

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

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WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

CAG Salutes Oral History Pioneers at City Tavern Club

The CAG January meeting at 7pm on Tuesday the 19th, will pay tribute to the inaugural interviewees of CAG's oral history project. Hugh Jacobsen, Lucy Moorhead, Frida Burling, Al Wheeler, Page Wilson, John Prince, John Richardson, Ray Kukulski, Betty Hays and Jack Lynch will be honored for their participation in our ground-breaking program documenting the "living history" of Georgetown. These fascinating and engaging Georgetowners have recorded their recollections about life in Georgetown in one-on-one interviews with CAG's oral history volunteers. Come and meet these Georgetown legends and hear some of their fascinating stories first hand.



From top left Lucy Moorhead, Hugh Newell Jacobsen, Page Wilson, John Prince, and City Tavern Club



ing up in or moving to Georgetown, pursuing careers here, raising families, building businesses, entertaining, renovating houses—and more.

The City Tavern Club (3206 M Street), which is marking its own 50th anniversary of the purchase of the historic City Tavern by the City Tavern Association, is graciously hosting the CAG meeting and reception.

Be sure to come for an evening filled with well-deserved salutes to significant Georgetowners — and their

Annie Lou Berman and Nola Klamberg will introduce the program with a summary of the project's first year. Then the interviewees will talk informally about their memories of grow-

ing up in or moving to Georgetown. Because the City Tavern Club is hosting this special meeting, we would appreciate an RSVP to cagmail@cagtown.org or 337-7313.

Family Party at George Launches Concerts in the Parks 2010

The CAG Summer Concerts in the Parks kick offs with a Family Party on Sunday afternoon, January 31, at George, the hip new hot spot tucked away behind Café Milano off Prospect Street.

Calling all moms, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents and cool kids of all ages to be there for great music, flashing lights, glow sticks and, oh-yeah, changing stations in the restrooms. This party is for the whole family. Dress up the kids and come boogie down to a DJ spinning disco, old school hip-hop and classic dance hits. Concerts Chairs Elizabeth Miller and Renee Esfandiary Crupi, have met with a larger-than-ever Concerts committee who have come up with this afternoon of games (think YMCA, limbo, etc) and other cool jams sure to keep everyone rocking.



Laura Belle Kaufman and Alexis Crupi say: "We hope you'll come to the family party at George—it's gonna be fun!"

Continued on page 5 1

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I adore the holidays in Georgetown. It is such a treat to see our architectural gems all glammed up. Tudor Place, Riggs Library, Dumbarton House and the Christmas windows on Book Hill were amazing. We even had a little bit of snow before Merriment in Georgetown kicked off the holiday season. Our association, along with the Georgetown Business Improvement District and the Georgetown Business Association, sponsored this annual celebration. Wisconsin Avenue became a pedestrian plaza between M & N Streets. There was something for everyone. Our team of volunteers from the Oral History Project gathered holiday memories from passersby. Holy Trinity School & Church choirs delighted the crowd with holiday classics. And the National Philharmonic led us in candlelight carols. The evening culminated at the Washington Harbour with the Christmas tree lighting and a spectacular parade of boats. It was wonderful to see the community come together to put on such a special event.



Little girl and snowman

down the tracks on O & P Streets; and those fabulous earrings from Poppy.

The CAG GU Relations Committee has been busy putting together a response to the Georgetown University 2010 Campus Plan draft which was presented at the end of November. We have met with the Office of Planning and other community organizations. As soon as we have a solid position, we will post it on our website.

As the year draws to a close I would like to request that you consider making a tax-deductible contribution to CAG. Donations support CAG's educational programs, publications, historic preservation and numerous advocacy activities.

Our association has been extremely diligent in getting MPD officials to expand police presence in Georgetown—especially foot patrols on our residential streets. We are meeting with the Office of Planning to discuss and shape



Bundled up at Merriment(l-r): GU President John DeGioia, Joe and Pat Lonardo, me, Luca Pivato (& Valantino)

the new zoning regulations that will affect efforts to protect open-space and prevent over-development. We are involved in key discussions regarding traffic, parking, trash, rodents, recycling and historic preservation—all to responsibly represent the best interests of our more than 1200 members.

To top it off, CAG again produced three wonderful Summer Concerts in the Parks drawing record-setting crowds and also expanded the Priority Merchant Program for members. Our newsletter continues to delight and inform, and last year the CAG listserv Georgetown Forum our online community bulletin board, grew to over 800 users.

As always, we have much work to do, and our membership dues do not begin to cover the cost. To remain a vital force in Georgetown we need your help. We hope you will give as generously as you can to support CAG. These tax-deductible donations can be made through our website, www.cagtown.org or by calling the office at 337-7313.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your commitment to our historic village and your support of CAG's efforts. Best wishes for the New Year!

