Historic Preservation and Southwest

BY: RYAN PIERCE, CHAIR, SWNA HISTORY TASK FORCE

Historic preservation has become an important tool for many municipalities to maintain their character through the historic sites and places that have helped define them. Washington DC has been a leading city in the preservation movement from inception with the fight to preserve the nearby home of founding father George Washington at Mount Vernon in the late 19th century. The members of the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association were among

See “Preservation” page 4

Pediatric Dental Van Comes to Southwest

It’s been in the works and driven by the Nationals and MLB,” says Councilmember Charles Allen. “What’s that?” you ask? It’s the new pediatric dental van that you will soon see driving around the neighborhood.

The Washington Nationals, the Nationals’ Dream Foundation, and Major League Baseball partnered together to fund the vehicle, which was then turned over to Children’s National Hospital to operate. The van will be able to perform routine check-ups as well as handle larger issues like cavities.

“Our goal is to make sure that every legacy project that we See “Van” page 7

Southwest Sunday Suppers Return

BY: PHILIPPA HUGHES

The Southwest Sunday Suppers series returns in August with casual get-togethers for Southwest neighbors to share a meal and enjoy art and conversation. Supported by the Southwest Business Improvement District, the weekly neighborly gatherings are a great opportunity for longtime residents and newer members of the community to meet and break bread on a warm summer evening and to share their experiences of living in

See “Suppers,” page 7

Published by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc. (SWNA) — a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable and educational corporation. Copyright © 2018
Op-ed: Why the Chancellor Search Matters to Southwest

By: Grace Hu

On June 28, Mayor Muriel Bowser kicked off the search process for the next chancellor of DC Public Schools (DCPS), which serves about 49,000 children. In the coming months, a search committee will solicit community input and advise Bowser on the skills, background, and values they believe the next DCPS chancellor should have. Then, the mayor will nominate a chancellor, who will serve as CEO of DCPS.

What happens with our schools in the next five years will impact the trajectory of our city, and Southwest in particular. The next chancellor will play a vital role in setting the priorities for our school system and tackling its most pressing challenges. It’s time for Southwest residents to pay attention.

Here’s why:

Strong schools make a vibrant SW neighborhood.

Southwest is a multigenerational neighborhood that continues to attract more families. It’s not unusual to walk down the street and see parents and grandparents with baby strollers or school-aged kids. Many new families are waiting to see what happens to our schools before deciding whether to remain in Southwest. Our neighborhood organizations—the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Friends of Southwest, Friends of the Southwest Library, and local churches—have long been involved with serving our youth, and those on the receiving and giving end of those efforts have been made richer by that connection.

Vigilance is needed.

This past year DCPS has been embroiled in scandals (google “DCPS scandal” for details), culminating in the resignation of former Chancellor Antwan Wilson. Local education reform advocates have criticized the chancellor’s search committee, stating it is not representative of DCPS families and teachers and is stacked with charter-school interests. They fear the mayor will select a chancellor without adequate vetting and feedback from stakeholders, just as she did in 2016 when members of the 2016 chancellor search committee complained the mayor had already made up her mind before sharing Wilson’s resume with the committee). As DC residents, we need to stay vigilant and hold city leadership accountable for running a truly open search process for the best possible chancellor.

SW schools are on the rise, but still need help.

Our neighborhood public schools—Amidon-Bowen Elementary and Jefferson Academy—have made incredible progress in the past few years, but still need significant support to fulfill their potential for providing an excellent education. Our schools are not immune to the larger systemic challenges facing DCPS, including:

- Lack of equity in funding schools: The current school funding model fails to provide adequate resources to schools with high percentages of at-risk students. The disparity between wealthy and less wealthy schools is made worse because parent-teacher associations (PTAs) in wealthier neighborhoods are able to fund budget gaps by raising hundreds of thousands of dollars each year;
- Lack of transparency in budgeting and other decision-making: By the time school leadership and Local School Advisory Teams see proposed school budgets in the spring, the budgets are mostly baked, with little explanation behind the decisions. The lack of transparency makes it difficult to have a productive discussion on how to best support our children;
- Lack of classroom technology: Schools lack functioning computers and are on their own to manage and fund IT. Teachers and parents should not have to take on this burden, which could be fixed through a district-wide technology plan and dedicated funding;
- Retention of high-quality educators: DCPS teachers put up with a lot, including lack of resources, limited flexibility in the classroom (because of district-wide prescribed curricula), and the overemphasis on standardized testing. DCPS principals are on one-year contracts. Excluding the principal at School Within a School, the average principal tenure in Ward 6 is 1.3 years at their current school.

We need a chancellor who has the experience, will, and leadership to tackle these complex challenges, even if it means taking on entrenched interests and the DCPS bureaucracy. We also need someone who will prioritize strengthening our neighborhood schools. What parent wants to leave their child’s education up to chance, which is what happens with the current lottery system?

