serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

JANUARY 2023

NASA's Artemis Crew III Visits Amidon-Bowen Elementary School

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

hristmas came a little early last month when some very special guests visited the students at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School in Southwest DC. These were no ordinary, terrestrial guests - each one of them were NASA astronauts who had spent time beyond the borders of Earth's atmosphere. One of them, Colonel Raja Chari (U.S. Air Force ret.), had spent six months up on the International Space Station. All the visiting astronauts are part of the Artemis III crew that will once again put humanity on the surface of the moon.

"Would you like to fly in space?" NASA Administrator and former astronaut Bill Nelson asked the packed gymnasium of elementary students. The whole gymna-

See "Artemis Crew," page 12



NASA Administrator Bill Nelson and NASA astronauts visited Amidon-Bowen Elementary School in December to conduct experiments and inspire students to study science.

Photos: Courtesy of Author





HISTORIC HOUSE **GAINS NEW LIFE**

Page 2



ANNUAL BRICKIES AWARDS RETURN IN PERSON

Page 6

City Officials Add Insult to Injury around Amidon-Bowen Construction Project

DCPS & DGS apologize to longtime ANC Commissioner and other SW residents for offensive comments

BY MIKE GOODMAN

n Thursday, Dec. 15, officials from DC Public Schools (DCPS) and the DC Department of General Services (DGS) briefed the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) of Amidon-Bowen Elementary School (ABES) regarding an upcoming, major construction project at the school. An LSAT exists for every DCPS school, and is a committee of parents, teachers, school staff, and a community member who volunteer their time to help the school, and are elected by the school community.

During the virtual meeting, parents and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) Marjorie Lightman (6D01) pressed the city officials about a lack of

Christopher Book (DCPS) 5:42 PM This is getting petty. None of us are transportation consultatns. (DGS) (External) 5:43 PM wow, that guy was rude. (DCPS) 5:43 PM This is just petty. Lessons learned, Andy Litsky (ANC 6D) and David Margolis (LSAT) are power-hungry bullies looking for fights.

City officials' private chat about SW residents, obtained by The Southwester



WINTER WONDERLAND **EVENT BRINGS HOLIDAY JOY**

Page 8



KIDS CORNER

Page 10

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See "Insult," page 12







PAST ISSUES OF THE SOUTHWESTER BACK TO 2016 ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.THESOUTHWESTER.COM/ARCHIVE





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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



Washington, DC 20024 thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org 202) 251-1639

The Southwester

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Historic Landmark Revitalized for Modern Community Programs



The James C. Dent House Community Center is the home of a range of community programs provided by Living Classrooms Foundation National Capital Region.

BY KARIDA GREEN

elcome to the house on the corner! Living Classrooms Foundation National Capital Region, James C. Dent House Community Center in Southwest Washington is a District Landmark in Black history here in Washington, DC. The Dent House was designated a DC Landmark by the city's Historic Preservation Review Board in 2010.

More than a century ago, Reverend James C. Dent commissioned and built this two-story brick house on the corner of 2nd and Q Streets SW, where our community center is now located.

James Clinton Dent was born into slavery in Charles County, Maryland in July 1855 and presumably gained his freedom when Maryland abolished slavery in 1864. In the 1870s, he came to Washington, one of tens of thousands of Blacks who migrated to the capital after the Civil War looking to create a new life. He found shelter in what they called "the Island" in Southwest Washington (it was cut off from the rest of the city by the Washington and James Creek canals). He married, and worked as a laborer. According to the 1880 census, he could read but not write.

In 1885 his wife Mary, a member of Southwest's Rehoboth Baptist Church, was part of a group of twenty-six worshippers who broke away to establish a new congregation that they named Mt. Moriah. Ten months later, the founding pastor moved on and thirty-year-old James Dent stepped in as minister, a position he held until his death 22 years later. He successfully built up the church membership and took Mt. Moriah from meeting in someone's home to constructing and paying off a substantial church building near 2nd and M Streets SW.

Reverend Dent secured a personal mortgage in 1906 and bought a large corner lot for himself four blocks south of his church, just across James Creek from the US Army War College. He commissioned a leading White architect, William James Palmer, to design a freestanding, two-story brick house. Most of Palmer's work was in Northwest Washington, and that very year, the Washington Post praised his homes in Mt. Pleasant for their "architectural beauty, stability, and refinement of taste." Although the Dent house was far from grand, it was the foremost brick home in the largely empty area scattered with shacks and small wood-frame hous-

Sadly, Reverend Dent did not get to enjoy his beautiful new home for long, as he passed away in 1908. With no children, his widow Mary took in boarders to stay in the house for several years after his death. Reverend Dent's legacy lives on, however, in the still vibrant Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, which moved to Capitol Hill when the federal government bought and razed the church building during the urban renewal of the Southwest neighborhood.

Today, what was formerly known as the Southwest Community House evolved into the James C. Dent House. It is the home for our College and Career Readiness, Workforce Development, STEAM Education, Art Education, Environmental

Education and Kingman Island programs that service Southwest DC as well as Wards 5, 7, and 8. Here at the Dent House, we host community organizations for training and meeting space. We have a Dress for Success and Food Pantry program for DC residents. Our community center strives to preserve the legacy of Reverend James Dent, a man born into slavery who became a wellknown minister.

The last thirty years of that important work were conducted from Reverend Dent's home at 156 Q Street SW, after which Pepco bought and renovated the old building and offered a long-term lease to Living Classrooms to continue its long and honorable tradition of service. It is still remembered fondly by many neighborhood residents.

Living Classrooms Foundation is very proud to be walking in the footsteps of Reverend Dent and some of the nation's most prominent Black Americans of the early 20th century. We are working hard every day to carry on their historic legacy in our Southwest Washington neighborhood. Our community partners are Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), United Planning Organization, Good Projects, Metropolitan Police Department, PEPCO, Southwest Business Improvement District, Department of Employment Services, Department of Energy and Environment, to name a few.

For more information on Living Classrooms' programs at the Dent House and elsewhere in the DC area, visit livingclassrooms.org or contact Karida Green at 202-488-0627 or kgreen@Livingclassroomsdc.org.



Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Introduces Dynamic Community Leaders

BY DONNA PURCHASE

ver the course of the coming year, we will introduce you to the dynamic Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Task Force Leaders. They are the engines that keep us running. If you are interested in joining a task force, visit https://swna.org/get-involved/.

Meet The Southwest Strong Leaders - Ben Curran & Regina Blye

Ben Curran

A native Washingtonian, Ben lives in Southwest DC where he leads SWNA's grassroots disaster preparedness group called Southwest Strong! which is committed to building a disaster-resilient Southwest DC.

Ben Curran grew up in Iran, South Africa, Tanzania, England, Togo, and Australia. He began work with the international Rescue Committee in Sudan during the Ethiopian refugee crisis. Afterwards, he supported the American Red Cross as an Assistant Shelter Manager during the Central American refugee situation on the southwestern U.S. border.

