



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.

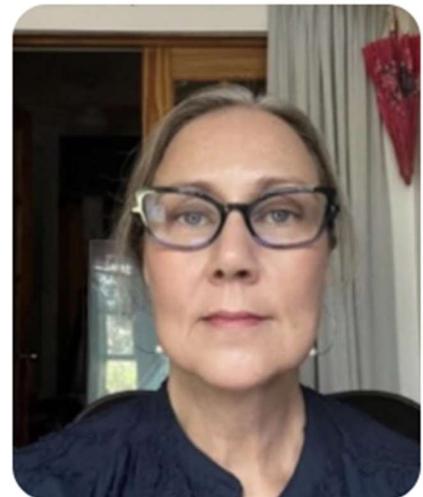
She is a 1980 graduate of the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law, where she served on the Board of Visitors for many years. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Education from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Mundelein College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

The Forgotten September 11

By Fred J. Solowey

I was in New York, the place of my birth, when it happened on September 11.

The shock of that day remains palpable, along with a profound sense that I would never feel completely safe in the world again. I didn't know it that morning, but the apartment I stayed in a few months earlier was hit by the terrorism. I would not know for weeks that the dear friend living there survived.

Out in the streets later that day, I felt numb as I joined hundreds of others expressing anger. There was shame, too, because the friend who was missing had predicted something like this. I didn't have the capacity to believe him because, naively, I could not imagine it.

In the days that followed, people displaying the worn, anguished look of trauma stood holding pictures of missing loved ones, hoping that someone had seen them.

On each anniversary—and not infrequently in-between---I ponder what the world might look like if the events of September 11 had not transpired 50 years ago.

I'm 74 now and occasionally mix up dates on my calendar.

But not this one.

I was in New York City on September 11, 1973, when the policy goals of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger bore fruit with a bloody military coup in Chile, overthrowing the democratically elected—and advancing—socialist government of Salvador Allende.

At 23, I spent much of the spring of 1973 in Chile, trying to learn and write about the situation there. I arrived on March 2, just as a massive

and spirited rally in defense of the government ended. Two days later, Allende's Popular Unity (UP) government made advances in the "off-year" Congressional elections—as unusual there as in the U.S.

I didn't know it then, but that Sunday vote sealed the fate of the Chilean democratic path to socialism. Despite years of intense economic pressure (creating shortages, long lines and extremely high inflation), ideological and psychological warfare and even the assassination of the pro-democracy Commander of the Army, General Rene Schneider—all inspired by the U.S. government--Chileans continued to vote for a future of hope and economic justice. A coup was the only way to stop it.

I fell in love with Chile when I was there—the beautiful and varied land reminiscent of California, the explosion of creative art and music reflecting the energy and aspirations of the young and the hope etched in the faces of long-down-trodden working people as they voted.

I also admired the social democratic traditions. Chile's flawed Social Security system predated ours and that there was a national health care system—still a dream here. Knowing that poor children were getting daily milk for the first time from Dr. Allende's government, made it much easier to accept having to use newspaper instead of toilet paper.

I thought of staying in Chile, but returned to New York City in late June, drawn to rejoining the fight for change back home. Thus, I was there when the savage Kissinger coup led by General Augusto Pinochet occurred.

My friend Michael's apartment—where I had stayed in Santiago-- was shot up and ransacked by security forces and he later imprisoned. His British government got him out, unlike the young Americans portrayed in the film *Missing*.

Some 3,000 Chileans were murdered by the military government--about the same number killed in the 2001 attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. With the U.S. population roughly 20 times larger than Chile's

back then, that's the equivalent of 60,000 deaths. Over 40,000 were tortured by their government. Do the math for yourself on what the equivalent number would have been here.

September 11, 1973 was deeply imbedded in my memory and my heart. So, no surprise that I was brooding as I sat getting a haircut in my Mount Pleasant barber shop early on the morning of what would be known simply as 9/11. Someone gasped and my attention turned to the Spanish language TV news: the twin towers were disintegrating before my eyes.

Like most Americans, I was numbed and had trouble letting the reality sink in. The Pentagon attack made it feel close. The foiled plan to take out the White House—only 2.6 miles from my house—brought it literally closer to home.

I called to check on relatives and good friends in Manhattan. I found out later that a friend had lost her brother.

I hoped—not quite cured of naiveté—that out of the shock and fear and anguish, empathy would grow in a large portion of the American public for the victims of U.S. terrorism in Chile and other places now that there was carnage and suffering inflicted at home and such things no longer were distant abstractions.

But it was not to be. At least three wars, plus other interventions, a massive build-ups in surveillance, counterterrorism and the Pentagon budget, secret courts and a perpetual war on terrorism have followed instead with no end in sight

Only 9/11 is remembered. September 11 is all but forgotten for most Americans.

Fred J. Solowey is a retired union writer, editor and communications director who has lived on Kilbourne Place for almost 32 years