



CAG

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN

Newsletter
HOLIDAY ISSUE 2017

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Halcyon House Hosts CAG Meeting January 23rd

Save the date, January 23, 2018 and join us to hear about the newest S&R Foundation venture. In 2000 Dr. Sachiko Kuno created the foundation to support talented individuals in the arts, sciences and social entrepreneurship, especially those who are furthering international cultural collaboration. In June, 2015, the Foundation purchased the historic Fillmore School. The space has been transformed into the Halcyon Arts Lab, a nine-month fellowship program providing support and resources to emerging artists as they work to promote social impact and grow as leaders. Halcyon Arts Lab provides the resources and guidance needed to bridge the gap between ambitious ideas and their potential impact. Adapting the well-honed methodology of the Halcyon model, Halcyon Arts Lab fosters creativity through an environment of learning, access, collaboration and support. Please join us at The Fillmore School, 1801 35th Street NW to see the beautiful renovations and learn more about Halcyon. Reception begins at 7 PM.

CAG TOURS DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Pamla Moore

On November 15th over 100 CAG members and the Georgetown community were enthusiastic participants of an evening of "Ellington Up Close and Personal" at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. After a comprehensive modernization taking several years, the former Western High School was reopened this fall and welcomes over 500 talented students and faculty every day focused on the arts, as well as academics.

The evening was very special as impressive students took us in groups throughout the entire school, giving us up close and personal tours and mini-performances by students and faculty in many of the schools "neighborhoods" including – dance, instrumental music, literary media and communications, museum studies, technical design and production, theatre, visual arts or vocal music. Many of us were interested in upcoming performances – for information go to:

www.ellingtonschool.org.

CAG welcomes back the Ellington School family to Georgetown and looks forward to years of exciting programs. A special thank you to Safeway Georgetown for providing the refreshments.

Over 300 Georgetowners were dancing in the streets at the annual Georgetown gala to benefit CAG. Photos on Pages 6-7, see more photos at cagtown.org/gala



"Dancing in the Streets"

CHANCE ENCOUNTER AT OAK HILL

Leslie Maysak, CAG Executive Director

Georgetown neighbors, CAG members and history buffs arrived at the front gates of Oak Hill cemetery on the unseasonably sultry evening of October 9 to an unusual sight: a large tent covering the drive adjacent to Ben Bradlee's mausoleum and the Renwick chapel. The tent had been set up the previous evening for the screening of Emmy Award winning film-maker (retired from the National Gallery of Art) Joe Krakora's documentary "A Chance Encounter" about the historic cemetery and Oak Hill had generously agreed to host CAG's public meeting the following night.



Oak Hill Superintendent David Jackson

The CAG spotlighted the restoration plans for Mount Zion cemetery, Oak Hill's neighbor to the East. Oak Hill board President George Hill welcomed guests and introduced 6th-generation Georgetowneer Neville Waters, President of the Mount Zion Cemetery/Female Union Band Society, who shared background on the cemetery's history and condition as well as plans for the restoration. The African-American cemetery is listed on the National Register for Historic Places and is in urgent need of landscaping, repair of monuments and fences and cataloguing the interred to the extent possible, so families may know the location of their relatives. Georgetown architect Outerbridge Horsey also made comments about the project's impact on the community and the need for local support.

The Connecticut-Copperthite Pie Company (established in Georgetown in 1886) generously donated their famous home-style pies to the delight of all assembled.



Photo credits: Judith Beerman

Refreshments from local baker Copperthite Pie Company

“GOODNESS IS THE ONLY INVESTMENT THAT NEVER FAILS.”

