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Bowser Promises More Engagement on Neighborhood Issues in Southwest

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

icking off April (though not on the most foolish day of the month) DC Mayor Muriel Bowser sat down for a conversation with Southwesters as the featured guest of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Community Meeting.

Over the course of an hour at Arena Stage, she discussed important community concerns and what her office is doing, or will do, to address those concerns. The last time Bowser came to the neighborhood to discuss neighborhood issues was back in 2021. (Honorable mention goes to Ward 6 Councilmem-

ber Charles Allen, who provided a warm up introduction, explainer on his budget plan, and some comic relief ahead of the Mayor's arrival.)



DC Mayor Muriel Bowser addresses Southwest residents at Arena Stage before sitting down with Southwester editor Mike Goodman, right.

Community members submitted questions online, which were read aloud by moderator Mike Goodman, Editor-in-Chief of The Southwester. Topics ranged from the biggest concern of affordable housing and equitable development - especially family-sized housing, community land trust (CLTs) models of ownership and development, to transit - bike lanes being a big concern in DC, to crime, houseboat tenant rights, and even the tree canopy.

Throughout the evening, Goodman issued several reminders that the questions and topics were sourced from the community - there was no prompting by the newspaper or organizer of the event, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). These were direct community con-

cerns, or at least a cross section of people who responded to the call for questions.

Ahead of the Q&A section of the eve-

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW? SWNA SCHOLAR BAKES **UP SWEET SUCCESS**

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KIDS CORNER

Page 10

After 24 Years of Service, Former ANC Commissioner Andy Litsky Leaves Legacy of Transformative Change in Southwest

BY WILMA GOLDSTEIN

or the past 24 years, Andy Litsky served as a member of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) representing the Southwest Waterfront. Since Home Rule provided for local elected representation in DC, fewer than 40 intensely dedicated citizens have served on the ANC representing Southwest. In January 2023, Litsky joined the ranks of the former commissioners, stepping down from his position after nearly a quarter of a century of service.

The change in the Southwest quadrant of the city since Litsky first took office has been transformative. Twen-



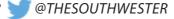
Andy Litsky

ty-five years ago, the old waterfront was home to a few restaurants, and visitors to Buzzard Point or Capitol Riverfront who didn't have business with the Navy would have come upon little but a series of clubs, light industry and hard

Today, visitors on both sides of South Capitol Street - represented for the past twenty years by ANC-6D - encounter a dramatically different experience. There are fifty new apartment buildings, thousands of new residents, Nats Park, Audi Field, nearly twenty hotels, three new major museums, acres of new park space, and more. All of that

See "Litsky," page 4

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The Southwester Page 2 May 2023





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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Past SWNA Scholarship Winner Grace Mitchell-Jenkins Earns Sweet Success with Baking Business

BY DAVID ALDE & DONNA PURCHASE

n the summer of 2020, Southwest DC resident Grace Mitchell-Jenkins saw an ad in The Southwester highlighting the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship program and applied immediately. Today, Mitchell-Jenkins is featured in this month's ad as a former winner, having used her scholarship to support her attendance at Lackawanna College in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

A native Washingtonian, Mitchell-Jenkins grew up in Southeast DC and graduated from Friendship Collegiate Academy in 2017. In 2018, she moved to the Southwest DC community where she still lives today.

"From Fall 2020 to Spring 2022 SWNA has helped me to obtain my culinary goals," Mitchell-Jenkins said. "I graduated with my associate degree in baking and pastry. Not only has SWNA supported me through school, but they also support me in my busi-

putting

Amidst the global coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Mitchell-Jenkins took

the leap to launch her own small business, AmazingGraceCupcakery. She makes cakes, cakesicles, cupcakes, pies, and cookies, all available at her website, www.amazinggracecupcak-

ery.org. "I am tremendously grateful for

some help and he gave me SWNA. Out of this experience I've met some wonderful people who believe in me. I can't wait to see what God has in store for me next."



Garden Fest Celebrates Community Gardens Against Gun Violence

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

his Earth Day, GOODProjects, the Southwest Resident Council Presidents, Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID), the DC Housing Authority and the DC Department of Parks and Recreation hosted Southwest Garden Fest, a community event celebrating the reopening of the Southwest Peace Gardens for the season.

The festival included food, live music, an all-levels yoga class led by instructor Caren Plummer, accompanied by a relaxing sound bath from health and wellness coach Soul Cole, painting of the garden beds, and the installation of little free libraries, as well as an opportunity for community input on additional public art installations.

The Southwest Peace Gardens were created with the intention of preventing gun violence in the community, thanks to the Building Blocks DC (BBDC) grant program. These gardens transform centrally located community spaces into flower and herb gardens with art and enhanced public amenities. Locations include the Southwest Family Enhancement Center at Greenleaf Gardens, the James Creek Resident Council building, and the Syphax Gardens housing community on 2nd Street SW.

of the Month



Courtesy of Eric Chang

Lights under the oculus of The Wharf Phase Two buildings.

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



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youth in the Southwest Washington DC, Ward 6,
Zip code 20024 neighborhood to pursue a
post-secondary education.



LITSKY

Continued from p. 1

is bookended by The Yards and The Wharf – two spectacular developments that have physically and culturally reconnected Washington to its waterfront heritage.

"Andy Litsky is too modest to fully acknowledge the outsized role he has played in shaping our neighborhood and our ANC over the past decades," said Marjorie Lightman, a two-term member of ANC-6D.

Although the most visible aspects of the neighborhood's renaissance have taken place over the past two decades, a confluence of factors over many years led to such change. A court-supported urban renewal project begun in the late 1950's leveled nearly every building in Southwest to create 'a new community,' but failed to recognize that there was already an established community and, shamefully, displaced thousands of mostly Black residents, many of whom never returned.

Community residents gained new rights to govern their own affairs in the decades after urban renewal, when the 1973 DC Home Rule Act returned local control to DC voters and provided a new opportunity to establish real neighborhood change. In addition to an elected Mayor and City Council, the act also created Advisory Neighborhood Commissions representing every District neighborhood, each with a Commissioner serving as a local ombudsman for approximately 2,000 constituents. ANC Commissioners are unpaid, but they perform a vital responsibility to provide all manner of guidance, based upon neighborhood input, to District agencies on economic development, housing, recreation, and transportation among a host of other issues. Most importantly, the advice and counsel provided by each ANC Commission is by law given "great weight" in District decision making.

