

Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



Citizens Association
of Georgetown

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WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

CAG Meeting April 30 at Historic Renwick Chapel and Oak Hill Cemetery

Betsy Cooley

The April CAG meeting will be at Renwick Chapel at Oak Hill Cemetery, 3001 R Street, on Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00pm. Superintendent David Jackson and others will talk about the recent restoration project at the Renwick Chapel — inside and outside — as well as its fascinating history. He will talk about “engineering marvels – old and new.” And tell us about the many notables who rest at Oak Hill.



Renwick Chapel at Oak Hill Cemetery, the location
for the next CAG meeting April 30

Oak Hill Cemetery was established by William Wilson Corcoran in 1849. He said to the young architect James W. Renwick, Jr., who was enlarging Corcoran’s home, “I am establishing a cemetery in Georgetown consistent with the dignity of the newer cemeteries that have been developed in Boston and New York. Would you design a chapel that will be fitting for this project?” Mr. Renwick replied “Of

course!” and so began the historic Oak Hill Cemetery and its “Renwick” chapel. Renwick went on to design the Smithsonian “Castle” and St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York.

The “Gothic Gem” is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The restoration has left the structure unchanged from its completion in 1853, but refreshed, a true re-celebration of art and history that remains a hallowed space for mourning and celebration, gatherings and meetings. Its story-book appearance true to the idea of the Romantic Era thrives in a world vastly different from its beginning.

Because space is very limited this meeting is open to CAG members only. Entry will be through the main gate at R and 30th Streets. We encourage you to walk to Oak Hill as parking will not be available inside the cemetery. For those who drive, there is street parking and

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Trees For Georgetown Celebrates 25 Years!

Betsy Emes - Chair -Trees for Georgetown

Since 1989, TFG has planted over 2,500 trees in our neighborhood—just imagine what our shaded blocks would look like without those trees? Many neighbors recognize the value of the organization as evidenced in a recent donor’s letter. “Under your determined and effective leadership, we believe Trees for Georgetown has made great strides in furthering its mission to plant and maintain a variety of trees on the residential streets of the Georgetown community. Thank you...far from going unnoticed, it is truly appreciated.”

What about you? Do you realize how much Trees for Georgetown does for our community? It is truly a local, defined initiative, organized by the neighbors for the neighborhood. Trees are something we can all

agree on – they enrich our lives and enhance our surroundings. Without healthy, vibrant trees Georgetown quite simply would not be the same.

Save the Date: Join us for the annual spring party on May 15th at the home of Susan and Mike Pillsbury to celebrate 25 years of success, and to toast the future of shaded streets in Georgetown for years to come. For more information email to gifttrees@gmail.com or call 202-345-2400. We hope to see you there!



Trees for Georgetown Chair Betsy Emes
with committee members Bob Laycock
and Frank Randolph

“GOODNESS IS THE ONLY INVESTMENT THAT NEVER FAILS.”

—Henry David Thoreau

As a leader in Georgetown’s real estate community, our firm proudly supports the Georgetown community. We are proud to sponsor the following event and organizations:

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President's Letter

Pamla Moore

I want to begin this letter acknowledging a great friend of CAG and Georgetown, Bonnie Hardy, and her husband John, who are relocating closer to family in Massachusetts in April. If you knew her, as I did, as the ANC2E Executive Director, you knew the concern she had and has for the community and all of us living here. We wish her well in her new home and hope she will visit Georgetown now and then.

Spring is here and everyone is more than ready to spend time outdoors enjoying the longer days—this year in particular. As I write this on March 17 I am ignoring the snow outside our front door. Hopefully, when you receive this April newsletter in your mailbox flowers will be blooming and the trees full of buds.

Spring is a very popular time for all of us to tackle projects around our homes. Whatever the project might be, it is important to be alert to the fact that we live in a National Historic Landmark, which is both a privilege and a responsibility.

In 1950 Congress passed the Old Georgetown Act, (Public Law 81-808), which sets forth and designates the Georgetown Historic District. The Act defines the boundaries of historic Georgetown as we know it today and gives the U. S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) authority to appoint a committee, the Old Georgetown Board (OGB), to conduct design reviews of semi-public and private structures within the district. (Of interest is the fact that OGB averages 20-25+ project reviews per month.)

What does this mean to you? It means that you are one of the many generations of Georgetowners who are protected by legislation, regulation and private action to maintain the celebrated character of our historic district. The law and substantial volunteer activity by citizens seek to preserve a community enjoyed by residents, business owners and visitors for the long-term.

