since 1963 Southwester

serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

DECEMBER 2023 13,000 PAPERS PRINTED THIS MONTH

See "Gifting," page 12





CIRCUIT TRANSPORT OFFERS FREE RIDES

Page 2



DC HEALTH LINK OPEN **ENROLLMENT**

Page 4





Page 10



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Page 14-15



GOODProject Launches Season of Giving

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

gem. If someone on your gift list encapsulates

n Southwest DC, **GOOD**Projects is empowering youth and their families to live fulfilling lives free from poverty, while helping them develop the growth mindset to thrive in their own communities.

This holiday season, they are

launching the 2023 Season of Giving and inviting the community to come together to create lasting change while spreading joy.

A range of impactful volunteer for kids across our community.

Events include:

Thursday, December 7 **GOOD** Holiday Ball & Toy Drive

The festive **GOOD** Holiday Ball on opportunities and fun events aim to Thursday, December 7th at SAX will make this holiday season truly special collect toys for kids in the **GOOD**Zone,

See "GOODProject," page 8

FIND US ONLINE AT THESOUTHWESTER.COM, OR ** @THESOUTHWESTER











Help Save Lives by supporting the Thelma D. Jones **Breast Cancer Fund.**

Donations support outreach and education strategies for young girls and link low-income uninsured and underinsured women and men with information, screening diagnostic services and counseling. Donate online at www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org.

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

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

Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund



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

Southwester

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Gone but Not Forgotten: A Tribute to Dr. Lori Wilson

BY CAITLIN LEGGETT

he sounds of smooth jazz played by Mystical Waters' Saleem Wayne Waters filled the open space inside Westminster Presbyterian Church on an October evening. Shades of pink shawls and ties milled about the room. The church regularly serves as home to Sunday service, Jazz Night in DC, and the Blue Monday Blues. However, this Wednesday, the building was dressed in pink in true Breast Cancer Awareness Month fashion, to honor Thelma. D. Jones, 2022 Recipient of the Howard University Cancer Center Dr. Lori L. Wilson Conquering Cancer Award. The namesake of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) celebrates her 71st birthday this year and instead of throwing a party for herself, she honored

a cause plaguing women and men daily-breast cancer. On her birthday, Sept. 5, she set out to raise \$7,100 to support the cause and has exceeded that goal with the effort ending December 31, 2023. It's not too late to contribute at www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org and have your name listed for a great cause on the "Birthday Wall." The foundation also celebrates the 11th Anniversary of the TDJBCF.

Jones told the audience of the turning point in her life that made her diagnosis take on a whole new meaning: "When I was lying in the hospital bed with breast cancer," she said. "I asked the Almighty, that if you take me through this, I will dedicate the rest of my life to breast cancer and helping others to navigate their journey...I am pleased to say that not one single day have I defaulted on my promise to the Almighty."

This year's October support group meeting was dedicated to the life and legacy of Dr. Lori Wilson, who was the Chief of Surgical Oncology at Howard University School of Medicine and the first woman to be promoted to full professor of surgery at the university. With her husband Chris Dauphin and family in attendance, the event served



L-R, TDJBCF Founder Thelma D. Jones and Dr. Lori L. Wilson at the 2022 Tigerlily Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill

as a reminder of the many lives the late doctor has touched.

Dauphin spoke to the crowd, appreciative of the impact that his wife had, and also advocating for the cause that she loved so much. "Early detection is key so, please examine yourself," he remarked. In a heartfelt plea for his wife's cause, he gave a testimony to the audience. "I know for minority communities it is always a touchy subject because of the history of research and trials with African American community...but I'm here to testify on their behalf that those trials extended Lori's life beyond what the doctors told me."

Howard University Cancer Center (HUCC) Interim Director Dr. Carla D. Williams emceed the event and led a candlelight memorial as stories of resilience were told by women like two-time breast cancer survivor and Patient Navigator Coordinator Kimberly Higginbotham, MPT, HUCC. She helps individuals diagnosed with cancer with obstacles like scheduling, taking notes, answering questions, and even connecting patients who suffer from food insecurity to

Additionally, the 2023 Evelyn B.

Curtis Spirit Award was presented to Brea Hickson, 32, for her advocacy work with Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) (metastasis) as a wife and mom of three young chil-

In attendance were other phenomenal women who shared their commitment to the struggle like Lisa Baynes, Associate Director, American Cancer Society and Ruth Redmond, former firefighter, fire inspector, breast cancer survivor and now author. Wendy Wright Johnson, CEO & Co-Founder, Edith P. Wright Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. (EPW), presented Jones with an Iconic Edi Barbie doll in her mother's honor who transitioned from breast cancer. In addition, Darren Haley, Operations Manager, Life Enhancement Services shared their organization's

mission and vision as a nationally accredited provider of behavioral health services for children, adults, and families in Washington, DC.

Vocalist, advocate, and Cecily graced the crowd with a couple of songs, including an emotional rendition of "I Love the Lord" paying homage to Dr. Wilson. The voice of Miriamm Wright McKinney, Co-Founder & Chair, EPW was also heard via recorded song with her original song "We Must Find a Cure".

Jones remarked on the growth of the organization saying: "We were founded first as a support group in April 2010, modelled after a support group at the World Bank Group, which is where I retired from after more than 33 years," said Jones. "In 2012, we became an official organization. So, we are now a 501c3 nonprofit organization and, thanks to Westminster and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly that helped us along the way." Jones plans to continue to grow the organization with community partners like HUCC and continue to dedicate her life to breast cancer.

