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Courtesy of the National Cherry Blossom Festival

The Tidal Basin explodes in white and pink blossoms during the 2022 cherry blossom season.

At 96 Years Young, the National Cherry Blossom Festival Keeps it Fresh

BY MATT KOEHLER

pring is in the air and the days requiring multiple layers of clothing to walk or bike a few blocks from A to B are (hopefully) dwindling. Several spring-like days in mid-late February had many venturing outside only

to discover that District flora was already popping. And starting this month, the National Mall will explode with its own yearly burst of white and pink cherry blossoms from several thousand "gift trees." Like the beautiful but short-lived and fleeting blossoms, the spring renewal heralds the month-long National Cherry

Blossom Festival.

The initial gift of over three thousand (3020 to be exact) cherry blossom trees, or 'sakura' as they're known in Japan, dates back to 1912. The festival was born afterwards and has been in "some shape

See "Festival," page 12

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship Winners Rack Up 50 Years of Remarkable Achievements

BY WILMA GOLDSTEIN

residents of zip code 20024 in Southwest DC have awarded college scholarships to young people in our neighborhood. In fact, we have never

missed a year since 1974, when residents living in the River Park Apartments decided they would like to raise some money and contribute it to several high school graduates to help them with their college expenses. In 1975, they

See "Winners," page 4



WASHINGTON SPIRIT KICKS OFF **SEASON AT AUDI** FIELD

Page 6



WARD 6 MUTUAL AID UPDATE

Page 8

FRIENDS OF SW DC HITS RECORD

Page 9



COMMUNITY CAI FNDAR

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The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund is an all-volunteer award-winning grassroots organization whose mission is to advocate and improve the overall health and wellness for women and men through outreach, education, and prevention. We promote early detection strategies for breast health and access to the best biomedical and evidence -based complementary therapies to reduce the incidences and mortality rates of breast cancer. Our vision is to save lives, embrace and achieve a world community free of breast

When donating by mail, please make check or money order payable to the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund and mail to:

Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund



400 "I" Street, SW Washington, DC 20024 thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org www.tdibreastcancerfund.org (202) 251-1639

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Breast Cancer Support Group Kicks Off New Year with Packed Meeting

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he Thelma D. Jones **Breast Cancer Fund** (TDJBCF) New Year's breast cancer support group celebration held on January 18 was emceed by Dr. Alejandra Hurtado de Mendoza, Assistant Professor of Oncology at Georgetown University and a researcher at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center (GLCCC). Dr. Hurtado de Mendoza reminded the audience that the January meeting sets the tone for the year's meetings. Back by popular demand, the meeting featured guest speaker Kristen Berset-Harris, host of WUSA9's

Great Day Washington and two-time breast cancer survivor. Berset-Harris courageously shared her breast cancer story and left an indelible impression on the audience about the importance of early detection to save lives and being an advocate for your health. Her inspiring talk was followed by a robust question and answer session. True to form, the bar was high, and the audience felt the vibes in anticipation of similar meetings to follow along with the thought of knowing that Berset-Harris had agreed to return.

Another special feature of the meeting included the long-standing partnership between TDJBCF and the GLCCC which Dr. Hurtado de Mendoza summarized. TDJBCF has served as an essential partner to researchers and clinicians at GLCCC since 2015. One recent study, The Achieving Cancer Equity through Identification, Testing and Screening (ACE-ITS), focused on expanding rates of mammography maintenance and expanding access to cancer genetic services. This study, co-led by Drs. Chiranjeev Dash and Suzanne O'Neill, resulted in a paper recently published in Cancer, the journal of the American Cancer Society, as well as a presentation at the annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health, which was held in December 2022 in Washington, DC.

The TDJBCF has partnered with Dr. Hurtado de Mendoza on several projects. One included the impact of Covid-19 on Latina and African American breast cancer survivors, exemplifying how the TDJBCF and GLCCC partnered to address the pressing needs of breast cancer survivors during the Covid-19 pandemic. Co-led by Dr. Simina Boca and Dr. Hurtado de Mendoza in collaboration with the TDJBCF, this grant aimed to develop a culturally sensitive website to provide information about Covid-19 for breast



Tyra Hopper, Nathaly Gonzalez and Rhonda Hamilton (left to right) serve as Patient Navigators and community outreach coordinators with the Georgetown University/Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

> cancer survivors. The contributions of Ms. Jones and Ms. Jacqueline Beale, a breast cancer advocate and survivor and former TDJBCF board member, were key in all the phases of the project from the conceptualization of the grant to the development and dissemination of the website. Findings were presented at the Advancing the Science of Cancer in Latinos in February 2022 in San Antonio, the International Cancer Education Conference in 2022 in Maryland, and the TDJBCF support group.

> Additional recent partnerships of the TDJBCF and GLCCC investigators includes the Acupressure Pilot Study and Sisters Informing Sisters (SIS). The Acupressure Pilot Study, led by Drs. Judy Wang and Kristi Graves, is testing an approach to improve quality of life for breast cancer survivors, building on prior work by Dr. Wang. Ms. Jones provided feedback on the overall concept prior to the submission of the funding proposal and connected the study team with Ms. Beale. Ms. Beale has practiced and benefitted from self-acupressure and provided a testimonial in the study video.

> The Sisters Informing Sisters (SIS) study is led by Dr. Vanessa Sheppard of Virginia Commonwealth University. GLCCC investigators serve as partners for this work and as a recruitment site. This study is testing a peer-led survivor coach intervention to improve care and to empower newly diagnosed Black/ African American women with breast cancer to make informed decisions about their treatment options. Ms. Jones and Ms. Beale have participated as peer survivor coaches in the study, bringing their lifelong experience supporting breast cancer survivors to this

> All of these studies reflect TDJB-CF and GLCCC working together to achieve a common goal of reducing the incidence and mortality rates of breast

cancer-locally, nationally and globally-and the work that can result from combining efforts and expertise of cancer researchers with an ambitious and respected grassroots organization.

