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JANUARY 2025

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Parents Raise Concerns with Swing Space Plan for Amidon-Bowen Renovation

DCPS Plans to Bus Students Across Town for 2 Years; Community Meeting on Feb. 6

BY SARAH BUCKLEY AND WILLEM DICKE

Starting in August 2027, Southwest's only elementary school, Amidon-Bowen, will close for two years while the school building is renovated as part of DC's effort to modernize school buildings across the district.

During the school's modernization, the District's plan is for Amidon-Bowen students to attend school in a temporary "swing space" at the former Meyer Elementary School in Columbia Heights, nearly 3.5 miles away from the school in Northwest. DC plans to provide a bus to and from Amidon-Bowen, but this would mean long commutes for schoolchildren and changes to family routines to necessitate earlier departures and later arrivals.

See "Renovations," page 8



Photos from Amidon-Bowen 2019 history project school exhibit that recreated SW photographer Joseph Owen Curtis photos from the mid-20th century. Left: "Corner of 4th and I" by Mekhi Bailey (Amidon 5th grader); Top Right: "4th Street between G and H" by Desean Hill (Amidon 5th grader); Lower Right: photo exhibit in the school lobby (Willem Dicke).



RICHARD WRIGHT STUDENTS REPORT ON ARTS & CULTURE

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WARD 6 BRICKIE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

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Join The Southwester and Build Your Community

If your New Year's resolution was to engage with your community, support local journalism, build a better neighborhood, or join a great community organization, *The Southwester* is seeking additions to its all-volunteer staff.

Since 1963, *The Southwester* has been the voice of Southwest DC, documenting history as it happens from the point of view of our neighbors. *The Southwester* is the essence of local journalism, created by, for and with residents of the waterfront communities of Ward 6.

We invite you to be a part of our team as we build a fresh, vibrant local news outlet for the next 60 years. Your voice could shape coverage in *The Southwester* - join us today!

We are actively seeking applicants for the following positions:

Managing Editor. The selected applicant will manage our team of volunteer reporters, columnists and correspondents by assigning, editing and selecting stories for each month's edition of *The Southwester*. The position is at the heart of our news coverage, with significant input on the stories covered. This is a part-time, volunteer position that requires approximately 10 hours a month.

Digital Content Editor. Expand our online footprint by creating and posting content to our website and social media channels. The selected applicant will have flexibility to be creative and try out new ways to connect with audiences and share content from *The Southwester*. This is a part-time, volunteer position that requires approximately 5 hours a month.

Reporters & Columnists. Contrib-

ute to our community newspaper and support local journalism! We are always open to pitches for news stories about local events, people, places and priorities. Reporters can focus on any topic relevant to Southwest DC and pitch ideas for news stories as frequently or infrequently as they like. Columnists focus on a single topic or area of interest (for example, our monthly Young Readers column) and, if selected, commit to monthly or bimonthly submissions for six months or more. These are volunteer positions.

To apply to a position or pitch a story idea, please email editor@thesouthwester.com, telling us in 2-3 paragraphs about yourself and your ideas for strengthening *The Southwester*. We look forward to hearing from you!

CHRISTMAS DONKEYTAKES TOP PRIZE IN BOAT PARADE

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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FIND US ONLINE AT [THESOUTHWESTER.COM](http://thesouthwester.com), OR [@THESOUTHWESTER](https://twitter.com/thesouthwester) [@THESOUTHWESTER](https://www.instagram.com/thesouthwester) [/THESOUTHWESTERDC](https://www.facebook.com/thesouthwesterdc)

PAST ISSUES OF THE SOUTHWESTER BACK TO 2016 ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.THESOUTHWESTER.COM/ARCHIVE
Back issues in searchable PDF are available back to 1964 on request from perry@thesouthwester.com Specify the range of years of interest.

D.C. United Foundation, Hope Foundation Reentry Network Partner for Holiday Cheer

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

The D.C. United Foundation partnered with the Hope Foundation Reentry Network to bring the spirit of the holiday season to local families separated by incarceration.

The organizations hosted an event for individuals incarcerated at the D.C. Jail, which included holiday meals and a chance to create personalized cards for loved ones. Then, those cards were delivered to their families and children at a joy-filled holiday party at Audi Field on December 14.

"This event is in its third year, and we partnered with D.C. United Foundation to bring Christmas joy to the kids," said Rita Gray with the Hope Foundation Reentry Network. She said families are invited to attend for a "Christmas gift and some good food and fun."

The Hope Foundation Reentry Network provides essential support, focusing on employment, housing, peer and recovery support, virtual support, and recovery resources, for individuals who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated.

D.C. United defender Matai Akinmboni joined the festivities. "I just love gift giving and giving back to kids," Akinmboni said. "It meant a lot to me to be here. The people who are around make it so easy to come out and give back."

The party included food, activities like ornament making and cookie-decorating, a visit from Santa Claus and a heaping pile of holiday gifts. Toys like bikes and scooters were a popular gift as kids of all ages and their parents, friends and families spent the afternoon enjoying music



Photos courtesy of Fredo Vasquez
ABOVE: Debra Harris and Rita Gray of the Hope Foundation Reentry Network welcome families to the organization's holiday party, sponsored by the D.C. United Foundation.



LEFT: D.C. United defender Matai Akinmboni makes ornaments at Audi Field on December 14.

and games.

"The reality is sometimes families have to make tough decisions," said Shanell Mosley, Executive Director of the D.C. United Foundation. "We want them to know they are an extended part of their family, so we

really are excited about this event. The playing field is not always even, so it's important for us to provide resources and services to members of our community, to meet them where they're at and support their vision."




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

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The Southwester



Send submissions and questions to *The Southwester* by email at editor@thesouthwester.com. Submissions for each monthly issue are due on the 15th of the preceding month.

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The Southwester is published and distributed by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

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

Support Your Neighborhood Assembly

Please consider donating to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). We've been your Civic Association since 1963. SWNA publishes *The Southwester*, holds topical community meetings and has a number of active task forces focusing within the 20024 zipcode. To contribute to SWNA's operational fund follow this:

One of SWNA's longstanding and important task forces raises money for scholarships which go to students within 20024 zipcode who are pursuing higher education. This year, we gave 27 scholarships ranging from \$1000 to \$3000 each. To contribute to the SWNA scholarship fund directly follow this



Our mailing address is P.O. Box 70131, Washington D.C. 20024. Our EIN is 52-6056296. Thank you for your consideration. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) community organization.

