



Courtesy of Perry Klein

Mayor Bowser, Councilmembers Charles Allen and Anita Bonds, along with other community leaders cut the ribbon in The Aya's dining room. Families are expected to begin arriving in March.

The Aya Opens to a Packed House

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

On Friday, Feb. 21, Mayor Bowser, Councilmembers Charles Allen and Anita Bonds, along with several other department heads cut the ribbon in front of a packed house at The

Aya, Ward 6's new short-term family housing.

The speakers gave credit to the ANC, the community working group and neighbors at Capital Park Condominium that constructively worked to shape

the project. Tours of the facility were given after the ceremony.

There is no outdoor play area. Instead, each floor has a room designated as a children's play area, which is open to

See "Aya," page 6

Washington Justice Debuts at The Anthem, Bringing Something for Everyone

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER



Courtesy of the Washington Justice.

The Washington Justice takes the stage against London Spitfire

On Feb. 22-23, D.C.'s new professional esports team, the Washington Justice, hosted their first homestand with several other teams from around the world over at The Anthem. Not your traditional sports venue with traditional athletes, though serious hand-eye coordination and a regular workout regimen are part of the game, this was Overwatch League (OWL) – a first-person shooter esports (electronic sports) competition.

In esports, the physical activity is mostly limited to rapid eye movements and some skillfully furious mouse work. Above them on the stage, in stark con-

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ABES SPELLING BEE

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CORDIAL KEEPS IT LOCAL

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LIBRARY GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

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POCKET CHANGE RECIPIENT

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Courtesy of Author

Physicist Mark Cheung discusses the Mysteries of the Sun

Spring Lectures: Exploring Space at Air and Space Museum

BY UNA YARSKY

While the Air and Space Museum undergoes construction, they continue to provide free programs for the public to enjoy and learn. One such program is the *Exploring Space Lecture Series*. In this series, the museum invites a variety of different specialists to come and explore the universe's greatest mysteries. The series consists of four lectures that explain and challenge the scientific community's questions about the cosmos.

Three more lectures will take place over the following three months. The next lecture, "More Things in the Heavens: Infrared Exploration with the Spitzer

Space Telescope," presented by Michael Werner, a Spitzer Space Telescope project scientist, takes place on March 18.

On April 24, "When Did the Universe Begin?" presented by Wendy Freedman, John and Marion Sullivan University Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago.

And finally, "Seeing the Unseeable: Capturing an Image of a Black Hole," presented by Sheperd Doleman, director of the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration – held on May 14.

The most recent lecture, "The Sun in a New Light," was presented by Mark Cheung, a physicist at the Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center, on Feb. 11. The series is supported by the Aerojet

Rocketdyne and United Launch Alliance.

Cheung presented mesmerizing new photos of the sun while explaining its significance and beauty. He described the sun's newly discovered electromagnetic wavelengths, its violent and incredible solar storms, and its relationship with the earth. The lecture included spectacular graphics and state of the art photographs of our closest but still mysterious star. The audience listened and had the opportunity to ask questions of their own at the end of the lecture. This experience is both educational and completely free, only requiring a ticket to attend.

To find out more about this fascinating series, visit the Air and Space Museum website at airandspace.si.edu/.

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Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter Will Host Donna Purchase

On Wednesday, March 18, the Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter #4751 will host Donna Purchase, President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly at a noon luncheon business meeting:

Program Part I – Business Meeting and Celebration of Women's History Month

Program Part II – A Community Audience With Donna Purchase

Everyone is welcome to join, to hear about and learn how to become involved with the very important SWNA com-

munity matters, programs, and initiatives in support of and benefitting the Southwest population and all of the residents of Washington, D.C.

Location: River Park Mutual Homes South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20024. Street Parking available and Waterfront Metro, (Green Line) two blocks away.

Lunch is available at a cost of \$5.

For further information contact Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or call 202-554-0901.

Botanic Garden Turns 200

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

What better way to celebrate a 200th anniversary than to launch a new exhibit? The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) will kick off its year-long celebration with “The U.S. Botanic Garden at 200: Deeply Rooted, Branching Outward,” on display Feb. 20 – Oct. 15 in the Conservatory’s East and West Galleries.

Historic 3D images of the Garden can be viewed through historic 1800s stereoscope photos of the Garden. There will be programs about plant exploration through the years with botanical challenges in a set evoking a scientist’s station in an 1800s exploration ship.

There will also be a life-size bronze sculpture of the infamous corpse flower created especially for the Garden!

Rooted in history, the vision of the Founding Fathers was for a botanic garden that would promote the importance of plants. USBG is the oldest continuously operating botanic garden in the United States.

Executive director Saharah Moon Chapotin extends the invitation to all visitors “Whether it’s to spend a quiet moment in our beautiful conservatory and gardens, to discover the tastes

and textures of new food plants, or to learn about how plants contribute to a more sustainable planet and to come away with a greater appreciation for the natural world.”

“Discover the World of Orchids” will be on display in the Conservatory Feb. 28 – May 3, in collaboration with Smithsonian Gardens. Orchids have been in the Garden’s collection since the 1800s and now form the Garden’s largest specialty plant collection. A custom rope art installation by artist Susan Beallor-Snyder will debut in the Garden Court during the orchid show.

Additional exhibits this year will continue the historic celebration theme, including a special outdoor display on the Terrace this summer, highlighting how American garden design has changed over the course of the USBG’s 200 years. The Garden’s annual holiday show will also celebrate the Garden’s bicentennial.

In the fall, the Friends of the U.S. Botanic Garden will host a celebratory event Oct. 13 with food, live music, and a special guest speaker to be named in coming months.

To learn more about these exhibits and events, see historic images, find and register for programs, and plan a visit to the Garden, visit USBG.gov.

D.C. JazzFest Heads to Southwest

BY GUY ALDRIDGE

This June, there will be many places to hear great jazz in Southwest, as the D.C. JazzFest returns for its 16th year. The initial list of artists and acts set to perform at D.C. JazzFest, presented by Events D.C., was recently announced.

Headliners include Joshua Redman, Kenny Garrett, Cyrus Chestnut, Lakecia Benjamin, Pedrito Martinez, Eubanks-Evans-Experience, Donald Harrison, Antonio Hart, T.K. Blue, and Matt Wilson’s Honey & Salt.

D.C. JazzFest artistic director Willard Jenkins says, “In our 16th year we continue in our grand tradition of presenting a signature citywide festival – with programming taking place in more than 25 neighborhoods, much of it free of charge, at venues ranging from The Wharf, to the National Cathedral, to museum and community spaces, to vibrant clubs and restaurants across our nation’s capital.” The event will feature 165 performances in over 40 venues across Washington. The ten-day festival will take place from June 12 to 21.

SWNA Event Planner & Sweetheart, Bianca Kersellius!

BY DONNA PURCHASE

Meet Bianca Kersellius, a SWNA scholarship recipient. She graduated from Benjamin Banneker Academic HS in DC and then Penn State.

Bianca returned to DC after graduation to reunite with family and friends. She also knew that DC was a great way to jump start her career as a professional event planner.

Well...this is where we got lucky! Over the years, Bianca made friends with Vylorya Evans who introduced her to SWNA and the scholarship program. In college, she had a part-time job to help with expenses but says her SWNA scholarship relieved a lot of pressure.

Today, while in the process of launching her own event planning business, Bianca is in charge of event planning for SWNA. In addition to planning the monthly community meetings, she is working with the SW Strong Task Force planning this fall’s “Weather the Storm” festival, hosted by the Environmental Task Force. You’ll be hearing more about that in the coming months.

Bianca was born in Lynchburg, VA. Her grand and great-grandparents lived in DC



Courtesy of Author

Bianca Kersellius

and her family moved back to DC when she was an infant. She says that she is a dedicated Washingtonian and loves the city’s energy. She loves wine tasting, traveling, and experiencing multi-cultural foods. But, her favorite pastime is spending time with family and friends.



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Bee Champion Spells Out the Experience

BY GYSELLE MCLEAN

My name is Gyselle Mclean. I am 10 years old and I am a 4th grader at Amidon Bowen Elementary School. This year would be my 3rd year competing in the Amidon Bowen Elementary School spelling bee. I am the 1st place Winner of the 2019-2020 spelling bee.

My spelling bee experience has been extremely exciting and sometimes overwhelming. The spelling bee consists of 3rd through 5th grade students. The top 4 spellers from each class were able to participate in the spelling bee. I was elated to be one of the finalists.

Preparing for the spelling bee took a lot of time and focus. My favorite way to study is when my mom reads the words aloud and I try to spell them. After about two weeks of studying, I felt con-



Gyselle Mclean, Spelling Bee champ!

Courtesy of Perry Klein

fident to do my very best. The morning of the spelling bee I was very anxious and excited all at the same time. When I was getting my competition number and walking on stage, I saw my mom and my stepdad, and they gave me a two thumbs-up. Afterwards, everyone took their final second to get ready and we started to spell.

Once we were down to the two finalists, which was a 5th grader and me, we were going back and forth. That was until the 5th grader spelled his word incorrectly. But in order to win, I had to spell my last word correctly. My last word and my victory word were *Audience*.

At the end, all my hard work paid off. I would just like to thank my family, friends, and teachers for encouraging me to do my best and for lifting me up!

