



The Southwester

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Serving the Waterfront Communities of Southwest and Navy Yard

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Support for “Build First” Model at Greenleaf Gaining Steam

By: William Rich, CBCC Board Member

A number of neighborhood groups have been working for months on how to implement a “build first” strategy for Greenleaf, so existing residents are not displaced from Southwest while the public housing complex is redeveloped over the next several years. “Build First” was first made popular by former Ward 6 councilmember and current director of the DC’s Department of Energy & Environment, Tommy Wells. In previous cases across the city where public housing complexes were redeveloped, current residents were given vouchers or moved to other areas of the city while redevelopment occurred. Once the new housing was built, some of the residents who met eligibility standards were allowed to return. In the case of Arthur Capper/Carrollsgburg in Navy Yard, which was redeveloped through the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Hope VI program, it has been about a decade since the old buildings were demolished and many former residents remain displaced, thanks to extended construction timelines of replacement housing and eligibility limitations. In contrast, a “build first” model allows vacant areas of a public housing complex or other parcels in the vicinity to be redeveloped first so residents can stay in the community during the redevelopment process. Many believe “build first” is the only way to avoid permanent displacement, but it is typically difficult to implement because there usually isn’t enough land available or the political will to do it. “Build first” can be implemented at Greenleaf because there is sufficient



The Greenleaf Senior building at Delaware Avenue and M Street SW. It was constructed in 1959.

land available and, because of community activism, this is the first time public officials have put themselves on record in support of seeing it realized.

There Is Plenty of Land in Southwest

Greenleaf stretches 15 acres across several city blocks on either side of M Street and includes 493 public housing units in 23 buildings. The majority of the units are two-bedroom apartments, a minority of units in new housing developed

recently in Southwest, and the mix ranges from one-bedroom up to six-bedroom units. One of the components of Greenleaf is a seniors building on Delaware Avenue and M Street, and displacement would be even more of a hardship for this population, so the focus of the Community Benefits Coordination Council (CBCC) has been to find one or more sites for a mixed-income seniors building. Unity Health Care’s Southwest Health Center at Delaware Avenue and I Street has been identified as a potential location for such a complex, combining health services and mixed-income seniors housing. Although the three-story building is a historic landmark, there is the potential to build residential units above and on land adjacent to the clinic.

Unity leases the building from the DC government and does not have the funds to maintain the building. The elevator no longer works and the cost to repair it is too expensive for Unity, so they have decided to do a minor renovation of the facility by moving all services to the first floor. As a result, the Southwest Health Center will lose dental services once renovations are complete in 2016. If the Unity site is redeveloped as a health center/mixed-income seniors housing complex as a part of Greenleaf’s redevelopment, funds would be available to fully renovate the building, and allow dental services to return to the clinic, as well as the potential for additional services. This is a proposal that has been introduced and supported by the CBCC in order to avoid displacement of Greenleaf residents, includ-

See “Build First,” page 2

High School Students: Compete and Win \$1,000

White House at Bat: A Presidential History Challenge

The Washington Nationals and the White House Historical Association (WHHA) have partnered together to bring education and sports together in a new and refreshing way. To enter the competi-

tion high school students in 9th through 12th grade from Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia are eligible to participate and compete for a \$1,000 grand prize.

See “Challenge” page 7



(Source: <http://www.whitehousehistory.org/nationals/plan-your-storyboard>)



Photo courtesy of Dan Norman.

Akeelah and the Bee: An Interview with Molly Yeselson

Akeelah and the Bee is running at Arena Stage from Nov. 13 to Dec. 27. SWNA’s Katelynd Mahoney was lucky enough to interview Molly Yeselson, who plays the role of Izzy/Snorting Girl/Crying Girl. This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Q: What are you most excited about in your roles?

A: I’m most excited that this show features characters of color just being people who go

See “Interview,” page 3



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BUILD FIRST

From p. 1

ing the seniors as a result of redevelopment. As CBCC Vice Chair Fredrica Kramer said, “Having easy access—health services by elevator—to a greatly expanded clientele would be a mutual win for the [DC] Housing Authority [DCHA], the community’s larger-than-city-average senior population, and the current primary health care provider.”

Political Support

The ANC voted unanimously in October on a resolution, sponsored by 6D-03 Commissioner Rachel Reilly Carroll, called “Resolution in Support of Avoiding the Displacement of Public Housing Residents During the Redevelopment of Public Housing Buildings in the Southwest Neighborhood,” which supports a “build first” model for Greenleaf’s eventual redevelopment. The resolution urges DCHA, the DC City Council, and the Office of the Mayor to form an Interagency Working Group within the next 30 days to evaluate the feasibility of executing a “build first” strategy utilizing one or more of the 21 publicly owned parcels in Southwest identified during the Office of Planning’s recent Southwest Neighborhood Plan process. In addition, the ANC would like at least one commissioner to serve on the Interagency Working Group and to report on its progress and findings at least once a month to the Greenleaf Neighborhood Advisory Group until redevelopment commences.

Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen has

also expressed strong support. Allen introduced a Sense of the Council Resolution in October supporting a “build first” model for Greenleaf. The resolution states in part:

“The Greenleaf and surrounding Southwest community share significant concerns regarding potential displacement of current Greenleaf public housing residents as part of the DCHA future redevelopment. The Office of Planning, as part of its extensive small area plan process, recognized these concerns and included recommendations in its Southwest Neighborhood Plan, which was approved by the Council of the District of Columbia on July 14, 2015.”

Greenleaf Redevelopment Plan

A public meeting was held on Oct. 24 by DCHA, master planner Perkins Eastman, and consultant HR&A Advisors to discuss the redevelopment of Greenleaf. More than 100 people attended the meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church, including a large number of Greenleaf residents, other residents of the Southwest community, and public officials. Many of the attendees expressed their desire for DCHA to implement a “build first” model for Greenleaf. At the meeting, there were five design principles discussed that will be used in the redevelopment of Greenleaf:

1. Utilize a mix of tall and low buildings;
2. Create a well-defined public green space;
3. Use trees to beautify, help make place, and create a healthier living environment;
4. Connect the new Greenleaf to other areas of the city;

5. All new construction must first and foremost be exemplary urban architecture.

The October meeting was the first chance for the greater Southwest community to get involved in the redevelopment process, but Greenleaf residents have been engaged over the past year or so. According to the HR&A consultants’ presentation, the redevelopment plan will be created over the next six to nine months with two additional community meetings planned in the interim. The final plan is expected to be completed sometime in mid-2016. After that, an request for proposal will be released, and it will take another six to nine months to receive responses, get community input, and select a winning developer. Then, developer negotiations will take a year to 18 months to complete, but design and permitting can be done concurrently. After that construction can begin on the first phases, which can take two to three years to complete. Other phases will be completed depending on market conditions.

A Model for the District

The redevelopment of Greenleaf as a mixed income community should be possible without displacing current residents. Implementing a “build first” model, starting with a health center/mixed-income seniors housing complex at the Unity site would be a win-win for the community—expanded health services in a modern facility and seniors of all income levels can “age in place” with easy access to medical care. This can serve as a model for the district, and perhaps the nation, as aging public housing complexes are razed in favor of mixed-income communities.

The Southwester

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(8:00 a.m. only on a Federal Holiday)

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

WEEKEND

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Vigil

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

HOLIDAYS

5:00 p.m. Vigil

8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

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Monday—Friday: 11:55 a.m.

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24: Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. ~ Vigil Mass

9:00 p.m. ~ Mass During the Night: “Midnight Mass”

December 25: Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. ~ Mass During the Day

Dec. 31/Jan. 1: Mary, Mother of God

5:00 p.m. ~ Vigil Mass; 10 a.m. Solemnity Mass

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Stations: O Come Emmanuel

Saturday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. ~ For a night of light with wax candles all burning, come to hear songs & short readings that tie the season together. Confessions start at 6:30 p.m.

The Light is ON!: Advent Confessions

Thursdays 5:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m. ~ Welcome! Our doors are open and the light is on for you for quiet prayer and Confessions.

Eucharistic Adoration & Holy Hour

Thursdays 4:45 p.m.—5:45 p.m. ~ Come and spend some quiet time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Religious Movie Seminar

Sundays ~ 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Meeting Room • Dec. 6—Restless Heart: The Confessions of St. Augustine, pt.1 (2012); Dec. 13—Restless Heart: The Confessions of St. Augustine, pt. 2

NEW! Young Adult Group

Thursdays ~ Our weekly format will include Adoration from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by a talk or discussion from 7:40 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., with refreshments after.

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as published in
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INTERVIEW

From p. 1

about their lives. The fact that the show exists is exciting. We're so used to seeing shows with a ton of white people and then the token person of color. How often does it happen that we flip that ratio on its head and have 13 out of the 14 actors in this show be people of color? I find it so exciting to be playing characters where my race isn't what defines me; where my identity is so much more than the color of my skin.

Q: How does the play differ from the 2006 movie of the same name?

A: Well to start, Cheryl (the playwright) moved the setting of our show from Los Angeles to Chicago. Moving the play to Chicago really changed the dynamic. Our play feels busier than the movie, since Akeelah now lives in a neighborhood where everyone knows about everyone else's business. Characters changed a lot from the movie, since Cheryl added some characters (such as the characters I play) and then took out and combined other characters. Though, I feel as if the biggest difference from the movie is that we're able to make the audience experience the events in *Akeelah* in the first person. For example, the way the show is staged, audiences feel like they're actually at the various spelling bees!

Q: What inspired you to try out for a role in the production?

