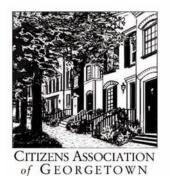
# Seorgetown EITYZENS



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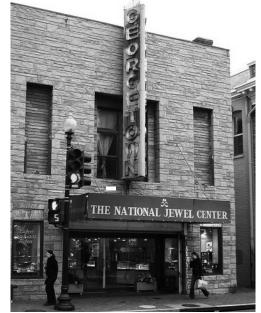
WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

## Wisconsin Avenue: the Good, the Bad, and The Possible

he old Georgetown Theater will be the unusual venue for the CAG meeting on Tuesday, November 29, to hear about ideas, visions and prospects for commercial development on Wisconsin Avenue. Council member Jack Evans, developer Herb Miller and commercial real estate broker John Asadoorian will talk about the realities and the possibilities for businesses along the central section of Wisconsin Avenue — and in Georgetown generally.

Angie Heon Nys is graciously hosting our meeting at the now empty theater at 1351 Wisconsin Avenue, which has been owned by her family for over 60 years — from the prime days as the premier Georgetown theater showing top-run movies — to the more recent use as a Jewelry Center — which has taken a toll on the building. The Heon's purchased the property in 1949 after the original Gothic Wood façade of

the old Dumbarton theater had already been taken down. The theater was visited by many notables such as Bobby Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe, and Elizabeth Taylor and it was used as a location in the 1973 movie Scorpio and the 1985 movie St. Elmo's Fire. Angie will relay more fascinating



details of the history of the theater as well as her family's long presence in Georgetown.

Councilmember Evans, developer Herb Miller and commercial real estatebroker John Asadoorian will give their views on the history of Wisconsin Avenue and outline the problems and possibilities for new and improved business presence there. Residents will be asked what they would like to see on Wisconsin Avenue.

Please join CAG in the old theater building —

full of memories for many Georgetowners — to discuss how this and other empty commercial buildings in the neighborhood might best be revitalized. The doors open for a casual reception at 7:00 and the program begins at 7:30.

—Betsy Cooley

# inter Conderland Will Wow Georgetown

he invitations are in the mail! The sensational Georgetown Gala is one month away with exciting features being added each week. Ambassador and Mrs. Kislyak will host our "Winter Wonderland" at the Russian Embassy on Friday, December 2. It's a magical venue to begin with — and this year you will be serenaded by an acapella group as you make your way up the specular stairs. Nancy



Taylor Bubes, Michele Evans, Patrice Miller and their committee are putting the final touches on the event — Russian caviar and vodka, anyone? And thanks to Brooke Carnot we were able to once again get the party circuit's "it" band, the *Right On Band*, to come to DC.

Tonya and Lincoln Blunt, with Co-Chair Nancy Taylor-Bubes

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER



The CAG Board: back row (I to r): Cookie Cruse, Brad Gray, Jennifer Altemus, Hazel Denton, Luca Pivato, Brooke Carnot, Bob Laycock, Richard Hinds; front row (I to r): Barbara Downs, Bob vom Eigen, Topher Mathews, Pamla Moore (Not pictured: Diane Colasanto, Renee Esfandiary Crupi)

he CAG Board welcomes two new members — one "eastsider" and one "westsider." Brooke Carnot, a resident of R Street, grew up in Georgetown, has lived in Europe and has returned to the area with her husband, Stephane, and their three children. She is active in many organizations including the Friends of Montrose Park. 35th Street resident Bob vom Eigen is a long time Georgetowner recently retired from Foley and Lardner, a law firm with offices in Washington Harbour. He has headed the Friends of the Waterfront Park for several years. And now he is focusing on getting the Georgetown Village up and running. I am thrilled these superb people have agreed to sit on our board. Their experience and insights will be invaluable.

In an October 23 editorial, The Post made the startling assertion that concerns raised regarding Georgetown University's 10-year plan make the District seem "disinterested in promoting a knowledge-based economy." We feel this is an uninformed and unfair characterization of the District's views. Allow us to make sure there's no confusion about what those of us who live near the campus think. We strongly support planned and thoughtful growth for the university. What we strongly oppose, however, is a plan that will make worse the objectionable effects that an expansion of more than 4,000 students over the past 10 years has had on our communities.

