



The Southwester

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Serving the Waterfront Communities of Southwest and Navy Yard

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Black History Month: Black Figures in Southwest's History

By: Ryan Pierce
SWNA History Task Force



View of the "Bearing Witness" sculpture by Martin Puryear at Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Photo from <http://gsablogs.gsa.gov>

Martin Puryear

Martin Puryear, sculptor, was featured in *Time* magazine's July 9, 2001 issue in a series on "America's Best" about prominent contemporary artists. Born in 1941, Puryear and his family lived primarily at Half & O Streets SW. He attended Syphax Elementary School in Southwest, eventually matriculating from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC with a degree in art. After spending some time traveling abroad, during which he studied at the Royal Swedish Academy of Arts, Puryear returned to the states and continued his studies at Yale University, earning a Master of Fine Arts degree. He successfully pursued a lifelong career in art, with one of his first major solo museum shows at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in 1977. Puryear was featured in several shows at prominent museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, both in New York, NY, and the Art Institute of Chicago in Illinois. The *Time* feature states that "... the intensity of Puryear's work comes from doing everything himself, mainly in

wood. ...Through the action of the shaping hand on wood, he brings forth a poetry of material substance that's unique in today's America."

Richard Saunders

Saunders was a resident of Southwest for much of his later life, and was the winner of several top awards in the annual Southwest photography contests. A photojournalist born in Bermuda, Saunders moved to the United States in 1947 to attend university and then begin his career. Saunders was a very successful freelance photographer based primarily in New York, NY and Pittsburgh, PA for several years, with his work appearing in *Life*, *Look*, *Fortune*, *Ebony*, *The New York Times*, and a number of other publications. In 1967 Saunders joined the United States Information Agency, becoming international editor for their newly estab-



Photo from www.bermudabiographies.bm

lished publication, *Topic*, which focused on Africa and African affairs. He worked in this position from an office in Tunis until 1972 when he moved to the District of Columbia, where we would spend the rest of his career and retirement until his passing.

Arthur Fletcher

Arthur Fletcher was born in Phoenix, AZ and raised in Kansas. In 1968, Fletcher, a successful and active Republican, ran for lieutenant governor of Washington State, and narrowly lost to the incumbent, John Cherberg. Fletcher's close race for Lt. governor and other efforts for the party gained the attention of then-President Richard Nixon, who appointed Fletcher soon after to be the Assistant Secretary of Labor. He would go on to serve in various

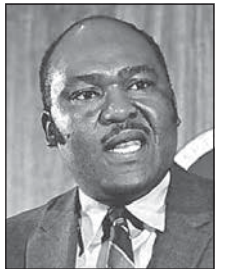


Photo from www.doi.gov

See "Black History," page 7

Op-ed: The Road to the Ivy League Starts at Amidon-Bowen

By: Martin R. Welles, Esq.
President, Amidon-Bowen PTA

After five years at Amidon-Bowen, with two more to go, I am confident that my three children have received a competitive advantage over other, equally bright children who may apply to Ivy League schools and other top universities 10 years from now. In their college applications, my children will be able to draw on how their experiences as racial and economic minorities at Amidon-Bowen have shaped their development and informed their world view. I do not believe that my children would be better off if they attended a suburban-like school where everyone looked like them and came from a similar socioeconomic status. Frankly, I do not think the admissions team at an Ivy League school is looking to admit bright but parochial children either. Children from suburban and other schools that lack racial and economic diversity are hindered by their common and average experiences.

My children are learning how to be leaders. They are learning how to be out front, how to be at the top of their class,

how to compete for starting spots on sports teams. Having the competitive drive to remain at the top of the class takes a different set of learned skills versus having to learn how to overcome mediocrity. My children are learning how their differences provide an advantage, rather than hinder their trajectory. If they went to a suburban-like school where everyone looked the same and came from the same background, they might learn how to be content with being average. As most parents, I am hoping for my children to be better than average—I do not want them being comfortable with average—even if it is in an above-average setting. Elementary school is where confidence is built, trajectory is established, and children are free to experiment—to succeed and to fail. Our society needs more than average citizens and I believe Amidon-Bowen is laying the foundation to launch above-average citizens.

I am more than impressed with the academic rigor and offerings at Amidon-Bowen. My children are taught by great teachers who push them to learn beyond

See "Ivy League," page 4

Op-ed: Southwest Still Remembered

By: Rhonda Hamilton
ANC Commissioner

Southwest has always been a special place that people are drawn back to and they tend to form connections to this neighborhood that last a lifetime. The phrase "I know my neighbor" has meaning in Southwest. One can quickly see the huge amount of diversity and sense of belonging among residents here. A close-knit African-American community also existed in this area prior to urban renewal. However, they are only a distant thought and memory. There is very little evidence of the community that once was, with the exception of the remainder of homes south of Q Street, which is affectionately referred to as "Old Southwest." The rich heritage and culture of the former residents were overshadowed by the desire for change that led to the forcible removal of 4500 African-American families from this neighborhood during the urban renewal project. These families were relocated, scattered throughout the city, and often handed unfulfilled promises of returning one day to the only homes they had ever known.

