

APRIL 2021

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Springing Forward



One by one, our days are longer and brighter. Cherry trees are blossoming. Our neighbors are outside enjoying the fine weather. Spring is here. Let's all take a deep, collective breath of fresh air and appreciate how far we've come from last year at this time. I hope all who read this have received or will soon be able to get their coronavirus vaccinations. While it will take time to reach whatever our new normal will be, we are moving in a positive direction and making progress each day. And for that, I am grateful.

Last month's ERCV Armchair Travel Series visited the world of Jazz. Thanks go to our longtime member Roger Glass, who put together a program with heart and soul. The speakers, who included ERCV member Skip McKoy, Nelson Canton, and special guest, performer and educator Davey Yarborough, shared their personal passion for the art form and what it has meant in their lives. If you missed this event or want to enjoy it again, please use [this link](#).

I mention this recent program not only because it was excellent, but because it reminded me of the many worlds our members and volunteers inhabit, not only in their professional and personal lives, but in their enthusiasms and hobbies. What passions and areas of expertise do you have to share with your fellow Villagers? All you need to do is let us know. ERCV member and consultant Shelley Moskowitz (profiled in this month's *ERCV Portrait*) can help you create a PowerPoint presentation that will include photos, favorite music, or anything else you need in order to share your knowledge and stories with others. We can, if you like, record the presentation so it can be enjoyed by others in the future. We will continue to offer programs online and look forward to the day we can also meet again indoors and in person.

I am pleased to announce that on April 22nd, Earth Day, ERCV will hold its first in-person outdoor social gathering in over a year. This is a trial run, limited to those who are fully

vaccinated and by the outdoor seating that is available. I also hope you will be able to attend our virtual Open House on Thursday April 8th, celebrating spring, and our second docent-led tour of the Smithsonian American Art Museum on April 29th. This tour's theme will be "Art and Social Change." (If you missed the amazing first tour, it was recorded and is available upon request.) For all of our events and opportunities, please see our calendar below.

Wishing those who celebrate Passover or Easter a meaningful holiday and everyone a happy spring. I hope to see you all soon!

--David Mackoff



SPOTLIGHT: Cherry Blossom Time!



[BloomCam](#), brought to you by the Trust for the National Mall in partnership with the National Park Service and EarthCam, is a 24/7 live, real-time view of the cherry trees lining the Tidal Basin, one of the most popular and iconic sites in DC. BloomCam offers year-round views of the cherry trees and their seasonal changes to viewers worldwide, and is highlighted here during Bloom Watch as we await the peak blooms. Click on the [link](#) and take a look!



Useful information . . .

Tax season has been extended until May 17. Through May 4 the DC chapter of the AARP Tax-Aide program offers free tax return preparation and e-filing to DC residents who need help filing their taxes. **Send a text to or leave a voicemail at 202-642-9037, or email the DC Tax-Aide Help Desk at DCTaxAide.Help@gmail.com.**

Public libraries (Shepherd Park & Petworth in our area) have entered Phase Two services. Open Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; closed daily for cleaning 2-3pm. Services available: return materials; pick up a hold; grab-n-go selection check-out; have a book paged from the stacks; get a library card; manage library account; print, copy, & scan documents; limited computer sign-up; use restrooms. For details visit: <https://www.dclibrary.org/phase-two>.



ERCV PORTRAITS: Meet Shelley Moskowitz



You wouldn't expect to find many people named Moskowitz in Tulsa, Oklahoma, but that's where Shelley was born and raised. Her Eastern European grandfather *schlepped* across the country with a wagon of junk that became Moskowitz Furniture, one of the first businesses in the newly established state. Her mom's grandparents also came from the "old country" and settled in Arkansas – so don't be surprised if you hear Shelley pepper her sentences with Yiddish and midwestern slang!

While studying at Tulane University, Shelley was inspired to become an activist after the accident at Three Mile Island nuclear plant. This set the trajectory for her professional and personal life. As student leader of the campus environmental action group, she ran the recycling center and mobilized protests against the nearby nuclear plant. When a group of graduate students approached her to help with their campaign against the wars in Central America, she readily jumped in.

After college and a return to school to study public policy, in 1987 Shelley opened the DC office of Neighbor to Neighbor, a national grassroots organization working for peace in Central America and later universal health care, representing the organization as a public interest advocate as well as Legislative and Political Director. In 2004, she became the manager of public policy for another national human rights organization where she worked on a wide array of

issues. For many years Shelley served as president of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), a local nonprofit she dearly loves. There she could do her social justice work Jewishly, filling a previously unrecognized hole in her life. In 2011, JUFJ honored Shelley with the Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel Vision Award.