The 10-year plan is a forward-looking exercise, but to understand our deep concerns about it, you have to look backward. In 2000, when it prepared its last 10-year plan, Georgetown University stated that over the coming decade the number of its students living in adjoining neighborhoods would fall, total enrollment would remain below 10,000 and the number of student homes in Burleith would decline significantly.

None of this came to pass. Instead, enrollment has increased to more than 14,000 students. The new 10-year plan envisions that number continuing to rise — to close to 15,000 students by 2020.

The most serious consequence of all this expansion has been the conversion of dozens of single-family, residential rowhouses into rental housing for transient groups of students. Of the 535 houses in Burleith, 166, or almost a third, are now student group rentals. Even if just 30 additional students come to live in Burleith over the next 10 years, there could easily be a loss of 10 more houses.

The result of too many students living in residential areas in small rowhouses is not surprising: an unacceptable level of noise, poorly maintained houses and yards, increased traffic and a lack of adequate parking. The university has made some attempts to address these problems, but none has succeeded. The 2010 campus plan will make things worse.

All of that explains why the D.C. Office of Planning has told the university to house 100 percent of its undergraduate students on campus, or on sites outside the 20007 zip code, by 2016. The Post may find the proposal to move students to satellite locations "laughable," but the university already has a site in Arlington for its continuing studies students and on Capitol Hill for its law school. If the university can find funding and campus sites for a business school, a science school and a new athletic center, surely it can build student dorms on campus or find good housing outside of the 20007 zip code.

The D.C. government has shown that it recognizes a strong remedy is necessary to repair the damage that Georgetown University's enrollment and housing policies have inflicted on surrounding communities. This is heartening, as it addresses the real problem. It is time that the university begin to respect its adjoining communities and their legitimate concerns.

If, however, the university is allowed to expand irresponsibly, the danger exists that valued residential neighborhoods will transform into predominantly off-campus student housing. Such an outcome would be a significant loss to the city.

We look forward to what we hope to be the final Zoning Commission hearing on November 17 at 6:30pm.

—Jennifer Altemus

#### ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

## **Passages**

o everything there is — yes, you already know what — a season. Turn, turn, turn. One must pay attention to seasons. Willa Cather, noble American writer, said she could have been put down blindfolded on her native Nebraska prairie and she would have known that it was spring. So we know by the same familiarity with nature that it is fall. Even blindfolded. Even though our neurotransmitters for these signals are interfered with by traffic noise, tall buildings, concrete, etc.

Here in the Middle Atlantic States how would we know? Some signs: the cardinals have stopped singing and the blue jays have taken over. You can't really call what they do singing, but it's loud and gets one's attention. As children we were told that what they are saying is "thief, thief." Hmmm, that could be useful around here.

Other signals from the natural world: the crickets are definitely muted and slowing into silence. The squirrels, who seem particularly ubiquitous, appear to have ADHD. That could portend a hard winter, requiring lots of storing up of acorns. Look up. The crows are endless passing overhead, way up. That doesn't tell us much, but it's somehow comforting, those guys are tough, they are survivors.

The birds migrating south are flying into the tall glass buildings downtown, drawn by the light and tricked by the glass. In the spring we learned about Lights Out DC. Good people who care are going down town early in the morning, before the traffic gets them, to try to save the birds lying stunned and inert on the pavement.

We know that the dark is coming. We will adjust to the loss of birdsong and the dying of the light. We have been there before and we will manage, and there are compensations. Or so we are told. Some of us find it heartening to know that as early as February the doves will start their murmuring and building their nests in the wrong places and we will know that it is about to be spring. Meanwhile we will keep calm and carry on.

-Edith Schafer

#### Winter Wonderland Will Wow Gergetown continued from cover



Lights, Camera, Action — Georgetown Gala!

