



•WATERFRONT•
VILLAGE

The Navigator

A neighborhood-based membership organization
of paid staff, volunteers, and vendors
supporting Southwest Waterfront and Navy Yard residents
who wish to age in place.

Issue 58- December 2021

SW Resident Yang Jianli Speaks Out on Human Rights in China

Internationally-celebrated human rights activist and Southwest DC Resident Yang Jianli will headline Waterfront Village's International Human Right Day event at the Village's Wharf office on Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m.



Dr. Yang was born in Shandong Province, China and graduated from college at the age of 19. A rising star in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the 1980's, he quickly became disenchanted with the corruption and duplicity he experienced in the communist system. He left China to pursue a career in Mathematics at University of California in 1986 when he was 23 years old. In 1989, his fellow Chinese students at Berkeley elected him to go back to Beijing in support of their counterparts in China who were demonstrating for democracy in Tiananmen Square. He returned to Beijing, joined the movement and witnessed the massacre of thousands by the guns and tanks of the CCP army including tanks running over protesters. This event changed his future. He narrowly escaped capture and returned to the United States to study democracy and continue his activism.

In 2002, after completing his Doctorate in Political Economy at Harvard (earlier he had gotten a PH.D. in Mathematics from UC Berkeley), Dr. Yang returned to China to help the labor movement with non-violent struggle strategies. He was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison, kept in solitary confinement for a good part of the imprisonment.

Members of the global community, including faculty at Harvard and members of the United States Congress, advocated for Yang's release from prison. He was released in April 2007 and allowed to leave China in August of that same

year. Yang, who currently heads the human rights advocacy group Citizens Power Initiatives for China, has spoken before Congress and the United Nations Human Rights Commission; his articles have been featured in publications that include The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal.

Waterfront Village members can attend this event in person or via zoom. Please register for either the in-person or digital option on the Village website. Sitting is limited for the in-person option, and masks will be required. We would encourage all members of the Waterfront Village to invite friends and family, particularly younger people who may not be familiar with the Tiananmen Square Massacre.



Breakfast at Du Jour

Wednesday, December 1, 9:00 a.m.

Kick off the month with your Village neighbors as we check out Du Jour, the newest Wharf offering. We'll be checking out the delicious pastries and breakfast entrees. Please register in advance!

Village Sponsors First Intergenerational Workshop Focusing on Climate Change

Waterfront Village is seeking six to ten members to participate in a one-hour intergenerational and interactive climate change workshop on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. This program, which is jointly sponsored by the Village and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Aging in Style Task Force, is conducted by Dr. Mick Smyer, who has brought his interest in climate change to his experience as a psychologist in the field of aging. Smyer offers an exciting new way to approach climate change that aims to empower each of us to participate in care for the planet.



This program provides an opportunity for Village members and students from Richard Wright Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts to discuss their experiences around environmental concerns and climate change. The students have been hand-selected for this opportunity and are excited to join us. We look forward to making this connection. Please reach out to Pam at ptroutman@dewaterfrontvillage.org for more information.



Yes Virginia, there is a Holiday Party!

**Sunday, December 12
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

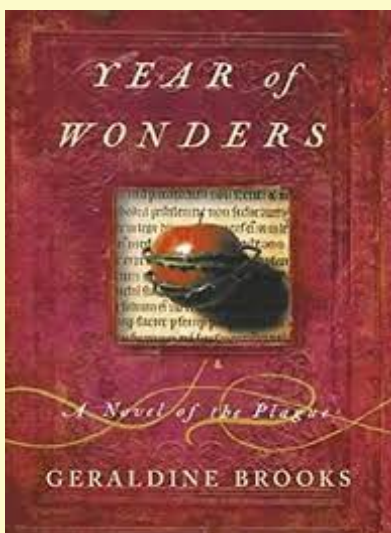
We look forward to celebrating with Village members this season! Join us for an afternoon of nice food and great interaction with friends, both old and new. This event will require proof of vaccination. Please RSVP for this event by Friday, December 10 at 12 noon by registering on the website or by sending an email to Pam at: ptroutman@dcwaterfrontvillage.org.

