

# Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



Citizens Association  
of Georgetown

VOLUME XLI | ISSUE 5 | MAY 2016

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

## CAG AWARDS & ELECTIONS MAY 24

### Meet New Members and Hear Highlights of CAG Work

CAG's annual awards and elections meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24. The meeting will include the presentation of CAG's prestigious awards to outstanding community leaders for 2016. Highlights of CAG's past year activities will also be briefly recapped by key committee chairs. The reception and annual meeting will be hosted at Visitation School in the Heritage Room, 1523 35th Street. This year we are also having a special reception at 6pm for new members of CAG.

The Belin Award will be presented to Jeff Jones for his expert and dedicated work in preserving the historic character of Georgetown.

Peter Jost will be honored with the William A. Cochran Award for exceptional efforts

to protect and enhance the community's parkland and architectural resources.

The Martin-Davidson Award to businesses that have contributed significantly to the community will be presented to The Georgetownner.

There will be a special appreciation award presented to MPD Officer Antonial Atkins for dedicated and distinguished service to the Georgetown community.

And Annie Lou Bayly Berman will be honored posthumously with a special award for her many contributions to neighborhood programs.

Election of CAG officers and four directors for 2016-2017 will also take place at the May

24 meeting. The slate is Bob vom Eigen, President; Jennifer Altemus Romm, Vice President; Hazel Denton, Secretary; Bob Laycock, Treasurer; and elected directors Karen Cruse, Barbara Downs, Hannah Isles, and John Rentzepis (See page 8). Treasurer Robert Laycock will report on the financial condition of the organization.

Please join us to welcome new members and honor people who have made Georgetown a better place. Parking is available in the school parking lots (through the gatehouse entrance) at 1523 35th Street.

*Tuesday, May 24*

*New member reception 6pm*

*Reception at 7pm; Program at 7:30pm  
Georgetown Visitation, 1523 35th St.*

## REBECCA McCABE TO ROCK FIRST SUMMER CONCERT MAY 22

HANNAH ISLES, CONCERTS CHAIR

Spring has sprung in Georgetown and that means it's time for Concerts in the Parks, everyone's favorite summer concerts series that is free and open to the public in beautiful Volta and Rose Parks.

The 2016 Concerts in the Parks committee has been planning all winter, and thanks to Gypsy Sally's, there is a terrific lineup of bands, as well as fun family activities and edible treats.

As is the tradition, the first concert of the season, presented by TTR Sotheby's International Realty, will feature Georgetown's own favorite singer songwriter Rebecca McCabe. Rebecca will no doubt have the crowd, including the bravest mini-stars, up on stage dancing and lip



*Rebecca McCabe always invites kids to sing on stage.*

synching to one of the latest hits! The concert will take place Sunday, May 22nd in Volta Park from 5 to 7:30pm.

Grab your dad and don your dancing shoes for the fabulous father's day concert, presented

by Nancy Taylor Bubes and Washington Fine Properties, on Sunday, June 19th in Volta Park from 5:30 to 7pm. The father's day concert will feature the Weathervanes. In addition to great music, there will be special treats to celebrate the dads.

Beat the summer heat at the final concert of the season that will be held on Sunday, July 10th in Rose Park from 5:30 to 7pm. Concert goers will tap toes and sway to the Roots Rock/Americana band, The Walkaways. And as always our sponsors will have special treats and activities for cooling off.

The Concerts in the Parks series continues to draw an ever larger audience of families

*Continued on p. 6*

# “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 events and organizations:

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Friends of Book Hill Park Reception  
Friends of Montrose Park  
Friends of Rose Park

Friends of Volta Park  
Georgetown House Tour (St. John's)  
Georgetown Jingle  
(Georgetown University Hospital)  
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Tudor Place



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# President's LETTER

As president of CAG I participate in many meetings. Recently CAG hosted a meeting at the CAG office with 20 concerned neighbors and ANC2E Commissioner Monica Roache regarding new developments at the former Georgetown Residence at 2512 Q St. The building, where many Georgetowners spent their final years, is being converted into a short-term rental apartment with a minimum rental term of 30 days. The owner, Holladay Properties, has terminated the occupancy of the retired tenants to permit renovation of the 96 units in the building. We understand that the owner has offered to readmit the retirees once the renovations have been completed, but there will be no kitchen or food service within the building. Rents will surely increase, making it even more difficult for the retirees to return. As of February, the website still stated the building would remain a retirement home after its renovation. However in December 2015, the Holladay Company announced to a few neighbors that this wasn't the case.