In addition to dinner and dancing the Gala will feature a spectacular live auction. The short list of stunning auction items includes a week at a beautifully renovated 11th century villa (seven bedrooms, each with a private bath) in the medieval town of Vence (complete with a local chef preparing dinner for 10 one evening during your stay) and a case of the local French wine to take home from the Gala. Back by popular demand is Constance

Chatfield-Taylor and Colleen Girouard's intriguing Scavenger Hunt for thirty people with cocktails, and a merry romp through Georgetown looking for mysterious clues, topped off by dinner and winner's awards (in a most unusual format). And no need to travel far for a luxury vacation if you are the winning bidder on a "staycation" in Georgetown with a relaxing few days in luxury

accommodations with delightful treats—just steps from home. Follow up the Winter Wonderland theme by bidding on a week at a stunning penthouse "chalet" in famed Deer Valley, Utah for the ultimate ski vacation. And an exotic African Safari may be on the list. For the sports fans there will be an amazing package of tickets to the Capitals, Wizards, and Nationals— and a dinner with one of the

owners — and a signed Ovechkin shirt. All proceeds from the auction will go to CAG so we can continue the work of making Georgetown more safe, secure, neighborly, and informed about our distinctive history.

This year the Georgetown Gala is very pleased to be honoring Franco Nuschese and John Richardson, two outstanding Georgetowners who have made Georgetown a better place to live and visit.

So get your tux shirt to the cleaners, find that perfect gown, and plan to be at the Gala to pay tribute to these remarkable men and support your community. For more information or to be included on the mailing list, call CAG at 337-7313. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.cagtown.org.

## **Historic Preservation Experts at CAG Meeting October 18**

ver a hundred Georgetowners packed the Thos. Moser showroom on Tuesday, October 18, sitting on the stylish chairs, benches — and even the floor — to participate in the question and answer session about Historic Preservation in Georgetown. President Jennifer Altemus welcomed guests to the meeting and then presented Richard Hinds with CAG's prestigious Belin Award for "extraordinary efforts in preserving, enhancing, and

maintaining Historic Georgetown." Richard said "I'm very appreciative of this recognition of some hard work over many years that I've given to CAG, but I think it's something that is very worthwhile doing. If you live in a community I think it's important to be part of the community and being active in CAG permitted me to be part of the community."

Pamla Moore, chair of CAG's Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee, was pleased to announce that, working with Jack Evan's office, legislation has now been introduced to notify every property owner (in their tax assessment mailing) that they live in a historic district with attendant rules and responsibilities. CAG and other historic preservation groups will be testifying in support of the legislation requiring annual notification — something Old Town Alexandria has been doing for years.

Pamla Moore introduced the panelists: Tim Dennee of the DC Historic Preservation Office; Outerbridge Horsey, local architect; Jeff Jones, ANC commissioner; and Anne Lewis of the Old Georgetown Board. The floor was opened for questions and those present did not hesitate. There were many concerns regarding the



Max Chapman complained that neighbors are not always notified regarding proposed construction

current process of notifying neighbors of upcoming construction projects that impact surrounding properties. Max Chapman vehemently voiced concern about a project on Q Street that was not brought to the attention of the neighbors before it was approved by the Old Georgetown Board. This sparked a discussion about the notification process and how the responsibility to notify neighbors falls on the shoulders of the ANC — a particularly large burden. Pamla Moore stated: "We at the CAG historic preservation committee are trying to help the ANC...by assuming some of that weight and responsibility and have been working with the Old Georgetown Board, with the OGB staff, and with Mr. Dennee to make sure neighbors are informed in advance or as soon as possible." The ANC publishes an agenda of projects they will review on their website, and in the Georgetown Current and on several listservs, including CAG's GeorgetownForum. But in the case Mr. Chapman sited, "the bottom line is it went through the normal approval channels but no one in the local community was notified."

Commissioner Jeff Jones said that each ANC commissioner "first gets notice about ten days prior to our

public meeting ... and can put it on the agenda under "no review," or leave it on the agenda. They can contact the applicant. They can contact the architect. They can contact OGB. HPRB. They can go to the neighbors and listen to feedback." He went on to say, "I try to get every project full attention. I'm not sure what happened with your [the Q Street] case. I just honestly don't know the answer to

that. The big picture is the ANC takes historic preservation ...very seriously."

Anne Lewis added: "This is an issue that comes up repeatedly at the Old Georgetown Board. It's really a legal issue. Whereas with zoning, if you need a zoning variance ... by law, you're required to notify everyone within two hundred feet of the property line. Having done that myself, it's a day-long work to get the names and addresses of all those people. Then it requires a government agency to vet the names and be sure they've all been notified.

