

## Celebrating Black History Month

### Southwest Residents, Community Leaders

BY RYAN PIERCE,

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY DALE MACIVER

**N**aomi Monk is a dynamic Southwest civic leader, whose influence and leadership have had a great impact in our community.

Monk's service to her community has been recognized many times over the years. She received an award at the first annual Livable, Walkable Awards in recognition of her livable, walkable vision and leadership in the neighborhood, an award presented at a well-attended celebration hosted by then-Ward 6 Council-



Naomi Monk



Rhonda Hamilton



Thelma Jones

member Tommy Wells. In 2006, Monk was also awarded the DC Mayor's Community Service Award. Monk was also elected as

president of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and served as a highly

See "Leaders," page 12

### SWNA Black History Month Meeting

BY RYAN PIERCE, CHAIR,  
SWNA HISTORY TASK FORCE

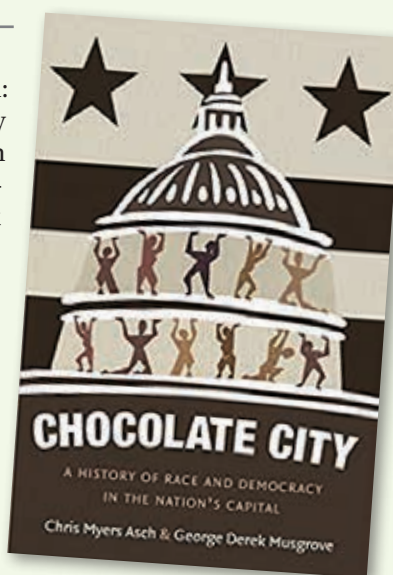
**T**he Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's History Task Force encourages our fellow residents to attend the February SWNA Black History Month community meeting at Arena Stage at 7 p.m. on Feb. 26 as we honor the memory of Dr. Beryl Rice and celebrate several talented local musicians. This program will feature memorial tributes to Rice from Rhonda Hamilton and other longtime friends and neighbors, reflecting on Rice's impact in our community through her many years of service. Accompanying this will be performances by the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School choir and the band Benjamin Sands & Friends. We hope to see many of you there, to join us for reflection on and

See "Waterfront," page 3

### Chocolate City: More Than Just The Capital

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

**H**ere's a question: Chocolate City is: A) An album by the funk band Parliament and the lead track on the record. B) A term used by comedian Chris Rock, Cornel West, the mayor of New Orleans, La., and others to refer to a city with a predominantly black population and/or political leadership. C) The title of a new book by Chris Myers Asch and George Derek Musgrove. The answer is D) all of the above, but the term is used most recently in the title of Asch and Musgrove's new book, which covers the complex his-



tory of race and democracy in the nation's capital, Starting with the early Native American population on the Anacostia River encountering Captain John Smith in 1608, *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital* moves quickly to 1790, when the history of Washington, DC, as a city begins with its designation and construction as the new nation's capital. The chronicles of the next two centuries cover

See "Chocolate City," page 4



OP-ED:  
FAIR ELECTIONS  
BY CHARLES ALLEN

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A TREE'S  
ROOTS

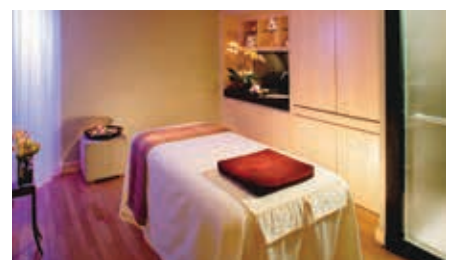


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COMMUNITY  
CALENDAR



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RECONNECTING AT THE  
MANDARIN ORIENTAL

Page 9

UNION STAGE  
*Washington, D.C.*

UNION STAGE OPENS  
SWNA HAPPY HOUR, Feb. 7

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**HELP  
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**The Thelma D. Jones  
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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.

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[tjones15@verizon.net](mailto: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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### Op-ed:

# DC Is Making Major Strides in Empowering Voters in Our Elections. And We'll All Win.

BY CHARLES ALLEN,  
WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER

DC, like nearly every governing body in the United States from city council to federal, has a problem: Only a fraction of constituents are engaged in their government. There are plenty of reasons why this is, but I believe one of the main culprits is too many people have lost trust that their voice matters.

Since being elected to the council in 2014, I have been working to overhaul, modernize, and open up our elections to ensure more people can vote, more candidates can run, and less big money is muddying the waters.

The way money has influenced politics, even in perception, has made so many people cynical about the entire system. We don't have to accept this as inevitable. You can see this cynicism play out in elections for local offices—in the last mayoral race, only 27% cast a ballot in the primary and 38% in the general. The fundamental changes I've been working on can help us restore trust and increase participation in our elections.

One of my first efforts when I took office was to bring automatic voter registration to the District. When many parts of our country were putting up barriers to voting and keeping people away from the ballot box, we went the other direction and made voter registration easier and smarter. Now, when you get a DC driver's license or update your information with the Department of Motor Vehicles, you are automatically registered to vote and your information is updated with the Board of Elections (BOE). This means our voter file will be remarkably cleaner and residents from areas of the District with lower voter registration rates will see their numbers increase dramatically.

I also wrote and funded the law that brings our petition process into the 21st century. Now, when you see folks out at Eastern Market on a cold weekend trying to collect petitions to get on the ballot, they can use an e-tablet to get your information and connect it directly to your voter file for verification—with BOE's final approval for quality control. This will speed up the process and eliminate many issues around bad signatures or inaccurate voter information. It'll also let voters know that their record may be out of date and they should update it before Election Day.

And most recently, I've shepherded through the Council the Fair Elections Act, a bill creating a public financing option for candidates running for mayor,



“  
*Open up our elections  
to ensure more people  
can vote, more  
candidates can run,  
and less big money is  
muddying the waters.*  
”

councilmember, or State Board of Education. This is a big deal and it's going to change how candidates run for public office by changing who they spend most of their time with: you, their constituent.

How does it work? For candidates who qualify, they can agree to take a lower max donation (for mayor, \$200 instead of \$2,000; for ward-based councilmember, \$50 instead of \$500) and receive a five-to-one match on every dollar given by an individual DC resident. They'd also receive a base grant to help kick-start their campaign. In exchange for all of this taxpayer money, they agree to take no money from corporations or traditional political action committees (PACs).

The common critique against publicly financed campaigns usually revolves around this question: “Why should taxpayers pay for incumbents who already raise tons of money?”

This is looking at the question the wrong way—the amount of money isn't the big problem. It's where that money

comes from that creates such distrust from voters. And that matters a lot. Ask yourself—if you only have \$10 you can afford to give to a candidate, do you believe right now that money gets your voice heard? In many cases, people don't believe so. But under the Fair Elections Act, candidates are going to work very hard to earn your donation because that \$10 donation now becomes \$60.

I've been working on these issues since before I ran for office. I came very close to getting a ballot initiative through that would have asked DC voters to consider banning all corporate gifts outright—we fell short at the last moment. And four years ago, when I ran to be the Ward 6 councilmember, I won without taking any corporate or PAC money—along with my at-large colleague Elissa Silverman. We were the first to do so successfully in the city's history.

I believe these policies will re-energize Ward 6 and District residents. I can't do as much to give you faith in what's happening in the halls of Congress or in Donald Trump's White House, but as the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, I am doing a lot to help you trust and believe in your voice in our system.

And I'm not done. In the next few months, we're going to work on legislation that addresses pay-to-play politics and contributions from city contractors. I want to address overcrowding at polling locations where population density has soared. And I want outreach from BOE to be modernized so voters can get information the way they got lots of other things: electronically.

All of these little and not-so-little changes will help more District residents believe in their own voice to shape a government of the people, by the people.

## Op-ed:

# Right Now, WMATA Is The Biggest Threat to Southwest's Growth

*If we want to see the area prosper, we need to let WMATA know they're failing all of us*

BY CAITLIN REAGAN

After five years of living in the northwest neighborhoods of Adams Morgan and Dupont Circle, I moved to the Southwest area in August 2017 into a new residential building on 4th St., very close to the Waterfront metro station. Although I'm excited to be in a newly developed area that's experiencing rapid growth and transition, I've been greatly disappointed by the lack of service on the green line.

