

of GEORGETOWN

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WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

## Celebrate Earth Day April 22 Tour GU's New Science Building



Among its many attributes, the new building houses the Institute for Soft Matter Synthesis and Metrology, launched at Georgetown with a \$6.9 million grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Soft matter is found in everyday items such as shampoo, toothpaste and face cream, but may one day have a much wider application in areas such as sustainability and energy storage.

Physics labs in the building have advanced resources and equipment to study nanotechnology fabrication and soft matter, including high-powered microscopes that can produce three-dimensional images of structures.

New GU Science Center Regents Hall

n Monday, April 22, 2013, Georgetown University will host CAG to view their state of the art new science building. The evening will start with a reception in the grand old salon, the Copley Formal Lounge in the Copley Building just off Healy Circle, where we will hear from Ali Whitmer, a key leader in the development of Regents Hall. From there groups will venture out to tour Regents Hall — GU's new, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, state-ofthe-art science building.

Home to the departments of biology, chemistry and physics, the five-story, \$100 million new Regents Hall science building comprises 154,000 square feet of space that includes classrooms, 12 teaching labs, over three floors of research labs, four conference rooms, six student lounges and a café.

A key aspect of Regents Hall is the special design to facilitate and increase interdisciplinary collaboration, interaction and research. Labs feature technologically advanced instrumentation and environmental controls necessary to conduct sensitive experiments and research. The meeting will start with a reception at 7 pm in the Copley Building (to the right of Healy Hall on the quad). Ms. Whitmer will speak and then we'll break up into group tours of the new building.

-Michele Jacobson



**Regents Hall Interior** 

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

s I am writing this I can barely see out the window because the snow is coming down so hard. And I thought that Spring was here. Alas, foiled by March yet again. However, a couple of harbingers of Spring are right around the corner — the Georgetown House Tour and the Georgetown Garden tour.

The House Tour sponsored by St. John's Church will take place on Saturday, April 27. Thanks to co-chairs Stephanie Bothwell and Frank Randolph it will again feature a fantastic selection of private homes graciously opening their doors to support the many ministries of the Parish.

The Georgetown House Tour celebrates the rich architectural heritage and history of Georgetown as well as its role as a residential community. On this day each year, visitors come from all over the country for this special opportunity to take a look inside the featured residences.

To kickoff the event, the House Tour Patron's Party will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at the lovely home of Tom Anderson and Marc Schappell whose Federal house has undergone a meticulous, four year historic restoration. For more information visit georgetownhousetour.com.

The Garden Tour, sponsored by the Georgetown Garden Club, will take place on Saturday, May 11 and will showcase a wide variety of gardens, some with sweeping lawns and majestic trees and some serving as intimate outside rooms. Christ Church will serve as headquarters for the tour and, as usual, will host the restorative afternoon tea we all need after our stroll through nature. More information on the Garden Tour is available at GeorgetownGardenTour.com



Jennifer Altemus with our March Speaker Leslie Buhler

I went to a great meeting the other day. Joe Sternlieb, the dynamic director of the Georgetown Business Improvement District, and his team are embarking on a collaborative planning process for our neighborhood's commercial district called "Georgetown 2028." The goals are to develop a strategic vision for ensuring that Georgetown remains a world-class commercial district — economically, physically, and environmentally — and to identify the actions that must be taken between now and 2028 to see this vision realized.

Small focus groups will meet throughout March, then the BID will launch Georgetown 2028 publicly to the broader community. Business and property owners, neighborhood organizations, and community leaders will be encouraged to participate in the creative process. The effort will start in early summer and conclude by Thanksgiving.

There will be an initial meeting to explain the process and a website where you can get more information and give your suggestions for what you would like Georgetown to look like in 2028. I think this has the potential to be a really exciting and productive project for our community. I hope you will be involved.

