Rubell Museum Opens Doors in Former Randall School Building

Southwest’s Newest Museum Showcases Contemporary Art in Historic Space

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

On October 27, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser cut a red ribbon to open Washington, DC’s newest museum, the Rubell Museum DC at 65 I St. SW, the site of the historic Randall School.

Dedicated exclusively to contemporary art, the Rubell Museum reinvigorates one of Southwest’s only remaining buildings that pre-date the urban renewal of the 1950’s. The school’s architecture is preserved across the museum’s 32,000 square feet, which includes a bookstore and a terrace. Former classrooms and teachers’ offices have been transformed into 24 galleries, and the school’s 4,000-square-foot auditorium was retained to provide space for large-scale artworks and performances. The museum presents exhibitions of works drawn from the Rubell family’s collection of contemporary paintings, sculptures, photographs, videos, and site-specific work by American and international artists. Admission is free for DC residents and Ward 6 residents will have access to expanded opportunities.

Thousands Attend Native American Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony

BY GUY ALDRIDGE

Over 1,500 Native American military veterans from around the country came to the Mall last month for a dedication ceremony two years overdue. After opening in 2020, the National Native American Veterans Memorial was formally dedicated with events on November 12 and 13, 2022. The memorial was designed by Harvey Pratt, (Cheyenne, Arapaho) a Vietnam War Marine Corps veteran, Southern Cheyenne peace chief, and artist.

The procession of veterans preceded the capstone of the event, a series of speakers on the National Mall. With the Capitol Building and the remnants of a late summer hurricane providing a dramatic backdrop to the event, attendees heard speeches from the designer of the memorial, veterans, government officials, politicians, and more. Lonnie G. Bunch III, the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, noted the memorial is the first ever to be constructed on Smithsonian lands, saying “there’s nothing more important than this being the very first one.”

The ceremony began with a performance of the National Anthem by Charly Lowry (Lumbee, Tuscarora) and Alexis Raeana (Lumbee). The colors were presented by the U.S. Military District of Washington Joint Color Guard and Robert Short, (Kiawah) a Vietnam War veteran, delivered the invocation. Cynthia Chavez Lamar, (San Felipe Pueblo, the National Native American Veterans Memorial was dedicated on Veterans’ Day weekend at Maryland Avenue SW and 3rd Street SW.

See “Rubell,” page 12

See “Veterans,” page 8
Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Hosts Children’s Coat Drive

BY REGINA MAZUR

F or more than two years, the mission of Serve Your City/ Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/WMDA) has remained the same: “providing Black and Brown youth and families with resources that others in DC may already have.” Due to the tireless efforts of Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid, the community residents are able to receive the assistance and resources that they need.

SYC/WMDA extends a heartfelt thank you to our generous neighbors who have been donating winter coats, accessories, and funds to our Winter Coat Drive since early October. We are happy to announce the campaign is being extended through Saturday, December 17. The greatest needs continue to be children’s sizes (through middle school ages) and adult sizes 1X and up. Donations of coats and winter accessories are accepted at Christ United Methodist Church (900 4th St. SW, courtyard gate in the back of the building in the side street of Wesley Place) on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Cash donations, which are also very appreciated, are used to purchase sizes that are not received - and can be made through December 31 at bit.ly/sycwmda-coatdrive.

As 2022 is coming to an end, our work doesn’t stop. If you didn’t get a chance to contribute to our work on “Giving Tuesday” it’s not too late! Your solidarity NOT charity makes mutual aid possible in the future. Keep the abundance flowing in 2023 and beyond by visiting bit.ly/sycwmda-ery22 today.

This Month’s Donation Needs: SYC/WMDA Southwest Pod provides our neighbors with food, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items. Our greatest needs this month are:
- Food: soup, tuna, beans, vegetable oil, hot chocolate, tea, cold cereal, oatmeal, grits
- Cleaning: dish soap, spray disinfectant, bleach
- Personal Hygiene: mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, tampons

You can find SYC/WMDA table at the Southwest Farmers’ Market every Saturday of the month (weather permitting). Donations of fresh produce, meat, and dairy products are accepted and help to provide a healthy selection of food. Please stop by to say hi and donate.

Food Distribution

Takes place at Christ United Methodist Church at 900 4th St SW. On the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 2:30 p.m. CJMC gives out groceries, paper products, and cleaning supplies. SYC/WMDA gives out fresh produce, eggs, and bread every Saturday at the same time and location. If you need additional support with food and supplies, please call the Mutual Aid Hotline at 202-683-9962 or email ward6mutualaid@gmail.com

Want to Learn More or Get Involved?

We need more people to help with the food distribution on Saturdays. Please contact us for more information at swmutualaid@serveyourcity.org.

U.S. Botanic Garden Hosts Holiday Display

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

This year’s U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) "Season’s Greenings" holiday display will be on view from Thursday, November 24, 2022, through Monday, January 2, 2023, and closed on December 25.

On the lawn in the gated outdoor gardens, model trains will circulate through agricultural displays made from plant parts showcasing farms across the United States and around the world. These farm scenes will range from orange groves, wheat and corn fields and cranberry bogs in the U.S. to potato farms in Peru, onion farms in Mexico, greenhouse farms in Finland, rice farms in Nepal, and more.