The development and growth surrounding the Navy Yard and Waterfront stations did not happen overnight. The area has been under constant construction and gradual transition over the past

five years, so I'm curious to understand WMATA's reasoning behind running the green line trains eight to 15 minutes apart during peak hours. Five or more years is more than enough time to respond to an area's growth, but WMATA has failed.

Mayor Muriel Bowser, a former member of WMATA's Board of Directors, issued a press release commending The Wharf grand opening for bringing a projected \$94 million in tax revenue and producing 6,000 new jobs. *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and many other local and national outlets covered the billion-dollar development project before, during, and after its Phase One completion.

So, with all the hype surrounding them, did WMATA think people just wouldn't

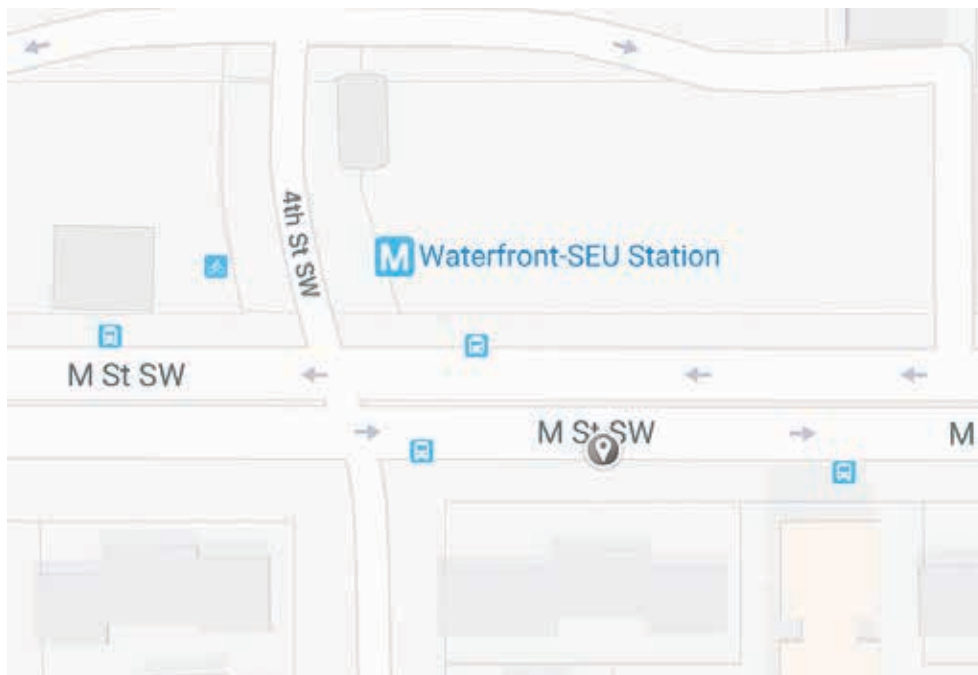
visit? That residents wouldn't actually want to move to the area? Was this WMATA decision-makers' thinking when they cut service to the green line in June of this summer, just four months before the grand opening of one of the largest development projects on the eastern coast of the United States?

I'm no expert in public transit, but I've been a passenger long enough to recognize a gross disparity in service between the green line and almost every other line in our metro system. Why is WMATA sending six-car trains on the green line during peak hours? Why are the trains arriving eight or more minutes apart during peak hours? As an alternative, why doesn't WMATA open more bus lines in

the area that help residents get downtown faster?

For all the surveying of passengers, committee meetings, budget discussions, and #Back2Good damage control campaigns, WMATA has proven to be nothing short than the biggest embarrassment of our nation's capital.

Perhaps it was WMATA's haphazard decision-making and lack of response to Southwest's growth that was top-of-mind when Amazon decreased the odds of opening their second headquarters in the city. After all, we've proven that although DC businesses and residents can handle the growth, it's the decision-makers of WMATA who can't—even with several years' notice.



## M Street Bus Stop and Parking Update

The visitor parking and bus stop along the south side of 300 block of M St. SW has more clarity. WMATA has temporarily removed the visitor parking spots between 350 and 400 M St. SW a new bus stop is installed at 4th and M Streets SW. Once that is complete, the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) will be re-installing zoned parking signs. The new bus stop will be larger than the current one, but most of the parking spaces will return. That timetable is still unknown but we will update readers online through our social media channels throughout the month. Councilmember Charles Allen has asked DDOT to work with WMATA to reduce the loss of residential parking along M St. SW.

### MEETING

Continued from p. 1

celebration of these rich threads in the fabric of our Southwest community.

An interview with Rice, part of the task force's "Southwest Views" series, is also available on YouTube. This inter-

view series was undertaken by Reverend Brian Hamilton of Westminster Presbyterian Church, who was assisted by the local youth as an effort to begin capturing the stories of important neighborhood figures.

For more information and resources on the history of Southwest DC please visit our website at <http://www.swdc.org/swna/task-forces/history-task-force/>.


Gerald V. Miller, MSW., MDiv., ThD., PhD.



When Psychic and Soul Matter.

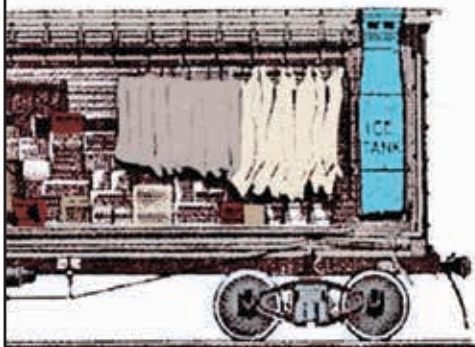
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SWNA ANNOUNCES NEW HISTORY STUDY

## HOW THE RAILROAD CHANGED FOOD & DIET IN WASHINGTON DC



The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly has released *How the Railroad Changed Food and Diet in Washington, DC*. In 32 pages of text, maps, and illustrations it relates how the mass production of food and the spread of railroads during the late 1800s replaced an earlier, locally sourced way of getting food in the District.


Gone were the stalks of celery from Buzzard Point, replaced by produce brought from places as far away as Georgia and Michigan. Cattle yards in Southwest disappeared, along with slaughterhouses on the edges of Washington, as railroads began bringing fresh meat from the Midwest.

DC south of the Mall became a major center of railroads and food providers, including produce wholesalers, fish dealers, and brewers, to name a few. The railroad lines stretched from the Anacostia River to Long Bridge over the Potomac. Garfield Park became neighbor to one of the largest railroad maintenance and switching yards in the District.

Railroads were part of a food revolution and, for better or worse, DC's residents learned to love "factory food," as it was termed. We are living with that legacy today, as we ponder how to eat closer to the farmer and the land.

The study is available digitally at [www.swdc.org/swna/task-forces/history-task-force/history-studies/](http://www.swdc.org/swna/task-forces/history-task-force/history-studies/).

For a free copy of the printed version contact Ryan Pierce, chair of SWNA's History Task Force, at [history@swdc.org](mailto:history@swdc.org), or write him c/o Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, PO Box 70131, Washington, DC 20024.



Supported with a grant from the DC Preservation League. Text and images by William Zeisel.

# Chocolate City: An Interview with George Derek Musgrove

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

George Derek Musgrove, along with Chris Myers Asch, is co-author of *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital*. Musgrove is also an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland in Baltimore County and the author of *Rumor, Repression, and Racial Politics: How the Harassment of Black Elected Officials Shaped Post-Civil Rights America*.

**Q: Did you interview any Southwest residents for this project?**

**A:** Although we did not interview many current residents, Southwest plays a central role in *Chocolate City*. From slavery on Notley Young's plantation in the late 1700s to the interracial politics at Island Hall during Reconstruction to catastrophic urban renewal in the 1950s, Southwest has been the site of the most important developments in the city's history.

