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Dr. Ibram X. Kendi Visits Jefferson Middle School Academy

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

n late January, Jefferson Middle School Academy welcomed guest author Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. Dr. Kendi was in town to promote his new book, Barracoon: Adapted for Young Readers, which tells the story of Oluale Kossola (Cudjo Lewis), who was a survivor of the Clotilda, the last recorded slave ship that arrived illegally on American shores in

Joining Dr. Kendi on stage were 8th graders Sanaa Wilson and Jidé George, along with Ms. Kimberly-Celeste "K.C." Boyd, Jefferson's librarian. "I have been a fan of Dr. Kendi's work for years. When the opportunity was presented to us by An Open Book Foundation to have Dr. Kendi visit Jefferson Academy, I was thrilled," Boyd said.

a collaboration The event was

See "Kendi," page 12



From left to right, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, Jidé George, Sanaa Wilson, and Kimberly-Celeste

DC Black History Celebration Committee Kicks Off Program in Southwest

BY VYLLORYA EVANS

he DC Black History Celebration Committee (DCB-HCC) will mark Black History Month 2024 with the theme Black Artist as Activist.

The public is invited to join the kickoff event on Saturday, February 3 at 11:00 a.m. at Westminster Church, 400 I Street SW.

The keynote speaker for the event is Tom Porter, Former Executive Director of Martin L. King Center. The program will include recognition of Sharon Scott, Karan Cornish-Adebiyi, Rev. Tony Montley, Nana Malaya Rucker, Brenda Sayles, Susan Woodard, Robert



Vanzant, and remarks from Dr. Frank Smith, Director and Founder African American Civil War Museum. DC Councilmembers are also invited to make remarks.

In addition, a 2024 Black History Month Activity Guide will be available in February on dcblackhistory.org. DCBHCC is honored DMV for Black History Month. history@gmail.com.

Also, the 47th edition of the Black Seeds Historical and Educational Calendar will be available during the kickoff.

Chuck Hicks is the Founder and Director of the DCBHCC which recognizes and celebrates the contributions of the African American community in art, literature, politics, and education throughout the year. Hicks stated, "that Black History is important because it's not just for African Americans, it's for everyone. In spite of oppression, continue to

For more information on the to offer a guide to events for the DCBHCC Kick-Off email: dcblack-



COMMUNITY **RAISES FUNDS** FOR FAMILY IMPACTED BY SHOOTINGS

Page 2



FREE TAX PREPARATION **ASSISTANCE**

Page 11



SNOW DAY SCENES IN SOUTHWEST

Page 12



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Community Raises Funds for Family of Mother Killed in December Shooting

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

n December 21, 2023, a drive-by shooting outside the Friendly Food Market on Half Street SW and O Street SW killed two people, including local resident Patricia Harris. Harris' three children, ages 14, 8 and 4, attended neighborhood schools, including Van Ness Elementary.

A GoFundMe led by members of the school community was launched with the goal of raising \$20,000 to help defray the cost of the funeral and to provide the family with funds to support the children's needs.

A family representative, Jerkenya Blunt, is a cousin of Harris' mother,, who is stepping in to support her grandchildren.

"Our family is so grateful for the outpouring of support from everyone," Blunt shared with supporters on the GoFundMe page. "So much in our lives is forever changed. Having this money to pay for funeral costs...and some to set aside for future needs of these three children...helps us focus on them instead of money. The kids have a lot to deal with and are going to need a lot of love and support. Thank you for keeping us in your hearts."



Courtesy of GoFundMe

The Harris family.

As of press time, nearly 300 people had contributed, in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$500. To learn

more or donate, visit www.gofund-me.com/f/supporting-the-family-of-patricia-harris.

SWNA Emergency Preparedness Task Force Seeks Volunteers

chair of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Emergency Preparedness Task Force, known as "Southwest Strong!" please contact Ben Curran at 202 294-7043 or benimon@hotmail. com The term would be for one year with the option to extend longer.

Southwest Strong! works with other organizations to promote disaster preparedness and climate action. It puts on a wide array of disaster-focused talks, community exercises, children's preparedness activities, Community Preparedness Fairs, and other fun activities such as a Disaster Preparedness

float in the Palisades, DC July 4th parade. We pride ourselves on collaboration, education, self-reliance, inclusivity, having fun, making progress, and respect for all.

The Vice-Chair would assist in brainstorming on activity topics, reaching out to like-minded organizations and individuals throughout the city, organizing events, assisting in moderating

the events, summarizing events, main-

taining records, helping with community outreach, particularly at the Southwest Farmers Market, and fundraising. The ideal candidate would be a resident of Southwest DC.

The one-year term would begin on April 1, 2024.

Corrections

January's edition of The Southwester contained an error. In the "Where Are They Now" profile, the names of Dr. Sergio Rozzelle and Margaret Rozzelle were misspelled. The editors regret the error and apologize to the Rozzelle family.



TICKETS ON-SALE NOW!



