SOUTHWESTER 1963

serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

Circulation 13,000 April 2019

Community Input Sought for Green Spaces in SW

BY ANNE MCNULTY

Tellow tree trunks line the walkway from the Southwest Duck Pond to the 3rd and I Street Park as a temporary art installation, to garner interest in a modernized Town Center Parks program in Southwest. The Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID) is hoping to gather community input around a vision for the public spaces stretching between those two parks, to develop a plan for a park system in the center of Southwest DC that will serve as a revitalized community gathering space.

The original Town Center Parks came about with urban renewal in the 1970s and were completed in 1972 as a central public space for the neighborhood. In 2007, the middle section of Town Center Parks was removed during the demolition of the Waterfront Mall, leaving the Southwest Duck Pond Park and the 3rd and I Street Park by the library. After the



Photo Courtesy of SWBID

Bright yellow trees greet visitors to build awareness around the Town Center Parks project

demolition, the Southwest Duck Pond was unattended and fell into decline. In 2010, neighbors came together for community cleanups that restored some of the cosmetics of the park. However, the pond continued to need significant infrastructure repairs.

In Dec. 2018, the SWBID received \$250,000 from the Southwest Community Foundation (SWCF) to both assess and plan for a renovation of the Southwest Duck Pond Park and to create a vision for modernizing the Town Center Parks. Currently, the string of open spaces is disconnected, creating separate experiences for each area. The hope is to create a linear park experience that would link the spaces into a larger neighborhood framework to build a stronger sense of community. While each individual park space would serve a different function for play, relaxation, community events, public art and

See "Green Spaces," page 2

ATLAS BREW WORKS **CHOOSES NAVY YARD** FOR SECOND LOCATION

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HAT TRICK FOR AMIDON-BOWEN **CHEERLEADERS**

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KID'S CORNER

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WASHINGTON CHANNEL WATER **CLEANUP**

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SOUNDS OF SOUTHWEST: JAZZ NIGHT

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What's in a Name: Shakespeare, SEU and SW, Part 8

BY KATELYND ANDERSON

Author's Note: This is part eight 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 Sept. 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

On March 11, ANC6D voted 5-1-1 to send the Planned Unit Development (PUD) to the Zoning Commission (ZC) with three conditions: that they flip the sidewalk, meaning that the trees will be along the building side of the sidewalk

See "What's in a Name," page 9

Volunteers stand beside the mural that was collaboratively painted during SW Earth, Arts and Music Day



SW Community Gardens to Host Spring Kick-off Event

Pull Weeds and Plant Seeds on April 20

t is April, which means spring is springing and it is time to get our hands in some Southwest soil! SW Community Gardens is excited to host its 6th Annual Spring Kick-off Event on

BY PAMELA AND COY MCKINNEY April 20, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in Lansburgh Park at 1098 Delaware Ave., SW.

> If you did not already know, Southwest's only community garden is located in Lansburgh Park. A group of neighbors committed to bringing communal

> > See "Gardens," page 2







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Op-Ed: Introducing Techbridge Girls-DC: Exciting, Educating and Equipping Girls in STEM

BY CHANTAL JAMES, PROGRAM COORDINA-TOR, TECHBRIDGE GIRLS-DC

he community of Southwest DC has seen many answers to the question of how to revitalize the neighborhood in recent years, such as the development of new dining, shopping and residential options. One Southwestbased nonprofit, Techbridge Girls-DC, believes that communities also thrive in the long-term when we invest in the development of our youth, particularly via science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). STEM workers command higher wages, earning 29 percent more than their non-STEM counterparts. In addition to higher earnings, STEM skills and careers are in higher demand. Nearly 80 percent of all new jobs created nationwide over the next decade will require STEM skills. STEM careers provide a pathway towards economic mobility, especially for girls from low-income communities.

This is why, since 2015, Techbridge Girls-DC has reached hundreds of girls

in Title I schools in DC with afterschool STEM enrichment. Each week the 200+ girls in our programs across the city experience hands-on STEM activities that allow them to practice leadership, teamwork and other skills, in addition to building the confidence to see themselves as STEM professionals one day.

For multiple school years, we have held weekly programs at both Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and Jefferson Academy here in Southwest. Girls experiencing the continuum of STEM education as they grow up with us are being well prepared for bright futures that will allow them to enrich the communities they come from. As we celebrate our fourth school year in DC, we're so glad to already be able to see the impact of our feeder patterns from elementary to middle school. Makayla of Jefferson Academy is one girl who is experiencing seamless afterschool STEM programming as she grows up with us-and is loving it. Last year she was a student in our Inspire program at Amidon-Bowen

Elementary, and now that she's in our ChangeMakers program at Jefferson, she tells us that she continues to be enthralled with the hands-on computer science she gets to practice in Techbridge.

Our annual Showcase, where our families, community partners, volunteers and school staff celebrate our Community Impact Projects and learn ways to encourage girls along the path to STEM careers, happens this May at the University of the District of Columbia. For those who are interested in supporting Techbridge Girls-DC in our mission of giving girls the opportunity for economic empowerment through a STEM career path, it is possible to become a sponsor of our programs including our Showcase at techbridgegirls.org/donate. Other opportunities to join forces with Techbridge Girls-DC include becoming a classroom role model, field trip host or Regional Advisory Council member. Contact dc@ techbridgegirls.org or 303-656-6420 for more information about being involved.

GARDENS

Continued from p. 1

gardening to Southwest established the garden in 2013. The garden is composed of two sections: one for individual plot owners and a communal section open to anyone during the garden's regular work days, which are Wednesdays 6-7 p.m., and Sundays 4-6 p.m. Throughout the gardening season, there is planting, cooking demonstrations, composting, painting, hanging out, and of course, weddings, which no garden can go without.

The Spring Kick-off represents the gar-

den's opening for the year, and the beginning of the regular work days. In previous years, there were a variety of workshops, planting, and conducting of art projects, all with funky-good tunes playing in the background.

Last year, SW Community Gardens won the first micro-grant from Pocket Change, sponsored by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and the Southwest Business Improvement District to transform the kick-off into the SW Earth, Arts and Music Day. Muralist Eric B. Ricks (@versatilevice) facilitated a gardenthemed paint-by-the number mural that sits outside the garden now. Following

that, Carly Harvey's Kiss & Ride band (@carlyhmusic) performed some funky, bluesy numbers to soothe the soul.

This year, among other activities, the kick-off will feature a compost workshop, planting the communal beds and art activities facilitated by Southwest's own Chris Williams, better known as @crazyuncledc (you may have seen him at the SW Farmers Markets or during the Friday Night Markets).

For more information, get in touch with the organizers via Facebook (facebook.com/swgardens), Twitter (@swgardens), Instagram (@swgardensdc) or the website (swgardens.org). It will be a great time and we hope to see you there!

GREEN SPACES

Continued from p. 1

connectivity, cohesive materiality would tie them together to make a uniquely Southwest community hub.

