

Cherry Blossom Season Descends as Early Spring Arrives in Southwest

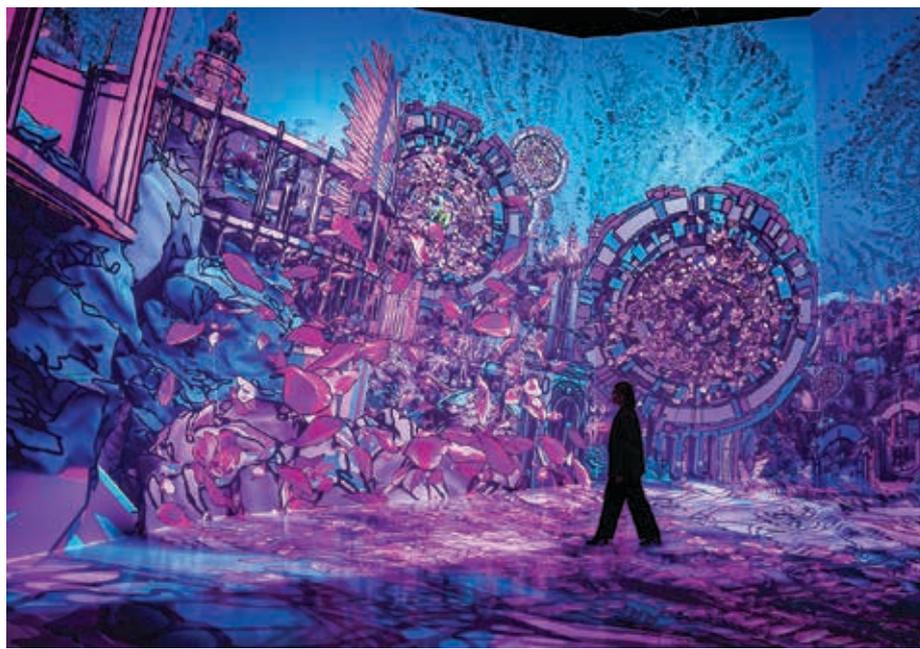


BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The 2024 cherry blossom season got off to an early start, reaching peak bloom before the end of March. Even so, spring-themed celebrations honoring the blossoms continue throughout April.

National Cherry Blossom Festival Tidal Basin

Running from Wednesday, March 20 through Sunday, April 14, the official National Cherry Blossom festival kicked off with a Pink Tie Party at Union Station. Fashion, food and drink purveyors focused on the theme of spring and highlighted the culture of Japan in honor of the nation's gift of the cherry blossoms to Washington,



Courtesy of Artechouse

See "Cherry Blossom," page 12 ISEKAI: Blooming Parallel Worlds is now on view at ARTECHOUSE.



SOLAR ECLIPSE FESTIVAL COMES TO NATIONAL MALL

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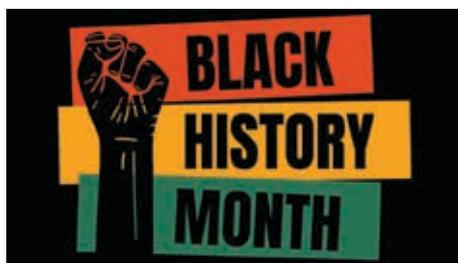
SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENS FOR SPRING

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Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Honors Local Leader Charles "Chuck" Hicks, Celebrates Black History Month

BY ISAAC WELCH

On Monday, February 26, 2024, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) recognized activist and community organizer Charles "Chuck" Hicks with the Outstanding Leadership Award during their annual Black History Month Celebration. Held in the Molly Smith Study at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theatre, this iteration of the yearly event unfolded through the words of acclaimed speakers, was embodied in celebration by dance and song, and attended by Southwest residents and those across other wards and the metropolitan area.



At this standing-room-only event, the gathering of generations, both elder and newer, brought sentiments that honored the accomplishments of those who laid the groundwork, and encouraged those whose future lies ahead.

The evening opened with the har-

monies of vocalist Cecily and violinist Melanie E. Bates, whose performance of James Weldon Johnson's *Lift Every Voice and Sing* invited attendees to join and fill the Mead Center's archways with a polyphony of voices. The song's conclusion gave way to opening remarks from SWNA President Donna Purchase and Hana S. Sharif, artistic director of Arena Stage. Maintaining the progression of events, with honor and humor, was emcee Danzell C.H. Bussey, director of Richard Wright PCS Academy. Accompanying Bussey, by popular demand, came the Richard Wright PCS Dancers, who returned to the annual celebration

See "Hicks," page 15



ARENA STAGE HONORS JUSTICE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

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TITANIC MEMORIAL PARK TO MARK ANNIVERSARY.

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Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Launches Spring Food Drive

BY KATRINA AVILA

Embodying its mission not just in name but through unwavering action, Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) has consistently demonstrated a steadfast commitment to serving all our neighbors and providing essential support to Black and Brown residents across DC. SYC/W6MA does this by actively engaging in a diverse range of initiatives, from supplying vital items to community members and offering tutoring and afterschool programs for K-12 youth to ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities.

The strong partnership between the Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA and Christ United Methodist Church, coupled with the collaborative and collective efforts of numerous grassroots organizations dedicated to serving Black and Brown communities, significantly contributes to this work.

Throughout the year, SYC/W6MA hosts diverse campaigns that adapt to changing seasons while consistently offering invaluable assistance year-round. Whether it involves organizing food and clothing drives, distributing produce, or partnering with the Southwest Farmers Market, all of SYC/W6MA's initiatives are directed towards uplifting all our neighbors.

Join Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid's Southwest DC Spring Food Drive from April 1 to April 30, 2024:

Your "solidarity, NOT charity" is crucial in stocking up our food pantries for the upcoming spring and summer months. With rising food costs and reduced SNAP benefits, many families in our community are in need of food and supplies. Requests for assistance have increased, and our shelves are running low. Just in Southwest DC alone, we support 70 households a month, with a majority being seniors on fixed income and



families with limited resources. All food items are appreciated. Contact us if you have a special item or a large quantity to donate. Support us in ensuring everyone in our community has access to basic food.

We are seeking donations of:

Non-perishable foods, including canned tuna, chicken, pasta, sauce, soup, boxed milk, jelly, cooking oil, condiments, cereal, Ensure, canned fruit, crackers, breakfast bars, etc.

Toiletries, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, deodorant, feminine products, Depends, shampoo.

Monetary Donations: donate online at bit.ly/sw-fooddrive.

Donations can be dropped off at any of the following locations:

Christ United Methodist Church (900 4th St SW, back entrance off the pathway to the SW Public Library), on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

Check your apartment building or church for a donation box. If you

want to sponsor a donation box at your housing community or place of business, please contact us at swmutualaid@serveyourcitydc.org.