Speaking of getting involved, on April 20 Diane Colasanto will host CAG Public Safety Block Captains and those interested in becoming block captains. Currently over 75 Georgetown residents have volunteered to be "crime communication central" for their close-by-neighbors. These committed individuals contact neighbors by flyer and email networks, about crime and security on their particular block, as well as pertinent notices from MPD, GU or other individuals.

They also provide CAG and the the police with invaluable feedback about what is of concern to their neighbors. This has really opened up the channels of communication. If you don't know your block captain — check the Public Safety section at cagtown.org. And if you are interested in becoming a block captain call the CAG office at 202-337-7313 for more details.

-Jennifer Altemus



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#### ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

## **Catching Rays in Georgetown**

atching rays, remember when it used to mean working on your tan? Those days are gone and we have moved on. Now we catch those rays to power our cars, run our lights, heat our houses and that's for starters. Solar power is the turning of sunlight into energy. Radiant heat and light from the sun have been harnessed for years. Now, either by photovoltaic cells or concentrating sunlight by lenses and mirrors, we are getting better at it. It is coming to houses and shops near you.

Sounds good. It is good. It's greener, better for the environment. And more economical than getting power from the grid. You pay by the month, just like a utility, only it's cheaper. Each homeowner's savings will vary depending on the size of the system and the tax credits and rebates they qualify for, but that savings can be as high as 70%. Most people can expect to save at least 10% if they have the right shade free roof. Solar is ready to become a mainstream power source. It also enhances the value of your home.

No installation, no maintenance costs. The DC government gives rebates and there are federal incentives as well. Also, Pepco is mandated to create renewable power, so Pepco pays the users of solar power quarterly. When there is more energy than you need, the meter runs backward, saving you money. And the extra power goes back on the grid. When there are cold dark days you go back on the grid.

My sources for all this cheerful information are Lee Keshishian of Solar City, the company, and John Hayes, owner of our favorite store, the Phoenix, a solar powered store. Bear in mind this is Georgetown so the Phoenix had to go through Fine Arts and make a small accommodation so that the 30 panels on the roof cannot be seen from the street. Did you know there are 30 solar panels on the roof of the Phoenix? I thought not. The Hayes's did their house in Palisades too.

You can call SolarCity yourself if you want to find out if solar is right for your home or business at 1-888-SOL-CITY.

Actually I don't work for a solar power company although it may sound that way. But it just so happens that on my kitchen table, which gets a lot of sun in the middle of the afternoon, there is a small (7") plastic replica of Queen Elizabeth II. She is smiling, and she is solar powered, and when the sun hits her she waves her hand at me in a royal sort of way. It is really pretty terrific, a sunny room and a waving Queen, life is good.

-Edith Schafer

## **Annual Georgetown House Tour Set for April 27**

Tephanie Bothwell and Frank Babb Randolph are again cochairing the historic Georgetown House tour which will feature nine spectacular homes showcasing the best of Georgetown. "We are delighted to once again offer our guests the rare opportunity to look inside some of Georgetown's most beautiful homes," said Stephanie Bothwell. Frank Babb Randolph added "We strive to select special homes that showcase the diversity of architecture and design styles that make up this village. Among the homes featured this year are a sophisticated Federal Revival, a unique charmer with a beautiful garden, an evocative corner mansion perched on top of a hill, the home on the cover of the April issue of Veranda Magazine.

The event runs from 11am until 5 pm. Houses are arranged for easy walking at your own pace taken in the order you prefer. The ticket price includes a tour booklet including a map of the houses. The cost per person is \$45 until April 21st, and \$50 thereafter (including the day of the tour). The tour will include the traditional Parish Tea in Blake Hall in historic St. John's Church located at 3240 O Street. This lovely tea features homemade tea sandwiches and sweets. You may walk in any time between 2 to 5 pm to delight in the many treats. Proceeds from this event will benefit the outreach programs of St. John's church.

Preceding the house tour, on the evening of April 24, the Georgetown House Tour Patrons Party will take place at another fabulous Georgetown home. This fundraiser is open to the public and draws Georgetowners, friends of St. John's and their guests to a landmark Georgetown home for a festive evening in honor of the many residents who have graciously opened their homes for our tour.

