the SOUTHWESTERS

serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

August 2020

Major League Sports Make a Return to the District

BY NED YARSKY

▼ he Coronavirus epidemic has caused businesses to close, massive layoffs and furloughs, and forced a new way of life. Despite all the calamity of the pandemic, however, sports are coming back into our daily lives, and hopefully the return will bring back some nostalgia of our pre-COVID American way of life.

There are, of course, new rules and a new format to sports in the era of coronavirus, so dial in sports fans.

Major League Baseball began its spring training a little late this year, on July 1. Officially, the season started over three weeks later on July 23, and has scheduled 60 games. A normal baseball season is 162 games.

Included in the amended season are new roster size rules. In the beginning, each team can start off with a 30 man roster. After two weeks, teams will have to cut down to 28 players. After another two



Courtesy of D.C. United

This July both Major League Baseball and Soccer made their return to primetime

weeks, 26 players, but for double headers (two games played in one day), teams will be allowed to add one more player to the roster.

After adding some fire power to their squad, the Nationals and their fans are still going to miss Anthony Rendon, who recently signed a deal with the Los Angeles Angels. To fill that spot in the roster, the Nationals have added stars like Starlin Castro and Eric Thames.

There have been some setbacks while transitioning to the new reality of social distancing baseball, though. Pitcher Sean Doolittle has been speaking out against

See "Sports," page 18



Jeremy Brooks

Courtesy of Jeremy Brooks

This Southwest Teacher Brings Positivity and Good **Scents into Homes**

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

n the midst of a historic pandemic and a moment of cultural reckoning, one Southwest resident is focused on his community, and on humanity. Jeremy Brooks, elementary school teacher and founder of Good Day Scents Candle Co., says his two passions go "hand-in-hand."

For him, educating means being a role model and "giving back," and creating great scents means bringing "positive energy in people's homes." With smell being the sense most closely linked to memory, Jeremy aims to remind his customers of "unforgettable

memories and experiences." That mission, he says, mirrors his role as an educator during young people's formative years.

Jeremy, 28, was born and raised in Northeast Washington, D.C. He graduated from Florida A&M in 2013 with a degree in business administration. Just months after graduating he embraced a career in education. Since 2014, he's taught at Patterson Elementary School, Orr Elementary (now Boone), and DC Prep. Jeremy has taught ages ranging from early childhood to fifth grade, but he says his favorite is early childhood.

See "Teacher," page 17



DIGITAL DIVIDE **UPDATE**

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KID'S CORNER

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ARTECHOUSE REOPENS

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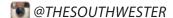


STAYCATION: AREA CODE, SOUTHWEST

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Help Save Lives in the District by supporting The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund

Donations support outreach and education strategies for young girls and link low-income, uninsured and underinsured women and men with information, screening diagnostic services and counseling. Donate on line at www. tdjbreastcancerfund.org.

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund is an all-volunteer award-winning grassroots organization with local, national and global recognition. Our mission is to advocate and improve the overall health and wellness for women and men through outreach, education, and prevention. We promote early detection strategies for breast health and access to the best biomedical and evidence-based complementary therapies to reduce the incidences and mortality rates of breast cancer. Our vision is to save lives, embrace and achieve a world community free of breast cancer.

When donating by mail, please make check or money order payable to the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund and mail to:

Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund

400 "I" Street, SW Washington, DC 20024

thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org

(202) 251-1639

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor of "The Southwester,"

We write to you as members of SW Action, a group of SW DC residents who organize and advocate for anti-racist development, as well as equitable and environmentally sustainable neighborhoods. Included amongst our members is the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force, a group of community volunteers promoting the educational, recreational, cultural, and technological developmental needs of Southwest youth.

Please find our recent statement below, which speaks to a series of incidents involving young people in our neighborhood. The statement asks Southwest residents to be aware of using language that perpetuates harm, consider alternatives to calling the police, and strengthen communal supports that elevate rather than stereotype the young people in our community.

We would appreciate it if you would consider sharing with your readership.

Sincerely, Alexis Goldstein, Jennifer Walker, and Thelma Jones

SW Action's statement on interrupting cycles of harm, rather than perpetuating them

In the last few months there have been multiple conversations on email list-servs and social media groups regarding alleged actions by young people in SW. Some of these discussions not only negatively characterized the young people, but used really inappropriate racist language to describe them. There were also images of the minors posted on social media without parental consent. There was no consideration of alternative interventions, or acknowledgement of the resources that exist in SW. In at least one instance, someone called the police.

We believe that dismantling systemic racism means challenging it everywhere it exists, from police brutality to the way young Black and Brown people in particular are criminalized, including by members of their community, especially in rapidly gentrifying areas like D.C.

Members of SW Action, therefore, felt called to respond to this ongoing discussion, and we write to invite our neighbors to be more aware of the use of language that perpetuates harm, to consider employing alternatives to calling the police, and to discover ways they can strengthen communal supports that elevate rather than stereotype the young people in our community.

Language that perpetuates harm

In several instances, people used crim-

inalizing and racist language to describe the young people involved. This rush to criminalization ignores power dynamics and inequities that are increasingly evident in SW and can create long-term negative consequences for those impacted. The negative characterization of the young people creates pain throughout the community, including among parents of Black and Brown children who witness the racist brush some commentators used in describing the young people. As the academic and activist Dr. Ibram X. Kendi writes, "antiracism means separating the idea of a culture from the idea of behavior."

In the future, we ask that our neighbors consider how language reverberates. Next time you see coded language used in public discussions, consider its impact, knowing that Black and Brown people are more likely to face police violence when police are called. If you are able to challenge the use of coded, criminalizing, or racist language, do so.

Alternatives to calling the police

Policing is not an effective long-term solution to problems. Calling the police should not be our first go-to, it should be our last. We ask that you think about what the act of calling the police could do to someone's life. If you can use alternatives to calling the police, do so.

One comprehensive resource we encourage our neighbors to make use of is this guide to Alternatives to Calling the Police in DC (https://bit.ly/safetybeyondpolice), which includes links to alternative interventions, including Community Mediation DC (https://communitymediationdc.org, Multi-Door Dispute Resolution (https://www.dccourts.gov/superior-court/multi-door-dispute-resolution-division), and the DC Victim Hotline (https://dcvictim.org).

This resource includes a series of Steps to Ask Yourself prior to calling the police, which we are including here:

- 1. Is this merely an inconvenience to me?→ Can I put up with this and be okay?
- 2. No, I need to respond → Can I handle this on my own is this something I could try to talk-out with the person?
- 3. No, I need back-up ■ Is there a friend, neighbor, or someone whom I could call to help me?
- 4. No, I need a professional → Can we use mediation to talk through what's happening or is there an emergency response hotline I could call?
- 5. No → If I call the police, do I understand how involving the police could impact me and the other person? If police are present do I know what to do?

Strengthening communal supports

In addition to inviting SW residents to examine and interrogate their own responses to harm, we would like to highlight the many existing programs for young people in SW that could use additional support. After all, it's only by strengthening these structures that support our young people will we truly build the community we all want to live in.

We ask our neighbors to become acquainted with the existing youth programs (we have listed a few below), and if you have the capacity to share resources with these programs, do so.

- St. Augustine Episcopal Church provides a daily lunch program specifically for Greenleaf and other SW young people. For more information on how you can contribute, contact Rev. Scott Lipscomb at priest@staugustinesdc. org or Virginia "Chee Chee" Mathis at vacooking1@hotmail.com.
- The SW Neighborhood Assembly Youth Activities Task Force (SWNA YATF) seeks to enhance and enrich our youth's cultural, educational, recreational and technological development through small grants, programs, and events. For more information on how you can contribute, contact Thelma Jones at thelma@swna.org.
- The SW Neighborhood Assembly Education and Scholarship Task Force (SWNA ESTF) offers scholarships and a tutoring program for youth in the Southwest Community. For more information on how you can contribute, contact Vyllorya Evans at vylloryaevans@swna.org.
- SWNA YATF & ESTF jointly host an annual SWNA YATF & ESTF also contribute to annual Black history programs, including the annual event at Arena Stage and exhibits in local schools. For more information on how you can contribute, contact Thelma D. Jones at thelma@swna.org.

We can do better than our collective response to these recent actions. As a community, we ask our neighbors to join us in challenging the use of harmful language, employing alternatives to calling the police, and sharing resources with existing youth programs.

SW Action is a group of SW residents who organize and advocate for a more equitable, anti-racist, and environmentally sustainable neighborhood

¹ NextDoor is a tool of social surveillance that can be used to perpetuate segregation and create a "digital gated community," as documented by Rahim Kurwa in the paper "Building the Digitally Gated Community: The Case of Nextdoor."

² Ibram X. Kendi, "How to Be an Antiracist," One World, 2019.

Civic Group Names Local Philanthropist as Honorary Board Member

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF), a nationally-recognized breast cancer organization recently announced the appointment of Philanthropist Jan Adams, President and CEO, JMA Solutions, an award-winning minority owned management consulting firm, as an Honorary Board Member of the TDJBCF. Adams' appointment was effective as of June.

A long-time SW resident and 24-year US Air Force veteran, Adams has been a staunch supporter of the Fund for several years, and joins Philanthropist Reginald "Reggie" Van Lee, Chief Transformation Officer of The Carlyle Group (NY), in this capacity. As an Honorary Board Member, Adams will continue to share her vast network and resources, as well as ongoing in-kind support with the organization to help further ensure its viability, growth, and sustainability.

Critical to the organization's mission and success, Adams will continue helping to develop and cultivate new strategic alliances and partnerships with individuals and companies that share the Fund's commitment to reducing the incidence and mortality rates of breast cancer, particularly with minority populations.

"Having just celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the TDJBCF in April 2020 with Jan being our corporate sponsor, I am



Jan Adams

dams Courtesy of TDJBCF

thrilled to welcome her to our organization," commented Van Lee. "Jan's philosophical and philanthropic beliefs and values, as well as her experience as a caretaker and breast cancer advocate, fully align with both mine and the organization. The TDJBCF has had the pleasure of working with Jan for several years and we are confident that her brand of win-win strategic partnerships, and commitment to philanthropy and breast health, will add to the organization's growth and sustainability."

Of her new honorary appointment,

Adams said:

I'm enthusiastic about the opportunity to join this thriving nonprofit to build new relationships and innovative partners to support the TDJBCF's growth and success.TDJBCF Founder Thelma D. Jones and I have worked closely together for several years on various volunteer and professional efforts, and have great admiration and utmost respect for her [c]ommitment and dedication to the organization's mission and vision. [T]he core values of the organization significantly align with my philosophical and philanthropic beliefs and values.