Interested in More Ways to Help? Discover various other ways to engage with Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid:

Virtual Tutors Needed: SYC/W6MA's *Free School for Unlimited Youth* program provides FREE virtual tutoring to Black and Brown K-12 students across Washington, DC. We are constantly seeking passionate volunteer members to join our team! We welcome college students, graduate students, and professionals who are committed to making a difference in any subject. If you're interested in becoming a virtual tutor, please visit bit.ly/sycvolunteertutor or contact us at youthenrichment@serveyourcitydc.org for more details.

SYC/W6MA's Southwest Pod Spring Hours: SYC/W6MA's SW Pod donation hours are Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Neighbors in need are invited to visit the Pod once a month for provisions, including food, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and access to the Clothing Closet. The Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA is located at Christ United Methodist Church (900 4th St SW - access through the courtyard gate at the back of the building on the side street off Wesley Place SW). Christ United Methodist Church's 5000 Food Pantry will continue providing food and supplies on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

Interested in learning more or getting involved?

We're actively looking for volunteers to assist with our Southwest food distributions every Saturday. For more details, please reach out to us at swmutualaid@serveyourcitydc.org.




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 cancer.

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
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www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org
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The Southwester

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Darken Your Day at the Solar Eclipse Festival

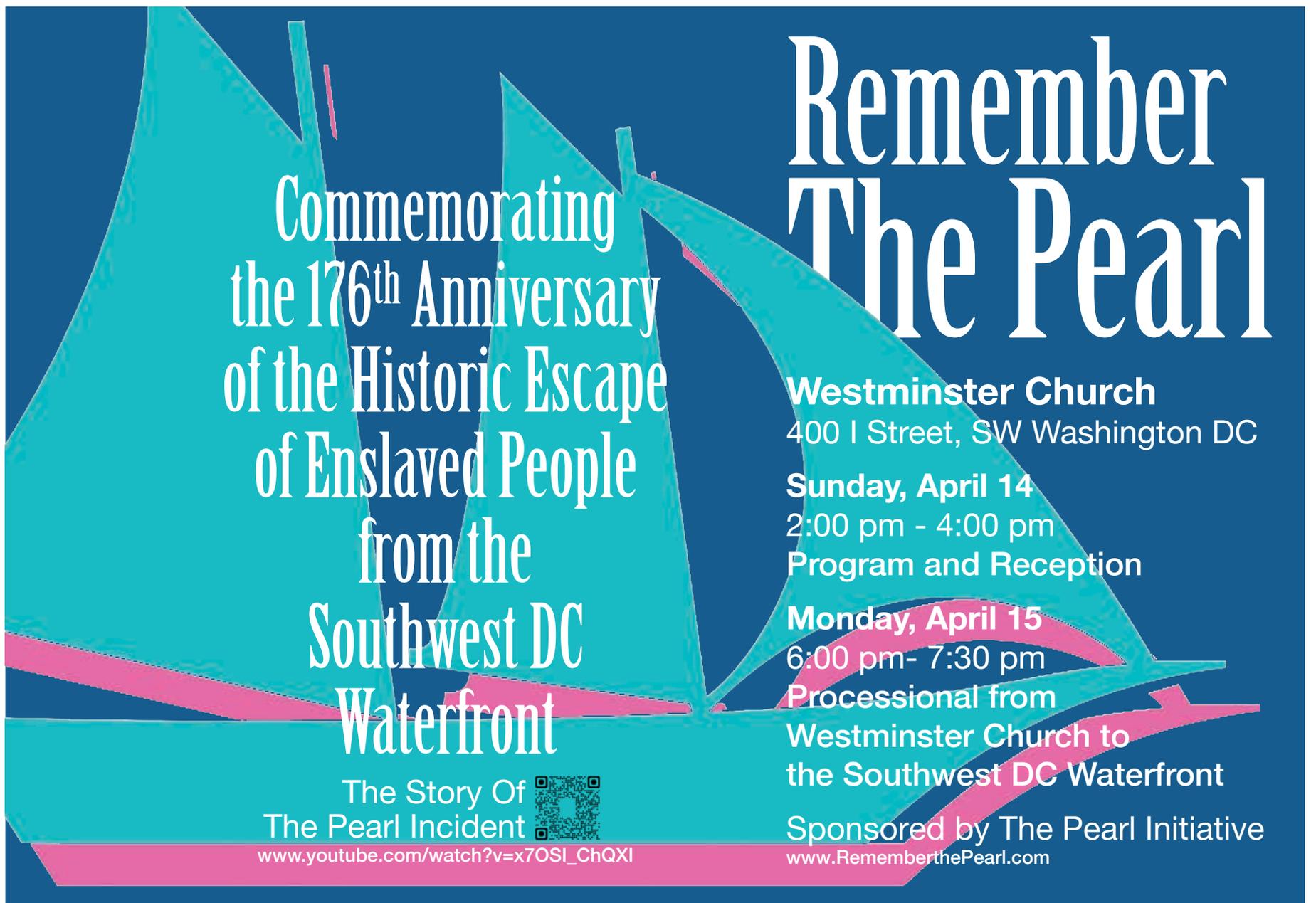
Celebrate and observe the solar eclipse that will be visible all across North America on Monday, April 8, on the National Mall. The festival is a collaboration of the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian museums, NASA, NOAA, the National Science Foundation, and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

The event will run from noon to 4pm along the National Mall between 4th and 12th Streets. Browse the many activity stations to view the Sun in a variety of safe telescopes, and explore the different educational offerings from Smithsonian museums and partners.

The eclipse will be visible in the Washington, DC area between 2:04pm and 4:32pm. Maximum eclipse will be at 3:20pm, with the Sun 87% covered by the Moon.

Event attendees are encouraged to bring their own solar eclipse viewers to the Festival. More information can be found at <https://airandspace.si.edu/explore/stories/eclipse>.





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The SWNA Scholarship Fund was established in 1974 to encourage and assist youth in the Southwest Washington DC, Ward 6, Zip code 20024 neighborhood to pursue a post-secondary education.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A 1966 Study on Outcomes for Southwest's Displaced Residents

BY CAROLYN SWOPE

In the 1950s and 1960s, urban renewal in Southwest DC displaced around 23,000 residents. While we can easily see how Southwest's built environment changed, it is harder to know what happened to the people who were forced to leave. A rich and valuable source of insight is available in the 1966 study "Where Are They Now?," led by social work researcher Daniel Thursz. The findings suggest several main takeaways about post-displacement outcomes. First, the community was geographically shattered, with residents scattered "as leaves on a windy autumn day." Second, residents generally did not move to wealthy and well-resourced neighborhoods, but to neighborhoods that would experience increasing segregation and disinvestment. Third, while residents' housing quality indeed improved, their social and economic well-being did not, and they keenly felt the loss of their community ties.