Celebrate the yule-tide season with

See "Tribute," page 8

Circuit Electric Shuttle Offers Free Rides to Qualifying Neighbors

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

ircuit, the electric shuttle ride-sharing program serving Southwest DC, is offering free rides to eligible DC residents through its RideWell pro-

Neighbors can demonstrate their eligibility with an EBT Card, a discounted utility bill dated in the last 30 days, SSI/SSDI Statement of benefits, Medicaid Card, or VA Letter.

To access free rides, see a Circuit rideshare driver or visit www.ridecircuit.com/ridewell-dc to fill out a short form and receive a promo code for free rides in the DC service area.



- 2024 Season Ticket Memberships -



Open Enrollment Now Available to Connect DC Residents with Health Insurance

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

ligible DC residents can sign up for affordable health insurance at DCHealthLink.com, the District's online health insurance marketplace, during the open enrollment period for individuals and families through January 31, 2024.

This year, there are 27 private insurance options available from CareFirst BCBS and Kaiser Permanente for individuals and families on any budget. Additionally, DC residents will see greater savings—estimated at almost \$36 million dollars—following investments from the Inflation Reduction Act, passed in 2022.

"Our goal is to help every single resident get covered and stay covered, while at the same time always advocating for the best possible options at the best rates for our customers," DC Healthcare Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Director Mila Kofman said in a press release. "Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act customers will see reduced premiums—even as low as \$13 per month."

DC Health Link is the District's state-based health insurance exchange established under the Affordable Care Act and managed by the DC Healthcare Benefit Exchange Authority (DCHBX). Since 2013, DC Health Link has helped hundreds of thousands of DC residents access affordable healthcare plans, reducing the number of uninsured residents by over 50% and ranking the District of Columbia with the second-lowest uninsured rate in the nation. During this time, DC Health Link plans have saved DC residents millions in healthcare costs.

Eligible District residents can enroll in a health insurance plan online through DCHealthLink.com, or by calling 855-532-LINK [5465]. Some residents will qualify for reduced premiums. Eligible residents who enroll on or before December 15, 2023, will have their coverage effective January 1, 2024. After that date, plan selections made by the 15th of each month during Open Enrollment will be effective on the first day of the following month. Small businesses – as well as individuals and families eligible for Medicaid – can enroll throughout the year.

Residents can also get assistance with enrolling by using the Virtual One Touch Enrollment Center. Individuals can schedule a virtual appointment at dconetouch.setmore.com or by calling 1-855-532-5465. During the

Eligible District residents can enroll a health insurance plan online rough DCHealthLink.com, or by lling 855-532-LINK [5465]. Some sidents will qualify for reduced preums. Eligible residents who enroll or before December 15, 2023, will virtual appointment, residents will receive free expert enrollment support, ID proofing and verification services, case management assistance, and multilingual translation services (Spanish, Amharic, French, Mandarin, Korean, and Chinese).

In-person enrollment at storefront enrollment centers is available with support from certified and trained assisters and licensed health insurance brokers who will help residents navigate the enrollment process and select from various health insurance plans. Residents can find and contact enrollment centers near them by visiting dchealthlink.com/enrollment-centers.



LOG ON TODAY!

www.swna.org · www.TheSouthwester.com

Stunning Retrospective Brings Simone Leigh Full Circle at the Hirshhorn

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

remarkable new exhibit at the Hirshhorn Museum, the first museum retrospective of the work of Simone Leigh, is akin to walking through a memoir of the renowned sculptor's life.

The exhibit, on view through March 3, 2024, begins at the Hirshhorn's entrance, which is dwarfed by Satellite (2022), a 24 foot by 10 foot by 7 foot bronze from Leigh's presentation at the the 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia in 2022.

Leigh was the first Black woman artist to represent the United States at this event. She has stated her message in the variety of media and forms of her works most clearly: Black feminism represented in autoethnography, or the use of personal experience to interpret culture. Her images in sculpture and pottery referencing African art and architecture and the American diaspora are rich in the employment of everyday objects, but never simplistic



Photo by Timothy Schenck.

Simone Leigh's Overburdened with Significance, 2011.

in expressing the marginalization of women of color.

The Hirshorn exhibition gives visitors the opportunity to explore the variations and themes of Leigh's work as she transforms houses, jugs and spoons into artistic representations of women's bodies.

Cupboard (2022) fuses domestic jugs or pots of stoneware into a faceless head atop a steel support covered by raffia palm, which reminds of a dwelling place, or the idea of a body as a place of refuge. The towering bronze Sentinel IV (2022) represents a West African water spirit, a destructive as well as creative generative deity, with a spoon-like head, referencing domesticity and a symbol of women's labor.

Sleek bronze sculptures like Bisi, (2023) Herm (2023) and Vessel (2023) stand well over human height and small works of stoneware like 102 (Face Jug Series) (2018) provide reflection on ancient forms as represented in contemporary works.

Leigh's artistic vision solidifies her studies of both Black women feminist writers and her deep knowledge of artistic material like clay and ceramics. Objects like pottery jugs with human faces have a history, from power objects in African art to" face jugs" produced by 19th century Black potters in Old Edgefield, South Carolina. Thus, Leigh's ideas of a pot and what it represents blends the personal and the political into a poetic form, conceptual ideas presented in distinct objects.

