



# CAG

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN

## Newsletter

March 2020

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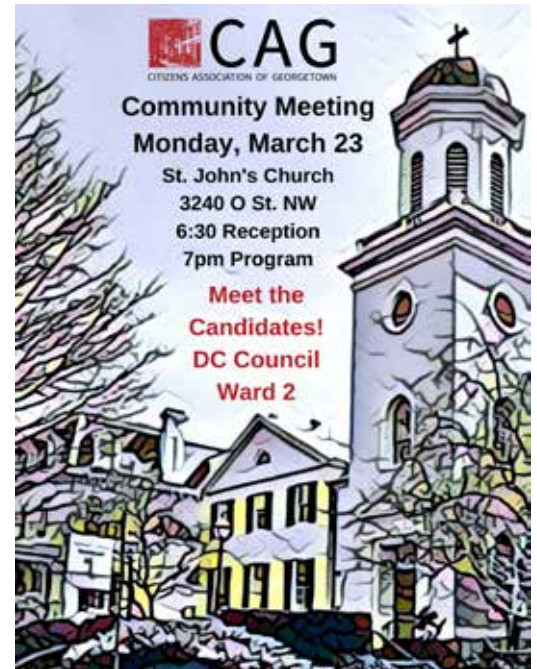
## CAG March Community Meeting:

### Meet the Candidates for DC Council – Ward 2

MONDAY, MARCH 23, RECEPTION 6:30 PM; PROGRAM 7:00-8:15 PM  
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 3240 O STREET NW

In case you haven't noticed, there is an upcoming election for the open seat on the DC Council for Ward 2. Do you know how many people are running in this upcoming election? What better way to learn more than by joining your neighbors from Georgetown and Burleith to attend our next Community Meeting to be held on Monday, March 23 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3240 O Street NW. The reception will be held at 6:30pm followed by a program from 7pm to 8:15pm. You will have an opportunity to meet the candidates and hear their plans for the future of Ward 2.

*"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." –Thomas Jefferson*



## February Meeting Recap: Public Safety & DDOT

By Nancy Carpenter, Program Administrator

Our February Community Meeting on public safety was not only important and informative, but possibly lifesaving. CAG Public Safety Program Co-Chairs Richard Hinds and John Rentzepis (known in the office as Batman & Robin) mixed with constituents and community members at The Ritz-Carlton Georgetown during the reception. Many were heard praising our night security officer, Officer Pringle, who patrols our neighborhood to deter crime and report suspicious activity. Some people wanted more information about the use of security cameras which are proven to help identify criminals and solve crimes.



Kenny Marable and Linda Bailey from DDOT



Richard Hinds and John Rentzepis, CAG PSP Co-Chairs

Guest speaker from DDOT Vision Zero, Linda Bailey, shared the city's overall approach to transportation safety, particularly for pedestrians, bicycles and scooters. "No loss of life is acceptable." What is the plan in DC to improve public safety? Educate stakeholders, enforce life-saving laws, design safe streets and sidewalks, collect and leverage safety data. Mayor Bowser made a pledge to create a successful safety plan for Washington DC and she needs support to reach her goals with Vision Zero. Please refer to [www.ddot.dc.gov](http://www.ddot.dc.gov) for additional information and valuable resources.

Thank you once again to The Ritz-Carlton Georgetown for generously hosting this valuable meeting!





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# President's LETTER

Dear CAG Community,

I love it when March arrives. It's great to see the days getting longer and to know that daylight savings time and the early spring crocuses are just around the corner. Georgetown is the perfect place to watch the changing kaleidoscope of color as spring unfolds and the flowers, trees, and shrubs emerge with new life.