In the Conservatory, visitors will be able to view holiday decorations including nearly 2,000 vibrant poinsettias and the Garden’s collection of DC monuments and landmarks, such as the U.S. Capitol building and the Washington Monument, all made from plant parts. New plant-based sculptures of pollinators will be on display in the gardens. A gift store run by the Friends of the U.S. Botanic Garden and local D.C. small business Rewild will offer a variety of botanically themed gifts for purchase in the Conservatory’s West Gallery. Zeke’s Coffee will offer coffee and hot chocolate for sale just inside the gated outdoor garden near the trains.

The Conservatory is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, and the gated outdoor gardens are open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, both closed December 25. The Terrace Gardens and Bartholdi Park are open dawn to dusk daily.

Tickets are not required to view the trains or any part of the USBG. The trains will run between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. each day, closed December 25. The train display may not operate during inclement weather.

The Garden will offer extended evening hours each Tuesday in December, when the Conservatory and train display will be open until 8:00 p.m.
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Free Christmas Trees Available for Neighborhood Families

This year, St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church will continue its longstanding community tradition of sharing the holiday spirit with Southwest and Navy Yard residents who need a tree for their family’s Christmas.

St. Matthew’s will provide 100 high-quality 5’-6’ Fraser Fir trees – one per household - to community members who call or email to reserve a tree. To reserve, call the Church Office at (202) 800-4600 and provide the following: Last name (spelled), telephone number, and email address (as applicable). This information may also be emailed to trees@firsttrinitystmatthew.org.

St. Matthew’s is absorbing the 28% increase in its supplier’s charge for Christmas trees this year, and residents are asked to apply for a tree as soon as possible. Pick-up time for reserved trees is Saturday, December 10 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the church’s underground garage on Delaware Avenue south of M Street SW. Trees that remain after 12:00 p.m. will be given away on a first come, first served basis. St. Matthew’s is not able to provide delivery service.

Winter Protein Pantry Prepares for Opening

The Riverside Baptist Church on 7th Street and Maine Avenue SW will launch a Winter Protein Pantry on December 11th. Every 2nd Sunday during December-March, community members will be able to grab items from the pantry and fellowship over a cup of hot cider or coffee. Please share the word with neighbors.

Donations of the following items are now being accepted: canned tuna, sardines, Spam, chicken, dried or canned beans, nut butters, nuts and seeds (no trail mix or combination bags due to allergies), commercial jerky, granola and protein bars, and cold cuts (only bring the day of, due to limited storage).

For more information, email deaconchair@riversidedc.org.

Southwest and Navy Yard Residents Vaccination Clinic for Older Adults

Thursday, December 8 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
222 M Street SW

Free Gift Cards
Special Treats

Vaccination shots for:
• COVID-19
• Flu (including 65+ shot)
• Shingles

For more information or to register for a vaccine, please call 202-656-1834 or send an email to:
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Ornament Decorating
CAPITAL FRINGE
New Partnership to Advance Cancer Health Equity Community Welcomed to December Support Group Meeting

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) continues to expand its participation and leadership in research studies involving breast cancer survivors and other studies.

It is currently in partnership with Georgetown University Lombardi Cancer and has completed research studies with George Washington University Cancer Center and Cancer Support Community, among others. At its recent support group meeting, which featured Howard University Cancer Center (HUCC) Interim Director Dr. Carla D. Williams, Associate Professor Medicine & Public Health, a major partnership was announced involving a research grant to create HUCC’s Cancer Health Equity Research Center, (CHERC) a $4 million program that is being funded by the American Cancer Society.

A key element of the CHERC is the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Community Council, whose membership includes the American Cancer Society, Nueva Vida, African Women’s Cancer Awareness Association, the DC Tobacco Coalition and the TDJBCF. The advisory council will evaluate JEDI’s efforts annually and provide leadership and guidance for overall work for the CHERC. The goal of the center is to deal with the deeply embedded social, economic and political issues that are the root causes of cancer inequities by conducting solution-based research to address these disparities locally and nationally.

In announcing the partnership, Dr. Williams, a former long-time SouthWest DC resident, provided an overview of HUCC’s 12-year relationship with the TDJBCF as a community partner, including being the first major cancer center to speak at the TDJBCF’s support group, efforts in helping to advance the careers primarily of Black women in the cancer space, facilitating a philanthropic relationship with the World Bank Group, and a long-standing association with The Southwester and its parent organization the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.

Williams stated that Jones “is a voice to and for the community” and noted that “her (TDJBCF) newsletter and work with The Southwester have a global reach because these resources are available online for anyone to participate in and enjoy” and that “the paper’s reach has helped to raise awareness about our work in our region and the local community.”

Dr. Williams further noted that Jones is “an advocate for research participation, and that’s a rare attribute... She personalizes it and makes it accessible to people, which has helped to change the paradigm and shift the narrative around cancer, cancer research and cancer care” by developing the trust of the community and enabling them to speak to each other, "thus combining research and community voices to move into action.” Jones will serve a two-year term on the council.

Starting in 2023, the TDJBCF will hold a scheduled partnership support group meeting with HUCC while simultaneously building on the life and legacy of Dr. Lori L. Wilson, a former TDJBCF Board Member and advisor who was mentioned prominently during the partnership announcement. To see the HUCC partnership announcement, please visit https://fb.watch/dMWetYM46s/. For more on the life and legacy of Dr. Lori L. Wilson, please visit the November issue of The Southwester (page 12). You can follow HUCC on Twitter for the most up-to-date information on their work.

