



## Cherry Blossom Festivities Bloom Across Southwest

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

The annual National Cherry Blossom Festival brings visitors from around the world to Southwest DC's Tidal Basin, providing local residents with opportunities to enjoy world-class activities and events amid the surge in tourist traffic and busy sidewalks.

This year's festival will run through April 13, with peak bloom expected near the end of March. Peak bloom, predicted by the National Park Service, indicates that 70% of the Yoshino cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin are open, with conditions extending from a few days to a few



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

The 2025 National Cherry Blossom Festival takes place through April 13.



weeks depending on weather conditions.

To manage the increase in foot traffic, the District Department of Transportation intends to temporarily widen the sidewalk along the south side of Maine Avenue SW between the Tidal Basin and the fish market. Protective barriers will be in place from March 20 through after July 4.

The National Park Service is also launching a development plan for the long-term management of the Tidal Basin, to address transportation, conserva-

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### FEDERAL CHANGES CONTINUE TO IMPACT SOUTHWEST RESIDENTS

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### REMEMBERING THE PEARL ESCAPE OF 1848

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## SWNA Announces Leadership Change

### Board President Donna Purchase to Step Down After 6 Years of Service; Beth Hall to Take Up Mantle

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, (SWNA) a community nonprofit that works to enhance the quality of life for Southwest residents, announced a changing of the guard on its Board of Directors in late February.

Donna Purchase, who was first elected to the board in 2010 and has served as president since 2019, handed leadership over to incoming board president Beth Hall.

Purchase, a well-known community leader, has been a resident of Southwest DC since 1998, and brought more than 30 years of management



Courtesy of SWNA

Beth Hall (right) was elected new President of the Board of Directors of SWNA, taking over from Donna Purchase (left).

experience in corporate and nonprofit businesses to her volunteer work with SWNA.

The recipient of numerous awards, including the Women's Institute for Secure

Retirement's WISER Hero Award for her work in financial literacy, Purchase is also known for her pride in her four children and nine grandchildren.

"Donna's relentless spirit of giving is unmatched and not only demonstrated during her years of SWNA leadership but also beyond the call of duty on a personal level," said Thelma D. Jones, Chair of SNWA's Youth Activities Task Force. "I am a testament of her willingness to lend a helping hand and draw on her vast network of resources for the betterment of the community. Her institutional memory,

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### KIDS CORNER

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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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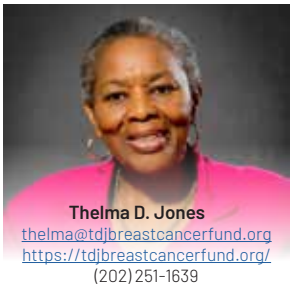


Donations support outreach and education strategies for young girls and link uninsured and underinsured women and men with information, resources, screening diagnostic services, limited financial support, and counseling. Donate online at <https://tdjbreastcancerfund.org/>

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund is an all-volunteer award-winning grassroots 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to advocate and improve the overall health and wellness of women and men through outreach, education, and support. We promote early detection strategies for better outcomes to reduce the incidence and mortality rates of breast cancer. Our vision is to save lives, embrace and achieve a world community free of breast cancer.

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# Ward 6 Mutual Aid Working Toward a Stronger Southwest

BY KATRINA AVILA

At Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA), we are committed to ensuring that Black and Brown youth and families across DC have the resources they need to thrive. Our focus on the safety, well-being, and dignity of our neighbors drives our work, which includes after-school programs, tutoring, and essential community support. Since our founding, we've been dedicated to providing crucial resources, including food, cleaning supplies, school materials, digital devices, household items, and clothing, to those who need them most.

Our ongoing partnership with Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Southwest DC, along with other grassroots organizations, is key to our success. Thanks to the generous support of our donors and volunteers, we're able to organize supply drives, distribute food alongside partners like CUMC, and launch new initiatives. Together, we are building a stronger, more equitable community



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- **Volunteer as a Virtual Tutor:** Join SYC/W6MA's *Free School for Unlimited Youth* program, which offers FREE virtual tutoring for Black and Brown K-12 students across DC. We're seeking dedicated college students, graduate students, and professionals to tutor in various subjects. Interested? Sign up at [bit.ly/sycvolunteertutor](http://bit.ly/sycvolunteertutor) or email us at [youthenrichment@serveyourcitydc.org](mailto:youthenrichment@serveyourcitydc.org) to learn more.

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**Stay Connected:** Keep up with our latest programs and initiatives by visiting [serveyourcitydc.org](http://serveyourcitydc.org). Together, we keep us safe!

## The Southwester

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



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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly or *The Southwester*, call (202) 329-5727

# Southwest Gardens Spring Kickoff Scheduled for April 19

BY PAMELA MCKINNEY, SOUTHWEST GARDENS PRESIDENT

Southwest Gardens, located in Lansburgh Park, will reopen its communal section on Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. with a day full of activities and fun!

The kickoff will include planting, weeding, painting, composting, and lots of digging and watering. If these activities don't appeal to you, please know you're welcome to just come and enjoy time chatting with neighbors in your community garden. This event is for all ages and abilities. While there is a lot of pain in our country and world right now, the garden is a space where we can be together communally in service of growing food and friendships. We hope you will join us!

Our communal hours will return starting April 23 and be held every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Sundays from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Email [swgardensdc@gmail.com](mailto:swgardensdc@gmail.com)

for more information about any of these initiatives, and as always, to learn more about the garden, visit [www.swgardens.org](http://www.swgardens.org) or join our newsletter by emailing [swgardensdc@gmail.com](mailto:swgardensdc@gmail.com).



Neighbors gather at the community garden, growing food and friendship.

Courtesy of Pamela McKinney



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## LEADERSHIP

Continued from p. 1

vast network, and extensive experience in the nonprofit sector will be invaluable as she advises and supports the new SWNA leadership in fulfilling the organization's mission."

SWNA supports a range of programs and projects in the quadrant, from digital empowerment to youth scholarships to the monthly publication of *The Southwester*.

"Donna's strong, steady and thoughtful leadership has brought SWNA, and our Southwest community, to new heights," said Mike Goodman, former Editor-in-Chief of *The Southwester*.

"She has worked tirelessly to promote inclusion of all within the community, even as major changes have occurred all around us. She was always a defender and promoter of *The Southwester*, and helped the newspaper and the community navigate some tough times, including the pandemic, concerns over public safety, and the impacts of gentrification and over-development within Southwest. Our community is stronger thanks to Donna."



Courtesy of Perry Klein

Donna Purchase is pictured at left, in yellow, in her first month leading the SWNA board, joined by the late Coralie Farlee, former President of Friends of Southwest DC, with students receiving academic scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The SWNA Board of Directors elected Beth Hall as its new president. An active volunteer and Southwest resident since 1989, Hall has held leadership roles with the Southwest Chapter of the AARP and the Friends of Titanic Memorial Park Board and volunteers with Waterfront Village.