"Georgetown is an inherently sustainable community. The evidence for that...is the nature of row house building — the most energy efficient of any building form on earth."

— Anne Lewis



Jennifer Altemus presents Belin Award to Richard Hinds as Pamla Moore, Anne Lewis and Tim Dennee look on

"That is not a requirement at the moment for building permits for additions anywhere in the city, not even in Georgetown. It's been discussed a number of times ... among ... the Old Georgetown Board: should this be a requirement? Should it be law, and if so, whose responsibility should it be? Because it's a very labor intensive and probably costly process.

"Right now ... we always encourage applicants — and in fact if we have a sense that it might be a project that affects neighbors — we'll ask the applicant at the hearing: have you notified the neighbors? We're happy when they say they have. We can't not hear it if they haven't, however. [On] the Old Georgetown Board website ... the wording is "strongly encouraged" for the applicant to contact any neighbor that may be affected."

Outerbridge Horsey explained that "the zoning regulations in DC are going to change in the next year and a half or two years. And CAG has been working very diligently... to preserve the protections that we have now, because the new zoning regulations are going to be even more lax and more pro-density than they are now. We want everyone to know that CAG and the ANC are working proactively with the Office of Planning and the Historic

Preservation Office to get into the new zoning regulations what they call a customized zone — essentially an overlav that'll make sure we have at least the protections that we now have, as the regulations go forward."

Anne Lewis suggested "setting up a commission or committee to look ahead at how we can change and make our historic preservation ... laws and ... funding the Fine Arts Commission." Regulations now are "all about the balustrades and windows. the basic issues of scale and location ... [were] not written up, at least in the written notes I read."

In response, Tim Dennee of the DC Historic Preservation Office said, "We're doing a five year plan right now, city wide, with regard to historic preservation. It was quite well advertised ... and we've already had a couple of meetings ... to take people's ideas about not just how our office functions or what the regulatory measures are, but where we see historic preservation going on all levels — community based, non-profit, maybe for profit, all that. So we are entertaining ideas ... both to look at our operations and to look at all other historic preservation related subjects in the city."

In response to a question about how people can make sure our "beautiful but drafty and cold with leaky windows" old houses are sustainable and energy efficient, Anne Lewis said: "There are a lot of things that we are doing and that can be done, and some things that need to be recognized by the Georgetown community. Georgetown is an inherently sustainable community. The evidence for that...is the nature of row house building ... the most energy efficient of any building form on earth. Because you're abutted by two heated properties in most cases. Your basement is underground. All of your walls are often eight inches thick. We are dealing with some of the best housing inherently for sustainability that exists." She went on to say that "the most effective thing you can do in a typical Georgetown house where the windows are a very small percentage of the exterior wall, is insulate your attic. If you haven't all done that, you should all get out and do it immediately. It doesn't require a permit. That's where most of the heat is lost."

She said that at a recent Smithsonian conference on sustainability a report was presented saying that a canvassing of the entire Washington area concluded that there were only two inherently sustainable communities in this region. One is Georgetown and the other is Old Town, Alexandria. "That's because we can walk to our Safeway, we can walk everywhere. We are starting way ahead of the curve on sustainability. Our carbon footprint is very low if you live in a typical row house in Georgetown."

Anne Lewis, Tim Dennee, and Ourterbridge Horsey talked in detail about the guidelines and practices of replacing and repairing windows. (Their comments and more information are available from the CAG office.)

CAG thanks the Thos. Moser's Donald Decker and Randy Shannon for hosting the evening at the beautiful showroom. Thanks also to Carla McCully at Morton's Steakhouse for providing a luscious array of hors d'oeuvres.

