

# Musings & More

February 2022 Volume 2 Issue 1

## Foggy Bottom West End Village

is a nonprofit membership organization that provides services for its members to help them comfortably age in their community by supplying social events, health support, and many other offerings.

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## DC Villages Have Citywide Impact

*Editor's Note from Denise Snyder: Thanks to Carter Ross, Communications Coordinator for the 13 DC Villages, for developing this summary of our 2021 Impact Study and the graphics on Pages 3 and 4. Data for the report was provided by each village based on its membership and operations.*

**Every day**, across the District, volunteers and staff from the 13 DC Villages help make life better for our neighbors. Although each village is as unique as the neighborhood it serves, we are building stronger communities through direct service, events and activities, referrals, and advocacy.

**It is easy** to see the impact a Village can have on a neighborhood, but last year the DC Villages as a group began an effort to track our impact across the city. The findings are now available and they are impressive.

**Starting last fiscal year**, the DC Villages began tracking detailed statistics on services provided, programs offered, volunteers involved, and members. It was a more complicated process than one might think because we all had to agree on definitions and then track our own data aligned with the joint definitions.

**For example**, some villages counted a round trip ride as one ride while other villages counted each leg of the trip and so said it was two rides. When counting volunteers some villages counted everyone on their volunteer role while other villages only counted volunteers who had been active within a given timeframe.

**After we set** common definitions, each village submitted its data on a quarterly basis. The Communications Coordinator for the DC Villages compiled that information for all the

villages and developed a report that focused on the impact the DC Villages had on older adults living in the District. While numbers don't tell the whole story, they certainly help convey how valuable the villages are and what a difference we make in the lives of thousands of seniors.

**The Village Movement** began 20 years ago in Massachusetts, but today the Greater Washington Area has the highest concentration of Villages in the country. Though they vary in size and scope, all these villages - including the 13 DC Villages, our 2,326 members, and our volunteers - are a critical part of ensuring the region remains accessible to our aging neighbors.



**Meet our two new  
FBWEVillage  
board members  
in the report on Page 2**

**Big  
Picture  
and  
Little  
Details  
of  
FBWEVillage**



*Executive  
Director  
Denise  
Snyder*

## *We're Moving to a New Platform*

**Foggy Bottom West End Village** will soon change its online platform from Club Express to a newer software program developed specifically for villages. It is called Helpful Village (HV), and we believe it will be easier for members to use and more efficient for us to operate.

**We began talking** to the people at HV about a year ago when we learned that its founder -- Manuel Acevedo -- was a tech professional drawn to the village movement as a way to find satisfying options for his mother. As he became involved in her village and then other villages, it became clear to him that the villages needed a specialized software program that is more user friendly and can increase operating efficiency.

**Eleven of DC's 13 villages** now use -- or soon will use -- the HV software. We have been working for several months to prepare for the transition. Since our website will be powered by HV, we have been revising our website pages and cleaning up our databases.



For more information  
about Helpful Village,  
[click here](#) to go to its website.

**During March and April**, some village members will work as "testers" of the new software. We will provide both group and individual training to make sure everyone understands the new system before it goes live at the end of April.

**We have high hopes** for HV and its promise of more efficient village operations and easier member use. If any problem develops, we will have direct access to the HV staff and help from their tech experts.

### **Board Report**

## ***We Have Two Additional Board Members***

*By William Kincaid, Board Vice President*

**The FBWEVillage board** of directors has been expanded to include two additional members -- Karen Rodd and Christine Searight.

**Karen has a background** in communications and management in law firms and professional associations. Her experience includes extensive service on nonprofit boards, where she has helped organizations plan growth and improve services to their constituents. She supports the concept of aging in place and the creation and support of a network to ensure the success of that concept.

**Christine is a marketing executive** with more than 20 years of experience growing well-known brands like Discovery Channel, National Geographic Channel, and USA TODAY. She is currently the Senior Director, Strategic Marketing, Communications, and Business Development at George Washington University Hospital. She holds a BA in History and an MBA in Marketing from the George Washington University.



