serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

**JANUARY 2022** 

# Annual Holiday Toys for Tots Drive Touches Hundreds of Southwest Families

BY PAUL TAYLOR

or the 12th consecutive year, the Southwest Comm-Unity Annual Christmas Toys for Tots was another huge success. Held on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Toys for Tots event was a bit different from previous years to practice proper COVID protocols. Parents and children received the toys from a volunteer at Westminster's entrance upon presenting their toy confirmation slip. Although the procedure was different from previous years,

the intent and goal were the same as the line stretched for hours and more than 750 families in Wards 6 and 7 received bags of toys with at least two to three items inside each bag.

The generous supply of toys also enabled James Creek, Syphax, Green-



COVID-safe community leaders prepare to distribute holiday gifts to hundreds of families through Toys for Tots.



Westminster Presbyterian Church hosted the annual Toys for Tots giveaway.

leaf Gardens and Annex to hold mini toy giveaways for families who were unable to attend the drive. A special thanks to Westminster's Co-Pastors Revs. Brian and Ruth Hamilton for hosting this year's event again, and to the U.S. Marines, SWBID, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Youth Activities Task Force, Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, Department of Recreation, Department of Corrections (College and Career Readiness), and other dedicated volunteers, including Ayisha Lee, DC Area Toys for Tots Representa-

See "Toys for Tots," page 2

# Charles Allen Announces 2021 Brickie Award Winners

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

n December 2, Councilmember Charles Allen announced the winners of the 15th annual Ward 6 Brickie Awards in a live streamed ceremony. The awards, which take the shape of a brick, are awarded to Ward 6 residents in categories such as civic pride, public service and more. The five winners for 2021 were selected from nearly 100 total nominations.

"As happens every year somehow, I'm blown away by what our Ward 6 neighbors, organizations, and businesses have been doing to make our community a better place for everyone," Allen said. "Part of the fun of the Brickies is learning about the incredible generosity, dedication, and hard work that often goes on without recognition, and giving those folks the credit they deserve."

The 2021 Ward 6 Brickie Awards were presented to:

#### **Neighbor Award: Wendy Hammond**

A third-generation resident of Hill East, Wendy Hammond has been described as someone who truly embodies what it means to be a good neighbor. Wendy has maintained a "Blessings Box" in front of her home since before the pandemic. And once the pandemic upended life as we know it, she worked overtime to help arrange for her homebound senior neighbors to get tested and sign-up for vaccines, coordinating at-home visits with the local fire department, and even transporting residents. Neighbors say it is impossible to walk past Wendy's home without her greeting you and checking in. While this is only a short list of her work as a neighbor, it's more than enough to recognize her with the 2021 Neighbor Award.

#### **Community Organization Award: Capitol Hill Village**

Since 2007, Capitol Hill Village has been a forceful and effective advocate for DC's and Ward 6's senior residents. Whether that means working to bring more affordable housing dedicated to

See "Brickie Award," page 15



WATERFRONT VILLAGE II BREAKS **GROUND** 

Page 4



HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE

Page 8

SW NON-**PROFIT RECEIVES GRANT** 

Page 12



LIGHT UP SW

Page 14







#### **Help Save Lives** 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 online at www. tdjbreastcancerfund.org

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund is an all-volunteer award-winning grassroots organization whose 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

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.tdibreastcancerfund.org (202) 251-1639

#### **The** Southwester

Send submissions and questions to The Southwester by email at editor@ the southwester.com. Submissions for each monthly issue are due on the 15th of the preceding month.

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#### The Southwester

P.O. Box 70131 • Washington, DC 20024

#### **Southwester Staff**

Editor-in-Chief: Mike Goodman Editorial Staff: Melissa Silverman (Copy & Web) Advertising: Beth Hall & Donna Purchase Distribution: Perry Klein Design & Layout: Electronic Ink Printer: Print Innovators



The Southwester is published and distributed by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

Donate to us: www.mightycause.com/ organization/Southwest-Neighborhood-Assembly

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# January Meeting of Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group to Focus on Advocacy, Grief and Loss

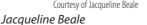
BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

very January, the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group meeting focuses on the meaning and importance of advocacy around breast cancer and cancer in general. As we kick off the new year and the beginning of the tenth anniversary of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, (TDJBCF) the topic of advocacy will be intertwined in a discussion on grief and loss and the challenging role of caregiving. Join us on Wednesday, January 19, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom and the TDJBCF Facebook live (https://www.facebook. com/TDJBreastCancerFund/) as we share lived experiences on dealing with grief and loss, serving as a caregiver and advocating for what's best for ourselves and our families.

Sheri Denkensohn-Trott, breast cancer survivor, TDJBCF ambassador and co-founder of Happy on Wheels, will discuss her experience with grief after losing her sister to liver cancer, useful resources and how others can help those dealing with grief of losing a loved one to cancer.

In addition, Scarlett S. Small, a







Sheri Denkensohn-Trott



Courtesy of Scarlett S. Small Scarlett S. Small

former caregiver and TDJBCF board member and ambassador, will share her experience as her daughter's caregiver as she lost her battle with lupus at age 40. She will also share how being a military spouse and living in four cities and four countries impacted her daughter's treatment, prompting Scarlett to become a staunch advocate for her daughter's care. The meeting will be emceed by Jacqueline Beale, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN) national ambassador and the TDJBCF Evelyn B. Curtis Spirit Awardee. For more information on the TDJBCF, please visit www. tdjbreastcancerfund, email thelma@ tdjbreastcancerfund or call 202-251-

The TDJBCF is a nine-time awardwinning grassroots organization with local, national, and global recognition. Our mission is to advocate and improve 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.

# **Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter** to Host Community Conversation

he Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter invites the public to join their January Community Conversation with ANC 6D 05 Commissioner Fredrica "Rikki" Kramer. The teleconference will take place on Wednesday, January 19 at 12:00 p.m.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about community matters, programs and initiatives in support of and benefitting adults age 50 and over and all of the residents of Washington, DC.

To join the event, please use dial-in number 425-436-6376 and access code 701215#.



For further information contact the Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter Vice President of Programs, Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, at bettyjeantolbertjones@ yahoo.com or 202-554-0901.

