serving the waterfront communities of southwest and navy yard

**APRIL 2022** 

## We Have a Rhodes Scholar: Local Student Earns Prestigious Scholarship

BY SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP TASK FORCE

outhwest resident Samantha O'Sullivan announced to the world when she was a pigtailed eight-year-old that she intended to be an astronaut. Today, as a college senior, O'Sullivan is one of the 32 American students to receive a 2022 Rhodes Scholarship. After graduation this spring from Harvard University, she will head for London, England to pursue a Ph.D. in Condensed Matter Physics at Oxford University.

In the years between stating her interest in becoming an astronaut to becoming a Rhodes Scholar, O'Sullivan racked up enough accomplishments for a lifetime, including earning a scholarship from the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Education and Scholarship



Southwest resident Samantha O'Sullivan, a Harvard senior, earned the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Task Force (ESTF). She is the daughter of Melody Webb and Steve O'Sullivan of Southwest, and we are proud to have all of them as part of the ESTF family.

O'Sullivan's interest in science only grew during her first year at Harvard, when she found her path with support from SWNA.

"I want to start by thanking SWNA for their ongoing support, financial and otherwise, through my first academic year in college," O'Sullivan wrote in an email at the time. "My first year at Harvard was one of growth, reflection and new experiences. I learned many skills in the first year of college as well as making new friends, singing with the Kuumba Singers of Harvard, finding community on campus and because I found the coursework more vigorous, I reached out to some of my professors, one of whom was my aca-

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**CENTURIES** OF JAPANESE **ART** 

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KIDS CORNER

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LANSBURGH PARK **CONCERNS** 

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GREENLEAF REDEVELOPMENT

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## Southwest DC Hosts Events Commemorating Historic Escape of Enslaved People to Freedom

BY REVEREND RUTH HAMILTON

he public is invited to gather at the corner of 4th and I Streets Southwest (by Westminster Church) on Friday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m. to begin a "Remember the Pearl" memorial walk to The Wharf.

On April 15, 1848, a total of 77 men, women, and children enslaved by prominent families in the District of Columbia made their way to the Southwest waterfront, where they boarded a schooner called "The Pearl" and began a heroic and historic bid for freedom. Though the coordinated effort failed, due mostly to bad weather on the Chesapeake, their burning desire for freedom still inspires and instructs today.

"This dramatic and important story deserves to be known by all who live in or visit the District," said Southwest resident and director of Cultural Tourism DC Steve Shulman.

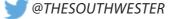
This second annual season of commemoration in Southwest will include a colorful History Tent located by the market at 4th and M Streets SW. It will include 16 art panels to bring the Pearl story, its context, and other hidden histories to light. The Friday night commemorative walk will go down Pearl Street at The Wharf, which is named after this event, and by Hank's Oyster Bar where there is a small plaque in the cobblestones. Shauntice Rodriguez, General Manager of Hank's, is very excited about this story and finding ways to share it with her guests. Among other ideas, Hank's and the Pearl Street Grille are hoping to feature a special drink in honor of the heroic passengers. The walk will conclude on the public pier near the flame with remarks and the presentation of a wreath made by

the Southwest Sea Scouts of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. A flotilla of boats will symbolically head toward freedom.

This major escape attempt and its aftermath contributed to the abolition of slavery in Washington, DC. Each year on April 16, DC marks Emancipation Day. This year, Emancipation Day events will include the first Southwest Freedom Fest from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Westminster Church (400 I Street SW). The festival will feature an exhibit of esteemed artist Kristen Hayes-Campbell, a descendant of a Pearl family, the band and dance team of Richard Wright Public Charter High School and complimentary food and drink. Descendants are invited to come and share their stories, and organizations with a freedom focus, such as College Bound, will be welcomed to set

See "Freedom," page 4

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The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund is an all-volunteer award-winning grassroots organization whose mission is to advocate and improve the overall health and wellness for women and men through outreach, education, and prevention. We promote early detection strategies for breast health and access to the best biomedical and evidence -based complementary therapies to reduce the incidences and mortality rates of breast cancer. Our vision is to save lives, embrace and achieve a world community free of breast

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

#### Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund



Washington, DC 20024 Washington, DC 20024 thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org **2** (202) 251-1639

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#### **Southwester Staff**

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## Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Continues to Build Connections Through Community Outreach

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

he past three support group meetings of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) continue to inspire good attendance as well as welcome qualified speakers who bring a wealth of knowledge, information and resources related to breast health, prostate and colorectal cancer, physical activity, caregiving, COVID-19, and other aspects of healthy living and prevention. Still hosting meetings on Zoom and Facebook Live, the TDJBCF reaches participants in multiple states, including Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York,

nia, among others, as well as Mexico and Spain. Recordings of past meetings are available to view at https:// www.facebook.com/TDJBreastCancerFund/.

Texas, and Califor-

With several TDJBCF support group members suffering recent losses of loved ones, the January meeting not only celebrated the advent of the new year, but also embraced a discussion on advocacy, grief, and loss.

In celebration of Black History Month, the TDJBCF hosted two meetings in February, including the regular monthly support group meeting and a history-making program with

community partner the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). The first gathering focused on breast cancer in men, men's health, mental health, and COVID-19, with a special thanks to the SWBID who sponsored the meeting for the second consecutive year.

For the second event, the TDJBCF co-sponsored a celebratory program with SWNA and welcomed with rave

reviews a communitywide Black History Month celebration which was first created in 1987 by TDJBCF Founder Thelma D. Jones. With the participation of the Richard Wright Public Charter School, the program

addressed the 2022 Black History Month theme "Black Health and Wellness." Former long-time Southwest DC resident Carla D. Williams, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health and Interim Director of the Cancer Center at Howard University was the guest speaker.

Thanks to Dr. Williams' leadership, Howard University was the first major hospital in the region to become a community partner with the TDJBCF around 2011. The two remain close collaborators with the TDJBCF being recently invited to serve as a community partner in a research grant. More details will follow in a future edition of The Southwester. To view the Black History Month meeting, please visit https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=sWT1wMpXT3c.

The March support group meeting was a showstopper as it welcomed an array of dynamic speakers in celebration of Women's History Month and Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month focusing on the theme "Providing Healing, Promoting Hope." It was an exciting and diverse meeting uniting a wide range of professional women.

"The compelling speakers epitomized the theme and took the audience on a journey that even I hadn't expected," said TDJBCF founder Thelma D. Jones.

Wednesday, April 20, will mark the celebration of the 12th anniversary of the founding of the TDJBCF Support Group. The celebration event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and take place over Zoom and Facebook live. The guest speaker will be Cheryl Shaw, a twotime breast cancer survivor, advocate and philanthropist who will share her cancer journeys as she reflects on her career of over 30 years as a nonprofit executive. For more information, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.

## Southwest Community Foundation Awards Inaugural Grants to Eight Local Organizations

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Southwest Community Foundation announced the results of its first round of grants to local organizations. The Foundation awarded grants totaling \$25,220 to eight organizations in its 2021-22 round of grantmaking. The foundation is a nonprofit founded in 2015 by Southwest community leaders to attract and distribute philanthropic dollars to help improve the lives of Southwest residents.