*Karen Rodd, left, and Christine Searight*

**As we enter** the third year of pandemic living, it is time to review the last two years and ask the pivotal question: Quo Vadis? Where are we going? What are our priorities? There is an old Indian adage that states "If you don't know where you are going, it makes no difference what path you take."

**To help keep** the village on the right path, the Governance Committee is planning a retreat in March. We hope to hold a face-to-face event to review our activities and organizational structure. Assembling and reviewing the information for that retreat has been underway for more than six months.



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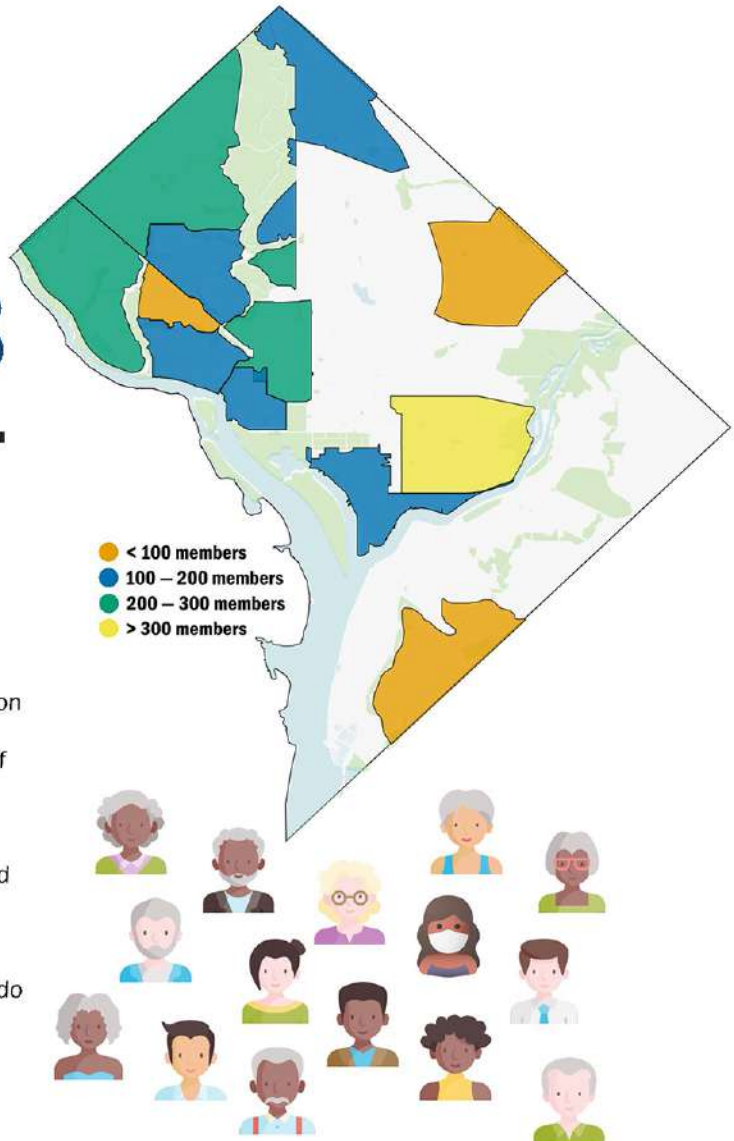
[ October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021 ]

Every day, DC Villages give our neighborhoods' seniors the support, information, and confidence they need to stay in their homes, engaged with their communities, and live life on their terms. As grassroots, local organizations, the DC Villages are a valuable resource for seniors in the District of Columbia.

During Fiscal Year 2021 (Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021), **517 DC Villages volunteers** provided services, support, and engagement for **the Villages' 2,326 members**.

During the same time period, **DC Village events reached 20,290 people**, including many community members who do not belong to a Village. The Villages also partnered with Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, faith groups, mutual aid efforts, and other local organizations to address the **ongoing needs of District of Columbia elders during the COVID-19 pandemic**.