Meanwhile, Shelley was enjoying her village-like life in a group house on Capitol Hill, but when the house was sold, she moved around DC and along the way met David Mackoff. In 2010, they bought their Brightwood home and are now celebrating 20 years together! They enjoy taking neighborhood walks and watching films, and look forward to traveling again post-pandemic.

After leaving public policy work in 2015, Shelley launched Moskowitz Coaching and Consulting. She loves being her own boss and helping people and organizations accomplish their goals with greater ease. She has stayed very busy during the quarantine. Thanks to technology, she is able to meet with clients who live across the United States and as far away as Dakar, Senegal.

Shelley is thrilled to be part of ERCV and is especially proud of how we pivoted during the pandemic. The Armchair Travel series, her brainchild, is one of our most successful virtual programs. She's looking forward to resuming Lunch Bunch and other get-togethers and meeting our newest members in person. She wants everyone to know and enjoy the benefits of being part of our Village.

-- Our thanks to ERCV Board member Brenda Mejia for this interview



PLEASE JOIN US FOR APRIL EVENTS -

Fridays, Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30: 3:00-4:00 pm

ZOOM CHAIR YOGA WITH ANTONIA

- Our long-running class is online each Friday afternoon. Gentle yoga involves centering, stretching, and balancing poses done sitting in a chair or standing next to it. It is recommended for everyone.
- Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org with questions about Zoom and to receive reminder emails each week. Here is the [Zoom link](#) to join the class.

Mondays, Apr. 5, 12, 19, & 26: 10:00 am

ERCV MORNING WALKERS

- We will walk in Rock Creek Park. Meet where Juniper St. runs into the Park. We will walk at a leisurely pace on the wide, flat path for about 30 minutes, masked and distanced. There is street parking in the area.
- Reservations are not necessary, but if you email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org by 9:00 am Monday or call/text 202-656-7322, we will wait for you to arrive.

Mondays, Apr. 5, 12, 19, & 26: 5:30 pm

ERCV AFTERNOON WALKERS

- We meet at the Learmonths' at 1309 Floral St. and walk on the very wide track in old Walter Reed, finishing before 6:30 pm.
- Reservations are not necessary, but email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call 202-656-7322 if you would like reminder/cancellation emails.

Tuesdays, Apr. 6, 13, 20, & 27: 10:00-11:00 am

ZOOM OTAGO EXERCISE WITH ANTONIA

- Antonia, our yoga instructor, is leading an Otago exercise practice designed for those who have Otago experience or experience with other Strength and Balance Classes. These exercises are proven to prevent falls when practiced regularly.
- Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call 202-656-7322 for more information on Otago and to receive the Zoom link.

Thursday, Apr. 8: 3:00-4:30 pm

SPRINGTIME OPEN HOUSE VIA ZOOM

- How was your Easter or Passover holiday? How are you celebrating spring this year or how did you in the past? We can display your photos or have you take us on a tour of your yard using your tablet or computer and sharing your screen. Send photos to info@eastrockcreekvillage.org.
- The Zoom link for the Open House is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82560541520?pwd=SnRvUmVySzg4WEg5L0U2TTl0a2V4dz09>
- To join by telephone for a conversation without pictures: Dial 301 715 8592 and when prompted enter Meeting ID: 825 6054 1520 and Passcode: 502080.

Thursday, Apr. 22: 1:00-2:30 pm

EARTH DAY IN-PERSON BACKYARD GATHERING!

- This is a trial run to see if we can begin to do some small in-person gatherings. Seating is limited to 12 people who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks post-final shot).
- We will meet in Margie Odle and Carl Bergman's beautiful backyard, and ERCV will provide Ledo pizza.
- Please RSVP to info@eastrockcreekvillage.org and stay tuned for more opportunities to get together soon. Also, let us know if you need a ride to attend.

Thursday, Apr. 29: 3:00-4:30 pm

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL SERIES CLOSER TO HOME: DOCENT-LED TOUR OF THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM (SAAM) – “ARTISTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE”

- Have you ever looked at a work of art that caused you to think differently about an issue?
- Join your neighbors and Smithsonian American Art Museum Docent Melissa Clark for an engaging discussion of how artists use their work to educate and encourage us to think about a wide variety of issues. From how America came to be settled to issues of urbanization and gun control, artists are using their works to speak up. *(The painting shown is “Braceros” by Domingo Ulloa.)*
- We look forward to having your voice join in the conversation. Here is the [Zoom link](#) to join the meeting. Meeting ID: 814 5874 3788; Passcode: 958442



NOTE: If anyone would like to watch and listen to a recording of the wonderful March 25 Jazz Armchair Travel event with Davey Yarborough, [here](#) is the link.