The SWBID and LandDesign, a planning and landscape architecture firm working on the project, have convened an advisory group of key neighborhood stakeholders to guide the planning process. The temporary art installation to drive awareness and community input for the project is one of many approaches the SWBID will be taking to ensure community involvement. Now that the project has received survey input, the next forum for community input will take place at the opening Farmers' Market on Saturday, April 13 at the lot at 4th and M St. The SWBID will be sharing initial concepts and will be conducting walking tours of the parks.

The initial grant from the SWCF supports some renovation to the Southwest Duck Pond Park and high-level visioning for the whole Town Center Parks system. The SWBID and LandDesign architects are working closely with partners in the city to secure the necessary funding for an ambitious vision to restore the original spirit of the Town Center Parks.

You can read more about the history of the Southwest Duck Pond Park at http://www.southwestduckpond.org.

A View from the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

n Sunday, April 7, at 3 p.m., join Temple Micah and The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute at Riverside Church at The Wharf, 7th & Maine Ave., SW, for a performance.

Rev. Dr. Al Staggs will present his acclaimed one-person play that brings to life one of the great heroes of the twentieth century. The audience is brought into the prison cell where Dietrich Bonhoeffer awaits execution. In the play, Bonhoeffer expresses moral outrage against the Nazi treatment of Jews and explains how that outrage led him to become involved in the German resistance movement, a commitment that would result in his being executed by hanging on April 9, 1945.

"When I watch Al Staggs as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, I am confronted by the deepest moral questions of what it means to be a witness and how I am using my life," says Bill Moyers.

Admission is free. The play will be followed by a discussion around the issues of rising antisemitic and racist rhetoric in our country.

Black History Month: Lessons in Leadership

BY RYAN PIERCE, CHAIR, SWNA HISTORY TASK FORCE

n Feb. 25, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) History Task Force hosted a stirring program focused on Black History at Arena Stage. The program, arranged and emceed by Black History Subcommittee Chair Thelma D. Jones, was full of impactful moments, from the wonderful music to the powerful story told by the main speaker, Ms. Janice "Jan" Adams, President and CEO, JMA Solutions. The night began with an opening performance by the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School Choir directed by Ms. Para Perry, which included a rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" that set the tone for the evening. The choir then performed a few other selections before handing the stage over to Commander Morgan Kane of the First District, who generously provided her time to introduce our main speaker after giving a short update on Metropolitan Police Department activity in the neighborhood.

Adams is an active community leader, entrepreneur and philanthropist who has called Southwest her home since 2002. She provided the audience with the powerful story of her upbringing and background, sharing adversities that she was able to overcome early in her life, allowing her to succeed in a long career with



Photo by Thelma Jones

Amidon-Bowen Elementary School choir and Benjamin Sands

the Air Force. This service then provided her the skills and knowledge to found a successful contracting firm, JMA Solutions, which has grown from a staff of one to one of the most successful contracting companies in the Washington Region. The company has won numerous awards and accolades since its founding, and has allowed Adams to give back generously to the community, including as an original corporate contributor to the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, among dozens of other organizations. Her inspirational story and effort-

less delivery were very well received by the audience, generating meaningful engagement.

Adams was followed by a rousing performance by Benjamin Sands, performer and veteran music teacher at Calvin Coolidge High School. Mr. Sands was raised in Southwest, was one of the earliest scholarship recipients from the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force, and still has the first saxophone he purchased thanks to that scholarship. Mr. Sands, accompanied by David Marsh on bass, shared several tunes and stories of his career, including the importance of that early support he received from the community.

The night ended with an update from Pepco regarding their Capitol Grid Project, which is a major initiative to update and strengthen the electrical grid in DC. This project will have a major impact on Southwest, as one of the main components will be run through the neighborhood. For more information, visit www.pepco.com/capitalgrid. Pepco also supplied refreshments for the evening and made themselves available to answer questions from the community members.

This was a successful and well-attended community meeting and the SWNA History Task Force members would like to thank all the participants for their time and talents.

Atlas Brew Works Chooses Navy Yard for Second Location

Coming Spring 2020

BY KATELYND ANDERSON

avy Yard is quickly becoming the destination for local breweries and will add another to the list when Atlas Brew Works, the Ivy City based brewery, expands to the neighborhood in Spring of 2020. First opened in 2012, Atlas Brew Works recently made national headlines by suing the federal government during the shutdown, when furloughed inspectors could not approve the "keg collars" of an apricot draft beer named The Precious One.

The expansion to Navy Yard means that Atlas Brew Works will become the first manufacturing brewery to have multiple locations within the District. For Nationals fans, the expansion will bring a familiar face to the neighborhood, as Atlas has a great relationship with the Nationals, thanks to the 1500 South Cap Lager, which has been brewed exclusively for the team since 2014.

The Navy Yard location will also

continue the company's reputation for being environmentally conscious. Unfortunately, unlike the Ivy City location, which as of August 2015 runs on 100% solar power, the use of solar panels was not an option. Instead, the team plans to purchase carbon offsets to mitigate their energy usage. Atlas Brew Works also packages their beer in cans rather than bottles, as the aluminum cans are 100% recyclable. The cans are also lighter to transport, even further reducing the usage of fossil fuels.

The new location at 1201 Half St., SE, is directly across from the Center Field Gate. It will have a total of 4,500 square feet, nearly double the size of its current location and will have a production capacity for 2,000 barrels, a tap room with 12 lines coming in at twice the size of the Ivy City location, outdoor seating, and a kitchen with a limited menu. In addition to the well-known brews like Blood Orange Gose, District Common and Dance of Days, the Navy Yard location will also have special releases that will only be available at the 1201 Half St. address.







Balfour Beatty Chosen as Prime Contractor for Wharf Phase II

BY CAROLINE CRAWFORD

offman-Madison Waterfront (HMW) has selected Balfour Beatty as the first general contractor partner to begin land-side construction of phase two of The Wharf. Balfour Beatty's role consists of work contracts for all horizontal and public spaces (site work, utilities, hardscape and parks), office buildings in parcels six and seven, and below-grade parking garages. Other elements of the project will be bid at a later date. During phase one of The Wharf, Balfour Beatty was selected to construct 525 Water St., 1000 Maine Ave., the expansion of The Fish Market and Banneker Overlook site redevelopment.

Elinor Bacon, HMW Partner leading The Wharf's efforts to provide community benefits, said "I am particularly pleased by the selection of Balfour Beatty because of the company's demonstrated commitment during its work on phase one to the hiring of DC residents and utilizing DC businesses. We look forward to working with them during phase two to meet or exceed phase one accomplishments." During phase one, Balfour Beatty and its sub-contractors hired a total of 51 DC residents, equating to 53 percent of the company's total new hires, and 39 DC apprentices, which was 54 percent of total new apprentices. Balfour Beatty paid a total of \$28.4 million in goods and services to DC businesses.

