New ANC 6D Commissioners Sworn in to Represent Southwest

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

At a January 9 meeting, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission members representing the Southwest Waterfront officially began their new term with a monthly meeting and election of officers. Following redistricting, the single-member districts of Ward 6 saw shifting lines that changed the boundaries of areas represented by incumbent commissioners. Incumbent commissioners Ron Collins, (6D02) Fredrica “Rikki” Kramer (6D07) and Rhonda Hamilton (6D08) are rejoined by former commissioner Bob Link representing 6D01, which includes the liveaboard community at Gangplank Marina and other buildings along the waterfront. New commissioner Ashton Romer represents a redistricted Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen with ANC 6D Commissioners Rhonda Hamilton and Rikki Kramer.

6D05, which includes Greenleaf Gardens, Midrise and Greenleaf Senior, as well as the public buildings such as the DMV, Fire and EMS station, post office, library and recreation center.

Housing south of M Street SW on the west side of 4th Street SW, including Tiber Island, Harbour Square, Riverside, and Channel Square will be represented by new ANC 6D06 commissioner Bruce Levine, replacing the long-serving Andy Litsky.

The ANC 6D04 seat remains vacant and will require a special election to be filled. Petitions can be picked up by candidates interested in holding the post beginning February 8.

In addition to making introductions, the first ANC business meeting of 2023 threw new commissioners into the deep end of pending community issues, including the planned redevelopment of the Greenleaf community by the DC Housing Authority.

Housing Authority Executive Director Brenda Donald and several members of her staff joined the meeting to provide an update to the commission, and heard directly from neighbors and community leaders about ongoing maintenance issues plaguing families currently living at Greenleaf.

With the planned redevelopment stretching at least a dozen years into the future, the ANC 6D04 seat remains vacant and will require a special election to be filled. Petitions can be picked up by candidates interested in holding the post beginning February 8.

Anacostia Riverkeeper and Pope Branch Park Restoration Alliance Host Biggest MLK Day Cleanup on Record

BY TREY SHERARD, ANACOSTIA RIVERKEEPER

Anacostia Riverkeeper celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2023 with our ninth year collaborating with Pope Branch Park Restoration Alliance on the MLK Day Clean Waterways Cleanup in honor of Dr. Joseph Glover. This cleanup is my favorite one every year, not because it’s our biggest single draw for volunteers, or our single biggest pull of trash, but because this cleanup was started by Dr. Glover and his neighbors 25 years ago. Led more recently by Dolly Davis, the group organizes multiple cleanups every year and is advocating to convert abandoned train tracks to a trail to combat the illegal dumping plaguing their community.

A total of 417 volunteers joined the cleanup this year, marking the largest turnout not just for this event, but the largest single volunteer event in Anacostia Riverkeeper’s history. The volunteers at our cleanups don’t just pick the trash up and bag it, they also sort it by material and product type to collect data we use for advocacy. The volunteers this year picked up, brought back, sorted, weighed, and recorded nearly five tons of trash, or 9,609 pounds in total.

Over two tons were bulk trash from illegal dumping, including 1,325 pounds of tires. It should be noted that this area is cleaned up no less than twice a year in January and then again in April, so this is not even a full year’s worth of dumping. Baggable litter weighed in at 5,478 pounds. and was

See “Cleanup,” page 4
DC Black History Celebration Committee Kicks Off Black History Program in Southwest

BY VYLLORYA EVANS & MARI EVENTS

Black Resistance is the 2023 theme for Black History month. You are invited to join the DC Black History Committee (DCBHHC) Saturday, February 4, 2023, 11:00 a.m. at Westminster Church, 400 I Street SW for its kick-off event.

What better place to host this event than in Southwest DC, home of African American Registers and Resisting: The Pearl Event in 1848, the largest organized escape attempt by enslaved persons in America; Anthony Bowen, underground railroad conductor and educator; Dorothy Height, civil rights and women’s rights activist; and Thurgood Marshall, civil rights attorney who led the Brown v: Board of Education Supreme Court decision that desegregated public schools.

The keynote speaker for the event is Sylvia Y. Cyrus, Executive Director of The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the organization that started Black History Month. Cyrus is the longest leader of the organization since its founder, Carter G. Woodson. The program will include recognition of Denise Rolark Barnes, Joni Eisenberg, Johnney Barnes, Courtney Williams and Black Seeds Calendar - courtesy of ASALH.