In 1977, Andy Litsky moved to Southwest after teaching abroad and in New York City public schools, completing graduate school in Boston and spending the previous year "on the road" determined to help put a Democrat back in the White House. When Jimmy Carter won, rather than opting to join the Administration, Litsky chose to work for the National Cable Television Association, who had recruited him to develop the grassroots political operation for the industry, eventually becoming Director of Public Affairs during its most explosive period of growth. He later worked as a communications consultant and did probono work for a variety of candidates for federal office.

Initially, Litsky was attracted to Southwest for its proximity to the water, the elegant tree



Courtesy of Perry Klein

DC Leaders break ground at The Wharf.

canopy and the feeling of light and air. But he soon discovered, in this most northern of southern cities, that Southwest Washington was one of the few places at the time that openly sought to market apartment complexes where the races lived together, as less than a decade after the passage of the Fair Housing Act, there were still areas of Washington that were tacitly restricted.

Litsky's involvement in Southwest politics began in the early 1980s. He was a founding member of Tiber Island Cooperative Homes, where he has lived since 1977. He served on the boards of the Arena Stage Angels, their original volunteer organization, and Southwest House, then the largest social service organization serving the African American community in the District. He volunteered at Food & Friends which began operating out of the basement at Westminster Presbyterian Church, delivering food to homebound people with AIDS. While he was lobbying the late John Wilson, then Southwest's Councilmember and later Council Chair, to support a bill that mandated insurance companies provide services to people with HIV/AIDS, Wilson convinced Litsky to devote more energy to District affairs. Wilson became a mentor and Litsky has since followed his counsel to "serve where you live."



Courtesy of Andy Litsky

Longtime ANC 6-D Commissioner Andy Litsky meets with constituents.

Litsky was born in the Bronx, New York and is a product of the New York City Public schools and a graduate of the New York University System. He attributes his training as a teacher for his successful advocacy in many fields of endeavor, saying "when it comes right down to it, all advocacy is education." Allies and those he was 'educating' alike learned that with Litsky, not every message is sugar coated and he doesn't suffer fools gladly, but they would always know where he stood and who he served.

Litsky actively campaigned against congressional interference in local elections that would have reimposed the death penalty in the District. He fought against a plan supported by then-Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly for a DC Grand Prix that would have sealed off much of Southwest for two weeks every year for an auto race. He successfully fought to repeal the ill-conceived internet gambling law that had earlier passed the Council. And he also led the fight to protect city control over Randall Field on South Capitol Street, which has now become DC's premier Little League baseball field.

It was in the mid 1990s, with too many friends impacted by HIV/AIDS, that Andy decided to devote his professional skills to something more meaningful than consulting. He convinced Jim Graham, then the

Executive Director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, to hire him. For the next several years, he handled the clinic's communications, advertising and social marketing. After twice chairing the Ward Two Democrats, serving as a convention delegate for Bill Clinton and as treasurer of the DC Combined Democratic Campaign, Litsky decided to establish a hyper local focus.

In 1998, the citizen activist filed papers to run for a seat on the ANC, where he went on to represent the Southwest Waterfront for 24 years, 16 of which he served as either Chair or Vice-Chair of the commission.

Litsky's election to the ANC paralleled development activity that was just beginning to percolate on both sides of South Capitol Street. During that time, the small and oft-forgotten neighborhood of Southwest was about to undergo a period of dramatic development rivaling that of many American cities. Litsky counseled constitutions and leaders alike to "recognize that we are building a new city here between the National Mall/Expressway and our two rivers. We have to prepare for that challenge."

In 2003, then-Mayor Anthony Williams' ambitious Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan set forth a visionary agenda for the revitalization of the waterfront as a world-class destination and set in motion the implementation of a comprehensive blueprint creating new mixed-income neighborhoods, environmental restoration, connected parks and cultural destinations.

As the elements of gentrification took root in Southwest, Litsky remained aware that ANC-6D had more public housing than any other ANC in the District. Many of those residents were rightly concerned that development was about to close in on them. The lessons of urban renewal were hard learned, and there was a commitment not to repeat its failures. ANC6D advocated to ensure existing Southwest residents could benefit from the changes to come - with training programs, construction jobs and increasing the percentage of new construction as affordable housing. Most importantly, any development would require no displacement or dispersal of existing residents -- the genesis of the Build First movement in Southwest.

Litsky is quick to remind that it is the ANC Commission that has the great weight - not individual commissioners. Over the course of his tenure, ANC6D very effectively measured each development beyond technical matters, weighing each project against its larger benefit to the community. Lasting community benefits negotiated by ANC-6D during his tenure touch on housing and public space, (the completion of thousands of units of affordable housing, the refurbishment of local park and landscaped street space, Eleanor Holmes Norton Waterfront Park) access to the arts, (specially priced Southwest Nights at

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LITSKY

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Arena Stage and free admission to the Rubell Museum for all DC residents) education and learning, (contributions of thousands of dollars to Parent-Teacher Organizations at local schools and to Friends of the Southwest Library for special projects) and opportunities for the community to come together (requiring that the open space at Fourth and M be activated for community use until such time as the land is built upon and \$250,000 seed money to develop the planning and construction of a new park between the Duck Pond and the Southwest Library).

According to Rubell Museum DC founder Mera Rubell, "Andy has been a tremendous champion for the Southwest community and over the last 15 years worked hard to bring the Rubell Museum to the Southwest neighborhood."

The project with which Litsky has been most closely associated was within his own ANC Single Member District. The Wharf is the largest private development in Washington, DC and has dramatically transformed the Southwest neighborhood and the city. From the very beginning, Litsky worked closely with the developers, making sure that during every facet of planning and construction they understood they were becoming part of – not subsuming — a thriving Southwest Community.

"Andy has been a tireless advocate for the Gangplank liveaboard community," said Jason Kopp, a former president of the Gangplank Slipholders Association. "He protected our rights and helped to ensure our community would continue to exist during and after the construction of The Wharf. We would not still be in Southwest DC without his efforts."

With construction of The Wharf among the most lasting achievements of his tenure, Litsky committed to remaining on the ANC through the opening of Phase Two of the development, exactly five years after the opening of the initial phase in 2017.

"Andy was instrumental in providing continuity and integrity to a very large, long and complex process," said Monty Hoffman, Founder and Chairman of The Wharf developers Hoffman & Associates. "A project of this scale only happens when all 'sides' come together, and Andy was there - front and center - the entire time. I didn't always agree with him, but I respected him. Andy was a fierce advocate for community interests."