How the Report Came to Be

The DC Health and Welfare Council contracted with the Redevelopment Land Agency (the government agency in charge of DC urban renew-



Photo 1949: Joseph Owen Curtis East Side, 700 Block. 4th Street S.W., between G + H. 1949

Joseph Curtis took this photo in 1949 of a group of shops on 4th Street, SW, including the former site of Frank's Department store, across the street from current-day Amidon-Bowen Elementary School. The owner of Frank's sued the government because it deemed the area "blighted" at the time this photo was taken and therefore slated for destruction. The Supreme Court ruled against him in 1954, paving the way for Urban Renewal and the demolition of Southwest and thousands of other communities across the country.

al) to operate a demonstration program offering services for relocated residents. The 198 participating families had not moved out of Southwest yet by 1959 and lived in Area C - part of the urban renewal project west of 4th Street. 80% were non-white and 88% were low-income. In "Where Are They Now?," Thursz conducted a study of outcomes for 96 of these families five years after displacement. He was interested in testing two hypotheses: 1) that "evicted slum dwellers create new slums where they move, or at best move into other slums," and 2) that "the grief due to a lost home and community lingers for many years, and that social fabric once destroyed is not replaced in five years."

Where Did They Go?

The families studied lived scattered across 37 different census tracts. Families who were not living in public housing were often the only family from the sample in their neighborhood. Yet despite this wide dispersal, Thursz pointedly noted, not one household had moved west of Rock Creek Park - "a section of Washington which is inhabited by middle and

See "Residents," page 6



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	SAT. APR. 20 7:30PM - @ NEW YORK CITY FC
	SAT. APR. 27 7:30PM - VS. SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC
	SAT. MAY 4 7:30PM - VS. PHILADELPHIA UNION
	SAT. MAY 11 7:30PM - @ ATLANTA UNITED FC
	WED. MAY 15 7:30PM - VS. NEW YORK RED BULLS
	SAT. MAY 18 7:30PM - @ INTER MIAMI CF
	SAT. MAY 25 7:30PM - VS. CHICAGO FIRE FC
	WED. MAY 29 7:30PM - @ CF MONTRÉAL
	SAT. JUN. 1 7:30PM - VS. TORONTO FC
	SAT. JUN. 15 7:30PM - @ CHARLOTTE FC
	WED. JUN. 19 7:30PM - VS ATLANTA UNITED FC
	SAT. JUN. 22 7:30PM - VS HOUSTON DYNAMO FC

	SAT. JUN. 29 7:30PM - @ NEW YORK RED BULLS
	WED. JUL. 3 7:30PM - VS FC CINCINNATI
	SAT. JUL. 6 7:30PM - @ ORLANDO CITY SC
	SAT. JUL. 13 7:30PM - VS NASHVILLE SC
	WED. JUL. 17 8:30PM - @ MINNESOTA UNITED FC
	SAT. AUG. 24 7:30PM - VS FC DALLAS
	SAT. AUG. 31 7:30PM - @ TORONTO FC
	SAT. SEP. 7 8:30PM - @ CHICAGO FIRE FC
	SAT. SEP. 14 7:30PM - VS NEW YORK CITY FC
	SUN. SEP. 22 6:00PM - @ PHILADELPHIA UNION
	SAT. SEP. 28 7:30PM - VS COLUMBUS CREW
	WED. OCT. 2 8:30PM - @ NASHVILLE SC
	SAT. OCT. 5 7:30PM - @ NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION
	SAT. OCT. 19 6:00PM - VS CHARLOTTE FC

HOME = ■ AWAY = ■

Time zone set to EST. — Schedule subject to change.

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RESIDENTS

Continued from p. 4

upper class families and which is still almost entirely white.”

- 23% moved to the Southeast quadrant east of the Anacostia River
- 19% moved to Southeast on the north/west side of the Anacostia River
- 19% moved to Northeast, mostly east of the Anacostia River
- 8% moved to Northwest
- Over one-quarter remained in Southwest, almost all in public housing

Housing Conditions

The study did find that residents' housing conditions had markedly improved. Before urban renewal, almost half of families lived in dwellings which needed major repairs or were deemed dilapidated and unfit for use. Afterwards, not a single family in the sample did. Likewise, only

22% of former homes had been considered in good condition; 86% of new homes were. The proportion of homes equipped with basic amenities dramatically increased:

- 97% of homes had flush toilets (43% of dwellings pre-urban renewal only had outside toilets)
- 94% had central heating (over 70% previously lacked it)
- 96% had bathrooms with running water (44% formerly lacked baths)
- Every home had electricity (one in five previously lacked it)

Residents themselves also generally perceived their new homes as better-quality. 50% reported that they liked their new dwelling “very much more,” and another 14% “somewhat more,” relative to their previous Southwest dwelling, while only 12% disliked their new home in comparison. A majority indicated greater satisfaction with outside appearance, bath or toilet facilities, heating system, kitchen facilities, sleeping space, and ease of cleaning – although a sub-

stantial contingent for each of these factors (8 to 15%) actually found their new homes less satisfactory, and residents who felt their new homes were more satisfactory with regard to yard space and room for children to play were in a minority.

However, Thursz also noted that 57% of surveyed residents said they were paying more for housing than they had previously paid in Southwest. The increase was often substantial: of these residents, 60% reported paying at least \$20 more per month (around \$200 in 2024 dollars), and 15% reported paying over \$40 more per month (around \$400 in 2024 dollars). He concluded that “a good part of the cost for the improvement in the physical surroundings of the relocated families is being borne by the families themselves.”

Social and Economic Outcomes

In contrast, outcomes related to work, health, and community were worse after displacement. A high-

er proportion of heads of households were now not working – 62%, compared to 52% before. Residents explained that they now lived farther from the workplace, adding difficulties of navigating distance and affording transportation. One woman explained that her husband had become “sick from grief” at having to lose his home, business, and friends,” contributing to his unemployment. Further, only around a quarter of working respondents earned more than when they lived in Southwest, while 18% now earned less. 50% reported having more money worries.

Before relocation, 41% of heads of households reported that illness had a serious effect on their family. Although urban renewal was justified in large part on public health grounds, and although residents' housing quality had indeed improved, it had not resulted in any improvement to these residents' health: A slightly higher proportion, 43%, felt illness or disability had seriously affected their family since leaving.

Residents had had strong community ties in Southwest – most had lived there for more than 10 years – which were not replicated in their new neighborhoods. 63% reported no knowledge at all of any neighborhood or block clubs; 60% were unaware of any settlement house, community center, or social agency where they might turn for help in their new community. Only

See “Residents,” page 7



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\$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
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RESIDENTS

Continued from p. 6

27% felt that there was “more neighborhood feeling” compared to Southwest, while 42% disagreed. And only 19% felt that people who lived in their new neighborhood were better neighbors, while 41% disagreed. Perhaps most strikingly, more than a quarter of residents reported that they had not made even one new friend in their neighborhood after five years.

