



The 2023 Candidates to the Village Board of Directors

Jan Fenty

Jan Fenty and her husband Phil and their three sons happily moved to Mt Pleasant in 1973. She is proud to say that her children attended District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)-- Bancroft, Alice Deal, Wilson HS, Banneker HS and Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Jan graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Buffalo State University and with a Master of Science degree from George Washington University. Jan was a Special Education teacher for 15 years in Buffalo, NY, Prince George's County and DCPS. Following her teaching career Jan and Phil owned and managed Fleet Feet Sports in Adams Morgan for 25 years.



As Partnership Committee co-chair, Jan co-founded the very successful "Meet the Street" Program connecting Village members with Mt Pleasant Street restaurants and businesses. Jan was also instrumental in another effort to connect with and support our neighborhood business and organizations - the Partnership Committee's Meet the Street Map of local businesses and organizations. An active member of the Village, Jan also serves on its Program Committee, the Mount Pleasant Street Vision Project, and leads the Village's Meditation Group. Most recently, Jan spearheaded the Village's Mulch Day last month - organizing Village volunteers to provide much needed care and mulch for Mount Pleasant Street's trees. Jan has served two terms on the MP Village Board of Directors and is sitting for re-election to her third term.

Judy Fisher

Judy Fisher has been a District resident since 1967, and in her Lanier Heights home for more than 30 years. Born and raised near Philadelphia, Judy came to the District in 1967 to attend Howard University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and secondary education. Judy also holds a Master of Arts in early childhood education from the University of the District of Columbia.



After decades in early childhood development, Judy retired from teaching in 2016. In addition to teaching at her last school, Langley Elementary School, Judy has also worked for the Columbia Road Children's Center (now Barbara Chambers Children's Center), as a director of a child care center, and at the Frederick Douglass Child Development Center. Judy contributes her efforts and expertise serving two terms on the Village Board and most recently as Vice-President. Judy is also an active and longtime member of the Village's Diversity Committee.

Mary Anne Gibbons

Mary Anne Gibbons is an attorney with over twenty-seven years of federal government and ten years of private sector experience. Prior to retiring in 2013, Mary Anne served as General Counsel and Executive Vice President of the U.S. Postal Service for over 14 years and in other management and staff positions previously.



Mary Anne has been an adjunct professor at both Georgetown and American University law schools, assistant general counsel at the United Mine Workers of America Health and Retirement Funds and an administrator at Millersville University in Millersville, Pennsylvania.

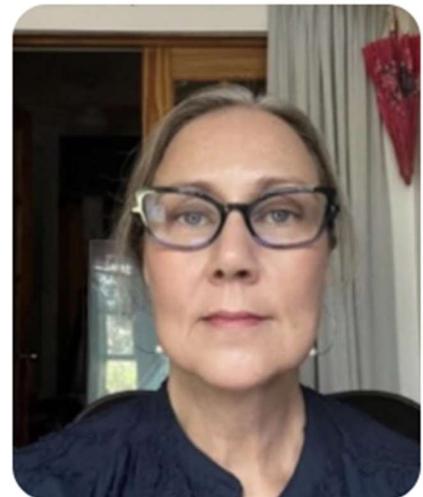
She is a 1980 graduate of the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law, where she served on the Board of Visitors for many years. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Education from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Mundelein College in Chicago.

Mary Anne has been a resident of Mount Pleasant since 1980, and volunteers for a number of community non-profits. Mary Anne serves on the Village's Program, Partnerships, and Membership Committees, as well as leads the Village's Walking Group. In addition, Mary Anne volunteers for the Sacred Heart Dinner Program and the Brothers of Charity transitional housing program. Mary Anne and her husband, Michael Healy, have a 24-year-old daughter and a 21-year-old son.

Meredith Golemon-Bielke

Meredith Golemon-Bielke is Senior Director, Global Trade Policy at Oracle Corporation, a multinational computer technology company. At Oracle, Meredith supports and advises the global trade compliance teams, as well as supporting the corporate sustainability strategy.

