

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

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WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

A Community Torn Apart - Georgetown in the Civil War

CAG Meeting at The Four Seasons Hotel



Union troops across the Potomac from Georgetown

On Tuesday, March 19, CAG focuses on Georgetown in the Civil War – one of the most fascinating chapters of the Civil War story. Leslie Buhler, Executive Director of Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, will speak about the

War between the North and South as it played out in Georgetown.

All of the District of Columbia – Washington, Georgetown, and the area north of Florida Avenue — was engulfed by the Civil War. In 1861 Georgetown was primarily considered a Southern town. Slavery was legal and 90% of the population was from south of the Mason-Dixon Line. After the fall of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln took quick steps to ensure Georgetown's southern aspirations would not be realized, especially considering its proximity to the Capitol.

At the time, Georgetown had more than 8,700 residents, including nearly 1,400 free and 577 enslaved African-Americans. While many of the inhabitants were wealthy, most were middle class workers: shopkeepers, butchers, police, bakers, lawyers, carpenters, and washerwomen. With the outbreak of war, most pro-Southern voices were quieted and distrust amongst neighbors was prevalent. Some fled south; others went to Baltimore and Philadelphia. Many of the people who left thought they would be back in a few weeks when the hostilities ended.

Officers and soldiers engulfed Georgetown. Soldiers were bivouacked behind houses and in camps on farms just north of Georgetown. The genteel atmosphere of Georgetown was shattered by the presence of 7,000 to 15,000 troops. The government turned several Georgetown houses and businesses into hospitals and morgues.

The Civil War nearly closed Georgetown University (then College), as the student body dropped from 313 to 17. A total of 1,141 students and alumni enlisted in the war, serving in both the Union and Confederate forces. After the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in 1862, several campus buildings were turned into a hospital. We feel this legacy today as Georgetown students selected blue (Union) and gray (Confederate) as the school's official colors to celebrate the end of the war.



Civil War Officers

Leslie will discuss the many familiar churches, buildings, and houses of Georgetown that each have a detailed and fascinating history from the Civil War. And she will tell the stories of numerous individuals – from Louisa May Alcott to Tudor Place's own Britannia Peter Kenyon (Martha Washington's descendent and first cousin of Mrs. Robert E. Lee) who had to allow Union soldiers to be quartered at her home but did not permit the war to be discussed in her presence.

Please join CAG on Tuesday March 19 for Leslie Buhler's presentation about the spies, conspirators, conflicts and changes the Civil War wrought in Georgetown. The beautifully renovated Four Seasons hotel (2800 Pennsylvania Avenue) is generously hosting this CAG meeting. Reception begins at 7:00pm, followed by Ms. Buhler's presentation at 7:30.

—Betsy Cooley

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I'm always torn when we get to March. Do I want a giant work-canceling snow storm or am I ready for the daffodils? At this point I'm hoping for snow since it has been way too long and I just moved into new digs and haven't had a chance to use the lovely fireplace. March is when things start to hop in Georgetown. People shake off the winter. There is Basketball Madness, St. Patrick's Day, more people out in the parks and on the streets, lots of planning for the House Tour, Garden Tour, Concerts in the Parks — hibernation is no longer an option.

But not everyone sleeps through winter. CAG's 4th annual Georgetown ARTS show took place at House of Sweden in February. Featured were the talents of 31 Georgetown artists displaying quality works in various mediums and a wide variety of expression. Some of the works depicted Georgetown but many were inspired farther afield which led to amazing stories of travel and adventure. The artists are able to share experiences with the other artists in the show — like the great salons of Paris. There are many creative geniuses walking amongst us!

The show comes together every year with the hard work of a volunteer committee. Georgetown ARTS 2013 chair Laura-Anne Tiscornia assembled a group of energetic and creative Georgetowners who really outdid themselves. It was absolutely fantastic.

The historic George Town Club at Wisconsin and Volta took the winter to embark on a re-invention and make the club a destination once again. The vision is to take this historic building and make it a meeting place where art, politics, design, technology, food, wine, and passionate and interesting people all come together.



Me with our expert zoning panel at the meeting on February 6: Outerbridge Horsey, Pamla Moore, Ken Archer, Jennifer Steingasser, and Rich Hinds. (photo by Bill Rice)

As a part of the Priority Merchant Discount Program, the George Town Club has offered CAG Members the opportunity to try the Club three times with a 10% discount on your meal. It is a rare opportunity for your family to sample what membership would be like or to host guests for a truly unique Georgetown experience.