Looking ahead, each December the TDJBCF support group topics include children of breast cancer survivors (living or deceased). Join the TDJBCF on Wednesday, December 21, at 6:30 pm via Zoom and TDJBCF Facebook live as we welcome guest speaker Brea Hickson, Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) Survivor (metastasis) and advocate. Hickson will discuss IBC and the challenges of her misdiagnosis, the impact of her diagnosis on her life at a young age, the joy and challenges of being a spouse and a working mom with three young children and her advocacy work. A go-getter and world traveler, Hickson holds a BS in criminal justice from Old Dominion University and an MBA from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA. She is married to her college sweetheart, an active-duty Army Officer and is the loving mother to her three children. Hickson enjoys spending time with her family, listening to music, cooking and traveling. She has lived in South Korea and Hawaii, climbed the Great Wall of China and has vacationed in the Philippines and Jamaica, just to name a few. The meeting will be emceed by Lashanah Thomas-Walker, a community activist and former Southwest resident who serves on the TDJBCF Board of Directors and has served as the TDJBCF Newsletter Editor for the past two years.

Thomas-Walker holds a master’s degree from George Washington University in curriculum instruction and is currently pursuing her PhD in Sociology at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA, focusing on how the socio-cultural identities of Black women influence their college education by using standpoint epistemology. As the TDJBCF Newsletter Editor, Thomas-Walker has expanded her research and writing on oncology, health inequities, and wellness. Don’t miss the opportunity to see two brilliant young women share their passion and advocacy about cancer, cancer care and health inequities. For more information on the TDJBCF, please visit www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639.
ARTECHOUSE Launches Immersive Holiday Exhibit

ARTECHOUSE is hosting a holiday exhibit titled SPECTACULAR FACTORY: The Holiday Multiverse. Open to the public November 19, 2022 – January 8, 2023, the exhibit uses technologies including floor-to-wall panoramic projection and a spatialized audio system to create a metaverse-like immersion where visitors can interact with digital jingle bells, nutcrackers, wreaths, and a candy cane carousel.

Southwest Moments

Below: The first of November brought heavy fog to the Southwest waterfront.

Right: The Potomac Water Taxi awaits departure from The Wharf.

Above: A rock garden sculpture is included in the new public space at The Wharf Phase II.

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December Hours:
M-F 8 to 7
Sat. 9-6
Sun 10-5

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Southwest Strong! Marks Year of Emergency Preparedness Efforts

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

As the Emergency Preparedness Task Force of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, (SWNA) Southwest Strong! works to prepare the community for disasters of all kinds.

The group pulled together for a range of accomplishments in 2022, including:

• A collaborative effort with the Southwest BID and Arena Stage to help the American Red Cross collect 35 pints of blood

• “The Pillowcase Project” for children held at the Southwest Library

• A talk by Sarah Dawn Petrin, author of “Bring Rain - Helping Humanity in Crisis”

• A disaster preparedness float in the July 4th parade in the Palisades neighborhood

• A talk on “The Emergency Financial Aid First Aid Kit” by financial coaches and experts from Operation Hope

• A panel discussion called “Lessons Without Borders – a look at U.S. Disaster Response and International Disaster Response”

• Regular literature table and conversations at the Saturday Southwest Farmers Market.

Looking ahead to 2023, Southwest Strong! is planning activities that include:

• Two Extreme Event Community Disaster Exercises – a flood scenario and a hurricane scenario

• Continuation of “The Pillowcase Project”

Southwest Strong! included a disaster preparedness float in the July 4th parade in the Palisades neighborhood in their 2022 activities.

- A youth-led, youth-centered Climate Crisis Conversation roundtable discussion
- A talk on fire safety for all types of housing: apartments, condos, townhouses
- A Southwest team for a disaster preparedness float in the July 4th Palisades parade

For more information, visit swna.org/swna/task-forces/emergency-preparedness/.

VETERANS

Continued from p. 1

Hopie, Tewa, and Navajo) the museum’s director, said it is her institution’s responsibility to “forever welcome and honor veterans, and educate people about the extraordinary military service of native veterans and active duty service members.” As every speaker noted in their thanks to native peoples for their service to the country, Native Americans have served at higher rates in the armed forces than any other demographic.

Kathy Hopinkah Hannan, (Ho-Chunk) chair of the museum’s Board of Trustees, read a statement for Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, (Pueblo of Laguna) who could not attend. Haaland wrote that Native American contributions have “often gone unrecognized throughout our history,” but “this memorial changes that.”

U.S. Representative Sharice Davids of Kansas (Ho-Chunk) said Native Americans serve in the military “because they choose patriotism” and “love of this country and these lands.” Davids also said they “choose to imagine a better future for their families and their community.”

In an era of increased scrutiny of history, even the uncomfortable parts, some speakers, including U.S. government officials, confronted the historical mistreatment of Native Americans.

Bunch thanked the high percentage of native people who have defended “a country, candidly, that occupied their homelands” and “disrespected their tribal sovereignty...when that country didn’t accept them as equals.” The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough, thanked veterans for their service to the country, “with all our imperfections so that our highest ideals and core values could continue,” and for defending freedoms “that many native vets did not themselves enjoy.”

The event coincided with Native American Heritage Month, which was noted by at least one speaker. Yet none mentioned that they stood on land where over 4,000 Native Americans as DC residents have never, and still do not, have a vote in Congress.