In a remarkably circular moment

See "Hirshhorn," page 9



Affordable Housing at The Westerly

TheWesterlyDC.com/Housing-For-All

Enjoy the full Southwest experience at The Westerly, a dynamic apartment community just one block from Waterfront Station and three blocks from The Wharf.

To learn more about affordable housing at The Westerly and DHCD's eligibility, orientation and registration requirements for the affordable housing lottery visit, www.DHCD.dc.gov



Arena Stage Announces Unexpected New Show to Late Winter Lineup

rena Stage is adding a surprise new show to its 2023/2024 season calendar.

Mindplay, created, co-written and performed by mentalist Vinny DePonto, blurs the lines between illusion and reality.

DePonto guides audiences through a mind-bending experience in which their thoughts play a leading role. The show investigates the beauty of the imagination and the surprising nature of memory.

"One of my favorite experiences is sitting in a theater with an audience and hearing a cascade of gasps from amazement or delight," Arena Stage Artistic Director Hana S. Sharif said in a press release. "It is a gift to introduce DC audiences to Vinny DePonto's mysti-

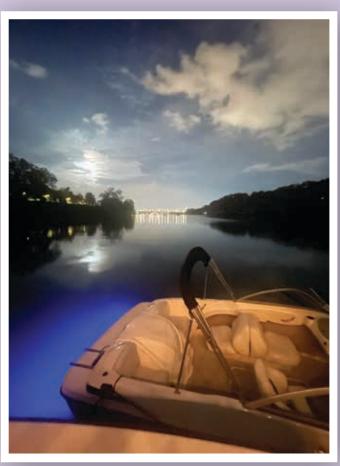
fying and illuminating work in *Mindplay*. With a genre of storytelling that tests the boundaries of our minds, *Mindplay* revels in our essential need to contextualize our memories

and reveals the depth of our shared humanity."

DePonto's work uses a combination of psychological tricks, visual art, and immersive storytelling, and has been featured in the most recent production of *Angels in America* on Broadway, in Lincoln Center's *Ghostlight*, and in hit television shows on the Discovery Channel, NBC, and Netflix.

Arena Stage offers discounted tickets on designated "Southwest Nights" for those living and working in the District's Southwest neighborhood. To learn more, visit arenastage.org/savings-programs.

Photo of the Month



Courtesy of Darryl Madden

An evening on the water.

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







ORDER TODAY!
ARENASTAGE.ORG | 202-488-3300



Federal Employees and Retirees CFC? Consider Local Charities



Waterfront Village CFC# 34491

Small donations to local non-profit organizations can make a big difference in the lives of your neighbors. Waterfron Village serves older adults in Southwest DC and the Navy Yard.

Not a federal employee? Other tax-deductible contributions may be made at:

www. dcwaterfrontvillage.org



Looking for that perfect gift for someone aged 50 or better?



There is no better present for an older adult who wants to stay active, have fun and pursue a meaningful life than a Waterfront Village membership. Village members have access to information and services to help them age in our community, while enjoying wonderful events, clubs and friendships.

Purchase gift memberships by calling 202-656-1834



Season of Giving

Southwest Pod of Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Brimming with Gratitude after Thanksgiving Food Drives

BY REGINA MAZUR

s we bid farewell to 2023, the Southwest (SW) Pod of Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) pauses to reflect on yet another year of effectively delivering vital resources to Black and Brown residents in Southwest DC who may face barriers in accessing them. We extend our gratitude to all of SYC/W6MA's partners and supporters for their unwavering support, ensuring that all our neighbors across DC have the necessary supplies and resources not just to survive but to thrive as we enter 2024.

Throughout the year, the SW Pod of SYC/W6MA organized highly successful food drives in both spring and fall, thanks to the incredible support from our neighbors and partners. We extend our deepest gratitude to the numerous neighborhood communities, including River Park, Harbour Square, Tiber Island, Riverside, Modern on M, Waterside Towers, The Channel, Incanto, The Banks, Vio, Amaris and Wharf Marina, who rallied around our food drive campaigns, hosting donation boxes and contributing to their success.

In addition to the impactful food drives, the SW Pod of SYC/W6MA



commemorated another year of abundant produce distributions. Our sincere thanks go to the generous Southwest Farmers Market Vendors – Ochoa Produce, Ashton Farms, Sandy Bottom Acres, and Panorama Baking Company and community members – for their generous donations of fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons, benefiting those in need.

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to our community partner, Christ United Methodist Church, for their unwavering support and to all our SYC/W6MA SW Pod volunteers and supporters. Without their dedicated assistance and contributions, our food drives, clothing drives, food distributions, and various other campaigns throughout the year would not have been possible. Collectively, these efforts paved the way for another year of success.

As we approach the conclusion of 2023, we want to express a profound THANK YOU to everyone whose unwavering efforts contributed to yet another successful year. Your "solidarity, NOT charity" has made a significant impact, providing invaluable help to those who need it most.

Interested in More Ways to Help?

Join Us in Sustaining Mutual Aid Beyond 2023: 2023 may end soon, but our work doesn't stop. Didn't get a chance to contribute to our work on "Giving Tuesday"? It's not too late! Your "solidarity, NOT charity" makes mutual aid possible into the future. Keep the abundance flowing in 2024 and beyond by visiting bit.ly/sycw-6ma-eoy-23 today.