There is a belief in this city that when

concentrated poverty is broken up in a residential area, it makes way for prosperity and greater economic opportunity for all. Little thought goes into the devastating effects that it has on families and community ties, the same way that it was done in Old Southwest. There is truth in the saying that "If we don't learn from the mistakes of the past, we are destined to repeat them." How a community takes care of its own is critically important as we move forward, especially what is preserved and what is protected, including the basic rights of vulnerable residents to not be overlooked and slowly forgotten.

A tremendous amount of effort is placed into building up areas like Southwest throughout the city. However, not enough attention is going into making a clear and precise plan to ensure that low- to moderate-income families, individuals, and seniors are not priced out of neighborhoods. It should matter to everyone that the future for these residents in Southwest and DC in general hangs in the balance. It is a horrible thing to be kicked out of a home and evicted from a community or to be undesired in an area. This is a harsh

See "Southwest," page 4



Jacqueline Walker
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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc., please leave a message at 202-580-8188.

February Southwest Commentary

By: Bruce Levine,
SWNA President



Bruce Levine

On behalf of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) board, we hope that your New Year has gotten off to a great start!

One of our resolutions for 2016 is to be more “present” in communicating with the Southwest community and this column space will be a consistent vehicle for doing just that. There are many important topics to address, and we will be raising many of them over the coming months.

For this month, I want to reflect on a current news story that caught my attention, and that has implications for our Southwest community. As you may have learned, in Flint, Michigan, members of the community are suing the city (and maybe the state of Michigan) over their mismanagement of the water supply, and the new mayor had to declare a state of emergency. In a nutshell, Flint switched from Detroit’s public water system last year to use of the Flint River as part of a cost-cutting move while under the state’s emergency financial management. This is a community of 33 square miles that apparently doesn’t even have a supermarket within its boundaries, a tragic end product of declining U.S. industrial might. Thanks to medical personnel in the city, high levels of lead were detected in local children, and they have been traced back to the river water, which has unusually high levels of pollution that is not handled by the existing purification efforts. Officials maintained the water met safety standards, but children were later found to have elevated lead levels in their blood and it was determined that corrosive river water was drawing lead from aging underground pipes. The result of this discovery, in a community already reeling, has been much finger-pointing, calls for officials’ resignations, health damages, and a community

with limited resources to address these dangers.

Southwest, and DC more generally, is not Flint, but several things struck me about this news story. This kind of situation—public officials making policy and operational choices that can have major impacts on a community—is hardly unknown in DC. In Flint, it seems that the community did not have a chance to affect a critical decision that had major impact on them, a decision for which the citizens relied on officials to ensure the safety of this interim, cost-saving measure. I don’t know why that was the case but it made me think of all of the policy, legal, and operational decisions made with regard to Southwest by a variety of public and quasi-public bodies and, in some cases, certain private interests, whose decisions can or will have an impact on our community. This is what happens in urban areas, and sometimes those decisions have great outcomes and, sometimes, not so much.

What should be possible is for a community to have a voice in those kinds of decisions at a point in time when they can actually impact the decision-making. Too often a platform is provided too late in the process for it to be meaningful ... or decisions are made in less than transparent ways. Too often, the less affluent in a community, those with physical limitations, or underserved minorities, have no effective say. The SWNA board views our role as being, in part, to ensure that our community has a seat at the table when important decisions affecting Southwest are made, by whomever. That means all segments of our community although, realistically, the community will not always speak with one voice, because there are divergent viewpoints and interests, to be sure. But we can make sure those voices are heard in a timely manner, well ahead of actual decision-making and in a way that can force positive action or hamper destructive action.

How can we do this? In the coming months, we will be identifying issues and opportunities that each of you, as members of the community, can potentially get involved in addressing. Through SWNA, you can join any number of task forces, depending on your interests, but I’m going to suggest that you start out in a small way. How about just looking at the person passing you on the sidewalk and saying “Good morning”? I hear all the time that one of the things that is special about Southwest is the neighborhood feel and, frankly, that is going to be challenged by the influx of residents and visitors who will be starting to descend on us as early as this coming summer. Just acknowledging each other in the moment can produce a real positive vibe, which, in turn, can provide a basis on which to build relationships that are productive. In big city life, anonymity can be a plus or a minus but it can certainly lead to a lack of connection—and I believe that we all need to recognize that we are connected to each other in this neighborhood, and that if we want happy endings at the end of this radical transitional period in Southwest, reinforcing those connections will be critical.