With the completion of such a lengthy and essential project, Litsky announced his retirement from the ANC, saying he was ready to relinquish that role and provide space for others to continue service to the neighborhood.

Well done, Commissioner Litsky, well done.

Southwest BID Is A Good Neighbor to Local Seniors

BY BETH HALL

or the last eight months, the Southwest Business Improvement District (SW BID) had been assisting the Southwest Chapter of AARP at their monthly meetings at River Park. The BID staff arrives early on meeting days and sets up chairs and tables, decorates the room and prepares a hearty lunch, drinks and dessert for participants. They also bag and dispose of all trash. ARRP attendees pay only \$5 each for lunch, which is generously subsidized by the BID.

The BID staff involved, pictured above, includes Ana



Courtesy of Beth Hall

The Southwest BID Food Distribution Team.

Granados, Gregory Williams, Pamela Hatton, Victoria Owens, Charlene Smith and Mima Monterosso. Andre Witt, BID Facilities Manager, said "our Food Distribution Team is excited to be a partner with our seniors and AARP and enjoy providing warm, nutritious meals."

Dr. Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, past AARP Southwest Chapter president and current vice president for programs, notes that the BID has "done so much to make it possible for us to return to in person meetings with lunch this year."



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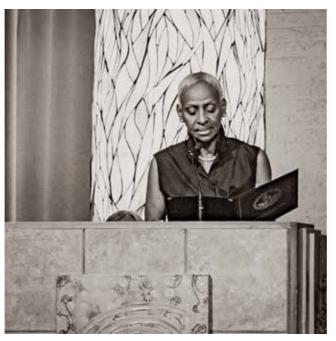
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Remembering the Pearl: Past, Present, and Future

BY JACKIE L. WILLIAMS, PH.D.

ommemorating 175 years since the Pearl Escape of 1848 has come to institutionalize the significance of this historic incident as a Washington DC, American, and global story. This account lives at the intersection of faith and freedom - then and now. A cornerstone of the Pearl Initiative, the mission is to give the escape of 77 enslaved men, women, and children on the Pearl schooner launched from the Washington, DC waterfront on April 15, 1848, its rightful place in the Africa diaspora and African American history. The aim of the Pearl Initiative is to showcase events and educational programs with a focus on "Remember

the Pearl" and the valiant effort of its passengers to claim their freedom by remembering the past, cultivating the present, and envisioning the future to



Courtesy of R.A. Dean

On April 15 and 16, more than 250 people convened at Westminster Church to commemorate 175 years since the Pearl Escape.

keep the story alive.

Past - From the Middle Passage to Slavery. The lineage of the 77 enslaved men, women, and children is a cascade of the Middle Passage that involved the slave trade from West and West Central Africa to the Americas. A part of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the Middle Passage resulted in the export of an estimate of between 11.9 million and 12.5 million West and West Central African people from their native lands between 1700 and 1810. The Transatlantic Slave Trade occurred between 1501 and 1867 with the first ship of enslaved Africans arriving in Jamestown, Virginia in 1619 the beginning of slavery in North America.

Taking a short walk on Southwest DC's waterfront Wharf, there are three main historic markers that depict some aspects of the era

of slavery in Washington, DC. The Notley Plantation of the late 1700's marker is placed on the steps at the intersection of District Square and Wharf streets. A few walking steps toward the river on the District Pier is signage with a narrative about the Pearl Escape of 1848. From the pier to Wharf Street to Pearl Street is another Pearl Escape of 1848 historic marker placed in the cobblestone.

Present – From the Civil Rights Movement to Social Justice. While the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has been enacted for the past 59 years, we continue to fight for freedom, human rights, equality, and civil rights. On April 15 and 16, 2023, more than 250 people convened at Westminster Church in Southwest DC to celebrate the stories of descendants, discuss research of historians/scholars, engage our beloved community in a dialogue about the Pearl event and performing artists celebrating through voice and dance.

Rena Marie Johnson, Marian Edmonson, Dawne Young, and Diane Young (Edmonson descendants) along with Melodee Quick and Earl Tucker (Bell descendants) shared their experiences about family history

See "Pearl," page 9

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BOWSER

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ning, in her introduction, Bowser touted the yearly \$100 million she's put into the affordable housing trust fund, the \$400 million she put into the fund in 2021, and \$1.4 billion her administration has put in the fund overall. She also brought up her investments in DC Public Schools, including charters, early childhood education, and childcare subsidies. Going into her third term, she promised investments into medical care to get people out of medical debt. And, she talked about increasing enrollment of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) without sacrificing the standards.

"We're strong. The state of the city is strong. The state of our finances is strong," Bowser said in her introduc-

Throughout the forum, affordable housing was an imminent concern of the community. Southwest and Navy Yard have been among the fastest developing areas of the city since 2010. The combined areas currently host two professional sports stadiums, multibillion dollar redevelopments of both Navy Yard (though not part of Southwest and no longer in Ward 6) and The Wharf, where Phase II recently came online. Housing has exploded throughout the quadrant over the last several years and from an outsider's perspective, especially if you're in the right tax bracket, it is that way. But history and reality complicate that narrative.

The community has changed a lot in the past 12 years, but the same could be said of the little quadrant that could throughout its history - specifically, the great urban renewal of the 1950s and 1960s. The neighborhood was a test subject for the national urban renewal plan, and while many newcomers today would look at Southwest as having evolved, urban renewal started with the displacement of 23,000 mostly Black residents and the destruction of hundreds of businesses and homes. Vast swaths of Southwest were bulldozed to make way for a newer, richer, and whiter neighborhood.

Many have equated the rapid development of the past decade or so to a modern urban renewal - the end result being the removal of lower income residents and more generational families, especially Black families. And recently, there has been some smoke billowing around the voucher program where an internal investigation uncovered conflicts of interest and impropriety with several DCHA employees. Adding insult to injury, questions remain over another internal investigation from last year detailing how \$82 million in Housing Production Trust Funds (HPTF) intended for the lowest income residents were used for higher income residents.

Despite this history and the growing concern of displacement and racial gentrification in Southwest, in her comments, Bowser looked to all the new development and amenities and expressed bafflement that so many community members were concerned with affordable housing and equitable development. She said there was a disconnect between the range of questions the community sent in and what Southwest looks and feels [emphasis added] like to her. She incorrectly assumed the community would be more concerned with parking and crime, not affordable housing, though she did acknowledge that her office needs to be better engaged on the issues the community raised.

