

Exciting Year on the Horizon for Titanic Memorial

BY DONNA HANOUSEK

The Friends of Titanic Memorial Park (the Friends) look forward to its calendar of events and projects for 2019. The Friends were co-founded in the fall of 2017 by Corinne Irwin and Donna Hanousek in affiliation with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. They have a five-year formal agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) and assist NPS with park clean up, planting, conditions assessments and planning. The Friends completed its first full year of events and projects in 2018, which included working with NPS to organize three volunteer work parties, where dozens of volunteers weeded and planted annuals, removed dead shrubs, cleaned out the tiled activity wells and painted new benches.

In addition, the Friends held an event
See "Titanic," page 6



Above: Group shot at the Titanic Memorial after a morning of volunteering by the National Park Service and the Friends

Inset: Claire Adrian-Tucci and Corinne Irwin at the Southwest Trick or Treat Event

Photos Courtesy of Friends of Titanic Memorial Park

Amidon-Bowen Girls' Track Team is #1 in DC

BY ROSE SHELTON

Jan. 2 was the first day of school after a long winter holiday break. This was also the date of the DC

Interscholastic Athletic Association (DCIAA) Championship Indoor Track and Field Meet for DC's elementary

See "Track Team," page 4



Amidon-Bowen students hoist the championship trophy.

Photo Courtesy of ABES

Transportation Task Force Revs Up

BY ADOM M. COOPER

In Nov. 2018, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) renewed its commitment to all activities concerning transportation with the rejuvenation of the Transportation Task Force (TTF). Co-chaired by Bruce Levine and Adom M. Cooper, the task force is comprised of the following members: Lexie Albe, Katelynd Mahoney Anderson, Stacy Baker, Kathik Balasubramanian, Andrew Bossi, Victoria Stewart, Patrick Revord, Neo Morake, Nicole Donnelly, Ann Kurzius, Robert Richardson, Carla Bousen, Lisa Beal and Fran Thomas. The mission of the TTF is to work with SW community members, public officials, key stakeholders, and decision-makers in SW DC to identify transportation concerns affecting the quality of life within the Southwest Neighborhood, and to play an effective role in analyzing, informing the community about, and working towards resolu-

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CATCH THE 007 ASTON MARTIN AT THE NEW SPY MUSEUM

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Photo by Tyra Russell

Members of ANC 6D were sworn in on Jan. 2. Councilmember Charles Allen administered the oath of office.

Left to right: Gottlieb Simon (Coordinator of ANCs), Anna Forgie (6D02), Anthony Dale (6D05), Ron Collins (6D03), Gail Fast (6D01), Rhonda Hamilton (6D06), Andy Litsky (6D04), Edward Daniels (6D07)

Community Benefits Group to hold Annual Meeting at Audi Field on March 5

BY FREDRICA D. KRAMER

The Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC) will hold its Annual Meeting at Audi Field on March 5, from 7-9 p.m. The meeting will be in the Heineken Club room, which is just inside the Premium Entrance of Audi Field, between Gate A and Gate B at the corner of Potomac Ave. and First St., SW. The meeting will review CBCC's work over the past year and moving forward, elect or reelect Board members, and hear input from the community on matters of mutual interest and concern.

CBCC serves all of ANC 6D's jurisdiction, spanning both east and west sides of what is still the largest redevelopment effort in the city, and the fast accelerating development of Buzzard Point. It is the only local organization with the explicit mission of ensuring that ANC 6D redevelopment sustains social diversity. According to its bylaws, CBCC's mission includes efforts to sustain neighborhood diversity, improve residents' quality of life, participate in negotiating ANC 6D Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs), and address issues such as creating/maintaining a community or workforce center, maintaining housing diversity, providing quality education, and increasing neighborhood-oriented retail.

The mission requires a working relationship with the ANC. Two ANC 6D Commissioners sit on CBCC's Board and the Board also periodically provides a formal report to the ANC. CBCC adopted a set of six principles around housing mix and affordability, retail mix, open and common

space, quality of life issues, and historic legacy, which continue to guide its critiques of redevelopment proposals that come before the ANC (see *Six Principles to Guide ANC 6D Redevelopment*, "The Southwester," Nov. 2015). CBCC's PUD Task Force tracks PUDs as they develop in order to identify opportunities for community benefits, and influence choices in areas such as housing, retail and common spaces, which might enhance social diversity and other iconic attributes of the community.

CBCC is also responsible for enforcing the CBA it negotiated with DC United. The CBA includes a number of benefits for neighborhood youth (such as soccer club, camp, game tickets, summer and seasonal jobs) and other SW residents (job and training efforts), limited use of stadium facilities for community functions and fundraising, as well as other stipulations to safeguard neighborhood residents' quality of life. CBCC and DC United have been meeting regularly to ensure that these benefits are realized. CBCC has successfully negotiated for other community benefits, such as: \$200,000 from Bernstein Companies that funded Randall Recreation Center renovation, additional programming funds from the Department of Parks and Recreation, additional slots and stipends for SW residents in pre-apprenticeship training in conjunction with construction of the Wharf, and a Build First commitment from the City Council in redeveloping Greenleaf.

Another aspect of the mission of CBCC involves working with other community organizations in addition to the ANC to

ensure community interests are met as Southwest continues to be redeveloped. CBCC sits on several advisory bodies that impact how well redevelopment meets its objectives, including the Greenleaf Advisory Council, Wharf Development and Community Benefits advisory groups, and the SWNA Waterfront Task Force. CBCC also seeks more active relationships and joint membership with others, including the Amidon-Bowen and Jefferson PTAs, and Waterfront Village, to reinforce and advance mutual interests. CBCC has continued to testify routinely at Council and Zoning Commission hearings on matters that affect Southwest, Near Southeast and CBCC's goals.

The Annual Meeting will review CBCC's efforts over the past year and discuss issues in the coming year on which it can work with other organizations and activists in the community to make redevelopment better serve local residents, and to better integrate the interests of new entrants with those who hope to stay and benefit from redevelopment. The Annual Meeting is viewed as an opportunity to engage in a community conversation around these issues.

CBCC continues to look for additional task force and board members to strengthen and expand its work. The Board meets monthly. Other efforts and task forces meet as appropriate.

CBCC hopes that many Southwesters and Southeasters in ANC 6D will join them at the Annual Meeting. Those who would like to attend are asked to RSVP at 980-552-0024.

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Why Amidon-Bowen?

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

As deadlines approach for DC's School lottery, many Southwest families are considering whether to send their child to Amidon-Bowen Elementary School (ABES), or elsewhere. Any families considering ABES or other DC public or charter schools must enroll in the lottery by March 1 through www.myschooldc.org.

"The Southwester" interviewed the Co-Presidents of the PTA at ABES, Allison Harvey and Rose Shelton, to find out why they have chosen to send their children to the school, and to give their thoughts on Southwest's only public elementary school.

How long have your children attended Amidon-Bowen Elementary School?

Allison: My daughter, Ella, has been at Amidon-Bowen for two years. She is already excitedly talking about how she'll be in Kindergarten next year with the "big kids."

Rose: My daughters Zoe and Simone have attended Amidon-Bowen for two years as well. I moved my children from charter to ABES. I was looking for a change.

How did you learn about Amidon-Bowen? Did you do any research before choosing Amidon-Bowen?

Rose: I actually live in the neighborhood. ABES is my neighborhood school. My neighbor's children attended Amidon-Bowen. He tried to get me to check ABES out for years. I heard so many negative things about DCPS that I was not interested and thought maybe charter was the best. The sentiment that public schools are not a good choice for your children was expressed to me by teachers and other leaders I met in the city prior to putting my children in school when they were 3 years old. So, I initially went with a charter school outside of my community as my school choice.

After a few years of charter, despite my children doing well in charters, I did not see the benefit of sole academic driven programs. I felt like my children's individuality was not being nurtured, but hampered. I felt like my children were becoming academic robots and not as happy as they could be. I began to feel that the value on test results was higher than the value of the individual child. I did not want that for my children.

As a parent of twin girls that are of African descent, self-identity was really big for me as well. I wanted my children to not only be able to do well in school, but to self-identify and self-actualize through diverse ways of discovery. I did not want grades and scores to be the only way they were given worth. I needed them to have solid self-esteem and awareness of their capabilities and capacity. Sports and afterschool activities where team building, self-esteem and leadership is cultivated are what I believed they needed.

While speaking with my neighbor two years ago, I confessed my concerns and he once again reiterated that ABES was the place I was looking for. He, a white Caucasian male, continued to reiterate the diversity of the school. He assured me of the nurturing of his children's own identities in the midst of a predominantly African American community. He spoke of the community support and engagement around the school. I did more research on charters and public schools to try and find a school more in line with my desires for my children. A place with balance. I discovered that despite the negative connotation DCPS has, many DC public schools have a lot to offer. My neighbor was correct. ABES was one of the schools that offered a lot to elementary school students. I did not realize I had a gem of endless opportunity in

my backyard. I was so busy driving across town for better PARCC scores and missed overall child development in my own community.