With close to three decades experience in international trade policy, Meredith also serves on the Board of the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)—the premier association for leadership, expertise and influence on international tax and trade policy issues. Meredith received a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies from Bridgewater College.



Meredith has been a resident of Mount Pleasant since 2010 and lives on Kenyon Street with her husband Rick Bielke and daughters Nora and Ana. Both her daughters attended Bancroft Elementary School where Meredith was active in her daughter's Girl Scouts Troop. Meredith joined the Mount Pleasant Village in 2019 and is active in the Mount Pleasant community having helped organize the Annual Lantern Walk, and with Village efforts, including Village clean-up on Earth Day and helping to distribute food at the Msgr. Romero building for the Village-World Central Kitchen Collaboration during COVID. Her other volunteer work includes volunteering at her children's current schools, Our Lady of Victory and St. John's College High School and at area food banks.

Ross Hamory

Raised in a Defense Department family, Ross Hamory grew up in many places around the country: Fort Detrick, MD; Salt Lake City, UT; and Woodbridge, VA, where he attended high school. Ross graduated from Maryville College, in eastern Tennessee, where he met his wife Chris.

Ross worked for 34 years for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), serving in a variety of management and executive positions: Deputy Personnel Officer; Manager of Civil Aviation Security's Europe, Africa, and Middle East region; Director of the Asia Pacific office; and Director of FAA's Office of International Aviation.



After 9/11, Ross moved back to Civil Aviation Security to direct aviation security operations worldwide. In his final position, prior to his 2004 retirement, Ross was the Acting Director of the Department of Transportation's Office of Security and Intelligence, reporting directly to the Secretary of Transportation, where he was the liaison with other federal departments in maintaining transportation security. In addition to his service to the Village's Board of Directors as its Treasurer, Ross has also served on the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity in Beaufort, NC and the Harbor District Alliance (a Main Street organization) in Washington, NC, as its Board Chair. Ross is sitting for election to his third term on the Village's Board of Directors.

List Serv Q&A (cont'd)

- **Is there a real or suggested word limit?** No. At the same time, please be courteous to your fellow Villagers.
- **Can a member attach a document or photo to a post?** Yes. Like most email programs, this capability is available on the listserv.
- **Is this an additional way the Village newsletter or announcements editor or the communications committee can broadcast selected news of general interest?** The weekly announcements and monthly newsletter are currently our primary formal means of communicating with the Village members. Bill Emmet also sends important communiques when necessary and Rick Reinhart distributes videos. The listserv, on the other hand, is less formal and optional. If you don't want to be a member of the listserv, you will still receive the announcements, newsletters, videos, and occasional emails from the Village president.
- **Can we create subgroups?** Yes, the owner or moderator of the Village listserv can create subgroups for interest groups, committees, etc. To do this you would need to make a request (to Rebecca Shannon, shannonrl20010@gmail.com) and provide the names of the people to be included in the subgroup. Only one level of subgroups is permitted—no subgroup within a subgroup.
- **Can a committee chair announce or change a meeting date addressed only to members of the committee?** If a committee chair chooses to create a subgroup on the listserv and use that subgroup as a primary source of communication for the committee, any normal communication across that subgroup is possible.
- **Can the chair also recruit new members from the entire membership?** The chair can use all Village communications vehicles (the listserv, announcements, videos, newsletter) to encourage members to be part of a committee.
- **Can a cluster coordinator raise a question for a Zoom discussion?** Cluster coordinators should discuss this among themselves to answer this question.
- **Can and should activities such as the book or opera groups discuss a book or announce a new book, or list last-minute tickets available?** The listserv can be a way to encourage membership of interest groups that exist or will exist in the future by informing the broader group of opportunities, where practical. And it's a great way of spreading the news about last-minute tickets or other impromptu offerings.
- **Can the board invite Village members to offer reactions to board proposals or anticipated discussions?** The listserv has a poll capability and is also a forum for discussion, if the board chooses.

