

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



Citizens Association
of Georgetown

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WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

***Potomac: The River Runs Through Us* - CAG Meeting March 18**

Judi Cochran - Membership & Meeting Committee

The March meeting will focus on one of our greatest assets: the Potomac River. Each of us is connected to the Potomac River in diverse ways and most of us get our drinking water from the Potomac River. On Tuesday, March 18, at 7:30 pm we will view Peggy Fleming's beautiful documentary *POTOMAC: The River Runs Through Us* about how our wellbeing and that of future generations is intertwined with the health of the Potomac.

Following the half hour film, we will hear from filmmaker Peggy Fleming and Thomas Jacobus, the General Manager of the Washington Aqueduct, who is an expert regarding the treatment and handling of our water supply. Also on deck for the discussion is Stephany Flack, Potomac River Project Director for The Nature Conservancy.



A still from Peggy Fleming's documentary *POTOMAC: The River Runs Through Us*

It will be an informative conversation because Thomas Jacobus manages the Washington Aqueduct, the water utility operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers that provides potable water to all of DC (as well as Arlington County and the Falls Church area). He



Stephany Flack, with the Nature Conservancy Potomac River Project, and Thomas Jacobus, manager of the Washington Aqueduct, will talk about water issues



has executed major improvements to infrastructure, and continues to modify the water treatment process to meet increasingly stringent regulatory standards and customer expectations. Before this, he served as an active duty Corps of Engineer military officer in assignments including Vietnam, Europe, and installations in the United States. He graduated from West Point and subsequently received master's degrees in nuclear engineering and business administration. Stephany Flack is featured in the film and has worked for The Nature Conservancy since 1995 at the national, state, and local level where she puts to very good use her degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from Princeton University, and a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Our meeting is hosted by Long & Foster in their newly renovated meeting space at Wisconsin and Reservoir Road (1680 Wisconsin Avenue NW).

The reception begins at 7:00 and the program will be from 7:30 until 8:30. Limited parking is available on the north side of the building (and street parking on Wisconsin becomes available at 6:30). Use the front entrance stairs on Wisconsin Avenue to the main lobby. (Ramps and elevators are available.)

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—Henry David Thoreau

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President's Letter

Recently you should have received a letter or e-mail from us asking you to renew your membership dues for 2014. If you have responded and are a CAG member, thank you. We look forward to having you be part of the ongoing effort to keep Georgetown safe, tree covered, true to its historic heritage and a pleasant community in which to live, work and play.

If you are not a current member, this month's letter is especially for you. Your contribution of \$50 (individual membership) or \$65 (household membership) provides you with a ready source of information about what is happening of importance in our community. In addition, and key for many of us, is that CAG volunteers are willing to help you wind your way through the regulations that come with living in a National Historic Landmark. Many members use CAG as a resource when they have concerns about building projects on their blocks, when noise from restaurants and bars gets out of control, when they are ready to make additions to their homes, and/or when they want advice or information about safety on our streets.

Also crucial is CAG's participation and cooperation with community-wide programs such as Georgetown University Community Partnership Committees (we have active

volunteers on five committees meeting regularly); organizations such as the ANC2E, the Business Improvement District (BID), The Friends of the Georgetown Waterfront Park, and the Georgetown Business Association; and agencies (DDOT, DC Water, ABC Board, DPW, DCRA, to name a few). The BID's recently-introduced Georgetown 2028 plan will be an initiative with which CAG needs to be involved. This 75-action item plan includes Metro stops and innovative use of public spaces. The study focuses on how Georgetown will look in 15 years and it is important that CAG be part of the discussion and our members' voices be heard.



CAG board at work: (l-r) Vice President Bob vom Eigen, Victoria Rixey, Topher Mathews, Executive Director Betsy Cooley, Pamla Moore, John Richardson, Past President Jennifer Altemus, Karen "Cookie" Cruse, Luca Pivato, Hazel Denton, and Legal Advisor Richard Hinds. Not pictured: Secretary Barbara Downs, Treasurer Bob Laycock, and Diane Colasanto

Unfortunately, dues alone do not cover the many services CAG provides its members. That is why each year CAG reaches out to the business community, seeks sponsors for events such as Concerts in the Parks, holds an annual fund raising GALA (in 2013 at the Italian Embassy), requests special support from neighbors and friends on behalf of the very important Public Safety Program and hosts the Trees for Georgetown party each spring.