Referencing all the new development and vibrancy in the neighborhood, Goodman pointed out that much of that housing is 1-2 bedroom apartments that are not affordable and livable for many families making under a certain income (a family of four needs an income north of \$105,000 to live comfortably). Mayor Bowser, again, said her office should be more engaged with neighborhood stakeholders.

When pressed what her office is doing to address homelessness and affordable housing, Bowser said, "A

She touted closing former citywide shelter DC General and her plan to put emergency housing in all eight wards, even quipping that in Southwest "people fought [her] tooth and nail" over emergency, or bridge, housing that eventually became The Aya along I (Eye) Street SW. In her third term, her office will invest more on bridge housing, Bower said, noting that to accomplish her goals on affordable housing, her office is also looking to buy units throughout the city, or even buildings, but she provided no specifics or timeline on either.

The future of Greenleaf Gardens weighed on the hearts and minds of Southwesters. The public housing complex is old and dilapidated, and is rife with pests, mold and structural issues. It has been deemed unhealthy and unsafe for residents. The redevelopment of Greanleaf was slated to be a "build first" model where residents would move to alternative housing within the same community to prevent displacement during construction of new units. But after transparency issues, miscommunication, and the community feeling left out of the process, and no build first in the plans, the previous plan fell through.

While Bowser reiterated her commitment to a build first model, no firm plan is currently in place. Community members wanted to know if the Mayor could, at least, bring the housing com plex up to code.

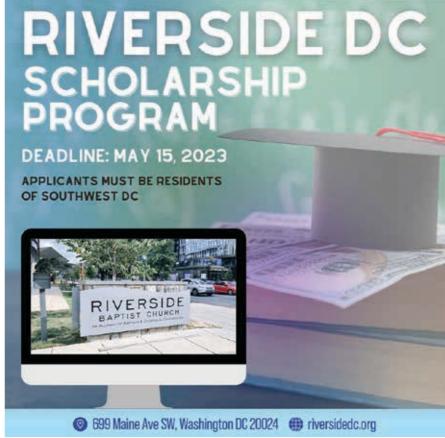
Mayor Bowser said her administration is overseeing repairs, including inspecting all units and prioritizing repairs needed to make vacant units habitable. She did offer two big carrots over concerns of the future of Greenleaf and pointed to the Fire & EMS repair station and the DMV along 4th Street Southwest. The two parcels are city-owned and officials have thrown

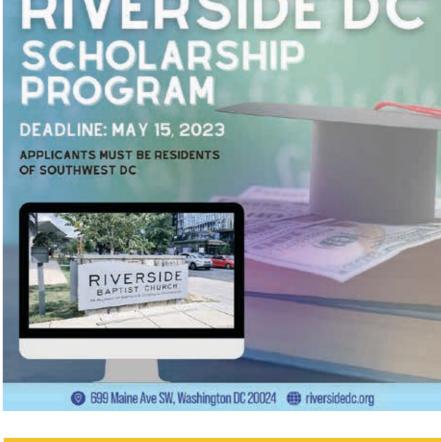
around the idea of using them for affordable-mixed rate housing, including build first. According to the Mayor, a new facility for the repair station is supposed to be finished in Fiscal Year 2028. All the equipment can then be moved and the 4th Street facility, she suggested, could be the new Greenleaf site.

Other housing-related questions included several focused on CLTs, supported and likely sent in by members of a local activist group, SW DC Action, who showed up in force and sported red and white at the community event.

SW DC Action has been advocating for the land trust model of development for the two parcels at 4th and M Streets SW for the last several years. One community member raised the issue of the millions of dollars being used on other community development proj-

See "Bowser,," page 8







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BOWSER

Continued from p. 7

ects, and asked why the mayor couldn't use city dollars to purchase land for the community. Here, Bowser didn't have much in the way of a prepared answer, or a candid response, saying that the "financial timeline" is not good right now.

However, affordable housing on the aforementioned parcels aren't the only community concern.

For years, the southwest parcel (in front of All About Burger and Station 4) has been used for a farmer's market on Saturdays (that goes through November) and a night market every other Friday night during the warmer months.

The open space has also become a casual, no cost spot for community members to hang out and eat lunch during the workweek and on weekends. Should the two parcels of land be developed by the private developers who own the land, both markets will have to move or disappear. The open space the community uses would also disappear for good and be replaced with private venues.

On the topics of both Greenleaf and the use of CLTs for the 4th and M parcels, and with prodding from the moderator, Bowser said she needs to engage with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development on what to do about the 4th and M parcels, and that the community should reach out to her office.

Crime is a big topic in DC these days, and the federal government, including the White House, recently overruled DC home rule on a proposed revision of the criminal code. Despite the national attention, with many conservative members of the U.S. House of Representatives bemoaning crime in the city and falsely equating it to early 1990s levels, it wasn't the most pressing issue on the minds of Southwesters, though some neighbors were concerned with the increased crime and lack of safety.

Here, the Mayor turned the microphone over to MPD First District Commander Tasha Bryant, who said that they are continuing to make significant arrests, increasing their patrol footprint, removing illegal firearms, and trying to be transparent.

Bike lanes, bike lanes everywhere – especially in Southwest! Specifically, the new semi-protected bike lane in front of Amidon-Bowen Elementary School that has been a cause of concern and contention for parents, cyclists, and ostensibly the car lobby.

The current construction is a stop gap – not quite what cyclists wanted nor the dangerous fully protected lane that parents feared their kids would have to navigate during drop off. From either perspective, during rush hour it has been chaotic and hasn't prevented speeders from speeding.

Here the Mayor was very candid, and spoke truthfully, saying "There are no easy bike lanes left to be built in the city." She reminded everyone that bike lane projects are a result of years of planning from the Mayor's office down to the local ANC. Bowser seemed to admonish the crowd, saying that when the DC Department of Transportation is out there fixing something, it is not the time to confront them about a bad street construction idea.

She did concede that, yet again, better engagement is something she needs to strive for. "What you're saying is we need to do a better job putting down the bike lanes," she said.

There was one question on tenant's rights sent in by the liveaboard community of houseboat dwellers at The Wharf, the biggest such community on the Eastern seaboard, but there was no answer from the Mayor. She admitted to never being asked such a question and said she would seek advice on that community.

With regard to affordable housing and how land is developed in the community, there will be a new Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development. Some members in the community, especially those who advocate for more affordable housing, say there might be a pathway to turn advocacy into action with the incoming deputy mayor. During the evening, the mayor made multiple "promises" to engage with the community on their concerns, especially over housing and transit (okay, bike lanes). Already, members of the activist groups mentioned in this story have capitalized on this former promise and are scheduled to meet with the mayor in early May to talk about affordable housing.

