

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 meeting on Wednesday, January 18, will feature several well-known Georgetowners who have been interviewed for CAG's oral history project. Edith Bralove, Barry Deutshman, Catherine Bowman, Kay Evans, Margaret Oppenheimer, George Jacob, and others will be honored for their participation in our important program documenting the "living history" of Georgetown. These engaging Georgetowners have recorded their recollections about life in Georgetown in one-on-one interviews with CAG's oral history volunteers. The results have been fascinating — visit www.cagtown.org to read the summaries and/or the entire interviews. Come and meet these living Georgetown legends and hear some of their intriguing stories first hand.

Annie Lou Berman will introduce the program with a summary of the project. The interviewees will then talk informally about their memories of growing up in or moving to Georgetown, pursuing careers here, raising families, building businesses, entertaining, renovating houses — and more.

The City Tavern Preservation Foundation, which recently marked 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. Please join CAG at the elegant City Tavern Club, 3206 M Street, for an evening filled with well-deserved salutes to significant



The French Market founder
Georges Jacob



Morgan Pharmacy's Barry
Deutshman



City Tavern Club

Georgetowners — and their role in capturing the history of Georgetown. Due to the fact that The City Tavern Preservation Foundation is hosting this special meeting, we would appreciate an RSVP to cagmail@cagtown.org or 337-7313.

Reception begins at 7pm and the program starts at 7:30

—Betsy Cooley

CAG Presents Georgetown ARTS 2012

Call for Artists Now Open

The talent of Georgetown resident artists will be on view this year at The House of Sweden for five days—Thursday, February 16 through Monday February 20. The committee is busy organizing, and chair Laura-Anne Tiscornia has announced that the "call for artists" is now open. Applications are available online at www.cagtown.org. The entry fee is \$50 and a commitment to volunteer several hours.

For an application and more information – or to volunteer to help – please contact the CAG office at 337-7313 or cagmail@cagtown.org

The House of Sweden is sponsoring the CAG event and has generously made several of their stunning rooms available. Mark your calendar for February 16-20 to see your favorite local artists – and to discover new ones in the neighborhood! The opening reception will be Thursday evening, February 16, from 6 to 9.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

2011 was a banner year for our association.

- In January we had an amazing turnout for our second community art show Georgetown ARTS 2011. Georgetown Park hosted us and 32 talented local artists participated.
- Our membership program in February celebrated Black History Month; author Breena Clark captivated a packed audience at First Baptist Church with stories of Georgetown in the mid-19th century.
- We tried something new in March at the Boffi Showroom and the event was wonderful. Georgetown's finest chefs showed us their secrets and we got to taste the delicious results.
- We had one last bash at Halcyon House for the Concerts in the Parks: the Valentine Cabaret Party raised funds for what turned out to be our best concert season yet.
- We celebrated Earth Day at the "green" House of Sweden with DC Recycler, Cathy Plume.
- CAG honored some of the incredible people who have made Georgetown a better place to live at our annual meeting in May
- In September we had guided tours of the new Waterfront Park and a reception at the remarkable Potomac Boat Club.
- The Thos. Moser Showroom on M Street hosted us for an informative panel discussion on Historic Preservation in October.
- Wisconsin Avenue has been on many peoples' minds of late and the Heon family opened their famous but now vacant Georgetown Theater to hear from Herb Miller, Jack Evans, and John Asadoorian about what could possibly be done to make it better.
- Our Gala wrapped up the year with a spectacular Winter Wonderland at the Russian Embassy — attended by 370 people. We honored John Richardson and Franco Nuschese — and then danced the night away with Mayor Gray, former Mayor Williams, Jack Evans and lots of other hard-working, exuberant Georgetowners

But it wasn't all fun and games. Our Georgetown University Relations Committee worked diligently to represent resident interests at the numerous Zoning Commission hearings on the GU Campus Plan. Richard Hinds, Cynthia Pantazis, Luca Pivato, Ken Archer and many others spent hours researching and presenting our compelling arguments. We look forward to the final hearing on February 9, 2012 at which the commissioners will publicly debate the merits of our case.



