

Georgetown

C I T I Z E N S



VOLUME XXII / ISSUE 11 / JANUARY 2009

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

Museum of American History Director Brent Glass Speaks to CAG Tuesday January 13

Georgetowner Brent Glass, director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, will speak to CAG on Tuesday, January 13th, about the recent renovation of the museum that reopened in December.

Brent has overseen dramatic transformations of the permanent exhibitions and public spaces, and prior to that, he opened several new exhibitions, "America on the Move" in 2003 and "The Price of Freedom: Americans at War" in 2004.

Our meeting for this special presentation will be hosted by Coldwell Banker in their auditorium in Washington Harbour which has state-of-the-art media



equipment. The address is 3000 K Street, Suite 101 and the entrance is on the left of the upper plaza just before the stairs descend to the fountain. There is parking on K Street and evening parking in the garage for \$3.

Before joining the Smithsonian in 2001, Glass was executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg, Pa. where he managed the most comprehensive state history program in the country and oversaw 25 historical sites and museums. He was executive director of the North Carolina Humanities Council from 1983 to 1987. Glass graduated from Lafayette College, earned a master's degree from New

York University and a doctorate in history from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1980. He has written books and articles on industrial history and various topics related to the history of Pennsylvania and North Carolina. The National Museum of American History opened in 1964 and is the third most visited Smithsonian museum, with more than three million visitors in 2005.

Brent and his wife, Cathryn Keller, live on R Street. Please join CAG for our January reception and meeting on **Tuesday, January 13**, at the Coldwell Banker headquarters at 3000 K Street at 7 pm and presentation by Brent Glass at 7:30. As space is limited, please RSVP to the CAG office: 337-7313 or cagmail@cagtown.org.

CAG Plans Oral History Project

After months of behind-the-scenes work, CAG is embarking on an oral history project for Georgetown. We have been awarded a Dorothea DeSchweinitz Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to collect and record a "living" history of Georgetown's remarkable homes, buildings and structures as seen through the eyes of long time residents. The project will record the history of Georgetown buildings and places (houses,

institutions, schools, churches, parks, cemeteries, and businesses) as experienced, remembered, and articulated by exceptional long time residents.

The steering committee — Louise Brodnitz, Denise Cunningham, Betsy Cooley, Hazel Denton, Nola Klamberg and Leslie Kamrad — has begun to plan the best procedures for the oral history project. This month they met with Bernadette McMahon, coordinator of Capitol

Hill's Overbeck History project, to learn about that established project. You might want to go to Capitol Hill's excellent website at www.capitolhillhistory.org to get a sense of their fascinating program.

Although details are still being worked out, the CAG Living History project will involve volunteers who will conduct interviews with people who have played significant roles in Georgetown over many years. Dozens

Continued on page 8

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

2009! Didn't we just celebrate the Millennium!? Time certainly doesn't stand still. And neither does CAG. Planning is underway on a variety of fronts...some new initiatives and continuous tweaking of existing ones.

A Living History

Georgetown is well known for treasuring and conserving its architectural gems. Our board feels that we should also ensure our resident's memories and experiences in our town and in those buildings are captured and preserved. Though in its early stages, we have begun to fashion the best way to gather and record these oral histories. A small committee has met with the coordinator of a similar project on Capitol Hill who graciously shared her experiences and has set us on a good path. We've also received a small grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation which will help us with preliminary associated costs. We see this project as a great legacy that can be left and cherished by future generations.

Public Safety Program

This year is starting off with the best security guard patrol team we have ever had. A new guard, who is now patrolling the East side, has joined our Securitas team. Tesfaye Terefe joins Supervisor and West side guard, John Pfordresser. Terefe joined Securitas last winter and in his first week on the job in Georgetown he helped stop a potential situation. Officer Terefe spotted a suspicious group of individuals and called our CAG police reimbursable detail for assistance. The police warned the group and led them out of the area.

Members of the CAG Public Safety Program can meet either of the guards, request special services like walking you or your guests to their cars or watch your home while you're away. Just call Officer Pfordresser and he will arrange a visit. That number is distributed to all public safety donors. This leads me to a plea for all residents to respond quickly to the 2009 request for donations which was recently sent. This is an initiative that works. But it only works if we receive the needed funds. We understand the dire economic times, but unfortunately crime usually rises in these circumstances. If every household would send what they can comfortably afford, this program will continue to thrive.



Denise Cunningham and Mayor Fenty bundled up at Merriment.