I decided I would give the school a try. I spoke with other parents, with teachers, coaches and the administration. I transferred to the school and it was one of the best decisions I made in my life. I could not be happier with the academic achievement that is still on par, the personal growth, and development that has occurred in my children. It has turned out to be everything I was looking for in a school and more. Being a part of the ABES and SW community has fostered my children's defining of themselves and the appreciation for the diversity and uniqueness of others. Further, I did not realize how large and wonderful my community was, until my children attended school in the neighborhood and I connected with those around me.

Allison: My husband and I have lived in SW since 2011. We live just a few blocks away from the school. We first started learning more about school programs from two of our neighbors whose children attended ABES. When Ella was eligible for DC PreK, we did our research and even talked to an "education consultant." This person actually made the recommendation to list ABES as a lower choice in the lottery, but after visiting the school, attending play dates and talking to more neighbors and parents we put Amidon-Bowen as #1. But, like Rose mentioned, there's a perception that our neighborhood school isn't as good when compared to charters or other public schools in the city. However, I too hope that perception will continue to change. I also agree with Rose, enrolling Ella at ABES was one of the best decisions we've made for our family.

What values are your children learning at ABES? Are these values that you share?

Allison: Well, this is a great question, because this really gets to the heart of why we chose Amidon-Bowen as #1, which is community. There's a strong sense of community at ABES, and we wanted Ella to grow up feeling invested in her diverse neighborhood and community. It's been amazing to see how Ella's community (thereby my community) has continued to expand and grow. Now when we're walking around the neighborhood—the library, Safeway, etc.—Ella and I are regularly interacting with community members, like seeing a friend's older sister, running into friends and being able to give passing hugs or being able to sing-along with our very talented school choir at SW events.

Rose: I agree with Allison, my children are learning to not just live in a community, but to invest in it and the people that are a part of it. My children have learned what it means to be a community. They are learning advocacy, support and love of their community. In school you see one side of students, parents and teachers. Everyone is moving to the beat of their curriculum or schedules. However, when you attend community events and interact outside of the construct of the school you get to know a person. That personal interaction and developed relationship is then carried into the school culture and classroom.

What do you appreciate about the school?

Rose: I have found the teachers at Amidon-Bowen to be some of the best I have come in contact with. They are personable, knowledgeable and invested. Before my children attended ABES, I struggled with getting my twin girls both teachers that were personable, knowledgeable and invested in them. At ABES, the teachers understand that teachers and parents are a team working together to

nurture the mind and spirit of a child. They recently had mid-year testing, and both girls have already surpassed their end-of-year goals. I am very nervous about leaving ABES for junior high next year. ABES has been a safe haven for my children and me. They set the bar high. We have had several teachers voted as the city-wide DC Teacher of the Year, including a recent recipient in 2018.

I also appreciate the aftercare. At ABES, my kids want to stay and play with their friends and be around the aftercare teachers. The aftercare teachers are amazing. The bond they create with the children is unbelievable. Aftercare further solidifies the school culture and sense of community.

We have also enjoyed all of the activities the school offers. Soccer, basketball, track, kickball, math team, spelling bee, choir, music, art, PTA and Kindred to name a few. The partnerships with the FBI, DC Scores, Edgewood Brookland, SWBID and so many other community partners are also appreciated. These programs support the school culture and provide children with many ways of self-expression.

I appreciate how the administration and staff are invested in the families at ABES. We have a diverse population. There are different needs and requirements across the board. The school is always working to be part of the solution to build a culture of family and support so that children have a nurturing and dedicated place to learn and grow.

Allison: Similar to Rose's experience, Ella has grown leaps and bounds thanks to the amazing teachers, para-professionals and staff. Ella is currently on track or measuring above grade level (Kindergarten and some 1st grade). Ella's math and literacy skills really took off once she came to ABES. Our daycare was great—but the teachers at ABES are really preparing her to be ready for Kindergarten. The school as a whole also made huge gains on PARCC scores in both reading and math last year, so the data also backs up our personal experience.

In addition to the wonderful teachers, we have great specials—art, PE, Spanish and music. Ella has become very interested in drawing thanks to our art teacher Ms. Schorn and I love hearing the different songs that Ella learns from Ms. Perry. Also, thanks to parent volunteers, the school has been able to grow aftercare extracurricular programs for younger students (PreK-2nd grade)—like karate, language immersion, soccer and dance. I could keep going on about all of the things I appreciate—but the last thing I'll say is when I pick up Ella from school, she usually doesn't want to come home. She wants to stay and keep having fun with her friends, which I think is another sign of a great school.

What excites you about the future of ABES?

Allison: There's a lot of ground work that has been laid and continues to be laid to make Amidon-Bowen the #1 choice for all families that live in SW thanks to parents, Principal Sykes, teachers and community members and organizations. It's been great to see the PTA growing in both diversity and membership, and all of the community-building that is happening inside and outside of the school. To quote one of our teachers, "ABES is the best kept secret in DC" but ABES may not be a secret much longer as families and the SW community continue to choose Amidon-Bowen.

Rose: I agree. If Amidon-Bowen continues on its path, the school will be one of the most sought after in the city. I am grateful for my time at ABES. It showed my girls how wonderful school and education can be with the right people and community structure in place.

For additional inquiries regarding Amidon-Bowen, email amidonbowendc@gmail.com.

“Old Southwest” Historic District Application Will Not be Submitted

BY BRUCE LEVINE, PRESIDENT OF SWNA, AND RYAN PIERCE,
CHAIR OF SWNA'S HISTORY TASK FORCE

Since 2016, at the request of several Southwest residents and with the support of a DC Preservation League (DCPL) grant, SWNA's History Task Force has worked with professional consultants from the firm JMT to research the potential for an “Old Southwest” Historic District. The district proposed would roughly be bounded by M St., SW, South Capitol St., SW, Q St., SW, and Canal/2nd St., SW. Pursuant to the DCPL grant, extensive research was done to determine the qualifications of the area for historic district status and three community meetings were held by SWNA over the course

of the study period. Based on their research, JMT determined that there is a meritorious argument for making the area a historic district and moved forward to prepare a nomination form for consideration by the community and SWNA's Board.

This historic designation study process generated significant support for, and opposition to, the nomination among area residents. After reviewing community comments, the prepared nomination form, and additional information regarding the ramifications of historic district status, the SWNA Board deliberated on whether to proceed with submission of the nomination. At a recent Board meeting a motion to submit the nomination did

not receive the support of a majority of the Board, and as a result SWNA will not be submitting the nomination at this time.

Note that pursuant to the terms of the grant, SWNA will work to finalize the nomination form through addressing certain deficiencies identified by DCPL during their final review process. Once the nomination form has been completed, it will be made available for the community, and would be available to another qualified entity to submit, should they desire.

The project webpage from this effort will also remain available, as an information resource, at www.swdc.org/old-southwest.

Fire & Water

On Jan. 1, an electrical issue in a pedestal at Gangplank Marina caused a fire. The fire was extinguished by residents of the marina as the John Glenn Jr. arrived on the scene. Ash, extinguisher dust, and burned out wire were all that remained of the three-foot tall electrical pedestal. No one was injured.



TRACK TEAM

Continued from p. 1

schools. Despite the long winter holiday break that interrupted the regular training routine of Amidon-Bowen Elementary School's young athletes, the girls' and boys' track teams brought their very best to the competition. The students competed in one event after another from noon to 7 p.m.

When it was all over and the cheering and competitive energy had calmed, Amidon-Bowen's girls' track team was declared the DCIAA Girls Indoor Track and Field Champion of the Year. This is the first time in Amidon-Bowen history that the girls' track team has been the DCIAA champion.

Though not all of the girls medaled, they swept the competition as a team. Collectively their high level of persistence paid off, under the hard work and commitment of their head coach, Coach Frank Briscoe and assistant coach, Coach Christina Shelton.

Several individual students medaled in a number of events:

Amidon-Bowen Girls Medalists:

A'shawnya Weldon:	2 nd -Shot Put
Janelle Edwards:	3 rd -Shot Put
Kihyale Brewer:	1 st -55 Meter Dash
	2 nd -High Jump
NeVaeh Crawford:	3 rd -800 Meter Run
	3 rd -1600 Meter Run
Simone Shelton:	1 st -400 Meter Dash
	3 rd -55 Meter Dash
	3 rd -High Jump
Zoe Shelton:	2 nd -Long Jump
	3 rd -Triple Jump

Amidon-Bowen Boys Medalist:

Omar Soliman: 3rd = 1600 Meter Run

The parents, staff and community celebrate the girls and boys of Amidon-Bowen's track teams for their dedication throughout the year. These students put in hard work mentally and physically each day. At the ages of 8, 9 and 10 years old, many of these students are not only academic achievers, but also participants on the championship cheerleading team, soccer team, math team, choir and many other groups. They balance it all with the support of their families and school staff. We wish them luck in their next season.