The major concern expressed by the neighbors (pictured above with me [in vest], Monica Roache [left of me], John Lever, CAG Historic Preservation Chair [yellow tie], and Eileen McGrath [hidden from view]), was that the apartment building has only 11 parking spaces, and that many of the new, more transient, tenants of the restored building will have automobiles that will occupy already congested parking lanes in the area. It is also likely that some of these tenants will seek to obtain Ward 2 parking permits. Also, many short-term tenants may use vans to bring furniture to the building, creating congestion at the entrances to the building.

Solutions to these congestion issues are not easy to solve. Fewer apartments and longer lease minimums would be a better fit for this part of the historic neighborhood. If the Holladay Properties were to make significant alterations to the interior units, which currently are small (350 to 500 square feet) apartments, there may be grounds to require them to apply for approval for these modifications from the DC Office of Planning. If the exterior of the building were modified, they would need to seek approval by the HPRB and the Old Georgetown Board (Commission of Fine Arts). Already



the owner has indicated that they will replace the windows of the building, which will require such approval.

On another matter, thanks to board member Victoria Rixey, volunteer consultant Tara Sakraida Parker, and pro bono attorney John Lynham at Foley and Lardner LLP, CAG is starting an exciting – and much needed – planned giving and major gift program. CAG offers a range of programs that are free of charge to residents of Georgetown. These programs include Concerts in the Parks, monthly public meetings on issues of importance to residents, our monthly newsletter, and advocacy and support for residents who feel that development projects may contradict historic preservation, zoning standards, or quality of life – such as the situation described above.

These activities require staff support, office space, equipment maintenance and supplies. The annual membership fees and proceeds from fundraising events such as the annual CAG Gala do not cover all these costs. Because many dedicated CAG members may want to help CAG protect our historic neighborhood and improve our residential community in the future, we are instituting a planned giving program. Please see Victoria Rixey's article on page 6 for more information.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on May 24 at Georgetown Visitation to honor outstanding Georgetowners!

*Bob vom Eigen*, PRESIDENT

## UPCOMING CAG EVENTS

### CAG ANNUAL MEETING: AWARDS & ELECTION

Date: Tuesday, May 24

Time: 7– 8:30pm

*New member reception at 6pm*

Place: Georgetown Visitation, 1523 35th St.

### CAG CONCERTS IN THE PARKS

Sunday, May 22 – Volta Park

Sunday, June 19 – Volta Park

Sunday, July 10 – Rose Park

## SAVE THE DATE

## Georgetown Gala

Saturday, October 22

The Four Seasons

2800 Pennsylvania Avenue



## TRY US FOR SUNDAY BRUNCH

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# Aspects of Georgetown

## DONOR SEASON

EDITH SCHAFER

According to Benjamin Franklin some things are inevitable – among them death, taxes, and that the crow will eat the eggs the dove lays every spring in the wisteria which grows along the house. And, oh yes, donor season is inevitable too. It's donor season all year, of course, requests for funding for charitable causes are indeed relentless, but there seems to be a spate of them in the spring. Many of them are causes we like and might want to support and many are not. How did we get on THAT list, we wonder.

So these are the times that try men's souls, only we don't talk about men's souls anymore because it turns out that women have souls too! Who knew? So times change and we must change with them.

In any case, we can manage even though things are confused and confusing and nothing is the way it used to be when life was simple and straightforward. Gilbert and Sullivan knew that. They wrote:

*Things are seldom what they seem,  
Skim milk masquerades as cream;  
Highlows pass as patents leathers;  
Jackdaws strut in peacock's feathers.*

If we knew what highlows were it would be better, but we get the idea anyway. Back to donor season. As bleeding heart supporters of environmental causes, and filled with a burning desire not to destroy our beautiful planet, donors have been known to write terse notes asking not to have cuddly stuffed animals sent to them because they gave a few dollars to save the earth, the air and the oceans. Ditto do we really need to be invited to a party by way of thanking us? Yes, maybe we do because it is reassuring to see people who care.

We don't need to be rewarded for saving the planet, we just want it saved. We like it, we love it. It's the only planet we've got.

