

## Community Relations Committee

### 2018 Annual Report

Please allow me to offer our readers a brief look backward and an exciting look forward per our CCV Community Relations Committee. Two years ago, I volunteered to Chair our Community Relation Committee with my neighbor Lance Patterson (we both live on Grafton Street). The committee includes, Karen Spangler (Grove Street), Saralisa Brau (Grove Street), Soniya Mitra (Western Avenue), Paloma Zuleta (Summerfield Road), and Board Representative Minh Le (Oliver Street).

At the outset, Lance and I agreed that our main focus would be to create social events that would offer our neighbors both young and older the ability to gather together in a fun, safe and relaxed social setting to socialize with old friends and establish new friends. The most noticeable and successful manifestation was the birth of hosting a monthly “Neighborhood Social Hour/Speaker Series” with a neighbor as the volunteer speakers - from October thru May each year with summer months off for vacations. We envisioned our socials lasting about an hour and a half - beginning with neighbors socializing for 30 minutes – followed by our featured speaker talking for about 30 minutes (topic of their choice) and ending with a 30 minute social with the speaker over wine/soda/cheese. A list of past and upcoming speakers are as follows:

- Dick Cass, President of the Baltimore Ravens
- Arch Campbell, Local Film Critic
- Jim Calderwood, author of *Selecting a President*
- Hon. Joan A. Churchill, retired Immigration Judge
- Joyce Johnson, Physician and Rear Admiral (U.S. Public Health Service, ret) and co-author of *Lizard Bites and Street Riots, Travel Emergencies and your Health, Safety and Security*
- Aaron Dominguez, Dean, School of Arts & Sciences, The Catholic University of America
- Mark Spalding, President, The Ocean Foundation
- Michael Curtin, CEO, DC Central Kitchen

The committee also hosted a Magic Show featuring local magician, Abracadabra Alex.

Now for the future, we are focused on procuring neighbors and interesting externs willing to be volunteer speakers during the months of October 2018 through May 2019. We also welcome ideas from our neighbors for alternative social events that may be of most interesting toward getting them out of their home to socialize with neighbors. A few of our ideas to consider are – Super Bowl Night, Academy Awards Night, a monthly Movie Night, etc..... let the good times roll!

Finally, after our May 2018 Speakers/Social featuring Mike Curtin, CEO, DC Central Kitchen – I will be stepping down as Chair of the CCV Community Relations Committee and handing the Chairman baton on to Lance Patterson. Indeed, I will remain on the committee as a volunteer to ascertain future speakers of interest.

Thank you my fellow neighbors at CCV – it was a privilege and very fun to serve as your Chair!

Mike Marsh, Chair  
CCV Community Relations Committee