**Q: In *Chocolate City*, you discuss how the communities in the Southwest quadrant were different from the rest of the city.**

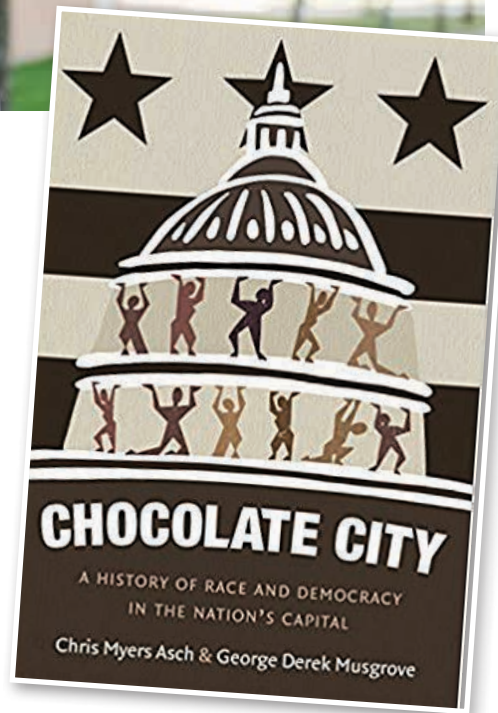
**A:** Because of Southwest's relative isolation from the rest of the city and its relative poverty compared to other quadrants, it developed its own culture and community. Racial segregation, for example, struggled to take root in the area even



George Derek Musgrove

as it spread elsewhere in the city in the 20th century. United by class, Southwest residents shared many common experiences and developed interracial relationships that were rare in the more prosperous areas in the north of the city.

**Q: As you know, The Wharf opened this past October. This was the site of *The Pearl*, a significant event in DC's slave history. Now there is a plaque at The Wharf to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall (who also lived in Southwest and whose wife is still a resident). Would you like to comment on this?**



**A:** The city government and developers have rightly commemorated Southwest's history in the new Wharf development, and many residents, old and new, have applauded these efforts.

As historians, we, too, applaud these efforts. We are concerned, however, that this same development often displaces the descendants of the historical actors it celebrates.

We have discussed this specific issue in *The Washington Post* blog post "Not gone, not forgotten: Struggling over history in a gentrifying D.C."

**Q: Because this area is growing with new apartments, is there anything you would like to point out to our most recent residents about the history that is literally here underneath their feet?**

**A:** New residents should take time to learn the history of the area. The history of Southwest offers a cautionary tale about the supposed wisdom of "experts," the power of developers, and the devastating impact that unrestrained development can have on communities. The Southwest we see in the early 21st century did not develop organically through two centuries of urban growth. Instead, it emerged suddenly in the decades after World War II as urban planners, developers, and politicians destroyed an entire community in order to "save" it.

## CHOCOLATE CITY

Continued from p. 1

the efforts, victories, and backslides of the residents through two major recurring themes.

National divisions over race relations make up one of the central topics. This included not only black (enslaved or free) and white, but also other groups such as Irish, Hispanic, and other immigrants. There were economic distinctions between laborers and landholders. There were also complexities of status such as free blacks who were seized as runaway slaves and class distinctions between the elite, the rising middle class, and the poor.

The other issue that would plague DC specifically was Congress as the city's local legislature. Residents would lose their right to vote in national elections under the Organic Act of 1800. (Women, black citizens, and any man who did not have property were already excluded.) The fights for voting rights, representation, and home rule occur throughout DC's history, something that *Chocolate City* connects to political and economic motives based on race.

These two themes of race and democracy will play out in all areas that affect the daily lives of the city's inhabitants. Although social and economic problems

in the housing, education, and transportation sectors were experienced throughout the country, in DC citizens did not have a democratic process to choose their decision-makers in these matters.

In almost 500 pages (plus 130 pages of substantial references, an index, and footnotes), *Chocolate City* is, in short, an ambitious effort to present individual stories within the broad context of these wide-reaching events in American history.

American conflicts from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and both world wars, as well as major economic depressions all had impact on how American views of race and democracy were formed. Reading about how that affected people who lived in DC is at times painful because of the human suffering endured, and at other times joyful thanks to the progress achieved.

Although Southwest might be the smallest of the four quadrants of the city, from the very beginning it figured into DC's history. Starting in the 1700s, Notley Young owned a plantation here on land that was definitely nothing like a swamp at the time. Today, L'Enfant Plaza has a memorial to Benjamin Banneker.

From 1800 to 1850, the quadrant would be the site the "Yellow House," which was one of the most notorious slave pens in the region, with close proximity to the Wharf.

From here, blacks—both runaway slaves and seized freed blacks—were shipped off for slave labor in the South.

From events preceding the Civil War to the post-Civil Rights era, the Southwest quadrant has strong connections to both local and national history. History is literally under our feet here where today residents can walk along the Wharf. Here on April 15, 1848, the schooner *The Pearl*, with fugitive blacks aboard, was returned to DC. Here most recently was placed a plaque for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black person appointed to the Supreme Court and a Southwest resident.

Although attempts at urban development are not unique to either Southwest or the entire city, there is something that was different about this area from the start.

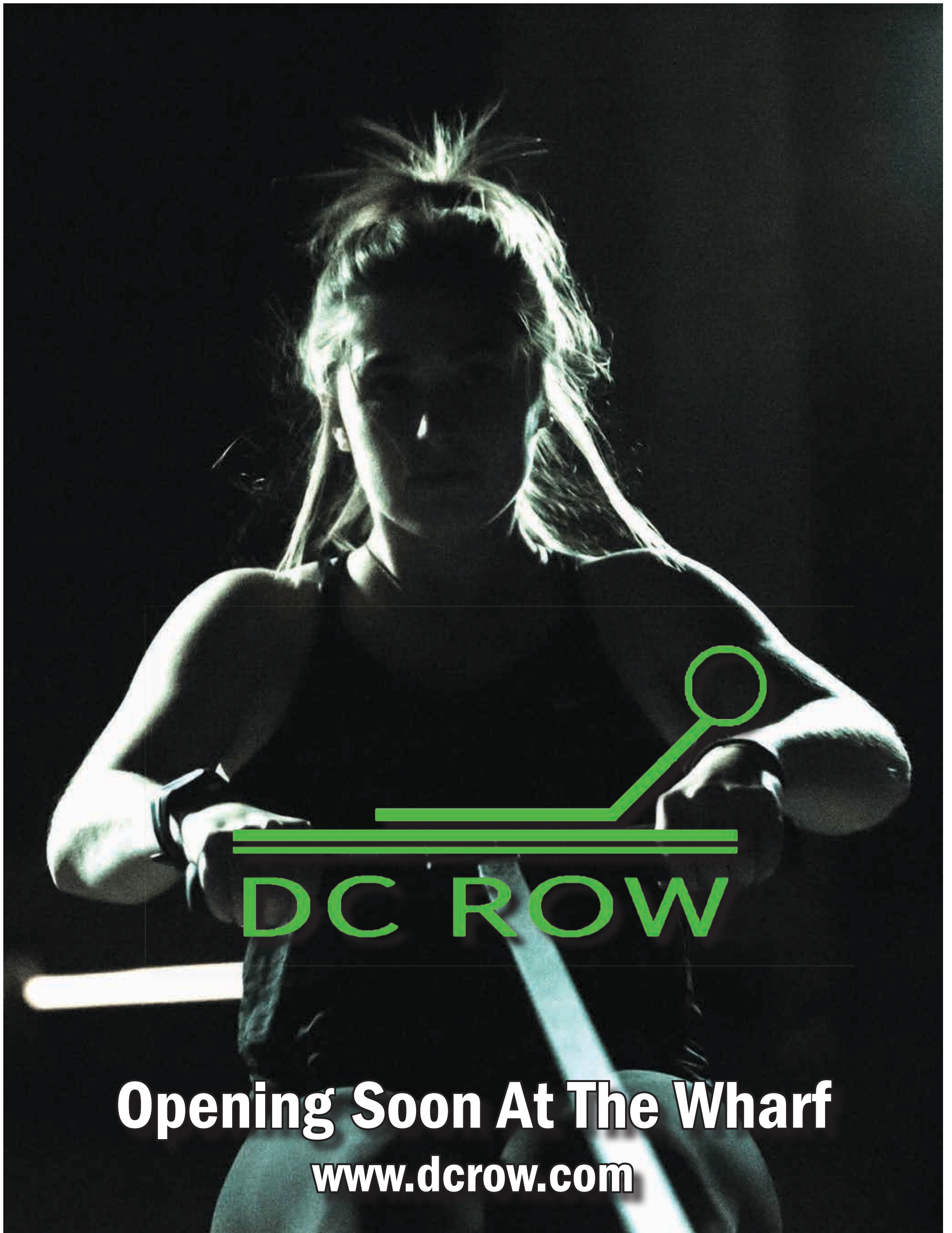
Three different communities clustered: "black residents generally to the east of Four-and-a Half Street, native-born white residents to the west, and Jewish immigrants in between ... the Irish, German, and English ... lived in tightly knit neighborhoods that resembled the small towns of the old country. ... Jews built two synagogues ... and a family and community—oriented life reminiscent of an Eastern European shtetl. African-Americans lived in communal culture of extended family and church that harkened back to their

roots in the rural South." *Chocolate City* notes that "there might have been little social interaction but there was no rigid segregation that was evident in other urban neighborhoods."