- Henry David Thoreau

As a leader in Georgetown’s real estate community, our firm proudly supports the Georgetown community. We are proud to sponsor the following events and organizations:

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Georgetown House Tour (St. John’s)
Georgetown Jingle
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Hyde-Addison Elementary School Gala
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President's LETTER

There has been plenty of excitement this fall. The CAG gala at the Four Seasons was a great success with emphasis on the theme - "Streets of Georgetown." The dance floor was crowded and the band "For the Win" played great music non-stop for two and a half hours. Three hundred Georgetowners and sponsors enjoyed the evening, CAG wishes to thank the entire community for their continued support.

Another major issue before CAG is the future of the West Heating Plant (WHP) located across the canal from the Four Seasons. At the hearing before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) on November 2, there was contention about whether the DC Preservation League needed to seek an historic designation for the WHP. The WHP

is a contributing building to the Georgetown Historic District, and CAG's position is that there is no need for the landmark designation. Nevertheless, the HPRB vote on this subject was approved by a 5 to 3 in favor of granting the landmark designation. Following that presentation, a structural engineering expert, Joel M. Silverman, made it clear that the north, south and east facades are fragile after 17 years of no maintenance with rusted steel support and with cracked bricks. Asbestos and mercury are impossible to eliminate, and demolition of the three facades need to be achieved. The owners of the WHP will seek a demolition of the three facades. The plans developed by David Adjaye for the replacement structure will be judged as whether the structure is regarded as exemplary architecture. The



Mayor's Agent is scheduled to hold a public hearing on January 25-26, 2018 to resolve the dispute.

I wish happy holidays to all CAG members, and encourage everybody to join us at our next Community Meeting at Halcyon House on January 23rd.

Bob vom Eigen, PRESIDENT

Beth Nielson 1943-2017



The CAG community was saddened and shocked by the sudden loss of our longtime Office Assistant, Beth Nielson, on November 1. We have been gratified by the many expressions of sympathy from members of the community, who shared kind thoughts and stories about Beth and attended her memorial service at Dumbarton United Methodist Church.

For more than 12 years, Beth was an important member of our staff, a consistent presence providing services crucial to CAG operations. She was also

active at the Georgetown Ministry Center and will be sorely missed there. The Ministry Center was important to Beth at a difficult period in her life and we encourage donations to the center in Beth's name.

Beth's sweet presence and dedication to her work in the CAG office will be missed by all who knew her. But we who had the privilege to work closely with her will smile as we remember her grabbing the mail, throwing her bag over her shoulder, and cheerfully saying goodbye as she headed for the bus.

COMMUNITY UPDATE FROM GEORGETOWN MINISTRY CENTER

If you are not already familiar with Georgetown Ministry Center, we are a nonprofit that has been operating in Georgetown for 30 years. Located beneath Grace Episcopal Church on Wisconsin Avenue, we serve our community's most vulnerable, chronically homeless individuals. Thanks to the generous support of this community, we have accomplished a great deal over the past year:

- More than 25 GMC guests moved off the streets and into housing.
- Neighborhood congregations hosted and prepared meals for the 26th annual winter shelter.
- 8 shelter participants now live in their very own apartments.
- Overall, 781 homeless individuals were able to receive psychiatric and medical care, case management services, meals, clothing, and more.

In addition, our day center is getting a facelift! After 13 years of wear and tear, 46,000 showers and 14,250 loads of laundry, GMC is receiving a major renovation. We anticipate reopening in December and welcome the community to tour the new space, learn more about the ways we serve the community and how you can get involved. Please email info@gmcgt.org to get in touch!

DATES TO REMEMBER

C&O Canal National Historical Park public comment period ends!

Friday, Jan. 5 – Tell Georgetown Heritage what you think by visiting, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=70176>

CAG Community Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 23 – Halcyon Arts Lab at Fillmore School, 7PM

CAG Community Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 27 – at Georgetown University

Watch for announcements and updates on cagtown.org/meetings and facebook.com/georgetowncitizens

IS CAG ON YOUR LIST?

As my first year as CAG's Executive Director draws to a close I'd like to take the opportunity to personally thank our wonderful and generous CAG community without whom the many programs and initiatives at CAG would not be possible. Our members, sponsors, volunteers, board of directors, committees and many, many community organization liaisons are crucial to the achievement of CAG's goals each year resulting in a better Georgetown.

