the SOUTHWESTER 1963

serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

November 2020



Courtesy of Liz Lauren

E. Faye Butler (Fannie Lou Hamer) in Fannie Lou Hamer, Speak On It! by Cheryl L. West, directed by Henry Godinez

"Backwards to the Past:" Arena Stage Reopens with Election Message

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

'all got an election coming up! That's way too important to ignore."

Floating between the expensive yachts that idle in the Washington Channel, and the high-rise apartments of the Wharf where a new generation of lawmakers are

rumored to live, is a small unassuming stage. On that stage are emblems of American history-half-circle flag buntings, an electric guitar amp, images of civil rights activists in the 1960s-asking once again to be seen, and remembered. Though the floating stage is small, the message couldn't be bigger: "As soon as they take

your voting rights, your human rights are soon to follow."

Civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer came back to life last month, and with her live theatre, at the Wharf in Southwest. "Fannie Lou Hamer, Speak on It!" was staged Oct. 23-30 by Arena Stage, in part-

See "Arena Stage," page 19

Two Studies on the History of Southwest

Exclusive Excerpts on Buzzard Point & Mid-Century Redevelopment

BY MIKE GOODMAN

ashington, DC author and tour guide Hayden Wetzel has identified two previous studies related to the history of Southwest, and compiled them into "Two Studies on the History of Southwest Washington DC: Buzzard Point, and Urban Renewal Parks." The compilation is available on Amazon for \$10 and runs about 75 pages. Both studies, dating from 2012 and

2014, were researched almost entirely from original sources. For the history of Buzzard Point, research was from the founding of the District to the time of writing, based on newspaper accounts and official reports such as Census records. For the study of planning and constructing public parks and other landscaping during the quadrant's redevelopment of the 1950-70s, the author used many boxes of planning documents and memos and

interviews with the landscape architects involved. Both studies are illustrated.

[Editor's note: "The Southwester" has previously reported on the neighborhood's history prior to the major redevelopment of the 1950s-70s, including here: http:// thesouthwester.com/2019/05/29/amidonbowen-photo-project-restores-recreatessw-history/. We hope that ongoing coverage of historical perspectives, photos,

See "History," page 4



KIDS CORNER

Pages 8-9



RICHARD WRIGHT SENIOR EARNS PERFECT SCORE

Page 10



ARTECHOUSE DISPLAYS THE BLUES

Page 14



BAILIWICK POPS UP ON THE WHARF

Page 15





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

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Local Civic Leader Offering Workshop on Navigating Disease

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

re you struggling with one or more chronic diseases? Do you know the difference between a chronic illness and an acute disease? Would you like help in managing the challenges of your chronic illness?

If you answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, the District of Columbia Department of Health (D.C. Health) would like you to consider participating in their free workshops through their popular Living Well Self-Management Programs.

An evidenced-based program originally developed at Stanford University, these virtual workshops are two and half hours per week for seven weeks, and are designed for District residents with one or more ongoing health conditions. The workshops curriculum includes Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP), Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), and Cancer: Thriving and Surviving (CTS).

Completing the training on a full scholarship, SW civic leader and cancer survivor Thelma Jones of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund has been a certified instructor in both CDSMP and CTS since August 2018. Jones' training and 13-year experience living with a chronic disease inspired her to reach out to District residents, namely her SW neighbors and friends – especially given the documented rate of cancer in the community. Jones said that she also feels that with the added stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, participation in the program would be invaluable and life changing.

The CTS workshop was developed specifically for cancer survivors and anyone who has been a caregiver for someone with cancer. The workshop provides those



Courtesy of Author

Thelma D. Jones

affected by cancer with tools they need to live a healthier life. It focuses on your personal choice, which means you work on what you want to work on; it is empowering and highly interactive, and is administered throughout the city and the country.

Through weekly sessions, CTS provides support for continuing normal daily activities and dealing with the emotions that a cancer diagnosis may bring about while reminding survivors that no one should travel their cancer journey alone. Both those who have completed their cancer journey, no matter how long ago, and others who have been, or are a caregiver for someone with cancer, will benefit from and enjoy this workshop.

Stanford University research on this program indicates that people who participate in this program experience improvements in exercise, symptom management, communication with doctors, general health improvements, and fatigue. Topics in the workshop include using your mind, healthy eating, understanding emotions,

breathing techniques, medications, working with health professionals, decision-making, problem-solving, physical activity, action planning, sleep, communication, and weight management.

Instructor Jones said she wants to see more of these benefits enjoyed by her SW neighbors and friends, and remind the community that CTS is offered virtually at no charge but is limited to a class size of 10. The small class size helps to ensure participants receive adequate individual attention and the opportunity to share ideas and experiences.

Following the second session, participants will receive a "Living A Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions" workbook and, upon completion of the seven-week workshop, each participant will receive a relaxation CD and a Certificate of Completion. Equally important, participants will develop a relationship with Jones, which will enable them to reach out to her for additional support beyond the workshop.

Jones has taught both CDSMP and CTS workshops throughout the city since 2018 as one of the few D.C. Health Living Well Self-Management Programs peer leaders, bringing the added experience of a cancer survivor. In 2019, Jones was recognized by the D.C. Hospital Association for her advocacy efforts and as a DC Health chronic disease peer leader.

"Let's enjoy the benefits and take full advantage of this empowering and free workshop," encouraged Jones. "You'll not only thank me later for completing the workshop, but also help spread the words to others!"

For more information on registering for an upcoming CTS, DSMP, or CDSMP workshop, please contact Riana Buford at (202) 442-5910.

Thelma D. Jones contributed to this article.

Vote Week's "Where" and "How to"

"Vote Week" runs from Oct. 27 through Nov. 2, the day before Election Day. Here are the ways D.C. residents can make sure their ballot is received and their vote is counted.

- Those who want to cast their ballot during "Vote Week" may visit any Early Vote Center, one of which is at Washington Nationals Park - Concourse Area. Other voting centers in Southwest are: Walker-Jones Education Campus - Gymnasium; Kennedy Recreation Center - Gymnasium; and, Sherwood Recreation Center -Gymnasium.
- Vote Centers for the November 3 General Election will open Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, through Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, from 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. On

Nov. 3, 2020 (Election Day), Vote Centers will open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

• D.C. residents can return their mail-in ballot by following the instructions on their envelope and dropping them in the US mail. Those ballots must be postmarked no later than November 3 and must be received by the Elections Board within 10 days of Election Day.

• D.C. residents can also carry their completed and sealed ballots to any Early Vote Center through Nov. 2, or any drop box through 8 p.m. on Nov. 3. **A few drop box locations are** out-

> side the Southwest Library (425 M St., SW), Eastern Market (225 7th St., SE), and BOE Headquarters (1015 Half St., SE).

• On Election Day, Nov. 3, D.C. Residents can visit any Election Day Vote Center across

the District and receive their correct ballot. For a full list of locations visit the Board of Elections website at www.dcboe.org.

Waterfront Academy Successfully Runs Blended Learning Model

BY KATE OCZYPOK

ocal dual-immersion (Spanish and English) faith-based Montessori school Waterfront Academy is running a blended learning model this year. Students are in person five days a week for three-hour work cycles in smaller groups.

"Since we are a smaller school, we can have students in person," said Melissa Rohan, president and founder of the school. "Aligning with the best practices from the CDC and D.C., we are limiting the exposure time for the whole community."

As a Montessori school, they believe three-hour work cycles and at least four consecutive days are a fundamental minimum for school education. The school has purchased supplies, materials and equipment to screen students and staff as they enter the school. They also regularly clean and disinfect daily and provide PPE to insure the safety of their community.

"We are doing all we can do to meet and sometimes exceed CDC and D.C. recommendations to keep staff and students healthy during the pandemic," Rohan said. "Students have assigned seats, materials and supplies, and they're placed six feet apart."

All high contact areas are disinfected at



Courtesy of Mrs. Dayma Sejas

Teacher Mrs. Dayma Sejas working on numbers with her attentive student

least three times each day and handwashing, which has always been an important part of Waterfront's routine, is now more important than ever.

In addition to an in-person learning option, Waterfront Academy is offering a

remote learning choice for students who wish to do so. They have taken the time to show parents remote learning in a Montessori way through a six-part series.

"Orientation is very important for all humans—disorientation causes much

stress," Rohan said. "One big takeaway from the spring was that parents' stress was affecting families and in turn was affecting the whole school community."