D.C. Cooperatives Mark 100th Anniversary

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The year 2020 marks the centennial of D.C.'s first housing cooperatives, commonly referred to as "co-ops." Mayor Muriel Bowser issued a proclamation congratulating the housing cooperatives in D.C. "...for their tremendous contributions to our world-class and culturally diverse city." One of the lesser-known stories of the city is the success of co-op housing. The District is second only to New York City in the concentration of housing co-ops. Owned and controlled by the people who live in them, co-ops are meant to engender a strong sense of community, with a focus on owner occupancy and participation of members in how the co-op is managed and administered.

To celebrate this milestone, the D.C. Cooperative Housing Coalition (Coalition) has released a 15-minute video entitled "The Good Life: 100 Years of Housing Cooperatives in Washington, D.C., 1920- 2020," chronicling the 100-year history and contributions of co-ops in the city. Southwest housing cooperatives Harbour Square (constructed in 1966), River Park (constructed in 1965), and Tiber Island (constructed in 1965 and converted from rental to co-op in 1982) were among the Coalition's founding member cooperatives in 1984. Capitol Hill Tower (2006) is also a member. A book is

also being written to document the history. The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1wcBu3F8vY>.

In addition to the video, the Coalition will mark this year's milestone with a series of special events including a day-long Smithsonian Associates tour of D.C. co-ops on May 2 and discounted tickets to Arena Stage's "Toni Stone" for May 30.

A co-op is a building that is owned by a housing cooperative corporation, which in turn is owned and controlled by the members of the cooperative, usually through a shareholder agreement. Each member's share of that ownership gives that person (or persons) the right to live in a specific apartment within the building, or complex of buildings, which are operated and maintained by the co-op association for the benefit of its resident-members—and in the long term, for the healthy ongoing existence of the cooperative.

D.C.'s housing cooperatives represent a cumulative valuation of nearly \$3 billion according to D.C.'s Office of Taxation and Revenues, with Harbour Square (4th), Capitol Hill Tower (7th), River Park (8th), and Tiber Island (9th) among the top ten most expensive housing valuations. The Westchester near The Washington National Cathedral has the highest valuation at \$158 million.



Courtesy of SW Community Gardens

SW Community Gardens is a place to learn urban gardening and meet neighbors.

Date set for 7th Annual SW Garden Spring Kickoff

BY PAM MCKINNEY

Our very own community garden will open back up its communal section with its annual spring kickoff event on Saturday, April 4 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The communal section consists of 10 plots, two food fences, a sunflower "alley," pollinator garden, and hillside floral garden.

At the event, attendees can help plant the growing spaces and weed the garden area. Other activities include compost and canning workshops led by garden volunteers and an art project for all ages to participate in. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

This event was made possible in part thanks to a grant from Friends of Southwest DC.

For more information, please email swgardensdc@gmail.com. The garden is located in Lansburgh Park, 1098 Delaware Ave. SW.



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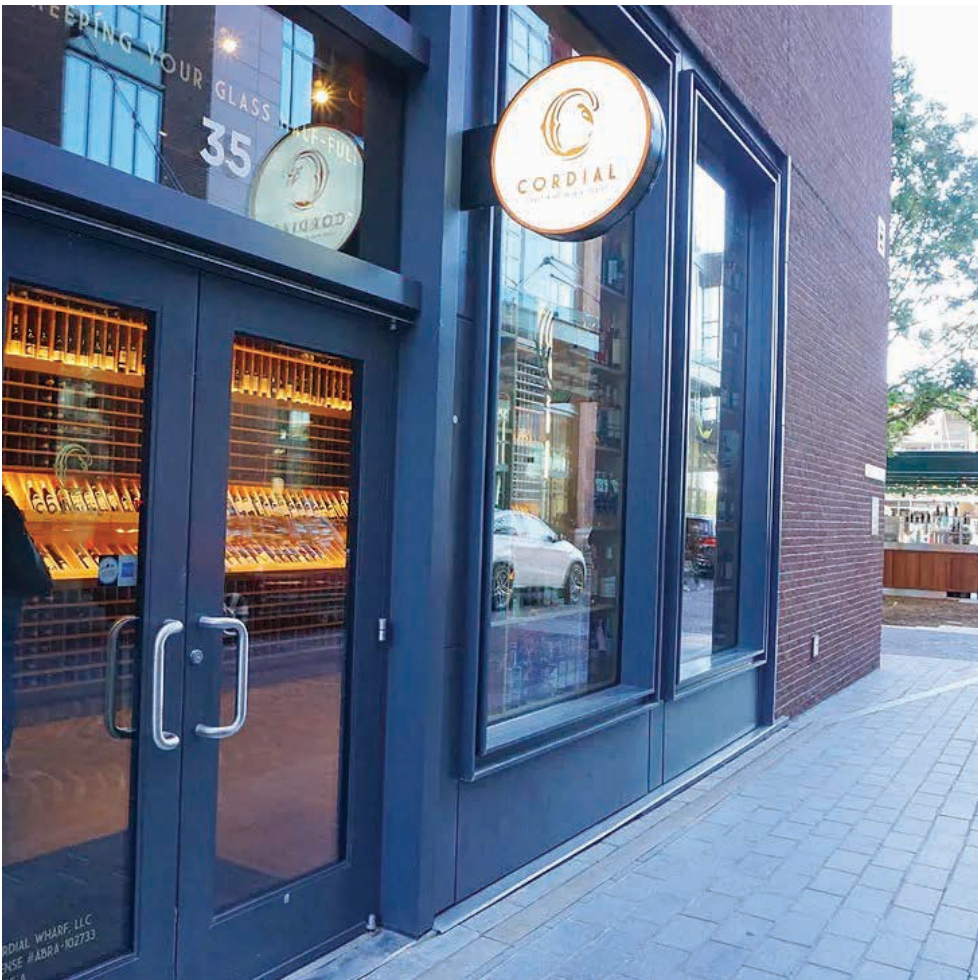
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Courtesy of Cordial

Cordial Craft Wine, Beer and Spirits at the Wharf

Cordial Keeps it Local

BY MIKE GOODMAN

Cordial Craft Wine, Beer and Spirits, located at 35 Sutton Square, SW, has been at the Wharf since 2017, and remains focused on making local, artisanal libations available to all. This is not your typical liquor store, as it emphasizes products from family vineyards, D.C.-area distilleries, and small batch craft brews.

“Our focus is on small producers. We look for unique, interesting producers that provide great value. Often they are family owned businesses,” says owner Chuck Waldmann.

Waldmann, who purchased the store in 2018, takes great pride in finding local producers with high quality products. For example, the store is one of only a few retailers that carries Lost, a local bourbon bottled in Fairfax County. “We try to rep the DMV in our brands as much as possible,” says Waldmann.

Cordial is not exclusively local, though, as there are some products that simply can’t be found in the region. The store features a good selection of Japanese whiskeys and carries a wine selection from around the world. Many of their local and international brands are on display for regular tastings, every Friday from 5-8 p.m., and every Saturday from 3-6 p.m.

With the recent closing of the store Anchor, Cordial is now the only alcohol retailer in west-Southwest. Waldmann, who has been in the wine and spirits business for 27 years, views his store as a part of the Southwest community, and enjoys sharing the products that he finds. “We’re happy to be a part of this community,” he says.

Information about tastings and other events at the store can be found at cordial-wharf.com.

AYA

Continued from p. 1

the outside with a mesh wall and indoor-outdoor rubber carpeting. Each family has access only to the floor where they are living. Smaller families share a bathroom with each other. The Unity Health Clinic will be downstairs in the basement, but won’t be ready until the Fall.

Unity has been using temporary space at Joy Evans, 555 L St. SE, but they need to close at that location on May 15 due to reconstruction at the site, so there will not be a health clinic convenient to the immediate SW neighborhood for several

months.

Still, many pointed out that closing DC General, in favor of smaller, “more dignified” housing is a step in the right direction. The opening of The Aya follows on the heels of other short-term housing that opened in Wards 4, 5, 7, 8, and the 2019 July groundbreaking of another project in Ward 1.

“What it really came down to,” said Council Member Allen, “is Southwest recognizing that families that are experiencing homelessness, they’re not other, they are our neighbors. They are our families. When we do this, and do it right, we’re taking care of one another.”

Perry Klein contributed to this article.

SOUTHWEST D.C.

2020 community calendar

Our year-round programming is free and open to all members of the community. Join us in making the neighborhood a more engaged, lively, and connected place!