Remembering Judge Theodore “Ted” Newman

July 5, 1934 - January 6, 2023

I received the sad news of the passing of Judge Theodore “Ted” Newman, our neighbor at Waterside Towers in Southwest DC. The cause was a heart attack, said his companion, Eulla Wilson. He honored me and my husband Henry by calling us his friends.

Theodore Newman Jr. was born on July 5, 1934, in Birmingham, and raised in Tuskegee, Alabama, during the horrible days of segregation and Jim Crow laws enacted in the South which denied African Americans the right to vote, hold jobs, get an education or other opportunities. Those who attempted to defy Jim Crow laws often faced arrest, fines, jail sentences, violence, and death. Ted’s father was a minister and his mother a school-teacher.

Upon finishing high school, he was admitted to Brown University, earning a philosophy degree. He studied constitutional law and jurisprudence at Harvard Law School. He then began a three-year tour of duty with the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate stationed in France. Upon his return to civilian life, Newman took a job with the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. He entered private practice in 1962 in Washington, DC.

Judge Newman was a Superior Court judge of the District of Columbia, and later Chief Judge at the DC Court of Appeals, which made him the first African American chief judge of any state-level court in the United States. He retired in 1991.

Newman was very active over the years in several legal organizations. He was a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, past president of the National Center for State Courts and former chairman of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. The National Bar Association bestowed Newman with its highest honor, the C. Francis Stradford Award, for his outstanding service in the struggle for equal justice. In 1998, the Judicial Council gave him its highest honor, the William H. Hastie Award. Newman also lectured at Harvard Law School and held adjunct professorships at Howard University Law School and the Georgetown Law Center. He was a friend and advisor to many in the legal profession.

The passing of Judge Newman is a loss for all of us, because whether you agreed or disagreed with him, nobody can deny that his whole career was dedicated to upholding the rule of law and defending the right of every citizen to participate in the process. Now, with his departure, he will be remembered here in Waterside not only as a neighbor but also as the person that fought to the very end so that each and every one of us could exercise our right to vote.

A very appropriate final curtain call for Ted Newman. May he rest in peace.

Free Tax Preparation Support at Southwest Library

The AARP Foundation is providing free tax preparation services for DC and Maryland residents at the Southwest Library. Services are available Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. until April 2023. Appointments are required. Stop by the library to pick up an information packet on documents needed for your appointment. Be sure that you have or will have all your 2022 tax documents, photo ID, Social Security card, and health insurance information before scheduling an appointment.

Call (202) 642-9037 or send an email to 20051018@aarpfoundation.org to make an appointment, or make an appointment in person at Southwest Library when the site is open.

For information on other sites in DC, email the DC Tax Aide Help Desk at dctaxaide.help@gmail.com or call/text (202) 642-9037.
SWBID AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

If you didn’t know, our Ambassadors are beyond talented. Over the last year, they’ve received training in leadership, research, and services to empower interests and amplify talents. Some have taken this knowledge a step further and are pursuing remarkable passions.

Kevin started his own company to provide quality landscaping services, including maintenance, design & installation. See his work at batenslawnservice.com.

Mike does handy work and is an aquarist who breeds and takes care of fish. He also nurtures aquariums for optimal fish health.

Haji is often hired for professional-grade cleaning. His favorite part of cleaning is the soothing effect it provides and the pride he carries in doing an excellent job.

Idania is the first female team lead the SWBID has had. Her intelligence and diligence in her work have shown through consistently in her career, and she has become a vital team member in everything we do.

Danny has been the lead in handling food distribution since the start of the pandemic and has identified opportunities where Southwisters would benefit the most from these programs.

Team Certifications and Licenses
1. Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health: Structural & Rodent Control – Achieved from UDC
2. Pesticide Applicator Certification Training – Achieved from UDC
3. Bloodborne Pathogens Training – Achieved from Cintas
4. Microbe Removal & Infection Prevention Utilization – Achieved from Cintas
5. Basic Spanish – Achieved from SWBID
6. Mold Remediation – Achieved from Clean Health Environment
7. Food Safety Manager – Achieved from National Registry of Food Safety Professionals
8. Infection prevention Expert – Achieved from Victory Innovations
9. Food Safety First Principles for Food Handlers – Achieved from National Registry of Food Safety Professionals
11. Custodial Technician – Achieved from Cleaning Management Institute
12. Chemistry of Cleaning Restroom & Floor Care – Cleaning Management Institute

swbid.org | @swbid

We’ll see you next time for the subsequent edition on our Ambassador Spotlight series!

Spotlight Series, Edition 1
Dr. Marco Clark, also known as "America's toughest principal," has accomplished many feats in the education sector nationally and, for the last 15 years, in Washington, DC. On January 13, Clark hit another major mark as he became the recipient of the Joseph R. Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement and Service Award for his leadership in education and his service to humanity throughout his life.