Join us every Saturday at 2:00 p.m. for our Food Distribution Event: SYC/W6MA collaborates with Christ United Methodist Church 5000 Food Pantry to provide fresh produce. Additionally, on the 2nd and

4th Saturdays of each month, also at 2:00 p.m., we expand our selection to include groceries, cleaning supplies, and personal care items. Find our distribution location at 900 4th St SW. For further assistance with food and supplies, feel free to contact SYC/W6MA's SW Pod by sending an email to swmutualaid@serveyourcitydc.org.

Support SYC/W6MA's SW Pod! We are seeking donations of:

- Non-perishable foods, such as canned tuna, canned chicken, pasta, pasta sauce, soup, canned fruit, boxed milk, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil, condiments, hot & and cold cereal, Ensure, tea, coffee.
- Toiletries, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, deodorant, and feminine products, Depends.
- Monetary Donations: Donate online at bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate. These funds allow us to purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank, tripling the amount of food you could purchase at the store.

Want to Learn More?

For additional information, please contact us at: **swmutualaid@serveyourcitydc.org.**



Photo credit: Stacy Baker

Celebrating 25 years of service to Southwest!

A big <u>Thank You</u> to all who contributed to our fall fundraiser!

If you missed it, please consider an end-of-year donation!

Be a Friend of Southwest and help your neighbors!

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



Friends of Southwest DC is a 501(3)(c), tax exempt, nonprofit organization. All our work is done by volunteers, so your contribution goes to help Southwest residents.

We support *The Southwester* through our advertising.

GOODPROJECT

Continued from p. 1

with a goal of reaching 1,000 families with toys.

Friday, December 8 Brown Box Packing Event Family Enhancement Center, 203 N St SW

Be part of the Brown Box Packing Event on Friday, December 8th, with the aim to distribute 1,000 holiday essentials boxes to families in the **GOOD**Zone. Your volunteer efforts can make a significant impact.

Saturday, December 16th Winter Wonderland Toy Distribution James Creek Resident Council Center, 100 N Street SW

See it all come together at the Winter Wonderland, where 1,000 families will receive toys for their kids, creating magical moments for them during the holiday season.

To learn more about each event, sign up to volunteer, or make a donation, visit the Season of Giving page at **GOODProjects.org/SeasonOfGiving**.

TRIBUTE

Continued from p. 2

the TDJBCF on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 6 pm at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024. The meeting will focus on genetic counseling and children of breast cancer survivors (living or deceased). Guest speakers will include Grace-Ann Fasaye, ScM, CGC (she, her, hers), Senior Genetic Coun-

selor, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute Center for Cancer Research, Genetics Branch and Brea Hickson, MBA, IBC Survivor and Advocate. For information, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639.

Caitlin Leggett is a journalist with a BA in mass communications, a BS in computer science, and a MA in journalism.



Photo by Shaniqwa Jarvis

Simone Leigh, 2021. Courtesy of the artist.



HIRSHHORN

Continued from p. 5

of personal history, Leigh once was a summer intern at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, just steps away from this major retrospective on the National Mall, where she was surrounded by African vessels and the opportunity to research what was written in European colonial histories.

A particularly dramatic work is the cobalt blue *Martinique*, (2022) a faceless recreation of the statue of Napoleon's wife Josephine that previously stood in a municipal square in Martinique. The public statue was decapitated and stained with bloodred paint in 1991 and later irreparably destroyed by activists. Leigh's referential work crosses historical periods, geographies, and traditions, transforming what was once presented in a public monument as a symbol of colonialism into this museum art work of stunning beauty.

Interspersed in this exhibit among her sculptures are collaborative videos, *Conspiracy* (2022) *Breakdown* (2011) and *my dreams, my works must wait till after hell...* (2011) which continue to address Black feminist issues with a focus on the contemporary art discourse, exploring ideas of race, beauty, and community in visual and material culture.

The infinite variety of Leigh's works are a thrill to view, flowing between times in history with leaps which challenge the hierarchy of art history in its connection to human experience.

While statues and pottery have long been part of the art history discourse, Leigh is a contemporary American women artist who is writing the next chapter in the what has been the omission in traditional art textbooks with her powerful abstract works that weave together past and present, illusion and abstraction, in beauty of form in great works, in our time, for everyone.

St. Dominic Catholic Church



Christmas Masses

December 24:

Christmas Vigil Mass: 5 PM - 4:30 PM for carols Christmas Mass during the Night: 9 PM - 8:30 PM for carols

December 25:

Christmas Mass during the Day: 10:30 AM - 10 AM for carols

501 6th Street, SW
L'Enfant Plaza Metro

(202) 554-7863 www.stdominicchurch.org



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?

 $10 \times 22 =$

18 + 2 =

146 + 82 =

129 + 71 =

200 - 61 =

65 - 15 =

Jokes!

What did one hat say to the other?

You wait here — I'll go on ahead!

Why don't the circus lions eat the clowns?

Because they taste funny!

What do you call a fake noodle?

An impasta!

Answers from the November 2023 issue

Differences: The artwork on the wall is different; the picture on the right has a mouse and a cat; the person on the right is wearing a hat in the picture on the right; the person in the middle has different shoes; the food is different.