APRIL

- 18 | **Opening Farmers Market SW + Spring Cleaning**
- 25 | **Farmers Market SW**

MAY

- Saturdays | **Farmers Market SW**
- 01, 15, 29 | **Market SW**
- 03 | **SW Duck Drop**
- 15 | **Bike to Work Day**
- 21 | **Out to Lunch Kickoff**

JUN

- Saturdays | **Farmers Market SW**
- 12, 26 | **Market SW**
- 18 | **Out to Lunch**

JUL

- Saturdays | **Farmers Market SW**
- 07-26 | **Capital Fringe Festival**
- 10, 24 | **Market SW**
- 16 | **Out to Lunch**

AUG

- Saturdays | **Farmers Market SW**
- Sundays | **Sunday Suppers**
- 07, 21 | **Market SW**
- 20 | **Out to Lunch**

SEPT

- Saturdays | **Farmers Market SW**
- 04, 18 | **Market SW**
- 17 | **Out to Lunch Wrap Party**
- 18 | **PARK(ing) Day**

OCT

- Saturdays | **Farmers Market SW**
- 02, 16, 30 | **Market SW**
- 16 | **SW Book Bazaar**
- 31 | **Trick or Treat**

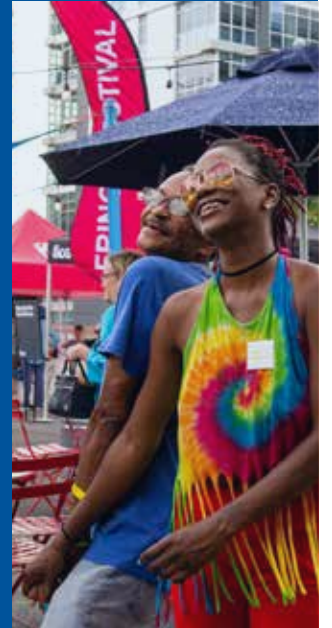
NOV

- 07, 14, 21 | **Farmers Market SW**

DEC

- 16 | **Light Up Southwest**

Event dates are subject to change, please check our website for updates



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Breaking Ground, the SW Library Begins a New Phase of Construction

BY GEORGINE WALLACE

Despite the chilly weather and intermittent drizzle, the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Southwest Library on Feb. 5 was historic and joyous. Southwest residents, neighbors, ANC6D Commissioners, D.C. Public Library staff, Ward 6 CM Charles Allen, and Mayor Muriel Bowser all celebrated the occasion. Ambassadors from the SWBID were present to greet and direct participants to the site.

Gregory McCarthy, President of the Board of Trustees of the D.C. Public Library, kicked off the ceremony, commending the hard work of numerous Southwest civic groups, the SWBID, and ANC6D. He noted that Southwest is one



Courtesy of the Office of Councilmember Allen

Above, breaking ground at 3rd & I

At left, Georgine Wallace with Mayor Muriel Bowser and Ward 6 CM Charles Allen at SW Library groundbreaking ceremony. Mayor Bowser is holding a brick saved from the old Library.

Photo courtesy of Perry Klein



of the final neighborhood libraries to be fully renovated or completely rebuilt. The Lamond Riggs branch in Ward 5 is expected to begin construction later this year, and Capitol Hill's Southeast Library is in the design process. McCarthy also noted that the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, the central library, is expected to complete its full renovation and open later this year.

Richard Reyes-Gavilan, Executive Director of the D.C. Public Library, next addressed the assembled crowd. He thanked the Friends of the Southwest Library and its President for their work in the community and library advocacy. Reyes-Gavilan highlighted how the ANC6D Commissioners and the residents of Southwest advocated for building a new library on the present site versus moving of the library. He also noted that construction would hopefully be completed in late 2020, and perhaps ready to open in 2021. The concrete slab will be put in place by the end of February, with the building taking shape soon after.

Third to address the crowd, Councilmember Allen reminded Reyes-Gavilan that the Southwest Library project was how they met. In the summer of 2014, when Allen was the Democratic candidate for the Ward 6 Council seat and Reyes-Gavilan the Executive Director, they met at a community meeting in the basement of the Southwest Library.

At the meeting, Reyes-Gavilan described a plan in which the City would sell the land where the library stood and rebuild it at 1000 4th St. The new library would be part of a mixed use development, and the proposed building would be two floors, with most of the items on the second floor. The city would have a 99 year lease to the building. A majority of residents in the room vociferously rejected the plan, however. Reyes-Gavilan met Allen after the meeting and advised him to "get the funding" for a new building if the library were to remain on the current site. It was a very Hamiltoneque, "Room Where it Happened," start for both men and for the community members present.

The city shelved the plan within days after the 2014 meeting. The fate of a new

library for Southwest hung in limbo until April 2015 when DCPL added Southwest to the list of libraries to be rebuilt with public funding. It was listed as unfunded for two months until Councilmember Allen secured the \$18 Million for the new building. In early 2015, then Mayor-elect Bowser asked the new Councilmember about his priorities for his Ward. Allen noted funding for a new Southwest Library as one of his most important.

He waxed anecdotally that he announced the submission of his Books from Birth bill in front of the Southwest Library in January 2015 to emphasize the level of importance of the new library project to him.

Allen then introduced the author of this piece, Georgine Wallace (President of the Friends of the Southwest Library). The author described the process the Friends and community partners followed in 2015 after hearing the library was fully funded. In partnership with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), Friends of the SW Library formed a task force that studied the features of other libraries in the system and developed a list of potential sites for the interim library. That list was sent to DCPL and the 425 M St. lot, then owned by Forest City, was selected by the DCPL administration for the interim library. [Wallace] commended Steve Moore and Lexie Albe of the Southwest BID for introducing DCPL to the Forest City management team and helping DCPL obtain permission to use the 425 M

lot as an interim library.

Additional recognitions were given to Susan Haight, President of the Federation of Friends of the D.C. Public Library, who provided guidance to the task force as it started, and to the officers of MPD's First District for their help on programs and advice on making the new library safer.

[Wallace] faltered a bit mentioning Councilmember Allen, noting that it was difficult to put into words the extent of his contributions. "In this day and age it is rare that you can honestly say to a public official that it is an honor to be your constituent."

Mayor Bowser spoke last, acknowledging Councilmember Allen for his constant support of the project, and commended the people of Southwest for their involvement in the project. The Mayor noted that the adjacent park was scheduled to be redesigned, referring to it as an "educational park."

A \$960,000 grant from the D.C. Department of the Environment and Energy under Director Tommy Wells will fund solar panels and battery storage on the library's green roof. The Library is seeking Gold LEED Certification for the building.

Members of the Design/Build team of Perkins Will and Turner Construction joined the Mayor, Councilmember Allen, Commissioner Ron Collins, and the speakers in the official shovel toss of dirt. It was, as Councilmember Allen said, shovel in hand, "a great day for Southwest."

Age Old Cities at the Sackler

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

Enter the vibrant Souk in Aleppo, Syria. Watch as it turns to ashen ruins before your eyes. This is how *Age Old Cities: A Virtual Journey from Palmyra to Mosul*, at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, begins the immersive experience through three ancient Mideastern cities recently devastated by ISIS.

Giant screen projections expose the details of the cultural losses in the destruction of ancient archeological sites while short documentaries share what the human inhabitants of Aleppo, Palmyra, and Mosul saw up close.

Two thousand years ago in Palmyra, the Romans built a temple and theater in the ancient crossroads city of the spice trade. Today those ruins are further reduced to rubble, blown up or otherwise



Courtesy of Arab World Institute, Paris/Iconem



Courtesy of the Freer and Sackler

desecrated by ISIS from 2015 to 2017. Through recordings by drones that were "digested" and combined with archival material from a 1950 archeological building surveys, algorithms and big screen 3D projections show possible future reconstructions. For contemplation and comparison, adjacent film footage of these cities show what they looked like in the early decades of the twentieth century.

While residents in *Greetings from Aleppo* are trying to maintain normalcy, constantly sweeping up rubble amid the sound of frequent gunshots, archeologists are seeking to resolve whether or not to restore these ruins to their original state before ISIS, or to their original state before time and neglect took their toll.

Of the tombs in the Necropolis in Palmyra, one was not totally destroyed by ISIS. The Tomb of the Three Brothers, dating from the second century CE, escaped destruction because it was used by ISIS soldiers as a barracks, complete with a canteen and an office. The artworks were trashed with white paint, covered with blankets to hide images, and the site left

with piles of garbage.

Across the Tigris River from the ancient site of Nineveh, is Mosul, Iraq. Shared by three religious traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, is the biblical story of the prophet Jonah, or Naabi Yunus, who was sent to warn Nineveh of destruction. ISIS laid to waste the Mausoleum of Naabi Yunus, an ancient church which had become a medieval mosque. An unexpected outcome was that the rubble revealed fragments of the palace of seventh century BCE Assyrian king, Esahaddon, which are now being studied by archeologists.

While these devastations might seem far away, there is one building that has a connection to our neighborhood. The Church of Our Lady of the Hour, still standing but stripped of interior decorations and partly destroyed, was built by Dominicans, who also built St. Dominic in Southwest DC around the same time the late 19th century. What appears archaic and remote might not seem so far away in time and place anymore.

The exhibit includes a virtual reality

experience for five of these sites, available on the first Saturday of each month (except for July when it will be on July 11), from 12-4 p.m. in Sackler B2 – recommended for visitors ages twelve and up.

Additional talks are scheduled and can be found at the Sackler's web page (asia.si.edu/events-overview/talks/)

Age Old Cities will be on display till Oct. 25, 2020.

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Go-go Becomes the Official Music of D.C.

BY UNA YARSKY

Ask any D.C. native and they'll agree: Go-go is an essential part of D.C.'s identity. The music genre has had a long history in this city, first originating in the early 1970's. Go-go is a type of funk music known for its percussion and blend of various music genres. Chuck Brown, known as the "Godfather of Go-go," revolutionized the music with his band, The Soul Searchers, through the 1970's, 80's, and 90's. His hits included songs such as, *We Need Some Money* and *Hot in Here*. Brown died on May 12, 2012, but his legend and the impact he had on Go-go lives on in the streets of D.C.