Prior to joining the Breast Cancer Fund, Adams' philanthropic efforts have included board membership at Arena Stage, former Washington Team's Cornerback Josh Norman's Starz24 charity organization, the Mamie Mallory Education and Scholarship Foundation, and the African American Civil War Memorial Foundation. Adams is a member of the Air Traffic Control Association, D.C. Chamber of Commerce, and a corporate partner of the D.C. Adopt-a-School program.

In February, Adams was reappointed by the Mayor of D.C. to serve as a trustee on the District of Columbia's Retirement Board.

Under Adams' leadership, JMA Solutions has won numerous awards, including INC. 5000's Fastest-Growing Private

Companies in America, the D.C. Chamber of Commerce's Community Impact Award, The Washington Post's Top Workplaces for the D.C. area, and the Disabled American Veterans' Small Employer of the Year Award. Adams was also profiled in O, The Oprah Magazine (2018), Entrepreneur Magazine (2018), Forbes Magazine (2016), and is also an original corporate contributor to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

About TDJBCF

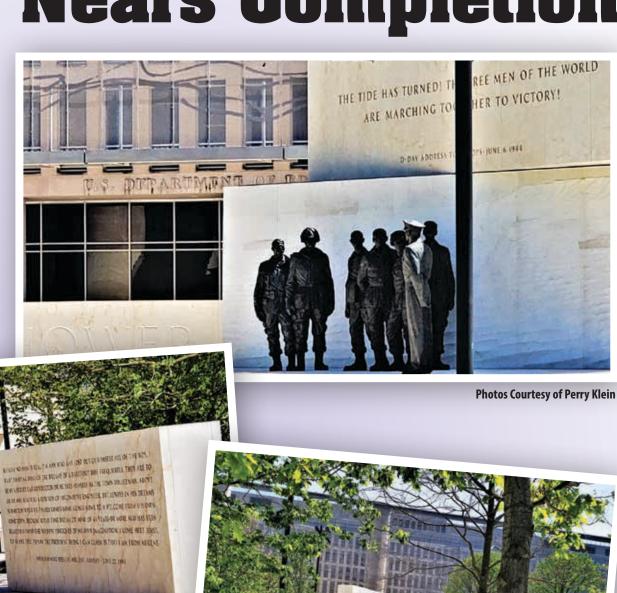
Originally founded in 2010 as a breast cancer support group, more than 1200 participants have attended its monthly support group meetings. The support group evolved into the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund in September 2012 on the 60th Birthday of Founder and Breast Cancer Thriver Thelma D. Jones. A 501(c)3 organization, its mission is to advocate for and improve the overall health and wellness for women and men through outreach, education, and support. "We promote early detection strategies for breast health and access to the best biomedical and evidence-based complementary therapies to reduce the incidences and mortality rates of breast cancer. Our vision is to save lives and achieve a world free of breast cancer."

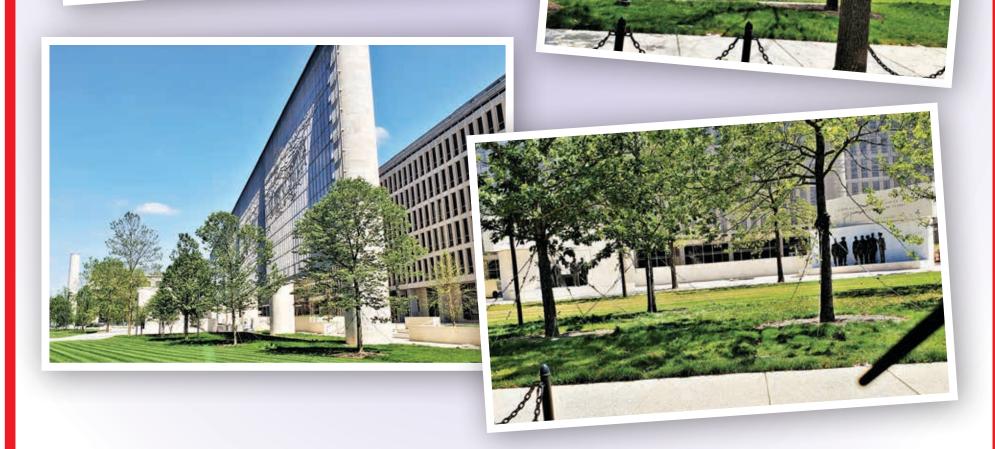
For more information on the TDJBCF, visit www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639.



Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Nears Completion

he Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial, honoring the legacy of the World War II Supreme Allied Commander and nation's 34th President, will soon open to the public in Southwest. Renowned architect Frank Gehry designed the Memorial, which is located in a newly created, four-acre public park adjacent to the National Mall and across the street from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. The Memorial features three bronze statues of Eisenhower by sculptor Sergey Eylanbekov. Based on one of the most recognized photos of World War II, one sculpture features Eisenhower with troops from the 101st Airborne the day before the invasion of Normandy. Another sculpture depicts Eisenhower in the White House surrounded by civilian and military advisors. Finally, in a tribute unique to this Memorial, a third sculpture portrays Eisenhower in his boyhood.





Since 1974, the SWNA Scholarship Fund has awarded scholarships totaling more than \$424,000. Many of the scholars still live in and give back to the community.

Abbott, Angela '90 '91 Allen, Imani '11 Allen, Mercedes '09, '10 Alston, Erick '78, '79, '80 Ames, Alyssia Jaleh '18 Anderson, Sam '17, '18, '19 Bah, Fatoumata '01, '02, '03, '04 Ball, Ateya '93, '94, '95 Ball, Jameela '93, '94, '95, '96 Barron, Todd '89, '90, '92, 93 Bean, Ahmed '93 Berry, Alysha '16 '17 '18 Berry, Raven '19 Bethea, David '88 Bethea, Steven '88, '90 Bethea, Michael '89, '90, '91 Blassinggame, Haili '15 '16 '17 Bolding, Rayford (Tony) '74 Boler, Darlene '74, '75 Bowles, Patrick '99 Brawner, Dontria M. '02, '03, 04, '05 Brawner, Jeffery '81 Brewer, Daryll '88 Brewer, Kenneth J. '78, '79 '80 Brown, Tantania '16, '17, '18 Brown, Lolita '95, '96 **Buckner, Karen '88** Bullock, Allan '80 Butler, Cassandra '87, '88, '89 Caraway, Earlette '85, '86 Carroll, Jaymal '97, '98, '99, '01 Chambers, Monique '18, '19 Charles, Nikki '96 Chase, Khadijah B. '14 Chesley, Anthony '85, '86 Chesley, Timothy '81 Chesley Jr., Francis D. '77, '78, Clemencia, Ebony '95 Clipper, Alan '99, '01, 03

Davis, Paris '00, '02 DeBiasi, Nicla '19 Diggs, Barbara '87, '90 Dobbins, Courtney E. '04, '05, Dobbins, Jr., Allen C. '04, '05, '06, '07 Drabo, Kwame S. '06 Drabo, Leon '08 Drake, Craig Donald '87, '88, **'89. '90** Drummon, Amber '98, '99, '00 DuCote, Sonte' '88, '89 Earl, Yolanda '95, '96 Early, Mary '93, '94, '95, '96 Early, Elizabeth '92, 93 Edelin, Nakia '98, '99 Edwards, Shontella '92, '93, '94 Flythe, Danielle '03, '04, '05, Foote, Daytia '18, '19 Foster, Janine '17, '18 Fraction, Lewis '80 Frankel, Todd '95 '96 Frankel, Scott '95, '96, '97, '08, Gaines, Danee '90 Gomes, Jerusha Ann '88 Gordon, Ali '92 '94 '95 '96 Gordon, Damond '93 '94 Gray, N'Dieye '90 '91 '92 '93 '94 Gray, Miya '93, '94, '95, '96 Haliburton, Tiffany '98, '99, **'00, '01** Hamilton, James '78 Hamilton, Rhonda '95, '96, '97, Hamilton, Roman '15, '16, '17, Hansberry, Jamal '06, '07, '08 Hardison, Natehya '17 Harris, Natalie '96 Harris, Patricia '08, '09 Hawkins, Melony '03, '04, '05, Henriques-Payne, Sydney '05, '06, '07 Henry, Tracy '92 Henson, Cheryl '75, '76, '77

Hill, Gary T. '14, '15 '16

Hochhauser, Alia '01

Holt, Darryl '88, '89, '91, 92 Holt, Sharea '01 Hudgens, Joyce '76, '77 James, Loretta '78 Jefferson, Vashti '95 Johns, Nikkia '90, '91, '92, '03 Johnson, Joseph '96 '97, '01, '02, '04 Johnson, Christopher '18, '19 Jones, Kirstin '11 Jones, Niya '97 Jones, Patrick '88, '89 Jones, Jamal '02 Kellogg, Makai '05, '06, '07, '08 Kersellius, Bianca '15, '16 King Doris '81 Kirkland, Diamond '06, '06, '09 Knauss, Laura '88 Lassiter, Shenearah '99, '00 Lee, Michelle '78, '79 Letsinger, McKindra '07, '08 '09, '10 Lewis-Thomas, Dayon '17, '18 Livingston, Tiffany '15, '16, '17, '18 Long, Enoch '01, '02, '02 Lucas, Sequoia '15 Mack, Arnice '91, '92, '93, '94 Mack, Wayne '03, '04, '05 Mahmoud, Omar '19 Mamo, Samson '00 Marshall, Asha '14, '15, '16, '17 Matthews, Lisa '88, '89 Mathews, Vincent '94, '96 McClure, Loretta '88 McMahan, Alexander '00, '01, McMahan, Chanda '93 Miles, Jada '16, 17. 18, '19 Mimms, Kyle '08, '09 Minnix, Davina '96, '97, '99, '00 Minus, Marrianne '90, '91 Mitchell, Marlon '13, '14, '15, '16, '17 Mitchell, Jonathan '94, '95, '96 Mkoko-Lee, Hioniphile '07, '09 Mondie, Akil '17 Monroe, Vernon S. '79 Moon, Marcus '97 Morris, Anita '89

