

DECEMBER 2021

East Rock Creek Village — 202-656-7322

7707 13th St. NW, Washington, DC 20012

info@eastrockcreekvillage.org—www.eastrockcreekvillage.org



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A Year to Remember



It's hard to believe that the end of 2021 is near. The year has certainly been one of ups and downs for many of us. On the pandemic front, miraculous vaccines at the beginning of the year gave us hope and a chance to be with each other again – for a little while. The rise of virulent coronavirus variants and the waning of vaccine strength taught us that our “new normal” would include our continuing to stay aware, make careful choices, wear masks, and get booster shots.

As for myself, I am proud of the way ERCV has navigated the challenges of the pandemic, last year and this year. Each month the ERCV Board assessed conditions and found ways to be of service. Our complimentary memberships during the public health emergency enabled us to reach many more of our older neighbors. Our volunteers mobilized to help scores of our neighbors arrange vaccination appointments at a time when the process was unclear and chaotic. As conditions improved, we began offering in-person outdoor activities while continuing to host online programs. We remain cautiously optimistic that the new year will bring more opportunities to enjoy time together remotely and in person.

As we prepare for 2022, I hope you will help us continue to carry out our mission by [renewing your East Rock Creek Village membership](#). The Board has reinstated annual dues at the new lower rate of \$200 per household for up to three people. Any contribution above that amount is tax-deductible, and no one over 50 years old in our service area will be turned away for financial reasons. If you share our vision and appreciate the caring community we are building, please respond to our end-of-the-year appeal which will be arriving soon in your mailbox.

In any case, I hope that you will come enjoy some of our December activities. As announced last month, our book group will be meeting online on Saturday, December 11th, to discuss Jefferson Morley's *Snow-Storm in August: Washington City, Francis Scott Key, and the Forgotten Race Riot of 1835*. Responding to popular demand, our Armchair Travel program will take us again to a virtual Jazz Club on December 16th. We will also host a festive online holiday open house on Thursday, December 23rd, and we are planning for an in-person party on Sunday, January 9th. Save the date! Watch for updates in the weeks to come.

Thanks for making 2021 a year to remember. Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season.

--David Mackoff



In Memoriam

East Rock Creek Village mourns the passing of our longtime member, **Franklyn A. Malone** (1925-2021). As part of his distinguished service in the US Army, he participated in the liberation of France and Germany in 1944/45. He went on to have a very successful and multifaceted career and was a devoted father and grandfather as well as a much-beloved Colonial Village neighbor.

SPOTLIGHT:

Plans for an ERCV post-holiday in-person party are in progress! The party will take place Sunday, January 9, 2:00-5:00 pm, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!



COVID-19 Update

- COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccines are now recommended for everyone over age 5, and **people over 50 are urged to get a booster shot** six months after receiving the Pfizer or Moderna shot or two months after the J&J vaccine.

- Booster shots are widely available from pharmacies such as CVS, Safeway, Giant, and Walmart, by appointment and also on a walk-in basis. For more information and to set up an appointment and complete the required consent form, visit coronavirus.dc.gov. **Keep clicking your preferences and location until you get to the location for your appointment.**
- You may now get vaccinated or get a booster of your choice in the privacy of your own home! DC residents can schedule an appointment by calling DC Health at (855) 363-0333. Recent in-home appointments have been available within one week. If you do not drive and/or are not comfortable going online to make an appointment, ERCV recommends the home option.
- **NOTE:** Trying to get a walk-in booster shot can be frustrating. We recommend you visit your preferred location, obtain the consent form to complete at home, and then return with your completed form at a time/day they recommend. The Giant at Blair Plaza has provided walk-in boosters for many ERCV members and friends even though you generally cannot make an appointment for that location.
- As we go to press, **THE OMICRON VARIANT** has been identified by public health officials as a “variant of concern.” It may take weeks to determine how contagious it is, how severe the symptoms may be, and how best to protect ourselves. In the meantime, some travel restrictions have been put in place, and people are encouraged to wear masks indoors and in crowds and to be fully vaccinated, including booster shots.