Photos by Jean Link



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Waterfront Village receives neither District nor Federal public funds.
We are a local, neighborhood 501(c)(3) organization wholly self-supported by membership dues and donations.
Waterfront Village is a member of the national Village to Village network and operates under the auspices of the District Office on Aging.

Snowy Southwest Moments



Photos by Laura Kakuk

Breaking Through the Door: What is Elevate Interval Fitness?

BY SHANNON VAUGHN

It is crazy to think it has been six months. What started as a “Welcome to the Neighborhood” feature piece in this newspaper has turned into part of my daily routine. When I first stepped into Elevate Interval Fitness in the new 301 M St., SW building, I did not know what I was signing up for. I had correctly assumed it would be high intensity interval training (HIIT), but besides the name I did not really know what that meant. What exactly were we elevating?

As I documented in the September 2018 story, knowing what is behind that window wrap at the corner of 3rd and M St., SW is almost the bigger hurdle than doing the class. So here is the insider look (or at least mine) of the space and process:

When you walk in the door you will be greeted with cheer by Laura at the reception desk. This small space is where most people drink water, stretch and chat with their workout friends before heading into the classes, which start at the top of the hour. Up the ramp from the waiting area are two individual bathrooms and two showers for people to change and shower before/after class, complete with free high-end gym lockers to store your gear.

Once changed, head back to the bullpen, grab a free gym towel and start stretching. A few minutes later, like the Nationals in summer, the coach will make

a call to the bullpen and everyone enters the gym area. More times than not the previous class has slowly trickled past you muttering to themselves about their forthcoming soreness.

The gym space is not large, but it is well laid out. Going clockwise around the open space in the middle are: 5 airbikes, 10 water rowing machines, 10 Woodway treadmills, a wall of dumbbells and kettlebells, and finally TRX bands. If that list of gym accoutrements seems foreign, do not worry. The coaches ensure each new person gets a demonstration before the class starts. Personally, I recommend that if you do not know how to use something, mention it to the coach and they will ensure you do the movements correctly. I also recommend using lighter weights your first few classes (see my previous story if you do not believe me).

Now the class is set to begin. If there are more than 10 people for the class, one group will start on the cardio side (on the treadmills) and the other group will start on the strength side (on the floor). Each portion is about 25 minutes so you get to complete both sides. Some people prefer to do their strength training before running; I like to run and limber up before lifting weights. If the classes are 10 people or less the group will decide as a whole which side to start from.

Once class starts there is a limber up portion to each side. For the cardio side it is a light warmup jog. For the strength

side, you are walked through a set of movements plus a “skill of the week” so your movements get better over time.

Once warmed up you will likely team up with another person and begin a partner workout. I am a big fan of partner workouts as they hold you accountable and you get to meet someone new. Usually there will be 3 to 5 “blocks” of workouts (sometimes as little as 3 minutes, others as much as 14 minutes). This is always a pain point for me as I do not know what is left in the class and I sometimes burn-out too early. That said, reaching failure and then having to keep pushing through is how you breakthrough workout plateaus, so maybe this is a good thing. (Hey, maybe that is what “elevate” means!)

Once complete, everyone spaces out and the coach leads a stretching and cool down session. Those five minutes are some of the most rewarding you will get all day. You have just pushed your body to the limit for 50 minutes and you came out the other side. This is also when the aforementioned audible mumbling starts to come out. Thankfully it is quickly broken up by the coach’s high five and a “good job!” We’ll take it, we’ve earned it.

For those currently affected by the government shutdown, Elevate is offering free classes. Email LauraN@elevateintervalfitness.com and she will get you set up. For additional information, see <https://elevateintervalfitness.com/southwest>.

TITANIC

Continued from p. 1

to commemorate the sinking of the Titanic and to thank the hard-working Friends volunteers, and participated in neighborhood events like the Southwest’s Duck Drop and Trick or Treat event.

This year, the Friends are building on this success with an active year of events with opportunities for Southwest residents to participate. The Friends are planning three volunteer work parties to improve the park. The spring clean-up event on April 13 will be a day of service to remember the sinking of the Titanic. The second clean-up event will be on July 5, which is in response to neighbors identifying the need to help NPS tidy the park after the July 4 celebration. The Friends will also hold a fall clean-up, date forthcoming. Neighbors interested in volunteering can visit the Friends website at <https://www.fotmpdc.org>.

In addition to the clean-up activities, the Friends are adding two activities in the park. One is to serve as a stop on the National Bike to Work Day on May 17. The other is to be one of the activity sites for the Southwest Business Improvement District’s Parade of Parks, date forthcoming. The Friends are also promoting education about the park, including the Titanic Memorial, which is listed on the National Register. As part of this effort, the Friends will be distributing interpretive information about the Titanic Memorial to hotels and other businesses to introduce more people to this beautiful monument and park.

February 12 from 6:30-8:30pm
Westminster Church, 400 I St SW

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Find Time for an Enjoyable Meal at Muze, and Stay for Dessert

BY MIKE GOODMAN

With the rapid change in Southwest over the last two years, it is easy to forget about the early stages of the waterfront redevelopment project. The Mandarin Oriental hotel, located a short walk northwest of The Wharf at 1330 Maryland Ave., SW, opened 15 years ago as an anchor project for the waterfront renewal. Accompanying that opening was the restaurant now called Muze (previously called Sou'Wester), which serves American cuisine with an Asian-inspired twist. Executive Chef Stefan Kauth, along with Chef de Cuisine Andrew Powers, know how to do the twist.

The menu is seasonal, but 'tis the season to start with the Crab, Corn & Coconut soup, with a fragrance that draws you in, followed by time-release episodes of flavor, and a little kick. If you prefer mild, go with the subtle and succulent Angus Beef Tataki, or the Ahi Poke complete with the fluffiest shrimp chips you've ever had (or perhaps the only shrimp chips you've ever had, but they are terrific). The Roasted Cauliflower Hummus is a sweeter version of your typical hummus, but the star of the appetizers is a superb Edamame, complete with a light dusting of parmesan cheese and Korean chili sea salt.

The service was good, with our server making recommendations that turned out to be the highlights of the meal. The setting seeks to reflect the theme of the

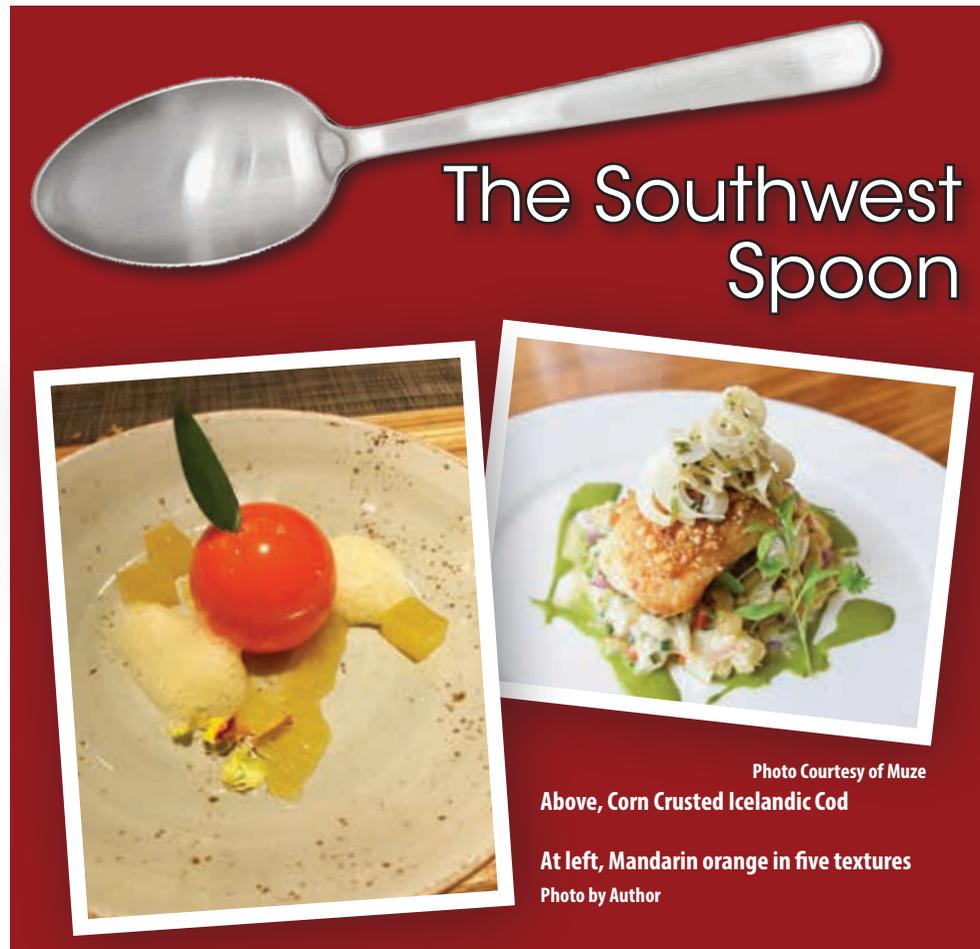


Photo Courtesy of Muze

Above, Corn Crusted Icelandic Cod

At left, Mandarin orange in five textures

Photo by Author

33 Mandarin Oriental hotels that exist world-wide: mindful and relaxing. There are guests in casual attire and fashionable daters; you are welcome to approach this

establishment however you like.