Moscoe, Natania '06, '07 Moses, Nicolas (Nick) '16, '18, '19 Murray, Tony '91, '92, '93, '94 Najjuma, Winifred '02 Neal, Michelle '94, '95, '96 Neely, Dequendre '92, '93 Nelson, Rachelle '89 Nichols, Shanna '09 Nickens, Ava '78, '79 Norde, Eugenia '02, 03, 04, 05 Norris, Marcia '90, '91 Omekam, Vincent '09, '11, '12, O'Sullivan, Phillip '16, '17, 18, O'Sullivan, Samantha '17, '18, Owens, Karen '90 Parker, Lakeisha, '06 Parks, Kendall '19 Payne, Demetrious, '88 Perry, Stanley '78 Perry, Tamil '97, '98 Peterson, Quincy '2009 Pettiford, Najma '15, '16, '17, '18, '19 Pettiford, Tshai '15, 16, '17 Price, Tyree '14 Pringle, Terrance '89, '90 Purvis, Danette '92, '93 Pyatt, Martrelle '97, '99 Pyatt, Monique '99 Queen, Dayonna '2019 Rasheed, Chekesha '92, '93, 94, 96 Read, David '92, 94 Resial, "Bay Bay" Shannon '87, **′88, '89, '94** Richard, Malonda '90, '91, '92, '93, '94 Roberts, Emmett '82, 83, '84, Robinson, Tiffany S. '06, '07, '08'09 Rodriquez, Natasha '07, '08, **'09''10** Roney, Crystal Lynn '79, '80 Roney, Jacqueline '81 Rouse, Gregory '02 Rozzelle, Sergio '88, '89, '90 Sands, Beniamin '75, '76, '77

Sands, Terry '78, '79 Sands-Ninez, Anita '90 Seay, Clarence '80 Shabazz, Attalah '15 Sherman-Edwards, Shantella '92, '93, '94 Short, Moshawn '17, '18 Smalls, Ebonie '07 Smalls, Johnsie '81 Smith, Zanaya '17 Solomon, Carlena '98, '99 **Talbott, Pauline '95** Tennin, Joseph, '90 Thomas, Shakira '06, '07, '08, Thomas, Theresa '89, '90 Thompson, Keith A. '02, '03, Thompson, John '02, '03, '04, '05 Tinsley, Kenneth '09 '10, '11 Tinsley, Yurlee '11, '14 Triplett, Gregory '91, '93, '94, '95 Vactor, Tamera '80 Vactor, Tracy '81 Vinson, Fulton '90, '91 Walton, Breanna '17, '18 Ward, Abiri '97, '98, '99, 00 Waters, Simbi '89 '90 '91 Weiss, Paul '91, '92, '93 Weiss, Geoff '88, '89, '90, '91, '93 Wells, Sara '94, '95, '96, '97, '98 Whitter, Caitlin '17 Wilkinson, Aaliyah '19 Wilkinson, Donja '19 Williams, Sherry '82, '83 Williams, Terrance '11 Williams, Tiffany '91, '92 Wormack, David '92, 93 Wright, Darryl '81 Wyder, Candace '95, '96, '97, Yarsky, Edward (Ned) '18, '19 Yates, Shaunice '94, '95, '96 Young, Michael '89, 90, Zalan, Andy '90, '91, '92 Zhang, Da'12 Zellars, Melinda '92, '93, '94

Zellars, Kimberly '94, '95, '96

Zellars, William '96



Collins, Michelle '99

'17, '18, '19

Conley, Lakita '74, 75, 76

Culbreath, Autumn '16

Council, Kiana '95, '96, '97, '99

Crutchfield, Dannielle Rayne

www.swnascholarship.org

Newly Annointed Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Team Delivers the Goods

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Give Back Event, in partnership with the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project Team (FDMB) at River Park in SW, was akin to Christmas in June.

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) has been coordinating the daily meals distribution program at River Park, primarily for seniors and immunocompromised residents, since early April. After several weeks of careful planning with partners to ensure that COVID-19 preventive measures were soundly in place, the New FDMB staff and management team arrived with little fanfare at River Park with loads of boxes and bags in tow. Their goal, in part, was to help make the event a special and memorable occasion for the residents, including setting up



Courtesy of Author

From left to right: Kim Manning, Enora Moss, Joseph Dorsey, Thelma Jones, Jon Whitney, Patrice

everything without interrupting the daily meals program.

In the process, the team invited TDJB-CF Founder Thelma D. Jones for an interview. Recognizing the New FDMB team, Jones said, "We went over the plans carefully several times; however, I couldn't visualize all of this until it actually happened. I am so humbled and grateful that you have chosen the TDJBCF in this partnership effort for our daily meal program."

Acknowledging their appreciation for the partnership effort, the New FDMB management team expressed their gratitude to the Breast Cancer Fund and Jones. "We on the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge team are proud to partner with this phenomenal organization to provide support and assistance during an incredibly challenging season," said Joe

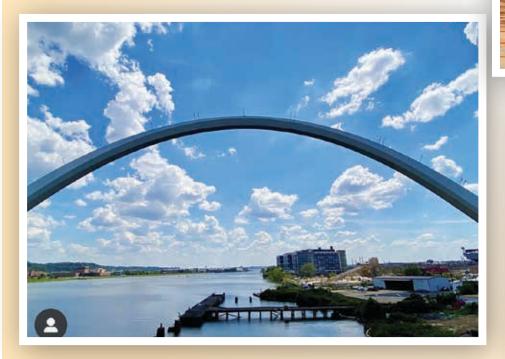
See "Memorial," page 19



There is visible progress on the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project, as new arches were added in July. The new bridge will replace the 70-year-old current bridge, as well as reconstruct the Suitland Parkway/I-295 interchange. Completion is expected in late 2021.

Photos Courtesy of Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project and Darryl Madden







Feeding the People who Feed the People

BY VYLLORYA EVANS AND MARY WEDGEWOOD

Christine Spencer, president of the James Creek Resident Council, has assembled an amazing group of volunteers to distribute much-needed free meals to seniors and other vulnerable residents in the Old Southwest community. These volunteers must adhere to strict food sanitation practices, in addi-





Courtesy of Lykeyia Lucas

Above, Brother Steven X, Lykeyia Lucas, and Resial "Bay Bay" Shannon At left, a meal to go

tion to all the COVID-19 practices. To get all the materials needed to keep volunteers safe and healthy is a challenge. Six days a week these community members are at work setting up tables, canopies, handing out meals, and cleaning it all up at the end of the day.

For many people, including some of our homeless neighbors, this is a primary source of food during the pandemic. But

it is about much more than food: It is volunteers checking up on community folks every day. It is the only human contact for many who live alone. And, it is community in the best sense of the word - love.

The meals, which are prepared by Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen, are picked up at Jefferson Middle School Academy and delivered to the James Creek Community Center by the Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID) workers. These van drivers have shown up faithfully since early April with their nutritious cargo.

The James Creek location became a distribution point when Brother Steven X (with Training Grounds) observed that many children and older residents in Old Southwest were not getting over to the Jefferson site. He brought this to the attention of Ms. Spencer. She contacted Jeanne Mattison, Constituent Services counselor from the office of Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen. When that office intervened, James Creek also became a place where meals are distributed.

Community Outreach partners Brother Steven X, Lykeyia Lucas, and Resial "Bay Bay" Shannon (with D.C. Parks and Recreation) wanted to honor the dedicated volunteers of James Creek and the SWBID

See "People," page 8



ENROLL NOW for 2020-2021 School Year



STEAM, Spanish Classes, Arts, and Social & Emotional Learning

Now more than ever parents need to feel confident that their child is in a safe, healthy, and secure environment as the city navigates the challenges of Coronavirus.

Eagle Academy is working hard to make sure your child stays healthy and can focus on his/her social and emotional growth as well as academics.

Eagle Academy Public Charter School is enrolling now for the 2020-2021 school year. We offer a blended learning experience for your child. Students can attend virtually or in person 5 days per week. Including before and after care.

Enroll your child today in our virtual or five day per week in person school options. Including before and after care. Visit www.myschooldc.org or call (202) 544-2646 and secure your child's spot today.

Here are a few of our safety components for the School Year 2020-2021

- Daily temperature checks upon arrival through designated entrances (infrared thermometers) and random checks throughout the day.
- > Special "holding area" for students with temperature 100.4 or higher, while waiting to go home.
- Masks and shields for staff and students
- ➤ Hand sanitizer pumps in all classrooms, along hallways, multipurpose spaces.
- Desk 6 feet apart
- Clear protective shield/dividers where tables are used
- ➤ Gloves, wipes and sanitizing supplies provided in all classrooms
- Continuous cleaning of high touch and frequently used areas.
- Deep cleaning of our buildings every night
- Strong adherence to DC immunization policy



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Digital Divide Update: 2021 Budget Falls Short on Technology Access

BY GRACE HU

espite over 45,000 D.C. house-holds being left behind in critical services, education, and economic opportunities due to a lack of technology access, the Mayor and DC Council have made no commitment to close the digital divide in D.C.

The Mayor's FY 2021 budget proposal, now being considered by the DC Council, includes no new initiatives to address the digital divide and provides minimal funding for current technology access initiatives. As of the writing of this article, the Council's Committee of the Whole has held its first vote on the budget, in which it declined to provide additional funding to expand technology access. The Committee of the Whole will meet again on July 21 for a second vote before finalizing the budget later in the month.

Parents, including those at Amidon-Bowen Elementary, and the Washington Teachers' Union have advocated for the Council to provide an additional \$11 million to ensure all D.C. Public School students have computers for distance learning in the coming school year. The Mayor stated in mid July that DCPS would have sufficient devices "if 40% of students in grades K-12 need a device," but it is unclear whether this would be enough to cover the need. Because family technology surveys conducted last school year were not standardized and, in some cases, parents were unreachable or not even asked, accurate school system-level data regarding the technology need of DCPS families does not exist. Surrounding school districts and some D.C. charter networks have already stated that they intend to reach a 1:1 student-device ratio for the next school year, guaranteeing technology access for all students.

Outside of the D.C. budget process, DCPS intends to use some federal funding









Courtesy of Connect D.C.

With schools debating how to safely resume amidst a pandemic, there remains a vast gulf between those with access to needed technology for distance learning and those who do not

from the CARES Act to purchase hotspots and data services to support Internet connectivity for students. Similar to the situation with devices, it is unclear whether these purchases will be sufficient to meet the needs across the school system.

Below is the status of FY 2021 D.C. budget funding related to the digital divide.