#### **TOYS FOR TOTS**

Continued from p. 1

tive, and former long-time Southwest resident Lisa Matthews. Southwest teens especially thank the community churches, including Westminster Presbyterian, Christ United Methodist, Riverside Baptist, Second Union Baptist and St. Augustine's Episcopal, for their generous donation of \$25 gift cards to over 100 teens. Also, special thanks to the Friends of Southwest DC and the District Wharf for their generous donations which helped to purchase additional toys, baby pacifiers, bottles, onesies, blankets, socks, long johns, hats, scarves, and gloves for area families with infants and toddlers and the families at the AYA Shelter who expressed their gratitude as

Toys for Tots is an annual program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks.

"With the pandemic upending our lives and creating a greater hardship for the needy and less fortunate, Southwest and the surrounding jurisdictions are so fortunate to have the Southwest Comm-Unity to champion this effort each year," said Thelma D. Jones, founder of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund and chair of SWNA's Youth Activities Task Force. "I am proud to represent two organizations for this worthwhile and important effort, as every child deserves to be happy, especially around this time of the year."

Paul Taylor, a long-time former Southwest resident, is the founder and Executive Director of Southwest Comm-Unity. Each year, except for last year due to the pandemic, the Southwest Comm-Unity holds a wellattended annual community-wide gathering of individuals and families representing old and new Southwest

# Arena Stage Premiere Shines Light on Unseen History

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

n January 21, Arena Stage will host the world premiere of Change Agent, a fictional take on the historic events of the 1960's that still shape our world today. Tony Award-nominated playwright and director Craig Lucas, known for An American in Paris and The Light in the Piazza, imagines how unsung influencers and insider voices shaped major decisions around real events like the Cuban missile crisis, the civil rights movement and the Cold War.

Among the cast members bringing this rich history to life is Jeffery Omura, whose experience stretches beyond the stage to the political area. Omura is a founding member of Fair Wage Onstage, Be An #ArtsHero and an elected member of Actors' Equity's National Council. He was a recent candidate for New York City Council and was named to city and state's 2021 Labor 40 Under 40.

Ahead of the opening of Change Agent, Omura shared his thoughts with The Southwester, which have been lightly edited for clarity.

The Southwester: Tell us about your role in this play.

**Jeffery Omura:** This play is a page



Courtesy of Jeffrey Omura

Jeffrey Omura

turner. I literally couldn't put it down. Change Agent illuminates one of the most important and yet least known chapters of U.S. history. Craig Lucas has written what I think will be an instant classic by weaving the personal emotional life of the characters into a greater philosophical battle. It's what all great plays strive to do.

When you look like me, you don't often get to play characters based on historical figures of any kind, let alone

people who played pivotal roles in U.S. history. I've always been personally drawn to this era. There was so much optimism coming out of World War II in terms of what the United States could accomplish. Alone on the global stage as the sole superpower, we had an opportunity to shape the world with our values and in our own image. That optimism and patriotism shaped my worldview growing up in the 1980's and 1990's. This play helps us understand where so many of the stories we tell ourselves come from.

SW: How did you get started in politics? How do you feel your political experiences have related to your roles as an actor?

JO: In 2016, I was acting in an Off-Broadway play at one of New York's best-known theater companies, making just \$593 a week before taxes and watching my friends and colleagues go broke while working on union contracts. I got together with other stage managers and actors and helped create the Fair Wage Onstage movement and campaign, organizing the Off-Broadway community around fair wages. Fair Wage Onstage gave Actors' Equity leverage at the negotiating table to win record-breaking wage increases up to 83%. I've been hooked as a labor organizer ever since and was soon elected as an officer of Actors' Equity.

When the pandemic shut down our entire industry, we quickly realized we were getting left out of the conversation at every level of government. The arts and culture industry doesn't have the political infrastructure in place that other industries do-lobbyists, PACs, and elected officials—waking up every morning thinking about and advocating on behalf of the industry and its workers. So, I joined a ragtag group of arts workers and organized a campaign called Be An #ArtsHero to lobby Congress for direct relief for arts venues, helping to secure \$16 billion through the Save Our Stages program.

New York City, as the global capital of arts and culture, was hit harder than anywhere else. With all of the arts advocates on New York's City Council term-limited, I wanted to guarantee our industry had a seat at the table to shepherd the city's \$200 million arts budget-the largest in the world. So, I ran for City Council to revitalize the arts, bring back tourists who support our hotels, restaurants, and retail, and get everyone back to work. While I didn't win, we secured pledges from over 90 candidates across the city to

See "Arena Stage," page 9





# Waterfront Station II Breaks Ground on Fourth Street

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

new mixed-use development at 1000 Fourth Street, SW broke ground on December 13. When completed in winter 2023, the 12 story, 400,000 square foot Waterfront Station II will include residences, a performing arts or theater space, AppleTree Public Charter School and a neighborhood restaurant by Good Company Doughnuts, along with additional retail.

The residential component of the project includes 449 apartment units ranging from studios to two-bedrooms. Of these units, 136 have been designated as affordable, comprising 30 percent of the building. The affordable units will be equally split, with 68 available to households earning 30 percent of the area median income and 68 available to households earning 50 percent of the area median income.

"We are proud to be a part of the Southwest community and to announce not only this significant groundbreaking milestone, but the project's innovative funding model that allows us and our partners -including the city — the ability to offer this amount of affordable housing within a larger mixed-use project of this size," said Monty Hoffman, Founder and Chairman, Hoffman & Associates. "This project is meaning-



urtesy of Hoffman & Associates

A rendering of Waterfront Station II, expected to be completed in winter 2023.

ful to us as a company because it allows us to contribute to and support the communities where we live and work."

Affordable housing developer AHC Inc. worked with project developer Hoffman & Associates and a range of partners, including DC government agencies, to finance the affordable units.

"There is a very real and urgent need for affordable housing in our communities in the DMV," said Susan Cunningham, AHC Interim CEO. "To that end, we are pleased to partner with Hoffman & Associates to bring to life this innovative model of deeply affordable housing development in high-cost areas. Thanks to this unique partnership and first of its kind financing, we are creating a vibrant mixed-income community in a sought-after neighborhood with access to public transit, shopping, employment and onsite resident services programming and transforming the lives of 136 families in need."

The Waterfront Station II project takes a new approach to funding by combining a market-rate equity investor with four percent and nine percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.

"We are especially proud of our partnership with Hoffman on this precedent setting structure which creates a new model to unlock mixed-income communities where affordability is a huge structural challenge," said Alexandra Johns, SVP, Co-Investment at Grosvenor Americas. "Waterfront Station marks our second partnership with Hoffman & Associates. We deeply appreciate their focus on placemaking, social responsibility and sustainability."