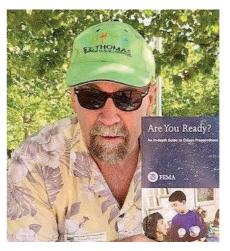
With a Master of Science in International Community Economic Development, he Joined the FEMA Response Operations Office. His disaster deployments included: hurricanes



Courtesy of Regina Blye

Regina Blye is a co-char of Southwest Strong! and works for high-impact systems change.

Hugo in Puerto Rico and Andrew in Louisiana; the Midwest floods in Kansas, Iowa and Illinois; the Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles; Oklahoma City bombing; September 11th in Washington D.C.; Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana; Typhoon Soudelor in Saipan; Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico; COVID-19 FEMA headquarters response operations center in Washington D.C. Other overseas assignments included Operation Support



Courtesy of Ben Curran

Ben Curran chairs the Southwest Strong! Emergency Preparedness Task Force of Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.

Hope - Rwanda Genocide with the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance; Kobe earthquake; Hurricane Mitch; the Haiti earthquake and the Stability Pact in Hungary and Romania. At FEMA, Ben served as the Deputy Branch Chief for Mass Care, Voluntary Agency Coordination and Community Services.

He enjoys neighborhood festivals, showing off the city to visitors (especially international visitors), DC murals, the WPFW radio station, Ben's Chili Bowl and all the funky DC Ethiopian buna beats.

Regina Blye, Co-Chair, Southwest Strong

Regina Blye is a dynamic "advocrat" committed to high-impact systems change. She targets public policy reform to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities by removing barriers to education, employment, healthcare, transportation, and housing. For ten years, she served as the Executive Director of a statewide nonprofit that promotes the independence and integration of Texans with disabilities into a community of their choice. Her advocacy led to President Barack Obama appointing Regina to serve on the United States Access Board for over six years. As a board member, she was responsible for developing accessibility guidelines and standards for the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA).

Regina gives back to the community by serving as an Ambassador for the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, Chair of the Southwest DC Community Center, Co-Chair of SWNA Southwest Strong! and as a board member of the DC State Fair. She believes in staying active, so you can catch her playing Wheelchair Rugby, teaching people to play Boccia, teaching Zumba, and playing music at community events.



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www.waterfrontvillage.org Phone: 202-656-1834

Photo of the Month

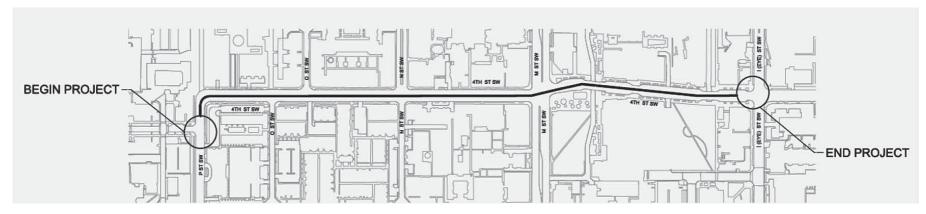


Courtesy of Bill Faught

Liveaboard boats light up for the holidays.

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

District Protected Bike Lane Project Moves Forward in Southwest



Courtesy of DDOT

A map and rendering provided by the District Department of Transportation show protected bike lanes currently under construction.

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

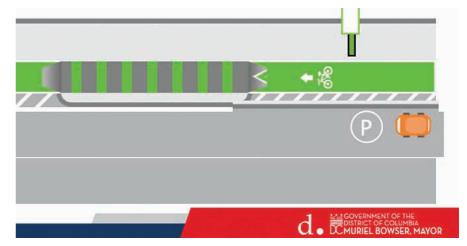
he District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is installing new bike lanes in Southwest, resulting in construction through Winter 2023. The bike lanes are being installed along 4th Street SW from P Street SW to I Street SW, and on I Street SE/SW from 7th St SW to 4th St SE.

This project will reconfigure the street to include protected bike lanes and additional pedestrian crosswalks. The work will reposition lane lines but will not repave the street. DDOT is coordinating with electric utility PEPCO and will postpone installing protected bike lanes on the portion of

I Street SW from 4th SW to Delaware Avenue SW during the installation of new capital grid powerlines under the street over the coming months.

The Southwester has previously reported on significant community input regarding this project, with community concerns around the dropoff/pickup zone at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and a reduction in available street parking.

Citywide, DDOT has committed to a 206-mile network of on-street protected bicycle lanes to promote safe biking. There are currently 26 miles of protected bike lanes, with plans to build an additional 10 miles per year. According to the department,



protected bike lanes have a proven safety effect on streets where they are installed, reducing crashes for all roadway users by 15%, or more when paired with additional safety treatments.

Seabins Pilot Marks One Year in the Water Capturing Plastics

BY TREY SHERARD, ANACOSTIA RIVERKEEPER

eabins are small trash traps designed especially for marinas by The Seabin Project, an Australian organization originally founded to reduce trash in Sydney. They were quickly adopted across Australia, Europe, and elsewhere in the past three years, and were just starting to pop up around the United States when Anacostia Riverkeeper won a 2021 grant from the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to pilot Seabins in the District.

Seabins are particularly well suited to grabbing the many pieces of trash that persist in the relatively tight spaces between docks and bulkheads. They bolt directly on to floating docks and have a capture area about the size of a five-gallon bucket. Add some bracketing structure and a pump at the bottom, and you've got the idea. The pump draws water and trash into the basketed capture area where the trash gets stuck and the water passes down and back



Courtesy of Author

Seabins are currently installed at James Creek Marina and Yards Marina to capture trash and send clean water back out into the river.

out to the river cleaner than it came in. The Seabins are currently installed at James Creek Marina and Yards Marina. The best place to view them is from the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail along Yards Marina where they're closest to shore. If you'd like to learn more about them, feel free to reach out to us via info@anacostiariverkeeper.org.

This is a pilot project and we've discovered plenty of hurdles along the way, but the Seabins are successfully reducing trash in the Anacostia River. While they will capture the usual suspects like plastic bottles that constitute 60% of the weight of all the trash on the river and its shorelines, the Seabins are especially useful for capturing the tiny pieces of trash that slip past larger trash traps in the area like Bandalong Litter Traps, and that evade most volunteers at cleanups. This means they don't collect a lot of trash as measured in pounds, but they do collect hundreds of pieces of trash per Seabin, per cleanout. It also suggests they may be useful for studying microplastics in the Anacostia River and in fact, Seabin Project is working on research protocols that we may able to implement with the Seabins here on the Anacostia River.

The real solution, of course, is to stop using so much plastic, and to make sure that what plastic we have to use is able to be recycled more effectively than it is now. One big step in that direction will be for the District to adopt a beverage container deposit law. In the meantime, Anacostia Riverkeeper will keep running the Seabins pilot, maintaining the Bandalong Litter Traps, and organizing cleanups.