However, when you pay your annual dues to CAG you give the association the bedrock needed to keep the office fully functional and able to respond to your calls. Every newsletter printed and mailed has a cost, as do phones, copy machines, computers, paper, postage, bookkeeping, and other essential administrative procedures. CAG runs a very tight ship and manages its income and expenses carefully. Your dues (tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law) of \$50 or \$65 make a difference.

Please support CAG by paying your dues today. Checks should be made payable to Citizens Association of Georgetown and mailed to CAG, 1365 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20007. Or pay online at the CAG website by credit card: www.cagtown.org.

OGB Suggests Changes in Hyde Addison School Renovation Plan

Walter Groszyk - *Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee*

At its February meeting, the Old Georgetown Board asked the District government and the architects for the proposed addition to the Hyde Addison School to study an alternative to the currently planned, largely subterranean building. The addition would increase academic square footage by nearly 50 percent, create a "Gymatorium", and establish a media center. The Hyde Addison School currently lacks any space for indoor recreation and gatherings, resulting in a sub-standard educational environment. Renovations to the Hyde school would also be made, allowing for about a 20 percent

increase in enrollment.

The Old Georgetown Board is concerned that the current design is being driven by an effort to preserve the current play area between the Addison School on P Street and the Hyde School on O Street. To preserve this outdoor recreation space, the addition is largely underground, with little natural light. The Board noted that there was once a third school as part of the complex (the Curtis School on O Street, built in 1875, demolished in 1951). The Board indicated it would be receptive to an addition that was above ground, perhaps even several stories in height, with abundant natural light.

Aspects of Georgetown

A PLACE FULL OF SURPRISES

Edith Schafer

Lately it seems that our new (relatively new) library is offering us one unexpected treat after another, it's a cornucopia of challenges and diversions. On a pleasant Saturday afternoon recently fifty interested people showed up in the Peabody Room to hear Ruth Troccoli, our City Archaeologist from the Historic Preservation Office. She talked about our prehistory and our more recent past, which by now is historic enough. The size and enthusiasm of the audience astonished us all.

There are four major types of archeological sites: Prehistoric, Protohistoric/Contact, which means Native American but after the contact with Europeans, Historic, which means post European settlement, starting roughly around 1700, and Underwater—shipwrecks and submerged sites from any period.

It seems that our area, at the junction of two rivers, is archeologically rich. She showed us tools made from sharks' teeth secured to sticks with twine and bowls made from gourd, wood, birchbark, and basketry. She showed us how early residents used cloth wrapped paddles to give the suggestion of a woven pattern to clay vessels. She showed arrowheads and a comb made from the scapula of a deer from construction of the Whitehurst Freeway and a comb made from the scapula of a deer.

People threw things in wells, and the water helped preserve them as wells were generally left alone. Construction has of course disturbed many things over the years, but in 2012 on Q Street a several graves were found, all with feet to the east, head to the west. Not many people there, but definitely more than one. Maps or documents identifying this cemetery have been lost.

The past is everywhere, isn't it? What is gratifying is how many of us turned out to learn about the past of the place where we live, the place we appear to enjoy living in!

The Growing Roar

Bob vom Eigen - CAG Vice President

You may be wondering why you are hearing more aircraft noise from Reagan National Airport during all hours of the day, even before 5:00 am or after 11:00 pm. The increase is due to (1) a recent extension of the main north-south runway at Reagan, which permits heavier and potentially louder airplanes; (2) the elimination of any time restrictions on landings and departures; (3) the pervasive use of a gradual vertical incline when taking off to the north, rather than an approved steeper incline take-off pattern that would reduce noise; (4) the merger of American and US Airlines that will result in the divestiture of their slots currently used for commuter routes to smaller markets to carriers,

such as Southwest and Jet Blue, that will use those slots to service major urban markets with larger and louder planes; and (5) the creation of numerous exceptions to the 1,250 mile limit on commercial flights to and from Reagan by members of Congress living in more distant districts in the West.

