



# CAG

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN

*Newsletter*  
Spring 2020

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## CAG Annual Meeting Postponed to September 22, 2020

### Slate of Officers Announced by Nomination Committee

CAG's Annual Meeting, elections and community awards presentation originally scheduled for May 12th at Dumbarton House has been postponed to Tuesday, September 22, 2020 due to public health emergency restrictions imposed by the Mayor.

The CAG Nominating Committee, chaired by Richard Hinds has announced the proposed 2020-2021 Slate of Directors and Officers:



Tara Sakraida  
Parker, *President*



Susan Dabbar,  
*Vice-President*



Jerry Libin,  
*Treasurer*



Amy Kuhnert,  
*Secretary*



Stephanie  
Bothwell, *Director*



Karen Cruse,  
*Director*



John Rentzepis,  
*Director*



Jennifer Romm,  
*Director*

The proposed slate will be voted on by current CAG members at the meeting. The current Board of Directors, led by President Cheryl Gray, will continue in their roles until the September meeting. Community Awards will be announced in advance of the Annual Meeting.

## WELCOME TO CAG – NEW BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCED



CAG is pleased to announce the appointment of Susan Dabbar to the Board, effective April 2020. Susan arrived in Georgetown after three decades of moves spanning several states and countries. When landing in DC several years ago, Susan and her husband, John, searched for an inclusive neighborhood that could deliver a warm welcome – Georgetown was the obvious choice! Today, they are happily situated in Georgetown and have recently completed an extensive renovation of their home on N St.

Susan is an out-of-the-box thinker with a nontraditional career path and brings a wealth of experience to CAG. Her career choices have been creative and varied beginning with her first job as a naval architect at a Virginia shipyard and later as a Disney executive in California. During her early career as a naval architect, she was the most artistic of the engineers and the most quantitative of the artists – traits that would later serve her well over years of career pivots.

Susan's understanding of business, marketing, and media will be a valuable addition to serving the association and its mission. As a brand manager for companies like Disney and

Nestle, Susan has extensive experience in business strategies, communication, client service, and technology platforms, including expert knowledge of website integration and social media. She is focused on facilitating synergies between commercial, economic, and residential interests while striving to improve the overall Georgetown residential experience.

Susan's broad talents also include entrepreneurship and civic advocacy. As the CEO and founder of AdmissionSmarts, an educational consulting company, Susan is an advocate for college access and affordability and works with private clients as well as underserved students here and around the nation. Susan's creative interests for design and architecture run deep, and she even managed her own design firm years ago. Her architectural design training and expertise enables her to be well-versed in the needed balance between historical preservation and modern building aesthetics. Along with interests that include a passion for cooking, Georgetown lifestyle, design, and historical architecture, Susan was recently appointed to the National Council on White House History.

We are thrilled to welcome her!

### UPCOMING CAG EVENTS / MEETINGS

**CAG Annual Meeting**  
Sept. 22, 2020

**Concerts in the Parks**  
TBD

**Fall Fundraiser**  
November TBD

**Trees for Georgetown Party**  
Postponed to 2021





# LIVE ICONIC

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# President's LETTER

Dear CAG Community,

Life is certainly unpredictable, and the past few weeks have changed Georgetown and our individual lives more than anyone could have ever imagined. In our last newsletter we laid out a busy schedule of in-person events for the spring. Needless to say, this all changed overnight as we all had to retreat into our homes and move conversations online. The future remains uncertain, but we are hoping to resume in-person events in the fall, beginning with a rescheduled Annual Meeting at Dumbarton House on September 22nd.

CAG's Public Safety program continues to operate unabated through this difficult period. CAG's security officer continues to patrol in our CAG car five nights a week. Block captains continue to inform their neighbors about criminal activity and provide feedback on specific concerns. CAG continues to implement its camera program to help the Metropolitan Police Department

monitor areas where criminals are likely to enter and exit Georgetown. Through all of these initiatives, CAG maintains close contact with the MPD to promote community-oriented and strategic policing in Georgetown. The CAG Public Safety program is 100% paid for by community donations, and we greatly appreciate the strong and sustained support from our members.