If you would like to discuss your vaccine situation and options, ERCV can assist you. Email us at info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call us at 202-656-7322.



ERCV PORTRAITS - Meet Jean Bennett

[To celebrate Jean's mid-December birthday, we are re-printing her Portrait from July 2020. Happy birthday, Jean!]



Jean Bennett celebrated her 94th birthday last December and says she still gets around fine, although she never was very fast! Born and raised in Montgomery County, PA, Jean grew up in a household that valued education and community involvement. Her father was very active in their neighborhood and made a point of being well-informed, proudly receiving both local newspapers, as well as *Life* and *Ebony* magazines. He worked as a chauffeur, and one of his responsibilities was to pick up library books for his bosses' children. He always made sure to get a few books for Jean and her sister Joan too, so they always had something new to read!

Jean was a student at Cheltenham High School, and was among the first black students to take the academic track. One night, before graduation, she attended a party for World War II servicemen, and there she met her future husband, William W. Bennett.

She attended Temple University for a few years, studying piano and cello. Her high school actually purchased her first cello, which she played in the Philadelphia Negro Symphony for two years. She didn't have the desire to stick with it, though, and eventually pursued a teaching degree.

Jean and William married in 1946 and came to DC. They moved into their current Manor Park home in 1968 when their Brookland house was sold to the city under threat of eminent domain to make way for a freeway that never materialized. Shortly after arriving in Manor Park, she bumped into an old friend who introduced her to Neighbors, Inc. Jean got involved right away, and eventually held every office in the organization, including president, in addition to being very involved in the Brookland Civic Association.

Jean graduated *magna cum laude* from DC Teachers College in 1969, and received her Master's *summa cum laude* in special education/reading from Trinity College in the 1970s. When her sons David and William were young, she taught nursery school. As they grew up, she shifted to full-time teaching in the DC public schools, which gave her the chance to interact with a great variety of students. She also made sure to teach both of her boys the basics of piano. This was a small part of a life-long effort to expose them to different cultural experiences. Jean retired in 1992 and joined ERCV in 2015. She enjoys our social events, and hopes to meet other members at future gatherings soon.

-- Our thanks to ERCV volunteer Brenda Mejia for this interview

If you are willing to be interviewed for a future Portrait,
please contact Brenda Mejia at 202-746-2714 or brenda.mejia@compass.com



PLEASE JOIN US FOR DECEMBER EVENTS -



*~Witch Hazel ~
(now blooming in Rock Creek Park)*

Fridays, December 3, 10, 17, & 31 (no class on Dec. 24): 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.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85628785908?pwd=Ylp1VzZ5dzBDUFA1aFRWMkVmalpNZz09#success> (The link is the same each week.)

Mondays, December 6, 13, 20, & 27: 9:00 am

ERCV MORNING WALKERS

- We are walking the neighborhood again this week rather than in the park. Bundle up and join us at 9:00 am at 1312 Juniper St NW.
- No reservation is necessary but if you email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org before 8:30 am or call 202-656-7322 before 9:00, we will wait for you before we set out. There is a Sunday reminder email about this walk.

Mondays, December 6, 13, 20, & 27: 4:00 pm

ERCV AFTERNOON WALKERS

- The Monday afternoon walkers will meet at the Learmonths' at 1309 Floral St. NW. The pace, length, and route depend on the wishes of the group, but the usual walk is on mostly paved, fairly level sidewalks.
- Reservations are not necessary, but if you email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org we will send you a reminder email on Sundays. If you call or text Judith McCullough at

202-255-2390 before 4:00 pm Monday, she will wait for you to arrive before setting out.

Tuesdays, December 7, 14, 21, & 28: 11:30 am (NOTE time change.)

ZOOM OTAGO FALL PREVENTION 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.
- When done regularly, this exercise routine is proven to prevent falls.
- The program is tailored to those who attend -- we can help you get back in shape. Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call 202-656-7322 for more information and the Zoom link.