The ceremony lasted over an hour. Pratt delivered a moving dedication at its culmination. He said the memorial, which “came about in a dream,” is “about warriors of the past, warriors of today, and warriors of tomorrow.” Pratt said his ancestors and descendents would recognize the elements of the memorial, as it was “made for all ages.” He then lit the memorial, and the ceremony was concluded with Taps.

After the ceremony, many attendees came forward to fasten prayer ties onto the memorial. It can be seen outside the National Museum of the American Indian, near the intersection of Maryland Avenue SW and 3rd Street SW.
The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Education and Scholarship Task Force would like to say thank you to the many generous donors who have contributed toward scholarships awarded every year for 50 years to encourage and assist the education and future well-being of the promising youth of our Southwest Washington DC neighborhood.

www.swnascholarship.org
Kid's Corner

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

Spot the difference!

Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?

1. ____________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________________
6. ____________________________________________________

WORD SEARCH: HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

GIFTS  DREIDEL
REINDEER  UNITY
FAMILY  GINGERBREAD
SNOWMAN  FESTIVAL
LIGHTS  TREE

Answers from November 2022 issue

Differences: The words are different in each picture; the picture on the right has a window; the picture on the right has a red heart; the person on the left side of each picture is different; in the picture on the right, the woman in the middle of the table has a hat; one of the side dishes in each picture is different.
Innovative Design Inspires Reading

BY KITTY FELDE

Most people visit art museums and monuments when they visit a new city. I visit libraries. I've visited a tiny community library in rural Oregon with its own vegetable garden and attended the grand reopening of a magnificent new library in Christchurch, New Zealand after a devastating earthquake destroyed the old one.

Good design can inspire us. Colin Ellard, who researches the psychological impact of design at the University of Waterloo in Canada, says even building facades can affect us in a positive way.

I know firsthand how the design of a library can affect reading. My childhood library was down the street, housed in a post-war concrete box with tiny windows covered in blinds. I loved it, but it was never crowded.

Today, the brand new East Rancho Dominguez Library is packed with patrons, mostly tweens and littles. The day I visited, every computer and every meeting room was taken. There were so many kids, librarians set up carts full of books which disappeared like candy. Neon-colored walls and glassed-in study rooms made the library feel like an exciting place to be.

A palace for the written word. A place where you wanted to spend time.

Here in Washington, we are lucky to have so many unique and inspiring libraries around the city. Note the art-by-historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation.

Ahead of the holiday performance, Williams answered a few of The Southwester's burning questions via email. Answers have been lightly edited for clarity.

The Southwester: Since you founded Step Afrika! in 1994, as the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation.

Step Afrika's Magical Musical Holiday Step Show is really one of my favorites. It's inside/outside design has everything from an outdoor reading porch to solar panels and a green roof. More than that, the design of the building itself invites us to come visit, spend some time, and take home a wish list.

As much as Step Afrika! loves to perform, we love to work and serve our communities through arts education. We have amazing virtual and in person programs, and we are thrilled to bring back our Summer Steps program in 2023!

What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than to take your reluctant reader to a palace built for literature? Its beauty and grandeur subtly shows a young person how much we value the written word.

After all, it was Winston Churchill who said, “We shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us.”

Kitty Felde hosts the Book Club for Kids podcast and writes The Fina Mendezu Mysteries series of books and podcasts, designed to introduce civics to kids.

BY SHEILA WICKOUSK

From December 9-18, Arena Stage will host a festive, family-friendly production called Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show.

Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping. Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation.

Step Afrika! has worked in partnership with museums and art museums all around the country. Most notable was our collaboration with the Phillips Collection and their iconic collections of paintings called the Migration series. This union led to the creation of our Migration show, which will be arriving at Arena Stage in the coming year.

The Magical Musical Holiday Step Show is really a unique standalone experience, focusing on families and fun. This is about a great time in the theater, and we are grateful for our partnership with Arena Stage to bring this to The Mead Center for American Theater for the first time. This is a new home for the holiday show, and we cannot wait to see how this show feels in that space.

I have been to lots of holiday shows around the world, but there really is no show like ours. This interactive, engaging production is the first holiday show centered around the art of stepping, and the arrival of this work to Arena Stage, in the round, is the perfect way to celebrate the holidays.
Rubell Museum’s Inaugural Exhibition Showcases Powerful Artwork in Stunning Setting

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

The Rubell Museum DC, located on the site of the historic Randall School, opened its doors to the public in late October with an exhibit titled What’s Going On, a reference to the groundbreaking 1971 album by Randall School alumnus Marvin Gaye, who sang in the glee club as a junior high student in the very auditorium where the exhibition takes place.

The title also refers to the cornerstone of the museum’s inaugural exhibit: Keith Haring’s Untitled (Against All Odds), 1989, a series of 20 works on paper inspired by Gaye’s lyrics and created while Haring listened to the album as he mourned the death of Rubell family member Steve Rubell, who passed away from AIDS at age 45.

The stunning entrance to the Rubell Museum’s galleries sets the stage with white oak floors and beautifully exposed brick arches over windows streaming in natural light.

In the revitalized former auditorium loom four supersized, powerful works, each unique in theme and presentation. The glitter of gold tones in El Anatsui’s Another Man’s Cloth (2006) created with aluminum liquor bottle caps and copper wire, catches the eye immediately. Kehinde Wiley’s oil on canvas work Sleep (2008) invites comparisons to reclining figures from centuries of statues and paintings.