The foundation launched its grant program in 2021 with funds provided as a community benefit from Douglas Development. The amount and nature of the benefit package was negotiated by ANC 6D, which then requested the Southwest Community Foundation to hold the funds and distribute them for the benefit of the residents of Southwest DC living in ZIP code 20024. The Foundation advertised the program through a variety of media and requested proposals that met certain established criteria.

The first organizations to receive grants are working to prevent food insecurity, advancing the arts, connecting a diverse community and supporting education and small business skills.

The eight recipients are: 5000 Food Pantry, Capital Fringe, Friends of The SW Library, Kadampa Meditation Center, Richard Wright Public Charter School, Southwest Community Gardens, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship Fund and the Washington DC Police Foundation.

Programs supported by the grants will include free meditation classes for residents enrolled in GOODProject's Family Success Planning initiative, staple food pantry packages reaching up to 110 neighborhood families per month, classes for high schoolers and their parents to reduce the barriers to higher education for first-generation college students, and opportunities for the Harbor Patrol Unit of the Metropolitan Police Department to engage with young people and older adults by teaching them how to fish, as well as water and general safety

A second round of grants is expected to begin with a call for proposals in September 2022. For more information about the current grantees, please visit https://sw-communityfoundation.org.

The SW Pearl Group invites you to the 2nd Annual

# "Remember the Pearl"

The Pearl Escape is the single largest escape of enslaved people in the United States that occurred on April 15,1848 in Southwest DC.

Visit the Commemorative Art Exhibit by the SW Market, April 1-30

## **Take the Memorial Walk**

Friday, April 15, 2022 6:00-7:30 PM From 4th & I to the Wharf

# Join the SW DC Freedom Festival

APRIL 16, 2022, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Music Art Food lenders
400 I ST SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20024

www.rememberthepearl.org

## Kristen Hayes-Campbell Exhibits at Southwest Freedom Festival

BY VYLLORYA EVANS

he Remember the Pearl Group is excited to invite you to the Southwest Freedom Festival, featuring special guest Kristen Hayes-Campbell, on Saturday, April 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Westminster Church, located at 400 I Street SW. You may also call 202.484.7700 to schedule a viewing

April 8-30.

Kristen is a teaching artist residing in Washington, DC. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design from Hampton University and a Master of Arts degree in Painting from Pratt Institute. During her time in New York City, she spent five years as a Graphic Designer for Basic Books and Kensington Publishers, creating book covers for such lau-

reates as June Jordan and Ishmael Reed. In 2012, she was recognized as a "Champion of Change," an honor granted by the White House Commission on the Arts and Humanities for her work at Savoy Elementary School, entitled "Color Is Life", an initiative developed to aid in student success through the transformational power of color in social and academic spaces.

Kristen is a native Washingtonian with lineage to Alfred Pope and Hannah Cole Pope, who attempted an escape along with 77 other enslaved men, women and children that boarded a schooner called the Pearl on April 15, 1848. Alfred and Hannah became a prominent Georgetown couple.

#### **FREEDOM**

Continued from p. 1

up informational tables.

"Like a pearl itself that begins with a grain of sand, this saga, started in pain, keeps growing into something beautiful and inspiring," said Southwest resident and cultural anthropologist Dr. Sheila S. Walker. "That's the experience of all who get to know this amazing story and why we want everyone to 'Remember the Pearl."

Among the long-range goals of this effort is to fulfill the vision of the late Lloyd D. Smith, founder of the Pearl Coalition, who planned to build a life-size replica of the Pearl schooner that could be docked on a

Titanic inspired, heavy hors d'oeuvres

· Red and white wine

District waterfront, taking passengers on informative tours and serving as an economic generator for the African-American community. Although this visionary leader died in 2005, his dream is alive. Another goal is to see the establishment of a Southwest History Museum to tell all the marvelous and too often hidden histories of this vibrant, diverse neighborhood in the nation's capital.

For more information, please visit https://westminsterdc.org/remember-the-pearl and https://thepearlco-alition.org/

Reverend Ruth Hamilton is co-pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Southwest.



Courtesy of Anacostia Riverkeeper

Volunteers came together on March 20 to support the Anacostia Riverkeeper's Clean Waterways program by collecting trash from the watershed.

## Volunteers Step Up to Keep Anacostia Waterways Clean

BY ANACOSTIA RIVERKEEPER

he Anacostia Riverkeeper's Clean Waterways program works to bring communities together and advance the goals of clean water and a swimmable, fishable Anacostia River. This spring, new efforts to keep the watershed free of trash and debris kicked off across Southwest DC.

Anacostia Riverkeeper and the Mandarin Oriental hotel kicked off cherry blossom season on March 20, as nearly 70 people joined together for a riverfront cleanup. Volunteers collected 383 pounds of trash, including automobile parts, food and drink wrappers, and glass bottles.

Anacostia Riverkeeper also partnered with The Rounds and Compass Coffee for a Saturday morning cleanup on March 26 at Buzzard Point. Students and alumni from the University of Texas and members of the DC chapter of the Sierra Club joined the event. These powerhouse volunteers conducted a brand audit to determine which major companies our trash comes from. Once they've analyzed the data, they will share the results on our website.

If you missed those two opportunities but are still looking to do some spring cleaning, you can join Anacostia Riverkeeper at the Anacostia River Festival on Saturday April 9 for a cleanup event at Anacostia Park. As with all our cleanups, supplies will be provided, and the event is rain or shine

For more information, please visit https://www.anacostiariverkeeper. org or email Info@anacostiariverkeeper.org.



For more information and tickets, visit: https://fotmpdc.org/events

## Southwest Moment

Courtesy of Sandy Carroll

A Rainy Afternoon At The Tidal Basin



## Friends of Titanic Memorial Park Commemorates the Titanic's 110th Anniversary

BY BETH HALL

he Friends of Titanic Memorial Park are hosting several special events April 14-17 to celebrate five years of partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) and commemorate the lives lost on the 110th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic.

The highlight of the weekend is the Titanic 110th Anniversary Gala & Tribute, which will be held on

Saturday, April 16 at Arena Stage. Tickets are on sale through April 9 at www.fotmpdc.org/ titanic\_110th\_anniversary. NPS staff will be on hand to discuss plans for future restoration of Titanic Memorial Park. Titanicinspired heavy hors d'oeuvres such as grilled asparagus and peaches in chartreuse jelly will be served. Proceeds from the

event will be used by the Friends for future restoration of the park in part-



nership with the NPS.

From April 14-17, a series of displays at the south end of Titanic Memo-

rial Park will tell individual stories of passengers and crew on the ship to

Courtesy of the Friends of Titanic Memorial Park

humanize the disaster and focus on the role that class distinction played that fateful night. The display is funded by generous contributions from the Friends of Southwest DC and the Southwest Chapter of the AARP.

On April 14, the Friends will hold a wreath-laying ceremony at about 9:30

p.m. – the time the Titanic struck the iceberg. There will be a choral rendition of "Nearer my God to Thee."

In preparation for the coming events in the park, NPS has recently completed some much-needed repairs to the tiles at the south end of the park. The Friends have restored plantings in the demonstration garden, trimmed the rose bushes, and tended to the planters so that the park will look its best in April.

The Friends of Titanic Memorial Park is a small nonprofit organization that works with NPS to maintain and restore the park. Over the last five years, they have involved community volunteers in painting benches, counting visitors, planting a demonstration garden and making land-scape enhancements.