Closing out the night, Goodman asked Bowser what she looks forward to in the future of Southwest. "It's been anchoring. It's been a community that stuck together. There's been less job loss. Less economic hardships," she said. But she reiterated that, in her opinion, affordable housing for all incomes, traffic safety, and crime are issues she needs to continue to engage and work on.



SWNA Community Meeting

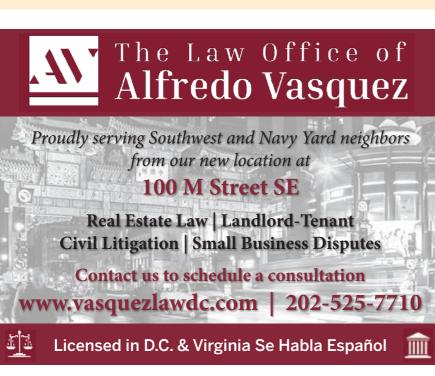
Monday, May 1 • 7pm

Arena Stage at the Mead Center 1101 6th St, SW

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:Ward 6 Representive Brandon Best

Brandon Best is an 18-year veteran educator and administrator committed to developing innovative solutions to increase access to educational equity. He now serves as the Ward 6 State Board Representative where he continues his ongoing commitment to forging lasting relationships between schools and the communities he serves





Southwest Moment



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez On opening day of the Nationals' 2023 season, cherry blossoms frame the statute of DC baseball great Josh Gibson, a catcher with the Homestead Grays, a Negro League team that played in the 1940s at Griffith Stadium in Northwest DC

The Southwester May 2023 Page 9



Titanic Memorial

On April 15, the anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, the Men's Titanic Society assembled at the Titanic Memorial on the Southwest Waterfront for their annual toast. This year marked their 44th observance, and for the first time in 2023, the society admitted a woman to the group - Diana Pagnotta, daughter of Men's Titanic Society founder and previous president Jimmie Silman Jr. who passed away in June 2022 at the age of 95. Pagnotta is pictured next to her brother, Jimmie Silman III, who has been a member of the group since the early 1990's.

PEARL

Continued from p. 6

research. They discussed how they are connecting with relatives in other parts of the nation as a result of the "second middle passage" where those who were enslaved were separated from their families and "sold down the river." The defining moment of the engaging conversation among these descendants is that they discovered that they are cousins - in that moment and time of the event.

Future - Where do we go from here? As the Pearl Initiative marches forward, we extend an invitation to Southwest DC residents and broader communities - local, national, and global - to the welcome table. At this table, we hear the voices of descendant communities. We hear our ancestor's hush harbors and ring shouts. We hear the cry and seek freedom. Together, we chant "Remember the Pearl."

For more information and volunteer opportunities contact: Vyllorya Evans at (202) 257-7619 or visit https://westminsterdc.org/remember-the-pearl.

The Pearl Initiative is made up of Southwest DC community residents initially assembled by Vyllorya Evans and Rev. Ruth Hamilton of Westminster Church to renew interest in the story of The Pearl and its powerful meaning for today. The group honors the long-standing work of The Pearl Coalition led by David Smith, grandson of founder Lloyd Smith. Community members of The Pearl Initiative include: Audrey Hinton, Vania Georgieva, Dr. Sheila S. Walker, Jean Shulman, Patricia Bishop, Jonathan Holley, Edwin B. Henderson, II, Georgine Wallace, Kenneth Ward, Dr. Jackie L. Williams, Rev. Brian Hamilton and Christopher Williams.

PUT AN EXPERT ON YOUR SIDE AND SAVE \$\$

SW Strong! Seeks

Fourth Parade

294-7043 or Benimon@hotmail.com.

parade ends with a large community picnic.

Volunteers for July

BY SW STRONG!

he Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Emergency Preparedness Task Force, commonly known as SW Strong! Seeks volunteers to join the annual July Fourth parade in the Palisades neighborhood of Northwest DC. To join, please contact Task Force Co-Chair Ben Curran at (202)

SW Strong! was established in 2011 to promote individual, family and community emergency preparedness in SW

Washington DC. The theme of this year's July Fourth parade

float is "Disaster Prevention & Fighting Climate Change." Several disaster preparedness and environmental commu-

nity groups are expected to join, as is a live band. Parade

marchers will be provided with water and candy to give away

to the crowd. Festive patriotic wear is encouraged, and the

Let's get together and discuss your Selling and Buying options in the neighborhood. Our real estate company has kept pace, adapting to the rapid growth and a changing economy while maintaining exact standards and integrity. This is why I am introducing the "CASH BACK PROGRAM".

GET CASH BACK WHEN YOU USE REALTY PROS	
Amount of Cash Back	
\$400	
\$700	
\$975	
\$1,250	
\$1,500	
\$1,825	
\$2,100	
\$2,525	
\$3,225	
\$4,100	
\$5,000	
\$6,000	
\$7,000	
\$8,000	
\$9,000	

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Contact Reone Brown at Reonebrown@gmail.com or call 202-374-2817

to register for the program and put money in your pocket when you are buying or selling a property. I look forward to working with you during your real estate process.













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!

Math Moment!

Can you complete these equations?

440 + 40 =

25 + 10 =

100 + 5 =

92 - 12 =

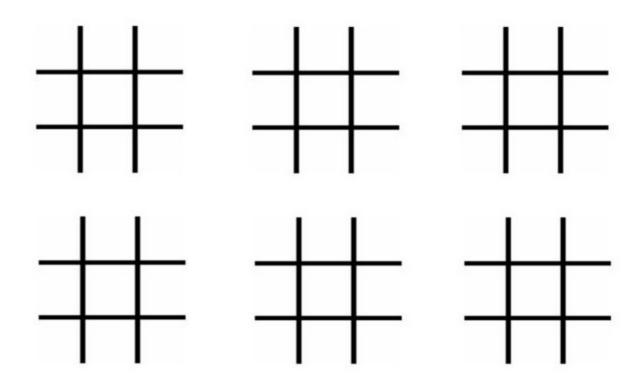
8 + 4 =

22 - 2 =

44 - 8 =

 $1000 \times 2 =$

TIC TAC TOE



Poetry Corner



A manhole cover.
Beauty of cherry blossoms.
Nothing is wasted.