A number of years ago CAG produced an easy-to-read brochure as a reference guide for home renovations and projects. The information can be found on the CAG web site – cagtown.org or stop by the CAG office and pick up a brochure. However, highlights are listed below and can prove helpful as you proceed with your plans.

- Porches and steps should be maintained in the original state as much as possible. When repairs and maintenance are undertaken, care should be taken to use like-kind materials and design.
- Know that additional curb cuts to create private parking access are usually not allowed; new parking pads or driveways, where a car is visible from public space, are normally denied in the review process.
- Fences should be constructed with approved traditional materials; rustic stockade-type fencing, for example, will almost never be approved in the review process.
- Make an effort to preserve the natural landscape. Trees are an important aspect of quality of life in Georgetown, and there are city regulations addressing their removal and replacement.
- Think about what you can do to move

your project along (e.g., have dumpsters emptied frequently and have them removed as soon as possible).

- Remember that even working with hired professional help, the property owner is ultimately responsible for the successful application process, ensuring that contractors work within the guidelines of the work permits with timely completion of the project.

These are just a few of the many issues that may arise in the review process. Further recommendations to consider are:

- Discussing your plans with neighbors who might be affected by your project. Securing their support can be very helpful in the review process.
- Applying for the proper permits for both interior and exterior work. The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs offers guidance at www.dhra.dc.gov.
- Understanding the zoning regulations for your property, particularly with regard to lot coverage, setbacks and allowed uses.

The D.C. Historic Preservation Office can be of assistance. Call 202-442-7600 or go online to historic.preservation@dc.gov.

Reading through this April newsletter will alert you to all that CAG has happening this spring. Please put May 15 on your calendar and plan to join neighbors and friends at the annual Trees for Georgetown benefit. Your invitation should arrive in April or call the CAG office at 202-337-7313 to have one mailed to you. Happy Spring Time!



Victoria Rixey is now Chair of the Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee. A past president of CAG, Victoria is a longtime Georgetown resident and prominent local architect. Her vast knowledge of zoning and design expertise will be invaluable for the committee.

Aspects of Georgetown

Mayfair Comes To Washington

Edith Schafer

Where are we? It could be Mayfair, or perhaps it is Downton, and we are going to have tea with Lady Mary. Or maybe it's just us and we are enjoying ourselves and taking a break from the dailyness of our lives. Lady Camellia is its name and it is at 3261 Prospect Street.

It's a 14-seat teashop decorated in pink and gold that looks and feels like a fairy tale. Right here in Georgetown. The table settings are scrumptious and so is the food. The cups and saucers are beautifully coordinated but unmatched in a most stylish British way, as is the cutlery, and everything comes from the Royal Albert Collection. They are the authorized dealer for this charming and delightful way to set a table for tea (or almost anything).

This space used to be a casual carry out cafe but now it is more of an Edwardian retreat. Picture a lady with a lorgnette at one table, Alice- fresh from Wonderland- could be at another. There should be little girls in smocked dresses having tea with mama. (That's MaMA, accent on the last syllable, that's important.) Men in top hats should be walking by the window with walking sticks or tightly furled umbrellas.

I thought I saw old Cholomondely go by just now. By Jove, we are

having a jolly time.

The menu recently enjoyed was a jasmine green tea and oatmeal raisin scone with Devonshire cream and strawberry jam. The tea can be black, green or white. With it came diminutive chocolate cupcakes, a miniature lemon meringue tart and macarons. Why not, the owners of this fantasy also own Macaron Bee up Wisconsin Avenue. They are Han and Debbie Kim and are full of creativity and fresh ideas. They met at culinary school, a place where they seem to teach imagination as well as food preparation. The tea was actually served by Youma Seck from Senegal, she's a perfect accompaniment to the mise-en-scene.

At Lady Camellia there is room to host events for up to 15 people (birthday parties!) They also serve perfect small tea sandwiches: ham and brie with a slice of apple for crunch, smoked salmon with crème fraiche, egg salad with watercress. The macarons come in fleur de sel caramel, pistachio, pink champagne and lavender!

Tea is international; every country, every community has a tea drinking culture. It's global like us and local like us. Now we can keep up with the best of them. Voila! Lady Camellia. 202-333-2308

Annual Georgetown House Tour Set for April 26

By Craig Wilson

Get out your walking shoes. The Georgetown House Tour, celebrating its 83rd year, is set for 11am to 5pm Saturday, April 26, and this year includes nine historic residences.