Also on the public safety front, committee co-chair, Luca Pivato is now in the process of planning for expanded patrols during the inaugural celebrations. Besides requesting additional police from MPD, we are planning on expanding our security guards and our reimbursable detail during that period. We heard from many of you who were extremely unhappy about extended bar hours to 5 a.m. We agreed and registered CAG's opposition to this decision (*what were they thinking?*). The Council's decision to make the bar closings 4 a.m. is a step in the right direction

The inauguration has been deemed a National Security Event by the federal government. There will be an additional 4,000 police being brought in from throughout the country to assist with security. The District has created a special website to include all inaugural information from events to transportation: www.inauguration.dc.gov.

Safeway Update

As you most likely know, Safeway has secured a permit to raze the building this spring and is in the process of presenting design and construction plans to the various District regulatory agencies for the new store. While a complete presentation will be given to the CAG board later in January, we've garnered some information from a variety of sources. Plans call for the footprint of the retail establishment to grow from the current 45,000 square feet to 60,000 square feet. The building will be moved up closer to the existing sidewalk with parking in a second story rear lot. The store can be accessed from that level. The complex will also include other ground level retail establishments yet to be determined. A temporary pharmacy will be erected in the adjoining parking lot for the duration of the construction which is now anticipated to last 15 months.

CAG, in conjunction with the ANC, is engaged in discussions with Safeway and District representatives to work out a variety of issues including transportation flow and construction work schedules to ensure the least possible disruption on the neighborhood and residents.

The board and staff of the Citizens Association of Georgetown hope you enjoyed a joyous holiday season and that the year ahead brings a renewed sense of hope and possibilities for all.

—Denise R. Cunningham

ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

Georgetown Forever

Quite recently it was all the rage to move to the suburbs and build a mega mansion to show the world how very prosperous you were. You could live near a golf course, but other than golf never spend anytime outside your house except to get in and out of the car. And that took place mostly in the garage any way. You could have a house so big than your children had to communicate with each other by intercom. You could have many living rooms and receptions rooms that no one ever used.

Like many things be careful what you wish for because you may get it. Okay, that's a cliché, but it turned out to be true. People wanted to move back to the city, and a lot of them did. It seemed that what they

really wanted was community, social interaction on a daily basis, not isolated splendor alone with the foundation planting.

They yearned to be part of a big mix of people. They wanted new friends, new ideas and a whole lot less time in traffic. Some of them came to — guess where? Georgetown! But this has all happened before, there have always been influxes of clever and interesting men and women coming here; it's what gives Georgetown its peculiarly satisfying quality. We have a culture of achievement.

Here's a thought to sustain you. A fortunate mix of opportunities makes for a creative life. We just need to take advantage of the memes. Good

word. A meme is an idea, behavior, style or usage that spreads from person to person within a culture.

No wonder we are all pretty revved up right now, a lot of us have been happy with recent events. Will it change our lives much? We hope it will change them for the better. May we all come through in good shape. May the wind be always at our back, or at least a good part of the time.

But then there is the Irish curse: may you live in interesting times. We certainly do.

Anyway, *semper gratus* Georgetown.

—Edith Schafer

Fifty New Trees Planted

Trees for Georgetown has just completed its fall planting of fifty trees. Species planted include London Planetree, Chinese Elm, Chinese Pistache, single stem River Birch, Fruitless Sweetgum, Littleleaf Linden, Kentucky Coffee and Zelkova. Protective fences are now being measured for and constructed. Ooze tubes will be provided in the spring when it is time to start watering the trees.

All gator bags and ooze tubes still around previously planted trees should be removed and stored for the winter. These watering devices can create a micro-climate around the tree trunk which can cause cracking and sloughing of the bark, thus providing inroads for pests and disease. Questions? Email Trees for Georgetown Committee Chair, Betsy Emes: betsyemes@aol.com.



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GEORGETOWN CITIZENS / JANUARY 2009

CAG Holiday Party

Dozens of people enjoyed the open house at the CAG office on December 15th. Door prize winners were Philippa Radin, Jim Wilcox and Ed Emes.



Ron and Fran Snider with Enjum and Javed Hamid who is a block captain.



Block captain Ginny Poole, Executive Director Betsy Cooley, GeorgetownForum moderator Shannon Pryor, and Gala Co-Chair Jennifer Altemus.



O Street residents Sharron Lockwood and Philippa Radin. Sharron has been working on the Aging in Place idea.



Frida Burling with Santa Rick Cunningham.



Rokas Beresniovas and Michael Stein from Eagle Bank.



New CAG members Nancy and Andy Adler with CAG Membership Chair Diane Colasanto.