Christopher Myers’ Earth (2020) of appliqué fabric connects the traditions of quilt making with storytelling. Vaughn Spann’s Big Black Rainbow (Smoky Eyes) (2019) reveals the complexities of textures through its layers of terry cloth and paint.

Former classrooms have been converted to galleries to display collected works from a single artist or works from multiple artists addressing similar societal and cultural themes, presenting cutting-edge art for exploration and reflection.

Consider the infinite possibility of variety in media through photography alone. A floor-to-ceiling collection of over 80 photographs by Hank Willis Thomas, a former Duke Ellington High School student, overwhels with images of real people, transformed by the camera into art works to inform and share ideas about identity in popular culture.

Mickalene Thomas is noted for her powerful, complex works that connect sexuality, beauty and power. Her life-sized, elaborate portraits are based on self portraits and harken back to images that range from 19th century French painting through 20th century street art and taxidermy.

There are realistic depictions of modern conditions, like Paolo Nazareth’s color photograph Untitled, from the News from the Americas series (2011-2012), of two bare black feet stepping on an American flag that could be in today’s news story.

The variety of media for the message is varied, including the complexity of Day Jackson’s Charter (The Day After The End of Days) (2006), a full scale work which uses over a dozen objects from fluorescent lights to buttons and fills the room with its presence. There are works where the image is words, like Jenny Holzer’s aluminum plaques. Huang Yong Ping’s series of pots combines ceramics and taxidermy.

What there is not is any rule that says that this is what you should think about a work. The presentation is for each to experience the art work and how it relates to them. Even as the building has been refurbished, it retains the essence of what it was over a century ago, a place to come to be with others and find “what’s going on.”

**RUBELL**

Continued from p. 1

ties to engage with artists.

The family’s art collection began shortly after Mera and Don Rubell married in 1964, when they started visiting artists’ studios and collecting art in New York. Their son, Jason Rubell, joined them in 1982 in building the collection, creating the exhibitions, and developing museums in Miami and DC.

“The museum’s historic setting in a place of learning invites the public to explore what artists can teach us about the world we live in and the issues with which we are wrestling as individuals and as a society,” said Mera Rubell. “As a former teacher, I see artists and teachers playing parallel roles as educators and in fostering civic engagement. With the preservation of this building, we honor the legacy of the Randall School’s many teachers, students, and parents.”

The Georgian-revival style building was first opened in 1906 as the Corcoran Gallery of Art purchased the building from the city in 2006 and sold it to the Rubell’s development group in 2010. A dozen years later, the transformed space reopened to buzzing crowds taking in an opening exhibition that brings together more than 190 works by 51 artists who are responding to pressing social and political issues that continue to affect society today.

Future exhibits will showcase artwork in the Rubell’s collection that provides perspectives, insights and commentary on contemporary ideas and issues.

The redevelopment of the Randall School property also includes a new 492-unit apartment building, Gallery 64, adjacent to the museum. Twenty percent of the units are dedicated to affordable housing. The 12-story apartment building is scheduled to open in 2023.
DC History Center Announces Project at the Randall School

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

With the historic Randall School building on 1 Street SW re-opened to the public as the newly renovated Rubell Museum DC, the DC History Center is kicking off an effort to gather, preserve and share the history of the Randall School in Southwest DC. The project will culminate with the installation of a series of displays in the new courtyard of the former school building.

“Our goal with this effort is to share some of the personal stories of the everyday people who were students, teachers and residents in the neighborhood before urban renewal, to make this history a part of the building’s new life as a museum. While the building has been beautifully restored, it is the story of those impacted and influenced by it that is most important” said Mark Rivers, Executive Vice President for Lowe, the developer of the Randall School redevelopment project.

The DC History Center held two community meetings this fall to gather stories and testimonials from neighborhood residents, as well as individual interviews at the Southwest Library. The organization identifies as the only community-based nonprofit focused on the District of Columbia’s history, and works to preserve and elevate the stories of Washington’s diverse people, neighborhoods, and institutions.

“The story of the Randall School is one of endurance and perseverance,” said Laura Brower Hagood, DC History Center Executive Director. “So much of the Southwest neighborhood that once stood is gone now, but the school building remains and will soon see new life. This project will ensure that the stories of the people who lived, worked, and learned here are preserved and shared, even as the neighborhood continues to change.”

The stories collected by the project will become part of a series of displays to be installed in the courtyard between the new Rubell Museum and its adjacent apartment building, Gallery 64. The courtyard will be open to the public from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To contribute stories, memories, photos or other input to the project, contact Maggie Downing at mdowning@dchistory.org.

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly is seeking volunteers to assist with communication

1. Posting on Social Media
2. Creating Flyers
3. Creating Newsletters on Constant Contact

Contact Donna Purchase @ donna4southwest@gmail.com

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DECEMBER 9 – 18

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Organization Award, Business Award, Civic Pride

place to call home. We’ll be awarding Brickies in the 16th Annual Brickie Awards to celebrate the Ward 6 neighborhood Library. Materials provided while supplies last from 4-5pm in the Teen Space at Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org/southwest

After a two year hiatus, the Ward 6 Brickies are back in-person! WED 7, 6:30 P.M. Zoom Advent Study Group. Book: Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season by Heidi Havercamp. Contact Westminster Church Office (202-484-7700/ wpcoffice@gmail.com) for more details including zoom link and book.