Over the summer, the school put a lot of thought into how to prepare families to return to school and begin remote learning again.

"We now have an army of teachers (schoolteachers and parents) working in partnership to make sure our students have the best education possible," Rohan added. "The remote part of our blended learning is something we are really proud of. It is based on a truth, just as every child is different and should be respected for those differences, each family is also different so a remote learning model needs to be flexible to meet every family's needs."

Waterfront Academy has managed to not lay off or furlough a single staff member or teacher during these difficult times. It has been what Rohan has called an "all hands on deck situation" from day one back in March.

"I couldn't be prouder of how the whole community came together with the common goal of providing the best education for our students," she said. "Quite frankly, it is the joy in the students' eyes that make all the effort worth it."



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Mutual Aid Kicks off Autumn Food Drive

BY MAX GROSSMAN AND CARLEE BROWN

ard 6 Mutual Aid (W6MA) is an all-volunteer grassroots group working with Black and Brown grassroots organizations to help keep our communities safe. The Southwest Pod of W6MA is partnering with Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) to serve our neighbors with food and supplies throughout the ongoing covid crisis.

This month kicks off the Southwest D.C. Fall Food Drive. W6MA and CUMC want to stock up for the winter to have a reliable, nutritious supply of food as

the economic impacts of covid drag on. From Nov. 9-30 W6MA and CUMC will be accepting donations of:

Non-perishable foods: canned tuna and chicken, vegetables (low salt), fruit (natural juices), soup, chili, beans, peanut butter, pasta sauce, hot or cold breakfast cereal, pasta, rice mixes, graham crackers, breakfast bars

Toiletries: regular size and travel sizes of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, depends, diapers

Winter clothes for unhoused neighbors: men's and women's warm coats,

gloves, hats, scarves, socks, boots

Neighbors can support the food drive by:

Donating non-perishable foods, toiletries, and clothes at Christ United Methodist Church (900 4th St. SW; courtyard entrance near library) on Monday/Wednesday/Friday 3-6 p.m. or Saturday 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Hosting a **donation box** for **toiletries and non-perishable foods** in your building. W6MA will provide a box and coordinate periodic donation pickup. Giving online at ServeYourCityDC.org.

W6MA and CUMC appreciate the generosity of Southwest D.C. The community continues to help provide fresh produce, pantry staples, and cleaning supplies to families throughout the year. You've also helped provide more than 50 students with digital devices for virtual learning this school year. Thank you!

If you or someone you know needs support, call the Mutual Aid Hotline at (202) 683-9962 or email ward6mutualaid@gmail.com. Want to volunteer, host a box, or just learn more? Contact Karen at karenlmcmanus@gmail.com.

HISTORY

Continued from p. 1

interviews, and formal studies, including the excerpts below, will continue to spark dialogue and introspection of the history, and future, of Southwest culture.]

Excerpts from Buzzard Point study:

A word must be said also regarding the memorable name of this area. "Turkey Buzzard Point" marked the Point in a map of about 1673 published by Augustine Herman and most later ones—clearly an indication of its fauna. An Evening Star article of 1894 refers to the Point as "for many years the roost of immense members of that 'black and ominous' bird, from which the point derives its name." The correct name is Buzzard Point, although it has always been varied as Buzzards Point and (more commonly and improbably) Buzzard's Point.

Newspaper references to the Buzzard Point community from the mid-nineteenth century mostly pertain to: stray farm animals; crime; drowning and boating accidents; boats stolen, lost or sunk; illegal fishing and swimming; hunting (duck, pigeon, rabbit) and concomitant shooting accident..."It was hog-killing time on Buzzards Point last week," remarked a member of Capt. George H. Williams' command [of the Metropolitan Police], speaking of a leave of absence granted George N. Fitton. "George killed a number of hogs, and some of them weighed as much as 200 pounds," he added. (Evening Star, 9 Jan 1916, p. 28)

Yesterday's warm wave caused hundreds of boys to seek relief in the water, and two of the number who went in near Buzzard's Point were drowned. Buzzard's Point has been a favorite swimming place for the boys who live in South Washington and in hot weather it is not an unusual thing to see fifty or more of them in the water at a time. Two or three dozen boys enjoyed the bathing off the point yesterday, and the two boys unfortunately went out beyond their depth. (Evening Star, 27 June 1904, p. 3)

Another old-time character who found a nameless grave in Potter's Field [near the DC Jail] was Susan Diggs. This aged woman was a mendicant and is remembered by some of the old citizens. She went from door to door begging for food, and finally, in the fifties she was taken sick in her shanty near Buzzard's Point and died. When found on a pile of dried marsh grass in her dilapidated abode she had been dead several days. (Evening Star, 21 Mar 1903, p. 29)

[By the 1910s the agricultural community south of Q St., SW began to show distinct signs of deterioration.]

In going down in the land of old Carrollsburg one may turn to the south from N Street. You will walk under one of the finest arcades of elms in the city. If you pass south down Half Street your way will be bordered by houses until you come to O Street. After that your way will be dusty and shadeless. Dwellings become sparse and there are wide stretches of garden lands, abandoned brick lands and ruined brick-making plants and fields of weeds between them, but close to the tip of that strange country there is a cluster of little homes and a store, and within a few feet of the point stands a dwelling with a little garden of carefully tended flowers and there a pleasant family finds comfort, happiness and health. It is the southernmost home in Washington. (Evening Star, 30 July 1916, p. 48)

One can be dismayed but not surprised to see regular advertisements from about this period: "FOR SALE – Is Your Business Objectionable to Your Neighbors? Then buy on Buzzards Point, 1st St, SW; 10,000 feet for sale cheap."

[Planned industrial redevelopment in the 1930-40s fizzled.] Other proposed uses, often distasteful, came and went: a trash transfer station, a "penal wharf," a city-owned gravel plant, and that perennial losing-idea commercial and pleasure wharves. A commercial (as opposed to members-only private) marina, Buzzard Point Boat Yard, was established immediately south of the power plant in 1945; the Corinthian Yacht Club lost the lease on its federally-owned location in 1964 for refusing membership to an African-American applicant and disbanded, to be replaced by the James Creek Marina in 1991. In fact, through the 1940s and '50s most newspaper items relating to Buzzard Point pertained to boats (sales, repairs) and boating (regattas, club parties, drownings).

Excerpts from the Urban Renewal Parks study:

Planning for Parks: Given the importance of public parks in the history of Washington planning, one is surprised how seldom public spaces receive focused treatment in the UR [Urban Renewal] documentation. Indeed, far more ink was devoted to Parking than to Parks in the record. RLA [Redevelopment Land Authority] annual reports—even those of 1959 and 1961, with their extensive reportage on the UR project—never speak of parks and landscaping except in specifics of progress. There seems to have been simply an assumption that the area's parks would be enlarged and improved. The 1950 "Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital and Its Environs" [NCPC] proposed adding a modest 9.3 acres for "recreation facilities" and 13 acres of new neighborhood parks to the redeveloped Southwest, all located around existing schools and playgrounds. "Of great importance in developing an attractive neighborhood is the provision of properly located parks and recreation areas," states a report of 1959. All overall development plans proposed total park/school recreation area acreage in the 53-60-acre range.

Beginning of actual construction is cited in the RLA annual report of 1962the "Amidon- Greenleaf" Playground (the first-planned name for Amidon School). Lansburgh was "under construction" and Waterfront and Town Center "pending" in 1964. The 10th Street Mall was underway in 1966. With no previous mention, the "Amidon sidewalk park" appears complete in the 1967 report and Hoover Playground re-opened. The first Waterfront parks, the Overlook and improvements to Randall JHS Recreation Area were dedicated in 1968. Town Center ("three parks with walkways") began construction in 1970. All of the Waterfront and Town Center parks were finished in 1972, completing the New Southwest's collection of parks and other public spaces.

[Regarding the SW Duck Pond]...[Landscape architect William H.] Roberts summarized his feelings about his work in 2010: "It gives me great pleasure to witness the success of this park over the past 40 years. Inevitably the trees have become crowded, plants have died, paving has deteriorated and furnishings have been replaced or removed. Its greatest merit I believe is that the basic idea of celebrating the regional indigenous natural landscape has proven to be a success and a pleasure to all users. It is important to preserve and enhance the park for future generations."