—Betsy Cooley

## **CAG Priority Merchants Offer Discounts**

As you get into your holiday shopping remember the CAG Priority Merchants who offer discounts to CAG members:

**Alchimie Forever** (1010 Wisconsin Ave. Suite 201; 530-3931): 10% off in store items;

**Appalachian Spring** (1415 Wisconsin Ave.; 337-5780): 10% discount;

**Bacchus Wine Cellar** (1635 Wisconsin Ave.; 337-2003): 10% discount;

**Bridge Street Books** (2814 Pennsylvania Ave; 965-5200): 10% discount;

**Briggs Passport & Visa Expeditors, Inc.** (1921 Sunderland Place NW; 464-3000): 15% discount;

**CABANAS** (3050 K Street; 944-4242): free appetizer with purchase of two entrees;

**Café Bonaparte** (1522 Wisconsin Ave.; 333-8830): free coffee when ordering dessert;

Café Divan (1834 Wisconsin Ave.; 338-1747): free dessert;

**Chadwicks** (3205 K St.; 333-2565): half price entrée with purchase of entrée of equal or greater value;

**Cherry Antiques & Design** (1526 Wisconsin Ave.; 342-3600): 10% discount on decorative accessories;

**Clyde's of Georgetown** (3236 M St.; 333-9180): complimentary crab & artichoke dip;

**Diana's Couture and Bridal** (1624 Wisconsin Ave.; 333-5689): free consultation and 10% discount;

**Diana My Tran's Cooking Classes** (1624 Wisconsin Ave.; 333-5689): free cookbook, The Asian Diet, when registering a group of 8 for class;

**Easel Hair Studio** (1620 Wisconsin Ave; 342-3999): 10% discount on all services;

**English Rose Garden** (3209 O St.; 333-3306): 10 % off regularly priced items;

**GChris Sculpture Studio/Gallery** (www.GChris.com): 15% discount;

**Georgetown Candy Bar** (1419 Wisconsin Ave.; 333-0032): 10% discount;

Georgetown Dinette (3206 O St.; 337-3649): 10% discount;

**Georgetown Wine & Spirits** (2701 P St.; 338-5500): 10% discount on wine; free delivery w/ \$50 purchase;

Haagen-Dazs (3120 M St.; 333-3443): 20% discount on ice cream;

**Hugo Boss** (1517 Wisconsin Ave.; 625-2677): 20% discount on regular price suits;

Jaryam (1631 Wisconsin Ave.; 333-6886): 10% discount;

**Just Paper & Tea** (3232 P St.; 333-9141):10% on personalized stationary;

**Madeline Wade Style Studio** (3147 Dumbarton St., 2nd Level; 333-2223; 20% discount first cut, 10% subsequent cuts;

Mie N Yu (3125 M St.; 333-6122): complimentary dessert with brunch or lunch;



Potomac Wine & Spirits (3100 M St.; 333-1847):

10% discount on single bottle liquor or six pack beer; 25% case discount;

**Quantum Physical Therapy & Wellness** (3259 Prospect St.; 288-5389): 25% discount on 2 Myofascial Release Wellness sessions;

**Random Harvest** (1313 Wisconsin Ave.; 333-5569): 10% discount;

**Robert Bell Architects** (3218 O St.; 333-8412): 10% discount and a free consultation;

**Room Dr. Interiors** (3209 M St.; 965-7666): 15% discount on initial visit:

Sands of Time Antiquities (3003 P St.; 342-0518):

10% discount;

Sassanova (1641 Wisconsin Ave.; 471-4400): 10% discount;

**Sherman Pickey** (1647 Wisconsin Ave.; 333-4212): 10% discount;

**Susquehanna Antique Co.** (3216 O St.; 333-1511): 10% discount;

**The Old Print Gallery** (1220 31st St.; 965-1818): 10% discount;

**The Phoenix** (1514 Wisconsin Ave.; 338-4404): 10% discount on jewelry;

**Thos. Moser** (3300 M St.; 338-4292): 10% discount;

**Tony & Joe's Seafood Place** (3000 K St.-Washington Harbour; 944-4545): free dessert with purchase of entrée;

**Tudor Place Gift Shop** (1644 31st St.; 965-0400): 10% discount;

**Vineyard Vines** (1225 Wisconsin Ave.; 625-8463): 15% off purchase of \$200 or more;

**Washington Walks** (www.washingtonwalks.com): half price on any walking tour;

Wedding Creations & Anthony's Tuxedos (3237 P St. NW; 333-5762): 10%;

**W.T. Weaver & Sons Hardware** (1208 Wisc. Ave. 2nd Floor; 333-4200): 15% discount;

**Yiro & Tugooh Toys** (1319 Wisconsin Avenue; 338-9476): 10% discount.

Use your membership card (sent to you when you paid CAG dues) a few times and your dues pay for themself!

