

## Winnowing: The joy of telling the big stories of your life

BY DAVID OLDFIELD, AUTHOR OF WINNOWING

Every Tuesday throughout the months of September and October I woke up excited. I couldn't wait for the morning to pass because Tuesday afternoons were set aside for our Winnowing Zoom calls, when eight Village members and I would read aloud the life stories we'd been journaling about all week. It was a time for remembering events that had shaped our lives, for laughing and sympathy and, above all, for appreciating what made each of us unique and all of us somehow the same.

Psychologists tell us how important it is at this stage of life to share our life stories. We're encouraged to remember how we have come to be the people we are, and pass along the wisdom we've gleaned from the ups and downs, the joys and pains, the successes and failures that come from living long, full lives. What psychologists failed to tell us is how fun and rewarding the process can be!

Each week, eight members – all women, which turned out to be very significant – would write on a specific theme in a directed journal I wrote called Winnowing. One week we'd explore childhood memories; another we'd look at important relationships we'd forged – with people, with nature, with causes that mattered; another still we'd share stories of the troubles and obstacles in our lives and how we coped or rose above them.

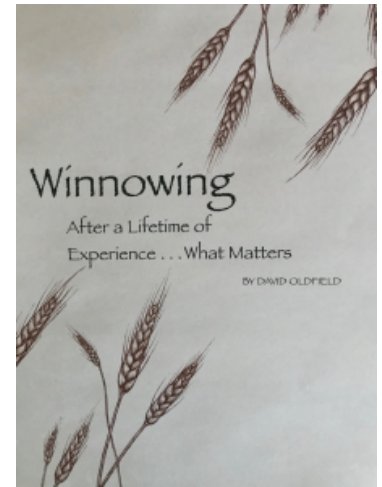
Each week we had plenty of time to remember and write, culminating in the oral storytelling on Tuesday afternoons.

I can't tell you how personally moved I was by these women and their stories. It was not an easy time to be a woman in America – so many prejudices, glass ceilings, and doors slammed in their faces! Still, they persevered and made their way despite these obstacles, with humor, creativity and grit. As a man, I was humbled and in awe of these quiet heroes.

I was also deeply touched by the kindness, sensitivity and mutual respect of this group. Appreciative listening - the art of encouraging another by the way you listen and respect her as she speaks – was our hallmark. I always left these sessions feeling myself to be a better person because of what I'd just experienced.

What more can you ask of a Tuesday afternoon!

If you're interested in learning more about Winnowing or purchasing a copy of the book, go to David's website: [www.midwaycenter.com](http://www.midwaycenter.com). You'll see a large map. Click on the "Island" called "Winnowing."



### NNV 2020 End of Year Campaign

Our sincerest thanks to everyone who contributed to Northwest Neighbors Village's 2020 End of Year Campaign! Only 1/3 of Village costs are covered by membership dues. Your generous donations allow us to continue to coordinate volunteer services, offer a variety of interesting programming, and keep members engaged and supported throughout the year. We couldn't do our work without you!

## NORTHWEST NEIGHBORS VILLAGE

a community network of support

PO Box 39135  
Washington, DC 20016  
202-935-6060  
[www.nnvdc.org](http://www.nnvdc.org)

Northwest Neighbors Village (NNV), founded in 2007 and opened in 2009, is a nonprofit organization created to help the residents of Northwest Washington live comfortably and safely in their homes and neighborhoods as they age.

### Join or volunteer

NNV welcomes new members and volunteers. For more information, go to [www.nnvdc.org](http://www.nnvdc.org) or call the office at 202-935-6060.

