

Georgetown

C I T I Z E N S

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

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Georgetown Family Night at *THE WIZ* February 13

Duke Ellington School of the Arts and CAG invite you to a VIP reception and performance of *The Wiz* on Wednesday, February 13th. Bring your children, grandchildren, family and friends to



see Ellington's extraordinary production of the magical Broadway musical based on the 1939 *Wizard of Oz* as told by African-Americans in a funky Mo-town style. The original Broadway show ran for 1600 performances in the mid-Seventies and won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

Ellington's show promises to be a Broadway quality production. The school has brought in an outside creative team of 20 professionals to work with the many talented student vocalists, dancers, musicians, and designers. The show starts at 7:30 pm and when you hear Ellington's version of the hugely popular *Ease on Down the Road*, you'll want to dance in the aisles.

CAG members are invited to a VIP reception before the show at 6:00 pm to meet DC School Chancellor Michelle Rhee, Head of School Rory Pullens, and directors and major supporters of The Ellington Fund. Councilmember Jack Evans will be on hand to draw the winning door prize ticket for a limited-edition *Wiz* print by artist and faculty member Michael East.

If you can't make our special February 13 evening, the show also runs Thursday and Friday, February 7 and 8 at



Students at the renowned DC arts high school on the corner of Reservoir Road and 35th Street have been in rehearsal since June.

Next CAG Meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 2008



Special Family Night Performance of *The Wiz*

Duke Ellington School of the Arts
35th & R Streets

VIP Reception 6 – 7:15pm

Performance 7:30 – 10:00pm

7:30 pm; Saturday, February 9 at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm and Thursday and Friday, February 14 and 15 at 7:30 pm. The show runs 2½ hours, including intermission, and is recommended for children ages 5 and above.

Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for age 12 and under. Contact the Ellington box office at 337-4825 or reserve tickets on the website: www.ellingtonschool.org. Please RSVP for the VIP reception (6 – 7:15 pm on February 13) by calling Ellen Copley at 333-2555 ext. 103 and identifying yourself as a CAG member. You may also charge ticket orders with Ellen for the 7:30 pm February 13 show. "We're off to see The Wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz...." !

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As the gray, dreary days of February loom, the holidays seem in the distant past. Yet, thankfully, the memories remain crystal clear. It was a brilliant season. The feeling of congeniality, hope, good will and friendship seemed to envelope the entire community. In the spirit of the New Year, new ideas were discussed, new coalitions built and new promises were made. And, now, we're pleased to say, they are actually beginning to happen.

Our Public Safety Committee, in conjunction with the ANC, has been working very hard with the Metropolitan Police Department on not only enlarging the foot patrol force in the residential area, but also having the police become more engaged with the community. We had a highly productive meeting with our PSA Lt. Rolland Hoyle, and foot beat coordinator, Sgt. Tammy Lane, and are closing in on a viable plan with more officers and increased cooperation with our neighborhood guards and block captains.

I'd be highly remiss if I didn't send out another plea for our 2008 Public Safety program. We're extremely pleased with all the generous donations that have already been sent in. But we're not there yet and we need everyone to give what is comfortable to them. We can and will make a difference in the safety of our town. You can sign up with the form on page nine of this newsletter.

New things are also happening on the University front. This has been one of the more fragile relationships over the years, but we are happy to report that the tide may be turning. Four substantive meetings are on the schedule in the next few weeks. Leaders of our association, the Burleith Citizens Association and the ANC 2E are meeting with University President John DeGoia for the first time. This is a huge step in the right direc-

tion. The other meetings will focus on how to achieve better communications between the university and the community, student behavior off-campus, and landlord and student obligations on the appearance and safety of their off-campus properties.

Some fun things are on the radar screen too! We had such a good time at our CAG Holiday Open House, at a party at the Business Improvement District offices and at another hosted by the Georgetown Business Association, we starting thinking about a large scale event that could include the entire community. We have approached the other organizations and while we can't spill the beans yet, we have started to discuss how to make this truly festive town-wide holiday celebration happen.

Speaking of community events, do try to attend the CAG Family night performance of *The Wiz* at Duke Ellington on February 13. If you've had the pleasure of seeing and hearing these talented kids perform, you know you're in for a treat. If you haven't, it's time to "ease on down the road" and get tickets. And CAG members are invited to a special pre-performance VIP reception. Ticket details are on page one of the newsletter. This event will be in place of our regular monthly membership meeting.