20  25

D.C. UNITED SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY


 **SATURDAY, FEB 22**
VS. TORONTO - 7:30PM

MARCH

 **SATURDAY, MAR 1**
@ CHICAGO - 8:30PM

 **SATURDAY, MAR 8**
VS. KANSAS CITY - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, MAR 15**
VS. MONTRÉAL - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, MAR 22**
@ ORLANDO - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, MAR 29**
VS. COLUMBUS - 7:30PM

APRIL

 **SUNDAY, APR 6**
@ SAN JOSE - 5:00PM

 **SATURDAY, APR 12**
VS. CINCINNATI - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, APR 19**
@ NEW YORK RB - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, APR 26**
@ PHILADELPHIA - 4:30 PM

MAY

 **SATURDAY, MAY 3**
VS. COLORADO - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, MAY 10**
@ TORONTO - 4:30PM

 **WEDNESDAY, MAY 14**
VS. NEW YORK - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, MAY 17**
@ NASHVILLE - 8:30PM

 **SATURDAY, MAR 24**
VS. NEW YORK RB - 7:30PM

 **WEDNESDAY, MAY 28**
VS. NEW ENGLAND - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, MAY 31**
@ CINCINNATI - 7:30PM

JUNE

 **SATURDAY, JUN 7**
VS. CHICAGO - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, JUN 14**
@ SALT LAKE - 9:30PM

 **SATURDAY, JUN 28**
VS. NASHVILLE - 7:30PM

JULY

 **SATURDAY, JUL 5**
VS. ATLANTA - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, JUL 12**
@ LOS ANGELES - 10:30PM

 **WEDNESDAY, JUL 16**
@ CHARLOTTE - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, JUL 19**
@ COLUMBUS - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, JUL 26**
VS. AUSTIN - 7:30PM

AUGUST

 **SATURDAY, AUG 9**
@ NEW ENGLAND - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, AUG 16**
@ MONTRÉAL - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, AUG 23**
VS. MIAMI - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, AUG 30**
@ NEW YORK - 7:30PM

SEPTEMBER


 **SATURDAY, SEP 13**
VS. ORLANDO - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, SEP 20**
@ MIAMI - 7:30PM

 **SATURDAY, SEP 27**
VS. PHILADELPHIA - 7:30PM

OCTOBER

 **SATURDAY, OCT 4**
VS. CHARLOTTE - 2:30PM

 **SATURDAY, OCT 18**
@ ATLANTA - 6:00PM

HOME =  AWAY = 

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TIME ZONE SET TO EST. - SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Calls for Essential Supplies, Virtual Tutors

BY KATRINA AVILA

Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) remains steadfast in its commitment to prioritizing the safety, well-being, and dignity of our neighbors. Since its inception, SYC/W6MA has worked diligently to provide essential resources—such as food, cleaning supplies, school materials, digital devices, household items, and clothing—to those in need. At the core of this mission is our collaboration with Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Southwest DC, along with other grassroots organizations dedicated to uplifting and empowering Black and Brown communities throughout the city. The continued generosity of donors and volunteers has been instrumental in sustaining these efforts, ensuring critical support reaches those experiencing hardship.

These partnerships exemplify the power of community solidarity and mutual care.



Interested in Supporting Your Community? Here's How You Can Get Involved with Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid:

Support Our Unhoused Neighbors: Help provide essential supplies to ensure our unhoused neighbors in Washington, DC can thrive this winter. Browse and purchase items from our Wishlist at bit.ly/syctentlist. Have questions? Feel free to email us at info@serveyourcitydc.org for more information.

Volunteer as a Virtual Tutor: Join Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid's *Free School for Unlimited Youth* program, which offers FREE virtual tutoring for Black and Brown K-12 students across Washington, DC. We're seeking dedicated college students, graduate students, and professionals to tutor in various subjects. Interested? Sign up at bit.ly/syctvolunteertutor or contact us at youthenrichment@serveyourcitydc.org to learn more.

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Your involvement can make a lasting impact—join us today!

Support Our Work

Your financial contributions are crucial in sustaining our efforts. By donating online at bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate, you directly strengthen our support for Christ United Methodist Church's (CUMC) 5000 Food Ministry and help address food access challenges in Southwest DC. Your generosity enables us to purchase essential food items in bulk, maximizing our impact and extending our reach to those who need it most.

Stay Updated on Our Work Across DC

For the latest updates on our programs and initiatives, visit serveyourcitydc.org.



Courtesy of Pam Troutman

A class at Waterfront Village.

Getting Your Ducks in a Row: Waterfront Village Offers Future Framework Class to the Community

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Coming this February is a five-part class offered by Waterfront Village designed to provide a framework for completing a variety of tasks associated with planning for the future. The class has something to offer anyone 50 years and older.

"This class addresses issues beyond basic estate planning," said Village Executive Director Pam Troutman. "Approaching the second half of life with a readiness perspective can make the difference between staying in the

driver's seat and finding yourself caught off guard."

The class will be offered via Zoom so that it can be easily attended. Topics include strategies for home organization, resources for communicating your wishes with friends and family, resources for aging-in-place, and emergency preparedness. This class is offered to the community at no cost.

The class will be held on five consecutive Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. starting on February 5. To register, visit <https://dcwaterfront.helpfulvillage.com/events/1171> or call 202-656-1834 for more details.

Community Volunteer Clarence Arthur Stillions Passes Away at Age of 83

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Clarence Arthur ("C.A.") Stillions died peacefully at the age of 83 on November 10, 2024 in Washington, DC. He was born in 1941 in Sumner, IL before relocating to Washington, DC to continue his career as an architect and structural engineer, working on commercial buildings, embassies, and casinos.

In 1997, C.A. began nearly 20 years of service as Structural Engineer at the Office of the Architect of the Capitol. His tenure included structural work on the Capitol and related properties, including the construction of the Capitol Visitors Center, the largest expansion of the U.S. Capitol building.

In Southwest DC, C.A. was an active leader with the Waterfront Village on their group walks, where he could share his vast knowledge of the city's history and buildings and made enduring friendships.

"C.A. was a faithful guide of the Waterfront Village Walking Group and generously shared his knowledge of the history of our city, particularly the Capitol and surrounding neighborhoods," said Pam Troutman, executive director of Waterfront Village.

Introduced to stamps as a Boy Scout, C.A.'s greatest passion was his lifelong hobby of philately. He held leadership voluntary roles in



Courtesy of the Stillions family

Clarence Arthur ("C.A.") Stillions.

local, national and international stamp clubs and exhibited regularly at U.S. and Canadian philatelic conferences earning numerous awards.

C.A. was a faithful member of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church for 20 years. A memorial service will be held in Spring 2025 in Washington. For notification and condolences, please email: catrust1234@gmail.com.

It's about making a difference



SWNA's Education and Scholarship Task Force needs your help to keep providing scholarships to our neighborhood youth. Thanks to you, we were able to provide \$76,500 in scholarships to 34 students this year. We would like to give even more scholarships to even more deserving scholars in 2025. Your gift today will help ensure that our deserving youth will be able to attain their educational goals and be contributors to our future.

TO DONATE

*and for more information visit www.swnascholarship.org
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Southwest
Neighborhood
Assembly



Understanding Us: A Review of “The Other Americans”

A REVIEW BY: DANIYA HOWARD,
GRADE 9 RICHARD WRIGHT
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

In “The Other Americans,” the playwright, John Leguizamo, explores themes of loyalty, mental health, honesty, and cultural identity as a Puerto Rican American living in Queens, New York.

