serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

JUNE 2023 12,500 PAPERS PRINTED THIS MONTH

Congratulations to SWNA Scholars: 50 Years of Scholarships All Photos Courtesy of SWNA













LETTER TO THE **EDITOR** Page 2

Sam Anderson

Gabriella Grimaldi

Steven Guo

Christopher Johnson

SaDaja Keith



KIDS CORNER

Page 10

BY UNA YARSKY

he Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's (SWNA) Education and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF) has reached its 50th continuous year of awarding postsecondary education scholarships to students who live in our Waterfront Neighborhood. The program began in 1974 as a small initiative, when residents of River Park Cooperative raised funds that helped three youth in our neighborhood attend college.







Dayonna Queen

The following year the scholarship program officially became part of SWNA, encouraged by one of the original River Park funders, who was also active in the organization. Since then, ESTF has awarded 599 scholarships to 261 Southwest residents, providing more than \$580,000.

This year we celebrate seven college graduates who earned SWNA scholarship awards. The scholarship encourages Southwest students to

See "Scholarships," page 13



WATERFRONT **VILLAGE COMBATS** LONELINESS

Page 12

The Inaugural Southwest Juneteenth Festival: History, Heritage, and Hope

BY JACKIE L. WILLIAMS, PH.D.

he inaugural Southwest Juneteenth Festival will take place on Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the site of the historic Carron Baptist Church at 1354 First Street SW.

This festival engages citywide residents along with James Creek, Syphax Gardens, Greenleaf Gardens, Greenleaf Gardens Additions, Greenleaf Gardens Extension, and Greenleaf Senior communities. Descendant communi-



Courtesy of Carron Baptist Church

Parishioners gather at Carron Baptist Church

ties remember the storied past of the enslavement of Africans and African Americans and the celebration of their freedom. This outdoor festival is a celebration through music, a DJ, food, children's activities, and reflective conversations about Juneteenth.

Historian Louis C. Hicks, Jr. will lead festival goers in dialogue about the Juneteenth National Independence Day - also known as Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Black Independence Day. He is a renowned community historian with a focus on the intersection

See "Juneteenth," page 13



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Page 14-15

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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

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Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund



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

hwester

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In your May 2023 issue, you quote Mayor Bowser as "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." I was the ANC Commissioner for the Single-Member district that includes the Aya, and would like to provide a different perspective.

The Mayor's original proposal was to lease Culture House DC (at the time known as Blind Whino) and build a shelter adjoining it. ANC 6D welcomed a shelter but opposed this location. The historic building would have been difficult to redevelop because of its landmark status and the asbestos and lead paint that was likely on the premises, and it had no parking. Most importantly, building on a privately-owned site that was only subject to a 15-year lease would not have been a good use of District funds. By now, we would be approximately halfway through the lease, and the need for emergency family housing shows little sign of abating. The ANC suggested several parcels in Southwest where we believed a family shelter would be more appropriate. We welcomed the Aya at its current location, which had the added benefit of allowing a beautiful renovation of Unity Health Care's Southwest clinic.

I served on the committee that advised the architects and the Department of Human Services as the Aya was being designed, and our two major aims were to make the building fit with its surroundings and to ensure it served the families who would live there. I believe we succeeded on the first goal. We did fairly well on the second: had the Bowser Administration allowed the architects to design private bathrooms for each family as we requested, the Aya's residents would have an even healthier, safer, and more dignified experience than they currently do.

The Mayor may perceive these positions as fighting "tooth and nail," but I contend these were fights worth having--for the District's taxpayers, the families living at the Aya, and the Southwest community of which they have become a part.

> Sincerely, Stacy Cloyd

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Former SWNA Scholarship Winner Bianca Kersellius Channels Passion Into Small Business Success

BY DONNA PURCHASE

recently had the opportunity to catch up with Bianca Kersellius, a previous scholarship winner of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's (SWNA) Education and Scholarship Task Force program. We wanted to know: where she is now? One answer to that question is that she continues to be a valued SWNA volunteer! And now for the rest of her story.

While working as an intern for Vyllorya Evans, Chair of the Education and Scholarship Task Force, Kersellius helped to raise more

than \$20,000 for the SWNA Scholarship Fund through donation letters and promotions. In that capacity, she worked to increase the donor base and also worked on student interviews and the annual awards program. Evans encouraged her to apply for a scholarship and her strong application was approved.

Kersellius graduated from Penn State University in 2016 with a major in communication. She said the muchappreciated scholarship gave her a cushion for books and supplies and allowed her to have peace of mind with reduced financial

obligations.

After graduation, Kersellius returned to DC and worked at a recruiting agency and later at jobs in the hospitality industry. She worked at the World Bank as an event coordinator. Those experiences led her to want to own her own business. She worked as an event coordinator at AT&T and they paid for her hospitality certification.

Inspired by her passion for event planning and using her skill set for organization and time management, Kersellius invested her savings to launch her business. She designed

> her website, business cards and more and Kersellius Kreations was born. Today,

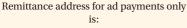
> > Bianca Kersellius

Vibrant, resilient, and creative, she works with various industries, such as nonprofits, corporations, entertainment, and collegiate sports.

The business has grown since launching in 2020, and Kersellius Kreation's portfolio consists of producing amazing wedding events. Not only has she planned and coordinated more than two dozen weddings, but she also onboarded an intern for whom she is truly grateful. In addition to her event planning background, Kersellius has obtained a number of certifications over the years to propel her career as a dynamic event plan-

Looking for a way to support and inspire young students, Kersellius authored InDEBTed: Stories of Surviving Debt, Inequity and Obtaining Freedom. The book takes readers on a vivid journey unpacking the rigorous reality of the author's life as a young Black woman in America with student loan debt. Kersellius holds nothing back; she speaks her truth and covers perspectives and opinions that are far from popular but are all the more necessary. You can find InDEBTed on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble. Always interested in furthering her education, she joined a women's networking group where she was mentored by a member who helped her through the publishing process.

Kersellius continues to give back o SWNA. Since 2015 she has been a dedicated volunteer. She coordinated



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Southwester Staff

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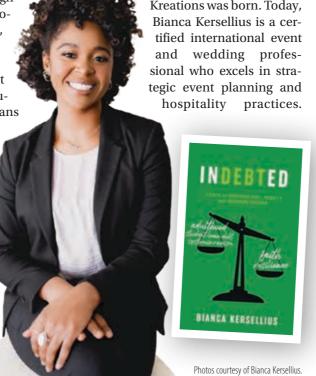


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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly or The Southwester, call (202) 320-4414.



See "Kersellius" page 13

New Graduate School School Scholarship to take you Onward and Beyond...

The Coralie Farlee Scholarship

was established in 2022 for Southwest DC scholars pursuing graduate degrees by **Friends of Southwest DC** which Coralie Farlee founded in 1998. Farlee's passion for community activism was matched only by her deep belief in the value of higher education. Her passion for higher education and a generous bequest from her estate are the impetus behind this endowment.

Read more about Friends of Southwest at https://friendsofswdc.org



Julie Benedith

is the first recipient of the newly established Coralie Farlee Scholarship. Julie is working on her doctorate in Educational Sustainability at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She considers herself an Equity Leader and is committed to ensuring that each child receives what they need to reach their academic and social potential.