Once you get to the entrees, the highlights are the melt-in-your-mouth Roasted Rohan Duck, featuring a savory broth and lo mein noodles; and the Corn Crusted Icelandic Cod, which gives you a new appreciation for the flaky, common

whitefish. It features a variety of textures, including a slight crunch with a well-balanced, mild mix of accompaniments, topped with hearts of palm. There are also more traditional dishes on the menu, such as a ribeye thanks to Wagyu cattle from Texas, and a salmon with Szechuan glaze and bok choy.

But so often, the best is saved for last. Don't leave without tasting the Mandarin. The signature dish of the hotel, this one is a creation of Pastry Chef Christophe Frigara, and is worth stopping in for, just on its own. You're served a "mandarin orange," produced in five textures: gel, fruit confit, foam, shell and of course, a fluffy white chocolate on the inside. It is a memorable experience, and, sadly, I'm now disappointed every time I peel an orange and I don't find white chocolate.

The Mandarin also does the other things right: they are involved in the Southwest community, including support for Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and, recently, DC Storm, which provides academic and athletic mentorship at Jefferson Middle School Academy. The restaurant also features a kids' menu (not something that every SW establishment has chosen to offer), and even has special occasions aimed at kids. For example, keep an eye out for the Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch on Easter Sunday, which will utilize the welcoming green courtyard that sits just off the restaurant.

Let Muze inspire you. Prepare for a great meal, and feel free to come as you are.

Photo Contest Winner: Ramsey Poston!



"A relaxing moment"

To submit a picture for Photo of the Month, email editor@thesouthwester.com with "Photo of the Month" in the subject line.

TASK FORCE

Continued from p. 1

tion of such concerns.

The role of the TTF is to shine a spotlight on issues important to SW DC residents and spark action related to those issues. The TTF is here to support all SW DC residents on transportation issues, direct and facilitate conversations, and to act as a sounding board for how solutions can be crafted and implemented. The TTF is not attempting to replace the duties, jobs and expertise of transportation professionals, but rather to influence solutions while always keeping community needs and input in mind. The members of the TTF will actively engage with members of the community to stay informed of issues and topics that require attention and ensure that community concerns are amplified.

SWNA supports multiple task forces, including Education, Scholarship, Workforce Development and Adult Education, which are designed to improve the quality of life for SW DC residents. The Task Forces identify issues and work to produce recommendations to help inform the decision-making of city administrators, developers and other entities that impact the SW DC Community. As the TTF falls into this category, it serves as a direct conduit between SWNA and SW DC residents for all transportation concerns and issues.

In the coming months, the TTF hopes to achieve and facilitate several endeavors. The first is a 311 campaign. Based on suggestions from concerned members of the Southwest community, the TTF is organizing a grassroots campaign to better use the 311 system to inform DC Government of specific transportation-related problems in Southwest in real-time. The TTF will publicize this campaign through various means, with the concept being to encourage our residents to call or take photos with their phones to highlight matters ranging from dangerous sidewalks to poor signage to illegal parking. Many individuals make these reports already, but the Task Force wants to bring a higher level of reporting to these problems. Each month, the Task Force will ask our neighbors to focus attention on one particular issue but, of course, individuals can contact 311 on any transportation-related problem they wish. Look for more information soon.

If you have concerns or suggestions on anything transportation-related in SW DC or wish to become involved with the Task Force, contact Bruce Levine (balevine82@gmail.com) and Adom M. Cooper (cooperadom@gmail.com) and include "Transportation Task Force" in the subject line of your message.

SWNA looks forward to serving the SW DC community and making transportation safer, easier, and more efficient for all residents.

SW Youth Experience Educational Games Expo

BY VIC SUTTON

Three students from the Computers for Kids program of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Youth Activities Task Force (YATF) attended the ED Games Expo 2019, held on Jan. 8 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This allowed 125 developers of educational games to showcase their programs, with plenty of opportunities for students to get some hands-on experience trying them out, in what often proves to be a transformational learning experience.

The participating students included Lauren Thomas who graduated from the Computers for Kids program a year ago, and has just started high school, and Jakayla and Jamia Williams, both in third grade, who are currently enrolled in the program and will graduate on Jan. 26. The students gave the event a rating of ten out of ten. They were chaperoned by YATF members Bonnie and Vic Sutton and the overall field trip was made possible through the team efforts of YATF members Perry Klein, Thelma D. Jones (chair) and Christine Spencer.

The ED Games Expo is an annual event organized by the U.S. Department of Education, which points out that "game-based learning is gaining



Photo by Author

SW students experiencing virtual reality programs

popularity in education as more young people and adults learn from games both in and out of the classroom." The Department believes that "well-designed games motivate students to actively engage in content that relates to coursework, and master challenging tasks designed to sharpen critical thinking, problem solving, employment and life skills."

Everything in Existence is Exciting and Existential

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

Everything in Existence is an adventure from the known world into unknown possibilities.

The exciting new show at ARTECHOUSE, until March 10, is the first North American solo exhibition for the internationally-acclaimed Italian artist studio fuse*. The 10-year retrospective features four installations by artists Mattia Carretti and Luca Camellini, who created these works with software that processes data derived in real time from light, space, sound and social media.

First staged in a deconsecrated church in historic Parma, Italy, *Multiverse* in the Main Gallery consists of 130-foot wide by 24-foot high projections, with a reflective floor service which generates the vertical images.

There is a sequence of real-time generated digital paintings which represent the eternal birth and death of infinite universes to convey the sense of boundless space. As each sequence ends, "genetic information" of the last sequence triggers an evolutionary transition for the exploration of new possibilities in the next sequence.

Amygdala (or almond) relates to the roughly almond-shaped mass in our brain involved with the experiencing of emotions. This installation in the Media Lab is a live data audio-visual installation that uses time to record digital social channels and networks worldwide. Using a vocabulary of 5,000 words which are assigned colors that the artists have chosen to correspond to emotions (happy, sad, disgust, annoyed, fearful), the collective states of mind of social media users is translated and transformed into visual images that are shared at any given time.

Two side galleries feature smaller unique works.

Snow Fall is the earliest of these

works. First exhibited at the Palazzo Santa Margherita in Modena, it captures silhouettes of people with video cameras in real time. The fall of snowflakes block the forms that they cast onto the gallery wall.

Clepsydra, deriving its name from the



Photo Courtesy of ARTECHOUSE

Everything in Existence is at ARTECHOUSE until March 10.

ancient Greek word for a timepiece that measures through the regular flow of water, is a mental construct to measure time and our relation to gravity. This installation uses the close connection between audio and video to immerse the visitors in a non-place, crossed conceptually by sounds and images which shift from one universe to another.

ARTECHOUSE has set up a kiosk with information at the entrance of the exhibition space to explain some of the mysteries in the interplay between the visible human involvement and the invisible algorithmic software for the creation of each of the artworks. Entering the gallery is the experience itself, one that parallels the relationship between humans and the mysterious, vast and incomprehensible forces beyond the limits of the known world. This is what the artists have stated is their intention in inspiring interconnectedness—the belief that we are all part of everything in existence.

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall to hold Grant Hall Courtroom Open House

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall will hold a Public Open House of Grant Hall's historic third-floor courtroom, located on the Fort McNair side of the Joint Base in SW DC, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 2. The courtroom is the site of the military tribunal, held from May through June 1865, of those thought responsible for the plot to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

During a 2009-2012 renovation of Grant Hall, which was originally part of Washington's Federal Penitentiary from 1829 to 1868, the third floor of the building was restored to depict the courtroom as it appeared during the 1865 trial. Courtroom features were recreated based on artistic renderings

and written descriptions of court proceedings. Some furnishings and artifacts on display are on loan from the production company of a 2011 historical film about the trial, and other artifacts and documentation are from the National Defense University Library.

The event is open to the public, through advance registration. See the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Facebook Events Page at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/jbmhh/events> or email usarmy.jbmhh.asa.list.pao-all@mail.mil. Full names of all attendees are required, as well as a valid telephone and email contact. Note the courtroom is accessible only by climbing two flights of stairs.

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Photo of Matthew Rauch by Tony Powell

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World Premiere of “Kleptocracy” is at Arena Stage

Exclusive Interview with Actor Elliott Bales

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

The collapse of the Soviet Union, the rise of Putin in Russia and the examination of the United States' relationship to Russia, then and now, converge in Kenneth Lin's powerful drama “Kleptocracy.”