A: I actually had no idea about the project until I got a phone call from Amelia Powell asking me if I'd like to come in and audition for the role of Izzy. (Amelia is the casting director at Arena Stage.) I immediately accepted the opportunity to audition for a couple of reasons: *Akeelah* was one of my absolute favorite movies as a kid. We owned it on DVD and I probably watched it once every few weeks. So, the idea of being in the world premiere adaption of *Akeelah* was appealing enough already! I guess I was also inspired to audition, since I love Arena Stage. Arena has put on some of the most moving pieces of theater I've seen and the idea of being able to potentially give other people the same magical experience of live theater was a huge inspiration for my decision to audition.

Q: You play more than one role in the production. How did you prepare? What was the biggest challenge? What was the biggest surprise?

A: My characters don't talk a ton in the show, but my track is very blocking heavy. That means I have to constantly know when and where I need to be within the show. Most of my preparation included color-coding my script and making spreadsheets. All of this proved very helpful when we got into tech at Children's Theatre Company. For example: Let's say that our amazing stage manager, Chris, said, "Okay, we're starting with Akeelah's line on the top of page 32." I could quickly glance down at my script and see what color Post-it Note was on that page. From the Post-it Note, I'd know exactly where I needed to be, what I needed to be wearing, what props I needed, and when my entrance/exit was.

The biggest challenge for me was the fact that we were making huge changes in the show throughout the rehearsal process into tech and previews. Scenes and lines were cut, added back into the show, moved to a different act in the show! It was crazy trying to remember what the most recent version of our show was and we even got new words for the spelling bees three hours before opening night!

The biggest surprise by far was how amazing it was to work with this cast. Of course people get on each other's nerves sometimes (like in any family), but over the 11 weeks in Minneapolis, the whole cast became really close. A couple of the actors from Minneapolis couldn't join us for the second leg of our journey here at Arena and it was really a bittersweet day when we had to say goodbye.

Q: What is your favorite part of the play? What do you think the audience will most enjoy?

A: My favorite parts of the play are the different spelling bees and I think the audience will enjoy them the most, as well. The energy is great in the bees and the bees have some of the funniest moments in the show. I can't give too much away, but I'd say the bees are also pretty cool if you're into techy things.

Q: You are an alum of Camp Arena Stage, how does it feel to come back this time in a production?

A: It's so amazing to come back to Arena and be in *Akeelah*. I loved my time at Camp Arena Stage and then being a part of Voices of Now. Both were incredibly meaningful experiences that helped me form connections here at Arena. When I found out that the *Akeelah* audition was going to be in the classroom where I did Voices of Now, I felt instantly more relaxed and confident. I've seen a lot of shows at Arena that touched me in various ways, such as *The Blood Quilt* and *Dear Evan Hansen*. Both shows happened to be in the Kreeger Theater (where *Akeelah* will play) and as I sat there soaking up the amazing work of the artists onstage and off, I realized that I'm going to have the same opportunity to touch peoples' lives. Theater can make such a difference and I'm extremely grateful to have the chance to change people's perceptions of themselves and the world around them.

Q: Akeelah has to overcome numerous challenges. What would you say to the kids who are seeing the production to help them overcome their own challenges?

A: Be an advocate for yourself. Speak up when you need help. Other people can only help you when you tell them that you're struggling. *Akeelah* only begins to succeed when she tells the truth about how she's feeling.





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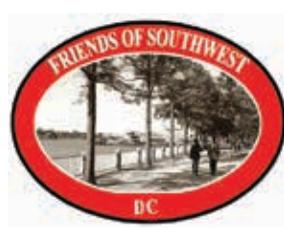
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Family Fun Day at Amidon-Bowen

By: Bruce DarConte
Near Southeast Community Partners
Amidon PTA/LSA

Amidon-Bowen held its 2015 Family Fun Day event on Halloween at the school. Events included Wii dancing, imagination foam blocks, basketball, tennis, and activities on the playground.

Thanks to the new flat screen televisions, which were installed in the cafeteria, a Wii system was installed for the event, which proved to be a huge hit as kids danced up a storm. The

adults joined in as we had a mini dance contest! A costume parade started in the cafeteria and worked its way around the school to three candy stations, where all the kids received Halloween treats. The parade was followed by a cook-out by the Amidon PTA.

More than 120 people attended the event and everyone had a blast. The Amidon PTA, Near Southeast Community Partners, Edgewood Brookland Collaborative, Principal Miller, teachers, staff, and volunteers all worked together to make this event a huge success.