Let’s make the decision to not have “things happen” to us the way they have happened in Flint. We can avoid that by working together, staying informed, getting ahead of issues, and caring about one another. This won’t necessarily be easy but it is doable. It is in our communal interest and, I would argue, in each of our personal interests as well.

College Board’s Educational Opportunity Center Serves District Residents

For more than 48 years, the College Board’s Educational Opportunity Center (EOC), a nonprofit, has been serving the educational needs of Washington, DC residents, providing low-income, first-generation students with the free information, guidance, and counseling they need to take full advantage of educational opportunities. Federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the free program and its staff are committed to providing high-quality resources and counseling to the greater Southwest community and the District at large, regularly meeting with students at the EOC home office near DuPont Circle and at partner locations around the city.

Each year, the EOC delivers aid to thousands of students, offering admissions and career counseling, assistance with financial aid and college applications, and scholarship and grant resources. The counselors are also available to present workshops covering a variety of topics including financial aid, college survival skills, loan default, debt management, and more. Any resident of the District of Columbia is eligible to use the EOC’s free resources.

The EOC is located at 1919 M St. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036. If you are a resident of Southwest or Navy Yard who wishes to gain access to financial aid, career information, or educational programs in order to reach your full potential, please call the EOC at 202-741-4730. For more information about the program and its services, please see lp.collegeboard.org/eoc.

Administrative Assistant Sought

The Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC) seeks a part-time Administrative Assistant to work up to 30 hours per month.

Duties:

- Schedule in-person and tele-conference meetings for CBCC directors
- Coordinate and attend CBCC monthly and special meetings
- Serve as repository for all CBCC telephone calls, emails, and correspondence
- Maintain CBCC website
- Manage paper and electronic files
- Maintain CBCC calendar of events and deadlines

- Prepare flyers and promotional materials
- Use email and social media for distributing community information

Experience required:

- Microsoft Office Suite
- Website management
- Knowledge of Mail Chimp or similar web-based marketing software
- Demonstrated communication and organizational skills

Flexible schedule. Ideal for a tech-savvy senior, stay-at-home parent, or college student. Please send resume and cover letter to: info@seswcbcc.org.

Hyatt Opens in SW, Offers Neighborhood Rate

A new "Southwest Neighbor Rate" was created by Hyatt Place Washington DC/ National Mall (located at 400 E St. SW) to offer a special rate for all Southwest residents to take advantage of a "staycation" or to book family and friends that may be coming into town for the holidays or just for a visit!

To take advantage of this special rate, visit: http://dcnationalmall.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp_id=CR48304 or use **CR48304** as the Group Code when booking.

The special rate is a discount ranging between 10% and 20% throughout the year over the normal daily rate.



Amidon-Bowen students assembled in the lobby at Arena Stage.

Amidon-Bowen Attends *Akeelah* at Arena

**By: Martin R. Welles,
President, Amidon-Bowen PTA**

It was an "A" performance for the cast of *Akeelah and the Bee* during Amidon-Bowen's school outing to see the poignant play at Arena Stage. More than 150 Amidon-Bowen students saw real life on stage in a drama of doing well while trying to do good. *Akeelah* is an elementary

school girl who has a gift for spelling. She is criticized for wasting her time on spelling and secretly joins peers at another school to practice. Along the way, she finds a mentor who helps her win the Spelling Bee. After the performance, several students met the actress who played *Akeelah* at the stage door and were able to speak with her. The outing was sponsored by the Amidon PTA and SWNA's Youth Activities Task Force.

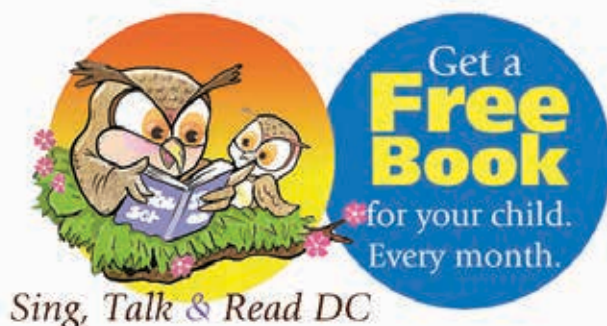


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Recognizing Gottlieb Simon



From left: Naomi Mitchell (staff to Councilmember Charles Allen), Commissioner Meridith Fascett, Commissioner Rhonda Hamilton, Commissioner Marjorie Lightman, Commissioner Roger Moffatt, Gottlieb Simon, Commissioner Stacy Cloyd, Commissioner Rachel Reilly Carroll, and Andy Litsky. Andy Litsky was elected chair of ANC 6D at their January 11 meeting. Photo courtesy of Andrew Lightman, Hill Rag.