Tickets may be purchased in advance for the Patrons Party and the House Tour at www.georgetownhousetour.com. And please contact the Parish office at 202-338-1796 to be added to the mailing list.

# TREES FOR GEORGETOWN ANNUAL CELEBRATION MAY 8



ast fall, the biggest and oldest street tree in Georgetown, which stood at the corner of Prospect and 35th, came crashing down. Sad as it was, this spectacular specimen had lived to maturity. Its time, as they say, had come. Fortunately, the volunteer staff of Trees for Georgetown is on top of replacing trees that die. Since it was formed in 1989, the offshoot of the Citizens Association of Georgetown has planted nearly 2000 street trees, watered these and others during drought, and provided preventative maintenance for at-risk trees.

This year, Trees for Georgetown is launching a new program that will help them — and the rest of us connect and care for our street trees. Called the "Georgetown Initiative for Family Trees" (GIFT), the program's mission is to "root the people and businesses of the community to the trees that shade our streets". People will be able to sponsor a tree, whether to celebrate the birth of a baby, mark the passing of a milestone, memorialize a special person, or even honor a pet. Each sponsored tree will be marked and each tree sponsor will be able to go online to learn about their tree. The initiative's vision is to fill every tree box and maintain and name every tree in Georgetown.

The tradition of planting street trees in Washington began with Thomas Jefferson. He was so dismayed that so many trees had been felled to create the Capitol city that he supervised the planting of Lombardy poplars along Pennsylvania Avenue. The Family Tree Initiative will continue in this tradition.



We will mark the trees in the name of the honoree with a QR code, as seen to the right. Download a free QR reader

app and give it a try with your phone. Thomas Jefferson would have loved this technology.

More information will be available at the annual Trees for Georgetown Spring Celebration on May 8th. The event will be hosted by Shellev and Bruce Ross-Larson at their home at 1611 29th Street, NW. The house was previously owned by Susan Mary (nee Jay) Alsop a direct descendant of the first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, one of Thomas Jefferson's colleagues. Attendees will also be able to enjoy the Ross-Larson garden, which was designed by Perry Wheeler, the landscape designer who also designed Jacqueline Kennedy's rose garden at the White House. Tickets to the party are \$150 for individuals and sponsorships range from \$500 to \$1,500. For more information, contact Georgetown Initiative for Family Trees at GIFTrees@gmail.com.

## Eco-Tip: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The small wheeled blue recycle cart is a welcome addition to our recycling efforts in DC. If you don't have one or need another, call the Citywide Call Center at 311 to request one. All clean recyclables go into the cart. No need to separate — just throw them in loose: junk mail, paper, cardboard, metal cans, glass containers, plastic bottles, widemouth plastic tubs, plastic bags, telephone books, aluminum foil, milk and juice cartons (with tops). Do not include Styrofoam or any foamed plastics, light bulbs, window glass, clam-shelled plastics (e.g., containers for berries and tomatoes), salad bar containers or pizza boxes.

Once recyclables are picked up by the Department of Public Works, they are taken to a specially designed Materials Recovery Facility where they are sorted by type, shredded or crushed, baled and loaded onto trucks to be shipped to factories to be remanufactured.

Who knows, maybe your old milk carton may contribute to the park bench you sit on or the warm fuzzie you throw over your shoulders. Reduce, reuse, recycle!

> —Lee Child Georgetown Garden Club

# Full House for CAG Meeting on the Civil War in Georgetown at Four Seasons Hotel

n enthusiastic crowd turned out at the Four Seasons hotel on March 19 to hear Tudor Place Executive Director Lesley Buhler give a fascinating presentation on Georgetown in the Civil War.