In her professional career, Hall worked for the Massachusetts Senate and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, focusing on public water

supply, underground injection control and the Superfund, bringing to her new role a range of experience with public action groups and fundraising.

"SWNA has a storied history here in Southwest from its early days in the 1960's when it functioned as the local elected government in advance of home rule," Hall said. "It was literally the only game in this part of town. Currently, it focuses its efforts on *The Southwester*, community meetings, a

robust scholarship program and has several active task forces. All of this is volunteer driven. Moving into the future, I feel we need to build on our strengths as well as focus on partnerships with the rich ecosystem of organizations that are now in Southwest. I'm looking forward to getting more volunteers and funders involved with this important civic association as SWNA looks forward."

## FESTIVITIES

Continued from p. 1

tion and visitor experience for the 36 million annual visitors, including an estimated 1.5 million during the Cherry Blossom Festival alone.

At its March 6 meeting, the National Capital Planning Commission provided feedback to the Park Service on the Tidal Basin Development Concept Plan. The concept includes three alternatives that propose flexible public spaces to accommodate national celebrations, First Amendment gatherings, and other permitted activities, as well

as initial design options for a vehicle barrier system around the Jefferson Memorial.

Local events to celebrate the season include:

**ARTECHOUSE's** "Blooming Wonders," a digital art installation featuring cherry blossom-themed displays and art that comes to life through an activation via the ARTECHOUSE App. Ongoing through April 30.

**Move + Bloom** at the newly opened Bridge District, just across the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge. Featuring free fitness classes, a health and wellness marketplace, bike tune-ups, DJs, food and drinks, and more. April 5

from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Petalpalooza at Capitol Riverfront.** A day-long all-ages celebration with art, music, and play to multiple outdoor stages, interactive art installations, a beverage garden, family-friendly hands-on activities, roaming entertainers, and more. The official National Cherry Blossom Festival Fireworks show set to music starts at 8:30 p.m. April 5 from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Japanese Culture Day at the Library of Congress** will feature family activities, including Japanese drum and traditional dance performances, storytelling, and arts and crafts from Japan. Children, families and teach-

ers can learn about Japanese culture through reading, writing and craft-making with Japanese cultural and linguistic professionals. April 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Jazz & Blossoms** features live performances and interactive art at Franklin Park. Hip-hop group, Arrested Development, will headline the main stage and creative experiences include graffiti canvas painting to haiku writing. Come to roller skate, double dutch, or just soak in the music. April 6 from 12:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Cherry Blossom 10-miler.** More than 18,000 runners cover a course past all the prime blossom locations, competing for up to \$100,000 in prize money. April 6, 7:00 a.m.

**Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival.** The largest celebration of Japanese culture in the U.S transforms Pennsylvania Avenue into a lively venue with two days of entertainment, including traditional Japanese music, dance, J-Pop, martial arts, and a live exhibition of sumo wrestling. April 12-13.

**The National Cherry Blossom Parade** lights up Constitution Avenue with colorful helium balloons, elaborate floats, marching bands from across the country, celebrity entertainers, and performers. April 12, 10:00 a.m.

**D.C. United Cherry Blossom Night** at Audi Field, versus the Columbus Crew. April 12, 6:00 p.m.

**Petals & Paddles.** Rent a kayak or canoe at The Wharf boathouse and paddle past the blossoms. Through April 27, use code Bloom20 to get 20% off hourly paddle rentals of single kayaks, double kayaks or canoes.

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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

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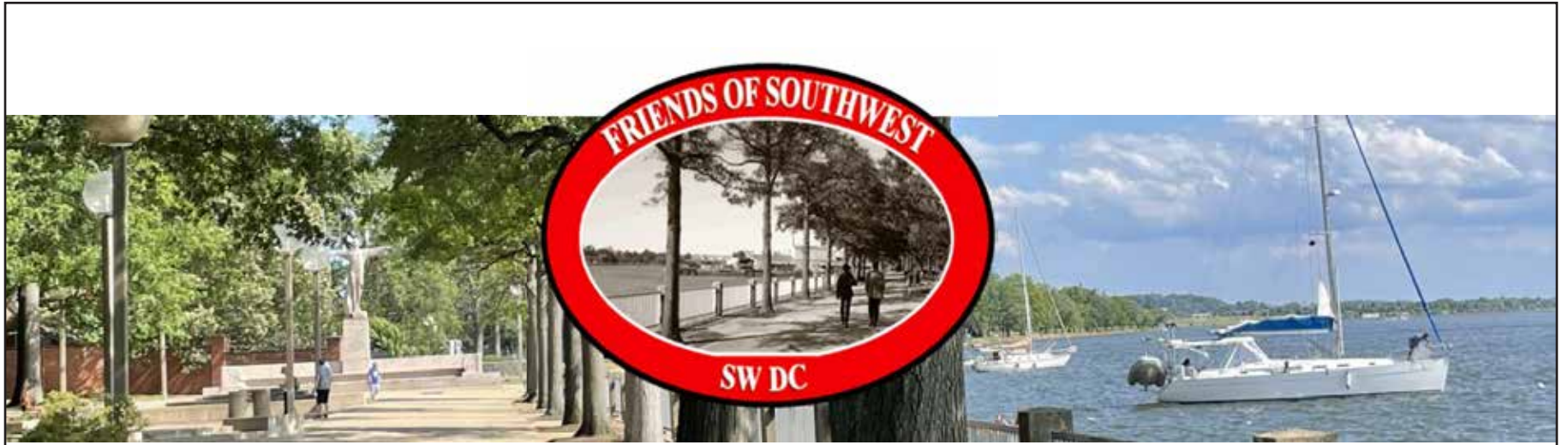
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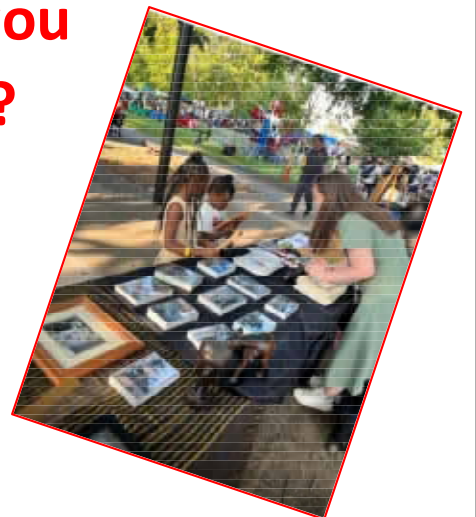


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# “Bird Man” Rodney Stotts Helps Local Youth Soar

BY MICHELLE WILSON

Rodney Stotts wants us all to “look up.” Known as “Bird Man,” Stotts, 54, is a Master Falconer, a professional licensed to hunt game with raptors, often called birds of prey, including eagles and hawks. He rehabilitates, trains, and releases injured and young birds who need help during their first winter. Additionally, Stotts keeps birds that cannot survive in the wild for education programs.