### NNV Board Members

#### Officers

Morgan Gopnik, president  
Ann Van Dusen, vice president  
Beverly Lunsford, secretary  
Sam Smith, treasurer

#### Directors

Anne Aarnes  
Steve Altman  
Richard Avidon  
Jessica Berenson  
Shanti Conly  
Judie Fien-Helfman  
Bert Foer  
Alice Hayes  
Merilee Janssen  
Gene Sofer  
Jan Solomon  
Karen Zuckerstein  
Janean Mann, emerita  
Frances Mahncke, emerita  
Robert Parker, emeritus  
Stewart Reuter, emeritus  
Jo Ann Tanner, emerita

### Staff

Stephanie Chong, executive director  
Heather Hill, volunteer and member services coordinator  
Leslie Pace, administrative assistant

### Newsletter team

Pat Kasdan  
Janean Mann  
Pat Mullan

## DC Community HOPE Grant

By STEPHANIE CHONG

This past summer, Northwest Neighbors Village partnered with Cleveland & Woodley Park Village and Palisades Village to support older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Villages were awarded the DC Community HOPE grant from the DC Mayor's Office to offer health education sessions related to COVID-19, provide access to essential PPE Safety Kits, and host a series of social and wellness programs aimed to reduce social isolation and encourage physical activity.



PPE Safety Kits

STEPHANIE CHONG

The DC Community HOPE grant allowed the Villages to collectively:

- Distribute nearly 2,000 PPE Safety Kits
- Reach 3,794 participants through Village sponsored programs
- Offer up-to-date COVID-19 information and resources, with over 24,000 email newsletters received
- Provide hundreds of older adults with the opportunity to participate in programs on COVID-19 facilitated by medical experts at Sibley Memorial Hospital and Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Grant funding ended last month but we at Northwest Neighbors Village maintain our commitment to providing helpful information and resources until COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our community.

For updates on the local impact of COVID-19 and DC's plans for vaccine distribution, visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov). While there, be sure to check out DC Health's Guidance for Older Adults provided by DC Health.



STEPHANIE CHONG

Volunteer Stephen Mink delivers Safety Kits



SAL SELVAGGIO

Autumnal Artists: Joey Mánlapaz and her watercolor students adapt to the pandemic restrictions - wearing masks and meeting outside.



# Northwest Neighbors Village Appoints New Board Officers and Elects New Board Members

BY STEPHANIE CHONG

**N**orthwest Neighbors Village is delighted to announce the appointment of Morgan Gopnik as President, Ann Van Dusen as Vice President, as well as the election of four new members to the board. The four new board members are Anne Aarnes, Shanti Conly, Gene Sofer and Jane Solomon.

**Morgan Gopnik** is a popular volunteer who joined NNV in 2014 and has been helping members with a variety of tasks ever since. Morgan was instrumental in shaping the Village's future as part of the Strategic Planning Committee in 2018. Morgan is an expert in environmental science, with a particular focus on ocean policy. She served as Director of the Ocean Studies Board at the National Academy of Sciences, Senior Advisor to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, and Senior Vice President for Programs at the Ocean Conservancy. Morgan's understanding of our members' needs paired with her demonstrated leadership and commitment to our Village's mission will be invaluable to the organization.

**Ann Van Dusen** has been an active member of the board since 2015. Like Morgan, Ann is well known by members for her volunteer service. Ann and her husband, Mike, often volunteer together driving members to appointments and helping members with various household tasks. The Van Dusens have hosted many gatherings to welcome new members to the Village. Ann retired as the head of Georgetown University's Institute for Global Human Development, where she created a new master's program after years of experience addressing poverty and disenfranchisement in different cultures for USAID and Save the Children. Ann brings a wealth of operational skills and experience to her role.

**Anne Aarnes** is a retired USAID senior foreign service officer. She is a Trustee of the American Center of Research, Jordan and co-chair of the Board of Directors of the USAID Alumni Association. Anne and her husband David have been volunteering for Northwest Neighbors Village for the past few years, assisting members, hosting programs and helping with various tasks that support the office. She is delighted to become an

NNV board member and have the opportunity to continue to strengthen the excellent services NNV provides, and to meet more NNV members.

**Shanti Conly** is retired from a career in global health. She has experience working for non-profit organizations and has managed grants to many non-profits at the local, national and international levels. Shanti began volunteering for Northwest Neighbors Village in 2019 and played an important role in the development of our Communications Plan. Shanti values Northwest Neighbors Village's hyper-local focus and looks forward to contributing to NNV's mission in a broader and more significant way in her new role.