Photos and Haiku by Irene Allen



A Place for Everything

BY KITTY FELDE

Writer Jenny Colgan loves books and loves reading. Books can change your life, she says, "always for

the better." In her novel The Bookshop on the Corner, she makes a massive list of her favorite places to read:

The Both "Paperbacks are ideal"

- The Bath. "Paperbacks are ideal," she says, though she admits using her nose to turn the pages of an e-reader
- Walking Down the Street. This can be dangerous, since everybody else is walking down the street reading their phone.
- Stolen Time. Leave the house early to sneak in a few pages sitting in the car waiting for school to let out or waiting in the dentist's office.

Colgan argues that there's a correlation between the perfect place to read and the act of reading itself.

Which brings us to our reluctant readers. Do they have a favorite place? A fort under the blankets? A tree in the backyard? A cardboard box? Or just an overstuffed armchair where one can practically disappear behind the covers of a book?

If your reader doesn't have a place of their own, create one! All you really need is a quiet place with good lighting and no devices (unless there's a book on your Nook or Kindle app on there...)

Kitty Felde is host of the Book Club for Kids podcast and author of The Fina Mendoza Mysteries. Welcome to Washington Fina Mendoza comes out in English and Spanish in July, 2023.

Southwest Community Comes Together for Successful Spring Food Drive



BY REGINA MAZUR

he community response to Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) and Christ United Methodist Church 5000 Food Ministry's Spring Food Drive was nothing short of heartwarming, demonstrating the generous spirit of "solidarity, NOT charity" of the Southwest neighborhood. Donations poured in weekly, helping to restock shelves and provide much-needed assistance to those in need.

A multitude of neighbor-hood communities, including River Park, Harbor Square, Tiber Island, Riverside, Modern on M, Waterside, The Channel, Incanto, and Wharf Marina, rallied around the cause and hosted donation boxes to support the drive. Harbor Square residents went above and beyond, contributing an impressive amount that was double what any other community group brought in.

While the drive may be over, the need for donations continues, and contributions are accepted year-round at Christ United Methodist Church on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from



Courtesy of Karen McMan

Volunteers supported Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) and Christ United Methodist Church 5000 Food Ministry's Spring Food Drive.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. and SW Farmers Market (425 M St SW) at the Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid table, on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

With the summer quickly approaching, the Southwest Clothing Closet at Christ United Methodist Church will be accepting men's, women's, and children's summer clothing. Clothing must be clean and in good condition, with no stains, tears, holes, or worn patches. Please no sweaters or heavy winter clothing. The clothing closet is open on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. for community members in need.

Food Distributions: 900 4th St SW - CUMC 5000 Food Pantry and SYC/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Groceries, cleaning and personal supplies and fresh produce 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 2:00 p.m. Fresh Produce only on 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 2:00 p.m.

MORE WAYS TO HELP:

Help the Unhoused: Our unhoused neighbors here in Washington, DC still need essential supplies to thrive, not just survive! You can make a difference this spring by purchasing items from Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid's Wishlist at bit.

ly/syctentlist. For questions, please contact us at media@serveyourcitydc.

Virtual Tutors Needed: Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid's "Free School for Unlimited Youth" program provides FREE virtual tutoring to Black and Brown K-12 students across Washington, DC. We are constantly seeking passionate volunteer members to join our team! We welcome college students, graduate students, and professionals who are committed to making a difference in any subject. If you're interested in becoming a virtual tutor, please visit bit.ly/sycvol-

unteertutor or contact us at youthenrichment@serveyourcitydc.org for more details.

Current Donation Needs: With the ending of the extra SNAP benefits and the rise in food costs, the need for food has increased and our shelves are getting bare. Any food donation is welcome. Below are our greatest needs. Donations can be dropped off at the Pod during its open hours.

- Food: tuna, chicken, soup, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, cold cereal, box milk, tea, Ensure
- Cleaning: dish soap, spray disinfectant, bleach
- Personal Hygiene: mouthwash, Depends (all sizes), deodorant
- Household: towels, bedding, microwave, toaster, silverware
- Other: plastic grocery bags that we can use to bag produce in (gently used, no holes)

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

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





Check out our newly arrived annuals and perennials for great spring, summer and fall color.

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Please check our website for updated store hours each week.

Arena Stage Hosts Tenth Power Play, Playwright Kenneth Lin's "Primal Scream" as an Asian American in Hollywood

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

xclusion, a new play by acclaimed theater and TV writer Kenneth Lin, is set to open May 5 at the Kreeger Theater at Arena Stage.

Exclusion is the story of an award-winning historian who is thrilled when her best-selling book about the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 is optioned for a mini-series, only to be disillusioned by the struggle between the authenticity of her work and what sells as entertainment. It marks Arena Stage's tenth world-premier Power Play, a decade-long initiative of original works on politics and power which reflect American diversity and challenges.

Playwright Kenneth Lin, whose highly acclaimed *Kleptocracy* premiered at Arena Stage in 2019, was a producer of Netflix's *House of Cards* and is currently co-executive producer of *Star Trek: Discovery*.

Ahead of *Exclusion*'s opening night, Lin responded to written questions from *The Southwester*. Answers have been lightly edited for clarity and length.

Southwester: *Exclusion* is based on how history is viewed at different



Courtesy of Arena Stage

Kenneth Lin

times through different perspectives, specifically the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Why do you find history as a theme or foundation in plays so important? How helpful or unhelpful did you find the history being taught to you in school and how has this influenced your work in film and on stage?

Kenneth Lin: Well, I certainly didn't think history was helpful when I first started to write the play! *Exclusion* was commissioned by Arena Stage as part of its Power Play initiative to

make work about important American historical events. That's actually a pretty tall task and the weight of it tortured me for a long time. I nearly called Molly Smith, Arena's Artistic Director, and returned the commission because I didn't know how to do justice to history. But then I looked in the mirror and realized that I am history's child and suddenly felt quite entitled to help myself to the contents of its refrigerator.

SW: You've said that audiences should come to see Exclusion because it's funny and that we'd get to laugh at "something mechanical encrusted on the living." You described the play as your "primal scream as an Asian American deep in Hollywood's trenches" and that it is a fulfillment of your "duty as an artist to respond to the moment, and in this particular American moment, we really, really need funny."How important is humor and being able to laugh, even with everything that is constantly going on in the world?

KL: The quote actually buries the lede! The quote, attributable to the philosopher Henri Bergsom, is about how laughter is an agreement between us to continue to live with

each other. The mechanical that has been encrusted upon our vital natures is civilization and the dehumanizing calcifications that come with it. And by being offered a joke, by receiving it, and by replying with laughter, we are making a promise to remain supple, to breathe and grow, to be alive with one another. In this way, laughter holds together a world that's in danger of collapsing from brittleness. So laugh, damn you! Everything depends on it! (Just kidding.)