Other features of the development include a second floor courtyard, a rooftop terrace and pool and amenities such as a coworking and communal gathering space, a fitness center, entertainment lounges and a library. Solar panels installed across the roof of the building will improve the site's overall energy efficiency.

Waterfront Station II is being developed by Hoffman & Associates in partnership with DC's Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, DC's Department of Housing and Community Development and the DC Housing Finance Agency, with sponsorship from affordable housing developer AHC Inc., City Partners and Paramount Development and financing from Grosvenor Americas, Merchants Capital, and The Richman Group.

#### Do you love living in Southwest and want to get more involved in your community? SWNA is seeking volunteers for the following tasks

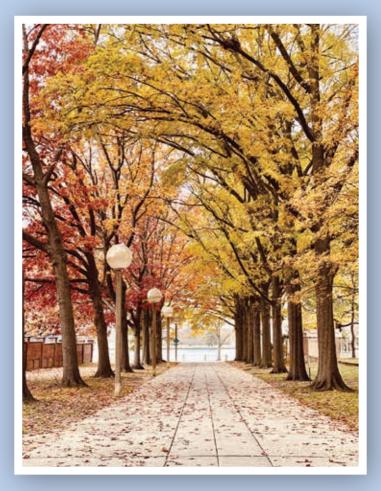
- SWNA communications to manage social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, NextDoor Neighbor
- Create flyers for SWNA (Constant Contact)
- Digital manager for Southwester website (Wordpress) and social media

SWNA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization managed by volunteers from the Southwest DC community. The Southwester is produced by an all-volunteer staff.

> For more information, contact: SWNA: donna4southwest@gmail.com Southwester: editor@thesouthwester.com.



# Photo of the Month Winner: Chris Curry



The final days of fall foliage in Southwest. Courtesy of Chris Curry

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



Join us in 2022 as we celebrate the completion of The Wharf with a full year of special events, free community activities, and waterfront festivals featuring a fantastic mix of live music, waterside activations, movies, parades and fireworks made just for DC.

#### Winter

JAN 5, 12, 19, 26 Cocktails & Curling
JAN 29 Hungry Human Hippos

FEB 12 Wharf Winter Games
FEB 12-14 Restaurant Romance

#### Spring

FEB 26 Mardi Gras \*\*

MAR 19 Ireland at The Wharf

MAR 25-APR 3 Bloomaroo at the Home of the Cherry Blossoms

APR 2 Bloomaroo Fireworks Show \*\*

ADD 0 Coming Durchage Danie

APR 8 Spring Buskers BeginAPR 22 Earth Day Spring River Cleanup

MAY 5 Cinco de Mayo

MAY 7 Running of the Chihuahuas

MAY 20 Bike to Work Day

MAY 21 Blessing of the Fleet

MAY 29 Dogfish Days Kickoff

#### Summer

JUN 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Wednesday at The Wharf Concerts

**JUN 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** Beach Bar & Dive-In Movies

JUN 11 Pride on the Pier \*\*

JUN 11 Saturday Night Dancing

JUN 19 Juneteenth

JUL 1-4 Fourth at The Wharf Weekend
JUL 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday at The Wharf

Concerts

JUL 7, 14, 21, 28 Beach Bar & Dive-In Movies
JUL 8 Summer Buskers Begin

JUL 9 Saturday Night Dancing

AUG 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Wednesday at The Wharf

**AUG 4, 11, 18, 25** Beach Bar & Dive-In Movies

AUG 4 DC Burger Battle

AUG 13 Saturday Night Dancing

AUG 20 Southwest Book Fest

#### Fall

SEP 3-4 DC JazzFest

SEPT 17 Fiesta DC

SEPT 22 Oyster Derby

SEP 30-OCT 2 Oktoberfest Weekend

OCT 10 Fall River Cleanup

OCT 12 Wharf It Up Community Celebration \*

OCT 16 Frenchie Fest
OCT 23 Día de Los Muertos

Dia de Los Muertos

NOV 11 Home for the Holidays with the USO

NOV 20 Southwest Skates: Ice Rink Preview

NOV 23 The Wharf Ice Rink Opens

#### Holiday

NOV 25 Light Up The Wharf

NOV 25 Holiday Buskers Begin

DEC 3 The District's Holiday Boat Parade \*\*

DEC 17 Rudolph's Nog Fest

**DEC 18** Lighting of the Menorah

**DEC 26-JAN 1** Fireside Holiday Movies

DEC 31 Last Night at The Wharf \*\*

Event features fireworks.

Calendar is preliminary—dates, times, and performances are subject to change.

To sponsor or partner on an event or activation, contact Jennifer Currie at <a href="mailto:jcurrie@wharfdc.com">jcurrie@wharfdc.com</a>





Page 6 The Southwester January 2022



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?



*	

4.\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5.

# Answers from December 2021 issue

Differences: The picture on the right has a snowman; the picture on the right has ornaments hanging instead of one of the bows of holly; the picture on the right has more presents; the pictures have different dreidels; the picture on the right has a feint snowflake on the right side; the picture on the left has more stars in the tree; the big stars on the trees are different in each picture.

## **WORD SEARCH: MARTIN LUTHER KING!**

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DREAM HOPE MOUNTAIN TRUTH FAITH JUSTICE														
FREEDOM							NONVIOLENCE							