The meeting was chock full of more speakers, information and celebratory messages, including community updates, the impact of chemical exposure on breast health, and the announcement about Team Undaunted Determination reaching the \$100,000 mark for fundraising for the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer which can be seen in its entirety by visiting

https://www.facebook.com/TDJ-BreastCancerFund/. The celebration wrapped up with emcee Dr. Hurtado de Mendoza providing a PSA on Covid 19 and well wishes for 2023. However, the surprising finale came when Berset-Harris shared a recent interview and performance with vocalist and songwriter Cecily Bumbray, a former Southwest resident who has performed numerous times at the TDJBCF support group meetings. Cecily performed the following night to a packed audience at Blues Alley and the TDJBCF was there to support her.

Living up to its reputation of great meetings, the TDJBCF's February support group meeting is slated to be a chart topper. Each year in honor of Black History Month the TDJBCF features breast cancer in men and men's health, including behavioral health.

Emceed by Austin L. Hollimon, Managing Editor, Howard Law Journal, Vol. 66, J.D. Candidate, Class of 2023, Howard University School of Law, the bar is set high for the meeting. TDJBCF Founder Jones and Hollimon met at Blues Alley during Cecily's recent performance. In addition, guest speakers will include Clinton D. Burnside, MPH, "Men Take Ten", Howard University Cancer Center, and Dr. Kermit A. Crawford, PhD, Emeritus Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Crawford, a high school classmate of TDIBCF Founder Jones, has spoken at the support group meetings three times previously.

For more information on the meeting, please email thelma@tdjbrestcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639.

Suzanne C. O'Neill, PhD, Professor of Oncology, Georgetown University, Co-Director, CPaS Postdoctoral Training Program, Master's in Epidemiology-Social and Behavioral Concentration Leader, contributed to this article.





D.C. United Cherry Blossom Kit Available at DCU Club Shop + MLSStore.com



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MAR. 11 - 7:30PM vs. orlando city sc



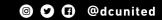
APR. 8 - 7:30PM vs. columbus crew



MAR. 25 - 7:30PM vs. new england revolution

APR. 29 - 7:30PM vs. charlotte fc

Full scheduled and tickets available at dcunited.com



WINNERS

Continued from p. 1

took their idea to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and became an official part of the organization, taking the name SWNA Scholarship Fund, and in 2014 they officially became the SWNA Education & Scholarship Task Force (ESTF).

Today, there are 261 former scholarship recipients and we are presently involved in an effort to locate as many as possible and invite them to this year's awards ceremony in August. We are planning separate events to celebrate those who will graduate from college this year, our former scholars, and those who will graduate from high school this year. Friends of Southwest, an organization which gives additional scholarship money to a number of our scholars, will also be participating. If you know any former scholars you think might be especially difficult to locate or any young people whom you think would benefit from a scholarship, please let us know. Follow us in The Southwester where we will share news about our events

This month we would like to add another former scholar to our "Where Are They Now?" series.

Shantella Y. Sherman was an ESTF Scholar while attending Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. Jackson State is one of the largest historically Black colleges and universities in the United States and was originally founded as a Baptist mission in 1877 before becoming a full state university in 1974.

Dr. Sherman was recommended to us by our friend Helen Compton-Davis, Outreach Director for Southwest's Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts.

"I wonder if she ever contemplated that her college ventures, partly supported by ESTF, would have her teaching and spreading knowledge around the world," Compton-Davis said of Sherman. "Supporting ESTF is like throwing a pebble into a lake; the expansive ripples created are significant and help change and improve world conditions."

Sherman is from a large Mississippi family. Her mother was the youngest of 13 children who was raised by her father, two older brothers and her grandmother after her own mother passed away when she was five years old. Sherman's mother left Mississippi for Memphis where she lived with one of her sisters for two years, then married, and moved to DC where she raised her family, first in LeDroit Park, then in Channel Square where she now lives and which Sherman considers her DC home.

Sherman's grandmother, who



Shantella Y. Sherman

lived to be 107 years old, was a strong influence on the lives of both mother and daughter. She helped instill values that were applied to how you treated others, how you behaved in public, sharing whatever you had, even if it was meager, having good diction and eating in "restaurants with tablecloths." In the Sherman household, you were always expected to behave like the adult you were intended to become.

Sherman started her formal education at Amidon (before it became Amidon-Bowen) Elementary School where she studied until sixth grade. She considers Amidon an amazing place, where the teachers and administrators lived in the neighborhood, knew you and your family well and reinforced what you learned at home. She is especially grateful to two women who took a special interest in her, and whom she considers mentors. One is Marilyn Moser, who was the school librarian and also responsible for events and pageants at the school; and Marjorie Sherman (no relation) who was part of the school administration, and always available when young Shantella wanted to know "why."

One of the groups Sherman participated in selected her to be the Amidon student to speak before the U.S. Senate on Children's Day. Both of her mentors encouraged her to memorize her testimony so she could speak without notes. When she did, the Senators were amazed at this small child who could articulate beautifully and speak without notes. Sherman was strongly affected by that process and practices it to this day. She uses a conversational style of speaking that comes from the ease of memorization and makes her audiences and students equally comfortable. She strongly believes what she learned at home and from being a student at Amidon gave her the courage to pursue a career in a controversial area for a Black scholar as well as thrive in new and, not always comfortable, environments.

After sixth grade, she was encouraged by her family and the Amidon staff to attend Francis Middle school. They liked the idea that the school was located only a few blocks from Embassy Row and would give Sherman an opportunity to know and interact with students and their families from other countries and cultures. (The Francis School and its counterpart, The Stevens School, served students from preschool through 9th grade.) After completing 9th grade at Francis, Sherman went on to DC's Wilson (now known as Jackson-Reed) High School where she completed grades 10-12 and graduated.

She began her higher education at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) where she completed all her

freshman and sophomore required courses, majoring in sociology and minoring in mass communications. In 1992 she relocated to her first choice of schools, Jackson State University in Mississippi, where many members of her extensive family still live. During this time, Sherman saw a notice in *The Southwester* about ESTF scholarships, applied and was awarded them in 1992, 1993 and 1994.

When her mother learned that after taking classes in psycho-sexual therapy Sherman had ideas of becoming the Black, hipper version of Dr. Ruth, she strongly suggested a switch away from sociology and making her minor in mass communications her new major (no way to explain that one to the ladies at church!).

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Sherman studied for her Ph.D. and found her life's work as an historian in the field of eugenics, working as a Black scholar in an environment that was almost exclusively White. The state of Nebraska has about 2.5% of its population that is non-white and most of the non-whites live in Omaha, while the university is located in Lincoln.