High-Speed Internet Access

Mayor's Budget Proposal:

 No new funding for the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to expand Internet access for D.C. residents. Zero funding for FY 2021-FY 2026 in the Capital Improvements Plan for public WiFi expansion. OCTO is the lead technology agency for the D.C. government and would play a leading role in any government effort to close the digital divide.

Council Action:

 The D.C. Council's draft budget bill (as of July 20) includes \$1 million for a pilot to improve WiFi in public housing, led by OCTO in partnership with D.C. Housing Authority. This provision was included by the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, chaired by Councilmember Charles Allen, and will enable the piloting of free WiFi at Potomac Gardens and Hopkins Apart-

- No additional funding provided for other Internet access-related programs.
- o Councilmember Allen proposed an amendment on July 7 (first budget vote by the Committee of the Whole) that would have provided \$2 million to increase access to high-speed Internet for students doing distance learning. The provision was removed from the amendment due to objections from other councilmembers.

Computers for D.C. Public Schools students

Mayor's Budget Proposal:

• \$6.9 million included in the DCPS budget to purchase 11,000 computers. The Mayor stated on July 16 that DCPS's computer inventory, including new and older devices, would be sufficient "if 40% of students in grades K-12 need a device." DCPS's projected FY 2021 enrollment is approximately 53,000 students.

Council Action:

No additional funding provided. (Parents who are part of the Digital Equity in D.C. Education Coalition and the Washington Teachers' Union have asked the Council to find an additional \$11 million to ensure that every student has a device for next school year.)

Technology training

Mayor's budget proposal:

- Funding for OCTO's Digital Inclusion Initiative, which funds efforts to help lower-income residents access technology through outreach and training, is reduced from \$1.1 million to \$387,000.
- DCPS's base budget includes funding for teacher professional development, but the specific amount allocated for training related to technology and online learning is unclear.

Council Action:

• No additional funding provided.

For questions or comments related to this article, please email Digital Equity in DC Education at digitalequitydc@gmail. com.

PEOPLE

Continued from p. 7

staff, and so a June 26 event was planned – a food fest, of course!

Menu for the event: fried whiting fish prepared by Bay Bay, ribs and chicken right off King Ribs BBQ grill, potato salad, summer Italian spaghetti salad, macaroni and tuna salad, green beans, pineapple baked beans, mac and cheese, fried and baked chicken, banana pudding, petite lemon cakes. And don't forget the cinnamon rolls!

The SWBID workers who were being

honored with this special meal included Andre Witt, Charlene Smith, Charlene Porter, Verna Lyes, Gregory Williams, Danny Jones, Anna Granados, Peron Williams, and Delontae Chola. The James Creek resident volunteers included Mary Thomas, Maria Morton, Joyce Jenkins, Thomasine Spencer, Annette Spencer, Sharon Easton, and Katrina Gaynor.

Naomi Mitchell, community liaison from the office of Councilmember Allen, shared in the festivities from the beginning to end. Thelma Jones, who coordinates the food distribution at River Park Mutual Homes, also joined in.

The free meals being distributed in the

community are ready to eat and are individually packaged following strict food industry guidelines. People can just pick up a package and take it home to eat. The meals are well-balanced with protein, carbohydrates, a variety of vegetables; they are presented with eye-appeal; and they are delicious!

A recent box featured chicken breast prepared in the *sous vide* method: the meat vacuum sealed while fresh, the sealed package immersed in hot (not boiling) water and then cooked slowly for a long time. The chicken was tender, juicy, flavorful – and perfectly paired up with mixed vegetables, rice, and spicy sauce.

Chef Kevin Cecilio assures us that Jose Andres is a big fan of the *sous vide* process, which is especially useful for achieving consistency across large projects without sacrificing nutritional value.

Generosity enables these wholesome meals to be prepared in the first place, and local community dedication makes them available to those who need them right here in Old Southwest. And, a potluck celebration among those giving, receiving, caring, and working together is a joyful thing!

Healing Practices for Challenging Times

Shared by Smith Center and Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund

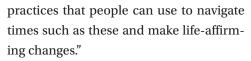
BY LISA SIMMS BOOTH, KIERSTEN GALLAGHER, AND JULIA ROWLAND

he Smith Center for Healing and the Arts and the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) partnered for an evening of healing on Wednesday, July 15. The evening, hosted via Zoom and live-streamed via Facebook Live, offered self-care and resilience resources to assist those managing chronic illness, Covid-19, or racism in this challenging time.

Smith Center Executive Director, Lisa

Simms Booth said, "This year's convening with the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund was especially poignant given the enormity of issues right now. Our guiding mission

is to share healing



Following an opening meditation, Simms Booth emceed the evening, which featured conversations and facilitated creativity and healing sessions with Smith Center staff – Cancer Support Program Director, Kiersten Gallagher; senior advisor, Julia Rowland; and program manager, artist in residence, Tamara (Tami) Wellons.

The evening kicked off with a moderated conversation about the night theme – healing. Julia Rowland shared that, "For many, healing has a medical focus – curing or restoring health. However, we may need to come to a place of healing while living with illness. It was this belief that Smith Center was founded upon, that each of us has within us the capacity to heal."

Kiersten Gallagher added, "At Smith Center, we know that people heal in different ways. We offer a menu of programming – movement, meditation, nutrition, creativity such as poetry, writing, visual arts, and music, plus support groups and healing circles. By offering a variety of tools, people can create their own healing basket. What's magical about Smith Center is that we offer a sacred space, a space where you can be authentic. We know that healing happens when people feel seen and heard."

At the end of this conversation, Row-



land challenged all the participants to write down what healing means to them and to ask another friend or family member their thoughts about healing and have

a discussion.

The evening then focused on creativity, and Gallagher led the group through two writing exercises. When asked about the power of creativity, Gallagher waxed philosophical, saying, "Something

magical happens when you put something down on paper and get your handson art materials. With writing, you can give voice to feelings with words. I can't explain it but something magical happens in the creative process that is truly healing." Gallagher also led the group in the creation of the collective poem which accompanies this article.

The focus on creativity continued with a discussion about the power of music and singing with Tamara (Tami) Wellons, who shared a powerful story with the group. "Growing up, we would visit my aunt who had Alzheimer's and she would often ask me to sing a song. She would often sing along, remembering every word even though she often would not remember my dad's name or mine. The music triggered memories. This is how I

learned the power of music."

For her part, Wellons led the group through some breathing exercises and a sing-along of songs, including show tunes, classic standards, popular music, and hymns. Many of the participants shared that the music touched them deeply and they felt moved by singing together.

"I'm so happy that we were able to continue our tradition of joining Smith Center for our July monthly meeting. While we weren't able to meet at their U Street location, we were still able to bring forth the transformative work that Smith Center is known for. I loved the idea of an evening of healing and it was an absolutely wonderful experience," said Thelma D. Jones of the evening.

For more information on Smith Center and its programs, please visit www. smithcenter.org or call (202) 483-8600. For more information on the next meeting of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, please visit www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org, or call (202) 251-1639.

A poem created by the participants of the Evening of Healing

Our Reflections

Smith Center and Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group A Collaborative Poem by the Group participants

I want love, peace, and happiness

I hope for mankind to come together for our greater good

I wish for a safe world for my grandchildren and their children

I fear failure

I am resilient

I want to cure disease and eliminate poverty
I hope that people learn to love each other
I wish for world peace
I fear the divisiveness of this country

I fear the divisiveness of this country
I am who I am

I want the world to be more accessible I hope our children grow up in a world where we care

I wish there was a cure for all cancer

I fear the person wearing a mask but not covering their mouth and nose

I am grateful

for the environment

I want the world to love one another, we are all God's children

I hope for peace and good will to all I wish for more positive thinking

I fear nothing or no one

I am God's child

I want happiness

I hope for more acceptance and love in the world

I want success

I fear loss

I am a black man

I want to be content in all situations

I hope for world peace

I wish for everyone to be treated equally

I fear ignorance

I am strong

I want love to stay around
I hope that we feel this love
I wish for a kind world
I fear nothing

I fear nothing

I am here

We are here together

Page 10 The Southwester August 2020





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?



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2	 	 	

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4	 	 	
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Answers from July 2020 issue

right has page numbers on the book; the picture on the right has a peace sign instead of a heart; the picture on the right says "peace" instead of "love;" the scales are different; the picture on the left has raised fists instead of connected hands; the picture on the right has an exclamation point after "family."

Word Scramble: There are 320 words you can make from "friendship."

WORD SEARCH: BATTER UP!

HIT

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SLIDE

Word Scramble! How many words can you make from BASEBALL?							
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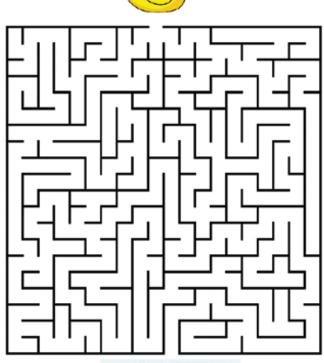


KID'S CORNER

SUMMERTIME EXTRA!

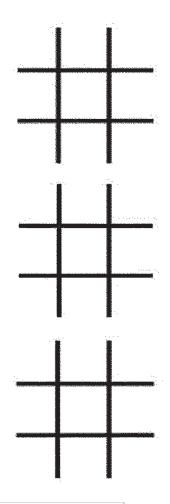
Maze! Can you help the duck get to the pond?

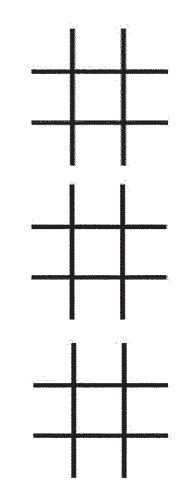






TIC TAC TOE





Jokes!

What do you call a pig doing karate?
[Submitted by Ella]
A pork chop!

What has a bow but can't be tied?

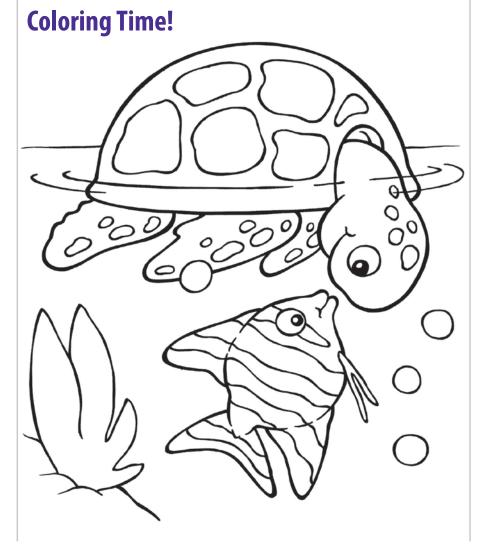
A rainbow!

