieroniey	jennywieroniey@gmail.com
PALISADES COMMUNITY FUND Nick Keenan	nickbkeenan@gmail.com
SOCIAL MEDIA Kate Kegan	katherinehkegan@gmail.com
SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS Abby Marsh	abbymarsh@gmail.com
SPECIAL EVENTS Maria Garcia	jjog2424@comcast.net
TRAFFIC Jack Wells	jackwells1@mac.com
TRAMMELL CROW LIAISON Lisa DeBow	lisa.debow@yahoo.com

THE CONDUIT Maya Latynski	28maya03@gmail.com
PCA ADMINSTRATOR AND WEBSITE Anne Ourand	palisadesdc@hotmail.com

CONTACT US

tel/fax: 202-363-7441
palisadesdc@hotmail.com