We are now arranging the remainder of this year's membership programs. If you have a topic that you think would make a good presentation, let us know. It's the New Year...time for new ideas.

— Denise R. Cunningham



REMINDER: All trash must be in closed cans and put on the street no earlier than 6:30 pm the night before trash pickups on Tuesdays and Fridays. NOTE: In weeks with a holiday on Monday, both trash days slide ahead one day to Wednesday and Saturday.

ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

by Edith Schafer

STREETSCAPE AND MEMORY

Phantom Georgetown

It's always changing. Heraclitus knew what he was talking about when he said everything is in flux. Places are gone in the blink of an eye and later one thinks: Whatever happened to such and such, when did that disappear?

What do you remember? Gone is the big Conran's on the Canal and Lila Fendrick's splendid art gallery on M Street. Do you remember endearing, unique Little Caledonia, or Dorothy Stead, a dress shop for the mature woman. (Mature is sales-speak for older.) The Saville Book Store on P Street was a rabbit warren of little rooms and obscure, tempting books. The Frances Scott Key Bookstore on the corner of 28th and O was a neighborhood fixture and meeting place. Neams Market was where Marvelous Market is now. The French Market was across Wisconsin and up a bit. Those two were where the stylish ladies went for their viands. Bredice's shoe repair started pronouncing their name bree dice, thinking that made it more accessible, less exotic. We had a hardware store on M Street – Meenehan's.

Gone. All gone. Goodbye also to soda fountains in drugstores, street

fairs put on by churches (alas) and the good humor man. Gone are the streetcars. Gone with the wind.

A bit further back in time there were strange phenomena like the incinerator. Who puts an incinerator in the middle of a residential section even if it was an upscale Art Deco incinerator designed by Frederick Law Olmstead? But it wasn't a residential area then, it was industrial, so nobody thought it was odd. And look how we have turned our lemons into lemonade. The trash car from the incinerator, cleaned up, remains suspended now above the lobby in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, a really nice touch. A small display talks about the Ancient Landscape and how that hill above the river was a wooded campsite for prehistoric Indians.

Consider Hopfenmaier's rendering plant. It was located on K Street across from what is now the Flour Mill, which was a flour mill. Unmarked trucks carrying barrels of bones and fat arrived there from restaurants and meat cutters. There was much more local butchery then and very little preparation of meat by large processing companies into patties and store-sized portions.

Hopfenmaier's boiled animal carcasses for fat and glue. There was a large sign painted on one of the silos of the flour mill that read: THE OBJECTIONABLE ODORS YOU DETECT DO NOT EMANATE FROM THIS FACILITY. That must have perked up the real estate values.

Between the Foundry and K Street was Galliher's Lumber Company. A three alarm fire started in the two story wooden millwork building and severely damaged the brick warehouse behind it. Both were subsequently demolished. Galliher's was actually below street level; during Hurricane Agnes the water there was 5 to 6 feet deep.

Washington Harbour was the site of a large cement plant. And what about using our spectacular waterfront to house gravel trucks?

That Heraclitus knew what he was talking about. Now we have glossy hotels, embassies, glitz. We have chain stores and more chain stores. Our little village is a shrine to shopping.

To be discussed further.

— Edith Schafer

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Panel Discusses Rats and Trash at January Meeting

Denise Cunningham opened the January 14th CAG membership meeting with an announcement about the 100th anniversary of Hyde School. The audience enjoyed a short video, highlighting the students, teachers and programs of this wonderful Georgetown asset.

Rats and trash were the main topics at the meeting. A turnout crowd of over 100 residents heard a panel of community, government and business representatives describe current steps being taken in Georgetown to curb the rat infestation problem. Before the program began, many people watched a 50-minute National Geographic video on rats. Shot primarily in Washington, the film addressed the conditions which foster rats as well as research on rats' adaptability to urban living.

Denise introduced Brenda Moorman, CAG Beautification Chair, who gave an overview of rat and trash problems in the community, and the strong and persistent efforts of CAG to address these problems. These efforts include public education about regulations for trash disposal, bi-annual community clean-ups, annual hazardous waste pick-ups and collaborative work with groups, such as Georgetown University, the ANC, the Georgetown BID

and DC government agencies.