She took a summer internship at NBC and for a while considered writing for television. Living in allegedly progressive Manhattan while interning at 30 Rock, she also experienced first-hand how acceptance in both White and Black groups is often based on the intensity of your skin color as well as your size. As a large, dark-skinned Black woman, she experienced barriers to acceptance, experiences that propelled her into what has now become much of her life, an exploration of eugenics.

The literal definition of eugenics is the altering of genetic pools by excluding people and groups judged to be inferior or promoting those judged to be superior. It can be difficult to

understand why Black scholars might want to devote so much energy to the study of eugenics. In the epilogue to the book *In Search of Purity*, written by Dr. Sherman herself on the subject of eugenics, you find this explanation: "it is likely that Black reformers felt compelled to engage in the growing science of eugenics, (along with) a need to attack its theories by finding (both) its fallacies and limitations." When Sherman discusses eugenics, she does not limit her explanations to race but includes class, culture and social norms.

Other Black intellectuals and scholars who have taken positions on issues that fall within or somewhat outsidetheliteraldefinition of eugenics include Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois and Nannie Helen Burroughs. Dr. Sherman's book In Search of Purity grew out of her Ph.D. dissertation that focused on positions taken on the topic of eugenics by "Negroes" during the years 1915-1935 and examines a re-interpretation of eugenic theories by Black scholars who helped integrate the science into a movement for racial uplift. At Nebraska, she found another mentor in the professor who became her thesis adviser, Dr. Jeanette Eileen Jones, and her work pays homage to several teachers in the History Department at Nebraska, as well as the women who served as members of her dissertation committee.

Since receiving her Ph.D., Sherman has become a kind of one-woman messenger, not only on the American eugenics movement but several of her other fields of study, such as Women & Gender, Black British culture, African American history and popular culture. She has created forums on these topics, and has worked as an editor for The Washington Informer, the *Philadelphia Tribune* newspapers and RoundLake News Service. She created a journal on eugenics called "Acumen" that is published quarterly, and divides her time lecturing on topics of particular interest both in the United States and in Europe.

In October of 2022, she was named the Freedom Scholar for her eugenics research by the Association and Study of African American Life and History (ASALH.)

Information for this article was drawn from an interview with Dr. Sherman, conducted over several hours on a Saturday afternoon in Southwest, where I was joined by Vyllorya Evans, Co-Chair of SWNA's Education & Scholarship Task Force and Vania Georgieva, who chairs the ESTF Fund-Raising Committee. We came away with great admiration for Dr. Sherman's expertise, as well as the courage it takes to explore eugenics and take on the task of educating people on this complex topic. Follow her on social media and attend one of her lectures, we're sure it will be an unforgettable experience.

Theater Fellowship Program Opens to Applications

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

outhwest's Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater has opened applications for the Allen Lee Hughes BIPOC Fellowship Program for the 2023/24 Season. Founded in 1990 and named for the four-time Tony Award-nominated lighting designer, the fellowship program is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) theater professionals.

Applications will be accepted through March 17, 2023 at arenastage.org/fellowship.

The fellowship is a professional training program for individuals who are interested in contributing to a fuller representation of BIPOC individuals in the arts. The full-time program offers personalized training and in-depth, handson experience with top-tier professionals in artistic and technical production, arts administration, arts education, and community outreach.

Fellows in the program, who receive a weekly stipend, will be mentored by an Arena Stage staff member, participate in professional development workshops, and attend monthly meetings with directors, designers, and senior staff administrators who provide insight into the overall management of theater. Opportunities include:

Artistic Development: Artistic Development Fellow

Arts Administration: Development Fellow, General and Company Management Fellow, Graphic Design Fellow, Marketing and Media Fellow

Community Engagement: Community Programs Fellow, School Programs Fellow

Production: Lighting Fellow

Fellowships are full-time and require a dedication of 35-38 weeks. For the 2023/24 Season, the fellowships start on September 5, 2023, and end on May 24, 2024. Compensation includes a weekly

See "Program," page 11

Arena Stage to Host Salon Conversations with Theater Leaders

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

rena Stage is inviting the public to a series of intimate, one-night-only conversations with leaders in the world of theater. Launched as a virtual series during the pandemic, what became known as "Molly's Salon" will return live and in person for a farewell tour as Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith prepares to step down after 25 years.

The salons will take place on select Mondays from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Arena Stage's Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle. The conversations with theater's brightest thinkers, creators, and doers are free and open to the public. Tickets must be reserved in advance at tickets.arenastage.org/events.

The salon schedule is as follows. Insightful: Laura Penn, March 6.

Executive Director of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) since 2008, after a 25-year management career in the League of Resident Theatres (LORT). An Arena Stage

alıım

Dynamic: Tazewell Thompson, March 13. Internationally acclaimed director for opera and theater, awardwinning playwright, librettist, teacher, and actor. Arena Stage alum whose credits since the 1980s include A Raisin in the Sun, Jubilee, and August Wilson's Seven Guitars.

Titan: James C. (Jim) Nicola, March 20. Retired in 2022 after leading the New York Theater Workshop since 1988, premiering projects like RENT. Before joining NYTW, Jim spent seven years at Arena Stage, first as a National Endowment for the Arts Directing Fellow and later as a Producing Associate.

Thoughtful: Edgar Dobie, March 27. Executive Producer at Arena Stage since 2009. A commercial producer for a number of years, Edgar also serves on the Board of Trustees, and was honored with the inaugural Victor Shargai Leadership Award by Theatre Washington in October 2022.



Southwest Gardens Prepares to Celebrate Ten Years

BY PAMELA MCKINNEY, SOUTHWEST **GARDENS PRESIDENT**

ith spring approaching, we at Southwest Gardens are eager to open back up the communal section for the community again this year. Southwest residents founded the garden in 2013 and were intentional about maintaining part of the garden as resources for the community. We are excited to have grown the communal space from ten communal beds to now include two food fences, three herb beds, and an evergrowing orchard for the community. We can't let our upcoming ten year anniversary go by without celebrating. Stay tuned for more information and we hope that you all will join us in the celebrations this summer!

In the meantime, we will be hosting our annual spring kickoff on Saturday, April 29 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in our main garden in Lansburgh Park. All ages are welcomed to join us, no experience needed. Please email swgardensdc@gmail.com to join our newsletter and never miss an update from the Southwest Gardens!