## GEORGETOWN EXXON & SHELL BOOST PUBLIC SAFETY

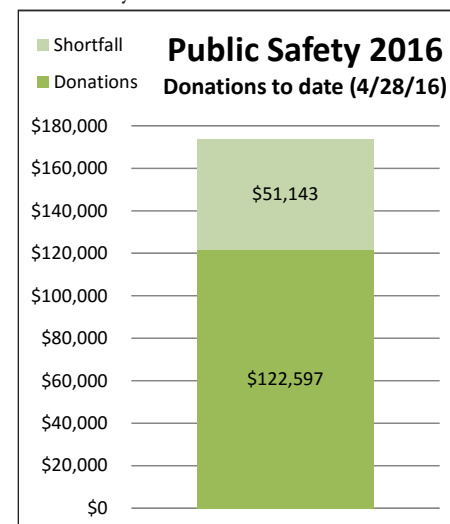
One of Georgetown's central enterprises, Georgetown Exxon and Georgetown Shell, recently donated over \$5000 to the CAG Public Safety Program. The popular service stations' Hamood Abutaa and Jamie and Bobby Ladson said they support the program "because CAG helps keep the entire neighborhood safe... and we value our customers and the quality of life in our community."



Here, Jamie and Bobby share a congratulatory handshake with Public Safety Co-Chairs Rich Hinds and John Rentzepis.

(BTW, another sign of their attentiveness to the community is their beautiful flower and plant boxes along Q Street and Wisconsin Avenue.)

We hope other Georgetown businesses will join the more than 15 commercial establishments supporting the CAG Public Safety Program! We are making progress on meeting our expenses – but still need help from individuals and the business community!



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# HISTORY OF THE GEORGETOWN GARDEN TOUR

## *More Grows in the Garden Than the Gardener Sows*

LEE CHILD, GEORGETOWN GARDEN CLUB

It's spring, which means the Georgetown Garden Tour is right around the corner. From its very beginning, this celebrated annual event has been both a visual delight to visitors and a significant contributor to the Georgetown community.

One of the oldest garden tours in the country, Georgetown's tour was begun in 1928 by Mrs. Edmonia Whitehead as a source of funds for the Georgetown Children's House, which she had established the previous year. Dedicated to providing day care for underprivileged children whose mothers worked in and around Georgetown, Children's House served hundreds of District youth in its large nursery school and after-school programs for children up to age 13. Classes of all types were offered: carpentry, music, drama, sewing, dance, art, and design. At the time, only one of three Georgetown

parks was open to African American children. In 1947, amid much opposition, Children's House began to integrate its Board of Directors and its facilities, becoming the first integrated childcare center in the city.

A founding member of the Georgetown Garden Club, Mrs. Whitehead solicited the support of Club members and the community at large, persuading 26 prominent Georgetown residents to open their gardens to the public. Its initial success began a tradition. Over the years, the list of patrons read like a who's who of Washington. Mr. and Mrs. F. Lamont Belin offered the magnificent grounds of their estate, Evermay. Visitors roamed the winding paths of Dumbarton Oaks, owned by Georgetown Garden Club member Mildred Bliss. Secretary of State Dean Acheson opened his gardens, as did Averell Harriman. In 1955, Mrs. Dwight

effort.

Because of the garden tour's success and the enthusiasm it generated for Children's House, the organization continued to provide services throughout the twentieth century. But by the late 1990s, there were serious financial shortfalls. With city funds for childcare services and United Way funding drying up, even the generosity of Georgetown patrons was not sufficient to keep the program alive. In 1999, Children's House was forced to close its doors. It had served the Georgetown community well for three-quarters of a century and in the process, the Georgetown Garden Tour had become a cornerstone of community dedication and involvement. Once its *raison d'être* was gone, what, the community wondered, was to become of the beloved springtime event?

With many Garden Club members and their gardens intricately involved in the tour over the years, it was predestined that the tour should fall into the hands of the Club. Then-president Kathy Graff oversaw the transfer. No tour was held in 1999, but the following year, it was game on. Club members rallied to find gardens, provide hostesses, arrange afternoon tea, create a garden boutique, publish a lovely tulip poster designed by Club member Katrina Carothers, and energize the community. It was a new era, and the garden tour was redefined as it moved into the twenty-first century. In its first year running the tour, the Garden Club netted over \$26,000. Four beneficiaries

*Continued on p. 9*

### Georgetown Garden

T O U R

**SATURDAY MAY 7, 2016**  
10 AM TO 5 PM

**TICKETS \$35 UNTIL APRIL 30**  
**\$40 ON MAY 1**

[www.georgetowngardenclubdc.org](http://www.georgetowngardenclubdc.org)

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31st and O Streets, NW  
Washington, DC

[WWW.GEORGETOWNGARDENCLUBDC.ORG](http://WWW.GEORGETOWNGARDENCLUBDC.ORG)



## CONCERT SEASON KICKED OFF

The season kicked off on Thursday, April 14th with a great crowd and live music by Steve Siekkinen at Vinyl Lounge, hosted by Concerts sponsor Gypsy Sally's. The host committee and friends – a crowd of 100 – grooved to the sounds of favorite old tunes covered by local singer songwriter Steve Siekkinen while quaffing nostalgic dive bar drinks and snacks and rocking glow bracelets and temporary tattoos. Many thanks to the hard work of the Kickoff Party committee chaired by Amy Looney, Erin Mullan and Dabney Jewell.