Here’s what can:

- Tell our local officials about your concerns and priorities. Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen’s office can be reached at (202) 724-8072, callen@dcmail.us, or @CMCharlesAllen and Ward 6 State Board of Education Representative Joe Weendon’s office can be reached at (202) 277-9410, Joe.Weendon@dc.gov, or @joeWeendon.

- E-mail amidonbowendc@gmail.com to learn more about the Amidon-Bowen PTA’s advocacy efforts (use “Advocacy” in the subject line); or
- Tell our local officials about your concerns and priorities. Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen’s office can be reached at (202) 724-8072, callen@dcmail.us, or @CMCharlesAllen and Ward 6 State Board of Education Representative Joe Weendon’s office can be reached at (202) 277-9410, Joe.Weendon@dc.gov, or @joeWeendon.

- Donate to us: http://www.razoo.com/story/Southwest-Neighborhood-Assembly

- For more information on the Ward 6 PTA, visit amidonbowenpta.com

- Follow us on Facebook @Amidon-Bowen

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The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund
The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund was created to help reduce the high number of breast cancer cases and high death rates among our region’s most vulnerable residents. With your help, we can reduce the rate of cases and number of deaths from breast cancer.

Donations support outreach and education strategies that link low-income, uninsured and underinsured women with information, screening and diagnostic services.

Gifts may be made by sending check, money order or credit card authorization to the Southwest Renaissance Development Corporation at the address listed below.

When donating by mail, please make check or money order payable to the Southwest Renaissance Development Corporation and write The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund on the memo line.

Southwest Renaissance Development Corporation
400 I Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 484-7700 or (202) 251-1639
tjones15@verizon.net

The Southwester is a multigenerational neighborhood that continues to attract more families. It’s not unusual to walk down the street and see parents and grandparents with baby strollers or school-aged kids. Many new families are waiting to see what happens to our schools before deciding whether to remain in Southwest. Our neighborhood organizations—the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Friends of Southwest, Friends of the Southwest Library, and local churches—have long been involved with serving our youth, and those on the receiving and giving end of those efforts have been made richer by that connection.

Southwest Renaissance Development Corporation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation serving as the fiduciary agent of The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund.

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund

Donate to us: http://www.razoo.com/story/Southwest-Neighborhood-Assembly

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LOG ON TODAY!
www.swna.org • www.TheSouthwester.com
Arena Civil Dialogues Series Continues

Arena Stage will continue to host Arena Civil Dialogues to engage the DC community. Scholar, professor, and peacebuilder Amitai Etzioni will moderate this series of discussions, which focuses on topics and questions in today’s headlines.

WANT TO GO

Aug. 12: The robots are coming
Will robots continue to take more of our jobs? Will they outsmart us? Can they start wars?

Sept. 16: No deplorables here; how to understand each other
A dialogue between Trump supporters and opponents.

Oct. 14: Exploring well-being in a digital world
In the digital age, does constant technology connection undermine our well-being? How can we use technology to improve our overall health? Can we prevent cyberbullying and online hate speech?

Nov. 11: What makes a great America?
Who decides what makes America great? What are the alternate views of what makes a great America, at home and in a global sense? Can America still call itself a global leader?

The meetings will be held in the Molly Smith Study from 5:30 to 7 p.m. There will be a reception before the discussion starting at 5 p.m. in the Lower Lobby. Because of space limitations, registration is required but there is no admission fee.

For more information and to register for future Arena Civil Dialogues, visit: www.arenastage.org/civildialogues

Capital Fringe Visits SW

BY: SHEILA WICKOUSKI

The Capital Fringe festival kicked off the 13th year of its summer theater events at an exuberant preview at The Pearl on July 8. Twenty of the almost 80 shows this year gave four-minute highlights from a variety of dramatic, comic, musical, and mime productions.

This year was a first for The Capital Fringe in several ways. One was its relocation to the Southwest neighborhood, where the venues are close together and visitors can see several shows in a row. From St. Augustine’s Church to Blind Whino is about a 15-minute walk and the distance from Westminster Church to Christ United Church is a 3-minute walk.

Capital Fringe CEO and Co-Founder Julianne Brienza shared how the productions were chosen. Fringe Run Venue and Find Your Own Venue categories are first come, first served, starting in October of the year prior, with agreements reached in February for Fringe training sessions to take place in March and April. This year was also an expansion of the Fringe Curated Series, an invite-only series based on themes and goals of the festival.

Both professional productions and new shows are in the mix with shows coming from as far as San Francisco, Cali., and Toronto, Canada, as well as Colorado, Alabama, Oregon, and Ohio.