All community members are invited to join the Friends of Titanic Memorial Park and receive regular emails about volunteer opportunities, park improvements and coming events. Visit www.fotmpdc.org/join to join the mailing list. In the near term, volunteers are being sought to help set up and break down the displays in the park and to provide information

See "Titanic,," page 9



# Centuries of Japanese Art on Display During Cherry Blossom Season

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

ith cherry blossom season in full swing, the museums of the Smithsonian are showcasing Japanese art from the 13th to the 19th centuries.

In early March, the Freer Gallery launched a new exhibition showcasing the full scope of the museum's medieval Zen collections, one of the broadest in the world, for the first time since the museum's founding.

Mind Over Matter: Zen in Medieval Japan includes rare works illustrating the visual, spiritual, and philosophical power of Zen and its roots in the culture of medieval Japan. Monastic Zen painting in medieval Japan featured paintings in monochrome ink, often by Zen monks, which have influenced artists and formed a thematic backbone of Japanese art and cultural identity. The exhibition will be on view through July 24, 2022.

Also in March, the National Museum of Asian Art debuted a new exhibition of Japanese prints. The exhibi-



Courtesy of the Smithsonia

A new exhibition at the National Museum of Asian Art includes Moon in the Smoke (Enchū no tsuki) by 19th century Japanese artist Tsukioka Yoshitoshi.

tion, Underdogs and Antiheroes: Japanese Prints from the Moskowitz Collection, features stories and legends of individuals who lived on the fringes of society in early modern Japan.

"Over the course of Japanese history, the stories of countless underdogs and antiheroes have inspired a deep affection for narratives of the downtrodden in the arts," Kit Brooks, Japan Foundation Assistant Curator of Japanese Art said in a press release. "This was especially true during the early modern period, when members of the urban commoner class tried to assert themselves against the ruling samurai by creating a distinctive culture of their own."

Prints in the exhibition spotlight virtuous bandits, sumo wrestlers and rogues from the kabuki theater. From scenes of tattooed firemen brawling with rival groups to those of sumo wrestlers enjoying a feast under cherry blossom trees, the exhibition features subjects that are not commonly associated with traditional

Japanese print culture but were nevertheless central to the interests of an early modern public. Sumo wrestlers were celebrated and respected even though they lived outside of the traditional class system. Like other ancient rituals, sumo first appears in one of Japan's national epics, the eighthcentury Kojiki, and evolved into a national sport. Its popularity peaked in the late 18th century, eventually eclipsing even that of kabuki theater, the early modern period's most influential form of entertainment.

"Identifying the struggles of unconventional heroes who prevailed against all odds, townspeople embraced both old legends and new ones," Frank Feltens, Japan Foundation Associate Curator of Japanese Art said in a press release. "These stories were immensely popular, which enabled savvy publishers, artists and printers to cater to fans hungry for images of these figures."

The exhibition will be on display through January 29, 2023.

#### RHODES SCHOLAR

Continued from p. 1

demic advisor, and a physics instructor. She connected me to my summer internship at the University of Maryland, as an assistant at the Condensed Matter Physics Lab...which is now my area of study for my Ph.D. I am immensely grateful to SWNA's Education and Scholarship Task Force for all the assistance and for making my first year experience possible."

O'Sullivan is a product of DC schools, including Watkins Montessori School, Capitol Hill Day School and BASIS DC Public Charter School. She graduated high school at DC's School Without Walls at the top of her class, and also served as class president. O'Sullivan was a Girl Scout from kindergarten through her senior year in high school, and started a club, STEM-UP, to encourage African-American girls' interest in the sciences, for which she won a Girl Scout Gold Award. In high school, she pitched for the school softball team and had several research assistant positions, internships and summer jobs, including at the Southwest Library. O'Sullivan also devoted 400 hours of volunteer time at the National Air and Space Museum as a tour guide and an "Explainer," two positions that caught her attention during regular visits to the museum growing up and inspired her to think about becoming an astronaut.

During her senior year in high school, O'Sullivan was selected to give the keynote address at the Dr.



Photos courtesy of the Author

As a young child, Samantha O'Sullivan dreamed of being an astronaut after many visits to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner at the National Space Club, an event also known as 'space prom.' She was nominated for consideration after a nationwide search and earned the honor ahead of 84 other finalists, a list that included graduate students at well-known universities. At the Goddard event, it was announced that O'Sullivan had won a \$10,000 scholarship funded by Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos. In that same year, she became known to newspaper readers and television news viewers for having been accepted at all eight Ivy League colleges.

At Harvard, O'Sullivan majored in Physics and African-American studies. Her enthusiasm for the African-American studies program was a deciding factor in her choice of college, as the African-American Studies program at Harvard is world-renowned. She was fascinated by meeting Black students from around the world and worked to create an on-campus organization to bring together students with a common ancestry. O'Sullivan learned to speak Gullah, (also known as Geechee) a language brought to the United States by enslaved African people and spoken mainly in communities in South Carolina, but whose culture, food and sometimes language is also practiced in several other states in the American South. Learning Gullah inspired her to question why the language of science is English, a topic she is now exploring in her senior thesis.

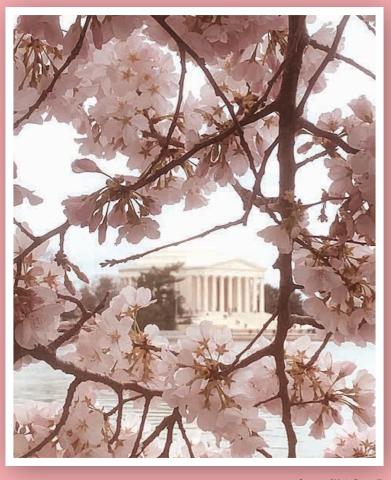
Rhodes Scholarships have been awarded annually since 1903, with 32 of 100 annual awards going to Ameri-

cans. Named for and funded by South African industrialist Cecil J. Rhodes, the scholarships were established after his death in 1902. That Rhodes, born in Britain, believed in white supremacy and would never have entertained the concept of Black equality, gave Samantha pause about accepting a Rhodes Scholarship, a concern she expressed at her interview for the award. The first Black Harvard graduate, Alain Locke, was awarded a Rhodes scholarship in 1907 and was well known in DC when he was a Professor at Howard. The first Rhodes Scholarship award to a woman came in 1977. This year, the number of women Rhodes recipients was the highest ever recorded. O' Sullivan said she ultimately decided that if Rhodes' money could be used to further the education and well-being of Black people, perhaps it could be considered as reparations.

The title of this article, "We Have a Rhodes Scholar," came from a comment made by ESTF contributor and supporter Joan Wills to Task Force member Delmar Weathers one morning at their gym. It struck a chord with us and we hope every donor and supporter feels that "we," and that each recipient is one of our own family.

Together, we can make sure "our kids" get every opportunity they need to thrive. To contribute to the SWNA ESTF 2022 scholarships, please visit https://www.swnascholarship.org. Donations can also be mailed to SWNA at P.O. Box 70131 Washington, DC 20024. Please make checks payable to SWNA and note "Scholarship Fund" in the lower left corner.