For more information (and a list of non-member events open to the public and dates for the informational coffees) please email membership@georgetownclub.org

As things start to warm up it's not just neighbors who come out of hibernation — please do your part to keep the rat population at bay. One of the primary sources of food for rats is plastic bags left curbside. *For rat abatement to be effective, everyone must work together.* It is DC law that all household trash be placed on the curb for pick up in containers with tight fitting lids no earlier than 6:30pm the night before pick up (Tuesdays and Fridays unless there is a holiday). Residents who put their trash on the curb in plastic bags are breaking the law and, more importantly, inviting rats into the community. The Department of Public Works has been issuing citations to residents who do not put their trash in cans with tight fitting lids. If you

do not have a proper trash can you can call 311 to have one delivered to your house. An alternative is to purchase a similar can and mark it with your address.

Other actions you can take to mitigate the problem include picking up your dog droppings and cleaning up leaves and debris that offer rodent harborage. We must eliminate food sources and hiding places for rodents. These actions can make a huge impact. If everyone does their part we can get control of the rodent situation in our neighborhood.

Happy Spring everyone!

—Jennifer Altemus

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ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

Three Rants and a (potential) Rave

Well, okay, first the good part: the proposed revival of the George Town Club. Young people with momentum are taking hold and it looks like they have a good chance of making it a lively and interesting part of their lives and the lives of the rest of us too. It's a veritable rabbit warren of inviting spaces and places to gather. It cries out to be used and appreciated by more people. Who knew there is a masterful chef there? There definitely is.

The present decor is something out of Jane Austen, it's sweet but you keep expecting a maid in a bonnet to bring you tea. Not that there is anything wrong with that. In fact the new plan is to make it a place where you might have tea, or business meetings, or dinner or lunch or brunch with the kids after church. And parties. The plan is to have it reflect the community and its diversity. This energetic new group wants to freshen the place up and to let the light in. We wish them success.

So the state of Georgetown is generally good, considering. But lest you think we are getting too mellow and well adjusted, here are some complaints to redress the balance. It makes one feel better to complain, so here goes. Remember these are just personal opinions.

What they have done to Wisconsin Avenue is not a plus, of this more in other parts of this newsletter. To avoid Wisconsin some of us take Rock Creek Parkway out to get to Friendship Heights, Chevy Chase and so on. It is a delightful, winding road through magnificent birch woods by a pretty stream. Not heavily traveled, pleasing to drive. But what do you find there that ruins the effect? Bicycles! Not that many but more than enough. When you get behind a bicycle you know that you are in trouble. The road is narrow, one lane each way and it twists and turns, totally limiting the visibility ahead. The choice is to creep along behind the earnest pedaler or barge blindly into the other lane, which may or may not have oncoming traffic. Scary. Bikes should be forbidden on that road.

Now consider a bottle of pills or a box of cereal. We used to be able to open these things all by ourselves. Not any more, now everything is tamper proof and child proof and often user proof. Once we could open a package with our very serviceable human hands, now a machete often seems in order, or at least a sturdy pair of scissors.

Some things are by their nature just really annoying, other things just want to get your attention by being purposely annoying. Take the things that fall out of newspapers and magazines. They are smaller and slipperier than the rest of the publication, designed so that they will fall on the floor. This gets one's attention—but not in a good way. All that dreary bending over to pick up ads you don't want anyway. Ah, civilization and its discontents.

But enough complaining, our drop dead flat out beautiful spring is on the way!

—Edith Schafer

Eco-Tip: Aluminum – Kick the Can to Recycling

If you're inclined to kick the can down the road, make sure there's a recycle bin at the end of your journey. Fact is, over half of the aluminum cans produced today are recycled. Amazingly, a recycled can is back on the shelf with new purpose in less than 60 days! Unlike many recyclables such as plastic bottles or cardboard boxes which are rarely reused to create the same product, aluminum can be repeatedly recycled back into new cans. Easy recyclability gives aluminum cans the highest recycling rate (60%) and greatest recycled content (a whopping 68%) of any beverage container.

Aluminum foil is technically 100% recyclable, trouble being that it's typically much dirtier than your average can, and difficult to clean. Soap and water work wonders, as does freezing sheets of foil so that debris falls off. Reuse aluminum foil as often as possible, clean it, recycle it, and if you must, look to buy 100% recycled foil in stores. It may cost a bit more but you're helping the environment, and what could be better than that?