Please enjoy this photo of the ANC 6D commissioners recognizing Gottlieb Simon, ANC coordinator for the District of Columbia, on the occasion of his 40 years working with ANCs in the District. He began as the ANC's administrative assistant and lives in Southwest.

SOUTHWEST

From p. 1

reality for hundreds of low-income families and residents throughout the city. It is also hard for many of them to face these circumstances as they are struggling to survive while raising their children and trying to hold onto jobs that barely cover transportation costs and other daily living expenses. Communities are being built up to exclude these residents. Seldom do you hear of anyone crying for children in public housing when their homes are torn down or boarded up in preparation for demolition. How can these families and individuals feel secure when they are not guaranteed a place in the community or even at the table as decisions are being made about their lives? They are casualties of an unjust system that was not designed to care about families as much as it does about the value and profits generated from land.

What the future holds especially as far as

housing for all of our low- to moderate-income families is uncertain just as it was for the families in Old Southwest. When the bulldozers came to tear down the community back then, there was nothing that could be done to change the course of history. The destruction rippled through the neighborhood and forever changed the lives of the families that were involuntarily removed from the community. They watched as so many things that had so much meaning to them were snatched away and disregarded like trash. The continued existence of families and individuals that earn well below what is required to live comfortably in Southwest can be secured by the community caring about them now and the significant impact that all of this development will have on them. Otherwise, this area is on a slow but steady path to repeat the past. The lives of these residents matter in this community and throughout our city. We are strengthened by the economic diversity that is created by their presence in our neighborhood.

IVY LEAGUE

From p. 1

their grade levels in reading and math. My youngest child leads the entire school in math fluency as measured by the First in Math program, ranks third in the city for the third grade, and is 37th in the city for all grades (public, charter, and independent). He is trying to crack the top 100 nationwide. That is happening while he is a student at Amidon-Bowen. Two of my children are beyond the "Z" level in reading and my third is fast approaching the "Z" level. Compare that with your neighbor's children. Amidon-Bowen's GeoPlunge team (geography team) finished second in the winter GeoPlunge tournament, in which about 40 schools and several hundred children competed. This is against the same schools that have "better" test scores and fewer students receiving free and reduced meals.

Amidon-Bowen has the best competitive sports program in the city. The boys are the 2016 DCIAA indoor track and field champions and the girls are the 2016 indoor track and field runner-up (second place). I am astonished that Amidon-Bowen even offers track—much less

indoor and outdoor teams. There are about 10 other boys' and girls' sports teams including cross-country, basketball, soccer, flag football, and even cheerleading. One of Amidon-Bowen's advantages is the facilities—we have an artificial turf practice field, a full-size gymnasium, and a large grass athletic field. Another advantage is our school size. We have 350 students. There aren't 650 kids all trying to use the gym at one time or play soccer during recess. Some schools regulate play space allocating 15 minutes per week at each "station." That doesn't show up in test scores. If only eight kids can play on the soccer team, or there are only five spots on the basketball team, how does anyone other than an exceptional athlete in a school with 650 children develop latent talent or learn how to be competitive? Children are defeated right out of the starting gate. When you were a child, did your elementary school offer any sports? Amidon-Bowen does and excels in sports.

As a parent, I don't know what more I could expect or ask for. My kids are happy to go to Amidon-Bowen and my wife and I are happy they attend our neighborhood school. Our commute is simple and we are able to be involved in after-school activities.

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FEBRUARY 2016

WED 3, 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.

SAT 6, 11 A.M.-12:30 P.M. YOGA NIDRA for the Self-Healing at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (eye) 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.

SUN 7, 6:30 PM St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW, “Sally and Saint Anne”. FREE. Everyone is welcome. Some people bring food to share, but no one is obligated.

MON 8, 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 current title. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

MON 8, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Monthly Business Meeting, 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd floor. Agenda at www.anc6d.org

WED 10, 7 P.M. Craft Night. Try your hand at a creative project. SW Neighborhood Library.

WED 10, 4:30 P.M. Create Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for arts & crafts activities for elementary and middle grades. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

FRI 12, 8-9:30 A.M. Councilmember Charles Allen, SW Office Hours. Starbucks inside Safeway, 1100 4th Street SW.

FRI 12, 3 P.M. Valentine’s Day Fun, Ages 4-12. Design your own Valentine’s Day cards. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 13, 3 P.M. Love Yourself: Spa Crafts. For ages 6-12. Create homemade soaps and scrubs for yourself or a loved one. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

SUN 14, 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.