If you'd like to join us for a cleanup, the next one will be January 16th, 2023, when Anacostia Riverkeeper and Pope Branch Park Restoration Alliance host the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Clean Waterways Cleanup from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Pope Branch Park. Please sign up here if you'll be joining us: https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/clean-waterways-cleanup-mlk-day-of-service-2023-tickets-470680537157.

Anacostia Riverkeeper's office has just moved to Barracks Row for most of 2023, and our mailing address is now 45 L St SW, PO Box #70565, Washington DC, 20024. The microplastics and beverage container deposit law reports mentioned above can be found at https://www.anacostiariverkeeper.org/resource-library/publications/.

National Museum of Asian Art Connects Environmental Art Across Centuries

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

wo exhibits of Indian prints and photographs now on view at the Smithsonian Asian Art Museum go beneath the surface to consider the underlying themes of environment, politics and emotions. What the works from almost three centuries apart share in common is the importance of water as a cultural and economic necessity.

A Splendid Land Painting from Royal Udaipur (on view through May 14, 2023) is presented as a walk through the city and countryside, filled with sensorial experiences, and feelings of prosperity and belonging in an economy dependent on water from annual monsoons.

In the 18th century, Indian artists made some dramatic changes to artistic tradition. Unlike the previous two millennia of poetic miniature prints, these are monumental works celebrating the city's architecture and countryside landscapes. Of the 51 works on display, five are on cotton



Credit: Ravi Agarwal / Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C

Riverbank I, Ravi Agarwal (b. 1958), India, 2007, Inkjet

(ranging in height from 5-10 feet) along with one scroll (9 feet in length). There are six photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Sunrise in Udaipur (ca. 1722-23)

is an opaque watercolor and gold on paper with sunrise clouds billowing above the City Palace and its walls with green hills and lake. The king is hunting a tiger while his subjects are busy with morning activities. In *Maharana Fateh Singh crossing a river during the monsoon* (Shivalal, ca. 1893) captures the river swelling, rain splashing and lightning across the sky. An ambient soundscape enhances the experience.

Fast forward to *Unstill Waters: Contemporary Photography from India* (on view through June 11, 2023) and through city streets and landscapes with a focus on the Yamuna River in northern India and the endangered rivers in urban life. *Riverbank I* by Ravi Agarwal (2007 Inkjet print on paper) and *Girl at Ganpati immersion, Chowpatty,* by Ketaki Sheth (2002) are two of the 29 works from 21st century India.

In 2023, the National Museum of Asian Art marks the 100th anniversary of its founding, and these exhibits connect across time and space, reflecting modern concerns about environmental sustainability for all who live in riverfront cities and beyond.

Friends of Southwest DC and King-Greenleaf Recreation Center's Coach Skip Honored at Brickie Awards

BY GUY ALDRIDGE

ard 6's annual Brickies award ceremony returned to an in-person format at the Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital on December 7 after two years of virtual ceremonies during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the internet age, some workplaces and organizations are wondering if a "return to normal" is necessary or even desired. Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and his staff responded last month by making sure the event was big and joyous.

Local businesses donated food and drinks and neighbors caught up with each other for more than an hour before the awards were presented. Satellite rooms with TVs were set up to provide enough capacity for all visitors to have enough elbow room in the standing-room only ceremony.

Award recipients were introduced by a video submitted by community members, brought to the podium to give a short speech, and given a ceremonial brick inscribed with each person or entity's name and award. The five categories for 2022 were Neighbor Award, Community Organization Award, Business Award, Public Service Award, and Civic Pride Award.

Southwest was represented well at the 2022 Brickies. First on the agenda, the Friends of Southwest DC won the Community Organization Award for its grants to local organizations, which it is able to give thanks to grassroots fundraising efforts. In 2022, the organization awarded over \$50,000 in grants to 16 local nonprofits, college scholarships, food pantries, and more.

Friends of Southwest President Peter Eicher



Courtesy of the Office of Councilmember Charles Allen

Southwest's own Nathaniel "Coach Skip" Green was honored with the Public Service Award at the 2022 Brickies Award Ceremony in recognition of his leadership in youth sports at the King-Greenleaf Recreation Center.

accepted the award on behalf of the organization. He reminded the room that the grants are made possible in large part due to small donations by residents, and that any group looking for extra funding should apply for one.

Three award winners came from other corners of Ward 6. Jerome Jeffries, the "Mayor of 10th Street," won the Neighbor Award for a variety of good deeds, such as helping neighbors roll back their trash cans, keeping packages safe, cleaning up leaves, and more.

The popular H Street NE watering hole The Queen Vic won the Business Award for not only its central place in the Northeast community, but its outreach and organizing during the pandemic. The Civic Pride Award was given to the Save Mott's Market group, which organized to buy the building that housed a corner store on 12th Street SE when it closed after more than 100 years in business. Now the grassroots ownership group is working to renovate and reopen the store.

The Brickies concluded with Southwest's own Nathaniel "Coach Skip" Green from the King-Greenleaf Recreation Center winning the Public Service Award. If the ceremony were a symphony, here it reached its crescendo. Many of Green's family, friends, and players came to cheer for him and make sure the Hill Center was wall-to-wall.

Coach Skip was nominated due to his dedication to the community and the "deeply impactful, individual relationships with young people," often in the face of "difficult" or "traumatic things," Allen said. Green was tasked four years ago to get football started in Southwest with 25 players, he told the audience, and now there are over 600 kids participating in a variety of sports at King-Greenleaf.

After the ceremony concluded, Coach Skip reminded *The Southwester* that he isn't the only one in his orbit dedicated to community service. In May and June 2021, his son, Nate Green, coorganized Southwest Sports on a Truck, a COVID-19-safe series of sporting events.

With the Brickies going strong after 16 years, readers may make note of exceptional public service in the coming months to make nominations for the 2023 awards.

Breast Cancer Support Group Wraps Up 2022, Gathers to Ring in the New Year

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

here is a shared sentiment among the regular support group members of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJB-CF) that the monthly meetings get better each month since inception in April 2010. Commencing at the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's conference room, the group eventually outgrew the space and relocated to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church until the pandemic struck. Now, the TDJBCF meets monthly via Zoom and the TDJBCF Facebook live, missing only one meeting since its inception.

"I am always amazed at the expertise and background possessed by a growing list of outstanding guest speakers from Thelma's vast network. I leave each meeting more inspired, educated, informed and hopeful for our future to finding a cure or at least reducing the incidence and mortality rates of breast cancer," said Scarlett S. Small, advocate, TDJBCF ambassador and former long-time caregiver who has attended the meetings faithfully since 2014.

