

Georgetown

C I T I Z E N S



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

VOLUME XXIII / ISSUE 7 / SEPTEMBER 2009

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

Anthony Lanier Speaks at September 21st Meeting

Anthony Lanier, the risk-taking real estate developer who revived neglected parts of Georgetown, will speak to CAG at the first fall meeting, Monday, September 21, at the Thos. Moser store at 3300 M Street. He will talk about the commercial scene in Georgetown—past, present and future.

His high risk innovative projects have earned him a reputation as a visionary who sees potential in difficult sites. “I try to appreciate what’s there and make it better,” he says “old buildings are the soul of the city....and represent a challenge...but the result can be unique.” In Georgetown Lanier is best known for renovating a row of storefronts on M Street into high-end design stores known as Cady’s Alley. At the center of the block (between 34th and 35th Streets) a stairway leads down to a delightful alley and a mix of historic and contemporary architecture. A light-filled patio adjoins his



great success.”

Next to the Whitehurst Freeway, Lanier and Millennium Partners LP transformed the abandoned incinerator into the centerpiece of The Ritz-Carlton hotel and the chimney of the industrial structure now is part of the dining room. Farther west at 3303 Water Street, Lanier built a luxury condominium project next to a Pepco substation, a loft-style structure with large windows overlooking the Potomac River and a green rooftop.

Fifty-seven year-old Lanier brings a European vision to the city, introduc-

ing contemporary life into historic settings — an approach that comes naturally to the Brazilian-born developer, who grew up in Vienna where he attended university and launched his real estate career. He moved to Washington and started EastBanc Inc. in 1987 and began buying and renovating small buildings in Georgetown, with equity often coming from European partners. EastBanc is a family endeavor with Portuguese-born wife Isabel, and most recently 31-year-old son Philippe, joining in. Their N Street home is within walking distance of the EastBanc office.

Appropriately, the stunning Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers store at the corner of M and 33rd Street, will host the CAG meeting featuring the fascinating, thought-provoking, and witty Mr. Lanier. Join us at 7 for a wine and cheese reception and the program which will begin promptly at 7:30.

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Fall Gala *Midnight in Moscow* October 2 at the Russian Embassy

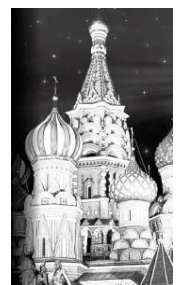
The CAG Fall Gala will be held on Friday, October 2 at the Embassy of the Russian Confederation.

Honorary Chairs Ambassador and Mrs. Sergey Kislyak, Senator John Kerry and Teresa Heinz, and Mayor and Mrs. Fenty will welcome us to “Midnight in Moscow,” a formal but fun night celebrating our community and paying tribute to some exceptional Georgetowners: Jack and Sis Hedden and Mimsy Lindner. There will be champagne and caviar, a sumptuous dinner buffet, and dancing to Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra.

Highlights of the Gala Auction include two Aeroflot Business Class tickets to Moscow, a membership to the Georgetown Club, dinners at 1789, Peacock Café, the City

Tavern Club, and other Georgetown hotspots, personal chef services, hand painted decorative panels from the former Nathan’s, and more.

Co-chairs Jennifer Altemus and Lesley Lee, together with the rest of the committee and the CAG board, give particular thanks to the evening’s sponsors: Aeroflot Russian Airlines, Coldwell Banker, Karen Melrod at Long & Foster, HSBC Bank, Georgetown University, GU Hospital, MC Dean, Securitas, Western Development, Clydes, the Georgetown Current, Washington Fine Properties and Jean Smith at Remax.



Continued on page 4

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. As much as I love the empty streets of August, I'm excited for Fall's hustle and bustle.



Concerts raffle winner Jessica Heywood congratulates 4th of July parade winner Simon Nesbitt

kids made delightful cards and "Best Dad" medals and everyone enjoyed the Melodime Band. On July 5th the concert was preceded by a red, white and blue parade around Volta Park with children (and dogs) decked out in patriotic displays. The Image Band had the audience rocking with their Reggae music and had everyone on their feet for a gorgeous vocal rendition of the national anthem. See the CAG website for more wonderful pictures.