Going right to the heart of the greed and manipulation that is behind power, Arena Stage's Artistic Director Molly Smith says that Kleptocracy is “the most dangerous play at Arena this season.” The play is slated to run through Feb. 24.

The following is an interview with actor Elliott Bales, who plays Petukhov/Prison Guard. Bales has an extensive list of theater credits over his career and retired as an Army Colonel after 26 years of service.

“Kleptocracy” spans from the 1990s with the dissolving of the USSR up through the 21st century when Putin rose to power. Where were you stationed during those years? What did you think as these events were happening?

In the mid to late 80's I was a wet-behind-the-ears shaved-tail Army Lieutenant in West Germany in the 3rd Armored Division



Photo Courtesy of Arena Stage

Elliott Bales

positioned to repel a Soviet invasion of western Europe. My days were filled with studying, learning, and thinking about the Soviets, how to beat them on the battlefield and the Russian way of life.

In November 1989, I was in Frankfurt with a military delegation when the Berlin wall was opened and everything began to change.

After decades of certainty about the world order and the stability of knowing your “enemy,” the turmoil inside a different Russia mirrored the uncertainty in the world around it.

In a dramatic reversal, I found myself back in a unified Germany and later in Bosnia during the 1990s as the executive officer for a battalion task force in the Stabilization Force in Bosnia following the Bosnian civil war.

One of the brigades allied with my headquarters, the US 1st Armored Division, was a Russian airborne brigade. At the base camp we had a Russian liaison team helping to share information and coordinate activities.

It was a very bizarre feeling to sit down and eat with a former “enemy” in a US-run dining facility.

There were a number of stories from that time that were indicative of a microcosm

of what was happening in Russia. I will just say that Ken Lin's play accurately mirrors the attitudes and experiences on the larger Russian stage that I saw play out in Northern Bosnia.

What's it like to be part of a powerful production about politics on stage with all the drama that is happening in the public arena today?

Exciting. While “Kleptocracy” deals with the contemporary version of the Great Game, the geopolitical statecraft and political machinations, it's been even more exciting to move beyond the trappings of the narrative to understand the motivations of the characters in the story.

And in doing so, it's delved into the “riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma” that isn't just Russia, but is the inner workings of any enterprise and the people who make it up.

What is it like to develop a new character like Petukhov?

Playing a historical character always means starting with what is known. In the case of Vladimir Petukhov, we know only a few things in the West...mostly that he was murdered early in the days of privatization of Russian state-run companies.

But the role he plays in this story also has

significant implications as well as overtones that reverberate through the lessons of the play itself.

What's it like to work with the playwright for this new work?

Sitting in the room with Mr. Lin means an ongoing dialogue about the character and what he says and what he does to serve the play. I have to say I pinch myself a lot to be reminded that I am not dreaming about this opportunity.

Did you ever think when you were at the National War College that one day you would be acting a mile away at Arena Stage?

No time did I think during my days as a Warrior at the National War College that I would act, much less at such a prestigious place as Arena!

What advice would you give to others who have more than one career in a lifetime?

For me the key to finding and pursuing a second or third career is to start thinking about possibilities rather than constraints. The value of an individual's experience like networking, discipline and analysis from one career is the exact set of skills needed to enter a new profession with impact.

The greatest advice I can offer is to trust yourself when taking a leap into the deep end of that next career pool.



DCPSC Community Hearing on Safety & Gas Leaks

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

2:00 p.m.

1325 G Street, N.W. Suite 800

The DCPSC is holding a Community Hearing to discuss the community's concerns related to natural gas leaks. The purpose of the hearing is to provide safety information to community members and solicit comments regarding the dissemination of natural gas leaks information to the public.



To testify, please contact the Office of the Commission Secretary by 5 p.m., 3 days before the hearing by calling 202-626-5150 or by sending an email to psc-commissionsecretary@dc.gov by **February 1, 2019**. If you're unable to attend, written statements may be dropped off to the DCPSC at 1325 G Street N.W., Suite 800, Washington D.C. 20005, or submitted through the DCPSC website, dcpsc.org by **February 13, 2019**. **Individuals who need special accommodations, interpretation and/or translation services should inform the Office of the Commission Secretary at least 7 days prior to the hearing at 202-626-5150.**

Catch the 007 Aston Martin at the new Spy Museum

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

A sneak peak of the International Spy Museum soon to open at L'Enfant Plaza this spring gives a few clues to what might be lurking inside.

Under covering is the most beautiful silver car that is none other than an Aston Martin DB5 that first appeared in the 1964 James Bond thriller "Goldfinger."

Ingenuity and imagination are what inspires intelligence agents, and this car has it all! The ultimate in spy cars came fully loaded with machine guns, tire slashers, bulletproof shields, oil jets, dashboard radar screen, rotating license plate, and ejector seat. (But note: what it does not have is power steering, automatic handbrake, and the other bells and whistles that we are used to in modern cars.)

The current mileage of this priceless car with license plate JB007 is 21,250.

Two less glamorous but also very special objects are featured in the lobby. The Amber drone is the grandfather to the Predator drone and is the sixth Amber drone ever made. The Bushnell Turtle is a one-man submarine which was created during the Revolutionary War with the intent of delivering explosives to the



Workers lift the Aston Martin onto a pedestal that can be viewed from outside the museum day and night.



Tamara Christian, President and COO of the International Spy Museum, takes a call in James Bond's Aston Martin DB5.

bottom of ships. It is the first submarine known to be used for covert action. The replica on display was developed using only the tools and technologies of the day by the talented folks at Handhouse Studio.

Spies have been everywhere over the centuries, from ancient Greece and China, to Cold War Cuba and Vietnam, to cyberspace and social media in our own time. To remind us of how this might all have started, the lobby also includes a fake re-creation of what early surveillance

might have been—a primitive man up a tree acting as a lookout.

The museum is complete with the foremost collection of spy artifacts, and is scheduled to open in Spring 2019, with completely reimagined, state-of-the-art exhibits that provide a behind-the-scenes look at how intelligence has changed the world and continues to affect our lives today. With first-person accounts from top intelligence officers and experts, the museum tells many stories in spying and intelligence work—some famous, some

infamous and many unknown.

The eight-story building will have a fully-acoustic controlled theater accommodating up to 160 guests for lectures, films and panel discussions, as well as indoor event spaces for 500 guests encased with floor-to-ceiling windows. The rooftop provides nearly 360-degree views of DC, from the US Capitol to the Washington Monument to The Wharf.

The gift shop on the ground floor will open soon, allowing an up-close look at the JB007 in the lobby.

Building Rhythm Together at Westminster

BY REV. RUTH W. HAMILTON

On Jan. 18, Westminster DC at 4th and I St., SW entered its 20th year of providing an affordable, community-based showcase for the best in DC jazz every Friday. In honor of this historic milestone in the church's community service, the weekly, 11 a.m. Sunday worship will feature jazz, blues and other great musical artists to inspire our spiritual life for all of 2019. In addition, the public is now invited to start the morning in the church dining hall with a hot breakfast buffet and Pop-Up Bakery with delicious muf-



Photo Courtesy of Westminster

Rev. Brian Hamilton toasts 20th anniversary of Jazz Night in DC at Westminster



Photo Courtesy of Westminster

Southwester Lenora Baker cooks up delicious breakfast every Sunday morning.

fins, cakes, rolls and other treats for sale. The breakfast is served from 10-11 a.m., and a little earlier for those attending Resistance Bible Study at 10 a.m. The Pop-Up Bakery is open from 10 a.m.-12:15 p.m. On Saturday, March 2, Westminster will host a Community Bustin' Loose Go-Go Party for all ages. These programs and many more reflect the church's new motto: "Building Rhythm Together for Christ's Love." Revs. Ruth and Brian Hamilton begin their 23rd year as Co-Pastors and thank SW for its support of Westminster Church, a community institution since 1853.

"Four and Twenty Blackbirds"

BY DEBORAH JONES SHERWOOD

For more than a hundred years, the National Audubon Society has educated the public on wildlife's benefit to humanity. It has protected and restored wildlife habitats and implemented policies safeguarding birds and other animals.

Since 1998, novice bird watchers and experienced Birders have participated in "The Great Backyard Bird Count." This four-day, mid-Feb. event is sponsored by the Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During the event, more than 160,000 people in 130 countries report on the species and number of birds seen at a specific location. Anyone of any age is invited to count birds for a

minimum of 15 minutes, or as long as they want, during the four days, then report their sightings online.

In addition to the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, these citizen scientists collect vital data about shifting migratory patterns, influence of weather and climate change, environmental impact, and other important issues affecting bird populations.

As a novice bird watcher, and Southwester resident, I thought it might be fun to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. I have been on brief bird watching outings with the local Audubon chapter and had a moderately good idea of what was expected.