Courtesy of Rodney Stotts

Rodney Stotts wants to inspire DC youth to “look up.”

Stotts grew up in an area of Southeast DC with low community investments in schools, housing, physical and mental health care and environmental protection. As a teenager, Stotts began dealing drugs in order to financially stay afloat.

In 1992, at the height of DC’s crack cocaine crisis, Stott attended 33 funerals, most of which were for young DC residents. Afraid that he might not live to the age of 21, he found a job with a non-profit environmental organization, initially to earn documented income to rent an apartment. Stotts began working with a group of teens who removed tires, furniture, plastic, and other trash from the Anacostia River. The project was part of a larger program focused on “rewilding” the river and Chesapeake Bay Watershed with native species. Then, the river was too polluted to sustain hungry raptors with fish, turtles, and other prey.

Stotts spent part of 2002 in jail, which he describes as the “the best thing that ever happened to me, because I was tired of violence and sick of stressing out Mom.” Upon returning to the community, Stotts rejoined the non-profit, which introduced wild bald eagles to the much-cleaner Anacostia, using chicks from a Wisconsin program. Stotts helped care for and release the birds. Now, numerous pairs nest in the area.

Stotts loved raptors and wanted to help local youth. He decided that beginning a raptor education program would help keep youth out of trouble and inspire them to “look up.”

He needed a sponsor to start the seven-year Master Falconers program. Requirements include a two-year apprenticeship with a sponsor, a state licensing exam and a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an inspection of his aviary, and five years as a General Falconer. DC does not have a falconry program, so Stotts holds licenses in Maryland and Virginia. He faced racism from falconers and others as he sought licensure and pursued his career. Very few Black falconers hold state licenses and federal permits. Some prospective spon-

sors didn’t view him as “serious,” and wouldn’t mentor him. “I called [a prospective mentor] to find out about getting a sponsor, and the guy said to me, ‘But you’re Black. Black people don’t fly birds—y’all eat them. These are hawks, you know, they ain’t chickens.’” Police once stopped him when he was traveling with raptors and made him lie on the ground while they examined his permit.

Stotts found an excellent sponsor, Suzanne Shoemaker, a wildlife biologist, Master Falconer and educator. After earning his license, he started Rodney’s Raptors, initially installing his aviary on his property in Northeast DC. He sponsored several other falconers, including his son, Mike, who will become a Master Falconer in 2026. He took Harriet, a Harris Hawk, on his gloved arm, to the streets of DC, where she flew high, scaring and delighting residents, then returned to the sound of a whistle for a mouse treat. A soldier asked that Rodney surprise his girlfriend with a marriage proposal. When the bird flew in with the engagement ring and note, she said yes.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Metropolitan Police Department, Kenilworth Gardens, Baltimore Green Space, DC public schools, North Carolina Raptor Center and other organizations have hired Rodney’s Raptors for community environmental education programs. Raven, a red-tail hawk, XYZ, a peregrine falcon, Mr. Hoots, a Eurasian Eagle Owl, and other family members from his aviary traveled constantly. Mr. Hoots also accompanied Stotts on the book tour for his 2022 memoir, *Bird Brother: A Falconer’s Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife*, and appears with other birds in *The Falconer*, a 2021 documentary film about Stotts’ career as a Master

See “Stotts,” page 8

EXPRESSIONS OF A LIFETIME



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Federal Changes Continue to Impact Southwest Residents

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

After a frenetic lobbying effort to preserve DC's ability to spend its own locally generated revenue, Southwest residents, particularly federal employees and contractors, continued to feel the impact of earth-shifting changes from the federal government.

Hours before a possible government shutdown, the U.S. Senate passed stand-alone legislation to protect DC's 2025 budget by a unanimous vote, although approval from the U.S. House and the signature of President Trump were still pending as of press time. Without approval, DC would be forced to reduce its budget by up to \$1 billion, funds which are generated by local, not federal, tax dollars.

After the Senate vote, Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen wrote to constituents, "I want to thank the Ward 6 families, young people, and advocates who have been calling and showing up on the Hill, walking the halls, and sounding the alarm about the serious consequences of this senseless action. You are incredibly inspiring, and I'm so proud to call you my neighbors."

"We will need to be ready to continue the fight, and we will also need

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APPLYING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. If you have any questions or need further assistance, contact DOES by phone at 202-724-7000 or visit an American Job Center. 4058 Minnesota Avenue NE, 899 North Capitol Avenue NE, 2201 Shannon Place SE.

Courtesy of DC Mayor Muriel Bower/DOES

Information on filing for unemployment in DC.

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to continue to organize strategically to educate Congress members and Americans across the country about the District's lack of autonomy and statehood and the very real impacts of that vulnerability on taxpaying Americans," Allen continued.

Councilmembers and DC Mayor Muriel Bowser also provided dedicated resources for federal employees and government contractors impacted by layoffs or reductions in force. Critical information regarding health care, unemployment benefits and more is available at a central online hub, fedsupport.dc.gov.

Local organizations are also chipping in. DC Central Kitchen announced that affected federal employees and contractors are eligible for a 50% discount at all of their cafes, including the location on Buzzard

Point. In addition to the free museums and galleries in the neighborhood, those seeking out the healing power of art can visit theaterwashington.org for discounts to regional performances at locations including Arena Stage. DC walking tour companies are offering free tours for all federal employees, regardless of status, during Public Service Recognition Week, which includes DC Design Tour's May 10 guided walk titled Evolution of Southwest.

Key contact information for resources and information includes:

Unemployment Insurance in the District: 202-724-7000

Student Loan Support: 202-727-8000, DCLoanHelp@dc.gov

Health care and Insurance Coverage: DCHealthLink.com

STOTTS

Continued from p. 7

Falconer, educator and environmental activist.

When face-to-face youth programs closed due to the Covid pandemic, Stotts moved Rodney's Raptors to a seven-acre farm in Charlotte Courthouse, VA, about two and a half hours from DC. He named his new home Dippy's Dream, in memory of his

mother who took tremendous pride in his transformed life and career. He describes the sanctuary as a "retreat from noise pollution, light pollution and violence." Dippy's Dream has campgrounds, and animals, including horses, goats, and rabbits. He encourages city youth and all others to visit and look up.

Michaelle Wilson is a SW resident. If you would like to write for the paper, contact editor@theSouthwester.com.



# Remembering the Pearl Escape of 1848 at the Southwest Waterfront

BY MARJORIE LIGHTMAN, PH.D.  
AND JACKIE L. WILLIAMS, PH.D.