On February 24th CAG held its monthly community meeting on public safety at the lovely Ritz Carlton Georgetown. Linda Bailey, director of the District Department of Transportation's Vision Zero" program, updated residents on DDOT's initiatives related to the management and coordination of pedestrian traffic, cars, bikes, scooters, and other modes of transportation. The goal of Vision Zero is to eliminate traffic and pedestrian fatalities in the District. Some of DDOT's initiatives include redesigning dangerous intersections, installing more visible crosswalks, adding bike lanes and traffic cameras, and assigning designated areas for scooter parking. Ms. Bailey noted the difficult trade-offs involved in transportation planning — such as whether to allow parking on narrow streets and whether to let scooters ride on sidewalks — and she stressed the importance of

community engagement in deciding how to manage those trade-offs. There was plenty of time for residents to ask questions and note their concerns (with Stephanie Bothwell, chair of CAG's Urban Landscape committee, doing a great job as MC). We would like to thank Ms. Bailey for her clear and thoughtful presentation and responses to questions.

Leaders of CAG's Public Safety program — John Rentzepis, Richard Hinds, and Catherine Shaw — were also on hand at the community meeting to provide updates and answer questions. This program relies exclusively on community contributions and funds an evening patrol car, street cameras, and other initiatives to reduce crime in Georgetown. CAG welcomes contributions ([www.cagtown.org](http://www.cagtown.org)) and we thank current members for their support.

CAG's plans for the spring are firming up. On March 23d CAG will host a candidates' forum at St John's church, where Georgetown residents will be able to hear from and interact with the candidates running for the Ward 2 seat on the DC Council. In April, we will meet at the Author Incubator's lovely new space to showcase CAG's oral history program and hear stories of local history from several esteemed long-term



**Cheryl Gray—President**

Georgetown residents. We are very pleased that Dumbarton House has again agreed to host our annual meeting on May 12th. Please put these dates in your calendar and stay tuned for details. In addition, CAG is having a kick-off party in late March at the Capitol One Cafe for sponsors of our ever-popular Concerts in the Park program. Two concerts are planned — on May 17th in Volta Park and mid-September in Rose Park. If you'd like to be a sponsor, please contact the CAG office.

## Welcome to Georgetown!

If you happen to know someone who is new to Georgetown or just likes to stay informed, check out a convenient website created by CAG member, Eileen McGrath. This valuable resource includes very useful information by providing links to Georgetown parks, businesses, press, local nonprofit organizations, CAG, ANC, BID, etc. Check it out!

[WelcomeToGeorgetown.com](http://WelcomeToGeorgetown.com)



## UPCOMING CAG EVENTS / MEETINGS

**March Community Meeting –**  
March 23rd; 6:30 reception at  
St. John's Church

**April Community Meeting –**  
Oral History Program panel  
discussion, Date TBD at The  
Author Incubator

**CAG Annual Meeting –**  
May 12th at Dumbarton House

**Community Calendar of Events–**  
See page 10

Watch for announcements and updates on [cagtown.org/meetings](http://cagtown.org/meetings) and [facebook.com/georgetowncitizens](https://facebook.com/georgetowncitizens).



**Stay tuned for exciting news about  
CAG Concerts in the Park!**

**Please contact [cagmail@cagtown.org](mailto:cagmail@cagtown.org) if you  
would like to join the Concerts committee!**

# BUILDING SITE FUTURE: *Sometime in My Lifetime*

Richard Hinds

**W**hy is the West Heating Plant on 29th Street still here? As you may recall from past articles, the owner/developer of this site several years ago proposed a residential condominium designed by Sir David Adjaye and a public park to replace the abandoned, contaminated heating plant. After numerous design review iterations before the Old Georgetown Board, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Historic Preservation Review Board, with CAG and the ANC supporting demolition and the DC Preservation League opposing, the case went to the Mayor's Agent for resolution. The Mayor's Agent on Jan 11, 2019 ruled in favor of partial demolition of this structure and its replacement with an exciting new building and a one-acre public park. Unfortunately, the DCPL chose to appeal. The parties filed their briefs, including a joint amicus curiae brief filed by CAG and Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park in support of demolition and the park, and have been waiting for the DC Court of Appeals to act. Oral argument has finally been scheduled before the Court on March 31, 2020 so we are inching towards what could finally be a conclusion to this major Georgetown project hopefully later this year, or as one of the developers, Georgetownner Richard Levy, has been quoted as saying, "Sometime in my lifetime."