Majorie Tucker-Pfeiffer with her son, Christopher and Sam Sallick.



Block Captain Brad Gray and CAG board member Hazel Denton.

On the Front Lines of Historic Preservation

CAG has been watching out for Georgetowners' interests in several forums dealing with use of property. At the December meeting of the Old Georgetown Board, we supported the neighbors who oppose the splitting of the property at what is known as the Friendly Estate. A developer wants to build a second house on the single-family lot, even though the alley that serves as the only access, Avon Lane, is less than 30' wide, the legal minimum. This property, properly known as the Williams-Addison House, has boundaries which have been unchanged for 150 years. It is across 31st Street from Tudor Place. Its history, reflecting the way people lived in the Georgetown, is worthy of preservation, as the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation found last year when the developer tried another scheme for adding additional homes on the lot.

CAG knows that our members value the open space and gardens that still exist along the residential streets of Georgetown. This means that we oppose efforts to increase density in our neighborhoods, or to make it easier for non-residential institutions to take over residential properties. The long and complex effort to rewrite zoning regulations presents scores of proposals that would undermine these goals. Just recently the Office of Planning proposed to allow institutions to locate in residential zones as a matter of right, subject only to an as-yet-unknown size limit. We oppose such a change, and have asked that the present practice requiring public hearings and an opportunity for community input about the impact of proposals, be retained.

Properties visible from public space are also subject to design review by the Old Georgetown Board. There are many opinions about the quality of particular architectural styles. Sometimes a beautifully designed building is just inappropriate for our historic context. This was true recently for a site owned by Apple located at Wisconsin Avenue and Prospect Street. Two trend-setting designs were considered but rejected by OGB, which will work with the architects involved to establish some more productive approaches for a highly visible site. The Apple plans were elegant, but wrong for the historic street.

The Board regularly considers project designs—perhaps 30 each month—that range from small alterations to private homes to design of the new Safeway supermarket. Sometimes a project requires multiple reviews, as concepts are revised and refined. CAG has a presence at all of these reviews, speaking in support of the values that help keep Georgetown the wonderful place it is.

—Barbara Zartman,
*Chair, Historic Preservation and
Zoning Committee*



The Save the World Wagons at the CAG-GU Clean-up Day were popular with from (l to r) Mathilda Chartener in the wagon, William and Jasper Chartener with dad Robert Chartener; Moosie and Ned Herrington with mom Alison Schafer.

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GEORGETOWN CITIZENS / JANUARY 2009

Merriment was Cold—But Very Merry

Despite bone-chilling temperatures, several hundred hearty souls braved the numbing cold to celebrate Merriment in Georgetown last Sunday sponsored by the Business Improvement District, our association and the Georgetown Business Association. Mayor Adrian Fenty, Coun-

cilmember Jack Evans and MPD 2D Commander Matthew Klein bundled up to greet the assembled and to present the awards for best shop window decorations. Thank you to members of the St. John's choir, the Holy Trinity Church and School choirs and the Duke Ladies Ensemble from Duke Ellington School for

warming up the day with their music. HSBC graciously underwrote complimentary horse and carriage rides. Thanks also to Starbucks, Champions and Morton's for providing free hot beverages and to Tudor Place and Dumbarton House for leading activities for the kids.



Santa listened to wish lists.



Cocoa and lattes helped keep people warm.



Little one gets down at the caroling.



Carriage rides were free.



St. John's Choir leads caroling.

Renovations at the Four Seasons

Georgetowners passing by the Four Seasons Hotel may have noticed the closed front entrance and new temporary entrance, complete with canopy, built to its right. Renovations of the Four Seasons began this summer and are slated for completion before the Presidential inauguration. The current \$40 million project follows the extensive rebuilding and expansion of the east wing guest rooms in

The Garden Terrace, which was just beyond the reception area, has been transformed into Bourbon Steak restaurant by Michael Mina.

2005. The present effort is centered on the hotel's reception area, the new Bourbon Steak restaurant, sixty-room west wing enhancement, and the addition of eleven new rooms and suites in the west wing.

The lobby area is being completely gutted, and will be reconfigured with a new decor designed by Pierre-Yves Rochon. (Monsieur Rochon is also re-designing other sections of the hotel, and has done the decor for other luxury hotels, including the George V in Paris, the Amstel in Amsterdam, and the Monte Carlo Bay Resort in Monaco.) The Lobby Lounge will feature a large stone fireplace and seating overlooking the Winter Garden.