*Concerts Chair Hannah Isles (center) with two of the Kickoff Party co-chairs, Erin Mullan (left) and Amy Looney (right).*



*John Rentzepis embraced the mixtape theme with a classic shirt.*

# CAG LAUNCHES PLANNED GIVING INITIATIVE

VICTORIA RIXEY, CAG BOARD

The Citizens Association of Georgetown's Board of Directors is initiating a new effort to ensure the future of our organization. We are launching a Planned Giving initiative, whereby we invite our members to remember CAG through a bequest to the association. Our Board of Directors, each and every one, has committed to doing exactly that – leaving a portion of their estate to CAG to ensure a thriving future for the oldest, and most active, citizens association in the District, a 501(c)3 public charity recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

Why are we doing this now? It has been a long time coming, actually, and the organization is having a difficult time balancing our budgets. We have an ever-expanding list of programs, a wonderful group of volunteers, and terrific staff, but costs escalate each year and our income is very much dues-based. While membership stands at 1250, we need to keep dues at levels that ensure our membership continues to grow. The Board believes the organization needs to add additional sources of funding.

We will be rolling out this Planned Giving initiative over the summer and fall. It is easy for individuals to do, and simple information

will be available on our website and in our newsletter to tell you how.

In addition, we will be turning to past and future supporters of Friends of CAG later this fall to give as generously as they can to keep our organization strong. **Best of all, we hope for both types of gifts – contributions which support Friends of CAG with much needed donations today, as well as bequests to ensure CAG's future.**

We plan to create a Legacy Society that will formally recognize these very special

members who make a bequest to the Citizens Association of Georgetown. Members and founding members of this Legacy Society will be recognized and honored each year.

CAG is grateful for charitable gifts by bequest. The Citizens Association of Georgetown is a fully qualified public charity (Tax ID#52-1359105) whose primary purpose is to preserve the historic character, quality of life, and aesthetic values of Georgetown with an eye toward protecting the interests of the neighborhood's residents and homeowners.

## Sample Bequests

**Making a bequest is easy, and sample language is below:**

I bequeath (state dollar/percentage amount or describe property) to the Citizens Association of Georgetown, a corporation formed under the laws of the District of Columbia, located at 1365 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20007, to be used by it for such charitable purposes as its board of directors shall decide in its sole and absolute discretion.

...OR...

I bequeath all of the rest and remainder of my property, real, personal, or mixed, to the Citizens Association of Georgetown, a corporation formed under the laws of the District of Columbia, located at 1365 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20007, to be used by it for such charitable purposes as its board of directors shall decide in its sole and absolute discretion.

## Support the Georgetown Senior Center

For over a quarter of a century, the Georgetown Senior Center at St. John's Episcopal Church has been providing seniors living in Georgetown and upper northwest DC with nutritious lunches, thought-provoking programs, holiday celebrations, field trips and events. Founded by Virginia Luce Allen in 1982 to address the "plague of loneliness," the Center offers thrice-weekly programs September through June where seniors find warmth, companionship, nourishment, and intellectual stimulation.

On May 25, an evening event to benefit the Center will be held at an elegant home in Georgetown. Tickets are \$100 or \$150 for a couple. Contact Barbara Downs: 337-3373 or Wendy Erlanger: 333-9348

## CONCERTS IN THE PARKS

*Continued from p. 1*

and friends of all ages from the Georgetown community and beyond because of the great bands, fun family activities, free treats and recent addition of food trucks. The 2016 season

promises to be among the best yet thanks to the generosity of the wonderful sponsors and the dedication of the hard working committee.

If you would like more information, to join the concerts committee, or become a sponsor, please contact [cagmail@cagtown.org](mailto:cagmail@cagtown.org).