Arena Stage Brings DC History to Life with New Show

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he life of Anna Julia Cooper, spanning over a century from 1858, when she was born into slavery in Raleigh, North Carolina to her death in 1964 in Washington DC, is one filled with dramatic moments.

Tempestuous Elements, opening February 16 at Arena Stage, focuses on one significant moment that exemplifies her advocacy on race relations, women's rights and education.

Cooper taught Latin at M Street High School (later to become Dunbar High School), and became its second black principal in 1901. A controversy arose when Cooper advocated for classical education as promoted by W. E. B. Du Bois, "designed to prepare eligible students for higher education and leadership" versus the vocational program espoused by Booker T. Washington. Cooper herself became the fourth Black woman in American history to earn a Doctor of Philosophy degree, which was awarded to her at the age

To learn more about how the story of Anna Cooper's remarkable life was

of 65 by the Sorbonne for her work in

medieval French literature.



Courtesy Scott Suchman

Tempestuous Elements director Psalmayene 24.

brought to the stage, *The Southwester* heard from two of the artistic minds behind the show.

The show's director, Psalmayene 24, is well-known to theater goers in

the Washington DC area for his work with Arena Stage, Studio Theater, Mosaic Theater, Ford's Theater and more.

The Southwester: What about *Tempestuous Elements* made you want to direct it?

Psalmayene 24: Among my goals as a director is to work at great theaters and direct great plays written by the best playwrights. As a director of African descent, I'm drawn to plays that uniquely illuminate the Black experience through content and/or form. Tempestuous Elements checks all of these boxes. Arena Stage is one of our premier American theaters and to have the opportunity to direct this production in the Fichandler—a legendary theater-in-the-round—is a huge honor and a dream come true. Kia Corthron is an extraordinary and well-respected playwright who holds a particularly beloved place in the Black theatrical community. Saying yes to this production was a no-brainer.

SW: What is the artistic/research process behind directing a play so full of history? What are some of your preparations for a work like this? How familiar were you with Anna Julia

Cooper when you signed on?

P24: For me, the artistic/research process for a play like this—one that is so steeped in history—starts with fidelity to the time period. Once you know and are familiar with what is historically accurate, then you can make choices within the production that are in harmony with the time period. Or you can make choices that might deliberately break the rules of the time period or are anachronistic in some slight way that better serves the production.

The research process for this play obviously includes reading material by Anna J. Cooper. One only has to read a few sentences from her book, A Voice from the South, in order to realize that you are dealing with someone with a magnificent mind. My research also includes being familiar with the ideas of W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington. I'm somewhat embarrassed to admit that I was not familiar with Anna J. Cooper prior to this project, so diving into the world of the play has been eye-opening and revelatory.

SW: How does this play differ from your many other DC stage productions over the last 25 years? How do you feel it fits into the overall DC theater landscape?

See "Arena Stage," page 5



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ARENA STAGE

Continued from p. 4

P24: This is the first play that I've directed that centers on a Black woman who is a figure of historical importance. I've written and directed plays with Black women as protagonists, but those pieces were works of fiction.

There is a different level of responsibility that I feel helming a production that is about a woman who actually existed—especially a woman with the stature of Anna J. Cooper.

This play fits like a missing puzzle piece into the landscape of DC theater. This is a woman whose legacy is woven into the fabric of this city, but somehow the threads of that legacy have been obscured. I'm thankful that this play and production will throw Anna J. Cooper's legacy into high relief.

SW: What is your approach to bringing this story to a DC stage and audience?

P24: My approach to bringing this play to life on a DC stage and for a DC audience starts with tapping into the soul of the text. It all begins with the script. The predominant element of this play is its language. There is a trenchant beauty and richness to the words these characters speak. This production aims to highlight that language while also selectively animating the ideas of the play through spec-

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The show isn't over when it is time to go home. There is so much more to learn about Anna Cooper and her place in the history of American thought and education. Her book *A Voice from the South*, published in 1892, is now available on Kindle.

Tempestuous Elements at Arena runs from Feb. 16 to March 17, 2023. Southwest Nights are Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, March 15 at 8:00 p.m.

tacle and movement.

Casting is also a means by which this production is intentionally in conversation with a DC audience. All but one of the eleven actors in this production are based in the DMV. So when you see the actors on stage, you are primarily seeing artists rooted in the DC community. This production is a real gift to DC and I can't wait to share it with audiences at Arena.

Scenic designer Tony Cisek has worked on shows at the Signature Theater, Folger Theater, Kennedy Center and more.

The Southwester: What was your artistic/research process like? Were you already familiar with Anna Julia

Cooper when you signed on?

Tony Cisek: This play was my first introduction to the force of nature that was Anna Julia Cooper. I sense that I will not be the only person unfamiliar with Anna's remarkable story before encountering this play, which makes it all the more exciting to be involved in sharing it with Arena's audiences.