CAG was thrilled to receive a donation check from Joe Clarke, Senior VP of EagleBank (left), Andrew Peters, branch manager of Georgetown's EagleBank (right), and Georgetown Publisher, Sonya Bernhardt (on my right) from funds raised at their Holiday Bazaar

Our expanded Historic Preservation & Zoning Committee, under the leadership of Pamla Moore, is tackling many projects including protecting Georgetown's historic character during the zoning law re-write. Crime is down in the residential areas through our Public Safety Committee's efforts including an increased number of key block captains, thanks to Diane Colasanto. We have researched surveillance cameras and plan to start installing them this month. The ABC Committee continues its diligent work and Chair Karen Cruse is representing CAG on Councilman Graham's task force on ABC issues. Dead trees are gone and new ones have been planted thanks to Trees for Georgetown led by Betsy Emes. The Friends of the Georgetown Library, now headed by Amy Anderson, has enlarged their group and recently brought back the popular book sale to benefit the library. Patrick Clawson and others on the Beautification Committee organized our neighborhood cleanups which collected tons of trash from the streets.

Concerts in the Parks Co-Chairs Renee Esfandiary and Elizabeth Miller coordinated numerous creative "sub-committees" to produce three spectacular concerts — actually each a community festival with great live music and a wide range of games, contests, and fun activities.

Obviously none of this could have happened without the incredible volunteers who make up CAG — the board, our committees, and hundreds of individual members who support us financially. I salute each and every one of you and look forward to all we will accomplish in 2012. Happy New Year!

—Jennifer Altemus

ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

Things That Are Just Annoying

This piece could be called civilization and its discontents, but that title is already taken. By Dr. Freud. Or it could be called venting, but that sounds so tantrum-like and sort of mean-spirited. Anyway some of this is about celebrating. It's hard to get the mix right, we have many blessings, but everything isn't perfect. Is it?

Here in Georgetown we have a pretty nice life, and we know we do and we appreciate it. Still, a replica of the Golden Age of Athens — the Age of Pericles — it isn't.

So here comes the venting: Leaf blowers. They wreck life when they come to a street near you, especially in the fall. But it goes on all year and there is no reason why they have to be loud and offensive. Someone should complain and get the problem fixed.

(Did you see the article in *The New Yorker* a while back about a community in California that cared so much about the neatness of their suburb that the leaf blowers went on all day and as a result no one would go out of their house because of the racket?)

Next: traffic. It's beyond bad, not at all life enhancing. Have you tried to drive down 34th Street toward Key bridge in rush hour?

Sirens: of course we want ambulances to get to the ER fast, but does every trip have to involve permanently damaging our eardrums?

Moving right along: dumpsters! Have you noticed they have become permanent on some streets? You thought they were just there while construction was going on? Wrong. The owners of the house supposedly under construction may have left

town, but the impregnable, immovable dumpster remains.

If you happen to have a driveway or even a garage out of which you have to back, good luck. There is always, always, a panel truck, large, windowless, opaque, usually white, completely blocking the view necessary to move out safely onto the street. One takes one's life in his hands, backing out blindly and waiting for the loud horn of the justifiably irate driver who very nearly crashed into you.

So where is Pericles when we need him?

Next month: the many good things about our little village. There are many things to celebrate.

—Edith Schafer

P Street Pictures Reopens on O Street

They're back! Judy and Susan of P Street Pictures have reopened their much missed business at 3240 O Street NW. From what I observed during their open house, after an unexpected eviction from their old haunt on P Street, they have landed firmly on their feet. The new space is bright and light and filled with colorful frames, prints, and many original art works. Starting over in a new location is never easy, but the P Street Picture ladies are resilient and optimistic. They are ready for business and look forward to renewing old friendships and welcoming new ones.

As I have written before, the 7 - Eleven on P Street is going to take over the old P Street Pictures loca-

tion, doubling the size of the present store, which has caused much concern in the neighborhood. There have been several meetings attended by residents and the store owner which seemed to have ended amicably. I was told that while not all the neighbors are on board, 7- Eleven which is the world's largest operator, franchisor, and licensor of convenience stores in the world (yes larger than McDonalds, believe it or not) has pledged to keep their design simple and tasteful, in keeping with Georgetown's architectural traditions.

So stop in at the new O Street digs — just half a block west of Wisconsin — and take a look around at the new and improved P Street Pictures. You will be greeted by two talented

women, who made lemonade out of the lemons they were handed last summer. Second acts are often the most compelling; and Judy and Susan are a persuasive example of just that.

—V V Harrison



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Future Boathouse Row on the Potomac?

It probably won't become a Boathouse Row like the string of 15 boathouses along the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia, but the National Park Service has begun a study of the use of a third of a mile of Potomac riverbank from 34th Street to about 1200 feet west of Key Bridge. The study is directed at establishing a future, non-motorized boathouse zone along the Georgetown waterfront.