Ian Lever in the 5th of July concert parade.

A big thank you to the hard-working Concerts Committee, a great group of young Georgetowners, co-chaired by Elizabeth Miller and Renee Esfandiary Crupi. And special thanks to Concert sponsors Coldwell Banker, HSBC Bank, Friends of Rose Park, Friends of Volta Park, Georgetown University Hospital, Nancy Taylor Bubes at Washington Fine Properties, Clyde's, Jean Smith, Haagen-Dazs, the Georgetowners, and the Georgetown Current.

Invitations for Midnight in Moscow, this year's Gala, went out in late August. If you haven't received yours please let the CAG office know. This is an event you do not want to miss. It's not often you get to see the spectacular ballroom of the Russian Embassy. The menu looks scrumptious—caviar anyone? Doc Scantlin will have everyone dancing. And it's your chance to bid on everything from a first class trip to Moscow to restaurant meals in Georgetown to a chef making dinner in your own home. We will also be unveiling our new neighborhood relationship with the Arbat, a historic district in Moscow.

The cultural exchange opportunities are exciting. It's fascinating to see the parallels between our two communities half a world apart.

The Oral History project is underway. Our goal is to collect and record a living history of Georgetown's remarkable homes, buildings, parks, and structures as seen through the eyes of long time residents. Fifty people with invaluable memories have agreed to be interviewed. The architectural richness and cohesiveness of Georgetown's physical form will serve to focus, but not limit, the reflections collected. Sixteen interviewers have already been trained.



We have started a new GU committee to deal with Town/Gown issues including trash, noise, and student conduct. It will also focus on the pending GU 2010 Campus Plan. It is comprised of a diverse group of residents who bring varying perspectives to the table. Right now we are dealing with the back to school problems that come up every year. It seems that with each new group of students moving in we encounter the same issues. I have been hearing horrible stories from neighbors living close to the University. It is shocking to me the blind eye that is turned to unruly behavior. Students need to be educated as to what is expected of them as members of a community. And they must be held accountable for their actions. We are working with both the University and the city to get current laws enforced.

The CAG Board works closely with other neighborhood volunteers on thirteen CAG sponsored committees which serve the community. These committees are open to any CAG member who would like to help make Georgetown a better place to live. We are actively seeking volunteers and we love to get a fresh perspective on the issues. The current committees are Public Safety, Beautification, Alcohol Beverage Control, Historic Preservation and Zoning, Oral History, Membership, Finance, Transportation, Concerts in the Park, the Gala, Airports and Utilities, Georgetown University relations, and Trees for Georgetown. More information on each can be found on our website www.cagtown.org. We are also in the process of forming a Program Committee which will help plan our monthly membership meetings. If you are interested in helping with any of these please let us know.

Welcome back everyone!

Fall Gala Midnight in Moscow October 2 at the Russian Embassy *continued from page 1*



Gala Co-Chairs Lesley Lee and Jennifer Altemus, (center) with auction heads Erika Donohue (far left) and Annie Lou Berman (far right)

About the Embassy

The imposing structure that houses the Embassy is located atop Mount Alto, the third-highest hill in Washington. The enormous building is set behind a wrought-iron gate, just slightly removed from the rest of the neighborhood giving the embassy a somewhat mysterious air. The embassy was completed in 1985 but was not officially opened until 1994. It was commissioned under the Soviet government, but an agreement with the United States stipulated that the new embassy would open at the same time a new American embassy was completed in Moscow.

Behind the imposing façade, the grand rooms feature magnificent oil paintings, tapestries, inlaid woodwork, intricate mosaics, and antique furniture. The Northern Room is decorated with the symbolic Ukrainian walnut tree and a blue and yellow tapestry,

reflecting that country's national colors. Next door is the Southern Room, known during the Soviet period as the Belarusian Room. A cluster of churches and World War II symbols are woven into a tapestry there, along with a figure carrying salt and bread—integral to Belarusian culture. The World War II symbols recall the heavy losses that nation suffered while the salt and bread are national symbols of welcome, comparable to the pineapple in America. Massive chandeliers are hung throughout the second floor, each crafted with Bohemian crystal from the former Czechoslovakia.