On Feb. 19, Mayor Muriel Bowser made history by making Go-go the official music of D.C. At the Culture House here in Southwest, Bowser signed the legislation, paying tribute to Chuck Brown's legacy and declaring, "Go-go is D.C." The bill was written by Council Member Kenyan R. McDuffie and received unanimous support from the D.C. Council.

In a way, Go-go has become an anthem for the gentrification conflict in D.C. While some newer residents may not appreciate



Courtesy of Una Yarsky

Go-go officially becomes synonymous with the District.

Go-go, District natives have continued to celebrate this vital part of Washington's culture. Hundreds of Washingtonians witnessed the historic moment and cheered as the long struggle for recognition came to a close. The free event included performances from DJ Supa Dan and The Backyard Band.

Meet SWBID Environmental Ambassador Santos Aguirre

BY DONNA PURCHASE

Southwest 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, and visit.

Santos Aguirre came to SWBID 1.5 years ago. He says he was very proud when he was hired by the SWBID. Since coming to America in 1997 from El Salvador, he has had many jobs as a contractor, but this is permanent and he's thankful for the stability.

Santos is a member of the landscaping team that keeps Southwest beautiful. He is looking forward to improving and helping to guide others in the craft. The best part of his job is that he learns something new every day.

SWBID COO Andre Witt says: Santos has



Santos Aguirre

Courtesy of SWBID

been outstanding from day one. He is well liked by every team member and is always ready to assist in any capacity warranted. He brings that constant smile to work that makes it a joy to work with him

Santos' Favorites

Music: Ballads

Movie: "The Fast and the Furious"

Sport: Running. He's a runner (look out for him around the neighborhood).

Sports team: El Salvador's soccer team, LA Selecta

Proudest moment: when he joined the SWBID

Favorite Quote: "You learn more from failure than from success. Don't let it stop you, failure builds character."

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



Courtesy of Trocaire from Ireland

Aftermath: a collapsed building caused by the 2010 Haiti Earthquake

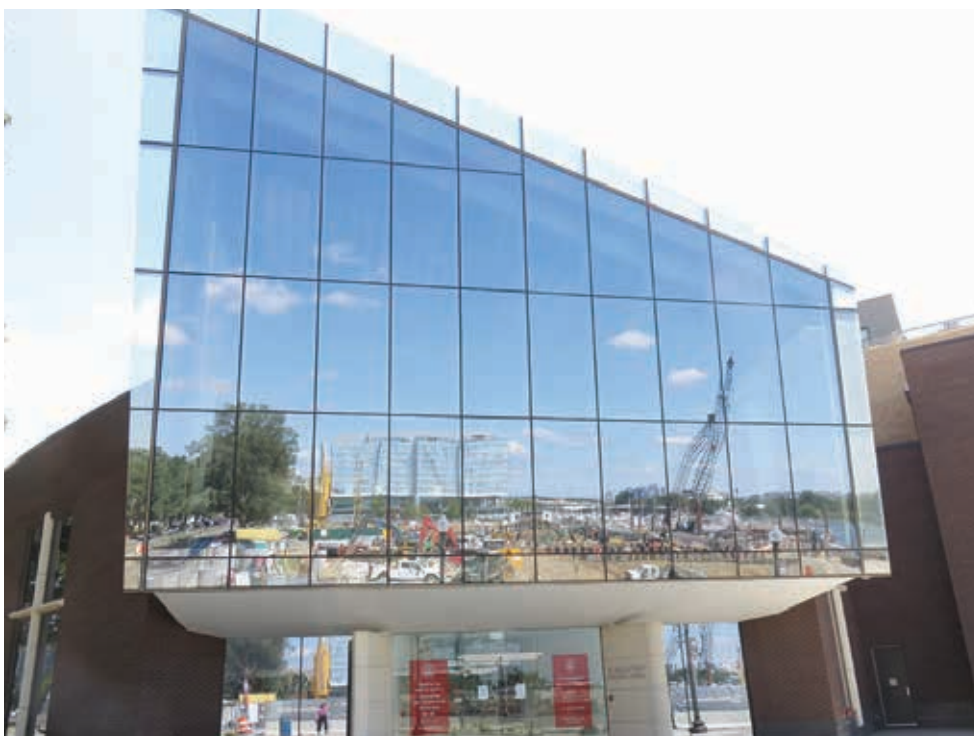
In Remembrance of the 10th Anniversary of the 2010 Haiti Earthquake

On January 12, 2010, a massive 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook Haiti for a long 37 seconds, killing hundreds of thousands of people and leaving more than a million homeless. To mark the tenth anniversary of this catastrophic disaster and to demonstrate solidarity with our neighbor country, we want to reflect on the key lessons learned from that disaster. Joining us is Dr. Joe Barbera, Associate Professor of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering (Crisis & Emergency Management) at The George Washington University, and internationally known expert in disaster response.

Join SW Strong! ~ the SW Emergency Preparedness Task Force (part of SWNA) on Thursday, March 5, 2020, from 7-8:15 p.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 222 M St. SW, Washington, DC. Our vision and mission is to build a disaster-resilient SW DC through community talks, networking, and preparedness activities. To find out more, please contact reginascorner@gmail.com or ben@swna.org.

Light refreshments provided at no cost. RSVP by Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com/e/in-remembrance-of-the-tenth-anniversary-of-the-2010-haiti-earthquake-tickets-94779093821?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

Southwest Moment



Courtesy of Susie Humphreys

Reflections on the western aspect of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. The upper area is as we think of the environment which is now being replaced by Stage Two Wharf Construction.

Wharf Life DC Job Center Now Open

BY RAMSEY POSTON

Wharf Life DC successfully launched a Job Center on its website designed to help Wharf businesses fill open positions, and for those wishing to work at the Wharf to find and apply for those jobs that best meet their skills.

Wharf Life is an independent community organization dedicated to supporting the Wharf merchants by providing lively information about where to eat, drink, play, live, and work at the District Wharf. It is operated primarily by people who live on boats at the Wharf.

The new Job Center includes open positions and a resume database of job seekers. It incorporates filters so that employers and those wishing to work at The Wharf can easily find the ideal job/candidate for which they are searching.

The vast majority of merchants at The Wharf are small and independent businesses that have to adjust to seasonal activity. It can be difficult for many of the businesses to find qualified candidates to fill open positions. Likewise, there are many people hoping to land a job at The Wharf. The Job Center helps employers and job seekers bridge the gap.

"There's a feeling that jobs and resumes get lost on worldwide job boards," says the author of this op-ed. "By creating a hyper-

local job center around The Wharf, we can solve some of the hiring issues facing the local businesses."

Many of those businesses are gearing up for springtime when The Wharf gets busier and they have more jobs to fill. Hornblower Cruises & Events, for example, has already posted a dozen jobs to the website for both full-time and part-time positions. Hornblower is staffing up for the upcoming cruise season and will be filling managerial and hourly positions such as cooks, bartenders, hosts, servers, and supervisors.

Hornblower owns and operates a fleet of ten cruise ships in the DC area that provide dining cruises, sightseeing, and special events. For example, The Odyssey is a glass-enclosed ship offering incredible 360-degree views, which seats up to 600 guests, and serves three-course meals with live entertainment.

Employers are encouraged to open an account on the website so they can post open positions to the job listings page. The account also provides employers with access to view and search the resume database.

Job seekers can easily upload resumes at the site and be visible to Wharf businesses looking for qualified candidates.

The Job Center can be found at: wharf-lifedc.com/work-here/



Interested in a construction job at 250 M St SE?

Visit Skyland Workforce Center For More Information:

2509 Good Hope Rd SE
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 793-2141

www.skylandworkforcecenter.org

Reference: 250 M Street, SE



KID'S CORNER

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 differences in the two scenes below?



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Answers from February 2020 issue

Differences: The picture on the left has a hot air balloon, while the one on the right has a cloud with birds in hats; the picture on the left has fewer hearts in the sky; the woman on the left has flowers in her hair; the man on the right has a hat; the man is giving the woman a card on the left and a flower on the right.

Word Scramble: There are 511 words you can make from “Valentine.”

WORD SEARCH: SPRING!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | F | H | G | U | C | U | Q | I | B | S | L | G | U | R |
| N | U | F | H | F | R | P | R | A | P | L | L | J | U | A |
| E | O | J | C | T | S | E | S | W | C | M | M | P | A | I |
| T | X | B | N | S | M | E | N | D | M | J | W | K | O | N |
| X | Q | L | Q | B | B | O | A | E | N | U | F | X | L | G |
| X | E | M | F | A | D | F | S | C | W | C | J | D | U | X |
| R | M | M | L | C | R | A | I | S | L | A | V | R | J | T |
| C | O | L | O | R | S | R | E | W | O | L | F | N | E | B |
| F | V | K | G | F | S | G | J | F | F | L | E | B | O | Q |
| Z | U | G | G | F | E | N | N | S | J | G | B | V | Q | D |
| U | Q | R | C | M | V | Z | R | J | R | R | K | Q | G | E |
| D | O | G | I | L | A | V | O | E | H | F | X | N | Z | K |
| W | U | Y | A | S | E | P | M | H | O | J | E | J | G | X |
| A | P | N | O | V | L | E | Z | D | Q | C | E | Y | D | X |
| V | X | X | G | D | F | Q | I | P | C | K | C | G | H | K |

BASEBALL
BLOSSOM
COLOR
EMERGE
FLOWERS

FUN
GROW
LEAVES
RAIN
RENEW

Word Scramble!