The Pearl Escape Project celebrates the 177th anniversary of the Pearl Escape of 1848 on Tuesday, April 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event will take place at Westminster Church and the Southwest Waterfront at The Wharf. This annual event celebrates the historic escape to freedom of slavery of 77 African American men, women, and children from the Washington, DC Waterfront on a wooden schooner called the *Pearl*.

Join the Second Line procession, beginning at the corner of 4th and I Street SW to 7th and I Street SW to the end of The Wharf's Recreation Pier. Along the way, imagine the former site of the Southwest DC Notley Plantation of the late 1700's where two hundred enslaved families resided. At 7th and I Streets, pause and look north toward the National Mall's former site of the Yellow Slave Pen at 7th Street and Independence. At this site, a historic marker tells the story of Solomon Northrup, the author of *12 Years a Slave*.

As the Second Line procession continues toward the river, pass by the historic Riverside Baptist Church at 7th Street and Maine Avenue to the end of The Wharf's Recreation Pier.



Courtesy of Robert R. Roberts

Participants gather along The Wharf to attend the celebration

At this pier, pause for the calling of the names of the *Pearl* schooner's 77 African American men, women, and children and pouring of libations.

The Civil War was still 13 years away when 77 people in pursuit of freedom joined the *Pearl* expedition. They were men, women, and chil-

dren, some traveling alone and others with family members. All had hopes and dreams for a future where their inalienable rights, abrogated by unjust human laws, would be protected and would no longer be defined as property. They were also part of a community in Washington, DC with growing institutions and a uniquely African American culture. By the 1840s there were churches, boarding houses, taverns, and businesses owned and run by free African Americans.

In 1848 when the *Pearl* sailed from the 7th Street Wharf, DC was a slave city. African Americans constituted about one-third of the population in Washington, DC and as in many other towns and cities, an increasingly large percentage were free.

The people who joined the *Pearl* were special. They saw no other way than escape to the north to live their lives. They rejected being enslaved and they had exhausted all their available means to free themselves. They each had a story.

Featured speaker for the event

is Dr. Clarence Lusane, Professor of Political Science at Howard University and author of the book *Twenty Dollars and Change: Harriet Tubman and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice and Democracy*. Dr. Lusane will lead a discussion with Howard University graduate students in exploring the contemporary relevance of the Pearl story.

This event is free and open to the public.

The Pearl Escape Project is made up of Southwest DC community residents initially assembled by Vyllo-rya Evans and Rev. Ruth Hamilton of Westminster Church to renew interest in the story of "The Pearl" and

See "Escape," page 10

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*"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote one time a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in" ~author unknown*



Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

Power FC played its first game at Audi Field in March.

## DC Power FC Plays First Home Game at Audi Field

BY JOSÉPHINE DEMOS

This past month, women's soccer team DC Power FC played their first home game of 2025 at Audi Field. Power FC started play this past fall, in the USL Super League's inaugural season.

The league, which received division one sanctioning, is focused on creating more access and opportunity for women in professional soccer. Its status as a first division league puts it on equal footing with its more established counterpart,

the NWSL, though the USL Super League differentiates itself with its European schedule, which allows easier international recruitment, and greater access to professional play due to its academy structure- the league has corresponding junior programs through which players can grow into professionals.

The USL comes as a clear response to the growing interest in women's soccer- interest which has been particularly prevalent in

See "DC Power FC," page 13

## Community Activist David Ehrlich Passes Away at Age of 87

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

David Ehrlich, (1937-2025) a Southwest Community activist perhaps best known as Director of the Southwest Chamber Players, passed away on Sunday, March 23. He moved to South-



west in 1979 where he met his wife, late spring or early summer of this year.

Barbara, and they bought a townhouse in 1985. He formed the Southwest Chamber Players in 1997 and the group performed close to 200 free concerts held at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. A memorial service is being planned for

## Black Cowboy Exhibit Opens at Culture House

BY UNA YARSKY

Culture House Gallery unveiled *Black Cowboy: American Muscle* on March 15, on view through April 26. The gallery, formerly known as the Blind Whino, is a non-profit that offers exhibits from artists based in the DC area and beyond. As a non-profit, Culture House artists manage their own sales and receive 100% of sales completed while their work is shown at the gallery. The last two exhibits at Culture House focused on diverse subject matters, including museum experiences for those living with vision impairment in *Legally Blindish: Painting + Translations* by Briget Heidmous and the ecological diversity in the area with *Wild Flowers in the DMV(N)* by Thu Ahn Nguyen in the Avant Garden. The current exhibit *Black Cowboy* is an exploration of African American cowboys in the West. Artist Brandon Hill brings visitors from the House's Avant Garden to the gallery with a collection of murals, paintings, sculpture, and video.

*Black Cowboy* centers the significant yet often ignored impact of African Americans in the West. The exhibit aims to visualize a world where Black cowboys, some of whom were formerly enslaved, were properly acknowledged for their contributions to the multifaceted history of the American West. *Black Cowboy* tells the stories of iconic Black western figures such as Bill Pickett, Isom Dart, Nat Love, and others.

Artist Brandon Hill, known for his multidisciplinary works that include



Courtesy of Culture House Gallery

paintings, fiberglass sculptures, and murals, originally opened the exhibit at The Bishop Gallery in Brooklyn, New York. In *Black Cowboy*, Hill asks audiences to confront their perception of the typical American hero, saying, "we've been conditioned to think our heroes are only of a certain race. The erasure of our stories in mainstream movies, books and even academic lessons have created a skewed perception of reality and of us as a people. I implore everyone to dig deeper." Hill works in Washington, DC, where his studio **ALL DAY PROJECTS** is located.

An artist talk by Hill is set for Saturday April 5th, from 12:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m.

## April Is Volunteer Month

Celebrate  
At The

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

### Community Engagement Open House

Meet With And Learn About Many SW Nonprofits

**Monday, April 21st**  
**7pm - 9pm**

Arena Stage At The Mead Center For American Theater  
Molly Smith Study



www.swna.org  
For More Information Contact  
Ben Curran benimon@hotmail.com (202) 294-7043  
Or Beth Hall hall.beth@gmail.com (202) 329-5727



## ESCAPE

Continued from p. 9

its powerful meaning for today. The Project honors the long-standing work of "The Pearl Coalition" led by David Smith, grandson of founder Lloyd Smith. Community members of The Pearl Project include: Patricia Bishop,

Vania Georgieva, Rev. Brian Hamilton, Edwin B. Henderson, Audrey Hinton, Jonathan Holley, II, Dr. Marjorie Lightman, Jean Shulman, Dr. Sheila S. Walker, Georgine Wallace, Kenneth Ward, Dr. Christopher Williams, and Dr. Jackie L. Williams.