Maria Thompson, Senior Vice President of Construction at PN Hoffman, echoed this sentiment by stating that, "Community engagement is a priority for us, and as such it was part of the criteria for the general contractor selection process. Balfour Beatty demonstrated

a proven history of working to support and improve the communities in which it works through volunteerism, local hiring and contracting local businesses."

With Balfour Beatty on board, HMW is doubling down on its efforts to encourage participation of DC residents and in particular, residents of SW and near SE in all aspects of phase two: construction, apprenticeships, operations and housing. Launching that effort will be a District-wide job fair, sponsored by Councilmembers Charles Allen, Elyssa Silverman and Robert White at Arena Stage on April 17. Balfour Beatty will participate in the job fair, and Wharf property management, hospitality, retailers and restaurants have been invited.

Additionally, in late-summer, Balfour Beatty will have finalized many of its contracts with major sub-contractors, at which time HMW and its partners plan to host a follow-up job fair, focused specifically on construction work and on outreach to residents in SW and near SE. ANC 6D, members of The Wharf Community Benefits Committee, the DC Housing Authority, its Resident Councils and its Family Enhancement Center, the DC Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, the DC Department of Corrections, the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs, Councilmember Allen's office and others will play a critical role in the planning and outreach for this job fair. The Wharf is also working with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Task Force on Workforce Development and Adult Learning, under the leadership of Bruce Levine and Vic Sutton, and the DC Mentoring and Achievement Program, led by LeRoy Potts, Adom Cooper and Alyssa Casey.

DC Bike Ride Hits the Streets on May 18

BY PAULINA CHAPA

C Bike Ride is back on May 18 and we promise, you don't want to miss it! Serious cyclists and recreational bike riders alike will be able to cruise through the District car-free during the annual event. Riders will be able to weave through DC's most iconic sites including the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial.

Wondering what else you can see on the course? Here are our top 5 things you can expect on May 18:

- 1. The ride is all about fun and convenience. Don't have a bike? No problem! You have the option to include a Cannondale bike and a helmet rental as part of your registration for just \$12! No stress. No hassle. Just fun!
- 2. The course is designed for people to ride at their own pace. Feeling a little tired? No worries! Stop by the local flavor pitstops along the route and enjoy

- some grub before getting back on the saddle.
- 3. The sights on the course are unmatched. This is your chance to be a tourist in your own city. The course passes through some of the most iconic sights in DC entirely car-free. See your favorite monuments in a new way and snap a few pictures while you're at it.
- 4. Don't let the #FOMO get you! Trust us, this is the event of the Spring. Not only is it your only opportunity to ride the streets of DC on a bike, it's also a great opportunity to spend some time with friends and family in a unique way. Kids ages 3 to 7 are always free and youths under 17 are always 50% off.
- 5. Freebies! Every registration comes with a free #DCBikeRide water bottle. Pick up yours at the starting line and let the fun times roll!

Want to know more? Visit DCBikeRide. com, register today and let the fun times roll!



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John Bradshaw, Georgetown



Dr. Ernest Brown,



Steve Hage, Strategies for Independent Living



Jennifer Hammer,



Carlitta Harris, Right at Home



Elder Law PLC



Allison Kuchar, Capital Caring



Sandy Spring Bank



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Waterfront Village receives neither District nor Federal public funds.

Hat Trick for Amidon-Bowen Cheerleaders Citywide Champs for Third Year in a Row

BY ROSE SHELTON

n March 9, the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School cheerleaders solidified their place in history by winning the Elementary School DC Interscholastic Athletic Association (DCIAA) Cheerleading Championship for the third year in a row. They also won the DCIAA Cheerleading Grand Championship award for the second year in a row. The Grand Championship award is for having the highest score across all levels. Amidon-Bowen Elementary School Cheerleaders' overall score was higher than their middle school and high school counterparts.

Head coach Ms. Christina Shelton (no relation to Author) and assistant coach, Ms. Asia Goode, who are also teachers at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, believe they are not just cheer coaches, but life coaches. They make it a point to impress upon their cheerleaders that hard work, belief in self and the belief in one's cohorts is a worthwhile effort. The coaches use their opportunity, working with the cheerleaders, to build coping skills, strengthen life skills and build community on the team. These skills are nurtured in training and they are meant to be



Photo by Zoe Shelton

Amidon-Bowen Elementary School cheerleaders celebrate their victory

carried out in performances, in the classroom, on the playground and in life. The effects of this cultivation have established a cohesiveness of the team that manifests in a strength and closeness among the girls that shines bright in their performances. Their bond allows them to move in time with a sense of oneness. Their focus and diligence are ever present in every step, flip and hoist. Amidon-Bowen Elementary School's Cheerleaders proved that winning comes from a place of love, dedication and connection to the sport, the team and to self.

When Ms. Shelton was asked about her unbelievable triple win, she stated "I am elated that our girls once again were able to bring home a first-place win three years in a row. I was equally thrilled that they were voted Grand Champions. To have the highest score out of all schools, including middle and high school is a

high achievement. Assistant Coach Asia Goode and I pride ourselves in our team's efforts."

On April 13, the team will have the honor of marching in DC's 2019 Emancipation Day parade. "I do hope people will come and support our girls and celebrate their win," states Shelton. "Thank you to the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and Southwest community for your continued support."

There are many things to love about the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School students. Two of those things are their winning spirit and dedicated hearts in all that they do. In school, children should be given a place to grow, learn about themselves, and touch the energy of success. Through the dedication and pushing of strong leaders like the Amidon-Bowen cheerleading coaches, our children have once again succeeded in winning and rising amongst the stars.

The Amidon-Bowen community appreciates the hard work of all of the girls and coaches. Their work and challenges have been documented by Amidon-Bowen parent Willem Dicke. The documentary of the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School Champions can be viewed in the lobby of Amidon-Bowen Elementary School.











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The Southwester Page 8 April 2019



Each month check out the most recent issue of the paper for activities and games to help you discover SWDC! Have a suggestion? Email us: editor@ thesouthwester.com. Check out next month's issue for the answers!

Spot the difference!

Can you spot the 6 differences in the two scenes below?





Answers from March 2019 issue

Differences: The flowers are different in each photo; there are rain drops only in one photo; the clouds are different colors in each photo; there is a bird in only one photo; there is a sun only in one photo; there are two four-leaf clovers in one photo.

Word Scramble: You can make 749 words from "transportation."

Find the Southwest words!