—Lee Child
Georgetown Garden Club

Georgetown ARTS 2013 Draws Record Crowd at House of Sweden

Georgetown ARTS 2013 drew over 800 people to House of Sweden over the course of the four day show to view the works of thirty one Georgetown artists.

Georgetown ARTS 2013, the 4th annual art show of the Citizens Association of Georgetown, opened with a packed reception Thursday evening, February 7 at House of Sweden, welcoming 440 guests. The show continued with a fascinating "Artists Salon" on Saturday with presentations by artists Guy Fairlamb, Joan Konkel, Sidney Lawrence, Jane Lepscky, Edward "Bear" Miller, and Mary Wagner, all of whom discussed their inspiration and experience as artists and their unique technical approaches.

Artist Joan Konkel, who works with layers of metal and mesh to create low-relief wall sculpture, demonstrated how she manipulates her signature mesh material to create different color and pattern effects. And artist Sidney Lawrence walked the audience through three of his featured art pieces, which included



Jane Lepscky addresses the audience at the Saturday Salon when artists spoke of their techniques and inspiration



Artists Rosie Moore, Wendy Plotkin-Mates enjoy an afternoon at the show with designer Jennie Buehler and Chair Laura-Anne Tiscornia

two mixed-media reliefs of ocean surfaces and a panoramic ink drawing of Stockholm.

A very active committee worked for months organizing the four-day show which included oil and water-color paintings, prints, sculpture and photography. Chair Laura-Anne Tiscornia was assisted by Cassandra Blohowiak, manager for public relations, and new Georgetown and recent Corcoran graduate Jennie Buhler, who designed and installed the show. The hard working volunteer committee, whose duties ranged from hanging the show, publicity, graphic design, and much more, included Betsy Cooley, Camilla Bozzoli, Cindy Howar, Daraiush Vaziri, Bear Miller, Elba Molina, Guy Fairlamb, Jane Lepscky, Mary Wagner, Stephany Knight, and Wendy Plotkin-Mates.

The door prize, a lovely vase donated by show sponsor Appalachian Spring, was won by Barbara Porter.

Cecilia Browning and Andrew Osbourne, both representatives of lead sponsor House of Sweden, welcomed guests and graciously hosted the show. Other sponsors were Cynthia Howar & Washington Fine Properties, Atmosphere Lighting (providing enhanced lighting for the show), PNC Bank, The Phoenix, Cox Graae + Spack Architects, Appalachian Spring, Clayborne Decorator, and Washington Framers' Workroom.



Moderator Cassandra Blohowiak interviewed Guy Fairlamb and five other artists during the Artists Salon

For a complete list of participating artists, images of their work, and a price list, contact the CAG office at cagmail@cagtown.org.

—Cassandra Blohowiak

Friends of Book Hill Park Benefit

SAVE THE DATE! On Wednesday, April 10th, The Friends of Book Hill Park will sponsor a benefit at the home of Cheryl and Mike Naeve, 1692 31st St., to benefit and celebrate the final restoration phase of the Book Hill Park 1871 cast iron "Trident Fence" lining Reservoir Road. All proceeds from this event will directly assist in the preservation and maintenance of this vibrant park, the heart of the Georgetown community. Individual tickets are \$100 and couple tickets \$150; please make checks payable to The Friends of Book Hill Park and mail to Julia Diaz-Asper 3219 Reservoir Rd, NW Washington DC 20007.

Getting a Handle on the DC's Residential Zoning Re-Write

On February 6 the Citizens Association of Georgetown hosted an open meeting to discuss proposed changes to residential zoning rules in Georgetown. It sounds incredibly dry, but it is an interesting topic which will influence land use policy in Georgetown for decades to come. CAG's proposal is seen as a means to protect Georgetown's historic character and to help retain what we cherish about living here – corner stores, gardens, ease of living. More than 80 people entered into a lively discussion with panel members Richard Hinds, Outerbridge Horsey, Ken Archer, Jennifer Steingasser (Deputy Director at the DC Office of Zoning) and Pam Moore. Comments from the audience generally were in support of CAG's proposal of a "customized zone" at the March meeting.

The District of Columbia last rewrote its zoning code in 1958. Since that time, the government has touched up the document in innumerable ways. As a result, it is now a hulking incomprehensible mess. In 2006, the DC Office of Planning updated another old guiding document: the Comprehensive Plan. This document sets forth the District's general policies for a wide range of issues. Amending it meant establishing the city's course for the next century. Since the Comprehensive Plan had much to say about land use, it followed that the zoning code should be modernized to incorporate the new policies set forth in the plan. The Office of Planning started working on that update code. Last year it finally issued new draft regulations.