STRUGGLE

LOVE

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



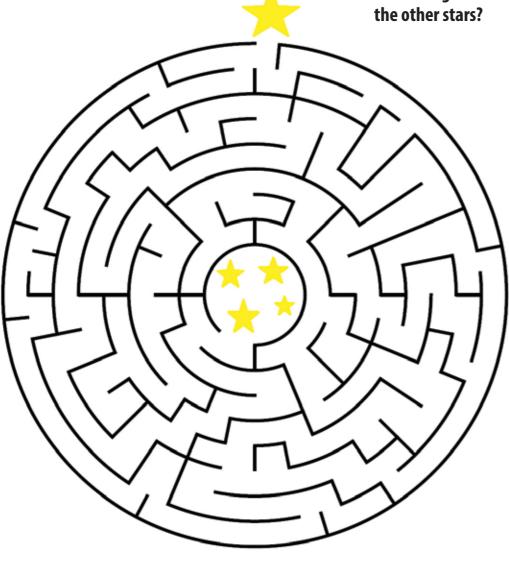
# KID'S CORNER

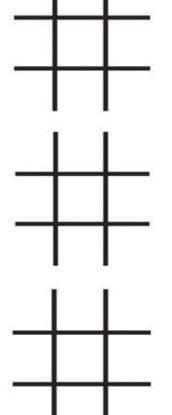


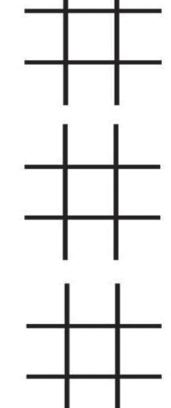


Can you help the star get to

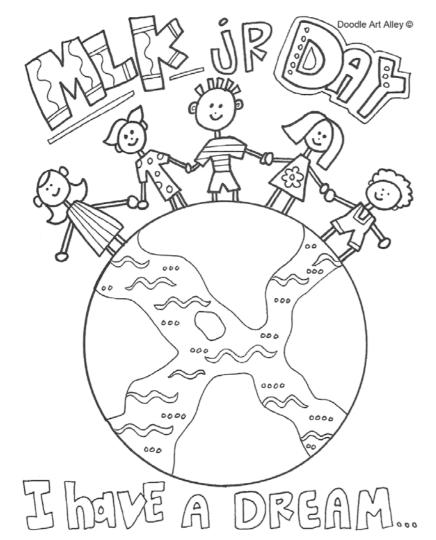
# TIC TAC TOE







# OLORING TIME!



### **Math Moment!**

Can you complete these equations?

a.80 + 80 =

e. 15 + 12 =

b.23 + 10 =

f. 200 - 2 =

c. 300 + 500 =

g. 26 - 8 =

d. 61 - 10 =

h. 200 x 2 =

# Jokes!

What often falls at the North Pole but never gets hurt?

Snow!

Who is Frosty's favorite Aunt?

**Aunt-Artica!!** 

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert?

Lost!

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!



# **Seaders**Young Readers

# A Resolution for the New Year: Create a Reading Habit

BY KITTY FELDE

ouldn't it be nice to simply create everybody else's New Year's resolutions instead of trying to follow your own? Can't I just outsource my desire to lose ten pounds? Why is creating a new habit so darned hard?

I spotted an interview with National Medal of Science winner and MIT Professor Ann Graybiel that helps explain the science of creating habits, both good and bad.

Graybiel says we learn new behaviors in a package, a ritual that includes beginning and ending markers. This is basically so that our lazy brains can stop thinking about the details of an action over and over again (this is why I can't keep that box of See's candy around: if I see it, my brain automatically tells me to go have three or four pieces).

But markers can help create good habits as well. Like reading.

If you want your kids to read more in the new year, create the ritual. That



means:

- · Pick a regular time of day when you and your kids will read together. This can be at breakfast, dinner. before bed, or whatever fits into vour schedule
- Set aside a sacred, silent 20 minutes when phones are in another

room, the TV is off, all music is put on pause

- Keep the books or magazines you'll be reading in the same place, ready to pick up where you left off last time
- Set a timer for 20 minutes
- GO!

- When the timer goes off, take one more minute to tell each other ONE thing from your book or magazine - the best line, the funniest joke, the weirdest bit of fact
- Repeat for two months

Why read together? An article in Forbes cites no less than Warren Buffett who says it's all about the mentoring and copying the behavior traits of people you admire. If you want them to read, let them see you reading.

Why two months? Scientists actually measured how long it takes to build a habit. The answer? Just over two months. 66 days to be exact.

We all have high hopes for 2022. I'd like to shed an additional ten pounds. Perhaps you'd like to create a new habit of reading with your children.

Kitty Felde is the host and executive producer of the award-winning Book Club for Kids podcast. She's also the author of State of the Union, the latest Fina Mendoza Mysteries series for children, set on Capitol Hill.

# Holiday Boat Parade Cruises through The Wharf



Over 60 decorated vessels took part in the 29th anniversary Holiday **Boat Parade.** 

Captain Sarah Ollila on sailboat Surprise took Best in Parade honors for a display titled X-mas Files, above right.

Captain Daniel Ricks on powerboat Santé received the Spirit of DC Award for his COEXIST display, at right.

Captain Brian Dollinger on powerboat Magical Knots earned second place in the parade with a festive Polar Express, above left.

**Photos courtesy of Fredo Vasquez** 





#### **ARENA STAGE**

Continued from p. 3

prioritize the revitalization of arts and culture and succeeded in putting the arts at the forefront of the conversation.

There's a ton of crossover between the two required skill sets [for a politician and an actor], but the most important skill for both is the ability to listen. It's one of the first lessons you learn as an actor, but I wonder if anyone ever bothers to tell politicians that than what their constituents have to say. When you're asking someone for their vote, you better be able to listen to what they need and want so that you can effectively represent them both on the campaign trail and when you're elected. That's why I tried starting every conversation with voters by acknowledging the hardship of the pandemic and asking how they've fared and what they've experienced.

**SW:** Have you taken on political roles in plays before? How does it feel to perform this in DC?

**JO:** I've often said that putting an Asian body onstage in the American theater, where we are so rarely seen, is an inherently political act. So, you could argue that every role I've played has been political.

I originated the titular role in Lloyd Suh's Charles Frances Chan Jr.'s *Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery*, a play, loosely inspired by political activist and pioneer of the Asian-American theater Frank Chin, that examines how Asian-Americans have been portrayed in popular media throughout American history.

And I've played Coriolanus, which is probably Shakespeare's most political play about a war hero seeking to lead the Roman Senate. It's thrilling to perform *Change Agent* for an

audience here in DC that will be especially familiar with the names and events sprinkled throughout the play. I imagine they'll hear the play differently than an audience would anywhere else.

**SW:** Tell us what it is like working with Craig Lucas in his dual role as the author and director of *Change Agent*.

JO: It's a real honor to originate a role in a new play by Craig Lucas, one of our greatest living playwrights. I expect this play to have a long life in the American theater after this production so we're not just telling a story about history, but we're also creating it.

**SW:** What advice do you have for young actors?

JO: It's so much easier to put yourself out there today than it was when I was first starting out. Don't wait for the gatekeepers to deem you worthy for a job. Create your own art. Put it out there on Instagram, YouTube and TikTok. Build your following. Say yes to social invitations. Go to parties and gatherings. Meet as many people as you can. When someone invites you to their cabaret or blackbox theater performance, go to it. Show up for people and they'll show up for you. Write hand-written notes. Stay in touch with people. That's how you network. Be kind to everyone. You never know who will be in a position to offer you a job. Find your collaborators—the people who inspire you to create—and stick with them. And always ask for more money. You might not get it, but you definitely won't get it if you don't ask.