Saturday, December 11: 4:00-5:30 pm

ONLINE BOOK DISCUSSION — SNOW-STORM IN AUGUST BY JEFFERSON MORLEY

- ERCV Volunteer leader Brenda Mejia will facilitate an informal discussion of the book ***Snow-Storm in August: Washington City, Francis Scott Key, and the Forgotten Race Riot of 1835*** by Jefferson Morley.
- The *Washington Post* review calls the book, "Fascinating....an exploration of America's capital city at a time when the fault line over slavery had become impossible to ignore." Jefferson Morley is an author, journalist, and editor who has lived and worked in Washington DC for over thirty years.
- Join us on [Zoom](#) for an informal discussion.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82322303359?pwd=UGRXS0JjSjVpdUtuVjZMVFWdZdMUT09#success> Or participate by phone by calling 301-715-8592, then inputting the Meeting ID: 823 2230 3359 and the Passcode: 181117.
- Copies of the book are available at area libraries.
- RSVP at info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or [online](#)

Thursday, December 16: 2:00-3:30 pm

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL: VIRTUAL JAZZ CLUB PRESENTING ELIJAH JAMAL BALBED



- By popular demand, ERCV volunteer leaders Roger Glass and Skip McKoy will once again host an Armchair Jazz Club event online.
- Our special guest will be Elijah Jamal Balbed, who has been named Best Tenor Saxophonist and Best New Jazz Musician by the *Washington City Paper*
- Elijah will share with us his influences as a musician, the challenges he faces as a young artist in the world of jazz, and the innovative ways in which he and his band members were able to keep working and growing as musicians during the pandemic.
- RSVP at info@eastrockcreekvillage.org

- [Zoom Link:](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84729913918?pwd=WGlxdXJZSkdaS2JlYzhRanlSZ0lmUT09)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84729913918?pwd=WGlxdXJZSkdaS2JlYzhRanlSZ0lmUT09>
or listen on the phone by calling 301-715-8592 and inputting the Meeting ID: 847 2991 3918 and Passcode: 978433.

Thursday, December 23: 3:00-4:30 pm

ERCV OPEN HOUSE HOLIDAY PARTY VIA ZOOM



- Join members, volunteers, and friends of East Rock Creek Village to celebrate the holiday season in a COVID-safe way via Zoom. Fix yourself a festive drink and ENJOY our virtual gathering.
- If you have a favorite seasonal photo or picture of handicrafts you've made, please send them to info@eastrockcreekvillage.org. We will share them online during the party and hope you'll tell us your stories.
- RSVP to info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call the office at 202-656-7322 if you need any assistance to join by zoom or share your photos.
- [Zoom Link:](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88456433356?pwd=NmNUNFNPOVhYMEppWjFNNUNKSHlnUT09)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88456433356?pwd=NmNUNFNPOVhYMEppWjFNNUNKSHlnUT09> or join by phone by calling 301-715-8592 and input the Meeting ID: 884 5643 3356 and Passcode: 907099.



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.

~ Morning Stretch: Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00-10:30 am – Join Beth Kaplan of Beth Kaplan Yoga for 30 minutes of gentle movement to release muscle tension and increase range of motion. No experience necessary. Participants can stand or sit. Props needed: a sturdy chair and a strap or belt. Call 301-715-8592, then enter Meeting ID 818 7963 3316#; OR to participate via video conference, click [here](#). Password: 11231. Offered by **Cleveland & Woodley Park Village**.

~ Meditation for the Masses: Mondays, 11:00 am – Join respected meditation leader Anandaroopa for an hour of stress relief through a series of simple breathing and contemplative meditation exercises. Open to all physical levels, although ability to hear

directions is necessary. <https://zoom.us/j/866675108> Meeting ID: 866-675-108. Offered by **Waterfront Village**.