Read more about Ms Benedith at www.jbenedith.com

Scholarships are available! APPLY ONLINE NOW! Peadline Friday, June 30

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



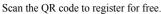






Find Resources at the 2nd Annual Community Care Fair

The Nathaniel H. Pickett II Foundation is hosting its 2nd annual Community Care Fair. The event is scheduled for June 25th at the SW Market Place on 4th St and Maine Ave SW (across from the Waterfront metro). Exhibitors will focus on mental and physical health, with information and resources. To find resources for you and your loved ones, join us at the Community Care Fair! Come out and enjoy the entertainment! This is a free event!







SWNA's Youth Activities Task Force: Over 40 Years of Service to SW Youth

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Tith the advent of summer and the lingering effects of COVID-19, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Youth Activities Task Force (SWNA YATF) is still working collaboratively with the SWNA Technology Task Force, SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force, James Creek Resident Council, Syphax Gardens, Friends of SWDC, SW Action, and others to pursue its mission and provide greater and more enriching opportunities for

youth. Created in 1982 by a group of SW volunteers, YATF's mission is to enhance and enrich the cultural, educational, recreational, and technological development of our youth, ages 5-25, in the near Southwest community (20024 zip code).

Since its inception, YATF has performed miracles on a shoe-string budget with a group of longstanding volunteers. The annual operating budget of less than \$5,000 is derived from car washes, mail solicitations and the generosity of dedicated and committed members, long-time residents, and supporters such as the Friends of SW DC. While YATF does host programs, its primary focus is the awarding of grants ranging from \$100 to \$1000 supportive of efforts benefiting neighborhood schools (Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, Jefferson Academy and Richard Wright Public Charter School), Resident Councils (James Creek, Syphax Gardens, Greenleaf Gardens Extension, and Greenleaf Midrise). SW recreation centers (King Greenleaf and Randall), and other youth programs such DC STORM. YATF has also hosted a breast health class for the Recreation Center's Young Ladies on the Rise. This year, with a grant from the SW Community Foundation, YATF will partner with the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund to host at least five breast health classes at Jefferson Academy, Richard Wright and the resident councils.

In addition, YATF is pleased to have awarded \$600 in 2021 to James Creek Resident Council to purchase shelves for an onsite food pantry which services hundreds of families in James Creek, Syphax Gardens, Greenleaf Seniors and Greenleaf Gardens Extension and Midrise. Grants of \$1000 have been awarded to Amidon-Bowen Elementary for an Arena Stage outing to see Akeelah and the Bee, Randall Recreation Center for programmatic efforts, and SW Comm-Unity Day at Lansburgh Park, among others. "Summer in Lansburgh Park," a well-established annual one-day gathering uniting former and current SW residents and their families, is held the last Saturday of August under the leadership of YATF Member Paul "Big South" Taylor, Executive Director, Comm-Unity Forum. The wellanticipated event resembles a family reunion with food, music, games, dancing, and other activities such as information tables that appeal to a range of age groups.

From 2013-2022, YATF revenues were approximately \$40,000. The goal is to achieve a \$15,000 budget for 2023-2024 through grant writing and donor solicitation which would enable the group to better serve and meet the many challenging needs of

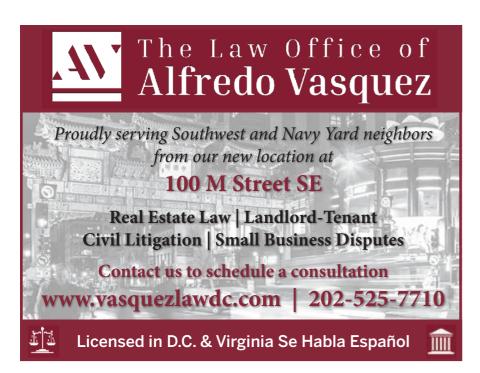
SW youths and the 250-300 families that they proudly serve annually. By 2025, YATF hopes to achieve a \$40,000 budget to defray the cost of a part-time coordinator who can better help to strengthen its programmatic efforts in the post-COVID environment.

YATF's signature program, Computer-for-Kids (CFK), was created in October 2007 to help reduce the digital divide in the community. Students ages 5-14 complete an eightweek one-hour class taught by highly skilled volunteer instructors, including senior instructor Gerald Brown from the World Bank Group and Jenelle Leonard, retired Federal Government and DCPS technology guru. The computer training focuses on computer skill fundamentals such as keyboarding and computer parts as well as the use of internet search tools for schoolwork and basic use of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. The training also emphasizes healthy eating by serving healthy snacks after each class and uses every opportunity to share teachable moments that are in line with daily examples at school and at home. Held at James Creek Resident Council Computer Center, CFK has graduated a class practically every year since inception, and in some cases twice yearly, with an additional computer camp during the summer. To date, more than 160 students (ages 5-14) have graduated from the pro-

Upon meeting CFK's requirements of good attendance, good behavior, and good participation, YATF holds a graduation which features a guest speaker, often YATF graduates or prominent people in related areas, presentation of certificates of completion, and a reception. In addition, the students receive a refurbished computer like the one they trained on during class. Donated computers and maintenance of the James Creek Computer Center are provided through a partnership with the SWNA Technology Task Force, who set up the computer center and donates refurbished computers from a variety of local sources for community use, including ESTF scholarship students and seniors.

YATF is considering expanding the training offered for older students (ages 9-12) to include supplemental activities that focus on coding which create more interest in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) programs.

The long-time involvement with many of the youth stemmed from YATF's initial signature summer jobs program which employed more than 300 youth beginning in the early 1980s for more than six years. The program included grant support from





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Waterfront Village Presents







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Mature Artists of the DC Waterfront

Opening Reception, Friday June 9, 6-9pm Exhibition Hours, Saturday June 10, 11-5pm 222 M Street, SW, St. Matthew Church

An exhibit featuring acrylic, watercolor, photography, mosaic, needle arts, and more, by Southwest DC artists aged 60 and better

For tickets to the Opening Night Wine Reception, please use the QR code below.



TASK FORCE

Continued from p. 4

the Rotary Club, Meyer's Foundation, and the World Bank Group, among others, to pay the youths' salary, a paid coordinator, and a yearly sixweek soft skills training program lead by volunteer Thelma D. Jones, who has currently served as YATF's chair since 2012. The soft skills training included telephone etiquette, resume writing, motivational speakers, and field trips to work sites such as the JW Marriott Flagship. Each youth was also assigned a volunteer mentor with the program culminating in a closing ceremony. Worksites that employed SW kids included the JW Marriott Flagship, American Bar Association, United Way of the National Capital Area, HUD, Food and Friends, WUST-AM, and the World Bank Group. The youth's performance was recognized by the employers, including one youth subsequently being invited back to

the World Bank during each college and summer break until graduation. Another youth worked for more than two years on a full-time World Bank temporary contract. As the Mayor Barry Summer Employment Program increased in scope, YATF served as a host site for several years and encouraged SW youth participation in the Mayor's program. However, over time, this effort was not sustainable and the kids' employment opportunities dwindled.

