



The Southwester

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Serving the Waterfront Communities of Southwest and Navy Yard

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Neighborhood Group Looks to Activate “Village”

By: Bob Craycraft
Executive Director, Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association

The Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association, an affiliation of eight homeowners’ associations along G St. SW, has started exploratory steps to establish Waterfront Village to serve the greater Southwest community. The village concept is a community-based approach to aging that incorporates principles of a naturally occurring retirement community (NORC), which is a community with a high percentage of senior residents that was not designed to meet their aging needs, and federal area agencies on aging programs. There are more than 180 villages worldwide between Australia, the Netherlands, and the United States, with eight in the District of Columbia.

The goal is to ensure that our aging neighbors have the confidence and practical means to stay in their own homes throughout their lives. Village members gain access to a range of professional and volunteer services and a variety of educational and social programs. Volunteers and staff also provide transportation to events and appointments, medical and legal advocacy, advice on home renovations, and other services.

For further updates on Waterfront Village, join the listserv by emailing dcwaterfrontvillage@gmail.com or calling 202-812-0291. For more information on NORCs, please see www.norcs.org; on the village program see www.vtnetwork.org; and on the Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association www.dewaterfrontgateway.org.

New Waterfront Metro Station Escalators Coming

Metro is planning a major capital project that will replace the three entrance escalators at Waterfront station starting on Jan. 18, 2016. The project will replace the current escalators, which are almost 25 years old and have exceeded their useful life, with brand new escalators that are more durable and reliable. A rehabilitation of the mezzanine elevator will also happen this spring.

Each escalator will require about 35 weeks for site preparation, demolition, construction, installation, and testing. Replacing all three escalators in succession will take a total of about two years. Two escalators will always be available during the project: one going up, and one going down.

SWNA Receives 2015 Brickie Award

By: Julia Cole
Copy Editor, The Southwester

On Monday, Dec. 7, Councilmember Charles Allen held an awards ceremony to announce the winners of the 2015 “Brickie” Awards. These awards, which are plaques attached to actual bricks, are given out to recognize people and organizations in Ward 6 who help make the community great. This year, our very own Southwest Neighborhood Assembly received the Community Organization award. SWNA has been serving Southwest for more than 50 years, and is much deserving of this recognition.



(Left to right) Anne Martin, Perry Klein, Thelma Jones, Julia Cole, Jason Kopp, Shannon Vaughn, Kenneth Prater, Pat Spencer, and Saadia Athias with the 2015 Community Organization Award. Photo by Sue Klein.

It Takes a Neighborhood: Why Amidon-Bowen is the Right School for All Our Kids

By: Betsy Wolf

As an education researcher and a former teacher, I have spent a lot of time thinking about the plight of urban schools and their challenges with poverty, student achievement, and teacher quality and turnover. Amidon-Bowen Elementary School in Southwest faces many of these issues: Test scores are low, and 78% of students qualify for free and reduced-price meals. Yet I decided to send my child to Amidon-Bowen this year.

Before we made the decision to send our three-year-old to Amidon, I asked around and attended open houses for some of the most sought-after public and charter schools in the city. But I left the open houses feeling somewhat discouraged. Sure, they had amazing gardens and tastefully appointed art rooms bursting with supplies, but there was also a lack of racial and socioeconomic diversity. And while the principals and parents would rave about the school, they would also tell us that we would be lucky to go there. And it would have taken luck—one no-boundary school expected eight open spots in PreK3 after sibling preference and more than 600 applicants.

Like a lot of parents in DC, I felt like I had only two choices: hoping for an improbable spot in a desirable school that would surround my child with resources, wealth, and privilege; or risking a local elementary school that confronts real student achievement challenges. It doesn’t have to be this way; Amidon-Bowen can be a school that our neighborhood can be proud of, but only if we fight for it.