Change Agent runs from January 21 through March 6, 2022. For more information, visit arenastage.org.

# May Your New Year be filled with Peace...Hope...and Purpose Join us for a Candlelight **Labyrinth Walk Quiet Meditation** & Social Time Thursday, January 6, 2022 6:00-7:30pm (Three Kings Day) with music by Hye Yun Bennett, **Southwest's Virtuoso Harpist** FREE TO THE PUBLIC **Westminster Presbyterian Church** 400 I Street SW Washington, DC 20024 RSVP: 202-484-7700 wpcdcoffice@gmail.com **Attn: Debbie Jefferson**



#### Over 20 years of helping Southwest!

#### **Honoring our 2021 grantees!**

#### In 2021 we were proud to provide grants for:

- Camp Arena Stage scholarships for SW kids and for the Jefferson Academy Voices of Now ensemble
- CUMC 5000 Food Ministry SW Food Pantry
- DC STORM college trip and radio programs for SW youth
- GOOD Projects assistance for SW families
- Living Classrooms Thanksgiving food drive
- Serve Your City SW Ducklings Clothing Drive
- St. Augustine's Bread for Life hot meals for the SW AYA
- SW Comm-Unity Forum SW Day and Christmas Toy Drive
- SWNA college scholarships

# Friends of Southwest DC P.O. Box 44434 Washington, DC 20026 FriendsofSWDC.org

FriendsofSWDC@gmail.com

Please join us! Donate by mail or on our websiste.

We welcome grant applications from SW organizations.

Friends of Southwest DC is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization. All our work is done by volunteers, so your contribution goes to help Southwest residents.

We support The Southwester through our advertising.

# **SAVE THE DATE**

## February 28, 2022 - 7-9pm

Conversation with Robert J. Contee III, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C. and Ralph McLean who serves as the Commander of the First District.

The meeting will be hosted on Zoom and Facebook Live. Registration information will be shared on SWNA social media sites and in the February issue of *The Southwester*.



# Arena Stage Opens Fellowship Applications for Aspiring Artists of Color

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater in Southwest DC has relaunched the Allen Lee Hughes BIPOC Fellowship Program. The Fellowship Program, named for the Tony Award-nominated lighting designer, is reclaiming its roots as a professional training program for individuals who self-identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color).

"Arena has been committed to providing training to aspiring BIPOC artists and administrators since its inception," said Artistic Director Molly Smith. "We are renewing this commitment with a specific focus on providing mentoring and educational aspects, as well as on-the-job experience for BIPOC fellows. This reinvigorated commitment comes with the necessary resources to support fellows while they are living with us in Washington, DC."

Since 1990, Arena Stage has supported young artists through the Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship Program. Arena Stage's Founder and Artistic Director Zelda Fichandler and Artistic Associate Tazewell Thompson co-founded the theater's fellowship program for individuals of color as part of Arena Stage's cultural diversity program. The fellowship program has trained more than 700 young theater professionals and aims to cultivate

the next generation of BIPOC theater professionals by providing the highest standard of training through immersion in the art and business of producing theater.

"The fellowship program was founded to bring people of color into the Arena family, train them and promote them," said Allen Lee Hughes. "I am very happy to see it return to the original intent, and I am so proud of Arena Stage's commitment to emerging talent."

The full-time program, which includes a weekly stipend, offers personalized training and in-depth, hands-on experience with top-tier professionals in artistic and technical production, arts administration,

arts education and community outreach. Fellows are mentored by Arena Stage staff members, participate in professional development workshops and attend monthly meetings with directors, designers and senior staff administrators who provide insight into the overall management of the

Fellowship opportunities are available in categories such as artistic development, arts administration, community engagement, and production, including costumes and lighting.

Applications will be accepted through February 11, 2022. To apply, visit www.ArenaStage.org/fellowship.

#### Faith Community

# Kadampa Meditation Center Welcomes Neighbors of All Faiths

BY GEORGINE WALLACE

his will be the first of a series of articles on the Faith Community in Southwest. We'll introduce you to new faces as well as check in on faith leaders who have served our community for years.

The Kadampa Meditation Center is a Temple of Modern Buddhism that studies in the New Kadampa Tradition. Located at the corner of M and First/Canal Streets Southwest, it opened in June 2019. Eight months later, it closed public programming and moved to virtual classes due to the pandemic. The center currently offers hybrid sessions to the community.

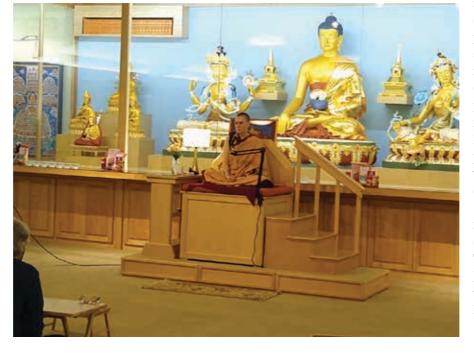
Resident Teacher Gen Kelsang Demo is a Seattle, Washington native who describes Southwest as a "small town in a big city." Drawn to our strong sense of community, she enjoys working with area residents and is heartened by our open and accepting nature. Education Program Coordinator Anika Trancik, a Cambridge, Massachusetts native, echoed the sentiment. The entire nine-person staff is made up of volunteers.

Though the Center follows Buddhist principles, class attendees are not required to do so. Everyone is welcome to attend the public guided meditation classes no matter their religion. Gen Demo and Anika encourage the public to learn mediation to take advantage of the health benefits it can provide such as increased focus, stress reduction, anger management



Courtesy of the Kadampa Meditation Center

Above: The Kadampa Meditation Center on the corner of M Street and 1st Street SW. Below: Resident Teacher Gen Kelsana Demo leads a quided meditation.



and clarity

Prices for classes range from \$5 to \$12 per session. Monthly memberships are \$45 for unlimited classes. The room is large enough to allow social distancing. If you prefer an online class, approximately 25 individuals attend on a regular basis. The center also offers reduced price classes for those on a limited budget. In addition to meditation, a class includes a topic such as the concept of attachment, seeking happiness or validation from others when we need to achieve it within ourselves.