My overall impression was powerful. I experienced a whirlwind of emotions throughout the play, feeling connected to the characters’ struggles, especially the character Toni. I relate to Toni because she is very hardworking and bright. Toni’s struggles resonate with me, as she works hard but gets no recognition, yet she still manages to give respect.

The play highlights the importance of understanding and empathizing while navigating personal cultural conflicts. It emphasizes how living in a world of racism and cultural oppression can impact lives and shape the characters’ experiences and relationships.

A pivotal moment that stood out to me was Toni (sister) and Nick’s (brother) argument, where Nick wanted her to help him get a job so he could move into an apartment. As they talk, he asks Toni if he can move in with her and Eddie in New Jersey. Toni says no because she doesn’t want all the attention on Nick and believes he can succeed independently. This moment stood out because it shows how being overlooked can make you feel, especially in sibling relation-



Courtesy of Daniya Howard

The set for *The Other Americans* at Arena Stage in November 2024.

ships. It highlights Toni’s desire for recognition and fairness while also showing Nick’s struggles in finding a job to move away and escape from his parents’ high expectations.

Another moment that stood out to me was Nick, (son) and Nelson’s (father) argument, in which Nick returned from a job interview with a developer who had worked with Nelson’s laundromat company. Nick discovers his dad lied about

pressing charges against the white kid who beat him, bashed him in his head, and continued to be in business with that kid’s father. Nick experiences the ultimate betrayal: not having your father protect you. During this moment, Nick pushes Nelson, and they argue. Nelson slaps Nick and threatens to punch him. Shortly after, Nelson and Patti found Nick dead in the pool. This moment stood out to me because it shows how high expectations and low support can pressure you, overwhelming your mental health. This juncture jolted

my senses because Nick had just been released from a Mental Health facility and returned home to feel unheard, unloved, and unsupported.

Some themes I noticed are mental health, betrayal, honesty, cultural identity, and the importance of accountability. Each theme highlights the struggle and values the characters face. For instance, mental health shows how pressure affects their well-being, while betrayal impacts their trust. Honesty emphasizes the need for truth, cultural identity represents their backgrounds, and accountability pushes characters to take responsibility for their actions, leading to growth.

“The Other Americans” resonated with me on a deeply personal level, exploring themes of belonging and identity. As an African American teen, I recognize our challenges due to our history and experiences. This shapes my understanding as a teen in a world full of wonder. It pushes me to be more mindful and resilient as I explore all the world offers.

I learned that understanding diverse perspectives is essential for embracing individuals who may be different from me. The play emphasized the importance of mental health and acceptance, shaping my perception of how our backgrounds influence who we are. I recommend this play to others because it offers deep insight into experiences that unite us and remind us of the value and meaning of every person’s story.

Do I recommend it? Absolutely. This play is wonderful and cannot be missed!



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Help make SW a better place!

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Or donate at FriendsofSWDC.org



We welcome grant applications from organizations working in Southwest.

Friends of Southwest DC is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization. All our work is done by volunteers, so your contribution goes to help Southwest residents. We support The Southwester through our advertising.

Call for Donations of Winter Clothing

Dorcas Clothing Closet is collecting gently worn coats, jackets, winter clothing, and footwear on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please drop off donations at Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th Street SW by entering the basement by the white gate across from the Southwest Library. Thank you for supporting your neighbors.



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Master P and Tiana Von Johnson Inspire Future Entrepreneurs at Richard Wright Public Charter School

BY: JAMARI TYREE, GRADE 12
RICHARD WRIGHT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

On November 15, Richard Wright Public Charter School was honored to host an exciting Masterclass event featuring Master P, a renowned rapper, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and investor. The event was attended by various grade levels who were excited to gain knowledge from a figure who has not only achieved success through the music industry but has also made a significant impact in business.

This class was created to provide children with an understanding of entrepreneurship, banking, and real estate from someone who has navigated the complexities of the business world. Master P, whose real name is Percy Miller, shared the inspiration behind this initiative: to empower young individuals with insights, advice, and tools necessary to pursue their dreams. He emphasized the importance of education and perseverance regardless of the doubt you may encounter.

During his conversation with sophomore Alyssa Tucker, Master P highlighted his remarkable story from humble beginnings in Richmond, California, as an underprivileged kid growing into a successful business owner. He highlighted the value of resilience, hard work, and a willingness to learn from mistakes. His experiences in the music industry taught him essential business lessons while also carrying on his brother's legacy, which he applies to his current work. His example demonstrates that success requires skill, reflection, and a strong work ethic.



Photo by V. Jenkins Richard Wright PCS

A significant takeaway from Master P's address was his advice for high school students, which applies to the business world and life. The level

of passion will motivate pupils to dream big and be proactive in their pursuit of education. "Don't be afraid to evolve," he stated, emphasizing how evolving allows you to grow and become more successful than you may realize. Master P stresses the importance of networking and developing relationships with those around you since these connections can lead to new opportunities.

Joining Master P was Tiana Von Johnson, a successful entrepreneur in her own right, who added her perspective on banking and real estate. Together, they discussed the importance of financial literacy and understanding how to navigate the complexities of these industries. Von Johnson brought great energy when showcasing her achievements and inspiring others to do the same.

"I thought it was nice they told us a lot about entrepreneurship and the value of working for yourself," senior Makayla Napper praised the program for its emphasis on entrepreneurship and the importance of self-employment.

The Masterclass program at Richard Wright Public Charter School inspires children to dream big and take charge, in addition to just imparting business skills. What stood out to senior Jada Sills the most about this event was that "not being afraid goes beyond just not being afraid; you have to not give up on yourself or be afraid of yourself," she said. The insightful guidance given by Master P and Tiana Von Johnson did in fact motivate students as they venture on their futures in business.

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Grammy and Tony-Nominated Star to Join Arena Stage Musical

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

When curtains open on Arena Stage's production of "Sarah Silverman's The Bedwetter - A New Musical" on February 4, audiences will see Grammy and Tony-nominated singer, songwriter, and actress Shoshana Bean.

Bean most recently performed in Alicia Keys' Tony Award-winning "Hell's Kitchen," and previously appeared as well-known Broadway characters like Elphaba in "Wicked" and Jenna in "Waitress." As a recording artist, her studio albums and EPs include a run at number one on Billboard's Jazz Chart.

"This project and this team grabbed my heart in a very special and unique way," Bean said in a press release. "I'm so excited to be in the room with them and honored to get to be a part of telling this equally heartbreaking and hilarious story."

"Sarah Silverman's The Bedwetter - A New Musical" brings to life the

bestselling memoir of Emmy Award winning comedian Sarah Silverman, telling the story of a funny little girl with life-sized problems.

