

Amidon-Bowen Music Teacher Para Perry Retires With Rich Legacy

BY WILLEM DICKE

After more than 20 years of teaching at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, beloved music and choir teacher Ms. Para Perry retired at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. On Friday, June 7, school staff and students, along with members of Perry's family, church and well-known public figures including DC Public Schools (DCPS) Chancellor Lewis Ferebee and Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, gathered in the school's gym to celebrate the woman who for almost a quarter century has been a cornerstone of her school,



Courtesy of the Author

Scenes from the retirement celebration honoring Amidon-Bowen music and choir teacher Para Perry included (top, left) Perry dances with students; (top, right) DCPS Chancellor Lewis Ferebee and Councilmember Charles Allen appreciate the Amidon-Bowen Step Team led by teacher Jacqueline Cook; (bottom, left) Perry accepts a 'Grammy Award' for Best In Southwest; (bottom, right) Fifth graders give roses to Perry.

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**WARD 6
MUTUAL AID**

WARD 6 MUTUAL AID UPDATE

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FLEET WEEK COMES TO THE WHARF

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Grand Opening at The Westerly Brings Housing, Retail to Waterfront Station

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

On Monday, June 17, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and others gathered to mark the grand opening of The Westerly, a mixed-use development on 4th Street SW just south of I Street SW.

The Westerly offers 449 units of housing, ranging from studio apartments to two bedrooms with dens. Of

See "Westerly," page 4



Affordable Homes and Communities CEO Paul Bernard, The Westerly resident Amber Johnson, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and Hoffman & Associates COO Maria Thompson pose at the grand opening of The Westerly.

Courtesy of Daniel Swartz



KIDS CORNER

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Summer Brings Fresh Opportunities for Community Engagement

BY KATRINA AVILA

Dedicated to the safety and well-being of our community since its inception, Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) prioritizes providing essential resources such as food, cleaning supplies, household items, and clothing to our neighbors. The partnership between Christ United Methodist Church and the Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA, alongside grassroots organizations representing Black and Brown communities, has been instrumental in these efforts. The ongoing generosity and assistance received by the Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA are deeply valued, as they are crucial in supporting community members facing hardship. This collaborative initiative highlights the strength of community solidarity and mutual support.

Interested in contributing? Here's how you can get involved with Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid:

Support the Southwest Clothing Closet at Christ United Methodist Church: Help us provide essential everyday wear, work attire, and stylish outfits to men and women experiencing hardships. We welcome clean, good-condition summer clothing and shoes, especially in larger sizes. Additionally, there is a specific need for new or like-new underwear, t-shirts, bras, and socks.

Your generous contributions enable us to offer crucial assistance to our community. The clothing closet is open every Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to support community members facing challenging circumstances.

SYC/W6MA's Southwest Pod Spring & Summer Hours: SYC/W6MA's Southwest Pod accepts donations on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Community members facing hardship are encouraged to visit once a month for assistance, including food, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and access to the Clothing Closet. You

can locate the Southwest Pod at Christ United Methodist Church, situated at 900 4th St SW. Access is through the courtyard gate at the rear of the building on the side street off Wesley Place SW. Additionally, look for SYC/W6MA's table at the Southwest Farmers Market every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., weather permitting. Donations of fresh produce, meat, and dairy products are greatly appreciated to ensure a nutritious food selection. Stop by to greet us and contribute. Furthermore, Christ United Methodist Church's 5000 Food Pantry will continue serving food and supplies on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Support SYC/W6MA's Southwest Pod with Donations: We urgently need donations such as non-perishable foods (canned tuna, pasta, soup, etc.) and toiletries (toothpaste, soap, etc.). Your contributions help us maximize our impact, as we can secure food from the Capital Area Food Bank.

Monetary Donations: Contribute online at bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate. Your donations enable us to secure food from the Capital Area Food Bank, effectively tripling the impact compared to purchasing from a store. For more information, contact us at swmutualaid@serveyourcitydc.org. Join us in building a stronger, more resilient community together.






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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An Evening with Smith Center for Healing and the Arts

BY LISA SIMMS BOOTH AND
THELMA D. JONES

In this fast-paced world that we live in today, stress can be overwhelming, and if you are dealing with cancer or other chronic illnesses, it is even worse. Are you interested in exploring ways to cope with stress and creating your own mental health wellness plan? If so, join the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) for the sixth consecutive year as they host *An Evening with Smith Center for Healing and the Arts* on Wednesday, July 17, at 6:30 p.m. You can join via Zoom or the TDJBCF Facebook page.

Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, a nonprofit health, education, and arts organization located in the heart of U Street NW, focuses on whole person care and is a leader in the nationwide movement to promote the use of the arts in healing. Smith Center's mission is to develop and promote healing practices that explore physical, emotional, and mental wellness and lead to life-affirming changes.

Back by popular demand, the support group meeting will be emceed by Lisa Simms Booth, Executive Director of the Smith Center. During the meeting, Booth will lead a robust conversation with colleague Erin Price,



the Smith Center's Young Adult & Psychosocial Support Program Director. You'll hear about the stress that comes with a cancer diagnosis and survivorship and better understand that there is no one right way to cope with cancer, as well as the role of our nervous system in helping to respond to the stressors.

The evening will focus on providing hands-on information about four key areas that are unique to each person: potential stressors, warning signs, self-care practices that work, and coping strategies. By focusing on these areas, you will come away with the start of a personalized Coping Plan.