From 1950 to recent time, something happens in the narrative that I think many people will share. Not only do we know some of these names from the news, but some of the people in this history book were friends and neighbors. We know many of the stories here of the complicated relationship with Congress, the struggles with the city's finances, and the rise and fall of our mayors. *Chocolate City* presents them both in proper historical context as well as individuals.

But far from being a string of local vignettes, these stories are a key piece in the larger history of the core meaning of American citizenship. To know how we got to this point, and what it took, makes this book most relevant toward viewing our future shared history, and takes the Chocolate City to another level, of not being just about one city, but a city created by Americans of all races to be their capital.

**Copies of *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital* are available at Politics and Prose at The Wharf in the Black History Month book display.**



**Opening Soon At The Wharf**  
**[www.dcrow.com](http://www.dcrow.com)**

# G St. SW *Zelkova serrata* tree has history

BY SHANNON VAUGHN,  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE SOUTHWESTER

Quite often when new residents stroll around their new home, they remark about one tree in particular. On the corner of 6th Place and G St. SW sits a tree unlike any other in Southwest. The large, towering tree seems wildly out of place, but comforting at the same time.

Grace E. Daughtridge moved back to DC and into her family's Southwest townhome in 2002. In the front yard of Daughtridge's home sits a *Zelkova serrata*, better known as a Japanese elm.

"The 65-foot-tall tree could not have grown to that height since Urban Renewal," many have remarked. And they are correct. The Japanese elm was one of a handful of things that were spared when the federal government razed Southwest in the late 1950s.

In 2006, Casey Trees listed the Japanese elm as the 11th largest tree in Washington, DC. It is also the largest tree of its species in the District and one of the largest *Zelkova* trees in the United States.

The exact heritage of the tree sits in neighborhood lore ... and research. The most well-known story is that former President Lyndon B. Johnson's (LBJ's) wife, Lady Bird Johnson, had a hand in saving the tree after visiting it. (The LBJ Library was unable to confirm that.) The second most recounted story of the elm is that in 1855, Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry returned from an expedition to China and Japan with saplings and seeds, and this tree originated from those saplings. (The Perry expedition was a diplomatic trip to Japan by two U.S. Navy warships during 1853-54. The expedition was commanded by Commodore Perry, under orders from then-U.S. President Millard Fillmore.)

Daughtridge spent weeks at the U.S. Archives tracing the manifests of the U.S. Navy ships that sailed under Commodore Perry. Her findings: the tax records for the four original owners of the land lots now known as Southwest.

Her research continued in order to



help preserve the Southwest treasure. Daughtridge learned that the Martin Luther King Jr. Library held historical pictures of the tree from the 1940s (pre-Urban Renewal). She then met with retired DC employee Hans Johannsen, who is fondly known for his 30 years as the caretaker of trees. He informed her that the tree had national protection. (Street trees are trees located between the curb and sidewalk on

all District-owned lands. Currently there are more than 100,000 trees along District roadways.) And in the plot twist of the (multi-) century, Johannsen believes the tree may date as far back as 1776, and possibly even earlier.

We may never know the true origin or age of the beautiful Japanese elm, but we do appreciate it for what it is: another Southwest gem.

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### CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS

#### 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

#### BLESSING OF ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SHRINE

Tuesday, February 6: 7:00 p.m. Mass

#### ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 14

(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

#### ST. DOMINIC CENACLE

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**Tuesdays:** Adoration & Confession in the Church from 6:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m., followed by a faith topic discussion in the parish meeting room.

**February 6** — SPECIAL EVENT: Blessing of St. Martin de Porres Shrine

**February 13** — Social Night - Mardi Gras

**February 20** — Social Teachings of the Church Overview

**February 27** — Faith & Political Governance

#### RELIGIOUS MOVIE SEMINAR

**Sundays,** 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room

(Mid-block E St. and down the stairs)

**February 4** - Sergeant York (1941)

**February 11** - The Innocents (2016)

**February 18** - Katyn (2007)

**February 25** - The Island

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



POCKET  
CHANGE

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

**4:00 - 5:30 PM**

**MAKE OFFICES, 800 MAINE AVE SW**

Join SWBID + SWNA for the Pocket Change dinner!  
Hear your neighbors pitch their ideas for improvement projects  
and vote for the winner. All donations collected at the door will  
be invested in the winning project.

**Five bucks gets you:**



**DINNER**

*Share a meal with your neighbors and listen  
to pitches from the community.*



**VOTE**

*You get one vote towards the idea you think  
would be most impactful.*

**RSVP: [SWBID.ORG/POCKETCHANGE](https://swbid.org/pocketchange)**

**Suggested donation of \$5 collected at the door.**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

**FRI 2, 6:30 P.M. Game Night,** 1st Friday of every month. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 555 Water Street SW, 202-554-3222.

**SAT 3, 10:30 A.M.-12:00 noon. Komen Toastmasters,** Looking to develop speaking and leadership skills? Ace a job interview? Ignite your career? Feel free to visit us and see our communications and leadership program at work Komen Toastmasters meets on the 1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. SW Library, basement, 900 Wesley Pl SW.

**SAT 3, 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Winter Play Date,** Amidon-Bowen Elementary School, 401 “I” Street SW. 202/724-4867.

**SAT 3, 1-2:30 P.M. Yoga Nidra** — Meditate, Chant, Breathe, and Relax deeply with Yoga Nidra. Move toward healing your Mind, Body and Spirit. Bring a mat and light covering. Invite your family and friends. \$10 donation suggested. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 “I” (Eye) St. SW.

**SAT 3, 3:00 P.M. Valentine Crafts.** Children ages 4-12 are invited to join us for a fun seasonal craft. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library. 900 Wesley Pl. SW, 202-724-4752.

**WED 7, 4-7 P.M SWNA’s Neighborhood Happy Hour.** SWNA’s leadership invites new and old neighbors alike to come out, meet new friends, and learn about getting involved where you live. This event will take place in the upstairs Taproom at the newly opened Union Stage at The Wharf with drink specials. Event space is limited to 50 people at a given time.

**WED 7, 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 Library.

**FRI 9, 8A.M. - 9:30 A.M. Councilmember Charles Allen, SW Office Hours,** Starbucks inside the Waterfront Safeway, 1100 4th St SW.

**SAT 10, 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 Library.

**FRI 9, 7:30- 9 P.M. Kadampa Meditation Center DC, Friday Night Lecture:** Conquering Hate with Love. In a world in which hatred, anger, and intolerance are sadly becoming more widespread we need to look not at what sets us apart but at what unites us. Buddha taught a practical meditation on love anyone can do that increases our appreciation, respect and tolerance for others, be they our friends and family, our community or all humankind, and shows how peace in the world comes only from peace in the heart. Everyone welcome! 1200 Canal St. SW.

**SAT 10, 2 – 5 P.M. Kadampa Meditation Center DC, Title: Love, Desire, & Relationships:** Half Day Meditation Workshop. Learn how to bring clarity, joy and a relaxed, loving attitude into all your relationships. Love and attachment are two different states of mind; one leads to happiness, the other to suffering. With Buddha’s profound advice, we can learn to distinguish between love and attachment within our own mind. Using our own wisdom, we can then choose to deepen our love for others and reduce the cause of suffering coming from attachment. Everyone welcome.

**SAT 10, 7-9 P.M. Faith & Film presents “Marshall”-Release: 2017;** Rating: PG; Runtime: 1hr 58 min. A not to be missed film about a young Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, as he battles through one of his career-defining cases. Free to the public. Doors open at 6:30. RSVP for Pizza at 202-484-7700. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**MON 12, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Monthly Business Meeting.** 1100 4th Street, SW, second floor.