For tickets, including discounts for those living and working in Southwest, visit arenastage.org/savings-programs.

Arena Stage Announces First Annual DC-Area Performing Arts Camp Fair

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

This month, over a dozen DC-area performing arts summer camps will gather at Arena Stage for a free public fair, where future campers can meet camp rep-

resentatives and sample offerings for the upcoming summer camp season.

The fair provides families of elementary, middle, and high school students with a central location to discover the region's performing arts

summer camps and get a head start on planning for Summer 2025,

In addition to an abundance of information, attendees will be greeted with arts & craft stations, face painting, raffles, and more, including the

opportunity to experience the excitement of actual camp courses.

The event will take place on Sunday, January 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, visit arenastage.org/artscampfair.

RENOVATIONS

Continued from p. 1

Amidon-Bowen parents are objecting to that plan. Parents are concerned about the logistical challenges of sending their children to school in Northwest DC accessible only through heavily congested traffic. Moreover, families are concerned that DC's plan threatens to break apart the school's close-knit community, which is deeply connected to the Southwest neighborhood.

One Amidon parent stated that "During the upgrades to the school, my daughter will be starting PK3 and I do not feel comfortable sending one that young on the bus. Additionally, how does the return home work? What happens to aftercare?"

Another commented: "I worry it will be too much commute for most families (myself included) and that it will break up the community of the school. Amidon is a neighborhood school and we want to go to school with our neighbors."

Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen added that "the needed modernization is a great opportunity to rebuild the school facility, but there continues to be a significant concern - one I share - about the location for the swing space during construction."

More than 70% of Amidon-Bowen families live in Southwest, and a majority walk or bike to school. Commuting to Columbia Heights will seriously disrupt work and school schedules for parents and caregivers—especially those with limited flexibility in their schedules. It will impose special hardships on students with special needs or those from homeless shelters who arrive at the school daily on



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

Amidon-Bowen Elementary School in December 2024.

Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) buses, whose commutes could double from one hour to two.

Putting the school further from Southwest families also hurts their ability to volunteer at school, participate in school events, or even respond to urgent health needs of their children.

Erica Walker, an Amidon parent, said that her biggest concern is "if a medical emergency occurs, I can't get to the school quickly, and can't afford the additional cost of an Uber" to and from Meyer Elementary. Last

year, Amidon-Bowen lost its full-time nurse due to a change in how DC allocates school nurses, another issue on which the school community is advocating.

The results of a parent and caregiver survey show that if the plan of busing to Meyer goes forward, almost 70% of families would find a different option closer to home; only 7% reported they would definitely stay at the school.

Separately, teachers have likewise reported that they would look for other school options. Parents in the community have expressed concerns

that the current swing space plan represents an existential threat to a pillar of the Southwest community.

As one parent put it, "If DCPS is uncaring and reckless enough to choose a far-away swing space, we would leave Amidon, because we don't own a car. That's why we chose to live in Southwest DC—it's walkable and metro-able. So DCPS would be uprooting us, forcing us away from the community we've helped build."

In response to DC's plan, Amidon-Bowen parents have asked DCPS instead to install temporary modular buildings on the DC Department of Parks and Recreation Amidon Field directly adjacent to the school. Modular classrooms were used as temporary school space for Jefferson Middle School during its reconstruction several years ago, and have been used for renovations at Whittier Elementary School in Northwest and Burroughs Elementary School in Northeast.

To underscore this issue's urgency, DC government leaders will have to act within the next few months to place funds in the upcoming DC budget if the temporary units are to be built.

Amidon-Bowen parents are asking the Southwest community to join with families and demand a reasonable swing space solution for local students. The community is invited to a meeting open to all residents on Thursday, February 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church at 400 I Street SW.

DC government leaders will also be invited to this community meeting to hear concerns regarding the planned swing space and to discuss how to keep Amidon-Bowen within the Southwest community during its reconstruction.

Ginkgo Gardens is an Urban Gem

BY BETH HALL

Founded in 2000 by owner Mark Holler, Ginkgo Gardens is a full service garden center and landscaping company. Located on a large footprint at 911 11th Street, SE, they offer a large selection of indoor and outdoor plants, pottery, and garden products, such as soil, stone and mulch.

Their landscaping services span from cleaning up leaves to a complete design and installation, including stone work and carpentry. They also carry firewood, offer propane exchange, and sell indoor and outdoor fountains and garden furniture. As a local business, Ginkgo Gardens focuses on carrying unique perennials and dwarf varieties of shrubs and trees that best fit the urban setting, along with a wide selection of native species and cultivars.

Ginkgo Gardens has received a number of local awards. In 2007, they won a coveted Brickie Award from then Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells. In 2010, they were awarded the District of Columbia Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation. They also support community based efforts and partner with organizations including Guerrilla Gardeners, Pomegranate Alley Community



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

Bridget Murphy and Kitty, the Ginkgo store cat.

Garden and local publications, as well as supporting a beautification project on 11th Street SE.

Recently, Ginkgo Gardens promoted from within and asked Bridget Murphy to take on management responsibilities. Known to most customers as Murphy, they are passionate about sustainability and reconnecting to the

environment. They have a background in architecture and worked on farms and in greenhouses. One thing they enjoy about the store is how it is constantly evolving.

“There’s always some sort of renovation going on,” Murphy said. “The store has a creative energy about it; a life of its own.”

Upcoming SWNA Community Meetings

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) will hold its first 2025 community meeting on Monday, January 27 at 7:00 PM at Arena Stage. Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen has accepted our invitation and will be part of a panel discussion on “Home Rule,” also introducing us to the legislation “Strengthening Traffic Enforcement, Education and Responsibility Act,” a/k/a the STEER Act, which went into effect as of October 1, 2024.

“Home Rule” was passed in 1973, ten years after SWNA was established in SW. The legislation was signed by President Nixon giving us some new rights, but Congress still reviews all proposed legislation before it can become law, retains authority over the District budget and the President selects our judges. We vote locally, but are still denied votes federally. Each Presidential administration interprets their influence differently. It will be interesting to hear the panelists discuss our relationship with this Trump administration. Our panel will be moderated by local historian, Dr. Marjorie Lightman.

Our next three community meetings include celebrating Black History Month in February, followed by a program on Digital Engagement and Bank Fraud in March and Civic Engagement in April. Each of the meetings will be held on a Monday night at Arena Stage and all are invited to attend.

Ginkgo Gardens

Come Visit Our Store!

Plants! Plants! Plants!
For Indoors & Outdoors

Urban Garden Center on Capitol Hill
Garden Design, Installation, & Maintenance

202.543.5172
ginkgogardens.com
@ginkgogardensdc
911 11th St SE | Washington DC 20003

January Hours:
M-F 8:30 am - 6:30 pm
Sat 9 am - 6 pm
Sun 11 am - 5 pm

Councilmember Allen Recognizes Neighborhood Leaders in Annual Awards Ceremony

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

In December, DC Councilmember Charles Allen hosted the 18th annual Ward 6 Brickie Awards at Arena Stage in Southwest.