## CAG PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM: BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

CAG is rolling out more signs this spring to spread the word to visitors and residents not to leave anything visible in their vehicles.

If you would like one installed on your block, please email [catherineshaw@cagtown.org](mailto:catherineshaw@cagtown.org) with your request.

### **MOTORISTS**

**ARE VALUABLES  
OR ANYTHING  
ELSE VISIBLE IN  
YOUR CAR?**

**CAR LOCKED?**

**BE SECURE...NOT SORRY**

A friendly notice from the



Posted March, 2020



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## MANDI... ON THE MOVE



Our wonderful program assistant Mandi Howard is “on the move” and is now working at Alchimie Forever in Georgetown. This Swiss dermatologist-formulated plant-based skin care line was created by the Polla family. CEO and CAG member Ada Polla is looking forward to growing her business with Mandi on her team. We wish Mandi the best in her new endeavor and thank her for all that she has done for CAG. She will be missed; we’re already planning lunch dates!

## EcoTip

### Rest Your Wheels

Collectively Americans drive more than 3 trillion miles annually, which translates into 4.6 tons of carbon per car per year. Transportation is the largest single contributor to America’s carbon emissions. Skipping a day of driving would significantly decrease your contribution to emissions. And walking will increase your fortitude!

— LEE CHILD  
Georgetown Garden Club

## IT’S PLANTING TIME!

Betsy Emes & Christi Cline

Trees For Georgetown (TFG) is preparing to plant 35 trees in late February/early March. We have contracted with Casey Trees to perform the actual planting. As always, TFG’s planting is carried out in close coordination with the Urban Forestry Division of DDOT.

Species to be planted are London plane, overcup oak, willow oak, pistache, single stem river birch, bald cypress, eucommia, tulip popular and Jefferson Elm. Every year we try to introduce a new tree to add to the diversity of Georgetown’s urban forest. This year it is the heritage oak, a cross between English oak and bur oak. It promises to be a beauty!

In advance of planting, Casey Trees will be prepping all tree boxes. This entails taking every box down to sidewalk level, removing all non-regulation surrounds and all plantings and containers currently in the tree box. Once a tree is planted, regulation wrought iron fencing is installed.

If you are getting a new tree, you will have received a letter from TFG, hand-delivered to your house. It is your responsibility to care for this new tree. Please do not plant anything in the box for at least three years - never is even better. Planting disturbs tree roots; plants compete for water and nutrients the tree needs to survive. Coordinate with each other in caring for these new trees - they are here for everyone to enjoy.



If you have any questions, please feel free to call at 202-997-2787 or email us at: [TreesforGeorgetown@gmail.com](mailto:TreesforGeorgetown@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for helping to preserve Georgetown’s tree canopy!



## Julia Diaz-Asper

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# THE BOON AND PERIL OF ILLUMINATING GAS, CIRCA 1900

Walter Groszyk, *Infrastructure Chair*

A previous newsletter issue described the presence of a large gasometer (a storage tank for illuminating gas) towering over the row of commercial shops and offices in the 2900 block of M Street. Illuminating gas was used initially to light dark streets, greatly reducing crime. Soon this gas was replacing candles and oil lamps in residences and businesses whose owners could afford the new means of lighting. Industrial production profited from longer workdays, and as reading became easier over greater hours, literacy improved.

Illuminating gas also led to misadventure and occasionally, calamity. Gas was often paid for by using “quarter-first” type gas meters. As the quarters accumulated, burglars would break into the meters to steal the coins. This often led to a break in the gas pipe, the resulting fire frequently consuming the building. The conflagrations that destroyed the heart of some American cities during this period were usually fed by countless, ruptured gas pipes, as reaching valves to cut a gas supply meant digging up the street. Arsonists came to use illuminating gas as a preferred means for torching buildings; that the cause was deliberate would be untraceable.

