

Georgetown

CITIZENS



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

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WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

DC School Chancellor Michelle Rhee Speaks at October 22 Meeting

Reception and Tour at Renovated Hyde-Addison School

Michelle Rhee, Chancellor of DC Public Schools, will speak at a special CAG meeting on Thursday, October 22, at the newly expanded and renovated Hyde-Addison Elementary School. Principal Dana Nerenberg will also welcome residents to the beautiful new complex which is located in the first block west of Wisconsin Avenue, between O & P streets.



Chancellor Rhee

Selected by Mayor Adrian Fenty two years ago to shake up and fix the DC school system, Chancellor Rhee has made many changes. She has been profiled by Time magazine (photographed with a broom on the cover for her effort to clean up the system), Newsweek, the Christian Science Monitor, and she's been featured repeatedly on the News Hour with Jim Lehrer. Praised as a "revolutionary" and an "agent of change" for her drive to shut down failing schools, eliminate bad teachers, and reward the good ones with higher salaries, she has also

been criticized for her approach by the teachers union and others.

She graduated from Cornell University in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in government and earned a master's in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1997. Rhee taught in Baltimore for three years as part of the Teach for America program, which she credits with fundamentally changing the way she views education. In 1997, Rhee founded The New Teacher Project, a nonprofit organization that works with school districts

to recruit and train new teachers.

Hyde-Addison Principal Dana Nerenberg, another alumna of Teach For America with a BA from Duke and an MA from Johns Hopkins, is starting her third year as principal. She is eager to have residents tour the new "campus" at 3219 O Street. There is a lot to see: two buildings, a new playground, the children's garden, an outdoor amphitheater—and even a gazebo.

Please join CAG and Principal Nerenberg on Thursday evening, October 22, at 7 pm for a look around the stunning new complex and a reception and visit with the dynamic Chancellor Rhee.



Principal Dana Nerenberg in the new amphitheater at Hyde-Addison School

CAG Gala at Russian Embassy

The much-anticipated CAG Gala at the Embassy of the Russian Confederation, under the honorary chairmanship of Ambassador and Mrs. Sergey Kislyak, Senator John Kerry and Teresa Heinz, and Mayor and Mrs. Adrian Fenty, takes place Friday, October 2. This "Midnight in Moscow" evening will be a formal night cel-

ebrating our community and paying tribute to 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. There will also be a very special appearance by Soloists of Moscow Symphony Orchestra.

Continued on page 4 1

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

September has been a fun month with everyone getting back to town. I love hearing of the various summer adventures. And with the change of season people seem to have a renewed sense of energy. There is even a chill in the air!

Our first membership meeting of the season featured EastBanc developer, Anthony Lanier, speaking at the Thos. Moser Cabinetmaker showroom on M Street. What an incredible venue for this genial raconteur. People turned out in droves to hear about “the village of Georgetown” and what makes it such a unique entity. Anthony’s take on what is to come has me excited to be in the community at such a vibrant time. I am grateful to Anthony and Leigh Carey & her staff from Thos Moser for such a stellar evening. And I would like to congratulate Susan Maroon on winning the Thos Moser desk clock they so graciously provided as a door prize.

While walking to the meeting I could definitely tell the students were back in town. As they begin to settle in let’s hope that we can count on them to be considerate neighbors. If you live near an off campus student residence I encourage you to introduce yourself and to get to know the students. Some of the problems we have experienced in the past could possibly be avoided if there are neighborly relationships established early. The University must also take an active role. They must educate their students on what constitutes a good neighbor. And they must be vigilant in enforcing their Student Code of Conduct both on and off campus. The DC Metropolitan Police Department, too, must step up enforcement during this time of year before matters can get out of hand.

As I mentioned last month, CAG’s GU Relations Committee is comprised of neighborhood volunteers who represent community interests to GU in order to achieve mutually agreeable results that maintain and improve the quality of life for Georgetown residents. This committee acts as a clearing house for all of the other groups of residents who are concerned about town/gown issues. It gathers information from these various groups and disseminates information from GU. The Committee has met with representatives from Georgetown University and also with residents of the West Village who have joined together to work on quality of life issues. The West Village People, as they call themselves, have established an email address that serves as a repository of complaints lodged about issues in the neighborhood. I encourage everyone to notify



Gtown411@ymail.com with your complaints. Your name will not be associated with the complaint. It is vital for us to know a complaint was lodged in order to track trends.