For beginners who want more indepth study, the center offers special events such as their New Year's Eve one-hour session on the *Power of* Intention to help individuals develop plans for the coming year. Topical retreats of a half day, full day or weekend are also available online or inperson. A retreat involves a series of sessions of an hour of meditation and instruction. Each session contains one to two 15 periods of meditation plus practical instruction on how to integrate meditation into daily life. For more information about Kadampa Meditation Center, check out their web site at https://meditation-dc.org/ or email info@meditation-dc.org.

If you would like to attend a class in-person or online, Kadampa is offering one free Sunday, Tuesday, or Thursday class during the month of January. Simply select a class on their website and use the coupon code FREECLASS.

# National Museum of Asian Art Reopens with Textile Exhibit

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

he Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art reopened on December 18 with a special exhibition, Fashioning an Empire: Safavid Textiles from the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha.

While the artistic traditions of the Safavid empire extended through architecture, poetry, and philosophy, this exhibition focuses on how textiles served as powerful intermediaries for new artistic ideas and global exchange.

Safavid luxury textiles, including silks made with gilt silver or silver-covered threads, were the most expensive fabric on the European market. In the exhibition, some of the textiles carry stylized designs while others are inspired by more naturalistic patterns, inspired by Indian models.

Maps from the seventeenth century show trade routes expanding through Iran, from India to Europe, but it is these art works which reveal connections.

Three portraits on loan from the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha are indicators of the respective subjects' status in appearances as well as adaptation based on European formats and techniques.

The full-length oil painting, Portrait of Shah Abbas Safavi II, features

Courtesy: National Museum of Asian Art

Above: Portrait of a Youth is on view at the National Museum of Asian Art. At right: Textile with inscriptions dates from 1700 and is on view as part of an exhibit featuring works from the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha.

a variety of fabrics depicted in his layered loose garments and distinct turban. Portrait of a Gentleman represents a European envoy or possibly a Georgian or Armenian merchant. Dressed in the latest fashion, with furtrimmed coat, he leans on a walking stick, with a small white dog at his feet, posed before an open window with a view of a bucolic, receding landscape.

The richly dressed woman in *Portrait of an Armenian Lady*, also poses before an open window. She wears a fine silver-ground brocaded robe with a sleeveless velvet coat, probably Italian in origin, and holds an elaborate Venetian wine glass. Her imaginary setting is equally grand, with Italian marble

trated manuscript paintings, like the opaque watercolor and gold on paper Ka'us Khan Receives a Robe of Honor from Mun'im Khan from the collection of the National Museum of Asian Art on view in the exhibition. Pictured in a tented city, the Afghan Da'vud Khan receives a sumptuous gold coat as a sign of allegiance to his host Mu'min Khan. The work marks not only the historic occasion but indicates the elite status of luxury textiles. Portrait of a Youth, Khusraw-Sul-

There is a fine selection of illus-

Portrait of a Youth, Khusraw-Sultan Holding a Falcon and Woman by a Fountain are painted manuscripts that you must see during your visit to appreciate the delightful opaque watercolors with ink and gold.

Perhaps the most familiar textiles in this exhibition are the brilliantcolored Safavid carpets. Used to cover the ground inside private and public

buildings and to define outdoor gathering spaces, these vibrant textiles are knotted in soft wool, fine cotton, and costly silk. In competition with Ottoman exports and Mughal works, the Safavid designs combined palmettes with scrolling vines, curling lancet leaves, and stylized cloud bands, usually red, surrounded by either blue or green borders.

Fashioning an Empire: Safavid Textiles from the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha will be on view through May 15, 2022.

floors, an ornate column, and an extravagant vase. Like the gentleman, she is familiar with European fashions and luxury items.



# Meet the Team Behind the Southwest DC Community Center: Rachel Locke

BY THE SWDCCC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

he Southwest DC Community Center (SWDCCC) that is planned to open in our neighborhood in the next few years will serve as a vibrant, central hub for the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront communities that provides an inclusive space for a wide range of services and activities that foster personal and collective growth. As a way to get to know your neighbors who are volunteering their time to bring the SWDCCC to life, we present the Meet the Team series. These profiles will highlight each member of the SWDCCC Board of Directors and Community Engagement and Communications Committee. Don't be shy, when you see us around the neighborhood, say hi!



Courtesy of Author

Rachel Locke

Name: Rachel Locke
Please tell us about your background: I was born not far from DC
in Arlington, Virginia, and went to

college at the University of Virginia for public policy and attended graduate school for public health at Columbia University. I've worked in both the nonprofit and private sectors, and now work in the federal government at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. I am a big fan of the Washington Capitals, strolling on the mall, and trying new DC restaurants and bars.

How are you involved with the SWDCCC?: I am a member of the Community Engagement and Communications Committee. I work with my fellow committee members and the board members on community outreach strategies, communications, and on organizing events to help gather feedback about what the community wants to see in the SWDCCC.

Why did you become involved with the SWDCCC?: I wanted to find

a way to give back to my neighborhood! The chance to be part of the committee that would be working on community engagement felt like a great way to do that.

What do you hope the SWDCCC will offer to the community?: I hope it offers an inclusive place where the whole community feels welcome, as well as diverse programming and gathering spaces that provide added value to the neighborhood.

What's your favorite part of our neighborhood?: I like being near the water and the walkability of the neighborhood!

To learn more about the SWDCCC please see our website at https://www.swdccc.org/ and if you're interested in getting involved, please submit your information at https://www.swdccc.org/volunteer-form.

# Southwest Nonprofit Receives \$500,000 to Address Racial Equity

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he PNC Foundation has committed \$500,000 in grants to GOODProjects, an organization working to help families in Southwest DC live fulfilling lives free from poverty and violence while promoting health and wellness.

The grants will support GOOD-Projects' work to promote social justice, expand financial education and workforce development initiatives and enhance small business economic empowerment.

"PNC is committed to driving real change in areas in which we can make the greatest impact," said D. Jermaine Johnson, PNC regional president for Greater Washington and Virginia. "As a Main Street bank, we are focused on advancing meaningful and sustainable opportunities in traditionally underserved populations and communities where we live and work."

The grants will support GOOD-Project's Family Success Planning initiative, a program in Southwest that involves an array of interventions to help meet the needs of the whole family so that they can achieve self-sufficiency. In operation since 2016, GOODProjects aims to lift 500 families out of poverty by 2030.

"It's an honor to receive this social justice impact grant from PNC Bank," said Darius Baxter, CEO of GOODProjects. "Together with PNC, the GOOD Community is fulfilling the promised 'blessings of liberty' America has withheld from people of color for four centuries. With these funds, we look forward to eliminating the roadblocks to basic needs so families can define and achieve their own success."