~ ***Navigating Life's Journey: Financial and Legal Planning for Future Healthcare Needs: Friday, December 3, 1:00-2:30 pm*** – This is the 2nd session in a series. A panel of experts will discuss how to ensure your future plans for aging in place are on firm financial and legal footing. Topics include long-term care insurance, financial planning, advance directives, and issues in elder law like medical and financial power of attorney. **RSVP** [here](#). Offered by **Chevy Chase At Home Village**.

~ ***DC and the COVID-19 Recovery: Economic, Political, and Social Takeaways: Thursday, December 9, 1:00-2:00 pm*** – While the city appears to be past the worst of the pandemic from a public health standpoint, the economy and the job market have a long way to go. How soon will offices, restaurants, hotels, and entertainment venues bounce back? Is the housing market recovering or slipping further? Presenter Dr. Shelley L. Tomkin is a political activist, former Chair of the Ward 3 DC Democrats, Professor Emerita of Political Science at Trinity Washington University, and author of *Inside OMB: Politics and Process Inside the President's Budget Office*. Free event, but donations appreciated (donation link provided on registration page). For details and to **register**, click [here](#). Offered by **Northwest Neighbors Village**.



. . . AND SOME COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES . . .

~ ***"Shalom Pardner" with Miriam Isaacs: Friday, December 3, 3:00 pm*** – Miriam Isaacs, a scholar of the Yiddish, will describe how the contrasting images of a stereotypical traditional European Jew, the "Yidl," combined with the stereotype of a classic cowboy, enlivened the comic effects in Yiddish vaudeville and created popular novelty songs. For details and to **register**, click [here](#). Offered by **AroundTownDC**. **[Note: Events offered by AroundTownDC are free, but they require you to set up an account in order to register. This is easy to do! Click on the "Create a free account" button on the registration page and fill in the information requested. Then all you have to do is create a password. Once you have done this, you can register for any event by clicking the "Login" button on the registration page.]**

~ ***Holiday Tree & Menorah Lighting at The Parks at Walter Reed: Saturday, December 4, 5:00-6:30 pm*** – The Parks at Walter Reed will kick off the holiday season with a lighting of their 20-foot tree and 12-foot menorah on the Great Lawn. Come sing, drink hot beverages, cozy up to the fire pit, and enjoy tasty treats. Free event. For details and to learn how you can donate to Housing Up at the event, click [here](#).

~ ***Congresswoman Norton with the National Park Service: Thursday, December 9, 7:00 pm*** – Join Congresswoman Norton at a community meeting with NPS representatives. NPS manages

many of our local parks, so this is an opportunity to ask questions or raise issues with the agency. To **RSVP and receive the Zoom link**, email NortonEvents@gmail.house.gov.

~ Virtual or In-Person Holiday Concert with “Musalliance”: Saturday, December 20, 1:00-2:00 pm – With Anna Kusner on guitar and Peter Omelchenko on domra (Russian mandolin), **Musalliance** is an exciting string duo offering virtuoso interpretations of classical, international, and folk favorites. Together, Anna and Peter bring to Musalliance the unique background of a rigorous Russian music education, extraordinary virtuosity, and a broad and eclectic repertoire drawn from both traditional and contemporary sources. While each alone is a gifted soloist, it is when they come together that their brilliance is magnified, and musical magic fills the air. Michelle Kim will introduce and provide background at the performance.

- **Virtual program:** For details and to **register**, click [here](#).
- **In-Person program at Nourse Hall of St. Alban’s Church** (masks mandatory): For details and to **register** for limited seating, click [here](#).

Offered by **AroundTownDC**. . *[Note: Events offered by AroundTownDC are free, but they require you to set up an account in order to register. **This is easy to do!** Click on the “Create a free account” button on the registration page and fill in the information requested. Then all you have to do is create a password. Once you have done this, you can register for any event by clicking the “Login” button on the registration page.]*

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



ERCV Newsletter Editor: Nancy Foster nfoster14thst@gmail.com

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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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<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3491502>

Thanks!