So will the Capital Fringe festival be back in Southwest next year and how does that feel? Brienza shared, “We are very thrilled to say yes! It feels great. Come and see some awesome performances, check out all the activities at Market SW and CityBar, and have fun!”

Rowing is for everyone

dcrów.co
the first in the nation to recognize the importance and value of preserving iconic sites associated with significant figures in the nation's history. Another important moment locally came when Don’t Tear It Down, the precursor to the DC Preservation League, was established to save the Old Post Office building from demolition in the 1970s. Over time the field of preservation has shifted focus to become more inclusive in the types of places and stories it works to preserve, attempting to include previously underrepresented people and communities. Until recently efforts focused on sites associated with men who held prominent positions in society, and often left out places important to the stories of women, minorities, and diverse socio-economic groups. As we re-examine what is to be considered worthy of preservation, places like the area of working class housing adjacent to South Capitol St. in Southwest begin to more fully display their importance in DC’s story. This area has already seen some recognition through the landmark designation of the William Syphax School and the James C. Dent Residence, but it now seems appropriate to look at the larger context around these landmarks.

In early 2017 a group of people who live in the area of Southwest that we are considering as “Old Southwest” approached the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) asking our organization to explore the possibility of nominating the area for DC historic district status. Their request was driven by concerns of the increased pace of new development, much of which appeared to be undertaken with little consideration for integration with the existing community. There was also concern over losing the mixed and low-income single-family housing, with its increasingly distinct low-rise residential working-class character. SWNA agreed to explore the potential for a nomination, and applied for and received a grant from the DC Preservation League to hire a consultant to do the research and preparation of a nomination for the Old Southwest Historic District. The SWNA board has since held two community meetings and other informal discussions for residents of the potentially affected district to inform them of the proposal, discuss some of the possible impacts of designation (should the board decide to submit the nomination), and solicit feedback for the decision-making process. Information about the project and historic designation in DC has also been made available on the SWNA website at http://www.swdc.org/old-southwest, along with an online survey to collect additional input from residents. The SWNA board has agreed to follow the process through the preparation of a nomination utilizing the DC Preservation League grant. They will then meet to decide on submission of that nomination based on all community feedback received and the merits of the drafted nomination. The summary for this nomination follows, discussing the potential boundaries and the historic significance of this portion of the neighborhood:

“The Old Southwest Historic District is located in the Southwest quadrant of Washington, DC. The neighborhood area contains the only intact examples of working-class dwellings that characterized Southwest Washington before the urban renewal program of the 1950s and 1960s. The area reflects the developmental patterns of the Southwest quadrant of Washington and the city as a whole. The district is comprised largely of residential properties with some commercial and industrial properties. The district is roughly bounded by South Capitol, M, 2nd, and Q Streets SW. The residential properties include a wide variety of workers housing constructed between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries. Some of these properties were constructed by private individuals, however the majority of dwellings were constructed as part of public initiatives to clear alley houses and construct better housing for the working class. The period of significance for the Old Southwest Historic District spans 1892, the date of construction for the 19th Century Rowhouses located on South Capitol Street, to 1958, the date of construction for the Syphax Gardens Public Housing.”

When it is finalized the full nomination prepared by our consultants, along with any associated documents we may receive, will be made available on the SWNA website for the community to read. In addition, a final community meeting for the wider Southwest community will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on August 27 at Arena Stage. This will be an opportunity to outline the project with a wider audience of community members, review highlights of the final draft of the nomination, and discuss questions raised earlier in the process about the potential impacts of historic designation. If you would like to submit a statement to the SWNA board for their consideration regarding your position on this effort we encourage you to do so in writing, providing us with a copy at the meeting or submitted by email to history@swdc.org, as we have a limited amount of time to utilize the space generously donated to us by Arena Stage for this meeting. Please join us for this community discussion of the Old Southwest Historic District nomination.
# Southwester Summer Bingo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>eat ice cream or gelato with a friend</th>
<th>read the Southwester</th>
<th>visit Pearl Street Warehouse</th>
<th>work out in SW (yoga, bike, walk, run, take a class, play a team sport, etc)</th>
<th>support a local business</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>meet a new neighbor</td>
<td>attend a community meeting</td>
<td>eat at your favorite SW restaurant</td>
<td>meet a SWBID Ambassador</td>
<td>post a photo of the famous SWsunsets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post a photo of The Maine Lobsterman statue</td>
<td>visit the Museum of the Bible</td>
<td>volunteer with any SW organization</td>
<td>visit the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paddle board, canoe, kayak, or water taxi in SW</td>
<td>eat at the Fish Market</td>
<td>visit the National Museum of the American Indian</td>
<td>meet a new neighbor</td>
<td>enjoy a picnic in any of SW’s parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sign up for the SWBID’s newsletter</td>
<td>explore Buzzard Point</td>
<td>volunteer at the SW Gardens</td>
<td>visit the Farmers Market or MarketSW</td>
<td>swim at Randall Pool</td>
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</table>