The Garden Terrace, which was just beyond the reception area, has been transformed into Bourbon Steak restaurant by Michael Mina. (Michael Mina's eponymously named signature restaurant is in The Westin St. Francis Hotel on Union Square in San Francisco.) The restaurant opened in December and features Mina's butter-poached meats and poultry, seafood dishes, and lunch salad. Post-renovations, Seasons restaurant will remain as a Washington destination for brunch and breakfast. Other hotel facilities, such as the spa, fitness facility, and Georges hair salon, have continued to provide services.

The hotel is adding eleven new rooms and suites, including a new one-of-a-kind Royal Suite in the West Wing. Overlooking Georgetown, this 4,000 sq. ft. suite and landscaped terrace will be Washington's largest and most lavish suite. The Royal Suite can be converted into a three-bedroom suite or the entire wing can be closed off to include eight bedrooms. The art gallery and realty office on the ground floor have moved. Future use for this vacated space has not been announced.

The Four Seasons Hotel has a new regional vice president and general manager, Christian Clerc. A native of Switzerland and fluent in English, French, Italian, and Spanish, Clerc began his Four Seasons career as Hotel Manager at the Georgetown Four Seasons in 2000 and is happy to be returning in his new role.

—Walter Groszyk

Goodbye Paper Transfers, Hello Longer Transfer Time

After January 4 Metro will no longer issue or accept paper transfers in an effort to save money and avoid abuse of paper transfers. Free transfers will still be available using a SmarTrip® card—which makes paying bus fare faster and easier than paying with cash. Plus, every bus ride is 10¢ cheaper when you pay with a SmarTrip® card instead of cash. Additionally, bus transfer time will be extended from the current two to three hours.

SmarTrip® cards can be **purchased online** or at **Metro sales offices**, vending machines at Metrorail stations with parking facilities, regional transit stores, and **select Giant stores** and other retail locations. Customers are able to add value onto their SmarTrip® cards on all Metrobuses and the fleets of most other bus systems in the region. Metro will continue to sell the \$11 Weekly Metrobus pass, 7-day short-trip pass, and weekly Fast Pass. For more information, visit Metro's website at www.wmata.com

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ATTENTION merchants, businesses and restaurants: Want to be a "CAG Priority Merchant"? You will be listed on every CAG 2009 membership card and in several CAG newsletters! See the CAG website (www.cagtown.org) and call or email the CAG office: 337-7313; cagmail@cagtown.org — by January 15.

Georgetown Interim Library Now Open

The Georgetown Interim Library is now open at 3307 M Street (in the old Staples location.) It is lovely, fully stocked, and has an enthusiastic staff. Hours are:

Monday	9:30 am-5:30 pm
Tuesday	9:30 am-9:00pm
Wednesday	9:30 am-5:30 pm
Thursday	9:30 am-9:00pm
Friday	9:30 am-5:30 pm
Saturday	9:30 am-5:30 pm
Sunday	1pm-5 pm

An open house was held on Saturday December 20, thanks to the Friends of the Library, that featured "Welcome Winter" story time; snowflake, jewelry and knitting crafts; poetry reading; and the Teens of Distinction Jazz Ensemble from Duke Ellington School for the Arts. The phone number at the library is 202-724-8783.

CAG Plans Oral History Project

Continued from page 1

of long-time residents will be tapped (many in their eighties and nineties) to record their rich experiences and invaluable memories of growing up, living, or raising families in Georgetown and/or participating in the organizations and businesses that have developed and preserved Georgetown buildings and structures over the past century. Our oldest residents will be interviewed at the earliest stage of the project to share their unique and irreplaceable knowledge.

Please let CAG know if you would like to be interviewed — or if you have people to suggest for interviews. CAG will also be looking for volunteers to do research and interviews, provide photography, and help with transcribing.

—Betsy Cooley



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CAG Adding More Security Patrols for Inauguration

Many residents have expressed concern and/or outrage that the DC City Council voted to allow bars and restaurants to serve alcohol until 4 am from the January 17th to the 21st. Considering an estimated several million visitors coming in for the Inauguration, Georgetown may experience some additional problems at night.

CAG will extend our regular Securitas guard patrols to work until 5am and to cover the entire week. In addition we will double the guards by hiring additional Special Police Officers (SPOs) from Securitas.

We will have to pay an additional price because of the extended hours, additional officers and cars, and extended days coverage. If you are not part of the CAG Public Safety program, please call the CAG office for a form or visit CAG's website <http://www.cagtown.org/guard.html>

I also would like to remind everyone not to hesitate to call 911 for any suspicious activity

that you may notice and to report loud parties and acts of vandalism of any kind.