Gas poisoning was frequent. Illuminating gas was principally comprised of colorless and odorless gases, of which carbon monoxide comprised ten percent or more of the gaseous volume. If the flame in a gas lamp were to accidentally go out, and the room was tightly sealed, fatal carbon monoxide poisoning could ensue. A spurned lover might extinguish the flame deliberately. About half the carbon monoxide-caused deaths were calculated to be suicides.

But without illuminating gas, American history would be deprived of descriptions as delicious as this account in the New York Times of February 12, 1893.

“G. Weaver Loper, [an officer] of the National Cordage Trust

[a monopoly] was the next witness [before a committee of the New York State Legislature seeking to tax the trust]. Mr. Loper’s personal adornments created a sensation among committeemen and spectators when he took the stand.

“On two fingers of his right hand sparkled two magnificent rings. Each ring contained two big diamonds and a sapphire. On the fingers of his left hand shone three rings, each contained two large diamonds and a sapphire. In his claret-colored scarf was a large brown-colored stone set in a circle of small diamonds; cats-eyes glistened in his cuffs, and a broad, flat gold chain, with a charm attached, was partially disclosed below the lower pocket of his white vest.

“The gaslight burning over the committeemen added to the natural brilliancy of G. Weaver Loper’s jewels.

“Does your company control the market?” inquired Mr. Malby, shielding his eyes under one hand as he glanced at Mr. Loper’s diamonds.

“No, Sir” was the prompt answer. Then, in a burst of confidence, “I’ll tell you very frankly, however, that I’d like to get control so that no other living man on earth could manufacture a pound of cordage.”

“Good-bye” said the witness graciously with a wave of the hand under the gaslight, and his untaxed fingers shone as if decorated with miniature electric lights.”

Three months later, National Cordage filed for bankruptcy, a most difficult achievement for a monopoly. National Cordage had emptied its coffers to pay a special dividend, the value of which was equal to the price of its stock. Banks would not lend it money. The stock market collapsed, and the failure of National Cordage and other enterprises led to the Panic of 1893; lasting four years, it remains the second greatest economic downturn in American history and ended the Gilded Age. G. Weaver Loper was appointed National Cordage’s referee in bankruptcy.



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[www.facebook.com/georgetowncitizens](https://www.facebook.com/georgetowncitizens)

# Aspects of Georgetown: Time Marches On

Edith Schafer

**T**ime marches on. Or sometimes it just plods on slowly as it often does in February. We can't change the past even if we tried, because it won't let us. Okay, we just have to accept that.

"The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on; nor all your piety and wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all your tears wash out a word of it." By the way, who knows where these splendid lines of poetry come from? Extra credit for knowing the author's name.

Here is an interesting morsel to get us thinking. (Speaking of morsels, as you may be aware some enterprising women in Georgetown are getting ready to launch a cookbook, as reported in the last issue. Soon you can learn the culinary secrets hidden behind our high walls.)

In the city where I grew up, there were men's eating clubs, meetings were highly sought after all day affairs—definitely for men only, secretive and serious. Sometimes tidbits of news (recipes) would leak out and so would become available to the families of the men in their toques, perhaps in garbled form, thus adding to the mystery.

Both these enterprises extol the virtues of getting together over food. When the world wearies and perspective is needed, what better than a well-set table, good food, and good conversation with clever friends. We can even forget the passage of time...