It is particularly important that community organizations work together to assist in this time of need. We are lucky to have a wonderful set of local organizations in Georgetown. CAG recently joined with the ANC to co-sponsor an online briefing for the community by the MPD. We are supporting the BID and Georgetown Main Street in reaching out to the community to publicize programs for local businesses. We continue to facilitate and monitor the CAG Georgetown Forum to help residents communicate and inform each other. If you have ideas and suggestions, please do not



Cheryl Gray—President

hesitate to share them through the Forum or other means.

This is a difficult time, but we will get through it....together.

## Catch the Friendly Georgetown WAVE

Nancy Carpenter

If you're wondering why you may have seen people on their porches waving (and possibly toasting) at 6pm, it's because our Georgetown neighbor and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Elizabeth Miller suggested we continue this friendly tradition until the quarantine ends. In fact, it's become so popular on certain blocks that I'm tempted to take a masked bike ride around at 6pm and send out a very enthusiastic wave from all of us at CAG. Who knew waving could feel so good? It makes people smile if just for a moment. Some people are meeting new neighbors or even reconnecting with old ones. Try it! Catch the WAVE!

Open your door or window and  
give your neighbors a  
Georgetown Community  
**FRIENDLY WAVE**  
6pm Daily  
until the quarantine ends!





**Julia Diaz-Asper**

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# Some Thoughts from the Past

(Anyway, it's better than the present.)

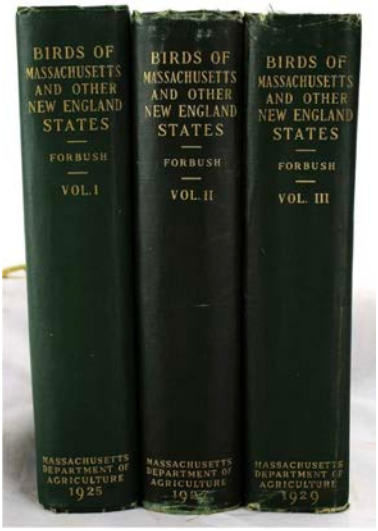
Edith Schafer

A few years ago, when I was 14 (Ha ha!) If there had been a pandemic then I would have been in good shape, because I would have been implementing social distancing because it went well with my lifestyle, as well as my hopes and dreams. I aspired to be a bird watcher. (It's not called bird watching any more, it's called being a birder.) I wanted to be a birder. I was probably driving my parents crazy, but never mind. I knew what I wanted, and I went for it.

So, I curled up with large marvelously illustrated books of which my favorite was *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* by Edward Howe Forbush. I lived in Pennsylvania but that didn't seem to stand in my way. I was hooked. I could have told you how many tent caterpillars were found in the stomach of a cuckoo on any given spring, how owls disposed of the bones of mice they ate, and which bird stored food on the thorns of a thorn tree where the birds (shrikes) had impaled them to be enjoyed later on.

Chatty and anecdotal, these books got me through dreaded adolescence at a girl's boarding school in the boonies. The downside came when I had to stand up in front of the school and announce the new members of the Bird Club "Will the following girls please fly forward and receive their wings." Needless to say it wasn't cool to be president of the Bird Club.

I hope this will divert you.



## FROM BEAR HUNT TO STREET SAFARI

Georgetown is becoming a jungle of stuffed animals peeping out of windows. When our Executive Director Leslie Maysak heard about this creative activity to offer a sweet distraction to passersby and children out for a fresh-air walk with the family, she enthusiastically posted the idea on our CAG Forum. Since our Program Administrator believes nothing really happens without a flyer, one was created and posted online to create even more awareness. During this unusual spring season where parks are closed and people are quarantined, we all need something to make us smile.

From there, the Georgetown "bear hunt" evolved into a "street safari"

which is much more inclusive and politically correct. It was soon evident that a map would be a handy tool for the pedestrians who were embracing this urban seek and find. Neighbor Judith Bunnell stepped up along with daughter India to create an online colorful map. The press got wind of it and they were interviewed recently by CNN so the idea can be shared with an even wider audience!