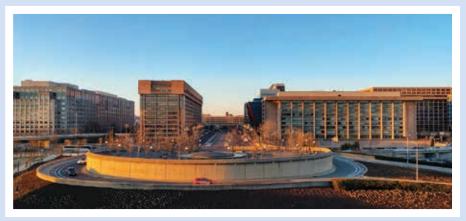
Ρ RE V Ι R K R Ι D \mathbf{L} U Μ 0 Ι В C Q ΜE Q D S Ε \mathbf{E} G \mathbf{E} Α m LR Ε F G Ν R D Ζ Χ Ε Ι 0 Μ S Α Ζ \mathbf{L} ΑL U В В D \mathbf{L} J \mathbf{E} \mathbf{L} Υ R Ν S VG Η Η Η \mathbf{F} E X EΝ CHANNELSQUARERO KRAPLOTIPACIOMG

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GREENLEAF HARBOUR SQUARE JAMES CREEK POTOMAC PLACE RIVERPARK RIVERSIDE

SYPHAX TIBER ISLAND TOWN SQUARE WATERSIDE

Photo Contest Winner: Gina Genis



A view of L'Enfant Plaza on a beautiful day

SW Neighborhood History Panel Presentation at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

ou are cordially invited to attend a panel presentation on the history of the SW neighborhood focusing on the dynamic character of the community. Speakers will include longtime SW residents Neal Pearce and Thelma Jones who will talk about their decades living in the neighborhood and their extensive involvement in the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. Carolyn Crouch, founder and president of Washington Walks, will focus on the unique architectural character of the neighborhood. Katelynd Mahoney Anderson's remarks will focus on historic preservation efforts and redevelopment in the community. The event will be moderated by Tom Sherwood. The presentation will be held in the Thurgood Marshall Gallery of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church (555 Water St., SW) on Mon., Apr. 29 at 7 p.m., and will conclude by 8:30 p.m. Presented by the District of Columbia Public Library in partnership with the Smithsonian Anacostia Neighborhood Museum's A Right to the City exhibit, the panel will explore the many changes that have affected the SW community from the mid-twentieth century until now. Sure to appeal to local history buffs, this presentation promises to be educational and entertaining.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Continued from p. 1

instead of the street side matching the west and east sides of 6th street; that a memorandum of understanding is reached with United Neighbors of Southwest (UNSW); and that one is reached with Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, which must be done within 30 days. The ZC hearing, to assess these terms, was held on March 28.

The property at 501 I St., SW consists of approximately 36,476 square feet of land. It will also include a second building called an "annex" which will house the STC fellows and actors, as well as costume, rehearsal and administrative space for STC. In total, 87% of the project would be residential and 13% would be cultural.

The main building will stand at four-stories, with a requested maximum height of 48 feet and include a habitable penthouse with 69 units for sale. Affordable housing within the project would consist of the minimum eight required: three 3-bedroom units, one 2-bedroom unit and one junior 1-bedroom unit. The 3-bedroom units are located near the overloading docks, which a member of the ZC remarked as "unfortunate" and these units are "put in places that you can't sell a market rate unit." The annex is requested to stand at 48 feet and 2 inches, standing right up to the property lines of other properties, including the

playgrounds at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School.

The Office of Planning recommended the passing of this PUD, and that it is comprehensive with the Small Area Plan. DDOT also had no concerns and recommended the passing of the PUD. The ANC also lent their support at the meeting. The United Neighbors of Southwest, who withdrew their advanced party application and their opposition to the project, testified neither in support of nor against the project. The memorandum of understanding was signed the night before the ZC hearing.

Other parties that testified included the Amidon-Bowen PTA, which highlighted that they had several concerns, though testified neither in support nor against the party, including voicing concerns regarding safety from an increase in vehicular traffic and the impact of the buildings on the playground, particularly the proximity of the building to the property line. Arena Stage testified in favor of the project, particularly with what it will provide the neighborhood in the arts sphere.

If approved, this project joins numerous other construction projects that would begin at roughly the same time. The next hearing that will include this project will be on April 29. "The Southwester" will continue to cover this story and others as the neighborhood continues to change.



Warm Up to Union Pie

BY MIKE GOODMAN

hat's better than eating pizza? Eating pizza outside.

'Tis the season to swing by Union Stage's pop-up pizza parlor, Union Pie, located near Transit Pier on The Wharf. Enjoy the spring weather while you place your order outside, and in 5-10 minutes you'll have a freshly made, steaming hot, thin-crust pizza. If you're dining solo, order the "half." If it's a date, split the "whole."

While some may think of a pop-up pizza joint as having no seating, that is actually far from the truth. In fact,

The Wharf is your oyster, with abundant seating, tables, benches and even swings. Enjoy the breeze and the crispy, cheesy goodness, together.

The Union Pie menu is short, but the chefs are happy to customize your pie if you like. The Hot and Sweet blends crispy, hot soppressata (think, big pepperoni), serrano peppers and honey. Some like it hot, so hold the honey.

If you don't like it hot, indulge in the White pie, with a sweet and savory mix of caramelized onion, roasted garlic, three cheeses (including freshly-shaved Romano), and an olive oil and sweet balsamic reduction drizzled over a topping of fresh arugula. Traditional pizza restaurants serve salad and pizza as two separate dishes. That is so primitive.



The White pie, with a lot of green, and you can't beat the

al Cheese and Tomato, Pepperoni, and Grilled Veggie pizzas, and none will disappoint. The secret sauce to the Union Pie taste is the fresh ingredients, the crispy thin-crust and the sizzling meat or vegetables. They have taken the basic, upped the quality and made it excellent.

Unlike many of the restaurants on The Wharf, Union Pie works well for families and casual diners. For most of the pies, the "half" is \$8 and the "whole" is \$14. A family of four could eat for under \$30, all while enjoying seating by the water and the sights and scenes that we have come to know so well on the Channel.

In addition, Union Pie stays open late during Anthem shows and on public event nights, and just might be the best option on the strip for an affordable and delicious late-night meal. The pie is definitely worth a try, and I think you'll like it.



Dive Into "Junk" at Arena Exclusive Interview with Perry Young

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

rena Stage is presenting Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Ayad Akhtar's "Junk" from April 5 to May 5. Inspired by the 1980's junk bond giants, this is about "the riveting, hostile takeover of a familyowned manufacturing company [that] paved the way to expose the rise of greed, power, race and wealth that led to reshaping the rules of Wall Street and the world."

We spoke with Perry Young, who plays Raúl Rivera, the ruthless lawyer who helps Robert Merkin take over his family business.

Some of the fictional characters in "Junk" have been inspired by real life people with names that are alliterations of the actual. For example, Junk bond trader Merkin might be like Mr. Milkin; Arbitrageur Boris Pronsky like Ivan Betsky; and the US Attorney Giuseppe Addesso like Rudolf Giuliani. Who do you feel is the attorney that inspired your character, Raúl Rivera?

True, there are some serious parallels between the characters in the play to their real-life counterparts.

In doing my own research, I came



Photo by Tony Pow

(L to R) Perry Young (Raúl Rivera), Thomas Keegan (Robert Merkin), Kashayna Johnson (Jacqueline Blount), Nancy Sun (Judy Chen), Edward Gero (Thomas Everson Jr.) and David Andrew MacDonald (Leo Tresler) in "Junk" at Arena Stage

across the name Richard Sandler several times in connection to Michael Milken. They grew up together in California, went to high school together and were even in the same fraternity. Later, Sandler worked as a personal lawyer for Milken, as well as being a consultant for Drexel. Additionally, he

See "Junk" page 15

Petalpalooza Returns April 6

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

n Saturday, April 6 from noon to 9:30 p.m., Petalpalooza returns to The Wharf for its second year. The event features live music on three outdoor stages, interactive art installations, larger-than-life games and activities, a beer garden, free product giveaways, a spectacular fireworks show by Pyrotecnico, and much more along the piers of the Southwest Waterfront.