Dr. Marco Clark is a well-known educator, entrepreneur, author, public speaker, and veteran of public education. He is the Founder and CEO of the Richard Wright Public Charter School Leader, an educator, entrepreneur, author, public speaker, and veteran of public education. He is the Founder and CEO of the Richard Wright Public Charter School, an institution dedicated to ensuring safe passage for kids to and from school. Dr. Clark is the Chairman of “Man the Block,” an organization focused on combatting the functional illiteracy that is caused by the intersection of poverty, housing conditions, and common conditions. The Housing Authority committed in 2022 to ensuring safe, healthy, and dignified living conditions in the short term, but information shared by the agency faces in meeting that commitment.

Agency data shared at the meeting indicated that there are currently 673 open maintenance tickets for Greenleaf Family/Greenleaf Gardens and another 14 for Greenleaf Senior. This is after a “summer blitz” by the housing authority closed over 1,300 open work orders across the two properties between June and December of 2022.

Housing Authority planners looking ahead to the redevelopment advised the commissioners that although the status of the project was expected to start with the renovation of Greenleaf Senior by the end of 2023, rising interest rates and construction costs are expected to delay the renovation.

Dr. Clark graduated from Clark Atlanta University and received a master's degree in special education from Coppin State University. Later, he completed a doctoral program in higher education at Morgan State University. Nearly 25 years after being classified as functionally illiterate, at the age of 34, Dr. Clark became a Doctor of Education and a renowned educator and scholar.

Helen Compton-Harris, Richard Wright's Director of Outreach, Planning, and Development, said of Dr. Clark's recent achievement, "I am thrilled and delighted that our CEO and Founder, Dr. Marco Clark, received the 2022-2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in education and the President's Volunteer Service Award for his commitment to serve others throughout his lifetime. The recognition is so well deserved! Additionally, our amazing students performed songs for the audience and greeted other esteemed awardees and guests. What a beautiful evening it was."

The Joseph R. Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremonies are conducted to recognize people who have made noteworthy lifetime achievements contributing to the betterment of life in the United States. They may make significant contributions to society in a variety of ways. The ceremony began with a U.S. Navy Honor Guard and a moving performance of the national anthem by saxophonist Brian Lanier. Dr. Beverly Key, Executive Director of Premiere Coalition Partners Association and Vice President of Global Initiatives at TIS Foundation, together with Reverend Dr. George E. Holmes and Reverend Daryll D. Roberts, served as the event's hosts. Dr. Homes is also a President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). The Richard Wright student choir, led by Mr. Roger Murray, and other adult choirs from Washington, DC gave powerful musical performances throughout the evening.

Assistance recipients included well-known personalities such as Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, the Isley Brothers, and other community leaders and government officials. The late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and his late wife Mrs. Cecilia Marshall received honors posthumously.

In addition to Dr. Clark, ten Richard Wright students received honorary medals for outstanding scholarship and leadership. They are:

- Grade 10 recipients: Rae Tyson, Makayla Napper, Dajane Armstrong
- Grade 11 recipients: Daria Craddock, Amalia Narkanova
- Grade 12 recipients: Charles Murphy, Taron Lawson, Kaybrig Briggs, Asia Thomas, Caitlyn Taylor

This ceremony is an important achievement for all those recognized. They are all citizens who contributed to the improvement of their communities and country through their work. This event was established to honor individuals whose service positively impacts and inspires those around them to take action. Several of President Biden's friends and supporters spoke about President Biden's lengthy political career and the numerous ways in which he has contributed to positive change in the United States. But what made this event even more special is that our own Dr. Clark and ten of our classmates were acknowledged. We are Richard Wright proud of them!
Thanking Our 2022 Donors and Volunteers

Admirals - Donors/Grantors Contributing $2,500 or Higher

Carol Cowgill
Compass/Peers Reality
Katherine Crump-Wiesner
David Ehrlich
Ardith Harle
National Capital Bank

Carroll Quinn
Diane Renzulli
David Simonds
SouthwestBID
TrustED Champions
Friends of Southwest DC

Washington Home Foundation
DC Department of Aging and Community Living
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Captain’s Club - Donors Contributing $1,000 or Higher

Max Aguilar and Len Bechtel
Anonymous
Caroline Ashe
Candice Bryant
James Burleson
Case Design Remodeling