A great ballroom is decorated in a Russian style, with art painted on the ceiling, which is typical of Russian structures. At both ends of the room, large panels are designed to further reflect Russia's past. On one wall, an enamel panel depicts the founding of Russian territories through images of great cathedrals, including St. Sophia's in Kiev, where Prince Vladimir embraced Christianity and declared his country a Christian nation. At the other end of the room, panels are illustrated with countries that were once under communist rule and are now independent, such as Armenia and the Ukraine. Great murals outside the ballroom show the Russian seal,

as well as the emblems of various orders. Other rooms are dedicated to Russian Emperor Peter the Great, as well as one that showcases artists who paint in the Palekh style, referring to a small town outside of Moscow.

The embassy is only one part of a thriving compound that caters to the needs of those who work there. The ambassador himself lives at the old embassy on 16th Street, but diplomats and their families have access to on-site apartments, medical facilities, a duty-free shop and a school. An embassy spokesperson said, "We go to Old Europe, Whole Foods...It's a good neighborhood for the locations and connections. That's what political Washington is about."

Invitations to the Gala were mailed in August. Call the CAG office if you haven't received yours yet or if you have questions.

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Dima and Amir Zalatimo and
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Leo Laith Yaxdanpanah—JUNE 19

Annie Lou Bayley and MJ Berman and
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Theodore Bayley—AUGUST 5

Bridget and Greg Nikodem on R Street:

James Quinn—APRIL 18

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History of the Street Car System in DC and Georgetown

Former CAG president Ray Kukulski and transportation specialist Bill Gallagher have compiled a history of our city's public transit system, including the major role played by Georgetown. Their account, "Washington on the Move: The Architecture of Transportation in the Capital Region," was presented at the University of Maryland School of Architecture. They explain how Washington, hub of domestic and international politics, has encountered innovations and difficulties in keeping aesthetically pleasing qualities while also maintaining functionality.

In 1870 the population of Washington was 132,000 yet the city still lacked proper sanitation and residents continued to travel on dirt roads. Congress decided to take action and modernize the city. The need to connect Georgetown and downtown became apparent as people began to live farther from where they worked. The first attempt at a systemized public transit system was a series of two-horse stage coaches that followed the same routes between Georgetown and downtown. The system soon evolved into Omnibuses—horse-drawn wagons—and later horse-drawn streetcars. Each different mode of transportation



followed similar routes along the streets of the city and by 1900 there were twelve horse-drawn streetcar companies chartered in the District of Columbia.

As the rest of the world evolved past the horse-drawn stage of transportation and were able to avoid the serious sanitation problems that accompany large animals travelling city streets, Washington remained concerned that the overhead poles used as the main source of power would be aesthetically displeasing. Washingtonians felt that DC needed to remain a pristine place that characterized the American spirit. There was a huge push to move the entire power supply underground but Congress deemed the project too difficult and expensive to accomplish.

Finally, by the early 1920s, a conduit electrical system, based on the system used in Budapest, was set up to power streetcars throughout the city. The rails were installed so they were flush with the cobblestone streets. Georgetown, a nexus of the streetcar system, has the only visual remnants of the electrical streetcar system in the country, the depressed rails on O and P Streets.

Ultimately Washington boasted the most environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing transit system of major cities that used the new technology. The electric streetcars enabled the city to grow beyond the original borders.

The final stage of the transportation saga is what we use today: gasoline engines in taxicabs and buses. Washington was one of the last cities to reap the benefits of the newest technologies, but it seems that Washington learns from the mistakes of other cities and eventually implements the best system possible. The full article, including historical photos, can be read on the CAG website —www.cagtown.org. It includes many interesting details, including more Georgetown-specific information.