Why are playing cards like wolves?

They come in packs!

Would you like to submit a joke for Kid's Corner? Email it to editor@ thesouthwester.com.

Include your first name so we can tell other kids who sent it in!



Math Moment!

Can you complete these equations?

$$a. 5 + 9 =$$

$$c. 8 - 5 =$$

$$g. 10 + 9 =$$

$$h. 3 \times 3 =$$

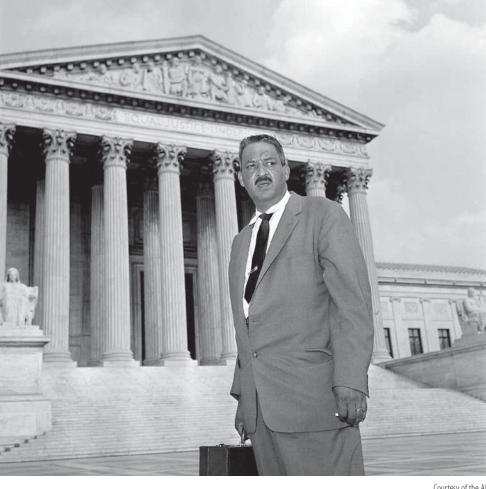
Parallels to Today: the Long, Hot Summer of '67

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

In July, the nation celebrated the 244th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Though most Washingtonians stayed indoors to comply with safety protocols amid the COVID-19 pandemic, others could be seen out in the streets, as they had been just weeks before, during the George Floyd protests. It was a much different scene than in recent years, though the country has certainly honored its traditions by questioning them before.

In the "long, hot summer" of 1967, a wave of riots were set off in African American communities across the country in reaction to racial injustice and the war in Vietnam. It was a year the country seems to be mirroring today.

Had one walked outside their home in the Southwest of 1967, they probably wouldn't have seen the kind of upheaval that other American cities did that year. Still, they would have known the deeply rooted racial and social inequities in the country. One such Southwest resident from that era was future Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. He lived in a townhome in Southwest between 1965-



Courtesy of the AP

Thurgood Marshall on the steps of the Supreme Court in 1958

1967, between being sworn in by President Lyndon B. Johnson as US Solicitor

General – a post which had not been held by an African American before – and taking his historic seat on the Supreme Court.

The Southwest that Marshall experienced during the mid '60's was a neighborhood in flux, as the saying goes. While change is almost always true of any neighborhood, Southwest D.C. was experiencing a demographic shift unlike the rest of Washington. As historian Derek Musgrove writes in Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital, early in the century the neighborhood "was home to three distinct communities that clustered in different sections - black residents generally to the east of Fourand-a-Half Street, native-born white residents to the west, and Jewish immigrants in between."

By the 1950s, the neighborhood was "isolated physically and culturally from the rest of the city" by design. After World War II, planners, as well as "the local press and business community" revamped the area to avoid "blight" – a term linked to "racial turmoil and activism" elsewhere in Washington. The city as a whole transitioned from being over 70 percent white to majority African American by 1960. Meanwhile, Southwest transitioned to majority white from majority African American.

As a legal mind and as an African American, Thurgood Marshall would have been keenly aware of the period's racial inequities. Many white Americans opposed the

nomination on racial grounds, yet Lyndon Johnson was insistent on having him break the color barrier by appointing him the first African American Solicitor General – and eventually, as he had already planned, Supreme Court Justice.

When Marshall initially said he would commute for the job, and keep his family in New York, the President said, "But nothing! Move down!", as quoted in Juan Williams' *Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary*. Three weeks after that encounter, Marshall wrote Johnson that he had taken the President's "gentle hint," that his boys would "be going to Georgetown Day School," and that he had "rented a small house at 64-A 'G' St, SW" – which Johnson was "delighted" to hear. A commemorative plaque currently adorns the exterior of the home.

In 1967, Johnson nominated Marshall to replace outgoing Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark, a seat Marshall would make history by occupying. However, this was not before Congress spent over half of July debating the appointment, according to the Library of Congress' website – a long, hot July, indeed.

After serving as a celebrated Supreme Court Justice for two decades, Marshall gave a speech that resonates today. In 1987, on the occasion of the bicentennial of the ratification of the US Constitution, he spoke at the Annual Seminar of the San Francisco Patent and Trademark Law Association. He drew attention to the systemic racism literally written into our system of governance, noting, for instance, that "We the People" in fact referred to "the whole Number of free Persons," according to Art. 1, Sec. 2 of the Constitution. However, the message was not one of defeatism and its purpose not merely criticism - it was one of triumph and hope.

Marshall was an important proponent of the "Living Constitution" interpretation. He said that the document was not "fixed" in 1787, but required "several amendments, a civil war, and momentous social transformation to attain the system of constitutional government, and its respect for the individual freedoms and human rights" that he observed in the 1980s. Marshall concluded "we may not all participate in the festivities with flag-waving fervor" on the bicentennial. It is right, he said, that some may mark the date by commemorating "the suffering, struggle, and sacrifice that has triumphed over much of what was wrong" with the 1787 Constitution. And, there is nothing unpatriotic or disloyal about doing so.

FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC Over 20 years of Helping Southwest!

Will you help a neighbor?

In these difficult times your support is crucial.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, Friends of Southwest DC has supported a SW food pantry, a SW meals program, a SW jobs reentry program, online education for SW youth, college scholarships for SW students, a SW community garden, scholarships for SW kids to Camp Arena Stage, and more.

We can't do it without your help.
Please, give back to your neighborhood!
Send tax-deductible contributions to:

P.O. Box 44434 Washington DC 20026

To donate by credit card or apply for a grant visit: FriendsofSWDC.org

We support The Southwester through our advertising.

Friends of Southwest Continues to Support Residents





Coralie with scholars

BY DONNA PURCHASE

he Friends of Southwest D.C. (FOS) has been a friend indeed to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA)! Most recently, FOS provided a \$5,000 grant to SWNA to update their website, which is up and running at www. swna.org (feedback welcome).

The Friends have also provided grants to SWNA task forces to support youth activities, technology, education, scholarships, and more. Since 1999, FOS has provided \$51,100 in grants to the SWNA Education & Scholarship Task Force to support 37 students. All students selected for a FOS scholarship have graduated or are still in school.

In 2019, FOS provided four grants to SWNA:

Tutoring: This grant provided for free tutoring services to the students at Ami-

don-Bowen through Community Scholar with the goal of increasing academic performance. Math and English tutoring books were provided for the students. This effort, which continues into 2020, was targeted to help 100 students from 2nd through 5th grade.

Scholarships: The grant to the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force supplied scholarships of \$1,500 each for five college-bound Southwest high school seniors: Nicla DeBiasi (Northeastern U.), Kendall Parks (Jackson State U.), Dayonna Queen (Hartford U.), Aaliyah Wilkinson (Johnson C. Smith U.), and Donja Wilkinson (Georgia State U.).

School computers: The purpose of this project was to provide 20 desktop computers to Amidon-Bowen Elementary School for a pre-kindergarten class. The grant to the SWNA Technology Task Force made possible the upgrading of donated

computers.

Youth Cultural Opportunities: The grant to the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force was a pilot to encourage access for disadvantaged residents of Southwest to cultural offerings by Arena Stage. Residents would then generate interest and enthusiasm to others about future pro-

Tiffany Livingston with Friends of SW officers

Friends of Southwest DC, initially established as River Park Friends (RPF), originated thanks to the foresight of residents of River Park Mutual Homes, Inc., a 1960s cooperative of high-rises and townhomes built in Southwest on the rubble of the 1950s urban renewal. Some River Park residents no doubt came to the Southwest neighborhood in search of relatively inexpensive housing, but others came because of the appeal of communal living with a commitment of support for a common good.

In its 1999 report, FOS reported just six grants totaling \$2,150. In 2013, FOS made ten grants to seven organizations (including two organizations new to FOS) totaling \$18,135. Awards in the early years were usually \$500 to \$1,200. More recently, awards have ranged from just over \$900 to almost \$5,000. Since 1999, more than \$280,000 in grants have been awarded to 31 organizations that provide programs for residents of Southwest D.C., and SWNA is a grateful recipient of their support.

For more information about FOS activities over the years, refer to the Annual Reports for each year since 2011 on the FOS website: www.FriendsofSWDC.org, in the History and Annual Reports section. And, you can make a difference by donating to: http://www.friendsofswdc. org/donate

Breast Cancer Fund Celebrates Black Philanthropy Month

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

oin the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) for its annual Black Philanthropy Month (BPM) (http://www.blackphilanthropymonth. com) celebration on Wednesday, Aug. 19, at 6 p.m., via Zoom and Facebook Live (http://www.facebook.com/TDJBreast-CancerFund/).

Back by popular demand, the celebration will feature guest speaker and breast cancer survivor, Maxine B. Baker, retired president & CEO, Freddie Mac Foundation, and a member of Black Benefactors. Baker will speak on the theme of "Getting Back to Normal," including discussing her philanthropic efforts and sharing her journey of battling breast cancer while leading an organization.

Philanthropist Lavern Chatman, vice president of business development at EDJ Associates, Inc., will again serve as the mistress of ceremonies. Chatman, a former SW resident and SWNA board member, was also a member of the Arena Stage board of trustees.



Breast Cancer Survivor Maxine B. Baker, Retired President & CEO, Freddie Mac Foundation, and a member of Black Benefactors



Philanthropist Lavern Chatman, Vice President, Business Development, EDJ Associates,



Black Benefactors Founder & Philanthropist Tracev Webb & Architect, Black Philanthropy

In addition, Black Benefactors (https:// www.blackbenefactors.org) founder, Tracey Webb, one of the architects of BPM, will serve as the meeting's sponsor for the third consecutive year. Both Baker and Jones are founding members of Black Benefactors.

Founded in 2007, Black Benefactors is a giving circle based in Washington, D.C. that provides grants and in-kind support to Black-led nonprofit organizations. To date, the organization has awarded nearly \$100,000 in pursuit of its mission to enhance the well-being of Black chil-

dren, youth, and families by encouraging philanthropy, community service, and advocacy in the Washington, D.C. metro-

BPM is a global celebration and concerted campaign to elevate African descent-giving. The theme for BPM 2020 is "Foresight 20/20," a twist on "hindsight is 20/20." Black communities, however, are calling on us to do what is right, right now—especially with the threat of COVID-19 and ongoing racial injustice.