—Jennifer Altemus

ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

FORAGING

So it has come to this. It used to be so simple. Now we have to ponder and plan where we need to go to find food and provisions. Like people who live on the steppe or in the forest we have established a relationship with what is available and where to find it, we have learned to live in harmony with our environment, where so much has changed. True, in our case it is a shopping environment, not hunting rabbits and digging for truffles. Still, the analogy works.

So here is how one Georgetowner has handled the loss of our Safeway. We could dwell on our other deprivations: the loss of our library (yes, there is nice temporary replacement) and the absence of a Metro stop in our community, but that would be petty. Besides, this is about shopping. Let's concentrate on the advantages.

So we will start with the Mom and Pop stores, about which we cannot say enough good things. They are first rate and fill a real need. But one doesn't do bulk shopping there.

Moving right along there is Trader Joe's. I happen to be a big fan of Trader Joe's. I like their insouciant

attitude. I like the posters with Teddy Roosevelt and George Washington urging us to get good value at Trader Joe's. I like their forays into other languages: Trader Giuseppe, Trader Jose. Clever. I like the people who work there and the people who shop there. True, it doesn't have everything you might need, but it has a lot of interesting and different stuff and we all need to get out of our ruts sometimes. And even when the check out line goes all the way out to Foggy Bottom it moves briskly. It's cheerful. I am a fan.

Then there is the MacArthur Boulevard Safeway. That is a Byzantine store. It seems to be laid out inside to prevent you from getting where you want to go. It's confusing. But it fills a need. Oh well, it's okay, but it lacks excitement.

I have discovered a Safeway on 17th and Corcoran Streets. It's not far from Georgetown and when I first found it, I was elated. But my enthusiasm has cooled. It is a truly urban store, has no parking of any kind and you can't take the carts out of the store, which I suppose makes sense as there is no place for them to go. A sensor at the door blocks the exit if you

have a cart. I didn't like the feeling of being dominated.

On to Whole Foods. Most people love Whole Foods and so do I. It's a perpetual party. Until you get to the check out, then it's a wake. Everything is so enticing the cart fills up rapidly. But once again we are being controlled. All the products are specific to Whole Foods, you can't get your favorite brands there, so don't even try. I won't bore you with adventures in Safeways and Giants in Arlington. Obsession is not healthy.

My latest phase involves the Newark Street Giant. If you loved the seventies (or even the fifties), you will love the Giant. The aisles are full of comfort food and that's lucky because they are so narrow and crowded that you will be in them for a long time. But it's a sweet store and a trip down memory lane.

So there are plenty of places to shop, if we think creatively. Now if I could just break myself of the habit of thinking I'll just run in to the Safeway on my way home and pick up some _____(fill in the blank).

—Edith Schafer



NEWSBYTES

Did you see the giant chess game at **HSBC bank**? ... Craig Muckle says **Safeway** is pretty much on schedule to open in early May.... the Georgetown BID is considering restoring the old Georgetown Theater sign on Wisconsin.... exercise and fitness guru **Denise Austin** was spotted shopping at **lululemon** ...the **Embassy of the Principality of Liechtenstein** is now located at 2900 K Street ... **1789 Restaurant** is giving monthly cooking classes with a changing theme: October was apples, November was chestnuts.

Capturing Memories at Merriment

"I need to find a Grandmom and Grandpop"... I thought to myself. They will be able to provide me with just the right response. But in the end, it was a 7-year-old girl who gave me what I really needed.



CAG oral history volunteers Louise Brodnitz, Patty Murphy, Michele Jacobson and Leslie Kamrad

As a volunteer at the CAG booth at Merriment in Georgetown, I watched as streams of people passed the booth bundled up enjoying the contagious excitement of the holiday festival. We were there with CAG's Oral History Project to ask people to give us their fond memories of past holidays in Georgetown. We were well equipped with hand-held recorders. There was so much fun going on everywhere. You could take a horse-drawn carriage ride, talk to Santa, march with giant stilt-walking toy soldiers, or sing along with the choral groups.

How would I ever get a single memory recorded of past holidays in Georgetown? I started looking for anyone with gray hair, someone bundled up sensibly and walking a bit slower than the crowd. Surely they would be able to tell me about the "good old days" with warm Christmas memories and simple pleasures. By taking the portable recorders into the crowd, we found that people of all ages were generous with their recollections and thoughts and had great memories.