SUN 14, 6:30 PM St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW, “The Third Miracle”. FREE. There is no obligation, but some people bring food to share.

WED 17, 4:30 P.M. LEGO Club. Children ages 4-12 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.

SAT 20, 3:00 P.M. Wii Club, Children ages 6-12, are invited to join us to play Wii games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 20, 7 P.M. Faith & Film, Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pizza (RSVP at 202-484-700, donations for food appreciated). **7:30 P.M.,** Film “Rosenwald” and discussion (Free, no RSVP necessary for film only).

SUN 21, 4-8 P.M. An Afternoon of Gershwin and other Jazz Standards. Featuring Shirli Hughes, Michelle Lanchester and Edmond Charles Trio. General Seating, \$20.00. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW. For more information, www.ShirliHughesandOvation.org

SUN 21, 6:30 PM St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW, “The Body”. FREE. There is no obligation, but some people bring food to share.

WED 24, 4:30 P.M. Wii Club, Children ages 6-12, are invited to join us to play Wii games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

WED 24, 7 P.M. Graphic Novel Book Club, This

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.

new group will be discussing “Nimona” by cartoon-ist Noelle Stevenson. SW Neighborhood Library.

THURS 25, 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.

SAT 27, 1 -3 P.M. Thinking about Jazz – Gloria Lynne, Free presentation and refreshments with door prizes. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW.

SAT 27, 1:30 P.M. Monthly Book Discussion. Copies of this month’s selection, “The Souls of Black Folk” by W.E.B. Dubois, are available for checkout at the information desk. SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 27, 3 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.

SUN 28, 3 P.M. Oscar Party. Children and families. Watch animated shorts, make crafts, and have your picture taken on the red carpet! Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

SUN 28, 6:30 PM St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW, “Jesus, Mary and Joey”. FREE. Everyone is welcome. Some people bring food to share, but no one is obligated..

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.

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. (No program on 15th). 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. 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.

Feb 2 - Microsoft Excel

Feb 9 - Microsoft PowerPoint

Feb 16 - No class scheduled

Feb 23 - PC Basics

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

Digital Drop-In 6:30-7:30 P.M., Tuesdays. Library staffers answer questions about using electronic devices including tablets and smartphones to access library services and resource.

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.**

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

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.**

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. All ages welcome. 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, Wednesdays, 1-6 P.M. One hour long sessions offering one on one 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 of each month. Feel free to visit us and to see our communications and leadership program at work. SW Neighborhood Library, Basement meeting Room.

OPEN MIC NIGHT -Every Friday, 5:30-7 P.M. hosted by Sasha Bruce Youthwork. Free open space for Spoken Word, Poetry, Music, Rap, and Monologues. **Sasha Bruce at Randall Community Center.** More information Email: bford@sashabruce.org

PAJAMA STORY TIME, Thursdays, 6 P.M. Join us for an evening story time where pajamas are

encouraged but not required. These evening programs are designed to delight children of all ages. SW Neighborhood Library.

PICKLE BALL FOR ADULTS, Tuesdays, 10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. King Greenleaf Recreation Center. 202-554-7945.

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. 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.

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.

SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER #4751 will hold its **12:00 noon Luncheon Meeting on Wednesday February 17, 2016.** **SPEAKER:** Elinor Bacon, President ER BACON Development, LLC Partner, Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, Developer of The Wharf **PROGRAM:** THE WHARF-Plans, Environmental Aspects, Retail, Public Open Spaces, Market Rate and Affordable Housing, etc. Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Home’s 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, group meeting, **7 P.M. Mondays,** Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center.

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

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.

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. Led by instructors from Yoga Activists, All levels, from beginning through advanced, are welcome. Mat provided—or 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.

ZUMBA, 7:30-8:30 P.M. Mondays (no class on 15th)- Instructed by Roshaunda Jenkins, this is a one hour high energy, A fast paced, aerobic dance fitness program. SW Neighborhood Library.

BLACK HISTORY

From p. 1

positions under the Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and George H. W. Bush administrations. Fletcher became the executive director of the United Negro College Fund in 1972, during which time they initiated use of the famous slogan, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." In 1978, Fletcher ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Washington, DC, but was defeated by the popular Democrat Marion Barry. Fletcher is also considered to be the father of affirmative action because of his efforts with that initiative while serving as the chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights from 1990 to 1993. Fletcher also briefly ran for the presidency in 1996, in part because of reversals in affirmative action policy by Senator Bob Dole. Fletcher was also a United States Army veteran, having served in World War II and upon his death in 2005 was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Lewis Jefferson

Lewis Jefferson was an early 20th century entrepreneur who, among other business ventures, ran steamboat lines from the Southwest waterfront to nearby beaches and picnic grounds. He was one of the first and most successful African-American entrepreneurs in Washington, DC. He had significant land holdings in Southwest, several riverboats, and acquired a substantial stake in a Prince George's County amusement park and resort originally known as Notley Hall. Jefferson made a number of improvements to the resort and renamed it Washington Park, attempting to establish a family-friendly destination for black Washingtonians near present-day National Harbor. His office was at one point listed as 1910 First St. SW, with his residence nearby along First St.