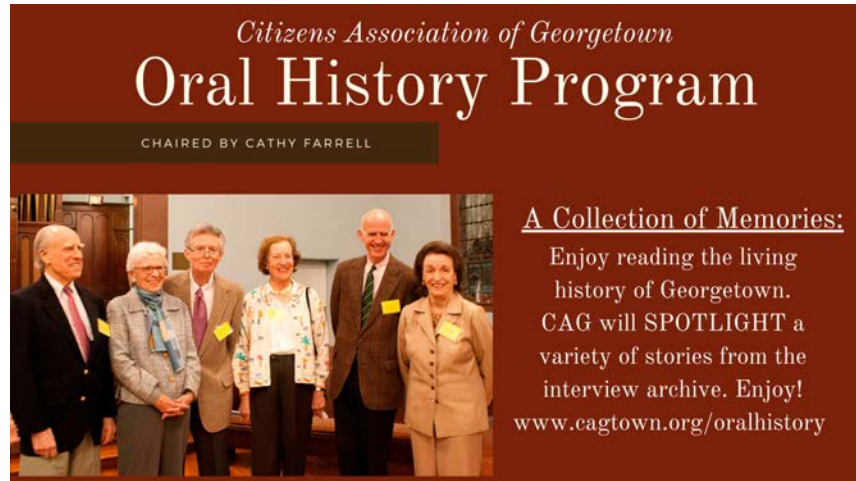
So, if you haven't yet, find that special stuffed animal that was born to be shared and prop him/her/it up in your street side window for all to enjoy. We're all looking for ways to make the world just a little bit better. And some people are just looking for a bear in a window.

**Going on a bear hunt! Put a stuffed animal in your street window so children walking by can spot it!**





# ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM – A TREASURE TROVE OF INTERVIEWS



The Citizens Association of Georgetown is known for fulfilling many roles in the community, but many people are unaware of the treasured archive of lively interviews we have collected in our Oral History Program chaired by the very dedicated Cathy Farrell and her committee of volunteers. We are using this “stay at home” time to promote this important program that preserves our history in an authentic and unique way. There are over 70 touching and humorous interviews on our website: [www.cagtown.org/oralhistory](http://www.cagtown.org/oralhistory) which can be read from the comfort of your couch or porch any time of day or night. All interviews are eventually sent to the Peabody Room at the Georgetown Library where they are preserved and stored for future generations. These are stories just waiting to be told! If you would like to be included on our email contact list to receive CAG correspondence including our oral history spotlights, please email: [cagmail@cagtown.org](mailto:cagmail@cagtown.org)

## A Message from CAG

Dear Neighbors, We hope this finds you well and bearing up during what seems an interminable period of staying home to help fight the pandemic. Georgetown is a special community in many ways and CAG is part of what makes it a pleasant place to live, even in these unusual times.

Your Association

- Sponsors a community forum on the internet and sends you a **CAG Newsletter** every other month to keep you abreast of developments that impact your lives.
- Houses **Trees for Georgetown**, which is continuing to plant trees;
- the **Public Safety Program**, which continues its nightly patrols and other initiatives to help keep us safe;
- the **DC Fair Skies Coalition**, which continues to work on aircraft noise mitigation;
- the Georgetown **Oral History Program**, which is a priceless treasure.
- Runs our public **Monthly Meetings**, which we hope to restart in September.
- In the future, we will continue planning our **Concerts in the Park** series, as well as a few entertaining and ever popular **Cocktail Party Fundraisers**.

The glue that holds this organization together is our many talented volunteers who serve on CAG Committees, as well as our small professional staff who continue to do their jobs so well remotely.