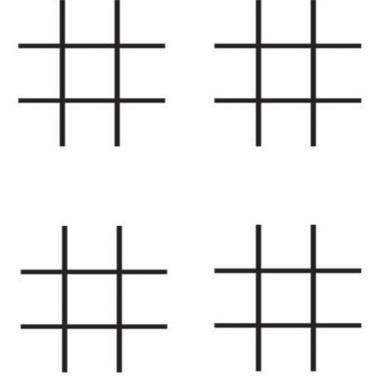
WORD SEARCH: HOLIDAYS!

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

CANDLES FOOD TREE

CELEBRATE GENEROUS
LOVE FAMILY
GIFTS PEACE





The Southwester **December 2023** Page 11



Young Readers

Kids Can't Keep their Hands Off these Giftable Books

BY KITTY FELDE

ids are reading less. A lot less. Just one in three children read every day for pleasure. According to the National Literacy Trust, daily reading by kids between ages eight and 18 has dropped 26 percent over the past two decades.

Librarian Rebecca Opalka says she's been dealing with reluctant readers forever. Some kids, she says, "Just aren't having it" when it comes to books. Especially kids in upper elementary and middle grade.

Before working at the Phoenix Public Library, Rebecca spent 17 years as a classroom teacher where she had her own small classroom library. She says there was one book she couldn't keep on the shelves. Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark by Alvin Schwartz. This 1981 title is perfect for upper elementary/ middle grade kids, with a creepy cover and a collection of spooky tales.

Kids loved it so much, they kept stealing it.

"I replaced that book four to five

times a year," says Rebecca. "Kids would just take it. They loved the scary stories."

Elsewhere in the world, the most stolen book at the Cape Town library in South Africa is Jeff Kenney's Diary of a Wimpy Kid. In England, the Tintin and Asterix comics and J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series keep disappearing off the shelves. The most

stolen book of all times? Reportedly it's the Guinness Book of World Records.

Got a reluctant reader? Pick one of these titles, books so beloved the young reader can't let them go. Any one of them would make the perfect holiday gift.

Just don't steal the books. You can borrow them for free at the DC Public Library. Several copies are available right now. Just bring them back,

Kitty Felde is host of the Book Club for Kids podcast, winner of the DC Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Humani-

Southwest Moment



Courtesy of Audrey Hinton

Fall foliage sprinkled Southwest with color.





🕉 Season's Greetings, Southwest DC Style 🎉

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

hether you're entertaining visiting friends and family or enjoying a quiet staycation in the neighborhood, Southwest is brimming with holiday cheer. For special events, menus, parties and celebrations, reach out to your favorite neighborhood restaurant or hotel.

Local events include:

The U.S. Botanic Garden offers its popular annual holiday display "Season's Greenings" from Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day (closed on Christmas Day). Model trains will run each day in the gated outdoor gardens and holiday decorations will include nearly 2,000 colorful poinsettias and the Garden's collection of



Courtesy of Devin Dotson, U.S. Botanic Garden

ABOVE: Season's Greetings is on display at the U.S. Botanic Garden. LEFT: Spectacular Factory can been seen beginning December 20 at ARTECHOUSE.

D.C. monuments and landmarks, such as the U.S. Capitol building and the Lincoln Memorial, all made from plant parts. Free, 100 Maryland Ave SW,

www.USBG.gov/SeasonsGreenings

Arena Stage hosts its annual holiday celebration of the African American tradition of stepping, billed as the world's first step-themed holiday show. Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show runs December 9-18. Tickets from \$56, 1101 6th Street

SW, www.arenastage.org.

For a high-end seasonal treat, the Salamander Hotel is offering holiday-themed afternoon tea service twice daily through January 1. Homemade pastries, sandwiches and tea are included, along with a glass of sparkling wine, surrounded by festive decor. \$95, 1330 Maryland Avenue SW, https://www.salamanderdc.com/activities.

ARTECHOUSE's holiday exhibition, Spectacular Factory, runs from December 20 through January 8. The cinematic experience includes giant swinging Christmas bells, thousands of nutcrackers, train rides through wreaths, spinning candy cane carousels and more. 1238 Maryland Ave SW, www.artechouse.com/program/spectacular-factory-2023/.

Capitol Riverfront BID presents the return of Light Yards, a free interactive light installation on display from November 20 to January 7. Other holiday events at Capitol Riverfront include Hanukkah Lights & Ice Skate Night on December 8 and a holiday tree lighting on December 14. December 16 brings the Jolly Jog Fun Run and December 18 the Jingle Jam Holiday Concert featuring the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington DC. Events occur across Canal Park and Yards Park, SE. https://www.capitolriverfront.org/

GIFTING

 $Continued\ from\ p.\ 1$



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

Jessie Taylor Seafood.

For your fishiest friend Fresh catch from Jessie Taylor Seafood

Whether they are preparing for the Italian-American Feast of the Seven Fishes or hosting a holiday celebration that could only be improved with the addition of Cheseapake blue crabs, stop by Jessie Taylor Seafood, which will even cook your catch for you before you head out to your party. *Prices vary, https://www.jessietaylorseafooddc.com.*

For the civically-minded Lunch and volunteering at DC Central Kitchen SW

Courtesy of ARTECHOUSE

DC Central Kitchen's gleaming new Michael R. Klein Center for Jobs & Justice in Southwest DC offers training and support to youth and adults facing barriers to employment. Bring someone on your gift list to join a daily morning volunteer shift, followed by lunch featuring fresh, local-sourced ingredients at the on-site cafe. *Priceless, https://dccentralkitchen.org/dc-central-kitchen-cafe-at-klein-center/*



Courtesy of DC Central Kitchen

Volunteers at DC Central Kitchen.