I typically begin my design process by reading the play multiple times so I can get to know the play on several different levels: the basic plot, the larger dramatic arcs, the themes that reverberate, the practical details. At some point in that process, I begin conversations with the director to discuss our particular takes on the story, to see what overlaps, what resonates with both of us. That usually points me in a particular direction.

For this project I continued my process by reading some of Anna's writings, searching for visual images relating to schools of the period, and as always, musing on how the scenic design could help the audience connect with the story.

SW: What inspiration did you pull from when designing the set? What, if any, special challenges did you face?

TC: Our director, Psalmayene 24, really wanted to lean into the notion of Anna being caught in a storm—the tempest alluded to in the title of the play. I thought about what Anna was fighting for, what was at the center of

the storm, the classical curriculum of the M Street School, and how it embodied her belief that education paved the surest way forward for her students in the America of 1900. That idea became the inspiration for the scenic design, and my task became how to create an environment that would visually manifest that idea.

The primary challenge when designing in-the-round is that the audience is seated all around the action. That means you can't put anything in the space that's going to block anyone's view from anywhere—at least not for more than a moment or two. There are two scenes in the play that take place in classrooms and require chalkboards. Chalkboards as we know them would block sight lines to the actors for some of the audience. Exploring solutions to this practical problem led me to a solution for the larger design.

SW: What would you like the audience to notice or pay close attention to? How does your set coordinate with the other design aspects of the production (lighting, costumes, etc.)?

TC: The success of any scenic design is heavily dependent on the work of the lighting designer, in that he or she controls what we see and how we see it. So I try to engage the lighting designer in my design process as early as possible.

In the best cases, it becomes "our"

See "Arena Stage," page 10





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Each month check out the most recent issue of the paper for activities and games to help you discover SWDC! Have a suggestion? Email us: editor@thesouthwester. com. Check out next month's issue for the answers!

Spot the difference!

Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?

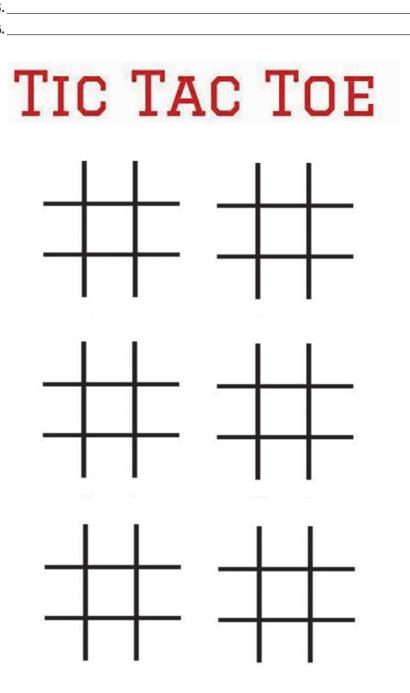


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RhinoRAM: Children's Cybersecurity Book Authored by SW Resident

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

¶ he Southwester is proud to highlight artists, writers, and creators who live in the neighborhood and make our vibrant DC quadrant what it is. In this issue, we highlight Southwest resident Adom M. Cooper and congratulate him for the December 2023 publishing of a children's cybersecurity book entitled "RhinoRAM: Your Friendly Neighborhood Cybersecurity Protector." Cooper has been a resident of Southwest since 2014, but his local connections go much deeper. Cooper's late Great Aunt Joyce Mitchell Cook was a resident of Tiber Island for decades and she was the first African-American woman in the U.S. to earn a Ph.D. in Philosophy.

Cooper is a national security and foreign policy expert, a lawyer, formerly worked at the U.S. Department of State 2015-2023, and is currently an International Compliance Analyst for Nonproliferation Programs at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He also serves as a Security Fellow at the Truman National Security Project, and a Term Member at the Council on Foreign Relations.

When asked about what led him to



create RhinoRAM, Cooper had this to say:

"As a security and risk professional, I noticed there is a lack of cyber resources at the elementary school level. Today, kids are getting on the Internet earlier than ever. In fall 2020, I watched my four-year-old goddaughter grab my iPhone and seamlessly

navigate to where my games were. It made me wonder where she would learn about cybersecurity. It is crucial to expose young Internet users to Internet dangers and realities awaiting them every day on smartphones, tablets, computers, etc. Folks from historically and traditionally marginalized communities are often the most at risk and this is no exception on the Internet. We must make sure young users are equally tech savvy and tech secure."

During the spring of 2021, Cooper met Baltimore-based artist LaTosha Maddox at a DC street fair and commissioned her to help him bring RhinoRAM to life in illustrations. Adom says it was important for him to have someone who looked like him with shared lived experiences to bring RhinoRAM to life. From spring 2021 through fall 2023, Adom presented RhinoRAM at several conferences, including

at the 2021 NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education Conference and Truman National Security Project's Tru-Con2022.