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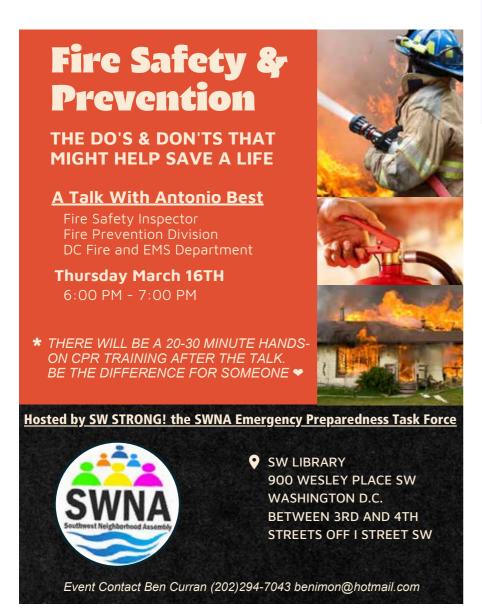
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Washington Spirit Set to Launch First Full Season at Audi Field

▼ he Washington Spirit, the 2021 National Women's Soccer League champion, announced a full-time move Southwest's Audi Field for the upcoming 2023 season. Previously, the Spirit split their home games between Audi Field and Segra Field in Leesburg. Since beginning play in Courtesy of Washington Spirit 2013, the professional

team has also shuttled to the Maryland SoccerPlex for home games.

The club reached a new multiyear agreement with D.C. United to play all home games at Audi Field, where the Spirit set club attendance records in 2019 with two matches each drawing more than 17,000 fans.

"Audi Field is our new home. and it is important for us as a club to demonstrate the strength of our relationship with the District of Columbia," said Spirit Owner Michele Kang in a press release announcing a partnership with the District's Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development promoting an online resource for starting and growing a business in the District.

"This new partnership aligns with the club's focus on serving as a proud represen-

> tative of our nation's capital and deepens its support for and involvement in the greater Washington, D.C. community," Kang

According to the club, this season's campaign under new head coach Mark Parsons, will focus on returning to champion-

ship form behind U.S. Women's National Team standouts, leagueleading talent, and exciting new draft signees.

"The opportunity to play all our home games at Audi Field shows the continued commitment Michele has made to making this club the best," said President of Soccer Operations Mark Krikorian said in a press release. "The stateof-the-art Audi Field will allow our athletes to perform at the highest level and produce the best results possible. It is one of the best professional soccer stadiums in the country and it is where our club belongs. We are looking to dominate in the District."

Tickets and information are available at washingtonspirit.com.

World of Orchids on Display at United States Botanic Garden

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

rchids, in all their vibrant colors, varied shapes, sizes and scents are the theme of the exhibit Discover the World of Orchids now through April 30, 2023 at the United States Botanic Garden.

Hundreds of orchids are displayed, some at ground level and some suspended in the air. There are two nine foot high tree sculptures covered with hundreds of epiphytic orchids. Unlike works in museum exhibits, the orchids in this exhibit are alive and changing. In March, an eight foot high curtain of orchids is expected to be in full bloom.

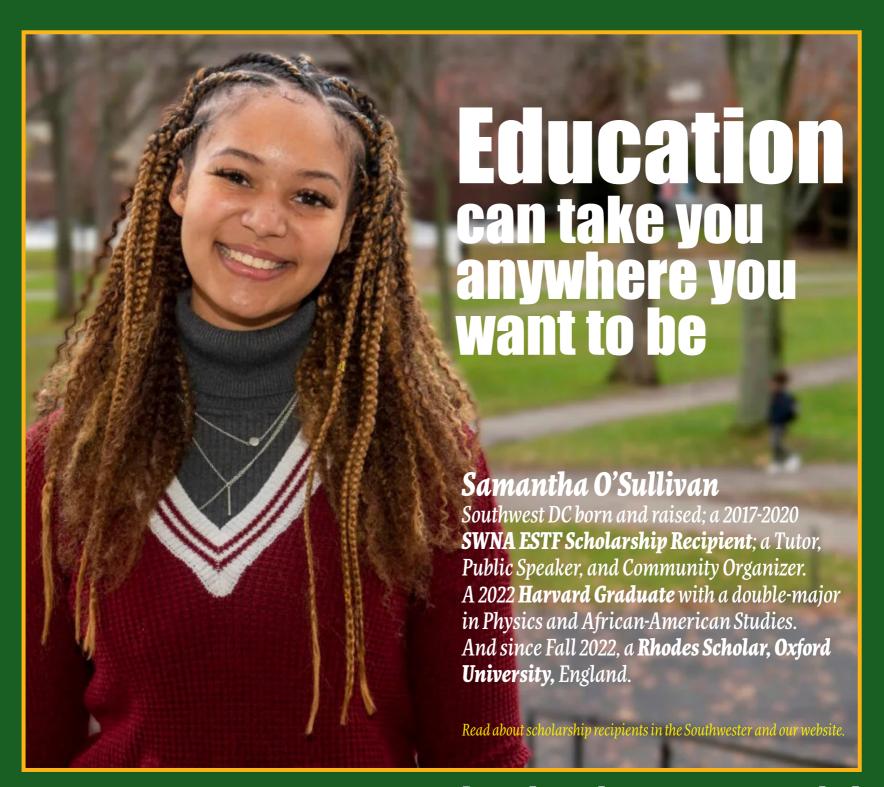
A special display will showcase pollination and pollinators. Informational signs throughout will present what we know about the technology behind the conservation and cultiva-



Orchids of all kinds are on view through April 30 at the U.S. Botanic Garden.

tion of these beautiful and complex flowering plants.

For more information on educational opportunities including online programs about orchid care and cultivation, lectures on orchid conservation, and in-person experts answering visitors' orchid questions, visit www.USBG.gov.



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APPLY ONLINE NOW Deadline Friday June 30

For more information, to apply, or to donate www.swnascholarship





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.



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Ward 6 Mutual Aid Marks Three Year Anniversary

BY REGINA MAZUR

an you believe that Ward 6 Mutual Aid has been in operation for three full years now? March 15 is our birthday! Thank

now? March 15 is our birthday! Thank you to everyone who has been supporting Serve Your City over the last decade and Ward 6 Mutual Aid for the last three years!