**How do I play SW Summer Bingo?**

Explore, support, and visit everything in Southwest this summer. Enjoy the old and new. Be nice to your fellow Southwesterners. Meet a new neighbor - cross off a square. Go to the Fish Market, attend a community meeting, and take a photo of SW’s sunsets - cross off more squares. When you get five in a row (diagonal counts!) you win; you are a true SW Supporter. The middle square is a free space for everyone. Post photos as you do the activities on any social media with #SWbingo and email us when you have five in a row to win a prize. Play SW Community Bingo and enjoy some SWDC summer adventures!
Soon after Hoffman-Madison Waterfront (HMW) was awarded the opportunity to redevelop the Southwest Waterfront by the DC government in 2007, HMW was approached by a group of Southwest community members to discuss ways in which HMW could incorporate into the development the rich history of Southwest DC, the Waterfront, and the Municipal Fish Market—the longest continuously operating, outdoor fish market in the country.

HMW agreed, so we began to explore ways to work collaboratively with the community to honor this history. The results of the developer-community partnership that grew from an initial meeting are extraordinary and include:

- a new cultural tourism Heritage Trail sign adjacent to Tiber Island and Waterfront Park that honors the mid-century modern architecture of Southwest;
- pavement markers throughout The Wharf plazas, promenades, sidewalks, and bollard panels on District Pier honoring individuals, structures, and events at The Wharf over the history of DC; and
- historic designation and renovation of the fish cleaning building and oyster shack at the Fish Market and its re-use of the building as a restaurant, the Rappahannock Oyster Company.

A small celebration to honor the completion and installation of the Heritage Trail sign was held on May 10, during which HMW acknowledged and commemorated the long and dedicated effort of the community, in partnership with The Wharf, EHT Traceries, and Cultural Tourism DC, to develop and implement the overall heritage program at The Wharf.

Carolyn Crouch, founder of Washington Walks, an organization that leads tours of DC focusing on its history, commented, “As a member of the original Southwest Heritage Trail working group that developed the content for the River Farms to Urban Towers signs, I was delighted to be able to participate again in creating this newest sign celebrating the history of the site where Tiber Island was built. Like many of the other signs seen on our Heritage Trail, this most recent addition does double duty. It points out the high quality of design that defined much of the urban renewal-era architecture in Southwest while also paying tribute to what was lost when whole-scale change came to the neighborhood in the 1960s.”

To celebrate the installation, members of the Heritage Trail Sign Committee and Cultural Tourism DC gathered in Waterfront Park, also designed by the community in collaboration with HMW and its landscape architect, Nelson Byrd Woltz, to view the new Heritage Trail sign, partake in Perrier and Dolcezza cookies, and reflect on the effort.

During the celebration, Cultural Tourism DC Executive Director Steven Shulman shared, “We’re delighted that the River Farms to Urban Towers: Southwest DC Neighborhood Heritage Trail has become a treasured neighborhood amenity. It’s wonderful that community leaders and District Wharf selected it for helping people learn about mid-20th century modern architecture and its important role in the neighborhood.”

Cultural tourism DC Heritage Trail sign: Early on, the Southwest Heritage group requested that HMW fund the development, fabrication, and installation of a cultural tourism Heritage Trail sign on mid-century modernism, to be added to the existing River Farms to Urban Towers Southwest Heritage Trail. Members of the group included Steven Shulman, Carolyn Crouch, history consultant Mara Cherkasky, and Single Member District ANC Commissioner Andy Litsky, as well as ANC Commissioner Gail Fast, District Wharf Partner Elinor Bacon, and Wharf Community Association President Bob Rubenkonig. Other community members who contributed their time, passion, and knowledge about the history of the Southwest to this project included Eric Jenkins, Bruce Levine, Paul Greenberg, and Marjorie Lightman.

Following more than a year of meetings, the group reached a consensus on the photos, text, and location for the sign that will greet community members and visitors at Waterfront Park, as well as history buffs following the Southwest Heritage Trail and those led by Washington Walks, in its walking tours through the Southwest. HMW has carefully stored the Heritage Trail signs that were taken down for the construction

See “Heritage,” page 11
Welcome to the Neighborhood: Mission Navy Yard

The “longest bar in DC” (at 150 feet long) opened July 23 across the street from Nationals Park. Even better news is the food. Nestled into the southwest corner of 1221 Van St. SE, the neighborhood’s newest restaurant and bar is 12,000 square feet and spans two levels. The space has three bars and 600 feet of outdoor patios on two sides. A hidden fourth bar sits inside a private dining and event space.