After almost a year of planning our Fall Gala is finally upon us. I hope you will join me and my co-chair, Lesley Lee, on Friday, October 2, 2009 at the Russian Embassy for “Midnight in Moscow.” I’m excited to see how everything comes together. The over the top glam ballroom is sure to sparkle. The

Embassy is spoiling us with a stellar vodka and caviar bar. Occasions Caterers has an impressive dinner buffet in the works and Doc Scantlin is finalizing his playlist which will include an upbeat waltz for this year’s dance contest—so dust off your dancing shoes. The responses are rolling in. You are sure to run into friends old and new, plus a few celebs will be dropping by (if you’re into that kind of thing). A HUGE thank you to our committee who has been hard at work putting together this unforgettable evening that you won’t want to miss. Feel free to call the office for more details.

Also in the works for October is our next membership meeting to be held on October 22 at 7:00pm at the newly remodeled Hyde Addison School. DC School’s Chancellor Michelle Rhee will speak about her tactics for turning our school system around. If the improved structure of the building is any indication of what takes place inside, I’d say things are heading in the right direction. Come and see for yourself how amazing it looks.

I’m thrilled to say that just as we went to press, the Wisconsin Avenue route of the Circulator has NOT been terminated—it has been saved again! Kudos to our Transportation Committee Chair, Hazel Denton, for leading the charge to reverse this decision. The Wisconsin Avenue route of the Circulator had been scheduled for termination on October 4. The reason DDOT gave was that they needed to make this cut to comply with new budget restrictions. CAG strongly disagreed with their rationale and assessments. Their numbers did not jibe with what we were hearing from riders. They had also not considered that Safeway has been closed but will reopen within the year. Thanks to all the people who worked hard to have the Wisconsin Avenue route of Circulator continued—including all the individual Georgetowners who sent letters to the Mayor.

—Jennifer Altemus

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

In addition to the extensive silent auction, Mark Plotkin will be the auctioneer for a live auction for three exciting items:

- Two Aeroflot business class tickets to Moscow and tickets to the Moscow Symphony Orchestra at the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory plus a six CD box set of their performances
- An evening of intrigue at a beautiful Georgetown home featuring a scavenger hunt and dinner for thirty people preceded by cocktails and appetizers at another beautiful Georgetown home, compliments of creative hostesses Constance Chatfield-Taylor, Jackie Pletcher, and Colleen Girouard.
- Four large hand painted panels depicting Georgetown in the late 1800's, which hung in the

entrance foyer of the late great Nathan's. Donated by Carol Joynt, these scenic panels by artist Neal Oseroff, depict the canal, tow path, Potomac River, the Old Aqueduct bridge, Roosevelt Island —and even the White House in the distance.



CAG's Denise Cunningham with Andrey Tarelin, Attache at the Embassy

Special thanks go to our sponsors: Aeroflot Russian Airlines, Coldwell Banker, Kathy Melrod at Long & Foster, HSBC Bank, Georgetown University, Georgetown University Hospital, M.C. Dean, Securitas, Western Development, Clydes, the Georgetown Current, Washington

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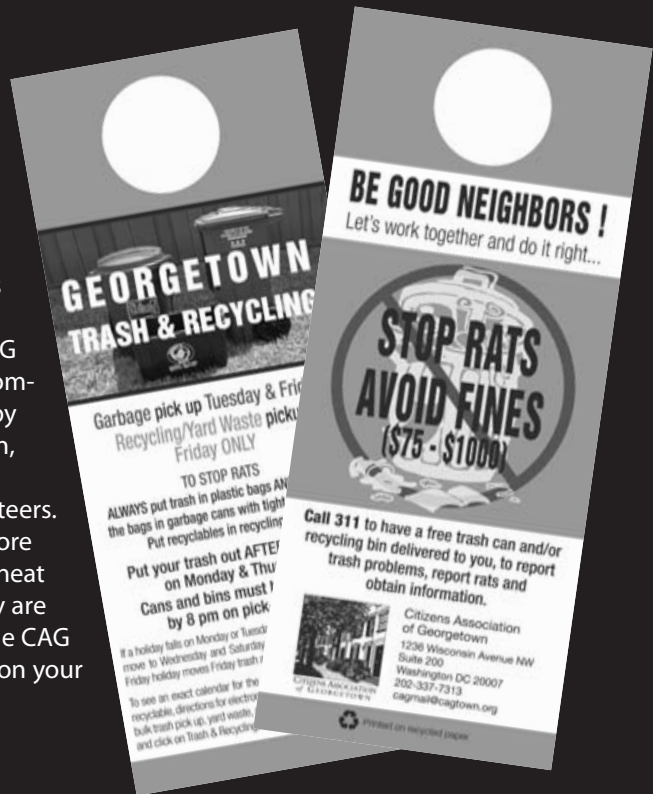
Complimentary valet parking will be available at the embassy gates on Wisconsin Avenue. Tickets are \$150 for CAG members and \$175 for non-members. For tickets call the CAG office at 337-7313.