[Neighbors disputed the proposals for the long Waterside Park leading to the Titanic Memorial today.] These plans generated at least some neighborhood criticism: in May 1963 neighbor Arthur Kogan wrote RLA about Site E's design to complain that "the three proposed pavilions at the north end of the park...will amount to a...wall, one story high, of concrete posts and peaked, black metal roofs. They will be so placed as to block off the charming view of boats...at the Municipal Pier, as well as a large portion of the Channel itself. The other pavilions at the south end, the amphitheater and the Titanic Memorial will leave little unobstructed view...You know that we are paying heavily for this view, and we are not going to be deprived of it without protest." He saw little practical use in the constructions and feared they would attract crowds. In 1967 NCPC approved placement of the Titanic Memorial (formerly near the Lincoln Memorial) at its present location instead of the pavilions. The slow process of decision-making frustrated other neighbors. Harbour Square resident Vice-President Hubert Humphrey wrote to District Commissioner Walter Tobriner in 1967 of the waterfront strip outside his building: "I trust that something is planned to improve this area because, otherwise, it is nothing but a mud hole and very unsightly. There are open areas filled with debris, and frankly a hazard to children." Tobriner replied with a copy of the park plans.

Westminster Seeks to Build Affordability into Their Future

BY CO-PASTORS BRIAN AND RUTH HAMILTON

restminster will soon undergo a transformation – a physical metamorphosis that will change more than its facade, but its role in the community. Some may know Westminster as the mid-century modern building at 4th and I Sts., but our history goes all the way back to the mid nineteenth century.

We were founded in 1853, and our proposed new building will be our third transformation. A congregation must be stewards of all its resources, and it is our church's mission and ministry to serve one of this community's largest needs: affordable housing. Our church's old and physically challenged building necessitated us to seek a new facility, and an opportunity to provide affordable housing to those most forgotten – seniors.

It has been a long process getting Westminster to take the first steps of this new journey. Our building mission began in April 2015, when we selected a development team that brought a unified plan to develop our property. We envisioned a new church and 123 affordable senior

See "Westminster," page 18



Courtesy of Authors

The future development will include 123 deeply affordable units, a recording studio, gallery space, underground parking, and more



Community and MPD Partner to Create Summer Programming for Kids

BY SAADIA ATHIAS, CAC COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNER

ver the course of the summer, the First District Citizens Advisory Council, community members, and MPD worked together to bring "Drop in for Safety" events to our community youth, giving them the opportunity to participate in plenty of fun, healthy, and educational activities.

The outdoor activities were held on Wednesdays and developed for the youth between the ages of 5-17 years old. The arts/crafts, bike riding, community arts project, and exercising for safety allowed us to spend quality time with the youngsters. The partnership also helped build stronger relationships between MPD and community youth, and established rewarding relationships.

We sought fun and safe activities for youth in the community, while social distancing – now more important than ever before. We were helpful in providing an opportunity for children to do some activities they enjoyed, and created a constructive atmosphere that helped them cope with challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas we lost the use of recreation centers and official summer programs, we assisted the community in discovering alternative summer fun, especially the youth, with these wellness programs.

These opportunities kept them eagerly waiting for the next "Drop in"

A special thank you to our community First District Outreach Coordinator Fayette Vaughn-Lee; our partners at Good Project; and Autumn and Darius, who rode bikes, made craft projects, painted in the streets, and made sure the children arrived at the program safely, and made it home. Also, a special thanks to Christine Spencer, Resident Council President at James Creek, and Coach Green at Greenleaf Recreation Center, both of whom provided additional refreshments for the participants. And kudos to the 1D CAC Chair, Robert Pittman, who made sure there were plenty of crafts supplies for the events. Lastly, a special thanks to 1D Commander Kane, our MPD officers, and cadet members who all assisted in making the programs successful, and utterly enjoyed themselves as much as the youngsters.

Stay connected as we continue our "Drop in for Safety" with MPD 1D and join us for the next monthly 1D CAC meeting www.1dcac.com or email caconlineall@gmail.com.







Photos Courtesy of Author

At left: A cadet works on an art project





Photo of the Month

Courtesy of Susie Humphreys

Wharf construction equipment reflects and distorts the flexible facade of St. Augustine's Episcopal church in the bright morning sunlight. The bright yellow and orange patch appear as a book, but they reflect massive excavators. The vertical gray "lace" reflects a sturdy crane

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





ENROLL NOW for 2020–2021 School Year



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

For the first term of the 2020–21 school year Eagle Academy has decided to follow the recommendations of DC government and medical experts and educate ALL students virtually. Eagle Academy students will receive individual iPads, **Chromebooks, WiFi hot spots, and sanitized school supplies.** All virtual learning will take place in Google Suite for Education. We will bring students back into our buildings upon guidance from DC government.

Virtual classes start for all DC locations of Eagle Academy Public Charter School Monday, August 31st.

Enroll your child today in our virtual school option. Visit www.myschooldc.org or call (202) 544-2646 and secure your child's spot today

www.eagleacademypcs.org • @eagleacademypcs



KID'S CORNER

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

Spot the difference!

Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?



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| 2. | | | |
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| 4 | | | |
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| 5 | | | |
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Answers from October 2020 issue

Differences: The left picture has a cat on the roof while the right picture has a spider; there is another ghost in the right picture; the left picture has a spider web where the right picture has the moon; the gray ghost is upsidedown in the right picture; the right picture has a bat in the window; the pumpkins have different faces; the skeleton has a hat in the right picture..

Word Scramble: There are 111 words you can make from "weather."

WORD SEARCH: TURKEY DAY!

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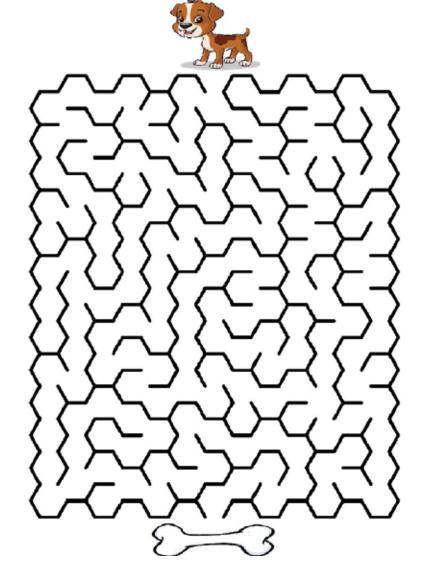
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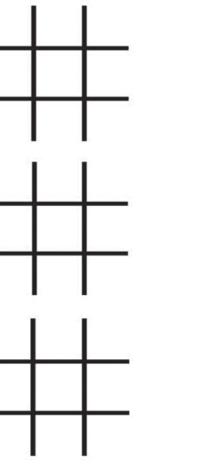
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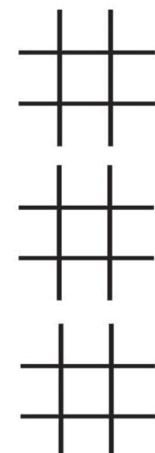


Maze!
Can you
help the
dog get
to the
bone?



TIC TAC TOE





Jokes!

What did one snowman say to another snowman?

You're cool!

What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?

A dino-snore!

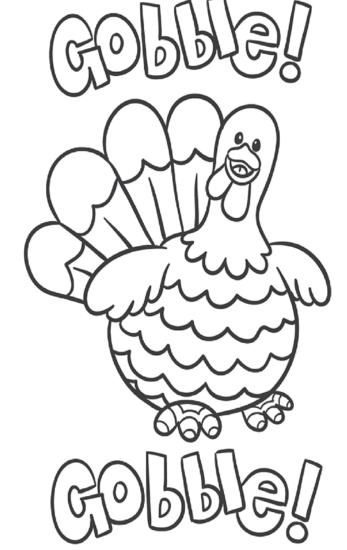
What time do ducks wake up?

At the quack of dawn!

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!

COLORING TIME!



Math Moment!

Can you complete these equations?

$$c. 22 - 5 =$$

$$d.40 + 10 =$$

$$f. 8 + 2 =$$

$$g. 14 + 3 =$$

Breast Cancer Support Group Offers Virtual Thanksgiving



Courtesy of Author

Mamie W. Mallory, MS Disabilities Advocate and TDJBCF Board Chair



Courtesy of Autho

Kim Beer, Director, Public Policy Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation



Courtesy of Author

Regina Blye, MPAff, Moderator, Disabilities Advocate and TDJBCF Ambassador



ourtesy of Author

Sheri Denkensohn-Trott, Co-Founder, Happy on Wheels, LLC., breast cancer survivor, Disabilities Advocate & TDJBCF Ambassador

BY THELMA D. JONES

oin the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) Virtual Support Group's Annual Thanksgiving Celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020 at 6 p.m. via Zoom and TDJBCF Facebook Live (https://www.facebook.com/TDJBreast-CancerFund/). Life has been extremely challenging this year, yet there are times and things for which we are still thankful. Share your moments of gratitude as survivors, caregivers, and advocates during these trying times.