The oldest and most prestigious house tour in the country, it gives locals and out-of-towners the opportunity to visit 18th- and 19th-century historic homes opened just for this event. The tour is once again hosted by St. John's Church and sponsored by TTR Sotheby's International Realty and Long and Foster.

Barbara Wolf and Colman Riddell are chairing this year's event. "This year's highly informational walking tour will provide an opportunity to take in all the history and beauty of Georgetown," says Wolf. "It provides a unique glimpse of Georgetown's impressive architecture and the stories behind the bricks and mortar that make Georgetown so special."

One of the highlights of the house tour is the Patrons' Party which will be Wednesday night, April 23rd. The party will be at the Dumbarton Street home of Elizabeth and Jeff Powell, a house long considered one of the crown jewels of Old Georgetown. Known as the Foxall House, it was built by one-time Georgetown Mayor Henry Foxall as a wedding present for his daughter. It is an outstanding example of late Federal architecture.

The tour also includes the afternoon Parish Tea in Blake Hall at St. John's Church, 3240 O Street, between 2 and 5 the day of the tour. The tea features homemade tea sandwiches and sweets.

Funds raised through the house tour allow St. John's to provide volunteer service and grant dollars to local charitable organizations, including those serving the homeless, the unemployed, at-risk families and other persons in need.

House tour details: Ticket prices are \$50 and \$55 depending upon when purchased. Visit www.georgetownhousetour.com for ticket information or call 202-338-2287.

CAG Meeting April 30 at Renwick Chapel and Oak Hill Cemetery *continued from cover*

Sally and Mark Ein have graciously offered a limited number of parking spaces at their residence across from Oak Hill. Refreshments will be provided by Patisserie Poupon, Kafe Leopold, and Georgetown Wine and Spirits.

Please join us for the reception beginning at 7 and the program from 7:30 until 8:30. Come experience this special building and cemetery where neighbors and notables have celebrated marriages, mourned deaths — and where some of their ancestors reside.

Full House for CAG Meeting on the Potomac River

Jennie Buehler

An enthusiastic crowd turned out March 18 at Long and Foster in their newly renovated meeting space for the screening of Peggy Fleming's beautiful documentary *Potomac: The River Runs Through Us*.

Since the Clean Water Act passed in 1972, the health of the Potomac River has drastically improved. But, it still faces a number of serious threats: urban development, population growth and runoff from farms, pharmaceuticals and chemicals. The film shed light on the need to protect this essential resource that provides our drinking water.

On hand to discuss the film were filmmaker Peggy Fleming, Stephany Flack, who has worked for The Nature Conservancy since 1995 at the national, state, and local level and Thomas Jacobus who manages the Washington Aqueduct, the water utility operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers that provides potable water to all of DC.

The need to protect the river for future generations was an overarching



Washington Aqueduct manager, Thomas Jacobus, addresses the crowd

theme. Ms. Flack said, "From working on the Potomac for the last decade, I knew how important the river is for our quality of life in this region. That became even more apparent to me when I had children and realized this is the water that they drink. I really want the river to be there in the long run to support their health and quality of life."

Three-fourths of our region's drinking water comes from the Potomac River, thanks to an elaborate treatment process that removes pollutants and adds chlorine and fluoride. Mr. Jacobus commented on the high quality of DC's tap water, "The quality of the water being produced is excellent. It is better than every

Federal water quality standard. Safe, reliable, cost effective operations are the norm." The Washington Aqueduct is working hard to ensure that the water is not only safe and above quality standards but also tastes appealing.

The Potomac River is a great natural resource. Keeping the river healthy and functioning naturally will sustain a range of benefits to nature and people. We have a responsibility to protect to the river, which is vitally important to everyone in the Washington region.

CHAT WITH ELIZABETH POWELL

By Craig Wilson

Elizabeth Powell is showing a visitor around her historic home on Dumbarton Street. "This is it," she says with a chuckle. "I have no plans to go anywhere for a long time." And why would she?

Known as the Foxall House after one-time Georgetown Mayor Henry Foxall who built the residence (1819) as a wedding present for his daughter, it is an outstanding example of late Federal architecture. But just as important, it's comfortable. "It feels like a family house," she says, "and that's what it is for us."