The December meeting, focusing on the theme "Children of Parents with Breast Cancer – living or deceased" was no exception as guest speaker Brea Hickson, MBA, Inflam-



Courtesy of Kristen Berset-Harri

Kristen Berset-Harris, Host of Great Day Washington on WUSA9 will be a guest speaker at the January meeting of the TDJBCF Support Group.

matory Breast Cancer Survivor, courageously shared her journey and openly discussed the mental toll that it had on her, her loving and supportive spouse who is a military officer, and their three young children. Mistress of Ceremony Lashanah Thomas-Walker led the question-and-answer session effortlessly, providing a deeper understanding of IBC and Hickson's overall message that early detection saves lives, knowledge is power and advocating for oneself is so important.

Other highlights of the meeting included three wonderful musical



Courtesy Alejandra Hurtado de Mendoza

Alejandra Hurtado de Mendoza, PhD will serve as Mistress of Ceremony for the January meeting of the TDJBCF Support Group.

renditions and brief partnership presentations by the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and a surprise announcement from team Undaunted Determination led by TDJBCF Ambassador Sheri Denkensohn-Trott, JD, Breast Cancer Survivor and Co-Founder, Happy on Wheels, reporting on reaching this year's goal of \$8,000 and having reached the \$100,000 mark in 12 years while proudly being supported by the TDJBCF. Rounding out the presentations were speakers representing two Georgetown University grants

Ginkgo Gardens

on self-acupressure and the impact of Covid-19, both grants included Black, African Americans and Latina breast cancer survivors, and DC Health Project WISH. To see the full meeting, visit https://www.facebook.com/TDJBreastCancerFund.

Looking ahead to the New Year, having an outstanding meeting at the end of the year is equally important as starting the year with a great meeting, as the January meeting sets the tone for the rest of the year. Join us on Wednesday, January 18, at 6:30 pm via Zoom and the TDJBCF Facebook Live as the TDJBCF is pleased to welcome back by popular demand to ring in the New Year Kristen Berset-Harris, Host, Great Day Washington, WUSA9. Berset-Harris will share her story and discuss the importance of early detection and screening, breast density and her outstanding advocacy work on a personal and professional level. To help set the tone of our monthly support group meetings for 2023, the TDJBCF welcomes Alejandra Hurtado de Mendoza, PhD, Georgetown University, as the Mistress of Ceremony. Mark your calendar and bring in the New Year's with us! For more informatio on the TDJBCF, please visit www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org or email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.

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Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

Members of the Metropolitan Police Department's First District pose with Santa and his sleigh at the 2022 Winter Wonderland celebration on 1st Street SW.

Holiday Cheer Takes Over First Street with Winter Wonderland Celebration

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he holiday celebration took as its theme Dr. Suess' The Grinch, but there was only joy as children of all ages joined families and neighbors to mark the holidays at an outdoor Winter Wonderland festival held the weekend before Christmas. First Street SW between N Street SW and P Street SW was aglow with lights, music, booths, and a line wrapped around the block to take a picture with Santa.

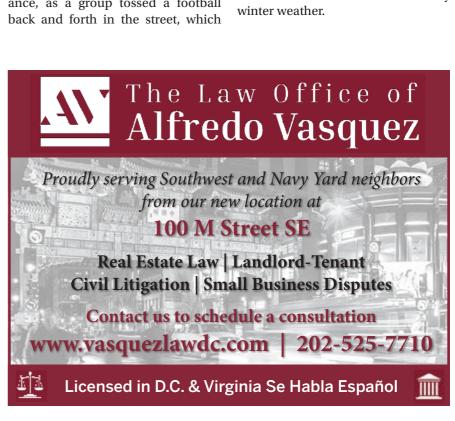
Children had the chance to decorate cookies, snag a Grinch-themed gift bag and take home free books about Black and Brown baseball stars courtesy of the Washington Nationals. Other sports also made an appearance, as a group tossed a football back and forth in the street, which

was blocked to vehicular traffic by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). A second Santa, courtesy of MPD, was pulled on a fire engine sleigh on a tour of the neighborhood that reached the base of Barracks Row on 8th Street SE.

The Winter Wonderland celebration was created by Christine Spencer, President of the James Creek Resident Council, and Rhonda Hamilton, President of Syphax Gardens Residents' Council and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner. Support came from across the community, including the Southwest BID and Reverend Peter Spann of Carron Baptist Church, which opened its doors during the festival to crowds eager to take a break from the action and the chilly winter weather



FOR RENT, HARBOUR SQUARE





SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF) is looking for a volunteer with facility in the wide variety of electronic Social Media

to work with others to facilitate ESTF's goals of overall communications strategies, to:

- encourage students apply for scholarships
- inform and inspire potential and returning donors
- · keep all participants co-ordinated and informed

ESTF is also in need of more volunteers with a variety of skills to help meet our goals.

Please send us a resumé and description of the skills you can offer to swna**scholarship**@gmail.com, or by mail to SWNA PO Box 70131 Washington DC 20024.

swnascholarship.org

providing scholarships for promising youth of Southwest DC for

SWNA ESTF - Education and Scholarship Task Force was established to encourage and assist youth in the Southwest Washington DC, Ward 6, Zip code 20024 neighborhood to pursue a post-secondary education.





SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF) Page 10 The Southwester January 2023



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?





Answers from December 2022 issue

on the tree is different; the picture on the right has snowflakes; a stocking is different in each picture; the picture on the left has an additional present; the picture on the right has two dreidels; the man has a Santa hat in the picture on the right; the ornaments on the tree are different in each picture.

1	4
2.	5
3	6

WORD SEARCH: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

V	Н	Н	N	X	V	Υ	Т	I	L	М	K	В	М	Ι	
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FAMILY HAPPY
PARTY TWENTY THREE

FRESH START
HAT RESOLUTION

JANUARY FUN

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What did the ketchup bottle say to the mustard? I'll catch-up with you later! (Submitted by Ella)

Why can't Elsa from Frozen have a balloon? Because she will "let it go, let it go!"

Two pickles fell out of a jar onto the floor. What did one pickle say to the other?

Dill with it!

Write Your Own Joke!

If you would like to submit a joke to The Southwester for Kid's Corner, email it to editor@thesouthwester.com. Include your first name so we can tell other kids who sent it in!!

The Southwester January 2023 Page 11



Seaders Young Readers

Clean Off Your Bookshelves

BY KITTY FELDE

e've watched the ball drop in Times Square, cheered on our favorite teams in the Peach, Fiesta, Cotton, Citrus, and Rose Bowl games, made and already forgotten our New Year's Resolutions.

But we get a second chance at starting the new year right: Chinese New Year is January 22.

In the days leading up to it, it is traditional to clean out your house. Former librarian Anne Bensfield says there's a literary advantage to the new year: "This is a great time to declutter your bookshelves to make room for

Start with your own bookshelves. Discard books about ancient technology like that dusty copy of DOS for Dummies. Weed out duplicate copies of Isaac Asimov's Foundation series (I'm talking to you, husband Tad...) Take that stack of books to a Little Free Library or your favorite charity thrift store, then give yourself permission to use that holiday gift card on the latest best seller.