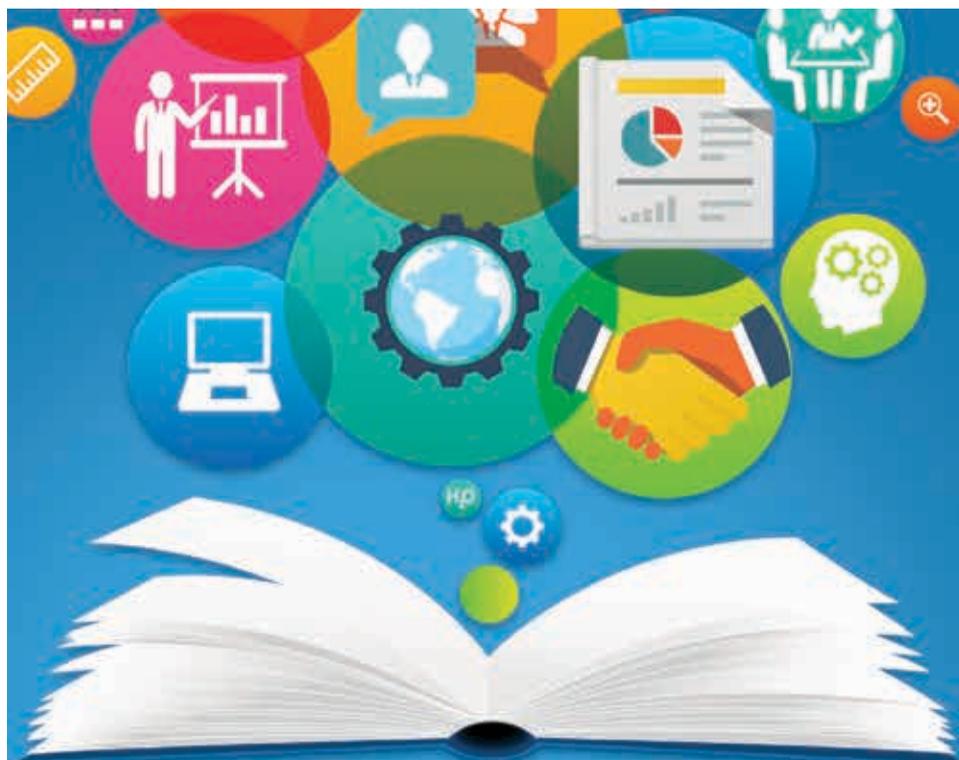
Computers-for-Kids

Perry Klein, Chair, SWNA Technology Task Force

Here is a photo of students at the weekly Computer-for-Kids class at the James Creek public housing Resident Council building, in a computer lab we set up there. Here they are receiving a lesson in the use of PowerPoint. We received the computers from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Their refurbishing was supported by a grant from the Friends of Southwest DC. When the kids successfully complete the eight-week program, they are eligible to receive a computer from us to take home for use by their families. Computers-for-Kids is a program of SWNA's Youth Activities Task Force.



Photo courtesy of Perry Klein.



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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, FROM 6-8PM

Along the District's Southwest Waterfront at Gangplank Marina Park

Join us for a magical night of merriment as we celebrate the holidays with a colorful parade of lighted boats and the first snow fall of the season

- 6:00PM:**
- ✦ Delight as snow begins to fall along the waterfront
 - ✦ Marvel at the decorated houseboats and docked vessels
 - ✦ Watch the lighting of the Gangplank Marina Christmas Tree
 - ✦ Celebrate the season by wearing a festive balloon hat
 - ✦ Pose for a family photograph with a very jolly Santa Claus
 - ✦ Test your skill at s'mores making and marshmallow roasting
 - ✦ Sip hot chocolate and be warmed by the roaring bonfire
 - ✦ Show your creativity and decorate gingerbread cookies
 - ✦ Craft your own holiday sailboat
- 7:00PM:**
- ✦ Herald the arrival of the parade of boats from Alexandria
 - ✦ Vote for your very favorite decorated boat in the parade
- 7:45PM:**
- ✦ Cheer at a water-filled salute to the John Glenn fireboat
 - ✦ Applaud as parade and in-slip prize winners are announced!

Parade of Lights is presented by **THE WHARF**

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Parade of Lights is co-produced by Washington Waterfront Association and Old Dominion Boat Club with the support of Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association, Alexandria Fire Department, Cantina Marina, Capital Yacht Club, Destination DC, District of Columbia Fire Department, Entertainment Cruises, EventBrite, Gangplank Marina, Gangplank Slipholders Association, Jenny's, Joint Base Myer – Henderson Hall, King Ribs B-B-Q, MPD Harbor Patrol, PhotoGenics, Port of Washington Yacht Club, and Potomac Riverboat Company.

This is a FREE outdoor event, held rain or snow. Parade of Lights is best viewed in the District at 600 Water Street SW in Gangplank Marina Park—with Capital Bike Share and just a short walk from L'Enfant Plaza and Waterfront Metrorail stops. More information regarding the 24th Annual Parade of Lights: visit www.wharfdc.com or call 202-688-3590. To register a boat in the parade: www.deboatparade.eventbrite.com

DECEMBER 2015

WED 2, 4:30 P.M. Game Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us to play board games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

WED 2, 7-8:30 P.M. CREATIVE WRITING. Novel writing workshop with Jessica Spottswood, in the Reading Room of the SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 5, 1-2:30 P.M. YOGA NIDRA at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street, SW. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation, including a focus on self healing. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email: wilsonpj108@verizon.net.