**Gene Sofer** has a long-term interest in issues affecting seniors. He is a public affairs consultant whose clients include the National Association of RSVP Directors, which is the largest federally-funded US organization using senior volunteers and providing services to seniors. He has extensive non-profit board experience including service on the boards of the Edmund Burke school, Avodah: the Jewish Service Corps, the WAMU Community Council and the Capital Jewish Museum. Gene and his wife, Judy, are Northwest Neighbors Village supporters.

**Jan Solomon** is retired from the Department of Education. She has been an active volunteer with and supporter of NNV and a moving force behind the success of our salons. Jan has extensive experience assisting non-profits, hosting and chairing events, and doing committee work. Among her board affiliations, she has served as the vice-president of the Brandeis National Alumni Board, headed the parents' association and served on the Board of Trustees of the Lowell School and also served on the Board of Trustees as Vice President for Green Acres School. Jan is a docent at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and is active in the Washington Guild of Goldsmiths.

Our new officers and board members have a strong connection to Northwest Neighbors Village and bring a diverse set of strengths to help our Village achieve its mission to enable older adults to thrive as they age in our community.

# Buglers Across America

By TOM SNEERINGER,  
NNV VOLUNTEER AND BAA STATE DIRECTOR FOR MARYLAND

One of the saddest elements of this “Age of Covid” is that, with the exception of the immediate family, we are being denied the opportunity to pay our respects for fallen friends and relatives by attending their funerals and burials. Strict limits on the number of people allowed to gather together means that “a memorial service to be held in the future” is often being substituted for public funerals, and the interment ceremony is witnessed by a very limited number.

(The Washington Post recently [published an article](#) that amplifies that thought.)

The only “good news” is that for veterans, Military Funeral Honors are still being rendered if requested. By law, veterans are entitled to two uniformed service personnel, an American flag folded and presented to next of kin, and the rendering of Taps. It’s a true shame that so few can share this patriotic moment, which can be quite emotionally fulfilling. Some funeral homes or families are taping it or even live-streaming it, and that’s going to have to suffice for now.

I belong to an organization of volunteer buglers called Bugles Across America (BAA), whose purpose is to provide live Taps at veterans’ funerals. The law that guarantees Military Funeral Honors to veterans allows the use of a recording of Taps if a live bugler is not available. We find this unacceptable, and our on-line system makes it easy to secure a live bugler on very short notice and at no cost. We think the dignity of putting to rest someone who has served his or her country requires something more than hitting “play” on a recording device. I heard that at my own father’s burial service and joined BAA soon thereafter.

The best way to request and secure a volunteer bugler is through the funeral home. They will know what is required and how to reach us.

For more information, please visit [www.buglesacrossamerica.org](http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org) or contact Tom at [tmsneeringer@gmail.com](mailto:tmsneeringer@gmail.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM SNEERINGER

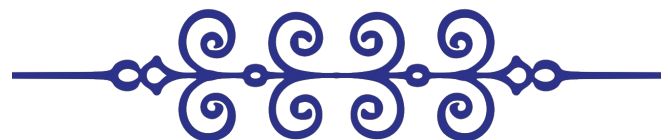
## Thank You Judie!

By STEPHANIE CHONG

For three years, Judie Fien-Helfman was the Northwest Neighbors Village Board President. During her tenure, Judie helped NNV enter its second decade financially stable and with a clear and solid plan for the future. In three short years, NNV devised a strategic plan, worked with consultants on a short-term basis to advance the organization's priorities, established the NNV Legacy Society, hosted successful fundraising events, and introduced our popular salons and Virtual Speakers Series.



To honor Judie’s work building on the roots planted by the founders and creating a strong foundation for the future, the NNV Board has created the Judie Fien-Helfman Presidential Fund. This fund will be used to help advance Northwest Neighbors Village’s mission. If you are interested in honoring Judie with a gift or would like to support our work, you can make a donation online at [www.nnvdc.org](http://www.nnvdc.org).





# Chevy Chase Main Street to launch January 1, 2021

By STEVE ALTMAN

The D.C. Department of Small and Local Business Development has provided a grant to [District Bridges](#), a non-profit,



INVESTING IN COMMUNITY +  
SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

to implement programs and services to support the growth and development of neighborhood businesses in the Chevy Chase corridor. NNV supported the application of District Bridges and will work with them to help make the commercial enterprises in Chevy Chase expand their age friendly efforts. Similar Main Street programs are already operating in the NNV area in Van Ness and Tenleytown. The focus of this latest effort will be along Connecticut Avenue from Livingston Street to Chevy Chase Circle.