This three-year grant is a part of PNC's \$88 billion Community Benefits Plan, inclusive of a previously announced commitment of more than \$1.5 billion to support the economic empowerment of Black Americans and low- and moderate- income communities. The Community Benefits Plan will provide at least \$88 billion in loans, investments and other financial support to benefit lowand moderate-income individuals and communities, people and communities of color, and other underserved individuals and communities over a four-year period.

# Older Adults Chorus Welcomes Singers to Rock Southwest

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

merica's largest choral organization for adults over 55, Encore Creativity for Older Adults, welcomes Southwest residents to join the winter/spring session of DC ROCKS, a rock & roll chorus that takes singers back to their favorite hits from the 1950's through the 1980's.

Encore invites new and returning singers to its 15-week programs that will begin the second week in January 2022. Southwest DC resident Jeffrey Dokken, a longtime Encore conductor and the Music Director and Conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia, will lead DC ROCKS. No auditions are necessary. Encore's mission is to provide an accessible arts education and performance opportunities for older adults regardless of ability or experience.

For those who prefer to sing virtually, Encore is also offering its popular Encore University, a comprehensive online program of singing plus enrichment courses in music history, music theory, dance and movement classes and more. Singers can combine both the in-person program with online classes for a full musical experience

"Singing is so uplifting for older adults, especially those who live

alone, and we are thrilled to be back in Washington, DC with both our inperson and online programs," said Joshua Vickery, CEO of Encore Creativity for Older Adults, an Annapolis-based non-profit organization celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2022.

DC ROCKS will meet at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW, on Tuesdays starting January 11, 2022, from 6:30 p.m to 8:00 p.m.

Tuition is \$190.00 per person for each 15-week in-person program. Tuition for the 10-week all-inclusive online program with up to 150 classes is \$185.00 per semester per person. Encore will follow all local COVID-19 guidelines. For more information and registration, visitwww.encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747. To inquire about financial assistance available through Westminster Presbyterian Church, please call 202-484-7700.

Founded in 2007, Encore Creativity for Older Adults has more than 1,500 singers in 26 in-person ensembles across the nation, including Sentimental Journey Singers, a choir for those with early Alzheimer's and memory impairments, as well as a vibrant online university, summer camp, winter retreat and travel abroad programs.

# Air and Space Museum to Close for Renovations

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he National Air and Space Museum's flagship building on the National Mall will temporarily close to the public March 28, 2022 until fall 2022 to complete work on the first new galleries in the west wing of the building. The museum has been undergoing a major renovation since late 2018.

The museum states that the closure is needed to ensure the continued safety of visitors. Upon reopening, the museum's west-end galleries will open all at one time; their opening date will be announced next year. The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, the museum's companion facility in Chantilly, Virginia, will operate as usual with regular visiting hours and events. The museum will also continue doing virtual events and has online materials about the collection.

The west-end exhibitions opening in fall 2022 will include "America by Air," "The Wright Brothers & the Invention of the Aerial Age," "Nation of Speed," "Thomas W. Haas We All Fly," "One World Connected," "Kenneth C. Griffin Exploring the Planets Gallery," "Destination Moon" and "Early Flight." The museum store and Albert Einstein Planetarium will also open in the fall.

The second half of the project will begin at the end of March 2022 with

The Southwester
Community Calendar
to Return

The Southwester is proud to announce the return of the Community Calendar, a source for events and activities in Southwest and Near Navy Yard.

Organizations who have events or activities to announce are invited to submit brief calendar listings to calendar@ thesouthwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the event.

Look for the first post-pandemic Community Calendar in February's issue.



the deinstallation of the east wing of the building. The completion of that wing, the culmination of the project and the opening of the remaining exhibitions are currently scheduled for 2025.

While the museum on the National Mall is closed, some of its collection and items related to air and space content can be found in other Smithsonian museums, including several meteorites at the National Museum of Natural History, the Tomahawk cruise missile at the National Museum of the

American Indian, the PT-13D Stearman Kaydet aircraft at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Huey helicopter at the National Museum of American History and the Goddard 1935 Series-A Rocket in the new "FUTURES" exhibition at the Arts and Industries Building. The museum is also working on additional ways to share its content at other Smithsonian locations on the National Mall during the closure.

The museum has also greatly

expanded its digital offerings in recent years, including online programs and activities, greater access to its collections and stories of aviation and space pioneers. These include:

- Regular online live chats with museum experts and guests such as astronauts
- Online story time
- Virtual scavenger hunts, and
- lectures from leaders in aviation and space exploration

Online content is available at airandspace.si.edu.

# Southwest Moment



**Courtesy of Irene Allen** 

A Southwest sunset near the Titanic Memorial.



# Winners of the 2021 "Light Up Southwest" Competition

nce again, the Southwest Business Improvement District's (SWBID) "Light Up Southwest" competition lit up the neighborhood. Residents and businesses participated in the annual holiday tradition to establish who has the best holiday decorations in the area. This year's winners are:



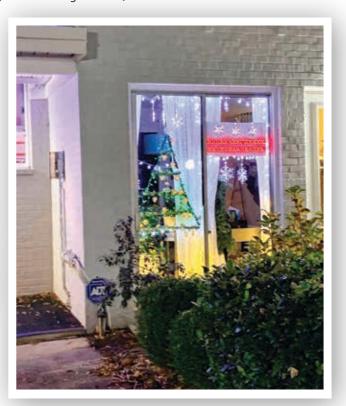


Above left: Best House: 600 H Street, SW (Winning for the second year in a row!)

Above right: Best Retail: UPS Store at the Wharf (This is UPS' third year of winning in a row!)



Above: Best Balcony: Gangplank Marina, Slip Y-1 At right: Best Window: 743 3rd Street, SW (This is the fourth year that this house has won—under two different owners!)



# Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid January Update

BY MAX GROSSMAN

Mutual Aid (W6MA) is working with Black and Brown grassroots organizations to help keep our communities safe. The Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA is partnering with Christ United Methodist Church to serve our neighbors with food and supplies during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Southwest Pod would like to thank all of our neighbors for supporting the SW DC Winter Coat Drive. To date, 51 kids coats and 82 adult coats have been distributed in the community, with more to be distributed.