Mary Caufield and John Hoag
Johanna Cummings
Peter Eicher
Gail Frances
Irv Gamza

Georgetown Home Care
Deborah Greenstein
Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners
Jean Herzand Dan Felger
KVS Title
John McGrath
San Myint
Vicki Peckham
Right Size Law
Southwest Chamber Players
Vellum Mortgage
Judith Winston

Friends of Waterfront Village – Donors Contributing $250 or Higher

Arary
Diane Berchiolli
Birdwatch
Mary Blakeslee
Bob Craycraft
Joyce DeRoy

Heather Foley
Goodwin Living at Home
Beverly Gray
Susie Humphreys
Norma Joiner and Noreen Lyne
Kaliwa Restaurant

Leslie and Dick Lang
Steve Moore
Elaine Riccio
Stephen Rose
SMILE Beautiful
Residences of Thomas Circle

Waterfront Village Service Volunteers

Max Aguilar
Candice C. Bryant
Bob Craycraft
Johanna S. Cummings
Stephanie Eicher
Marie Giovanelli
Deborah Greenbush
Deborah Greenstein
Beth and Loren Hall

Jim Harle
Bonnie Harris
Paul Heaton
Rachel Hecht
Biff Henley
Vickie Henrikson
Jane Jorgensen
Richard F. Lang
Mary E. Moran

Victoria Peckham
Verena (Vreni) B. Peters
Carroll Quinn
Anne Rensberger
Joelle and Robert Rudney
Julia Snegg
Ellen I. Spencer
Akiko Sprague

Thorny Staples
Anne Stom
Kathy Trickey
Amelia Visnauskas
Julie Wade
Philip O. Weeks
Wendy K. Wright

Support our older neighbors by contributing to Waterfront Village as a Supporting Member or 2023 Friend of the Village. Go to www.dcwaterfrontvillage.org and hit the donate button, or call us on 202-656-1834.
National Museum of African American History and Culture Features Local Icons in Exhibit of Historic Images

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Washington, DC-based musicians, leaders and activists are among the 37 prominent Black Americans featured in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture’s new exhibit Spirit in the Dark: Religion in Black Music, Activism, and Popular Culture.

The exhibit examines Black religious life through a selection of photographs from the Johnson Publishing Company, publisher of Ebony, Jet and Negro Digest magazines. The images in the exhibition spotlight noteworthy individuals — including religious and political leaders, musicians, authors, athletes, activists and educators — and are supported by an array of objects from the museum’s collection, many on display for the first time.

Washington-born Duke Ellington and Marvin Gaye lead the list of the cast of stars in Blurred Lines: Holy | Profane which explores the connections of sacred music and popular music.

Bearing Witness: Protest | Praise shows religious leaders who were active in social justice movements, including protests and other events that took place within steps of the museum itself. Highlighting the exhibit include images of Bayard Rustin on the National Mall during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963. In addition, Mary Church Terrell, Washington’s trailblazing civil rights activist, suffragist, and educator is included with artists and internationally famous writers James Baldwin and Toni Morrison in Lived Realities: Suffering | Hope.

On view until November 2023, the exhibit includes an accompanying playlist of related music, available for free on Apple Music, Tidal and YouTube music.

In July 2022, a consortium comprising the Ford Foundation, The J. Paul Getty Trust, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution, announced the official transfer of ownership of the acclaimed Johnson Publishing Company archive to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and to the Getty Research Institute, a program of the Getty Trust.

The Getty Trust committed $30 million in support of the processing and digitization of the archive to make this preeminent collection available and searchable to scholars, researchers, journalists, and the general public.

JOIN US!

SOUTHWEST & BUZZARD POINT

Flood Resilience Strategy

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, February 4
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Arena Stage
Molly Smith Study
1101 Sixth Street SW

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

on redesigning parks and streets in Southwest and Buzzard Point to reduce flood risk in your community!

For more information regarding flood mitigation efforts in SW and Buzzard Point
Email questions to andrea.limauro@dcl.gov
Visit us online at: doee.dc.gov/service/southwest-buzzard-point-flood-resilience-strategy
SAFEGUARDING THE MUSEUMS’ TREASURES FROM DISASTERS

A TALK WITH ERIC GENTRY
DIRECTOR, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Host: SW STRONG! the Emergency Preparedness Task Force for SWNA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH 6PM – 7PM

Event Contact: Ben Curran
(202) 294-7043
or benimon@hotmail.com

SOUTHWEST LIBRARY
900 Wesley Place SW
Washington DC
Between 3rd and 4th Streets off of I Street SW
Reone Brown, GRI
4626 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016
202-537-3800 - Office
202-374-2817 - Cell
www.Reonebrown.com

Committed to Excellence and Performance!