The Brickies is an annual celebration and community awards presentation for Ward 6 residents, organizations, and businesses, with hundreds of neighbors joining. Winners are nominated by members of their community, and receive an award that is an actual brick, inspiring the name of the evening's event.

"Each year, the Brickies are such an uplifting evening," Allen said in a press release. "The people recognized are inspiring, the food and drinks are delicious, the venue is spectacular, and the evening is a reminder of everything great about living in Ward 6."

Allen has hosted the event each year since he's been in office, carrying on a tradition started by former Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells, who was in attendance for the 2024 ceremony, along with current Council Chair Phil Mendelson.

Southwest's own Waterfront Village was presented with the Community Organization Award. Waterfront Village, an organization of neighbors in Southwest DC focused on connecting and serving older neighbors by building stronger community, delivers key services and advocates for neighborhoods that ensure seniors can live active, vibrant, and independent lives in Southwest and across Ward 6.

"We were so excited to get the news, because it really honors all the work of our 200-plus members and volunteers," said Pam Troutman, Executive Director of Waterfront Village. "Everybody needs a village, no one should be alone at any chapter in their life, and so you can be part of our village



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen presents a 2024 Brickie Award to Pam Troutman, Executive Director of Waterfront Village.

whether you're a volunteer, a member or a supporter, there are ways to get to know your neighbors and live a richer life by being connected right in your community. I hope that it really is a welcome mat and gives people a chance to think, 'wow, I really should get connected to that organization.'"

The evening included a packed house enjoying food and beverages donated by local businesses across Ward 6, including Southwest's Good Company Doughnuts & Café, Bartaco and Cordial at The Wharf.

Other winners of the 2024 Ward 6 Brickie Awards are:

Neighbor Award

Ward 6 Pedestrian Advocates. The award recognizes the work of Cheryle Adams, Ward 6's representative on the District's Pedestrian Advisory Council, and the members of the Capitol Hill Village Sidewalk Safety Team, led by former ANC Commissioner Scott Price, whose combined efforts are

pushing the DC government to prioritize the safety of all those who use our streets and sidewalks.

Public Service Award:

DC Health's Ward 6 Rodent Control Team. The award goes to DC Health's responsive, persistent, hard-working, and dedicated Ward 6 rodent control team, which is ever-present fighting rats in alleyways, behind buildings, in parks, and everywhere else rodents are found. Their work improves the quality of our lives and is a key part of improving public health in Ward 6.

Business Award:

Solid State Books. The award goes to Solid State Books, a beloved independent bookshop on H Street NE. The store has something for everyone and is a dedicated and active member of the local business community. Scott Abel and Jake Cumsky-Whitlock have created a special

space where neighbors meet up, residents join book clubs, and people can grab a cup of coffee while finding their latest great read. They are a leading voice among local businesses, helping participate in everything from school fundraisers to improving safety and quality of life along the H Street corridor.

Civic Pride Award:

The Shirley Chisholm Elementary School Community. This award recognizes the incredible Chisholm community of staff, PTA leaders, parents, and students for everything they do to create a safe, inclusive, and passionate environment for student learning. It particularly highlights the hard work over the last few years to rename the school. Chisholm school leadership has also hosted a regular Safety Hub that brings together leaders from the neighborhood, school, public safety, and community service organizations to meet the needs of a whole child and family to build a stronger and safer community.

Special Recognition:

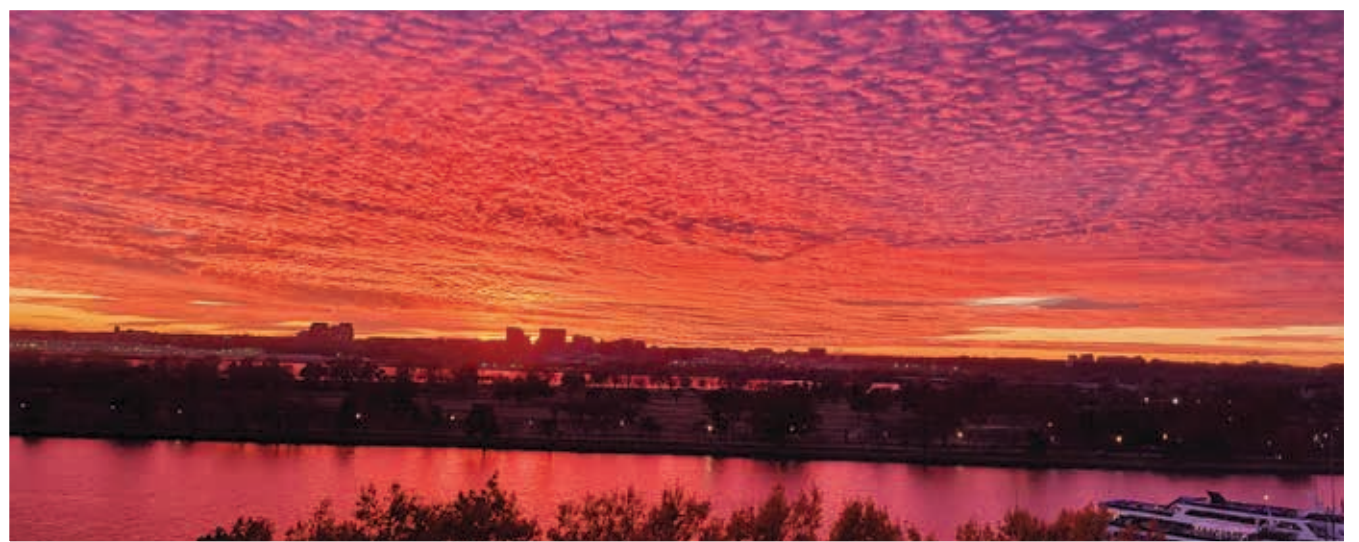
The Hill is Home. This award recognizes the 15-year anniversary of the founding of The Hill is Home, a ubiquitous local blog and social media presence documenting, and driving, daily life for Ward 6 neighbors. The tireless work and passion of Maria Helena Carey, the blog's author, is the primary reason for its popularity, as well as the regular contributions of local historian and tour guide Robert Pohl, which are must-reads for anyone wanting to deepen their local history knowledge.

"I'm so excited to celebrate this year's winners," Allen said. "They make our community safe, strong, and vibrant."

Photo of the Month

A brilliant sunset in Southwest.

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



Courtesy of Christina M. Cerna

Spy Museum Hosts Exhibit on Daring Female Spy

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The International Spy Museum, located at 700 L'Enfant Plaza SW, launched a new exhibit to tell the story of Virginia Hall, who left Baltimore to join the French Army as an ambulance driver during World War II. Over the course of the war, she led reconnaissance, sabotage, and espionage efforts, despite having lost a leg in a hunting accident, which left her with a wooden leg she called "Cuthbert."