Next, help your kids to organize their own bookshelves - by title, author, topic, color, or anything else that makes sense to them. Ask which

book is their favorite and why. And then re-read it with them. I promise that it will give you new insights into what they're thinking about, worried about, getting excited about.

Then take the time to reread your own favorites. Rereading reminds us of our younger selves and allows us to recapture the passion we had for a particular book...and share it with that next generation. Pick a book you can part with and inscribe it to a younger reader, telling them why you think this particular book is perfect for them and what it meant to you. You can

even wrap it in bright red paper to mark the Chinese New Year holiday. And then share that book with your young reader. A gift in late January will certainly stand out rather than be forgotten among the torn wrapping paper under the Christmas tree.

Chinese New Year gives us another opportunity for a fresh start on 2023 reading.

Kitty Felde is host and executive producer of the award-winning Book Club for Kids podcast. Her latest Fina Mendoza mystery State of the Union explains the State of the Union address and other civics topis to kids.

River of Words Poem

BY OLIVER TUTTLE (GRADE 4)

I live in River Park and I go to Amidon Bowen Elementary School. I'm honored to have been awarded the watershed explorer certificate this year for my watershed poem in the 2021-2022 RIVER OF WORDS contest. I was encouraged by my poet athlete/soccer team DC SCORES. They inspired me by the poetry skills they taught me and the teamwork they showed me. I would like to share my last poem with you today.

I'm looking forward to entering the RIVER OF WORDS contest next year.



Courtesy of Author

Oliver Tuttle

Necessary Motion

BY OLIVER TUTTLE

I heard the water; it goes swish swish as loud as it can go. I heard the whale's song; singing long and low. I saw the fish; they were flipping in the waves up ahead. I know this water comes from everywhere in the watershed.

Water flows somewhere, It goes to rivers, lakes, and oceans. Sometimes people ask, why do I care? Well, it's a necessary motion.

Each watershed collects water in a larger body. These support habitats for me and you. But remember, it picks up everything, even potty. So, we have to have a long-term point of view.

I see trash through the water flow. Chemicals make it glow. So much to think of. This part of life we all love.

The ocean. It's so cool and exciting! Oh, the sound of the waves; it's so satisfying! I will do what I can to save it. Let's look back on life and know the best is what we gave it.

Winners of 30th Annual Holiday Boat Parade Announced

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

n December 3, a parade of more than 60 boats decked out for the holidays floated down the Washington Channel, ending at The Wharf. A Southwest community tradition, the boat parade was founded by Southwest DC community member Barbara Ehrlich in 1992.

With corporate sponsors such as Washington Gas, the event has grown significantly in size, and brought crowds out in droves to decorate ornaments, enjoy hot chocolate, and take pictures with Santa Claus at the start of the holiday season.

The Wharf announced the following prize-winning boats and captains following the 2022 parade:

- Most Likely to Capsize: Yuletide Pride on dinghy Lucky Little Star -Captain Kelly Simon
- Best Crew: Who Doesn't Love Holiday Mermaids on power boat SEKI-A - Captain Jason Kopp
- Most Ingenious Idea: Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer on powerboat Timeless Splash - Captain Hany Nasr
- Spirit of DC: From Odessa With Best in Parade: National Lam-Love on sail boat Tuesday - Captain Joe Landa
- Founder's Award: Celebrating 30 Years of the Boat Parade! on power

boat Digger - Captain Bob Rose

- Waterfront Wow: Mario Brothers on sail boat Moovin' - Captain Tom Cordell
- Best Motorboat: Christmas at The Wharf on power boat Kairos - Captain Michael Bradford
- Best Sailboat: A Charlie Brown Christmas on sail boat Dark Star -Captain Doug Savage
- 30th Anniversary Showstopper Award Presented by Oasis Marinas: Land Before Time on power boat Beer Hunter - Captain Christopher Johnson
- **3rd Place:** Have a Chesapeake Bay Crabby Christmas on power boat Miss Behavin' - Captain Kirt Bar-
- 2nd Place: COVID Christmas on power boat Big Blind - Captain David Hays
- 1st Place: Celebrating 30 Years of the Boat Parade! on power boat Digger - Captain Bob Rose
- **Community Choice:** COEXIST on power boat Santé - Captain Daniel Ricks
- poons Christmas Vacation: Griswold House Lighting Ceremony on power boat Magical Knots - Captains Brian and Tonia Dollinger

LOG ON TODAY! www.swna.org

INSULT

Continued from p. 1

outreach to the community, the anticipated amount of noise due to the construction, the impact on students and teachers, whether there is ongoing communication with parents and school officials, and the safety of the students around construction vehicles. Midway through the virtual meeting, a city official inadvertently shared his computer screen, showing the private chat that the DGS and DCPS officials were having with each other during the meeting.

In response to a parent's questions about how to ensure construction trucks have visibility to schoolchildren entering and exiting the school, and what actions are being taken to minimize interactions between children and construction trucks, a DCPS official privately chatted to the other city officials, "This is getting petty. None of us are transportation consultants. This is just petty. Lessons learned. Andy Litsky (ANC 6D) and David Margolis (LSAT) are powerhungry bullies looking for fights."

In addition, *The Southwester* obtained a video of the private chat, which also shows a DGS official chatting to other city officials, "wow, that guy was rude," as one parent asked about child safety in a construction zone. When it was apparent that the chat was viewable for all meeting participants, the DGS official promptly deleted the comment.

After parent advocates and *The Southwester* broke the news about the LSAT meeting and city officials' chat messages, DCPS and DGS began working to rectify the situation. "The Deputy Chancellor sent me an apology for the team's actions and I talked to her on the phone to follow up. I am hopeful that the relationship will be more productive going forward," says Margolis, who is a parent, member of

the LSAT, and was the target of insults by DCPS officials.

In addition, a DCPS spokesperson told The Southwester, "DC Public Schools is disappointed to learn that a staff member referred to parents and community members in this offensive manner. To Commissioner Litsky, Mr. Margolis, and the entire Amidon-Bowen Elementary School community, DCPS values your engagement, and we sincerely apologize for the unacceptable commentary that took place during the recent Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) meeting. As we work in earnest over the next few days to ensure that the school is informed of the Child Development Center project's timeline and has all questions answered, we will also work to ensure respectful dialogue, both internally and externally."

After an initial delay, DGS also reached out and apologized to the Southwest resident who was accused by a DGS official of being "rude." According to a DGS spokesperson, "DGS has reached out to the parent and continues to work diligently on the Amidon Bowen Elementary School Project. We look forward to mutually respectful dialogue regarding this project and all other community engagements."

The construction project itself has not been without controversy, primarily due to what residents perceive as a lack of transparency and a number of unanswered questions. The community initially welcomed the news that a Child Development Center would be added to the school, to accommodate infants and toddlers ages 0 to 3, as a part of DCPS' "from birthto-three initiative." However, both the ANC and parent groups have been concerned with a lack of information about the impact of the construction on students and teachers. After some delays, the project was slated to begin on Monday, Dec. 19, while children are in school. Major construction is expected to continue well into next year, including during critical periods of student testing.