Ms. Buhler noted that, at the time, the white residents of Georgetown were predominantly Southern leaning; the vast majority with roots in Maryland and Virginia. Some of the prosperous Georgetown families, like the Peters of Tudor Place, owned farms in Maryland and Virginia, using slave labor to work them. A small minority of residents were immigrants from the North. Nearly 1,400 were free African-Americans; another 577 were enslaved African-Americans. Some white Georgetowners were wealthy but most were middle class workers, such as: shopkeepers, butchers, police officers, bakers, lawyers, carpenters, and washerwomen.



Lesley chats with Robert Radin

The election of Abraham Lincoln in November of 1860 led to the secession of South Carolina a month later. Georgetowners were torn in their loyalties and were greatly concerned about the effects of war. With the outbreak of war, most pro-Southern voices were quieted and distrust amongst neighbors was prevalent. Some fled south; others went to Baltimore and Philadelphia. Many of the people who left thought they would be back in a few weeks when the hostilities ended.

Officers and soldiers engulfed Georgetown. Soldiers were bivouacked behind houses and in camps on farms just north of Georgetown.



Leslie Buhler speaking at March CAG Meeting

The genteel atmosphere of Georgetown was shattered by the presence of 7,000 to 15,000 troops. The government turned several Georgetown houses and businesses into hospitals and morgues. By 1863 — midpoint in the war — about 600 vessels a month were docking in Georgetown to deliver supplies and take out wheat and other products.

Ms. Buhler said the Civil War nearly closed Georgetown University (then College), as the student body dropped from 313 to 17. A total of 1,141 students and alumni enlisted in the war, serving in both the Union and Confederate forces. After the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in 1862, several campus buildings were turned into a hospital. We feel this legacy today as Georgetown students selected blue (Union) and gray (Confederate) as the school's official colors to celebrate the end of the war.

Leslie discussed many familiar churches, buildings, and houses of Georgetown that each has a detailed and fascinating history from the Civil War. She told stories of numerous individuals – from Louisa May Alcott to



Tudor Place's own Britannia Peter Kennon (Martha Washington's descendent and first cousin of Mrs. Robert E. Lee) who had to allow Union soldiers to be quartered at her home but did not permit the war to be discussed in her presence.

The large audience was captivated hearing about the spies, conspirators, conflicts and changes the Civil War wrought in Georgetown. CAG thanks Four Seasons manager Dirk Burghartz and PR Director Liliana Baldassari for graciously hosting this meeting in the gorgeous Dumbarton Room. The refreshments were delightful and it was a pleasure to experience the Four Seasons' striking new interiors and stunning art work.

-Betsy Cooley

### Donors to the 2013 Public Safety Program (As of March 27, 2013)

Thanks to the generosity of the following people, CAG has raised over half of the required revenue for the 2013 Public Safety Program. We urge everyone else to contribute soon. Detailed information is on the website: www.cagtown.org.; you can also donate online. Or simply send your check to CAG made out to CAG Public Safety. All donations are tax deductible.

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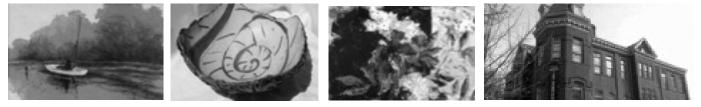
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## Jackson Art Center Spring Open Studios Sunday, April 28



he artists of the Jackson Art Center will open their studios on Sunday, April 28, from 12 pm to 5 pm. The twice-a-year event is an invitation to the community to mingle with more than 40 local artists who make the Jackson Art Center their workspace. Guests can enjoy refreshments and live music while visiting the studios of artists displaying works on paper, canvas and fabric, in oil, acrylic, pencil, and pastel, as well as photography, sculpture, ceramics and more. The Jackson Art Center is located at 3050 R Street NW, in a former DC public

school building directly across from Montrose Park.