## Southwest Moment



**Cherry Blossoms!** 

Courtesy of Marie Giovanelli



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### **Faith Community**

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church Perseveres Through Times of Change

BY GEORGINE WALLACE

Then the new St. Matthew Lutheran Church opened on January 19, 2019, the pastor and congregation were excited about the possibilities to serve the Southwest Community after an eleven-year absence from the neighborhood, as the previous structure was demolished in 2008. St. Matthew formed a sister church relationship with First Trinity Lutheran Church at 501 Fourth Street NW. The two congregations share staff, planning for worship, and a mission. St Matthew's beautiful interior and the smell of the coffee in the Sacred Grounds coffee shop were instant neighborhood attractions. Then, just 14 months after its opening, the church closed again due to the pandemic. The active reservations for the Fellowship Hall in the lower level were cancelled. A year into the pandemic, beloved long-time pastor Philip Huber retired. The future seemed uncertain to many in the congregation.

However, Church Council President Edna Hicks is the personification of the quote attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt, "A woman is like a teabag. You never know how strong it is until it's in hot water." Hicks and the St. Matthew's Council led the congrega-

Courtesy of Jim Harle



Courtesy of Jim Harle

Interior sanctuary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

tion through the pandemic and several pastoral changes over the last two years. Due to their creativity, hard work and resolve, the church is on a better path. Along the way, the Council had to make tough decisions, such as closing the coffee shop and selling the equipment.

The space once used by the coffee shop now serves a special purpose. Every Monday, SWBID ambassadors use the space to create 150 bags of produce for families in need in Southwest. The produce arrives in large boxes unassembled. The BID bundles each bag and transports them to designated areas for distribution.

Council members would like to use the former coffee shop area to provide additional services to the community. Church Council Vice President Ardith Harle would like to begin a homework assistance program for neighborhood children. She also plans to install a Little Free Library outside the building near the M Street SW entrance.

St. Matthew offers the use of its rooms to charitable organizations at a

reduced or no cost. The large Fellowship Hall which holds over 100 people is open to large groups or special events at a reasonable fee. To inquire about reservations, email office@FirstTrinityStMatthew.org.

SWBID team members participate in

packing produce at St. Matthew.

Services are offered in-person every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. A hybrid option is available at 10:30 with First Trinity. Additional details about St. Matthew can be found at https://firsttrinitystmatthew.org/im-new/st-matthew/.

Note: St. Matthew is the place of worship for the author.

May 30, 2022.



## Hirshhorn Announces April 1 Opening Date for New Kusama Exhibit

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

ollowing 2017's blockbuster exhibit of "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors," which drew 475,000 visitors and wide reach on social media, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden will debut a new retrospective covering nearly 70 years of Kusama's career.

Opening April 1, the exhibition will show-case work by Kusama from the museum's

permanent collection. The Hirshhorn has collected the artist's work since 1996 and recently acquired two Infinity Mirror Rooms. The exhibition will open alongside other museum programs highlighting the work of women artists.

The Hirshhorn will issue free,



Courtesy of Cathy Carver

Yayoi Kusama Pumpkin, 2016, at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

same-day timed passes to "One with Eternity: Yayoi Kusama in the Hirshhorn Collection" on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 9:30 a.m. daily outside on the museum's plaza. The exhibition will run through November 27,

#### **TITANIC**

Continued from p. 5

to park visitors from April 14-17. To volunteer please visit https://www.fotmpdc.org/110th-volunteers.

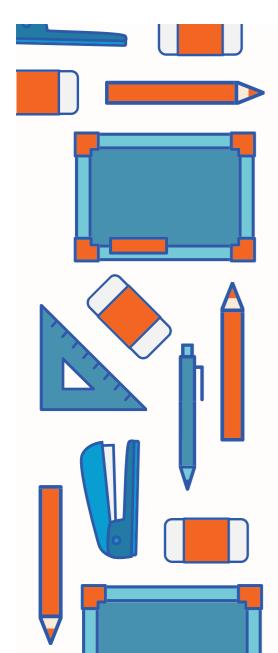
Titanic Memorial Park borders the Washington Channel between P Street and N Street Southwest. It is a favorite spot for neighborhood dog walkers, bicyclists, walkers, fishman and others. The park features an elegant 1931 statue that was originally erected near the site of the Kennedy Center and placed in SW in 1968.

Pursuit of funding for the memorial was initiated shortly after the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. The competition for the design, which was open only to women artists, was won by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. Donations were limited to one dollar so that as many people as possible could participate. One of the most touching donations was by Mary Glynn, a steerage passenger on the Titanic, who contributed as her donation the first American dollar she had ever earned. More information is available at www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/ titanic.htm.





www.swna.org
TheSouthwester.com



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Invites you to participate in our 2022

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**APRIL 27 - 29** 

https://www.biddingowl.com/AmidonBowenPTA

Amidon-Bowen Elementary School serves 350 students from Pre-K3 through 5th grade in the heart of the vibrant Southwest Waterfront community. Proceeds from this auction will support:

- Learning technology
- Scholarships for after-care programs
- Expansion of, and equitable access to, after school enrichment activities for the 2022-2023 school year



To contribute donations or for questions, contact amidonbowenauction@gmail.com



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	 	 	 
_			



4	 	 	
_			
5	 	 	

#### **Answers from** March 2022 issue

**Differences:** The hot air balloons are different; the picture on the right has a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow; the picture on the right has a bird wearing a hat; the picture on the right has a different butterfly than the picture on the left; the picture on the right has an orange tree while the picture on the left has an apple tree; the birds in the nest are different.

**Word Scramble:** There are 267 words you can make from "Festival.""

### **WORD SEARCH: BASEBALL!**

I J D 5 S Z N 0 G

BALL FANS SCORE **UMPIRE HOME RUN** BASE SCREECH BATTER NATIONALS SINGLE

## Jokes!

What do you call a fairy that doesn't like to wash?

Stinkerbell!

Why did the egg go to the doctor?

Because he had a cracking headache!

What do kittens like to eat? Mice cream!

Would you like to submit a joke for Kid's Corner? Email it to editor@thesouthwester. com. Include your first name so we can tell other kids who sent it in!



## **Math Moment!**

Can you complete these equations?

a. 40 + 25 =

e. 30 - 15 =

b. 15 + 15 =

f. 80 - 22 =

c.700 + 400 =

g. 55 - 20 =

d. 12 x 12 =

h. 5 x 4 =



## Young Readers

# Games to Overcome Spring Fever

BY KITTY FELDE

sk any teacher about spring fever. It's that time of year when attention spans are short and the pressure is on to get kids ready for the testing that takes up most of May.

So how do you keep kids reading? How about the five letter word bingo?

Pattie Billings is a librarian at the Quapaw Tribal Library in Quapaw, Oklahoma. She designed a reading bingo card for her young patrons. The

squares are filled with reading-related tasks like read one chapter in a new book, read to a stuffed animal, read to an adult and read with a flashlight. If readers got five in a row, Pattie says they got an "itty bitty prize." Two bingos earned a slightly better prize. Tackling every task in every square known in bingo circles as a blackout earned the biggest prize.

Pattie shared that her own grandson was a reluctant reader, but even he's been working his way through the

bingo card, determined to earn the grand prize.

If you want to play along, Goodreads has its own bingo competition open to adults, as well as a bingo card generator where you can fill in the blanks with your own ideas for a reading challenge. Pinterest also includes dozens and dozens of examples.