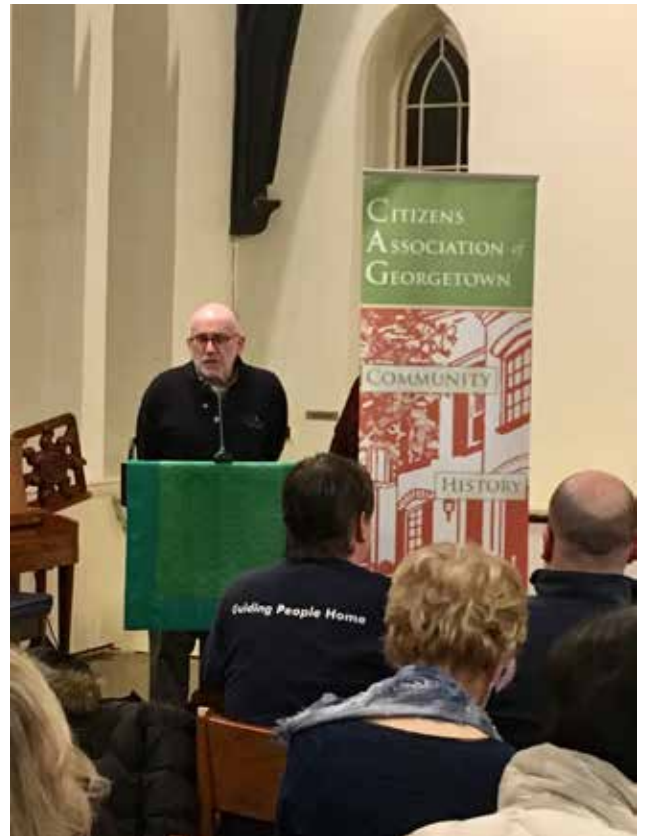


## Living Without Shelter: January Community Meeting at Grace Church

By Nancy Carpenter, Program Administrator

**I**f you happened to attend our January CAG community meeting on homelessness and the challenges of people living without shelter, you most likely learned something and may have even experienced a paradigm shift. We live in a community filled with people who care and want to help. This was made evident not only by the great number of people who attended our meeting, but also by the abundance of hats, scarves, gloves and socks donated that evening. What else can we do? The guest speakers at the meeting told us this: We must remember that people in our community who are experiencing homelessness have faced trauma in their lives and may have lost everything they owned. One thing that cannot be taken is their name.

- Be respectful. Reach out and ask, "What is your name?"
- While some people share their money, anyone can simply make eye contact and smile. People living without shelter should not be ignored.
- Some people are panhandling to remain in their homes and avoid experiencing homelessness again.
- If you see someone sleeping in freezing temperatures outside, call the hotline: 202-399-7093 (or call 311)
- If you see someone on the streets in distress and posing a danger or threatening people, CALL 911 or TEXT complete information (time/location/description) or a photo to 50411.
- Advocate for additional affordable housing programs to help more people seek viable shelter.
- Volunteer or donate to a local nonprofit like Georgetown Ministries Center or Miriam's Kitchen or Friendship Place.



Pastor John of Grace Church

**UPDATE:** For the past year the board of the Georgetown Ministry Center has been looking into options for the future. After considering merger possibilities with nearby service providers, a majority of GMC board members recently voted to remain independent and work to rebuild funding and operations to serve the local homeless population in Georgetown.



# 5G Small Cell Update for Georgetown

Joe Gibbons, ANC2E02 Commissioner

Since 2017, when Small Cell and 5G discussions began, Georgetown has grappled with numerous emerging issues: the promise of faster internet speeds, wider internet service coverage, and reduced dropped call, all balanced against the installation of intrusive transient technology, directly in our neighborhoods. Georgetown's identity can be personified by our tree-lined streets. Do we want these glorious icons competing for airspace with poorly designed Small Cell and 5G towers? No! Is it possible for Georgetown to have the newest technology, enjoy safe and secure nationwide telecommunications that are well designed today and in the future? Yes!

Through participation in public policy forums for concerned stakeholders – CAG, Trees for Georgetown, The Georgetown Garden Club, residents of ANC2E – and at hearings hosted by DDOT, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission, we have helped draft legislation for the City Council and consistently insisted that Georgetown, as a National Historic Landmark, rightly deserves environmental and historic protection from the unfettered installation of 50-foot Small Cell and 5G towers.