So mark your calendar and join us to learn more about cancer programs, coping with stress and focusing on wellness and healing — something we can all benefit from as we continue to emerge from the pandemic



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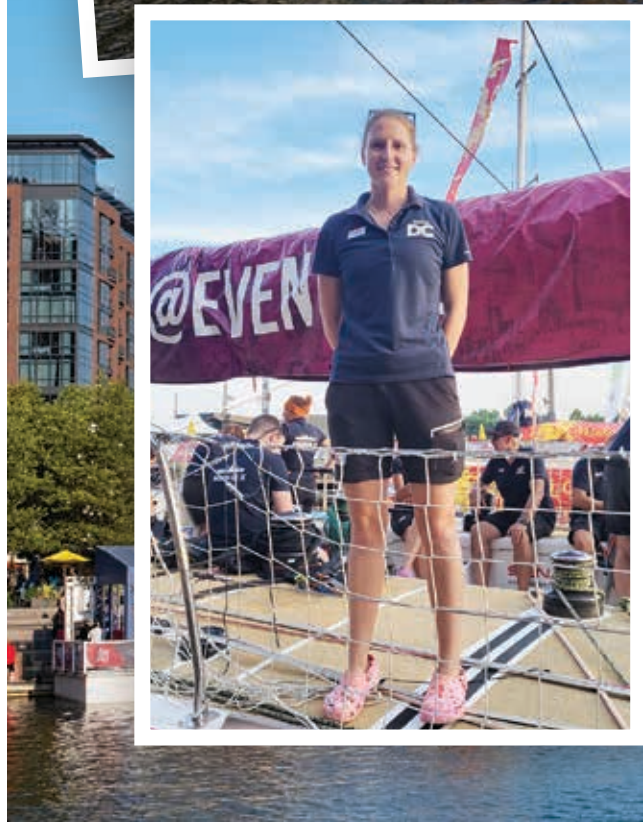
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Ocean Racing Yachts Stop at The Wharf on Around-the-World Journey

The Wharf hosted eleven Clipper 70 ocean racing yachts from June 17-25, with over 200 racing crew resting before the final leg of their eight stage journey circumnavigating the globe, a race of 40,000 nautical miles through the world's toughest oceans. One of the Clippers, nicknamed "Little Washy" represented Washington, DC and was sponsored by Events DC. Its Skipper, Hannah Brewis, 26, is from the UK. She was invited to toss the Ceremonial Pitch at June 20th's Nationals game. Details of Team Washington's round-the-world adventure are at www.clipperroundtheworld.com/team/washington-dc/team-hub A brief video clip of the crew is at www.gatherthedistrict.com/videos/clipper-race-fleet-week-meet-the-crew



Photos courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

WESTERLY

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these units, 136 units are designated as affordable, split evenly between households earning 30% and 50% of the area median income. Attendees at the grand opening highlighted the significant need for affordable housing in Southwest and across DC, and noted the demand for affordable units at The Westerly far outstripped supply.

The building also includes over 29,000 square feet of retail, with tenants including Good Company Doughnuts & Cafe, GoodVets, Apple-Tree Public Charter School, and a forthcoming dedicated cultural space for the arts.

"We know that to meet our city's housing needs and goals, we have to be relentlessly creative in how we invest in, execute, and deliver projects in neighborhoods across our city," Bowser said in a press release. "We're proud that what was once a vacant parcel is now a mixed-use and mixed-income community that is bringing more vibrancy and creating new opportunities in the Southwest Waterfront neighborhood."

The opening marks the completion of the project known as Waterfront Station II, a 59,044 square foot parcel of land that for years sat vacant and was once the site of the Waterside Mall and offices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In 2016, the District and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic

Development selected Hoffman & Associates, Affordable Homes and Communities, CityPartners, and Paramount Development to lead redevelopment of the site.

"In the heart of our vibrant Southwest neighborhood, The Westerly embodies our commitment to delivering innovative communities that bring us together," Shawn Seaman, President of Hoffman & Associates said in a press release.

The project utilized an innovative financing model by combining a market-rate equity investor with 4% and 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits through the Department of Housing and Community Development and the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency.

"We're proud to partner with Hoff-

man & Associates to integrate this deeply affordable housing component within the overall development," Paul Bernard, President and CEO of Affordable Homes and Communities said in a press release. "We've created a dynamic, mixed-income community of opportunity where residents at all income levels live side-by-side in a vibrant, growing neighborhood."

Designed by Torti Gallas + Partners, The Westerly's façade includes cascading angular balconies, intended to mimic the movement of wind and water. Among the amenities for residents, The Westerly offers a rooftop pool with views of the U.S. Capitol and Washington Monument as well as coworking and meeting spaces.

DC Council Passes Budget with Key Investments for Southwest

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

On June 26, the DC Council passed the Budget Support Act (BSA) with the second of two needed votes, completing its major budget work for the year.