Bill Starrels, ANC2E commissioner, described how growing citizen complaints about rats last Spring resulted in the special collaborative partnership of residents, government, business and community groups to launch a rat abatement program modeled on a successful Dupont Circle project. Called the Georgetown Community Hygiene Pilot Project and led by panelist Gerard Brown, Manager of the Rodent and Vector Control Division of the DC Health Department, the program covers a one-block area bounded by Wisconsin Avenue and N, Potomac and Prospect Streets. This area encompasses businesses (including many restaurants) and residential dwellings and is where residents have become very vocal in calling for action on rat infestation. Mr. Brown said that the Health Department is committed to the success of the project to rid Georgetown of rats. The plan is to expand the program to all of Georgetown upon achieving success in this pilot area.

Juanita Crabb, Executive Director of the Georgetown BID, said they were pleased to take the lead to move the project forward, as it is good for both business and the community. She said the project was an extraordinary cooperative effort of

many community organizations, government and citizens. She also said one of their goals is "never to have to call the Health Department again with a complaint about rats."

Oren Molovinsky, Treasurer of the Metropolitan Restaurant Association, explained that businesses in the pilot area have joined together to purchase a solar powered trash compactor, in addition to hiring a joint trash hauler and a joint exterminator. This plan gives the businesses more control in efforts to solve the rat problem.

The audience had many questions and suggestions about the project and the relationship to residential trash collection. Several people complained that trash left on the street in plastic bags and on non-collection days fostered an increase of rats. Suggestions from the floor included more frequent inspections by the city and more citations for trash in plastic bags. City regulations require closed cans. There was also a request for flyers explaining the city's trash regulations to be sent periodically to every Georgetown household, and that all realtors give new buyers and renters copies of the regulations.

The meeting concluded with the request that trash and rat complaints be made to 311 and/or the CAG office.

— Brenda Moorman,
Chair, CAG Beautification
Committee



Rapt audience watches "Rats" video at January meeting.



"Oh Rats" panel member Oren Molovinsky addresses audience.

Service with a Smile

“Service with a smile” still appears to be the operative phrase when you visit a service station around Georgetown, although the vast majority of pumps are of the self-service variety. At the Georgetown Exxon on Q Street, I spoke with Mike, the manager, who told me they do work on all makes and models, and try hard to get a car that is dropped off by eight out by five. I asked which cars had the worst repair records, and he only shook his head and smiled, but said that Honda and Toyota were among those with the best.

The station directly across the street, formerly owned by Texaco, now calls itself Lowest Price. When I sang the old Texaco song “you can trust your car to the man who wears

the star,” to Robert, the manager, he seemed genuinely amused. He explained the reason his gas is seventeen cents cheaper than his competitors: “We don’t have to pay the big companies for their advertisements or their transportation. We get it directly from the pipeline. It’s the same product you get anywhere else, but we cut out all the middle men.” You have to pay cash when you “fill’er” up, but you can speak to Robert in French or Spanish, if you don’t want to speak English. They also do repair work, charging the going rate of \$80 an hour.

I spoke with service advisor Chris at the Sunoco Station on P Street, which is located on the edge of Georgetown, towards Dupont Circle. He said their building is proba-

bly over seventy years old. Like the other stations, they do repairs, provide road and towing services, and offer both full and self-service pumps. Charlie, at the cashiers desk, was hesitant to speak on record, but did allow as how he been there “a good long time.”

Lukoil at 2715 Pennsylvania Avenue, also has cheaper gas and actually provided some helpful information about why my engine light had been on for several weeks. For \$75, they hooked me up to a computer and, within half an hour, came up with the reason. “Your car requires no work, simply more use. It needs more exercise.” I was immensely pleased and impressed with the service I received. It was speedy, competent and honest.

The remaining two nearby stations, the Exxon across from Key Bridge on M Street and the Chevron at 2400 Wisconsin, have no service facilities, but do have small markets and ATM machines in addition to their gas pumps.

The days are gone when service station attendants wore bow ties and military style caps. When premiums were offered with a fill-up and a gallon of gas cost the same as a candy bar... Adapting to change is the name of the game and although we’re all feeling the pinch at the pump, at least for the moment, we have to grin and bear it.

— V V Harrison

Georgetown University Winter Music Series on Fridays

The free concert series takes place each Friday at 1:15 pm in McNeir Hall on the GU campus. Visit website: <http://performingarts.georgetown.edu>.