More information about this event contact, Rev. Brian E. Hamilton at (202) 641-8221 or beh@westminsterdc.org.

# Local Group Seeks to Bridge Partisan Divide, Build Community

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

With a grand vision of advancing the U.S. Constitution's promise of forming a more perfect union, the national nonpartisan, nonprofit group +More Perfect Union seeks to bridge the deep and rancorous partisan divides in communities across the country.

The epicenter of such divides might just be Washington, DC, but the hunger for a solution is clear locally as well. The DC chapter of the organization boasts 1,300 members, including several dozen from Southwest. The group gathers to promote social connection, service and civic engagement.

Led by U.S. Army veteran Ben Bain, the DC chapter of +More Perfect Union holds free monthly events that bring neighbors with a range of ideologies and identities together, with an eye toward helping them step outside their bubbles and connect with their community.

"There's a range of activities people can get involved in, but bringing people together, for me, in this moment is just so, so important," Bain said.

While serving as a platoon lead-

er in Afghanistan, Bain worked with local partners, striving to bridge a wide array of cultural, linguistic and historical differences. Members of the platoon represented a range of American experiences and walks of life, making it a microcosm of the kind of connection Bain seeks to build.

"You're bringing people together that would otherwise never have a chance to meaningfully connect, to engage and understand each other," Bain said of his service overseas. "Whether you look different, think different, have different experiences, you all get forced together toward a shared cause. That is really missing in so many ways in our civilian life."

To fill that void, Bain's group has hosted more than 20 events over the past few years, attracting as many as 50 people each. Events have included museum visits, tours, service projects and shared meals. Small group discussions give participants a chance to share their opinions, but also to listen, aiming to build the personal connections that can be lacking in a deeply divided, hyper-partisan atmosphere.

To join a future event, visit [www.mpu.us/chapters/washington-d-c/](http://www.mpu.us/chapters/washington-d-c/).

## Photo of the Month

Sunset colors reflected off the river near the Capital Yacht Club.

Photo courtesy of Yvonne Thelwell.

If you would like to submit a photo for consideration as Photo of the Month, email it to [editor@thesouthwester.com](mailto:editor@thesouthwester.com)



# Living Life in Color



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## Scary Stories

BY KITTY FELDE

I don't like scary movies. Those flying monkeys from either movie version of "The Wizard of Oz" give me nightmares. But some kids LOVE scary movies.

If that's your reluctant reader, why not use scary stories to tempt them to pick up a book?

An article published in "Psychology Today" found that horror fans fall into three categories: Adrenaline Junkies, White Knucklers, and Dark Capers.

Adrenaline Junkies crave new and intense experiences. They love to be scared. White Knucklers don't necessarily enjoy being frightened. In fact, they might even get nightmares. But they go to haunted houses and scary movies anyway. The Dark Caper uses scary stuff as a way of coping with feelings of anxiety. Does your young person fall into one of these categories? Then a good, old fashioned scary story may be just the thing to inspire a reader.

I've gathered a handful of middle grade and YA book titles - all featuring various kinds and themes of scarieness.

*The Jumbies* by Tracey Baptiste is

a spooky story set in the Caribbean. *Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl is a creepy gothic romance. Looking for an environmental thriller? Try *Eye of the Storm* by Kate Messner. *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes looks at gun violence. *Hoodoo* by Ronald L. Smith explores the scary side of Alabama mythology. Need a reminder of pandemic horror? Try *Orleans* by Sherri L. Smith. And for something of literary horror, try *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak where the main character is death itself.

All of these were featured on the Book Club for Kids podcast, so you can listen to kids discussing the titles to judge whether they're appropriate for your child.

Psychologists quoted in the article said people who exposed themselves to scary things reported that they felt great, learned something about themselves, and felt as though they'd grown on a personal level. Not me. I'm still staying away from those scary monkeys.

*Kitty Felde's latest Fina Mendoza mystery Snake in the Grass is now available.*

## Southwest DC's Link to Titanic Tragedy

BY FRIENDS OF TITANIC MEMORIAL PARK

April serves as a poignant reminder of the Titanic disaster—and Southwest's lasting connection to the tragedy. On April 15, 1912, more than 1,500 people perished when the RMS Titanic, famously billed as "unsinkable," sank during its maiden voyage. In the wake of the disaster, a group of women took it upon themselves to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of the men who, in their view, "showed they were not afraid to die."

The Women's Titanic Memorial Association launched a grassroots fundraising effort, collecting donations one dollar at a time. First Lady Helen Taft made the inaugural contribution, and over the next two decades, more than 25,000 women across the United States supported the initiative. The association also held a design competition open exclusively to female artists, ultimately selecting Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney's Academic Abstraction in 1914.

Sculptor John Harrigan carved the

statue from a single piece of pink granite, depicting a figure with outstretched arms. The statue's exedra, or platform, designed by architect Henry Bacon, features dolphins leaping over stylized waves. Dedicated on May 26, 1931, the memorial originally stood along the Potomac River at the intersection of Rock Creek Parkway and New Hampshire Avenue NW. In 1968, the structure was relocated to its current site along the Washington Channel due to construction of the Kennedy Center.

Recognized for its historical significance, the Titanic Memorial Statue was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. Soon after, the Friends of Titanic Memorial Park (FoTMP) was founded as an all-volunteer nonprofit working with the National Park Service to restore and maintain the park.

For more information about FoTMP and its preservation efforts, visit FoTMPdc.org or email info@FoTMPdc.org.

## Sounds of Southwest

BY FREDO VASQUEZ

A selection of concerts coming to Southwest's music venues.

**Bella White (Country)** - Though still an up-and-coming act, Bella White's voice will remind you of female country stars of the past. With only two full albums under her belt, this young Canadian country singer has fully embraced her sound and her genre. For a taste, listen to Marilyn from her most recent album, "Among Other Things." April 6 at Pearl Street. Tix: \$25 - \$40.

**Lucy Dacus (Alternative)** - Lucy Dacus (Richmond, VA) is an established indie artist and a member of the indie supergroup boygenius. Lauded by critics as a strong lyricist, Lucy's songs explore bad breakups, summer Christian camps, and sexual orientation. For a taste, listen to her new song "Forever Is a Feeling." April 19 at The Anthem. Tix: \$46 - \$96 (low ticket alert; first night already sold out).

**Michigan Rattlers (Folk Rock)** - Rolling Stone named this Michigan band one of their "Ten New Country Artists You Need to Know" in 2016. Their solid songwriting and musical skills have allowed them to expand beyond country music and play at some of the most famous music festivals in the country. Songs like "The Storm" or "That Kind of Life" can give you a

good idea of the type of folk rock this band plays. April 12, 2025, at Pearl Street. Tix: \$20 - \$40.