How many words can you make from SPRINGTIME?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The page is divided into two equal-width vertical sections by a central vertical crease. Each section contains ten evenly spaced horizontal lines, providing a template for writing or drawing.

The Coolest Kid's Corner in SW DC

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The ImagiNations Activity Center in Southwest Washington has been named by TIME Magazine as one of Kids' World's Coolest Places of 2019.

The center, which is part of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, is a family-friendly, interactive center filled with unique learning experiences. Kids can learn about native peoples' adaptations using hands-on activities, wander through reconstructed homes, hear stories about Native cultures, and more. The center connects transportation methods introduced by Native people, such as snowshoeing and kayaking, to today's world. Children can even practice their kayaking skills in an interactive

balancing game. Among the other topics for kids to explore are Maya Math, Native foods, and sustainable architecture.

The center's manager, Adrienne L. Smith, called the space a "great place to come and be introduced to Native culture," as quoted in the TIME piece. She added that visitors can "also look at how we're continuing our culture today." Smith is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee Nations of Oklahoma.

The center is open Tuesday through Sunday on Level 3 of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, located on Independence Avenue, between 3rd & 4th St. SW. Hours can be found at americanindian.si.edu/visit/newyork/family.

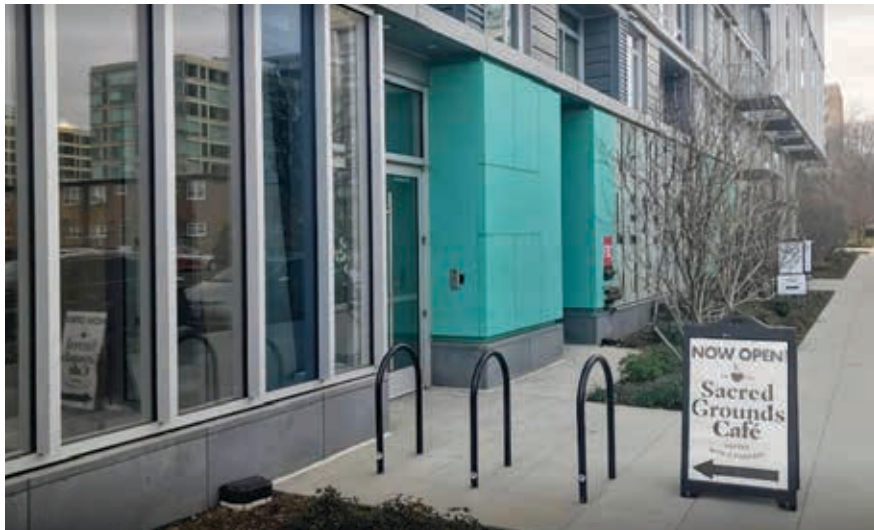


Photo Courtesy Google Maps

Grand Opening for Sacred Grounds Café

Sacred Grounds Café, the newest coffee shop in Southwest DC, opened its doors last December for a soft opening. Since then, the café has enjoyed welcoming the community to sip on smooth coffee by Rise Up Coffee Roasters and enjoy freshly baked goods by Honey's Desserts. This month Sacred Grounds Café is hosting their official Grand Opening. Join them as they celebrate the launch of the new café on Saturday, March 7 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Come savor delicious coffee for FREE all day, listen to live music, and sample their delicious baked treats. Sacred Grounds is at 222 M St. SW, uniquely located between Valo Apartments and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. We look forward to your visit!

Ward 6 Middle Schools Discussion at Jefferson Academy

Do you want to learn more about middle schools in our ward? On March 17, the Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization will host a Ward 6 Middle Schools Today and Tomorrow discussion with 5 principals at Jefferson Academy from 6:30 - 8 p.m. This is an excellent chance for Southwest families to learn about middle schools, and a rare opportunity to hear from the principals of

Capitol Hill Montessori, Cardozo Education Campus, Eliot-Hine Middle School, Jefferson Middle School Academy, and Stuart-Hobson Middle School without having to travel outside Southwest DC. Childcare is available for those who indicate the need on the Eventbrite invite.

Details and registration at <https://bit.ly/38vfleM>.

Amidon Tutor of the Month: Scott Donaldson

BY ROBERT ST. CYR

Last year, in partnership with Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Education and Scholarship Task Force, Community Scholar started a tutoring program at Amidon-Bowen. Tutors have completed training and are now working with students for the second year of this successful program.

Thank you to all of our neighbors who are tutoring young people at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School this year for their service to the community. This includes our Tutor of the Month: Scott Donaldson! Learn more about Scott:

How long have you lived in SW?

I've been living in Southwest for two years.

What do you do in your professional life?

I'm a software developer. I do a lot of work with computer graphics and data visualization, both of which require strong math skills — living proof that what you learn in math class (or tutoring) can be useful!

What made you get involved in the tutoring program at Amidon-Bowen?

I had been looking for ways to get more involved in the community and thought that this program seemed like a good way to do that. Always learning new things (and being excited about learning) is an important part of my day-to-day work, and I hope that excitement about learning is something I can impart through tutoring.

Describe your favorite moment so far from the program.

One of my students had gotten some new press-on nails and was a little distracted by them (which, to be fair, I probably would be too). I realized that it was an opportunity to turn it into a math problem — ex. if there were 74 nails lying around, how many people could each get a full set? It's more fun when I can find ways to make the subject matter have direct relevance to their lives. Another time, I showed them how one can calculate ages by subtracting their birth year



Courtesy of Robert St. Cyr

Scott Donaldson

from 2020. We did that for my birth year, but I think that was more fun for them than for me.

What is one thing you enjoy, appreciate, or respect about your student or students?

The two third-graders I tutor right now are both enthusiastic, kind, funny kids. Even if they've had a bad day they're usually willing to work through the math problems I throw at them. And while they do sometimes tease each other, it's always good-natured and they seem to have a positive effect on each other's learning.

Why should other SW community members consider joining the program as tutors next year?

It's a fantastic program that builds connections in the community, and it's very rewarding to see the students make progress and grow. It doesn't take a lot of preparation or advanced knowledge to be a good tutor — just an hour or two a week and your attention and enthusiasm for working with students.

To learn more about the program or sign up to participate as a volunteer, contact Robert St. Cyr at friends@communityscholar.org. To make a tax-deductible donation to support the program, visit www.mightycause.com, search for Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Inc. and select the SWNA Education Task Force as the recipient. You can also write a check to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, note "Education Fund" in the memo line and mail it to SWNA Attn: Education Fund, PO Box 70131 Washington, DC 20024.

Solis' *Mother Road*, *The Grapes of Wrath* Reimagined

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

Some stories don't end where the book stops. Octavio Solis' play *Mother Road*, now at Arena Stage (till March 8), is one that recreates what might have happened decades after the Joads' migration westward in John Steinbeck's classic *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Solis' play, like Steinbeck's novel, is an epic story about land, family, and survival.

The story follows William Joad, who hung on to the family farm in Oklahoma, now nearing death and with no relatives left to leave it to, hires a private detective to find Martín Jodes, a young Mexican American man descended from Steinbeck's protagonist Tom Joad.

William and Martin meet on a former government work camp that was once the home of Steinbeck's Joads. Now it is home to migrant workers like Martín's mother, who lived and died laboring in the fields. In a reversal of the Joads' journey, these two newly acquainted cousins travel from California back to Oklahoma.

Most playwrights research their subject, but you did more than study Steinbeck's works, you actually went on a road trip that took the path that the Joads did!

I had adapted some of Steinbeck's short stories for the San Francisco lit-stage troupe and had become involved with the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, Calif., devoted to the Nobel-winning novelist's literary legacy.

The center arranged an 11-day trip on the 75th anniversary of the towering *Grapes of Wrath*, in 2013. The trip [was] with other artists in a three-vehicle caravan on Highway 66, "the Mother Road, the road of flight." We wound through Oklahoma, Texas, and California to retrace



Courtesy of Margot Schulman

(L to R) Mark Murphey (William Joad) and Tony Sancho (Martín Jodes) in *Mother Road*

the cross-country route of the fictional Joad family, from Sallisaw, Okla. to near Bakersfield, Calif.

In the 1930's, thousands of impoverished, desperate families like the Joads faced economic hardships, from agricultural industry changes and bank foreclosures, even as relentless dust storms forced them out of work. But there was no biblical promised land at the end of their journey. They found meager agricultural employment while Tom would leave to fight for worker's rights.

What are some of your personal experiences from the people you met along the way? Are William and Martin based on some of

these people?

Our group collected oral histories from Dust Bowl survivors and their descendants. I was particularly struck by a visit to a migrant camp filled with Latinx farm workers. One young man told me, "We're the new Okies, and I'm the new Tom Joad."

I thought, what if Tom had gone to Mexico and married a Mexican woman? What if Tom's only descendant today was a Mexican living on this side of the border?

My family had moved from San Francisco to Oregon. Near my farm there are Hispanic workers in the pear orchards. I thought, let me go back and get to know

the culture, here, now that I am a member of this community.