See It All Live!

Bruce Yarnall of the HPRB has announced that Historic Preservation Office of the Office of Planning now provides a live **webcast** of Historic Preservation Review Board meetings and hearings! The webcast may be accessed at the following URL: <http://planning.dc.gov/planning/cwp/view,a,1284,q,643940.asp> or <http://planning.dc.gov/hp> Select HPRB Live Video Broadcast. Staff reports are currently posted on our website at: <http://planning.dc.gov/planning/cwp/view,a,1284,q,647251.asp> or <http://planning.dc.gov/hp> Select HPRB Meetings, then HPRB Meeting and Hearings, June 25, 2009.

CAG's New Trash and Recycling Doorhangers

Hundreds of these concise and informative trash and recycling doorhangers were delivered to residents in September thanks to the CAG Beautification Committee, headed by Brenda Moorman, and assisted by numerous volunteers. If you can use more (for your not-so-neat neighbors?), they are available from the CAG office. Keep one on your fridge!



ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

Community Organizers and the future of Scheele's Market

Nothing is just what it seems, it is always something else too. So it is with our neighborhood stores, the so-called Mom and Pop stores. While the front they present to the world is that of a convenient place to buy food nearby at the last minute, the purpose they really serve is as the local gathering place. They are the glue that holds each neighborhood together, our Agora. They are where we go to see our friends, hear the latest, as well as purchase the one thing that saves dinner from disaster. We would be a drabber, sadder place without them. And we would see each other much less.

Scheele's on the corner of 29th and Dumbarton is a cheerful, useful place run by very nice people. The back story on the Mom and Pop stores is that they are often an entryway for ethnic groups. The unsung heroes of the American economy, they tend to be honest and hard working—the Lees are indeed honest and hard working and everybody likes them.

When a neighborhood store is menaced, we are menaced. So when a developer wanted to buy Scheele's, the neighbors sprang into action. They want to make sure the store stays no matter what else happens to the building. Under the able command of Mike Peabody, who is fearless, energetic and under whose feet the grass does not grow, a group was assembled to cope with the problem.

This is still evolving, but basically, the developer, Marc Teren, has a contract to buy the building. He has agreed to keep the store in business for at least a few years. To make it more profitable, he hopes to make it into a full service operation, install a butcher, offer more fresh fruit and vegetables, remove the two parking spaces to make room for expansion.

There is an attractive apartment above the store. The building is a corner lot so it gets light from three sides. Beth Wainwright, who lives above the store has right of first refusal to buy, she has conveyed her right to the neighborhood group. Of course, some folding green needs to

be procured to proceed with these ideas. In other words they need to raise some money.

Which brings us to the Palio. The Palio? You may well ask. Consider this scenario: There would be a block party modeled on the Palio, an annual event in Siena, Italy. During the Palio many horses run around a small park in the middle of the city, very fast, and for a very short time, in colorful costumes. After that remarkable event there are glorious street parties in the neighborhoods. (In our case the party would probably be minus the horses.)

With this image in mind now picture 29th Street, closed to traffic from O to Dumbarton, filled with long tables covered with white tablecloths and many votive candles flickering in the autumn dusk. You would want to be there, we all would. We want to celebrate, applaud and support Scheele's as we have these many years.

It's our community and we care about it.

—Edith Schafer

GEORGETOWN *Baby* BOOM

CONGRATULATIONS AND A
WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW LITTLE ONES

Anne Davis & Chase Wollenhaupt on 26th Street

Paige—MAY 25TH

Elizabeth Miller & Dan Sallick

Big brother Sam and big sister Annabelle on 33rd Street

Agnes James—SEPTEMBER 9TH



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants

Due to my interest in Washington history, this past year I discovered and joined a unique organization devoted to preservation of D.C. history.