With a helping-hand from Mayor Bowser, which was inspired by her SW tour in 2017, YATF has enthusiastically returned to its initial signature program of providing summer employment to youth ages 14-24. That year, at least 10 youth received summer jobs under the leadership of Christine Spencer, YATF Member and James Creek Resident Council President. Several youths have been hired each summer since and at least 10 youth are scheduled for Summer 2023.

YATF's summer jobs program

benefited more than SW youth and families. In 1999, Jones successfully piloted the World Bank Group summer internship program with three Cardozo Senior High School students based on the well-recognized YATF model. At least 125 high school students had benefitted from the summer and in-school internship program by the time of Jones' retirement in 2005. The internship program also included a weekly training component each Friday as a check-in on the interns' progress. SW youth Lisa Matthews, who started with YATF at age 14, would subsequently be invited as a guest speaker to one of the World Bank's summer internship programs. The World Bank program still existed prior to the start of Covid-19, having employed more than 250 youth, including inspiring other private sectors to follow suit.

One of YATF's greatest accomplishments is the collaboration with Perry Klein, Chair, SWNA Technology Task Force, and with the SWNA Education

and Scholarship Task Force (ESTF). To introduce youth to computer refurbishing, Klein welcomed the volunteer support of Noah Matthews, 18, son of YATF Lisa Matthews, in helping to refurbish 82 HP ProDesktop computers donated to SWNA by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Noah's effort epitomizes the saying that "an apple doesn't fall far from the tree," as his mom is highly experienced in the computer field as well. Also, continuing the collaboration, YATF shares at least five of the same members, including, but not limited to, Vyllorya Evans, ESTF current co-chair, Delma Weathers, Former YATF chair and Rick Bardach, Treasurer, serving both task forces.

Another source of pride relates to students who have completed the YATF CFK classes and are now scholarship recipients. For example, CFK student Jada Miles, who enrolled in the program when she was about 12 years old, is a 2020 college graduate who received several scholarships from ESTF. At least 10 other YATF students are scholarship recipients. The goal is to recruit students at an early age in order to work with them and their families through enrollment in college and beyond. Another stellar example is Rhonda Hamilton, who started with YATF's summer jobs program at Food and Friends when she was 14 years old and is now a veteran and well-respected ANC Commissioner in SW.

While YATF has been a staunch advocate for SW youth from its inception, the organization is now assuming an even greater advocacy role around neighborhood schools' modernization and instructional needs, including the need for maintaining qualified teachers and increasing funding for specific programs, such as technology. Its advocacy includes calling and writing elected officials and inviting them to speak on relevant issues at the SWNA monthly forum, among other efforts. In addition, YATF has been a leader in organizing an annual youth and education forum with the support of ESTF.

Lastly, In 2020, YATF collaborated with SW Action in response to inappropriate and unfavorable comments about SW youth that were widely reported on Next Door and other forums. The result was a message about the collective efforts that many were making in SW to help with SW youth's growth and development. The open letter to the community was subsequently printed in The Southwester. Unfavorable and inappropriate comments about youth have ceased on public forums such as Next Door. Also, SW Action worked closely with YATF in 2021 to make over 100 Soul Boxes to help address the gun violence epidemic. YATF is actively organizing the Soul Box Project and looks forward to working with SW Action again under the leadership of YATF Lisa Matthews who did an out-



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\$250,000 - \$299,999	\$1,500
\$300,000 - \$349,999	\$1,825
\$350,000 - \$399,999	\$2,100
\$400,000 - \$499,999	\$2,525
\$500,000 - \$649,999	\$3,225
\$650,000 - \$799,999	\$4,100
\$800,000 - \$999,999	\$5,000
\$1,000,000 - \$1,499,999	\$6,000
\$1,500,000 - \$1,999,999	\$7,000
\$2,000,000 - \$2,999,999	\$8,000
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TASK FORCE

Continued from p. 6

standing job in representing the community on this national effort, which included a touching ceremony on the National Mall in 2021. SW Action is a group of SW residents, including YATF chair Jones, who organize and advocate for a more equitable, anti-racist, and environmentally sustainable neighborhood. YATF is also working with the group to produce a list of resources for SW youth.

Volunteers are always needed. The average time commitment is about 2 hours per month, depending on the

nature of the project that a volunteer is working on. If you are interested in volunteering or donating to YATF, please email thelma.d.jones@ outlook.com or call (202) 251-1639. Checks or money orders should be payable to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and note YATF in the memo line. Please mail donation to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, P.O. Box 70131, Washington, DC 20024 or donate online at https://www.mightycause.com/organization/Southwest-Neighborhood-Assembly and click on Youth Activities Task Force.

YATF Chair Thelma D. Jones contributed to this article.

Audi Field to Host Outdoor Movies in Summer Series

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Buzzard Point will host one of DC's many options for alfresco summer movie viewings, with a series at Audi Field kicking off in late May. On Thursday evenings, films will be presented through a partnership between the stadium, the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District (BID) and Pepsi.

"Movies on the Pitch" will transform Audi Field into an outdoor cinema with four showings of current blockbuster films on the stadium's jumbotron screen.

- May 18 DC League of Super-Pets
- June 22 Black Panther: Wakanda
- July 6 Puss in Boots: The Last Wish
- August 24 Minions: The Rise of Gru
- September 7 Jurassic World

The family-friendly experience will begin at 7:30 p.m., with gates opening at 6:30 p.m. Audi Field will have concessions available for purchase (no outside food or alcohol is permitted). Tickets can be reserved online at https://fevo.us/fv-offer--20230427-IWA-617/.

Are you Ready to Tie the Knot?

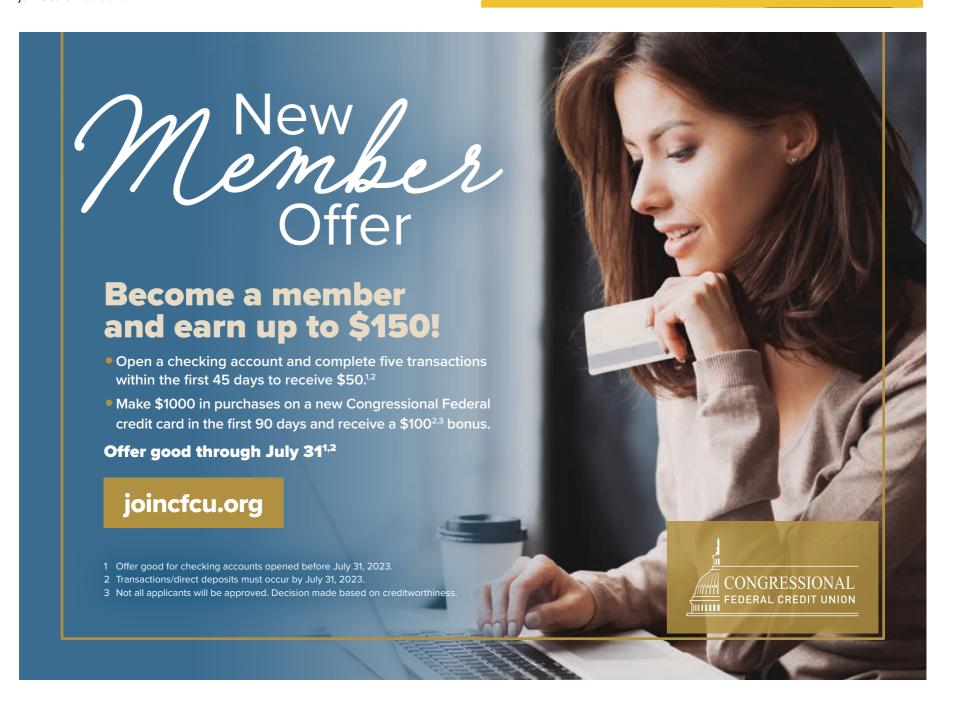
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Council's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Includes Investments in Southwest Schools and Recreation

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

In late May, the DC Council took two votes on the district's budget for Fiscal Year 2024, which begins October 1. The Council made revisions to the proposed budget submitted by Mayor Muriel Bowser, and Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen highlighted key investments for Southwest and surrounding community.