Public vs. Private Housing

Compared to residents moving into private-sector housing, Thursz found that “the public housing resident is a much more integrated, optimistic, and informed person.” Public housing residents reported lower levels of anomie, and much greater hopefulness about the future, feelings of belongingness in their neighborhood, belief in ability to organize and improve the neighborhood, and knowledge of agencies helping people in the community. For example, 67% of public housing residents felt that things would get better for them and their family, while only 38% of private housing residents felt that way. Further, public housing residents were much happier that they had to move (55% reported being happy, compared to 32% among private-sector residents) and more likely to feel that the government was “right

in changing Southwest” (78% agreed, compared to 54% of their counterparts). These findings are particularly important because urban renewal intentionally and explicitly prioritized the private sector. They suggest that public housing was a more promising avenue to improve outcomes for low-income residents – if such improvement had really been a goal of the program.

Conclusion

Although planners and redevelopment officials usually spoke as if it did not matter where Southwest residents moved and focused solely on the physical quality of the individual housing unit, Southwest residents had strong ties and connections to their community which were also important, and the disruption from their rupture was deeply harmful. In the documentary *Southwest Remembered*, Thursz reflected, “They were not living in slums. They were living in good, adequate housing. Many of the problems that they had suffered from were gone.” However, “In the process of moving them from Southwest, we had destroyed something which was even more important to them – namely, the sense of community, the friendships, the support, that existed in a rat-infested slum. We had forgotten that this was home to these people.”

“Where Are They Now?” is publicly available online for anyone interested in reading it in full.

Southwest Leader Steps Up to Chair Disaster Preparedness Organization

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Southwest DC community leader Ben Curran has taken on a new role as chair of the DC chapter of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). The previous chair, Sue Taylor served in the position for 18 years.

District of Columbia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster is an affiliate of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). National VOAD, an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters, provides a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster.

The membership of DC VOAD consists of both locally based organizations and local representatives of National organizations. Our mission is to strengthen the capabilities of organizations working together in our State/Territory

to respond to communities affected by disaster. DC VOAD member organizations cover a broad range of missions and technical expertise, and adhere to the 4 Cs: Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration.

Curran also leads SW Strong!, the emergency preparedness task force of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). In addition to a long career at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA) he previously served as the NGO Coordinator, Liaison to National VOAD, Team Leader for the Voluntary Agency Liaisons, Donations & Volunteer Coordinator, and Section Chief for Mass Care.

A native Washingtonian, and passionate collaborator and community organizer, Curran is already making a difference with the DC VOAD pulling in more members and lining up several valuable briefings and tours.

To learn more or join the email list for DC VOAD, please email benimon@hotmail.com.



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Southwest Moment



A sunset at The Wharf

Courtesy of Eric Chang



Courtesy of the Author

Neighbors at the Southwest Community Garden

Southwest Community Gardens to Hold Spring Kickoff April 27th

BY JESSICA LAI

The Southwest Gardens will host its 11th Spring Kickoff on Saturday, April 27th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The event is open to the public and all are welcome.

The garden is located in Lansburgh Park at 1098 Delaware Avenue SW. The garden has 10 communal beds, two food fences, three herb beds, a sunflower alley, an orchard, and pollinator gardens that all need some TLC. Join in for a day of planting, preparing the garden beds, fruit tree care, and a paint craft activity for gardeners of all ages. Gloves and tools provided.

If these activities don't appeal to you, please come and enjoy meeting

neighbors in your community garden. Our weekly communal hours will return in May and be held every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Sundays from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (weather permitting).

Can't attend, but want to support? Please donate by visiting the donation page online at: <http://bit.ly/3Vb6qzI>. Special thanks to our sponsor, the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, for supporting the costs for this free event.

Look to our website www.swgardens.org or email swgardensdc@gmail.com to join our newsletter and never miss an update from Southwest Gardens!



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Arena Stage Honors U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson With The American Voice Award

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Southwest DC's Arena Stage presented their American Voice Award to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson earlier this year, as part of the opening night celebration for the world premiere of its play *Tempestuous Elements*.

Established in 2005, the American Voice Award honors public officials recognized for their extraordinary support of and advocacy for American arts and arts education. According to Arena Stage, Justice Jackson has repeatedly demonstrated her dedication to fighting for human and civil rights and her deep commitment to equal justice. She is both the first Black woman and the first former federal public defender to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Jackson also has a unique connection to theater, having participated in student productions and an improv group throughout her career at Harvard.



Courtesy of Arena Stage

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson speaks at Southwest DC's Arena Stage while accepting the American Voice Award.

The award was presented by Arena Stage Artistic Director Hana S. Sharif at a pre-performance dinner. "It is a distinct privilege to present this award to

Justice Jackson on the opening night of *Tempestuous Elements*, a play that reflects on the life and legacy of another arts advocate, educational luminary Anna Julia Cooper," said Sharif in her remarks. "Justice Jackson stands in the magnificent tradition of Anna Julia Cooper as a trailblazing leader, undaunted by inequity and galvanized by her work in service of liberation and Justice for all people. This is emblematic of the spirit of the American Voice Award. I am honored to stand in the company of all of you this evening to present Justice Jackson with this award."

American Voice Award recipients previously honored by Arena Stage include Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), the late Representative John Lewis (D-GA), and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), among others.

Did you know that on the last page of your passport you will find a quote by Anna Julia Cooper?

Photo of the Month



Southwest Channel Walkway
Courtesy of Elbert Bishop

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

A SWEEPING, HEARTFELT STORY ABOUT UNLOCKING YOUR HISTORY—
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MUSIC BY MICHAEL FRIEDMAN
LYRICS BY MICHAEL FRIEDMAN AND DANIEL GOLDSTEIN
DIRECTED BY TRIP CULLMAN

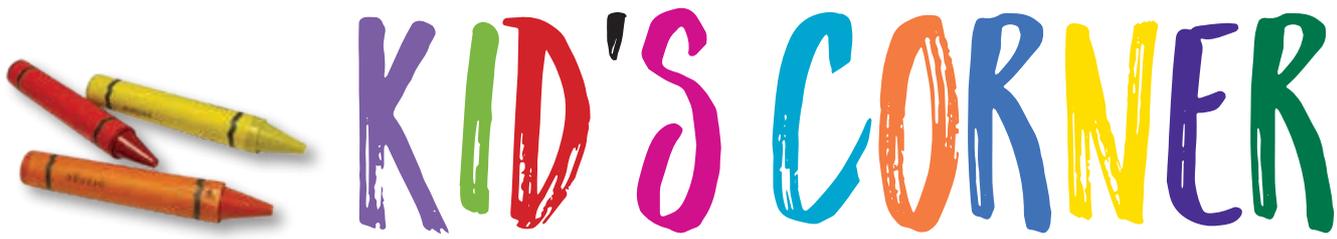
SOUTHWEST NIGHTS | \$36 TICKETS

TUE. APRIL 2 AT 7:30PM	SAT. APRIL 13 AT 2:00PM
WED. APRIL 3 AT 7:30PM	SUN. APRIL 14 AT 2:00PM
FRI. APRIL 5 AT 8:00PM	WED. APRIL 24 AT 7:30PM

**TICKETS AT ARENASTAGE.ORG
OR CALL 202-488-3300**

USE PROMO CODE SWNIGHTS TO SAVE!
PATRONS WHO RESIDE OR WORK IN SOUTHWEST D.C. CAN BUY DISCOUNTED
TICKETS FOR DESIGNATED SOUTHWEST NIGHT PERFORMANCES.