**ALO (Jam Band)** - ALO (aka Animal Liberation Orchestra) is a California-based jam band known for their upbeat, feel-good blend of rock, funk, and folk, often infused with improvisational grooves. Their music, led by the soulful vocals of Zach Gill, creates a warm, laid-back vibe that feels both nostalgic and fresh. Songs like "Maria," "Barbeque," or "Plant Bubble" can offer a glimpse of their groovy and relaxed style. April 23 at Union Stage. Tix:

\$25 - \$35.

**Rejjie Snow (Rap)** - Irish rapper Rejjie Snow has been compared to the likes of Pharrell and Drake. He hit the scene over ten years ago and has already found his way into the upper echelons of the industry—he opened for Madonna during her 2015 tour and signed with 300 Entertainment (home of Migos and Young Thug). Listen to his song "Rio de Janeiro" to get an idea of the type of rap Rejjie is currently creating. April 25 at Union Stage. Tix: \$25 - \$45.

All shows are subject to cancellation. As of this writing, tickets are still available for all shows. If you attended any of the concerts highlighted in this column or wish to suggest upcoming shows for future columns, email editor@southwester.com with your feedback.



## DC POWER FC

Continued from p. 10

DC. It comes as no surprise that DC Power is one of the eight founding teams in the league- and though new to the scene, DC Power understands what it means to represent the district.

"As a team, we know there are so many great DC teams. We're very proud to play at Audi, and play in the heart of DC," said captain Claire Constant of their home-turf in Southwest. "It means a lot when we have our supporters out there. It feels like our home." Constant is one of many DC-area locals on the team, having grown up in Alexandria, VA.

The team's DMV pride serves to motivate their play too. Coach Phil Nana told *The Southwester* ahead of the first 2025 home game, "This week we talked about pride a lot- pride in defending our goal, pride in defending our home, pride in our community and defending Audi Field with every-thing."

The game took place March 9th against Lexington Sporting Club on a sunsoaked pitch. Lexington secured a lead early with a goal in the 23rd minute. DC's response was immediate in the form of a shot on goal off the kick-off. Though it didn't go in, the tone was set for the rest of the match: DC went on to get 20 shots off throughout the game compared to Lexington's eight. Lexington's second goal came in the 60th minute, but DC showed no signs of discouragement. With five minutes left on the clock, Loza Abera, fresh off Power's bench, scored off of forward Gianna Courle's assist, ensuring the team didn't go home empty handed and ending the game with a 2-1 loss for the Power.

If the 2025 home opener is any indication, DC Power is set to bring tenacity into the rest of this USL Super League inaugural season. This month, DC Power plays home games against Carolina Ascent FC on April 8th and Tampa Bay Sun FC on April 18th. Tickets for these games are available online at the DC Power FC website.

# Southwester Community Calendar | April 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

**TUES 1, 5:30-7:30 P.M., GAME ON.** Play classic board games, checkers, Uno, dominos, backgammon, and more in this fun two-hour event. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**WED 2, 3:30-4:30 P.M., KIDS/TWEENS LEGO Club.** Build with LEGOs and meet new friends for an hour. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. Ages 5-12. Southwest Library

**WED 2, 6:00-7:00 P.M., GET REAL: Nonfiction Book Club** Discuss *March: Book One* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell with fellow nonfiction readers. Place a hold or pick up a copy at Southwest Library. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**THURS 3, 1:00-3:00 P.M., COFFEE & CONVERSATION.** Join casual conversation with other library users and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee and other light refreshments provided. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**THURS 3, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M., LET'S PLAY SPADES.** Play this trick-taking partnership game where players bid on the number of tricks in each hand in this fun, two-hour event. Ages 13+. Southwest Library

**FRI 4, 7:00-8:15 P.M. KADAMPA** Resident Teacher Kadam Michelle Gauthier. **Inner Peace: A Buddhist Approach to Mental Health.** At this talk we will learn special meditations taught by Buddha. We will be able to experience the real nature of our mind as completely pure and peaceful. Kadampa Meditation Center 1200 Canal St SW. <https://meditation-dc.org/event/a-buddhist-approach-to-mental-health/>

**SAT 5, 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M., PUZZEL SWAP.** Trade your old-to-you puzzles and games with other community members. Plus, enjoy some community puzzling and giant versions of old favorite games while you wait for new items to arrive in the swap. Ages 5+. Southwest Library

**SAT 5, 4:00 - 5:00 P.M., CHERRY BLOSSOM CRAFT.** Join us in the children's room for a cherry blossom craft. Ages 0-12. Southwest Librar

**SUN 6, 1:00-2:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH.** Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for stitching and community. Basic instruction available for beginners. Want a reminder? Please email [abigail.hargreaves@dc.gov](mailto:abigail.hargreaves@dc.gov). Ages 13+. Southwest Library

**SUN 6, 4:00 -6:00 P.M., COMMUNITY TABLES: Spring Edition. Arena Stage,** Join us for our second Community Tables of the season, where we continue to connect neighbors through FREE delicious food, fun activities, and opportunities to create joy together. Don't miss out on this meaningful celebration of community and creativity. This event will require signing up, so be sure to RSVP!

**MON 7, 3:30-4:30 P.M., SOLVE THE PUZZLE MYSTERY?** Solve the mystery of several 3D puzzles in the STEAM Lab! Ages 5+. Southwest Library

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

**TUES 8, 6:30-7:30 P.M., KOMEN TOASTMASTERS** Komen Toastmasters meets via Zoom. Please email us at [KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com](mailto:KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com) a few days before the meeting for the Zoom link.

**WED 9, 12:00-1:30 P.M., OUT TO LUNCH IS BACK, Hancock Park.** Take a break and find joy in the little things during our Out to Lunch Series at Hancock Park, which offers the perfect opportunity to step away from your desk, breathe in fresh air, and feed your soul with a new great book or the melodies of Emma G. We'll also have **DOEE's Rethread Stationing.** DC Department of Energy and Environment's

Rethread Initiative team will do a pop-up demonstration on textile recovery, repair, and reuse. Come learn how to repair, reuse, and rethink your wardrobe for a more sustainable future. Bring a piece of clothing you want to fix, and let's make fashion more circular—one stitch at a time! The Highway Safety Organization's Safety Equipment Giveaway! In partnership with the **Highway Safety Office, SWBID** will give away safety equipment like bike lights and bells and pedestrian visibility belts. Come and participate in a car seat raffle giveaway for infants! Hancock Park, 800 C Street SW

**WED 9, 6:00-8:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH.** Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at the library. Please note: **No** instructor available on Wednesday sessions. Ages 13+. Southwest Library

**SAT 12, 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](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com). All Invited