The approved budget included important investments for Southwest DC, including:

- \$85M for Amidon-Bowen Elementary School fully funding modernization. Design to begin FY26 and construction in FY27-28 (\$1.7M in FY26, \$6.7M in FY27, \$41.7M in FY28, and \$34.1M in FY29)
- \$1.5M for a new field at King-Greenleaf Recreation Center
- \$17M in FY24-FY27 for Randall Recreation Center modernization, which will include major upgrades to the fields, pool and

indoor space

- Partial funding for Southwest Town Center Park project, with construction on Parcel 1 to begin this year. Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen's office expressed commitment to secure remaining funding for full project in next year's budget
- New opioid outreach team in Southwest, the result of a partnership between Allen and At-Large Councilmember Christina Henderson
- Requires DDOT to regularly report on the Circulator wind-down, including negotiations with WMATA to preserve route coverage.
- \$620k for microtransit like the SW Circuit.

A Year on the Job: Commander Colin Hall of First District MPD

BY GEORGINE WALLACE

Twenty-five years ago, Colin Hall began his first assignment with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in the First District, which includes Southwest. Last year, he returned to the First District, taking on the role of Commander in July 2023. As Commander Hall marks his one-year anniversary in the role, he shared insights on what the job entails with *The Southwester*.

Hall described his role as a 24-7 position that involves engaging with the community, overseeing the condition of the First District station in Southwest, the Sub-Station on Capitol Hill, the dozens of automobiles used by the First District, and managing his team of officers. Hall also takes on the responsibility of developing and executing a plan to deter crime and enforce DC laws in the First District.

Hall attends a daily meeting with other District Commanders and senior command staff, including the Chief of Police. He then relays the information he learns to his three captains. The team devises a custom strategy which is relayed to the lieutenants managing each of the 8 Police Service Areas (PSAs) in the First District.

As part of his community engagement, Hall explained that on a recent day, he also met with fifth-grade stu-

dents, held a crime walk in the H Street corridor with local officials and community members, and attended Field Day with the 1D Outreach Team at Watkins Elementary.

Citizens wanting to engage on issues of public safety are invited to attend the monthly 1D Citizens Advisory Council meeting that covers all of First District (<https://1dcac.com/>) or the monthly Southwest Police Service area meeting for PSA 103 and 105 (swdcpsa@gmail.com). Residents of PSA 106 on the Eastern side of South Capitol Street can email Lt. Kenneth Taylor for information at Kenneth.taylor@dc.gov.

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Local Organizations Team Up for Popcorn Fundraiser

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

If you're hungry for fresh, delicious popcorn, you are in luck. The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) and Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Youth Activities Task Force (SWNA YATF) have joined forces for a Double Good popcorn fundraiser with proceeds to benefit Southwest DC youth ages 5-25 for cultural and technological opportunities as well as to teach breast health classes in our neighborhood schools.



For questions about the fundraiser or to receive a link to purchase your popcorn between July 8-12, please email thelma.d.jones@outlook.com. A link will be provided to participate in the fundraising efforts.

To learn more about the TDJBCF, visit www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org; to learn more about SWNA YATF, including becoming a YATF volunteer, please visit <https://swna.org/swna/task-forces/youth-activities/> or email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org.

The TDJBCF-YATF's goal is \$10,000.

A portion of the proceeds will also help defray the costs of a visit to see Arena Stage's production of *The Migration*, featuring the renowned troupe Step Afrika!

The TDJBCF and YATF will earn 50% of popcorn sales and divide the proceeds on a 60-40 basis, respectively. The fundraiser will last for four days, from Monday, July 8, at 6:00 p.m. - Friday, July 12, at 6:00 p.m.

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PERRY

Continued from p. 1

church and the Southwest DC community. Under Perry's leadership, the Amidon-Bowen choir performs annually at the Kennedy Center and has performed for U.S. presidents including Bill Clinton.

Perry has been teaching for 44 years, including 34 years in the DCPS system. She started teaching in Washington in 1989 at Garrison Elementary School and has taught music and choir at Amidon since 2001. She has received numerous accolades, including the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award Winner by the DC Public Education Fund.

She is passionate about the importance of music and the arts to child development and works closely with her students and their families. More than just a teacher, Perry is often referred to as the "school mom," especially for those kids who have lost par-



Courtesy of Clarke Perry

Ms. Para Perry is honored by Chancellor Lewis Ferebee

ents or who face difficult challenges in their young lives. She gives love and support to all of her "babies," as she describes them, who love her back in return. She shares her students' talents with the larger school staff,

teachers and parents through frequent and highly anticipated performances, including the school's Black Heritage Program that she has run every February for 24 years. In the tribute video part of the program, Perry stated that "Not only do we celebrate Black history at Amidon-Bowen, but also Hispanic heritage, Pacific Islanders...whatever kids are in my class. Through music, we try to find out more about each other."

The program on June 7 reflected her commitment to excellence and to her motto of "children first." After a thunderous welcome as she walked into the gym, Amidon-Bowen students greeted her with a moving rendition of the "Angel Song" which, as Amidon fifth-grader Langston Curtis explained to the packed audience, was a song that Perry taught to all of her Pre-Kindergarten students throughout her teaching career so that the children would not be "scared at night because they have angels to watch over them." This was followed by the graduating fifth grad-

ers each putting a rose in the vase that had been placed beside her, along with a red carpet, an oversized chair and an elegant backdrop. The video was set to the Amidon-Bowen song "Shine," to which Perry penned the lyrics. Fifth-grader Langston Curtis explained that the song was about "how all the teachers help us," and that "the things we like about Ms. Perry is her fiery attitude and that she always believes in us."