The panel discussion for the evening will be "Being Thankful in an Ever-Chang-

ing World: The Voices of Breast Cancer Survivors and Advocates with Physical Disabilities." Featured speakers will include Mamie W. Mallory, Disabilities Advocate & TDJBCF Board Chair; Kim Beer, Director, Public Policy, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation; Regina Blye, MPAff, Moderator, Disabilities Advocate & TDJBCF Ambassador; Sheri Denkensohn-Trott, Co-Founder, Happy on Wheels, LLC, Breast Cancer Survivor, Disabilities Advocate and TDJBCF Ambassador; and Linda C. Brown (not pictured), Breast Cancer Survivor, Caretaker, and Disabilities Advocate. Mallory, Blye, and Brown

are Southwest residents. It will be an evening of thanksgiving and gratefulness, celebrating life and amazing stories of survivorship.

Founded in September 2012 on my 60th birthday, the TDJBCF is a 501(c)(3) organization. The TDJBCF's mission is to advocate 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 incidence and mortality rates of breast cancer. Our vision

is to save lives and embrace and achieve a world community free of breast cancer. We plan to realize this vision with guiding principles of respect, collaboration, quality and patient-centered care, culturally sensitive approaches, and evidencebased strategies.

For more information on the TDJBCF, call (202) 251-1639 or visit www.tdjbreast-cancerfund.org and consider donating by clicking the "donate" button. Donations can also be mailed to the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, 400 I St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.

Richard Wright Senior Earns Herself and School a Perfect Score

BY HELEN COMPTON-HARRIS, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

still relatively new to the area, Richard Wright Public Charter School, located at 475 School Street, SW, is proud to be the first public high school located in Southwest. For decades, Southwest residents commuted to Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast D.C. to attend a public high school, but not now. Richard Wright PCS is here to offer quality education to Southwest youth and all residents of the District. While our concentration is journalism and media arts, we also offer a classical high school program and are fully accredited by the Middle States Board of Secondary Schools.

Richard Wright opened in the fall of 2011 with only 70 eighth and ninth graders, adding a grade each year until it achieved full high school status by 2015. Our first graduates are now college graduates, and in the philosophy of our CEO and founder, Dr. Marco Clark, actively contributing to



Courtesy of Amora Campbell

Amora Campbell

their communities. For the last four years, 100% of our graduates were accepted into one or more colleges. Two of our graduates from 2016 are now employed by the school, one as a teacher, and one as the executive assistant to the CEO.

We take education seriously at Richard Wright and create a family atmosphere to support our students and help them reach their full potential.

One of our current seniors is an excellent example of the student success we strive to create. Amora Campbell started at Richard Wright in ninth grade and has stayed because of its lively and engaging community. Although shy initially, Amora found her niche, becoming active in debate and eventually chairing that club. She is also the President of the Richard Wright Interact Club, founded by Rotary DC. Interact promotes leadership and service above self – a value our school encourages.

As well as her debate skills and service, Amora is a multi-talented young leader who works well with others. She even produced a video for other high school students about how to record and preserve oral histories. That video was sponsored by the WNDC Educational Foundation. Her video is already published on

the WNDC Education Fund website and is archived in the Washington Historical Society records.

Miss Campbell is also an outstanding student, maintaining a 4.0 plus GPA, even taking AP classes and earning A's. This past spring, as everything shut down due to the pandemic, Amora continued to study hard and focus, earning a "5" (a perfect score) on the AP World History exam. On a scale from 1 to 5, 3 is a passing grade. This is Richard Wright's first "5," and her teacher, Mr. Morse, could not be more proud of his student. According to Mr. Morse, only 8% of all students who take the test worldwide receive a perfect score of "5."

We celebrate the accomplishments of our students weekly at our virtual family matters assembly, but this accomplishment is something to share beyond our halls. It is simply outstanding. We know that Amora's future is bright and can hardly wait to see what she accomplishes in the years ahead.

SW Support Group Celebrates Annual **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

BY JENNIFER FEI AND THELMA D. JONES

n Wednesday evening, Oct. 21, the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) Support Group held its Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month Celebration via Zoom and Facebook live. Attendees tuned in from as far as North Carolina, Georgia, and New York to celebrate their survivorship and to support others fighting breast cancer. According to Derek Tawiah, TDJBCF Social Media Coordinator and Ambassador, more than 380 people tuned in through Facebook Live. TDJBCF Founder Thelma D. Jones served as emcee. She welcomed guests and discussed her 13 years of breast cancer survivorship with a rare Late Stage III B and HER2+. In total, there were over 100 years of survivorship among the attendees, who Jones recognized for their courage, strength, tenacity, and advocacy. SW resident Iman Brown, Marketing Coordinator, JMA Solutions, then shared warm greetings on behalf of JMA Solutions President and CEO Jan Adams, a devoted TDJBCF Honorary Board member who was unable to attend.

Breast Cancer Survivor Sheri Denkensohn-Trott provided the blessing and then gave an update on Team Undaunted Determination's goal for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC). To date, Undaunted Determination, which is actively supported by the TDJBCF, has raised more than \$12,500, exceeding its original \$10,000 goal. The initial goal represented Denkensohn-Trott's 10-year cancer anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of the TDJBCF Support Group, which was celebrated virtually last April with great fanfare. Denkensohn-Trott, whose revised goal is at least \$13,000, still welcomes donations at main.acsevents. org/goto/undaunteddtermination10, as this support helps make a difference in so many ways, from funding innovative breast cancer research to simply providing a hand to hold.

Corinne Bombowsky, Community Development Manager, American Cancer Society, cheerfully provided an overview of the campaign's status and statistics on the amount raised, noting that the pandemic had adversely affected this year's fundraising efforts while reminding us that "breast cancer doesn't stop because of the pandemic." To date, the MSABC Washington, DC has raised more than \$142,000 of its \$320,000 goal. Bombowsky also shared an overview of the schedule for the first-ever virtual MSABC event, which occurred October 24-31, 2020 and she



acknowledged the TDJBCF for being a campaign sponsor.

Guest speakers Chawnte Randall, Stage 4 Metastatic Triple Negative Breast Cancer Survivor and Advocate, and Melanie A. Nix, MBA, Triple Negative Breast Cancer Survivor, Transformational Speaker, and Resilience Coach, provided powerful testimonies about their journeys as breast cancer survivors and advocates. Randall, who is an Army veteran who works for the federal government and the mother of a recent college graduate, serves on many patient advocate initiatives. including the Tigerlily Foundation's Young Women's ANGEL advocacy program for metastatic breast cancer disparities, a Living Beyond Breast Cancer (LBBC) Young Advocate and an individual member of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance (MBCA). She also serves on the Board of Directors for METAvivor and on a patient advisory panel for Johns Hopkins Hospital and AstraZeneca. Randall discussed her first diagnosis with Stage II triple negative, an invasive breast cancer, in October 2017, at age 40. After a double mastectomy and nine cycles of chemotherapy, Randall showed no evidence of the disease until April 2019, when she was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic triple negative breast cancer. She initially received radiation therapy for her bone lesions, but after the cancer's progression to her liver, she enrolled in a clinical trial at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Randall said after the second diagnosis: "Initially I didn't know how to feel," and while she has some difficult days, she tries to keep a positive outlook and has found strength in sharing her story and learning from those who have gone through similar experiences.

Days after her second diagnosis, Randall attended LBBC's Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference and it "changed [her] whole outlook on [her] diagnosis." Through connections with others, research, and a sense of community from being surrounded by those with shared experiences, Randall began to learn more about the disparities in breast cancer treatment and research. She discovered that women of color with breast cancer were dying of the disease at a 42% higher rate than white women due to systemic racism and health disparities. In order to receive the care she needed, Randall had to be her own advocate. She found it extremely helpful to connect with support groups where members could gain and share knowledge. Randall indicated that she shares her story in support groups because "I want to make sure young Black women and other young women of color see themselves represented not only in the breast cancer world but also in the metastatic breast cancer community. It's not an immediate death sentence like it used to be."