Learn How I can help you save $$$

WE BUY ONE ITEM OR WHOLE ESTATE

We buy jewelry, art, antiques and a wide range of items

THE ATTIC, LLC
CASH FOR ESTATES
DC, MD, VA
Theatticllc.com
(301) 520-0755

The Maine Lobsterman statue as seen from The Wharf.

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

Photo of the Month

Vasquez Law DC

Proudly serving Southwest and Navy Yard neighbors from our new location at
100 M Street SE

Real Estate Law | Landlord-Tenant
Civil Litigation | Small Business Disputes

Contact us to schedule a consultation
www.vasquezlawdc.com  |  202-525-7710

Licensed in D.C. & Virginia Se Habla Español

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH ANNOUNCES 2023 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Riverside Baptist Church, at the corner of 7th & Maine Avenue SW, prides itself on its openness and inclusivity. The Church is committed to serving the Southwest DC community and as part of that commitment has announced its 2023 scholarship program for qualified students pursuing an undergraduate degree.

Applicants must be a member, dependent or grandchild of a member, or a resident of Southwest DC. Applicants also must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher; have provided service to their congregation or community and need financial assistance. Further details on the scholarship program and application forms can be found on the Church website at (https://riversidedc.org/).

Applications must be submitted by May 15, 2023. Please direct questions to ScholarshipCommittee@riversidedc.org
Education can take you anywhere you want to be

Ben Sands
Southwest DC born and raised, Multi-Instrumental Musician, Composer, Educator, Workshop Leader, and Visual Artist. One of the First SWNA ESTF Scholars.

Scholarships are available!
Apply Online starting March 1st

For more information, to apply, or to donate
www.swnascholarship.org
Kid’s Corner

Spot the difference!
Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?

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

Answers from January 2023 Issue
Differences: One picture says “2023” and the other says “Happy New Year;” the face of the person on the left is different; the fireworks on the right are different; one picture has a red balloon on the right while the other has a yellow balloon on the right; the picture on the right has balloons near the top; the pointy hat is different in each picture.

Jokes!
Why was the chocolate being so nice?
Because it was so sweet! (Submitted by Ella)

Tongue Twister: Can you say this 10 times fast?
Six slippery snails slid slowly seaward.

What do you get when you cross a dinosaur and fireworks?
Dino-mite!

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!!

WORD SEARCH: VALENTINE’S DAY!

J R X F X J Z R Q F M F M D S
T E E W S H S E Z W R U I S D
K H O L V K S S V I G D M Y K
G C J X Q C R C E L W T G J A
D H X W N K H N X K O G I T R
S K C E N D D O A O H E G L U
F F Z K C S I U C V N U D S H
J V P H E L D R Z O T S R J F
D D H N W T R A E M L E V Q A
H N G T I X E R C K W A D P M
Y V I E V E S N J O S S T G I
J X E K E A O F L C A R D E L
J D Q R Y V R F B M L G T E Y
X Z K T B J O F N Y U W L K
S V G J H F J L V E R H S S E

CARD  FLOWERS
KIND  SWEET
CHOCOLATE  FRIENDS
LOVE  FAMILY
HEART  ROSE
Kindles, Kindles Everywhere

BY KITTY FELDE

If I open the kitchen pantry door and there’s a bag of chocolate chips in there, I eat them. I can’t help it. On the other hand, if the bag of chips is stashed in the back of the shell, I don’t bother to look for them. Out of sight, out of mind.

That same principle can be used to create a reading habit. A friend of mine ended up with a number of used Kindles. Instead of sending them back to Amazon for a small credit, he’s been planting them all over the house. Like my chocolate chips, they call to him. Instead of “eat me,” they say, “read me.” There’s a Kindle on the bedside table, one in the bathroom, even one on the kitchen counter that nags him to read a few pages every morning, waiting for the coffee to brew.

There are 101 loose minutes floating around our days, time we might spend looking at TikTok or playing Wordle. Or we could be reading. All we need is a little reminder, a little invitation.

You could leave actual books around the house – a Dr. Seuss in the mud room, a Diary of a Wimpy Kid under a pillow. Or you could pick up a few Kindles. Used ones are cheap, usually less than the price of a hardback book. They’re light and small and rarely need their battery recharged.

Load them up with tempting books for your child. Library e-books are free to borrow and the DC Public Library allows you to borrow up to 10 e-book titles at a time. (Bonus: no need to remember when to return them. When they’re due, they quietly disappear from your Kindle. Not finished? You can easily check them out again.) If you don’t know where to start, ask your child’s teacher or librarian. They’d be delighted to recommend ten titles.

