

Georgetown

C I T I Z E N S



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
of GEORGETOWN

VOLUME XXIII / ISSUE 12 / DECEMBER 2009

WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

Merriment in Georgetown December 6

The Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG), together with the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) and the Georgetown Business Association (GBA) are jointly sponsoring the 2nd annual *Merriment in Georgetown* on Sunday December 6 from 3-6 pm.

Wisconsin Avenue will be closed between M and N Streets for residents and visitors to stroll, enjoy live performances on the tented Holiday Stage, visit with costumed characters (Frosty and Rudolph) and stilt walkers and have free photos with Santa Claus. Many children's activities will be available along the way and holiday music by popular kids rock group Milkshake, Holy Trinity School and Church choirs, and a rocking jazz band will fill the air.



Record Your Holiday Memories

Bundle up for old-fashioned horse-drawn carriage rides and **be sure to stop by the CAG booth to record your memories of Georgetown past.** Volunteers from CAG's oral history

project will be on hand to answer questions and record your holiday stories about Georgetown. CAG volunteers will also be at the adjacent information booth to give you more details about *Merriment* performances and activities.

The American Girl author, Valerie Tripp, will read from her collection at the America Girl Café which will be set up along the street. Tea, hot

chocolate, and treats will delight visitors (and their dolls) and raffle tickets will be available for a chance to win one of four dolls. Dumbarton House and Tudor Place will conduct historic games and arts and crafts and, just in case it's chilly, hot chocolate, lattes and ciders will be available compliments of local businesses. Speaking of which — over 50 stores and restaurants will be offering discounts and specials for *Merriment*. Check out the website merrimentin-georgetown.com for enticing details —and the information booth during *Merriment*.

To top it all off at 5:30 there will be community candlelight caroling with the National Philharmonic at Wisconsin and M Streets and a walk to the Washington Harbour for the lighting of the Harbor Christmas Tree and the Boat Parade of Lights.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

During the last few years CAG has devoted increased resources to its **enhanced Public Safety Program**—and it has paid off. Since the new program started in 2007, crime has been down in Georgetown but it remains a continuing concern—especially on weekends. See the crime map for Georgetown on page 4.

However we still have too many burglaries, thefts from autos and robberies. The only solution is to continue our extended patrols and to keep refining the collaboration with MPD officers and commanders.

The CAG Public Safety Program consists of extra on duty, uniformed and armed police officers who *exclusively* patrol our *residential* streets on weekend evenings (called a



CAG Guard Robert Taylor, left, with MPD RD Sgt. Lennox Antoine, center, and Guard Tesfaye Terefe alongside MPD and CAG patrol cars.

Continued on page 4 1

Giving Back to Our Community

List your home with us or buy a property through us and Coldwell Banker will contribute a donation to the Citizens Association of Georgetown.



In these challenging economic times we need to support our community. Coldwell Banker has selected the Citizens Association of Georgetown to help them continue their many worthy activities.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The first Georgetown residents' art show was a smashing success. Here's the back story: CAG thought it would be interesting to see the works of local artists but didn't know if we could make it happen in a short period of time. We made some phone calls and people jumped in to create a stellar event. Kudos to the Georgetown ARTS 2009 committee, Michele Banks (coordinator), Barbara Downs, Heidi Hess, Hayley Gordon Pivato and Wendy Plotkin-Mates—who pulled it all together in four weeks! Anthony Lanier donated the former Smith and Hawken space (which everyone agrees would make a fabulous permanent gallery), Theo Adamstein at Chrome and Travis Price did our graphics, Chris Murray from Govinda Gallery made fascinating opening remarks, Georgetown Cupcake stepped up with dozens of cupcakes, and finally, local artists provided amazing pieces and watched over the "gallery." The space looked stunning—an impressive array of art beautifully presented. This may become a tradition.

Neighborhood to Neighborhood: at our Gala in October the Russian Ambassador announced a new neighborhood relationship between Georgetown and the historic Moscow district, the Arbat. One of Moscow's most charming and lively areas, its streets boast an impressive selection of cafes, shops and restaurants. Once a bohemian quarter of the city it retains an artistic air today. From the second half of the 18th century onwards, the Arbat became home to Moscow's prominent and literary figures, including Tolstoy. To encourage people-to-people contacts, cultural and student exchanges and business interaction, CAG is working with representatives from the Embassy and the Arbat. Ideas include pens pals for Hyde students, a live feed between the streets of Georgetown and the Arbat, and Russian concerts in the community.

An inordinate amount of my time is being spent in meetings about **Georgetown University** because their 2010 Campus Plan is being prepared for submission to the Zoning Commission early next year. The community must tell Georgetown what we expect from the plan and comment on their proposals. GU is not seeking an increase in traditional full time undergraduates but they are proposing adding over 375 non traditional undergrads and an enormous 60% growth in their graduate and professional programs.