After working on 20 annual budgets as a public health advocate, Council staff member and Councilmember, Allen wrote in a newsletter to constituents this May, "Never have I been more excited for the start of a fiscal year and all that it will bring for our community."

Key investments Allen identified as Ward 6 budget wins include:

School Budgets: Increases from the DC Public Schools proposals for Brent, Amidon-Bowen, Ludlow-Taylor, Maury, Jefferson, Peabody, School-Within-School, Stuart-Hobson, Tyler, Walker-Jones, and Watkins.

School Modernizations: Modernizations for JO Wilson (\$91 million, FY24-26), Brent (\$94 million, FY24-

27), Amidon-Bowen (\$84 million, FY26-29), Tyler (\$90 million, FY25-28), and a renovation at Ludlow-Taylor (\$9 million, FY24) are all on track.

Randall Recreation Center: The budget includes \$17 million to renovate Randall Recreation Center's campus, which serves both Southwest and Navy Yard residents, including improvements to the pool, fields, and the indoor spaces. Community engagement is scheduled to start in the fall.

Buzzard Point Trail: Restored \$2.8 million in funding that had been cut to extend the waterfront trail past Nats Park and connect it with Buzzard Point and the entire neighborhood.

RFK Indoor Sports Complex: \$60 million for a new indoor sports complex on the grounds at RFK campus, just on the other side of Ward 6's border. It will include an indoor track, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, gymnastics, indoor basketball courts, events space, indoor rock climbing, a learning center, an indoor football/multi-purpose field, boxing, e-sports, and more. Planning begins in FY26 and construction in FY27-FY28.

Southwest Momen



A sunset at The Wharf reflects off Phase Two buildings.

Courtesy of Eric Allen

Photo of the Month



A single red rose stands out in a bush of pink.

If you would like to submit a photo to be considered for Photo of the Month, email it to editor@ thesouth wester.com.

Courtesy of Shelby Poage



Multimedia Exhibit Illuminates Mythical Underwater World at Museum of African Art

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

rexciya is a mythical aquatopia in the heart of the Atlantic Ocean populated by babies of enslaved African women who were thrown or jumped from slaving ships during the Middle Passage.

From the Deep: In the Wake of Drexciya with Ayana V. Jackson at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art retells this legend through visual works of photograph, videos and sculptural representations, all set in a watery world, accompanied by readings, sound and scents.

Jackson was inspired by the world of Drexciya, created by James Stinson and Gerald Donald, a Detroit electro duo of the same name in their 1992 album Deep Sea Dweller. But while theirs is a world of vengeful warriors, Jackson takes up what was laid out by the late writer and critic Greg Tate, who described Drexciya as a "revisionist look at the Middle Passage as a realm of possibility and not annihilation." Focusing on the mothers and spirits who reigned in this watery realm, she presents in speculative fiction and imagining an Afrofuturist world where survivors from the slave



Courtesy of the Smithsonian Museum of African Art

Ayana V. Jackson's Reliquary: The Sea Has Nothing to Offer but a Well Executed Grave (2018) is on view at the Smithsonian Museum of African Art.

ships met water spirits.

Jackson traveled extensively to Senegal, Ghana, Angola, Trinidad and Tobago and South Africa and researched museum archives for photographs of Nigerian and Angolan ceremonies while delving into textile collections to imagine the fabrics and worn. To film herself for the videos performing at depths in excess of 100 feet (30 meters) Jackson became certified as a master diver.

The exhibit begins with a portrait gallery of photographs. The spirits with superpowers are arranged like a tribunal and represent a range of experiences. Greed, the underlying motives of the slave traders, is most powerfully presented in Reliquary: The Sea Has Nothing to Give but a Well-Executed Grave. Wearing beads traded in exchange for African lives, within her skirts are bundled the bones of the dead.

A second gallery features sculptural compositions, including a voluminous skirt formed from shredded plastic bags, a bodice of stray spoons, head gear, gowns and accessories, an exquisite hand-stitched bodice, rusting crown, intricately woven wig, and unsettling collar. Representing pieces separated from their owners that could have washed ashore, now displayed in a museum, they remind viewers that objects out of their original context in a different time and place will evoke a different meaning.

In addition, a gallery of videos

fashions that Drexciyans might have includes Take Me to the Water: Baptism by Waters Both Salty and Sweet (2022) and the immersive Journey of the Deep-Sea Dweller Who Among Us Has Killed an Albatross (2022).

> Drexciya's power in sonic pulses, the calls of whales, and ambient sounds are fused with ethereal singing to form From the Deep's soundscape. The audio includes ambient sound, instrumentals, vocalization, and narrated excerpts from Robert Hayden's Middle Passage (1962) and Alexis Pauline Gumbs' Undrowned (2020). The scent of sacred burnt offerings and the tang of salt and wood infuse the

> From the Deep: In the Wake of Drexciya with Ayana V. Jackson does not shy from the brutality and horror of the Middle Passage, but it uses art to turn the lens to the strength of the human beings who endured, defied, and built beyond it. Stunning in beauty and wonder, the exhibit From the Deep: In the Wake of Drexciya with Ayana V. Jackson is itself a work of art.

> The museum's web site features videos of Ayana V. Jackson talking about how she created the exhibit and a virtual walkthrough of the exhibit, and is available at africa.si.edu.

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Spot the difference!

Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?



SUMMI	ER BREAK!
1	
	II To die

Math **Moment!**

Can you complete these equations?

 $5 \times 5 =$

 $6 \times 6 =$

 $7 \times 7 =$

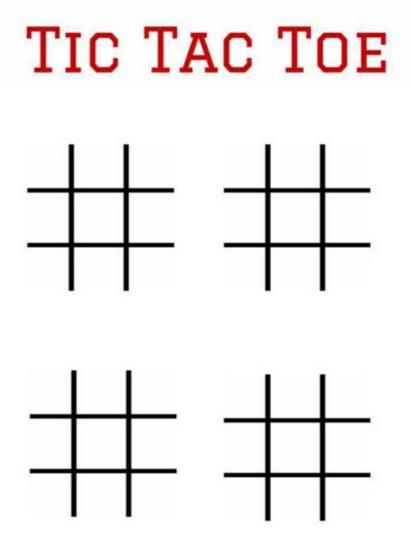
 $8 \times 8 =$

 $9 \times 9 =$

 $10 \times 10 =$

WORD SEARCH: SUMMERTIME!