Powell moved into the home in August with her husband, Jeff, two young children, Eleanor and Charlie, and their Golden Retriever Finley. It will be the site of the Georgetown House Tour's Patrons' Party April 23.

"It was a home we admired over the years," says Powell who lived around the corner on 31st Street and passed the house almost daily. She

knew if she ever got to live there she would have to be a "steward" of the historic property. "We want to keep its character," says the Chicago area native who is on the board of Tudor Place. But she readily admits the house is a work in progress at the moment. "People are just going to have to imagine what's supposed to be there!" she says, pointing to an empty space over one of the home's many fireplaces.

Recently owned by TV producer and political operative Gerry Rafshoon, the house comes with everything such historic homes boast: plaster cornices, grand staircases, paneled doors, wide-plank floors. And ghosts. "I haven't met them yet, but they're here," says Powell. "A neighbor grew up in this house and she says she had experiences. We're on the ghost tour."

The home's first floor – grand hallway, two parlors, library, dining room and kitchen – will be on the tour. A tent will be set up in the garden, designed by noted landscape architect Rose Greely.

But on a recent afternoon a soccer ball rested on the home's side lawn. "Yet another reason we moved here," says Powell.

Donors to the 2014 Public Safety Program (As of March 25, 2014)

Thanks to the generosity of the following people, CAG has raised over half of the required revenue for the 2014 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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A phone book is a terrible thing to waste. Each year over 555 million phone books are delivered, whether we want them or not. It's easy to stop delivery. Just go to Yellowpagesoptout.com to customize your delivery or opt out completely. By choosing to opt-out of or reduce your delivery, you are helping to reduce the use of materials, manufacturing resources and energy used to produce and transport them. If you have old phone books lying around, they are 100% recyclable, with the potential to be transformed into paper cups, egg crates, and even cellulose insulation for houses!

Lee Child - Georgetown Garden Club



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Updates on Significant Projects Under OGB Review

Walter Groszyk - *Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee*

An overview of various significant projects in different stages of Old Georgetown Board (OGB) review which CAG is tracking.

Former Latham Hotel and Citronelle restaurant, 3000 M Street

SB-Urban, a Bethesda-based developer, is proposing to convert the former and now-vacant Latham hotel into 150 small-sized, residential apartments. No units would be sold; rather these would be rented/leased to professionals who are in Washington for stays of several months or more. The taller of the hotel's two buildings would remain; the shorter building, which formerly housed La Madeleine restaurant, would be razed and replaced by a similarly-sized building for retail businesses. The developer proposes to convert the existing underground parking garage to other uses, and would prohibit residential tenants from having cars as a condition of their lease. CAG is concerned about the absence of future parking, and the aesthetic appropriateness of the proposed retail building design for this section of Georgetown.

Status: Initial concept review by the Old Georgetown Board (OGB).

The Exxon gas station site in the 3600 block on M Street

The concept was reviewed in March by the OGB. The Board accepted the massing and proposed 50 foot height for the condominium building (with approximately 30 condos) proposed by Eastbanc. The Board asked to see different color schemes for the façade, judging the proposed color to be too dark, and directed the architect to introduce more vertical articulation to break up the stretched horizontal appearance of the M St. façade. The developer will work with abutting property owners on Prospect St to help stabilize their backyards, which are severely sloped to the gas station below.

Status: Revised concept review by the Old Georgetown Board

The addition to the Hyde Addison School

Following several concept reviews, the Board has asked the District to study an alternative which would build a third above-ground building on the property. The addition is primarily to provide much-needed indoor recreation and assembly space for students in both schools. Previous proposals would place this building largely underground, and preserve the extensive play and meeting area that currently exists between the two schools. An above-ground building would reduce the available play space.

Status: Review of alternative concepts by the Old Georgetown Board

The Alexander Memorial Baptist church at 2709 N Street

Several months ago, a prospective owner appeared before the OGB seeking to convert the property, and its two buildings, into a large single family residence, using part of the church building as a garage. A second developer proposes to convert the church building into a number of residential units, with no garage. The other building would become a single family residence.

Status: Concept review by the Old Georgetown Board.

The Georgetown Theater, 1349 Wisconsin Avenue

This theater opened 101 years ago, and the architect developer proposes to convert the property into a mixed use building. The neon sign will be restored, and the Wisconsin Ave façade returned to its mid-20th century appearance, removing the Durastone that presently drapes the street façade.

Status: Concept approved. Design approved for securing construction permits.