Our tape recorders captured wonderful stories of newly transplanted residents who moved to Georgetown just before Christmas—they did not yet have all of their belongings so what could they possibly wear to a black-tie event? Their Georgetown neighbors lent them the evening attire they needed to attend this important job-related event and they have never forgotten that kind act. Another interviewee told us about living on Pomander Walk where one winter it was so frigid "there was a sheet of ice one inch thick on the inside of the front doors" and another said it was so cold one year in the early 1980s that they couldn't stay on the ground floor of their townhouse on Christmas morning near the tree, instead they moved all the presents upstairs where it was much warmer. Someone else recalled walking along Volta Place early one Christmas morning and realizing that all of her neighbors had gone away for the holidays which made for a



Leslie Kamrad interviewing Ron and Fran Snider

very quiet and serene street scene. One gentleman said his favorite memory was just after moving to Georgetown when he walked to the lovely Christmas Eve service at Christ Church. A couple told us about walking to 1789 Restaurant when a huge snowstorm blanketed Washington, closing down a number of shops and restaurants. With snow up to their knees, it took 30 minutes



MJ Berman and son Charlie

to walk 2.5 blocks and when they arrived the restaurant was packed with neighbors. Another woman who had lived here over 40 years was thrilled to say that this year for the first time she attended the Georgetown University tree lighting and now she can't believe that her grown children aren't living in Georgetown anymore "to relish how nice it has become." All of these stories highlighted the sense that Georgetown is indeed a very special place.

Then a little 7-year-old child asked to speak into the recorder. With her eyes open wide in amazement, she recounted how much she adored coming across Key Bridge with her parents into Georgetown at Christmastime. She gave a huge grin and said "I love seeing all of the lights and decorations...it makes me so HAPPY!" It touched my heart—I felt as if I was basking in the joy radiating from her smiling face. Christmas in Georgetown is a truly a magical time. It was a circle-of-life moment when I thought about all of the good work by the BID, GBA and CAG coming together to create this second annual Merriment celebration which was building lifetime memories for a new generation.

—Leslie Kamrad

Family Party Launches Concerts in the Parks *continued from cover***2010 Concert dates****Sundays**

May 23

June 20 (Fathers Day)

July 4 (the Independence Day parade returns)!



And you won't miss the hype before the Pro Bowl game — George has plenty of big screen TVs. Informal pub food is the fare —think pizza, wings, and beverages—to keep the good times rolling. Add in an enticing raffle, some quiet games and activities for the youngest, and you have — Concerts Kick Off 2010.

So round up family and friends for grooving and schmoozing at trendy George (3251 Prospect Street) from 3-6 on Sunday, January 31. Tickets are: \$160 for three generations, \$135 for two generations, \$125 for a couple, and \$65 for a single ticket. Invitations go out in January and you can also purchase tickets now on line at www.cagtown.org.

Update from the Public Safety Committee

In mid-December, Luca Pivato and I met with Lt. Hedgecock of MPD and representatives of other community groups to express our concern about crime in Georgetown and learn about police activities. As always, we used this as an opportunity to point out areas where we think policing could be improved and to ask for resources, e.g., plain-clothes officers, that we feel we need.

We learned that overall crime for the year is down slightly (2%) in Georgetown compared with crime to this date in 2008, though robberies are up 8% and thefts from auto are up 17%. Lt. Hedgecock told us that

arrests are up too, but he didn't present any data about this. He did note that the police have suspects they are pursuing regarding two recent robberies.

We learned that our area now is up to its full force of police officers, with none detailed to other areas for special assignment and only one on extended leave. Staffing levels have been a big problem in the past, so it is important that we now have the full complement of officers able to be assigned to our area. In addition, our regular force will soon be supplemented with one officer and five newly trained recruits starting in December and continuing until early

January. This group of recruits-plus-supervisor will, at least initially, focus on panhandlers.

We discussed ways to continue improving communication among the CAG Securitas guards, the police, and the reimbursable details sponsored by the BID and CAG. We want a closer integration of the efforts of all of these forces, and deployments of each to achieve maximum coverage for the neighborhood. We came up with some good ideas that will be implemented soon.

—Diane Colasanto
CAG Public Safety Committee

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The Georgetown Emergency Response Medical Service (GERMS) provides 24 hour – 7 day-a-week free quality emergency medical services and transportation to the residents of Georgetown.

**For help call
687-HELP (687-4357)**

47 New Trees Planted

Trees for Georgetown began planting 47 street trees on December 12. This year, the DC Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) and Casey Trees were contracted to help "green" Georgetown. The UFA removed dead trees and stumps while also changing all tree boxes to sidewalk level. Casey Trees will do the actual planting and water and prune the trees for the first two years. The installation of regulation wrought iron fences around each newly planted tree box will be done by Trees for Georgetown.

We ask that, especially during the first two years, the neighborhood share responsibility for the trees which need attention and tender loving care to get established. Eventually we all will benefit from a beautiful tree canopy across Georgetown. Special thanks to Georgetown residents for generous donations as well as to the Urban Forestry Administration and Casey Trees for their cooperation and hard work.

—Betsy Emes, Chair
Trees for Georgetown Committee

Virginia Allen Made A Difference

Many of us lost a great friend when Virginia Luce Allen died on October 28th. Virginia was a fixture in Georgetown from her early years, growing up in the family house on P Street where she spent her entire life. Those who knew her from childhood recalled her great gift for friendship as well as her innate enthusiasm and curiosity about both children and adults.