The “mile of draft lines” connect to 16 taps: 10 for beer, four for margaritas and cocktails, and three for wine and Prosecco. Although most will come for the drinks, they should stay for the food thanks to Executive Chef Roberto Hernandez (former executive chef of The Smith).

And yes, there is a happy hour menu as well as a forthcoming brunch.

SUPPERS
Continued from p. 1
Southwest and hopes for the future.
DC artists kicked off each supper last year with hand dancing demonstrations by the Greenleaf dance club, theatrical storytelling by Playback Theater, and spoken word stories told by poets from Words, Beats & Life. We’ll be joined again this summer by artists whose work focuses on helping us tell our stories and on connect-
Meet Charlene Porter of the SWBID

BY: DONNA PURCHASE

Southwest DC is fast becoming the “place to be” in the District. Over the next few months we will spotlight the dedicated staff of the Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID) who are focused on making our neighborhood a clean, safe, vibrant community to live, work, and visit.

SWBID Environmental Ambassador

Charlene Porter is one of four women on the “blue shirt” team. She’s out and about beautifying the Southwest community. She says she knows her work really makes a difference. Asked how she came to work for the SWBID, Porter says she was walking in the neighborhood when she stopped into the SWBID office and asked whether they were hiring—the rest is history.

Porter is acknowledged as one of the top three team members. She constantly goes above and beyond her duties. One co-worker says one day he was looking for Porter and couldn’t find her. Eventually, he found her behind the trees looking for trash. She doesn’t want even one piece of paper on the ground on her route!

Co-workers say Porter is a real comedienne and keeps things lively, even when it’s been a long day. When you run into her you know a joke is coming! She’s great for team morale.

Porter grew up in Northeast DC, but for the past eight years she has lived right here in Southwest in Syphax Gardens. She loves our quiet neighborhood, where she lives with her 10-year-old daughter, a student at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School. She’s a single mother of two, if you count their Siamese cat Mya.

SWBID COO Andre Witt says, “Her work ethic is strong. She’s dependable. We’re lucky to have her!”

SWBID Executive Director Steve Moore says, “Charlene is a great addition to our team!”

Fun Facts about Charlene Porter:

Favorite movie: Madea’s Family Reunion
Favorite music: She loves music, especially hip-hop and oldies but goodies.
Favorite song: “Boo’d Up/Umbrella” Ella Mai and Rihanna mashup
Favorite sports team: Washington Redskins
Favorite Southwest spot: The SWBID office, where she gets to come to work every day
Best thing about her job: Helping the community
Proudest moment: She’s a proud mother.
Life motto: If there’s anything you don’t want to do, the women in blue will do it for you!

Two Churches Practice Unity and Resistance

BY: REV. RUTH HAMILTON

While Riverside Baptist awaits completion of its new church building at 7th and Maine Streets SW, the congregation has started joint 11 a.m. Sunday worship with Westminster Presbyterian at 4th and 1 Streets SW.

Riverside Pastor Michael Bledsoe and Westminster Co-Pastors Brian and Ruth Hamilton alternate preaching and the services are a rich blend of the varied music styles, traditions, and creativity of their worship.

Ruth Hamilton says, “As progressive, interracial, LGBTQ-affirming congregations, we already have a lot in common. We look forward to continuing this ecumenical partnership even when Riverside moves into its new building this fall.”

Resistance Bible Study, developed by Reverend Dr. Jim Burklo, who is chaplain at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, is led Sunday mornings from 10 to 10:45 a.m. by Denise Diab, a second-career senior at San Francisco Theological Seminary, where she will earn her Master’s of Divinity and become a candidate for minister of word and sacrament.

About this approach to Bible study, Burklo says: “This study of the Bible seeks inspiration in it for the defense of American democracy. Our approach to the biblical texts will model the resistance required to stop our nation’s current slide toward totalitarianism. Just as we must interpret our present crisis without dogmatic preconceptions, we’ll read the Bible without a doctrinal filter. We’ll read it meditatively: letting it lift us above fear and frustration and direct us into deliberative action. We’ll read the signs of our present times in historical context, and read the Bible in the same way. We’ll be listening for echoes from the Bible resonating from the U.S. Constitution.” All are welcome.
June Meeting of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group

BY: ELISABETH ANN BROWN

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) Support Group provides a place for patients, caregivers, and family members to learn about getting the much-needed support and latest information that can help them lessen the impact of their serious health challenges. A cancer diagnosis is always devastating, but it no longer has to be considered a death sentence. Modern medicine and follow-up care have made great strides. This is not to say that things won’t still be difficult and at times emotional. This is the case not only for the patients, but for the family members who are caring for them as well. The support group is available for everyone. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, unless otherwise specified.

