

APRIL 2020

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's Spring, but We're Not Yet Sprung



Normally I would begin this column talking about the beauty of spring in our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, these are not normal times. The trees and flowers are indeed blooming, but we need to stay in or close to our homes while taking extra precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Right now, I simply want to say that **I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and doing well** in the midst of this pandemic. **If you are not, [we want to know](#).**

The ERCV Board is closely monitoring developments and working with the District government and other DC Villages to respond to emerging needs. Out of an abundance of caution and because most of our members AND volunteers are over 60 and at higher risk from the virus, we are NOT providing any in-person transportation or in-home services until further notice. Volunteers are available to deliver food, medicine, and household supplies to our service members' doors, and we can help arrange food and other deliveries for others.

As challenging as it is to be "socially distant" at this time, we know it is making a difference. Every time we prevent the virus from spreading, we are saving lives. At the same time, we don't want anyone to become socially isolated. Please let us know if you would like to have **friendly check-in calls** from ERCV's neighborhood volunteers -- or sign up with the District's Call & Talk Line at 202-724-5626.

The ERCV website has up-to-date information about [our COVID-19 policies and resources](#) and a page called [How to Stay Active and Connected](#) with access to numerous opportunities. Around Town DC also offers [creative ideas for staying healthy](#). Further possibilities for entertainment

and learning at home are listed in our “Interesting Possibilities” section later in the Newsletter. Please let us know if you have other ideas and resources we can share.

If you haven’t done it already, we encourage you to [register](#) as a member or volunteer on the [ERCV website](#). We’ve recently added tools that will make it easier to stay connected especially during difficult times. And our new “Village Talk” feature will enable members to have online discussions about topics of interest. First get registered and then we will share more information.

Thank you for being part of the ERCV community. I wish you and your loved ones good health and safety during this challenging time. Please know that you are not alone and that we will get through this, in time, TOGETHER.

--David Mackoff



SPOTLIGHT: Useful Information

Voting by mail: The DC government is asking people to vote by mail in the June 2 DC Primary. We are being encouraged to apply for an absentee ballot. To apply for a ballot online, go to [this website](#). You can also request a ballot by email at dcabsentee@vote4dc.com or by phone at 202-727-2525. To read an article about the DC government’s announcement [click here](#). If you need help in following application instructions, please call the ERCV office, 202-656-7322.

Tax deadlines: The deadline for DC individual and fiduciary income tax returns, partnership tax returns, and franchise tax returns has been extended to July 15, 2020. The Federal filing and payment deadline has also been extended to July 15, 2020. This delay does not apply to property taxes, which are still due March 31. The Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) encourages taxpayers who are able to file their returns electronically to do so. For additional information, please contact OTR’s Customer Service Center at 202-727-4829.

Restaurant possibilities: You can support restaurants while practicing social distancing. Use this restaurant aggregator to find which restaurants are open for take-out, curbside pick-up, and delivery during COVID-19. To use the database to place an order, click [here](#). The list is constantly evolving, so please use [this form](#) to add restaurants you know!



ERCV PORTRAITS - Meet Gay Gellhorn



Gay grew up in New York City/New Jersey, and has lived all over the world, but she considers DC home. As a young military wife, she raised three children in Canada, France, and Italy, as well as four states. She moved to DC in 1968 when her first husband was brought here, after serving in Vietnam, to complete his medical residency at Walter Reed.

Gay worked as a substitute teacher in DC public schools until leaving DC with her family when her husband was stationed in Italy, followed by South Carolina and Washington State. She earned a law degree from the University of Puget Sound at 43. Returning to DC, she clerked for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, during the time that capital punishment was reinstated. Justices Marshall and Brennan felt strongly that this punishment was unconstitutional, cruel and unusual punishment, so those were sad times.

Gay then practiced regulatory law and general litigation for six years at Wilmer Cutler & Pickering. Known for its *pro bono* practice, the firm supported her representation of Neighbors Inc. in its successful challenge to renewal of the liquor license of a Georgia Avenue bar featuring topless dancers. Finally, she returned to teaching, joining the faculty at UDC Law School in 1989. She taught Contracts and co-directed their HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic, which gave her a deep sense of fulfillment. She fully retired in 2005.

During her years of law teaching, Gay remarried and moved to Potomac, MD. However, she maintained ownership of her Shepherd Park home, and eventually moved back here in 2015. (Her son, Rafael Sa'adah, a DC firefighter, and his wife Bri, an Army doctor, lived in the Shepherd Park family home for some of her years in Potomac.) Before returning to our neighborhood, Gay worked to make her house safe and livable for senior living.

Gay is also a singer! She participates in Encore, a choral group for people 55 and older. Gay is also very active in and committed to her church, St. Stephen & the Incarnation.

What does she think of our area now? She loves seeing older and younger kids out and about, enjoying unstructured play time. She notices that families are still having the same conversations – about schools, day camps, PTA, real estate development, and local

government. She loves the “consistency of people’s commitment to the neighborhood.” Stop by (after the current pandemic subsides!) and see two photos she treasures – the first Floral Street Block Party in 1969 and last September’s Block Party 50 years later!

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



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN APRIL EVENT -

Thursday, April 16: 3:00-5:00 pm

ERCV ONLINE OPEN HOUSE VIA ZOOM

- Everyone is invited to join us *via* your laptop, tablet, or smart phone! Meet new friends or connect with old ones, learn about ERCV, and enjoy good fellowship.
- **Let us know if you plan to attend** so we can send you an invitation with the link to join in.
- Your RSVP can be by [email](#) or by phone or text to 202-656-7322; or you can register on our website by clicking [here](#).
- If you have never used Zoom before, plan to log in a little early to get oriented, or you can even call or email our office to set up a Zoom introductory meeting at another time. It’s easy and fun to use Zoom!



. . . **and here are some interesting possibilities for home adventures!**

~ **DC Library Go Digital** – Access to free movies, music, tutorials. . . Stream movies from Access Video without a library card. For other movie or music access, use your DC Library Card number (easy to apply for one online). <https://www.dclibrary.org/godigital/watch>

~ **Laughter Yoga Exercise** – Exercise with Seniors in Independent Living/ 4 minutes of laughter. Lots of fun! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZdSCgt3GQO>

~ **National Parks Virtual Tours** – Enjoy scenes of Parks you’ve visited, or explore new ones. <https://www.nps.gov/search/?affiliate=nps&query=virtual%20tours%20national%20parks>

~ **In-depth Conversations** – Interviews from NPR’s Fresh Air with people from all walks of life, from artists to activists to caregivers and more. <https://www.npr.org/programs/fresh-air/>

~ **Photos of DC Life** – Library of Congress National Photo Company collection, documentation of aspects of DC life: inaugurations, sports, landmarks, conventions, topics of local interest. (The photos were interesting, but site navigation is not intuitive.)

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2005684470/>

~ **Old-Time Radio** – If you miss the golden age of radio, or just like the feeling of old-fashioned radio shows, tune into *The Relic Radio*. This podcast has compiled radio shows from the 30s and 40s to be enjoyed by a modern audience. Relic Radio is actually many different shows under one umbrella.” <https://www.relicradio.com/otr/posts/>

-- Our thanks to ERCV volunteer Rosalind Palmer for compiling these items

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