CAG is joining a coalition of communities affected by this increased noise to encourage the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the Federal Aviation Administration and the airlines to achieve noise mitigation measures. The new coalition is Communities for Smart Airport Growth (CSAG), comprised of Georgetown, Burleith, Foxhall Village, Hillandale, Palisades and Foggy Bottom.

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Can the New Green Infrastructure Plan limit Tunnels under Georgetown?

Walter Groszyk—*Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee*

The front page story of the Washington Post on February 16 described the Lady Bird, a massive tunneling machine presently at work under Anacostia. Take note, as a similar tunnel is planned for deep beneath Georgetown.

These tunnels are central features of DC Water's (formerly WASA) plan to abate discharge of combined sewers directly into Washington's rivers and creeks. Combined sewers carry both sanitary waste from buildings and runoff from rainstorms or snowmelt. When the runoff exceeds the capacity of the combined sewer, there is an overflow, through an outfall pipe, directly into the river — often a major source of pollution.

Nearly ten years ago, the District government agreed in a consent decree to eliminate most of the combined sewer overflow (CSO). The plan for Georgetown was to construct a large-diameter, 58-million gallon stormwater retention tunnel, stretching from the Roosevelt Bridge to the Canal Road entrance into Georgetown University. With return of dry weather, a pumping station near the bridge would pump out (de-water) the tunnel, sending the contents to the Blue Plains treatment plant. Construction of this tunnel would affect only lower Georgetown, principally near K and Water streets, as drop shafts and diversion chambers connecting the combined sewers to the tunnel would be drilled in this area.

DC Water now seeks to modify the consent decree, and has developed a new plan to reduce the combined sewer overflows into the Potomac at Georgetown. In the new plan, the proposed tunnel would be shortened and reduced in size by about 60 percent. This would be feasible because a planned expansion of the Blue Plains facility would lessen the need for storage during storm events.

In Georgetown, there are currently six outfalls along the river. The largest by volume is the outfall for the West Rock Creek Diversion Sewer at the foot of 30th Street, which would be connected to the down-sized retention tunnel. Two smaller CSOs service the area around Thomas Jefferson and 31st Streets. Under the plan, these outflows would be separated into distinct sanitary and storm sewers, thereby decreasing current pollution levels. Three other CSOs are located west of Wisconsin Avenue: near the Canal Road entrance to Georgetown University, adjacent to the Aqueduct Bridge, and in the Waterfront Park.

To address the overflow from these three sewers, DC Water would apply its most innovative thinking, using what it terms "green infrastructure". For example, rather than connecting gutters and yard drains to the combined sewer, runoff from roofs would be collected in rain barrels and cisterns. The current, impervious pavement on streets would be replaced with pavement that drains water to the surface below. DC Water expects this green infrastructure will achieve a level of control for these three outfalls similar to what would be achieved if they were connected to the large stormwater retention tunnel.

Under the current consent decree, the seven Georgetown outfalls were to be connected to the large retention tunnel by 2025. The new plan would result in significant delays, with the green infrastructure measures and various tunnel constructions phased in over an extended period ending in 2032.

An informational meeting on DC Water's proposed changes to the consent decree was held at Georgetown Visitation on February 18th. Those interested in reading the Green Infrastructure plan may download a copy from this site: <http://www.dewater.com/education/green.cfm>

The above site also provides an address for submitting comments: comments are due by March 14.

NEWSBYTES...