Early in the process, the Citizens Association of Georgetown reached out to the Office of Planning and requested the opportunity to help craft rules that would specifically apply to Georgetown. The office was receptive to the request. Members of the community and CAG representing differing points of views worked on the draft. Over many meetings within CAG and with the Office of Planning, a "customized zone" was created for Georgetown.

This "customized zone" will require additional discussion with the Office of Planning; however, CAG has reason to believe Georgetown will have its historic character recognized in the final DC Zoning code.

—Pamla Moore and
Topher Mathews

Changing Lanes: Wisconsin Avenue

To say that some residents are not happy with the recent lane changes on Wisconsin Avenue is to say that the Ravens didn't win the Super Bowl. Last year the D.C. Department of Transportation (hence forth known as DDOT) finished a five million dollar streetscape known as a "road diet" — reducing the lanes on both sides of the road from three to two with the second doubling as a turn lane. As a result a great controversy had developed between those who think the new configuration is an improvement and those who vehemently disagree. I spoke with Jackie Blumenthal, an ANC Commissioner for Glover Park who lives on W Place, N.W., and was informed that DDOT is still working on the project and that the real results, pro or con, cannot be assessed until everything is in place.

She said that trouble spots will be ironed out, traffic signals will be tweaked to accommodate traffic, and the detour on 37 Street, that many drivers opt for rather than continuing on Wisconsin Avenue, will be totally reconfigured. "It takes time for people to adapt to change" she observed, adding that most merchants were not negatively impacted.

I took a sampling of stores including Bacchus, Manny and Olga's, Sherman Pickney, Amano and several others. Most of them complained that the new lane change has made it more difficult for their customers to stop and shop particularly at certain times of the day. "They look out of their car windows," one salesperson said, "but they can't stop, because there is too much traffic for them to park, even if they happen upon a space. Consequently we have less

business. It's an impossible situation and certainly no improvement." On the positive side I spoke to a number of people who think the widened sidewalks are a plus and the turn lanes help the traffic flow. DDOT will continue to monitor the situation as the Georgetown Forum and the Patch continue to receive volumes of complaints from their readership. Most rail against the change for a variety of reasons and as one of them remarked, "It has caused delays and disruption, and put a permanent frown on the faces of those who have to endure the endless jams."

Let's hope for the best but prepare for the worst as we creep up and down Wisconsin Avenue.

—V V Harrison

Donate a Book, Make a Difference

Do you have gently used children's books at home? Georgetown University invites you to make a difference by donating a book to the children of the D.C. area. These books will be donated to medical clinics, the D.C. Reads Program, the D.C. Family Court, and other organizations. Children's books can be purchased and donated at the Georgetown University Bookstore, which will give a 20% discount on children's books throughout the drive. Donate new or used books in good condition (appropriate for ages 0-15, in any language) in the bins located on GU's campus at the Georgetown Bookstore and Sellinger Lounge. Or mail books to the GUSA Office, 1608 Leavey Center, Georgetown University, Washington DC 20057.

Georgetown Library: Movie Series

Join the excitement with this month's film series on espionage. We will watch two contemporary films and two of Alfred Hitchcock's classics. The more recent films are adaptations of spy novels by Robert Ludlum and John le Carré. All movies are shown at 6 pm in the large lower-level meeting room. **Free admission.**

Tues. March 5 — *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* (2011), R, 127 minutes

Tues. March 12 — *Notorious* (1946), NR, 101 minutes

Tues. March 19 — *The Bourne Identity* (2002), PG-13, 119 minutes

Tues. March 26 — *North by Northwest* (1959), NR, 136 minutes.

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The State of Liquor Licenses in Georgetown

This month, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board will begin to renew the liquor licenses of restaurants and bars. When the Board renewed the Georgetown license moratorium in 2011, they created seven new CR (restaurant) licenses to sell and serve beer, wine, and spirits. The wording of the moratorium was also tweaked, capping the liquor licenses available within the zone at 68. CAG and the ABC Board want to be sure that these licenses were not “grabbed” as an asset with no business plan to back them up. Licenses that are not being used will receive extra attention during the renewal process.