You are considered one of the foremost Latinx playwrights today, having written over 25 plays and directed many. Your new book, *Retablos: Stories From a Life Lived Along the Border* (City Lights Books), is a collection of personal essays about growing up in a working-class, Mexican-American family in the border town El Paso.

I am forever a product of that push and pull, the friction between the tectonic plates that are Mexico and the US, which will always create mountains of stress, dislocation, and upheaval among the people who live there.

These short pieces are my story, told in the lexicon of my family and friends, of growing up with memories, some treasured and some painful.

Arena is located in Southwest Washington DC, a neighborhood with its own diverse history. Any comments about presenting your play here?

In its time, *The Grapes of Wrath*, not only won literary prizes, it raised vehement controversies about how the plight of the farmers was presented.

Mother Road is in part my reaction to what is now happening at the border with immigration issues. I feel responsible to speak out more, with my own culture under attack.

What better place could there be then to present this reflection on how the two Americas look at each other than here where the political power players reside.



Courtesy of P. S. Perkins

Photo of the Month Winner: P.S. Perkins

It Takes A Color-filled Village.

If you would like to submit a photo for consideration for Photo of the Month, please email it to editor@thesouthwester.com.

Sing Into Spring Competition Elevates Local Vocalists

Two Winners will Perform at Cherry Blossom Festival

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Twenty vocalists went head-to-head at the Arena Stage Mead Center for American Theater on Jan. 27, where one soloist and one a cappella group rose above the competition to snag a spot in the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival and a panel of judges selected the GW Troubadours and Aurora Martin, an opera singer from Arlington, VA, as the winners of the seventh annual Sing Into Spring competition, an event that shines a spotlight on homegrown talent.

The GW Troubadours and Aurora Martin will perform for thousands in the largest spectator event of the Festival – the parade – on April 4.

Judges of the Sing Into Spring competition included WAMU News Anchor Gerri Mitchell; WJLA/ABC7 News Anchor Carl Willis; 97.1 WASH-FM Morning Host Toby Knapp; former



Photos Courtesy of National Cherry Blossom Festival

Above: GW Troubadours

At left: Aurora Martin



Sing Into Spring winner Melissa “Randa” Harris; as well as producers of the parade.

The National Cherry Blossom Festi-

val will hold several events in Southwest DC, including:

- Sakura Taiko Takeover on the ANA Stage at the Tidal Basin Welcome Area on March 28

- DC United Cherry Blossom Night on April 3
- Various workshops and exhibits at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
- Hanami: Beyond the Blooms exhibit at ARTECHOUSE, running March 12 – May 25

Additional Events of the 2020 National Cherry Blossom Festival include:

- Pink Tie Party presented by ANA at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on March

20

- Opening Ceremony co-presented with The Japan Foundation at the Warner Theatre on March 21
- Blossom Kite Festival presented by Otsuka on the grounds of the Washington Monument on March 29
- National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade presented by Events DC, between 7th-17th Streets and Constitution Ave. on April 4
- Petalpalooza presented by Chase at The Yards: Saturday, April 11

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JUSTICE

Continued from p. 1

trast to the players' sedentary positions and serene faces, a high-def video screen showed a different story: booming sound effects and a frenzied battle between animated avatars rapidly navigating technicolor maps.

A newbie like me was not prepared for the spectacle, and it was a spectacle, both the competition on-stage and the show off-stage.

"We have a lot of surprises. You're gonna see amazing action in the game and a lot of cool stuff happening around it," said owner Mark Ein (owner of the Washington Kastles – a world tennis team) during the media scrum before the matches on Saturday. "I think our walkout is going to be epic and memorable," he added.

Watching the team walkouts, the London Spitfire received loud boos from the several thousand gathered spectators. A costumed English gentleman came out from behind the stage with a tea tray, which elicited more booing from the crowd. Uncle Sam skipped out after to a roar from the crowd and slapped the tea set out of the English Gentleman's hands.

The gauntlet was throne.

The lights went out, electronica blasted out of the speakers, smoke billowed out of machines suspended from the ceiling, and the Nationals racing Presidents (a sports collaboration Ein hinted at during the media panel) made their way through the crowd. Acrobats twisted around metal rings suspended 20 feet off the floor in front of the stage and the Justice came out one-by-one to an ever louder audience.

So what was the actual gameplay like? Pure chaos on a giant, high-def screen to be blunt. The insider knowledge bar seemed quite high, and knowing nothing about Overwatch, let alone video games from at least the last 10 years, can be utterly confusing to someone not in the know. I was lost during the first round of play – my past gamer experience hardly helped, but the crowd's reactions keyed me into the ebb and flow of the game.



Photos Courtesy of the Washington Justice

On the edge of their seats

The Justice quickly went two rounds to zero and everything stopped. Intermission time.

During the intermission, sort of like halftime, there was more crowd pleasing entertainment. The stage hype man announced a competition on the loud-speaker and assembled spectators for a Coca Cola chugging contest, only to have them belch out responses. A young woman from Baltimore won that burp battle. The day before, someone proposed to his girlfriend (I wasn't there for that).

It was, indeed, the show that Ein promised. Part of the strategy with this new endeavor is to not just appeal to the hardcore fans, but to draw in the passive fan and the completely uninitiated like myself. The idea is to provide something

for everyone, something familiar that fans of other sports can appreciate and will have them coming back for more.

Ein was drawn to Overwatch, as an anchor investment in esports, because he believes the city-based model (cities playing other cities, as opposed to non-local teams playing teams) is the best onramp to esports. "[I]t's a model that traditional sports fans, not just esports fans, understand. So I can tell people who really are new to esports, do you want to watch Washington kick Paris' butt tonight? And cheer for them loudly. People get that."

I asked Assistant GM of the Justice, Aaron Heckman, if he felt that, moving forward, whether or not OWL will be accessible to people who don't play it at all. Especially considering exactly how to bring in more passive fans in the future. "That's a really accurate observation and we as an organization, OWL, and Blizzard, in general, need to do a better job of educating people. There is a barrier to entry that we need to get over."

But in Heckman's personal experience, he did not feel that barrier was much higher than traditional sports. He pointed out that he was never a pro player himself, not even close, but that's the same for football or basketball fans. Most people going to watch traditional athletic sports aren't players themselves (anymore at least), but that doesn't prevent them from watching and enjoying the sport.

His advice, then, to new fans?

"When I sit people down. The first thing you do is watch the kill feed. They're going to be jumping perspectives. They're going to be jumping people, 1st person, 3rd person...but the kill feed will always be there. [I]f your team's color is on the left, you're winning. And if your team's color is on the right, you're losing. That's how I explain it to my parents."

Every once in a while, something big would happen, an all out melee between the teams, an explosion, a magical blizzard, or giant red dragon appearing out of nowhere. All these got the crowd excited, and I knew my home team was advancing their objectives.

After a while of gameplay – matches can last anywhere from 45 minutes to over two hours (they set a record for the longest match on Saturday) – my eyes started focusing on other in-game metrics: the timer, the map number, and even, occasionally, the objectives of various maps. I felt that I was beginning to understand a little of what was going on.

After the intermission, London came back renewed and took two unanswered rounds from the Justice. The match came down to the wire with everyone on the edge of their seats, including me. I found the team's vice president, Grant Paranjape, dancing around on the upper balcony, exasperated.

Something happened on the screen, there was a lot of noise and the gameplay reached a fever pitch, then it all ended. In big bold letters, all the screens showed "London Wins!" and that was it. Game over, man.

Despite the two losses in their inaugural homestand, the weekend was an overall success for the start of esports in the District. Minseok 'AimGod' Kwon, a player for the Justice said afterwards, "It was a really amazing experience. The cheering for us was really loud and really good energy for us."

The Washington Justice play two more homestands at The Anthem, March 7-8 and April 4-5, then two matches at Entertainment And Sports Arena, May 30-31 and June 20-21.



Photos Courtesy of the Washington Justice

The Justice goes into the intermission up two rounds to zero.

Black History Impact Panel at The Wharf

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

In celebration of Black History Month, Pearl Street Stage hosted a unique panel discussion and two musical performances on Feb. 6. The String Queens kicked off the event, warming up the crowd with ethereal sounds of cello, violin, and viola. Before exiting stage right, The Queens played a rendition of *Uptown Funk*, with one of the members egging the crowd on until we were all standing and clapping.

Afterwards moderator Jummy Olabanji, News4 Anchor, took over the stage alongside Kathy Hollinger, President and CEO, Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington; Omrao Brown, a cultural entrepreneur and owner of the famous Bohemian Caverns, and Chair of "Word, beats, and life," a DC-based hip hop non profit; and, Erik Moses, President of the newly minted DC Defenders XFL team.

"The impact of Black community in DC's entertainment and hospitality scene reaches far beyond the District Boundaries," Olabanji told the crowd before introducing the evening's panelists.

The panel discussion started with Olabanji asking Brown to discuss how the Black community is making waves in the performance space. Brown pointed out the ubiquity and dominance of Black music, not just in American history and culture but also its influence abroad. "You see a number of genres that are successful, if not dominant. Certainly hip hop, R&B, soul... Some of the older genres being jazz and blues... There's very few American [music styles] that aren't based in African American music to begin with."

Getting down to the local level, Brown focused on the music scene in DC and how, for young African Americans, the culture of music is strong and growing. "Specifically here in DC, we got a lot of young musicians that come out of our institutions." He gave examples of Duke Ellington, the alma mater of Dave Chappelle (not a musician, per se), and Howard University which "has a very strong music program."