Although they are similar, **each DC Village is a unique, grassroots organization** rooted in its neighborhood and focused on addressing the aging-in-place needs of their community. Through a new initiative, DC Villages are working to gather more complete data about the city-wide impact of their activities and programs.



**2,326 members**  
**20.5% subsidized**  
**\$188,581 in subsidies**

**517 active volunteers**  
**17,512 hours of service**  
**\$852,301 value of time**

**3,329 events 20,290 attendees**

## Capitol Hill Village

202-543-1778 • [info@capitolhillvillage.org](mailto:info@capitolhillvillage.org)

## Cleveland & Woodley Park Village

202-615-5853 • [info@cwvpv.org](mailto:info@cwvpv.org)

## Dupont Circle Village

202-436-5252 • [admin@dupontcirclevillage.net](mailto:admin@dupontcirclevillage.net)

## East Rock Creek Village

202-656-7322 • [info@eastrockcreekvillage.org](mailto:info@eastrockcreekvillage.org)

## Foggy Bottom West End Village

202-333-1327 • [info@foggybottomwestendvillage.org](mailto:info@foggybottomwestendvillage.org)

## Georgetown Village

202-999-8988 • [lynn@georgetown-village.org](mailto:lynn@georgetown-village.org)

## Glover Park Village

202-436-5545 • [info@gloverparkvillage.org](mailto:info@gloverparkvillage.org)

## Greater Brookland International Village

202-525-7649 • [info@brooklandvillage.org](mailto:info@brooklandvillage.org)

## Kingdom Care Senior Village

202-561-5594 • [info@kingdomcarevillage.org](mailto:info@kingdomcarevillage.org)

## Mt. Pleasant Village

202-486-0364 • [information@mountpleasantvillage.org](mailto:information@mountpleasantvillage.org)

## Northwest Neighbors Village

202-935-6060 • [info@nnvdc.org](mailto:info@nnvdc.org)

## Palisades Village

202-244-3310 • [info@palisadesvillage.org](mailto:info@palisadesvillage.org)

## Waterfront Village

202-656-1834 • [info@dcwaterfrontvillage.org](mailto:info@dcwaterfrontvillage.org)





## IMPACT REPORT

[October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021]

**[www.DCVillages.org](http://www.DCVillages.org)**

Because DC Villages leverage volunteer actions to support members and neighbors, they can provide efficient services that help support aging in place without necessarily drawing upon public services or family caregivers.

Villages are organized at the grassroots level with a large volunteer base and few or no staff. The “neighbors helping neighbors” model provides an opportunity to engage DC seniors who might otherwise be reticent to request help from professional senior service providers.

Villages give neighbors the confidence to age in their community. Many people understand the value of having a Village in their neighborhood and choose to join the Village before they need services. They want to ensure a strong Village that can support their neighbors now and be available when they need help in the future.

Although most DC Villages charge a membership fee, all Villages offer reduced-fee or free memberships to ensure Village services are accessible to all older neighbors who need them.

# How We Help

## Mobility

Mobility can be a major factor in satisfaction in aging for older people. Medical conditions, lack of private transportation, and inaccessibility of infrastructure and public transportation can make it difficult for someone to get where they need to go if they cannot drive themselves. Rides organized by DC Villages help ensure medical appointments are met, social connections are made, and errands are run.



**3,407 Rides**

## Deliveries & Errands

While mobility is very important, sometimes it's easier to have things like food, books, and other items delivered to you. For vulnerable elders, this has been especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic. Having a volunteer pick up groceries, medicines, library books, or even packages from the post office both provides a valuable service and affords an opportunity to check in with an elder.