—Elizabeth Maloy



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Additional Donors to the 2009 Public Safety Program (April 1 through September 27, 2009)

Thanks to the generosity of the following people (and the people listed in the April newsletter), CAG is able maintain the Public Safety Program for 2009. We urge others to contribute soon. Forms are available from the CAG office and you can donate online at www.cagtow.org. Or simply send your check made out to CAG Public Safety. All donations are tax deductible.

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News from CAG Committees

From ABC Committee Co-Chair Karen Cruse:

The Citizens Association of Georgetown and ANC2E (Georgetown's neighborhood advisory commission) are petitioning the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for a moratorium on additional seats at the ABC-licensed restaurants in the Georgetown Court complex. The ABC Board suggested that CAG pursue the moratorium after a lengthy hearing at which neighbors of Georgetown Court testified to the many problems the area suffers because of the often-expanded establishments.

Concerned residents cited examples of the lack of adequate parking; traffic congestion on Prospect and N Streets which is exacerbated by delivery trucks, taxis, and limousines; crowded sidewalks; late night noise; and inadequate trash facilities which contribute to a serious rat infestation. Encouraged that the Board recognized neighbors' concerns and deemed them "credible evidence," CAG and ANC2E are going ahead with the request for a moratorium which would prohibit restaurants in Georgetown Court from adding more seats.

On another matter regarding Carryout License Single Sales, the CAG board reaffirmed its position opposing waivers of the legislation banning single sales at A- and B-licensed establishments. Although only two establishments have expressed interest at this time, it was felt that others would follow suit and neighbors near various markets have been vocal in their opposition to such sales.

From Beautification Committee Chair Brenda Moorman:

Trash collection complaints have increased in the last few months. GU's Ray Danieli and CAG organized a meeting July 1 with Johnny Gaither, the DPW Deputy Administrator of Solid Waste; Charlene Barber, DPW Enforcement Inspector; and Tony Martin of the Mayor's office. Ray Danieli and Anne Koester, the new GU Director of Off Campus Student Life, represented the University. There have been many reports of skipped individual pick-ups which make enforcement of regulations almost impossible. Mr. Gaither assured us that the collectors of garbage and recycling are required to pick up all bags and cans which are out on collection days. The only exception is yard waste which can be skipped for one pickup at the discretion of the driver. **Unfortunately, some collections are still missed. When that happens, residents should call 311 immediately to make a complaint.** If the trucks are still out, the crews can return for a pick-up. Also, complaints can be made to Johnny Gaither at 202 645-4303 or Johnny.Gaither@de.gov.

Back Street Georgetown (formerly Rate Abatement) had two alley walk-throughs in June with representatives

of the BID, CAG, DOH, restaurant owners and pest management companies. While the condition of the alleys has improved overall, violations were still evident and the owners have been cited. **The Department of Health will provide extermination services** on property if permission is given to DOH for workmen to come onto private property. Recently several residents in the 1500 block of 35th Street had work done by the city for a multi-property rat infestation. A copy of the petition to request service is available on the CAG website www.cagtown.org.

Sewer baiting of rats is available by the DOH but they do not have funds for a city wide project. It can be done in a specific area upon request. Recently, sewer baiting has been done at O and 33rd Street. To request sewer baiting, call Gerard Brown, Director of Rodent Control, DOH at 202 535-2636 or e-mail at Gerard.Brown1@dc.gov.

There have been two meetings with Georgetown University, CAG, ANC, West Village People (residents near the University) and landlords concentrating on **trash issues on O Street**. Only one property manager attended a meeting and no landlords.

The property manager said the students in his houses were so lax in trash disposal that he hired a private trash collection service and charged them. He made the suggestion that the University should be responsible for trash collections in houses they own as well as houses where their students live. Subsequently Linda Greenan, GU's Assistant Vice President of External Relations announced **that beginning Monday, August 3rd, Georgetown University will pick-up trash and recyclables at university-owned townhouses on the west side of the 1400 block of 36th Street and on the north side of the 3600 block of Prospect Street.** Pick-up will occur in the rear of the townhouses on Monday and Thursday. Student residents will be informed to place any and all trash/recyclables in the rear of their residences rather than in front. Enforcement of this new policy will be monitored by the university with fines levied on non-compliant houses.