"A lot of those musicians in this area are young and African American and/or black American [and DC] is probably the best city to live in and be a musician without traveling. There's a ton of work for a lot of musicians that are African American and young."

Moving to the Black community's influence in sports culture in the city, Erik Moses said he felt that the representation, both in sports and in the stands, was strong in the community, and that people have to continue to show up and support the teams they love. But he also expressed some concerns about how the city was changing.

"You often hear about the changes in Washington, are they good or bad? I'd say it's mostly good. What I worry about with our city, as with all others, is does the city get great new buildings, great new spaces, and bring in new residents, like what we've



Courtesy of The Wharf, Washington, DC

Moderator Jummy Olabanji and panelists Erik Moses, Omrao Brown, and Kathy Hollinger

been doing for 10 plus years, then lose its soul."

Picking up on Moses' last point, Olabanji asked, "Just within the past few years, we're seeing new restaurants, new venues, new sports venues and sports teams. How do we make sure all of us, and what're you all working to do, to make sure some of these things are black owned, as well?"

Kathy Hollinger:

As wonderful as all of this development has been all over the city, that's a big challenge. And, we as an organization have been really focused on, you know, not just talking the narrative around how are we supporting our locally owned businesses, how are we creating more opportunities and pathways so that minorities are owning their businesses and not just working in these businesses.

Omrao Brown:

You all have the ability to vote for what you want the city to be. There's a Black Restaurant Week that people may or may not know about. I think if we take a little bit of effort to pay attention and at least spend some effort at some point as consumers, we can shape what exists in our own communities. I think we also have some opportunities to do things ourselves that we want to see.

Erick Moses:

What we tend to lack in our community are the reference points of how someone got to where they are. Omrao's brother is an executive at Monumental and has held some pretty high level positions in professional sports. [T]he more we're able to connect those dots for young people in particular, to tell them how do you get there. [W]hat are some of the roads you can take. I think that's probably the first step. We have to have the skills and knowledge of how these organizations run as businesses. Because at the end of day, unless you are a billionaire who can afford to lose millions of dollars a year just for fun, or for a tax break, you have to figure out how to make these sports teams businesses who earn money.

After the discussion, the panelists joined the crowd and Dupont Bass took to the stage to jam out while everyone continued to eat, drink, and enjoy the music.

Safe Sharing Peace Circles Wins 2020 Pocket Change Grant

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Congratulations to Bonnie Harris for winning this year's Pocket Change competition with Safe Sharing Peace Circles: Disrupting the Cycle of Violence in Southwest!

This project will use Peace Circles – a tool for disrupting the cycle of violence – to strengthen relationships, build community, restore hope, and promote healing in our Southwest DC community.

Bonnie and her team will use the Pocket Change grant to work with Little Friends for Peace (LFFP.org) – an organization that interrupts violence with skills for Peace – to create a Peace Circle as part of the Safe Places/Safe Spaces initiative. LFFP helps to build community by building positive, caring relationships through a Peace Circle process that helps to connect people through stories, sharing cooperative games, art, and creative movement. At Safe Sharing Peace Circle Events, participants play cooperative games, and learn tools and practices to live peacefully, solve problems without violence, and build positive healthy rela-

tionships.

Bonnie said the mindfulness exercises were an invaluable part of her Peace Circle experience, and sees the Pocket Change Grant as an "opportunity to build on [this] idea, as a catalyst for more events, workshops, and possibly a camp" in the future.

Pocket Change is run by the SWBID and SWNA, see more information at www.swbid.org/pocket-change.

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The Southwest Waterfront and Navy Yard are the newest areas of Washington to enjoy the benefits of a senior village:

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- Day trips
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Basic handyman help

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or visit www.dewaterfrontvillage.org**

*Waterfront Village is a neighborhood-based membership organization of paid staff, volunteers, and vendors supporting Southwest Waterfront and Navy Yard residents who wish to age in place. The Village is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity #81-1859871 incorporated in the District of Columbia, a member of the DC Villages Collaborative and national Village-to-Village Network operating under the guidance of the District of Columbia Department of Aging and Community Living.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

SUN 1, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar. The Quiet Man – John Wayne, Maureen O’Hara, Barry Fitzgerald, Ward Bond, Arthur Shields (1952) 129 minutes & The Making of The Quiet Man, 27 minutes. Academy Awards for Best Director & Cinematography St. Dominic’s Parish Center, Basement of Priory at 630 E St. SW

MON 2, 6:30 P.M. Grief Group, St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 555 Water St. SW (202) 554-3222

MON 2, Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, Lottery application deadline for PreK to 8th grade. If you have questions, please email amidonbowendc@gmail.com. We can’t wait to meet you and show you what’s happening at our neighborhood school

SAT 7 & 21, 10:30 A.M. -Noon, Komen Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development that holds meetings every 1st and 3rd Saturdays at Westminster. All are welcome. Contact <http://www.toastmasters.org> for information on membership and fees. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW

Thurs, 5, 7-8:15 P.m. In Remembrance of the Tenth Anniversary of the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. A Look back at the Response with Special Emphasis on Urban Search and Rescue Operations and The Human Dimension. Joining us is Dr. Joe Barbera, Associate Professor of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering (Crisis & Emergency Management) at George Washington University and internationally known expert in disaster response. The host of this evening’s activity is SW Strong! the SW Emergency Preparedness Task Force, and a part of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. Our vision and mission is to build a disaster-resilient SW DC through community talks, networking, and preparedness activities. To find out more, please contact reginascorner@gmail.com or ben@swna.org. Light refreshments provided. No Cost. **RSVP by Eventbrite:** www.eventbrite.com/o/southwest-neighborhood-assembly-swna-29629439325 St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Community Room, Lower Level, 222 M St. SW, near Waterfront Metro

FRI 6, 6:30 P.M. Game Night. First Friday of every month. 2nd Floor Classroom at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, (202) 554-3222, www.staugustinesdc.org

SUN 8, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar. Fighting Father Dunne – Pat O’Brien, Darryl Hickman, Arthur Shields, Raymond Burr (1948) 93 minutes. St. Dominic’s Parish Center

MON 9, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Monthly Business Meeting. Navy Yard-DC Water HQ. 1385 Canal St. SE. www.anc6d.org

TUES 10, 2 P.M. Calm & Color. Shake off the winter blues with some meditative coloring. Tea provided. Ages 18+. SW Library, 425 M St. SW (202) 724-4752

THURS 12, 6-7:15 P.M. Yoga Nidra led by Pamela Wilson. Relax and renew your body and mind with Yoga Nidra. No experience necessary. Bring padding and cover. \$10 donation suggested. Westminster Presbyterian Church

SAT 14, 7-9 P.M. Faith & Film presents “Best of Enemies,” a 2019 drama based on the book The Best of Enemies: Race and Redemption in the New South, which focuses on the rivalry between civil rights activist Ann Atwater and Ku Klux Klan leader C. P. Ellis. Free to the Public. Doors open at 6:30. Snacks and beverages provided. Donations accepted. Westminster Presbyterian Church

SUN 15, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar. On the Waterfront – Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, Lee J. Cobb, Rod Steiger, Eva Marie Saint (1954) 108 minutes & Exclusive Featurette 25 minutes. Winner of 8 Academy Awards & One of the Vatican’s Top 15 Religious Films

TUES 17, 6:30-8 P.M. Ward 6 Middle Schools Event at Jefferson Academy. Do you want to learn more about middle schools in our ward? On March 17, the Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization will host a Ward 6 Middle

Schools Today and Tomorrow discussion with 5 principals at Jefferson Academy. Details and registration at <https://bit.ly/38vfleM>

WED 18, Noon. Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter will host Donna Purchase, President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, at our Luncheon Business Meeting. PROGRAM PART I-Business Meeting and Celebration of Women’s History Month. PROGRAM PART II-A Community Audience with Donna Purchase. Everyone is welcome to join us in our audience with Donna Purchase. Location: River Park Mutual Homes South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20024. Street Parking available and Waterfront Metro, (Green Line) two blocks away. COST: \$5 for lunch

WED 18, 6 P.M. Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group Meeting. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church. Topic of discussion is “Women History Month: Breast and Ovarian Cancer in Veteran Women.” To RSVP or for more information, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639

SUN 22, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar. Calvary – Brendan Gleeson, Chris O’Dowd, Kelly Reilly, M. Emmet Walsh (2014). 102 minutes & Interviews. Winner of Several European Awards (Rated R). St. Dominic’s Parish Center

THURS 26, Noon, NARFE Chapter 2052. United Methodist Church, 4th & I Sts. Contact: Gloria Harper-Simon, Secretary, ghsatty1@hotmail.com

THURS 26, 6:45 P.M. ABC Committee meeting at Harbor Patrol, 550 Water St. SW

THURS 26, 7-8:30 P.M. Monthly Meditation and Labyrinth Walk with live music. Meet the artist at the end of the program. Light refreshments provided. Free to the public. Westminster Presbyterian Church

THURS 26, 7:00 P.M. True Crime Book Club: *The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of a Donner Party Bride* by Daniel Brown. Join us and other true crime fans for conversation and light refreshments. Copies available for checkout at SW Library. Ages 18+