Lunch at Hamilton's and the National Tree and Menorah Wednesday December 15 at 1:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to a nice lunch and a holiday outing on the Ellipse. We will enjoy lunch at Hamilton's and then enjoy a close walk down to the National Christmas Tree and Menorah. We'll also check out the Pathway of Peace, which features Christmas trees representing all the states and territories. You must register online for this event so that we can make adequate reservations, and space is limited!



We will organize our travel to the restaurant based on the registrants; please register asap for this event! This event will involve a walk from the restaurant to the Ellipse so please dress for the weather!



Village Book Club

***Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*
by Geraldine Brooks**

**Thursday, December 16th at 2:00 p.m.
Meet at the SW Library**

When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of the fateful year of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and

superstition. As death reaches into every household and villagers turn from prayers to murderous witch-hunting, Anna must find the strength to confront the disintegration of her community and the lure of illicit love. As she struggles to survive and grow, a year of catastrophe becomes instead *annus mirabilis*, a “year of wonders.” Inspired by the true story of Eyam, a village in the rugged hill country of England.

Village Holiday Traditions: Past, Present and Future

Monday, December 20th, 1:00 p.m.

One of the ways to build community is to get to know one another better is to learn about the traditions we all enjoy at this time of the year. For some of us, we enjoy certain foods at this time of the year. Others participate in religious holidays. Some of us have fun traditions that make us laugh with friends and families. We invite all of you to think about one or two of your favorite traditions and come to our event to share with other members. We will be providing additional details on this event soon, but consider reaching out to Pam or Len in the office if you would be willing to be on the program to share with our Waterfront Village community at this event!



Advice for Your Year-End Giving Plan

A large proportion of the nation’s charitable giving is done in November and December. Keeping this in mind, we have a few suggestions for your end-of-year giving plan.

1. Consider What Inspires You

Whether your cause is access to higher education, racial justice and equity or vital human services organizations like food pantries and shelters, there’s no better time than now to support the groups that inspire you. Think of the organizations, both worldwide and in your community, that have made a difference this past year. Their work is far from over.

2. Think Outside of Your Philanthropic Box

In addition to giving to your “go-to” organizations and causes, why not explore some new charitable territory this year? Because of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, resources are still urgently needed when it comes to medical equipment, PPE and basic supplies—especially internationally. Additionally, in the U.S., the pandemic’s economic ripple effect has greatly impacted arts, culture and humanities-based organizations, which saw a noticeable decline in overall fundraising revenue. Our world may never be the same, but by providing funds to the organizations most in need we can help make up for those losses.

3. Give Early

November and December are busy months for charities. Nonprofits know that a sizable chunk of giving still occurs around the holidays, so you'll likely begin to see fundraising appeals accumulate in your inbox. One way you can help lighten the logistical burdens on your favorite nonprofits is to give early. Donations made earlier in the fall both help organizations meet their year-end goals ahead of schedule and allow you more time for family and togetherness.

4. Keep Year-End Deadlines in Mind

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it's far too easy to let deadlines sneak up on you. That's why you'll want to be sure to set a reminder when it comes to meeting the year-end contribution deadlines for 2021.

These recommendations are attributed to a column on the website of the National Philanthropic Trust, a public charity dedicated to providing philanthropic expertise to donors, foundations and financial institutions, enabling them to realize their philanthropic aspirations.

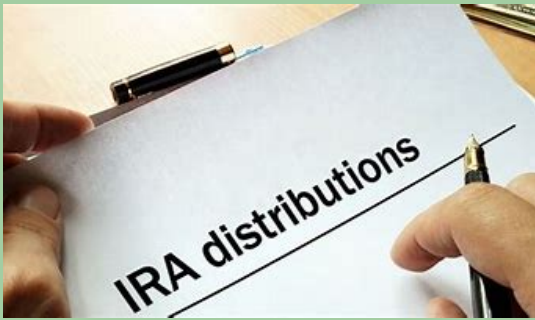


Village Asks Members for Help in Last Appeal

Waterfront Village requests the assistance of its members and supporters to communicate with family and friends on behalf of Waterfront Village. The request is part of the Village's participation in Giving Tuesday, a national effort to promote the work of non-profit organizations.