GU is not planning on adding any on campus housing in the next ten years despite their architect's estimate of potential space for almost 800 beds. Currently there are 5,053 beds in what GU considers "on campus." However, 111 of these beds are in the GU owned townhouses off campus. The lack of on campus housing puts a huge strain



The rains of the latest Nor'easter subsided to allow the CAG—GU Fall Clean Up to proceed as scheduled. The Save the World wagons were used by kids to gather bottles and cans for recycling. Thanks to all the neighbors and GU students who came out to help—and to our new neighbor, TD Bank, who provided a scrumptious breakfast, to the GU Grilling Society for the barbeque, and to The Tombs, Booeymongers, and Rhino for raffle prizes.

on the community and I'm extremely disappointed with this aspect of their proposal.

To help with off campus issues they will add a second SNAP car to patrol on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and also employ two Community Advisors to live in the neighborhood and focus on off campus students. While this is a start, it does not offset the growth in enrollment for an already saturated community.

GU hopes to add a loop road on campus so almost all GUTS buses can use the Canal Road entrance, resolving many of the issues regarding buses on residential streets. They would also like to add 1000 parking spaces on campus (500 of which would be for the hospital) which I worry will put more cars on the already congested residential streets.

They also plan to develop the 1789 block by adding a graduate student residence with 120 beds and about 80 parking spaces and some retail geared towards the residents of the building. They would need to remove several townhouses and add a curb cut; construction is expected to take 18 – 24 months. This is extremely dense development in an already packed area.

As noted in the Current last month, a possible **Parking Pilot Program** for Georgetown is under discussion, with CAG actively involved. The concept is to build on existing arrangements to make it easier for both residents and visitors to find parking spaces when and where they need them. Community meetings will be held soon.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 6th at Merriment!

—Jennifer Altemus

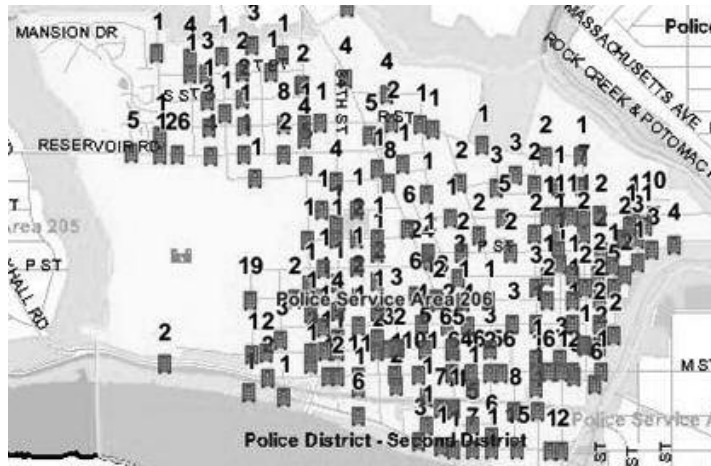
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN! *continued from cover*

reimbursable detail because CAG pays the police department for these officers); private CAG security guards who patrol Georgetown in cars with the CAG logo and flashing yellow lights five days a week, including weekends; special GPS phones for the reimbursable detail to enable better communication between the police and guards; a reinvigorated block captain program to provide crime prevention information; and continuing advocacy with the MPD and our elected officials for more police resources for Georgetown. For more information on this Program and how you can participate go to cagtown.org and click on Public Safety Program.

The reimbursable police detail, the guards who we hire from Securitas (a nationally recognized security firm) and the rest of the public safety program costs nearly \$200,000 per year. It is funded from donations from Georgetown residents concerned with maintaining the safety of their community.

All donors receive information concerning crime prevention, the CAG guards' private cell phone numbers and a CAG Public Safety window sticker. Donors can contact the guards directly any time they are on duty to have a guard escort them (or their guests) between home and car or to have the guards pay extra attention to their property when they are on vacation.

The continuation of this program requires the financial support of all residents. If everyone does their part and contributes what they can afford, CAG can continue to meet the public



Total crime in PSA 206 as of November 12, 2009 (817 incidents).

safety needs of our community. Please use the form below to make a *tax deductible* donation to support the 2010 CAG Public Safety Program or go to www.cagtown.org and make your donation online. We hope to hear from you soon.

—Richard Hinds, Co-Chair
CAG Public Safety Committee

The Grapes of Math

So you want to go to a neighborhood restaurant, sit at the bar and have a glass (or two) of wine? Well, before you order, ask the price. I didn't, and when the bill came I nearly fell off my stool.