Melanie A. Nix, MBA, TDJBCF Board Member, and mother of two, also discussed her journey as a fifth-generation breast cancer survivor. A native Washingtonian, Nix discussed how her family ties have shaped the way she lives her life. Growing up, she remembers being surrounded by other "beautiful and strong Black women" while seeing firsthand what breast cancer could do as her grandmother, mother, aunt, and other relatives battled the disease. Nix calls herself an "accidental advocate," but from a young age she was exposed to advocacy work. In the 1970s and 1980s her late mother and late aunt started their own local organization to provide women with access to the care, information, and tools necessary to manage a breast cancer diagnosis and understand how the disease disproportionately impacts Black women.

Nix's mother passed from the disease when she was 20, just before she hosted the closing portion of the event, graduated college. With support from her older sister, Nix continued her education through graduate school, built a corporate career, married, and had two children. During this time, Nix always prioritized her health through annual appointments. Nix remembered how her mother was always her own advocate. She left a dismissive doctor and did research to find a doctor

who understood her family's history and risk factors, especially for Black women. Nix's OB-GYN encouraged her to get genetic testing.

In 2008, after consideration of her family's history and testing positive for the BRCA1 genetic mutation, Nix, in consultation with her spouse, who she says "loved her back to life," and her doctors, made the decision to have a preventative double mastectomy and oophorectomy. Unfortunately, during that planning stage, Nix was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. She went into "deep research mode" learning that triple negative breast cancer disproportionately impacts Black women, tends to recur faster, and it does not have long term treatment. Nix and her doctors decided they needed to treat the cancer aggressively. Nix recalled how her mother and her aunt also emphasized treating their cancers aggressively with tough short-term actions that would be beneficial in the long-term. She decided to have a double mastectomy (removal of both breasts), bilateral oophorectomy (removal of both ovaries), and 16 cycles of chemotherapy.

During this year-long treatment period, preventative surgeries, and reconstruction, Nix decided she wanted to use her voice to speak about breast cancer and especially how breast cancer disproportionately impacts Black women. Nix and Randall both stressed the importance of representation of Black women in the breast cancer community. Addressing bias within the medical community, advocating for Black women to be a part of clinical trials for breast cancer, and making decision-makers and lawmakers aware of the disproportionate funding, research, and impacts of breast cancer on Black women are all key to addressing the health disparities within the breast cancer community. Nix also chairs the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center Community Advisory Council which TDJBCF Founder Jones also serves on.

Dr. Richard Kennedy, MD, former Chief Medical Officer, World Bank Group and TDJBCF Board Member, where he also emphasized the importance of holding providers responsible and accountable to patients' needs. Dr. Kennedy moderated a question and answer discussion with Nix and Randall, where the two women discussed the importance of honesty when discussing the realities of breast cancer

See "Support Group," page 14

National Gallery of Art Now Open

On Oct. 26, select main floor galleries of the National Gallery of Art opened for limited capacity viewing between 11 a.m-4 p.m. The galleries east of the Rotunda on the West Building's main floor-an impressionist haven of British and American paintings and sculpture, reopened for the first time since closing in mid March. Most of the ground floor galleries also remain open but patrons will need a free time pass to view the galleries. Passes are released at 10 a.m. every Monday for the following week. The National Gallery suggests you alot at least 90 minutes for your visit. You can obtain passes here: https://tickets.nga.gov/events/1e0d93f1-f20c-dce3-aa67-125ab824fba9.

Passes are not required for the Sculpture Garden or Pavilion Café. The East Building remains closed to the public



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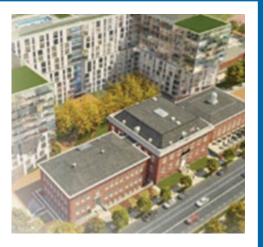


202-669-9017

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Recruitment of Construction Workers from ANC 6D

Project: Museum Place Developer: Lowe General Contractors: Balfour Beatty and The Christman Company



The project is a mixed-use redevelopment of a former school property. The former school property (Randall School) will be rehabilitated to a new contemporary art museum and retail/restaurant space. The non-historic north wings of the school will be demolished and a new multi-unit residential building with a two-level underground parking structure will be built on the north half of the property. A large ground level outdoor courtyard will connect the Randall School renovation and the residential building.

To view Construction Opportunities this quarter from Prime and Subcontractor:

Balfour Beatty

https://balfourbeattyus.com/work-with-us/opportunities Contact rlipscolm@balfourbeattyus.com for a list of Subcontractors



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African Art in Fragments of Time and Gold

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Rich with archeological treasures of enduring artistic beauty, the exhibit Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time: Art, Culture, and Exchange across Medieval Saharan Africa at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, is filled with delights to behold.

Covering the period from the beginning of Islam in the seventh century to the arrival of Europeans on ships on Africa's Atlantic Coast in the 15th century (corresponding to the European Medieval period), trade in gold across the Saharan Desert connected people and ideas. These are the pages mostly left out of Western Medieval history and art books. The exhibition offers another starting point for our understanding in seeing the present time through interconnections to the past.

This exhibit features over 300 works, covering that wide world of trade from Nigeria and Ghana in Africa, to England and Italy in Europe and Iran in the Middle East, and as far as Xi'an in China. Through "the archeological imagination" fragments of artworks capture the thinking of past ages thus bringing new understanding to complete works of art of the same period.

Since the exhibit is currently "online only" due to COVID-19 restrictions, the viewer is invited to use their "imagination" to experience these works through the museum's website.

Caravans of Gold opens with video introductions on how the exhibit was created and what it presents, and truly each piece in this exhibit could probably tell its own story. In Saharan Echoes, examples of 19th and 20th century textile, jewelry, and other objects provide such opportunity for insight into imagining the past.

Driving Desires: Gold and Salt features rich examples of gold works that includes, beside gold currency, a 10th century leaf from the Blue Qur'an and a 14th century painting from Siena, Italy. A video of an interview with a present day salt merchant in the midst of a transaction in the market place brings to life the long traditions of trading.

The Long Reach of the Sahara offers video discussions on beads and ivory. The selection of works are marvels of technical sophistication and of examples of using both European-sourced metals and tradegoods.

Highlighted are the excavations at Igbo Ukwu in Nigeria where over 600 prestige objects, including extraordinary cast copper alloy sculptures from the eighth to early 12th century, as well as more than 165,000 glass and carnelian beads have been unearthed. Another site, Durbi Takusheyi, has yielded 14th to15th century gold earrings, a pendant, and a ring that are timeless in appeal.

Ivory works, such as a French medieval sculpture of Mary and the Child Jesus and a Sicilian casket from Sicily, were carved from elephant tusks acquired through trade. Scientific analysis of the copper and copper alloy sculptures from workshops in Ife, Nigeria from the 13th and 14th century suggest that some of the ores were mined as far away as France and possibly that copper, in the form of ingots, was transported along these routes to West African cities far south of the Sahara.

Archaeological Imagination Station: Giving Context to Fragments features interviews with investigators who excavated in Mali at Gao and Tadmekka, and in Morocco at Sijilmasa.

Archaeologists have found more than 500 fragments of woven cotton and wool textiles along with ceramic vessels, tools, weapons, and ritual articles from caves used as burial sites in Mali's Bandiagara Escarpment, some as early as the 11th century. The variety of weaving and dyeing techniques point to a deeply rooted regional weaving tradition, while the fragments resemble textiles woven in more recent eras, suggesting connections with populations who lived closer to the centers of trans-Saharan trade.

Tour the Caravans of Gold World features more about the connection of 20 key cities. HI videos online and the HI web app at the exhibition allow the visitor to engage further with the artworks on their smartphones using the Smithsonian-developed, web-based HI app.

Saharan Frontiers with Subsections: Arabic Accounts of West Africa | Slavery in the Medieval Western Sudan | Mansa Musa at the Crossroads presents some of the most significant texts and objects that illustrate the global interconnection of far-flung regions. One work sums it up, that of Mansa Musa, the powerful 14th century ruler of Mali, and perhaps the richest man in the middle ages. He is represented wearing a golden crown and grasping a large gold orb and scepter, posed on a world map known as the Catalan Atlas created on the Mediterranean island of Majorca, Spain.