Unfortunately, the Federal Communications Commission quickly laid down a marker by declaring Small Cell and 5G facilities deployments completely exempt from local environmental and historic preservation review. Instead, we were left to argue that DDOT's guidelines need to incorporate appropriate measures that protect Georgetown's environment and historic resources. At every public policy meeting, we provided comments, advice, and solutions.

Then in August 2019 the FCC lost a court case (UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA, INDIVIDUALLY AND ON BEHALF OF ALL OTHER NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, ET AL.) that led the FCC to declare that deployments of small wireless facilities are subject to reviews pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). This would provide the legislative relief the U.S. Congress intended for Georgetown. DDOT's PSD original official position that before adopting its Small Cell and 5G Guidelines, they will align it within the broad parameters established by the FCC. The DDOT Guidelines must now wait for the NHPA and NEPA reviews, before adoption.

What does NHPA and NEPA reviews mean for Georgetown? Broadly speaking, it means "requiring federal agencies to consider the effects of projects they carry out, approve, or fund on historic properties." "As U.S. Congress established this comprehensive program to preserve the historical and cultural foundations of the nation as a living part of community life." However a word of caution. This review, encourages, but does not mandate, preservation. So we all must remain vigilant and determined to protect our Georgetown homes, trees, walkways, backyards, outdoor restaurants, parks, schools, houses of worship, historic views, the Canal, waterfront, business districts, Georgetown University and in short our identity. I hope to see you at an ANC2E meeting soon!

For additional info on Section 106 Review: [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)

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[georgetowngardenclubdc.org](http://georgetowngardenclubdc.org)





# Georgetown Heritage Update: *The C&O Canal Boat on Schedule*

By Jeff Nichols, Executive Director of Georgetown Heritage

Since joining Georgetown Heritage last September, I have come to appreciate the community pride all of you share in the history and culture of Georgetown. I've seen it first-hand in meetings and at social gatherings: a palpable love and concern for the community you all call home. That has not been lost on me, and I will always remember that as we plan for the preservation, restoration, and activation of the C&O Canal in Georgetown. With that in mind, I have a few updates to share with all of you.

The National Park Service has finalized and released the Environmental Assessment for the Georgetown Canal Plan. This is a major milestone in the project's development because we now have the approved design of the canal plan. It's the culmination of several years of work, a rigorous open comment period, consultation with concerned groups and individuals (including CAG), and the overall agreement of our friends and partners. It's important to remember that this is not the end of the design process, but only the beginning. There will be additional design work that needs to be completed before anything is built, additional design reviews, and of course, more community feedback as we continue to develop the plan. I'll be sure to keep you all updated as work progresses.

And speaking of progress, the new Georgetown Canal Boat is under construction at Roubush Yacht & Engine Works in Dundalk, Maryland. The new boat will be over 80-feet long and is being built in two halves that will eventually be put together after delivery to Georgetown. We're happy to say the boat is on schedule and on budget, and that it will be plying the waters of the C&O Canal for years to come.

If you haven't already heard, there were two personnel changes to our team. Maggie Downing has departed Georgetown Heritage after nearly 7 years of outstanding work as Director of Education and Partnerships. She led the charge on a number of projects, including the design of the canal boat. We wish Maggie the best of luck, and hope to welcome someone new very soon, who will continue working to activate new collaborations both on the canal boat and on dry land.

Additionally, the C&O Canal National Historical Park has a new superintendent. Tina M. Cappetta is a committed team-builder and park manager with more than 31 years' experience. She joined the park after serving as the superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Hampton National Historic Site and Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, since 2011. We look forward to working with her.