KID'S CORNER

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?



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Answers from March 2024 issue

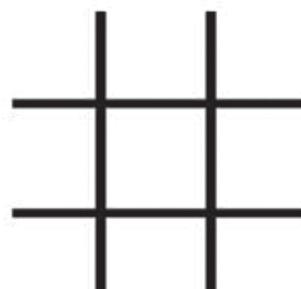
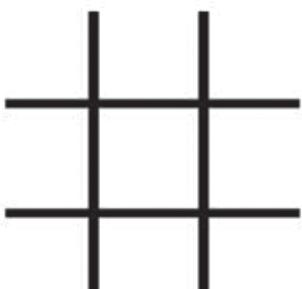
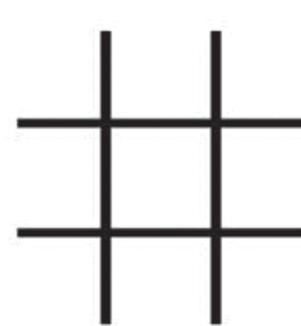
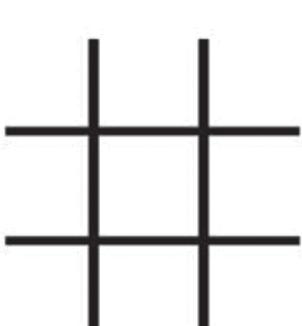
Differences: The picture on the right has a clover in the sun; the hat is different; there is another butterfly in the picture on the right; the shamrocks are different on the pot of gold; there is a bunny in the picture on the right; the four-leaf clover has a face in the picture on the right.

WORD SEARCH: BASEBALL!

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

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| BATTER | HIT |
| PITCHER | STRIKE |
| FASTBALL | HOME RUN |
| STADIUM | FUN |
| NATIONALS | STEAL |

TIC TAC TOE



Start Your Own Book Club for Kids

BY KITTY FELDE

Over the years, I think I've been part of half a dozen different book clubs. The camaraderie, the book suggestions, the desserts - all made that special evening an important part of my life.

But why keep all the fun to ourselves?

There are several book clubs across the District of Columbia designed just for younger readers:

- The DC Public Library hosts a Fantasy book club at the Takoma Park branch.
- There's a monthly book club for kids 8-12 at D.C.'s Chevy Chase Library.
- A middle grade book club at the Southwest branch is listed on the D.C. Public Library website, as is a Mt. Pleasant Tweens Book Club, but no upcoming meetings are scheduled.
- East City Bookshop hosts several book clubs for kids:
 - Page Turners is a monthly book club designed for readers between 8 and 11 years old.
 - Be (Tween) Reads is designed for readers between 11 and 13 years old.
 - Teen Arc is for readers 12 and older who want to read books not yet published.

- Talk to your child's teacher or school librarian. A number of schools host their own student book clubs.

- Invite the award-winning Book Club for Kids podcast to your school or library so that your young reader can star on a future episode. (Check out the website www.bookclubforkids.org. It's free.)

Or, you could start your own book club for your kids. But how?

I asked an expert, Tonya Wright. She started the Girlfriends Book Club Baltimore a decade ago, almost as soon as her daughter and her friends could read.

Tonya offers her tips for starting a book club for kids:

- Don't be afraid to start small with 2-3 members
- Allow the kids to select the books
- Keep meeting times 1 hour or less
- Make meeting times flexible
- Don't forget the snacks!

Snacks, conversation about a good book, community connections - those are the reasons we join book clubs. It's the same reason kids love their book club as well.

Kitty Felde hosts the Book Club for Kids podcasts and writes the Fina Mendoza Mysteries series of middle grade novels, set on Capitol Hill and designed to introduce civics to kids.

SWNA IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

- **Manage Social Media** - Approximately 15 hours per month
Experience required with Constant Contact, Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor Neighbor
- **Manage SWNA Website** - Approximately 10 hours per month

SWNA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization managed by volunteers from the Southwest DC community.

For more information, please contact Donna Purchase donna4southwest@gmail.com



JOIN CHILDREN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON! NEW CAMPUS OPENING IN SOUTHWEST IN SEPTEMBER 2024



WHO ARE WE

Children's Chorus of Washington provides high-quality singing education to young people from all across DC. Now in our 28th year, we are excited to be opening a new chorus from grades 2 - 6 in Southwest DC, starting in September 2024.

Our singers have the opportunity to build musical skill, grow in confidence, and perform on some of DC's most prestigious stages.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our weekly sessions will take place after school (September - May) on Wednesday afternoons at **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church** (222 M St SW).

Singers will be taught songs from a diverse range of cultural traditions, and prepared for exciting performances.

Singers in Grades 2-4 are invited to join our **Training Ensemble**, and singers in Grades 4-6 are invited to join our **Treble Chorus**.

GET INVOLVED



Scan the QR code for information about our programs, or visit us at: childrenschorusdc.org

Tuition assistance is available. No singer is turned away from CCW's programs for financial reasons. Contact us at ccw@childrenschorusdc.org for more information!

Titanic Memorial Park Hosts April Events to Commemorate History

BY TERRY BUNTON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FRIENDS OF TITANIC MEMORIAL PARK

In the early morning hours of April 15, 1912, the Titanic sank in the North Atlantic. Since 1968, the Titanic Memorial has stood at 4th Street SW and P Street SW. The local community and Friends of Titanic Memorial park recognize the anniversary of the ship's sinking each April, and this year, will again share informational signs throughout the park. The posters tell about individual passengers and crew to humanize the disaster and focus on the role of class distinction in those stories from that fateful night. There will also be an information table throughout the day.

On Sunday, April 14 at 9:00 p.m., approximately the time the Titanic hit an iceberg, a brief memorial service and moment of silence will be observed at the Titanic memorial in the park. A wreath will remain on display through April 15, the date the ship actually sank.

As many in the neighborhood know, the memorial is inscribed with a dedication to the men who gave up their seats on the Titanic's lifeboats in order to save women and children. Harry Elkins Widener, a Harvard graduate, was one of these men. He was the son of a successful Philadelphia-based street-

car manufacturer. He was also a noted bibliophile. After traveling to Europe in search of rare books, his mother and father decided to join him and then travel back together.

Unfortunately, they chose to return on the Titanic. Harry and his father gave up their seats on lifeboats while his mother, Eleanor Elkins, was rescued. She approached Harvard and offered to replace their aged and outdated library with a new one commemorating Harry. According to a campus tour guide, she stipulated three conditions: 1. The library could never be touched or torn down. That also meant it couldn't be altered, so several other Harvard libraries have been built since. 2. There was to be installed a special room in the center of the library that only the librarian and her son could enter, in the unlikely case he had actually survived. 3. That all Harvard graduates must pass a swim test in order to receive a diploma as she was convinced that Harry would have survived if he had been able to swim. This final requirement was removed with the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Some scholars dispute that this was actually required by Mrs. Elkins.