SAT 5, 3 P.M. Holiday Crafts. Children & families are invited to join us in creating holiday-themed crafts to decorate for the season. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library

SUN 6, 3 P.M. P.M. Build-it Studio. Children aged 6-12 are invited to join us in creative, hands-on fun building structures using everyday materials. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

MON 7, 4:30 P.M. Children's Book Club. Children ages 8-12 are invited to join us to discuss a book together. Please call or stop by the Children's Room to find out the latest pick. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library

WED 9, 4:30 P.M. Create Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for arts & crafts activities. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

THURS 10, 3-6 P.M. Neighborhood Legal Services. Attorney Maya Sheppard will be available to answer employment related legal questions covering areas such as discrimination and wrongful dismissal. SW Neighborhood Library.

FRI 11, 8-9:30 A.M. Councilmember Charles Allen SW Community Meeting, Starbucks inside Safeway, 1100 4th Street SW.

SAT 12, 3 P.M. ASL Story Time. Stories, games, and fun in American Sign Language with Deaf Services Librarian Janice Rosen. ASL/voice interpreters and therapy dogs from People Animals Love will be present. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

SUN 13, 2:30 P.M. P.A.L. (People Animals Love) Dog Visit. Children ages 4-12 are invited to read aloud to a P.A.L. dog. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

MON 14, 10 A.M.-Noon. Age Friendly DC Programs Report. SW Neighborhood Library.

MON 14, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Monthly Business Meeting, 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd floor. Agenda at www.anc6d.org

WED 16, 12:00-3:00 P.M. SWWF AARP Chapter #4751 Invites Members, Guests and Friends to its Holiday Luncheon Ft. McNair officers' Club- Dining Room. 4th and P Streets, SW. Wheelchair Accessible, Onsite parking available, Picture ID is required. Special Guest: Louis Davis, State Director, AARP DC. Reservation: \$30.00 per person; Southern Buffet: Ambrosia Salad, Mixed Baby Greens with assorted dressings, Southern Fried Chicken, Shredded BBQ Pork, Fried Catfish, Fresh red skin Mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, Dessert: Peach Cobbler or Pecan Pie. Checks payable to: SWWF AARP Chapter #4751 Contacts: Evelyn Dorsey, Chair, 202-488-9685; Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, President, 202-554-0901

WED 16, 4:30 P.M. LEGO Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to design, create, and build structures with LEGO bricks. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

THURS 17, 1-3 P.M. King Greenleaf will be hosting our **Annual Sassy Seniors Christmas Brunch.**

Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at www.swdc.org/calendar.

Submit Calendar events to calendar@thesouthwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

King Greenleaf Recreation Center. 202-645-7454

THURS 17, 7 P.M. ABC Committee, ANC6D. Alcohol license applications, renewals, enforcement, and other issues. King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street SW. To be added to e-mail list for agenda & notifications contact: Coralie Farlee, Chair, ABC Committee, 202-554-4407, cfarlee@mindspring.com.

SUN 20, 3 P.M. Movie Madness. Children & families are invited to join us to watch a family-friendly film together. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

MON 21, 5:30-8:15P.M. King Greenleaf will host our **"KGL Annual Christmas Toy Give away"**. King Greenleaf Recreation Center. 202-645-7454

SAT 26, 1:30 P.M. Southwest Book Discussion. Copies of this month's selection, "Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer", are available for checkout at the information SW Neighborhood Library.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ADULT RECREATION, 10 A.M.-Noon, Saturdays, Ages 18 & up, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St. SW. 202-645-7454. www.dpr.doc.gov

ADULT YOGA & TEEN, 6 P.M. Mondays, FREE. Mats available. Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center, South Capitol & "I" (eye) Sts SW. Entrance door near playground.

AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM, 4-5 P.M. Monday-Friday, Ages 5-14, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 202-645-7454. www.dpr.doc.gov

ARTS & CRAFTS, 5-6 P.M., Tuesdays, Ages 5-14 with Michelle Edmonds, King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

BABY/TODDLER STORY TIME 10:30 A.M., Mondays. (Note: there is no story time on Dec. 21st & 28th). Join us for fun songs, finger plays, baby bounces and rhymes as we work together to develop early literacy skills. Designed for children ages birth to 2 years and their caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library.

BINGO for SENIORS, 1-3 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, ages 55 & up, King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 "I" (eye) St SW. Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale. 400 "I" (eye) Street SW, 202-484-7700.