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# FROM THE DESK OF THE SEWER GUY

WALTER GROSZYK

My reporting of all things sewer-related has become such a regular feature of the newsletter that I feel I am morphing into the persona of Ed Norton. So before my transmogrification is complete, further sewer-related updates will go on hiatus until autumn. Meanwhile:



Ed Norton (Art Carney) leaving his 'office'

**Sewers in West Georgetown** probably date to when Rutherford Hayes was President (1877-1881). Many segments are in poor condition. An extensive year-long repair of a main sewer between O and P streets and Water Street will begin this summer. Most of the repair can be done without digging a deep trench. At one location, however, an excavation will be required: digging will affect about 120 square feet of both sidewalk and street in the 3300 block of O Street. The masonry wall of the sewer is bulging and cannot be repaired without excavating. The Old Georgetown Board has approved the proposed work, provided that existing bricks and cobble pavers are salvaged and re-used. This sewer

also will be relocated where it runs beneath the Hyde Addison School grounds. Without shifting the sewer to the western edge of the property, the new school addition could not be constructed.

**DC Water Bills:** At a meeting for Ward 2 residents, George Hawkins, DC Water's General Manager, revealed that water and sewer bills will be increasing 5-7 percent annually, into the next decade. This increase largely stems from the cost of abating combined sewer overflows into the Potomac and Anacostia rivers and Rock Creek. Already the largest single component of the monthly bill, the "Clean Rivers" charge is projected to double between 2017 and 2025.

**Green Infrastructure:** The ad hoc Georgetown task force that is coordinating with DC Water on its proposed plans to install Green Infrastructure in west Georgetown has asked DC Water to monitor actual overflows from combined

sewers into the Potomac River. The overflows are not currently measured, but are predicted using a computerized, hydraulic model. Contemporary anecdotal observations by those who frequent the river, as well as engineering calculations from some decades past, suggest that overflows are fewer in number and with less volume than predicted by the model. If true, this could significantly reduce the amount of Green Infrastructure that needs to be installed.



Walter Groszyk (aka Ed Norton), left, meeting with members of the Historic Preservation Committee (l-r) Elsa Santoyo, Shelley Ross-Larson, Victoria Rixey, Joe Gibbons, & Nola Klamberg.

## VIA UMBRIA

VV HARRISON

Via Umbria, located at 1525 Wisconsin, is a truly unique, eclectic and enchanting store – the kind of place you enter and never want to leave. The moment I walked it, an enticing aroma of freshly brewed coffee filled the air. The store, owned and run by Bill and Suzy Menard, is an Italian treasure-trove, filled with colorful, hand-painted ceramics, fresh vegetables, pastas, imported linens, cheeses, and one hundred and twenty distinctive wines. Everything Italian is beautifully appointed and displayed. This sensational market offers opportunities to eat, drink, cook, decorate ceramics, or sample wine and cheese. Private dinners or friendly stand-up gatherings can be enjoyed on the second floor of the totally modernized building, which includes an art gallery and spacious patio. (See their website, [viaumbria.com](http://viaumbria.com), for information on classes and events.)

While browsing and perusing, I had the good fortune to run into Deborah Simon, Retail Manager/Buyer, who showed me around, pointing out various items of interest such as rather pricey Maitake mushrooms for \$21 a pound, huge watermelon radishes for \$4.75 a pound, and a bunch of spearmint for \$24 a pound. Most produce, however, is much more pocketbook-friendly. The shop also carries a wide selection of meats, salume, prosciutto and pates. I met Scott the butcher, busy slicing up meat, and Federico, visiting from Italy and working in the upstairs kitchen. Federico's family makes and decorates many of the ceramic pieces displayed on shelves around the store. Via Umbria is a very welcome addition to our village, where we have lost so many attractive, classy places to shop.

And speaking of Italy, who owns the two red Ferraris parked on the streets of the eastside of Georgetown? Inquiring minds want to know!

## ROUND

At the April 7 meeting of the Old Georgetown Board, **EastBanc's** Anthony Lanier unveiled the latest design of his proposed residential building at 2715 Pennsylvania Ave using an Oculus virtual reality device – WOWZA!!! (The Board basically approved the design, the next review will focus on materials, palette, landscaping, and lighting)...**The Tombs** and **1789 Restaurant** will be closed for about two months this summer for renovations – and **F. Scott's** will merged in to create additional space...**Bangkok Joe's** is back to being a Thai restaurant at 3000 K Street...**Church**, a coffee shop and eatery, is going into 7,000 square feet at Georgetown Park...The old **Georgetown Theatre** renovation is looking snazzy and we all wonder who is moving in!