Bank of Georgetown opened new corporate headquarters and an adjoining branch, "The Winsor Branch" in honor of co-founder and late chairman Curtis Winsor III, at 1115 30th Street Chef Fabio Trabocchi opened his third DC restaurant, **Fiola Mare**, at Washington Harbour, featuring fish evoking a dining experience found along the coasts of Italy and Spain... Deborah and Han Kim who brought us Macaron Bee on Wisconsin Avenue have opened a tea room called **Lady Camellia** at 3261 Prospect Street which will offer Macaron Bee's classics, along with scones, croissants, tea cakes, sandwiches, tartlets and mini cupcakes – a full English tea **Dean & DeLuca Georgetown** is offering in-store wine classes with a discussion and education on the wines featured (call 342-5000 to register) as well as complimentary wines on-the-house every weekend from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Wine Hall... **Calypso St. Barth**, a luxury women's & home store featuring rich textures, exotic colors, and embellishments, opened Feb. 7 at 3307 M St. NW... **Amina Rubinacci Boutique**, a sophisticated women's luxury designer label founded in 1967 from Napoli, opened March 1 at 2822 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.

Georgetown ARTS 2014 a Success

House of Sweden graciously hosted the fifth annual Georgetown ARTS show. Over 400 people attended the opening reception featuring work by thirty Georgetown artists. The weekend brought even more visitors for the Artist Talks. Photos by Shelley Rees.



Artist Andrey Bogoslowsky and friend



Artist Sidney Lawrence and Tom Birch



Artists Cherry Baumbusch and Camilla Bozzilli



Artist Dariush Vaziri's daughters next to his work



Georgetown ARTS chair Laura Anne Tiscornia and show curator and designer Jennie Buehler



Michael Higgins with artist Wendy Cortesi



Sue Hamilton and artist Jane Lepsky



Bob Laycock, and guest, Cynthia Howar, Evie Hirsh



The installation crew hard at work



Artist Helen DuBois explains her process



Entrance to the show



Artist Wendy Plotkin-Mates's Artist Talk

Community Concerns Over Duke Ellington School Modernization

Bob vom Eigen - *Historic Preservation + Zoning Committee*

Duke Ellington School of the Arts, created in 1974 at the old Western High School, is an historic landmark constructed in the late 19th Century with an impressive Neo-Classic facade. The building is currently in need of modernization to improve the performance venues for music, dance and the visual arts. The D.C. Department of General Services (DGS) has set aside \$80 million for the project, and retained two firms to create the conceptual design, which was submitted in December to ANC2E, the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the District's Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB).

Residents located in adjoining neighborhoods have formed a task force under the direction of the ANC2E's Ron Lewis and Ed Solomon, and numerous issues were generated by the conceptual plan. CAG has joined that task force, and has submitted comments on the design to CFA and HPRB.

The major source of concern is a rooftop outdoors performance venue with an amplified sound system. There will be numerous performance and practice venues constructed within the expanded building, and the neighbors and ANC2E commissioners see little educational benefit to an outdoor space on the roof. The architects assert that the rooftop venue cannot be seen from the street or the second story of adjoining properties, but they cannot promise there won't be disruptive noise.

CFA and HPRB have expressed concerns over various aspects of the conceptual design, but have taken the position that the use of the rooftop venue is not a design concern within their jurisdiction. Mayor Gray has designated a mediator, Don Edwards, successful facilitator in the Georgetown University campus plan process, to mediate a resolution of our present concerns. He is insisting that there be three representatives on each side with each representative possessing decision making authority. CAG is hopeful that the process can commence within days.

Eco-Tip: Call a Compost Cab

Until city wide composting is available in DC (as it is in nearly 100 cities nationwide), you might want to consider calling a compost cab. Here's how it works: after signing up on line (Compostcab.com), an air tight bin complete with compostable liner is delivered to your door. You collect your kitchen scraps (if it grows, it goes) which are picked up once a week and delivered to partnering not-for-profit farms for their composting purposes. There's a monthly fee involved but in return for keeping tons of organic material out of landfills, you are entitled to 50 lbs. of rich compost, delivered in the spring for your gardening pleasure!

Lee Child, Georgetown Garden Club

Georgetown ARTS 2014 a Success *continued from pg. 6*



Artist William Shelton next to his artwork



Artists Joan Konkell, Fabiano Amin, and Betsy Cooley



Clarisa Ringlien shows her newly purchased print by Mary Wagner to Jennie Buehler

Concerts Kick Off Party at Pinstripes



Concerts Chairs Jennie Reno, Hannah Isles, and Jennifer Altemus with Jack Evans



John Girourad , Betsy Emes, Colleen Girourad, Raphael Thiney, and Will Houston



Madeline Wade throws down on the bocce court



Elizabeth Miller throws a strike!