Our web reference or telephone numbers in the listings. See “Calendar,” page 15

We're thrilled we'll be able to safely get back together in person to celebrate our Ward 6 community and neighbors. I can't wait to see you there! Hill Center (921 Pennsylvania Ave. SE) https://www.charles- lenward6.com/2022_brickies_awards

SAT 7, 6:30 P.M. Zoom Advent Study Group. Book: Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season by Heidi Havercamp. Contact Westminster Church Office (202-484-7700/ wpcoffice@gmail.com) for more details including zoom link and book.

and introduction to the blessing empowerment of Wisdom Buddha Manjushri, Gen Demo will explain the role of wisdom in our ability to develop mental stability, peace of mind and the freedom to relate to ourselves and others in positive liberating ways. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St. SW. ($12)

SAT 3, 10 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Igniting the Inner Fire of Wisdom: Buddha Manjushri Empowerment. This event is open to everyone. It will begin with the Blessing Empowerment of Wisdom Buddha Manjushri. This is a special Buddhist meditation practice whereby, through guided meditation and visualization, we can connect deeply with our own potential for cultivating positive energy, inspiration, and authentic joy into our mind. In the afternoon Gen Demo will give commentary on the practice of Buddha Manjushri and how we can use this practice to deepen our own wisdom. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Can. SW. (Financial Hardship: $27.50) www.meditation-dc.org

SAT 3, 6 P.M. District Holiday Boat Parade. Join us on December 3, 2022 for the 30th Anniversary of the District’s Holiday Boat Parade presented by Washington Gas, a WGL Company. Celebrate the holidays with this iconic DC event that features over sixty beautifully decorated boats parading along the Washington Channel. District Pier. Fireworks at 8 P.M. And bring your camera for pictures with Santa! https://www.wharfdc.com/upcoming-events/2022-12-03-the-districts-holiday-boat-parade/

MON 5, 4 P.M. After School Movie. Kids aged 5-12 are invited to join us for an After School Movie, where we’ll have a chance to unwind and relax after school. Caregivers over the age of 13 must join any participants under the age of 9. We’ll meet in the large meeting room on the first floor to watch The Emperor’s New Groove. Southwest Library, www. dclibrary.org/southwest

TUES 6, 7 P.M. Advent Vespers Service. St. Matthew Lutheran Church will be hosting an Advent Vespers service on Tuesdays at 7 PM (11/29, 12/6/ 12/13 and 12/20) with cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. This contemplative and musical service is open to all seeking a peaceful place for reflection during a chaotic holiday season. Call 202-800-4600 and leaving your name, telephone number and email address, or email the information to trees@firsttrinityst-matthew.org.

TUES 6, 8:15 P.M. IMPACT Acapella. Impitched, a local acapella group, will be performing holiday songs at the library in the large meeting room. Southwest Library, www.dclibrary.org/southwest

WED 7, 4 P.M. Teen Craft. Teens, stretch your creative muscles with a surprise craft activity for questions or more details. https://firsttrinityst-matthew.org/

WED 7, 6 P.M. 2022 Brickies Awards. After a two year hiatus, the Ward 6 Brickies are back in person! Join Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen for the 16th Annual Brickie Awards to celebrate the Ward 6 neighbors, organizations, groups, and businesses that have pulled together to make Ward 6 a great place to call home. We’ll be awarding Brickies in the following categories: Neighbor Award, Community Organization Award, Business Award, Civic Pride Award, and Public Service Award. Make sure to submit your nominations if you haven’t already! I’m so thrilled we’ll be able to safely get back together in person to celebrate our Ward 6 community and neighbors. I can’t wait to see you there! Hill Center (921 Pennsylvania Ave. SE) https://www.charles-lenward6.com/2022_brickies_awards

WED 7, 6:30 P.M. Zoom Advent Study Group. Book: Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season by Heidi Havercamp. Contact Westminster Church Office (202-484-7700/ wpcoffice@gmail.com) for more details including zoom link and book.

THURS 8, 6 P.M. Thursday Throwback Cinema. Kick back and enjoy a throwback film (pre-2000s) in Meeting Room 1 (first level) at the Southwest Neighborhood Library. Screening at 6:00pm: the classic Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971, rated G, 1 hour and 40 minutes) starring Gene Wilder and Peter Ostrum, directed by Mel Stuart about a young boy in the running for the ownership of a candy factory. Free! All ages welcome; attendees under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver at least 13 years old.

SAT 10, 10 A.M. – Noon. St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church’s ANNUAL Christmas Tree Event. 100 high-quality 5’-6’ Fraser Fir trees – one per householder – offered to Southwest and Navy Yard residents who need a tree for their family’s Christmas. Apply in advance by calling (202) 800-4600 and leaving your name, telephone number and email address, or email the information to trees@firsttrinityst-matthew.org.

SAT 10, 10 A.M. - 6 P.M., Seasonal Craft. Join us in the Children’s Room for a seasonal or book-themed craft. This month, we’ll be making winter holiday cards. Southwest Library, www.dclibrary.org/southwest

SAT 10, 7 P.M. Faith & Film Zoom Presentation. Release Date: 2005 Genre: Fantasy/Adventure Rating: PG Runtime: 2hr 30min During the World War II bombings of London, four English siblings are sent to live with a strange family. The children are more than safe, it’s a country house where they will be safe. One day Lucy finds a wardrobe that transports her to a magical world called Narnia. After coming back, she soon returns to Narnia with her brothers and sister. There they join the magical lion, Aslan, in the fight against the evil witch, Jadis. Free! All ages welcome; 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver at least 13 years old.