**TUES 13, 4:30-7:30 P.M. Water Front Senior Village Anniversary & Reception.** Fundraiser w/exhibitors, reception and presentations. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**TUES 13, 6-7:30 P.M. Shrove Tuesday - Mardi Gras Pancake Supper.** \$5, under 8 free. All Welcome! Pancakes and Sausage, Vegetarian Friendly. Live Saxophone – Games – Dancing St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church on the Waterfront, 555 Water Street SW.

**Feb. 13, 2018 6pm – 8pm, Mardi Gras Parade** at The Wharf. More info: <https://www.wharfdc.com/upcoming-events/2018-02-13-mardi-gras/>

**WED 14 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 Library.

**SAT 17, 10:30 A.M.-12:00 noon. Komen Toastmasters** meets on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. SW Library, basement.

**SAT 17, 2:00 P.M. Living When There Was Slavery in the United States.** Children are invited to join us for an interpretive program about the hard life of enslaved people, and ways they overcame. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library,

**MON 19, 11 A.M. Lent I Service-Bluegrass Worship** w/ song writer and WHAMMY winning artist Jesse Palidofsky and Friends. Come out for rousing contemporary worship. Make new friends during fellowship hour immediately following service. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**WED 21, 12 Noon The Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter** will hold its 25th Anniversary Year, Annual February Luncheon Business Meeting. PROGRAM PART I: A Black History Month Tribute in Poetic Music. PROGRAM PART II: Guest Speaker: Dr. Frank Smith, Founder and Executive Director of the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum. The Program coincides with the 2018 National Black History Month Theme: African Americans in Times of War. Current AARP members, prospective members, visitors, neighbors and guests are welcome. River Park-South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW. Lunch available for \$5.00. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, [bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com) or 202-554-0901.

**WED 21, 6:00 P.M.** Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Support Group Meeting. Topic of discussion is male breast cancer survivors and men’s health. Refreshments and door prizes. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church. T. Jones 202/251-1639.

**THURS 22, 6:45 P.M. ABC Committee, ANC6D.** Alcohol license applications, renewals, enforcement, and other issues. To be added to e-mail list for agenda & notifications contact: Coralie Farlee, Chair, ABC Committee, 202-554-4407, [cfarlee@mindspring.com](mailto:cfarlee@mindspring.com). 1D MPD building, 101 M Street SW.

**SAT 24, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. The Friends of the SW Library** are holding their first 2018 Book Sale. The sale will take place on the second floor of the SW Library. Some parking is available in the rear of the building. Most books are \$1 or less and all proceeds go to Library programs. SW Library.

**SAT 24, 1 P.M. Southwest Library Book Discussion** – Copies of this month’s title, The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois are available at the information desk.

**SAT 24, 1-3pm Thinking About Jazz presents: Roger Wendell “Buck” Hill:** The Wailin’ Mailman. “Buck” Hill, one of D.C.’s finest jazz artist, was a U.S. Mail carrier by day and saxophone player by night. Within the D.C. jazz community, he was a trusted friend and inspiring musician. Bill Brower

will present on Buck’s life and music. Free to the public. Light lunch served and door prizes galore! Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**SAT 24, 3:00 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 Library.

**SUN 25, 1:30-5 P.M. The Friends of the SW Library** are holding their first 2018 Book Sale. The sale will take place on the second floor of the SW Library. Some parking is available in the rear of the building. Most books are \$1 or less and all proceeds go to Library programs. SW Library.

**SUN 25, 3:00 P.M. St. Augustine Episcopal Church presents Shirli Hughes and the Ovation Ensemble, “I Still Have Joy!” A Black History Month.** Musical Celebration of the triumph of the human Spirit. Special guest soloist: Malivyn Statham, of the original, world renowned, award winning, Gospel recording artists Clara Ward Singers. Reception to follow. This concert is free, offering will be taken. All are welcome! St. Augustine’s, 202/554-3222.

**WED 28, 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 Library.

## WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

**ADVICE FOR LIFE MEDITATION CLASS. Sundays, 10-11 A.M.** Learn practical advice found in Buddha’s teaching as methods for solving our daily problems. There is a separate class for kids ages 5 – 12 running at the same time. Everyone is welcome. \$12 per class (\$6 for students/seniors/unemployed). Kadampa Meditation Center DC, 1200 Canal St. SW, 202-430-6540.

**ALZHEIMER’S ASSN CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP. 2nd Tuesdays of the month,** 10:30-11:30 A.M. Free and open to the Public. Location: Faith Presbyterian Church. 4161 S. Capitol St SW.

**ARTY AFTERNOON, Mondays 4:30 P.M.** Join us in the Children’s Room for fun arts and crafts. For children ages 4-12. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**BABY/TODDLER STORY TIME, Mondays, 10:30 A.M.** 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 Library.

**BASKETBALL at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street SW.** Ages 6U Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5-6 P.M.; 8U Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7-8 P.M.; 10 U Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6-7 P.M.

**BLUES MONDAYS, 6 - 9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church.** Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale. Schedule at <http://www.westminsterdc.org/blues.html>

**BOOK CLUB, 7 P.m. every second Thursday** at River Park. Book to read: TBA. Contact Gale Dunn Kaufmann 202-484-8432 or Email [galekaufmann@verizon.net](mailto:galekaufmann@verizon.net).

**COLOR CLUB Mondays, 7:00 P.M.** Children and their families are invited to join us for Color Club. We’ll have special coloring sheets and supplies available. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Library.

**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, 9 - 11 A.M. Every 3rd Saturday.** Rear entrance of Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW, across from SW Library. \$5.00 donation.

**DIGITAL DROP-IN, 3:30 - 4:30 P.M. Tuesdays.** Help using library services on your digital device (tablet, smartphone, reader). SW Library.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLINIC, 1 - 4 P.M. Wednesdays.** Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**DPR YOUTH FOOTBALL SKILL TRAINING CAMP** – ages 6-10; Tues. Wed and Fridays 5 – 7:30 P.M., Saturdays 9 – 11 A.M., King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street SW.

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

**FEDERAL CITY RUNNERS TUESDAY NIGHT GROUP RUN, 6:30 P.M.** Meet every Tuesday by Waterfront Metro exit (near Safeway). Run distance: 4-5 miles. Runners of all paces welcome! Run year-round in rain, snow, or shine. RSVP at [www.meetup.com/fcrunners](http://www.meetup.com/fcrunners) to receive run updates or just show up!

**FRIDAY NIGHT FISHING, 5:30-8:30 P.M.** Free event for kids and families, and fisher-folks young and old! Where: The docks at Diamond Teague Park (in SE across from the baseball stadium).

**GAME CLUB, 4:00 P.M. Fridays.** 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 Library.

**GIRL SCOUT TROOP 4298, 5:30-7 P.M. Wednesdays,** is in its 11th year. Our multi-aged troop has girls from kindergarten to high school. Some of the activities we do are arts and crafts, camping, tea party, business 101, step show, career exploration, badges at the beach, movies, ice cream socials and so much more. If you are interested please call Monica at 202-468-9620 or Audrea, 202-744-9170. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

**HAIR POP UP SHOP, 5:30 P.M. Tuesdays, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>.** Using mannequins, learn to braid and create original hairstyles. Offering a braiding workshop designed specifically for teens who are interested in learning how to style hair into a braid that stands out from the crowd. Workshop will give participants an exciting hands-on one-hour experience with braiding. Each Participant will use a mannequin supplied. Contact: Ciera Carter, 202-724-4752. SW Library.

**HAND DANCING, 1 - 3:00 P.M., Saturdays** with Mr. Zeke. All ages welcome. King Greenleaf Recreation Center. 201 N Street SW. 202-645-7454.

**JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, 6 - 9 P.M.,** Fridays, Westminster Presbyterian Church. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale. Schedule at [www.westminsterdc.org/jazz.html](http://www.westminsterdc.org/jazz.html)

**KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER DC, Thursdays, 7-8:30 P.M.,** Drop in Meditation Class. Through training in meditation we can learn to control of our mind and overcome negative states of mind and find stillness within. Fee \$12 per class (\$6 for students/seniors/unemployed).