"I was happy to hear that Amidon was going to get additional space and new early childhood classrooms," says Margolis. "However, the DCPS / DGS team provided the ABES LSAT team with confusing and contradictory information, then radically sped up their reported construction timeline. We went from thinking they would break ground in September 2023 to hearing in November that the work would begin in December. With Thanksgiving, that gave us very little time to get the word to parents, and administrators and staff were left scrambling to adjust safety plans around arrival, dismissal, and recess. We had a lot of questions to ask about noise, health, and other impacts and the team wasn't answering us fast enough. We thought it was very unfair to the hardworking staff at ABES in particular."

Commissioner Litsky also told The Southwester that a senior DCPS official reached out to him with an apology, but that was not his primary concern. "What I cannot abide is that our District Government is still going ahead with this project without complete written answers to some very basic questions from the ANC, Amidon-Bowen LSAT and the Amidon parents. Rather than the focus on an apology to me, there should be a mea culpa to the Amidon-Bowen parents and the people of Southwest for the bumbling and unprofessional manner that this entire project has been handled so far," says Litsky. "Just because the District Government is the "developer" here they ought not to be any less responsive to the Community. Were it up to me, this project would be paused until such time as those answers are forthcoming and in writing."

In fact, following the LSAT meeting and outreach from *The Southwester*

and concerned parents and leaders, a DCPS spokesperson now tells *The Southwester* that the project will be paused. "DCPS will pause the upcoming work related to preparing the site for construction while we review and respond to the community's concerns," said a DCPS spokesperson on Dec. 17.

The path forward is now unclear, though parent advocates want to make sure the construction project does not end up impacting children this school year as well as next school year. "Honestly, I don't want construction to be delayed so that two school years are impacted instead of one, so I'm glad that this coordination is finally happening. I do wish they had been more open, honest, and proactive through the process," says Margolis.

Still, some community leaders and parent advocates believe that more needs to be done by DCPS and DGS to explain why there were so many communication breakdowns, and work to ensure that the behavior of city officials is improved in the future. "I strongly urge Mayor Bowser to direct her agencies - DCPS, DGS and DDOT, each of which has specific responsibilities under this project - to meet immediately with the Amidon-Bowen LSAT and incoming ANC-6D03 Commissioner Gail Fast and, thereafter, on a monthly basis until this project is completed," says Litsky.

Other participants in the LSAT meeting were similarly frustrated with city officials. "As public servants entrusted to serve the DC community, the public servants directly involved with this project not only miserably communicated about the project, but this miscommunication resulted in violating the public's trust. Violations of the public trust is what results in the erosion of our democratic institutions," says Kirk Sander, an ABES parent who was in the LSAT meeting, and was the target of an insult by DGS.

ARTEMIS CREW

 $Continued\ from\ p.\ 1$

sium obliged him with loud cheers. He followed up asking if space was "cool," then told gathered kiddos, faculty, media, and space nerds that "space is the place." That also garnered an enthusiastic response.

The small gymnasium was warm despite the December chill outside (the doors later had to be opened to ventilate the balmy conditions) and energized. Perhaps an apt metaphor given the morning's guests would be that it was electrified with charged particles humming with anticipation.

"We love science, technology, and math. And these folks are going to share their time and talent with us to do some experiments," said TaMikka Sykes, Amidon-Bowen' principal.

In partnership with the Center of

Science and Industry (COSI), NASA's meet and greet at Amidon-Bowen was part of the Artemis Learning Lunchbox initiative. It's a program to "help engage and inspire underserved youth around STEM, highlighting the upcoming Artemis mission which will land the first woman, and first person of color on the moon by 2025," said Stephen White, Chief Strategy Officer, COSI. Amidon-Bowen was one of several Title I schools selected to get the boxes and meet the astronauts. "Science is everywhere, and for everyone, and we were excited to partner with NASA Administrator Bill Nelson and NASA astronauts to help inspire students," White continued.

After some warm up speeches, the space exploring guests divided amongst several tables to conduct a few simple experiments, namely putting alka seltzer tablets in water to create mini rockets that popped off the tables (some hitting the ceiling). That and the heavy-hitter, dry ice in water – who doesn't want to play with dry ice (disclaimer: dry ice is not a toy)?

Following the experiments, a select group of students got to ask the astronauts questions about space. The questions ranged from the size of the rockets, how to dodge asteroids or be an astronaut, and one student who deadpanned that it was "too risky" to travel in space. When asked what they thought of the event, several students gave me enthusiastic thumbs up punctuated by big smiles. Another deemed it "incredible."

With the Artemis missions, NASA endeavors to bring a "new generation to the lunar surface to stay." It will be the first crewed mission to the lunar surface since Apollo 17 in 1972. Artemis I, an uncrewed test flight of

NASA's new Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion spacecraft, launched in mid November of 2022 returned from its trip around the moon on December 11. Aside from returning earthlings to the moon, the Artemis missions will open the door to a new era of off-planet research, opportunity, and exploration.

"We are thrilled that NASA Administrator Nelson and the four astronauts were able to join us in bringing the Learning Lunchbox science kits to the children and families of Amidon-Bowen. The kids and teachers were very engaged," said Andy Aichele, Senior Director of Education Engagement, COSI.

It was, indeed, a day that the students at Amidon-Bowen will long remember as they chart their own paths, both on earth or perhaps amongst the stars.

Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Continues Children's Coat Drive

BY REGINA MAZUR

or more than two years, the mission of Serve Your City/ Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/ W6MA) 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 can receive the assistance and resources they need.

SYC/W6MA extends a heartfelt thank you to our generous neighbors who've been donating winter coats, accessories, and funds to our Winter Coat Drive since early October. The Coat Drive was a huge success. A total



of \$3,562 was received in donations and used to purchase 78 youth and 70 adult coats. In addition, over 200 coats were donated and more are still being received. A total of 105 children and 92 adults received winter coats as of now, which they so much needed in the cold winter months. This would not be pos-

sible without the Southwest commu-

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/sycw-6ma-eoy-22 today.

This Month's Donation Needs:

SYC/W6MA SW Pod provides our neighbors with food, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items. Our greatest needs this month are:

- Food: soup, tuna, beans, oatmeal, crackers, breakfast bars, vegetable oil, hot chocolate, instant coffee, tea
- · Cleaning: dish soap, spray disinfectant, bleach, comet, Spic, and Span
- Personal Hygiene: mouthwash, tampons, feminine pads, Depends (all sizes)

Food Distribution:

SW Farmers Market tabling and produce distribution: Paused for the winter starting December 17 (may resume February 2023, depending on capacity and need).

Christ United Methodist Church's 5000 Ministry Food Pantry will still hold its food distributions on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 2:30 pm. Location: 900 4th Street SW.