Dan Sallick in full swing



Elizabeth Miller, Renee Esfandiary Crupi, and Jennie Buehler



The Girourad's and Jennifer Altemus



Erik Crupi, Jennie Reno, and Jennifer Aletmus announce winners in the prize drawing



Ed Emes and Hazel Denton

Sometimes Nice Things Happen

VV Harrison

The parking lot was full and so were all the meters, so I parked very near a fire hydrant on the corner of Wisconsin and O Streets close to CVS, which was my destination. It was a rush job. Rush in, grab a few valentines and rush back before the long arm of the law could write me a ticket. I'd done it before without incident, but just as I was winging my way out of the store and about to turn the corner, I had to rush back to retrieve the irresistible heart shaped candy box with Mickey and Minnie Mouse lid that, in my rush to retrieve my car, I'd left near one of those annoying check out machines that keep telling you to "remove item and place in bag".

By the time I returned, a young policeman was standing in front of my car beginning to write a ticket. I, of course, informed him that I was back and would move said vehicle immediately, knowing that his answer would be "once I start writing a ticket I can't tear it up." But to my great astonishment he said, "I am going to check with my supervisor, and see if I can cancel the ticket." I remained skeptical about the outcome, but stood by crossing my fingers and holding my breath. When he returned he said, "It's okay, you can go." I was totally surprised, shocked and ever so grateful. I told him I had lived in Georgetown for many years, and had never had a ticket rescinded,

especially one so richly deserved. He said he was a trainee and new on the job. I said his response to my situation was greatly appreciated and that I was sure he would make an outstanding officer. I wished him a Happy Valentine's Day, and handed him the box of chocolates, which he refused at first, but when I asked if he had children, he said he did, and agreed to take it home for them. I felt that the fickle finger of fate had reached out and touched me in a positive way, thanks to the kindhearted cop who made my day!



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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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CommunityCalendar

Monday, March 3

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC2E) Public Meeting
6:30pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation; agenda available www.anc2e.com; call 724-7098

Thursday, March 6

Stone Soup Films Kickoff Party for 'Lights, Camera, Fashion Pop-up Shop'
Shop, sip, and snack your way through racks of designer clothes from DC's most stylish women
7-9:30pm; 3330 Cady's Alley NW; Tickets \$40; 337-1070 or info@stonesoupfilms.org

Thursday, March 6

Atlanta Fed Chair Dennis Lockhart Lecture
Lecture on the state of the US economy
6pm; GU Lohrfink Auditorium

Friday, March 14

Container Garden Workshop
Plant your own and learn to care for it in this series of workshops by Director of Garden & Grounds Suzanne Bouchard, held monthly on second Fridays
10:30-11:30am; Tudor Place museum; \$20 members, \$25 non-members; 965-0400 x108, www.tudorplace.org

Tuesday, March 18

CAG Meeting: The River Runs Through Us
Long and Foster, 1680 Wisconsin Ave NW, Reception at 7pm program at 7:30pm, See cover page

Saturday, March 23

Walking Tour-"Mr. Nourse's Neighborhood: Georgetown c.1800"
Join Dwane Starlin for a walk through Georgetown's East Village streets, circa 1800.
11:00am; Dumbarton House Museum; meet at the corner of Q and 27th Streets NW, \$10 per person; 337-2288

Friday, March 28

Singing in the Spring Benefit Concert
A cappella group Harmony and other GU singing groups celebrate musical cultures to raise money for One Body Village
7:30pm; GU McNeir Hall; Free, but seating is limited; 687-2787

Saturday, March 29

GU Performing Arts Neighbor Night to see *Doubt: A Parable*
Neighbors who live in 20007 receive 20% discount on tickets
8pm; Gonda Theatre; use code NEIGHBOR when purchasing, 687-2787, www.georgetown.edu/events