If you have been a loyal supporter of CAG and its programs in the past, we thank you. At this time it is critical for CAG to receive the membership dues income that it needs to meet its budget for the year and ensure we have the funds to cover the cost of our dedicated staff. We hope we can count on you to renew your annual membership this year. \$55 Individual & \$75 Family or Business

**To renew your membership:**

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- Questions? Email [cagmail@cagtown.org](mailto:cagmail@cagtown.org)

Thank you for your generous support! [www.cagtown.org](http://www.cagtown.org)



## GENEALOGY TALES

Walter Groszyk, Infrastructure Chair

Several years ago, I wrote a CAG newsletter article describing my discovering that my maternal grandmother was descended from a long line of nobles, and that my sister, on being told of this discovery, had remarked,

*'We have gone from downstairs people to upstairs people overnight!'*

Homebound and sheltered during the Great Lockdown has allowed me to research further the lives of some of these ancestors. Here are two vignettes:

In Shakespeare's play Henry V, Act IV, Scene 3, on the eve of the battle of Agincourt, the Earl of Westmoreland (Ralph Neville, the King's cousin) speaks, and Henry's response is one of the most famous soliloquys in literature.

*Westmoreland: O that we now had here*

*But one ten thousand of those men in England*

*That do no work to-day!*

*Henry V: ...From this day to the ending of the world,*

*But we in it shall be remember'd;*

*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;*

*For he to-day that sheds his blood with me*

*Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,*

*This day shall gentle his condition:*

*And gentlemen in England now a-bed*

*Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,*

Ah ha, I thought. I can add Agincourt to Hastings in a lengthening list of battles fought and won by my ancestors. Except, ..... Westmoreland wasn't present at Agincourt, he was a-bed in England. Did Shakespeare not know? Did Shakespeare know, but not care? Or was Shakespeare thrusting a literary dagger between Westmoreland's ribs to the amusement of the audience? Questions never to be answered.

David Neville, Baron of Rosegarland in County Wexford, Ireland, foolishly joined the revolt of 'Silken Thomas' FitzGerald, the Earl of Kildare, against Henry VIII. FitzGerald and his allies adorned their helmets with silk frippery, hence his nickname. Paintings of FitzGerald suggest his hair was auburn; he was hot-headed, impulsive, resentful, and vindictive. Early in his revolt, FitzGerald and his men hunted down John Alen, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and killed him. Alen's offense was that he had been a good friend of Cardinal Wolsey. Wolsey, dead by then, had served as Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII, a position and authority that inflamed FitzGerald's grievances against the Crown.

FitzGerald was immediately excommunicated. With that ecclesiastical punishment, his hope that the Catholic kings of France and Spain would join in an Ireland-based invasion of England evaporated. FitzGerald was Imprisoned in the Tower for a year before being taken to Tyburn and hung. David Neville was also executed for his part in the revolt. I like to think he was executed at the Tower, allowing me to say that he left the Tower in pieces.

Unlike FitzGerald, Neville forfeited both his title AND his property (the dreaded attainder). The Irish peerage notes that with the death of David Neville, the Neville family in Ireland fell "into obscurity". On reading that, I began mulling changing my signature to mimic the adjectival descriptors of medieval kings: Charles the Bald, Charles the Simple, Charles the Fat, etc. I would become Walter the Obscure.

A sincere thank you to  
Washington Fine Properties  
for its generous support of CAG's  
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# DEAR FRIENDS OF TREES...



April is the time each year we begin to plan our Trees for Georgetown autumn cocktail party and fundraiser. Because of the pandemic, several other Georgetown events have moved their dates to September as well. After much deliberation, we have decided to cancel the Trees for Georgetown September 2020 party; we believe that other causes and needs are more of a priority this year. We are so disappointed; it would be wonderful to visit and see everyone. Surely 2021 will be a happier year!

On the other hand, spring is also the time of year we decide how to spend our time and the money we do have. As you know, we plant new trees and install wrought iron tree-box fences all over Georgetown. Just this week we completed the planting of 36 trees. We hope you will decide to support our efforts even if we don't have a party to show our appreciation. Donations both small and large are greatly appreciated.

As we are sheltering in place, please remember to water your street trees, especially the new ones. Don't forget the lonesome trees at the corners which are often neglected as are those surrounding parks or near vacant areas. Thank you and stay well – be safe!

With warmest regards,

*Betsy Emes, Chair*

*Christi Cline, Vice Chair*

*If we can't hug each  
other, hug a tree!*



## A Healing Thought

With daily habits blown to the wind worldwide, what better time to reset, to live more sustainably. Things we take for granted have suddenly become startlingly fragile. Let's run with it: ration paper product use permanently, kill the commute, shop locally, sustainably, thoughtfully. Lives are changed, habits altered. Help heal the planet as we mend.