District Bridges, which already operates six other Main Street programs, will have an initial grant of \$175,000 to support small businesses with technical assistance, invest in comprehensive branding and marketing, plan community events, and plan for commercial revitalization to maintain the traditional and unique characteristics of Chevy Chase. The project will be supported by additional funds raised from the private sector.

A coalition of Chevy Chase organizations including NNV, ANC 3/4G, the Chevy Chase Citizens Association, Friends of Chevy Chase Circle, Historic Chevy Chase DC, and Ch/Art. has initiated efforts to encourage the community to shop locally and patronize the businesses in our community. We will continue to recognize various restaurants and stores that address the concerns of our members. We also see a role to help those businesses identify how they can be better attuned to those needs such as access issues and sound volume as well as encouraging their outreach to our diverse community. We look forward to working in cooperation with the Main Street programs in our area to make the Northwest Neighbors neighborhood one in which a robust network of services and programs supports a community where older adults are valued, age with dignity and enjoy the opportunities for growth and engagement.

## Virtual Wellness Wednesdays with the DC Villages

DC is home to 13 Villages who have a shared commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of our members. We've come together to offer exciting new wellness programming in 2021



Beginning January 13th, the DC Villages will host a Wellness Wednesday series for Village members citywide. The programs will address physical and emotional wellness through a variety of topics including, fitness, healthcare, nutrition, and self-care.

We hope you will join fellow Village members from around the city on Wednesday afternoons on Zoom!

### Wellness Wednesday Schedule:

Date	Time	Topic	Host
January 13	1:00	Creative Care	Palisades Village
January 27	1:00	Medication Management for Older Adults	Waterfront Village
February 3	1:00	Cooking Demo with Monica Heppel: Multigrain Pancakes	Dupont Circle Village
February 10	1:00	Declutter Your Life	Brookland Intergenerational Village
February 17	1:00	Living Long and Loving Well	Kingdom Care Village
February 24	1:00	Eating for Heart Health	Northwest Neighbors Village
March 3	1:00	Gentle Yoga with Mayu	Northwest Neighbors Village
March 10	1:00	Check back for topic in March	Georgetown Village
March 17	1:00	Understanding Telemedicine	Capitol Hill Village
March 24	1:00	Chair Yoga	East Rock Creek Village
March 31	1:00	Mobility as We Age	Cleveland & Woodley Park Village
April 7	1:00	Check back for topic in April	Mount Pleasant Village

# Old Urban Naturalist

By JANE WHITAKER

If you keep your eyes open and are listening to the sounds around you there will be surprises. On a short walk up our alley I kept hearing the tap-tap of a woodpecker. I surveyed every tree but couldn't find it although it seemed very close. Suddenly my son said "look up, Mom". Up was blue sky and utility wires but up I looked. Overhead was a small log which had grown through the wire and then been cut to be left dangling on the wire. There was a downy woodpecker hanging onto the log and pecking diligently. She had made a hole and was hollowing out the inside to make what looked like a nest hole. Occasionally she would disappear into the hole. So let your eyes follow your hearing. Surprises await!



PHOTOS BY JANE WHITAKER  
Downy Woodpecker

Before air conditioning I always slept with the windows open and could hear things that go bump in the night. This fall I set up a game camera on the deck that is aimed at my birdbath. It's turned on at night and takes photos of anything that emits heat.

Well, my first night visitor was the neighbor's cat; then a big, fat raccoon. The raccoon visits about once a week. In late November a fox was photographed running through the yard. Now, in early December it is visiting most nights. The bird bath has a heater so I'm expecting more visitors as water gets scarce as it freezes. Snow may be in our future. Be sure to look for tracks in fresh snow. We will often find that our neighborhoods have a much wilder side than we ever imagined. Draw or photograph any prints you see so they can be identified.



Fox gets caught by the game camera

Lichens are fascinating in that they are a fungus and an alga (green one-celled plant) that grow as one. In fact, most cannot live separately. A lichen can survive in an environment which would be too harsh for the fungi or algae to live by themselves.