The former West Heating Plant, 1000 block of 29th Street

Status: Additional structural engineering review of the stability and deterioration of the brick façade is underway. This review was requested by the OGB.

Georgetown Commuting Survey

Georgetown University is conducting our annual commuting survey to understand how faculty, staff, students, neighbors, and visitors travel to and from campus. The survey is an important component of our work together through the Georgetown Community Partnership and an essential tool to inform our transportation investments as part of the University's master planning process.

We are asking all of our neighbors to participate in the survey, including those who visit campus for events, courses, family programming, meetings, or other reasons.

The survey is open March 31 – April 11 and will take 10 minutes or less to complete. All contact information will remain confidential and will not be shared with third parties. Please visit www.GUCommuteSurvey.com to complete the survey.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Community Engagement at (202) 687-5667 or at communityengagement@georgetown.edu.

Robin Morey- Vice President for Planning and Facilities, Georgetown University

What's Old is New at Hill and Dale

VV Harrison

Remember the old vinyl record albums with the alluring covers we played on our Victrolas, Record-Players, Hi-fi's and Stereos? Well they're back! Rob Norton has opened a new/old record shop at 1054 31st Street, across from The Sea Catch. He told me that many big name record companies are putting out vinyl records again, both 33 1/3's and 45's and many manufacturing companies are producing state-of-the-art turn-ables and components.

Rob's store is filled with albums, most of the them in the jazz mode but in many other genre, as well, like music from T.V.'s Mad Men or a vintage Nina Simone. Rob says business has been good since his opening in February and that, in many cases, those prescient people who kept their hi-fi gear own some very valuable equipment.

Besides record albums, Hill and Dale has a nice selection of posters of artists like Simon and

Garfunkel and The Supremes, plus terrific Peter Simon photographs of well-known rock groups. I have known Peter's work from my summers on Martha's Vineyard and was happy to encounter it again in Georgetown. I told Rob that many of my fondest memories growing up in Camden, South Carolina were visiting Monarch's Record Shop, poring through the record stacks and picking out a favorite recording I had heard on the radio, or on really special occasions, buying an album like The Pajama Game, Camelot or My Fair Lady. I would bring them home and load them up on my treasured maroon record player – the kind that played all three record speeds and had one of those annoying adapters for 45's that never worked properly!

Now, those appealing and nostalgic moments of playing vinyl records are available once again on 31st Street. What's old is new.

So do stop in and see Rob. Listen to those thrilling sounds of yester-year, and the innovative ones of today, played the old-fashioned way.

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CommunityCalendar

■ Sunday, April 6

Author Talk with Nick Mann
Locally-based Mann will read from and discuss his novel "Forgetful"

2pm; Georgetown Neighborhood Library, 3260 R St. NW; Free; 727-0232, www.dclibrary.org/georgetown

■ Saturday, April 12

GU-CAG Community Cleanup

Gloves and tools will be provided along with water, coffee, and bagels
9am; Meet at Volta Park ball field or at Rose Park flagpole

■ Sunday, April 13

Easter Egg Hunt and Exhibition

Evermay Estate hosts a festive afternoon in their garden with crafts, an egg hunt and a performance from Imagination Stage
1-2:30pm and 4-5:30pm; \$10 per person, children under 2 are free; Evermay Estate (1623 28th St.), 298-6007, www.sandr.org

■ Friday & Saturday, April 25 & 26

Georgetown French Market

The Book Hill merchants host an open air market
Upper Wisconsin Avenue, between P Street and Reservoir Road; www.georgetowndc.com/events/french_market/

■ Saturday, April 26

Georgetown House Tour

Featuring nine of Georgetown's most beautiful homes
11am - 5pm; Tickets \$50-\$55 includes Parish Tea in Blake Hall at St. John's Church (3240 St. NW) from 2-5; 338-2287; see page 4

■ Sunday, April 27

Jackson Art Center Open Studios

30+ artists, free painting workshops for children
12pm-5pm; Jackson Art Center, 3050 R St. NW, 301-654-7113; jacksonartcenter@gmail.com

■ Monday, April 28

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC2E)

Public Meeting 6:30pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation; agenda available www.anc2e.com; call 724-7098

■ Wednesday, April 30

**CAG Meeting: Renwick Chapel Oak Hill Cemetery
Renwick Chapel at Oak Hill Cemetery, 3001 R St. NW, Reception at 7pm program at 7:30pm, See cover page**