BOYS BASKETBALL, 6-7 P.M., Wednesdays & Fridays, **Ages 7-8.** King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

BOYS BASKETBALL, 6-8 P.M., Wednesdays & Fridays, **Ages 9-10.** King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

BOYS BASKETBALL, 6-7 P.M., Mondays & Wednesdays, **Ages 11-12.** King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

CHESS with Brett. 4:30-6:30 P.M. Mondays 3rd-5th graders and Fridays, 6th-12 graders. Sasha Bruce at Randall Community Center, South Capitol & "I" (eye) Sts SW. Entrance door near playground. For more information email: randallrec@sashabruce.org

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 A.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Fellowship Hall, downstairs, rear of **Christ United Methodist Church,** 900 4th St SW. Children ages 3 and older are invited to join our loving and lively Sunday School where they are introduced to a loving God who welcomes and cares for all. Through biblical stories, art, music and holy play, our children are nurtured in their

natural spirituality to grow as the "littlest members" of a community of faith.

COMPUTER CLASSES, 10 A.M.-12 Noon, Tuesdays, SW Neighborhood Library, 724-4752.

Dec 1 - Microsoft Excel
Dec 8 - Microsoft Powerpoint
Dec 15 - Introduction to Personal Computers
Dec 22 - No Class Scheduled
Dec 29 - Internet Basics

COMPUTER TIME, 4-7 P.M., Monday-Friday. Open computer use. Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center. Entrance door near playground.

DRAWING: BASIC 101, 6 P.M. Tuesdays P.M. Ages 12-up. "For those who think they can't draw, but can." Supplies provided. **Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center.** Entrance door near playground.

FRENCH LANGUAGE 101, 4-7 P.M., Monday-Friday. Self-paced online program. **Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center.** Entrance door near playground.

GAME NIGHT AT RANDALL Community Center, Mondays, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Come and play Dominos, Checkers and Chess. Free for all ages. **Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center.** Entrance door near playground.

GIRL SCOUTS TROOP 4298, 5:30-7 P.M., Wednesdays, with Monica Evans. Ages K-12. King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

HAND DANCING, 12:30-3:30 P.M., Saturdays with Mr. Zeke. Ages 18 & older. King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, 6-9 P.M., Fridays, **Westminster Presbyterian Church.** Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

JOB SEEKERS PROGRAM, Thursdays, 1-6 P.M. (Note: no Job Seekers program is scheduled on 11/26). One-on-one sessions offering help with resumes, cover letters, applications and other aspects of the job search process. By appointment only. Call 724-4298 or stop by the information desk to make an appointment. SW Neighborhood Library.

KING GREENLEAF BOY BASKETBALL Season, Ages 5-6, 7-8, 9-10. And 11-12. Call to sign up. Contact Paul or Michael 202-645-7545. King Greenleaf Recreation Center

The KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, 6:30-7:30 P.M., every first and third Monday. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St SW.

KNITTY GRITTY COMMITTEE, 7:30-8:30 P.M. Come join us every **3rd Tuesday** of the month to knit, swap tips, and get to know your fellow neighbors. Staff will be available to teach basic skills such as casting on yarn, and the purl and knit stitches. Please bring your own needles & yarn. Children under 12 yrs of age must be accompanied by adult. SW Neighborhood Library.

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS, 10:30 A.M.-Noon, Every 1st & 3rd Saturday. Feel free to visit us and to see our communications and leadership program at work. SW Neighborhood Library.

OPEN MIC NIGHT -Every Friday, 5:30-7 P.M. (Not scheduled for Dec. 25th & Jan 1st) hosted by Sasha Bruce Youthwork. Free open space for Spoken Word, Poetry, Music, Rap, and Monologues. Sasha Bruce at Randall Community Center 9 "I" (eye) Street SW. Entrance door near playground. More information **Email: bford@sashabruce.org**.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, **10-11 A.M.,** every Last Saturday, Senior Citizen Community Room at 900 5th Street S.E.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30 A.M., Wednesdays. (Not scheduled for Dec. 23rd & 30th). Join us for books, songs, rhymes, and finger plays as we continue to strengthen early literacy skills while enjoying stories together. An easy craft activity follows story time each week. Designed for children ages 2 to 5 and their caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library.

RELIGIOUS MOVIE SEMINAR, 6:30 p.m., with Father Gerry Lessard, O.P., sponsored by St. Dominic Catholic Church, every Sunday (except Dec 20 & 27). **Dec 6th:** Restless Heart: The Confessions of St. Augustine, Pt. 1 (2012); **Dec. 13th:** Restless Heart: The Confessions of St. Augustine, Pt.2. Located in the Parish Center in the Basement of the priory at 630 E Street SW, 554-7863 . www.stdominicchurch.org

SEATED YOGA TWICE A WEEK at Westminster Presbyterian, **MONDAY from 11:00 A.M. - 12 noon** and **WEDNESDAY from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.** Pamela Wilson guides a gentle series of movements designed to free the joints and ease the mind. This is part of Westminster's Wellness program.