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants (AOI) is the oldest continuing community organization in the city. A quote from the AOI by-laws and constitution, dated December 7, 1865, indicates the effort was an attempt to restore the capital's dignity, which had been plagued by lingering and divisive sectional loyalties following the Civil War. The effort was an attempt to foster pride in the city, and concomitantly, reinforce the plan for the city as envisioned by L'Enfant. Theodore Noyes, President of AOI in December 1907, indicated "The AOI main function is reminiscent and preservative. It fosters the loyalty of the Washingtonian to Washington, the self-respect of

the Washingtonian, and the affection and pride which one feels in his own and the nation's capitol."

AOI was established at a meeting at the old City Hall Building (now being refurbished in the D.C. Courthouse area). In 1959, the organization had an opportunity to buy an old historic building for AOI headquarters in the 3200 block of M Street in Georgetown for \$13,000. Due to the projected cost of \$100,000 to refurbish the building, the deal fell through, and AOI relinquished any interest in the property.

Through the efforts of people like Harold Gray, Al Wheeler and others in leadership roles the organization has grown in recent decades. Sara Booth Conroy, writing in the Washington Post in August 1993, indicated, "The AOI has been born again. Or, at least, become younger, more inclusive, and more vigorous. It is Washington's liv-

ing archive." President Bill Brown has been the dynamic president for the past ten years and there are now over 300 members.

It has been my pleasure to attend some of the AOI monthly luncheons (at the Pier 7/Channel Restaurant, 650 Water Street SW) that feature speakers—authors, historians, urban planners, and professors -- on a variety of DC issues. On October 16, for example, Dr. Carroll R. Gibbs presents "Forgotten Soldiers: The District of Columbia's Black Doughboys of World War I." Membership is available for \$10 to anyone who has lived in D.C. for 20 years. For further information contact the website at www.AOIDC.org or call Bill Brown, President at 202-342-1638.

—Nola Klamberg
Chair, CAG Oral History

Passings: Juan Cameron, former President of CAG

When Juan Cameron died on June 25 at age 84, the Washington Post obituary detailed his career as a journalist at publications that included the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Boston Herald and Fortune magazine, where he was Washington editor until his 1982 retirement.

But Cameron, who died from complications following spinal surgery, had a meaningful second career: as a committed citizen of Georgetown, a long-time member of CAG and as president of the organization in the 1980s. "Oh, he loved Georgetown," said his widow, Nora Leake Cameron.

Cameron was born in Washington and returned here after prep school, university (Harvard) and jobs that took him to other cities. His final decades were spent in the family home on N Street NW.

Cameron's Georgetown years were not without drama. As Don Shannon, CAG president preceding Cameron, pointed out with a chuckle, "As far as I know, he was the only CAG president to get shot, at least in modern times."

Shannon remembers the evening in 1988 when Cameron showed up late for a CAG meeting. "He stood at the back of the room for a couple of minutes and then announced, 'I've been shot.'" The injury, to his leg, came during a robbery attempt. Cameron himself was able to find humor in the situation: The shooting took place a couple of weeks after a lunch with Washington's deputy police chief, who called Georgetown the safest neighborhood in the city. "I kept telling him I didn't think it was very safe," Cameron told the Post at the time.

That sit-down with the police department was part of Cameron's efforts to get city officials to pay atten-

tion to crime on our charming streets, which can be more dangerous than they look. He also championed rebricking Georgetown's concrete sidewalks and the establishment of the local Business Improvement District, whose 1,000 member businesses fund cleanup and beautification of our commercial areas.

"He was a good president," said Shannon. CAG legal adviser Richard deC. Hinds adds, "Juan was a very personable man with a wry sense of humor."

Cameron is survived by his widow and five children, including three from his first marriage, to Catherine Hooker. Son and daughter Rory and Nonie live in Georgetown, while Juan Jr. resides in the Palisades. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren.