If the police don't receive complaints from Georgetown residents there will be no statistical data to justify officers deployments in our area and we will be short on officers.

Better info from Georgetown University security

According to Linda Greenan, Assistant VP for External Relations, anyone who wants to receive Georgetown University's public safety alerts/messages can do so by going to publicsafety.georgetown.edu. On the right-hand side, there is a link: "Sign-up for an RSS feed." When you click on that, you'll get the latest 2 or 3 alerts. On the right-hand side of that page, there is a link: "Mail Link to this Page" to sign up.

—Gianluca Pivato
Co-Chair, Public Safety Committee

NEWSBYTES

Georgetownner Alexandra "Ali" Wentworth has just been cast in a new comedy with Alec Baldwin, Meryl Streep and Steve Martin — and the second season of her show *Head Case* premieres on Starz in March... Fotoweeek brought hundreds of people to the extensive exhibits along M Street — one could even go into the Ukrainian Embassy for a reception and exhibit, and the huge display at Foto Central was so popular it was extended thru December ... The St. Albans House Tour took place totally in east Georgetown this year... the new HSBC bank on the corner of Reservoir and Wisconsin opens February 2.... garden/furniture purveyor Janus and Cie is now open at M and 33rd Street... the landscaping at the old Addison School has been finished with a pretty little cupola and amphitheatre, finished off with smart black railings with a new flagpole — all visible from a walk down P Street... Ice Berry has opened on 30th and M Street with good-for-you frozen yogurt—and thank goodness they are toning down the exterior color!



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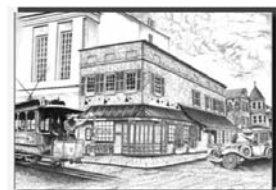
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Denyce Graves at the Kennedy Center

Concert for the Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 8 p.m.
Concert Hall, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets available beginning Wednesday, December 17th
Tickets \$60-\$75 • Groups call (202) 416-8400

World renowned opera singer and Duke Ellington School of the Arts alumna, Denyce Graves will take center stage for an electrifying concert of classical, jazz and pop, R&B and spirituals sung with the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Show Choir. Denyce Graves will bring down the house with her sultry mezzo voice – backed by outstanding musical accompanists.

Tickets available at the Box Office or by phone
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(202) 467-6200

The Kennedy Center 

VIP Tickets are available to the Denyce Graves concert which include a post-performance reception/dinner with the famous diva; call Ellen Copley at the Ellington Fund (333-1235) if interested in purchasing these special tickets.



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JANUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

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|-----------------------|---|
| Sun. Jan. 4 | Amahl and the Night Visitors at St. Alban's Parish , 3001 Wisconsin Avenue NW (at Mass. Ave.) at 5:30 pm: Gian-Carlo Menotti's Christmas-tide opera featuring Joan Phalen, Richard Turner, James Shaffran, Richard Dirksen, and Will Gerson as Amahl, together with members of all the St. Alban's choirs. A brief Epiphany service begins the evening. All welcome; admission free. Appropriate for babes-in-arms and persons from 5 years to any age. More information at www.AlbansDC.org and 363-8286. |
| Tues. Jan. 6 | Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting ; 6:30 pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; (agenda available at www.anc2E.com); call 338-7427 for more information. |
| Fri. Jan. 8 | Preparing for the Ball: Costume of the Early Nation Exhibit opens at Dumbarton House , 2715 Q Street; more info at www.dumbartonhouse.org , or call 337-2288 x 450. |
| Tues. Jan. 13 | CAG Meeting: Museum of American History Director Brent Glass Speaks about extensive renovations. Note different location: Coldwell Banker, 3000 K Street, Suite 101 (off upper - K Street-plaza); Reception 7 pm; presentation 7:30. |
| Thurs. Jan. 15 | Duke Ellington School for the Arts opening reception for Museum Studies Exhibit: <i>Looking Back to Move Forward</i> ; 5:30 pm followed by the Chamber Orchestra Ensemble Concert at 7:30 pm; free. |
| Jan 16 - 18 | American Opera Theater presents (as part of a 3-year residency at GU) <i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i> at 8 pm — a chamber opera featuring the music of Philip Glass and the poetry of Allen Ginsberg. The six vocal parts represent six archetypal American characters: a waitress, a policeman, a businessman, a cheerleader, a priest, and a mechanic. At Georgetown University Davis Performing Arts Center. For tickets go to performingarts.georgetown.edu/BOXOFFICE or call 202-687-ARTS. |