Speaking after Garrison's former principal Andrea Robinson, Amidon-Bowen Principal TaMikka Sykes, who herself is leaving Amidon-Bowen, told Perry that "your legacy is a mirror of what you see in this tribute to you today. The attention to detail, the expression, the songs and the videos... the brilliance of the students wearing their 'best in Southwest' t-shirts, a term that you coined."

Amidon teacher Teneshia Griffin and the third graders then brought the house down with an encore dance performance of last February's Black History Month's "Motown Tribute," a mashup of songs that included the students running to embrace Perry during Sister Sledge's "We Are Family," as Perry enthusiastically danced along with them. Third-grader Amalia Vandenberg said, "From choir to history celebrations, students get to perform with the leadership of Ms. Perry to make memories that are unforgettable. Just like music, Ms. Perry will always live in our hearts." Amidon's step team, led by teacher Jacqueline Cook, entered the gym and gave an exhilarating dance performance after a video presentation.

Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen told Perry that "arts and music are a core, fundamental part of our educational values, and you have lived that every day." DCPS Chancellor Lewis Ferebee praised the student performances and quoted poet Maya Angelou, saying, "people may remember what you say, may remember what you do, but they will never forget how you made them feel." I can say as the leader of the system that you have impacted so many people with the heart." He presented Perry with a 'Grammy Award' that mimicked the actual one "for being the best in Southwest."

But Ms. Perry will not go quietly into retirement—she will be the choir director of the Children's Chorus of Washington's new Southwest campus at St. Matthew Lutheran Church (222 M Street SW) in September 2024.

Willem Dicke is the Amidon-Bowen First and Second Grade DC Scores soccer coach.



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\$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
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Southwest Moment



A Southwest sunset.

Courtesy of Angela Peretti



National Men's Health Awareness Month and Juneteenth Celebration

BY BRIAN C. BYRD

Juneteenth is a day of celebration for the African American community, as it marks the day when slaves in Texas discovered they were officially free. Just as this day has become a national holiday, organizations such as the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) have worked tirelessly to ensure that people of color also have freedom in their health. "Our vision is to embrace and achieve a world community free of breast cancer," shared Thelma D. Jones, the fund's namesake, during her welcome for the National Men's Health Month and Juneteenth Celebration. The TDJBCF hosts monthly breast cancer support group meetings which welcome various national and global speakers like Emcee Derrick A. Butts, prostate cancer survivor and author, president and co-founder, Prostate Health Matters, guest speaker NAACP Hilary O. Shelton, and Dr. Richard Kennedy, Former Chief Medical Officer, The World Bank Group, among others.

After a prayer and a mental health message from Jones' high school classmate and fellow Snow Hill, NC, native, Dr. Kermit Crawford (speaking on Zoom), Chris Dauphin (husband of the late Lori L. Wilson, MD) delivered opening remarks. Jones was the inaugural recipient of the Lori L. Wilson Conquering Cancer Award from Howard University Cancer Center. After defeating breast cancer in 2007, Jones' belief that "early detection saves lives and creates a better outcome" became her defining message. "It is vital to remember that self-care is not a luxury but is a necessity," said Dauphin, yet "often men find themselves neglecting their health, overwhelmed by the demands of daily life and societal expectations. Yet taking care of ourselves enables

us to be better partners, husbands, fathers, and caregivers." Dauphin also acknowledged the importance of Juneteenth in relation to our health. "This historic event reminds us of the resiliency within our community, and serves to urge us to continue striving for equality and justice in every aspect of our lives, including healthcare." Dauphin also encouraged men to seek health practices such as regular health checkups; embracing a balanced lifestyle; and seeking support when needed. In a moment of vulnerability, Dauphin shared that he sought mental health treatment after the passing of his wife, explaining that he thought he didn't need it at one point. "Self-care is not an act of weakness but a show of strength; you have to take care of yourself before you can take care of others." Dauphin closed while honoring Jones for her work in health advocacy and the desire to continue Dr. Lori L. Wilson's legacy.

Guest speaker Hilary O. Shelton, National Advisor of Governance Policy for the NAACP, informed us that the organization does not solely focus on issues such as voters' rights and civil rights protection, but also on issues related to healthcare. Shelton painted a bigger picture than one seen only through the lens of being a U.S. citizen, stating: "The bottom line is thinking about being able to enjoy the rights, privileges, and protections, of full citizenship in the United States of America and part of a global nation." Expanding on how a person's health can affect his or her ability to enjoy the rights we have access to, "You can't enjoy those issues of being able to freely travel throughout the world. You can't enjoy being able to go to various clubs and various other

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Email: office@stdominicchurch.org

Website: www.stdominicchurch.org



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CELEBRATION

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groupings if you do not have your health. It begins a process for us in making sure we recognize that it is all about advocacy for us in so many ways.”