## Community Forklift: A Thrift Store Specializing in Building Materials

Community Forklift (picture Home Depot crossed with Goodwill) is a non-profit enterprise where you can donate renovation leftovers to receive a tax deduction or buy materials at 30 - 90% below retail. Materials that you can donate or purchase include kitchen cabinets, flooring, lumber, windows, doors, appliances, plumbing fixtures, hardware, trim, mantels, etc. Almost everything in the 40,000square-foot warehouse would have otherwise gone to the landfill, from the antique mantelpieces to insulated windows that are still in the original package. You can also find a range of sustainable products (including reclaimed lumber from Treeincarnation, reconditioned appliances from Alco, and vintage items in the Salvage Arts department).

Community Forklift is located inside the Beltway at 4671 Tanglewood Drive, Edmonston, MD 20781. It's in the Hyattsville area, less than a mile from the DC line and easily accessible from Route 1, Kenilworth Avenue, Rhode Island Avenue and I-295. They are closed Monday and Tuesday; open Wednesday and Thursday, 10 – 8, and Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 9 – 6. For more information and detailed directions, see their website (www.CommunityForklift.com) or call the store at 301-985-5180.



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### The Georgetown Senior Center is Back

The Georgetown Senior Center is back in business. The center is open three times a week and offers light exercise, a delicious lunch and a stimulating program. The programs include fascinating speakers or live music. Once or twice a month there is a field trip to a museum or nearby place of interest. The activities take place at St. John's Church Georgetown, 3240 O Street NW beginning at 11:30 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday. A shuttle bus is available for those needing transportation.

The Senior Center, founded by Virginia Luce Allen, a lifelong resident of Georgetown, has been going strong for thirty plus years. A lively group of seniors is always there to provide a warm welcome to new participants.

Please join us whenever you can. No reservations necessary. Questions and further information: call Janice Rahimi at 316-2632 or Mary Meyer at 965-3952.

—Barbara Downs

## **NEWSBYTES**

In September, Oscar-winning actor **Daniel Day-Lewis**, who will play Abraham Lincoln in Steven Spielberg's \$100M "Lincoln," was spotted visiting the vault at **Oak Hill Cemetery** where Lincoln's son Willie was interred in 1862...the **Ritz-Carlton Georgetown** is closing Fahrenheit restaurant and plan to convert the room into a meeting and conference facility..... Lynn Golub Refrano is the new Executive Director of the **Georgetown Village** program and their office has opened in the Parish Hall at St. John's Church ...... **Pizzeria Paradiso** (3282 M Street) is celebrating twenty years with special events and deals between Monday November 7 and Sunday November 13

## 1789 Restaurant

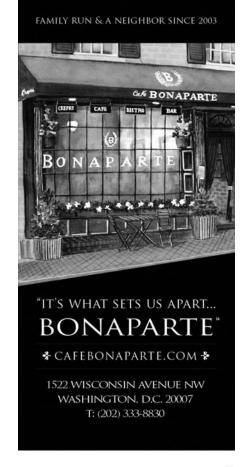
Discover Georgetown's Premier Food & Wine Experience with Chef Daniel Giusti

> 1226 36th Street, NW 202.965.1789 www.1789restaurant.com



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# The Peabody Room —A Rich Resource for Researching Your Georgetown House

The Peabody Room at our local DC Public Library on the corner of Wisconsin and R Streets, houses an extraordinary collection of materials about Georgetown history, culture, and economy. October 18, 2011 was the first anniversary of the re-opening of the library— and the amazing archive at the Peabody Room— after the devastating fire of 2007.

Jerry McCoy, the Special Collections Librarian at the Peabody Room, urges residents to visit the Peabody Room to learn about the history of their houses. He can give you the exact year your house was built if it was after 1877, and a good estimate for earlier homes. Jerry says that many Georgetown houses are dated "c.1900" inaccurately — and he can provide a better estimate. The collection has specific information on nearly every house in Georgetown.