SW: What first sparked the idea for this play? Did any specific movies or books influence you? Are there any Hollywood comedies that encouraged or stood out to you?

KL: It's a cliché to bemoan the status of Asians as an overlooked thread in America's racial tapestry, but there are two horrible superlatives addressed in the play that illuminate the size and opacity of the blindspots: Chinese people were the targets of the biggest lynching ever perpetuated in America AND the only law ever passed by Congress to formally oust and ban a specific ethnic group targeted the Chinese. (Even though the Chinese only represented .2% of the

See "Lin" page 13



LIN

Continued from p. 12

U.S. population at the time.) Given the brutality and impact of these events, it's astonishing and chilling that Americans collectively don't know about them.

I have a hard time fully imagining what it must have been like to be a Chinese person in America in the 1800s, to be so vulnerable while trying to build a new life in an environment that is so hostile. But I have spent the majority of my career in entertainment being the first Asian through the door and the only Asian in the room, even on projects that are purportedly about Asian people. That hasn't been easy, but I'd be a poor dramatist if I didn't recognize the conditions of comedy. When you're fighting for your life in a room where things have gotten so grotesque and so surreal, where the mechanical has nearly completely encrusted the eyes and the ears of the living, at some point the only thing left is to say, "knockknock" to see if the mouth can still ask. "who's there?"

SW: In addition to the humor, why should audiences come see this play now?

KL: I think that audiences should really come to see this beautiful, wonderful Asian cast. When I set out to write the play, I promised myself that I

would give Asian actors the full range of scenes to play. With confidence, I can say that if you come to see Exclusion, you will experience things that you have never seen on stage. And my god do Karoline, Michelle Moore, and Tony Nam deliver! I sit in rehearsals and just drink in their vibrancy, their artistry, their craft it's everything and wonderful. Audiences should also come to see Josh Stamberg, a DC native who's taking a break from jetting all over Broadway, Hollywood, and the Marvel cinematic universe to come home to do this play. He's so beautiful, brilliant and funny. Audiences should come because it's a chance to see the work of Trip Cullman, who's usually locked up in New York, as a director who is a defining voice in this generation of theater. But maybe, most importantly, audiences should come to see this production because Molly Smith chose it to conclude one of the most illustrious and important artistic tenures in the American theater. Molly who was one of my first champions. Molly who made space and opened the door for me and countless artists. Molly who is the first person who ever told me that I was "the real deal — the real, real deal." This play was written for Molly and you should come and share a final laugh with the original "real, real deal" who's created this living monument to the American spirit here in DC.

A Dozen New Artworks Added to Rubell Museum DC's Inaugural Exhibition

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

reinstallation of the Rubell Museum DC's inaugural exhibition, *What's Going On* that is now on view includes a dozen newly presented artworks. The updates to the initial version of the exhibition includes new paintings, sculptures and mixed media works by leading contemporary artists.

Newly installed artworks include: Paintings by Nina Chanel Abney, including the monumental diptych Class of 2007, which portrays Abney, a Black artist, as a blonde officer carrying a gun and her classmates, all white, as Black inmates in prison uniforms, highlighting the striking contrast between educational institutions' lack of diversity with the disproportionate number of Black men incarcerated in the United States.

Mixed media sculptures by Brazilian artist **Sonia Gomes**, who combines found fabrics and textiles with everyday materials, creating abstract pieces that shed light on the overlooked narratives of Brazilian women and people of color and



Courtesy of the Rubell Museum DC

Nina Chanel Abney, Khaaliqua & Jeff, 2007, Acrylic on canvas

examine the social inequities and environmental crises plaguing both Brazil and the broader globalized world

Large-scale mixed media canvases by Colombian artist **Oscar Murillo** that demonstrate the artist's unique approach to abstraction and experimentation with different materials and mediums.

What's Going On is on long-term view through Fall 2023 at the Rubell Museum DC's location at 65 I St SW. Admission is free for DC residents.



Southwester Community Calendar | May 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.

TUES 2, 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 4:00 and 5:00 P.M. Southwest Library.

WED 3, 6 P.M. Duck Pond Music. Open mic starts at 4:30 pm, followed by live music from Capital Fringe at 6 pm.

WED 3, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: The Wiz. 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, take a magical journey through the land of Oz with The Wiz (1978, rated G, 2h 16m) starring Dianna Ross, Michael Jackson, Nipsey Rusell, and Lena Horne, directed by Sidney Lumet. All ages welcome.

SAT 6, 2-5 P.M. Running of the Chihuahuas. Little Dogs, Big Fun. The 11th Annual Running of the Chihuahuas presented by Pacifico and hosted by Tommy McFly includes a day of fun, festivities and fundraising. District Pier.

SUN 7, 1:30 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 8, 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 are welcome. Free! Ages 13-19.

MON 8, 7 P.M. ANC6D Business Meeting. Held virtually on Zoom. Agenda and link to meeting are at www.anc6d.org/virtualmeeting.

WED 10, 6 P.M. Duck Pond Music. Open mic starts at 4:30 pm, followed by live music from Capital Fringe at 6 pm.

WED 10, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: Steel Magnolias. 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, settle into small-town Southern charm and heartache with Steel Magnolias (1989, rated PG, 1h 57m) starring Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Olympia Dukakis, and Dolly Parton, directed by Herbert Ross. All ages welcome.

THURS 11, 4-6 P.M. SW Library Spring Social. Celebrate Spring with family-friendly activities at the SW Library.

SAT 13, 12 P.M. True Crime Podcast Discussion Group: Rabia & Ellyn Solve the Case. Calling all true crime buffs! Join us to discuss the latest episode of Rabia & Ellyn Solve the Case. Listen ahead of time via your favorite podcast platform and be ready to share your thoughts on the most recent incident of conversation (May 11's episode for May 13 library discussion and May 25 episode for May 27 library discussion). Adults of all ages welcome.

SAT 13, 7 P.M. Faith & Film Zoom presentation of "Man Called Otto, starring Tom Hanks." Rating: PG-13; Release: 6/23; Genre: Comedy/Drama; Run Time: 2h 6min. When a lively young family moves in next door, grumpy widower Otto Anderson meets his match in a quick-witted, pregnant woman named Marisol, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world upside down. All Invited! Rev. Brian Hamilton will lead the after-film discussion. Contact the Westminster church office for Zoom link (202-484-7700/wpcdcoffice@gmail.com)

SUN 14, 2 P.M. Sit and Stitch. Stitchers of all forms

and skill levels (including first-timers) bring your own materials and join us to knit, crochet, embroider, cross-stitch, or make however makes your heart sing for the hour. Basic beginner instruction available for the listed crafts available. Adults of all ages welcome. SW Library.