In 1981, after retiring, she founded the Georgetown Senior Citizens Center. The Center operates three days a week, Mondays, Wednesdays

and Fridays. A delicious lunch, cooked by volunteers, is served preceded by yoga and light stretching and followed by a program with a speaker or a musical performance. Between twenty and twenty-five seniors attend each meeting.

Participants come from Georgetown and Northwest Washington to see old friends and make new ones. A shuttle bus is available for those who need it. The community room at St. John's Church on O Street provides a comfortable setting. The Senior Center is Virginia's legacy. She

believed that seniors in our community have led rich lives and still have much to contribute. Now a group of supporters is striving to ensure the Center continues to operate as smoothly as it did when Virginia was here to oversee everything.

Contributions in Virginia's honor can be made to the Georgetown Senior Citizens Center and sent to St. John's Church, 3214 O Street NW, Washington, DC 20007.

—Barbara Downs

All Booked Up

Since the advent of the big book store, namely Barnes & Noble, Georgetown has witnessed the demise of practically all of its smaller and more intimate book shops, where browsing and chatting with like-minded readers and proprietors was a major reason to shop there.

Now we are down to Bridge Street Books on M Street, and two used and rare book shops: Bartleby's on 29th, and The Lantern at 3241 P Street, which is owned and run by the alumnae of Bryn Mawr College. A new little eclectic book store called Presse has opened in the alcove at 1614 Wisconsin Avenue.

When I dropped in to The Lantern the other day, there were two scholarly-looking gents piling up books on subjects as diverse as Greece and gourmet cooking. Behind the scenes, in a small back office, I found Caroline Willis who gave me a rundown on the shop's history and purpose. Started thirty-eight years ago in order to contribute money to college scholarships for local Bryn Mawr girls, it



The Lantern

has evolved over time into supporting internships for students wishing to work in Washington or other cities during their summer vacations. The building, owned and staffed by alumnae, is open Tuesday through Sunday and depends solely on donations for its books; if their generously stocked shelves are any indication, the donations appear to be substantial.

Caroline told me that The Lantern is a favorite haunt of Georgetown students and professors, as well as for collectors and anyone looking for a book out of print, out of stock, or on a specific topic. The building consists of two floors crammed with books on diverse subjects and with eclectic titles: art books, cookbooks, children's books, books in foreign languages, biographies, novels, histories, poetry, photography and everything in between. I had a happy time perusing the shelves and bought a book I would never have seen or read had it not called out to me from its perpendicular perch.

The Lantern contributes an average of \$50,000 annually to its Alma Mater, and remains one of the few emporiums in Georgetown that do well by doing good. So stop by when you have time to bask in the atmosphere of a true literary treasure trove.

—V V Harrison

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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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JANUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

- Mon. Jan. 11** Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting; 6:30pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; agenda available at www.anc2e.com; call 338-7427 for more information.
- Tue. Jan. 12** GU's Alliance in Local Living (ALL) Meeting; to discuss community issues with Georgetown residents and students; 6:30pm; GU Career Center Conference Room, Leavey Center; 687-3199.
- Fri./Sat./Sun. Jan. 15/16/17** Georgetown University Performing Arts and American Opera Theater present Songspiel starring Grammy Winner Sylvia McNair; 8pm on Friday and Saturday, 2pm on Sunday; Davis Performing Arts Center, Gonda Theater; \$45, \$35 senior 65+, \$10 students; visit <http://performingarts.georgetown.edu> or call 687-ARTS for reservations.
- Sat. Jan. 16** Dumbarton Concerts present *Memories of You*; 8pm; jazz concert from 1940s to the present; Dumbarton Church, 3133 Dumbarton Street; adults \$32, students and seniors \$28; call 965-2000 or visit www.dumbartonconcerts.org for more information.
- Tue. Jan. 19** CAG Meeting: Salute to the Oral History Pioneers; reception 7pm, presentation 7:30 pm; well-known Georgetowners who have been the first to record their personal histories will be recognized; The City Tavern Club, 3206 M Street. RSVP cagmail@cagtown.org or 337-7313.
- Tue. Jan. 26** Dancing & Diversion for Adults at Dumbarton House; first of a 3-part series of dancing classes featuring English Country, Waltz, and Cotillion along with live music, dessert, and tour of the museum's exhibition; 7-9 pm; \$10 per class or \$25 for all three; Dumbarton House, 2715 Q Street; reservation and advance payment required rsvp@DumbartonHouse.org or 337-2288.
- Sun. Jan. 31** CAG Concerts in the Parks Family Kick Off Dance Party; 3-6 pm; George, 3251 Prospect Street, see full article, p. 1.