Since our founding, 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 Mutual Aid, the community residents can receive the assistance and resources they need.

Your #solidarityNOTcharity makes this work possible. Join us as a volunteer today by visiting bit.ly/SYC-W6MAgetinvolved to learn more.

With spring around the corner, the SYC/W6MA table will resume its operations on Saturday, April 1 at the Southwest Farmers' Market. Because of the generosity of the Farmers' Market Vendors and so many community members, over the last three years, we have been able to provide fresh produce to 25 and more households in need each week. SYC/W6MA extends a heartfelt thank you to our Southwest Farmers' Market vendors for donating to our efforts of getting fresh produce to all families in Southwest, including:

- Ochoa Produce
- Ashton Farms
- Sandy Bottom Acres
- Panorama Baking Company

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: tuna, chicken, pasta sauce, oatmeal, cold cereal, breakfast bars, vegetable oil, tea, Ensure
- Cleaning: dish soap, spray disinfectant, bleach
- Personal Hygiene: mouthwash, bar soap, tampons, feminine pads, Depends (all sizes)
- Household: microwave, toaster, clothing iron, vacuum cleaner, floor lamp

Food Distribution: This will take place at the Christ United Methodist Church's 5000 Ministry Food Pantry on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 2:30 pm. Location: 900 4th Street SW.

Pod Donation hours: Saturdays from 12:00 p.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.

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



Friends of Southwest DC Recaps Record Giving in 2022 and Announces Establishment of Coralie Farlee Endowment Fund

BY RUSSELL MCINTYRE, TREASURER, FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC

rom the World Cup to Wordle scores, from Taylor Swift tickets to Twitter takeovers, from Oscar slaps to Top Gun being back, 2022 was... a lot.

With the world continuing to get back to normal, 2022 felt like a year to go above and beyond. A year to catch up on all that time missed during the pandemic. A year to kick it into high gear and get things done.

This was certainly true of the many charities, non-profits, and other local organizations here in Southwest DC, who requested and received a record amount of funding from Friends of Southwest DC in 2022, totaling just shy of \$60,000.

Since 1998, Friends of Southwest DC has actively supported local organizations working to make DC's smallest quadrant a better home for all. Throughout the past two and a half decades, Friends of Southwest has helped to fund a wide variety of activities – from food banks and clothing drives to after-school programming and college scholarships – and 2022 saw us build upon these strong foundations enroute to a record year of giving.

Friends of Southwest DC just released our 2022 Annual Report, which provides an overview of our work and highlights the incredible community groups that we were able to support over the past twelve months.

Through our many grants, we were able to support food and clothing drives sponsored by Living Classrooms, Alpha Phi Alpha OHL Fraternity, and the SW Comm-Unity Forum. We provided funds for a weekend lunch program at Southwest's temporary housing center, the AYA, through St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, and for the establishment of a little free library by St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. We awarded grants to EmmaUS and DC STORM to take local students on educational trips to visit Harriet Tubman's house and multiple colleges in the Hampton, VA area, respectively.

Finally, we were fortunate to build upon some of our longest established relationships, including our yearly support of Arena Stage and their youth programming activities such as Voices of Now and Camp Arena Stage. We also continued our longstanding partnership with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) to provide college scholarships to Southwest students. In 2022, we were able to provide over \$13,000 in scholarship funds for local students to help pay their tuition costs. And for the very first time, Friends of Southwest DC dedicated a specific \$5,000 scholarship to be given to a student pursuing a graduate-level degree.

Which brings us to our special announcement, and the reason many of you are reading this article.

In addition to working with these amazing local organizations and many others, the Friends of Southwest DC also spent the past year remembering one of our own, founder and former board member, Coralie Farlee, who passed away in January 2020.

In her honor, Friends of Southwest DC is proud to announce the establishment of the Coralie Farlee Endowment Fund, which will provide financial assistance to students from Southwest DC who are pursuing graduate-level studies at an institute of higher learning.

Coralie Farlee founded Friends of Southwest DC in 1998 and spent the next two decades leading the organization as it provided over \$260,000 in grant funding to more than 30 Southwest DC organizations. (Farlee would often make her own matching contribution for annual fund drives.) Few individuals over the past half-century have devoted as much of their time, money, and - most notably - heart toward improving the lives of Southwest DC residents.

Farlee's passion for community activism was matched only by her deep belief in the value of a higher education. She received a bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctorate in sociology from Rutgers University, where her studies focused on education, organizational change, and medical information systems in the health profession. Her passion for higher education, along with a generous bequest from her estate, is the impetus behind this endowment.

Moving forward, Friends of Southwest DC will use this fund to award a yearly \$5,000 scholarship to a local student from the Southwest community who is pursuing a graduate-level degree.

Through this endowment fund, we will honor the life and legacy of Coralie Farlee by investing directly in the hopes, education, and future of our children in the Southwest community.





SWNA Community Meeting - Housing in Southwest DC

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
Coy McKinney
Monday March 6th @7pm
Arena Stage 1101 6th St, SW



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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 February 2023 issue

Differences: The chocolate is different in each picture; the right picture has a red heart; the left picture says "Happy Valentine's Day" where the right picture has a heart; the left picture has a red rose where the left picture has a pink rose; the flowers are different that the person in the blue shirt is holding; the people on the right side of each picture have different faces.

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WORD SEARCH: MARCH FUN!

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RAINBOW TREES
CHERRY BLOSSOMS SHAMROCK
GARDEN FESTIVAL
LEPRECHAUN SPRINGTIME

Math Moment!

Can you complete these equations?

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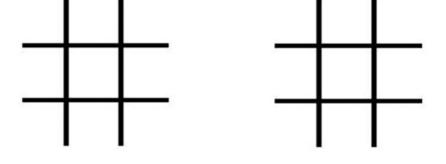
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100 + 50 = 23 x 2 =

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The Southwester March 2023 Page 11



Young Readers

How to Grow a Reader

BY KITTY FELDE

t's that time of year when we can almost feel spring in the air. Almost. It's the time of year when many of us plan our gardens.

One of the neighborhood kids is crazy about plants. Nothing gets him more excited than a packet of green bean seeds or a cutting from the coleus plant or the last tomatoes from my garden. But the thing he loves most: seed catalogs.

Which brings me to reading.