Launched in 2011 to commemorate the United Nations Year and Decade of People of African Descent, the celebration is observed annually in August. As part of the TDJBCF celebration, breast cancer survivors and other audience members will be encouraged to share their philanthropic efforts, especially those relating to the coronavirus pandemic.

For information regarding the TDJBCF, visit www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639. For information on Black Benefactors, visit www.blackbenefactors. org and for information on BPM, visit www.blackphilanthropymonth.com

A Cherry Blossom Season Cut Short, Artechouse Opens a Door Back to Spring

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

herry blossoms are a special occasion in Japan and every spring for about two weeks, while the countryside is still leafless from winter, there's an explosion of whites and multiple shades of pink everywhere. Beneath the explosion of soft colors, people gather to drink, eat, converse, and enjoy the beautiful but fleeting cherry blossoms. Stepping into *Hanami*: Beyond the Blooms, which reopened at Artechouse on July 9 after closing in March due to COVID-19, I wondered if this experience would evoke the same nostalgia of hanami in Japan, or something completely different.

Of course the colors, sounds, and culturally relevant artwork evoked some of that of nostalgia, but this wasn't anything like the cherry blossom festivals I'd attended in Japan. It was like I was inside an anime or manga illustration, which is the effect that artist Shimizu Yuko was going for. "The action lines make it look like...is it traditional or is it manga/anime, so I wanted to have an experience that is traditional and also very modern and very pop and very much today, 21st century," she said back in March.

This was a kind of hanami – digitized and animated and given life. Swirls of pastel colors, large Hukusai-like waves crashing, Fuji, stylized clouds, and the eponymous blossoms danced around the main gallery. For an artist known for her 2D illustrative work in books and magazines, and who still draws the old-fashioned way, this was a major upgrade. So when Artechouse approached Shimizu about doing an exhibit, she said she was hesitant at first becaue she had never done this kind of art before, and didn't know if there was



Courtesy of Matthew Koehler

Hanami: Beyond the Blooms at Artechouse

time to create such an exhibit.

"It was probably the most exciting and most scary and stressful project I have ever done in my career. I was constantly freaking out." She said that in advertising and illustration, she always knows what the project is going to look like at the end, but with this installation, she had no idea. For her, this project was a big risk for both her and Artechouse. "It's like, we don't know where it's going to go but we trust each other."

Like previous exhibits at Artechouse, *Beyond the Blooms* is interactive. Patrons can stand in front of the main gallery, named "The Rapture," and pose while digital cherry blossom petals form

whatever shape they make with their bodies, and track their movements. Twenty-first century technology (Lidar) senses visitors and turns them into animated art.

"Rapture" has six visual themes that incorporate the traditional imagery of Japan. As with the changing scenery, the background music shifts through softer, peaceful melodies to more dramatic ones with crashing waves. Water is a recurring theme in Shimizu's work, which she explained she is terrified of, and can't swim.

To the right of the main gallery is another exhibit called "The Awakening" – an apt name as, there are some taiko drums from the artist, and traditional festival lanterns that light up in patterns when the drums are struck.

Entering the doors to the left of "Rapture," is a passageway that resembled a walk under cherry trees in a castle park thick with blossoms. This hallway leads to the multi-media room where concentric patterns like fireworks interact with visitors on large mirror-like surfaces. Markings on the floor indicate that people should maintain their social distancing.

Back in March, days before the nationwide shutdowns, I asked Shimizu

See "Artechouse" page 18

SW Mutual Aid Serves Up Food to Needy Families

BY MAX GROSSMAN AND CARLEE BROWN

ard 6 Mutual Aid (W6MA) is an all-volunteer grassroots group working with black and brown community organizations to help keep our communities safe. Over the past five months, the Southwest Pod of W6MA has partnered with Christ United Methodist Church on a community food and supply drive to serve our neighbors in response to Covid-19. In addition, thanks to generous neighbors who donate items at the Southwest Farmers Market on Saturdays, we are now disturbing fresh produce on Sunday mornings between 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Interested in ways to help? There are several ways to show your support.

- Donate groceries and supplies. Come say hi and consider donating fresh produce bought at the Southwest Farmer's Market on Saturdays between 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Provide or help make masks. Masks are and will continue to be the best barrier to prevent the spread of the virus and keep Southwest safe! If you are interested in donating masks, sewing masks, or assembling pre-cut masks, please email lizmariapen@gmail.com. We are in particular need of kids masks.
- Tutor local students online. The need for tutors doesn't end with the school

year. W6MA's tutoring program is looking for college students, grad students, and professionals who want to volunteer for virtual tutoring sessions in any subject. If you are interested, please contact syctutoringmutualaid@gmail.

• Volunteer. The Southwest Pod of W6MA is also seeking volunteers to help staff our local food pantry and help with our farmer's market tabling and food distribution. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact karenlmcmanus@gmail.com.

Those in the community seeking assistance can access goods and services through the following means:

- If you or someone you know has a critical need, call the **Ward 6 Mutual Aid Hotline** at **202-683-9962**. You can request food, masks, cleaning supplies, and other goods for delivery.
- Obtain **fresh produce** from W6MA's community drive on **Sundays**, from **9-10:30 a.m.** at the Christ United Methodist Church (900 4th St. SW; use courtyard entrance near library).
- Obtain groceries from the Christ United Methodist Church's 5000 Ministry
 Food Pantry on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 9-11 a.m.
 (courtyard entrance).

Staycation: Area Code, Southwest

RY DERORAH SHERWOOF

orking from home has its perks.

Daily commutes in rush hour traffic have evolved into trudging from the bedroom to a laptop on the kitchen table next to the box of Frosted Flakes, shoved out of webcam view.

Whacking the snooze button has become a morning exercise.

Showers are optional and leisurely, and sipping delectable french press coffee has replaced gulping down that last bit of tepid black sludge from the bottom of the carafe in the office break room.

Another underrated aspect? You don't need to fake interest in interminable stories about the latest achievements by your coworker's brilliant kids, nor suck in your tummy when an attractive colleague walks by.

Although the thermometer is climbing toward three digits, that cute weather guy on channel 4 is predicting pleasant summer weather for the next 10 days.

Songs about picnics in the park, yellow polka-dot bikinis and "Hot Fun in the Summertime" make you long for those



Courtesy of Author

Deborah Sherwood

tranquil lazy, crazy, hazy days of prequarantine summers.

The massive dark green magnolia tree in the park across the street with its intoxicating, fragrant white blossoms and soothing shade beckon to you. Ethereal clouds in an azure sky prompt you to invent a list of excuses for getting out of your afternoon videoconference.

Suddenly, you remember you have some unused vacation time and decide to take off for a week or two. Considering the questionable risk of air and train travel, you brilliantly conclude a *staycation* is the answer.

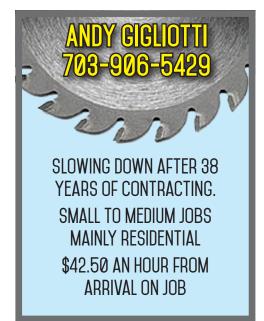
Current restrictions limiting the number of patrons allowed in public places like museums, bars, restaurants, amusement parks, beaches, campgrounds, and stadiums can be discouraging. There are, however, still many other enjoyable summer activities close by.

Biking the C&O Canal, checking out the Southwest Heritage Trail, cooling off at the National Arboretum or Kenilworth Gardens, and watching the progress of The Wharf's Phase II development are all appealing options...

Just pour yourself a cold beverage, burrow deep into your recliner and open that new John Grishom novel you bought last February.

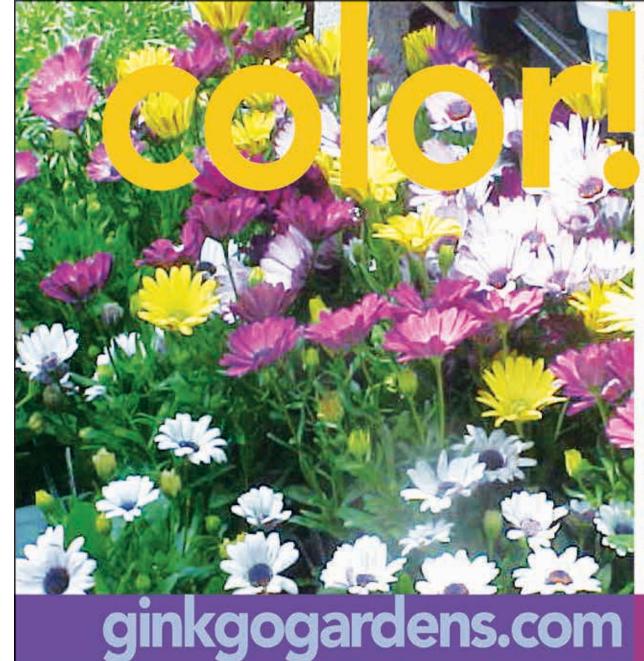
Staycation has begun!

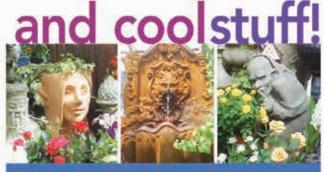
Deborah Jones Sherwood happily resides at River Park in Southwest DC.



LOG ON TODAY!

www.swna.org www. TheSouthwester.com





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Great selection of pots and garden
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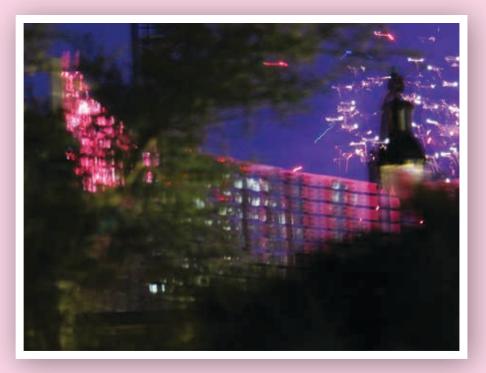
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Hours:

M-F 8-7 | SAT. 8-6 | SUN. 9-5

Page 16 The Southwester August 2020

PHOTO OF THE MONTH WINNER: SUSIE HUMPHREYS



Courtesy of Susie Humphrey:

Outage of the nearest street lights permitted seeing the roof screen panels on St. Augustine's Episcopal Church metamorphose their usual off-white-gray into reflective union with Independence Day fireworks.