As usual, SYC/W6MA will continue to collect non-perishable



foods, toiletries, and household cleaning items to serve our commu-

nity. Donations can be dropped off at Christ United Methodist Church on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This month's needs include:

- Food/beverage: canned meat, coffee, tea, hot chocolate mix, box milk, jam or jelly, crackers, chips, nuts
- Personal hygiene: hand lotion, feminine hygiene pads, shampoo, conditioner
- Cleaning supplies: laundry detergent, Lysol
- Household items: bath towels, hand towels, washcloths, medium size saucepans
- Special Request: adult and children's winter gloves and hats

Please note, the 5000 Food Pantry and W6MA Fresh Produce will return to normal hours in January, on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 2:30 p.m. The Southwest Pod will also continue to have a table at the Southwest Farmers' Market for neighbors to stop by and donate produce on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

If you or someone you know needs support, call the Mutual Aid Hotline at 202-683-9962 or email ward6mutualaid@gmail.com.

Want to get involved or just learn more? Contact us at swmutualaid@serveyourcitydc.org.

#### **BRICKIE AWARD**

Continued from p. 1

senior residents, strengthening agingin-place initiatives such as improving home health aide work or transportation, or helping make a vaccine clinic possible for senior residents, Capitol Hill Village has proven itself a capable and nimble organization, working on behalf of senior residents who don't always have the tools or voice to speak up for themselves.

#### Public Service Award: Monica Williams, Mary Scott, and Kendra Ambrose | DC Traffic Control Officers assigned to Tyler Elementary School and Digital Pioneers PCS

Every year, there is one nominee who receives a massive amount of community support. This year, there were three people. Parents, teachers, and neighbors around Tyler Elementary School and Digital Pioneers PCS rallied to recognize the twice-daily work of the three traffic control officers who protect students going to and from school each day. Monica Williams, Mary Scott, and Kendra Ambrose's support for a Brickie is a reflection on what their public service means to these school communities.

#### **Business Award: Shop Made in DC**

When Councilmember Allen was first elected, an early effort of his was to create the Made in DC brand, which sought to give a bigger platform to DC's talented maker community. It would've been a wild dream to believe years later stores like Shop Made in DC could exist. Shop Made in DC carries products made in DC, by DC residents, across six locations. It brings together, and elevates, DC small businesses and local makers, and puts their hard work in front of many more customers than might have otherwise been possible. As we enter the holi-

day season, Shop Made in DC is now located in Georgetown, Union Market, The Wharf (Ward 6), The Roost (Ward 6), the Convention Center (borders Ward 6), and the Canopy Hotel on Rhode Island Ave, NW.

#### Civic Pride Award: Eastern Market Metro Park

The Civic Pride Award is always dedicated to an effort, person, or group that elevates the entire community. Earlier this year, the ribbon was cut on a nearly 10-year transformation of the area around the Eastern Market Metro from a place people

walk through to a place people walk to. The final result has been a stunning success, a new Town Square for Capitol Hill that has already played host to a series of outdoor concerts, lunch and coffee dates, quiet time for residents, and just recently, the annual lighting of the Holiday Tree on Capitol Hill. Accepting the award on behalf of the dozens of people who helped make this transformation possible is David Perry, a man who spent countless hours on behalf of Barracks Row Main Street in planning meetings and helping coordinate the process from start to finish. David would be

the first to acknowledge that this project truly took a whole village to complete. This award acknowledges the enormous contributions of dozens of community volunteers, organizations, and government agencies, including the Eastern Market Metro Park Advisory Team, the DC Department of General Services, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B, the Capitol Hill Business Improvement District, Eastern Market Main Street, CHAMPS. Friends of Southeast Library, the DC Public Library, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, and the National Park Service.

# Make a **fresh start** in January 2022 Try a meditation class for **FREE!**

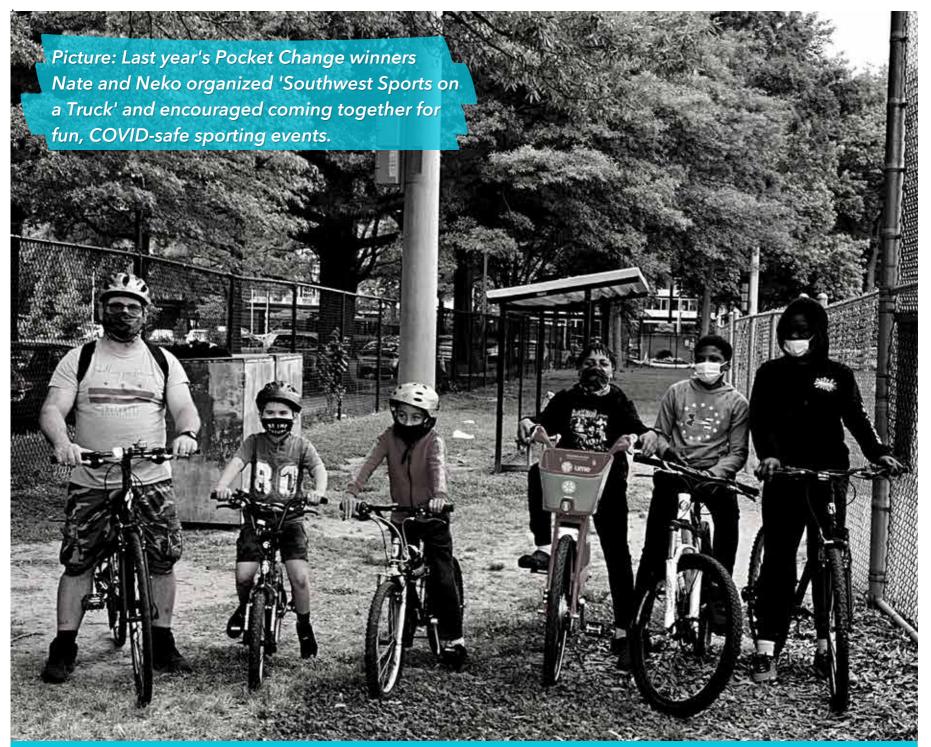


Register online using the coupon code: FREECLASS during the whole month of January. Classes are offered on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday.

Everyone is welcome, Online & In-person!

meditation-dc.org

LOG ON TODAY! www.swna.org



# POCKET HAVE AN IDEA TO IMPROVE THE SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD? APPLY FOR \$1,000.

We want to highlight and fund your remarkable idea to invest in the community. From starting book clubs to disrupting violence, Pocket Change is a crowdfunded micro-grant that aims to better our community with ideas from Southwest for Southwest.

Pitch your ideas today! Deadline Jan. 31.