CAG's programs benefit all residents regardless of membership, but they aren't free. We do have expenses and take seriously our responsibility to use resources judiciously.

And so, as the year ends, please look back on the CAG benefits you may have enjoyed whether it was a free concert in the park, a tree planted on your block, an historic home protected, or maybe it was one of the many fascinating programs presented at our favorite local venues or even a sense of general well-being from being part of a safe, connected community that cares about quality of life, and consider making a year-end donation to CAG or renewing your dues.

Best wishes for the holiday season,

Leslie

Leslie Maysak, Executive Director

EcoTip

BOTTLE THE ENERGY

Bottled water can cost up to 10,000 times more than tap water! Why? Because you are paying for all kinds of things besides water: the bottle, the water wasted during the bottling process, the energy used to bottle the water and transport the bottle to your store, the paper label and bottle cap. Answer: Buy a reusable bottle for less than \$20 and fill it up at home. With your savings, you can purchase a water filter for your tap! Small effort, big Step!

— LEE CHILD
Georgetown Garden Club

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☐ Check here if you have also included your 2018 CAG membership dues. (Dues are \$55 individuals; \$75 couples or families; \$75 businesses or associate members.)

All contributors receive full program benefits.

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Suite 200, 1365 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20007 – 202-337-7313

WHEN TRASH BECOMES ART, AND ART BECOMES TRASH

Walter Groszyk

A Large new sculpture, Scarlet Natural Chaos, now installed on the Georgetown Waterfront creates an observational dichotomy: when trash becomes art, and art becomes trash.



The accompanying photograph shows the dramatic demise of a creation by Arne Quinze at the Burning Man festival in Nevada. The

conceptual artist, known internationally for his unconventional, often controversial, works, has now made his presence felt in Georgetown in a very large way. The Belgian's Scarlet Natural Chaos, over 40 feet high and weighing nearly 30 tons, graces the lower patio of the Sequoia restaurant, previously home to the outdoor River Bar.

A photograph of Scarlet is omitted, as the sculpture deserves to be seen in person, pondered, and judged. Some may applaud its presence on the waterfront for decades to come, others may conclude it deserves a sic transit gloria mundi fate like Burning Man.

CAG objected to the sculpture, asserting that it really represented greatly out-sized signage calling attention to the restaurant. CAG suggested that it was no different than if a 30-foot high sculpture of the Nike swoosh symbol were

plastered on the side of a building on M Street and called "art". The Old Georgetown Board carefully studied the proposed Sequoia sculpture, even requiring a mock-up, and undertaking a site visit.

There remains a larger question though, as there seems to be no prohibition against property owners installing publicly visible art on their property, even art that seems incompatible with the setting and appearance of historic Georgetown. What of a parade of plastic pink flamingos? Or a Jeff Koons' monster-sized, orange Balloon Dog? Or worse. One person's taste in art thus becomes the community's taste. And the only censure is a passerby's exclamation: "Yuck".

For an explication of Scarlet, with many photographs, see: <http://arnequinze.com/en/projects/detail/scarlet-natural-chaos>

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEETS ON HYDE-ADDISON MODERNIZATION PROGRESS

Hannah Isles, CAG Board of Directors

Monday, November 13- The community working group for the Hyde-Addison Elementary School modernization met at St. John's Church to get an update on the project's progress. Representatives were in attendance from DC's Dept. of General Services (DGS), the construction company, the architectural firm and Councilman Jack Evans' office.

The initial phase of the project is the water line replacement which is complete. This phase involved digging out the original water line which ran under the Hyde building and moving it to the perimeter of the lot. Throughout

the excavation process the project coordinators consulted with archeologists to ensure that any historic artifacts found were preserved and documented. Nothing significant was found and an archeological report will be available in the coming months.