Enjoy more than nine energetic hours of live music on three waterfront stages, including the Main Stage, the Centennial Stage and the Acoustic Lounge. Performers include White Ford Bronco, a local favorite 90's cover band; Broke Royals, named one of the best up-and-coming bands in DC by CBS News; and Austin Ellis, a Maryland native made famous on "The Voice."

Throughout the day, guests can play a game of Giant Jenga, plant a flower and decorate a pot, take a floral photo, and watch a car transform with blossoms as it is painted by WANADA—Art of Motion.

Four-legged-friends can also join the fun thanks to a pet comfort station, offering shade, water and relief for dogs. Fireworks cap the evening at 8:30 p.m., where a dazzling, choreographed display of more than 4,000 effects will light up the Southwest night sky.

The fireworks display may be viewed from all locations within the event, with the best views being on District and Transit



Photo by Doug Van Sant

Petalpalooza fireworks are on April 6 starting at 8:30 p.m.

Piers, and Wharf Street. The fireworks can also be viewed from East Potomac Park.

Petalpalooza is presented by CHASE and hosted by The Wharf, with support by Mars Petcare and its Better Cities for PetsTM program. Additional supporters include Hilton, Temple University and LaCroix. Media partners are 97.1 WASH-FM and 98.7 WMZQ.

The event is part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, held from March 20 to April 14. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information, or check out Facebook (CherryBlossomFestival), Twitter (@CherryBlossFest) or Instagram (@CherryBlossFest).



NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL



PRESENTED BY CHASE



JOIN US SATURDAY, APRIL 6 FROM 12 - 9:30 PM

FIREWORKS AT 8:30 PM

For live music, interactive art installations, activities, a beer garden, a spectacular fireworks show, free product giveaways, and much more!

Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/event/petalpalooza to learn more.

PRESENTED BY

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MEDIA PARTNERS

97.1 WASH-FM 98.7 WMZQ

Closest Metro: L'Enfant Plaza or Waterfront wharfdc.com/getting-here for more options



Take Metrobus & Metrorail





Meet Idania Arteaga—SWBID Environmental Ambassador

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

Idania Arteaga is one of the new SWBID employees, having joined the team eight months ago. When asked how she found the

job, she shared that she was working at AutoZone and one day, Delante Chloe, the SWBID Special Ops Supervisor featured in the Feb. issue of "The Southwester," came into the store. She was intrigued by his uniform and asked him about his job. He talked to her about the SWBID and she knew she wanted to work there. The rest is history.

Idania was born in El Salvador but came to America when she was 10 years old. She has lived in DC for most of her life. She attended Columbia Heights Educational Campus and graduated from Trinity Washington University where she majored in criminal justice. Her future goal is to work for the Metropolitan Police Department.



Photo Courtesy of SWBID

SWBID COO Andre Witt says: "Idania has been a rock solid employee of the BID, and she has been a tremendous help with respect to staff communications. She has proven to be a valuable employee from day one and her ultimate goal is to become a supervisor. We are very fortunate to have her on our team. She is definitely an employee on the rise."

Idania's Favorites:

Movie: Netflix's "Evil Genius: The True Story of America's Most Diabolical Bank Heist"

Music: Loves it all

Sports team: Real Madrid (the Spanish soccer team)

SW spot: The fish market at The Wharf
Best thing about her job: Idania loves the

energy of Southwest, being out in the fresh air, watching the cyclists and greeting visitors.

Proudest moment: Becoming a big sister (her little sister is 2 years old!)

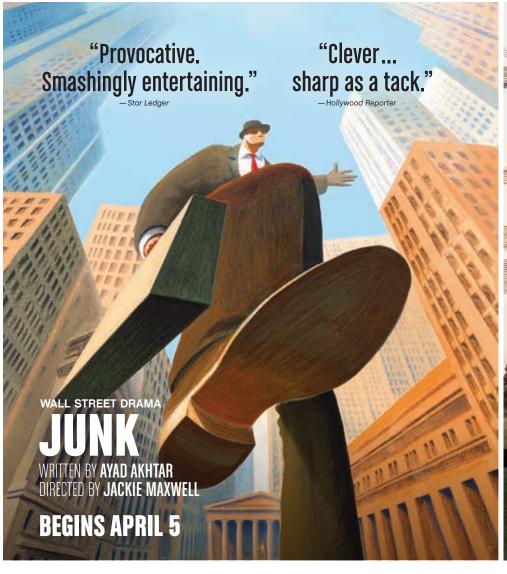
Favorite quote: "Where there's a will, there's a way."

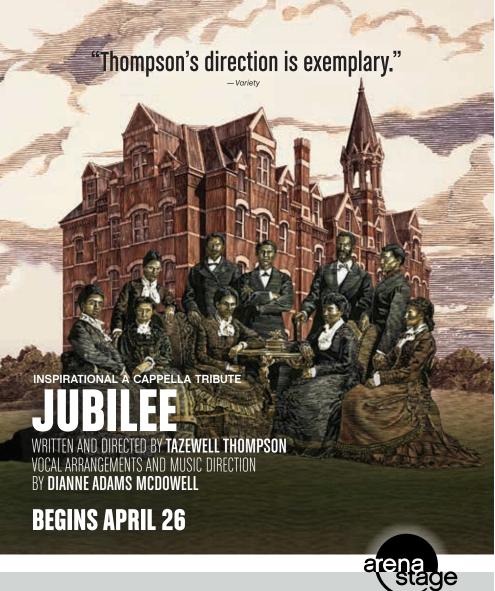
So when you're out and about, be sure to say hello to Idania!

Washington Channel Water Cleanup

Throughout March, volunteers and organizations worked together to clean up the Channel along the Southwest Waterfront. The coalition removed over 200 yards of trash and debris, reducing pollution, removing safety hazards to boats and enhancing the recreation of SW residents and visitors.







the mead center for american theater

Sounds of Southwest: Jazz Night at Westminster Church

BY REV. BRIAN HAMILTON

his past January, Jazz Night at Westminster Church celebrated its 20th anniversary. In 1999, some members and friends of Westminster decided to host jazz concerts as a way of bringing people together, injecting another lively art form into the Southwest community and celebrating jazz as the great American treasure that it is. We solicited the help of Dick Smith and Earl Banks, two champions of DC jazz, who had worked with a group called "Lettumplay." Jazz Night has presented weekly performances every Friday evening, 6-9 p.m., accepting a \$5 donation at entry, for all these years with only four exceptions due to blizzards. From a few dozen people in attendance the first couple weeks, the program has grown to welcome a weekly average of approximately 250, creating a lively, boisterous, engaged audience that collaborates with the musicians to bring the music to life. From the start, an affordable fish-fry, soul-food dinner has been offered which further facilitates a comfortable environment to meet new friends and catch-up regularly.