CAG has summarized **information about trash and recycling on bright attractive door hangers** which will be distributed in September.

Continued on page 8

News from CAG Committees *Continued from page 7*

From Beautification Committee Chair Brenda Moorman continued:

While accompanying DPW's Charlene Barber, on her rounds at the end of June, it was clear that **many trash violators are repeat offenders**. As the fines increase for the same violation within 60 days, we stressed that it is important that tickets be given every time a violation occurs. Also, I suggested that a notice should be left at the address notifying the tenants that

a ticket is being given for a trash violation. Trash tickets are sent to the landlords, not the tenants. Unless the landlords make the tenants pay (which they may not for \$75 tickets) the tenants do not know a ticket has been issued. Ms. Barber reports that 53 tickets were written in June and 35 written in July.

Anacostia River Clean-up and Protection Act of 2009 which places a 5 cent fee on plastic and paper bags, provides public education about the problems of plastic pollution, distributes free reusable bags for families in need, and creates a fund to clean up the Anacostia River, was passed unanimously by the City Council and was signed by the Mayor. It will go into effect January 2010.

From Historic Preservation, Planning, and Zoning Committee Chair, Barbara Zartman:

I met with the representatives of the Deputy Mayor's Office for Planning and Economic Development, along with the ANC's Ron Lewis regarding the Hurt Home. It was a professional exchange, sharing DMPED's desire to sell the property for private development of quality, large condo units. The DC representatives accepted the sense that the community would not want intensive institutional development at the site and would be very sensitive to impact on the adjacent properties/community. DMPED was thinking of 25 to 40 units and we indicated we thought the number was too large. DMPED has issued an REI (Request for Expressions of Interest). When the REI period closes, there will be a public session to explore developers' proposals and comment on the directions they offer. Much more will happen before conclusions are reached.

Georgetown Zoning Cases: The application to waive requirements for an accessory garage that wouldn't meet standards for lot occupancy, alley setbacks, and rear yard provision was withdrawn after opposition was

recorded by both the Office of Planning and Zoning and CAG. In light of CAG's policy regarding protection of private open space, we objected to waiving those requirements.

Old Georgetown Board Cases: The proposal for a rear deck at 1617 35th Street was opposed strongly; neighbors were organized and formidable. Ron Lewis and Tom Birch spoke of the ANC's strong opposition. The request for a rear parking pad at 3020 Cambridge will be back with a new design; neighbors still oppose more parking off the alley, but the OGB approved a plan with strong conditions. The Georgetown Library returned with its latest changes and won strong support.

Ron and Anne Lewis and I attended a meeting at the Office of Planning and Zoning. The possibility of having



Barbara Zartman, Ron Lewis, Ann Lewis, Jennifer Altemus discuss zoning with Office of Planning's Travis Parker

a separate zoning plan for Georgetown's Historic District was put on the table by OP.

The quarterly BZA meeting with GU on July 16 was very well attended by residents CAG members and ANC Commissioners. We asked for substantially more information about the GU Campus plan and about MedStar Hospital's plans. Unfortunately, representatives from GU said they were "not able to comment" or "were not authorized to say." GU would also not comment about any plans to request an extension of the current campus plan, which expires in December of 2010.

From Oral History Project Chair, Nola Klamburg:

The CAG Oral History Project is up and running. Sixteen volunteers who have attended training sessions are now starting interviews. We have identified nearly 50 people who would like to be interviewed.

This summer Liz Barentzen interviewed Betty Hays, founder in the 1950s (with her husband) of The Phoenix Shop on Wisconsin Avenue. Additionally, Al Wheeler, long-time Georgetown attorney and resident, was interviewed by Michelle Jacob-

son. Beverly Jost has interviewed Ray Kukulski and Ronda Bernstein has interviewed Dr. John J. Lynch. Those interviews will soon be on the CAG website and, eventually, will be available at the Peabody Room of the Georgetown Library.