In addition to the book, Cooper has created an accompanying curriculum for RhinoRAM. In January and May 2023, he piloted part of his RhinoRAM curriculum at two DC Public Schools: Southwest's own Amidon-Bowen

Elementary and Tyler Elementary in Southeast DC.

"The feedback from the students was outstanding. They were eager to learn and ask questions," said Cooper.

Here is an excerpt from the book, provided to *The Southwester*:

What is cybersecurity, you ask? It is about knowing how to use the internet in a safe and smart way. As a kid, it is important to learn about safety when using the Internet.

There's a lot to learn about internet safety and we'll be joining RhinoRAM and his friends on this learning journey!

Let's start by talking about the internet. The Internet is a network that allows smaller groups of computers and devices to talk to each other.

The book can be found in paper-back and e-book Kindle format on Amazon. Link: https://www.amazon.com/RhinoRAM-Friendly-Neighbor-hood-Cybersecurity-Protector/dp/B0CP3Y9KP4/ref=sr_1_2?crid=JPBIR 231JWAR&keywords=RhinoRAM&qi d=1704569179&sprefix=rhinoram%2 Caps%2C58&sr=8-2

In addition, you can learn more on the RhinoRAM Instagram account (@RhinoRAM_CyberProtector) or on LaTosha Maddox's Instagram account (@ArtByTosh).



Young Readers

Cliffhangers

BY KITTY FELDE

It's a gimmick as old as Scheherazade: leave your audience desperate to know what happens next.

You know the tale of the beautiful Scheherazade. She married a Sultan who killed off his brides the day after the wedding. Clever girl, she brought her sister along with her and the sister begged for one last story. Scheherazade happily obliged, the Sultan listening in on the sly. Except the story had no ending.

It drove the Sultan crazy. He demanded to hear more. She happily obliged with a proper conclusion the next day...and began a new story without an ending. And did it again. The Sultan was hooked. Scheherazade lived.

Cliffhangers are why we binge watch an entire series on Netflix, why we love a basketball game that goes into double overtime, why New York fans of Charles Dickens caused a riot at the waterfront, waiting for the next chapter of what became *The Old Curiosity Shop*.

We want to know what happens next.

One teacher I know uses cliffhangers for read-alouds. She knows exactly when to stop in a story, leaving her students begging her to go on. (And she just happens to have extra copies of that title on her bookshelf in case a kid can't wait for the next installment.) You can do this at home. Turn off the gaming devices and TV, lower the lights, and read to your kids. And stop at the best parts. Casually leave the book on a table. See how long it takes for your young audience to sneak a peek at the next chapter.

Kitty Felde writes **The Fina Mendoza Mysteries** series of books and podcasts, including **State of the Union**, which takes readers backstage at the annual presidential address to Congress.



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Photo of the Month

Courtesy of Calvin Wyatt



The Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge floating in fog

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

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Courtesy of D.C. United

Audi Field

New Look for D.C. United as 2024 Season Opens at Audi Field

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

fter a disappointing end to the 2023 campaign, D.C. United is rebuilding nearly from scratch ahead of a scheduled February 24 season opener at Audi Field.

This offseason, D.C. United hired a new head coach, Troy Lesesne, and General Manager and Chief Soccer Officer, Ally Mackay. Lesesne previously served as interim head coach for the New York Red Bulls, where he posted a 10-9-4 record, qualifying for the 2023 MLS Cup Playoff. He signed a three-year deal, running through 2026

Mackay spent the previous five seasons with Nashville SC, and in his new role, will oversee all soccer operations for D.C. United. Fellow Nashville alum Caleb Shreve will support Mackay as D.C. United's Assistant General Manager. A native of the Isle of Lewis, located off the west coast of Scotland, Mackay becomes the youngest active general manager in Major League Soccer at the age of

Player trades and acquisitions this offseason were numerous, resulting in a new look for D.C. United's 2024 roster. Notable changes include:

 Acquired midfielder Jared Stroud and defender Lucas Bartlett in

- a trade with St. Louis City SC in exchange for Homegrown midfielder Chris Durkin.
- Acquired defender Aaron Herrera in a trade with CF Montréal in exchange for defender Ruan.
- Signed Brazilian midfielder Gabriel Pirani from Santos FC, activating
 the option to retain Pirani following the conclusion of his loan on
 Dec. 31, 2023.
- Acquired defender Garrison Tubbs from Atlanta United.
- Signed 2024 MLS SuperDraft selection and Georgetown University forward Jacob Murrell.
- Other draft selections include Brandon Parrish, Aldair Sanchez and Nathan Crockford.

The new look D.C. United will open the season at Audi Field on Saturday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. versus the New England Revolution, who also bring a new coaching staff after the departure of former D.C. United and U.S. Men's National Team coach Bruce Arena last season.

On Saturday, March 16, D.C. United will host a highly anticipated game at Audi Field, welcoming global superstar and World Cup champion Lionel Messi and Inter Miami to the nation's capital.