# SLATE FOR CAG OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

RICHARD HINDS, NOMINATING CHAIR

The nominating committee has proposed the slate of officers and four of the directors. Please come to the CAG meeting at Georgetown Visitation on May 24 to cast your vote.

## President – Bob vom Eigen

Bob and his wife, Ann, have lived and raised their children in Georgetown since 1978. Bob practiced law in Washington since 1970 until he retired in 2011 from the firm of Foley & Lardner LLP, located at Washington Harbour. Bob currently serves as President of the Citizens Association of Georgetown. He is also a member of the Executive Committee and the Historic Preservation & Zoning Committee. He has served as President of the Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park (FOGWP) since 2006, and served on the fundraising committee of the Georgetown Waterfront Park Commission that preceded FOGWP's creation. Bob is the Vice President and Director of the Georgetown Village, which provides volunteer assistance to seniors living in Georgetown and Burleigh.

## Vice President – Jennifer Altemus Romm

Jennifer, raised in the Washington DC area, graduated from Georgetown University in 1988. Currently, she is an event planner at the Library of Congress. She is a former president of CAG and currently is a co-chair of the CAG Georgetown Gala Committee and the Alcohol Beverage Control Committee. She is the lead CAG representative for the Georgetown Campus Plan and is part of the Steering Committee of the Georgetown Community Partnership. A Georgetown resident for over 30 years, she and husband David Romm live at

3303 Water Street.

## Secretary – Hazel Denton

Hazel Denton has lived on P Street for 21 years, during which time she has been active in a number of neighborhood activities and organizations including CAG where she is Chair of the Parking Committee. She is Co-Chair of the Parking and Transportation Working Group of the Georgetown Community Partnership. Hazel currently teaches courses in health and population issues at Georgetown University. Previously Hazel had a 20-year career at the World Bank.

## Treasurer – Bob Laycock

Bob, a CPA who has been Treasurer of CAG in past years, is a Professor Emeritus of Accounting at Montgomery College and Professorial Lecturer in Accounting at George Washington University. Bob has worked with the Trees for Georgetown Committee for 13 years and is an active member of Friend of Book Hill Park, having donated and helped plant hundreds of daffodils. Bob lives on O Street.

## Director - Karen "Cookie" Cruse

A CAG board member for over eighteen years, Karen is co-chair of the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Committee, working diligently to create a balance between the residential and commercial sectors. She coordinates with businesses and residents to modify and answer concerns regarding liquor licenses – known as settlement agreements. "Cookie" is a key liaison person with Georgetown University on town-gown matters, serving on the Safety and Student Life Committee of the Georgetown Community Partnership. She also assists with editing the CAG newsletter and is a regular

volunteer at the Senior Center Lunch Program and Meals on Wheels. She and her husband, Jim, live on 35th Street.

## Director - Barbara Downs

A resident of P Street, Barbara has served on the CAG board in several capacities – as President and on numerous committees including Public Safety, Beautification, Gala, Membership, and Nominating. Currently she serves as board Secretary. She is also active in the Georgetown Garden Club and the Senior Center at St. John's. She and her late husband, Tim Downs, have been pivotal leaders in Georgetown, from CAG Beautification Days to the O & P Street renovation project.

## Director - Hannah Isles

Hannah Isles has lived in Georgetown since 2006 and recently moved from 33rd Street to 30th Street. She started her career as a political fundraiser and later transitioned to public relations working for private sector and non-profit companies including AOL, GE, Powell Tate, and Share our Strength. In 2007 she left office life to work at home raising her two children, Nina and Peter. She has served on the committee for CAG's Concerts in the Parks program for the past 8 years and currently chairs the committee. She is married to Adam Isles.

## Director – John Rentzepis

John has lived in Georgetown since 2000 and has been Co-Chair of the Public Safety Committee since 2014. For many years, he has been involved with Friends of Book Hill Park serving as a volunteer and board member. He works in alternative investments and resides on P Street with his wife and two daughters.