As to prizes? Don't think of them as bribes, but as tangible incentives. It could be a new gel pen. Or an extra half hour playing Minecraft. Or even a Minecraft book!

And if you're looking for prizes for an entire classroom, Book Club for Kids is happy to mail you a stack of bookmarks.

Kitty Felde is the host and executive producer of the award-winning Book Club for Kids podcast. Her newest book in The Fina Mendoza Mysteries series of books and podcasts is called **State** of the Union.

## Concerns Raised about Lansburgh Park Development

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

ommunity leaders, including ANC 6D Chair Edward Daniels and members of Southwest DC Action, raised concerns in March about development at 60 I Street SW and community access to Lansburgh

The location previously housed the Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle - Assemblies of God church. The church partnered with developer Foulger-Pratt to tear down the existing structure and build almost 200 apartments on top of a new church sanctuary on the ground floor. Construction began around the end of 2021.

Based on a unanimous vote of ANC 6D Commissioners, Daniels wrote a letter to Keith A. Anderson, Director of the DC Department of General Services, questioning the department's agreement with Foulger-Pratt, allowing the developer to fence off and use public park land at Lansburgh Park.

The letter stated that "ANC 6D has serious concerns" about the agreement, which restricts public access to park space for up to three years.

"This agreement also raises broader questions about the process by which DC government allows pri-

vate companies to use public land to the detriment of city Residents," Daniels' letter said. "The community should be given standing and allowed to comment on agreements affecting public space."

The development is being built by right, meaning that ANC 6D had no formal opportunity to review the design of the building or plans for construction, but as Daniels wrote, "while ANC 6D would have been a logical partner, as far as we are aware, no efforts were made to include the ANC in the discussion" prior to the signing of the agreement with the developer.

In a letter to DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, over a dozen members of Southwest DC Action and an additional 44 local residents expressed similar concerns, specifying concerns related to "the inexplicable removal of 10 trees on public land, lack of transparency around the exclusive use of public park space for private gain [and] unjust compensation for defacement and damage to public

Southwest DC Action is a group of Southwest residents who organize and advocate for a more equitable,

anti-racist, and environmentally sustainable neighborhood. Their letter highlighted Foulger-Pratt's removal of 10 trees on public land, including three within the boundaries of Lansburgh Park. The letter calls the park "one of the few protected green spaces in the SW neighborhood" and notes the disproportionate impact of urban heat islands, which are exacerbated by the removal of trees, on people of

The DC Department of General Services agreement with Foulger-Pratt includes the lease of park land for \$1 a month. Southwest DC Action uses their letter to juxtapose this rate with "that of any resident of SW who wanted to rent outdoor space at Lansburgh Park for a special event; they would be required to pay the city \$12.50 per hour."

In the letter, Southwest DC Action and community signatories call on Bowser and other city officials to "return the fenced-off area of the park back to the SW community or demand a more fair and equitable payment."



Over 20 years of helping Southwest!

### Will you help a neighbor?

So far this year our grants have included:

- A field trip for SW children to the Harriet Tubman house
- Commemorative displays for Titanic Memorial Park
- An educational trip for SW teens to Hampton VA
- Installation of a little free library for Greenleaf kids And the year has barely begun.

Together, there's much more we can do. Make SW a better place for all its residents!

#### Friends of Southwest DC

P.O. Box 44434, Washington DC 20026

To donate by credit card or to apply for a grant visit: 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.



Development has restricted public access to Lansburgh Park.

Courtesy of Fredo Vasquez

## District Officials Recommit to Build First Strategy for Greenleaf Redevelopment

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

n a public session hosted by the DC Housing Authority Board of Commissioners on March 9, city officials recommitted to a build first strategy to limit displacement and relocation of current residents during the redevelopment of the 15-acre Greenleaf public housing site.

Greenleaf's complex includes 493 units spread across 23 buildings in the area around M Street SW and Delaware Avenue SW. According to the DC Housing Authority, "all of the properties were built in 1959, are physically obsolete, and have high maintenance costs."

A team led by Pennrose Properties, EYA, and Paramount Development will lead the redevelopment project. The DC Housing Authority estimates the redevelopment will eliminate \$29 million in capital needs for repairs and updates at Greenleaf.

Greenleaf residents and local leaders, drawing on lessons learned from previous public housing redevelopment projects in the District, are working to ensure current residents are not displaced from their communities during the project and have focused on a "build first" approach to minimize moves and disruption for families currently living in Greenleaf homes.

Several nearby sites were considered where housing could be built prior to the launch of the Greenleaf redevelopment, but the sites proposed in initial plans fell through as a member of the development con-

sortium initially selected by the city dropped off of the project.

At the March public session, led by DC Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Chair Dionne Bussey-Reeder and attended by DC Housing Authority Executive Director Brenda Donald, the agency's Senior Vice President, Office of Capital Programs John Stringfield delivered a presentation on the build first approach.

"We have a build first strategy on site," Stringfield said. He shared slides indicating all moves will be within the Greenleaf campus and will be limited to one move per family. "Zero displacement," Stringfield said. "No one will have to leave the community. We will have new, affordable quality housing and 100% replacement of existing units."

The new build first plan centers around an approach to first redevelop the Greenleaf Senior building located at 1200 Delaware Avenue SW. Stringfield reported the building is approximately 50% vacant, and that construction will start in 2023 and end in 2025 with renovated units and new townhomes. The housing completed in the first phase will be used for relocation of other Greenleaf families during phases two through five of construction, which will run from 2025 through at least 2032.

The phased plan "meets the spirit and intent of the original build first strategy," according to the presentation delivered by Stringfield on March 9.

## Photo of the Month



Courtesy of Melanie Gardner

On Friday, March 18, a blanket of fog descended on Southwest.

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

# Meet SWBID Heroine and Operations Administrator Idania Arteaga

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

outhwest DC is "the place to be" and the Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID) is a big part of that reputation. We continue to spotlight the dedicated staff of the SWBID who are focused on making Southwest a clean, safe, vibrant community to live, work, and

What started out to be a normal working day for Operations Administrator Idania Arteaga turned into an emotional encounter. While on her way to L'Enfant Plaza near the Spy Museum, Arteaga spotted a young man climbing the barrier wall designed to prevent people from falling onto the highway. He was taking his shoes off and about to climb the wall when she gently approached him and said, "what's going on? I have bad days too." She inched forward, trying not to scare him, and when she got close, he said "I'm sorry, I don't want to jump but I don't know any other way." Arteaga says that was her "go," and that she had to do something.

"I grabbed him by the back of his shirt and threw him to the ground," Arteaga said. At that point, she saw two bystanders and asked them to call 911. DC Fire and MPD officers arrived on the scene and offered to take him to a hospital, but he refused. After talking to emergency staff, he



Courtesy of SWBID

Idania Arteaga

calmed down and walked away. She doesn't know what happened to him, but keeps him in her prayers and hopes he is getting the help and comfort he needs.

Arteaga says she has struggled with depression, and she wants readers to know that there's better days and people around to help you.

"I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of Idania. She is a true definition of the word 'leader," said SWBID Chief Operating Officer Andre Witt.

So, when you're out and about - be sure to say hello! Learn more about the SWBID by visiting https://www.swbid.org.

# Costumes Take Center Stage in Arena's *Catch Me If You Can*

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

In the Arena Stage production of *Catch Me If You Can*, costumes take center stage, creating the atmosphere of the 1960's and supporting the story with humor and panache.