Taking my limited knowledge of bird-

ing and my binoculars, I bundled up and headed for a grassy area near the Anacostia River. Supposedly, the key to successful birding is getting out early when the little guys are foraging for breakfast. Although, finding species that prefer foraging for brunch or a late lunch is much more conducive to my schedule.

Clipboard in hand, I stood in ankle deep snow, ready to meticulously record the number and species of birds I saw. Within 45 minutes, I recorded three Winter Wrens, eight Blue Jays, twelve Mallards, seven European Starlings, and thirty-four Canadian Geese. I planned on staying longer, but my feet were frozen inside my boots and that cute, TV weather guy on channel 4 was predicting freezing rain.

This year marks the 22nd annual Great Backyard Bird Count. It goes from Friday, Feb. 15 through Monday, Feb. 18. Information on how to participate, registration, and help with identifying species can be found at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>.

Whether you are a beginner birdwatcher, an expert Birder, or a tenacious Twitcher, the Great Backyard Bird Count is a fun way to spend a cold winter's day and contribute to an important scientific study.

Grab your field guide, notebook, binoculars, a Thermos of hot coffee, and remember to dress warmly. Where you count is not important. Choose a meadow, riverbank, city park or even your own backyard.

Meet Delante Chloe—SWBID Special Ops Supervisor (SOS)

Southwest DC is “the place to be.” We continue to spotlight the dedicated staff of the SWBID who are focused on making Southwest DC a clean, safe, vibrant community to live, work and visit.

Delante Chloe joined SWBID three years ago as an environmental ambassador and quickly elevated through the ranks to supervisor. Delante is a jack-of-all-trades—his responsibilities include vehicle maintenance, landscaping, pressure washing and graffiti removal.

This gentle giant is a native Washingtonian. He shared that his mother went into labor while in Baltimore—she was so determined that he be born in DC that she took two busses and a train to get back to the District.

Delante says he likes the working environment at the SWBID. He likes the family environment and the support and encouragement from the administrative staff. While he appreciates his previous jobs, he feels that those experiences gave him even more appreciation for where he is today.

SWBID COO Andre Witt says, “Delante has been a



stellar employee. His military background has helped him understand the importance of getting the mission done right the first time. He is constantly thinking of ways to improve operations and is normally one of the first to conduct research to ensure we are well prepared for all tasks.”

Delante’s Favorites:

Movie: “Coming To America”

Music: Listens to everything—R&B, Hip-Hop, Country Western

Favorite Song: “See You Again” by Wiz Khalifa, which was commissioned for the soundtrack of the 2015 action film “Furious 7”

Sports team: Redskins—of course!!

Favorite SW spot: The Titanic Memorial—a great place to just sit and think

Best thing about his job: Makes him feel like he can make a difference in the community

Proudest moments: Opportunities to help neighbors—providing emergency vehicle repairs—even helped a lost youngster find their way home!

Favorite Quote: “Fear is only for men and women who are in denial for death as promised.” He wears a tattoo in honor of friends who committed suicide.

So when you’re out and about, be sure to say hello to Delante!

Breast Cancer Support Group Builds Awareness, Honors Local Advocate

BY VIC SUTTON, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ELISABETH ANN BROWN

The first 2019 meeting of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) Support Group, “An Evening with Renowned Journalist Andrea Roane,” took place Jan. 16 at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church in SW. Approximately 30 guests, almost all of whom were breast cancer survivors, braved the low temperature and icy streets to attend the meeting as they were welcomed with inspirational music by “DJ Hostess with the Mostess,” also known as Regina Blye. The guest speaker was Andrea Roane, who gave an account of her history in education, as an arts advocate for youth and the media. She is perhaps best known as the founder of the “Buddy Check9” program in 1993 which aired for many years on WUSA9. This gave Roane a platform to stress the importance that early detection saves lives and a call for women to find a buddy who could remind them to do a monthly self-examination, and to get an annual mammogram and clinical check-up. She also reminded her audience that breast cancer can affect men as well as women.

Kristen Berset-Harris, Host, WUSA9’s “Great Day Washington” and a two-time breast cancer survivor, moderated a thought-provoking and riveting panel discussion of breast cancer survivors, on “The Fear of Recurrence.” Berset-Harris had a recurrence one month before her wedding. It emerged from this discussion that it was not just the fear of a recurrence with cancer that led some women to delay or put off tests and check-ups. It was also that they were often busy with other commitments, whether work, travel or caring for family.

This gathering followed the Dec.



Photo Courtesy of TDJBCF

Thelma D. Jones presents the Evelyn B. Curtis Spirit Award to Jacqueline Beale while LaJuan Gorham and Kim Greenwood look on.

TDJBCF meeting, when the recipient of the Inaugural Evelyn B. Curtis Spirit Award was announced. Evelyn was diagnosed with breast cancer in Feb. 2017 and passed in March 2017. Her business acumen, giving spirit, philanthropic efforts and approach to life endeared her to everyone she knew. When she passed, it was decided that her memory should be honored with an annual award to be given to a nominee who embodied Evelyn’s love of life, generosity and dedication.

So it was with great anticipation that the award’s first recipient was given to Jacqueline Beale, a native Washingtonian and a 16-year, two-time breast cancer conqueror who serves as the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator for Hope Connections for Cancer Support in Prince George’s County. Beale has a passion for working as a volunteer with the American Cancer Society (ACS), and for 15 years she has served as co-chair of the Prince George’s County Leader-

ship Council and Real Men Wear Pink Campaign. She is also the Maryland State Ambassador for the ACS Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), Breast Cancer Ambassador for Suburban Hospital, Suburban Hospital Foundation Board Member, co-founder of Ladies With a Purpose Rock, and a member of the Prince George’s Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Development. In 2018, Beale was selected for the coveted ACS CAN State Lead Ambassador of the Year and can frequently be found walking the halls of Congress advocating for funding for cancer research. She has also previously served as a TDJBCF board member, frequently attending support group meetings, including serving as the guest speaker.

Beale was presented with the award, a \$200 check and several gifts. To learn more about Evelyn B. Curtis and the award’s eligibility requirements, please visit <http://www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org/evelyn-b-curtis-spirit-award>.

What’s in a Name: A Series on Shakespeare, SEU, and Southwest, Part 7

BY KATELYND ANDERSON

Author’s Note: This is part seven of a series on the redevelopment of the old Southeastern University site in Southwest. These articles will serve to provide information for the greater community, and not to take a side on the development debate.

This series, started in September of 2015, continues to focus on the site at 501 I St., SW, where Shakespeare Theatre Company (STC) and Erkiletian Development Group have proposed the development of a mixed-used building to be named “The Bard” after William Shakespeare. Past articles can be found on “The Southwester’s” website for those who are interested in where this story has been over the last four years.

Below are a handful of updates to the most recent story in our Oct. 2018 issue:

The January Zoning Commission hearing was postponed until March 28. As a result of this change, ANC 6D has also postponed consideration of the revised proposal until their March 11 meeting.

The letter sent on behalf of the project developers to the Zoning Commission states “work collegially and collaboratively with United Neighbors of Southwest (UNSW), the ANC, and the agencies to address issues and concerns.”

UNSW is a group of neighbors, particularly those in the immediate townhomes around the project, who have actively voiced their concerns over the height and density of the project, particularly related to what has been called for in the city’s Southwest Small Area Plan. On December 17, 2018, the Zoning Commission voted unanimously to give “advance party status” to UNSW, giving the group official status before the Zoning Commission.

“The Southwester” will continue to cover the story, and, barring any additional scheduling changes, will have an update in our April issue.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

FRI 1, 6:30 P.M. Game Night. First Friday of every month. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water St., SW, 202-554-3222, www.staugustinesdc.org

FRI 1, 7:30-9 P.M. Dissolving the Illusion of Loneliness. Lecture on how this perception of ourselves as separate from others is an illusion. Event fee: \$12 (\$6 for Student/Seniors). Kadampa Meditation Center DC, 1200 Canal St., SW, 202-430-6540

SAT 2, 10 A.M.-4 P.M. Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Grant Hall Courtroom Open House of the historic third-floor courtroom, located on the Fort McNair side of the Joint Base in SW DC. Open to the public, through advance registration. See <https://www.facebook.com/pg/jbmhh/events> or email usarmy.jbmhh.asa.list.pao-all@mail.mil

SAT 2, 10:30 A.M.-Noon. Komen Toastmasters. Looking to develop speaking and leadership skills? Komen Toastmasters meets on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. Visitors welcome. Westminster Presbyterian Church, main level or downstairs, 400 I St., SW

SAT 2, 1-2:30 P.M. Yoga Nidra. Meditate, Chant, Breathe, and Relax deeply with Yoga Nidra, led by Pamela Wilson. \$10 donation suggested. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St., SW

SAT 2, 2-5 P.M. Love vs. Attachment. Come explore Buddha's wisdom teachings on how to discern the difference between love and attachment. Event fee: \$25 (\$12.50 for Student/Seniors). Kadampa Meditation Center DC, 1200 Canal St., SW, 202-430-6540