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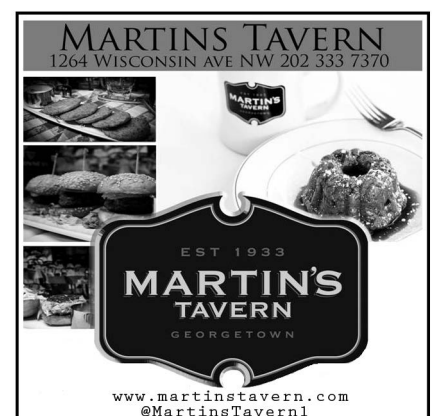
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# RECOLLECTIONS OF GEORGETOWN

## Remarkable Georgetowners Regale Crowd with Personal Memories

**B**illy Martin owns Martin's Tavern, often called "the heart of Georgetown". Sarah Satterlee Yerkes and Ellen Charles are two of Georgetown's grande dames. As a GU student, Bill Treanor helped save parts of Georgetown from highway demolition. They shared their stories at CAG's "Recollections" Oral History panel, moderated by Tom Birch, at the Sea Catch restaurant on March 23.

**Ellen Charles**, who successfully spearheaded the Hillwood house museum for 25 years, now helps lead the struggle to renovate and preserve historic Tudor Place. "It's such a jewel in the middle of Georgetown," said Ellen. Describing the challenge of preserving the historic but rundown house, Ellen added, "But it's so important architecturally. You don't need to go to Italy. You can just walk up 31st Street and there you are."



*Billy Martin & Sarah Yerkes*

**Billy Martin** is the fourth-generation owner of Martin's Tavern. Tom Birch spoke for many when he said, "When I want to show visitors Georgetown, I take them to Martin's Tavern." Billy remembered when the Tavern had trouble getting a liquor license because his grandfather "had been selling whiskey when he shouldn't." Of the famous JFK-to-Jackie proposal, Billy just says, "There's a lot of skepticism about that but my dad said he was there and it happened." Looking to the future, Billy said, "In these days of the big conglomerates, people ask me, why don't you branch out, but I'm not going anywhere. I like being there, talking to everybody."

**Sarah Satterlee Yerkes** moved to Georgetown "just after the bomb dropped", raising her family in a large house on Q Street where, she laughs, "What mother didn't know was just as well, the children had plenty of places to hide." She had a BA in landscape architecture, but then the Harvard School of Design sent a letter saying "We've decided it's really a graduate degree so if you send us \$25, we will send you a new degree and you will be a Master of Architecture." After raising her family, she partnered with a friend to start their own landscape architectural firm. She eventually joined the Georgetown Garden Club, recalling "In those days it had a great reputation, but you had to wait for someone to die."

**Bill Treanor** helped lead the protests against the "Three Sisters Bridge" highway that would have demolished sections of Georgetown. "It would have destroyed this whole neighborhood where we're standing now," Bill told the audience at Sea Catch. "They were even going to dig a tunnel for



*Sea Catch General Manager Tom Reidy, Bill Verno of RB Properties & CAG Meetings Co-Chair Sue Hamilton*



*Bob vom Eigen introduces Tom Birch and Ellen Charles*

the highway under the Lincoln Memorial!" The protestors set out to block construction. "The bulldozers were there, the pipes were there."..."We had demonstrations, we were arrested. I once spent the night on Three Sisters Island, an island about as big as this table we're sitting at." He recalls a Washington Post editorial that said, "You kids from Georgetown have had your fun, why don't you just go home and let us build our road?"

CAG thanks Sea Catch Restaurant and RB Properties for generously hosting this meeting in their historic room.

**You can read the interviews with these four notable Georgetowners, and many others, on the CAG website: [www.cagtown.org/oralhistory](http://www.cagtown.org/oralhistory).**

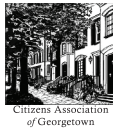
### GEORGETOWN GARDEN TOUR

*Continued from p. 5*

were identified: Volta Park Habitat Garden, Rose Park, Trees for Georgetown, and the Student Conservation Association. As the tour became more profitable, the number of beneficiaries grew. Along with the original four, Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy, the Georgetown Library, Book Hill, Montrose Park, Tudor Place, and the Georgetown Waterfront Park received grants. The Garden

Club has contributed well over half a million dollars to these organizations over the years. In addition to planting hundreds of trees, funds from the tour have provided the handsome Georgetown Library and Book Hill signs and the restoration and installation of the historic library fence. The playground and playing field in Rose Park, the rose garden in Montrose Park, heirloom boxwood hedges at Tudor Place, bike paths along the waterfront, and the habitat garden in Volta Park are among the many projects that have benefitted. Ever

vigilant of the mission of the Club's founders to beautify every corner of Georgetown, the tour presents a challenge to build on its core tradition while exploring ways to expand its depth and breadth and scope. It's a challenge embraced each year with pride and ever present determination! The Georgetown Garden Tour takes place Saturday, May 7. Tickets for the tour may be purchased online at [georgetowngardentour.com](http://georgetowngardentour.com) or at tour headquarters at Christ Church on the day of the tour. Tickets are \$40.



## CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN

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## MAY COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

- Mon May 2** **ANC 2E May Meeting** at Georgetown Visitation, 6:30pm. Heritage Room, Main Building, 35th St at Volta Place NW. [anc2e.com/meetings.html](http://anc2e.com/meetings.html)
- Fri May 6** **National Public Gardens Day at Tudor Place.** Stroll among spring blooms at leisure or join free guided tours. Don't miss the special Garden Sale featuring gifts, seeds, and live plants cultivated from heirloom specimens on the estate. Garden admission free, no registration. Guided Garden Tour (free) at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm. [tudorplace.org/programs](http://tudorplace.org/programs)
- Sat May 7** **Georgetown Garden Tour 2016.** 10am–5pm. Tickets \$35 before April 28, \$40 after. Afternoon tea included in ticket price. [georgetowngardenclubdc.org](http://georgetowngardenclubdc.org)
- Sun May 8** **Mother's Day**
- Sun May 8, Sun May 15, Sun Jun 12** **Room for Children with Arts & Crafts Workshops** at Embassy of Sweden. Arts & Crafts workshops between 12 - 3pm. FREE and no registration required. Story time sessions every Saturday at 2pm. Room for Children is a Swedish library and arts studio for the young designed to stimulate their desire for books, music, storytelling and self-expression.
- Wed May 11** **Book Hill Talks: Developing Classroom Communities** at Georgetown Library, 7pm. Amy Williamson, Chair of the Education, Health and Social Work Division of the University of the District of Columbia, will be on hand to discuss her research on engaging and increasing cultural competencies of today's students. [dclibrary.org/georgetown](http://dclibrary.org/georgetown)
- Sun May 15** **Little Folks Preschool Art Exhibit & Sale** at 3257 Q St NW 3-5 pm. Art, music, food and fun. Free and open to the community.
- Fri May 20** **Bike to Work Day.** The Georgetown BID is hosting a "pit stop" near the fountains at Georgetown Waterfront Park (K St & Wisconsin Ave) where commuters can enjoy refreshments, snacks and bicycle-themed giveaways. Register today to ensure that you receive a BTWD t-shirt and are entered to win one of many donated bicycles. 7:30 to 9:30am, registration is free. [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org)
- Sun May 22** **First CAG Summer Concert in the Parks at Volta Park.** 5:30-7pm [cagtown.org/concerts](http://cagtown.org/concerts)
- Tue May 24** **CAG Annual Meeting: Presentation of Annual Awards and Election of Officers** at Georgetown Visitation, 1523 35th St. *New member reception at 6pm.* Reception at 7pm; program at 7:30pm.
- Wed May 25** **Georgetown Senior Center Benefit** An evening event to benefit the Center will be held at an elegant home in Georgetown. Tickets are \$100 or \$150 for a couple. Contact Barbara Downs: 337-3373 or Wendy Erlanger: 333-9348
- Thu May 26** **Adult Coloring at Georgetown Library,** 6:30-8:30pm. Springtime series of relaxed coloring sessions. Coloring sheets and colored pencils provided, though personal supplies are welcome as well. Contact: [julia.strusienski@dc.gov](mailto:julia.strusienski@dc.gov). [dclibrary.org/georgetown](http://dclibrary.org/georgetown)
- Mon May 30** **Memorial Day**
- Tue May 31** **ANC 2E June Meeting** at Georgetown Visitation, 6:30pm. Heritage Room, 2nd Fl, Main Building, 35th St at Volta Place NW. [anc2e.com/meetings.html](http://anc2e.com/meetings.html)
- PLANNING AHEAD**
- Sun Jun 18** **CAG Father's Day Summer Concert in the Parks at Volta Park** 5:30-7pm, [cagtown.org/concerts](http://cagtown.org/concerts)
- Tue Jul 5** **ANC 2E July Meeting** at Georgetown Visitation, 6:30pm. Heritage Room, 2nd Fl, Main Building, 35th St at Volta Place NW. [anc2e.com/meetings.html](http://anc2e.com/meetings.html)
- Sun Jul 10** **Third CAG Summer Concert in the Parks at Rose Park** 5:30-7pm, [cagtown.org/concerts](http://cagtown.org/concerts)



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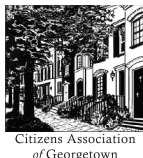
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