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

The Southwest Library.

For the remote worker Headphones for Southwest Library Zoom calls

While the neighborhood works from home in the post-COVID era, no spot is as convenient, flexible and free (did we mention free?) as the gorgeously renovated Southwest Library. Hop online to reserve a study room, or park yourself at one of the shared tables by the window, but whatever you do, don't disturb the other patrons. *Headphones, various prices and styles, available online.*

For the sportiest spice Washington Spirit T-Shirt

The National Women's Soccer Leauge's Washington Spirit barely missed a playoff run this year, but now that they're fully settled at Buzzard Point's Audi Field as a permanent home, show your neighborhood pride with a worldly, flag-emblazoned Spirit United shirt. \$34.99, https://www.washingtonspiritshop.com.

For the riverside exerciser Wearable wrist weights

We all have a neighbor who starts every morning or ends every weekday with a power walk alongside the Titanic Memorial Park boardwalk. With riverside views, convenient benches for rest or stretches and stunning sunsets, the location could inspire a pumped up workout for the intrepid walker or jogger. Wearable wrist weights, various prices, available online.

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GIFTING

Continued from p. 12

For the transit-obsessed new parent **Throwback Waterfront Metro baby** romper

Metro may be known more for weekend trackwork than its fashion sense, but the official WMATA store offers all kinds of ways to let your urban planning geek flag fly. Don't miss the baby romper featuring the Waterfront-SEU Green Line station - a name that was simplified to Waterfront in 2011, a mere three years after the namesake Southeastern University campus on I Street SW closed. \$24.50, https://dcmetrostore. com/products/waterfront-seu-romper

For the son of a son of a sailor Season pass to The Wharf Marina

Whether they're mourning the tragic passing of Jimmy Buffet (RIP) or have always longed to set out on the open water, get them started with a season pass or one-time gift card to Boating in DC's Wharf-based boathouse, with kayaks, paddleboards and more at their fingertips. Various prices, https://boatingindc.com/the-wharf-boathouse.

For the literary museum visitor **Exhibition accompanying coffee-table** books

Politics and Prose at The Wharf has expanded to the bottom floor of the new Atlantic building, and the hyperlocal book and gift emporium is offering readers a deeper look into current gallery offerings. Gift a gorgeous coffeetable book designed to accompany the National Gallery of Art's The Land Carries Our Ancestors: Contemporary Art by Native Americans (\$45) or the Hirshhorn's Simone Leigh retrospective (\$75). 610 Water St SW, www.politics-prose. com.

For the eco-conscious Support raptor encounters and citizen science

Located in a converted pumphouse at 2000 Half Street SW, the Earth Conservation Corps' Matthew Henson Center is home to incredible environmental programs ranging from wildlife tracking, species reintroduction and raptor ambassadors. Connect a young person in your life with the environment around them through the center's programs and giving opportunities. Various options, www.earthconservationcorps. org.

For the true tailgate lover **Beer Snake Tickets to XFL's DC Defenders**

Nothing says neighborhood solidarity like contributing your own empty beer cup to the greatest tradition in second-tier sports. The XFL's DC Defenders bring the party to Audi Field, but they also made it to the league championship game last year - more success than most local sports franchises can claim. Single game tickets from \$23, https:// www.xfl.com/teams/washington-dc.

The Wharf Ice Rink is Back

BY MIKE GOODMAN

The ice skating rink at The Wharf slid back into action on Nov. 22, and will remain open until Feb. 25. It is a cashless facility, first-come first-serve (no reservations are accepted). Regular hours of operation are:

Monday-Tuesday: Closed Wednesday: 4 - 10pm Thursday-Friday: 4 - 10pm Saturday: 12 - 10pm Sunday: 12 - 8pm

Adult admission is \$13; Youth under 12 years of age are \$10; and seniors/ military are \$11. Skates are available for rental at additional cost.

The Wharf Ice Rink is located at 970 Wharf Street SW, Washington, DC 20024 on Transit Pier. Purchase admission and rent skates at the Skate Shop, located on Transit Pier next to the Water Taxi ticket office.

Occasionally the rink will be closed for private events, or on limited hours for holidays. Plan your visit by checking https://www.wharfdc.com/wharf-icerink/ for more information.





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".

270000	
GET CASH BACK WHEN YOU USE REALTY PROS	
Purchase/Sales Price of Property	Amount of Cash Back
Up to \$99,999	\$400
\$100,000 - \$149,000	\$700
\$150,000 - \$199,999	\$975
\$200,000 - \$249,999	\$1,250
\$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
\$3,000,000 - and above	\$9,000

4626 Wisconsin Ave., NW | Washington, DC 20016 202-537-3800 - Office | 202-374-2817 - Mobile reonebrown@gmail.com



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.











Southwester Community Calendar | December 2023

Please check the web references or telephone numbers in the listings for details.