According to ABRA, all 68 licenses are currently claimed. Paul’s Bakery, Puro Café, and Tackle Box are up and running while Malmaison and Zenobia are set to open at the conclusion of construction and remodeling. Four licenses are currently being reviewed by ABRA to evaluate their status. Hu’s Wear, the women’s boutique on M Street, has proposed a Mediterranean restaurant on 29th Street, where Bartleby’s Books was located, but there have been no recent updates. SpinDC (House of Pong), Come To Eat, and Lapis are all searching for new venues.

The 68-license limit refers only to licenses within the moratorium zone. It does not include those in Washington Harbour (site of the future Fiola Mare), Georgetown Court, Georgetown Park (Pinstripes, among others), and hotels (The Four Seasons, Capella and The Graham will all add restaurants), as well as the blocks north of Q Street and west of 36th Street. These areas presently account for at least 20 more licenses and there is no restriction on additional ones.

— Karen Cruse

Know It All! Join CAG’s GeorgetownForum listserv ... and Check Out Local Blogs

If you are not one of the 1,700 plus members of CAG’s GeorgetownForum listserv yet, you should join! The GeorgetownForum is a “digital community bulletin board” which provides a way to discuss common interests, identify and recommend businesses and services, find lost pets, send out safety and crime information — to name just a few. The forum is a Yahoo group, but you don’t need a Yahoo email address to join. Signing up for the GeorgetownForum is easy to do: Go to www.georgetownforum.com and find a link saying “Join This Group.” That will bring you to a page for joining. If you already have a Yahoo ID, you can sign in with your Yahoo email ID. If you don’t have a Yahoo ID, you can create one from this page.

Once you have joined the group, you can specify how often messages are sent to you. You can have each individual message sent to your email

in real time as they are posted, a daily digest summary of posted messages (my favorite), or simply not be notified at all. Your replies to messages can go to the author of the message only or you can choose to have the reply posted to the message board for the entire group to read. (To have your reply read by all, in the “To:” bar, change the address to that of the forum, rather than the individual poster who posted the message.) See more details (including rules and guidelines about what can be posted) on the CAG webpage at www.cagtown.org under GeorgetownForum.

You can also stay up to date on Georgetown by checking out (and perhaps signing up for) some of the excellent online blogs with a Georgetown focus.

The Georgetown Metropolitan by Topher Mathews at georgetown-metropolitan.com covers Georgetown

issues in depth, including thoughtful write-ups of the ANC meeting.

The Georgetown Patch covers many Georgetown activities and events at georgetown.patch.com

The Georgetown Dish has lots of contributing editors and photos and more of a magazine format: thegeorgetowndish.com

Swimming in Quicksand, the unfettered personal viewpoint blog of Georgetown writer Carol Joynt: caroljoynt.com

And combining old-style media with new, there is the on-line edition of **The Georgetownner**: georgetownner.com and **The Current** newspapers: currentnewspapers.com

—Betsy Cooley

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[Please submit items and info by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication.]



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MARCH COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

- Sat. Mar. 16** **Dumbarton Concerts: Carpe Diem String Quartet** featuring a program of works by Beethoven, Kern, and Fujiwara; 8pm; tickets \$33, seniors and students \$29; Dumbarton Church, 3133 Dumbarton St NW; visit www.dumbartonconcerts.org to purchase tickets and more information.
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- Tues. Mar. 19** **CAG Meeting A Community Torn Apart: Georgetown in the Civil War**; presentation by Leslie Buhler, Director of Tudor Place; reception 7pm, program at 7:30; Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue.
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- Thurs. Mar. 21** **In the Art & the Everyday: The Japanese Eye for Beauty**; 6-8pm; as the cherry blossoms bloom, get a close look at the Collection's objects from Japan; enjoy an Asian-themed menu of savories and cherry treats and a spin on a historic cocktail; ages 21+ only; complimentary for Tudor Place members, \$25 non-members; www.tudorplace.org for more information.
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- Mon. Apr. 1** **Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting**; 6:30pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; agenda available at www.anc2e.com; 724.7098.
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- Sat. Apr. 6** **25th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup**; 9am-12pm; join volunteers in Washington DC, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia to help clean up and restore the beautiful river; visit www.potomaccleanup.org for registration information
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- Thurs. Apr. 6** **Dumbarton House Benefit Auction**; original works of art currently on exhibit in the museum will be auctioned off by Bonham's; reception at 6, auction at 7:30; tickets are \$100 and can be purchased by calling 337-2288.
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