SAT 2, 3 P.M. Cinema Saturday. Children are invited to join us for screening of an age-appropriate movie. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SUN 3, 3 P.M. "A Sermon in Songs" rendered by the JC Ensemble of Washington, DC. All are invited. Additional info at 202-488-7417. Friendship Baptist Church, 900 Delaware Ave., SW

MON 4, 7 P.M. Black History Month Book Discussion. James Baldwin, "The Fire Next Time." SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

TUES 5, 1 P.M. Coffee & Conversation. Adults are invited to meet to share thoughts, ideas, and community, over a cup of coffee. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

FRI 8, 8-9:30 A.M. Councilmember Charles Allen. Join Councilmember Charles Allen for his regular office hours at Velo Café. Feel free to invite neighbors. RSVP at Velo Café, 730b Maine Ave., SW, 202-659-8686

SAT 9, 3 P.M. Cinema Saturday. Children are invited to join us for screening of an age-appropriate movie. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SUN 10, 2:30 P.M. P.A.L. (People Animals Love) Dog Visit. Children ages 4-12 are invited to read aloud to a P.A.L. dog. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

MON 11, 7 P.M. Black History Month Book Discussion. WEB DuBois, "The Souls of Black Folk." SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

MON 11, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Monthly Business Meeting. 1100 4th St., SW, 2nd Floor, www.anc6d.org

WED 13, 4:30 P.M. Cookie Decorating Extravaganza. Children ages 4-12 are invited to decorate cookies with sugary treats. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

WED 13, 4:30 P.M. Wii Club. Children ages 4-12 are invited to play games on the Wii console. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

THURS 14, 7:15-8:30 P.M. Learning to Love, Valentine's Day Free Public Talk on how to cultivate a good heart of loving kindness. Kadampa Meditation Center DC, 1200 Canal St., SW, 202-430-6540

FRI 15, 4-10 P.M. Washington Hebrew Congregation Shabbat and Services, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water St., SW. Learn more at <https://www.whctemple.org/districtshabbat>

SAT 16, 10:30 A.M.-Noon. Komen Toastmasters Open House. Looking to develop speaking and leadership skills? Komen Toastmasters meets on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. Visitors welcome. Westminster Presbyterian Church, main level or downstairs, 400 I St., SW

SAT 16, 2-5 P.M. Taming the Mind. Workshop to teach essential meditation techniques. Event fee: \$25 (\$12.50 for student/seniors), Kadampa Meditation Center DC, 1200 Canal St., SW, 202-430-6540

SAT 16, 3 P.M. Flamingo Craft. Children ages 4-12 are invited to create whimsical heart-shaped pieces of flamingo art. Bring your creativity! Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver.

SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

WED 20, Noon. Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter 4751 February Luncheon Business Meeting and first Technology Seminar. Experience some of the newest advances in technology and learn about the most current features of your technology devices and other new devices. All are welcome. Street parking available. Lunch available for \$5. River Park Mutual Homes South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW.

WED 20, 6 P.M. Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group Meeting. Meeting will feature male breast cancer survivors and men's health. William "Bill" Kaemmer, Executive Director, Chapel of Four Chaplains will discuss his heart health experience. To RSVP or for information, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call 202-251-1639. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water St., SW

THURS 21, 5 P.M. SW Neighborhood Happy Hour. Meet SW neighbors and enjoy happy hour specials, Union Stage, 740 Water St., SW

SAT 23, 1-3 P.M. Thinking about Jazz presents "Jamil Nasser: Upright Bass." An accomplished bassist, he has played in the US and across Africa and Europe. Documentary footage shown. Light lunch served. Lively discussion and door prizes. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St., SW

SAT 23, 1:30 P.M. SW Library Book Discussion. Copies of this month's title, "We Were Eight Years in Power" by Ta-Nehisi Coates are available at the information desk. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SAT 23, 3 P.M. Big Mouth Creature Craft. Children ages 4-12 are invited to design hilarious fold-out creatures with enormous mouths. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

MON 25, 7 P.M. Black History Month Book Discussions. Carter Woodson, The Mis-Education of the Negro. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

THURS 28, 6:45 P.M. ABC Committee, ANC6D. Alcohol license applications, renewals, enforcement and other issues. To be added to e-mail list for agenda & notifications contact Coralie Farlee, Chair, ABC Committee, 202-554-4407, cfarlee@mindspring.com. Harbor Patrol, 550 Water St., SW

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ADULT BEGINNER TENNIS, Saturdays, 1-2 P.M. Ages 18+, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

ALL-LEVELS YOGA CLASS, Wednesdays, 8-9 A.M. Bring a mat if you have one. No set charge; donations welcome. For more information, call the instructor, Pamela Wilson, 202-746-6654 or wilsonpj108@verizon.net. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

ALZHEIMER'S ASSN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP, 2nd Tuesdays of the month, 10:30-11:30 A.M. Free and open to the Public. Faith Presbyterian Church, 4161 S. Capitol St. SW

ARTS FOR KIDS, Tuesdays 5-6 P.M. Ages 6-13, Michelle & Akaya, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

ARTY AFTERNOON, Mondays 4:30 P.M. Join us in the Children's Room for fun arts and crafts. For children ages 4-12. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library

BALLET, Saturdays, 10:15-11:15 A.M. Ages 6-12, Alexis Miller & Jilian Carter, Randall Recreation Center

BALLET, Saturdays, 11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M. Ages 3-5, Alexis Miller & Jilian Carter, Randall Recreation Center

BASKETBALL, Ages 5-6 on Tues. & Thurs., 5-6 P.M.; Ages 7-8 on Thurs. & Fri., 6-7 P.M.; Ages 9-10 on Tues. & Thurs., 7-8 P.M.; Ages 11-12 on Tues. & Fri., 7-8 P.M.; Ages 13-14 on Fri., 8-9 P.M. All at King Greenleaf Recreation Center

BIBLE STUDIES, Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 P.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

BLACK HISTORY DISCUSSIONS, Mondays, 7 P.M. SW Library

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5 cover and food for sale. Schedule at www.westminsterdc.org/blues.html, Westminster Presbyterian Church

BREAD FOR LIFE, Sundays, 8-8:45 A.M. Free Breakfast, Hot Breakfast of eggs, pancakes, sausage, biscuits, juice and coffee. Seeking Volunteers to help cook, serve and set-up. Contact: chee-cheemathis@staugustinesdc.org. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Community Room

CENTERING PRAYERS, Thursdays, 11:45 A.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, Every 3rd Saturday, 9-11 A.M. Rear entrance of Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St. SW, across from SW Library. \$5 donation

COOKING LEVEL 1, Wednesdays, 5:30-7 P.M. (Boys) Ages: 8-13, Safiyyah Aleem-Woods, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WALK-IN CLINIC, Wednesdays, 1-4 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church

EVENING PRAYER, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

FEDERAL CITY RUNNERS TUESDAY NIGHT GROUP RUN, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. Meet by Waterfront Metro exit (near Safeway). Run distance: 4-5 miles. Runners of all paces welcome! Run year-round in rain, snow, or shine. RSVP at www.meetup.com/fcrunners to receive run updates or just show up!

FREE DCROW hosts Rows for seniors every 4th Friday and **The Heroes Row (for vets, active duty military and first responders) every 3rd Saturday.** More info: <https://www.dcrow.co>

FITNESS BOOTCAMP, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-7 P.M. Ages 18+, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

FITNESS BOOTCAMP, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Ages 18+, Randall Recreation Center

FOOTBALL 8 U, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6-7 P.M. Ages 7-8, Ronald Hines, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

FRIDAY NIGHT FISHING, 5:30-8:30 P.M. Free event for kids and families, and fisher-folks young and old! At the docks at Diamond Teague Park (in SE across from the baseball stadium)

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 4298 is looking for troop leaders for its 2018-19 year. If you live in the neighborhood and would like to give back to local girls, please contact Monica at 202-468-9620.