Dozens of rowers, canoeists, cyclists, neighbors, and Georgetowners attended an introductory briefing at Washington Harbour on December 13th. The briefing outlined the study's tasks and schedule. From January through the fall of 2012, NPS will conduct interviews with stakeholders and interested parties, followed by planning workshops. After completing the workshops, the NPS will hold public meetings on a draft of the feasibility study.

Currently there are two active boat houses along this stretch of the river: The Potomac Boat Club and Jack's canoe rental operation. The Washington Canoe Club is now closed. NPS has padlocked the building shut, deeming it unsafe, but members can continue using the grounds. Both George Washington University and Georgetown University seek to build boathouses in the area.

At this time, the follow-through on the feasibility study is not defined. And probably for good reason.

One major stakeholder – WASA – plans to construct an enormous sewer retention facility in Georgetown, boring a 23 foot diameter tunnel under the Potomac riverbed. The storage tunnel will store the flow from sewers that combine sewage from homes and businesses with stormwater runoff flowing from streets and yards during rainstorms. When heavy rains overload the capacity of combined sewers, the overflow is discharged directly into the river or Rock Creek before reaching the treatment plant in Blue Plains.

WASA recently began the construction of the first of these retention tunnels, located in the Anacostia River. The Potomac River retention tunnel is scheduled to be the third, and last of these facilities. It will store nearly 60 million gallons of sewer water, and when the storm event has passed, pump the stored water to Blue Plains for treatment before it is ultimately discharged into the Potomac.

WASA likely needs land area in Georgetown to stage equipment and material for this project. A bore shaft to drop the German-built boring machine to the necessary depth below the river bed will also be needed. The shaft can also be used to bring exca-

vated soil and rock to the surface for hauling by trucks away from the site. Finally, a pumping station would be built to send the stored water into the mammoth Potomac Interceptor Sewer that runs beneath Water and K streets in Georgetown, and carries sewage from as far away as Dulles Airport to the Blue Plains treatment plant.

A storm retention tunnel with a capacity of 58 million gallons would be nearly 300,000 cubic yards in size. (For comparison, if a dump truck held 10 cubic yards, 30,000 trips would be needed to haul away the excavated material.) Construction of the Georgetown tunnel is probably a decade away, and until WASA's land needs are identified, the building of new boat houses may be in abeyance.

—Walter Groszyk

NEWSBYTES

Super-chef Mario Batali is looking to expand his Italian food emporium **Eataly** to D.C. and rumor has it the Shops at Georgetown Park is being considered for the location...We hear that Doggett's parking lot has been sold to a company in partnership with Anthony Lanier, who has also bought other Prospect Street properties — maybe all geared toward a Cady's Alley-off-Potomac concept?...**Capital Bikeshare** had added a fifth Georgetown location at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and M Street...Cady's Alley is now home to **Charles Luck Stone** (1111 34th Street), the "style-minded stone company" for your home style...**barre3** (1000 Wisconsin Avenue) is the first of their studios on the east coast combining a dancer's workout with yoga wisdom and Pilates strength....**Pie Sisters** has opened, moving their popular pie business from online (www.obsweet.com) to 3423 M Street and featuring their signature "cup-pie" individually sized pies....and in case you can't get too sweet, **Pinkberry** is now open at 3288 M Street.

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Historic Preservation: Where the Action Is

Georgetown is entering a year where decisions made by our District government will impact our neighborhood for the long term. It is key that we make our voices heard now rather than having to live with policies and laws which detract from the historic character of our community.

Our committee will be making recommendations to the CAG Board as to priorities, positions, and, in some cases, action plans. **The committee's work will be strengthened if you will share your ideas with us.** Take several minutes each month and visit the Advisory Neighborhood Committee 2E website (anc2e.com) to examine the projects under review. An option for signing up to receive the monthly agenda online is available on the website. The agenda is also sent out on CAG's GeorgetownForum listserv. Projects, residential or commercial, move from ANC2E consideration to the Old Georgetown Board (OGB). This expert three-member panel makes recommendations to the U. S. Commission on Fine Arts. It is worth your time to also review the OGB

agenda each month (cfa.gov) as it is what projects are being proposed by your neighbors, on your block and around the corner.

Current issues of interest include:

District-wide residential and commercial zoning rewrite — Our committee's zoning subcommittee is working on the residential rewrite — we've met with the DC staff responsible for the rewrite, and the CAG 2012 budget has a small fund for hiring a lawyer to work with us on the commercial piece. These new laws will impact us all — the number of small stores on residential streets, the size of residential additions, and green space are just a few examples.