Pod Donation hours:

Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturdays from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

If you need additional support with food and supplies, please call the Mutual Aid Hotline at 202-683-9962 or email ward6mutualaid@gmail.com

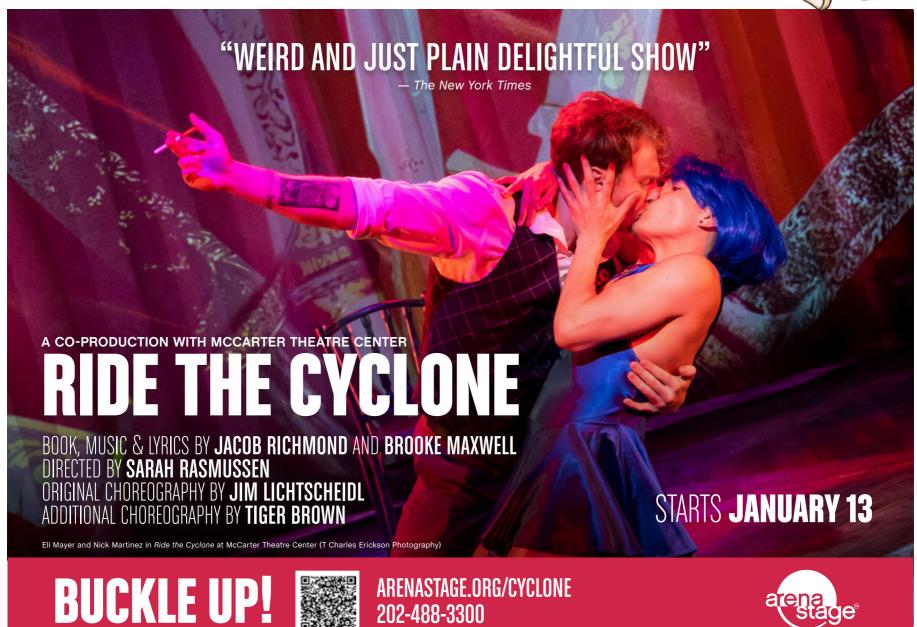
Want to Learn More or Get **Involved?** We need more people to help with the food distribution on Saturdays please contact us for more information at swmutualaid@ serveyourcity.org

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





202-488-3300

Southwester Community Calendar | January 2023

Due to COVID-19, there may be last-minute changes to these events. Be sure to check the web references or telephone numbers in the listings.

THURS 5, 6 P.M. Throwback Thursday Cinema - Cool Runnings. A Jamaican bobsled team couldn't possibly stand a chance in the Olympics -- could they? All ages, join us for a screening of the hilarious and moving Cool Runnings! Southwest Neighborhood Library - Meeting Room 2 (15-35 Person Capacity), Meeting Room 1

MON 9, 4-6 P.M. After School Movie. Relax after school in the warmth of the library as we take in a favorite film 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. January 9th: Bad Guys (PG). Southwest Neighborhood Library.

MON 9, 7 P.M. ANC6D Business Meeting. Held virtually on Zoom. Agenda and link to meeting are at www.anc6d.org/virtualmeeting.

TUES 10, 6:30 P.M. Richard Wright Rise With the Tide College Preparation Training. Free to the public. Contact Helen Compton at hcomptonharris@richardwrightpcs.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

WED 11, 6-10 P.M. Rock the Rink at the Wharf. Join fellow hockey fans at The Wharf to Rock the Rink with the Washington Capitals. Skate at The Wharf Ice Rink and enjoy a DJ, Caps gear give-aways, and Capitals-themed beverages. We'll also broadcast the Capitals' away game on a jumbotron. Throughout the day, fans wearing Capitals gear receive \$5 off admission to The Wharf Ice Rink.

THURS 12, 6 P.M. Throwback Thursday Cinema - Jurassic Park. All ages, join us for a screening of the exciting science fiction film. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SAT 14, 7 P.M. Faith & Film Zoom Presentation of "Atlantic City". When Sally Matthews leaves herCanadian home to relocate to Atlantic City, she aspires to a prosperous career in the gambling industry. With her criminal husband on her trail, however, it appears that she can't escape from trouble, until she finds an unlikely savior Lou Pascal, an aging small-time mobster. By becoming involved with Sally, Lou finds a way to achieve the success he's dreamed of,but his plan may endanger both their lives. After-film discussion led by Rev. Brian Hamilton. All Invited! Contact the church office for Zoom link (202-484-7700/ wpcdcoffice@gmail.com

MON 16, 12 P.M. MLK Holiday Movie - Booker's Place: A Mississippi Story. An African-American man speaks about his life in the South. His candor is shocking to the community he serves. For speaking the truth, he is ostracized, targeted and killed. Southwest Neighborhood Library - Large Meeting Room

THURS 19, 6 P.M. Throwback Thursday Cinema - Mary Poppins. It's a spoonful of sugar with Mary Poppins as the Banks children's nanny. All ages, join us for a screening of the classic Mary Poppins! Southwest Neighborhood Library - Meeting Room 1

SAT 21, 1-4 P.M. Fire & Ice at The Wharf. Join The Wharf for the third Fire & Ice, featuring the WAFF Ice House. Stop by the House on District Pier and help support the Washington Area Fuel Fund in their mission to raise funds to keep our neighbors warm this winter.

MON 23, 4-6 P.M. After School Movie. Relax after school in the warmth of the library as we take in a favorite film 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. January 23rd: Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse (PG). Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TUES 24, 6:30 P.M. Richard Wright Rise With the Tide College Preparation Training. Free to the public. Contact Helen Compton at hcompton-harris@richardwrightpcs.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

THURS 26, 1 P.M. Your Family Tree. An Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition. Southwest Neighborhood Library - Large Meeting Room.

THURS 26, 6 P.M. Throwback Thursday Cinema - Bringing Up Baby. Paleontologist David has a bone to pick with Susan when her leopard causes a catastrophe. All ages, join us for a screening of the slapstick classic Bringing Up Baby! Southwest Neighborhood Library - Meeting Room 1

FRI 27, 1 P.M. Coffee & Conversation. Customers are invited to join a casual conversation with other library customers and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee and Tea provided. Southwest Neighborhood Library - Large Meeting Room.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ALCOHOLICS 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, 4th 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 513-673-9921.

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://westminsterdc.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 free breakfast every week as a to-go bag with a 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 manager for the program at thor081828@ hotmail.com. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Community Room, 555 Water Street SW. www.staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life

BUILDING BLOCKS, Tuesdays, 10:30 A.M. Let's explore construction play together every Tuesday! Southwest Library is excited to launch our new birth to 5 program: Building Blocks. Each Tuesday, from 10:30-11:30AM, we'll explore the importance of construction play in children's development. Let's stack, building, knock down, count, and build back up again together. Construction play encourages independent thinking, problem solving, creativity, and sharing. This program is intended for children birth to five and their caregivers. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

CHAIR YOGA, Mondays, 11 A.M. - Noon. Gentle movements to increase flexibility, strength, balance & endurance, adapted for all body types. Careful instruction promotes proper breathing, meditation, positive thinking, & deep relaxation. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Any questions? Email instructor, Pamela Wilson, wilsonpj108@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 P.M. St. Dominic Church. www.stdominic-church.org/

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 CLIN- IC, Wednesdays, 1-4 P.M. Call DC Volunteers Lawyer Project to make an appointment: 202-425-7573. www.dcvlp.org/clinic/ Westminster Presbyterian Church.