**3,497 Deliveries Made and Errands Run**

## Household Support

Remaining in a well-loved home as one ages can require keeping up with routine maintenance like yard work and home repairs, as well as improvements to support aging. DC Villages coordinate volunteers to help with cutting grass, shoveling snow, or changing light bulbs, as well as can assist in finding trusted contractors for home improvements. Beyond helping with home upkeep, DC Village volunteers can provide limited tech support to aid elders with computer and smartphone technologies, which are increasingly important for engaging with friends, families, and public services.



**863 In-Home Support, Yard Work, & Tech Support Activities**

**1,029 Referrals for Services or Other Support**

## Social Isolation

Social isolation can be one of the hardest parts of growing older. Through friendly visits programs, DC Villages connect in-person or via telephone with elders to see how they are doing, determine if there are any needs that can be met, and offer a chance for a little conversation and engagement. Some Villages also facilitate support groups to help those dealing with similar challenges learn from one another. In some cases, DC Villages provide more in-depth assistance, including working with social workers to provide case management services.



**15,952 Friendly Visits • 177 Support Group Meetings**

**233 People Receiving More In-Depth Assistance**

## Events

DC Village events educate, inform, and engage elders and other members of the community. These events include health and financial education, exercise, book clubs, arts and crafts, local history, and more. Due to COVID-19, DC Villages have also found ways to provide engaging events both online and in person.



**3,329 Events • 20,290 Attendees**

Activities and services were self-reported by each DC Village for Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021. Not all DC Villages provide all services or track activities in the same manner.



# Race in America

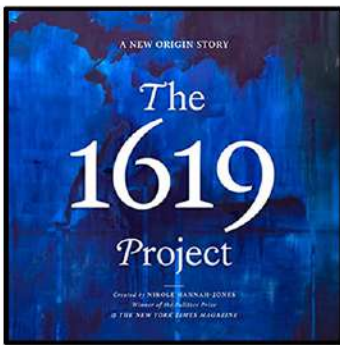
## Three Book Reviews by Sue Headlee, PhD In Observance of February's Black History Month

*Sue Headlee, PhD, Associate Professor Emerita of Economics at the American University, taught economic policy there for over 25 years and has many publications. A member of FBWEVillage since its start in 2013, she created the Current Events Discussion affinity group and led it for four years.*



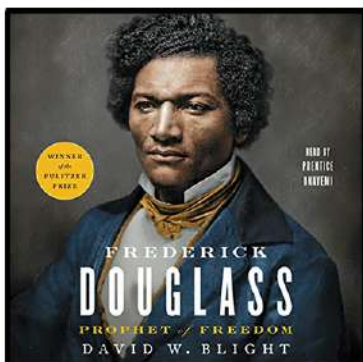
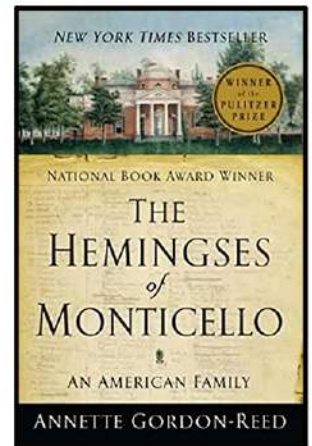
Sue Headlee

**Her motto -- "Read until you understand"**



**The 1619 Project: a New Origin Story by Nikole Hannah-Jones and New York Times Magazine (2021).** NH-J argued in the *New York Times Magazine* in 2019 that there is another origin story of the US than the founding fathers declaring independence from England in 1776. This origin story begins in 1619 when the first enslaved Africans landed in Virginia and were bought by Jamestown colonists. Now NH-J and the NYT have published an anthology of essays documenting this argument that US development depended critically on the cotton industry based on enforced-labor farms in the South. Each essay begins with evidence of current racial injustice in an aspect of American life and then proceeds to trace it back to slavery and segregation. The 18 essays include topics such as Democracy, Capitalism, Church, Music, Progress and Justice. Reading this book, I had the opportunity to fill in the lacuna in what I was taught about American history.