NLOOSDGFQPVHRXG PLAYGROUND BASEBALL ICE CREAM SUNNY FUN POOL LEMONADE HOT **OUTSIDE** READING



The Southwester June 2023 Page 11

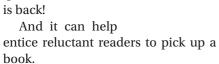


SeadersYoung Readers

Tea for Two or Three or More

BY KITTY FELDE

erhaps it's all the hoopla connected to the coronation of Charles III. Or maybe it's the new "Bridgerton" prequel. Afternoon tea is back!



I recently spoke with a school librarian who has done everything but invite the Mad Hatter into her library. It all started when a couple of girls asked if they could eat their lunch in the library...as long as they promised they'd be talking about books. The librarian was delighted. A book club was born.

Somehow, lunchtime became tea time with kids meeting in the library after school just to talk about books. More kids wanted to join the book group. And more. Even a few boys wanted in on the munching and chewing over book titles and plots.



librarian introduced cookies and lemonade.

Finally, to celebrate the end of the school year, the book club turned into a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, complete with scones, tiny sand-

wiches, and funny hats. The book club could hardly wait until next year to continue the conversation.

I'm a big fan of afternoon tea. My own bridal shower was a tea party, complete with floral bonnets and homemade scones. Friends still ask when we can do it again. It sounds like the perfect way to start a book club for grownups..and for kids.

There's nothing like a "cuppa"...and a lively book discussion.

Kitty Felde's mystery about the Demon Cat of Capitol Hill "Welcome to Washington Fina Mendoza" (Chesapeake Press) will be released in English and Spanish on July 3rd.

Poetry Corner

Ode to Dreams

BY ERYN ATTAWAY, 10TH GRADE RICHARD WRIGHT PUBLIC **CHARTER SCHOOL**

Ode to the dreams that call every night

Sometimes during the day For Dreams take us to new heights As well as solace & a haven that's

To the dreams that transport you Provide an escape The dreams that calm you Better than being awake

To the dreams that scare you The ones that make your heart race Or the dreams that shock you The ones that bring home a familiar

The dreams that seem fake The dreams that seem real These dreams hold power Can impact what you feel

Dreams are keys to paradise All you need is imagination Dreams are special & important Dream all you can with no limitation



Dreams are important because consciously and subconsciously your mind has no limitations. Your mind is your safe space. Therefore, dreams have a purpose. The purpose is to live a boundless life.



— Eryn Attaway, 10th Grade





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Community Commemorates 175th Anniversary of the Pearl Escape

BY AUDREY HINTON

ver the course of two days in April, some 250 people gathered at Westminster Church to commemorate the 175th anniversary of a remarkable historic event - the escape of 77 enslaved men, women, and children from the Southwest DC waterfront on a schooner named the Pearl. The Pearl Initiative sponsored this third annual remembrance of the Pearl escape.

On Saturday, April 15, the commemoration opened with a previously recorded program featuring Dr. Clarence Lusane, professor of political science at Howard University and academic advisor to the Pearl Initiative, and Dr. Sheila Walker, a member of the Pearl Initiative, in conversation with students at Richard Wright Public Charter Schools for Journalism and Media Arts. The students, Rae Tyson, Taron Lawson, and Darria Craddock, asked Lusane several questions about the Pearl. When asked what should be set in stone in a permanent marker about the Pearl, Lusane replied, "At every stage of slavery, people fought.... People never stopped fighting. Never stopped resisting, and that's a lesson for today. We face all kinds of issues, but we can't back down'

Dr. Richard Bell, professor of history at the University of Maryland-College Park, received sustained applause after his keynote speech "The Second Middle Passage." He was introduced as a lecturer who makes history come alive by putting his subject matter in historical context, focusing his lecturers on the lives of everyday people, and often getting laughs. "There will be no laughs in this lecture," he told the audience as he began his talk on the second forced migration of enslaved people in



Courtesy of Author

Descendants of Pearl passengers: (Left to right) Diane Young, Rena Marie Johnson, Melodee Quick, Dawne Young

America

Rain and thunder prevented the processional to the Southwest waterfront, so the Pearl escapees were memorialized in the church under the direction of committee member Dr. Jackie Williams. The names of the 77 escapees were called while libations were poured. Students from Richard Wright, under the direction of Dance Theater Teacher Summer Johnson, performed "It Feels So Good to be Alive," a tribute to some of their favorite performing artists. The students were Kenae' Barnes, Angelic Garrett, Symone Hill, Zipporah Joyner, LaDawn Langley, Caitlyn Taylor, Rae Tyson, and Jayda Wiggins. In addition, Colie Aziza gave a powerful performance of "The Riverkeeper's Daughter." The tale is part of the Kennedy Center's Ferry Tales, site-specific per-

formances celebrating the Potomac River.

Rev. Brian Hamilton, Pastor of Westminster Church and Pearl Initiative chair, closed the program by sharing his vision for The Pearl Initiative. He said, "We want to institutionalize the significance of this historic incident as a Washington, D.C., American, and global story by showcasing events and educational programs throughout the year, not just one event on April 15th. We will 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 keep the story alive."

The program on Sunday, April 16, focused on the Edmonson and Bell families, who were passengers on the Pearl, and their descendants, several of whom were in attendance thanks to committee member Jean Shulman who located them. Attendees viewed a screening of *The Bell Affair*, a searing and heart-rending story of the enslaved Bell family's fight for freedom that ended in an escape attempt on the Pearl. The film left tears in the eyes of many viewers. After the screening, Edmonson descendants, Rena Marie Johnson, Dawne Young, and Diane Young, and Bell descendants, Melodee Quick and Earl Tucker, shared family memories and stories.

The Pearl Initiative, originally known as the Pearl Group, was formed in 2021 by several residents of Southwest DC. Its purpose is to give this attempted escape of 77 enslaved people on the Pearl schooner from the DC Wharf its rightful place in the history of DC and America. For more information and updates, please visit https://westminsterdc.org/remember-the-pearl.

Waterfront Village Combats Loneliness by Connecting Local Seniors

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Taterfront Village is among the local organizations taking actions to directly respond to the public health advisory issued by the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy on May 2, 2023, according to Len Bechtel, executive director of Waterfront Village.

"The surgeon general has identified loneliness as a public health crisis with consequences comparable to tobacco use and obesity," Bechtel said. "Our community needs to pay serious attention to that, and Waterfront Village is uniquely positioned to make a contribution to that response."

The advisory asserts that an epidemic of loneliness is plaguing Americans, jeopardizing well-being, health and sense of belonging. Research shows that approximately half of U.S. adults experienced loneliness daily, and insufficient social connection is linked to an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, anxiety, depression and dementia.

Emphasizing that small steps can make a big difference as we seek to rebuild connections with one another, Murthy suggested that the medi-



Courtesy of Waterfront Village

Waterfront Village offers activities, including painting classes, as part of a year in arts programming in 2023.

cine is hiding in plain sight, and that spending as little as 15 minutes each day to reach out to others can make a significant difference.