Shifting Away from the Sahara brings into focus the 15th century, when Europeans devised new naval technologies, with a shift of trading posts from the Sahara to Africa's Atlantic Coast. While commodities of gold, ivory, and Saharan trade staples remained important, there were significant changes with cutting out the series of intermediaries essential to Saharan trade. Ships made possible the transport of increased numbers of goods as well as a new industry – the organized enslavement and commercial export of West Africans forced into labor.

While the Smithsonian has started opening museums to the public, the online material provided by the National Museum of African Art is well worth the time to explore before a visit.

You can view Caravans of Gold online at: https://africa.si.edu/exhibitions/currentexhibitions/caravans-of-gold-fragmentsin-time-art-culture-and-exchange-acrossmedieval-saharan-africa/ November 2020 The Southwester Page 13

Past SWNA Scholar Kirstin Jones Is Doing Amazing Things

BY PERI HAMLIN, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS
BY KIRSTIN JONES

ne of the first "Southwester" articles written about 2011 SWNA Scholarship recipient Kirstin Jones was in 2009. Back then, she was a young teen doing amazing things. "The Southwester" spotlighted her because she was selected as a student representative to the D.C. State Board of Education. Fast forward, 11 years later, Kirstin is now a young woman and is continuing to do amazing things.

Kirstin was born and raised in SW. She and her family first lived in Town Square Towers and later moved to a house in Carrollsburg Place, a block from Nationals Stadium. She attended all D.C. Public Schools. Throughout High School, Kirstin involved herself in many activities. In addition to being a D.C. State Board of Education representative, she hosted a math fair at King Greenleaf Recreation Center and actively participated in the Girl Scouts,



Courtesy of Author

Kirstin Jones

which led to her receiving their highest honor, the Girl Scout's Gold Award.

When it came time to go to college, it was no surprise that Kirstin was accepted into the prestigious Barnard College, Columbia University (Barnard). While in college, Kirstin served as vice president of the Barnard Organization of Soul Sis-

ters, captain of the Columbia Cheerleading team, and was a member of Onyx, a hip hop dance troupe.

Kirstin graduated from Barnard in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and has since continued her track record of doing amazing things. She served as an Obama Administration political appointee in the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and was an Associate in the White House Presidential Personnel Office. At SBA, she was the special assistant to Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, a member of President Obama's Cabinet. Kirstin also worked as the scheduler to Congressman Donald S. Beyer, Jr. (VA-08). Prior to that, she aided the chief operating officer/chief financial officer of RLJ Lodging Trust, a company founded by Bob Johnson, the founder of BET.

Kirsten is currently working as a Finance Analyst for the Obama Foundation in Chicago. She supports the chief financial officer in the overall financial leadership of the Foundation and supports the Foundation's business diversity efforts. Outside of her normal work responsibilities, Kirstin also leads the Obama Foundation Internship Program, the Black Women's Affinity Group, and is a board member for DanceWorks Chicago. As if that's not enough, Kirstin is also obtaining a graduate degree at the Loyola University of Chicago's School of Business, where she is a Baumhart Scholar.

Even with all of her commitments, Kirstin has somehow found time to give back to the SW community by serving on the SWNA Scholarship Fund Committee. Kirstin joined the Scholarship Committee shortly after graduating from college and currently participates remotely from her home in Chicago. Kirstin is a shining example of how the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force helps to benefit young people, as well as the community.

For more information about the SWNA Scholarship and Education Task Force, go to https://swna.org/swna/task-forces/education-scholarship/.

Duck Pond Getting a Makeover

he Southwest Duck Pond is currently undergoing a revitalization project by the city. The project includes Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades, renovations to the pond, plumbing, fountains, pond lighting and controls, masonry repairs, a new duck habitat island, play elements and various site and landscaping improvements. The project is budgeted at \$1.1 million, and slated for completion by January 1, 2021. Additional information can be found at https://dgs.dc.gov/page/sw-duck-pond.



Courtesy of Southwester Staff

Southwest Moment



Enjoying the Southwest Waterfront on a lovely late Autumn Evening.

Photo Courtesy of Shelby Poage

Artechouse Displays the Blues

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

B lue is all around us, evoking many emotions from the optimism of "blue skies" to the sadness of "singing the blues." In art, the color blue has been used for tens of thousands of years, from a blue Egyptian funerary figure, a Chinese blue-and-white teapot, Hokusai's *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*, to Vermeer's *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*. In fashion, from clothes to the color of hair.

And now, ARTECHOUSE is going blue. Classic Blue Pantone 19-4052, that is – the Pantone Color Institute's Color of 2020.

Both simple and elegant, Classic Blue is the theme inspiring Submerge by ARTECHOUSE's three immersive installations, in three different cities. *Crystalline*, which opened in Washington D.C., on Oct. 15, represents the quality of dependability in the crystals of earth. Opening later this fall, *Celestial* at the NYC space in Chelsea Market represents the inspirational quality of the blue sky while Aqueous in Miami, the calmness of blue waters.

Crystalline is a surreal experience, offering a brief refuge from the endless everyday with a visit to an illusory, blue-hued castle. The Great Hall in the main gallery, with its sturdy long table and wooden benches along with heavy iron chandeliers and candelabras, suggests the furnishings one might find in an ancient castle. The dancing images



Courtesy of Susan Mason (ARTECHOUSE)

Dance like nobody's watching

of blue lights on the surrounding walls and accompanying sounds are the surreal realm of modern digital technology.

A hallway through a gallery of several dozen framed abstract works created in shifting blue lights, leads to the Mystic Cellar that is one of the unique treasures of *Crystalline*. Through portals one can view the exhibits of *Celestial*, in New York and *Aqueous* in Miami (after their openings in November), which will thus make the connection between earth, air, and water, and the installations.

Exiting through the Solar Gallery

with its giant balls of light offers a parting moment to reflect on the resilience of blue in this technology-powered journey that is both an adventure and a contemplation.

Timely and timeless, *Crystalline* is now at ARTECHOUSE until Jan. 3, 2021.

https://www.dc.artechouse.com

SUPPORT GROUP

 $Continued\ from\ p.\ 11$

with children, and finding ways to focus on their own self-care and mental and physical well-being. Nix and Randall also emphasized the importance of having a support system, noting that within the first weeks of their diagnoses, both women had surrounded themselves with trusted people they could rely on.

In concluding the discussion, both women stressed that young women need to be actively attending to their health by making their annual checkups part of their self-care, being aware of their own family histories, and working to prevent and reduce their risk of breast cancer and other diseases. Randall stressed that many statistics do not cover young Black women, and that being a self-advocate is key to maintaining one's health. With

regards to prioritizing the experiences of Black women in the breast cancer community, Nix added that you have to find a way to be part of the community conversation whether you get an invitation, invite yourself or start your own organization.

In her closing remarks, TDJBCF Founder Jones acknowledged the many supporters who helped to make the evening a resounding success and encouraged donations to the TDJBCF in support of their mission and vision by visiting the website at www.tdjbreastcancerfund. org and clicking the "donate button." She also invited everyone to the virtual version of the annual Thanksgiving support group celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6 p.m. via Zoom and TDJBCF Facebook live. For more information on the TDJBCF, visit www.tdjbreastcancerfund. org, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund. org or call (202) 251-1639.

Basic CERT Hybrid Training

Serve DC is excited to share the upcoming free Basic Community Emergency Preparedness Team (CERT) Hybrid Training!

unning from **November 2 - 19**, this free course will prepare residents to take care of themselves, their families, and community - before, during, and after an emergency. Using FEMA standards, the training will educate and empower residents on disaster preparedness and resilience. Upon completion of the course, participants will be CERT certified and receive a certificate of completion reflective of their new critical skills. For more information, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-cert-hybrid-training-tickets-122496754089

Bailiwick Pops Up at The Wharf

BY MATT KOEHLER

veryone has a favorite piece of clothing. Maybe it's a shirt, a pair of pants, a scarf, or a pair of shoes. For me, it's a comfortable black t-shirt with bold white lettering that simply says "The District vs Congress." Wherever I go, that t-shirt elicits a response. And, when they inevitably ask where to find a shirt like mine, I simply reply, "Bailiwick."

You've probably seen their ubiquitous pro-D.C. apparel somewhere. Back in 2016 Bryce Harper put Bailiwick (the word fittingly means one's area of expertise) on the map when he did an interview wearing one of their 51st State t's (as far as personal favorites go, a close second). Dave Grohl sported one of their 202 shirts while on stage. Mayor Boswer has also been known to wear their clothing. Bailiwick is synonymous with D.C. pride.