To learn more about the Titanic Memorial, the Friends of Titanic Memorial Park, please visit <https://www.fotmpdc.org/>.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Continued from p. 1

DC. Other community events include:

Blossom Block Party. Wednesday, April 3. 12:00 p.m. - to 3:00 p.m., Art In Bloom sculpture reveal, 1:00 pm. Live music, face painters, vendors, and food trucks. Maryland Linear Park, Maryland Avenue, SW.

Blossoms and Baseball. Saturday, April 6, 4:05 p.m. Join the Nationals as they take the field against the Philadelphia Phillies. Nats Park.

Preservation & Creation Workshop. Saturday, April 6. 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. National Museum of Asian Art, Jefferson Drive SW. Children ages three to eight and their caretakers will learn how conservators care for museum collections and can create and preserve their own cherry blossom-inspired art.

Petalpalooza at Capitol Riverfront. Saturday, April 6. 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., fireworks 8:30 p.m. A full day of live music, art, and play with family-friendly hands-on activities.

National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade. Saturday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. Constitution Avenue NW, between 7th and 17th Streets.

Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival. Saturday, April 13 - Sunday, April 14. The largest celebration of Japanese culture in the United States features over 24 hours of Japanese cultural performances on four stages (including J-Pop, traditional Japanese music, and martial arts) and a diverse range of cultural exhibitors, artisan and commercial vendors.

National Museum of Asian Art

National Mall

A visit to the National Museum of Asian Art helps tell the story of DC's famed spring festival. The revered sakura, or cherry blossoms, have been celebrated in landscapes, figure paintings, and prints by artists from medieval Japan to Katsushika Hokusai and beyond.

Variouly thought of as representing the impermanence of things and the joy of spending time together admiring the blossoms, sakura are symbols of joy and cultural meaning.

In Washington, DC, the cherry tree has become a cherished symbol of the friendship between Japan and the United States. It all began in 1912, when Washington saw the arrival of more than 3,000 Japanese cherry trees, the first two of which were planted in West Potomac Park by First Lady Helen Herron Taft and Viscountess Chinda, the wife of the ambassador of Japan to the United States.

Don't miss out on hanami, the traditional Japanese custom of "flower viewing." Celebrate from home with an array of programs and activities that the National Museum of Asian Art is bringing to your fingertips. Take your group on an interactive docent tour to learn about cherry blossoms in our collections. Explore more Japa-



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

The Pink Tie Party officially kicked off the 2024 National Cherry Blossom festival.

nese art on your own time with our Objects We Love video series. Take a break and meditate with cherry blossom-themed art in an online Meditation and Mindfulness session, and use specially designed cherry blossom art backgrounds in your next Zoom call.

To keep those memories with you all year long, the museum's gift shop offers a special collection of treasures at cherryblossommerch.com.

Artehouse

L'Enfant Plaza

ISEKAI: Blooming Parallel Worlds is an original creation from the ARTEHOUSE Studio that builds upon the success of the Pixelbloom series while introducing Isekai, a subgenre of fantasy anime and manga, to create a fresh visual narrative. It runs from March 9 to June 1 at 1233 Maryland Avenue SW.

Isekai translates to other worlds in English, hinting at the immersive multiverse adventure awaiting visitors as they embark on a cherry blossom trail.

Appropriate for all ages, the exhibit seamlessly blends the rich, fantastical elements of the Isekai genre and Japanese pop culture with cutting-edge, immersive digital art, taking visitors on an enchanting journey through multiple parallel worlds.

At the heart of the exhibition is a cinematic, audio-visual experience guided by the point of view of a flying bot. Visitors can deepen their engagement with installations that transform gallery walls into life-sized manga pages, animated by visitors' own "Hero-poses," while another gallery offers speech-enabled interactions with characters from the Isekai worlds.

Additionally, a reimaged karaoke experience offers a unique blend of music and visual engagement. The highlight is the Manga Studio, where a robotic arm brings drawings to life in real-time, adorning the studio walls with its artwork. This distinctive experience is the result of a collaboration with BRDG Studios from Philadelphia, renowned for their expertise in merging digital and physical realms.

Tickets are \$17-31 with special pricing for families Monday-Friday and can be booked in advance at artehouse.com.

POLITICS AND PROSE BOOKSTORE

Book Fair

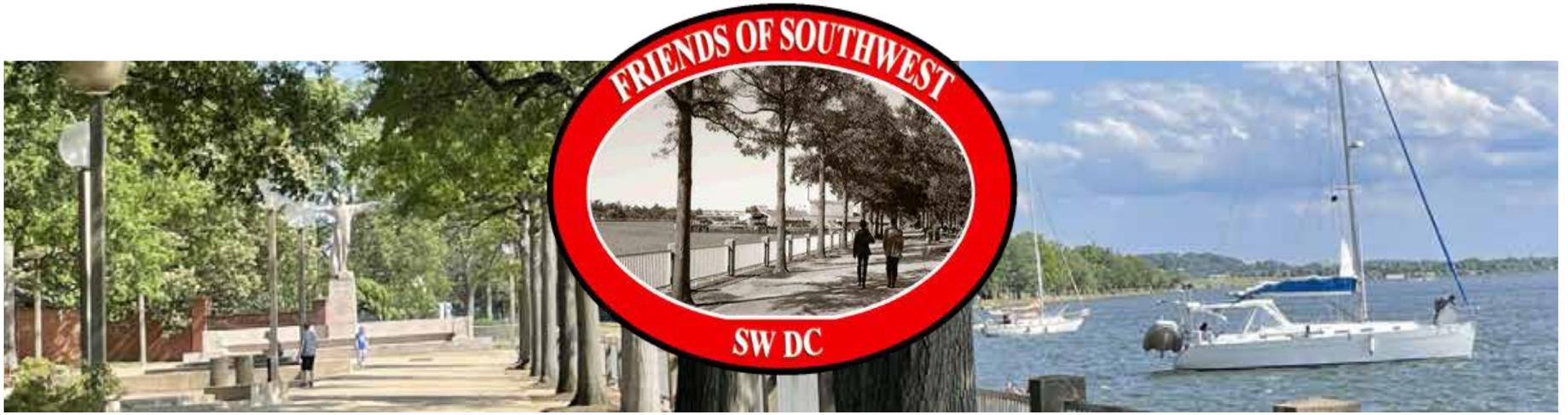
SAT, APR. 6, 2024

ALL POLITICS & PROSE LOCATIONS
9:00 AM-9:00 PM

FRIENDLY REMINDER:
PRESENT THIS FLYER AT
CHECK OUT FOR 20%
OF YOUR PURCHASE TO
GO TOWARDS SCHOOL
FUNDRAISING!