"The Village movement is all about keeping people connected, and Waterfront Village hosts 15-20 events every month to engage older adults, who are among the groups most susceptible to loneliness," said Carroll Quinn, president of Waterfront Village's board. "We have something for everyone, and we want folks to have fun, remain engaged, and make new

friends.'

Waterfront Village is one of a group of 13 grassroots organizations under the Village network operating in neighborhoods throughout Washington, DC. Each Village provides services and support, such as transportation, health and wellness programs, home repair, and social and educational activities.

Last year, DC Village volunteers spent more than 27,500 hours working to combat social isolation and helping to ensure older residents are able to remain engaged and valued members of their community. More than 55% of DC Village activities are focused specifically on combating social isolation. This includes connecting one-on-one with older adults regularly; sponsoring support and mutual aid groups; and organizing social, educational, and recreational events

The Village offers recurring monthly activities and special events, including a year in arts programming series in 2023, which features painting classes, discounted or free theater and concert performances and a creativity workshop.

An upcoming event sponsored by

the Village for the entire community is the art exhibition, Art of Ages, which will be held June 9-10 at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church.

While the exhibition will feature the work of artists aged 60 and older who live or work in Southwest DC or the Navy Yard, the Village hopes that local residents of all generations will attend the exhibition and celebrate the neighborhood's cultural treasures.

"We have been programmed to believe that art is for the young and by the young," Bechtel said. "This exhibition will demonstrate that art has no age limits, and we have the capacity to create at any age."

Starting with an opening night reception, the hours for the exhibition will be 6:00 p.m – 9:00 p.m. on Friday, June 9, and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 10. While there is no cost for the exhibition, the fee for the opening night wine reception is \$25.

Advance tickets may be purchased prior to June 5 at a discounted rate of \$20 on the Village website under the events tab.

Please contact the Village with any questions or to make accessibility arrangements by calling 202-656-1834

SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from p. 1

achieve their goals during their time at university and awards scholarships throughout their time at school. The graduates for the 2023 school year are: Sam Anderson, Gabriella Grimaldi, Steven Guo, Christopher Johnson, SaDaja Keith, Kendall Park, and Dayonna Queen. Both Sam Anderson and Christopher Johnson finished their undergraduate work in 2021 and this was the year they earned Masters Degrees. Congratulations to each student!

Sam Anderson graduated from Carleton College in Northfield, MN in 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts in Geology. This year he worked on his Masters in Earth Science at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. One of Sam's projects as a student is a geological survey of our Waterfront neighborhood. He feels both of his parents have influenced him even though his mother didn't feel she gained much from having gone to college. His father thought a good education could get you to Mars. Sam is spending this summer finishing his thesis and job hunting.

Gabriella Grimaldi graduated from the George Washington University where she majored in psychology with a double minor in communications and fine arts. She chose these areas of study, having been influenced by both of her parents, that whatever course her life took, she needed to understand people from various cultures and how to communicate with them. She is now spending her time by continuing her volunteer work in the community while she searches for work. Her ideal job would be as a researcher in a global marketing team where she could work behind the scenes.

Steven Guo graduated from the George Washington University with a major in Chemistry and minor in psychological and brain sciences. After graduating, Steven will head to Virginia Commonwealth University to start an accelerated nursing program, where he will receive a bachelor's of science in nursing. He hopes to become a nurse practitioner but above all else hopes to improve the lives of others. Steven has been most inspired by his father, particularly his father's hard work ethic. At GW, Steven learned the importance of adaptation and change. He believes in the importance of seeing university as a place of exploration and the enjoyment of learning. One of the greatest challenges he faced was academic burnout, which he managed to recover from by practicing self-care and engaging in his community. One of the most rewarding experiences he had in undergrad was shadowing nurses at the George Washington University Hospital, where he first discovered his passion for medicine and nursing. Guo hopes he can best contribute to his parents and community by dedicating himself to everything he does.

Christopher Johnson attended Fayetteville State University and graduated with a masters degree in social work with a specialization in children and families. He plans on helping youth who are finishing high school plan out their future; whether it is college, the military, or straight into the workforce. Christopher's biggest influences throughout his time at school have been SWNA task force members John White and Rick Bardach. During his program, Christopher completed community service in events like the Homeless Stand Down event, where he learned about resources for homeless people in the area. Christopher was awarded the Distinguished Leadership Award for his service to his residential community as an RA. His time as an RA gave him the opportunity to work with others as they navigated the challenges of completing an undergraduate degree. Christopher says the best lesson he has learned is to meet people where they are and help them in the best way possible. In the future, Christopher hopes to continue working with youth in his community and to share the importance of having a support system.

SaDaja Keith graduated from the University of District of Columbia (UDC) with a degree in biology. In August, SaDaja will obtain her MAT Masters of Art in teaching with a concentration in biology. She eventually hopes to pursue another masters in Physician Assistance after working as a science teacher. During her time in undergrad, SaDaja volunteered at SOME and is a member of the LGBTQ Alliance council at UDC. SaDaja's greatest influences have been her family as well as herself. During her time at university, SaDaja has learned that success is not linear. She aspires to set goals and reach them no matter

Kendall Park graduated from Jackson State University with a degree in Meteorology. Currently, he works full time at the Jackson Weather Station in a position he started as a student. As an undergraduate, Kendall participated in an internship that provided virtual training in atmospheric science research. Kendall first became interested in Meteorology in third grade, when his teacher took students outside to study clouds. He hopes to continue the legacy of other black meteorologists such as Al Roker. In the future, Kendall hopes to become Dr. Parks "The Weatherman."

Dayonna Queen graduated from the University of Hartford with a

double major in Criminal Justice and Sociology. She plans on pursuing a career in crime analysis and criminal investigation as a researcher. Dayonna hopes to pursue two master's degrees and certifications in order to advance her career. She hopes to write about how different criminological theories relate to the lives of Black Americans. Her greatest influence throughout her journey as a student has been her parents. The greatest lesson she learned during her time at university is that it is okay to ask for help. As a freshman, she struggled to speak in class and present during group discussions. However, she learned to improve on her public speaking skills throughout her time at university. She hopes to contribute to her community in the future by doing her best and giving back to those in need.

SWNA applauds each of these graduates and hopes to see them grow and succeed after their time at university. SWNA is currently accepting donations to help other students complete their college careers and thrive, both during and after their education. To support future SWNA graduates, you can make a tax-deductible donation by check to the SWNA Scholarship Fund at PO Box 70131, Washington, DC 20024. Please put "scholarship" in the subject line.

Are you a Southwest resident pursuing a college education? SWNA's Scholarship Fund is accepting applications until June 30, 2023. We now include the Coralie Farlee Graduate School Scholarship as one of our offerings. See the one page ad for this Scholarship, promoted by Friends of Southwest, in the June edition of The Southwester featuring our first recipient. Apply online, make donations, and learn more at http://swnascholarship.org/.

JUNETEENTH

 $Continued\ from\ p.\ 1$

of Black history and public interpretation. He currently serves as Executive Assistant for the Association for the Study of African American History. He has held leadership positions at the George Washington Carver Museum in Austin, Texas, the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum in Washington, DC, and the Alexandria Black History Museum in Alexandria, Virginia.