Shelton spoke of one of the NAACP Founders, W.E.B Du Bois, who recognized the importance of global advocacy and played a role in the creation of the United Nations. He also gave a breakdown of the NAACP’s National Board of Directors, which comprises 64 members that are elected from every state and region in the United States, as well as Europe and Asia. The NAACP focuses on issues of health for people of African descent globally as well as those in prison. Shelton explained how some states are regionally connected, including Alaska with Oregon and Washington, and California with Hawaii, and jokingly spoke to the “hardship” of traveling to the latter states for conferences. On a more serious note, Shelton shared a testimony of how a recent regular visit to the doctor essentially saved his life. He and his doctor discussed areas of his health that could be improved, and Shelton shared his family history of tremors. His doctor suggested seeing a neurologist and getting an MRI. After his test, he was informed that he needed to go to the emergency room where he later discovered that he

needed to have brain surgery. Shelton has survived those health issues but shared his story to enlighten the audience that health can affect all of us. “We know that these issues and challenges with cancer and otherwise don’t limit themselves to citizenship. We know they draw their own parallels in the manner in which they move throughout communities and other countries, and we have to think about them in those terms as well.”

In the same sense, Shelton talked about how the Coronavirus had been the biggest health issue in recent years and how it was not limited to a specific border or country but affected everyone. Lastly, a call to action was given, whether it be in the local community or in the halls of Congress: “When it’s time to ask for our money and our resources and do what we need to do to make sure our people have what they need, this is the fight we’re ready to have and this is the struggle we’re very much involved in.”

Afterwards, an engaging and robust Q&A moderated by Emcee Derrick A. Butts was joined by Dr. Richard Kennedy, a prostate and colon cancer survivor who also serves on the TDJBCF Board of Directors.

A musical selection was performed by Cecily. In honor of Juneteenth, she sang Sam Cooke’s “A Change Gonna Come.” This was followed by former NFL Player Ken Harvey, who spoke via Zoom and introduced his friend Allen Herbert,

a two-time breast cancer survivor who also spoke via Zoom from Las Vegas, NV. Herbert first discovered his ailment while working out and finding a lump on his chest. Both diagnoses came at a difficult time in his life, but he has since overcome them and can share his testimony. Herbert’s work as a commercial space and sustainability advocate allows him to focus on awareness and treatment for breast cancer in both women and men through a program called the Moonshot Initiative, which does cancer research on the International Space Station. Breast Cancer Survivor Dr. Dexter Allen, Veterinarian (large animals), former head of Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Programme, Guyana School of Agriculture, spoke via Zoom from New York City and also shared his story. In his case, there were no predetermining factors for breast cancer in terms of his family history and age. He would often hear the question “How did you get breast cancer?” He explained how rare it is for a man to get breast cancer, especially black men. Dr. Allen said he received a great deal of support once he moved last year from Guyana to America and endured 12 weeks of chemotherapy to treat his condition. His team of doctors say that he is in a good space health-wise and advises all men to check for early detection and even mammograms for men to prevent the negative effects of breast

cancer.

Clinton Burnside, MPH, speaking via Zoom, gave the closing remarks and a brief history of the “Men Take Ten” Men’s Health Program at the Howard University Cancer Center. The Men Take Ten Health Program expanded its support to breast cancer at its inception. Like many of the speakers and the premise of the event, Burnside encourages men to regularly get checkups to give room for early detection and cancer prevention. The event was capped off by another performance by Cecily, who shared her connection with cancer, as her father passed away from lung cancer a few years ago. Cecily sang an original song entitled “Grow,” with lyrics, “Don’t you forget that we were born for freedom.” Those words were fitting for this Juneteenth Celebration and as Dr. Crawford said in his closing prayer, “This is not a close in how we praise and honor you.” To see the full celebration visit https://youtu.be/JZiJGEjZR_w.

Brian C. Byrd is a recent MBA graduate at Howard University with a concentration in entrepreneurship. A graduate of North Carolina Central University with a BS in mass communications, he currently owns Triumphant Visions, LLC, a media company that promotes positive black lifestyles.

STEP **AFRIKA!**

THE MIGRATION

REFLECTIONS ON JACOB LAWRENCE

“A SHOW THAT NEEDS TO BE EXPERIENCED...”

— DC THEATRE SCENE

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- TUE., JUNE 11, AT 7:30 P.M.
- FRI., JUNE 14, AT 8:00 P.M.
- THU., JULY 11, AT 8:00 P.M.



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Photo by Jati Lindsay



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?



Answers from June 2024 issue

Differences: There is a bird in the picture on the right; there are two crabs in the picture on the right; on the right, the boy with the guitar has a hat, and more music notes are floating; there is a cell tower in the picture on the right; the picture on the right has a dolphin entering the scene.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