— LEE CHILD  
Georgetown Garden Club

## Staying Home Resulted in a Significant Drop in Crime in Georgetown, Better than Citywide Stats

Catherine Shaw, CAG Public Safety Coordinator

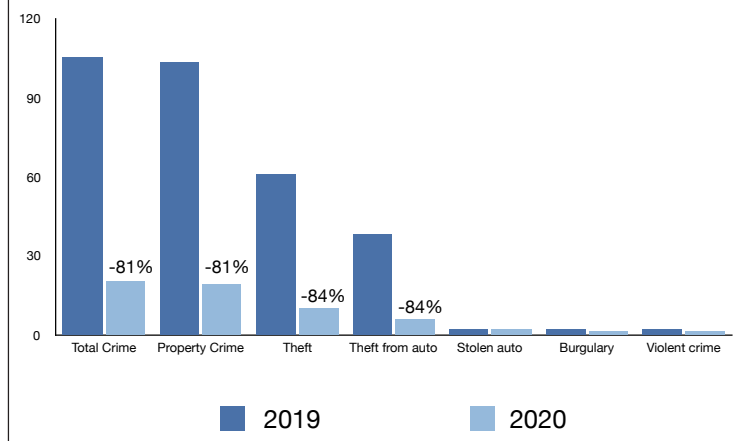
Mayor Muriel Bowser issued a public health emergency on March 11, 2020 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Because of the need to protect all residents, especially health care providers, first responders and vulnerable populations, the Mayor ordered all individuals to stay in their residences except to perform essential activities, engage in essential business or to do authorized recreational activities not involving close contact with other persons. During the first month of the stay-at-home period, total violent crime dropped 12% in D.C. But one crime, assaults with guns, rose a significant 33% citywide during this month, and this included one such crime in Georgetown.

On the positive side, property crimes dropped 31% citywide. MPD officials noted that having most retail stores closed led to fewer crimes of opportunity, such as thefts and thefts from vehicles. Georgetown registered an even more positive change, with an 81% drop in property crimes during the first month of social distancing (including an 84% drop in thefts and an 84% drop in thefts from auto). Georgetown typically registers few violent crimes, and this held true for this period too, dropping from two violent crimes in 2019 to one violent crime in 2020.

A cautionary note—Georgetowners should stay alert as package theft continues, likely due to the increase in online shopping. One unfortunate Georgetown neighbor woke up Easter Sunday to having “lost” a package this way. Although photos of the opened box and the suspected thief at a bus stop were circulated via the Georgetown Forum, this loss was not prevented. The best way for you to avoid such a loss is to keep track of expected deliveries and retrieve them immediately. You can help alert neighbors too if you see they have a delivery that has not been brought into their home—a small but appreciated gesture to help one another during this strange time. Also remember that you can text the police at 50411, anonymously sending them information, photos, and videos of suspicious situations.

### Neighborhood Crime Down 80%+ in First Month that D.C. Residents Stayed Home Due to Coronavirus

Number of crimes reported to MPD for PSA 206 from March 14 to April 12—2019 vs. 2020





# The Miracle of Morning

April is National Poetry Month; this is an inspirational poem worth sharing!  
[The Miracle of Morning by Amanda Gorman](#)



Even from our homes, we are a strong community.  
Let's stay connected and let the kindness continue!

**CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN**

## Villagers in ACTION

It is an honor to recognize people in your village who are taking action to help others and there are many examples across the country. Here are a few closer to home. Kudos to Judith Beermann and her team at The Georgetown DISH for their quality coverage.

- [What can a local beauty business do to help during this time of crisis?](#)
- [How did Georgetown Village increase their services during this quarantine?](#)
- [How can we help our Georgetown commercial district employees at this time?](#)
- And then there's [Feed the Fight](#) to help support local healthcare workers and local restaurants thanks to organizer and CAG member Elena Tompkins!



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# CAG

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN

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*CAG would like to thank  
everyone for staying  
home and staying safe  
to save lives.*



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