DC has always had a substantial jazz community. A common narrative for older players was the journey from rural origins, to military service in bands, to arriving in DC continuing that service and frequently teaching in public schools or local universities while continuing their jazz studies.



Photo by Rodd Tr

Thad Wilson performs at Jazz Night

The University of the District of Columbia, Howard University, University of Maryland and American University, among others, all have excellent jazz programs. A plethora of clubs and concert venues sustained the DC jazz scene for generations. As the economy has shifted, many of these historic places are now closed. While jazz, like other art forms, experiences highs and lows, Jazz Night filled an important gap when it started and many of the stalwart DC jazz community patrons found their way to Westminster and support it faithfully. Important Youth Jazz programs like those shepherded by Davy Yarborough (Washington Jazz Arts Institute), Paul Carr (Jazz Academy of Music) and Michael Bowie (Blues Alley Youth Jazz Orchestra) offer opportunities for teenagers to get an early start in the arduous discipline of jazz. DC is rich in jazz talent.

Southwest, especially "Old Southwest"

before urban renewal, housed numerous important jazz venues. Bruce Wahl's "Showboat" and the "Stardust Lounge" are notable among them. Channel Inn, Gaucho's and later, the Mandarin Hotel presented jazz for various lengths of time; all now no longer standing or functioning. During times of Jim Crow segregation, jazz served as an important force for community pride and coherence. Mr. Joe Jackson, born at 6th & Union Streets in Old Southwest (near the Waterfront), recalls that when Duke Ellington came to town to play ritzy downtown venues, neighborhood folks stayed home and played jazz and shared fried fish in corner stores or someone's living room. Historically, jazz has been an important product of, and resource for, the African American community. Westminster has always taken great pleasure in being able to support this vitally important cultural force. Racial and ethnic sensitivity and diversity must be nurtured; jazz has certainly made profound contributions to this important challenge.

Part of what makes Jazz Night unique is the unwavering commitment made to local jazz and its players. From the start, the church has made a commitment to "straight-ahead" jazz which hails from the swing tradition while incorporating bebop, hard-bop and mid-century innovations, all remaining in the "acoustic" tradition (apologies to Kenny G). The Jazz

night stage has always been restricted to local, DC area musicians to prevent local talent from being displaced by more nationally known artists out on tour. The case of Buck Hill expresses why: a DC native with jazz skills rivalling those of Coltrane, Monk, Miles or any other, he decided to forgo a professional career on the road to lead a more settled life at home in DC where he raised his family. He took a job as a mail carrier but took his saxophone to work, practicing during breaks and often playing for kids on the street while making his delivery rounds. He became known as the "Wailin' Mailman." So many others have contributed to our local communities, making jazz an essential part of DC's rich cultural landscape. We always want to support that!

Jazz Night largely defines its mission as cultural preservation, continuing and advancing the power of jazz. This is done through various outreach and interpretational activities where we present and document the rich heritage of DC jazz. Chief among these is "Thinking About Jazz," a bi-monthly presentation on important jazz pioneers, movements and issues on the last Saturday of every other month beginning in Feb. Local jazz scholars, writers and programmers offer inspiring presentations that allow us to dig deep into the heritage of jazz. For more information about Jazz Night, check out www.westminsterdc.org.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

MON 1, 7 P.M. A Great Day In Harlem. Jazz on the Silver Screen: A film series in recognition of Jazz Appreciation Month. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

TUES 2, 1 P.M. Coffee & Conversation. Adults are invited to meet and share thoughts, ideas and community over a cup of coffee and pastry as we welcome library users from all walks of life. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

THURS 4, 7-8:30 P.M. Celebrating Lent: Labyrinth Walk & Guided Meditation with live Chamber music. All Welcome. Westminster Presbyterian Church, I & 4th St., SW

FRI 5, 3 P.M. Silhouette Art Project. Looking for something to do on this day off from school? Come make silhouette art. Instructions provided; appropriate for ages 3+. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

FRI 5, 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

SAT 6, 10:30 A.M.-Noon. Komen Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development that holds meetings every 1^{st} and 3^{st} Saturdays. All are welcome. Contact www.toastmasters.org for information on membership and fees. Westminster Presbyterian Church

SAT 6, 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

SAT 6, 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, 202-724-4752

SUN 7, 8-9 A.M. Bread for Life, followed by a 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School, then 11 A.M. Coffee Hour and Way of Love: Lenten Discussion Group, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

SUN 7, 3 P.M. "A View from the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer" is a one-person play featuring Bonhoeffer awaiting execution in Nazi Germany, and his impact on the German resistance movement in the 1940's. Free admission. Discussion around anti-semitism and racism follows the play. Riverside Church, 7th St. and Maine Ave., SW

MON 8, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Monthly Business Meeting. 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd Floor, www.anc6d.org

MON 8, 7 P.M. Tradition is a Temple. Jazz on the Silver Screen: A film series in recognition of Jazz Appreciation Month. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW 202 774 4752

TUES 9, 11 A.M.-3 P.M. Happy at Home aging-in-place event presented by Waterfront Village. Panel discussions, exhibits, a light lunch buffet, and guest speaker Matt Paxton of A&E's "Hoarders." Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW. \$25; free for Village Members with advance registration. Call 202-656-1834 for more information or see www.dcwaterfrontvillage.org/calendar

THURS 11, Noon-1 P.M. Labyrinth Walk. Join us for a personal, meditative and reflective labyrinth walk. Lenten materials available. Bring socks. All invited. Free to the public. Westminster Presbyterian Church

THURS 11, 4 P.M. Waterfront Village informational meeting for prospective members and volunteers in our neighborhood senior supportive services organization, with light refreshments. 1250 4th St., SW. Call 202-360-9483 for more information or see www.dcwaterfrontvillage.org/join

FRI 12, 8-9:30 A.M. Councilmember Charles Allen. Join Councilmember Allen for his regular office hours at Safeway, 4th St., SW. Feel free to invite paidshor.