AMIDON BOWEN

POLITICS AND PROSE
WWW.POLITICS-PROSE.COM



Over 25 years of service to Southwest!

Help your SW neighbors!



In 2023, we awarded \$60,000 in grants to help Southwest! Will you help us do even more in 2024?



Please donate to our spring fundraising drive!

**Friends of Southwest DC
 P.O. Box 44434
 Washington, DC 20026
 FriendsOfSWDC@gmail.com**



Southwester Community Calendar | April 2024

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

MON 1, 11:00 A.M. - Noon. TECH HELP. Get help with digital devices and accounts for free at the library! Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

MON 1, 4:05 P.M. OPENING DAY AT NATIONALS PARK. www.mlb.com/nationals/tickets/promotions

TUES 2, 10:30 - 11:30 A.M. BUILDING BLOCKS. Come explore constructive play with us! Children birth to 5 and their caregivers are invited to a special early literacy play date themed around the building, knocking down, and building back up again. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

TUES 2, 7:00 P.M. ANC 6D, Admin Meeting. Contact the office at 6d@anc.dc.gov for access to the meeting via Zoom.

WED 3, 6:00 - 7:30 P.M. ALL WRITE! WORKSHOP GROUP. Get feedback on your writing and share your thoughts with other writers in the neighborhood. Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

WED 3, 7:30 - 8 P.M. Parents Zoom Briefing. Parents are invited to a 30-minute briefing on events scheduled during the month. www.SeaScoutsDc.org

FRI 5, 6:45 P.M. PUPS IN THE PARK AT NATIONALS PARK. www.mlb.com/nationals/tickets/specials

SAT 6, 9:00 - 9:45 A.M. Youth Officers Meeting. Harbor Patrol. All elected and appointed youth officers meet for planning and coordination purposes. www.SeaScoutsDc.org

SAT 6, 10:00 A.M. - Noon. Ship Meeting. Harbor Patrol. All Ship youth members and assigned Skippers attend. Special presentations on harbor and port security, marine mammal protection, and marine interdiction and boarding operations. After the Ship meeting, the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla will meet. www.SeaScoutsDc.org

SAT 6, 10 A.M. -12 Noon. 2024 GREAT WARD 6 SPRING CLEAN. [#ward6springclean.](https://www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/)

SUN 7, 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! Basic instruction for beginners in crochet, knitting, embroidery, and cross-stitch is available. Seniors, Adults, 13-19 Years (Teens). Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

MON 8, 7:00 P.M. ANC 6D, Business Meeting. If there is a concern you'd like to raise, please submit a 3-minute maximum transcript of your community concern to 6d@anc.dc.gov at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/

TUES 9, 10:30 - 11:30 A.M. BUILDING BLOCKS. Come explore constructive play with us! Children birth to 5 and their caregivers are invited to a special early literacy play date themed around the building, knocking down, and building back up again. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

TUES 9, 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. www.dclibrary.org

THURS 11, 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. CRAFTS FOR ADULTS. Create your own painting. Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

THURS 11, 5:30 - 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 (Teens) Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

SAT 13, 7:00 P.M. Faith & Film Zoom Presentation of "Hachi, A Dog's Tail". Hachi is a heartwarming story for all ages. It is a full-circle life story about loyalty, loss, and the redemptive power of love between a dog and its owner that survives death. Contact the Westminster church office for the Zoom link: wpcdooffice@gmail.com. All Invited. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

MON 15, 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. OFF SCRIPT! Come read about the lives of your favorite celebrities in their own words! Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

WED 17, Noon - 2 P.M. The Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter Luncheon Meeting and Speaker Series in Celebration of Women's History Month. PROGRAM: In a Return Engagement, Guest Speaker, Dr. Roblyn P. Lewter, International Psychologist, will present Part II of lessons in living our best life at any age and from any space, aging gracefully, choosing happiness, and living a full life. Her presentation topic for the April 17th meeting is: EMPOWERING AGING AND NAVIGATING AGING IN A CHANGING WORLD. Everyone is welcome. Join us for this meaningful follow up presentation and receive this important message. Bring your friends and neighbors for this wonderful opportunity in shared experiences. Location: River Park Mutual Homes South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20024. Street Parking 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 A vegetarian lunch will also be available. 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.**

WED 17, 12:00 P.M. -2:00 P.M. CRAFTS FOR TEENS. Learn a new skill and develop a new hobby. 13-19 Years (Teens). Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

WED 17, 6:00 - 7:30 P.M. ALL WRITE! WORKSHOP GROUP. Get feedback on your writing and share your thoughts with other writers in the neighborhood. Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WED 17, 7:30 - 8:30 PM. Ship Committee Zoom Meeting. Registered adult members of the Ship Committee participate in meeting planning and oversight purposes. www.SeaScoutsDc.org

THURS 18, 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. COFFEE & CONVERSATION. Customers are invited to join a casual conversation with other library customers and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee provided. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

FRI 19 - 21. Visit to Coast Guard Base Elizabeth City, NC. All Sea Scouts attend weekend training and career exposure event at Coast Guard base, with emphasis on air operations. Overnight in Coast Guard housing. Optional, but highly advised for all members. www.SeaScoutsDc.org

SAT 20, 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. BOOK SALE on the second floor of the Southwest Library. 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. Seniors, Adults, 13-19 Years (Teens). Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

SAT 20, Noon - 3:00 P.M. POETRY ON DEMAND. Celebrate National Poetry Month with a free personalized poem written on a typewriter by The Walking Mall Poet and try your own hand at typewriter poetry. Seniors, Birth-5, Adults 5-12, 13-19 (Teens). Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

SUN 21, 8 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Coast Guard Auxiliary CORE Training. Barnes & Thornburg Conference Center, 555 12th St., NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC. Metro Station: *Metro Center*. Mandatory for all youth and adults who are newly-joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla. www.SeaScoutsDc.org

SUN 21, 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! Basic instruction for beginners in crochet, knitting, embroidery, and cross-stitch is available. Seniors, Adults, 13-19 Years (Teens). Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

SUN 21, 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. BOOK SALE on the second floor of the Southwest Library located at 900 Wesley Pl SW. Most items are \$1 or less. Proceeds go to library sup-

plies 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. Seniors, Adults, 13-19 Years (Teens). Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

TUES 23, 10:30 - 11:30 A.M. BUILDING BLOCKS. Come explore constructive play with us! 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. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

TUES 23, 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. www.dclibrary.org

TUE 23, 6:45 P.M. PUPS IN THE PARK AT NATIONALS PARK. www.mlb.com/nationals/tickets/specials

TUES 23, 7:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M. "What to Expect" briefing Zoom for newly selected members (and a parent) to discuss Apr. 27 First Day event at Coast Guard Station Washington. **Mandatory.** www.SeaScoutsDc.org

WED 24, 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. Pride Book Club. Want to read more LGBTQ+ stories? Looking for an LGBTQ+ bookish community? Join us for our second meeting where we will discuss *I'LL Give You The Sun!* By Jandy Nelson. Queers and allies welcome! Southwest Neighborhood Library www.dclibrary.org

WED 24 - 26. Chesapeake Bay. Qualification sailing cruise aboard sailing vessel Der Pelikan. Mandatory for adult skippers intending to pilot this vessel during 2024. www.SeaScoutsDc.org

THURS 25, 5:30 - 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 (Teens) Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

SAT 27, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. First Day Orientation. Coast Guard Station Washington, located on Joint Base Anacostia Bolling. Newly selected members experience orientation day and are joined by parents for late afternoon swearing-in ceremony. www.SeaScoutsDc.org

SAT 27, 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. The SW Gardens 11th Spring Kickoff! Gardeners of all ages and experience levels are welcome. Come meet neighbors and prepare our community garden for the growing season. Lansburgh Park at 1098 Delaware Ave S.W.