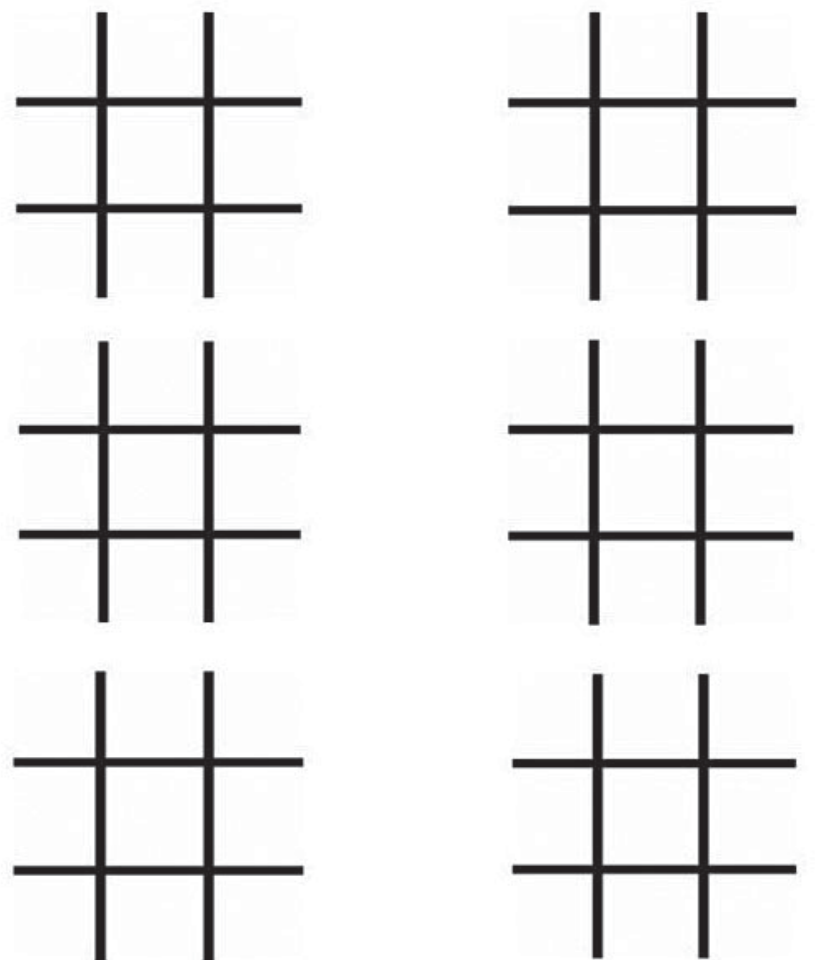
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WORD SEARCH: INDEPENDENCE DAY!

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

FIREWORKS	FUN
BARBECUE	STRIPES
CELEBRATE	FLAG
HAPPY	DEMOCRACY
FREEDOM	STARS

TIC TAC TOE





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

Math Moment!

Can you solve these equations?

$38 + 12 =$

$201 \times 12 =$

$150 - 150 =$

$100 - 63 =$

$18 \times 10 =$

$6 \times 6 =$

$55 / 5 =$

$10,000 \times 22 =$

$18 + 2 =$

$80 / 8 =$

$5,819 \times 0 =$

$5,819 - 0 =$

Jokes!

What do you call a fake noodle?
An im-pasta!

Why didn't the teddy bear eat dessert?
Because he was stuffed!

What did the mustard say to the ketchup in the race?
Catch up!!

Write Your Own Joke!

If you would like to submit a joke to The Southwester, email it to editor@thesouthwester.com

Drawing Time!

What would you like to draw?



Young Readers

Stop and Start

BY KITTY FELDE

Admit it. Our attention spans have shrunk in this era of social media. It's even worse with kids. So how do you get a child to put down the phone and pick up a book?

One solution, offered by our neighbors to the north, is perfect for those of us with short attention spans.

Stop and Start.

Winters in Canada can be long and difficult. Add a ton of humidity and I'd say summers in Washington are even longer and more difficult. Both offer good reasons to stay inside. And both offer the perfect time to share a book with your child. Read one together.

You might find some resistance from a kid who'd rather spend summer vacation playing video games, but give it a try. "It's okay if your child doesn't want to finish the book," says the Saskatchewan Literacy Network.

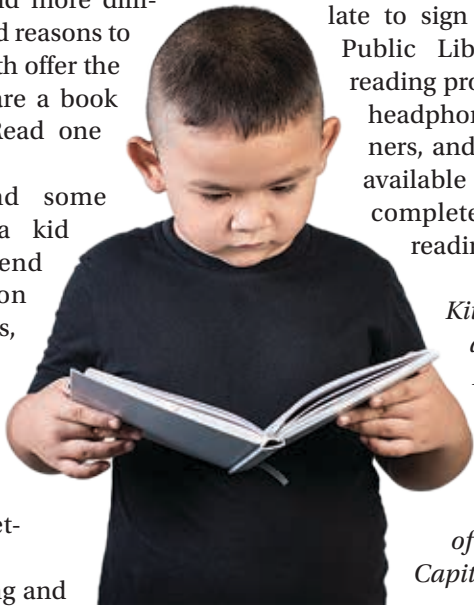
"Practice opening and

closing it. Stop, and start again another time. You don't need to read it all every time." Five minutes of reading that first day. Maybe ten minutes the next. It all adds up.

Starting and stopping at just the right moment can create a cliffhanger - a tease that makes the child want to find out what happens next.