—Nancy McKeon

Anthony Lanier Speaks Candidly at CAG

President Jennifer Altemus welcomed over 80 people to the CAG September 21 meeting at the beautiful Thos Moser Cabinetmakers showroom at 33rd and M Streets. Showroom manager Leigh Carey joined in the welcome, invited everyone to meet Thomas Moser on the follow-



Thos. Moser Showroom manager, Leigh Carey, Anthony Lanier and Jennifer Altemus

ing Thursday evening, and announced that there would be a drawing for a desk clock. After urging people to attend the CAG Gala and write letters about the Circulator bus, Jennifer introduced EastBanc head, Anthony Lanier, who candidly addressed many facets of commercial development. He said Georgetown is “uniquely cosmopolitan—as it is the most incredible village within a major world capital.” He quipped that the only reason to leave is “to go to the airport.” He has been active in revitalizing rundown sections here and aims to build “within a ten minutes walk of my home so I can walk—or be pushed in a wheel chair” to enjoy his accomplishments. “I love walking and talking to neighbors and colleagues along the way.”

to find better uses for the second story, the parking lot and the basement, and promised it “would be an exciting building.”

Asked about current commercial properties for sale, he said most were wildly over priced and cited as an example the former Nathan’s building—on the market for 20 million. “This kind of inflated valuing is why we are having a recession,” he said and pointed out that it works to the detriment of Georgetown because it makes it difficult for small independent businesses to survive. The sellers are “irrational” and it is contagious to other owners—and it results in many empty store fronts.

He said “some chains are inevitable because we are creatures of habit and

He said he has been approached by the Post Office to redevelop the post office for a mixed use project, keeping the historic building intact. He said the Post Office is a great agency to work with and they would like

the excruciating fact is that everyone of us goes to the CVS.” (He added that he had turned down CVS’s bid for one of his spaces on M Street, which drew applause from the crowd.) But he said he would love to have a Target in the sub basement of Georgetown Park. What we need is a good mix of “single position” stores such as Thos. Moser, independent stores such as Morgan’s Pharmacy, transitional retailers like Pottery Barn (which is departing at the end of the year), and some chains—which also come and go (for example Smith & Hawkins), and special stores selling high ticket but “carry away” items which can handle the high per square foot lease prices. “We need a mix of predictability and novelty,” he concluded.

He said he “loved the students” because they reminded him of his youth, and “they have a lot of disposable income” and set the trends, and “if you get them at the right moment, they are delightful people.”

He welcomed his wife, Isabelle, who had just returned from a month in Portugal, where they are also involved in developments “some in historic Lisbon, similar to Georgetown.”

Suzy Maroon was the lucky winner of the Thos Moser clock.

—Betsy Cooley

Website Helps Students Dealing with Landlords

ThisShouldBellegal.com is a website established by the DC Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs directed at students renting off campus and letting them know they are not alone when dealing with landlords. It tells students both their rights and their obligations as tenants living in a community. Since the site’s launch last August, DCRA has inspected more than 700 rental properties to ensure they meet city codes. In order to rent space a landlord must have a Basic Business License which requires the property pass inspection. If any DC property is in violation of city ordinances DCRA will send out an inspector. You can notify them by calling 202-442-9557 or e-mailing dcra.housingcomplaints@dc.gov.

Currently, at least three properties in the 3500 block of O Street have been turned over to the Investigations unit of DCRA. These inquiries usually take about six weeks to complete at which point the city issues notices of infraction to the landlords and works with them on compliance. Our hope is that the city will get a quick response from the landlords and get these houses cleaned up. Not only are the properties unsightly but many pose health and safety risks for the tenants and neighbors. This block has been neglected far too long. We applaud DCRA for taking an active role in turning this around.

—Jennifer Altemus

NEWSBYTES

Oprah's camera crew filmed Oprah pal and Georgetown Ali Wentworth with several friends receiving hair advice at **Erwin Gomez Salon**....**Smith and Hawkins** is going out of business and having a huge sale....Eva Hinton Hartman, great-granddaughter of Eva R. Hinton, a pioneer of historic preservation in Georgetown (see article in March 2009 newsletter), is writing a biography about her and would welcome information from Georgetownersa chocolate store has opened in the former Cafe MamaSan...**Gore Dean** (formerly of O Street) has opened across from Intermix in the Shops at Georgetown Park...and designer Peter Dickens is opening Greenspace, a plant and flower shop on the canal level there—he's the fellow who does all the wonderful flower hangers for the lamp posts on Wisconsin Avenue and M Street...**Quite a Stir in Catering** on O Street is leaving Georgetown and the building has been bought by Robert Bell who has plans to develop it.