The next phase of the project involves excavating the middle of the lot and building the foundation for the new building that will connect the Hyde and Addison buildings. The contractor reported that they are closely monitoring vibrations from the excavation work that may impact neighbors and that they will be employing an aerial crane for this phase of the project. Assurances were made that aerial cranes are more efficient and produce less noise. The project is reportedly on schedule

with the foundation being projected to be near completion by spring.

During the Q&A afterward, issues were raised regarding the landscaping and shade on the playground and the completion of repairs to the wall adjacent to the neighboring property on O Street and representatives stated that these issues are being addressed. A more pressing issue seems to be the current daytime parking restrictions on O Street. Attendees stated that the parking enforcement has been aggressive. Reportedly, Jack Evans will be meeting with DDOT in the next week to discuss ways to address those issues.

To receive notice of future meetings and bi-weekly updates on the Hyde-Addison project please email Monica.Dodge@DC.gov

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STREETS OF GEORGETOWN 2017 GALA

Photos by Robert Devaney, Pat Ryan, Oliver Devine, DC Hot Spots and Washington Life photographer Erin Schaff



Rebecca Magnusen and Autumn Burnette



Ed & Gerri Solomon and friends



Cherry and Peter Baumbusch



CAG Executive Director Leslie Maysak and Helena Lehman



Brittany Sawyer and Auction Chair Karin Wheeler



John & Michelle Korsmo, Hannah & Adam Isles



CAG Programs Manager Jacob Schmidt and Volunteer Sam Bernard



Joe & Hilary Gibbons and Barbara Downs



Kristen Lund



Gala Chair Amy Porter Stroh and Page Evans



Des Raimés Combes, Krista Johnson, Leslie

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Tricia Huntley and Christopher Bidwell



Live band For the Win rocked it!



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Dr. Charlie Rackley and Jamie Peva



Carrington Tarr, Eileen McGrath, Page Evans



Dr. Tina Alster and Amb. Paul Frazier



Leslie Maysak, Lawrence Behar, Reyes Gonzalez Gutierrez



Jerry Burgess and Victoria McConnell



ANC Chairman Joe Gibbons and Councilman Jack Evans



Amy Porter Stroh, Leslie Maysak, Colman Riddell, Michelle Korsmo, and Jennifer Romm

SITTING WITH SALLY QUINN

V.V. Harrison

Sitting with Sally Quinn on the back porch of her historic house on N Street, where she has lived for thirty-seven years, listening to her recount memorable Georgetown moments, made me think of days past, when our village was the venue for sparkling parties given by doyennes of a by gone era. Evangeline Bruce, the Alsops, Lorraine Cooper, Kay Graham, Scottie Fitzgerald Lanahan and others, were famous for creating elegant settings and stimulating conversation. Sally Quinn was present at many of these gatherings, as a reporter for the Washington Post, and as a guest. After marrying Ben Bradlee and moving to N Street, she too became a hostess of note. She does not lament the past, but shared some amusing stories: Being present when Evangeline Bruce announced she was giving up seated dinner parties when two Senators called to cancel at the last minute, and watching a woman's dress catch fire by walking too close to a lighted candle at one of Lorraine Cooper's stylish soirees.

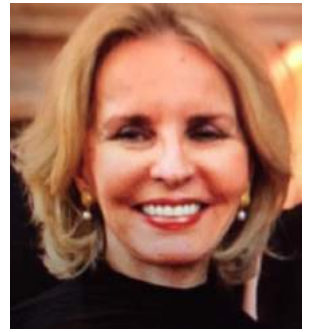
Mrs. Cooper, dressed to the nines, walked beneath a parasol when strolling the streets of Georgetown. According to Sally, during one of her walks, Mrs. Cooper encountered Kay Graham wearing a kilt and a pair of loafers and severely chastised her for dressing inappropriately for a woman of her stature!