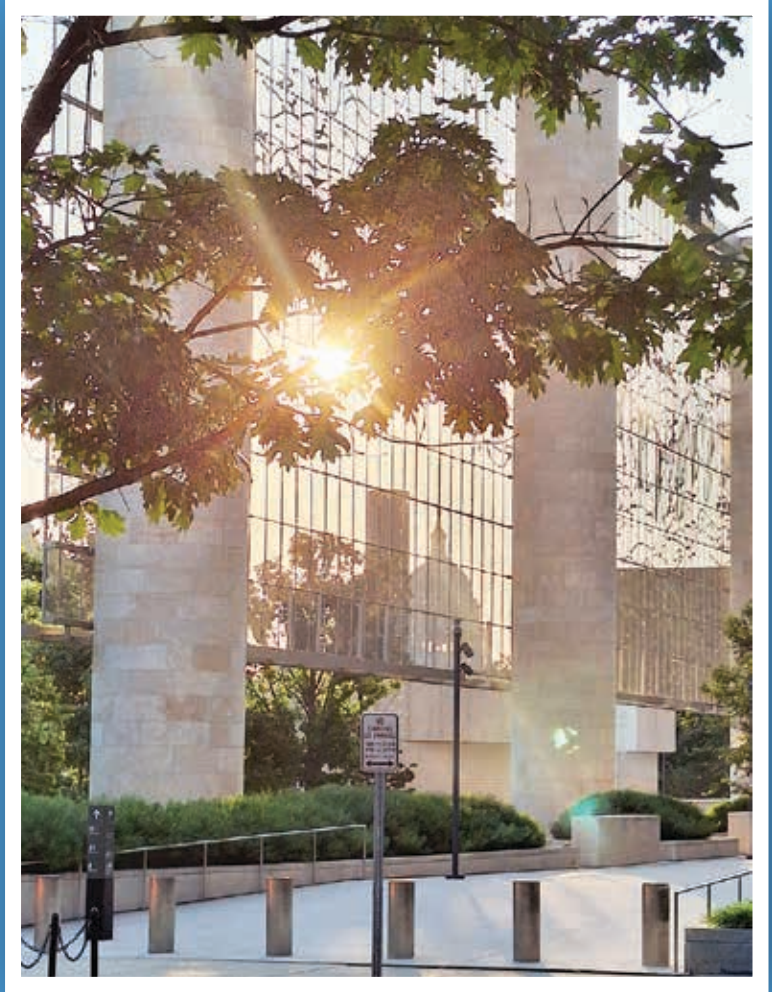
Don't know which book to choose? Our bookclubforkids.org webpage has hundreds of suggestions on our Books We Love page from kids just like yours.

And don't forget: it's not too late to sign up for the DC Public Library's Summer reading program. Swag like headphones, fidget spinners, and Nats tickets are available for those who complete the summer reading challenge.



Kitty Felde hosts the award-winning Book Club for Kids podcast and writes the Fina Mendoza Mysteries series of books set on Capitol Hill.

Photo of the Month



Courtesy of MM Cunningham

The Capitol building is reflected on a summer day.

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



GOOD COMPANY — Doughnuts & Cafe —

Good Company Doughnuts & Café is a family and Veteran owned establishment that specializes in baking the freshest, and most delicious handmade doughnuts every day.

We use all fresh ingredients to prepare a wide selection of mouth-watering all-day breakfasts, lunches, and full dinners for takeout and delivery.

Good Company, Good Neighbor.



We look forward to serving you.

1000 4TH STREET SW • WASHINGTON, DC 20024

Public Safety Forum in SW DC — It Takes a Village



On June 24, 2024, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly hosted a forum at Arena Stage entitled "Public Safety Forum in SW DC - It Takes a Village." The participants highlighted the strong coordination between the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and community organizations, but agreed that more can be done to prevent crime, intervene with youth, and improve public safety. Participants in the discussion were (L-R) Commander Colin Hall, MPD First District; Dwayne Falwell, Together We Rise and SW Working Group; Jawanna Hardy, Guns Down Friday; and Mike Goodman, Moderator, The Southwester. Approximately 75 people attended the forum.

Courtesy of Perry Klein

Southwest Moment



Bee on a Catalpa Tree blossom

Courtesy of Irene Allen

Le Comité Tricolore presents
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L'ALSACE
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A night of gastronomy and joie de vivre from Alsace!

FRIDAY JULY 12TH 2024

To be held at
 La Maison Française, Embassy of France
 Washington, DC

Seated dinner *Live music & DJ*
Alsace gastronomy *Silent auction*
Alsace wines *Raffle prizes*

SCAN TO BOOK

OR VISIT : BASTILLE-DAY.ORG

LOG ON TODAY!
www.swna.org
www.TheSouthwester.com

Southwester Community Calendar | July 2024

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

MON 1, 10:30-11:00 A.M., FAMILY STORY TIME.

Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Birth-5 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

MON 1, 7:00 P. M. ANC 6D Administrative Meeting. Contact the office at 6d@anc.dc.gov for viewing access to the meeting via Zoom

THURS 4, God Bless America: The Eucharist and Praying for the Nation According to St. Thomas Aquinas

Eucharistic Holy **Hour Confessions from 6:30 P. M.-7:00 P. M. in the Church.** Preaching by Father Andrew Hofer, O.P.; St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street, SW, Washington, DC. (202) 554-7863 Followed by fireworks on the National Mall.

FRI 5, 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. Jazz Night in DC Fundraiser- Celebrate Jazz Singer Extraordinaire, Dick Smith's 80th Birthday! Tickets \$20. Pay for **Admission online at www.westminsterdc.org**. Go to: Dick Smith @80 Fundraiser page.

MON 8, 10:30-11:00 A. M., FAMILY STORY TIME. Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Birth-5 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

MON 8, 3:00-4:30 P. M. STEM LAB PRESENTS: Explore The World Through A Microscope. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. We will explore different sizes and shapes by adventuring through the world of a MICROSCOPE for this fun 1 hour event. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

THURS 11, 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

THURS 11, 1:15-2:15 P. M. BABY LAPTIME, These 20-30 minute story times are specially designed for infants until they begin walking along with their grown ups! Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

THURS 11, 4:00-5:00 P. M. Game Time. Let's play. 5-12 years old. 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 monthly zoom presentations every 2nd Saturday at 7pm. Join the Faith and Film Club to view and discuss timely and thought provoking films. Club members will receive film titles, summaries and zoom link: Contact Westminster church office at: wpcdcoffice@gmail.com. All Invited.