For information and to view Jackson artists' work visit: www.jacksonartcenter.com or contact Eileen Egan 202-664-3765 or potterindc@yahoo.com

## **NEWSBYTES**

As anticipated, the **US Postal Service** has sold the historic Georgetown post office building to local developer **Anthony Lanier**, president of **EastBanc**, who plans to keep the post office on the first floor...**Four Seasons** and the **Georgetown Group** have acquired the West Heating Plant building on 29th street... **Sweet Frog Yogurt**, a frozen yogurt franchise out of Richmond, is coming to Wisconsin and S... **J. Chocolatier** closed its retail shop on 33rd with plans to sell their chocolates online... New hotel **Graham Georgetown**, located in the former Hotel Monticello, will offer rooftop dining at its Observatory restaurant... Discount shoe store **DSW** is slated to move into the former Georgetown Mall while **J. Crew** will be moving to a larger location across from **Dean and Deluca**...**Patagonia** hosts free community runs every Wednesday thru April 24th on local trails...The 10th annual **Georgetown French Market** will be held April 19 and 20 — expect to find discounts at participating retailers, live music, art installations, and French fare.

## **Book Hill Benefit**

On Wednesday, April 10th, The Friends of Book Hill Park will sponsor a benefit at the home of Cheryl and Mike Naeve to support and celebrate the final restoration phase of the Book Hill Park "Trident Fence" along Reservoir Road. Located on what was once the Washington Aqueduct's "High Service Reservoir," the Georgetown Library and Book Hill Park today are graced by the original stone wall that surrounded the site. Portions of the 1871 trident-topped cast iron fence sit atop the wall.

All proceeds from this event will directly assist the preservation and maintenance of this vibrant and historically significant park. Individual tickets are \$100, Couple tickets \$150; Sponsor \$1000; Benefactor \$2500, Donor/Patron \$5000. Please make checks payable to The Friends of Book Hill Park and send to 3219 Reservoir Road NW, Washington DC 20007. For more information contact Jasper@ttrsir.com.

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Newsletter Betsy Cooley, Editor Marjorie Kask, Graphic Designer

[Please submit items and info by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication.]



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#### MARCH COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

Thurs. Apr. 4	<b>Dumbarton House Benefit Auction;</b> original works of art currently on exhibit in the museum will be auctioned off by Bonham's; reception at 6, auction at 7:30; tickets are \$100; call to purchase 337-2288.
Sat./Sun. Apr 6/7	<b>Festival des Artistes: art exhibit and sale featuring artists from around the world;</b> Duke Ellington School of the Arts, 35th and R Streets; sponsored by THIS for Diplomats; free; for more info contact Nan Coughlin: nan.coughlin@mac.com.
Sat. Apr. 6	<b>25th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup;</b> 9am-12pm; join volunteers in Washington DC, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia to help clean up and restore the beautiful river; visit www.potomaccleanup.org for registration information.
Sat. Apr. 20	CAG Public Safety Block Captains Meeting; Meeting at Diane Colasanto's home. Call or email CAG office for details.
Sat./Sun. Apr. 19/2	20 10th Annual Georgetown French Market; 10 am – 5pm. Over 35 shops, cafés, and galleries along Wisconsin Avenue, from P Street to Reservoir Road, offer discounts, French fare, sidewalk sales, live music, art demos — and more.
Mon.Apr. 22	<b>CAG Meeting: Earth Day Tour of Georgetown University Regents Hall;</b> reception at 7 in the Copley Formal Lounge; presentation by Ali Whitmer followed by group tours of the new LEED certified state-of-the-art science building Regents Hall.
Sat. Apr. 27	<b>Georgetown House Tour</b> featuring nine of Georgetown's most beautiful homes; homes are open from 11 am to 5 pm; ticket price includes Parish Tea in Blake Hall at the historic St. John's Church (3240 O Street, NW) from 2 to 5. www.georgetownhousetour. com 338-1796. (See page 4)
Apr. 27-28	Christ Church Georgetown Annual Art Show and Sale; Sat. 11- 4 pm Sun. 10 am – 2 pm; Christ Church 31st and O St, 338-2286.