

Dîner en Blanc Washington DC Creates a Powerful Sense of Belonging

The family-led team and devoted volunteers behind the iconic secret-location dinner transform thousands of guests into a community for one unforgettable evening

WASHINGTON, VA, UNITED STATES, August 27, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- For one evening each year, thousands of Washingtonians dressed entirely in white carry their tables, chairs, and carefully prepared picnics toward a

destination revealed only hours before they arrive. The result is one of the capital's most visually spectacular traditions. But behind the elegance, anticipation, and signature sea of white is an equally compelling story: a family-led organization and dedicated network of volunteers working together to create something increasingly rare—a genuine sense of community.

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Linda Davis, The Davis Group

On Saturday, August 29, [Dîner en Blanc Washington DC](#) will return for its 11th edition under the theme “Une Soirée Parisienne: La Belle Époque.” While the secret location, fashion, and tablescapes are part of its allure, organizers say the event’s lasting appeal lies in the connections formed among the people who attend.

“Our guests come from every walk of life and every corner of this city,” said Linda Davis of [The Davis Group](#), the family-run organization that introduced Dîner en Blanc to Washington in 2014. “For one night, titles and differences fall away. People arrive as individuals, but they become part of something larger. That feeling of connection is what brings them back.”

Long before guests wave their white napkins to signal the start of dinner, a close-knit team is working behind the scenes to bring the experience to life. The Davis family leads the production alongside volunteer hosts and table leaders who guide guests, coordinate meeting points,



DÎNER *en* BLANC

WASHINGTON DC

Dîner en Blanc Logo

answer questions, and set the welcoming tone for the evening.

“This is entirely driven by volunteers—friends, families, and people who may begin as strangers but come together to create something extraordinary,” said Corinne Price, a table leader since the inaugural Washington event and now one of its three host leads. “There is a special energy that emerges when people show up for something bigger than themselves. Dressing in white is a simple but beautiful expression of that shared spirit.”

Table leaders do more than manage logistics. They serve as ambassadors for an experience designed to make thousands of people feel as though they have been invited to one remarkably intimate dinner.

“We understand that we are hosting the D.C. community,” said longtime table leader Michelle Riley Jones. “The details matter, but ultimately, this evening is about the people and the city.”

For Scott Carey, who has led a table for nearly a decade, the event creates a sense of equality that can be difficult to find in a city often defined by position, access, and influence.

“There is a fundamental level of human equality in that environment,” Carey said. “You find yourself surrounded by people who are open to experiencing different cultures and connecting with one another. It feels as though you have just met thousands of your next best friends.”



Dîner en Blanc, Washington DC, 2021 - Eric Vitale Photography



Friends having fun at Dîner en Blanc 2025



Diner en Blanc, Washington DC 2025-Jared Siskin photography

Dîner en Blanc began in Paris in 1988 when François Pasquier invited friends to gather for an elegant outdoor dinner and asked them to wear white so they could easily recognize one another. The gathering grew into an international phenomenon celebrated in cities around the world.

Washington's chapter began with a similar invitation. After attending the inaugural New York event, Linda Davis's daughter, Bryer Davis, called her mother with an immediate conviction: they had to bring the experience to the nation's capital.



Dîner En Blanc DC 2024-Davita Aundréa Photography

With a professional background spanning hospitality, catering, restaurant ownership, and experiential events, Davis recognized both the logistical challenge and the opportunity. Together with her daughters Bryer Davis and Kaitlin Latonick, she transformed that idea into a Washington tradition whose Fan List has grown to nearly 85,000 people.

"It is an extremely structured event behind the scenes," Davis said. "But when guests experience it, all of that work disappears. What they see is a beautiful pop-up dinner filled with joy, discovery, and possibility."

That balance—meticulous planning that gives way to seemingly effortless magic—has become a hallmark of the Washington event.

At a time when loneliness and social isolation have become matters of national concern, Dîner en Blanc offers a compelling reminder of what can happen when people gather with intention. The event invites guests to step away from familiar routines, share a meal outdoors, meet someone new, and participate in the transformation of a public space.

For one evening, the undisclosed location becomes a temporary gathering place shaped not by status or profession, but by participation. First-time attendees sit alongside returning guests. Strangers exchange food, stories, and recommendations. A city of individuals becomes a community around a shared table.

"It is jubilant elegance," said table leader Jeannine Payne. "Once you are there, your heart lifts. It feels like the most joyful wedding reception imaginable—without all the formalities."

This year's Belle Époque theme will bring the romance, creativity, and optimism of turn-of-the-century Paris to a new Washington setting. Yet for all its visual splendor, the evening's most memorable element may be the simplest: thousands of people choosing to be fully present with

one another.

In a city known for ambition and influence, Dîner en Blanc makes space for something just as meaningful—beauty, belonging, and joy for their own sake.

Prospective guests can join the Washington, D.C. Fan List and find the latest registration information at washington.dinerenblanc.com. Event updates are also available on Instagram at @dinerenblancdc and on Facebook at DinerEnBlanc.Washington.

About The Davis Group, LLC

Since 2014, The Davis Group, LLC has produced Dîner en Blanc – Washington, D.C., in addition to events in New York City, Boston, and Charleston. The family-led company is known for creating high-touch experiences that combine creative vision, operational precision, and an enduring commitment to community. Learn more at thedavisgroupllc.com.

About Dîner en Blanc

Dîner en Blanc is an international cultural phenomenon that brings people together to celebrate food, fashion, friendship, and community. Dressed entirely in white, guests gather at a secret location for an elegant outdoor dinner, bringing their own tables, chairs, and gourmet meals. The destination is revealed shortly before arrival, creating a signature sense of anticipation and discovery.

Originating in Paris in 1988, Dîner en Blanc has been celebrated in more than 120 cities across 40 countries. Each locally hosted event brings the spirit of the original Parisian gathering to its city while reflecting the culture and character of the community it serves. For more information, visit dinerenblanc.com.

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