ENCORE ROCKS CHOIR REHEARSAL, Tuesdays, 6:30-8 P.M. at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Tuition-based and led by a professional choral conductor. For additional information, contact: https://encorecreativity.org/programs/encore-rocks

EVENING PRAYER, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. https://www.staugustinesdc.org/

FAMILY STORY TIME, Mondays, 10:30 A.M. Fun for the entire family, these 30-40 minute story times are packed full of books and activities designed to be enjoyed by all ages. Promoting language and literacy skills, these story times are a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Southwest Library.

FILM DISCUSSION CLUB, Tuesdays, 12 P.M. Informal discussion prompted by a short-film. Southwest Neighborhood Library - Large Meeting Room.

HOLY HOUR & CONFESSIONS, Thursdays, 7 P.M. St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church.

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

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

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 singers featured each Friday. \$10. Food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdc. 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 Komen 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. https://8714.toastmastersclubs.org/

MAKE IT! Tuesdays, 4-5 P.M. Come make something awesome at the Southwest Library! Every Tuesday after school we'll make something--a craft, STEM project, experiment, or design. All materials provided--just bring your imagination! Southwest Neighborhood Library.

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 daily life, authentic optimism, and 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. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW, www.meditation-dc.org/

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (ZOOM), Wednesdays, 7-8 P.M. Contact Westminster Presbyterian Church for more information at wpcdcoffice@gmail.com www.narcotics.com/na-meetings/washington-dc/

PARENTS' TAX CLINIC WITH MOTHER'S OUT-REACH NETWORK (FREE), Wednesdays, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M. Have you received your Child Tax Credit? Your Earned Income Tax Credit? Every Stimulus payment? If not, or if you have questions, stop by Southwest Library on Wednesday between 11 A.M. and 1 P.M. At no charge, we will consult with you about how to get your government refund, if eligible. This event is hosted by Mother's Outreach Network. Southwest Library. https://mothersoutreachnetwork.org/parentstaxclinic/

RELIGIOUS MOVIE SEMINAR, Sundays, 6:30 P.M. Meet in the Parish room at St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church. www.stdominicchurch.org/

RESISTANCE BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM), Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. Discuss timely issues on Jesus and social justice. Westminster Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/

REST AND REFLECT, Tuesdays, 6 P.M. To participate in-person for this chanted prayer session doors open 15 minutes before start time and lock promptly at start time. Kadampa Meditation Center. www.meditation-dc.org/

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH PROTEIN PANTRY, 2nd Sundays, 11:30 A.M. All are welcome! For more details contact rsbc@riverside.org. Riverside Baptist Church, 699 Maine Ave SW, https://riversidedc.org/

SENSORY PLAYTIME, Fridays, 10:30-11:30 A.M., Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are invited to play and explore their senses in front of the Library. Just bring your imagination; we'll supply the materials. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org/southwest

STORY TIME, Thursdays, 6-6:30 P.M. Come to the Southwest Library for story time fun! On Thursday nights, you're invited to come to the library in your pajamas for Pajama Story Time! Contact southwestlibrary@dc.gov for more information.

SUNDAY MORNING MEDITATION, Sundays, 10 A.M. December Topic - How to Solve Our Human Problems 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. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW. More at https://meditation-dc.org/sunday-mornings/.

SUNDAY UNWIND THE MIND MEDITATION, Sundays, 6:45 - 7:30 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/

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

THURSDAY EVENING MEDIATION, Thursdays, 7:15 - 8:30 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. For support with our online classes, prayers & events: support@ meditation-dc.org Kadampa Meditation Center 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's doorbell at the Eye St entrance to enter the meeting. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th Street, SW. https://www.dcstamp-club.org/

ZENTANGLES, 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, you'll find young adults creating time and space for intentional community. All are welcome to this space. This Happy Hour is meeting VIRTUALLY via Google Meet. - https://meet.google.com/yny-tdqk-iir. For additional information or questions, please email Lori at Lopitts12@gmail.com.

VIEW OUR ON-LINE CALENDAR AT WWW.SWNA.ORG

Submit Calendar events to calendar@thesouthwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

Council Advances Allen's Transportation Bill Expanding Access to Free Bus Rides

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

n December, Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen earned unanimous support from City Council colleagues for his "Metro for DC" bill, which sets the stage for free access to Metrobuses departing from any location in the District beginning this summer.

"Today's vote on this transforma-

tional bill shows the District is ready to be a national leader in the future of public transit," Allen said in a press release. "We will balance making transit a public good with ensuring world-class service continues to return to our metro system. This bill has the support and excitement of District residents, District businesses, the union representing transit workers, and WMATA itself. That's because it's going to

make a major difference in people's lives almost immediately when buses become free as soon as July."

The bill makes all WMATA buses operating in the District free to riders beginning in July 2023 and funds overnight service for 12 major bus lines.

According to statistics provided by the Council's Office of the Budget Director and cited by Allen's office, more than two thirds of bus riders are DC residents, compared with less than half of rail riders who board Metro trains in DC. The data shows bus riders are significantly more likely to be Black or Latino than rail riders, and 68% of DC residents who take the bus have household incomes below \$50,000.



Photo credit: Stacy Baker

Celebrating 25 years of helping Southwest!

Honoring our 2022 grantees! Thanks for your good work for Southwest!

- Alpha Phi Alpha/OHΛ SW Day school supply drive and Thanksgiving drive
- Camp Arena Stage scholarships
- Christ United Methodist Food Pantry
- DC STORM trip to Norfolk for SW youth
- EmmaUS trips to Harriet Tubman home for SW kids
- Friends of Titanic Memorial Park commemorative event
- GOOD Projects/James Creek school supply distribution
- Jefferson Middle School Voices of Now

- Living Classrooms Thanksgiving drive
- Nathaniel Pickett Foundation mental health fair
- St. Augustine's hot meals for the SW AYA
- St. Matthew's Little Free Library for kids
- SW Community Center "Mutt Strut"
- SW Comm-Unity Forum SW Day and Christmas Toy Drive
- SWNA College scholarships
- Thelma Jones Breast Cancer 101 program
- Waterfront Village health assessments and subsidized memberships

Friends of Southwest DC

P.O. Box 44434
Washington, DC 20026
FriendsofSWDC.org
FriendsofSWDC@gmail.com

Winner of the 2022 "Brickie Award"



You can help, too! Please donate to support your neighbors.

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.