The little plants secrete acids that are instrumental in breaking down rocks. Look for them this winter when there is less greenery to hide them. Besides being found on tree limbs, rocks, walls, and the ground, they can be found in old graveyards and on fence posts.

Look carefully, the grayish-green spots on the trunks and limbs of trees will have subtle differences in shapes and colors.

Sometimes tree trunks and stone walls will have yellow or orange lichens. In rocky areas under pines you may find pixie cups or British soldier lichens.



Candelaria concolor

There are visible lichens on the log in the downy woodpecker photo. See how many different kinds you can observe this winter on your walks or from your apartment window.



Pixie Cups



Cladonia cristatella  
(British Soldier)



SAL SELVAGGIO

Karen Zuckerstein (L) and Anne Aarnes (R)  
on a walk in the woods.



# NNV's Mimi Sokol turns 99

BY JANEAN MANN

**C**elebrating a 99th birthday in the midst of a pandemic can be a real challenge, especially if you reside in an assisted living facility quarantined to prevent a Covid-19 outbreak. Nevertheless, NNV member Mimi Sokol celebrated her November 18 birthday in grand style with the help of her daughters and several dozen friends including NNV members and neighbors.

Though Mimi could not leave her residence and her friends and family could not come inside, the group gathered on a hill across from her apartment window, sang Happy Birthday and waived balloons and banners to commemorate the event. Mimi, adorned in one of her famous hats, waved from the window and responded as well-wishers shouted congratulations.

Daughters Maxine Champion and Marlene Davis organized the celebration and coordinated the event, encouraging the creation of posters and the bringing of balloons. They sent in a cake for Mimi and her fellow residents to enjoy and provided Mimi's favorite See's lollipops to the outside participants.

"It was really nice", said Mimi, "I was so happy to see everyone and the posters were so creative. I really felt loved," she said. She, family members and friends are hoping to celebrate her 100th birthday when personal contact might again be possible.



PHOTOS BY MAXINE CHAMPION

Clockwise from L: Mimi's birthday lunch, Celebration outside her apartment, Benita Lubic with her sign.

## Lock boxes can save precious time!

BY HEATHER HILL

Installing a lock box at your front entry allows firefighters and paramedics to enter your home quickly to respond to a 911 medical emergency call or fire alarm activation if you're away from home or you are unable to open the door. If you can't open the front door, the emergency rescuers may have to force entry and this can cause a lot of expensive damage to your home and potential injuries to rescue personnel. A lock box safely holds a key to your front door and can only be accessed by a universal key that is held by local fire and rescue departments.

Lt. Kenneth Cole of D.C. Fire and EMS has provided instructions for purchasing and setting up a KnoxBox® lock box at your front entrance. The KnoxBox® is the preferred product of D.C. Fire and EMS and more than 14,000 other emergency and security departments nationwide. If your favored emergency service is the Bethesda Chevy Chase Fire and Rescue Services (BCCFRS), they also hold a universal key to all KnoxBoxes®. For more information, you may call the BCCFRS on their non-emergency number at 301-652-0077.

(Please note these instructions are for residential homes only. If you live in an apartment building, please consult your management office.)

1. Go to the website [www.knoxbox.com](http://www.knoxbox.com)
2. At the top left of the website, click on the red text that reads Choose your local fire department agency.
3. Select Washington, D.C., from the drop down menu. Then enter Dist of Columbia Fire & EMS (type in exactly as written) for the Local Fire Department/Agency. Click Search.
4. Select the Residential Use ONLY - HomeBoxes (the second choice).
5. Click on the Products heading, and select Residential Boxes. The appropriate box will be displayed for your location. Click on the product displayed and you will be prompted to enter the installation address and purchase the box. (You may leave the permit number field blank.) The price for the box in early December was \$283 (\$319 with a tamper alert). You can choose the color (aluminum, black or dark bronze) that best fits your home.

See **KNOX BOX**, p. 8

# Calendar

Our calendar is regularly updated. Please check for current listings. To learn more about any event or RSVP, please see the [Events page](#) or phone: 202-935-6060.

Unless otherwise listed, events are online, via Zoom.