**The Heminges of Monticello, An American Family by Annette Gordon-Reed (2008).** A G-R's scholarship for this book on the Heminges, the basic foundation of the personal staff at Jefferson's Monticello, won her a University Professorship at Harvard University. Using the available evidence and her own reasoning, she creates the genealogy of the Hemings Family. The family starts with an unnamed African woman raped by Captain Hemings, a slave trader. They had a child named Elisabeth, who came to be owned by John Wayles. This couple (Elisabeth and John) had six children, including Sally Hemings, destined to be the concubine of Jefferson for four decades. Jefferson married Martha Wayles who after her father's death, brought all these enslaved Heminges to Monticello. Sally and her brothers Robert and James lived in Paris with Jefferson when he was Minister to France. Robert was Jefferson's valet, James was trained to be a Parisian chef, and Sally was his chambermaid. The book is the story of American history during Jefferson's career and his life with Sally, their children, and the other enslaved Heminges. In Jefferson's will, he freed five slaves, two of them his sons with Sally. Upon adulthood their other children chose to live as white people, as did Sally when Jefferson died. Did Sally and Jefferson love each other?



**Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom by David W. Blight (2018).** Renown historian David Blight has written the definitive biography of Fredrick Douglass using papers never seen before and woven together in stunning scholarship. FD, born a slave, rose to be a great abolitionist, and was considered the Moses of the Black Race. He was an African Methodist Episcopal preacher and was called a Black Jeremiah. He met twice with President Lincoln during the Civil War. He considered himself a Founder of the Second American Republic and hailed the Second US Constitution with the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. During Reconstruction he fought for Black civil and political rights. He lived through the counterrevolution against Reconstruction, like the backlash today against the advancement of Black people. Henry Louis Gates wrote that this book is a "must-read for anyone charting the history of democracy when it is most severely under attack." Ken Burns wrote that the book tells the story of "America's never-ending struggle to get the universal rights we proclaimed at our founding."





*This is one of two murals by Don Miller that preside over the Great Hall on Level One in the new MLK Library. The murals were hung in the old library in January 1986 to coincide with the first celebration of Martin Luther King Day. As part of the library renovation, the murals were taken down, restored and rehung. -- Photo by Molly Sinclair McCartney*

# Inside the New MLK Library

**Two villagers tell about the libraries they knew growing up and describe the 'mind-blowing' marvels of the renovated Martin Luther King Library where they have served as docents.**



**By Susan B. Haight**

I frequented two libraries, one in Pittsburgh, PA, where I grew up and one in Jamestown, NY, where I spent my summers. The first was a small branch about the size of our West End Library. It was on two levels and staffed by librarians who had been teachers. They had endless patience and taught patrons how to use the library. The Janestown library -- an affiliate of the NY State library system -- was a massive building with lots of levels, books and long hours. My Mother drove me and my siblings to the library every two weeks. She never censored what we selected, but insisted that we read whatever we checked out from cover to cover. I remember her letting the four of us out in front of the library and never seeing my brothers and sister until it was time to be picked up.

*Continued on Page 7*



**Docent Michael Thomas, in red sweater, stands next to Docent Susan B. Haight during the tour that they gave FBWEV members last year of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, commonly known as the MLK Library. Docent tours, which have been suspended in recent weeks because of covid concerns, are scheduled to resume March 8.**

**Susan B. Haight served on various advisory committees for the initial design and renovation of MLK and is co-president of the DC Public Library Foundation and an MLK docent. She has been president of the West End Library Friends for 15 years and president of the Federation of Friends for 12 years. Susan is a founding board member and first president of FBWEVillage.**

**Michael Thomas is a retired lawyer (Army, Alaska and DC) and has written and spoken on Middle East policy. He has been a member of FBWEVillage for more than two years. He is vice president of the West End Library Friends. Michael was an original docent in the MLK program that was suspended due to covid but is scheduled to resume March 8.**



**By Michael Thomas**

I was an Army brat, meaning we moved about every 18 months. There were always books, because my mother was an English teacher and my father insisted I read well before school age. My first libraries were on Army posts or small towns. They didn't offer services like GED training, education for the disabled, or even computers. They didn't have much in the way of public art. I've never known a library anything like MLK. It is geared to the needs of DC residents in ways that are comprehensive and surprising. There are larger public libraries, and undoubtedly public libraries with comparable architecture, art, services and amenities, but not in my experience. MLK is beautiful (at least, inside and on the roof), the public art is outstanding and relevant, and the services and amenities are mind-blowing.