**SUN 13, 11:00 A.M. PALM SUNDAY SERVICE** Join us for a joyous celebration- Guest presenters and congregational singing. All Invited. Westminster Church, 400 I Street SW

**MON 14, 3:30-4:30 P.M., EXPLORE THE WORLD THROUGH A MICROSCOPE.** Explore different sizes and shapes by adventuring through the world of a microscope for this fun, one-hour event. Ages 5+. Southwest Library

**MON 14<sup>th</sup> -FRI 18<sup>th</sup> , ARENA STAGE** is hosting its first **Spring Break Camp** (the first camp on actual Arena Stage grounds). 1101 6<sup>TH</sup> Street SW. <https://www.arenastage.org/springbreak>

**TUES 15, 12:00-2:00 P.M., EXPLORE CRICUT!** Come to the STEAM Lab to design your own stickers using Canva and Cricut! Ages 5-19. Southwest Library

**TUES 15, 5:30-7:30 P.M., GAME ON: Adults & Seniors.** Play classic board games, checkers, Uno, dominos, backgammon, and more in this fun two-hour event. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**TUES 15, 6:30-7:30 P.M., OFF SCRIPT!: Celebrity Memoir Book Club.** Come read about the lives of your favorite celebrities in their own words! Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**WED 16, 12:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M. , THE SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER** Extends a special invitation to everyone: Current AARP members, prospective members, guests, neighbors and visitors to our 33rd Anniversary Year, Spring Luncheon Meeting and Speaker Series. Our guest speaker, Victoria Christopher Murray, is The New York Times and USA Today best-selling author of more than 30 novels, including the New York Times Instant Best Seller, *The Personal Librarian*. Presentation of selected books by Victoria Christopher Murray, including two of her recently published books entitled: (1) *The First Ladies* and (2) *Harlem Rhapsody*. *The First Ladies* is a novel about the extraordinary relationship between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune in their powerful concerted fight for Justice and equality in America. Ms. Murray will also discuss her life and career as a writer and author. Everyone is welcome to come out and join us in our audience with Victoria Christopher Murray. You will participate in this enlightening and revealing presentation and conversation with a prolific writer of our times. Victoria will be available to sign copies of her books at the meeting. **Location:** River Park Mutual Homes Charles Goodman Common Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW, Street Parking is available and Waterfront Metro,

(Green Line) is two blocks away. Bus #74 stops in front of the River Park Delaware Avenue Gate. Lunch Available: COST: \$5.00. A vegetarian lunch will also be available. Masking is optional but encouraged. We will also provide masks for attendees. For further information contact Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, [bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com) or 202-554-0901. Thank you for your continued support of our chapter programs.

**THURS 17, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. LET'S PLAY SPADES.** Play this trick-taking partnership game where players bid on the number of tricks in each hand in this fun, two-hour event. Ages 13+. Southwest Library

**THURS 17, 6:30 P.M. MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.** along with **Riverside Baptist** and other local churches in the area will be having an **Ecumenical Service and Agape Meal.** Everyone is welcome, exactly as they are, for exactly who they are. 555 Water Street, SW. You can reach us at (202) 554-3222 or [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org).

**THURS. 17, 6:30 P.M. COMMUNITY SEDER MEAL.** Join us for a traditional Seder meal and time of remembrance. Must RSVP: 202-484-7700/ [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com) Free to the Public. Westminster Church, 400 I Street SW

**FRIDAY 18, 6:30 P.M. GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.** Join us for a moving and spiritual Good Friday Worship Service. Everyone is welcome, exactly as they are, for exactly who they are. 555 Water Street, SW. You can reach us at (202) 554-3222 or [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org)

**SAT 19, 4:00 - 5:00 P.M. RAINY-DAY CRAFT.** Join us in the children's room for a rainy-day craft. Ages 0-12. Southwest Library

**SUN 20, 9:30 A.M. EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE at St Augustine's Episcopal Church.** Join us for a festive Eucharist Service followed by a Reception and **Easter Egg Hunt.** Everyone is welcome, exactly as they are, for exactly who they are. 555 Water Street, SW. Rev. Cara Rockhill, Interim Rector, reach us at (202) 554-3222 or [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org)

**SUN, 20, 10:00-11:00 A.M. EASTER BRUNCH.** Break bread with us on Resurrection Sunday. Join us for light fare and fellowship. Free to the Public. Westminster Church, 400 I Street SW

**SUN 20, 11:00 A.M. EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE.** Westminster welcomes back Bobby Felder and Friends to lead music worship. Special Easter Message. All Invite. Westminster Church, 400 I Street SW

**SUN 20, 12:30 P.M EASTER EGG HUNT FOR KIDS.** Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt for children 2-13 years of age. Join in the fun! All invited!

**MON 21, 7:00 P.M ANC 6D BUSINESS MEETING.** Please contact the office at [6d@anc.dc.gov](mailto: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 [www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/](http://www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/)

**MON 21, 7-9 P.M. SWNA COMMUNITY MEETING.** I Arena Stage, Community Engagement: Meet over 30 local non profits and see where you fit in. See flyer page 10.

**TUES 22, 6:30-7:30 P.M. KOMEN TOASTMASTERS** Komen Toastmasters meets via Zoom. Please email us at [KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com](mailto:KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com) a few days before the meeting for the Zoom link.

## CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

**THURS 24, 3:00-5:00 P.M. SCRABBLE FOR ADULTS.** Stimulate your mind and meet new people while playing your favorite word game. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

**SUN 27, 11:00 A.M. INTERFAITH SERVICE** Interfaith Service with Masjid Muhammad, an historically African American mosque in Washington, D.C. Pot Luck meal after service. All Invited. Westminster Church, 400 I Street SW

**MON 28, 3:30-4:30 P.M., EXPLORE THE WORLD THROUGH A MICROSCOPE.** Explore different sizes and shapes by adventuring through the world of a microscope for this fun, one-hour event. Ages 5+. Southwest Library

**MON 28, 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! April's selection: *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* by Arundhati Roy. Place a hold or pick up a copy at Southwest Library. Ages 18+.

**TUES 29, 5:30-7:30 P.M., GAME ON.** Play classic board games, checkers, Uno, dominos, backgammon, and more in this fun two-hour event. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

### WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.** Mondays: Informed; Tuesdays: Life Saver Big Book; Wednesdays: New Beginners; Thursdays: Out to Lunch; Fridays: T.G.I.F. at 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 LAP TIME, Thursdays, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-2:00 P.M.** These 20 - 30-minute story times are specially designed for infants from birth until they begin walking, along with their grownups! 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](mailto:thor081828@hotmail.com). Visit our website at [www.staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life](http://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](mailto:southwestlibrary@dc.gov) or (202) 724-4298. Caregivers must accompany children under 9 years old. Southwest Library

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 A.M.** St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. Children ages three and older are invited to join our loving and lively Sunday School where they are introduced to a loving God who welcomes and cares for all. Through biblical stories, art, music and holy play, our children are nurtured in their natural spirituality to grow as the "littlest members" of a community of faith. 555 Water Street, SW. You can reach us at (202) 554-3222 or [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org).