- Feb. 1** Flutist Peter H. Bloom and pianist/harpist Mary Jane Rupert perform works by American women composers.
- Feb. 8** Brazilian Guitarist Richard Miller plays selection of solo classical compositions and contemporary music.
- Feb. 15** Mark Janello (Harpsichord), Jennifer Ellis (Soprano) and Kiri Tolkaksen (Cornetto) transport listeners to the Baroque era with music from Claudio Monteverdi and Chiara Cazzolani.
- Feb. 22** Organist Russell J. Weismann performs selection of concert and liturgical music in Dahlgren Sacred Heart Chapel.

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Bricks and Mortar: Why Repointing Matters

Who in their right mind will slog through an article on brick repointing — “the process of removing deteriorated mortar from the joints of a masonry wall and replacing it with new mortar”? For houses in our designated Historic Preservation district, it is extremely important and the following examples demonstrate why.

Two repointing projects are currently underway in Georgetown, and they are a study in contrasts. One project, we’ll call it ‘Repointing B Plus’, is going to take a month or more, but will last for decades. Another project, we’ll call it ‘Repointing D-Minus’ was more than half-completed in one day (before a stop-work order was placed on the job). For D Minus, the damage to the brick will be immediate and irrevocable. It is no exaggeration to say that the survival of Georgetown’s historic character depends upon all of us knowing the difference between these two projects.

Brick is just about the greatest wall material there is: strong, fire-proof, non-fading, great variety of shapes and details, sheds water naturally and, it’s superbly elegant. If left unpainted it’s virtually maintenance-free. But perhaps you’re thinking: what about the mortar powdering out of some foundation walls and brick walls around town that are chipped, cracked or pock-marked?

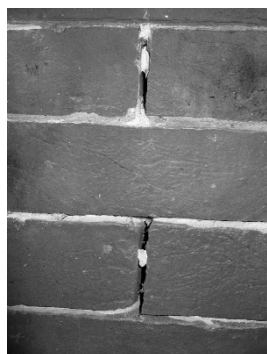
If you see trouble in an old wall, don’t blame the bricks or mortar — they’re usually signaling another problem. Rising damp, insidious leaks from untended roofs and parapets, improper flashing, and freeze-thaw damage might fester unchecked without the bricks to tell the tale — crying out via their cracked or shedding mortar and discolored or spalling bricks. But in a classic case of ‘shooting the messenger,’ the mortar is often drilled out, the bricks scarified and stuccoed, whole areas of brick pulled out and patched, or the whole wall painted over, only to bubble up and pop off as the underlying problem continues. Some quick forensics can point out these hidden issues. Fix those problems first, then see if repointing really is in order.

So back to Repointing B Plus and Repointing D Minus: both these buildings were built before the prevalence of super-strong Portland cement. The old lime-and-sand mortar used in what is scientifically termed ‘the olden days’ (like, between ancient Rome and 1900) acted as a cushion for the bricks. It was softer than the bricks so it absorbed

the stresses on brick from temperature change and weight-bearing. Also, it was the exit path for any water in the bricks, so on good old walls you wouldn’t get those nasty white salt deposits that you sometimes see on newer bricks. And in the very best-crafted old walls, the mortar joint was just a thin elegant line between beautifully smooth bricks. Modern mortar, with its high Portland cement content, is more convenient for contractors because it’s quick-mixing and quick-setting BUT it’s nearly impermeable to any migrating water, and it is hard, not cushiony, so the wall stress and water migration are taken up by the bricks. Relatively soft older bricks will start to crack and chip off and, unlike mortar, the bricks can’t be repaired. [That’s why, when a mason once used quick-set mortar

on my porch steps when I wasn’t paying attention, it looked the next morning like a mini explosion had occurred: giant cracks and movement in the bricks but...the mortar was fine!] Brick walls should never be repointed with mortar that is stronger than the bricks themselves.

Consequently repoint-



Only limited repoint necessary.

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An example of poor repointing.

ing in Georgetown, just as in historic districts throughout the country, *requires a permit*. When you get your permit you will likely be required to use mortar that matches the compressive strength, appearance and tooling of the existing historic mortar, and you will also learn two more key points:

Only repoint where you need to.

If you match the look of the existing mortar you can spare yourself a lot of expense by just repointing the bad sections. Both Repointing B+

and Repointing D- got this wrong: they did a whole-wall removal of the character-defining intact mortar, even where it wasn't needed.