ARENA STAGE

Continued from p. 5

design process: we develop the environment together. In this production, there are lighting elements embedded throughout the scenic design that "activate" the environment, that have the ability to change its character. This could not have happened without a deep trust in and respect for the lighting designer, in this case Billy D'Eugenio, a frequent collaborator of

mine

In addition, I adjusted the tonality of the set in response to the palette developed by our costume designer, Levonne Lindsay. She was anchoring her palette to a particular image made up of stormy blues and purples, and I wanted to be sure the environment around the actors supported this palette. My original palette was less complementary, so I created a range of alternatives and shared them with Levonne. In the end, we chose the final scenic palette together.

Spy Museum Brings Revolutionary War History to Life with New Exhibit

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he nonprofit International Spy Museum located on the L'Enfant Plaza promenade launched a revamped exhibit about America's first spy network. Titled "Spying Launched a Nation," the exhibit tells the story of the Culper Spy Ring, which innovated intelligence work to help defeat British forces in the Revolutionary War.

With financial support from the Verstandig Family Foundation, the updated exhibit includes a fully immersive space with projections on the walls and floor as well as monitors

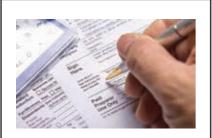
that allow the characters of George Washington and the Culper Spy Ring to come alive with hologram-like imagery. The experience is narrated by Chris Jackson, best known for his role as George Washington in the original cast of the Broadway musical Hamilton.

A priceless 1777 letter written by George Washington authorizing America's first official effort at espionage is the centerpiece of the exhibit. More information and tickets are available at www.spymuseum.org.



Courtesy of Alan Karchmer for the International Spy Museum

A newly reimagined exhibit brings the history of American espionage to life.



Free AARP Tax Preparation Services

Free AARP Tax Aide is provided at the SW Library by appointment from 2/5/2024 to 4/15/2024 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Call 202-656-0442 for an appointment. AARP has been providing this Comunity Service for the past 50 years.

Note the service is only available by appointment

Be certain that you have, or will have, all of your 2023 tax documents, photo ID, Social Security card, and health insurance information before scheduling an appointment.

For more information, you can also email: 20051018@ AARPFoundation.org.

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\$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						

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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.











Consecutive Snowstorms Bring Winter Scenes to Southwest

After two snowless years in a row, Washington, DC saw two snowstorms in a single week in mid January.



Courtesy of Ted Metzger



Photos Courtesy of Irene Allen



KENDI

Continued from p. 1

between An Open Book foundation and Harper Collins. "Harper Collins approached us in mid-December to ask if we would be interested in hosting an event at a middle school featuring Dr. Kendi while he was in town," said Jennifer Barnes Eliot, the development and communication director at An Open Book. "We reviewed our list of Title 1 middle school partners and scheduled author and illustrator visits for the year, and recognized that Jefferson MS Academy would be a great fit."

Over the course of a half hour, the panelists and students in attendance grilled Dr. Kendi on his love of reading and the importance of education but also touched on issues of racism, history, and truth telling.

Reflecting on his love of books and reading, Dr. Kendi said he wasn't into reading when he was younger because the books put in front of him were boring. It wasn't until he took a Black history class in college where he discovered his love of reading because it allowed him to better understand things that were happening to him as a Black man.

Boyd mentioned that Jefferson students love reading – so much so that last year some 10,000 books circulated through the library amongst only 400 students.

"It's really our job as authors, and certainly the job of librarians, to curate and find those books that interest us," Dr. Kendi said.

Touching on his motivation for writing books, Dr. Kendi said the inspiration comes from what has happened to him in life and what happens to other Black Americans. Stamped, a book he mentioned as being his favorite, was inspired by the deaths of Tamir Rice and Trayvon Martin.

"Witnessing Black young people, and older people, being killed by the police, and even vigilantes, and having those police get away with it, and hearing those police say they feared for their lives, and people believing that...pushed me to explain what's going on."

To fight against harmful stereotypes and racism, Dr. Kendi said it's important for Black people, especially young Black people, to understand racist ideas. "When we talk about Black people as being lazy or dangerous, those are racist ideas.

"Black people today are taught that they should be in poverty. That they should not be in that job. That they should be disrespectful. That they should be harmed by the police because there's something wrong with them. And that causes them, when they internalize those ideas, that they should not resist," he added.

However, these ideas are somewhat controversial not necessarily because they are untrue but because they challenge narratives about race in America. Recently, many conservative majority states have pushed legislation to ban narratives on Black history, racism, LGBTQ experiences in America. Books like The 1619 Project and This Book Is Gay have been banned in K-12 grades. Dr. Kendi's How to Be an Antiracist is also on the banned list.

Despite the bans and a culture of fear around being canceled, Dr. Kendi said it's important to tell the truth and be able to back up your claims.

"The way you learn about what the truth is is through research. And the whole purpose of research is getting evidence – evidence that substantiates or demonstrates the truth. So for me as a scholar, I don't write anything that I can't substantiate. That I don't have evidence to support it. And in order to acquire that evidence, I research," Dr. Kendi said.