FRI 1, 1 P.M. Movies at the Library. Popular feature films shown in the library. December 1st Movie: Suicide Squad. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SUN 3, 1:00 P.M. Sit and Stitch. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels join us for an hour of stitching and community at Southwest Library! Basic guided instruction for beginners in crochet, knitting, embroidery, and cross-stitch is available. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

MON 4, 4:30 P.M. After School Movies. Kids aged 5-12 are invited to join us for an After School Movie, where we'll have a chance to unwind and relax after school. Caregivers over the age of 13 mu st join any participants under the age of 9. We'll meet in the large meeting room on the first floor. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

MON 4th 7 P.M. ANC6D Admin Meeting. Held virtually on Zoom. Agenda and link to meeting are at www.anc6d.org/virtual-meeting.

TUES 5, Game On! For Adults and Seniors. Play CLASSIC board games, checkers, uno, dominos, backgammon, and scrabble for this fun 2-hour program event. Are you bored? Do you like playing games? If you do, come out to our Adult/ Senior Game on event, where you will have a chance to play CLASSIC board games against others in this fun 2-hour program event. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TUES 5, 12, 19, and 26 10 A.M. to Noon. Memoir Writing Workshop Series. Want to write your memoir but don't know where to start? Join us for this four-part series! Request a reminder by registration (not required) at tinyurl. com/swmemoir23. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WED 6, 13, 20, and 27 2 P.M. Tech Help. Get basic help and troubleshooting with digital devices, tech tasks, and accounts for free at the Southwest Library. Please bring your own charged device and any necessary information/materials. Need more than a few minutes? Request a one-on-one appointment at tinyurl. com/swtechhelp. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

THURS 7, 21 5:30 P.M. Let's Play SPADES, SPADES is a trick-taking partnership game where players bid the number of tricks each expects to take. Games are played to 500 points and the team with the highest score wins. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

FRI 8, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses at 8 A M., 12:10 P.M. and 7 P.M. A holy day of obligation for those that are Catholic. St. Dominics Catholic Church

SAT 9, 7 P.M. Faith & Film Zoom presentation of Rustin. Release Date: 2023 Genre: Drama/Documentary Runtime: 1h 48m Rating: PG-13. Bayard Rustin, a dedicated civil rights activist, was a top advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr., and the major architect behind the 1963 March on Washington. But the force of his activism for racial and economic equality has largely been

untold and unsung because he was an openly gay man. This film elevates his voice and legacy. After film discussion led by Rev. Brian Hamilton. For Zoom link, email the Westminster office at **wpcdcoffice@gmail.com**. All Invited.

SUN 10, All Day. Family Game 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. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

MON 11, 7 P.M. ANC6D Business Meeting. Held virtually on Zoom. Agenda and link to meeting are at www.anc6d.org/virtual-meeting.

MON 11, 5 P. M. Middle Grade Book Club. In December, we'll read and discuss Katie The Catsitter, a graphic novel by Colleen AF Venable. This exciting adventure book is perfect for fans of superheroes and the Baby-Sitters Club graphic novels and follows Katie when she discovers that her neighbor might be a supervillain who uses her cats to do crimes. Southwest Neighborhood Library

TUES 12, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Komen Toastmasters. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month. If interested in attending our meeting, please contact us at: komentoastmasters8714@gmail.com

WED 13, Noon to 2 P.M. Adult Crafts: DIY Glass Bead Bracelets. It's never too late to pick up a new hobby or learn a new craft. We invite you to learn how to create your own set of stretchy beaded bracelets. Supplies will be provided, but supplies and seats are very limited. Please register for this program. This program is for adults. If you have questions or need more information, please email us at southwestlibrary@dc.gov with Adult Craft: Beaded Bracelets in the subject line. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WED 13, 3:30 P.M. LEGO Club. Students aged 7-12 are invited to join us in the STEAM Lab on the 2nd floor to build, explore, and grow with Legos. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

THURS 14, 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.

SAT 16, 1-3 P.M. (Via Zoom) Thinking About Jazz presents Dave Brubeck: Third Stream Jazz. David Warren Brubeck was an American jazz pianist and composer. Often regarded as a foremost exponent of cool jazz, Brubeck's work is characterized by unusual time signatures and superimposing contrasting rhythms, meters, and tonalities. His lead single "Take Five" from the album Time Out became the highest-selling jazz single of all time. Zoom link available in December. Contact the Westminster church office at 202-484-7700/ wpcdcoffice@gmail.com

SUN 17, 1:00 P.M. Sit and Stitch. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels join us for an hour of stitching and community at Southwest Library! Basic guided instruction for beginners in crochet, knitting, embroidery, and cross-stitch is available.

Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SUN 17, 7 P.M. Solemn Vespers in the Church followed by a reception in the Parish Meeting Room. St. Dominics Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW

MON 18, 4:30 P.M. After School Movies. Kids aged 5-12 are invited to join us for an After School Movie, where we'll have a chance to unwind and relax after school. Caregivers over the age of 13 must join any children under the age of 9. We'll meet in the large meeting room on the first floor. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TUES 19, Game On! For Adults and Seniors. Play CLASSIC board games, checkers, uno, dominos, backgammon, and scrabble for this fun 2-hour program event. Are you bored? Do you like playing games? If you do, come out to our Adult/Senior Game on event, where you will have a chance to play CLASSIC board games against others in this fun 2-hour program event. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

THURS 21, 5 P.M. Family Holiday Party. Get into the winter spirit with the Southwest Library Family Holiday Party! We'll decorate cookies, color together, and watch a winter movie with our hot cocoa in hand. Pajamas are encouraged! Southwest Neighborhood Library.