In her opening remarks, TDJBCF Founder Thelma D. Jones welcomed the group and introduced St. Augustine’s vestry member and finance chairperson, William “Bill” Kaemmer, who made a surprise $300 donation to the TDJBCF in support of its operating expenses. “Thanks to Thelma, who encouraged me to visit this church, I am enjoying being a member and wanted to support the TDJBCF as it’s a great outreach effort for the church, the community, and the region at large, as practically everyone knows someone with breast cancer or some other form of cancer,” Kaemmer said. Acknowledging the generous donation, Jones invited Kaemmer to share his recent medical challenge involving open heart surgery for a recently diagnosed genetic heart condition. Kaemmer not only shared his story but also committed to some fundraising efforts for the TDJBCF, including a future breast cancer walk and a proposed event on the Odyssey which drew a strong applause from the group. “I was surprised to learn I had an issue since I am an avid runner and had no symptoms. Yet, it was during a routine physical test at the military hospital at Fort Belvoir that caught the condition,” Kaemmer said. Kaemmer is currently on active duty orders and serves as the master of religious affairs NCO for the National Guard Bureau.

With a tough act to follow, Reverend Dr. Beryl Evangeline Dennis of the Wesley Theological Seminary presented her project thesis, “Caring for the Spirit of the Family Caregiver,” for her doctorate degree. The objective of this research project was to inquire about the lives and experiences of family caregivers, so a devotional could be developed that would speak directly to their needs as a way of caring for their spirits. Exploring “what caregivers need” opened the research to the very core of caring for the spirit of the family caregiver, because needs based on real experiences were identified. Volunteers are still welcome to participate in the research survey, which can be found here: https://www.esurveycreator.com/s/bdennisminsurvey.

Dennis indicated that one of the most common responses to deal with caregiver stress is prayer. She suggested having ways to relieve stress, and having someone who can step in to give them a break, allowing them to step away when things become overwhelming.

The group then heard from Mandi Pratt-Chapman, associate director of patient-centered initiatives and health equity at The George Washington University Cancer Center, who spoke about her work in patient navigation and improving health care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) patients. DC has one of the highest LGBTQI populations in the country. There is a need to address significant obstacles to care and health disparities in this population. For example, because of the biases experienced by the LGBTQI community, transgender men are 37% less likely to have cervical cancer screenings. Some of the problems that LGBTQI patients face include family rejection, provider bias and negative experiences in the health care system, and tobacco-related addiction as a result of chronic stress and targeted marketing. Also, there is very little research to guide the clinical care of intersex patients. Programs are being developed to address health care equity, and to assist providers in practicing better patient-centered care.

Health equity is also a problem for disabled people also, especially for women when it comes to getting mammograms and pap smears. Many disabled women have never had mammograms and pap smears. Many disabled women have never had mammograms and pap smears. Many disabled women have never had mammograms and pap smears. Many disabled women have never had mammograms and pap smears.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST

WED 1, WHARF WEDNESDAYS, 17, 18,22, 29, 29th, WHARF, Wharf.com

WED 1, 7:30 P.M. STORY DISTRICT MIXTAPE, Union Stage at the Wharf. Doors open 6:00 p.m.

WED 4, 4:30 P.M. Board Games! Children ages 6-12 are invited to play board and card games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 901 6th Street SW, 202-724-4752.

WED 1, 6:30 P.M. Writer’s Workshop Wednesday, SW Library

FRI 3, 3:00 P.M. Friday Films: Join us for a showing of a surprise film, rated G or PG, Fridays 3rd, 10th, 17th. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

SAT 4, 10:30 A.M.-12 P.M. Komen Toastmasters International meet 1st and 3rd Saturdays. All are welcome. Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 1st St SW. Contact www.toastmasters.org for information on membership and fees.

SAT 4, 11:30 A.M. Yoga Nidra — Meditation, Chant, Breath, and Relax! All levels welcome. Led by Alexandra Wilson. Bring a mat and light covering. Invite your family and friends. 5-10 donation suggested. Westminster Church

SAT 3, 3:00 P.M. Hot Dog Craft. Children ages 4-12 are invited to celebrate summer with a hot dog craft. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

SAT 5, 10-10:45 A.M. Resistance Bible Study, 9th, 12th, 19th. Join this vital study and discussion to see how the Bible sheds light on the crisis facing our nation. How do we apply Jesus teaching to the issues of our time? Facilitator: Denise Diab, second-career, second-year student at San Francisco Theological Seminary. All are welcome. Free to the public. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

SAT 9, 10, 10:30 A.M. Garden Club. Children ages 4-12 are invited to learn about and assist with the library garden. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