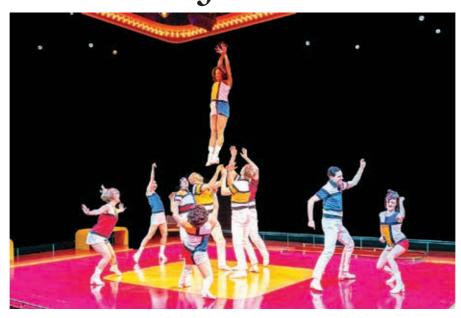
Costume designer Alejo Vietti has worked on productions ranging from Broadway to Donesk, Ukraine. He has designed costumes for the Radio City Rockettes and Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, as well as operas across the United States and area theaters including the Shakespeare Theatre, Ford's Theater, and Signature Theater.

Catch Me If You Can is Vietti's fifth project at Arena Stage. He answered questions from The Southwester during the pop musical's March 4 through April 17 run.

**Southwester:** What was your process in creating the costumes for *Catch Me If You Can*?

**Alejo Vietti:** Usually, my process starts with the script. A thorough breakdown of the script, scene by scene, and the creation of a chart of who is in each scene and transition.

After meeting with the director



Courtesy of Margot Schulman

The cast of Catch Me If You Can showcases costumes evoking the 1960's.

and other creatives - where the director establishes her point of view for this story - I start very specific image research. I investigate the period as well as every detail that will affect the costumes - for this show, that included Pan Am uniforms and nurses' uniforms from the 1960s.

This research process will start

determining my esthetic approach for the show. In the case of *Catch Me If You Can*, I put some emphasis in the 1960's graphic mod period. It felt appropriate for the "game show" concept that runs through the production.

The exception in this show was the design for the musical number "50 Checks." This process was more complicated and it involved acquiring original dollar bills from the 1960s – from a private collector – that were scanned in high fidelity, adjusted in color and then a specific artwork was generated to be printed in a regular textile as well as on a textile with sequins to create the "money" fabric to build the costumes for this number. It was a big challenge that took us on a fun – and very complex – journey.

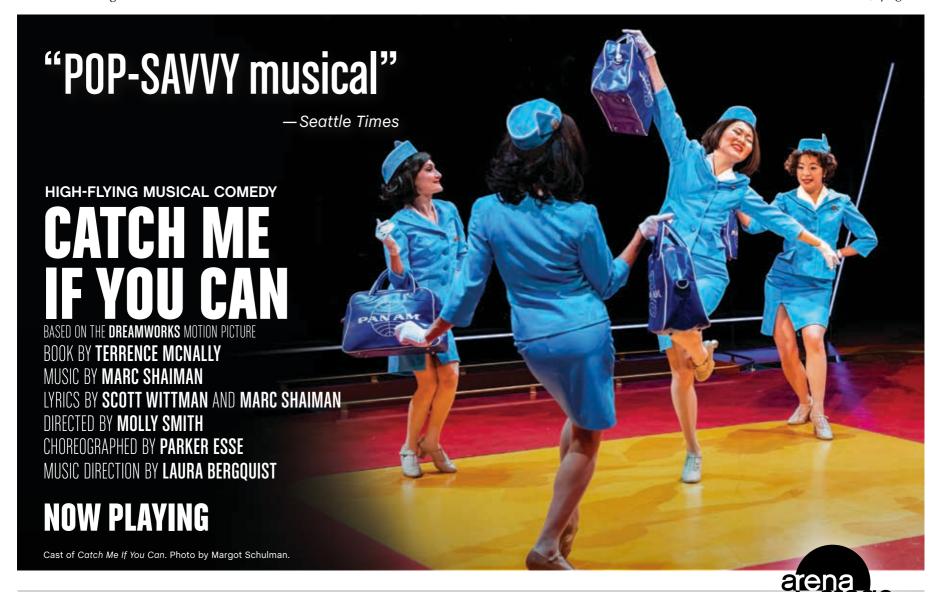
**SW:** How does a costume designer work with choreographers and fight directors in creating clothes that will see a lot of action on stage?

**AV:** Having collaborated with Parker Esse many times in the past, I understand his vocabulary and his needs as a choreographer. Full movement is key for dancing and it is imperative that my work doesn't get on the way, and that it facilitates the performance of the choreography without any kind of restriction from the costume.

That's why it is very important to maintain a very open and constant line of communication with the choreography team, as well as with the

See "Costumes," page 15

the mead center for american theater



## Southwester Community Calendar | April 2022

View our on-line calendar at www.swna.org

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

**SAT 2, All Day. Seasonal Craft at the SW Library.** Children ages 2-12 are invited to stop by the children's room to do a seasonal craft or pick up a craft-to-go kit. Sunset craft inspired by Daniel Finds A Poem (National Poetry Month). https://dclibrary. libnet.info/event/6200982.

**SAT 2, 12-9 P.M. Bloomaroo at the Wharf.** Visit The Wharf on April 2, 2022 for Bloomaroo®, a free spring festival featuring a full day of cherry-blossomed themed art, music, fireworks, and family-friendly fun along the waterfront! Enjoy beer gardens on the pier, a pop-up roller rink, s'mores at our firepit, and live music on all three of our outdoor stages. We'll cap it all off with our blossoms fireworks finale. More info at wharfdc.com.

**SAT 2, 2-3:30 P.M. Sea Scout Open House.** More info TBD. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**TUES 5, 4-4:30 P.M. Kids' Graphic Novel Book Club.** Come and discuss your favorite comics with us and meet new friends! We want to know what you are reading. Southwest Neighborhood Library Meeting Room 1.

FRI 8, 10-11 A.M. Memorial Service for Gloria Hamilton. Gloria was a former resident of Southwest and a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Let us pay our final tribute to Gloria in the company of family, friends and others who knew her well. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**SAT 9, 9-10 A.M. Anacostia River Festival Cleanup.** Rain or Shine. All supplies provided. Please wear closed-toe shoes and clothing you don't mind getting dirty that will protect you from the brush. Questions: info@anacostiariverkeeper.org. Anacostia Park.

**SAT 9, 11A.M.-5 P.M. Friends of SW Library Book Sale.** All proceeds go to programming and supplies not covered by the city. Most books are \$1 or less. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

**SAT 9, 7-9:30 P.M. Faith and Film (Zoom).** "Swan Song." Release Date: 2021; Rating: R; Duration: 1h 56m; Genre: Drama/Fantasy. A smart, quiet film about letting go and grief disguised as a sci-fi drama. After film discussion led by Rev Brian Hamilton. Contact the Westminster office for Zoom link (202-484-7700/ wpcdcoffice@gmail.com).