Reading is reading. Whether it's the entire Harry Potter series or graphic novels or even the instruction manual

that came with the new vacuum.

Or seed catalogs.

In addition to the gorgeous pictures, there's a lot to read in a seed catalog: information about where to plant, when to plant, which variety attracts butterflies, which will grow taller than you.

The best part: most of them are

There are dozens of free seed and plant catalogs available. Some catalogs are only available digitally. But most companies are happy to mail an old fashioned paper catalog directly to

Some of the vocabulary is challeng-

ing (propagation, perennial, phlox...) But look at it as an opportunity to read together and practice using a dictionary.

Other ways to bring literacy into the garden:

- · Create an alphabet garden, choosing plants from A-Z. Or just spell out the first name of your child in plants. Or if you're a much better gardener than me, shape the garden beds in letters.
- Invite your kids to label all the plants in your garden. Look up the names, get a stack of tongue depressors or popsicle sticks, and write the names with a Sharpie.

- Visit a used book sale or your local indie bookstore and park yourself in the gardening section.
- D.C., Virginia, and Maryland all have a native plant society. Sign up for their newsletter.

Look at it this way: a garden is an opportunity not only to grow a salad; it's also a way to grow a reader.

Kitty Felde hosts the free Book Club for Kids podcast where a trio of readers discuss a novel, interview the author, and hear a reading by a celebrity. She's booking episode tapings for 2023 now. www.bookclubforkids.org

Poetry Corner

LAVED IN LIGHT

BY DINA TAMBURRINO

On a disk I'll hold water Iron and steel With Nature's glory at my heel For those in woe and weal.

Light will pour From my extended hands To lave the Darkness. Ever in me is respite From Misery's starkness.

To me birds fly And children flock. Their innocent cares Misery mock. My presence can be seen in the starlit sky, A monument of strength for the weary eye.

I am One with Three; Clouds and mist adorn me. When Life for you is a crushing boulder and mountain, Come to me and rest at my fountain.

Southwest resident Dina Tamburrino's poem was inspired by the Bartholdi Fountain (Fountain of Light and Water) across from the U.S. Botanic Garden at 100 Maryland Avenue SW. The fountain's creator, Frédéric Auguste *Bartholdi* (1834-1904) is best known for creating the Statue of Liberty.



Courtesy of the U.S. Botanic Garden

The Fountain of Light and Water, also known as the Bartholdi Fountain.

Photo of the Month



Courtesy of Irene Allen

Late February clouds over Southwest.

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

PROGRAM

Continued from p. 5

stipend of \$600. Housing is not provided.

Arena Stage has supported young artists though the Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship Program for over 30 years. More than 700 young artists and administrators have gone through the program and over 85% are still working in theater. Graduates include Tony-nominated director Lileana Blain-Cruz, Washingtonian "40 Under 40" multidisciplinary artist Paige Her-

nandez, True Colors Theatre Company Artistic Director Jamil Jude, Barrymore Award-winning costume designer LeVonne Lindsay, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company Associate General Manager J.P. McLaurin, Theater J Managing Director David Lloyd Olson, lighting designer Xavier Pierce, Arena Stage Literary Manager Otis Ramsey-Zöe, NextStop Theater Company Associate Artistic Director Aria Velz, Helen Hayes Awardwinning playwright Cheryl West, and

FESTIVAL

Continued from p. 1

or form [of] existence since 1927," Diana Meyhew, president and CEO of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, told me recently.

"We're in our 96th year of the fes-

Since 1985, it's been the National Cherry Blossom Festival. "It was an all volunteer org in 2000. "From there, it's evolved to a fully staffed, year round operation that brings four weeks of amazing art, culture, entertainment uniting the city in pink and blossoms - and taking the celebration beyond the Tidal Basin to all throughout the city, as well as region."

Ahead of the Festival, The Southwester sat down with Mayhew, to discuss blossoms, culture, and history.

It's been a while since I've been to the kite festival – since our kid was two or three. When is the main event?

Well, there's lots of main events. The festival starts the first day of spring, and then goes all the way through April 16. So we have four weekends of key signature events. Opening Ceremony to the Kite festival to Petalpalooza to the finale weekend and the parade.

And then there's another 40 participating organizations that bring "amazing" entertainment. From the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress to the Smithsonian. Lots and lots of organization.

This year is actually celebrating 50 years of the 10 mile run. [And] Our goal is to keep it fresh and new. So people are looking forward to some-

Talking about what's fresh and new, what sort of activities do you have for attendees? And specifically, is there something different this year that you're doing as opposed to previous years?

Most of our events...[e]ven the traditional events, there's something that's always new. There's new entertainment. There is new art. There's new activities. And participating activities. There's a lot of newness.

And even the traditional events that we do. Art is a big piece of this festival. We carry on the program that we started with Art in Bloom with sculptures in all eight wards of the city. We continue that program.

We have a student art showcase this year that's going to display at Petalpalooza. It will highlight pieces of work that local school children have created as posters for the festival.

What we're doing this year is really inviting people to spring it on. Not just come back and visit but get involved and get involved big. Really enjoy everything the festival has to offer.

[Another program] we started a few years ago, Petal Porches - people decorating their front porches - [i]t's really starting in people's own front yards, front porches. And throughout the city with the blossoms and pink lighting.

It's just a massive, amazing springtime destination.

Mayhew tells me that this is their third year doing Petal Porches, and the program started during Covid. Because of the overwhelming positive reception, they're continuing the program. So keep an eye out for those beblossomed porches!

I lived in Japan for six years and one of my favorite parts of the seasonal festivals was taiko drumming. I'm assuming you're going to have taiko drumming this year?

Oh, absolutely. And what we have featuring is a whole day of taiko drumming at the Blossom Kite Festival, at the Sylvan Stage, on March 25. There's taiko from...local taiko drummers, and all over the East Coast.

And if you love Japanese culture, we actually celebrate the anniversary of the Gift of Trees at an opening ceremony at Warner Theater on Saturday, the evening of the 25th.

As a matter of fact, a lot of the Village of Southwest - the senior village - members will attend the opening ceremony. It's free, but you do have to reserve.

We also have world class entertainment from Japan that evening. All free! The key thing is we try to do most of our events free and open to the public."