**Sundays, 10-11 A.M., Advice for Life Meditation Class.** Learn practical advice found in Buddha’s teaching as methods for solving our daily problems. There is a separate class for kids ages 5 – 12 running at the same time. Everyone is welcome. \$12 per class (\$6 for students/seniors/unemployed). 1200 Canal St. SW, 202-430-6540.

**KEYS TO FREEDOM NA Group,** Tuesdays 12-1 P.M., St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

**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.

See “Calendar,” page 9

View our on-line calendar at [www.swna.org](http://www.swna.org)

Submit Calendar events to [calendar@thesouthwester.com](mailto:calendar@thesouthwester.com) by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

# Disconnecting to Reconnect: *A Mandarin Oriental Staycation*

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, couples are working to lock down plans. Most will plan a nice dinner, a massage, or maybe a walk to see the monuments, but their goal will remain the same: to get away from it all and re-focus on their loved one.

Nestled in Southwest between the National Mall and The Wharf, the Mandarin Oriental hotel offers all of the above, making for an amazing night. Located at 1330 Maryland Ave. SW, the luxury postmodern-style hotel is offering a "Device-free Date Night" package.

From the time you check in until the time you check out, you will not want to leave. The service is unparalleled. After pulling up to the hotel, you drop off your car for complimentary overnight valet parking. As you check in, you are offered fresh jasmine green tea and a warm hand towel to help de-stress. Heading up to your room you pass the Empress Lounge, where daily afternoon tea and nightly drinks are served. Walking into your room you will see that it is newly remodeled and amazingly well appointed. Gazing at the bedside views of the Jefferson Memorial, you will remember why you live near



the waterfront.

After taking in the views while savoring the bottle of champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries that come upon arrival, you will head down to the spa where the light music and aromatherapy help take you away from it all. Upon arrival at the spa, guests are asked

ranging from full body massages to facials that are sure to meet anyone's needs. The separate male and female rooms offer dry and wet saunas, cool plunge pools, and hot tubs, which combine with the joint heated indoor pool.

Heading back up to the room (with devices turned

to disconnect from their electronic devices with the option to leave their cell-phones with the spa concierge. Phones are returned to guests cleaned and in a limited-edition Mandarin Oriental phone pouch. Disconnecting to reconnect has officially begun!

The Device-Free Date Night package comes with a spa credit of \$100 per day, which can be used on any of the 19 different services

off and stored away), it's time to get ready for date night. Guests with Club Lounge access can head to a 5 to 7 p.m. happy hour that includes hor d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and mixed drinks. A \$100 daily dining credit allows you to enjoy food and drinks at Muze, the Empress Lounge, or in the privacy of your room. Muze has an East-West theme, which combines modern American cuisine with an Asian twist.

With dishes like baked Virginia oysters, spicy shrimp and scallop sushi, roasted duck breast, Thai beef salad, truffle parmesan French fries, prime beef tartare, and dry aged prime beef ribeye, the menu offers something for everyone. The wine selection fills nearly two menu pages, but the hotel's signature cocktails are not to be missed. After filling up and conversing sans devices, it is time to head back to your room to decide between relaxing in the king-size bed or the hot soaking bathtub.

*More info on the Device-Free Date Night package can be found at <https://www.mandarinoriental.com/washington/national-mall/luxury-hotel/offers/device-free-date-night>. The offer is valid until Dec. 31, 2018.*

## CALENDAR

*Continued from p. 8*

**MAKER CAMP. Wednesdays, 4:30 P.M.** Ages 6-12 are invited to join us for hands-on, creative workshops from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. No registration necessary. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**NARFE, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees** meets the fourth Thursday of the month from September through May from 1:15 until 2:30 in the library. Hope to see you there. SW Library.

**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. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**PICKLE BALL, Tuesdays, 10:30A.M.-12:30 P.M.** King Greenleaf Recreation.

**PRESCHOOL STORYTIME, Wednesdays, 10:30 A.M.** Join us for books, songs, rhymes, and fingerplays 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 3 to 5 and their caregivers. SW Library.

**SEATED YOGA TWICE A WEEK at Westminster Presbyterian, MONDAYS** from 11:00 A.M. - 12 noon and **WEDNESDAYS** 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. 400 I Street SW.

**SENIOR BINGO, Mondays & Thursdays, 1 P.M.-3 P.M.,** King Greenleaf Recreation.

**SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA Group, Mondays 7:30 P.M. and Thursdays, 7:00 P.M.** St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.

**THE SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER #4751,** Monthly luncheon meetings are held every third Wednesday at noon. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, [bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com) or 202-554-0901.

**TEEN CLUB, Mondays 6:30-8 P.M.,** King Greenleaf Recreation.

**TINY TOTS ART CLASS, Mondays, 10:30am-11:30am,** ages 15 months-3 years, King Greenleaf Recreation.

**TINY TOTS NEED RECREATION, Wednesdays, 10:30am-11:30am,** King Greenleaf Recreation.

**SW FREEWAY, NA, 7 - 8 P.M.,** Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW

**WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7-9 P.M.** First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps.

Refreshments. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St. SW.

**ALL-LEVELS YOGA CLASS every Wednesday from 8-9:00 A.M.** Bring a mat if you have one. No set charge; donations welcomed. For more information, call the instructor, Pamela Wilson, 202-746-6654 or email: [wilsonpj108@verizon.net](mailto:wilsonpj108@verizon.net). St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water Street, SW.

**YOGA FOR ADULTS and TEENS, 6:30 P.M. Tuesdays.** All levels welcome. Bring your own mat or use a library provided mat. SW Library.

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

**ZUMBA, 7:30 P.M. Discontinued until further notice.** SW Library.

# SW Resident Starts Nonprofit to Combat Interpersonal Violence

Each day the news is filled with stories of people being brutalized, hurt, and abused—often at the hands of a loved one. Every nine seconds, a woman in the United States is assaulted. One in five women has been raped in their lifetime and one in four men has been the victim of physical violence by an intimate partner. These sobering facts prompted Southwest resident Dr. L. J. Samuel, a seasoned criminologist and author, to create Cupid's Sting, an interpersonal violence reduction program.

"I was tired of seeing the gruesome treatment of people and knew something more had to be done," Samuel explains. It is Cupid's Sting's mission to give people the tools they need to reduce their victimization. Proactive in its orientation, Cupid's Sting provides education in the form of workshops on dating abuse, interpersonal



violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment. A key component of Cupid's Sting is teaching life-saving skills in self-defense classes. Interpersonal violence is an issue that affects us all, and no one is immune regardless of race, sex, gender, religion, or socio-economic status.

On Wednesday, March 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., a launch event for the Cupid's Sting nonprofit organization will be held at the Southwest Business Improvement District's office, located at 420 4th St. SW. Come out and learn more about Cupid's Sting, its offerings, and take part in the discussion on interpersonal violence. Together we can keep our friends, family members, and neighbors safe.

If you are interested in making a donation or to learn more, please email Cupid's Sting at [info@cupidssting.org](mailto:info@cupidssting.org), or you may call the office at (202) 425-3105.