"We are asking our members to let more people know about our work. We feel if more people knew about how we are making Southwest DC and the Navy Yard among the best places to age in place, then they would be more likely to make a donation," said Len Bechtel, executive director of Waterfront Village.

Giving Tuesday is this Tuesday, November 30. Waterfront Village members are all requested to contact family members, friends and neighbors and request that they consider making a year-end pledge to Waterfront Village.



IRA Distributions Given to Charity Can Lower Taxes

Many older adults who have made tax-deferred investments through Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) can lower their tax bills and still help others by donating a portion of their required minimum distributions to a charity.

As we come to the end of 2021, many of you are planning out your charitable donations for the year. If you're 72 or over, you may also be thinking about taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Given recent tax changes, these decisions should be considered together.

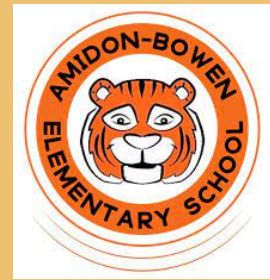
We are hopeful that you will consider donating to the Waterfront Village (WFV) or another non-profit you support. Retirees who are age 72 or older (can avoid paying income tax on IRA withdrawals of up to \$100,000 (\$200,000 for couples) per year that they donate to charity. A qualified charitable distribution must be paid directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity. You don't need to itemize your taxes to make an IRA charitable distribution, and you can donate to multiple charities.

A direct IRA charitable contribution satisfies your minimum distribution requirement. You can also donate part of your required minimum distribution to charity and withdraw the rest as income. Funds withdrawn as income will be taxed. Provided you are 72 or over, and subject to RMDs, the IRS permits a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 from an IRA to a qualified charity. This transfer is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). While IRA distributions are typically included as taxable income, QCDs are excluded from income while still counting towards your required distribution.

For individuals who can use QCDs, they are most likely the most tax advantageous way to give to charity. Note that QCDs can only be made from IRAs and not from employer retirement plans such as the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). To make a QCD to WFV, contact the broker, financial advisor or custodian for your IRA. They will provide you with the required form and directions. The donation must be made directly by a check from your account custodian to WFV (or other charity) and needs to be deposited by the before year end. If you plan to use this option in 2021, you will need to act quickly to give your account custodian and charity time to process the transactions.

Portions of this article previously appeared in the July 2021 Navigator.

Thank You Amidon-Bowen Elementary School



Waterfront Village would like to say "thank you" to the students, staff, and parents of Amidon-Bowen Elementary. Students at the school made Thanksgiving cards for several members of Waterfront Village! We are glad to get to know our neighbors at Amidon-Bowen and thank the students for the kindness and creativity!



Thank you! Teacher Appreciation Event Success

We want to thank those Village members who participated in the Teacher Appreciation Event!

We were thrilled to be able to show our support for local teachers at Jefferson Middle School Academy. Several baskets of snacks were dropped off at the school and they were distributed in a reverse Halloween style! School staff took the baskets around to the classrooms to let the teachers know that we know they work hard every day to teach the future citizens and leaders of America! We look forward to future partnerships with Jefferson and other local schools!

Please Register for Events

Please be sure to register for events on the Waterfront Village website or call the office at 202-656-1834 for help with registration. Your registration helps us gather accurate information about what programs are of interest to you, our members, and also assists us with reporting out to our various sources of funding. Thank you!

RECURRING EVENTS

Village Walking Club

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at 4th and M Street

These walks will remain local walks; there is always the opportunity to do a shorter walk! Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 14th when we'll head to the Capitol grounds to see the Capitol Christmas Tree.