Hicks, a native Texan who resides in Washington, celebrated Juneteenth during his formative years. Juneteenth or June 19, 1865 marks the date when those who were enslaved in the state of Texas learned that they had been freed – two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which freed only those enslaved in the states fighting with the Union. However, the 13th Amendment to the

United States Constitution abolished slavery.

"Watch Night" or "Freedom's Eve" originated on the night of December 31, 1862 as those who were enslaved and freed African Americans watched and awaited the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. This tradition continues today in many historically Black churches on the last day of each calendar year – seeing the old year out and the new year in.

Celebrating 95 years of serving the Washington, DC community, Carron Baptist Church – a 14th century Gothic-style brownstone - is a few walking blocks from Nats Park and Audi Field and three historic landmarks: the former home site of native Washingtonian soul singer Marvin Gaye at 1617 First Street SW, the James C. Dent House at 156 Q Street SW, and Fort McNair, the site where the Abraham Lincoln assassination co-conspirators were hanged 158 years ago.

Carron's community-centered outreach strategy engages local residents in walks with the Metropolitan Police Department, U.S. Marshal Service and U.S. Secret Service. Addressing food deserts, community events are held to ensure that families and individuals fight hunger.

"Community outreach, civic engagement, and cultural identity are ways that we facilitate change in the surrounding neighborhoods," said Reverend Peter J. Spann, a Howard University School of Divinity alumni. "The inaugural Southwest Juneteenth Festival aligns with Carron's mission and vision beyond the walls of the church as a faith-based anchor for local and community-wide residents."

The annual Southwest Juneteenth Festival serves as a beacon of hope to bring together a cross-section of people from all DC communities to heal from our past and celebrate freedom for the future.

For more information about the Southwest Juneteenth Festival, contact Reverend Peter J. Spann at (240) 601-7137.

KERSELLIUS

Continued from p. 2

Southwest Strong's two day event on Emergency & Safety Precautions. She coordinated a forum for DC council candidates and coordinated SWNA's monthly community meetings.

What does Kersellius say about the SWNA scholarship program? "It's not only a helpful resource but a wonderful opportunity to expand education and financial support. And it allows students to pursue their educational aspirations."

Kersellius sends a special message to current program participants: "make the most of these years through college and beyond – while striving to be intentional with your decision making."

More information is available on her website, https://www.kerselli-uskreations.

Southwester Community Calendar | June 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.

FRI 2, 4-10 P.M. Market SW. Southwest DC's eclectic Friday night market returns with a diverse mix of art, crafts, handmade jewelry, accessories, bath and beauty goods, and vintage and antique furnishings. 4th St SW & M St SW.

MON 5, 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 7, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: The Color Purple. All are welcome to join us for a dose of nostalgia with these throwback movies with broad appeal. Kick back and enjoy a throwback film in Conference Room 1 (second level) at the Southwest Neighborhood Library. Screening begins at 6 P.M. This week, view The Color Purple (1985), in which a black Southern woman struggles to find her identity after suffering abuse from her father and others over four decades. All ages welcome.

WED 7, 7-9 P.M. Rock the Dock at The Wharf featuring Collective Delusion. Summer never sounded better! Join us for free concerts on Transit Pier every Wednesday evening starting at 7 P.M. With R&B, Americana, Motown, Jazz, Reggae, and your favorite pop covers, there is something for everyone. Grab a snack and a Pacifico Beer and enjoy live music. Transit Pier.

SAT 10, All Day Craft. Join us in the Children's Room for a seasonal or book-themed craft. Recommended for ages 3-12 and their caregivers. Southwest Library.

SAT 10, 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. Can't get enough true crime analysis? Listen ahead of time via your favorite podcast platform and be ready to share your thoughts on the most recent incident of conversation (June 8 episode for June 10 library discussion and June 22 episode for June 24 library discussion). Adults of all ages welcome.

SAT 10, 2 P.M. Long Story Short: A Short Story Book Club. Long story short, we know you love a good story but you just don't have time to read a whole book. Join this bi-monthly book club as we read-a-loud and discuss short stories. We are reading American Classic short stories, all are available to read online. A link to each story is listed below. This program is for adults. The short story for June 10th will be *The Story of an Hour* by Kate Chopin, Southwest Library Conference Room 1.

SAT 10, 2-9 P.M. Pride on the Pier. Pride on the Pier extends DC Pride–the city's annual celebration of LGBTQ visibility–to The Wharf with an exciting array of activities and entertainment. The event, produced by The Washington Blade in partnership with LURe DC and The Wharf, will feature a DJ, dancing, and fireworks. District Pier.

SAT 10, 7 P.M. Faith & Film Zoom presentation of "MAMA BEARS." Release: 2022 Genre: Documentary: Runtime: 1h 31m MAMA BEARS is an intimate, thought-provoking exploration of the journeys taken by Sara Cunningham and Kimberly Shappley, two "mama bears" —whose profound love for their LGBTQ children has turned them into fierce advocates for the entire queer community — and Tammi Terrell Morris, a young African American lesbian whose struggle for self-acceptance perfectly exemplifies why the mama bears are so vitally important. 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)

MON 12, 5 P.M. Middle Grade Book Club. Let's get lost in a book together! Join the Southwest Library as we read DRAMA by Raina Telgemeier. This exciting, engaging graphic novel is all about what it means to act like yourself--and we can't wait to discuss it with you. Copies

will be available to checkout from the library--or you can bring a copy from home to read. Southwest Library.

MON 12, 7 P.M. ANC6D Business Meeting. Held virtually on Zoom. Agenda and link to meeting are at www. anc6d.org/virtualmeeting.

TUES 13, 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 14, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: The Mummy (1999). 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, view The Mummy (1999), in which at an archaeological dig in the ancient city of Hamunaptra, an American serving in the French Foreign Legion accidentally awakens a mummy who begins to wreak havoc as he searches for the reincarnation of his long-lost love. All ages welcome.

WED 14, 7-9 P.M. Rock the Dock at The Wharf featuring Feel Free. Summer never sounded better! Join us for free concerts on Transit Pier every Wednesday evening starting at 7 P.M. With R&B, Americana, Motown, Jazz, Reggae, and your favorite pop covers, there is something for everyone. Grab a snack and a Pacifico Beer and enjoy live music. Transit Pier.

THURS 15, All Day, Juneteenth Scavenger Hunt. Learn about Juneteenth by completing a scavenger hunt for clues hidden around the Southwest Children's Area! Are you excited to learn about Juneteenth? Visit the Southwest Library Children's Area to complete a scavenger hunt filled with information! As you explore the area, you'll learn about the history of Juneteenth, and be able to check out books about Juneteenth!

FRI 16, 4-10 P.M. Market SW. Southwest DC's eclectic Friday night market returns with a diverse mix of art, crafts, handmade jewelry, accessories, bath and beauty goods, and vintage and antique furnishings. 4th St SW & M St SW.

FRI 16, 7 P.M. Chant Mass. Solemn Chant Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Sacred hymns, Gregorian chant melodies, and incense are used in this special Mass to celebrate God's love of humanity. St. Dominic Church.