SAT 28, 5-7 P.M. Safe Space. Safe Place monthly meet-up for Southwest youth ages 10+, including diverse activities, music and food. Free to the public. Westminster Presbyterian Church

SAT 28, 2 P.M. Bucket List Book Club: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. Read the books you’ve always meant to but never have. Join us to discuss this groundbreaking autobiography that demonstrates an intersection of racism and trauma. Told in poetic prose, the work has endured popularity over half a century. Copies are available for checkout at Southwest Library. Ages 18+. SW Library

SUN 29, 6:30 P.M. Religious Movie Seminar. The Book of Eli – Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman, Malcolm McDowell, Mila Kunis, Sir Michael Gambon, Jennifer Beals (2010) 118 Minutes (Rated R) & Features. St. Dominic’s Parish Center

TUES 31, 7:30 P.M. Job Club. Looking to do some networking, get advice on your resume, or commiserate with other job-seekers? Join us for this and more alongside light refreshments. Ages 18+. SW Library

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AARP FREE TAX ASSISTANCE, Mondays & Wednesdays 11 A.M. - 3 P.M. King-Greenleaf Recreation Center. 201 N St. SW, (202) 645-7454

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

ALZHEIMER’S ASSN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP, 4th Thursday of the month. 11 A.M.-Noon. Free and open to the Public. St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, 222 M St. SW

ARTS FOR KIDS, Tuesdays 5-6 P.M. Ages 6-12, Michelle

Edmonds, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

ARTY AFTERNOONS, Mondays, 4:30 P.M. Join us for fun arts and crafts. For children ages 6-12. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Library, 425 M St. SW, 202-724-4752.

BABY/TODDLER STORY TIME, Mondays, 10:30 A.M. Full of books, songs, rhymes and fingerplays for children from birth to 2 years old. A great way to introduce your child to language skills in a positive and fun environment. With slightly more activity and movement than our lap times, children and their grownups are encouraged to actively participate in the program. Politics & Prose, 70 District Sq SW, (202) 724-4752

BASKETBALL PRACTICE, Mondays-Fridays 5-8 P.M. (Inquire within if you would like to join) Saturday Noon-3:30 P.M. King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St. SW (202) 645-7454

BIBLE STUDY, Wednesdays 1 P.M. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church

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

BOARD GAME BONANZA, Monday-Friday, 5-6 P.M. King Greenleaf Recreation Center

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, 555 Water St. SW

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASS, Sundays, 11 A.M.-Noon, 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. \$5 donation

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER, Every Thursday, 6:30 P.M. in the Chapel at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church

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

CREATIVE ARTS A/A, Wednesdays, 7 P.M. Upstairs in Gallery at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church

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!

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

FLAG FOOTBALL, Thursdays, 6-7 P.M. Ages 14+, Nathaniel Green, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

FOOTBALL 8+, 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)

GOTTASWING Dance Classes, Wednesdays, 7-10 P.M. Beginners & Intermediate. Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

HOMEWORK CLUB, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 4:30 P.M. Children and teens are invited to do homework or work on other quiet projects in the company of others. Light refreshments provided. Children under 9 years old must be accom-

panied by a caregiver. SW Library

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

JOB SEEKING ASSISTANCE, resume writing, mock interviews, and other job assistance. All are welcome. For schedule call D.C. Mentoring and Assistance Program (D.C. MAAP) at (202) 816-8572 or email wearedcmaap@gmail.com

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

The KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Christ United Methodist Church

KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, Sun March 1 10 A.M.-1:30 P.M. Meditation for Modern Life, **Sat 7, 11 A.M-1:30 P.M.** Just Breathe. **2-5:00 P.M.** Dissolving the Illusion of Loneliness. **Sat 14. 2-5 P.M.** The Preciousness of Tantra. Weekly Classes, see Meditation-dc.org. 1200 Canal St. SW

KREATIVE KIDZ (ages 7-13), Mondays, 4-5 P.M. King Greenleaf Recreation Center

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

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

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

OPEN GYM, (Adult Play), Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:30-1 P.M. Saturdays 10 A.M.-Noon, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

PAJAMA STORY TIME, Wednesdays, 6:30 P.M. An evening story time where pajamas are encouraged but not required. These 30-40-minute evening programs are designed to delight children of all ages. Filled with stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination, these programs encourage children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning. 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. Age 18+. King Greenleaf Recreation Center

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, Wednesdays, 10:30 A.M. Share the fun of reading with your children ages 3-5 years! Children and their grownups will explore stories and activities to encourage children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning. These 30-40-minute programs are designed to promote language and listening skills, expand children’s imaginations and arouse their curiosity about the world around them. SW Library, (202) 724-4752

RED HAT SOCIETY, Ladies 50+ are invited to participate in monthly get-togethers, outings, parties, a book club and more. Contact: mloadc@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+, Lykeyia Lucas, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

SOUTHWEST HOOKS AND NEEDLES, Mondays, 1-3 P.M. at the SW Library. All fiber crafters welcome

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

SOUTHWEST SATURDAYS, 11 A.M. Join us for something new and different each weekend. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library

See “Calendar” page 19

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.

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 18

SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP Chapter 4751 monthly luncheon meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday at Noon. Current AARP members, prospective members and visitors are welcome. Lunch is Available. Cost: \$5.00. River Park Mutual Homes’ South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. For further information, contact Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or (202) 554-0901

SOUTHWEST SATURDAYS, Saturdays, 11 A.M. Do a craft. Play a game. Enjoy a story together. There’s always something fun and new at the Southwest Neighborhood Library on Saturdays. Join us for all-ages fun. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library

ST. AUGUSTINE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Sundays, **Bread For Life Pancake Breakfast** 8-8:45 A.M. 9:30 A.M. Worship Service and Holy Eucharist, 11 A.M. Christian Formation Class. Come Join us! All are welcome

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Sundays Morning Worship Service 9:30 AM. Also Sunday Evening Worship Service 5-6 P.M. **9:30 A.M. Sunday School** for children of all ages. Sunday School will meet the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th (if applicable) Sundays of the month at St. Matthew (222 M St. SW). All are welcome! (202) 800-4600

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

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

SW WATERFRONT HOOKS AND NEEDLES GROUP, Mondays 1-3 P.M. SW Library. All hook/needle/fiber crafters welcome!

TEE BALL, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-7 P.M. Ages 3-6, Nathaniel Green, King Greenleaf Recreation Center

TENNIS ABC-Agility, Balance, Coordination, Mondays and Wednesdays, 1-2 P.M. All ages. King Greenleaf Recreation Center

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

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

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

TODDLER TIME, Fridays, 10:30 A.M. Join us for fun, developmentally-appropriate arts and crafts. For children ages 2-5. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library

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

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR’S CLUB, 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month, 7-9 P.M. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments provided. Christ United Methodist Church

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Sundays, 10-10:45 A.M. Resistance Bible Study. 11 A.M. Worship Services featuring gospel, jazz & blues bands. All welcome to share in inspiring worship; Godly play for youngsters. Ages: 4-12. Noon Happy Half Hour

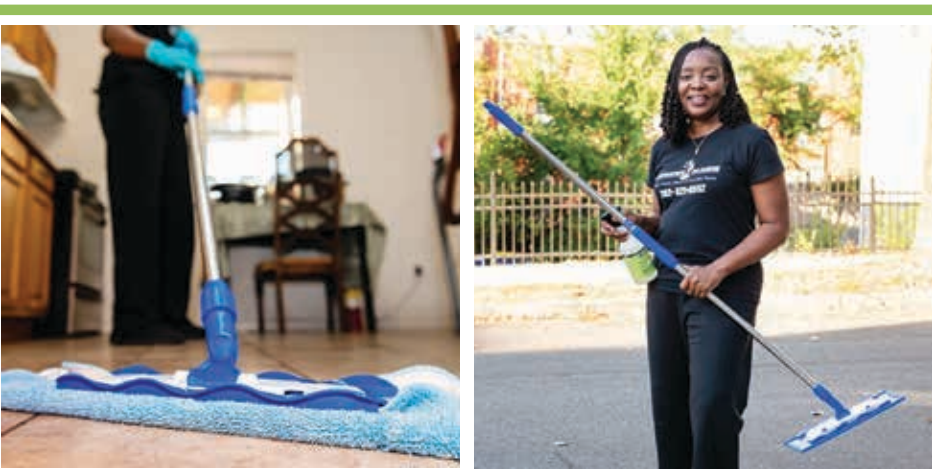
YOGA IN THE WATER: ALL-LEVELS CLASS, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 A.M. and Sundays, 12:30-1:30 P.M. with Pamela Wilson at Waterside Fitness and Swim Club, 901 6th St. SW. \$10 for class/day pass. For more information, call Waterside Fitness and Swim Club, (202) 488-3701

YOGA WITH PAMELA WILSON, WEDNESDAYS, 8 A.M. Relax and renew your body and mind. No experience necessary. Bring padding and cover. \$10 Donation suggested. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church

YOUNG AT ART (art class for 55 and older) Wednesdays, 1-2:30 P.M. King Greenleaf Recreation Center

YOUNG LADIES ON THE RISE, Thursdays, 5:30-7 P.M. Enrichment Program for girls, Ages: 6-12.

Michelle Edmonds, Game/Art Room at King Greenleaf Recreation Center



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