THURS 15, 6 P.M. Throwback Thursday Cinema. Kick back and enjoy a throwback film (pre-2000s) in the Meeting Room 1 (first level) at the Southwest Neighborhood Library. Screening at 6:00pm: the classic Bringing Up Baby (1938, not rated, 1 hour and 42 minutes) starring Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn, directed by Howard Hawks about a paleontologist who gets wrapped up in caring for a mischievous leoparden. Free! All ages welcome; attendees under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver at least 13 years old.

FRI 16, 3 P.M. Jane Austen Birthday Film Screening. Novelist Jane Austen was born on December 16th, 1775. Celebrate with us 247 years later at the Southwest Library with Pride & Prejudice. Free! All ages welcome; One must be 13 years old.

SAT 17, 5 P.M. Community Christmas Party. Join in the fun! There will be music, food, and fellowship, a white elephant table and visit from Santa Claus! All invited! Westminster Presbyterian Church.

WED 21, 6:30 P.M. Zoom Advent Study Group. Book: Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season by Heidi Havercamp Contact Westminster Church Office (202-484-7700/ wpcoffice@gmail.com) for more details including zoom link and book.

THURS 22, 5:30 P.M. See It Before the Sequel: Knives Out. Join us for a free screening of Knives Out (PG-13) before the sequel drops on Netflix. Library patrons are invited to come to the library to watch the hit 2019 film Knives Out (PG-13). The sequel to Knives Out, Glass Onion, releases later in December on Netflix. The movie is 131 minutes. Southwest Library.

SAT 24, 4:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Service. St. Matthew Lutheran Church will host a family friendly Christmas Eve service at 4:30 PM on Sunday December 24th with cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. All are welcome, call 202-800-4600 for questions or more details.


SAT 31, 5:30 P.M. New Year’s Eve Event: New Year, New you! The New Year is a symbol of possibility. We wish to change and for our lives to go in a better direction but for that to happen we need to connect with the potential that exists within our minds. As 2022 comes to a close, our thoughts turn to new beginnings and a fresh start. Within Buddhist meditation we find transformative tools to give greater meaning to our life and the ability to become the person we wish to be: more loving, peaceful, and happier. In this New Years Eve public talk, Gen Kelsang Demo will explore how we can use Buddhism to set a special intention for the New Year giving us the ability to make the most of 2023. Kadampa Meditation Center. ($12)
CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ALCOHOLS ANONYMOUS, Mondays-Fridays at Noon (St. Dominic’s Catholic Church) or Wednesday evenings (St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church). Post-pandemic we have resumed live meetings. This fellowship is open to all men and women who desire to recover from alcoholism. You will be welcome; for more information, contact Josie at 202-880-6971.

ALZHEIMER’S ASSN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP, 3rd Thursday of the month. 11 A.M. to 12 NOON. Free and open to the public. Are you caring for someone with dementia? Every 4th Thursday at 11 A.M. social worker Vickie Henrikson and nurse Carroll Quinn host a support group sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Assn that is designed to provide emotional, educational, and social support for caregivers of persons with dementia. Monthly meetings are held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church at the corner of M Street SW and Delaware Ave SW. For questions and concerns, reach out to Vickie Henrikson at 202-251-7117 or Carroll Quinn 513-673-9923.

BABY LAP TIME, Thursdays, 1-1:30 P.M. Fun for non-walking children ages birth to 1 year only. Space is limited; admission is first-come, first-served. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. $10 cover and food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdcc.org/jazz-%26-blues-1/. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

BREAD FOR LIFE - BREAKFAST, Sundays, 8-8:45 A.M. Free Breakfast. The pandemic has forced us to change how we serve breakfast—but we still offer a choice breakfast served as a to-go-with breakfast sandwich, juice, fruit, and slice of cake. If you would like to volunteer with Bread for Life, please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen coordinator at bflorgam@verizon.net. For questions? Email instructor, Pamela Wilson, wilsonp108@gmail.com

CHESS CLUB, Thursdays, 6 P.M. Southwest Neighborhood Library. Chess boards and pieces provided, just bring yourself and a desire to learn and hone your chess skills!

CHURCH CLEANING, 2nd Saturdays of the month, 9:35 A.M. St. Dominic Church. www.stdominic.org/CHURCH CLEANING

COLOR MY WORLD, Thursdays, 4:30 P.M. Children of all ages are invited to join us for a Thursday afternoon coloring club, where we’ll brighten up the world together. Coloring pages, designs, crayons, and coloring pencils will be provided. Southwest Library.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN PERSON WALK-IN CLINIC, 2nd Saturdays of the month, 10:30 A.M. to 12 P.M. Free and open to the public. Please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen coordinator at bflorgam@verizon.net. For questions? Email instructor, Pamela Wilson, wilsonp108@gmail.com

DOUGLAS BLUES SOCIETY, 7-8 P.M. Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Friday. $10 cover and food for sale. For more information, please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen coordinator at bflorgam@verizon.net.

DOWNTOWN REACHMENT NETWORK (DCRN), 1st Wednesdays of the month at 11 A.M. Free Breakfast. To make reservations, call 202-242-2573.