*Continued on Page 7*



# Inside the MLK Library with Susan B. Haight and Michael Thomas

## Docent Tours Set to Resume March 8

*In July 1968, ground was broken at 9th and G streets for a new central library designed by world-famous architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. The building of black steel, brick and glass cost \$18 million. In 1971, library trustees named the new building in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 2007 it was designated a historic landmark.*



*Over time, the aging library became the target of serious criticism. One architect described the building as "dark, dirty, unpleasant...a kind of negative space." There were suggestions that the building be sold or even bulldozed. Instead, the District decided to modernize the library. The results are stunning.*

*After a \$211 million renovation that took 3 and 1/2 years, the sparkling new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library opened in September 2020 amid high hopes and covid concerns. Architectural critics called the transformation "miraculous." -- Photo by Molly Sinclair McCartney*

Continued from Page 6

**What is one example of what makes the new library so exciting?**

**Michael:** The services tailored to the needs of DC residents are the most important features of MLK for residents to know about. But the combination of great design by the architectural team involved in the modernization, and the public art, are to me the most inspiring elements of a visit to the building. With the exception of the MLK mural by Don Miller in the Great Hall and the installation in the Grand Reading Room by Xenobia Bailey, all of the art is by outstanding local artists -- Alma Thomas, who taught at Shaw Junior High School for 35 years, and was one of the most prominent members of the Washington Color School; Martin Puryear, sculptor of a piece to be added to the garden seating in the cafe, the most prominent American sculptor and son of a DC librarian; Nakisha Durrett, a teacher at the Duke Ellington School, and two local artists who did all the artwork in the Children's Room.

**Susan:** I think the amount of non-traditional library space and its varied uses is exciting. For free or paying a very low fee, any District resident can use these very modern facilities. One can use the auditorium as practice space, dub a video, create a podcast, practice ballet -- all in participation.

**What will surprise villagers most about the new library?**

**Michael:** Probably the services that range from adult literacy (GED, English as a second language, reading skills) and training and facilities for those with disabilities, to computer training, to the remarkable labs in the lower floor of the library. The labs include woodworking, metal working, 3-D printing, sewing, audio and video production, and computerized archiving of photos and videos. Residents can make appointments for help to research Washington history, or to meet with free legal services, someone from DC Health to line up insurance, or for help with tax returns. Residents can arrange for a new passport, or set up a video conference with a family member in the DC Jail. Children can be registered at birth for free books, mailed to them every month until they are five years old, and after that can be registered for the Beyond the Book program for children ages 5-8, with books, kits and programming to help with reading skills. And it's all free.

**Susan:** The fact that you can check out a book, AND a computer, sewing machine, or hammer and saw. The fact that the new library is designed to be a resource, not just a repository.

*If you have only one hour to spend at the library on your first visit, what would you do? And what would you do on your second visit.*

**Michael:** I would register online for one of the docent tours, which are set to resume March 8. [Click here to get to the SignUpGenius](#) for docent tours.. There are also self-guided tours using handouts with maps. On a second visit, I would spend time at the People's Archive on the 4th floor, where there are exhibits on DC history and personalities, the Go-go and Punk music culture in DC, and Dr. King's connections with the District. I would spend time on the roof if it was a nice day, and check on free services that are available.