FRI 12, 3 P.M. Blackout Poetry. You're a poet, even if you don't know it! Children are invited to celebrate National Poetry Month with blackout poetry. Instructions provided; appropriate for ages 6+. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

SAT 13, 3 P.M. Tissue Paper Flower Craft. Children are invited to design and create beautiful flower bouquets using tissue paper. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW 202-774-4752

SAT 13, 7 P.M. Faith & Film presents "Red Tails" PG13 2hrs.5min Released 1/12. Remembering the struggle and honoring the service of the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-Black World War II unit. Movie shown with subtitles for the hearing impaired. Westminster Presbyterian Church

SUN 14, 8-9 A.M. Bread for Life, followed by 9:30 A.M. Palm Sunday— Holy Eucharist & Sunday School, then 11 A.M. Coffee Hour and Way of Love: Lenten Discussion Group, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

SUN 14, 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 15, 7 P.M. Buena Vista Social Club. Jazz on the Silver Screen: A film series in recognition of Jazz Appreciation Month. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

TUES 16, Noon-1 P.M. Labyrinth Walk. Join us for a personal, meditative and reflective labyrinth walk. Lenten materials available. Bring socks. All invited. Free to the public. Westminster Presbyterian Church

WED 17, Noon-2 P.M. Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter 4751. Welcomes current AARP Members, prospective members, guests, neighbors and visitors to our Spring Luncheon Business Meeting. River Park Mutual Homes South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW, Street Parking available and Waterfront Metro, (Green Line) two blocks away. Lunch Available: \$5. For further information contact Chapter President, Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyieantolbertiones@vahoo.com or 202-554-0901

WED 17, 6:30 P.M. Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Sup-

port Group Meeting. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water St., SW. Guest Speaker Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Economist and Author and President, Economic Education, will discuss the Economics of Breast Cancer. To RSVP or for more information, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639

THURS 18, 10:30 A.M. Decorate Your Space Craft. Looking for something to do on this day off from school? Children are invited to design and decorate triangle flag banners and paper chains to take home. Instructions and materials provided; appropriate for ages 6+. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

THURS 18, 6:30-8 P.M. Interfaith Seder Celebration. Join us in remembering the Passover with Cantor remarks, Passover elements and family style buffet. Please RSVP by 4/16 at wpcdcoffice@gmail.com or call 202-484-7700. All welcome. Westminster Presbyterian Church

THURS 18, 7-10 P.M. Maundy Thursday service with Foot Washing, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

FRI 19, 3 P.M. Color Club. Looking for something to do on this day off from school? Come color with us! Fun coloring pages and utensils provided; appropriate for children ages 1+. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

FRI 19, 8 P.M. Easter Vigil, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

SAT 20, 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

SAT 20, 3 P.M. Family Board Game Day. Children and their families are invited to play board games of their choosing. Prizes available. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 200, 730, 4772

SUN 21, 8-9 A.M. Bread for Life. Followed by 10 A.M. Easter Sunday— Festive Easter Eucharist & Sunday School following Coffee Hour and Egg Hunt

SUN 21, 10 A.M. Easter Breakfast. Free Will Donation Accepted. Easter Jazz Service with Bobby Felder's Big Band. 12:15 P.M. Children's Easter Egg Hunt. All Invited! Westminster Preshyterian Church

MON 22, 7 P.M. Sweet Smell of Success. Jazz on the Silver Screen: A film series in recognition of Jazz Appreciation Month. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

THURS 25, 6:45 P.M. ABC Committee, ANC6D. Alcohol license applications, renewals, enforcement and other issues. To be added to email list for agenda & notifications contact Coralie Farlee, Chair, ABC Committee, 202-554-4407, cfarlee@mindspring.com. Harbor Patrol, 550 Water St., SW

FRI 26, 3 P.M. Magic Wand Craft. Children are invited to design and decorate their own magic wand—just don't turn the librarian into a frog! Instructions and materials provided; appropriate for ages 3+. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

SAT 27, 1-3 P.M. Thinking About Jazz presents "Billie Eckstine"
Documentary footage and discussion on the life of Billy Eckstine known for his debonair appearance and suave voice. Jazz scholar and radio programmer, Guy Middleton, will deliver this fascinating presentation. Light lunch served. Westminster Presbyterian Church

SAT 27, 1:30 P.M. Southwest Book Discussion, copies of this month's title, "DC Jazz" by Maurice Jackson and Blair Ruble, are available at the information desk. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752

SAT 27, 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, 202-724-4752

MON 29, 7 P.M. Southwest Neighborhood History Panel Discussion. Four panelists will discuss the impact of development on the Southwest Neighborhood at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water St. SW

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ADULT BEGINNER TENNIS, Thursdays and Fridays, 6:30-8:30 P.M., All Ages, Randall Recreation Center

ADULT BEGINNER TENNIS, Saturdays, 1-2 P.M. Ages 18+, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St., SW

ADULT INTERMEDIATE TENNIS, Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 P.M., Randall

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 Episconal 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 6-12, Michelle Edmonds, 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

BABY/TODDLER STORY TIME. Mondays, 10:30 A.M. Join us for fun songs, finger plays, baby bounces and rhymes as we work together to develop early literacy skills. Designed for children ages birth to 2 years and their caregivers. Playtime follows story time each week. 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

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 PRAYER, Thursdays, 11:45 A.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal

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 dopation

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

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

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

DRAGONBOAT, Saturdays, 9-10:30 A.M. DC Dragon Boat Club hosts beginners practice every Saturday unless races are that weekend. Register prior to first practice at https://www.meetup.com/Dragon-Boat-Club/ and you must complete waiver at dcdragonboat.org

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

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!

FITNESS BOOTCAMP, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5-6 P.M., Ages
7-12 Randall Recreation Center

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

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

FLAG FOOTBALL, Mondays-Fridays, 6-9 P.M., Ages 9-12, David Freeman, Randall Recreation Center, 25 "I" Street SW

FLAG FOOTBALL, Mondays-Fridays, 6-9 P.M., Ages 11-12, David Freeman, Randall Recreation Center **FLAG FOOTBALL, Thursdays, 6-7 P.M.,** Ages 14+, Nathaniel Green,

King Greenleaf Recreation Center

FRIDAY NIGHT FISHING, 5:30-8:30 P.M. Free event for kids and fami-

lies, 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 18+, Volunteer, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

HOT BREAKFAST SERVED, 10 A.M. Freewill Donation Accepted. All Welcome. Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

JUNIOR BEGINNER TENNIS, Mondays, Wednesday and Friday, 3:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M. All ages. Randall Recreation Center

JUNIOR BALLET, Monday-Fridays, 3:30-4:30 P.M., Ages 6-13, Shaunte Anthony, Randall Recreation Center

KEYS TO FREEDOM N/A Group, Tuesdays, Noon-1 P.M. St. Augus-

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 3st Saturday, 10:30 A.M.-Noon. All are welcome. Details at: https://www.toastmasters.org/Find-a-Club/00008714-00008714, Westminster Pres-

MACHINE PITCH, Monday and Wednesdays, 6-7 P.M., Ages 6-13, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

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

NEW TEEN CHAT, Thursdays, 4:30 P.M. Teens ages 13-19 are invited to meet for snacks and conversation. SW Library **PANCAKE BREAKFAST, Sundays, 8-8:45 A.M.** St. Augustine's Episcopal

Church

PICKLE BALL, Tuesdays, 10:30 A.M.-1 P.M. Ages 55+, Volunteer, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, Wednesdays, 10:30 A.M. Join us for books, songs, rhymes and finger plays as we continue to strengthen early literacy

skills while enjoying stories together. Playtime follows story time each week. Designed for children ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers. SW Library