Mark Johnson

Mark Johnson of Southwest was a successful boxer and lifelong resident of Washington, DC. He graduated from Eastern High School before moving into his boxing career following his winning the National Golden Gloves Light Flyweight championship

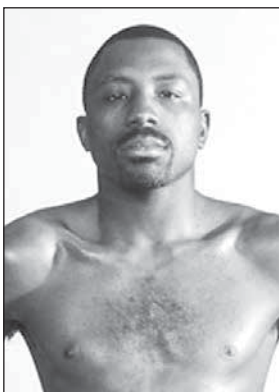
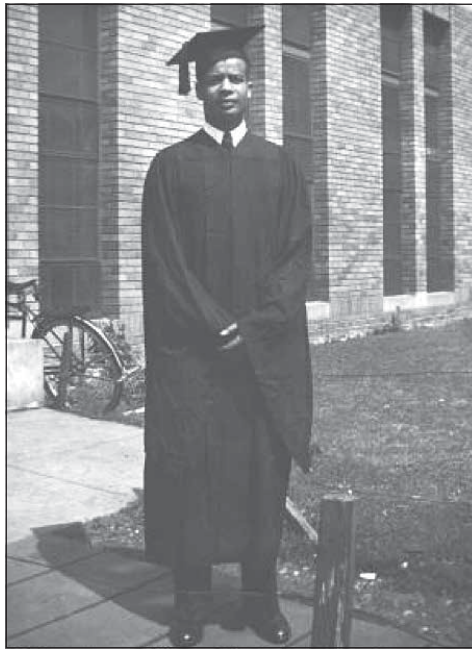


Photo from <http://boxrec.com>

in 1988. Johnson would go on to win several titles, including the United States Amateur Light Flyweight championship and the inaugural World Boxing Board Flyweight championship. In 1996 Johnson claimed the International Boxing Federation Flyweight title, and went on to defend it seven times before moving up to claim the Junior Bantamweight title, which he successfully defended twice. After hanging up his gloves, Johnson joined the DC Department of Parks and Recreation's Roving Leaders program as a mentor to at-risk youth, and expressed interest in one day returning to the ring as a referee. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame at age 40 on June 10, 2012, making him both the youngest boxer and the first from Washington, DC to earn induction.

Joseph Owen Curtis

Joseph Owen Curtis, a lifelong DC resident, was born in 1915 in old Southwest DC and lived in the area until passing in 2005. He served in the Army in World War II, where he served as first lieutenant special services officer with the Army Corps of Engineers in France,



Joseph Owen Curtis poses in cap and gown on the day of his graduation from Miner Teachers College in Washington, D.C. Source: Joseph Owen Curtis Collection, DC Public Library;

the European Theatre, and Greenland. He ultimately earned the rank of major while working at the Naval Research Laboratory, prior to retiring from the service. Curtis was an avid reader, historian, and photographer. His remarkable photos capturing life in old Southwest provide an irreplaceable window into the neighborhood's past. Much of the Joseph Owen Curtis photographic collection, circa 1910 to 1989, has been donated to the District of Columbia Public Library, with many available at the Southwest Library. The entire collection is housed in the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library's Washingtoniana Collection, and much of it has been digitized and made accessible online at <http://digdc.dclibrary.org>. Curtis was also actively involved in many social, charitable and educational organizations throughout the DC metropolitan area. Notably, he was active with the Southwest Civic Association, serving as chairman of their Redevelopment Committee beginning in 1949.

Charlotte Brooks

(Author/Educator [primarily sourced from *The Southwester*, July 1992, p. 12])

Charlotte Brooks, a DC native, was raised in Northwest, close to Howard University. She lived in every quadrant of the city before settling in Southwest. She had a special fondness for Southwest because of its convenience and proximity to so many different attractions. Brooks began her career as a teacher in the DC Public School system, progressing to supervisor at the old Randall Junior High School before eventually joining the faculty at American University in the Continuing [Adult] Education Department, teaching English composition and literature. While at American University, Brooks served for six years as director of the Community Studies Department. Brooks has also written extensively on many topics. She worked primarily with the National Council of Teachers of English, and traveled extensively lecturing and working with educators. Among her writings can be counted *Tapping Potential—English and Language Arts for the Black Learner*, and *A Brooks Chronicle*, in which she traced back seven generations of the Brooks family. This work is noteworthy for pro-



Photo from *The Southwester*, July 1992

viding an important view of history from people who were enslaved. Brooks devoted a great deal of her time to the Southwest Community at-large, and was active in the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and the Youth Activities Task Force, which helps find jobs and provide training to young people.