**Susan:** On a first visit I would walk the entire building and appreciate the design elements of the building and the flow of one section to another such as the community meeting rooms adjacent to the children's area for the convenience of mothers and families.

children attend Storytime. On the second visit I would spend time viewing the People's Archives on the 4th floor exhibiting the history of DC, highlighting our residents' contribution to culture, politics and civil rights. I plan to do just that at some point in the next few months.



# Amitai Etzioni

**Leading Sociologist  
One of Top 100 Intellectuals  
and FBWEVillage Member**

**To read more about this remarkable man  
and his work, as reported in Wikipedia,  
[click here](#)**

**By Molly Sinclair McCartney**



**Hiding under a blanket** in the sidecar of a relative's motorcycle, he escaped Nazi Germany as a child in the 1930s. Using a machine gun and helping blow up bridges, he joined the underground resistance as a teenager in the 1940s to fight the British and help establish Israel as a country. During the 1950s, he earned degrees in sociology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a PhD in sociology at the University of California, Berkeley.

**In the six decades** after that, Amitai Etzioni evolved into an activist academic and a "peacenik" who demonstrated against war in Vietnam and the use of nuclear weapons anywhere. He is known for his work as a leader of the communitarian movement and founder of the Communitarian Network, which emphasizes the

community. His writings argue for a carefully crafted balance between individual rights and social responsibilities, and between autonomy and order in communities and in the country.

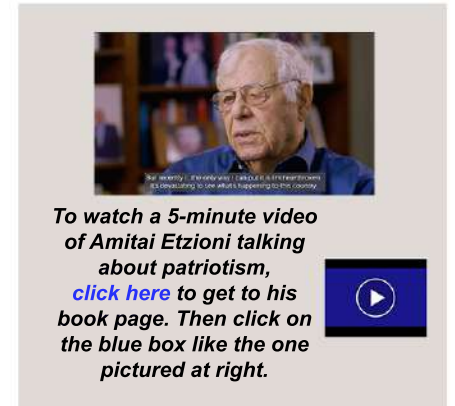
**Amitai is an active member** of the Foggy Bottom West End Village. He frequents the Tuesday coffee gatherings and keeps up with village activities with the help of his wife, board secretary Pat Kellogg, a retired internist. "She is a model villager," he said, "and I have learned much about FBWEV from her."

**Villager Jeffrey Reiman**, a retired professor, met Amitai at a "guys only lunch" and was intrigued with his personal and professional achievements. Over time, the two men and their wives became friends who get together for dinners and movies.

**Jeffrey described** Amitai as "a warm and intelligent fellow with whom I very much enjoy talking about ideas and books and current events and just about anything else that pops up." Jeffrey's wife, Sue Headlee, says Amitai always wants to know what others think of the latest movie they have seen.

**Amitai has authored** more than 30 books, including *Reclaiming Patriotism*, published in 2019. He has inspired friends like feminist Betty Friedan, worked as a White House advisor, and served as president of the American Sociological Association. In the early 2000s, he was listed as one of the top 100 American intellectuals, as measured by academic citations, in Richard Posner's book, *Public Intellectuals*.

**These days** Amitai is part of the full-time faculty at George Washington University where he has been a professor of international affairs and director of the Institute for Communitarian Policy for 42 years. "I am the oldest professor there," he said.



**Amitai, who turned 93** in January, concentrates on writing for professional journals like the *Journal of Clinical Ethics*. Sitting on the sofa in his Foggy Bottom home, Amitai said the happiest moment in his life was May 15, 1948, when the British withdrew from Palestine and Israel declared independence. "I helped a little with that," he said.

**The saddest time** was the sudden loss of his second wife, Minerva, followed by the death of his son Michael, 38. Minerva was killed December 20, 1985, when her car slid off an icy road and crashed. Michael died of a heart attack in August 2006, leaving behind his pregnant wife and their small son.

**Amitai is proud** of the close relationship he has with his remaining four sons and their families, including 13 grandchildren. "They call me. They want to talk to me. We keep in touch."

**Below are Amitai's books**  
-- Photo from the internet.