SUN 14, 1-2:00 P. M. SIT & STITCH. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at the 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. Register. www.dclibrary.org.

SUN 14, 7:00 P. M. Solemn Vespers. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street, SW, (202) 554-7863. Reception in the Parish Meeting Room immediately following.

MON 15, 10:30-11:00 A. M., FAMILY STORY TIME.

Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Birth-5 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

MON 15, 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/ Link to join Webinar: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83742390591>. Local Zoom dial-in phone: (301) 715-8592.

TUES 16, 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

TUES 16, 6:30-7:30 P. M. OFF SCRIPT! Come read about the lives of your favorite celebrities in their own words! Seniors, Adults. Register. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

WED 17, 3:30 - 4:30 P. M. KIDS & TWEENS LEGO CLUB. Join us for a fun 1hr activity building LEGOS on the Second Floor in the STEM Lab. For kids and tweens ages from 6-12. Kids under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

THURS 18, 1:15-2:15 P. M. BABY LAPTIME, These 20-30 minute story times are specially designed for infants until they begin walking along with their grown ups! Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

THURS 18, 4:00-5:00 P.M. GAME TIME. Let's play. 5-12 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

FRI 19, 10:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M. AND 2:30-6:00 P.M. CPR and First Aid Training for Adults. What would you do in an emergency? Gain skills in CPR and first aid so you can respond with confidence in adult and pediatric medical crises in this free 3.5-hour class. **Registration required.** Educational Program | Health, Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

MON 22, 10:30-11:00 A.M., FAMILY STORY TIME. Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Birth-5 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

MON 22, 11:45 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Babysitting 101. Want to be a skilled babysitter, ready for anything? Join Hearts CPR, LLC, American Red Cross partner, for a free, all-day babysitter training for ages 13-17. Slots are limited; reserve yours now! Educational Program | Health | Discover Summer ,13 - 19 Years Old (Teens). Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

MON 22, 3:00-4:30 P.M. STEM LAB PRESENTS: Explore The World Through A Microscope. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. We will explore different sizes and shapes by adventuring through the world of a MICROSCOPE for this fun 1 hour event. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

WED 24, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Pride Book Club. Want to read more LGBTQ+ stories? Looking for a bigger queer community? Join Southwest Library for a monthly discussion on a novel by and about LGBTQ+ folks. Book Club | LGBTQ Pride Seniors, Adults. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

THURS 25, 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

THURS 25, 1:15-2:15 P.M. BABY LAPTIME, These 20-30 minute story times are specially designed for infants until they begin walking along with their grown ups! Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

THURS 25, 4:00-5:00 P.M. Game Time. Let's play. 5-12 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.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

SUN 28, 1-2:00 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). Register. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

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, 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

WED 31, 3:30 - 4:30 P.M. KIDS & TWEENS LEGO CLUB. Join us for a fun 1hr activity building LEGOS on the Second Floor in the STEM Lab. For kids and tweens ages from 6-12. Kids under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

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). 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>

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 Com-

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

munity Room, 555 Water Street SW. www.staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life.

BUILDING BLOCKS, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 A.M., 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. Birth to 5 years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

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

FILM DISCUSSION, Tuesdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th 11 A.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, 1:00-3:00 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 komentoastmasters8714@gmail.com.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 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/>

SEATED 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.

SUMMER MOVIE MATINEE, Wednesdays 3rd, 17th, 24th, 31st. 12:00 noon-2:00 P.M. Enjoy an after-

noon at the movies. Family Program 5 - 12 Years old. Southwest Neighborhood Library. www.dclibrary.org

SWNA BOOTH, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 PM. Visit July Saturdays at Farmers Market.

TECH HELP, Monday July 15th and 29th, 11:00 A.M. - Noon. Get help with digital devices and accounts for free at the library! Seniors, Adults. 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 (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/>

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.

Come celebrate our
Fourth of July Sale
and 24 Years of Ginkgo Gardens!
June 29th – July 31st

24 Years on the Hill!
www.ginkgogardens.com

25% off on all in-stock trees, shrubs, and perennials.
Houseplants 25% off.
All Pottery 25% off.
Patio furniture, tables, chairs, all garden accessories 25% off.
Most merchandise will be 25% off during this sale.
Look for special mark downs on some items from 25% to 50% off!
Come help us celebrate and grab the savings!!!

Ginkgo Gardens

SW Summer Vibes Spotify Playlist

Lose Control
Teddy Swims

Made for Me
Muni Long

ICU
Coco Jones

Praying Time
Tonio Armani

Houdini
Eminem

Baby
Los Primos del Este

Never Lose Me
Flo Milli

Espresso
Sabrina Carpenter

Gorilla
Little Simz

Movie
Tom Misch

Leave The Door Open
Bruno Mars, etc.

Bodyguard
Beyonce

Saturn
SZA

Good Luck, Babe!
Chappell Roan

CHIIRO
Billie Eilish

Too Sweet
Hozier

Million Dollar Baby
Tommy Richman

A Bar Song
Shaboozey

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Business
Improvement
District

Scan and listen to our
Ambassador playlist!

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