SALSA DANCING, 6 P.M. WEDNESDAYS - Steve Surina will be leading classes in the exotic and fun dance of Salsa. Bring a partner or come alone, everyone gets to dance. Sasha Bruce at Randall Community Center. Entrance door near playground.

SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER #4751. The Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter #4751 will hold its **12:00 noon Luncheon Meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2015.** Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Homes Community Room, - 1311 Delaware Avenue SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. COST: \$5.00 for lunch.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, **7 P.M. Mondays,** Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center. Entrance door near playground.

SPANISH LANGUAGE 101, 4-7 P.M., Monday-Friday. Self-paced online program. **Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center.** Entrance door near playground.

SW FREEWAY, NA, 7-8 P.M., Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, **Westminster Presbyterian Church,** 400 "I" (Eye) Street SW

TEEN CLUB, 7-8 P.M. Every other Friday. Ages 14-19. King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

TEEN GAME NIGHT, including Wii, 7-8:15 P.M., Thursdays, Ages 13-18. SW Neighborhood Library.

TINY ARCHITECTS, 12:30-2 P.M., Thursdays, Ages 3-5 experience the joy of building, creating and working with others guided by parents and volunteers. Building blocks and supplies provided. All children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center. Entrance door near playground.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7-9 P.M., First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW. 202-863-0564.

YOGA FOR ADULTS AND TEENS, Tuesdays, 7-8 P.M. All levels welcome. Presented by Yoga Activists. Mats are provided, or you can bring your own. SW Neighborhood Library.

YOUNG LADIES ON THE RISE, 5:30-7 P.M., Thursdays, Ages 6-14. King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

YOUNG MEN FUTURE LEADERS, 5-6 P.M., Wednesdays, Ages 6-12. King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

ZUMBA, 6 P.M. Tuesdays & Thursdays, FREE, Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center. Entrance door near playground.

ZUMBA for Adults 7:30 8:30 P.M. Mondays (no class on 14th)- A fast paced, aerobic dance fitness program. SW Neighborhood Library.

Ladies Night Out in Southwest

By: Julia Cole, Copy Editor,
The Southwester

Whoever says there is nothing fun to do in Southwest clearly has never met my group of friends. Between a first-class theater, multiple restaurants, and the waterfront all within blocks of each other, there are limitless options for young neighborhood residents to entertain themselves.

One recent fall evening some of my girlfriends and I were treated to a very special occasion, complete with a mailed invitation, a mouth-watering home-cooked meal, and a show at Arena Stage. The night was billed as “Akeelah and the City” and involved dinner and a night out to the theater that would have made the four stars of “Sex and the City” proud.

The ladies met at a friend’s house in the neighborhood, dressed in our classiest attire. We enjoyed cheese, wine, and music while our friend’s devoted husband finished preparing a decadent dinner. We eventually sat down to enjoy what I can honestly say is one of the best meals I’ve ever had. The oxtail ragù had been simmering away in the sous vide since the previous afternoon, and was presented atop a bed of flavorful risotto.

Following dinner we ladies headed over to Arena Stage to see *Akeelah and the Bee* and enjoy

a hilarious yet touching show. The play is a heart-warming tale of a girl with a natural skill for spelling who overcomes unfortunate circumstances to follow her passion. With the help of her mentor, she cultivates her talent, ultimately making it to the national spelling bee. Whether she wins or not is not my ending to spoil, but I was left with a feeling of hope as the actors took their final bows and danced their way offstage.



Ladies enjoying a night out on the town in Southwest.

After indulging post-show desserts courtesy of Arena Stage, it was time to head home. Walking through the streets as we made our way home, we chatted about what a lovely evening it had been. Food, wine, good company, and the theater; nights like these should be cherished and remembered. And we never even left the neighborhood! Who needs Broadway when you can enjoy such a fine evening right here in Southwest!

CHALLENGE

From p. 1

Eligible students are **required to draw up a storyboard** (example below) of one of the five Racing Presidents (George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, or William Howard Taft) making a major White House decision while president of the United States.

Examples could be George Washington choosing Washington, DC, as the capital. Or Teddy Roosevelt choosing to take over the Panama Canal Project. How about William “Bill” Taft being the first president to throw out the first pitch at a baseball game? “The key is to be creative and let your mind run wild,” says WHHA President Stewart McLaurin (former resident of 1250 4th St. SW).

Five lucky winners will have their storyboards turned into professionally filmed and edited stories that will broadcast during a game at Nationals Park in 2016. Talk about college application material! In addition, winners will be invited to an award reception at the WHHA at Lafayette Square, together with their families, teachers, and school principals. A \$1,000 grand prize will be awarded to each of the five winning submissions—one for each president. But the winner does not have to be one person, “it could be a single high school student, a classroom, a club, a group of friends, or a baseball team—all can compete!” (Note, you will have to divide the winnings among your group.)