SAT 17, 1-3 P.M. FIX IT Clinic. Don't Toss It! Fix it! A FREE do-it-together networking event around sustainability and repair. Bring your small appliances, household electronics (no computers), toys, or garments. Network and learn how to disassemble, troubleshoot, and if possible, repair your item or garment. Workspace and basic hand tools provided. Southwest Library.

SAT 17, 6-8 P.M. "Motown Explosion." WLF productions presents a "Motown Explosion" featuring the homecoming of the Motown Hall of Famers "The Dynamic Superiors," paying tribute to the Temptations, Miracles and Four Tops. MC- Dr. Nick Johnson. Tickets: \$35 online and \$40 at the door. For more information, contact Wilber: 301-350-5019.

TUES 20, 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 June book is Jazz. Southwest Library.

WED 21, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: The Parent Trap. movies with broad appeal and plenty of fun! 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, view The Parent Trap (1998), in which identical twins Annie and Hallie, separated at birth and each raised by one of their biological parents, discover each other for the first time at

summer camp and make a plan to bring their wayward parents back together. All ages welcome.

WED 21, 7-9 P.M. Rock the Dock at The Wharf featuring The 19th Street Band. Summer never sounded better! Join us for free concerts on Transit Pier every Wednesday evening starting at 7 P.M. With R&B, Americana, Motown, Jazz, Reggae, and your favorite pop covers, there is something for everyone. Grab a snack and a Pacifico Beer and enjoy live music. Transit Pier.

THURS 22, 3-4 P.M. Last Day of School Popsicle Party. Southwest Library.

FRI 23, 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.

FRI 23, 1-3 P.M. Potting Plants. Southwest Library.

SAT 24, All Day, Ice Cream Craft. Southwest Library.

SAT 24, 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. Can't get enough true crime analysis? Listen ahead of time via your favorite podcast platform and be ready to share your thoughts on the most recent incident of conversation (June 8 episode for June 10 library discussion and June 22 episode for June 24 library discussion). Adults of all ages welcome.

SAT 24, 2 P.M. Long Story Short: A Short Story Book Club. Long story short, we know you love a good story but you just don't have time to read a whole book. Join this bi-monthly book club as we read-a-loud and discuss short stories. We are reading American Classic short stories, all are available to read online. A link to each story is listed below. This program is for adults. June 24 - Thank You Mam by Langston Hughes, Large Meeting Room.

SUN 25, 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. Southwest Library.

SUN 25, 7 P.M. Solemn Vespers. Solemn Vespers for the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Vespers is the evening prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office) that is prayed daily by priests, consecrated religious brothers and sisters, and many lay people. Immediately following vespers there will be a reception in the Parish Meeting Room. St. Dominic Church.

MON 26, 5-6 P.M. Drop Everything and Read. Come enjoy some good old-fashioned reading together! Bring a book, or pick up one of ours, and let's kick back and relax together. We'll meet on the 1st floor patio, weather permitting. All ages welcome. All participants under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver over 13 at all times. Feel free to partner read, read quietly to yourself, to listen to an audiobook in your headphones. On July 10th, we'll have a special Baby-Sitter Club Little Sister themed DEAR. Southwest Library.

WED 28, 7 P.M. Wayback Wednesday Cinema: Philadelphia. 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, view Philadelphia (1993), in which, when a man with HIV is fired by his law firm because of his condition, he hires a homophobic small time lawyer as the only willing advocate for a wrongful dismissal suit. All ages welcome.

WED 28, 7-9 P.M. Rock the Dock at The Wharf featuring Soulfire. Summer never sounded better! Join us for

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

free concerts on Transit Pier every Wednesday evening starting at 7 P.M. With R&B, Americana, Motown, Jazz, Reggae, and your favorite pop covers, there is something for everyone. Grab a snack and a Pacifico Beer and enjoy live music. Transit Pier.

THURS 29, 4:30-5:15 P.M. Outdoor Explorations. Get outside with the Southwest Library and explore the awesome things we can learn through nature. Participate in weekly activities throughout Discover Summer including bark rubbings, scavenger hunts, etc. We will meet on the benches outside the library and stay in the grassy area outside the library. All participants under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver over 13 at all times. In case of rain or thunder, we will meet inside the library.

FRI 30, 4-10 P.M. Market SW. Southwest DC's eclectic Friday night market returns with a diverse mix of art, crafts, handmade jewelry, accessories, bath and beauty goods, and vintage and antique furnishings. 4th St SW & M St SW.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

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

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, 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

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

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

FAMILY GAME DAY, Sundays, All Day, How fast can you

beat your sister at Uno? Itching to play Candyland or Jumbo Connect 4? Children and their families are invited to visit the children's on Sunday afternoon to play a selection of games that will be made available.

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.

FARMERS MARKET SW, Saturdays 9 A.M. - 1 P.M. 4th St SW & M St SW. Join us on Saturdays Morning at The LotSW to show support for our farmers and food artisans selling local produce, sustainable meat & eggs, fresh baked breads, and hot cuisines from around the world. The market features live music and performances, community organizations, kids' activities, and special giveaways and promotions throughout the season, with support from our sponsors at the Southwest Business Improvement District and Waterfront Station.

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.

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

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 inperson 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/

SEATED YOGA (In Person), Mondays & Fridays, 11 A.M. - 12 P.M. Low impact stretches and mobility exercises performed under the direction of Pamela Wilson. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

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/.

SUNDAY SERIES: HOLY COUPLES & MARRIED SAINTS, Sundays, 9:15 A.M. A series of talks on modern-day married saints, lead by Fr. Kevin Kraft, O.P. Sunday, April 16 through Sunday, August 27, 2023, 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M. in the Parish Meeting Room at St. Dominic Church.

SUNDAY UNWIND THE MIND MEDITATION, Sundays, 6:45 - 7:30 P.M. Suitable for everyone, these meditation classes offer practical methods to improve the quality of our lives through meditation and Buddhist teachings. Each class is available by drop in and you can come to either the entire series for the month or by individual class. Each class is self contained. Everyone is welcome. Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW, www. meditation-dc.org/

SW ACTION MEETING, Sundays, 1:30 P.M. 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.

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.

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/yny-tdqk-iir. For additional information or questions, please email Lori at Lopitts12@gmail.com.

CIRCUIT RIDESHARE SERVICE IS COMING TO SOUTHWEST THIS MONTH!

Circuit offers eco-friendly rides that will take you to run errands, make appointments, and more. Just download the app and select your pick-up location to ride. The driver confirms they're on the way, and then enjoy!

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

- If you have a smartphone, download the app and enter code "SW20024" for free rides until July 19, 2023
- After the month is up, rides are only \$2 per rider

SCAN FOR APP





@CIRC UIT

FAQS

WHERE DOES IT GO?

See the service area map. It covers most of SW and a few blocks across South Capitol Street.

IS IT HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE?

Yes! This option will be ready in the app to request.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Thursday, 7 AM - 7 PM Friday, 7 AM - 10 PM Saturday, 10 AM - 10 PM Sunday, 10 AM - 5 PM

IS THERE A REDUCED FARE OPTION?

Yes, visit dcmid.io/circuit for more information and to see if you qualify.

NEED MORE INFO?

Visit dcmid.io/circuit or email us at info@dcmid.org