Sally also attended a memorable luncheon for Princess Margaret hosted by the Bruces. After downing several whiskeys, the royal sister sequestered Ben Bradlee on a couch. As he desperately looked to his wife to be rescued, she turned away with a gleeful smile, as if to say "you're on your own buddy."

Sally misses, as we all do, many of the old Georgetown emporiums, including Little Caledonia, Neims Market, the Lamp Store, and our last (save Bridge Street) book store, Barnes and Noble, but is delighted Amazon will soon bring books back to Georgetown.

For supper with friends, she frequents local restaurants, including La Chaumiere, Café Milano, and Martin's Tavern, where a booth sports a plaque engraved with the Bradlees' name. When eating in, she often orders from Stachowaski's on 28th Street.

Now living alone, I asked if she was thinking of selling her house. Not for all the tea in China. "They'll take me out of here in my coffin, which I've already picked out at Gawlers. It's made of Magnolia wood and called The Savannah, which is where I grew up". In the meantime, she's busy promoting her memoir, Finding Magic, and looking forward to the premier of the new film, The Post, starring Meryl Streep as Kay Graham, and Tom Hanks as Ben Bradlee.



2017 GALA HOSTS

Autumn and John Allen,
Tina Alster and
Paul Frazer,
Florence Auld and
Frank Marshall,
Cherry and
Peter Baumbusch,
Nancy Taylor Bubes
and Alan Bubes,
Page Evans and
John Corey,
Jack Evans,
The Georgetownner,

Pamela and
Richard Hinds,
Hannah and Adam Isles,
Lisa and Paul Koches,
Michelle and
John Korsmo,
Kenny Kraft,
Cindi and Mike Lackey,
Andrew Law and
David Rattner,
Lesley and Jim Lee,
Helena and
Trent Lehman,

Kristen and John Lever,
Mimsy and Rusty Lindner,
Martin's Tavern,
Avery Miller and
Gregory Mocek,
Pamla and Powell Moore,
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION & ZONING IN GEORGETOWN

FIRST INSTALLMENT IN A SERIES ABOUT HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN OUR
COMMUNITY AND THE WORK OF THE CAG HPZ

Elsa Santoyo, HPZ Chair

Each time I look out my windows or go for a walk, the historic architecture and setting of Georgetown never cease to delight me. I'll bet you share this admiration for its historic character, and it's probably one of the reasons that compelled you to live here.

But do you know that Georgetown, both architecture and setting, is a National Historic Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places? Nationally, there are relatively few historic districts that have qualified for this designation. It is "the highest level of recognition conferred by the US government on privately owned properties of significant historic value" which are associated with "events that have made significant contribution to the broad pattern of our Nation's history", and "the lives of persons significant in our past", and which "embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction". The span of time during which these significant events, activities, and construction occur is known as the "period of significance".

For Georgetown, this began in 1751, when what was then a 60-acre port town was established and was formally acknowledged in 1950 when Congress enacted the Old Georgetown Act to preserve and protect its unique history and architecture.

Although most people think of Georgetown in terms of a neighborhood in the "colonial style", only one hundred thirty-five buildings

remain that date from 1751 to 1829. Houses from this period can be classified broadly as generous brick single-family dwellings in spacious settings, attached or free-standing narrow brick dwellings abutting streets, or, to a much lesser degree, wood-clad structures.

Georgetown's building stock expanded extensively in the Nineteenth Century in a variety of forms and styles. One hundred seventy-five buildings exist from 1830 to 1869, with their columns, pedimented door and window surrounds, Renaissance details, Gothic arches, towers and projecting bays. The end of the Civil War saw the erection of simple two-story brick alley dwellings to house the newly freed African Americans who joined the already independent African American community.