**SUN 10, 12-2:30 P.M. Pastor Ruth's In-Person Retirement Party.** Enjoy a fun-filled gathering looking back on Rev. Ruth's 26 years of service to Westminster and the Southwest community. Join us for lunch, tributes, DJ music, laughter and tears. Contact the Westminster office to RSVP (202-484-7700/ wpcdcoffice@gmail.com)

**SUN 10, 1:30-3:30 P.M. Friends of SW Library Book Sale.** All proceeds go to programming and supplies not covered by the city. Most books are \$1 or less. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

FRI 15, 6-7:30 P.M. Remember the Pearl Memorial Walk. Walk with us to Remember the Pearl, the April 15, 1848 attempted escape to freedom by 77 enslaved Washingtonians on a schooner called The Pearl. Westminster Presbyterian Church. www.rememberthepearl.org

**SAT 16, 1-3 P.M. Southwest Freedom Festival.** Food! Art! Music! Vendors! Westminster Presbyterian Church. www.rememberthepearl.org

**SAT 16, 1-9 P.M. Petalpalooza at Capitol River- front at the Yards.** Celebrate spring at the National Cherry Blossom Festival's Petalpalooza for a full day of live music and engaging activities! This day-long all-ages celebration brings art, music, and play to multiple outdoor stages, interactive art

installations, a beer garden, family-friendly handson activities, and more, all along the banks of the Anacostia River. The evening is capped by a dazzling 15 minute choreographed fireworks show set to music starting at 8:30 PM. \*Please note that the time subject to change. This event is FREE and fun for all ages. The Yards.

**SAT 16, 1:00-3:00 P.M. St Matthew Lutheran Church Children's Easter Party**. There will be eggs and cookies to decorate, games to play, as well as snacks and treats. The party will be held in the courtyard behind the church. The courtyard can be entered through the gates on Delaware Ave. There is no charge for this event.

**SAT 16, 6:30-9:30 P.M. Titanic 110th Anniversary Gala & Tribute.** Please join us as we celebrate our accomplishments in the Friends' first five years, share plans for Park improvements over the next five years, and commemorate the lives of the passengers and crew of the RMS Titanic on the 110th anniversary of its sinking. Arena Stage.

**SUN 17, 10 A.M. Continental Breakfast.** Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**SUN 17, 11 A.M. Easter Hybrid Worship.** Worship featuring David Cole and Mainstreet Blues. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**SUN 17, 12:15 P.M. Children's Easter Egg Hunt.** Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**THURS 21, 12 P.M. Bookworms Zoom Presentation.** Book TBA. Read a great book and discuss it with fellow book aficionados. Contact the Westminster office for Zoom link (202-484-7700/ wpcd-coffice@gmail.com).

**SAT 23, 11-3 P.M. Southwest Gardens Spring Kick-off.** Join SW Community Gardens as we open the communal section for the year. We will be planting the communal beds, painting a new mural, weeding and mulching the fruit orchard, spreading wood chips throughout the garden, and making art signs! Landsburgh Park.

**SAT 30, All Day. Seasonal Craft at the SW Library.** Children ages 2-12 are invited to stop by the children's room to do a seasonal craft or pick up a craft-to-go kit. Sunset craft inspired by Daniel Finds A Poem (National Poetry Month). https://dclibrary. libnet.info/event/6200982.

#### **WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY**

AARP Tax Foundation - Free Aid, Mondays and Wednesdays 1-5 P.M until April 18th, 2022. Free tax preparation services for DC/MD residents. Southwest Library – only by appointment. Be sure that you have, or will have, all your 2021 tax documents, photo ID, Social Security card, and health insurance information before scheduling an appointment. You can make an appointment by calling (202) 656-0442 or by sending an email to 2001018@aarpfoundation.org. Southwest Library.

**ALZHEIMER'S ASSN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month. 11 A.M. to 12 noon. Free and open to the Public. Are you caring for someone with dementia? Every 4th Thursday of the month at 11A.M., nurses Vickie Henrikson and Carroll Quinn host a support group that's sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association which is designed to provide emotional, educational and social support for caregivers of dementia patients. This group currently meets virtually via Zoom, but looks forward to returning to St Matthew's for inperson meetings soon! To receive the Zoom link or for any questions, please reach out to Vickie

Henrikson (202) 251-7117 or Carroll Quinn (513) 673-9921.

ANC6D MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING, 2nd Mondays of the month (no meeting in August). 7 P.M. Online via Zoom. See https://www.anc6d.org/virtualmeeting/.

**BLUES MONDAYS,** 6-9 P.M., resumed March 14. Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$10 cover and food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdc.org/jazz-%26-blues-1, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

BREAD FOR LIFE - BREAKFAST, Sundays, 8-8:45 A.M. Free Breakfast, The pandemic has forced us to change how we serve breakfast—but we still offer a free breakfast every week as a to-go bag with a breakfast sandwich, juice, fruit, and slice of cake. If you would like to volunteer with Bread for Life, please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen manager for the program at vacooking1@ hotmail.com. Contact: chee-cheemathis@staugustinesdc.org. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Community Room, 555 Water Street SW. www. staugustinesdc.org/

**BREAD FOR LIFE - LUNCH,** Saturdays, noon. Beginning in the spring of 2020, we launched an additional meal: we offer free lunches to students and other young folks every Saturday at the Greenleaf Recreation Center at 3rd & N streets SW. www. staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life

**CHURCH CLEANING**, Saturdays after morning service, St. Dominic Church. www.stdominicchurch.org/

**DAKINI YOGA - HIGHEST YOGA,** Tuesdays, 5 P.M. This session is open only to those who have received the Highest Yoga Tantra empowerments from the New Kadampa Tradition. If you have not received this empowerment please join us for another puja, such as Heart Jewel and Wishfulfilling Jewel. Dakini Yoga is the tantric practice of Vajrayogini, a female enlightened being. This prayer session is open for in-person and online participation. To get the link for online participation please email epc@meditation-dc.org. Kadampa Meditation Center DC. https://meditation-dc.org/

days, 1-4 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church. In person clinics are unfortunately suspended until further notice due to COVID. Call (202) 425-7573 or visit http://www.dcvlp.org/ for more information.

**ENCORE ROCKS CHOIR REHEARSAL,** Tuesdays, 6:30-8 P.M. Seated 90-minute rehearsals. Tuition-based and led by a professional choral conductor. For additional information, contact: https://encorecreativity.org/programs/encore-rocks

**EVENING PRAYER,** Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. www.staugustinesdc.org/

**FREE COVID SELF TEST**, Saturdays, 10 A.M. - 6 P.M. 48 hour results. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**HYBRID GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN,** Sundays, 10 A.M. 4-12 years old. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**HYBRID WORSHIP SERVICE,** Sundays, 11 A.M. All Welcome to share in inspiring worship! Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**JAZZ NIGHT IN SW,** Fridays, 6-9 P.M., resumed March 11. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$10. Food for sale. Schedule at https://westminsterdc.org/jazz-night-in-dc-schedule. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

See "Calendar," page 15

## April Actions from Serve Your City/ Ward 6 Mutual Aid

BY REGINA MAZUR

eeping our community safe has been a long-standing priority of Serve Your City/ Ward 6 Mutual Aid, (SYC/W6MA) including through a continuous effort to provide our neighbors with food and supplies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Partnership between the Christ United Methodist Church and the Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA as well as collective work with Black and Brown grassroots organizations have proven to be an incredible contribution to this cause.

For the past 23 months, the Southwest community has been coming together, providing invaluable support to each other with food, cleaning supplies, household items and clothing. The Southwest Pod is incredibly grateful for the donations and support that they continue to receive. These supplies are critical to aiding our neighbors in need. It is a great accomplishment to unite as a community and support each other.