**CHURCH CLEANING, 2nd Saturdays of the month, 9:35 A.M.** St. Dominic Church. [www.stdominic-church.org/](http://www.stdominic-church.org/)

**DORCAS CLOTHING CLOSET, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 3:00-5:00 P.M.** Donate gently jackets, spring clothing, and footwear. **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-DC Rocks Rehearsals. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 P.M., DC Rocks Rehearsals.** 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

**FARMER'S MARKET SW is back. Every Saturday, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.,** Local produce, herbs, pasture meats, eggs, cheese, fresh; breads & pastries, cut flowers & plants, Local coffee, Hot prepared foods and more! **April 5<sup>th</sup> through December 20, 2025.** This market accepts SNAP/Food Stamps and WIC/Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and offers the Produce Plus Program. **Location:** 4<sup>th</sup> & M Street SW, across from the Waterfront Metro.

**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

**GAME TIME. Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 P.M.,** Play some of your favorites in the Children's Room after school. Ages 5 - 12. Southwest Library

**GODLY PLAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, Sundays 11:00 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 10:00-11 A.M.,** Led by Jeff Nicoll (author of Augustine's Problem: Impotence and Grace). Westminster Church. To register, contact: [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com). FREE. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**HYBRID SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE, Sundays, 11:00 A.M.-Noon.** All welcome to share in inspiring worship! Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

**JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6:00-9:00 P.M.** Various Jazz musicians and singers are featured each Friday. \$10. Admission & Food for Sale. Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org>

**JOB SEEKERS, Mondays, 1:00-2:00 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. Age 13+. Southwest Library

**KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, SAT 5<sup>th</sup> -SUN 6<sup>th</sup>. LIVING LIGHTLY -** Emptiness of the Eight Extremes. Over the course of the weekend, Kadam Michelle will give us commentary to the profound teachings on The Emptiness of The Eight Extremes – the lack of inherently existent production, disintegration, impermanence, permanence, going, coming, singularity, and plurality. **Kadampa Meditation Center, 1200 Canal St SW.** <https://meditation-dc.org/event/living-lightly-emptiness-of-the-eight-extremes/>

**KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, Weekly Drop-In Meditation Classes.** Each class includes guided meditations and Buddhist teachings to help you reduce your stress and anxiety and increase your peace of mind and resilience. Everyone welcome! **Tuesdays** 6:00-6:30 pm. Buddhist Teacher Malik Johnson-Williams. <https://meditation-dc.org/tuesday-evenings/> **Thursdays** 7:15-8:30 pm. Resident Teacher Kadam Michelle Gauthier. <https://meditation-dc.org/thursday-evenings/> **Sundays** 10:00-11:00 am. Buddhist Teacher Sanema Naomi Hardrick <https://meditation-dc.org/sunday-mornings/>

**MARKET SW is back. Alternate Fridays, 4:00-10:00 P.M.** An evening of Arts, Food, Flea & Fun. Plus Live Music, Performances & Beer Garden. A Family & Pet-Friendly Community Gathering. May 2,16,30; June 13,27; July 11, 25; Aug 22; Sept 5,19. **Location:** 4<sup>th</sup> & M Street SW, across from the Waterfront Metro.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, Wednesdays, 7-8:00 P.M.** Contact Westminster Presbyterian Church for more information at [wpcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcdcoffice@gmail.com)

**RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH PROTEIN PANTRY, 2nd Sundays, 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.** All are welcome! For more details contact [rsbc@riverside.org](mailto: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. \$5.00 donations suggested. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Any questions? Email instructor, Pamela Wilson, [wilsonpj108@gmail.com](mailto: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

**ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH, Saturday Vigil: 5:00 P.M.; SUNDAY MASS, 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.** All are welcome and encouraged to respectfully and prayerfully visit our church, at any time when it is open. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 501 6<sup>th</sup> St. SW. [www.stdominicchurch.org](http://www.stdominicchurch.org) or [Office@StDominicChurch.org](mailto:Office@StDominicChurch.org)

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Sunday Worship Service 9:30 A.M.** Faith is strengthened when it is celebrated with others. Everyone is welcome, exactly as they are, for exactly who they are. Worship is followed by a coffee hour filled with fellowship, warmth, community, and good food! 555 Water Street, SW. You can reach us at (202) 554-3222 or [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org). **BEING THE IMAGO DEI ON THE SW WATERFRONT SINCE 1961!**

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER 6:30 P.M.** We gather for Evening Prayer each Tuesday at 6:30pm **via Zoom**. You can reach us at (202) 554-3222 or [www.staugustinesdc.org](http://www.staugustinesdc.org). Please join us!

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

**TEEN DROP IN, HANG OUT, Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 P.M.,** After school games and activities for teens ages 13 to 19 years of age. Southwest Library, [southwestlibrary@dc.gov](mailto:southwestlibrary@dc.gov).

**TWEEN TUESDAY, 3:30-5:00 P.M.** After-school activities for tweens ages 10 to 12 years old. Southwest Library, [southwestlibrary@dc.gov](mailto:southwestlibrary@dc.gov).

**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](mailto:rbswestminster@gmail.com)

### VIEW OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT WWW.SWNA.ORG

Submit Calendar events to  
[calendar@thesouthwester.com](mailto:calendar@thesouthwester.com)  
by the 15th of the month preceding  
the month it is scheduled.

# SOUTHWEST IN APRIL

## Community Tables

April 6 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Arena Stage

Join us for our second Community Tables of the season! Enjoy free food, fun activities, and a chance to connect with neighbors.

To attend, register at [SWBID.org/events](https://swbid.org/events)

## Live Music at the Metro: Washington Conservatory of Music

April 15 @ 4:45 pm - 5:45 pm  
L'Enfant Plaza, Exit A

## Out to Lunch

April 9 @ 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
Hancock Park

Take a break with our Out to Lunch Series at Hancock Park! Enjoy fresh air and live music by Emma G. Plus:

- Free Popsicles – First 75 from Maracas Pops
- Book Sales – Carpe Librum (under \$7.50)
- Rethread Pop-Up – Learn to repair & reuse clothing
- Safety Gear Giveaway – Bike lights, bells & more
- Car Seat Raffle – Win one for your little one

Join us for a refreshing mid-day escape!

# See you around SW in April and check out our other events!



[swbid.org/events](https://swbid.org/events)



[swbid.org](https://swbid.org)  
[@swbid](https://www.instagram.com/swbid)

**swbid** Southwest Business Improvement District