MON 29, 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. www.dclibrary.org

TUES 30, 10:30 - 11:30 A.M. BUILDING BLOCKS. Come explore constructive play with us! 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. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AARP FOUNDATION TAX- AIDE PREPARATION SERVICES FOR DC AND MD RESIDENTS. To make an appointment, patrons can come during regular tax assistance hours (**Mondays and Wednesdays. 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.; Last Day Mon, April 15th.** At that time, you will get a taxpayer information packet (TIP) that contains the intake and interview form to be filled out, as well as a list of documents needed to prepare returns. Be sure to bring all **TY2023** tax documents and completed intake forms to your appointment. For any questions, please call **202/656-0442** and leave a message or email **20051018@aarpfoundation.org**. A tax preparer will reply. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org.

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, Mondays-Fridays at Noon (St. Dominic 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>

BABY LAP TIME, Thursdays, 1:15 - 2:15 P.M. These 15-20-minute story times are specially designed for infants from birth until they begin walking, along with their grown-ups! Stay for a fun baby playtime afterward. Ages: Birth to walking. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org.

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, 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.

CHILDREN'S LEGO CLUB, Tuesdays, 3:30 - 4:30 P.M. Join us for a fun 1hr activity building LEGOS on the Second Floor in the STEM Lab 5 - 12 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.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.

FAMILY GAME DAY, Sundays, Noon. Can you beat your sibling at checkers? What about your parent at Candy Land? Birth - 5 years, 5-12 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org.

FAMILY STORYTIME, Mondays 10:30 - 11:30 A.M. These 30-40 minute story times are designed to be enjoyed by all ages. Promoting early literacy skills through books, songs, rhymes, and movement. If you would like to visit with a school, childcare, or camp group, please call ahead to make arrangements. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org.

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

GODLY PLAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, Sundays 11 A.M. - Noon. 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. - Noon. 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. www.dclibrary.org

KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, Weekly Drop-In Meditation Classes. Tuesdays: 6 - 6.30 P.M., Thursdays: 7:15 - 8.30 P.M., Sundays: 10 - 11 A.M. 1200 Canal St, SW

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 - 7:30 P. M. If interested in attending our meeting, please contact us at komen-toastmasters8714@gmail.com.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, Wednesdays, 7 - 8 P.M. Contact Westminster Presbyterian Church for more information at 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! We'll provide the materials, just bring your imagination! For children 6 months to 5 years old. Birth to 5 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.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 (WSSC) 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>.

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.

VIEW OUR ON-LINE CALENDAR AT WWW.SWNA.ORG. Submit Calendar events to calendar@the-southwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

HICKS

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with a pair of composed performances of their own directed by Summer Johnson. The young dancers brought living art to the celebration in motions recalling tradition and inspiring life.

Emboldening this energy were the words of keynote speaker Carole Mumin, who spoke of the long journey through her career as producer, playwright, and community leader and the legacy she built in DC. Her extraordinary creativity brought the plays *Where Eagles Fly* and *Lemonade Stand* to the world and also informed her service as a White House aide to Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Jimmy Carter. Her achievements as a leader to Black women in entertainment and civil rights reminded everyone that the fight for liberation occurs on many fronts and is won by the courageous. Following in her footsteps, Sharif spoke about the community-centric role of her performance center, which has hosted SWNA meetings and activities for more than 10 years. Sharif previously directed Baltimore Center

Stage and the St. Louis Theatre company.

Succeeding presenters spoke about the important contributions of SWNA to the Southwest community. Founded in 1963, SWNA has helped improve the quality of life for residents of the quadrant while maintaining a commitment to preserving its history. SWNA depends fully on the efforts of volunteers, who represent a diverse coalition of residents. Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen praised the evening's honoree, Charles "Chuck" Hicks, and SWNA for their accomplishments over the years. Next, William Zeisel, chair of SWNA's History Task Force, briefly described the task force's mission and goals.

After another performance by the Richard Wright PCS Dancers, Thelma D. Jones, founder and chair of SWNA's Black History Task Force Subcommittee and 2023 President Joseph R. Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, recentered the evening on the need to celebrate Black excellence, specifically through the legacy of Hicks. Hicks' story begins in Bogalusa, Louisiana, but he has been a longtime resident of the DC area, especially Southwest. His varied lega-

cy includes work as a coordinator for the 1995 Million Man March, president of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees District Council 20, and founder of community organizations Bread for Soul and the DC Black History Celebration Committee. He also sits in the Washington, DC Hall of Fame and is honored as a History Maker in the permanent exhibition of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library.

"I've always seen him as an icon in the Black community," said Alan Gregory, who met Hicks through his work with the DC Chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers. "Because of the work I was in, we would always be doing stuff together that was active around DC politics and statehood. He has been an important community voice against injustice and against racism. I've appreciated his work and seeing what he's been able to accomplish in all these years."

The award presentation was the highlight of an evening already made memorable by words from impactful community members. Jones read a heartfelt letter of tribute from Joni Eisenberg, WPFW-FM's on-air host of To Heal DC, with whom Hicks has

served as a longtime co-host. This was followed by a special tribute from Frank Smith, executive director of the African American Civil War Museum and a longtime friend of Hicks. The evening concluded with vocalist Cecily's moving rendition of Sam Cooke's *A Change Is Gonna Come* and with violinist Bates playing the classic *We Shall Overcome*.

Coming in the final days of Black History Month, this celebratory event, followed by a reception in honor of Hicks at Westminster Presbyterian Church and organized by SWNA's Vylorya Evans, gave recognition to those who have dedicated their lives to the well-being of Black Americans, honoring and representing equal parts in their history, their accomplishments, and visions for the future. With high spirits, leaders like Chuck Hicks and the organizers of SWNA pursue their mission of creating a better world for all, starting in the nation's capital.

Isaac Welch is a 2022 graduate of Howard University with a BS in journalism and a minor in political science. He is a freelance journalist, carpenter, artist, and community organizer in D.C.'s Ward 8.

illustration by @trapxbob



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