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



Navigating Together

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Waterfront Village is open and ready to serve the senior residents of the Southwest DC and Navy Yard neighborhood.

During this time, Waterfront Village is deploying its network of volunteers, vendors and staff to meet the needs of members 62 years and older who want to age at home with dignity. Among services currently offered to ensure the health and well-being of our members are:

- Telephone companion check-ins
- On-line social and educational events
- One-on-one technology assistance by phone
- Grocery shopping and delivery
- Transportation to urgent (non COVID-19) medical appointments
- Emergency handyman help and/or referrals

To learn more about becoming a Village member or serving as a community volunteer, please call 202-656-1834 or visit our website: www.dcwaterfrontvillage.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. Waterfront 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.



Courtesy of Georgine Wallace

From a distance and through the trees, the SW Library is nearly complete

Nearly There, SW Library Construction Update

BY GEORGINE WALLACE

hat building is going up fast!" is the most frequent comment I hear about the new SW Library when I travel around Southwest.

The reason the building is progressing so quickly is that the new structure will not have a basement. This is due to the soil conditions and the area being on a flood plain. Furthermore, the new library is longer and wider than its predecessor and will provide more usable space. By the end of July, the brick work should be done and all of the windows installed. Other exterior work will extend into August. The majority of work will then move internally.

Note that at some point in August or September, K Street outside the library may be temporarily closed in order to connect utilities. The Library is working with ANC 6D Commissioners and DDOT to finalize the schedule and manner of closure. Impacted residents will be given advanced warning.

As of this writing, the construction team has no reported positive COVID-19 cases. Team members are following a protocol of daily temperature checks and the use of masks. Social distancing is practiced as well.

Once the inside construction is finished, the design team will get the keys and work their magic on the final touches. The Library will then go through the process of obtaining a certificate of occupancy in preparation for what remains (so far) an early 2021 opening.

Need a reminder of the colors and design? Go to https://www.dclibrary.org/newsouthwestlibrary and you can review the presentations from all of the public meetings.

For the time being, the interim library at 425 M St. remains closed, as is about half of the library system. The size of the interim and its limited capability for social distancing are the cause for hesitation on reopening the library. The Friends of the SW Library, ANC 6D, and Councilman Allen's office are working to obtain at least limited library services to Southwest as soon and as safely as possible.

In the meantime, please continue to use the many digital programs at https://www.dclibrary.org/godigital.



Courtesy of Georgine Wallace

The state of construction from K Street

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Why You Should Stop Saying "I Don't See Color"

This statement probably doesn't mean what you think it does. We got an award-winning documentary filmmaker to tell us why.

BY DAWN PORTER

Editor's Note: This essay originally ran on the website of "Reader's Digest."

m I your only black friend? Before you answer, let me add to the question. I don't mean George from accounting who knows all the ins and outs of last week's game. I don't mean the security guard you wave to every morning on your way into work. I mean, do you call them to have lunch? To complain about your kids, your spouse, your boss? Have they been personally and specifically invited to your home?

The problem with well-meaning

I have a lot of white friends, and during the past week a number have reached out to me to see how I am doing. I am conflicted about this. On the one hand, I deeply appreciate that they are thinking of me and my children and how we are reacting in this debilitating time of social unrest. But to be honest, what I would like them to do is reach out to their other friends. Specifically, their white friends. Because right now I need white people to speak to one another. I am wrestling with my own issues at this time; I cannot carry the burden of yours.

How do I feel? Tired. Worried. Anxious. You know what I am not? Surprised. None of my black friends are surprised. The possibility of this type of violence is not surprising to us. We may choose not to speak to you about it because you haven't ever asked.



Courtesy of Dawn Porter

Dawn Porter

Well-meaning people say a lot of well-meaning things. "I can't imagine how you feel" is right there at the top of the list. Have you tried? I'm asking because I know I don't need to be Jewish to be distraught and outraged about anti-Semitism. And I know I don't need to be gay to be disgusted and terrified by homophobia. So why is it so difficult for you to even *imagine* what it feels like to be black? This is just one reason why Black History Month

shouldn't be a single month.

Why I want you to see color

And then there is "I don't see color." Don't you? If there are "too many" black people at an event, in a room, in your town or your school, do you notice? Does it make you feel uncomfortable, even just a little bit? You see color. Do you give more credibility to information coming from white colleagues than from your black co-workers? You see color. You do

not have to wield a baton on a bridge to be a person who has racist thoughts.

Most of us at one point or another will make sweeping assumptions based on race. These range from the mild (all black people can dance, play basketball, etc.) to the more pernicious (black men are dangerous sexual predators, black bodies can withstand greater levels of violence than white bodies). Having racist thoughts does not make you a racist, but failing to question your racially-based assumptions does.

When you say I don't see color, you are not doing me a favor. It's as if you are telling me my brown skin is something you have to work to look past, to excuse even, in order to see my humanity. I want you to see my color as much as I want you to notice anything else about me. So please, go ahead and see my color. See me.

Next, read why you should change your phone setting before protesting (https://www.rd.com/article/change-phone-settings-before-protest/).

For more on this important issue, see our guide to the Fight Against Racism (https://www.rd.com/article/fightagainst-racism/).

Dawn Porter is a documentary filmmaker and founder of the production company Trilogy Films. Her film John Lewis: Good Trouble premieres in theaters this spring. More about Dawn can be found at https:// www.trilogy-films.com/dawn-porter#.

TEACHER

Continued from p. 1

This year, Jeremy finished an MA in education. He says his favorite part about teaching is seeing the "impact" he has on his students, just by "being able to relate to them" as a result of his own upbringing in the District.

The pandemic is going to have a profound impact on the earliest memories of D.C. students, according to the teacher. His youngest students, just three years old, will begin their school careers in a fundamentally different learning environment than they will experience going forward. After D.C. schools were closed in March, teachers turned to online learning to finish out the school year. Jeremy's students have been eager to join him online, but they miss seeing their teacher and friends at school. "Imagine being three years old," he says, and wondering after a few months of online learning, "is this how school is?" He is one of many D.C. educators dedicated to creating positive learning outcomes for students in the upcoming school year.

Jeremy has remained interested in business administration. He began experimenting with candle-making in winter 2017-18 when his girlfriend, Jessica, gave him a kit as an alternative approach to stress management. He made 50 candles, and gave them to his coworkers – wanting only feedback in return. After receiving rave reviews, Jeremy decided to start making candles at a larger volume – all in a studio apartment on Eye St. The name of the company is rooted in Jeremy's philosophy that every day is a Good Day. All the candle scents and names "encompass different parts of a good day" – like Unwind and Sunday Funday.

Jeremy took 100 candles to a pop-up event and sold them all in about four hours. In that first year, he sold about 200 candles in total. The next year, in 2019, he received orders for upwards of 500. This year, Jeremy set a goal of 1,000 and had already sold about 800 as of July – all while faced with the challenge of a historic pandemic and resulting economic downturn.

Despite having limited access to popup events, farmers markets, and other opportunities to meet customers faceto-face, Jeremy has seen the Good Day brand gain momentum this year. Recently, Beyonce featured his business as one of only a few black-owned candle companies in the "directory of black-owned businesses" on her website. He has formed a partnership with entertainer Karlous Miller, who is well known for his roles on shows such as "Wild 'n Out" and the "85 South Show." He currently sells candles at Sankofa Bookstore in Northwest, where

he says they do well, and he's looking forward to pitching the brand to Walmart in October.

The message behind Good Day, however, is what drives Jeremy to expand his business while serving the city as an educator. It's important to the Southwest resident for his product to be "genuine," and to carry his positive message out into the world. Despite the hardships and stress of life, he hopes his candles remind people to "look forward to" something positive, and that "everyone can have a good day in their own...way" – whether it's a "good meal at night" or having a "job to go to." Whatever your good day is, he says, "don't let anything stop you."

SOUTHWEST MOMENT



Courtesy of Matthew Koehler

1.21 gigawatts! A series of strong thunderstorms rolled through the District in Late July. Here, the Capitol appears to be struck by lightning.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

If you have events that you would like to add to the September Community Calendar, please email them to swdccalendar@gmail.com.

AUGUST

Many organizations have moved to online meetings and classes.

Check these websites for up-to-date calendar notices:

Christ United Methodist Church Calendar (https://www. umc.org/en/umc-calendar)

Riverside Baptist Church Calendar (https://riversidedc.org/

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Events (https://www.staugustinesdc.org/events1)

Westminster Presbyterian Church Events (https://www. westminsterdc.org/church-calendar.html)

SUN 2, 4 P.M. SWNA Scholarship Awards Supporting 46 years of Awarding Scholarships. Live stream event. Register at www.swnascholarship.org

SUN 2, 10 A.M. Kadampa Meditation Center SW Temple Class & Kids Class. 1200 Canal St. SW 20024. https:// meditation-dc.org/online-live-streamed-classe/

SAT 15, 10 A.M. Kadampa Meditation Center Overcoming Anxiety. 1200 Canal St. SW 20024 https://meditationdc.org/online-live-streamed-classe/

WED 19, 6 P.M. Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group Virtual Meeting in Celebration of Black Philanthropy Month via Zoom and Facebook **Live** (https://www.facebook.com/TDJBreastCancerFund/). Guest speaker is Breast Cancer Survivor Maxine B. Baker, Retired President & CEO, Freddie Mac Foundation, and a member of Black Benefactors. Baker will speak on the theme of "Getting Back to Normal," including discussing her philanthropic efforts and sharing her journey of battling breast cancer while leading a major organization. Philanthropist Lavern Chatman, Vice President, Business Development, EDJ Associates, Inc., and former SW resident, will serve as the emcee. Black Benefactors will serve as the meeting's sponsor. To RSVP or for more information, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639.

SAT 29 - St. Dominics's SOME MEAL (So Others Might Eat) 630 E St. SW, http://www.stdominicchurch.org. We need volunteers to prepare meat loaves and macaroni & cheese for the meal. Deliver prepared items to St. Dominic's Priory by 9:30 A.M. this day. You may freeze the meat loaves and macaroni & cheese and drop it off early. But PLEASE do not freeze it if you drop the items off after noon the Thursday before the meal or the item(s) will not thaw in time.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

SW Community Gardens Communal Work Hours: Wednesdays, 6-7 P.M.