Fri. 22, 5 P.M. SW Chamber Players Annual Christmas Concert St. Augustine's Church

SUN 24, 5 P.M. Christmas Vigil Mass with carols beginning at 4:30 P.M. Christmas Mass during the Night – 9 P.M. with carols beginning at 8:30 P.M. St. Dominics Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW

MON 25, 10:30 A.M. Christmas Mass during the Day – 10:30 A.M. with carols beginning at 10 A.M. St. Dominics Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW

WED 27, 3:30 P.M. LEGO Club. Students aged 7-12 are invited to join us in the STEAM Lab on the 2nd floor to build, explore, and grow with Legos. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

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. https://aa-dc.org/meetings https://aa-dc.org/meetings/t-g-i-f

AFTER SCHOOL GAMES, Thursdays 4 P.M. End the school day at the Southwest Library and join us for some self-directed after-school games on Thursdays from 4-5 P.M.! We'll have board games, card games, and occasionally some larger games to play, or we can help you login to your preferred computer game if computers are available

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

BABY LAP TIME, Thursdays, 1:15-2:15 P.M. Babies under 1 who are not yet walking, and their caregivers are invited to join us for a special 20-30-minute story time full of songs, bounces, and good books. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Various Blues musicians and singers are featured each Monday. \$10 cover and food for sale. Schedule at Westminster Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/blue-monday-schedule

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. Children birth to 5 and their caregivers are invited to a special early literacy play date themed around building, knocking down, and building back up again! Come explore constructive play with us. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

CHAIR YOGA, Mondays, 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

CHURCH CLEANING, 2nd Saturdays of the month, 9:35 A.M. St. Dominic Church. www. stdominicchurch.org/

Cycle 2 of "Modern Well-Married Saints & Holy Couples" (with two weeks off for Christmas and New Years) Sun 3rd through Sun March 17, 2024 9:15-10:15 A.M. in the Parish Meeting Room. St. Dominics Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW. www.stdominicchurch.org/

FAMILY STORY TIME, Mondays, 10:30 A.M. Come to the Southwest Library for story time fun. On Mondays, we have family story time or music and movement for young ones of all ages, birth to 5. Craft to follow. Southwest Library.

FILM DISCUSSION CLUB, Tuesdays, 12 P.M. Join this lively conversation circle composed of your neighbors and fellow library users. Enjoy watch-

ing an award-winning short film (30 minutes or less) with others and then participate in a friendly conversation afterwards. Share your point of view and meet new people. This program is for adults. Films are not listed ahead of time. Southwest Neighborhood Library - Large Meeting Room. https://dclibrary.libnet.info/events

GODLY PLAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, Sundays 11 A.M-12 P.M. ages 4-12. Fun sessions including videos and interactive activities about the life and teachings of Jesus. Westminster Church. https://westminsterdc.org/

HYBRID WORSHIP SERVICE, Sundays, 11 A.M.-12 P.M. All Welcome to share in inspiring worship! Westminster Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6-9 P.M. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$10. Food for sale. Schedule at https://westminster-dc.org/jazz-night-in-dc-schedule . Westminster Presbyterian Church.

JOB SEEKERS, Mondays, 1-3 P.M. Stop by Southwest Library for this drop-in clinic where we answer your questions and provide guidance and assistance to job seekers in their search. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

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

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

NEW HYBRID ADULT EDUCATION CLASS Sundays 10-11 A.M. Led by Rev. Dr. Alice Bellis (Howard University) and Jeff Nicoll (author of Strange and Gaudy Fruit: Toxic Theology). Westminster church. To Register, contact: wpcdcoffice@gmail.com. FREE. https://westminsterdc.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.me

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH PROTEIN PAN-TRY, 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/ **SEASONAL CRAFT. All Day.** Join us in the Children's Room for a seasonal or book-themed craft. Children ages 3-12 can drop by the children's room for a fun craft. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

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. https://westminsterdc.org/

SENSORY PLAY TIME, Fridays, 10:30 A.M. Babies, toddlers, & preschoolers are invited to play and explore their senses in this fun program. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TECH HELP, Wednesdays, 2-3 P.M. Need help navigating a new device, setting up an email account, connecting with friends on social media, or something else tech-related? Drop by Tech Help, a one-hour technology assistance clinic for guidance from library staff. Come prepared with any necessary log-in information and your charged device. Be ready to learn new skills and get comfortable in the digital environment while accomplishing the tech tasks you need done. Southwest Library. https://dclibrary.libnet.info/events

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/

THE WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB (WSCC) meets at 7 P.M. on the First and Third Wednesdays of every month at Christ United Methodist Church, 300 Eye Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. Visitors are always welcome to take part in our meetings. Ring the church's doorbell at the Eye St. entrance to enter the meeting. https://www.dcstampclub.org/

YOGA AT THE LIBRARY, Saturdays, 11 A.M.-12:45 P.M. Join us for weekly yoga classes. Chair Yoga 11:00-11:30 A.M., Mat Yoga 11:45 A.M. -12:45 P.M. Please come in comfortable clothes to move in and bring your own mat for mat yoga. Southwest Library, Large Meeting Room.

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