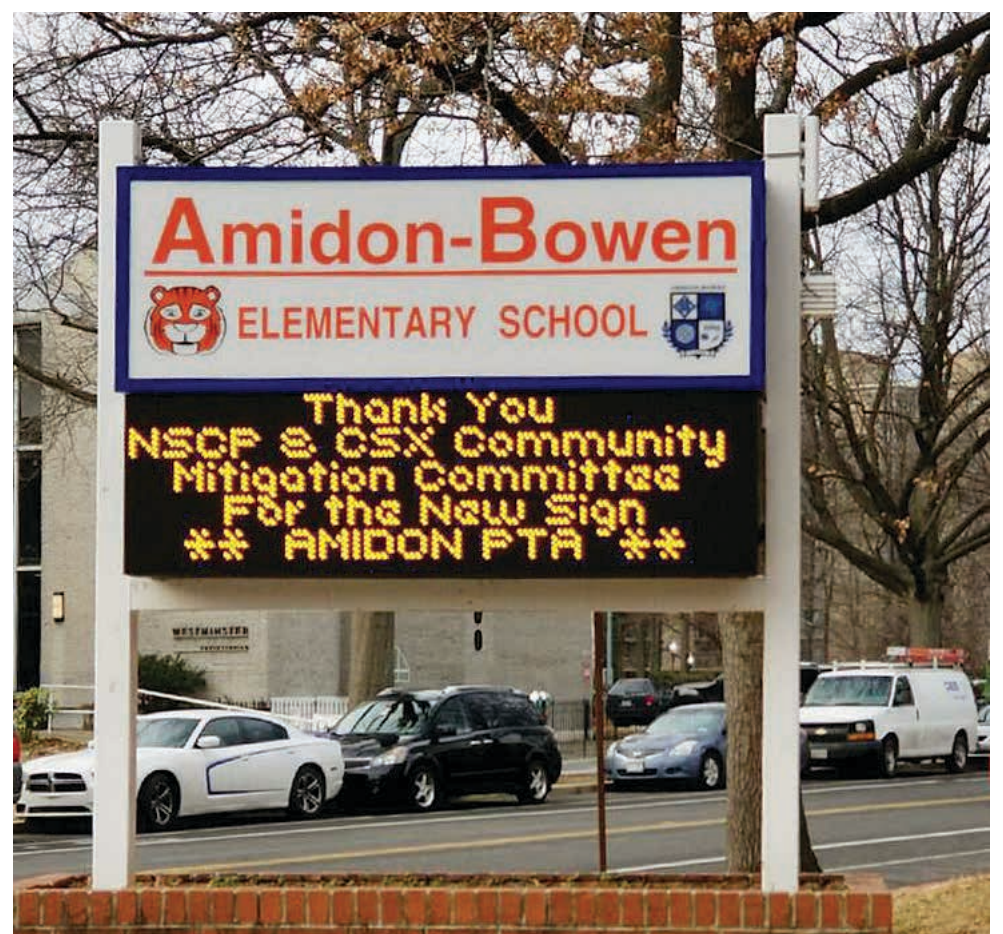
## UNION STAGE Washington, D.C.

### Union Stage Opens at The Wharf

BY JAMES CARROLL

The Wharf's newest music and entertainment venue has officially opened its doors. Union Stage is owned and operated by Jonathan, Daniel, and Luke Brindley, who also own Jammin' Java in Vienna, Va. Located between Pearl Street Warehouse and Kirwin's Irish Pub, Union Stage will offer programming for all ages, similar to Jammin' Java, which includes entertainment from a variety of national, international, and local talent. The first-floor taproom opens at 5 p.m. daily and features 16 taps, an array of canned craft beers, and delicious New Jersey-style pizzas. All offerings available in the taproom can also be ordered downstairs in the main room, which has a standing capacity of 450 people. Although most shows will be ticketed, Union Stage will also host many free events. A list of upcoming shows and ticketing information can be found at [unionstage.com](http://unionstage.com).

On Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly invites Southwest residents to come out to Union Stage and meet their fellow neighbors for happy hour (with our own drink special that evening). The event has space limited to 50 people at a time, so please stop by for a drink and a chat with neighbors and community leaders alike.



### New School Sign at Amidon-Bowen

BY MARTIN R. WELLES, ESQ.,  
TREASURER, AMIDON PTA

Thanks to a grant from Near Southeast Community Partners (NSCP) through the CSX Community Mitigation Fund, the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School PTA was able to purchase and install a new electronic school sign.

The old Amidon sign was installed about 25 years ago, long before merger between Amidon and Bowen. The only way to change the message board on the old sign was to stand on the brick ledge and insert letters. This was a tough task, especially in inclement weather.

The new sign displays the Amidon-

Bowen name and our tiger and academic logos in the school colors of orange and blue.

The electronic, variable message board can be updated easily from inside the school. I'm sure you will agree that the new sign brings a modern impression to the school and will be one way to keep the community informed about happenings at Amidon-Bowen.

Messages will begin to appear once the computer software has been installed and training has been completed.

Thanks again to NSCP, CSX, and the community members who serve on the grant review panel for recognizing the need and the community benefit.

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**

**FREE TICKETS. NO CATCH.**



FREE WILL is a year-long continuation of STC's annual Free For All, offering free tickets for every STC mainstage production in the season. Tickets are released once a week and can be reserved in person, over the phone or online.

Visit [ShakespeareTheatre.org/FreeWill](http://ShakespeareTheatre.org/FreeWill) to learn more. 202.547.1122

Coming soon:

**HAMLET**

by William Shakespeare • directed by Michael Kahn

January 16–February 25

Sidney Harman Hall | 610 F Street NW Washington, DC 20004

# Interview with Craig Wallace of *The Great Society*

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

**T**he *Great Society*, the second half of Robert Schenkkan's two-part epic about Lyndon B. Johnson's presidency, recounts his second term and his relationship with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The play debuts at Arena Stage on Feb. 8 and will run through March 11. Acclaimed actor Craig Wallace is one of the 17 cast members assuming a total of 40 roles. Wallace will portray three: Reverend Ralph Abernathy, Reverend Dobynes, and Representative Adam Clayton Powell.

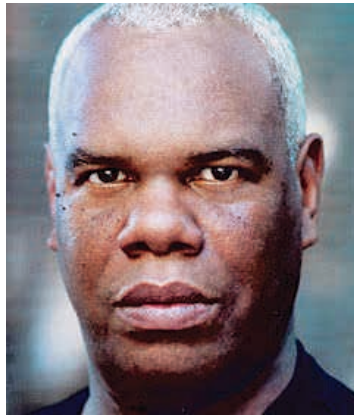
**Q: You have played many great historical figures on stage, from the 19th century statesman Frederick Douglass to the musician Louis Armstrong. What**

**is it like to play 20th century political figures like you do in *The Great Society*?**

**A:** It's extremely fun. These were actual people so it's exciting to research them and embody them.

**Q: How do you prepare for roles of characters who are no longer living? Did you talk with people who knew them, look at news reels, read history books?**

**A:** Basically, you create a physical/vocal template for each character to make them unique. Then rehearse, rehearse,



Craig Wallace

rehearse!

**Q: You have won critical acclaim and awards for your acting. Has portraying great men on stage changed how you think about life as well as challenge you as an actor?**

**A:** I'm not sure if acting has changed how I think about life other than I feel blessed that this is how I get to make my living. I will say that every role I do prepares me for the next one. I learn something new with every role and I'm always eager to try the new things I've learned.

**Q: Is there a role that you would love**

**to perform again? Do you have a dream role?**

**A:** I hope to play Armstrong again. I don't have a dream role. I've actually played all the roles I've dreamt of playing.

**Q: What has been the most exciting or interesting part of rehearsals so far?**

**A:** The history. It was such an important time in our history, so it has been a pleasure to revisit it.

**Q: When did you know you wanted to be an actor? What advice would you pass on to children who want to be in show business?**

**A:** I performed in *Guys and Dolls* my senior year in high school and never looked back. My advice? Stay prepared, never be lazy, listen and learn whenever you can, don't give up.

## Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group Holiday Meeting

**T**helma D. Jones, founder of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF), held her annual Support Group Holiday meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017 at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church with 30 participants in attendance. TDJBCF is a grassroots organization with national and global recognition. Jones, herself a breast cancer survivor, established the monthly support group in April 2010. The support group is the signature program of TDJBCF. The mission of the fund is "to advocate and improve the overall health and wellness for women and men through outreach, education, and prevention." Early detection is promoted with a vision aimed at saving lives and achieving a world community free of breast cancer.

Jones opened the meeting by welcoming cancer survivors and their families, and then Reverend Martha Clark, rector of St. Augustine's, extended greetings and offered holiday blessings. After recognition of breast cancer survivors, introduction of guests, and some caroling, speakers who had lost their mothers to breast cancer were invited to share their stories. Melanie A. Nix, herself a breast cancer survivor and co-founder of the Breast Cancer Comfort Site, served as the moderator. The Breast Cancer Comfort Site was established in 2009 with the vision of providing hope, determination, inspiration, and perspective while changing the tone and the tenor of the conversation.

The panelists, Alleya Miner and Carlos Hicks, who both lost their mothers to breast cancer when they were very young, and Audrea Hennis, whose mother is a breast cancer survivor, answered questions posed by Nix, who also shared her story of losing her mother and having to deal with the disease herself.