## Happy Half Hour & Dine-in with The Little Beast

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 4 p.m.  
More information below.

## Virtual Volunteer Orientation

Friday, Jan. 22, 1 p.m.  
Northwest Neighbors Village requires prospective volunteers to be invited to orientation in order to attend. If you haven't already done so, please complete the [NNV Volunteer Application](#).

## REGULAR EVENTS:

### Conversational Spanish for Beginner+/Intermediate

Every Mon. 3:30 p.m.  
(Members & Volunteers only)

## NNV Walks

We try to get out and walk every two weeks in good weather.

[Check our calendar](#) for the next walk dates. Meet at the corner of Albemarle & Connecticut, next to the bus shelter.

## Caregiver Support Group

1st & 3rd Weds., 9:30-11 a.m.  
Sue Lieberman leads a support group for caregivers. Currently held via Zoom. Please contact the office if you would like to join.

## Gentle Yoga with Mayu

NOTE: While Mayu is visiting Japan, yoga will be held every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. (Yogis who attend regularly do not need to RSVP every week).

## Jazz with Carey Smith

Every Thurs., 6-7 p.m.  
Join guitarist Carey Smith for a live jazz concert in the comfort of your own home.

## French Conversation Group

3rd Thurs. of each month  
Jan. 21 & Feb. 18, 3:30 p.m.  
RSVP: John Wiecking  
([jwiecking@gmail.com](mailto:jwiecking@gmail.com))  
Join members of NNV and Cleveland & Woodley Park Village and Parle Français!

## Bingo!

2nd Tues. of each month  
[Jan. 12](#) & [Feb. 9](#), 3:30 p.m.

## KNOX BOX, Continued from p. 7

6. Check the box confirming the correct fire department. Click Add to Cart and complete your purchase. You'll need to set up a New Customer account and will then be directed to enter your payment and billing details.

7. Per Lt. Cole, the box should be mounted in a highly visible location to the right of the main entrance of the building about 5 feet from the ground.

8. Once the Box is mounted and the front entrance keys are ready for placement in the box, email [kenneth.cole@dc.gov](mailto:kenneth.cole@dc.gov) and request for the box to be locked.

For ordering support, contact a KnoxBox® representative: 1-800-552-5669 or [customerservice\\_email@knoxbox.com](#). Volunteers are available to help NNV full members navigate the purchase of a box. Please call the office at 202-935-6060 or email us at [info@nnvdc.org](mailto:info@nnvdc.org).

## Dine Local at The Little Beast

Please join your Village community and order take-out from Little Beast on Tuesday, January 12th between 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Delivery is available within a 2 mile radius from the restaurant.

While our Dine Local efforts are designed to support our local restaurants, The Little Beast is generously returning the favor by donating 15% of all NNV orders placed on the evening of January 12th to our Village!

Orders can be placed starting January 5th online or by phone. To view Little Beast's menu or order online, please visit <https://www.littlebeastdc.com>. To order by phone, call (202) 741-4599. Please consider adding a generous tip to your order if you can.

If you plan to participate on January 12th, please let the office know by Friday, January 8th via email at [info@nnvdc.org](mailto:info@nnvdc.org) or phone at 202-935-6060. We'd like to give the restaurant a head count so they're ready for us!

Before dinner arrives on the 12th, join us at our Dine-in Happy Half-Hour from 4:00-4:30 pm. [Click here to sign up for this virtual event](#) on our calendar or by calling us at 202-935-6060.

Thank you for supporting your local restaurant! Bon Appétit!







NNV

Virtual Speaker Series

**N**orthwest DC is home to numerous dynamic, informed individuals. Join us for one or all of these discussions, designed to engage and inform you. The Virtual Speaker Series is being offered free of charge to the community.

### Tackling Family History Projects

Tuesday, January 12, 11 a.m.

We have boxes of family stuff lurking around in closets and attics. Photos, documents, objects...they all tell stories about our family. But somehow, organizing that box and telling those stories remains elusive. Join speaker Clémence Scouten, founder of Memoirs & More, to learn how to finally tackle family history projects. From archiving to genealogy to storytelling, Clémence will walk through different kinds of family history projects to show you how to take each one head on!