Saturdays, 12-2 P.M.

**Must RSVP in advance. Only four people are allowed per hour. To RSVP, email swgardensdc@gmail.com

Kadampa Meditation Center

Restarting Online Classes August 12

Every Wed 12:30 P.M. 30 min Teaching & Meditation Every Wed 6:30 P.M. 45 min Teaching & Meditation Every Thur 7:15 P.M. 75 min Teaching & Meditation Every Sun 10 A.M. 60 min Teaching & Meditation Aug 21-23 Retreat on Loving Kindness please register at meditation-dc.org

Farmers Market SW

Saturdays, 9 A.M.-1 P.M.

Local produce, herbs, pasture meats, eggs, cheese, fresh flowers & plants, local coffee, hot prepared food and more! Market accepts SNAP/Food Stamps and WIC/Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and offers the Produce Plus

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.

SPORTS

Continued from p. 1

the delayed test results. Understandably, he's concerned that delay in test results is dangerous to his health, his teammates' health, and his family's health. He wants to make sure he is coming into a safe environment, not just for himself but for everyone.

Despite the obvious setbacks to the season, and continuing reservations amongst players and fans, the Nationals are bound to be a team to look

out for coming off of their history-making World Series Championship run last year. The team started this new, fanless-sta-

dium baseball season with a three game series against the New York Yankees,

> which started July 23. The Nats aren't the only D.C sports franchise navigating the era of coronavirus sports,

D.C. United have dribbled their way through a slightly different story. While the Nationals got to finish their

last season, United was left hanging when MLS suspended the 2020 season on March 12, only weeks after the sea-

however.

son kickoff. The District's home team futbollers were set to play in the Open Cup and Leagues Cup, but due to the pandemic, the tournaments were suspended

indefinitely.

United fortunately made their return in the MLS is Back tournament, which started July 8 and marked the second opening kickoff for Major League Soccer in 2020. Like Major League Baseball, there will not be any fans, so those of us who live in Southwest will

not see the mass crowds going to and from the stadiums. But, despite very own D.C. United!

the risks, the teams will be back on their respective fields of play, and we will have sports back. Perhaps the return will bring something for Americans to come

> together over - an outlet, a mutual air high five over win or commiseration over a hard loss.

> > Ah, sports! We will be able to cheer on our favorite sports teams once again - all from the comfort and safety of our couches. So, let's get ready for a championship defending

season from the Nationals and a successful season from our

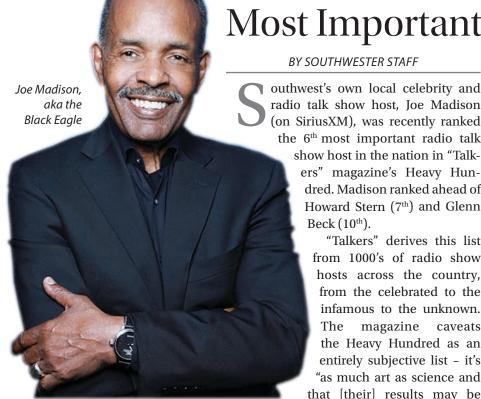
ARTECHOUSE

Continued from p. 14

what feeling she hoped people walked away from Beyond the Blooms with and she said, "We need to de-stress more than ever right now. You come here and you can kind of experience it the virtual way. It's a nice way to enjoy spring."

Returning to Beyond the Blooms in mid July, I was struck by a kind of nostalgia. The kind I felt first sitting in "Rapture" in March and closing my eyes. It was calming and brought me to another place. Even the kids playing tag were a breath of fresh air, and though this wasn't the hanami I recalled for Japan, it was tranquility. And, that's what Shimizu intended all along.

Hanami: Beyond the Blooms is showing at Artechouse (1238 Maryland Ave. SW., dc.artechouse.com) through Sept. 7. Admission ranges from \$12-\$19. Advance ticket purchase is required.



Courtesy of SiriusXM

Southwest Resident Named 6th Most Important Talk Show Host

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

outhwest's own local celebrity and radio talk show host, Joe Madison (on SiriusXM), was recently ranked the 6th most important radio talk

> ers" magazine's Heavy Hundred. Madison ranked ahead of Howard Stern (7th) and Glenn Beck (10th).

"Talkers" derives this list from 1000's of radio show hosts across the country, from the celebrated to the infamous to the unknown. The magazine caveats the Heavy Hundred as an entirely subjective list - it's "as much art as science and that [their] results may be arguable," but they do have varied criteria that includes: courage, effort, impact, longevity, potential, ratings, recognition, revenue, service, talent, and uniqueness.

One set-in-stone criteria, though, for a host to be included on the list is that she or he must be working and have a regularly scheduled program at "press time."

Back in November of 2019, "The Southwester" interviewed Joe Madison on his and his wife's third anniversary of living in Southwest, and before his induction into the National Radio Hall of Fame in NYC. At the time, Editor-in-Chief Mike Goodman, sat down on Joe's nationally acclaimed radio show to discuss ways to mitigate negative gentrification and displacement.

You can catch Joe Madison's radio show, "The Black Eagle," on SiriusXM radio, channel 126, at 6 a.m. every weekday.



Courtesy of Author

Kim Manning and helper set up the tables

MEMORIAL

Continued from p. 6

Dorsey, one of the key project engineers.

"Beyond building a physical bridge that connects communities, our goal is to build a gateway to make life safer, happier, and healthier for D.C. residents. As part of that work, we believe it's important for us to give back by partnering with organizations that are already on the ground making headway in improving the lives of our neighbors."

The Breast Cancer Fund directed the setup of the event along with support and guidance from River Park Management and volunteers. The New FDMB team carefully placed the content of the boxes on the tables, which were six feet apart. This included essential items such as toiletries, personal care items, personal protective equipment, new FDMB trinkets, and swag - not to mention nourishing snacks. As quietly as the New FDMB team arrived and set up, they completed their task and quietly departed, leaving the fun and excitement to the arriving participants.

More than 75 seniors and at least eight volunteers exercised social distancing while participating in the event.. The volunteers also personally delivered the items to the homes of immunocompromised residents in keeping with COVID-19 precautionary measures.

"Where did all of this come from?" asked one amazed senior. "Is all of this for us?" asked another. "Can I get one of everything on the tables?" Was a common question from many eager residents.

"You said we would have a big surprise, but I didn't think you meant like many long-time volunteers with the River the TDJBCF.

Park meals distribution program.

Volunteer Elaine Graves summed it up nicely by saying:

"I really appreciate the donations of essential items from the employees of the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge team and the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund. The masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, paper products, cleaning supplies, and personal products were so welcomed by the senior residents and those who are immune compromised because we are not comfortable going to stores yet. I enjoy seeing our senior residents who were so excited to receive these items along with their lunch, fruit, water, and juices. I heard so many expressions of excitement and gratitude for brightening the day of so many of us who remain quarantined. Many, many thanks to all for your kindness and generosity."

The TDJBCF plans to keep the good vibes going by organizing a trip later this year to see the new bridge and visit the Frederick Douglass National Historic site, as many of the seniors have not visited that site yet. Frederick Douglass' estate, known as Cedar Hill, is in the Historic Anacostia neighborhood. Douglass lived at Cedar Hill for nearly the last two decades of his life. Jones feels that this would be an exciting outing for many of the seniors who have limited opportunities to have adventures like this.

Prior to his departure, Dorsey told everyone, "None of this happens without a team of people committed to helping others in need." That team included their partners at Tina Boyd & Associates, Aridali Consulting, and Sandlot Southwest.

For more information on the New FDMB, please visit www.newfrederickdouglassbridge.com. Visit www.tdjbreastthis," exclaimed Dorothy Davis, one of the cancerfund.org for more information on

> Visit SWNA's website! www.swna.org

D.C.'s Norton Scores Victory to Clean up the Anacostia in **Water Infrastructure Bill**

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he District's tireless Congresswoman and champion, Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) announced in July that she was able to include in the House's Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA), a major water infrastructure bill, a provision that would help accelerate the cleanup of harmful sediments in and around the federal navigation channel in the Anacostia River. The provision changes the parameters in terms of depth and coordinates of the federal navigation channel.

Norton's provision supports the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment's (DOEE) plan to remediate the Anacostia River, a priority for the Congresswoman, by either dredging or capping toxic sediment to make the river safe for wildlife and District residents. This plan is called the Anacostia River Sediment Project.

"As chair of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, I am very grateful to my colleagues on the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee for including this important provision for the District and the surrounding region in WRDA," Norton said. "The Anacostia River has long been a major priority for me, and this provision is necessary to continue the progress being made on cleanup of the river. This provision will allow DOEE to move forward with its plans for sediment remediation in the Anacostia River more quickly and at a lower overall cost. This is a major victory for our city."

Due to sediment accumulation over time, many parts of the federal navigation channel in the Anacostia do not meet the current formal depth requirements of the federal navigation channel. In the absence of a partial deauthorization, in order to move forward with its plan for sediment remediation, DOEE would have had to dredge all the way down to the full depth of 24 feet in many places, a depth that is inconsistent with existing and anticipated future uses of the Anacostia River. Extensive dredging is not necessary to restore the river and would be very time consuming and expensive and make the overall remediation project much more difficult.

The deauthorization that the Congresswoman got included in WRDA changes the parameters of the federal navigation channel so that DOEE will not have to dredge down quite as far in some areas and can move forward with simply capping toxic sediment in other areas. This will decrease the cost of the project for the District and other stakeholders, and avoid unnecessary delay in the District's work to achieve a fishable, swimmable Anacostia River for residents.

Norton's victory comes on the heels of a lawsuit filed by D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine, which alleged that chemical giant Monsanto polluted all the waterways in the District, including the Potomac and the Anacostia, with PCBs (outlawed in 1979). The settlement was worth \$52 million and the money will be used to clean up D.C.'s waterways in order to make them safe and usable, even for swimming.





It's all a little different this year.

Sundays Suppers is a time to slow down and connect. While we cannot host our Sunday Suppers in the same way that we have in past years, we are keeping the spirit of the events alive, with an Ode to Sunday Suppers.

This year, we've worked with a local artist to bring an interactive installation to the Southwest Duck Pond. Poets will bring words to the sentiment of Sunday Suppers and the times, and we invite you all to join in and share poems of your own.

WWW.SWBID.ORG/SUNDAYSUPPERS



@SWBID