Brothers JC and Jeff Smith are the owners and operators of Bailiwick Clothing Co., and. they started their apparel company back in 2015 but the seed for Bailiwick germinated more than ten years ago. "We (my brother and I) entered one of those 'design a shirt' contests with a local company back in our Northeast Ohio hometown. We won the contest with our



Courtesy of The Wharf

JC Smith (right) with the founder and CEO of Shea Yeleen Rahama Wright (center) at the new popup shop at The Wharf

design but as you know, didn't get much from giving them this great idea. I can't really say who it is or what the design was because it's still one of their best selling designs all these years later..."

Before the pandemic, the Smith brothers hawked their wares all over the city at events. Now, until the end of the year

Bailiwick will be down at the Wharf at a new pop up shop with Shea Yeleen skincare products. "The Southwester" recently caught up with JC Smith.

Who came up with the name "Bailiwick"?

I came up with the name Bailiwick. Since I was a kid, it's been one of my favorite words and I always loved its definition. I think names are so important so when naming my company, I wanted to choose a name that was unique and had a lot of meaning. It embodies what we do-shirts are our area of expertise.

Your designs sometimes follow big trending news or movements — what's the design process like? When you come up with an idea, especially if it's related to something trending or a national movement, how quickly can you put it together?

I don't necessarily agree with the notion that we're "following trends" – I really think we're trying to meet the moments that we're in and we're making shirts and designs that resonate with what people are feeling here in DC and beyond.

See "Baliwick," page 16

Southwest Moment



Sunset over the Potomac River on Oct. 23.

Courtesy of Mike Goodman

Native American Veterans Memorial to Open November 11

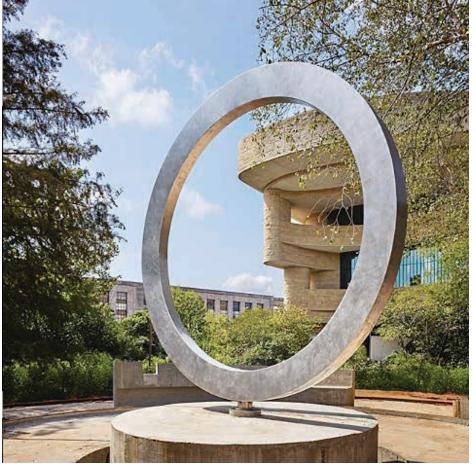
BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he National Native American Veterans Memorial will open on Wednesday, Nov.11, at 4th St. and Independence Avenue, SW. A short virtual message marking the event will be posted on the National Museum of the American Indian's website and YouTube channel. Previously scheduled events to mark the memorial's completion have been postponed "due to current health and safety guidelines," according to a museum press release.

Congress commissioned the memorial to give "All Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service to Native Americans in the Armed Forces and the United States." Native Americans have served in the military in every war since the American Revolution, and the museum website says "more than 24,000 of the 1.2 million current activeduty servicemen and women are Native Americans," citing Defense Department data.

The National Native American Veterans Memorial has received support from groups such as the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Chickasaw Nation, and Poarch Band of Creek Indians, as well as numerous tribal governments. In total, more than 85 "tribes, individuals, corporations, and other corporations have contributed to the memorial," the press release said.

The National Parks Service (NPS) has continued building or expanding monuments and memorials near the National Mall amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In September, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial opened to the public as "America's 420th unit of the



Courtesy of Alan Karchmer for NMAI

National Native American Veterans Memorial will officially open on Veterans Day 2020 with a virtual tour

National Park System," according to an NPS press release.

The museum is also publishing Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces, a book exploring and commemorating the history of Native Americans in the military, to coincide with the memorial's opening. Museum director Kevin Gover said, "The National Native American Veter-

ans Memorial will serve as a reminder to the nation and the world of the service and sacrifice of Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian veterans," and how they "have always answered the call to serve, and this memorial is a fitting tribute to their patriotism and deep commitment to this country."

On Nov. 4, the museum is also opening "Why We Serve," an exhibition that

"tells personal stories of Native American veterans." The exhibition "details the history of more than 250 years of Native American participation in the military, from colonial times to the present day." On Nov. 12, the museum will have a virtual conversation with "Why We Serve" co-author Alexandra Harris about "identity and the warrior stereotype of Native people serving in the military," as well as "traditions of peace and war within American Indian communities."

Some exhibitions at the National Museum of the American Indian remain open during the pandemic. In the "Americans" exhibition, for instance, "American Indian images, names and stories infuse American history and contemporary life," according to a museum announcement. "Americans" highlights "the ways in which American Indians have been part of the nation's identity since before the country began." Additional exhibitions are "The Great Inka Road: Engineering an Empire"; "Return to a Native Place"; and "Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces." A new online exhibition, "Developing Stories: Native Photographers in the Field," features "photo essays created by Native photojournalists Russel Albert Daniels and Tailyr Irvine." The exhibition provides "insights into 21st-century Native life" and a perspective that "is largely invisible to mainstream society." Additional upcoming events are "Native Cinema Showcase"; "Youth in Action: Conversations about Our Future"; and "Native Cinema Showcase." Details can be found at the museum's website, https://americanindian.si.edu.

BAILIWICK

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But when we come up with a shirt that's around a current event or movement, we try to put our own little spin on it and make it a little different. The design process is pretty simple for us to sketch out our ideas and then talk them over - once we feel comfortable with our ideas, we can usually create the shirts in a week.

Do you also have designs planned out far in advance of big events you know will be coming up (Pride Month, for example)?

We do have a rough schedule of shirts that we would like to release during the year, but we keep it flexible and modify if things come up (like a big event) or a newer, better idea comes up instead. As a small company, you have to be flexible and be able to pivot on a dime.

hit a lot of businesses pretty hard – did you feel any of the economic constriction? And, how are you doing now?

Yes, the pandemic hit us hard because we derive so much revenue from in person events (think H Street Festival & DC State Fair). Our shirts are also found in lots of retail outlets which were closed for part of the year and have been greatly impacted, like Reagan airport and the National Zoo. So this COVID pandemic has hit us hard. But we pivoted early on by making masks, and it's helped our business stay strong this year.

What brought about this deal with you doing a pop up at The Wharf?

A few months ago we met one of the landlords at The Wharf who told us about this opportunity in the former Milkbar space. It has been sitting empty for months, and they thought we'd be good candidates to have a pop up there. We sat down and talked, and the rest is history.

How long will you be doing the pop up down there?

The shop will be open through December 2020.

What's in store for you guys for the future? Any plans to diversify your business/ do something else?

We're going to stay the course for now,

and move smartly & deliberately until we feel ready to do anything else major. In this pandemic climate, things can change quickly, so we just want to keep our business going and make good products that people like.

Any thoughts on the At-Large race (had to ask!)?

May the best two men or women win... And that's all I'm gonna say on that.

Any thoughts or messages you want to give the SW Community and the greater DC community?

We love it here in SW – please come by and see us at 49 District Square. And if you stop by, tell us you live in SW for a neighborhood discount. You can also find Bailiwick at https://bailiwickclothing.com/ and Shea Yeleen at https://sheayeleen.com/.

Southwest Moments



At left: Paddling the canal

Below: Focusing on the Allium flower, I never noticed the guy walking by.

He was so far away that it almost turned into a fairytale. As a child. I had a story about a little boy lost in a "Blueberry Forest."

Photos Courtesy of Irene Allen



At left: Shades of green and yellow with dappled sunlight coming through the leaves near Law House

WESTMINSTER

Continued from p. 5

housing units below 60% of AMI.

We realize providing housing for those below 60% AMI is a challenge, but Westminster is committed to this goal. Our plan provides more affordable housing than that which would be required under DC's Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) Requirements. Councilmember Charles Allen stated: "The dedicated affordable housing – for seniors on a fixed income – stands out in this project. More than half of the new homes created will meet this deep

need. We don't see that level of affordable housing very often, even on governmentowned properties. It's a purpose and priority I strongly support."

However, the only way Westminster could afford the new church building and the affordable housing was to sell its current parking lot.

An integrated 99 unit market building will be constructed on the parking lot. Understanding SW's need for parking, the newly developed Westminster property will contain ample underground parking that exceeds the D.C. parking requirements. This total project will bring a new, up to date community serving church

building, a huge amount of affordable housing for the many seniors in SW, and replace an unsightly parking lot with a stunning residential building. Westminster's proposed development is provided for in the SW Small Area Plan and is consistent with the proposed Comprehensive Plan, pending review before the D.C. Council.