Mayhew says that there's also going to be a pink tie event on March 16, at the Ronald Reagan Building. It's an annual fundraiser that promotes food and fashion, and over 25 sponsoring restaurants. The proceeds go towards continuing the effort to provide free programming.

If people don't have kites, can they buy kites?

Yes, right on site. The official kite each year that we have of our official artwork...[is] right at the Washington Monument.

You said you have Mr. Mikio Toki coming – the master of traditional Edo-style kites. Can you tell me a little bit more about him and what he's going to do?

Yes, he's actually coming in to do...a kite workshop with Kipp Schools. He's doing that the Friday before. Then he'll be on site at the festival to do some demonstrations of some traditional Japanese kite making.

Is there anything in particular that you're looking forward to in terms of this year's festival?

Just, you know, my favorite thing is to have people come and participate. It's just amazing.

Whether they're performing in a band. Whether they're sitting on the bleachers watching the parade. Whether they're doing a hands-on activity - being involved in art projects. It's... My favorite thing is having people come and enjoy. It's such a joyful time of year. And springtime, celebrating new beginnings and renewal - just like the blossoms themselves.

See "Festival" page 13



Waterfront Village Community Town Hall Meeting

Safety in Southwest

An older adult's guide to reducing risk and living the life in DC

March 6, 2023 · 3:00 p.m. Saint Matthew Lutheran Church (222 M Street SW)

Be aware of criminal situations; avoid falls and





Special guest speakers include:

- Kevin Harding, Captain, Metropolitan Police Department;
- Tori Goldhammer, Clinical Manager, Safe at Home; and
- Idriys J. Abdullah Consumer Protection Advocate, District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking

All residents aged 60 and better encouraged to register and attend

Register at www.dcwaterfrontvillage.org under Events or by calling 202-656-1834

Waterfront Village is a registered 501(c)(3) charity registered under the District of Columbia serving older adults in Southwest DC and the Navy Yard.

Spy Museum Reveals Hidden Secrets in New Exhibit

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he International Spy Museum, located in L'Enfant Plaza, has launched a new pop-up exhibit featuring the private collection of entrepreneur, investor and technology advisor Grant Verstandig, who also serves on the museum's board.

On public display together for the first time, the items from the collection run the gamut of tools and tricks of intelligence tradecraft. They include items used by spies in the World War II era for defense and navigation, such as a set of domi-

nos used by Britain's MI9 to conceal secret maps of Burma (Myanmar) for downed airmen and prisoners of war.

Psychological operations to disrupt the German government's food rationing system during World War II included counterfeit ration coupons distributed to unsuspecting private citizens, which are now on display alongside a



Courtesy of Pierre Funes Photography for the International Spy Museum

A new pop-up exhibit at the International Spy Museum features a set of dominos used by Britain's MI9 to conceal secret maps and a prop passport used in the film Casablanca.

camera hidden inside a pocket watch and a pistol disguised as a tube of lipstick.

Shoes fitted with pivoting blades and a serrated stomping plate are on view alongside the prop passport used in the 1942 film *Casablanca*, with visible passport stamps for Lisbon and New York, under the name of the film's famous fictional resistance leader Victor Laszlo.

FESTIVAL

Continued from p. 12

It's just a fantastic time of year that puts a beautiful focus on Washington, DC.

Do you have any message for District residents about this year's festival?

For the residents, just to remind everyone this National Cherry Blossom Festival is a treasure in our own backyard. It belongs to the residents of Washington DC. So we look forward to their participation and being a part of it as much as possible

Is there anything I missed that you would like to tell our readers and people in DC?

Definitely check the website, nationalcherry blossomfestival.org. And go back often because things change. Things update. And we have new wonderful things happening all the time!

Alright Diana, those are all the questions I have. Thanks for your time!

Thank you so much. Take care!



Ginkgo Garden Center.

Garden goodies, gorgeous plants, garden accessories, seeds, soils, mulches and so much more!

Ginkgo Gardens

911 11th St., SE Wash., DC 20003 202.543.5172

M-F 8 - 6:30 SAT 9 - 6 SUN 11 - 5

ginkgo Gardens.com

Ginkgo Gardens

Southwester Community Calendar | March 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.

SAT 4, 1-5 P.M. Celebrate to Educate: WPFW and Harriet Tubman Museum & Education Center Fundraiser. featuring: "Twenty Dollars and Change" by Clarence Lusane (book talk and sale); musical performance by Deanna Mitchell (songs of freedom); and Conversation with Frank Smith, African American Civil War Museum. Tickets- \$20. Refreshments provided. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

SUN 5, 1 P.M. SW Action Meeting. For people interested in advocating for affordable housing in Southwest, we meet every 1st Sunday of the month at the Southwest Library in Meeting Room 1.

MON 6, 3 P.M. Waterfront Village Community Town Hall Meeting: Safety in Southwest. Join us on March 6th for a seminar on personal safety. By gathering information and planning ahead, you can remain safe at home and as you go out and about in the community. This event will feature local experts on various safety issues. The meeting's theme is "Safety in Southwest: An older adult's guide to reducing risk and living the life in DC". We plan to feature presentations on reducing risk on our streets, in our homes and when online. Register at www.dcwaterfrontvillage.org under Events or by calling 202-656-1834.

TUES 7, 4 P.M. Teen Bingo. Teens are invited to play as many rounds of BINGO we can fit into the hour! Prizes available for winning players. Ages 13-19. Join us in Meeting Room 1 (downstairs) anytime between 4:00pm and 5:00pm. Southwest Library.

WED 8, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: Air Bud. Kick back and enjoy a throwback film in Meeting Room 1 (first level) at the Southwest Neighborhood Library. Screening begins at 6 p.m. This week, celebrate March Madness with an all-ages screening of the fun and heartwarming Air Bud (1997, rated PG) starring Michael Jeter, Kevin Zegers, and Wendy Makkena, directed by Charles Martin Smith. All ages welcome.

THURS 9, 6 P.M. YA Book Club for Adults. If Young Adult Literature is your preferred genre, drop in for an energetic conversation on award-winning titles written for teens. Meet other adults who enjoy the genre too. Southwest Library. On March 9th, we'll be discussing Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds. Southwest Library.