Washington Nationals Announce Special Ticket Events for 2024

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

s the countdown to the new baseball season continues, the Washington Nationals announced several of the team's 2024 special ticket events. This season's slate of more than 50 special games features the return of fan-favorites like Night OUT, Ladies Night and Caturday presented by Temptations; season-long series like College Days and Pups in the Park presented by PEDI-GREE Foundation; and kid-friendly events like Weather Day presented by NBC4 and Telemundo 44 and Youth Baseball & Softball Days presented by Inova Sports Medicine.

The Pups in the Park series includes six dates to celebrate four-legged fans at the ballpark. Fans who select special tickets in the outfield reserved section for Pups in the Park dates are invited to bring their canine companions to Nationals Park with the purchase of a separate dog ticket, which benefits the Humane Rescue Alliance. PEDIGREE Foundation will also hand out dog-themed giveaways to all pups in attendance.

On Thursday, June 6, the Nationals 19th annual Night OUT returns, continuing the longest-running Pride event in MLB, celebrating the LGBTQ+ community during Pride month. Fans who purchase a special Night OUT ticket will receive an exclusive Curly W wearable Pride flag, and five dollars of each special ticket sold will be donated to Team DC, an LGBTQ non-profit focused on building community through sports.

Additional special tickets for the upcoming season include multiple heritage nights and the College Day Series. Fans can show off their school pride with a record-high 20 represented colleges and universities, including the additions of Johns Hopkins University (May 3), University of North Carolina (June 4), Duke University (June 15), Florida State University (July 1), and Ohio State Alumni Day (Aug. 3).

Special Ticket Events:

These events require attendees to purchase event-specific tickets to receive the promotional items and/ or access to unique pre- or post-game activations. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit nats.com/ Special.

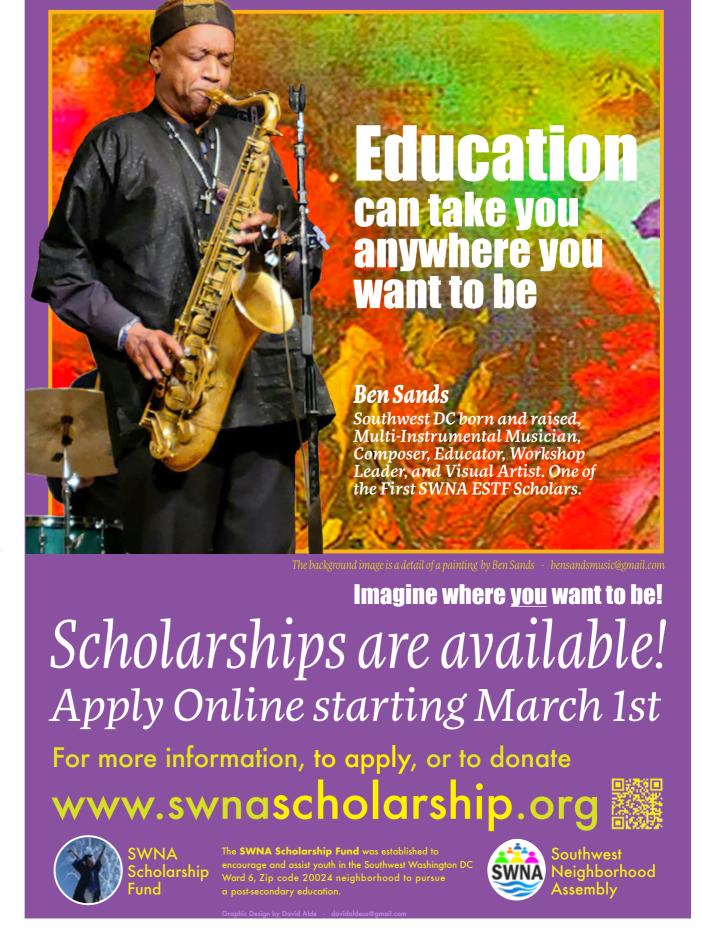
- April 23 Japanese Heritage Day
- May 22 Weather Day presented by NBC4 and Telemundo 44
- June 6 Night OUT
- June 18 Italian Heritage Day
- July 23 Intern Day
- July 25 Camp Day
- Aug. 4 Scout Day

- Aug. 9 Ladies Night
- Aug. 10 Cat-urday presented by Temptations
- Aug. 11 Filipino Heritage Day
- Aug. 30 HBCU/Divine 9 Day
- Aug. 31 Faith Day
- Sept. 1 Jewish Heritage Day
- Sept. 12 Deaf Awareness Day
- Sept. 28 Hispanic Heritage Day
- Multiple Dates Pups in the Park presented by PEDIGREE Foundation (April 5, April 23, June 3, Aug. 2, Sept. 10, Sept. 27)
- Multiple Dates Youth Baseball & Softball Days presented by Inova Sports Medicine (April 21, June 16)
- Multiple Dates Girl Scout Day (April 7, Sept. 29)
- Various Dates College Day Series, including Catholic University, Duke, Florida State, George Mason, Georgetown, George Washington, Howard, James Madison, Johns Hopkins, Ohio State Alumni Day, Old Dominion, Penn

State, Radford, Syracuse, Virginia Tech, Virginia Military Institute, North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, William & Mary and West Virginia

The latest promotions schedule, including previously released items, can be viewed at nats.com/Promotions

Tickets for all games - including Opening Day - are now on sale at nats.com/Tickets.