Don't let your mason use power saws! Both Repointing B+ and D- got this wrong too. The bricks on Repointing D-, beautiful old bricks with fine lime mortar joints, now sport jagged marks where the saw slipped into the brick. Repointing D Minus also skipped the hand-finishing and just started smearing modern high-strength mortar over the partially cleaned joints. The result for D Minus will be disastrous, not just because of the gouges, or the air gaps that will subject the mortar to freeze-thaw stress, but because



Power saw damage on bricks.

down the road (and soon) the bricks will start to absorb the stresses that the mortar can't, and the face of the bricks will spall or chip right off. Further, the coat of paint D Minus is likely to use (to cover up the damage they're inflicting?) will be a maintenance nightmare. At least with Repointing B+, they used masons experienced in historic brick, they limited the use of power tools and used mostly hand removal with chisels and mash hammers, and they have no intention of painting the beautiful old brick.

Obviously, repointing done well can be expensive. Brick damaged by careless or unnecessary repointing causes loss of value for owners and can compromise the beauty and integrity of the historic district as a whole. But if it is done properly, and limited to only where needed, repointing will provide decades or more of maintenance-free bricks.

— Louise Brodnitz
preservation architect, urban planner and CAG historic preservation committee member

NEWSBYTES *Washingtonian Magazine's* 100 Best Restaurants list for 2007 included Georgetown's 1789 Restaurant (1226 36th Street); Citronelle (3000 M Street); Hook (3241 M Street); Leopold's Kafe & Konditerei (3315 M Street); Mendocino Grille & Wine Bar (2917 M Street)...The Wet Seal Store on Wisconsin has closed; and the French Connection next door will move to another location in Georgetown, to be replaced by DC's first Apple retail store...Dixie Liquors has reopened with new owners...Gore Dean has moved from Cady's Alley to O Street near Wisconsin...Every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 4:45pm Tugoo Toys (1419 Wisconsin Avenue) offers free in-store activities (puppet, music, art shows) for your children...Tommy Hilfinger store is opening on M Street...Also on M, check out the Marc and Fred Maroon prints exhibit at Barnes & Noble...Are you interested in a French immersion tour to Corsica this June? Contact Georgetown University Professor/tour leader Fabienne Spier at 363-1414, email: spierf@georgetown.edu.



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Hyde First Grade Teacher Named DC's 2008 State Teacher of the Year

Kathleen M. Sheehy, the first grade teacher at Georgetown's own Hyde Elementary School, has been named the winner of the District of Columbia's 2008 State Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in teaching. A project of the Council of Chief State School Officers, the award is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honors programs focused on excellence in teaching.

Ms. Sheehy has been teaching at Hyde for five years. She also serves as a Lead Teacher for the Teachers Institute Writing

Project, an innovative professional development organization that works to develop best practices in the areas of reading and writing throughout the District of Columbia.

A 2001 graduate of Binghamton University with a BS degree in Human Development and a BA degree in English and literature, Ms. Sheehy also received a MA degree in

Elementary Education from New York University.

Some of her major accomplishments include being a finalist for the 2007 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award for the District of Columbia, and receiving a 2007 Grant in Education Award from *The Washington Post* for helping develop an innovative reading and writing curriculum project.



"She does a really extraordinary job of keeping the kids interested and enthusiastic," says Peter Eisler, who has a first grader in Sheehy's class and a third grader who was in

her class two years ago. "She's great on the academics, and she's always finding ways to make schoolwork fun, whether it's reading and writing or math and science. But she also spends a lot of time just teaching the kids how to be good people. They learn to be responsible and to respect each other. And by making the children better citizens, she seems to make them better learners, too."

As posted by DC Councilman Jack Evans on CAG's GeorgetownForum listserv on January 5, 2008:

Everyone is very shocked and saddened by the shooting of Scooby in Foggy Bottom at the end of the year. Besides the senseless loss of a pet, it raises a lot of questions about public safety as an innocent bystander could easily have been hurt.

I've been in touch with both Scooby's owner and MPD Chief Lanier. We are all very committed to preventing something like this from happening again. My office and I are working with the Washington Humane Society (WHS) to set up a formal training program in honor of Scooby. WHS is providing specially produced videos focusing on "police to dog shootings" and hands-on workshops to officers in dog behavior, learning how to read the body language dogs display and non-lethal defensive tactics in the event an officer feels threatened.