We have more Virtual Speakers in the planning stage now. Please [check our website](#) for upcoming speakers.

Some of our past speakers have given NNV permission to record their presentations. These are available [on Vimeo](#).

Thank you for your interest in our programming!

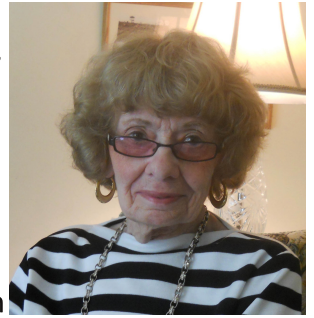
During Covid-19, we have opened up much of our programming to the community. Our membership dues only account for 1/3 of our budget, and we rely on the support of generous donors to continue to create and share engaging programs with the community. If you enjoy this program, please consider [making a donation](#) to Northwest Neighbors Village.

# Passages

## **Barbara Harrison Dresner, 1925-2020**

Longtime NNV member Barbara Harrison Dresner, 95, died at her home in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 9.

Member/Volunteer Joan Janshego wrote this profile (edited for space) of Barbara for *The Village News* in 2012:



At age 19, Barbara Harrison had finished a two-year secretarial course in Williamsport, Pa., when the government recruited her. Arriving in Washington, she got a room, a shared bathroom and two meals a day, for \$90 a month, at a boarding house at 16th Street and Spring Road NW, where the Woodner now stands.

Barbara first worked in the typing pool for the Office of Science Research and Development (OSRD), which was responsible for building atomic bombs under the code name Manhattan Project. She was quickly promoted to a job “upstairs” in the director’s office. Barbara was in the office with the scientists, including Robert Oppenheimer, when word arrived that the atomic bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima.

One of her duties at the OSRD was organizing a “tea” offered to dignitaries visiting Washington. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was at one of these functions and asked Barbara if she would go to dinner with him. “I think I probably just shrugged my shoulders. I don’t think I said anything, but I indicated no,” she said. “I was fussy about who I went out with.”

Barbara found her true love at the boarding house when Navy lieutenant Allan Dresner moved in. The Dresners had four sons. They moved to their Chevy Chase home in 1956. Although Allan died in 2002, Barbara stayed in her home, living there with one of her sons.

As her sons aged, Barbara decided to begin a new career in sales at Lord and Taylor, Garfinckel’s and finally at Walpole’s. Barbara loved sales and received several awards while working at Garfinckel’s for her excellence in customer service. She quit working at age 79 not because she wanted to, but because Walpole’s closed.

Barbara is survived by her four sons, a grandson, and four great granddaughters as well as her 99-year-old sister, Elizabeth.

# Potato salad spices up meals all year long

By BARBARA OLIVER

**R**ecipe contributor and NNV member Phyllis Belford has made this tangy potato salad throughout the summer to accompany grilled chicken, fish, kebabs, burgers and hot dogs and “it’s always a hit.” But who says you have to wait until summer? Create a picnic on the kitchen table mid-winter. Or substitute this dish for another starch at a more formal meal.

Using Yukon Gold or other thin-skinned potatoes eliminates the need to peel, a task Phyllis abhors. Because this potato salad must be done ahead of time and improves after a day in the fridge, make a large batch. You will serve it with lunch and dinner until it’s gone and she guarantees you’ll get no complaints.

## Dijon Potato Salad

### Ingredients:

10 Yukon Gold potatoes of similar size for even cooking  
1 onion, finely chopped  
4 stalks celery, sliced  
1 bunch fresh dill, chopped  
¾ cup mayonnaise (original, low-fat, fat-free, vegan)  
1/3 cup grainy Dijon mustard  
1 teaspoon salt  
Lots of freshly ground pepper (to taste)

### Directions:

In a large pot of salted water, boil the whole potatoes until done, softened through, but hold their shape, about 26 minutes. Drain and cool the potatoes to room temperature, about 30 minutes.

Cut the potatoes into bite-sized pieces and place them in a large bowl.

Add the remaining ingredients and stir well, but gently, so as not to break up the potatoes.

Refrigerate for several hours or overnight.

Before serving, taste for additional seasoning and add salt and pepper, if needed.



BARBARA OLIVER