Southwester Community Calendar | February 2024

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

SUN 4, 1-5 P.M. Family Game Day. Can you beat your sibling at checkers? What about your parent at Candy Land? Birth – 5 years, 5-12 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

MON 5, ANC 6D Administrative Meeting. To view the meeting, send a request to 6D@anc.dc.gov.

TUES 6, 3:30 - 4:30 P.M. Children's LEGO Club. Join us for a fun 1hr activity building LEGOS on the Second Floor in the STEM Lab 5 - 12 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library

SAT 10, 11 A.M.-3 P.M. The Friends of the SW Library are holding a book sale on the second floor of the Southwest Library located at 900 Wesley PI SW. Most items are \$1 or less. Proceeds go to library supplies and programs not provided for in the city's budget. We take cash, checks, and Venmo. Please email friendsofswlibrary@gmail. com if you have questions.

SAT 10, 7 P.M. Faith & Film Zoom presentation of "Going To Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project. Release Date: 2023; Genre: Documentary; Runtime: 1hr 36min. A look at the life of poet Nikki Giovanni and the revolutionary periods in which she wrote, from the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter. For the Zoom link, email the office at **wpcdcoffice@gmail.com**. All Invited. (Westminster Presbyterian Church)

SUN 11, 1 P.M. Sit & Stitch. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at Southwest Neighborhood Library. Seniors. Adults, 13-19 Years Old (Teens)

SUN 11, 1-3 P.M. The Friends of the SW Library are holding a book sale on the second floor of the **Southwest Library** located at 900 Wesley PI SW. Most items are \$1 or less. Proceeds go to library supplies and programs not provided for in the city's budget. We take cash, checks, and Venmo. Please email friendsofswlibrary@gmail.com if you have questions.

SUN 11, 7 P.M. Solemn Vespers in the Church, with reception immediately following in the parish meeting room. St. Dominic's Catholic Church, 630 F Street.

MON 12, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Business Meeting. For information about ANC 6D meetings and agenda, visit https://www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/ If you have an item for the Community Concerns portion of the meeting, please e-mail your comments to 6D@anc.dc.gov at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time.

TUES 13, 5:30 -7:30 P.M. Game On! For Adults and Seniors. Play CLASSIC board games, checkers, uno, dominos, backgammon, and scrabble for this fun 2-hour program event. Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TUES 13, 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

TUES 13, 6:30 P.M. St Augustine's will gather for our traditional Shrove Tuesday (*Mardi Gras*) Pancake Supper. Shrove Tuesday is the celebration of the last night before the season of Lent. So, before we spend 6 weeks in penance, we party! Please join us for a delicious array of made-fromscratch mouth-watering pancakes, breakfast meats, pastries, and more. St Augustine's Episcopal

Church 555 Water St., SW.

WED 14, 6:30 P.M. St Augustine's will hold an **Ash Wednesday Service** available in-person and via Zoom. All are welcome! If you can't attend, please know that we will also be offering "**Ashes to Go**" at the Waterfront Metro station from approximately 8 - 10 A.M.

THURS 15, 5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M. Let's Play Spades. SPADES is a trick-taking partnership game where players bid on the number of tricks each expects to take. Games are played to 500 points and the team with the highest score wins. Seniors, Adults, 13-19 Years Old (Teens) Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SUN 18, 3 P.M. Pride Book Club. Want to read more LGBTQ+ stories? Looking for an LGBTQ+ bookish community? Join us for our first meeting on February 18th where we will discuss *Mr. Loverman* by Bernardine Evaristo, or our second meeting on March 17th where we will discuss *Pomegranate* by Helen Elaine Lee! Queers and allies welcome! Southwest Neighborhood Library

TUES 20, 3:30-4:30 P.M. Children's LEGO Club. Join us for a fun 1hr activity building LEGOS on the Second Floor in the STEM Lab 5 – 12 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TUES 20, 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. Off Script Celebrity Book Club. Come read about the lives of your favorite celebrities in their own words! Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WED 21, 12 Noon-2 P.M. The Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter. Luncheon Meeting and Speaker Series. Celebration of National Black History Month. Program: Part I: Poetic Music: BJ Durham, Poet and Raheem Rasta, Flute Player. Part II: Guest Speaker: Dr. Roblyn P. Lewter, International Psychologist, will provide lessons in living our best life at any age and from any space, aging gracefully, choosing happiness, and living a full life. She has provided psychological services in regions globally to include the United States, Ghana, Peru, Germany, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Nepal, Morocco, and Turkey. Current AARP Members, Prospective Members, Guests, Neighbors, and Visitors to our Community Luncheon Meeting at River Park Mutual Homes, South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW, Street parking is available and Waterfront Metro, (Green Line) is two blocks away. Bus #74 stops in front of the River Park Delaware Avenue Gate. Lunch Available: Cost \$5.00. Masking is optional but strongly encouraged. We will also provide masks for attendees. For further information contact - Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202/554-0901.