Read more about upcoming activities and opportunities:

#### STEM In-Person Tutoring Program

Have or know a middle school student struggling with STEM learning? Let us make it a little easier. Sign up for free in person tutoring support with Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid's Free School for Unlimited Youth! bit.ly/sycinpersontutoring

#### **Support Summer Youth Enrichment**

Thinking ahead to summer? We are! Join Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) in providing Black & Brown DC youth with the chance to explore, enjoy and play this summer! Your #solidarityNOTcharity will give every SYC/W6MA scholar across DC equitable summertime experiences that will last a lifetime: bit.ly/sycsummer

#### Interested in ways to help?

SYC/W6MA continues to collect non-perishable foods, toiletries, and household cleaning items on Wednesdays and Fridays 3:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays 11:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church's back court-

yard gate (900 4th Street Southwest, entrance near library).

If you are interested in hosting a short- or long-term donation drive in your building or amongst friends, please contact us at swmutualaid@serveyourcitydc.org for more details.

#### This Month's Donation Needs:

- Food/beverage: corn beef hash, soup, coffee, tea, chips, nuts, salad dressing, condiments, graham crackers, tuna
- Personal hygiene: deodorant, wipes, toothpaste, mouthwash
- Cleaning: spray disinfectant, allpurpose household cleaner (like Spic and Span), toilet bowl cleaner, laundry detergent pods
- Other: bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths, pots, and skillets (in good condition), plastic bowls, silverware, microwaves, bed sheets and blankets (in good condition and clean)

You can find a SYC/W6MA table at the Southwest Farmers Market on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month (weather permitting). Donations of fresh produce, meat and dairy products are accepted and help to provide a healthy selection of food. Please stop by to say hi and donate.

**Food Distributions** take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church. If you need to request support, please call the Mutual Aid Hotline at 202-683-9962 or email ward6mutualaid@gmail.com.

Information Table: The Southwest Pod recently launched an effort to provide residents with information on community and government resources that could have assistance to them. An Information Table will now be set up at Food Distribution events (times listed above) to ensure that resources and opportunities reach the Southwest community. The Southwest Pod welcomes those with experience or information on any available resources to stop by or contact us.

**Want to Learn More or Get involved?** Contact us at wmutualaid@ serveyourcitydc.org.

#### **COSTUMES**

Continued from p. 13

performers during a fitting.

Our running motto for this show was that pretty much every performer should be able to do a grand battement in every costume look!

**SW:** Costumes that dazzle are part of the show. How do you work with lighting directors to get the right look?

**AV:** The collaboration with the lighting designer starts when you submit the color sketches so they can have a better idea of the costume color palette for each scene. The main part of the collaboration happens onstage during tech rehearsal, when all elements are onstage. It's a com-

plicated task, as the lighting designer must take into consideration many elements, the color of the set and costumes and how they relate to each other, skin tones, who and what needs to be highlighted, and more. Like with all other creatives, communication is key for all designers to tell the same story at the same time.

## SW: Are there any tricks of the trade that you can share?

**AV:** To me the trick is to never stop learning. Like any other work, the more you do it, the more you learn. You become more experienced and able to anticipate situations that could be challenging, you become more knowledgeable about your craft and more resourceful. You become a better communicator and a better

listener. And overall, a better designer. It's almost like being like a sponge and absorbing as much as possible, learning from every experience along the way and building a library of knowledge, social skills, crafts and resources.

**SW:** You have designed costumes for *Beautiful*, *Evita* and for the Rockettes, among many others in your 23-year career. What was unique or different about working on *Catch Me If You Can*?

**AV:** Each show is different from any other show, or any other production of that same exact show. The people make the difference, their point of view and work make it unique. Having worked with Molly Smith and at Arena before made this experience

that much better for me as a designer and as a person. I always look forward to coming back to Arena and to having the chance to collaborate with Molly, and with the incredible group of talented friends at the Arena Stage – most specially at the Costume and Crafts shops.

**SW:** What is your advice for people considering a career in costume design?

**AV:** If that's what you want to do, follow your passion and keep focus on your path. Be kind, listen, be on time, do your work, and remember that it's not about making pretty things, it's always about character, storytelling, and collaboration. Those three things always come first.

#### **CALENDAR**

Continued from p. 14

**LENTEN LABYRINTH (In-Person),** Wednesdays through Lent, 6-7 P.M. On April 13, we welcome back piano virtuoso Hye Yun Bennett, who will be accompanied by a violinist. Refreshments served. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**LENTEN STUDY: HOLY SOLITUDE (Hybrid),** Wednesdays through April 13th, 7 P.M. The sevensession-Lenten series runs March 2- April 13. Rev. Ruth Hamilton will lead the study sessions. Study book: Holy Solitude by Heidi Haverkamp. Make it part of your Lenten spiritual discipline. All invited. Contact the Westminster office for Zoom link (202-484-7700/ wpcdcoffice@gmail.com.

**MONDAY NIGHT MEDITATION,** Monday, 6 P.M. These classes include a guided meditation, short teaching, and beautiful chanted prayers for world peace. The focus is on solutions to problems in daily life, authentic optimism, and the development of altruistic love and compassion. Suitable for everyone. Each class is self-contained and can be joined

on a drop-in basis. Everyone is welcome. Kadampa Meditation Center https://meditation-dc.org/

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (ZOOM),** Wednesdays, 7-8 P.M. Contact: Linnaea Scavone. Westminster Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/

**RESISTANCE BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM),** Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. Discuss timely issues on Jesus and social justice. Westminster Presbyterian Church. https://westminsterdc.org/

**REST AND REFLECT**, Tuesdays, 6 P.M. To participate in-person for this chanted prayer session doors open 15 minutes before start time and lock promptly at start time. Kadampa Meditation Center. https://meditation-dc.org/

**SENSORY PLAYTIME,** Fridays, 10:30-11:30 A.M., Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are invited to play and explore their senses in front of the library. Just bring your imagination; we'll supply the materials. Southwest Neighborhood Library. https://www.dclibrary.org/southwest

STORY TIME FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS, Wednesdays, 10:30-11 A.M. Come join us for stories and songs for your little ones! We will have fun and

help babies and toddlers develop literacy skills. Southwest Neighborhood Library Large Meeting Room.

**THEMATIC BIBLE STUDY (Virtual), Second Thursdays,** 7 P.M., If you don't know our Zoom channel address, just email Rev. Scott at priest@staugustinesdc.org and he will be happy to send you the info! All are very welcome to join us. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. https://www.staugustinesdc.org/

**YOGA WITH PAMELA WILSON,** Mondays, 11 A.M. Restarted March 7th. Low impact stretches and mobility exercises performed under the direction of Pamela Wilson. Westminster Presbyterian Church. wilsonpj108@verizon.net; 202/746-6654.

**20's AND 30'S HAPPY HOUR - VIRTUAL,** Second Thursdays, 6-7 P.M. The 20's & 30's group meets virtually every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 P.M. for Happy Hour, and you're invited! Here, you'll find young adults creating time and space for intentional community. All are welcome to this space. This Happy Hour is meeting VIRTUALLY via Google Meet. - https://meet.google.com/yny-tdqk-iir. For additional information or questions, please email Lori at Lopitts12@gmail.com.



Come together on Earth Day to celebrate the reopening of the Peace Gardens at Syphax, James Creek, and Greenleaf.

LEARN MORE AT SWBID.ORG/PEACE-GARDENS