Kids are at home with technology. Many would rather read from a screen than a book. Use that to your advantage.

And set an example. Kids model what they see adults are doing. Down-load a book or two for yourself. Read a couple of pages while waiting on hold with the bank. Let your kids find you with your nose in a story when they pile into the backseat after school. Stick one in your purse or backpack or briefcase and pull it out if the grocery store line is moving too slow. Bring an extra Kindle and hand it to the impatient kid who keeps asking for that bag of Takis.

Make reading part of your day, part of your child’s day. Plant those Kindles here, there, and everywhere. TEDx speaker Kitty Felde is host of the Book Club for Kids podcast and author of The Fina Mendoza Mysteries series of books and podcasts.

14th Annual Toys for Tots Drive Distributes over 4,000 Holiday Toys to Ward 6 Families

BY PAUL TAYLOR

For the 14th consecutive year, the Southwest Comm-Unity Annual Christmas Toys for Tots drive and distribution was another huge success. Held on Saturday, December 17, 2022, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, this year’s event distributed over 4,000 toys to families throughout Ward 6.

The generous supply of toys also enabled James Creek, Syphax Gardens, and Greenleaf Gardens and Annex to hold mini toy giveaways for families who were unable to attend the drive.

A special thanks to Westminster Presbyterian’s Reverend Brian Hamilton for hosting this year’s event again, the U.S. Marines, SWBID, SWNA Youth Activities Task Force, Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF), area church members and dedicated volunteers, including Ayisha Lee, DC Area Toys for Tots Representative.

The Southwest teens would especially like to thank the Friends of Southwest DC and The Wharf for their generous donation of $25 gift cards to over 70 teens. Gift cards were also provided by Westminster Presbyterian, Christ United Methodist, Riverside Baptist, Second Union Baptist, and St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, which were donated directly to the Southwest resident council presidents. Also, thanks to Friends of Southwest DC and The Wharf for their generous donations which helped to purchase additional toys, baby pacifiers, bottles, onesies, blankets, socks, long Johns, hats, scarfs, and gloves for area families with infants and toddlers and the families at the AYA Shelter who expressed their gratitude as well.

Founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks, Toys for Tots is an annual program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.

“With the pandemic continuing to upend our lives and create a greater hardship for the needy and less fortunate, Southwest and the surrounding jurisdictions are so fortunate to have the Southwest Comm-Unity to champion this effort each year,” said Thelma D. Jones, Founder, TDJBCF, and Chair, SWNA Youth Activities Task Force. “I am proud to represent two organizations for this annual worthwhile and important effort, as every child deserves to be happy, especially around this time of the year.”

Paul Taylor is a longtime former Southwest resident and the Founder and Executive Director of Southwest Comm-Unity. Each year, the Southwest Comm-Unity holds a well-attended annual community-wide gathering of individuals and families representing old and new Southwest residents.
Evocative, Award-Winning Play *The High Ground* Opens at Arena Stage

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

Arena Stage presents a world premiere of award-winning playwright Nathan Alan Davis’ *The High Ground*, a visceral story in which a Black man in Army uniform stands on Tulsa’s Standpipe Hill reflecting on the destruction and desecration of Tulsa’s Greenwood District, violence that became known as the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, more than 100 years after the events.

After a delay due to the pandemic, the evocative story comes to the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle at Arena Stage beginning February 10 to offer hope to communities to hold on to legacies of love and connection.

*The High Ground* is the recipient of a 2023 National Endowment for the Arts grant and received the prestigious Edgerton Foundation New Play Award in 2022.

Ahead of opening night, *The Southwester* shared questions with Davis’ longtime collaborator and the show’s director, Megan Sandberg-Zakian, The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

**The Southwester:** As a director, how do you research plays with such a heavy and historic subject matter?

**Megan Sandberg-Zakian:** For this play, it takes place now, in 2023, and Nathan had done a lot of research and has had a lot of dramaturgy and thinking about the history. I did do some research of course just to familiarize myself with the event, the voices, the soberness and the magnitude of the loss in the massacre of 1921.

I didn’t saturate myself with research with the way I did for other shows and I think a lot of the reason for that is that I was interested in staying, to some extent, in the shoes of the audience member who might not know as much about the history and making sure that the play still reaches us, that it’s still able to both open up our desire to understand and learn more about the events in Tulsa 1921 and also to—regardless of how much we know about those events—really ask us to wrestle with and resonate with the big questions the play is grappling with, which I think are around: “When our legacies include these traumatic histories, how do we not get stuck in a loop of experiencing and being devastated by that trauma, especially when healing isn’t able to happen because traumas are continued to be visited on the same community and how do we choose a legacy of love over a legacy of trauma?”