Hall escaped the Nazis by hiking over the Pyrenees Mountains on her wooden leg. When she arrived in Spain, she was advised by the British that it was too dangerous for her to return, but she insisted on re-entering Nazi-occupied France in 1944, this time working with the American OSS.

Disguised as a French milkmaid, Hall watched German troops and evaluated potential landing sites before the D-Day invasion. She radioed intelli-

gence reports, coordinated parachute drops of supplies, oversaw sabotage missions, and planned ambushes of German soldiers. At one point, she was so dedicated to her cover that she filed down her teeth to play the role.



The Spy Museum has artifacts from Hall's life on view now, including her French Army uniform, her ID bracelet and the reproduction of a postcard she sent home two days after Hitler invaded Poland, where she wrote "And so the catastrophe has come... I am staying."

Also on view is a reproduction of a painting by artist Jeff Bass, named "Les Marguerites Fleuriront Ce Soir (The Daisies will Bloom Tonight)," after one of Hall's personal radio codes. The painting is interactive, to increase accessibility to visitors who are blind or have low vision loss, and contains numerous sensors and audio recordings that tell the story of Virginia Hall.



Young Readers

Old Favorites

BY KITTY FELDE

There was nothing wrong with spending most of December watching your favorite Christmas movie over and over again. There's nothing wrong with ordering your favorite dish at a restaurant or returning to your favorite spot for vacation year after year. And there's nothing wrong with re-reading your favorite book.

Minnesota reader Mary Reed told the *Washington Post* that she'd kissed a lot of frogs, looking for a prince of a book. She'd tried over and over again to fall in love with something new, but found herself abandoning them all after a few chapters.

So she returned to an old favorite: the Louise Penny series of Inspector Armand Gamache adventures. "I just needed to be with some old literary friends," she said.

We all need our literary friends.

Anybody who's read a book at bedtime to a child knows which books are their favorites: you've read them aloud at least a hundred times. From Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to Dr. Seuss'

Green Eggs and Ham, these are the books that make memories for you and your child. These are our friends.

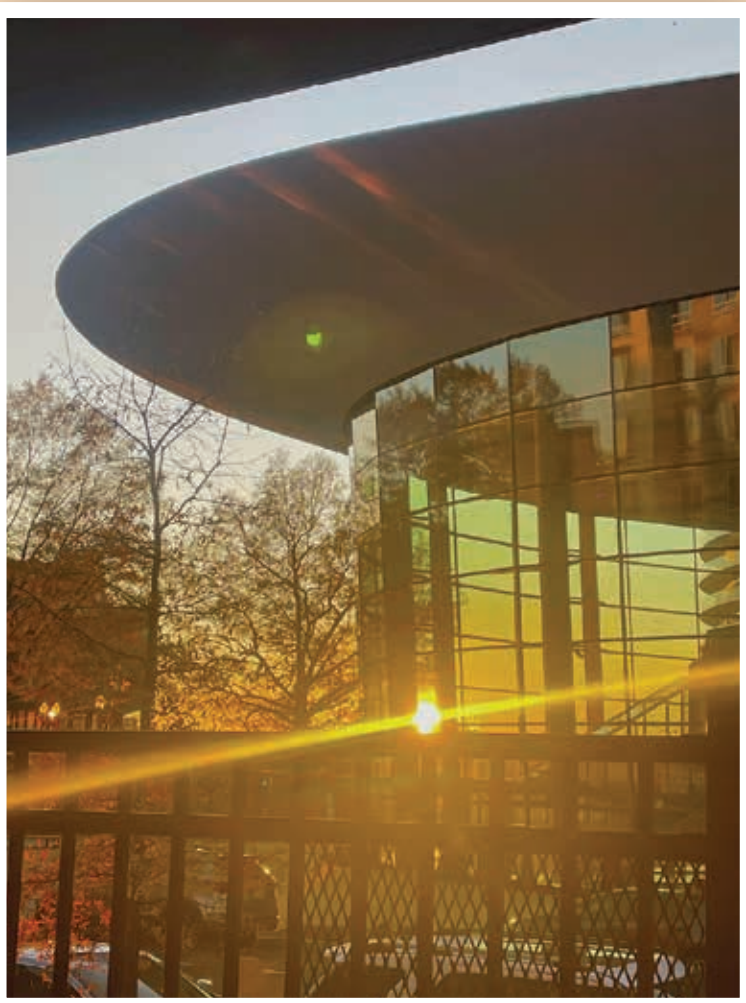
But perhaps your child has crossed over to the era of "I don't want to read."

Ask your young reader my favorite question: what's your favorite book? If you get a shrug or the answer, "I don't have a favorite book," search their bookshelves. Is there a dog-eared copy of a manga adventure or the third Harry Potter book or even a long-neglected picture book? Drag it out, offer it as a possibility. If you get another shrug, leave it in a place where that reluctant reader can easily pick it up - near the phone charger, the back of the toilet, you get the idea.

If you can't get a child to pick up a book, those perhaps-forgotten literary friends may have more luck.

Kitty Felde writes The Fina Mendoza Mysteries series set in the U.S. Capitol. "Losing is Democratic: How to Talk to Kids About January 6th" is now available with curriculum in the back of the book.

Southwest Moment



Courtesy of Eric Chang

The sun hits Arena Stage.

The Wharf Announces Winners of the 32nd Annual Holiday Boat Parade

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

As a Southwest DC community tradition since 1992, the District's Holiday Boat Parade at The Wharf features more than 70 beautifully decorated boats parading along the Washington Channel.

As the boats promenaded past The Wharf, judges evaluated parade participants' theme, crew, decorations, and holiday spirit. Over a dozen boats received awards with cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$1000 dollars. In total, participating boaters received a total of over \$24,000 in prizes and swag.

The Wharf is proud to announce the following prize-winning boats and captains from the 2024 Holiday Boat Parade & Party:

- Most Likely to Capsize:** A Tropical Christmas at Whitlow's - Captain Jack Maher
- Wharf Partners' Award:** A Purrrrrfect Holiday - Captain Marie Brennan
- Best Crew:** A Super Mario Bros. Holiday - Captain Chelsie Bain
- Most Ingenious Idea:** A Chessie-

- Peake Christmas - Captain Jason Kopp
 - Spirit of DC:** A Panda Palooza on the Potomac - Captain Jeff Deem
 - Founder's Award:** A Panda Palooza on the Potomac - Marco Ovando
 - Waterfront Wow:** How Much is That Doggie in The Window - Captain Matt Martelli
 - Best Motorboat:** Greased Lightning - Captain John Stevens
 - Best Sailboat:** Christmas Angels - Captain Joe Caminiti
 - 3rd Place:** Beau's Dog Park Christmas Carol - Captain Bob Rose
 - 2nd Place:** Safety First, Santa - Captain Linda Purdy
 - 1st Place:** WWElf Elf Wrestlemania - Captain David Hays
 - Showstopper Award:** The Alien Abduction of Santa - Captain Melanie & Tim Locke
 - Best in Parade:** Dominick The Italian Christmas Donkey - Captain Brian Dollinger
- Congratulations to all the captains and crew members who participated in the parade.