**EVENTS OFFERED BY OUR SISTER VILLAGES
(free & open to all Villages)**

Villages in the DC area work closely together, sharing resources and inviting others to participate in larger programs. Following is a sampling of these shared offerings; for more, visit the website DMVVillageEvents.org.

~ **“Dress Codes” – What our Clothing Reveals about Ourselves and our Society: Wed., April 7, 2:00-3:00 pm** – This interview with author and Stanford Law School professor Richard Thompson Ford will look at how dress codes, often unwritten, influence opportunities and social mobility. People lose their jobs for wearing braided hair, long fingernails, large earrings,

beards & tattoos. . . Ford's scholarship includes work on critical race theory, local government law, housing segregation, and employment discrimination. There will be time for Q & A. For details and to **register**, click [here](#). Zoom login information will be emailed to registrants 24 hours before the event. Offered by **Foggy Bottom West End Village**.

~ "Picasso Figures"—A Virtual Tour from the Frist Art Museum: Thurs., April 8, 1:00-2:00 pm –

The Frist (Nashville, TN) is the only US museum hosting this exhibit of works on paper and in sculpture, offering an in-depth look at Picasso's career-long fascination with the human figure. The virtual tour will be presented by an experienced docent from the museum. For details and to **register**, click [here](#). Zoom login information will be emailed to registrants 24 hours before the event. Offered by **Foggy Bottom West End Village**.

~ Cooking with Claire: First Lesson—Crêpes!: Fri., April 9, 1:30-3:00 pm – Learn to make crêpes in a virtual cooking class with Claire Erbes-Wagner, an expert cook and teacher. For details and to **register**, click [here](#). Offered by **Dupont Circle Village**.

~ Centurion Justice for the Innocent and Imprisoned: Tues., April 27, 11:00am-12:00 pm – The science of DNA has been of immense help in freeing the innocent from prison. However, countless cases require a complete field investigation and expert post-conviction legal assistance to help them obtain their rightful freedom. Centurion is dedicated to the vindication of the wrongly convicted, and since 1983 has freed 63 men and women who were serving life or death sentences for crimes they did not commit. Paul Casteleiro will share updates about Centurion's ongoing fight for justice for the wrongfully incarcerated. For details and to **register** (deadline Apr. 26), click [here](#). Zoom login will be sent to registrants 24 hours before the event. Offered by **Northwest Neighbors Village**.



. . . AND SOME COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES . . .

~ This is What America Looks Like: Poetry & Fiction from DC, MD, & VA: Thurs., April 1, 6:00-7:00 pm – DC Public Library partners with [INKPEN](#) and [Washington Writers Publishing House](#) to present this anthology of local writing. Talented writers and poets from the area will convene online to read and discuss literary works that highlight the ongoing health crisis, social justice, and other timely observations. For details and to **register** for this free evening of thought-provoking conversation, click [here](#).

~ Making Good Choices in Times of Crisis & Uncertainty – Using our Agency to Stay Grounded, Balanced, & Healthy: Wed., April 7, 3:00-4:00 pm – COVID and other unfolding crises disrupt our families, our work, and our personal sense of safety, security, and health. And yet, there's good reason for optimism. We have agency, the ability to take charge of our lives and put

ourselves onto better paths. Drs. Anthony Rao and Paul Napper will present seven fundamental tools from their book *The Power of Agency*, identifying specific behaviors and ways of thinking to help us stay focused, productive, and authentic despite the many negative forces and powerful distractions surrounding us today. For details on the expert presenters, and to **register** for this free event, click [here](#). Offered by **AroundTownDC**.

~ **Notre Dame de Paris – A Celebration of the Cathedral: Wed., April 14, 2:00-3:00 pm** – On April 15, 2019, the world looked on in horror as the Notre Dame Cathedral was nearly destroyed in a devastating fire. For almost nine centuries Notre Dame de Paris has served as a house of worship, a witness to historical events, and an inspiration for artists and writers. In a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, author Kathy Borrus will share highlights, images, and favorite stories from her book, *Notre Dame de Paris: A Celebration of the Cathedral*. For details about the presenter, and to **register** for this free event, click [here](#). Offered by **AroundTownDC**.

~ **Ward 4 Community Safety Meeting: Tues., April 20, 6:00-7:30 pm** – Councilmember Janeese Lewis George is hosting a community safety forum with Acting MPD Chief Robert Contee, Deputy Mayor Christopher Geldart, and Gun Violence Prevention Director Harlee Harper. For details on this webinar and to **RSVP** and **send in your questions**, use [this link](#).

-- Our thanks to Shelley Moskowitz, ERCV member and consultant, for compiling events for the calendar.

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Our thanks to the DC Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) and The Washington Home for their generous support.



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