Chief Lanier is also planning additional training during their Roll Call Training modules and their 2008 pistol re-qualifications.

I want to thank everyone who's been interested in this important matter and especially Ed Mulrenin who's met with MPD and offered specific recommendations to avoid this happening again.

Jack

Important Phone Numbers/ Websites for City Services

Metropolitan Police Department
Washington, DC

Police & Fire Department's Emergency & Non Emergency Number: 9-1-1.

Call 9-1-1 for all police-related matters, emergency and non-emergency, ambulance and fire.

To Request City Services (graffiti removal, assistance with abandoned cars and abandoned houses, etc.) dial 3-1-1.

Call 3-1-1 for all other governmental agency requests and city services.

A School Visit from McGruff the Crime Dog: 727-8809

Criminal Records/Police Clearance: 727-4245

Operation TIPP (Terrorist Incident Prevention Program): TERRORIST TIP LINE: 1 877 YOU WATCH (877-968-9282)

GUN TIP LINE: 1 800 GUN-TIPS (800-486-8477)

CRIME SOLVERS: 1 800-673-2777 (PICK DC, VA OR MD)

DC's Legal Brief: Gun Ban:
<http://www.nbc4.com/download/2008/0104/14980193.pdf>

City's Customer Services Operations:

3-1-1 or http://dc.gov/mayor/customer_service/core_services.shtm

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Citizens Association of Georgetown

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☐ I/we would like the CAG Guard to call and or stop by our house to introduce himself

☐ I would like to learn more about becoming a Public Safety Block Captain

CAG welcomes your comments and suggestions.

Please send this form with payment in the enclosed envelope to Citizens Association of Georgetown, Suite 200, 1365 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20007 or fax to 202-333-1088.

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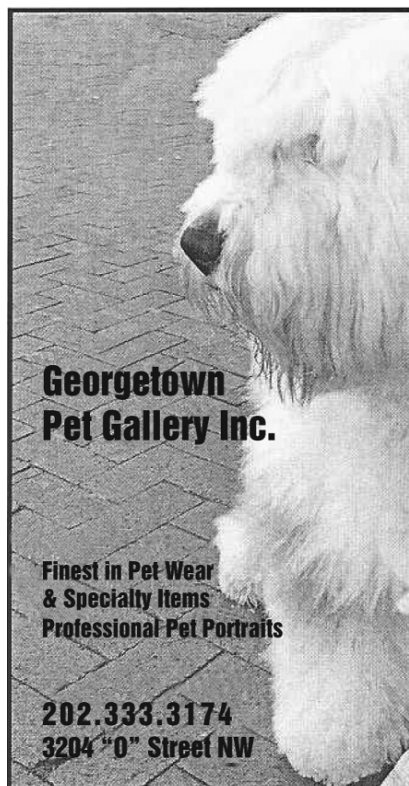
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202 337-7313

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E-mail: cagmail@cagtown.orgWebsite: www.cagtown.org**FEBRUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR**

Tues. Feb. 5	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.
Thurs. Feb. 7	Nathans Community Lunch featuring French Ambassador Pierre Vimont; Noon; call 338-2000 for reservations.
Thurs. Feb 7 and Sat. Feb. 9	Utility Quality Hearings on service provided by Pepco, Verizon, Washington Gas held by Councilmember Mary Cheh, chair of Committee on Public Services & Consumer Affairs; 10 am; 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Council Chamber, 5th floor; call 724-8062 or email abenjamin@dccouncil.us to testify at hearing.
Sat. Feb. 9	Partnership for Problem Solving (PPS) Meeting Sponsored by the Metropolitan Police Department to discuss community issues at 10:30 am; MPD 2nd District, 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW.
Tues. Feb. 12	(ALL) Alliance for Local Living Meeting to discuss community issues with Georgetown residents and students at GU; 6:30 pm; GU Leavey Center; call GU for details at 687-4056.
Wed. Feb. 13	Citizens Association of Georgetown Special Community Night at Duke Ellington School Production of <i>The Wiz</i> ; VIP Reception for CAG members at 6 pm; performance at 7:30 pm; Reservoir Road & 35th Street; tickets for adults \$20, children under 12 \$15; call 337-4825 for tickets.
Mon. Feb. 18	Celebrate George on Presidents Day at Tudor Place; 11am – 1pm; members \$10, nonmembers \$15, children under 18 free; 1644 31st Street; call 965-0400 for reservations.