The design of the new church has been questioned – that it doesn't look like a "typical church," but we are glad it doesn't. In America, 1000s of churches close every year, many with beautiful "looks like a church" architecture. These days, traditional church structures may

actually keep people away. The adage "just build a church, and they will come" is no longer true. Being a forward-looking, all-are-welcome, multiple use church, Westminster wanted a church building that would be inviting to all. We know that to be a church, you don't have to look like a church

The Presbyterian phrase "reformed and always reforming" is in our DNA. Westminster is one of the first 13 PCUSA congregations nationwide to welcome and ordain openly LGBTQ people; the first in the DMV to have a woman solo pastor; the founder of Food & Friends AIDS ministry; the first TransPride Festival in D.C.; and, of course, where Jazz and Blues are the sacred sound. We are glad to add "affordable housing" to this list of ways God has been reforming us and our ministry through the years. And, now we will be able to more effectively engage with neighbors and their real human needs.

The church building will also include artist studio space oriented toward community participation, a recording studio, meeting places for community groups and events, yoga, gallery space for art events and displays, a commercial kitchen, and a dining area.

We look forward to letting our building be a supportive and innovative partner for all-inclusive community events that will happen at the new Duck Pond, along the Arts Walk, the city green space in front of the church, Library/Playground, and beyond. Our church facility will be an asset to the great public space around us.

With your support, the Westminster congregation and its broad extended network will do everything possible to continue being leaven in the beautiful loaf of SW. To discover how you can help, please contact us at www.westminsterdc.org.



LOG ON TODAY!

www.swna.org www. TheSouthwester.com

Ward 6 Meal Sites

Per updated guidelines, all DC youth ages 18 and younger may receive free grab-and-go meals at DCPS and DPR meal site locations through December 31, 2020. DC youth are not required to be enrolled in DC Public Schools to receive meals. Youth and/or parents/guardians on their behalf may receive up to 3 breakfast and 3 lunch meals daily.

(Locations as of October 1, 2020)

Meal Sites and Grocery Distributions Sites for DC youth age 18 and younger

| School Name | Address | Ward | Meal Distribution Hours (Monday - Friday) | Grocery Distribution (while groceries last) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|--|--|
| Amidon-Bowen Elementary School | 401 Street SW | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | |
| Arthur Capper Recreation Center | 1000 5 th Street SE | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | |
| Brent Elementary School | 301 North Carolina Avenue SE | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | |
| Eastern High School | 1700 East Capitol Street NE | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | Monday 10 - 11:30 am (through October 31) |
| Miner Elementary School | 601 15th Street NE | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | |
| Payne Elementary School | 1445 C Street SE | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | |
| Rosedale Recreation Center | 1701 Gales St NE | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | |
| Seaton Elementary School | 1503 10th Street NW | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | |
| Tyler Elementary School | 1001 G Street SE | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | |
| Walker-Jones Education Campus | 1125 New Jersey Avenue NW | 6 | 10 am - 2 pm | Friday 10 am – 2 pm |

ARENA STAGE

Continued from $p.\ 1$

nership with the Wharf and Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID). The performance was the first live show in over seven months at Arena Stage.

The arrival of Cheryl West's play "Speak on It!" in Washington, D.C. was two years in the making. Two-time Helen Hayes award-winner E. Faye Butler, who portrays Hamer, said West approached her with the idea when Butler and Goodman Theatre's Artistic Director Henry Godinez were working with her in Chicago on a different project. Last year, West sent Butler a 90-minute play, and preparations began to "bring it to the people," Butler said. However, when the pandemic and related lockdown restrictions went into force in the spring of 2020, the play was truncated to its current 50-minute format. Butler was accompanied by Felton Offard, who played soul and blues guitar, as well as a few lines, during the play.

"Speak on It!" ran in Chicago, from Sept. 17 to Oct. 8, which was a success, artistic director Molly Smith told "The Southwester." All preparations and rehearsals for the play were virtual, so the first time the cast and crew performed in the venue at the Wharf was for technical rehearsal the week of the premiere. Though the show had to be shorter to accommodate an outdoor audience, and the cast and crew couldn't meet in-person for rehearsals, Artistic Director Molly Smith told "The Southwester" that she was "absolutely thrilled to have an opportunity after seven months to have a performance for a live audience."

"Speak on It!" served two purposes for the District. Not only was it a reminder and call to get out the vote in the 2020 election, it was also part of Mayor Muriel Bowser's "pilot" program for outdoor performances. According to a September press release, Mayor Bowser wanted to create an "opportunity to resume live entertainment in a controlled environment that can be scaled up or down and that District officials can learn from for future guidance." The performance was one such show.

Seating capacity was capped at 40 people and seats were marked where audience members could watch safely distanced from others. Temperatures were taken before patrons could enter, and their phone numbers were taken for tracing purposes. Other organizations "invited to resubmit plans for outdoor entertainment" included Adams Morgan Partnership BID, Capitol Riverfront BID, and Et Voila Restaurant.

This dual purpose of the play couldn't have been known, at least in detail, at its inception in 2018, nearly two years before the historic pandemic. It was instead more broadly meant to be situated in the Trump era and the broader continuum of contemporary American history. Though some of the ways in which systemic racism was manifest in Fannie's time have since been banned or ruled unconstitutional, the fight for racial equality continues to this day. Still, few may have predicted in 2018 that we would witness such social upheaval in the summer of 2020 that a new push for social equality has nearly matched the sense of urgency felt in the 1960s. It is in this historic context that the words of Fannie come to us in

a decisive moment with her timeless and prescient message: "Until I am free, you are not free either."

Fannie told the audience that the American flag is "drenched in my people's blood," and that since we are "all made of the same blood...when I liberate myself, I liberate you." Later in the performance, one of the actual American flags standing near Fannie was blown over in the wind. Butler responded to this presumably unexpected development in character: She staggered over to the fallen flag, showing the historical actor's injuries sustained in 1963 at the hands of racist police, jailers, and fellow African American prisoners forced to beat her. She then picked up the flag, carefully restored it, then proceeded back downstage to the prop truncheon with which she had demonstrated her beating. She would remind the audience later: "I never gave up on my country, and neither should you."

Hamer was not just an African American social justice icon, she was a towering feminist leader. It took over a century, she said, for "men to believe that women had sense enough," and were "equal enough to vote too." At the time this article was written, just a few short weeks ago, a woman has been elected to the offices of neither President of the United States nor Vice President. This is not coincidence, Fannie would say, and it is "poison for us as a people to not speak on what we know to be true." It is true, she said, that men cannot "be the boss" in the house and then march with women "for justice in the street."

In the spirit of speaking "on what we know to be true," the play had a consistent theme throughout: Fannie will "tell 'em

what it is and like it is." For instance, she told the story of President Lyndon B. Johnson - famed champion of desegregation in the 1960s - calling her an "ignorant" woman after she went "on TV and told the world" what she "knew to be true." Similarly speaking "on truth," she said she "wanted to talk to the white women" in the audience. She reminded them: "a lot of y'all got the vote while making sure we didn't." They accomplished this, Fannie said, by aligning themselves "with any swoll-head white man in power." She told them that they are guilty "any time you stay silent about the wrongs done to us, about all women," because "a white mother is no different than a black mother." Still, she said, "we got more in common than not," and women united can be "one hell of a voting majority."

Part of the magic of "Speak on It!" was West's ability to break the so-called fourth wall both by engaging audience members and speaking from the vantage point of a 1960s civil rights icon about the social justice push of today. Transcending the stage and the period was done sparingly and poignantly. It was historical education, performance, and a call to action. Fannie similarly evoked the legacy of her father, who was a preacher, in crafting a performance that blurred the lines of a sermon and a protest speech. In doing so, E. Faye Butler made a stirring call to vote "all these bad folks out of office," or, as she described them, the "wicked."

The fork in the road is clear. "Either I done come to the future," Fannie told Southwest, "or y'all done gone backwards to the past."

FARMERS MARKET SW EXTENDS TO

All Year Round!

Featuring many of your favorite vendors, the market will continue throughout the winter months, except under extreme weather conditions.

Thank you for all the support and loyalty the community has shown to inspire us to keep the market going!









Saturdays
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The Lot
4th & M St SW