From 1870 to 1899 the City laid sewer, water, and gas lines, and streets and sidewalks were planted with trees. Residential streets were filled with rowhouses (dwellings characterized by identical footprints, and front and back facades) and townhouses (attached buildings with individuated facades and footprints) clad in pressed brick with brick moldings and corbelling. The Romanesque Revival style, characterized by more elongated, narrower bricks, flourished. A total of 984 buildings survive from this period.

Almost as many buildings – 876 – date from 1900 to 1950, making the late Nineteenth to the early Twentieth Centuries the predominant building stock of Georgetown. Brick row houses and apartment buildings were constructed. Between 1935 and 1945, after

the creation of Colonial Williamsburg, the Colonial Revival style became all the rage, and many of Georgetown's houses were modified to reflect this. Many African Americans were displaced through federal actions – including the construction of the West Heating Plant – destroying Georgetown's diversity.

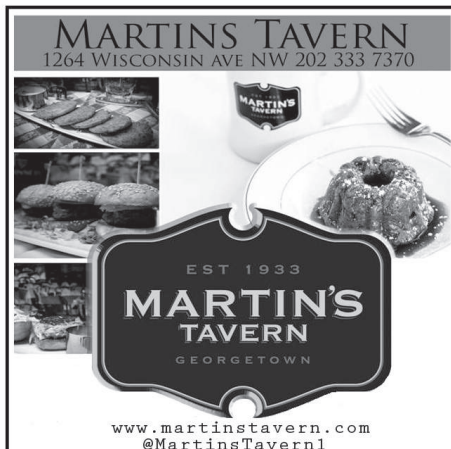
As Georgetown grew denser, its open spaces – the yards and parks – were recognized as a significant characteristic essential to the integrity of the historic district.

Georgetown's rich and varied architecture, in delicate balance with its hidden and visible open spaces, is what The Old Georgetown Act was enacted to preserve. To this end, federal law requires review of both concept and permit plans for all construction, alteration, reconstruction, and demolition of buildings within its boundaries, and regulates their scale, and design (appearance, volumes, details, color and texture of materials) that can be viewed from public pathways. So while living in our National Landmark Historic District is a privilege and a pleasure, the protection the designation affords presents homeowners with challenges when they seek to undertake modifications to their properties.

The mission of CAG's HPZ is to preserve the historic character and aesthetic values of Georgetown with a particular eye toward protecting the interests of the neighborhood's residents and homeowners. We look forward to working with you.

Next time: The review process – when, who, what.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

Thurs Nov 23 Happy Thanksgiving!

Mon Dec 4 ANC 2E Public Meeting at Georgetown Visitation, 6: 30pm Heritage Room, 2nd floor 1524 35th street NW

Tues Dec 12 Candlelight Tours in the Mansion: Tudor Place tour, reservation required

Fri Dec 8 Georgetown GLOW 2017, Experience the sparkle of the season and view the region's only curated exhibition of outdoor public light art installations

Sun Dec 31 Weekend Tots: Noon Year's Eve: enjoy a festive counting-themed story time, celebrate the noon-year with noisemakers, confetti, a sparkling craft, and toast 2018 with juice! Tickets on sale, email education@tudorplace.org

PLANNING AHEAD

Fri Jan 5 C&O Canal National Historical Park public comment period ends! Tell Georgetown Heritage what you think by visiting <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=70176>

Tues Jan 23 CAG Community Meeting at Halcyon Arts Lab at Fillmore School

Tues Feb 27 CAG Community Meeting at Georgetown University

C&O CANAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Let Georgetown Heritage Know What You Think!

Georgetown Heritage and the National Park Service hosted almost 200 community members on Nov 2, 2017 to review and comment on initial concept design ideas for the one-mile C&O National Historical Park in Georgetown.

Georgetown Heritage is compiling the comments we received at the meeting, but that is just the beginning. Participation is vital to the planning process. Please take some time to review the designs and share your thoughts. Your comments can be submitted electronically at the National Park Service's Planning, Environmental and Public Comments (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Georgetowncanalplan>. The comment period is open until January 5, 2018.



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