SAT 10, 10:30 A.M. Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing dragon boat racing to the nation’s capital. The DC Dragon Boat Club. 1201 I Street SW, 202-282-2270. DRAGON BOAT CUB. 6:30 P.M. Saturdays. Interested in meeting new people, getting into hubs and enjoying the great outdoors? Come to the Ancher Stone at the DC Wharf located at 709 Wharf Street, Washington, DC and join a paddling session with the DC Dragon Boat Club. Dragon boat is the fastest growing water sport in the world! It’s a great workout that’s enjoyed by paddlers of all ages and experience levels. The DC Dragon Boat Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing dragon boating to the D.C. area. We are micro-accordable and offer regular practices, opportunities to race in local events, and social activities. Beginners are welcome! The first three practices are free. Sign up at www.dcdragonboat.org! Questions? Email info@dcdragonboat.org.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WALK-IN CLINIC, 1 – 4 P.M. Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

EVENING PRAYER, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

FEDERAL CITY RUNNERS TUESDAY NIGHT RUN GROUP, 6:30 P.M., Meet every Tuesday by Waterfront Metro exit (near Safeway). Run distance: 4-6 miles. Half of all proceeds go to The Humane Rescue Alliance. For more information, contact the race director at 202-488-7417.

FIELD FRIDAYS, Fridays, 3:00 P.M. Join us for a screening of a surprise film, rated PG or PG-13. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 901 6th Street SW, 202-724-4752.

WED 15, 10:30 A.M. End of Summer Party. Starting Wednesday at 12 noon. Current AARP members, prospective members and visitors are welcome. Lunch is available. Cost $5.00 for lunch. River Park Mutual Homes’ South Common Room, 1311 D bw. 202-724-4752.

SAT 4, 10-10:45 A.M. Resistance Bible Study. 5th, 26 from 4-6 P.M. Each meal will feature ways to connect with your neighbors. All guests must sign up to reserve their space. See website for more information. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

WED 15, 10:30 A.M. End of Summer Party. Starting Wednesday at 12 noon. Current AARP members, prospective members and visitors are welcome. Lunch is available. Cost $5.00 for lunch. River Park Mutual Homes’ South Common Room, 1311 D bw. 202-724-4752.

SAT 18, 10-10:45 A.M. Resistance Bible Study. 9th, 12th, 19th. Join this vital study and discussion to see how the Bible sheds light on the crisis facing our nation. How do we apply Jesus teaching to the issues of our time? Facilitator: Denise Diab, second-career, second-year student at San Francisco Theological Seminary. All are welcome. Free to the public. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

SUN 19, 10-10:45 A.M. Resistance Bible Study. 5th, 26 from 4-6 P.M. Each meal will feature ways to connect with your neighbors. All guests must sign up to reserve their space. See website for more information. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

WED 21, 6:30 P.M. Nightwriters—a dedicated quiet writing space. SW Library.


SAT 25, 1-3 P.M. Thinking About Jazz presents U Street Jazz: Jazz in DC. In the early years of the twentieth century U Street was the geographic center of an urban cultural and social wetlands, a contact zone in which cultures met, clashed, and coexisted with each other—often through music. Come out and hear U Street told the groundwork for DC’s contemporary cultural offerings. Rehnlein Boarding House, 1301 U Street NW, 202-544-1977. Doors open at 6:30 P.M. Refreshments.

SUN 26, 2:00 p.m. (Sunday Matinee) – STORY DISTRICT MIXTAPE, Union Stage at the Wharf.

WED 1, 13:30 P.M. Teen Lounge, Photography Edition. Teens ages 13-19 invited to participate in a creative expression of various kinds, including coloring, writing, and more. You bring the camera/image/phone, we bring the expert instruction. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 1st St SW. 202-323-9512.

SAT 25, 1:30 P.M. – SW Library Book Discussion – copies of the month’s title, “Wishrola” by John Farnley are available at the information desk.

SAT 25, 3:00 P.M. Rocket Ship Craft. Children ages 4-12 are invited to design and create their own rocket ship. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

SAT 26, 2:00 p.m. (Sunday Matinee) – STORY DISTRICT MIXTAPE, Union Stage at the Wharf.
The Wharf, built in 1916-1918 as pre–home market, was once part of the Municipal Fish Market, a lunch room for fishermen and market workers and an open oyster shucking shed were once part of the Municipal Fish Market. The lunch room and shed were re-installed in the community group, appointed by ANC 6D commissioners, worked for more than a year to identify and research noteworthy individuals, events, and structures at The Wharf throughout history. Many ideas were considered, and the group pared down the list to 26 sidewalk markers and 10 engraved panels to be installed on the District Pier bollards. For each marker and panel, the committee had detailed discussions of wording, images, and location, etc. HMW plans to develop a phone app that will elaborate on the subject of each of the markers to tell the full story of the historic event, place, or person highlighted.