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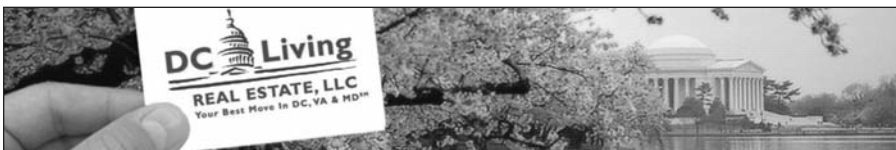


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NEWSBYTES

The Georgetown Waterfront's Agraria restaurant has been modified into **Agraria Farmers & Fishers** and features a wider variety of more casual menu items including lots of seafood and artisanal pizzas—and the bar has a Tiki menu ...the September 9th **Georgetown Current** will feature a **Community Guide...Alchimie Forever** will open a store in the heart of Georgetown which will house corporate offices and a retail area for their skin products and a training space...welcome to **Georgetown Birdcage** on Book Hill with antique and modern furniture and accessories—check their website, www.GeorgetownBirdcage.com, Thursdays to see what's new...**Bruegger's Bagels** is opening in Glover Park, right across Wisconsin from Whole Foods—look for a special coupon in their ad in the next newsletter...the **historic Georgetown Theater** property on Wisconsin Avenue (currently the National Jewel Center) is reportedly for sale for \$4.5 million by the Heon family which has owned it since 1949—they also are selling Nathans' old building and the Philadelphia Cheesesteak Factory building (which used to be the location of the Cellar Door nightclub)...The Pet Gallery has moved to P Street, just west of Wisconsin.

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SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

Fridays Aug & Sept	Tudor Place: Yoga in the Garden; 10-11 am each Friday through September; certified Hatha Yoga and Vinyasa Yoga instructor Sabina Grewal leads the class; \$15 for one session or \$120 for ten; please bring a yoga mat; RSVP 202-965-0400 or email tmosconi@tudorplace.org .
Tues. Sept 8	GU's Alliance in Local Living (ALL) meeting; 6:30 pm; Career Center Conference Room, Leavey Center, first floor. Presentations by Anne Koester, Director of Office Campus Student life; Jim Welsh, MD, Assistant VP for student health; Lt. John Hedgecock, MPD 2nd District and Rocco Delmonaco, VP for University Safety: <i>Following the ALL meeting there will be a reception at Alumni House with the Magis Row residents.</i>
Thurs. Sept 10	Meeting of the West Village People (WVP) for residents concerned about improving quality of life issues in the West Village; 6:30 pm; St Johns Church; Potomac; and O Street; lower level. For more info contact gtown411@gmail.com
Thurs. Sept 17	Georgetown Library Book Discussion Group: <i>Olive Kitteredge</i> by Elizabeth Stout, 7:30 pm, 3307 M Street; 724-8783.
Sat. Sept 19	WalkingTown, DC Fall Edition; featured 120 walking and biking tours throughout the spring continues into the fall; visit culturaltourismdc.org for more information.
Mon. Sept 21	CAG Meeting: Developer Anthony Lanier Talks about Commercial Aspects of Georgetown: Past; Present & Future; Reception at 7 pm, program at 7:30, Thos Moser Cabinetmakers showroom, 33rd and M Street
Mon. Sept 28	Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting; 6:30 pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; (agenda available at www.anc2E.com); call 338-7427 for more information.
Wed. Sept 30	Tudor Place Author Lecture: Gordon Brown on the Cultural History of Early Capital City; 6:45 pm; Members \$5; non-members \$10; advance reservations and payment required; 965-0400 or email tmosconi@tudorplace.org
Fri. Oct 2	CAG Gala at the Embassy of the Russian Confederation
Wed. Oct 14	Spirit of Georgetown fundraiser for the Georgetown Ministry Center at the home of Dr. Tina Alster and Paul Frazer