- **Can members post last-minute changes of activities due to weather or illness?** Certainly. The listserv could be another way to communicate last-minute information so that it reaches all interested persons.
- **How about obituaries?** Of course.
- **Am I free to share emails within this Village listserv with friends and neighbors who are not members of the Village?** Yes, you can share information posted on the listserv but only Villagers can become members of the listserv.
- **Is the Communications Committee responsible for identifying the administrator?** Right now, Rebecca Shannon is the owner of the listserv because a name was needed to create an account. We will be looking for individuals who might be willing to be additional "moderators." While we will not be moderating post by post, we will keep an eye on the listserv, create subgroups, and otherwise help as needed.

Crossing Guard (cont'd)

Cultural richness, economic inequality

Built in the nineteenth century to house federal workers, Mt. Pleasant started out almost all white and became majority Black after the Second World War. People from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and South America began arriving in that era as well, joined in the 1980s by Central Americans fleeing US-fueled wars. The 1960s and '70s also saw young single adults, mostly white, form group houses for cooperative living. When I moved to Mt. Pleasant in 1978, it was a lively mix of Black, white, and Latino families.

Over the next few decades, the neighborhood's brick rowhouses increasingly attracted middle-class professionals looking for close-in urban living. In 2003 a new Metro station opened a few blocks away, and property values soared. Many Black and Latino families, along with most of the group houses, were priced out. Mt. Pleasant has kept its progressive, activist, multicultural vibe, but those who can afford to buy homes here now are disproportionately white. Apartment buildings along the main arteries still house many working-class renters, some of whom have organized to acquire title to their buildings. So the neighborhood remains diverse, but economic and language differences limit interactions between the disparate communities that live here. Efforts to bring people together can and do happen, but they need to be intentional and they take work.



Villagers Margaret Myers and Suzanne Carreiro with fellow volunteer Emeka Mokuwunye

Bancroft Elementary is one such project. A bilingual school where all children learn in both Spanish and English, with students and teachers from many countries, Bancroft is proud of its cultural mosaic. A majority of the students are native Spanish speakers, but as the

neighborhood changes, the school is attracting more and more English-speaking families who want their children to learn Spanish. This year, for the first time, Bancroft no longer qualifies for Title 1 assistance to low-income schools. (In addition to a more affluent student body, changes in how the D.C. school system measures eligibility for the grants were a factor.)

Schools are not immune to, and indeed reproduce, the economic and racial inequality that pervades the society. I don't have a child at Bancroft so I can't say what happens there, but I have no doubt that the school community is grappling with these issues. Still, there's much to celebrate. Kids from different cultural and economic backgrounds are learning and playing together, and they're all on a path to becoming bilingual. The other day I paused outside the schoolyard to watch Latino, Black, and white kids kick a soccer ball around, laughing and roughhousing, and I thought: there's hope yet.

Politics is Local



A parade down Mt. Pleasant Street kicks off the Bancroft Elementary spring fair. Students wave flags of their parents' home countries.

Photo from the school's Facebook page.

In Bancroft Safe Streets, our volunteer pool includes parents of children at the school as well as other neighborhood residents. There's a mix of ages and backgrounds, but our group skews middle-class. It's easy to see why: those of us who are retired or work from home can take time off during the day to volunteer, while house cleaners, landscapers, and construction workers cannot. Spanish speakers may perceive the Safe Streets project, which organizes through an English-language WhatsApp group, as not for them, though they'd be welcome. So the underlying divide is still there.

Still: you have to start somewhere. I can't fix the inequalities in the neighborhood or the country, but I can help kids and parents cross the street. We get "thanks" and "gracias." Other neighborhood residents have been tutoring Bancroft students, something I may yet try, though the kids' arithmetic skills probably exceed my own.

Many people say volunteering is the best part of retirement, and I expect that will be true for me. My political work, such as canvassing, aims at the bigger picture, though my part is minuscule

and our gains incremental. But sometimes a smaller scale feels right. If I want to work for justice and connect across cultures, where better to start than my neighborhood? To the barricades!