Technology Boot Camp

Wednesdays, December 1 & 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Session

Lacking confidence in your ability to use videoconferencing platforms, or hoping to use your smart phone for more things? Attend these

meetings with our technology team for conversation and get helpful hints on how to use computers, smart phones, televisions, and tablets.

Grocery Shopping Shuttle

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Join us on Thursdays for a trip to Harris Teeter! We are happy to provide a grocery shuttle to Harris Teeter and back. Register for this service on the Village website or email Pam at ptroutman@dewaterfrontvillage.org

This program is currently available for full members; we will keep you posted if we can offer it for all members in the future! Harris Teeter offers a 5 percent discount on all purchases made on Thursdays.



Chair Yoga with CHV

Thursdays at 4:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Session

Chair Yoga is a version of Yoga that does not depend as much on balance and strength but still provides movement and flexibility exercises. Led by Capitol Hill Village.



Alzheimer's Support Group

Location: Zoom Session

December 2 and December 30 at 11:00 a.m.

If you or someone you know is caring for a relative with Alzheimer's Disease, please know we are here for you! Taking care of yourself is critical; connecting with others who are going through this journey is one of the best

ways to get needed assurance and support. This monthly group currently meets via zoom. For information on the meeting, please email Carroll Quinn at: sequin643@gmail.com.

Waterfront Village Committees

As we approach the end of the year, we want to extend a huge thanks to all those Waterfront Village members who have participated on various committees.

We will be updating our Committee memberships as we enter the new year. Committees include membership, program, and volunteer and member services.

If you are planning to continue on any committees that you currently participate in please email Pam at ptroutman@dcwaterfrontvillage.org



Help Wanted!

Waterfront Village is looking for a variety of volunteers to support the Village.

We are looking for two or three volunteers to assist with our Holiday Party on Sunday, December 12 in the afternoon.

If you are experienced with grant-writing and development, we'd love to hear from you.

We are also looking for a few additional volunteer drivers who are available during the week to take members to medical appointments. Consider being on the list; even if you are available to do a few rides a year it would help!

Finally, we are looking to expand our technology team; if you have experience with email and password management and if you know how to zoom, we'd love to hear from you.

All volunteer opportunities are flexible and we will work around your schedule! Contact Pam at ptroutman@dcwaterfrontvillage.org if you'd like to help!

Three easy ways to register for and attend Village events:

1. Log into our website and hit the Events tab to learn more, and then RSVP online*
2. Email your request to: ptroutman@dcwaterfrontvillage.org
3. Call the Village at 202-656-1834

Check the Village's daily email for Zoom meeting links.

***Call 866-457-2582 weekdays 8:30 am - 7 pm for help with your online registrations**



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Calling All Amazon Shoppers!

Thank you to our members renewing during the month of November:

Susan Axelroad
Darryl Eaton
Barbara Ehrlich
David Ehrlich
Laurie Frankel
Irv Gamza
Patricia Graham
Ardith Harle
James Harle
Michael Hindi
Nabiha El Hindi
Philippe Hutinet
David Reiss
JoAnn Reiss
Janessa Robinson
Rod Ross
Joelle Rudney
Robert Rudney
Jo Ann Scott

Amazon offers an identical yet parallel website called Amazon Smile. Each time you shop and order on this website instead of the regular Amazon website, Amazon will donate a small portion of the order amount to a charity of your choosing.

Please consider shopping on Amazon Smile and designating the Waterfront Village as your charity!

Click below to learn more.

Amazon Smile for
Waterfront Village

Special Welcome to New Members Joining Us in November: Bruce Maxwell

For Causes You Cherish

While it's understandable to not want to talk about legacy plans, getting your inheritance wishes in order is one of the greatest gifts you can bestow upon your loved ones. If Waterfront Village is a cause you cherish, please use the link below to access information about the Village Legacy Society and planned giving opportunities. Call the Village on 202-656-1834 for more information.





Waterfront Village is a member of the DC Villages collaborative and the Village to Village Network, operating under the guidance of the District of Columbia Department of Aging and Community Living.

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