Hours are limited at the Peabody room located on the dramatic third level of the library, but its well worth planning a visit. The Peabody Room is open on Mondays and second and fourth Saturday of the month from 9:30am to 5:30pm and on Thursdays from 1 to 9pm.

## **GEORGETOWN AUTUMN CLEAN-UP**

## Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 10am to 12 noon

Sponsored by the Citizens Association of Georgetown and Georgetown University

Meet at either Volta Park Ball Field, 34th St. and Volta Pl. NW – or the Rose Park Flag Pole, 26th St. and O St.

Please join us at 10:00 am for coffee, bagels and assignments All equipment, including non-latex rubber gloves, will be provided

(Sorry to report that due to the more difficult times, this autumn we will not have the Grilling Society doing up burgers for us at the end, nor will there be a raffle. Hopefully in the spring we will return to that model.)

If there is hard rain on Saturday, we will do the cleanup on Sunday, November 20, 2010 from 2 pm to 4 pm. If there are a few sprinkles on Saturday, we will still go ahead that day. If you have questions or suggestions, please call or e-mail CAG Beautification Co-Chair Patrick Clawson at 202-302-1722; clawsonp@aol.com

## Historic Georgetown Ledger Found on eBay

"One man's junk is another man's treasure" recently rang true for Jerry McCoy, Special Collections Librarian in the Peabody Room at the Georgetown Library. Tipped off by a fellow historian, Jerry found a rare business ledger for sale on eBay. The business was Hunter Meats and Grocery located at 1351 32nd Street – what made it intriguing for Mr. McCoy is that 32nd Street is the 19th century name for today's Wisconsin Avenue. The address is the same as the recently closed National Jewel Center and the Georgetown Theater.

The ledger is a very detailed manuscript giving the names and purchases of 80 patrons between 1894 and 1896 and thus provides a rare glimpse into Georgetown life. After a search from the 1900 census, Jerry found that the proprietor, Charles B. Hunter, was a 44 year old "provisions dealer" who lived with his wife Mary at 1634 Valley Drive (today's 32nd Street). Born to slave parents, Mr. Hunter came to Washington to attend public school. He was one of the few blacks who operated a business in Georgetown in the late 19th century. By 1907, Mr. Hunter had relocated his business to Arlington, VA.

Jerry encourages those interested in viewing the original list of patrons (the handwriting is very legible) to visit the Peabody Room which is open on Mondays and the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 9:30am to 5:30pm and on Thursdays from 1 to 9pm.

# GEORGETOWN Baby BOOM

Congratulations and a Warm Welcome to the New Little Ones

Dumbarton House Director Karen Daly & husband Chuck

Margaret Rae "Maggie" — June 14

Patricia Anderson & Paul Hardy And big brother Luca

Serena & Lila — MAY

## **Massive West Heating Plant Up for Sale**

he General Services Administration (GSA) is considering selling the West Heating Plant, a buff-colored, monolithic structure with Art Deco touches that is a prominent feature on the east face of Georgetown.

Located on two acres near 29th and K streets, the 110-foot-high plant and adjacent storage yard sit on the last large parcel of land in Georgetown where a developer could build 'tall.' Ordinarily, this site would fetch a nice price, but the potential cost of removing hazardous materials and pollutants that likely contaminate the site could dampen developer interest in the property.

Money to build the plant was appropriated in 1940, but construction was deferred until the end of the war. The cornerstone was laid in 1946, and the plant came on-line in 1948. With a footprint of 26,000 square feet, the plant contains an open bay filled with boilers, piping machinery, and ventilation systems.

Four tanks of varying size in the storage yard are used to store oil. A large wall, faced with stone and perhaps 15 feet high, shields the vard from 29th Street. A similar wall on the east side protects the site from Rock Creek if there is ever a Biblical flood. The plant is protected against flooding of a lesser scale by a second, shorter, stone and concrete bulkhead along Rock Creek itself. Separating the two walls is a grass terrace. A section of the wall, and the soil behind it, has now collapsed into Rock Creek. Originally, the plant was designed to burn coal — as much as 900 tons a day — but more recently, the plant was fueled by natural gas, with oil as a backup fuel.