SAT 11, 7 P.M. Faith & Film Zoom Presentation of "Emancipation". R-2022-Drama/Action-2h 12m Peter, a slave, flees a plantation in Louisiana after he was whipped within an inch of his life. He has to outwit cold-blooded hunters and the unforgiving swamps of Louisiana on a torturous journey north. Rev. Brian Hamilton will lead after-film discussion. All Invited! Contact the Westminster church office for Zoom link 202-484-7700/ wpcdcoffice@gmail. com.

MON 13, 4 P.M. Teen Space: Teen Crafternoon. Teens, stretch your creative muscles with a surprise craft activity from 4-5pm in the Teen Space at Southwest Neighborhood Library. Materials provided while supplies last. All skill levels welcome. Free! Ages 13-19.

MON 13, 7 P.M. ANC6D Business Meeting. Held virtually on Zoom. Agenda and link to meeting are at www.anc6d.org/virtualmeeting.

WED 15, 12 P.M. AARP SW Waterfront Chapter luncheon meeting. A Community Conversation with Council Member Anita Bonds. Everyone is welcome to join us and learn about legislation,

programs and initiatives in support of and benefitting adults age 50 and over and all of the residents of Washington, D.C. Masks required during the meeting, except when eating lunch. All meeting attendees must show either paper or electronic proof of COVID-19 vaccination and a photo ID. For further information contact Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. Lunch cost: \$5. River Park South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. Street parking on Delaware Ave. and #74 bus stops outside the building.

WED 15, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: The Luck of the Irish. Kick back and enjoy a throwback film in Meeting Room 1 (first level) at the Southwest Neighborhood Library. Screening begins at 6 p.m. This week, celebrate St. Patrick;Day with an all-ages screening of the funny and spirited The Luck of the Irish (2001, rated G) starring Ryan Merriman, Henry Gibson, and Alexis Lopez, directed by Paul Hoen. All ages welcome.

THURS 16, 2 P.M. Book Club: A Life on Our Planet. Join us for the monthly book club discussion group. We are always happy to welcome new members to the group. Southwest Library.

THURS 16, 6 P.M. Fire Safety & Prevention: A Talk with Antonio Best. The Do's and Don't that make help save a life. There will be a 20-30 min hands-on CPR training after the talk. Hosted by SW Strong! The Emergency Preparedness Task Force. Southwest Library.

THURS 16, 6:30 P.M. Conversation with Brian Schwalb, DC Attorney General. Questions and answers, open to the public. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

SAT 18, 12-6 P.M. Ireland on the Wharf. We're bringing the luck of the Irish to the waterfront with our Ireland at The Wharf festival! Enjoy all the fun of a true Irish festival with Guinness beer, whiskey, bands, and bagpipers. District Pier. www.wharfdc.com/upcoming-events/2023-03-18-ireland-at-the-wharf/

TUES 21, 4 P.M. Teen True Crime Book Club. Did Lizzie Borden do it? Teens, read The Borden Murders by Sarah Miller and join us to discuss this historical and still mysterious crime. Copies available at Southwest Library in the Teen Space. Need help placing a hold on a digital copy? Email abigail.hargreaves@dc.gov. Ages 13-19. Southwest Library.

TUES 21, 5:30-7 P.M. Hybrid Parents' Tax and Family Law Clinic. Workshop & 1-on-1 advice on child tax credit, earned income tax credit, recovery rebate tax credit, keep child care affordable tax credit. Free of charge, appointments available after the workshop, language and other accommodation services provided upon request. On Zoom or Southwest Library. Register at bit.ly/MONTaxLaw-Clinic

TUES 21, 7 P.M. Toni Morrison Fiction Book Club. We will read and discuss one of Nobel Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Toni Morrison's 11 fiction novels on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. So whether you are a well-read fan of Morrison or have never read her work, all are welcome! The March book is Song of Solomon. Southwest Library.

WED 22, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: Rush Hour. Kick back and enjoy a throwback film in Meeting Room 1 (first level) at the Southwest Neighborhood Library. Screening begins at 6 p.m.

This week, laugh yourself silly with Rush Hour (1998, rated PG-13) starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, and Ken Leung, directed by Brett Ratner. All ages welcome.

SAT 25, 11 A.M. - 4 P.M. / SUN 26 1-3 P.M. Friends of the SW Library Book Sale. A \$5 bag book sale will be held from 2-3 pm on Sunday. Most books are under \$1. Sales will be stationed on both floors of the Southwest Library, located at 900 Wesley Place SW. We accept cash, checks, and Venmo. Email friendsofswlibrary@gmail.com if you have questions. All proceeds go to supplies and programs at the Southwest Library.

WED 29, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: Rear Window. Kick back and enjoy a throwback film in Meeting Room 1 (first level) at the Southwest Neighborhood Library. Screening begins at 6 p.m. This week, laugh yourself silly with Rear Window (1954, rated PG) James Stewart, Grace Kelly, and Wendell Corey, directed by Alfred Hitchcock. All ages welcome.

FRI 31, 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 Library.

FRI 31, 7 P.M. C E L L O---C E N T R I C. Southwest Chamber Players announce 192nd concert program "C E L L O---C E N T R I C" featuring music of Gluck, Chopin, Popper, and Schubert, and bringing together a group of sterling players: Luke Wedge and Michelle Kim, violin; Becca Barnett, viola; Julia Goudimova, Hrant Parsamian, and Danielle Cho, cello; Marje Palmieri, soprano, and David Ehrlich, piano.

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 20051018@aarpfoundation.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.

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.

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,

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

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. If you enjoy a good conversation and meeting new people, join this weekly film discussion club. View an independent, thought-provoking, short-film and engage in an informal discussion with others. Southwest Neighborhood Library - Large Meeting Room.

FREE PARENTS' TAX CLINIC WITH MOTHER'S OUTREACH NETWORKS, Wednesdays, 11 A.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

am 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.

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.

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.

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://mothersout-reachnetwork.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

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/.

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 MEDITATION, 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.dcstampclub.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/ynytdqk-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@thesouth-wester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

SOUTHWEST BID

At our BIG IDEAS TOUR in January, we asked for input on what community members would love to see in the neighborhood. We're on a mission to engage our community in the best way possible. What are some ideas you think could make a positive impact?



THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD LOVE TO SEE IN YOUR COMMUNITY



SCAN THE QR CODE & SHARE YOUR IDEAS OR VISIT BIT.LY/SWBIGIDEAS





US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO SEE IDEAS THRIVE