Yvonne Price



Four elected to the Wiley Branton Community Development Corporation. L to R: Yvonne Price, Dana Winner, Harvey Jones, Jean MacDonald. Photo from *The Southwester*, June 1994

(Civil Rights Activist, Clerk Of Records)

A lifelong DC resident, Yvonne Price was an early proponent for home rule in the District and was active nationally and locally with the civil rights movement; holding leadership positions in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Urban League, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), and the National Women's Committee for Civil Rights. In the 1970s, she was executive director of the LCCR and served as legislative assistant for the NAACP. She was a strong organizer who worked to educate the public and lobby for major changes in the country's laws, especially those related to

See "Black History," page 8



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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.

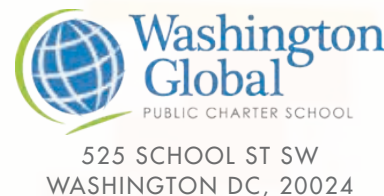
Gifts may be made by sending check, money order or credit card authorization to the Southwest Renaissance Development Corporation at the address listed below.

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



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For more information, contact Yezica Diaz
ydzia@washingtonglobal.org or call 202-796-2415
www.washingtonglobal.org

DPR Announces the Arrival of Pickleball

The fastest growing adult sport in the nation has arrived in DC. The “thwack” of a paddle on a pickleball is now being heard by new and experienced players at three sites around the city as a result of a new program. The first reaction is usually, “What is pickleball, and why should I be interested in learning to play?”

Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of tennis, table tennis, and badminton. The court is smaller than a tennis court; it is the size of a doubles badminton court, and therefore easier for senior adults to play than traditional tennis.

Typically, four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, which looks like a wiffle ball, over a net. The game was invented in the mid-1960s as a backyard pastime, but it has become very popular among adults as a fun game for players of all levels, particularly active seniors. The game is great for exercise, but it doesn’t require the speed and range of tennis. It’s a gentler game that is both social and competitive.

If you are interested in seeing a video, search “Brian Williams Pickleball.” He did a two-and-a-half minute piece on the fast-growing adult sport in March 2014.



The program is offered at three pilot sites on three different days of the week:

- King Greenleaf Recreation Center at 201 N Street SW from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday
- Emery Recreation Center at 5701 Georgia Avenue NW from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday
- Sherwood Recreation Center at 640 10th Street NE from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. every Thursday

Free instruction and demonstrations are available, thanks to the seven volunteers who staff the program, and there is equipment to borrow. Come on out! You will be delighted by the experience and encouraged to play more as you learn.

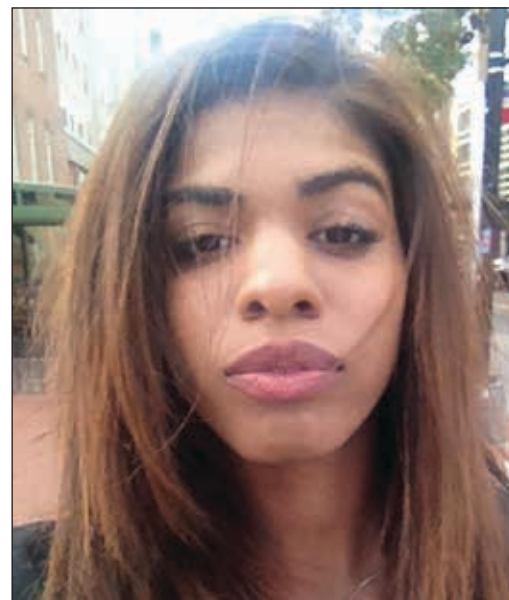
SWNA Scholar Gets Away to France

By: Vyllorya Evans

Haili Blessingame is one of 12 students who received a scholarship from the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly in 2015. The second semester of her junior year at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA began in Nice, France (on the French Riviera to be exact), at the end of January. This opportunity is a continuation of her “get away” plan started in high school. She said, “When I was applying for college my senior year of high school, everyone around me told me that I needed to get away. They said to her that it was okay to stay at home, but those who got an education away from home came back more mature, more self-sufficient, and more knowledgeable about the world. Haili said, “I feel as though this concept of ‘getting away’ and leaving your environment to gain a deeper understanding of the world and of yourself can be applied to studying abroad.”