Fish cleaning building: Although commonly referred to as the Fish cleaning building, it was actually two buildings: a lunch room for fishermen and market workers and an open oyster shucking shed that had been joined in the 1940s with an unsightly addition to serve as a public restaurant. The lunch room and shed were once part of the Municipal Fish Market, built in 1916-1918 as pre–home project of the DC municipal government and Congress. HMW believed it was critical to preserve and honor these buildings, although they were in almost irretrievable condition. HMW worked in partnership with the DC Office of Preservation, historic preservation specialist EHT Traceries, and architecture firm StudioMB to landmark the buildings and restore them consistently with the historic standards required. The historically rehabilitated buildings will soon open as the Rappahannock Oyster Company, an exciting new restaurant specializing in fish and oysters—a most fitting future for these historic resources.

Eig, an architectural historian and historic preservation specialist with EHT Traceries who participated in various aspects of the project for many years, is excited about how the area’s history was documented and how it is being remembered: “The united efforts of the community and HMW to research, document, and commemorate the history of The Wharf and the Fish Market ensures that the area’s heritage is permanently incorporated into this exciting new destination on the Washington Channel. Anyone who visits—whether tourist, student, visitor, or resident—cannot help but discover that The Wharf has a vibrant history...lively, long, significant, and well worth remembering”.

HMW is proud and pleased to have worked with the community, local historians and consultants, Cultural Tourism DC, and the District to preserve and honor the rich history of the Southwest Waterfront.

Litsky thoughtfully sums up the Heritage Program: “As one walks along the gleaming new structures at The Wharf, it is remarkable to see how much thought and attention has been devoted to properly acknowledging the past. The Wharf Heritage Program provides a distinct sense of place and ensures that two centuries of our own neighborhood history will be celebrated for many years to come.”

MEETING
Continued from p. 9

grams or pap smears because of the difficulties they face with both provider sensitivity and equipment that is designed for able–bodied patients.

After the Q&A session, Jones reminded the audience about the DC Department of Health Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) and the Cancer Thriving and Survivor (CTS) workshops, both of which she is trained and experienced in teaching. The CDSMP and CTS workshops are offered to District residents during 2.5-hour-long sessions held weekly for six weeks. The workshops are free to participants and led by two peer leaders, one of whom will have a chronic disease or be a cancer survivor. Each participant receives a guidebook entitled Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions and a relaxation CD. Participants are empowered to manage their chronic conditions using brainstorming, action planning, and problem solving. For more information on the self-management program, please call (202) 442-5925, email dccancer.chronic@dc.gov, or visit http://dccancer.chronic@dc.gov.

During the door prize drawings, Jones directed the group’s attention to the display table, which included select gifts she received from the Washington Nationals as the 2018 Major League Baseball Bat Girl. This included, among other sponsor apparel, a Dooney & Bourke bag, a pink Nationals baseball cap autographed by Outfielder Andrew Stevenson (#54), tickets awarded to her and her guests to see the Nationals host the Los Angeles Dodgers on May 20, and a commemorative jersey with her name engraved on it, which she proudly sported on the field in a pre-game recognition that same day.

Co-sponsored by Black Benefactors (BB), a giving circle, the next support group meeting will be held on August 15 at 6 p.m. at St. Augustine’s. In observance of Black Philanthropy Month in August, TDJBCF support group members and the public will be invited to share why they give to make the world a better place. Giving stories, which should be 100 words or less, will be shared on BB’s website. For information on the TDJBCF, please visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TDJBreastCancerFund/, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org, or call (202) 251-1639.

St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church
“A Spiritual Presence on DC’s Southwest Waterfront”
Wherever you are on your faith journey and in your life ... what ever questions, doubts and experiences you come with ... we welcome you to join us!

St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church
The Rev. Martha Clark, Rector
202-554-3222
www.staugustinesdc.org
rector@staugustinesdc.org
@StAugustinesDC
THREE CHEERS FOR FIVE YEARS

This month, Blind Whino is celebrating five years as a beacon for DC arts and culture. Mark your calendars for our birthday party on September 8 – more info to come!

HIGH FIVE

Shoutout to Capital Fringe for bringing their eclectic annual performing arts festival to the Waterfront last month and for raising enough money to renovate their Trinidad space and become a full-fledged arts organization.

GREATEST HITS

We breathed new life into a historic church, livening up a sleepy corner of Southwest with our commitment to championing the District’s creative community. Here are some of our favorite events from over the years:

// Artist Hense painting our iconic exterior
// The Invisible Bully’s Bad Boy Pop Up, attended by mogul P. Diddy
// Hip hop duo Rae Sremmurd’s album release party
// Superfierce, an exhibit featuring 30+ female artists which successfully raised awareness and funding for breast cancer initiatives
// Our most recent event for which we partnered with Major League Baseball to host discussions on diversity, business, sports, and culture