Georgetown Park — Tenants? Signage? M Street façade?

Signage — Are there too many sandwich boards on our narrow sidewalks? Do we have too much neon? Will big box type stores demand larger signage? Are we tired of seeing "Going Out Of Business" signs on Wisconsin for years on end?

Heating Plant — Do we want to encourage some park space as this project moves forward? Will traffic be a consideration for the neighborhood?

Neighborhood Notification — Our committee has been working for almost a year with ANC2e, the DC Historic Preservation Office, and OGB staff to find a way to better inform neighbors of projects their neighbors are submitting for review. We are moving too slowly, but we are moving. Meanwhile if interested residents scan the ANC2E meeting agenda monthly and alert CAG, CAG can help obtain copies of plans and often advise next steps.

—Pamla Moore, Chair
*Historic Preservation &
Zoning Committee*

Your Chance To Make History! Want to start 2012 fresh by getting involved in a new project? Become a CAG Oral History interviewer! A training session will take place on Wednesday, February 15th at 6pm in the CAG office (1365 Wisconsin Ave., enter via the black external staircase on O Street). This session is for both new interviewers wanting to learn the ropes and for seasoned interviewers who want to share their experiences. Training is an hour and a half with the Oral History Project's coordinator Annie Lou Berman. Materials — and many behind-the-scenes-stories — will be provided. Contact the CAG office at 337-7313 or cagmail@cagtown.org.

Have a Heart Luncheon Spend Valentine's Day afternoon supporting the mission of the Georgetown Ministry Center and helping to end homelessness in Georgetown. The Washington Club will present the GMC with the Washington Club Community Award at its annual Have a Heart Luncheon. The reception begins at 11am with lunch served at noon at the historic Patterson House, 15 Dupont Circle. Individual tickets are \$75 (which includes a donation to the GMC). Checks can be made out to The Washington Club and mailed to: Club Director – The Washington Club (Have a Heart Luncheon), 15 Dupont Circle NW, Washington, DC 20036-1219. For more information visit www.gmcgt.org.



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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

- Sat.-Mon. Jan. 14-16** Junior Curator Camp at Tudor Place; 9-3 daily; ages 10-15; students work with artifacts from the Tudor Place Collection to design their own exhibit; members \$60, nonmembers \$85; Tudor Place, 1644 31st Street; to reserve visit www.tudorplace.org .
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- Wed. Jan 18** CAG Meeting: CAG Salutes Oral History Pioneers; well-known Georgetowners speak about their memories of growing up, starting a business, throwing parties, and raising a family in Georgetown ; reception 7pm, program 7:30pm; The City Tavern Club, 3206 M Street; please RSVP for this special meeting to cagmail@cagtown.org or 337-7313.
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- Thurs. Jan. 19** Georgetown Book Club; 7:30pm; discuss Ann Patchett's latest novel *State of Wonder*; Georgetown Public Library, 3260 R Street; visit www.dclibrary.org for more information.
-
- Sat. Jan. 21** Dumbarton Concerts presents the Honigberg-Stern-Andrist Trio's *Ode to the Cello*; 8pm; tickets \$33, senior/student tickets \$29; Dumbarton Church, 3133 Dumbarton Street; visit www.dumbartonconcerts.org to purchase tickets.
-
- Tues. Jan 28** Movie Screening at Georgetown Library: *West Side Story*; 6pm; free screening of the 1961 film *West Side Story*; Georgetown Public Library, 3260 R Street; visit www.dclibrary.org for more information.

A Little Christmas Story from Nancy Taylor-Bubes *A few days before Christmas, in all the craziness of that week, I gave my teenage daughter my credit card to get a hair cut. She was rushed because she was helping the crew at Georgetown Cupcake where she had been interning this year from Lab School. Later, she texts me to say she can't find the credit card — I call the salon, he looks inside and out, can't find it. I go to the office to call and cancel it but it had been more than three hours and the hair cut is still the last charge. I say to myself, "I bet it's at home and she dropped it when she came to change." I get home that night and my son says – "Mom, someone knocked on the door this afternoon and said "I think Nancy lives here and I found this on the street" and he hands my son the credit card. Wasn't that the nicest thing? I am not sure who you are that kindly picked it up and then made the time to deliver to my house that day BUT if you are out there I wanted to thank you. You really make us all proud to be in this community and that there are thoughtful people like you in it. Gifts come in many packages!*

Happy New Year!

FROM ALL OF US AT CAG