TUES 16, 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 April book is Beloved. Southwest Library.

WED 17, 6 P.M. Duck Pond Music. Open mic starts at 4:30 pm, followed by live music from Capital Fringe at 6 pm.

WED 17, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: Spy Kids. 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, find thrills in two siblings trying to save their spy parents from certain doom with Spy Kids (2001, rated PG, 1h 28m) starring Daryl Sabara, Alexa Vega, Antonio Banderas, and Carla Gugino, directed by Robert Rodriguez. All ages welcome.

THURS 18, 11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M. Out to Lunch at Hancock Park. Bring lunch and join us with District Trivia. Hancock Park.

FRI 19, 8-10 A.M. Bike to Work Day. Stop by the SWBID office at 430 4th St SW for refreshments, treats, and mobility solutions.

FRI 19, 1 P.M. Aoki. AOKI chronicles the life of Richard Aoki (1938-2009), a third-generation Japanese American who became one of the founding members of the Black Panther Party. Viewers will learn about Richard's childhood in a WWII Japanese American concentration camp, growing up in West Oakland, and serving eight years in the U.S. military. The film explores previously unknown facts about the formation of the Black Panther Party such as how Richard became intimately involved in its founding and contributed the first two firearms to the Party. Southwest Neighborhood Library Meeting Room 1.

SAT 20, 2-5 P.M. & 6:30-10 P.M. Everything, Everyone, All the Food at Once Fest presented by Moon Rabbit. Sip and savor at a Night Market showcasing 18+ chefs and makers, live music, and more. Together, and all at once, we will celebrate comradery, the AAPI community, and connecting people through the power of food. The Night Market will be held in two ticketed sessions: 2pm-5:30pm and 6:30pm-10pm. The Wharf.

SAT 20, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. SWBID Block Party. Food, Games, and Live Music. Free to the Public. Westminster Presbyterian Church Parking Lot.

SAT 20, 3-5 P.M. SW Duck Pond Party. Festivities at the Duck Pond with free BBQ, live music, fun activities, tie-dye & more!

SAT 20, 2-4 P.M. Blooming Flower Craft. Come make a beautiful flower craft with us. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

MON 22, 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 are welcome. Free! Ages 13-19.

WED 24, 6 P.M. Duck Pond Music. Open mic starts at 4:30 pm, followed by live music from Capital

Fringe at 6 pm.

WED 24, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: Desk Set. 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, discover if librarians really have job security in the age of technology with Desk Set (1957, Not Rated, 1h 43m) starring Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy, and Gig Young, directed by Walter Lang. All ages welcome.

FRI 26, 1 P.M. Coffee & Conversation. Customers are invited to join a casual conversation with other library customers and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee and Tea provided. Southwest Neighborhood Library - Large Meeting Room.

SAT 27, 12 P.M. True Crime Podcast Discussion Group: Rabia & Ellyn Solve the Case. Calling all true crime buffs! Join us to discuss the latest episode of Rabia & Ellyn Solve the Case. Listen ahead of time via your favorite podcast platform and be ready to share your thoughts on the most recent incident of conversation (May 11's episode for May 13 library discussion and May 25 episode for May 27 library discussion). Adults of all ages are welcome.

SUN 28, 2 P.M. Sit and Stitch. Stitchers of all forms and skill levels (including first-timers) bring your own materials and join us to knit, crochet, embroider, cross-stitch, or make however makes your heart sing for the hour. Basic beginner instruction available for the listed crafts available. Adults of all ages are welcome. SW Library.

WED 31, 6:30-8 P.M. Chasing Childhood. The film explores how and why helicopter parenting became the norm in many communities across the United States. Chasing Childhood is a feature length documentary that explores how free play and independence have all but disappeared from kids' lives, supplanted by relentless perfectionism leading to record rates of anxiety and depression, a situation now compounded by the pandemic. Free play, unsupervised by adults, is critical for developing essential life skills: grit, independence, and resourcefulness. Many young adults may appear more accomplished on paper, but by the time they get to college they are emotionally struggling and lacking the tools needed to live independently. Southwest Library Large Meeting Room.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AAPI HERITAGE MONTH MOVIES, Saturdays, 12 P.M. Relax with the family and take in weekly matinees of an AAPI-related movie for AAPI Heritage Month. All movies will be rated G or PG.

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://westmin-

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

sterdc.org/jazz-%26-blues-1 , Westminster Presbyterian Church.

BREAD FOR LIFE - BREAKFAST, Sundays, 8-8:45 A.M. Free Breakfast. The pandemic has forced us to change how we serve breakfast—but we still offer a free breakfast every week as a to-go bag with a breakfast sandwich, juice, fruit, and slice of cake. If you would like to volunteer with Bread for Life, please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen manager for the program at thor081828@ hotmail.com. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Community Room, 555 Water Street SW. www. staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life

BUILDING BLOCKS, Tuesdays, 10:30 A.M. Let's explore construction play together every Tuesday! Southwest Library is excited to launch our new birth to 5 program: Building Blocks. Each Tuesday, from 10:30-11:30A.M., 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 and Fridays, 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 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.

MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY, Fridays, 1 PM. Adults are invited to enjoy an afternoon movie at the library. Movies to be advertised in branch.

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.dcstamp-club.org/

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

20's AND 30'S HAPPY HOUR - VIRTUAL, Second Thursdays, 6-7 P.M. The 20's & 30's group meets virtually for Happy Hour, and you're invited! Here, you'll find young adults creating time and space for intentional community. All are welcome to this space. This Happy Hour is meeting VIRTUALLY via Google Meet. - https://meet.google.com/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.



Maγ I8, II:3O-I pm Bring lunch and join us with District Trivia.

SW Duck Pond Party

May 20, 2-5 pm
Festivities at the Duck Pond
with free BBQ, live music, fun
activities, tie-dye & more!

Bike to Work Day
May 19, 8-10 am
Stop by the SWBID office
for refreshments, treats,
and mobility solutions.

Duck Pond Music

May 3, 10, 17 and 24
Open mic starts at 4:30 pm,
followed by live music from
Capital Fringe at 6 pm.