Enticing Taste of Georgetown Oct. 10

The Taste of Georgetown, Georgetown Business Improvement District's (BID) food and wine festival benefiting the Georgetown Ministry Center, will be on Saturday, October 10, from 11 am to 4 pm. Located along Wisconsin Avenue below M Street, the Taste of Georgetown offers samplings of high-end cuisine from regionally recognized restaurants, a wine pavilion and the sounds of Blues Alley musicians. Entry into the wine pavilion is \$10, individual tasting tickets are \$5, and a packet of five tasting tickets are \$20. Participating restaurants include 1789, Georgetown Cupcake, Filomena Ristorante, Mie N Yu, Morton's The Steakhouse, and more. For additional information, please visit TasteofGeorgetown.com.

Welcome Elizabeth!



Pictured to the left is Elizabeth Maloy, the very helpful and efficient CAG program assistant now working part time in the CAG office. She is a Georgetown University grad from both undergraduate and graduate school. When she is not working in the CAG office, she is volunteering as an assistant coach with the GU track team and training at the elite level to hopefully qualify for the 2012 Olympic team in the 5,000 meters.

Important Numbers to Know—and Use

Any illegal activity (violent crimes, theft, vandalism, noise violations, public urination, trespassing, etc)—You MUST Call 911 so a report is filed

City services (street & sidewalk maintenance, trash, rats, trees)—Call 311 & follow up if necessary. It could take several calls to resolve your issue.

GU Student Conduct Issues (trash, noise, vandalism)—GU 24 hour Hotline: 687-8413; SNAP will respond to calls Thurs, Fri & Sat nights. Both SNAP & 911 should be called for serious violations

GU Off-Campus Student Life: Director Anne Koester 202-687-3199 or ayk2@georgetown.edu and Ray Danieli 687-3428 or rfd8@georgetown.edu

Gtown411@gmail.com is the West Village People's site on which to record that a complaint was made. Your name will not be associated with the complaint. It is vital for us to know a complaint was lodged in order to track trends.

Trash Violations—Charlene.Barber@dc.gov

Rats—Gerard.Brown1@dc.gov or 535-2636

Historic Preservation—start with our website: www.cagtow.org

Tree Issues—311 or contact betsyemes@aol.com

Citizens Association of Georgetown website: www.cagtow.org



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OCTOBER COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

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- Sat. Oct 10** Taste of Georgetown; 11am-4pm; 16th annual food and wine celebration. See page 8.
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- Wed. Oct 14** Spirit of Georgetown Fundraiser; honoring Jonda and Robert McFarlane to benefit the Georgetown Ministry Center at the home of Dr. Tina Alster and Paul Frazer; info at www.gmcgt.org or spirit@gmcgt.org; 338-8301.
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- Thurs. Oct 15** BZA Community Meeting; 6:30 pm; a mandated meeting to exchange information and promote dialogue between Georgetown U. and the community; GU Alumni House, 3404 O Street NW
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- Thurs. Oct 15** Georgetown Library Book Discussion; *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy; 7:30 pm; 3307 M Street; 202-724-8783.
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- Sat. Oct 17** House of Sweden Family Day; 11am-3 pm; activities for children ages 4 to 12 with storytelling, movies, games and performances.
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- Tues. Oct 20** GU's Alliance in Local Living (ALL) meeting; to discuss community issues with Georgetown residents and students; 6:30 pm; GU Career Center Conference Room, Leavey Center; 687-3199.
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- Thurs. Oct 22** CAG Meeting: DC School Chancellor Michelle Rhee Speaks at Hyde-Addison Elementary School; reception and tours at 7pm; program at 7:30pm; 3219 O Street.
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- Sun. Oct 18-Nov 22** Cotillion: From Etiquette to Netiquette at Dumbarton House, Six Sunday afternoons (1-3) for young people aged 10-12 to discover the history of evolving manners, to learn what is still important and the foundation of basic courtesies—from conduct on the dance floor to dining table to lap top. \$175 per participant; 2715 Q Street NW; 337-2288 x230; DumbartonHouse.org.
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- Sat. Oct 24** Historic Halloween Spooktacular! At Tudor Place 10am-12pm, Children wear Halloween costumes and create crafts and Halloween treats; members \$7, Nonmembers \$10; reservations Required: 965-0400 or email tmosconi@tudorplace.org.
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- Tues. Oct 27** Georgetown Library Book Discussion; *Baby Proof* by Emily Giffin; 7:30 pm; 3307 M Street; 202-724-8783.
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- Mon. Nov 2** Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting; 6:30 pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th & Volta Streets; agenda available at www.anc2E.com.
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