HYBRID GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN, Sundays, 10 A.M. 4-12 years old. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

HYBRID SEATED YOGA, Mondays, 11 A.M. - 12 P.M. Low impact stretches and mobility exercises performed under the direction of Pamela Wilson. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

HYBRID WORSHIP SERVICE, Sundays, 11 A.M. All Welcome to share in inspiring worship! Westminster Presbyterian Church.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6-9 P.M. Various Jazz musicians and Library on Wednesdays each Friday. $10 Food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdcc.org/jazz-night-in-dc-schedule . Westminster Presbyterian Church.

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS, First Saturdays of the month, 10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M. Southwest’s Korah Toastmasters, a public speaking and leadership club, continues to meet on the first and third Saturday of each month from 10:30 am until noon, as it has for over 20 years. Komen Toastmasters offers a friendly and safe space for you to strengthen your public speaking and storytelling skills. Meetings are held online at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2123493184. For more information, please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen coordinator at bflorgam@verizon.net. For questions? Email instructor, Pamela Wilson, wilsonp108@gmail.com

MAKING IT!, Thursdays, 6-6:30 P.M. Come to the Southwest Community Room, 555 Water Street SW. www.staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life

MEDITATION MONDAY NIGHT ONLINE, Mondays, 6 P.M. These classes include a guided meditation, short teaching, and beautiful chanted prayers for world peace. The focus is on solutions to problems in our daily life, and finding the development of altruistic love and compassion. Suitable for everyone. Each class is self-contained and can be joined on a drop-in basis. Everyone is welcome. Contact Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW, www.meditation-dc.org.

MEDITATION TUESDAY NIGHT ONLINE, Tuesdays, 6:30-8 P.M. These classes offer practical methods to improve our emotional life through meditation and Buddhist teachings. Each class is available by drop-in and you can come to either the entire series for the month or by individual class. Each class is self contained. Everyone is welcome. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW, 20012. Contact www.meditation-dc.org for more information.

MEDITATION THURSDAY NIGHT ONLINE, Thursdays, 7-8 P.M. These classes offer practical methods to improve the quality of our lives through meditation and Buddhist teachings. Each class is available by drop-in and you can come to either the entire series for the month or by individual class. Each class is self contained. Everyone is welcome. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW, www.meditation-dc.org.

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RESOURCES AND CONCERNS, Fridays, 11 A.M. - 12 P.M. All are welcome! For more information or questions, please email Rev. Scott at priest@staugustinestn.org. Kadampa Meditation Center is offering a free resource service in-person for those experiencing difficult circumstances in their lives and those who wish to support others. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW, 20012. Contact www.meditation-dc.org.

REACH NETWORK (FREE), Fridays, 7-8 P.M. Various Jazz musicians and Library on Wednesdays each Friday. $10 Food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdcc.org/jazz-night-in-dc-schedule . Westminster Presbyterian Church.

REST AND REFLECT, Thursdays, 6-7 P.M., If you don’t know our Zoom channel address, just email Rev. Scott at priest@staugustinestn.org and he will be happy to send you the info! All are very welcome to join us. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church. www.staugustinesdc.org.

SUNDAY UNWIND THE MIND MEDITATION, Sundays, 6-7 P.M., 7-8 P.M. Suitable for everyone, these meditation classes are a practical way to improve the quality of our lives through meditation and Buddhist teachings. Each class is available by drop-in and you can come to either the entire series for the month or by individual class. Each class is self contained. Everyone is welcome. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW, www.meditation-dc.org.

THEMATIC BIBLE STUDY (Virtual), Second Thursdays, 7 P.M. If you don’t know our Zoom channel address, just email Rev. Scott at priest@staugustinestn.org and he will be happy to send you the info! All are very welcome to join us. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church. www.staugustinesdc.org.

THURSDAY EVENING MEDITATION, Thursdays, 7-8 P.M. Suitable for everyone, these meditation classes offer practical methods to improve the quality of our lives through meditation and Buddhist teachings. Each class is available by drop-in and you can come to either the entire series for the month or by individual class. Each class is self contained. Everyone is welcome. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW, www.meditation-dc.org.

WASHINGTON STAMPS COLLECTORS CLUB (WSCC), First and Third Wednesdays, 7 P.M. Visitors are always welcome to take part in our meetings. Ring the church doorbell at the back of the church for entrance to enter the meeting. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th Street SW. www.wscclmplc.org.

ZENTANGLES, Fridays, 6-7 P.M. Program designed specifically for beginners. Participants are encouraged to bring their own supplies. Please bring a favorite pen or pencil to color your creations. Contact southwestlibrary@dc.gov for more information.

ZONTES, Tuesdays, 6 P.M. Find your calm and your creativity. Try your hand at the slow-work art of pattern doodling called Zentangles! Southwest Library.

20’s AND 30’S HAPPY HOUR - VIRTUAL, Second Thursdays, 6-7 P.M. The 20’s & 30’s group meets virtually for Happy Hour, and you’re invited! Here, young and young at heart adults can connect and socialize virtually for intentional community. All are welcome to this space. Happy Hour is meeting VIRTUALLY via Google Meet. - https://meet.google.com/yny-tdqk-xr. For additional information or questions, please email Lori at Lopitts12@gmail.com.
Before the Bulldozers

Join us on a journey exploring the history of the redevelopment of Southwest Washington, D.C. through audio and augmented reality.