Stay up-to-date on all things C&O Canal by visiting [georgetownheritage.com](http://georgetownheritage.com) and following us on Facebook @GTownHeritage and Instagram @gtown\_heritage





# CAG

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN

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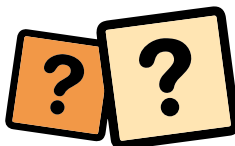
**Newsletter Design:** Reverse Flight Design  
[www.reverseflightdesign.com](http://www.reverseflightdesign.com)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

- Mar 8** **Walk the Block** Our dedicated volunteer CAG Public Safety Captains “Walk the Block” to connect with neighbors and share information and safety tips. To learn more about our program: [www.cagtown.org/publicsafety](http://www.cagtown.org/publicsafety)
- Mar 14** **Presented as a part of the “One Woman One Vote Festival”** Free showing of A Wrinkle in Time directed by Ava DuVernay - 2pm at Kennedy Center REACH. Arrive early. Seating is first-come, first-served.
- Mar 14** **Tudor Nights – Tales & Treasures** 6:30-8:30pm at Tudor Place. Executive Director Mark Hudson reveals the stories behind his favorite artifacts. Register online at [www.tudorplace.org](http://www.tudorplace.org)
- Mar 17** **St. Patrick's Day**
- Mar 21** **Teddy Bear and Doll Tea** – Dumbarton House 11am –1pm. This family event teaches children how life was the same and different 200 years ago! Short museum tour is followed by tea and federal era games. Tickets: [www.dumbartonhouse.org](http://www.dumbartonhouse.org)
- Mar 23** **CAG Community Meeting “Meet the Candidates”** for Ward 2 DC Council – St John's Church 6:30 Reception & 7-8pm Program. Join us. Bring a neighbor!
- Mar 24** **Gentle Yoga** – Free every Tuesday morning 10am at the Georgetown Neighborhood Library. Please be punctual. Go to [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org) for many more happenings.
- Mar 24** **Portrait of Plants by Margaret Mee** Created by renowned British botanical artist during her expeditions in the Amazon, begins at Dumbarton Oaks - Rare Book Collection. [www.doaks.org](http://www.doaks.org) for more information.
- Mar 28** **“I do: A Georgetown Wedding Event”** 10am Ritz-Carlton Georgetown. An interactive wedding vendor hall and panel. Held by Georgetown Main Street. Tickets on sale now: [www.georgetownmainstreet.com](http://www.georgetownmainstreet.com)
- Mar 30** **ANC2E Meeting** 6:30 at Georgetown Visitation – Heritage Room [www.anc2e.com](http://www.anc2e.com) Learn about local issues. Come watch your Advisory Neighborhood Commission in action!

## PLANNING AHEAD

- Apr 25** **Georgetown House Tour & Parish Tea** takes place 11am to 5pm. St John's Episcopal Church on O Street NW in Georgetown. Panel discussion at 3pm. The Patrons Party is held the Wednesday evening before the House Tour. [www.georgetownhousetour.com](http://www.georgetownhousetour.com)
- May 9** **Georgetown Garden Tour** - A self-guided tour of gorgeous gardens - 10am to 5pm. Includes afternoon tea 2pm to 4pm at Christ Church on 31st and O Streets NW [www.georgetowngardenclubdc.org](http://www.georgetowngardenclubdc.org)
- May 12** **CAG Annual Meeting** – Dumbarton House – Save the date!
- May 17** **CAG Concerts in the Park** – Volta Park



## Georgetown Trivia:

Did you know that the Peabody Room at the Georgetown Public Library features a house history file for nearly every home in Georgetown?  
[www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org) for more info!





202.944.5000

WFP.COM



## OUR FIFTEENTH YEAR AS PROUD UNDERWRITER OF CAG'S PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

Thomas B. Anderson | Dana E. Landry | William F.X. Moody | Marc P. Schappell

Liza Tanner Boyd  
Nancy Taylor Bubes  
Theresa Burt  
Kerry Fortune Carlsen  
Carrie Carter  
Carroll Chapin  
Marilyn Charity  
Matt Cheney  
Alyssa Crilley

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH 17



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