**SW:** How do you see *The High Ground* in relation to other plays you’ve directed alongside Nathan Alan Davis, like *Nat Turner in Jerusalem* and *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea*? Would you say your directing approach is similar or different? Any comments on the importance of theater to present history?

**MSZ:** My directing approach is very different for every play, partially because I’m different with every play and the moment is different. In 2016, we were producing *Nat Turner in Jerusalem* on the eve of the 2016 election and it was a very particular moment to be doing a play about how we ended up in this incredibly divided place that we’ve ended up in as a nation which is a lot of what that play was about. For me, *The High Ground*, one of the ways that it deeply resonates for me is the question of “how do you choose a legacy of love and allowing it to lead you over a legacy of trauma?” The play is about what happens when you get stuck in the loop of historical trauma and you’re unable to process it but it’s also a romance and it’s a love story so partially it’s asking “what kind of telling of this traumatic history could get us unstuck from the trauma loop, and is it possible to hold on to these legacies of love and connection in spite of or in addition to the legacies of trauma and violence?”

**SW:** Arena Stage is located where history and literature have often converged—where history is literally under one’s feet. A plaque on Pearl Street states that here on April 15,
ARENA STAGE  
Continued from p. 12

1848, the abolitionist schooner, The Pearl, with 77 Black people seeking freedom, was returned to Washington harbor. The 1848 event inspired the writing of Uncle Tom’s Cabin in 1852. Any comments on the significance of bringing this story about the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 to Arena Stage/Southwest Washington DC?  

MSZ: A lot of The High Ground, while it deals with the aftermath dated a century later of the massacre, what it’s really dealing with is gentrification in Tulsa, and there’s a line in the play where one of the characters talks about how the Greenwood District was destroyed by fire in 1921 but it was rebuilt and ultimately the community died not by fire, but by drought. By being drained of resources and by “urban renewal” by having a highway built in the middle of it which is what happened in Southwest DC as well.

Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith has said many times in relation to this play that one of the reasons she’s really proud to be producing it is that Arena only exists in Southwest because Southwest was the site of one of the worst “urban renewals” in this country. It was home to a thriving Black community that was dispersed around the region and beyond.

My family is from here, as well as my wife’s family. My wife grew up on North Capitol Street and she and her family have witnessed the gentrification of this city and the erasure of Black communities really directly, and I think The High Ground almost sometimes feels like it’s about DC because it’s grappling with what it means to resist when the physical evidence of your community has been erased. There has been what one of the character’s called “a sort of plastic surgery on the earth, on the land, on the city” to reinscribe its history, so it takes away not only the telling of the difficult parts of its history like the massacre, but it’s also erasing and denying the incredibly powerful and beautiful parts of the history like the wealth, vibrance and deep roots of the community.

So, this play is actually perfect for Southwest, and I can’t imagine a better place for it to be than at Arena, honestly. It’s really been beautifully supportive of the play and all of its iterations. It’s been rewritten many, many times and each time I feel like it actually gets more resonant and it’s asking a question about how all of us can hold in this tension of not forgetting, not ignoring, not denying, that we have done absolutely terrible, tragic things to each other and that the power of love and connection is more powerful than anything else if we can fight for it.

Come Visit Our Store!

Plants! Plants! Plants!  
For Indoors & Outdoors

Urban Garden Center on Capitol Hill
Garden Design, Installation, & Maintenance

202-543-5172  
ginkgogardens.com  
911 11th St SE | Washington DC 20003

January Hours:  
M-F 8 am – 6:30 pm  
Sat 9 am – 6 pm  
Sun 11 am – 5 pm
**Southwester Community Calendar | February 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.

**WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY**

**AARP TAX ASSISTANCE,** Mondays and Wednesdays 1-5 P.M. by appointment only. Need help with your taxes? The AARP Foundation is ready to help! Meet with a trained volunteer with the AARP Foundation to help prepare your income tax return. Assistance is by appointment only - to make an appointment, send an email to 200501011@aar-pfoundation.org or call 202-656-0442, Southwest Library.

**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 Vicki 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 Vicki Henrikson at 202-251-7117 or Carroll Quinn 513-673-9921.