GOTTA SWING LINDY HOP & JITTERBUG CLASSES, Wednesdays 7-8:30 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church

HAND DANCING, Saturdays, 1-3:30 P.M. Ages 55+, Volunteer, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6-9 P.M. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale. Schedule at www.westminsterdc.org/jazz.html. Westminster Presbyterian Church

JOINT WORSHIP, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Riverside Baptist Church. Sundays, 11 A.M.-Noon

JUNIOR BEGINNER TENNIS, Saturdays, 11 A.M.-Noon. Ages 12 & under, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, Thursdays, 7:15 P.M.-8:30 P.M. Love, Desire & Relationships and Sundays, 10-11 A.M. Letting Go of Anger, advice for life meditation class. Everyone welcome. Each class fee: \$12 (\$6 for student/seniors). More info at meditation-dc.org or 202-430-6540

KEYS TO FREEDOM N/A Group, Tuesdays, Noon-1 P.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

The KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, every first and third Monday, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Christ United Methodist Church

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL, meets every 1st and 3rd Saturday, 10:30 A.M.-Noon. All are welcome. Details at: <https://www.toastmasters.org/Find-a-Club/00008714-00008714>, Westminster Presbyterian Church

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, Wednesdays, 7-8 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church

NEW TEEN CHAT, Thursdays, 4:30 P.M. Teens ages 13-19 are invited to meet for snacks and conversation. SW Library

OPEN GYM, Saturdays, 10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. Ages 18+, Staff, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

PICKLE BALL, Tuesdays, 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Ages 55+, Volunteer, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

POM POM, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6 P.M. Ages 10-14, Chamia Day, Randall Recreation Center

READING CLUB, Thursdays, 4 P.M. Children ages 4-12 are invited to drop in for independent or quiet partnered reading while enjoying a snack provided by the library. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library

RED HAT SOCIETY, Ladies over the age of 50 are invited to participate in monthly get-togethers, outings, parties, a book club and more. Contact: mlowdc@yahoo.com

SEATED YOGA TWICE A WEEK, Mondays, 11 A.M.-Noon and Wednesdays, 4-5 P.M. Pamela Wilson guides a gentle series of movements designed to free the joints and ease the mind. This is part of Westminster's Wellness program. Westminster Presbyterian Church

SENIOR BINGO, Mondays and Thursdays, 1-3 P.M. Ages 55+, Charles Jones, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL A/A Group, Wednesdays, 7 P.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER #4751, monthly luncheon meetings held every third Wednesday at noon. Current AARP members, prospective members and visitors are welcome. Lunch is available for \$5. River Park Mutual Homes' South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW. Contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901

ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Sundays, 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist and Sunday School, 202-554-3222

STORY TIME AT THE LIBRARY, Join us for books, songs, rhymes and finger plays as we continue to strengthen early literacy skills while enjoying stories together. **Baby/Toddler Story Time on Mondays, 10:30 A.M.** for children ages birth to 2 years and their caregivers. **Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays, 10:30 A.M.** for ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers, followed by an easy craft activity. **Family Story Time on Saturdays, 10:30 A.M.** for all ages, followed by playtime. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library

SUPREME TEENS, Mondays, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Ages 13-19, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

SUPREME TEENS, Wednesdays, 4-6 P.M. Ages 13-18, Randall Recreation Center

SW FREEWAY, NA, Wednesdays, 7-8 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church

SW WATERFRONT HOOKS AND NEEDLES GROUP, Mondays 2-4 P.M. Velo Café at District Bike & Hardware at The Wharf

SWING DANCE CLASSES, Wednesdays, 7-9:30 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church

TEEN COLOR CLUB, Thursdays, 4:30 P.M. Ages 13-19 are invited to get creative with colored pencils, other materials and coloring sheets while socializing. SW Library

TEEN LOUNGE, Tuesdays, 4:30 P.M. Ages 13-19 are invited to hang out and participate in fun activities, games and socializing. SW Library

TENNIS ABC-Agility, Balance, Coordination, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5-6 P.M. All ages. King Greenleaf Recreation Center

TINY TOTS, Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 A.M. Ages 15 months-3 years, Michelle Edmonds, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

TINY TOTS, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 A.M. Ages 15 months-3 years, Karena Houser-Hall, Randall Recreation Center

TINY TOTS TENNIS, Mondays, 4-5 P.M. Ages 3-5, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

TINY TOTS TENNIS, Wednesdays, 5-6 P.M. Ages 3-5, Randall Recreation Center

VOLLEYBALL, Tuesdays, 5:30-7 P.M. Ages 10-14, Safiyyah Aleem-Woods, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, First and Third Wednesday each month, 7-9 P.M. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments provided. Christ United Methodist Church

WATERCOLOR PAINTING, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 P.M. Ages: 18+, Elin Whitney-Smith, Randall Recreation Center

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Sundays, 10 A.M. Hot Breakfast Served. Free will donations accepted. All welcome. **10 A.M.-12:15 P.M. Pop-Up Bakery,** Homemade Breads and Assorted Pastries. **10-10:45 A.M. Resistance Bible Study. 11 A.M. Worship Service** and Godly Play for children ages 4-10

Wii CLUB, Wednesdays, 4:30 P.M. Children ages 4-12 are invited to play games on the Wii console. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library

YOGA IN THE WATER: ALL-LEVELS CLASS, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 A.M. and Sundays, 12:30-1:30 P.M. with Pamela Wilson at Waterside Fitness and Swim Club, 901 6th St. SW. \$10 for class/day pass. For more information, call Waterside Fitness and Swim Club, 202-488-3701

YOUNG LADIES ON THE RISE, Thursdays, 5:30-7 P.M. Ages: 6-14, Michelle Edmonds, Game/Art Room at King Greenleaf Recreation Center

YOUNG LADIES ON THE RISE, Fridays, 4-6 P.M. Ages 6-12, Karena Houser-Hall, Randall Recreation Center

ZUMBA, Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Ages 18+, Randall Recreation Center, 202-673-7647

View our on-line calendar at www.swna.org

Submit Calendar events to calendar@thesouthwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

Greenleaf Community Honors Local Scholars

BY DENA WALKER

Jan. 1 was not only the first day of the year, but it was also the day the Greenleaf Gardens Resident Council Executive Board celebrated our postsecondary students with the Scholar Appreciation Event. The event was held at the Greenleaf Gardens Resident Council Program Center to honor the students of Greenleaf Gardens who are dedicated to pursuing a higher education, in order to realize the career goals they have set for themselves.

The event was attended by the scholars and their proud family members. The gathering was also an opportunity for all of the scholars to meet and share their experiences as first-year university students. Those experiences varied from being homesick to familiarizing themselves with the landscape of their respective college campuses. Everyone agreed that time management is one of the essentials to succeeding in a higher learning atmosphere.

I wrote about the first three scholars last year as they were entering college as freshmen. Donja Wilkinson, attending Georgia State University, plans to become an orthodontist. Aigne Sanders, who attends Central State University, plans to become a Psychologist. To'ren Pride, who attends Hampton University, is studying business management with a focus on entrepreneurship, and plans to start and successfully operate an information technology company. As sophomores they have expressed their determination to graduate on time, with honors.

In addition to the scholars mentioned, the Greenleaf community appreciated the following scholars who are currently attending or have completed their higher education. Renarda Harris recently graduated from Virginia State University with a degree in childhood development. She is currently attending the University of



Photo by Author

Greenleaf students attend the Scholar Appreciation Event at the Greenleaf Gardens resident council program center.

the District of Columbia to earn another degree in social work. Ms. Harris has been on the Dean's List at both schools, and is also a contributor to a book compilation called "Breaking Free Forever: Trails of a Triumphant Woman," where she writes in chapter two, titled "Just Naride." Alysha Berry is currently attending Washington Adventist University to earn a degree in psychology. Ms. Berry has been on the Dean's List several semesters, all while competing on her schools' basketball team and head coaching two youth basketball teams in the community. Timothy Berry has earned several highly coveted computer security software certificates. Mr. Berry is utilizing those certifications as a software developer to code packages that aid in protecting sensitive data systems.

We are so proud of their accomplishments and are grateful to our dutiful spon-

sor of anything related to youth enrichment in the Greenleaf Gardens community. Applied Cyber Strategy Group (ACSG), a cyber-security firm located in DC, spon-

sored the event including having an enjoyable meal catered for the guests. As a special treat, Robin Harris-Walker, the CEO of ACSG thought it would be a nice touch to serve the students something that college students are unlikely to purchase while in school: snow crab legs. In addition to the meal provided, ACSG presented the students with a portfolio to carry their resumes. The resident council presented the scholars with a certificate of appreciation, a gift bag packed with snacks, a gift card and a student planner. The Greenleaf Gardens Resident Council Executive Board will continue to support these scholars as they commit the next few years of their lives to obtaining the knowledge, skills and life experiences to become exemplary leaders in their fields of study.

If you know of any Greenleaf Gardens resident attending a post-secondary school, please contact Ms. Walker at greenleafgardens.rc@gmail.com to provide that information. The resident council would like to recognize them at our next Scholar Appreciation event and to support them in exceeding their life and career goals.



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THE PERFECT PAIRING

What better way to bring community together than with food? We've been cooking up some exciting ideas for our latest residency with Eco Caters, official caterer for the Capitals and Wizards and winner of the Department of Energy and Environment's District Sustainability Award. In addition to serving up our artful events, they will be hosting cooking classes and seeing that our garden reaches its full potential.

MEET THE CHEFS

Originally from Savannah, Executive Chef Robert Wood has cooked from San Diego to Nantucket to the Bahamas with a taste for simple presentations that highlight fresh ingredients. Founder John Cosgrove, a native Washingtonian, has a passion for organic foods and growing relationships with local farms.

PARTY WITH US AT CULTURE HOUSE

Schedule your next awesome event with John (john@ecocaters.com) and Ian Callender (ian@blindhwino.org).

BLIND *Whino*
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