The WHHA and the Washington Nationals have developed an educational outreach program in the form of a short-film competition for high school students in 9th through 12th

grade in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The program focuses on the White House and presidential history. It examines the constitutional powers of a president, focuses on decision-making in the White House, and considers how executive decisions throughout history were influenced by the diverse constituencies that make up the American citizenry. Many of these ideas were visible this season to Nationals fans as the WHHA sponsored White House trivia questions during all 81 home games. In addition, the WHHA is in part responsible for the secret 6th racing president this season, Calvin Coolidge. Fun trivia: Did you know Calvin Coolidge was the last president to throw out first pitch for a Washington baseball team in the World Series?

Every year for the past 35 years, the WHHA has sold the White House Christmas ornament, sequentially featuring presidents. This year the ornament features McLaurin’s favorite president, Calvin Coolidge. The ornaments will be on display and sale Dec. 12-13 during Winterfest at the Convention Center.

Historical resources that can help students create their storyboards can be found online at whitehousehistory.org/nationals/meet-the-presidents. And, yes, it is possible to enter one storyboard for each president. **The submission deadline is Feb. 25, 2016, and it must be emailed or postmarked by this date to be eligible.** Judging will take place during March and April 2016 and participants will be notified of the results by April 15, 2016.

Additional information about the contest can be found online at whitehousehistory.org/nationals.

To download a template of the storyboard format, visit <http://goo.gl/itEGCe>.



Photos by Perry Klein

SWNA’s Technology Task Force set up over a dozen notebook computers in the Molly Smith Study, used to apply for jobs online.

Career Fair Held at Arena Stage

DC Councilmembers Charles Allen (Ward 6) and Alyssa Silverman (At-Large) and their staff recently organized a career fair hosted at Arena Stage on October 30, 2015, in conjunction with the DC Department of Employment Services. This year, workshops were included covering several aspects of applying for a job.



Attendees applying online for jobs at WalMart and Giant with the assistance of DC Dept. of Employment Services staff.

THELMA D. JONES BREAST CANCER FUND

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First Inaugural Benefit

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015, 6:30 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church
401 "I" Street SW, Washington, DC 20024



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Cecily Bumbray

Acoustic Pop Soul Vocalist & Songwriter

Special Guest Performance by Jazz Singer Dick Smith, Commentator, Friday Night Jazz

Remarks by Lori L. Wilson, MD FACS, Division Chief, Surgical Oncologist, Howard University Cancer Center

DONATION \$50



Contact info@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or 202-251-1639

Sponsorship opportunities available

Proceeds benefit breast cancer outreach efforts for education, prevention, screening and early detection.



St. Matthew's members and Southwest neighbors at last year's Christmas tree giveaway.

St. Matthew's to Hold Last Christmas Tree Giveaway

After many years of working toward building a new church, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (222 M St. SW) will finally break ground in January. This means their lot will be available to for one more Christmas tree giveaway before construction begins. From 2008 to 2013, St. Matthew's sold trees at cost to the Southwest community. Last year they surprised the community by giving away trees as a way to say "thank you" for the community's support.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, the congregation will give away 130 Christmas trees to their neighbors. The Reverend Phillip C. Huber, pastor of St. Matthew's, said, "We are very pleased we could do this one more year before construction begins. Many in the community look forward to decorating their homes with a St. Matthew's Christmas tree for the holidays. We may not be able to make trees available to the community again until after

construction is completed in 2017. So, we are glad we can provide this to our neighbors for another year."

The Christmas tree giveaway will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12. *Only those who have obtained a reservation before Dec. 12 will be able to receive a tree from 10 a.m. to Noon.* Reservations will be given on a first-come, first-served basis and can be obtained by either emailing (stmatthewsdc@hughes.net) or calling (202.484.3189) the church. Reservations can be made at St. Matthew's lot beginning at 10 a.m. to pick up a tree, if any remain, after the noon hour.

The congregation will be offering free food and beverages for the community and will have a display showing the design of the new building. There will be opportunity to meet with church leaders, the architect, and development staff to talk about the design and community benefits of the project.

PACERS NAVY YARD FUN RUNS

Morning Fun Runs

5:30AM MON, WED, & FRI

Pacers Navy Yard

Leader: Kayla

Evening Fun Runs

7PM TUE & THU

Pacers Navy Yard

Leader: James

Fun Run With Your Neighbors!

Pacers recently opened in Navy Yard in the Boilermaker Shops. Come join *The Southwester* staff and others in the neighborhood to join free fun runs! All paces and distances are welcome.



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what ever questions, doubts and experiences you come with ...
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Holy Eucharist

& Service

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

"Embracing our diversity we are searchers for Justice, Truth and Beauty ... aware of and responding to community need."

Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Transition Worship Address

Fellowship Hall

at Christ United Methodist Church

900 4th St., SW

Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve service

of Lessons and Carols

with Holy Eucharist

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

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rector@staugustinesdc.org

@StAugustinesDC