Panelist Miner shared that she resorted to food in order to find comfort after her mother's death and while struggling with her father's illness shortly afterwards. Hicks expressed his anger at God, saying, "There are so many bad people in this world yet



Thelma Jones addresses breast cancer survivors and families.



Melanie Nix, Alleya Miner, and Carlos Hicks share emotional stories of losing mothers to breast cancer.



Reverend Martha Clark extends greetings as participants anticipate an inspiring evening.



Carlos Hicks and Audrea Hennis reflect on their journeys.

God took my loving mother." Nix shared that she was just plain angry and "didn't want to hear that she was in a better place." Nix became angry with God when she herself was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Believers and nonbelievers alike become angry with God, especially when they have no answer to the question "why?" We all have our own ways of grieving and there is no set time prescribed for getting over loss. Most Christians believe that God is with them in their suffering, but sometimes forget this.

Nix claims that her children keep her going and never misses an opportunity to tell them, "Carter and Kennedy, mommy loves you." She claims that she now understands that her mother probably felt that it was a blessing to have her to love while she was going through her illness.

For Miner, the experience made her grateful for life. She claims that she is now comfortable with death and is able to connect with those who are affected by the loss of a parent. Hennis, whose mother is a breast cancer survivor and was also present at the meeting, expressed that her mother's illness brought her to the United States; and her mother is now able to be with her and to spend time with her grandson.

Nix asked panelists to consider what advice they would give to parents. These are some of their responses:

**Miner:** I wish my parents had their affairs in order because when a parent dies, there is additional pain in just trying to survive. "Parents don't procrastinate, this causes a lot of trauma."

**Hicks:** Be open with children about death. Good family support is crucial.

**Hennis:** Parents, keep your children abreast of what is going on.

**Nix:** What advice would you give to children of parents who are suffering?

**Hennis:** Be positive and pray. Positive thinking materializes what you feel.

**Hicks:** Stay away from the wrong kind of people, they will lead you down the wrong path. Stay prayed up, loved up, and show love to your families.

**Nix:** Is there anything you would like to add?

**Miner:** Health is all we have. People of color need to change their eating habits. I am now vegan.

**Hicks:** Most people don't go to doctors because they are afraid. Sometimes doctors cannot be trusted so the best approach is to do your own research and look for the holistic approach.

**Hennis:** I am on a journey to increase health of mind and body by trying the natural path.

Jones thanked the panelists for their courage in sharing their stories and Deacon Marcea Paul offered closing remarks and a holiday blessing. Those present truly enjoyed the evening, which ended with more caroling, a healthy meal, and gift giving. Gifts were generously provided by support group participants and friends, including each attendee receiving a goodie bag and their choice of a beautiful hand-crocheted afghan or scarf.

Jones is to be commended for the great work she does by advocating for and supporting those affected by breast cancer. Her lobbying of public officials both on national and local level for funding of tobacco control and cancer research has given hope to many.

Marcea Paul contributed to this article. Paul is a 2018 Ministry of Divinity candidate from the Diocese of Southeast Florida and has been an intern at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church for the past year.



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**WATERFRONT VILLAGE**  
Navigating Together

4:30 - 6:30 PM **HAPPY AT HOME EXPO** with local providers of home health care, residential maintenance and modification, meal delivery, dental and medical care, and more.

6:30 - 7:30 PM **CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION** to celebrate the first anniversary of our neighborhood-based membership organization offering supportive services to Southwest and Navy Yard residents

TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 2018 WESTMINSTER CHURCH 401 I (EYE) STREET, S.W.  
\$50 ADMISSION\*

[www.dewaterfrontvillage.org/calendar](http://www.dewaterfrontvillage.org/calendar) or 202-656-1834

\*Applicable within 60 days to a new Waterfront Village membership

Welcome Address by  
U.S. Representative  
Eleanor Holmes Norton

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## LEADERS

*Continued from p. 1*

effective member on a number of SWNA task forces over the course of many years.

For a number of years Monk joined in patrolling Southwest streets with other "orange hat" neighborhood volunteers at dusk. This program was part of an effort to increase public safety in the community, and to display confidence in the effectiveness of direct community engagement and involvement. Monk also worked with the Metropolitan Police Department as the coordinator and facilitator of monthly meetings between residents and police officers of the Police Service Area for Southwest. The meetings are held in different housing complexes each month, creating a strong relationship between the officers and the community they served.

Monk also had a great influence on guiding the appropriate redevelopment of Waterside Mall and the larger Southwest Waterfront area. First, through service as chair of the SWNA Task Force on Waterside Mall/Waterfront, and then as president of SWNA, where she guided many development issues at board and community meetings. Monk is also a former director of Carrollsburg, A Condominium. She is retired from the U.S. Army Materiel Command as a program manager, and the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

**Rhonda Hamilton** is a Southwester through and through, living, working, and volunteering in her community. Hamilton has been a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, resident of Syphax Gardens, and has served as a member of SWNA's Youth Activities Task Force (YATF). In her youth, Hamilton was also a participant in many YATF programs and was a recipient of a scholarship from the Education & Scholarship Task Force scholarship fund. She received her first experiences working in Southwest as a volunteer with the Syphax Gardens Resident Council, and with the 2000 census ringing doorbells. Hamilton received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of the District of Columbia and a master's degree in public administration from Southeastern University. Her past work has included a position with the South Washington Collaborative's Youth Truancy Reduction Intervention Program, in partnership with Jefferson Middle School, to try to curb high truancy rates in the local community.

Hamilton and Pat Graham led the "74 Bus Committee," a steering committee of community stakeholders and WMATA staff, which was a unique collaborative effort to develop a successful new bus line for the area. She has also served for several years as a commissioner for ANC6D, where she has advocated on behalf of her neighborhood and the larger Southwest community. She utilizes her lifetime of perspective on the area to strengthen decisions from the commission that impact Southwest, including recent work in addressing environmental and public health concerns that have come with increasing new development. These efforts included pushing for favorable treatment for area residents to rent apartments in the Camden South Capitol apartment complex across from Nationals Park and calling for better awareness and accountability of

remediation and cleanup efforts for the Pepco substation and DC United Stadium sites. She also serves as an active leader by engaging with various community groups, such as SWNA and Empower DC, in the mission to effectively improve the quality of life for Southwest residents.

**Thelma Jones** is a longtime resident of Southwest who has spent years receiving specialized training to enable her to serve and train youth and others for better lives, and is continually working on behalf of her community. As an expert in the dynamics of community organizing, Jones has filled many leadership roles in Southwest. She has served SWNA as chair of YATF, and as an active member of the education/scholarship and history task forces. Her role at SWNA has also included time serving as a member of the Board of Directors, vice president, and president of the organization.

Year after year under Jones's leadership SWNA has celebrated Black History Month in February community programs, where heart-warming and stirring speeches have been told of hardship and stellar progress in Southwest. Jones's frequent byline in *The Southwester* likewise highlights her contribution as a journalist in the community. She has for years appeared in the staff box as assistant editor or staff writer. Jones's skill at public speaking has also led to her prolific role as chair of several public forums and mistress of ceremonies at art auctions, Black History Month programs, fundraisers, award ceremonies, call box dedications, and dinner-dances.

Jones's many years of experience working at the World Bank have brought many benefits to Near Southwest. Through this connection the World Bank has hosted visits from SW students, who learn about the bank's role in less developed countries, and how the bank raises and manages money. The World Bank's summer employment for youth program, established by Jones, served as the model for Southwest's programming for recruiting employers and preparing youth for jobs, and was further utilized as the model for the citywide mayor's summer jobs program. Jones has also spent several years as a leader and activist in the cancer survivor networks, working with the American Cancer Society and by establishing the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund and associated local support groups.

Jones's many qualities and achievements are captured by the variety of recognition awards she has received over the years. These include 1992 and 2003 Grassroots awards from the DC Federation of Civic Associations, selection as a 1995 Seven on Your Side Black History Month honoree, the 2010 Mayor's Community Service Award For Lifetime Achievement, the 2012 DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Standing in the Gap award. In 2017, Jones even received a DC City Council Resolution on the occasion of her 65th birthday and the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund.

Jones has a degree from Durham College and studied at Trinity College and Catholic University, both here in DC, and has received certificates from Georgetown University and The George Washington University.