Forty-eight dollars—yes, \$48—for two glasses of Cabernet! I won't name the restaurant, but it was one of Georgetown's most popular. I can also say that the man who was sitting next to me, a stranger at the time, took as much exception to my bill as I did. He said, "This is outrageous, and I know what I'm talking about, because I happen to own The Prime Rib."

I asked to speak to the manager, who said he would take one glass off

the bill but made it clear that this was the going price of their bar Cabernet. He showed me the menu, which indeed had the wine listed at \$24 a glass. Who knew?

I then began to scout out other bar wines at Georgetown places such as Martin's, Peacock Café, the Four Seasons, the Ritz-Carlton, The Guards, The Daily Grill, et al., and found that most bar Cabernets cost between \$8 and \$15 a glass. At the Four Seasons my colleague drank a \$20 glass of Cabernet, but I suppose that is not out of line for a four-star hotel.

My gripe about my \$24 glass of wine was that nothing was said about the price when I placed my order, and that if you multiply 24

times five glasses, which is the usual output from a bottle of wine, I was drinking from a \$120 bottle, which probably cost the restaurant \$10 and tasted like it. To paraphrase Forest Gump, when you ask for a glass of wine "you never know what you're going to get."

The moral of the story: Ask the price before you drink, otherwise you'll end up like I did, with an empty wallet and not much to show for it. Next time, I'm going to the Prime Rib and ask for my friend Buzz, who says he'll serve a much better wine, at a much better price. Cheers!

—VV Harrison

Citizens Association of Georgetown

2010 Public Safety Program Contribution

~ **All donations are fully tax deductible** ~

For example a \$500 donation to the CAG Public Safety Program is equivalent to \$300 in after tax dollars assuming a combined federal and DC tax rate of 40%.

- ___ **Yes**, I/we will be a **GUARDIAN** of safety in Georgetown by making a tax-deductible donation of **\$5000** for the program in 2010
- ___ **Yes**, I/we will be a **Sentinel** of safety in Georgetown by making a tax-deductible donation of **\$1000** for the program in 2010
- ___ **Yes**, I/we will be a **PROTECTOR** of safety in Georgetown by making a tax-deductible donation of **\$750** for the program in 2010
- ___ **Yes**, I/we will be a **DEFENDER** of safety in Georgetown by making a tax-deductible donation of **\$500** for the program in 2010
- ___ **Yes**, I/we will be a **CUSTODIAN** of safety in Georgetown by making a tax-deductible donation of **\$325** for the program in 2010

All Contributors receive full program benefits

Name (Please print clearly) _____

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Email _____

___ Check here if you have also included payment for your 2010 CAG membership dues in your check or charge total (\$50. for individuals, \$65. for families/couples).

Form of Payment (all donations and dues are fully tax deductible):

___ Check (check number ___) Please make check payable to Citizens Association of Georgetown

___ Credit Card: VISA ___ Mastercard _____
Amount to be billed _____
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____

Billing address (if different from above - **important!**) _____

Authorized signature _____

**You may also make your donation online at the CAG website --
Go to www.cagtown.org and click on Public Safety Program**

___ I/we do not want my/our names listed as a supporter(s) of the CAG Public Safety Program

___ I/we would like the CAG Guard to call and or stop by our house to introduce himself

___ I would like to learn more about becoming a Public Safety Block Captain

CAG welcomes your comments and suggestions: _____

Please send this form with payment in the enclosed envelop to Citizens Association of Georgetown,
Suite 200, 1365 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20007 or fax to 202-333-1088.

CAG Takes an Artistic Turn at November Meeting

“Georgetown ARTS 2009—a first time, three-day community art show organized by CAG was deemed a huge success. An energetic and able committee got it off the ground in four weeks, led by coordinator Michele Banks, with lot of help from Heidi Hess, Hayley Gordon Pivato, Betsy Cooley, Jennifer Altemus, John Page and Barbara Downs.

On opening night, Thursday, November 19, much of Georgetown gathered in the former Smith and Hawken space on 31st Street. Well over 200 people attended the inaugural event, making their way through the gentle but persistent rain.

Stripped of any vestiges of garden equipment, there was plenty of room for 27 artists' works which were labeled and hung from the walls and occasional partitions. There were several sculptures displayed on pedestals. Chris Murray of Govinda Gallery on 34th Street held forth about his experiences as an art gallery owner in Georgetown for 34



Christopher Mathews, whose black and white photographs are hanging on the wall to the right, took this shot of the crowd listening to Chris Murray.

years. He has had famous friends such as Andy Warhol, Annie Liebowitz and Mohammed Ali who came and went from his gallery—which made for some fascinating stories.