**BABY LAP TIME,** Thursdays, 1-1:45 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.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH MOVIES,** Fridays, 1 P.M. Feature films that tell the story of the Black experience. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

**BLUES MONDAYS,** 6-9 P.M. Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. 510 cover and food for sale. Schedule at www.historicdistrictdc.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 open for breakfast—but we still love to serve a meal every week as a to-go bag with a breakfast sandwich, juice, fruit, and slice of cake. If you would like to volunteer for Bread for Life, please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen manager for the program at thror1828@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 book 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, build, knock down, count, and build back up again together! Construction play empowers children to be independent thinkers, problem solvers, with creativity, and sharing. This program is intended for children birth to five and their caregivers. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

**CHURCH CLEANING**

Mondays and Wednesdays 1-5 P.M. Department only. Assistance is by appointment only - to make an appointment, send an email to 200501011@aar-pfoundation.org or call 202-656-0442, Southwest Library.

**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.stdominicchurch.org/
CALENDAR
Continued from p. 14

COLOR MY WORLD, Thursdays, 4:30 PM. 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.


ENCORE ROCKS CHOIR REHEARSAL, Tuesdays, 6:30-8 PM. 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 PM. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church. https://www.staugustinesdc.org/

FAMILY STORY TIME, HYBRID WORSHIP SERVICE, HYBRID SEATED YOGA, - Large Meeting Room. Discussion with others. Southwest Neighborhood Library. A thought-provoking, short-film and engage in an informal this weekly film discussion club. View an independent, a good conversation and meeting new people, join a program/encore-rocks

FILM DISCUSSION CLUB, Tuesdays, 12 PM. If you enjoy a good conversation and meeting new people, join this weekly film discussion club. View an independent, short-film and engage in an informal discussion with others. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

HOLY HOUR & CONFESSIONS, Thursdays, 7 PM. St. Dominic Ruman Catholic Church.

HYBRID GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN, Sundays, 10 A.M.

HYBRID SEATED YOGA, Mondays, 11 A.M. - 12 PM. 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 inspired worship! Westminster Presbyterian Church.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6-9 PM. 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 PM. 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. 8714.toastmastersclubs.org/ Encourage new people to strengthen their public speaking and storytelling skills. Meetings are held online at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2123493184. 8714.toastmastersclubs.org/ MAKE IT! Tuesdays, 4-5 PM. 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 PM. 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

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

PARENTS’ TAX CLINIC WITH MOTHER’S OUTREACH NETWORK (FREE), Wednesdays, 11 A.M. - 1 PM. 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 PM. 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://mathersoutreachnetwork.org/ parentstaxclinic/

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

RESISTANCE BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM), Tuesdays, 6:30 PM.

SUNDAY UNWIND THE MIND MEDITATION, Saturdays, 6:45 - 7:30 PM. 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 PM. 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/

THROWBACK THURSDAY CINEMA, Thursdays, 6 PM. Kick back and enjoy a throwback film (pre-2000s) in Meeting Room 1 (first level) at the Southwest Neighborhood Library. Screening begins at 6 p.m. February movies include Groundhog Day, Men in Black, The Addams Family, and more.

THURSDAY EVENING MEDITATION, Thursdays, 7:15 - 8:30 PM. 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 PM. 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://wpcdcoffice@gmail.com www.washingtonstamps.org/ Encourage new people 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://wpcdcoffice@gmail.com www.washingtonstamps.org/

ZENTANGLES, Tuesdays, 6 PM. Find your calm and your creativity. Say 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 PM. 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. Happy Hour, and you’re invited! Here, you’ll find young adults creating time and space for intentional community. https://meditation-dc.org/sunday-mornings/ Encourage new people to find young adults creating time and space for intentional community. Happy Hour, and you’re invited! Here, you’ll find young adults creating time and space for intentional community. https://meditation-dc.org/sunday-mornings/
# Home Schedule  
**Home of the 2023 MLS All-Star Game**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. ORLANDO CITY SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 25</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Apr. 8</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. COLUMBUS CREW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr. 29</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. CHARLOTTE FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. NASHVILLE SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. LA GALAXY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. CF MONTRÉAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Jun. 17</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. REAL SALT LAKE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Jun. 24</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. FC CINCINNATI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jul. 8</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. INTER MIAMI CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. PHILADELPHIA UNION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Sep. 2</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. CHICAGO FIRE FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep. 9</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep. 20</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. ATLANTA UNITED FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep. 23</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. NEW YORK RED BULLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>VS. NEW YORK CITY FC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DCUNITED.COM/TICKETS**

- Time zone set to EST.
- Schedule subject to change.

@dcunited