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 December 2024 issue

Differences: The star on the tree is different; in the photo on the right, the two adults are wearing hats; in the photo on the right, the woman has a Rudolph on her shirt; in the photo on the right, the man is giving the girl a different present; there is an extra dreidel in the photo on the right.

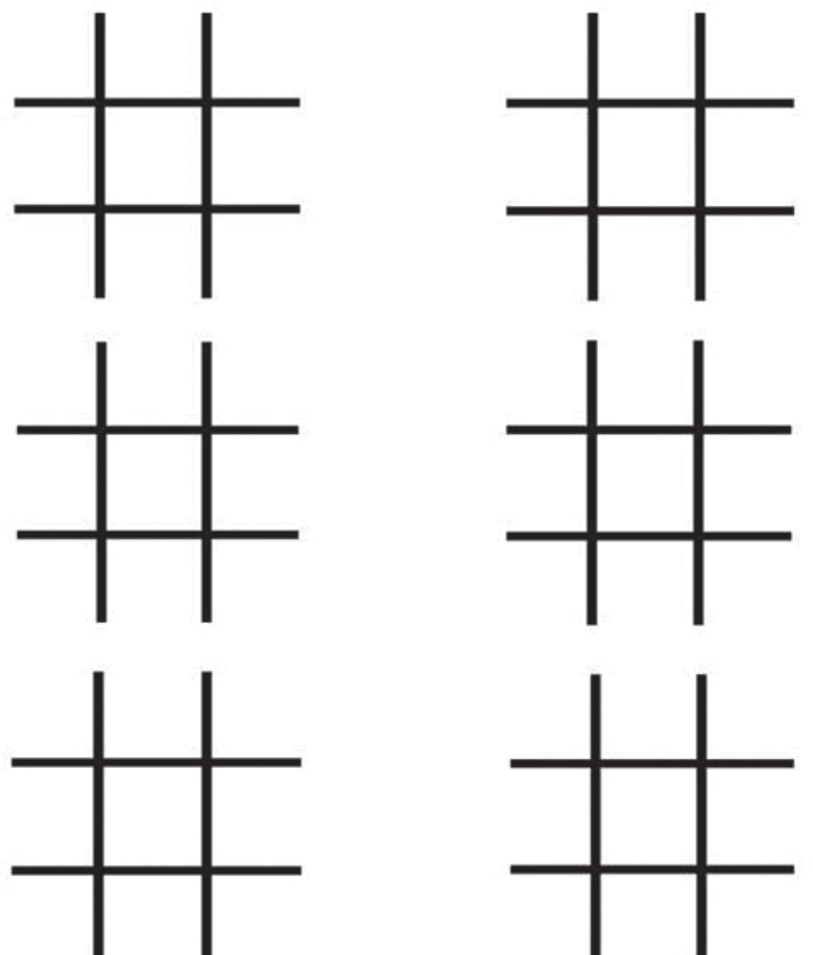
WORD SEARCH: NEW YEAR!



CELEBRATION
PARTY
FIREWORKS
RENEW
JANUARY

HAPPY
TRADITION
HEALTHY
FRESH START
RESOLUTION

TIC TAC TOE





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!

Math Moment!

Can you solve these equations?

$22 + 12 =$

$9 \times 9 =$

$672 - 22 =$

$50 - 20 =$

$60 \times 5 =$

$15 \times 6 =$

$220 / 20 =$

$30 \times 3 =$

$86 + 14 =$

$81 / 9 =$

$1000 \times 10 =$

$2,862 \times 1,522 \times 0 =$

Jokes!

What's a spider's New Year's resolution?
To spend less time on the web!

What does a ghost say on January 1st?
Happy Boo Year!

Why do birds fly south for New Year's Eve?
Because it's too far to walk!

Write Your Own Joke!

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

Capital Yacht Club Gets in the Holiday Spirit



Photos Courtesy of Alan Etter

Volunteers with Capital Yacht Club's Community Chest collected and distributed food for approximately 300 Southwest DC families on Dec. 21. The food was picked up at the Share Food Network in Landover, Maryland and distributed to the Greenleaf Senior Housing Center, the James Creek Community Center, and Christ United Methodist Church. Turkeys, hams and baked goods were among the food delivered to families in need this year.

Southwester Community Calendar | January 2025

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

Southwest Neighborhood Library events are at <https://tinyurl.com/5n8c929r>



SW Library
Events

SAT 4, A CONVERSATION ON RESISTANCE. Sponsored by the Pearl Escape Project. All Invited. Refreshments Served. (In-Person). Westminster Church, www.westminsterdc.org

SUN 5, 5:30 P.M., SOLEMN VESPERS ON EPIPHANY SUNDAY. ALATL Invited. Reception to follow in the Parish Meeting Room, St. Dominic Catholic Church, 501 6th St. SW. www.stdominic-church.org

MON 6, 7:00 P.M. ANC 6D -ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING. Please contact the office at 6d@anc.dc.gov if you wish to have a link to view the Admin meeting

MON 6, 6:30-7:30pm: BRIEF ENCOUNTERS BOOK CLUB. Read two books by the same author to get to know their work! Join us as we get acquainted with the works of authors you've heard of but want to know better. This month's pick: *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

WED 8, 6:00- 7:00 P.M., GET REAL: NONFICTION BOOK CLUB. Discuss *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard with fellow nonfiction readers. Place a hold or pick up a copy at Southwest Library. Ages 18+.

SAT 11, 7:00 P.M., FAITH & FILM monthly zoom presentations every 2nd Saturday. 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 12, 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M., FREE D.C. Area Performing Arts Camp Fair. A free, fun-filled afternoon where families can explore a variety of D.C. area performing arts summer camps, all gathered in one place! The perfect opportunity for families to get a head start on planning for Summer 2025, the DC-Area Performing Arts Camp Fair will allow future campers to connect directly with multiple camp representatives in a single location. Attendees will also be greeted with arts & craft stations, face painting, raffles, and more, including the opportunity to experience the excitement of actual camp courses! Camps are primarily for elementary, middle, and high school campers. Attendance is free, but registration is encouraged. [CLICK HERE](#) to register. **Don't miss our full 2024/25 Season! Click here to learn more.**

SUN 12 and 26, 1:00-2:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at Southwest Library! Instruction available for beginners (knitting, crochet, cross stitch, embroidery). Please bring your own materials. Questions may be directed to abigail.hargreaves@dc.gov. Ages 13+. Southwest Library.