A weekly train from Silver Spring traveled down K St. on the Georgetown branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to deliver coal to the Plant's Coal and Ash House on the south side of K St. The train ceased running in 1985, and for several years thereafter, coal was delivered by truck.

The Coal and Ash House, which shares the same buff-colored brick as the Heating Plant, was demolished last decade and is now the site of a landscaped park atop the underground parking garage for Harbourside (2900 K St).

Now little remembered, the West Heating Plant was the target of an anti-war activist group, the Harrisburg Seven. Led by Phillip Berrigan, the Harrisburg Seven plotted to kidnap Henry Kissinger (a one-time Georgetown resident) and blow up the steam tunnels leading from the Heating Plant. Neither plot came to fruition, and the plant labored on, providing heat to the White House and Federal buildings west of 15th St. through the remainder of the Vietnam War.

-Walter Groszyk

## A Washington Sketchbook

A Washington Sketchbook: Drawings by Robert L. Dickinson, 1917-1918 gives a glimpse into the untouched, idyllic landscapes of Rock Creek Park, Great Falls, and the C&O Canal during World War I. A New York physician stationed in Washington during WWI, Dickinson took his sketchbook on explorations along the Potomac River during his free time. Author Gail Dickerson Spilsbury offers insight into what Washington had to offer before it became a bustling city and enclosed Dickenson's original trail map for readers to follow his routes. Order at www.hoodbooks.com. A copy may be seen in the CAG office.

### Georgetown Library Book Sale November 19

Hurrah!! Famous Georgetown Library Book Sale Saturday, November 19 from 10 - 3 in the newly refurbished downstairs meeting room. Special features will be a large selection of children's books, mythology, art and garden books, plus books on parenting, exercises and other "how tos". Of particular interest this year will be books autographed by a well known Georgetown celebrity plus the usual noted collection of rare books. The Friends of the Georgetown Library are thrilled to be back at the book sale tables. We look forward to seeing you there.

—Joan Shorey





## Citizens Association of Georgetown

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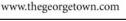


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#### November Community Events and Calendar



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thurs. Nov. 10	Georgetown Library Chess Club; 5pm; every Thursday; ages 4+; 3260 R Street; www.dclibrary.org; and on-going: Lap Time for Infants/Toddlers, Wednesdays at 10:30am; Music Time ages birth-24 months, Wednesdays at 2pm; call 727-0232.	
Sat. Nov. 12	Georgetown Civil War House & Walking Tours; House Tour: 10:30am, Walking Tour: 12:30pm; members \$8, nonmembers \$10 for one tour; members \$12, nonmembers \$15 for both tours; www.tudorplace.org.	
Tues. Nov. 15	Dumbarton House <i>Friday Morning Music Club Chamber Music Concert</i> ; 12-1pm; Belle Vue Room, Dumbarton House, 2716 Q Street; free; www.dumbartonhouse.org.	
Sat. Nov. 19	Georgetown Fall Clean-Up; 10-noon; meet at either Volta Park ball field or Rose Park flag pole; details page 8.	
Sat. Nov. 19	Georgetown Library Book Sale; 10-3: Georgetown Library, 3260 R Street.	
Tues. Nov. 22	Fall Harvest Tea at Tudor Place; 1-3pm; traditional Victorian tea and guided tour of the house; members \$20, nonmembers \$25; 1670 31st Street; www.tudorplace.org.	
Mon. Nov. 28	Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC2E) Public Meeting; 6:30pm; Georgetown Visitation, Main Building, 35th & Volta Streets; agenda available at www.anc2e.com.	
Fri. Dec. 2	Holiday Wreath Workshop at Tudor Place; 10am or 1pm; ages 12+; create a holiday wreath from plant materials from the Tudor Place gardens; members \$30 per wreath, nonmembers \$40; 1644 31st St; call 965-0400 ext.116.	
Fri. Dec. 2	Georgetown Gala: Winter Wonderland; 7-11pm; Embassy of the Russian Federation, 2650 Wisc.Ave; purchase tickets on line at www.cagtown.org.	
Sat. Dec. 3	<b>St. John's Episcopal Church Annual Greens Sale</b> ; 10-3; holiday greens, wreaths, gifts, decorations, and baked goods; 3240 O Street, call 338-1796 or visit www.stjohnsgeorgetown.org.	