During college, Haili has maintained a 3.8 average out of 4.0. The next five months she will continue her education in international studies. She said about her most adventurous get-away, “Through this life-changing experience, I hope to broaden my understanding of the world and of myself, not only as a student, but also as an individual. Living abroad in Nice will force me to do things that really scare me: speaking in a foreign language more often than my own language, maneuvering through unfamiliar streets, meeting strangers, and eating food I may never otherwise taste.”

Haili has studied French on and off for almost eight years, and improving her French communication skills is an important educational objective. Haili said, “I think being among people from France and other countries as well as America, exploring the city, adopting the



Haili Blessingame

French lifestyle, and, most importantly, being on my own will enhance my personal growth. I see this experience abroad as an opportunity to further develop myself in the way that I see and interact with the world and the people in it, how I approach unfamiliar situations, the way I interact with people from different cultures, and how I continue my life and career as a global citizen.”

Haili is a graduate of School Without Walls. She enjoys blogging, reading, and writing. She has also interned with NPR. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in journalism and work as an executive producer for 20th Century FOX news. The community congratulates Haili and will watch for her future “get-aways.” Her parents are Peri Hamlin and Larry Blessingame. Haili resides in Southwest with her mother.

Early Action PK at Title I Schools

Students who live in-boundary for a participating DC Public Schools (DCPS) Title I school are *guaranteed* a seat in PK3 or PK4, as long as they submit an application through the My School DC lottery by March 1, 2016 and are not matched with a school they ranked higher. If a student is matched at their Early Action PK school, they will not be wait-listed at any school they ranked lower.

Participating DCPS schools in school years 2016-17 are:

- Aiton Elementary School
- Amidon-Bowen Elementary School
- Browne Elementary School
- Bunker Hill Elementary School
- Burroughs Elementary School
- Drew Elementary School
- King Elementary School
- Langdon Elementary School
- Miner Elementary School
- Noyes Elementary School
- Stanton Elementary School
- Turner Elementary School
- Van Ness Elementary School

BLACK HISTORY

From p. 7

the rights of minorities and women. During her later career Price also served on the DC Apprenticeship Council, which established standards and maintained affirmative action policies for apprentice programs, and worked with the DC Council, the DC Health Department, and several local organizations, including SWNA.

Dr. Louise E. Taylor

Dr. Louise Taylor received her Doctorate of Philosophy in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. In 1976, Taylor began working for the Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment in Washington, DC. She later joined the staff of the Joint Center for Political Studies where she served as research director. Taylor additionally worked as an adjunct professor at George Washington University. She also served for a period as director of the Delta Research and Educational Foundation for Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Taylor was especially interested in education, social justice, and health disparities, and was dedicated to her community and social concerns throughout her life. She was also known for her work with students at Jefferson Junior High through programs aimed at increasing the students’ civic awareness and political participation, and active engagement with the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Southwest.



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WEEKDAY

Monday—Friday: 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m.
(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.

HOLYDAYS

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

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday—Friday: 11:55 a.m.
Saturday: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: After the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND

HOLY HOUR

Thursdays: 4:45 p.m.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Thursdays: 7 p.m.—Adoration;
7:40 p.m.—Talk/Discussion

UPCOMING EVENTS

The One who has Hope Lives (and Dies)

Differently: End of Life Issues

Saturday, February 6 ~ 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. • A presentation on End of Life Issues will be held in the parish meeting room.

The 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off for charity

Saturday, February 6 ~ 6:00 p.m. • Put your chili to the test! Or just come to judge and eat. The suggested donation is \$5 for adults, kids eat free. Proceeds benefit the Church’s poor box, used to help people in need of emergency necessities such as rent, prescription drugs and food. For more details, please contact social@stdominicchurch.org.

Ash Wednesday — February 10

(Ashes will be distributed at each service.)

7:15 a.m. — Liturgy of the Word; 8:00 a.m. — Mass
11:15 a.m. — Liturgy of the Word; 12:10 p.m. — Mass;
5:00 p.m. — Mass

Pope Francis: Live televised Mass

Wednesday, February 17 ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. • Join us for a community viewing of this live Mass from Juarez, Mexico in the parish meeting room.

Religious Movie Seminar

Sundays ~ 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Meeting Room •
Feb. 7 — Sally and Saint Anne (1952); Feb. 14 —
The Third Miracle (1999); Feb. 21 — The Body (2001);
Feb. 28 — Jesus, Mary and Joey (2006)

Sign up for daily Lenten reflections at:
DynamicCatholic.com/Lent

St. Dominic Church is a Christ-centered, Roman Catholic, and Dominican parish for the people of Southwest, DC and beyond. Our mission is to preach the Gospel and make disciples, glorify God through the Eucharist and the other Sacraments, build up the communion of the Church, and serve others through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

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