MON 13 and 27, 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. Ages 0 - 5. Southwest Library

MON 13, 7:00 P.M - ANC 6D BUSINESS MEETING. Please contact the office at 6d@anc.dc.gov, **if there is a concern you'd like to raise at a business meeting. Also submit a 3 minute maximum transcript of your community concern at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.**

Link to join and draft agenda will be posted prior to the meeting on <https://www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/>

WED 15, 12-2:00 P.M., The Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter Welcomes Everyone: Current AARP Members, Prospective Members, Guests, Neighbors, and Visitors Luncheon Meeting at River Park Mutual Homes. We will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss important community matters impacting the Senior population of Washington, D.C. and all of the residents of the city. **PROGRAM: A CONVERSATION WITH COUNCIL MEMBER CHARLES ALLEN REGARDING COMMUNITY MATTERS.** Location: River Park Mutual Homes- South Building Lobby- 1311 Delaware Avenue SW, Street parking is available and the Waterfront Metro, (Green Line) is two blocks away. Bus 74 stops in front of the River Park Delaware Avenue gate. Lunch is available - COST: \$5.00. A Vegetarian Lunch will also be available upon request. For further information contact Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. AARP Motto: To Serve, Not To Be Served. Thank you for your continued support of our chapter programs.

WED 15 and 29, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, drop in for an hour of stitching and community at Southwest Library! Questions may be directed to abigail.hargreaves@dc.gov. Ages 13+. Southwest Library.

MON 20, 11:00 A.M., SOUTHWEST MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., Prayer Breakfast Prayer and meditation led by community clergy. Breakfast served. All Invited. Free to the public. Westminster Church wpcdcoffice@gmail.com

TUES 21, 6:30-7:30 P.M., OFF SCRIPT! Come read about the lives of your favorite celebrities in their own words! Book Club, Seniors, Adults. Learn January's selection by calling the library at (202) 724-4517 or register for the event at dclibrary.org/attend-event to join the email list. Southwest Library.

SAT, 25, 1:00- 3:00 P.M.: Picture This!: Free Professional Headshots. Need a new professional photo of yourself for job hunting or professional media profiles? Get a free headshot at the library! Please come photo-ready. Valid email address required. First come, first served while time permits. Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

SUN 26, Deadline for SWBID SW Traffic Control Box RFP Now Open. SWBID seeks proposals for digitally created graphic designs to adorn traffic control boxes within our boundaries. Showcase your creativity and contribute to the beautification of our neighborhood with your unique designs. Submit your proposals today to be part of this exciting opportunity! <https://swbid.org/new-traffic-box-wrap-rfps-now-open/>

WED 29, 1:00-2:00 P.M., OPPOSING VIEWPOINT: DC Statehood. Let's agree to disagree! Take part in our monthly informative exchange and help foster a better understanding of the world around us. Participation not required; listeners welcome! This month's topic: DC statehood. Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

AFTER SCHOOL GAMES, Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 P.M., End the school day at the Southwest Library and join us for some self-directed after-school games! We'll have board games, card games, and occasionally some larger games to play, or we can help you login to your preferred computer game if computers are available. Southwest Library.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. Mondays: Informed; Tuesdays: Life Saver Big Book; Wednesdays: New Beginners; Thursdays: Out to Lunch; Fridays: T.G.I.F. at 12:00 Noon. (St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW) or Wednesdays: Creative Arts, 7:00 (St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water St SW). This fellowship is open to all men and women who desire to recover from alcoholism. You will be welcome; for more <https://aa-dc.org/meetings/t-g-i-f>

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

BLUES MONDAYS, 6:00-9:00 P.M. Various Blues musicians and singers are featured each Monday. \$10 cover and food for sale, (cash/credit card accepted). Schedule at Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/blue-monday-schedule>.

BREAD FOR LIFE - BREAKFAST, Sundays, 8-8:45 A.M. Free breakfast every Sunday morning beginning at 8:00 A.M., St A's offers a free hot breakfast to go. Our breakfast includes eggs, cheese grits, sausage, juice and a pastry. 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. Visit our website at www.staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life. Please come pick up a hot breakfast at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, the rear door is located at 6th St & Maine Ave. SW.

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. Questions about events may be directed to southwestlibrary@dc.gov or (202) 724-4298. Caregivers must accompany any attendee under 9 years old. Southwest Library.

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

DORCAS CLOTHING CLOSET, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 3:00-5:00 PM. Donate gently worn coats, jackets, winter clothing, and footwear. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St., SW. Enter the basement, by the white gate, across from the SW Public Library.

ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS- Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 P.M. DC Rocks Rehearsals. (Begins January 28) For more information, contact: <https://encorecreativity.org/group/dc-rocks> Westminster Presbyterian Church.

FAMILY STORY TIME, Mondays, 10:30-11:00 A.M. Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Ages 0 - 5. Southwest Library. **13th and 27th only**

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

FILM DISCUSSION, Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 P.M.

Join this energetic, weekly conversation circle made of your neighbors and fellow library users centered around a short film. Ages 18+ Southwest Library, southwestlibrary@dc.gov or (202) 724-4298

GAME TIME, Thursdays, 4-5:00 P.M.

Let's play. 5-12 years old. Southwest Library.

GODLY PLAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, Sundays 11- 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, 1-2:00 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 Library.

KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, Weekly Drop-In Meditation Classes. Tuesdays: 6:00 -6.30 P.M., Thursdays: 7:15-8.30 P.M., Sundays: 10-11 A.M. 1200 Canal St, SW. www.meditation-dc.org

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS. We meet on the **2nd 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, 7-8:00 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

SENSORY PLAYTIME, Fridays, 10:30-11:30 A.M. Join us in the Children's Room every Friday for fun sensory play. Birth-5, Southwest Library.

SUNDAY MORNING MEDITATIONS, 10-11:00 A.M. Weekly Drop In Class, Kadampa Meditation Center DC 1200 Canal St SW., (202) 430-6540 www.meditation-dc.org me

SWAN: SOUTHWEST AL ANON, Tuesdays, 7-8:00 P.M. This fellowship is open to all those who have been affected by a loved one's drinking. **St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.** <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting>

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB (WSCC) meets at 7:00 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: rbswestminster@gmail.com

VIEW OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT WWW.SWNA.ORG

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

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

*Comedy legends
aren't born.
They're made . . .*

in middle school.

Sarah Silverman's

THE BEDWETTER

A New Musical

**\$36 TICKETS FOR SOUTHWEST NIGHTS
USE PROMO CODE SWNIGHTS**

**WORK OR LIVE IN SOUTHWEST DC?
SAVE ON TICKETS FOR SELECT PERFORMANCES:
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, AT 8:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, AT 2:00 P.M.**

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

ARENASTAGE.ORG/BEDWETTER | 202-488-3000



SOUTHWEST DC COMMUNITY SURVEY



[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SWCS25](https://bit.ly/swcs25)

Share your thoughts on the Southwest neighborhood in our quick, anonymous survey—just 5 minutes of your time can help shape SWBID’s priorities for the coming year. Your feedback is invaluable in building a stronger, better community for all.