FRI 23, 4-5-30 P.M. International Spy Museum. A presentation on James A. Lafayette. Seniors, Adults, 13 - 19 Years Old (Teens). Southwest Neighborhood Library

SUN 25, 1 P.M. Sit & Stitch. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at Southwest Library. Seniors. Adults, 13-19 Years Old (Teens)

MON 26, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Brief Encounters Book Club. Join us as we get acquainted with the works of authors you've heard of but want to know better! Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

MON 26, 7-9 P.M. SWNA Black History Month

Program. Arena Stage, Mead Center 1101 6th St SW.

TUES 27, 5:30 P.M. -7:30 P.M. Game On! For Adults and Seniors. Play CLASSIC board games, checkers, uno, dominos, backgammon, and scrabble for this fun 2-hour program event. Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

THURS 29, 5:30 P.M. Let's Play SPADES. SPADES is a trick-taking partnership game where players bid on the number of tricks each expects to take. Games are played to 500 points and the team with the highest score wins. Seniors, Adults, 13-19 Years Old (Teens) Southwest Neighborhood Library

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AARP FOUNDATION TAX AIDE. Free tax preparation service for DC and Maryland residents starts Monday, February 5, at Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW by appointment. Volunteer Tax Counselors will be at the Library on Mondays and Wednesdays, 1– 5 P.M. from February 5 through April 15. Intake forms are at the library to be filled out ahead of time. Call 202-656-0442 or send an email to 20051018@aarpfoundation.org to make an appointment. Be prepared to bring your Tax Year 2023 documents with you to your appointment along with a photo ID, social security card, and health insurance information. A list of all DC AARP Foundation Tax Aide sites can be found at www.TaxAideDC.org/Sites.

ADULT CHESS CLUB, Wednesdays, 6-7 P.M. Chess for Adults, 13-19 (Teens). Southwest Neighborhood Library.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, Mondays-Fridays at Noon (St. Dominic Catholic Church) or Wednesday evenings (St. Augustine's Episcopal Church). Postpandemic 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

BABY LAP TIME, Thursdays, 1:15-2:15 P.M. These 20-30 minute story times are specially designed for infants from birth until they begin walking, along with their grown-ups! Birth to walking. 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.

CHAIR YOGA, Mondays and Fridays 11 A.M.-Noon. Gentle movements to increase flexibility, strength,

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

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.stdominic-church.org/

Cycle 2 of "Modern Well-Married Saints & Holy Couples" Sun 3rd through Sun March 17, 2024; 9:15-10:15 A.M. in the Parish Meeting Room. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW. www. stdominicchurch.org/

ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS, Tuesdays, 6:30-8 P.M. DC Rocks Rehearsals. For more information, contact: https://encorecreativity.org/Westminster Presbyterian Church.

FILM DISCUSSION, Tuesdays, 11A.M.-1:30 P.M. For those who love being part of a good conversation. Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library. 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 Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/

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/

HYBRID SUNDAY 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 are featured each Friday. \$10. Food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdc.org/jazz-night-in-dc-schedule Westminster Presbyterian Church.

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

KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, See website for February events. https://meditation-dc.org/ 1200 Canal St SW, Washington, DC, 20024

MAKE IT! Tuesdays, 4-5 P.M. Explore science, technology, arts and crafts, math, music, and more. 5 - 12 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, Wednesdays, 7 P.M.-8 P.M. Contact Westminster Presbyterian Church for more information at wpcdcoffice@gmail.com.

ZOOM RESISTANCE BIBLE STUDY, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. Discuss timely issues on Jesus and Social Justice. For Zoom link, contact Westminster office: wpcdcoffice@gmail.com

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/

TODDLER SENSORY PLAY TIME, Fridays, 10:30 - 11:30 A.M. Join us in the Children's Room for sensory playtime! Birth to 5 years old. Southwest

Neighborhood Library.

TECH HELP, Monday's 11 A.M.– 12 P.M. Get help with digital devices and accounts for free at the library! Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

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, SW. 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/

VIEW OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT WWW.SWNA.ORG

Submit Calendar events to calendar@thesouth-wester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

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Core 11 are Errore

Sun 11 am – 5 pm

LOVE IS IN THE AIR IN SW

Spread love to our community with coffee, treats, and Valentines to display or give away. Waterfront Station on Feb.14, 8:30-9:30am