The contributing artists in this first CAG art show were chosen on a first come basis—answering a Call for Artists that went out by email and on CAG's

GeorgetownForum listserve. Each artist submitted up to six pieces and also volunteered to help with the installation, hosting and dismantling of the show. The art was diverse and impressive. Some works were for sale and others were not. The show continued on Friday and Saturday. Let's hope it will be an annual event.

—Anne Emmet



Polly Townsend with her mountain journey - inspired paintings



The Eastbanc space had wonderful sky lights and track lights



Luca Pivato, Heidi Hess, Travis Price, Hayley Pivato, Michelle Banks and Johanna Mueller in front of Hayley's large abstract paintings



Homa Youn Yeroushalmi who has a studio on Wisconsin Avenue



Elba Molina sold her large abstract painting



Dariush Vaziri with his wife and daughter (also in portrait)



Speaker Chris Murray with DC Arts and Humanities Commissioner, Rebecca Fishman



Barbra Downs with her landscape of Rock Creek Park



Youngest artist: 12-year-old Isabella Page



Dede Caughman showed her oil landscapes and portraits



Rosie Moore works in oil on paper



Sidney Lawrence with his intricate black and white drawings



Wendy Plotkin-Mates sold a painting to Water Street resident Gail Bassin.



SAVE THE DATE: the Concerts Kick-off party will be a fun family dance party at the hip new club *George* on Sunday, January 31. Committee members pictured here at the club with owner Hunter Campbell, are (l – r) Jennifer Altemus, Renee Esfandiary Crupi, Elizabeth Miller (and baby Agnes).

GEORGETOWN *Baby* BOOM

CONGRATULATIONS AND A
WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW LITTLE ONES

Clara and Paolo Belli on Reservoir Road
Giovanni Belli—DECEMBER 6, 2008

Sarah and Bill Pietragallo on Poplar Street
Francesca—APRIL 7, 2009

Mark and Caren Venturi on
Cambridge Place
Chiara Alexandra—APRIL 10, 2009

Michael and Holly Cirrito
Big brothers, Will and Malcolm on R Street
Charlie—MAY 13, 2009

Susan and Peter Tynan on 28th Street
Lila Louise—MARCH 1, 2009

Shana and Daniel Siesser
Big sister Yael of 31st Street
Kelilah Tiferet—JUNE 22, 2009

Sarah and David Jankowsky on P Street
Norah Ann—OCTOBER 31, 2009



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[Please submit items and info by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication.]



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DECEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

Sat. Dec. 5	Breakfast with Santa at Georgetown University; 9-10:30; pancake feast, craft activities and pictures with Santa; Leo J. O'Donovan Dining Hall; adults \$12, children 3-11 \$8, children under 3 free; advance registration required at http://alumni.georgetown.edu/santa
Sat. Dec. 5	St. John's Episcopal Church Annual Greens Sale; 10-3; holiday greens, wreaths, gifts, decorations, book signing and baked goods; 3240 O Street, Blake Hall; call 338-1796 or visit www.stjohnsgeorgetown.org .
Sat. Dec. 5	Epiphany Church Christmas Bazaar; 10 - 4:30 Gifts, clothing, artwork, good food and more. And first Dibs: Champagne Preview Party Friday, Dec. 4, 6:30 - 8:30 pm; \$25 per person at the door; 2712 Dumbarton Street, NW; 965-1610.
Sun. Dec. 6	Merriment in Georgetown; 3-6pm; Wisconsin & M Streets; free photos with Santa, strolling carolers, balloon sculptors, hot chocolate, special stores and more; visit merrimentingeorgetown.com .
Sun. Dec. 6	Jackson Art Center Open Studios noon to 5 pm; visit painters, photographers, sculptors and potters who work at Jackson, 3024 1/2 R Street NW, For info call Barbara Downs at 337-3373.
Wed. Dec. 9	Christmas Boutique at Dumbarton House; 12-3pm; fifteen vendors offer specialty wares including hand-crafted jewelry, textiles, and more; 2715 Q Street; for more information call 337-2288 or email info@DumbartonHouse.org .
Fri. Dec. 11	Holiday Wreath Workshop; 10am or 2pm; fashion your own holiday wreath from a variety of plants from Tudor Place garden; members \$28, non-members \$35; call 965-0400 to register.
Tues. Dec. 15	Dumbarton House <i>Friday Morning Music Club</i> Chamber Music Concert; 12-1pm; 2715 Q Street; free of charge; reservations suggested, call 337-2288 or rsvp@DumbartonHouse.org .
Sat./Sun. Dec. 19/20	Chocolate Making Workshop and Tea for Families; at Tudor Place 1-3pm; children learn how to make chocolate and adults sample period teas and desserts; members \$20, nonmembers \$25, adults \$10; call 965-0400 to register. More activities at www.tudorplace.org