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

RESISTANCE BIBLE STUDY, 10-10:45 A.M. All Welcome! Westminster

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+, Lykeyia Lucas, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

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

ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Sundays, 9:30 A.M., Holy Eucharist and Sunday School, 202-554-3222, 555 Water St., SW

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

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

caregiver. SW Library

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

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

TEE BALL, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6 P.M., Ages 3-5, Chamia Day, Randall Recreation Center

TEE BALL, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-7 P.M., Upper youth ages, Nathaniel Green, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

TEEN CHAT, Thursdays, 4:30 P.M., Teens ages 13-19 are invited to talk about issues big and small 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, 1-2:00 P.M. All ages. King Greenleaf Recreation Center,

TENNIS ADULT BEGINNER, Saturday, 1-2 P.M. Ages 18+, King

Greenleaf Recreation Center **TENNIS JUNIOR BEGINNER, Saturday, 11 A.M.-Noon** Ages 6-13, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

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

TINY TOT BALLET, Saturdays, 10:15 A.M.-11:15 A.M., Ages 3-5, Alexis P. Miller, Randall Recreation Center

TINY TOTS NEED RECREATION TOO, Thursdays & Fridays, 10:30-11:30 A.M. Ages 1-3 years, Michelle Edmonds, King Greenleaf Recreation

TINY TOT SOCCER, Saturdays, 11 A.M. -12 Noon, Ages 5-13, Randall Recreation Center

TINY TOT TENNIS, Mondays, 4-5 P.M. Ages 18 & up, Randall Recreation

TTNRT! Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30 A.M-11:30 A.M., Karenna Houser-Hall. 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, 5:30-7:30 P.M. Ages 6-14, Michelle Edmonds & Akaya Miller-Daye, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

ZUMBA, Mondays-Friday, 6-9 P.M. Ages 7-8, David Freeman, Randall Recreation Center

Artechouse's In Peak Bloom is Good While it Lasts

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

n Peak Bloom at Artechouse reminds us how precious and fleeting life is. It is a spring celebration of the wonder of cherry blossoms, with their fragile beauty and ephemeral nature.

The digital installations take their inspiration from the iconic form of the cherry blossoms, as well as their traditional symbolism. The theme of "ephemerality" features prominently in the exhibition. Like the short-lived period of "peak bloom," many of the works call our attention to the passing of time, momentary exchanges and the impermanence that characterizes all life on Earth.

Hana Fubuki in the Main Gallery refers to "Sakura snow," or the way cherry blossoms resemble a gentle snowfall or a swirling blizzard when blown away by the wind. This installation created by Akiko Yamashita depicts what is invisible to the naked eye, such as the passing of time. The gestures and movements of audience

Photos Courtesy of Artechouse

members become the wind that powers this installation, which combines with the woodblock print techniques of traditional Ukiyo-e art with 3D animations and interactive technology to bring the landscape to life.

Blooming in Gallery One takes the form of a life-size cherry blossom tree which responds to physical contact between participants who stand before it. When they hold hands or embrace, the

it withers. Korean-American artist Lisa Park uses biometric sensors, such as heart rate and brain wave sensors, in this work to highlight the

tree flourishes; when they release,



importance of presence and physical connection in our lives.

Akousmaflore et Lux in Gallery Two is an audio-visual interactive installation created by Scenocosme7. A small garden

composed of living musical plants react to gentle contact in different ways to produce a specific sound. The plant "language" or song occurs through touch and the close proximity of the spectator. The plants sing when the audience is touch-

ing or lightly stroking them, creating a plant concert.

Enchanted Garden in the Media Galleria is by Design Foundry. Inspired by Shinto's belief in the sacred divinity inherent in all things, the enchanted garden uses a mix of natural and recycled mediums such as metal, felt, sand and straw, interwoven with resin and wood, to create a place for visitors to escape the outside world. Through augmented reality, the installation tells the Japanese folk legend *The Rabbit in the Moon*.

On view March 20 through May 27, at Artechouse, located at 1238 Maryland Ave., SW. Admission hours and ticket prices vary. See additional details at www.dc.artechouse.com.

JUNK

Continued from p. 10

is now currently a Trustee and Executive Vice President of the Milken Family Foundation.

Given Raúl Rivera's standing in "Junk," I think there's a high likelihood that he was inspired by Sandler.

"Junk" promises to be thoughtprovoking, leaving the audience unsettled. What did you initially think of this play? Has being in rehearsals and developing your character changed any preconceptions?

Oh man! I think it's safe to say that my perspective on the play in regard to my character has taken many turns since rehearsals started.

When I first read the play, I was struck by how well each character is able to brilliantly present their ideology and worldview. And for characters that I might find morally reprehensible, I really struggled with the fact that I agreed with a lot of the points they were making.

My character is a perfect example of that—a sharp, cunning and ruthless law-yer who is willing to bend and even break the rules to ensure he and his client come out on top. As an actor, I relish the opportunity to play a character that operates by a completely different set of rules and ideals, even if I have a serious issue with their actions.

But on day one of rehearsals, I come to find out that the playwright intended my character to be one of the protagonists!

I think that really speaks to the brilliant writing and how even flawed characters can ultimately still be viewed in a positive light. This definitely has the possibility of leaving an audience unsettled with who they end up personally siding with.

Compared to your other roles in television and on stage like the musical "In the Heights," for which you won

an award, this will be your first time performing at Arena. What has that been like?

I am completely and utterly blown away by the production quality and attention to detail here at Arena. It's a complete joy to go to work—and trust me, that is not always the case. They have set us up amazingly well by creating an environment of safety and comfortability, and now it's our job to translate that into a successful show.

This play is allowing me to dive into a text that is rarely found in television or musical theater, and really flex a different kind of acting muscle that I'm thrilled to work. The audience is likely to include lawyers, some probably like the one you portray, as well as other corporate types. What are your thoughts on that? What do you hope they take away?

I have definitely been hyper-aware that my character exists in the world, and that I will likely be holding a mirror to some in our audience. I think it will be very interesting to see how he is perceived, and while I have my own personal bias, my job is to create a three-dimensional character, flaws and all.

He is right, he is wrong, he is loyal to a fault, and in many ways, he comes out victorious in the end. But the big question I hope they walk away with is: What are you

willing to sacrifice in order to win?

Anything else to add about working with this show, this company, this director?

Jackie Maxwell is a genius. Well, maybe like a mad scientist! She has refreshingly honest and direct way of communicating her vision, without being pretentious or overbearing. It's been an absolute dream working with her and my fellow cast mates. I feel that we've already established a phenomenal rapport, and the level of talent on that stage is astounding.

I am so thankful to Arena for the opportunity to present this piece that is meaty and relevant, especially now in the current state of our country.







HOMETOWN HERO

Happy birthday to Southwest's own late, great Marvin Gaye, who would have celebrated his 80th on April 2.