On the first day of school, I braced myself

to feel overwhelmed, but to my surprise, my son didn’t even cry. He saw the well-stocked play kitchen and didn’t look back. Weeks and months went by, and we can see that our son is really happy. When I ask him whether he prefers daycare or preschool, he always says preschool. He loves learning at Amidon and feels empowered. He loves his teachers’ enthusiasm. He loves his new friends who run up and give him a hug almost every day. He loves playing on the playground. And he loves music class. I can honestly say that on most days—he’s a three-year-old, after all—he is excited to attend school, and he is happy when I pick him up.

Plenty of things still need to be improved at Amidon. Yet many of its challenges arise from the over-concentration of students living below the poverty line, the corresponding lack of middle-class family engagement, and the overall dearth of parental and community involvement. Historically, most middle-class people in Southwest have not sent their kids to Amidon, and if they do, it’s only for a few early years before moving elsewhere.

Of course, we all want what’s best for our own kids. I understand that. None of us wants to put our children in a situation where they cannot thrive. But individual decisions have left our community with a highly segregated elementary school that, despite the efforts of its dedicated staff, does not serve its students as well as it could. Other nearby communities have rallied to create a vibrant neighborhood school, but Southwest, on the whole, has not. Although Amidon has many valued friends and partnerships, we still need much greater engagement

from all members of the community for the school to meet the needs of all its students.

There are costs if we fail. Unless we continue to improve Amidon’s educational outcomes, neighborhood families will either spend hours commuting across town to other schools or leave Southwest altogether. New families moving into the DC area will choose to live in other neighborhoods with better schools. Property values will lag behind those of nearby areas with better schools. And, most importantly, many students who remain at Amidon will not receive the education they need and deserve.

We cannot truly alter Amidon’s trajectory without breaking through the status quo of racial and socioeconomic school segregation and integrating the school to reflect the diversity of our community. I like to think that most people in Southwest believe that integration works because we have such a diverse and lovely neighborhood. And there is a growing cohort of involved parents working to make a difference. If even a few middle-class families were to enroll their children at Amidon each year, there will be a significant improvement in the socioeconomic diversity of the student body in a short period of time. And if we’re able to recruit more volunteers, we could take steps to make concrete improvements to Amidon—and thus to our community—right now.

We have the opportunity to do something unique at Amidon: to create a school that is integrated, both racially and socioeconomically, in the way that our neighborhood is, and in a way that is otherwise increasingly difficult to find.

See “Amidon-Bowen,” page 3



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walkej22@nationwide.com

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Southwester Staff

Editor Emeritus: Dale MacIver

Editor-in-Chief: Shannon Vaughn

Editorial Staff: Julia Cole (Copy & Web);
Maya Renee (Calendar)

Donna Purchase (On-line Calendar)

Distribution Manager: Perry Klein

Design & Layout: Electronic Ink

Printer: Silver Communications

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SWNA Scholar Impacting Community

By: Vyllorya Evans

With contributions by Bianca Kersellius

Bianca Kersellius is a senior studying communications at Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg. She received a scholarship from the Southwest Neighborhood Association this past summer. Kersellius said about her scholarship, "this scholarship has helped me with my finances as I try to finish my last year of college strong. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to be rewarded with such an award and I would like to thank the board of directors who made this scholarship program possible."

After graduating this upcoming spring, Kersellius plans to return to DC with the hopes of working at an event planning company. Kersellius is known for her happy-go-lucky spirit and has always been known to go after what she wants in life. In her free time, she enjoys writing, planning events, and spending time with her family and friends. Last summer Kersellius did volunteer work that allowed her to hone her skills in event planning and writing.

When Tsahai Pettiford (also a 2015 SWNA scholarship recipient), a friend, told Kersellius about the SWNA program, she contacted Vyllorya Evans, co-chair of the Education and Scholarship Task Force, to apply. At their meeting, Evans was impressed and recruited Kersellius to assist her with the 2015 scholarship awards



Bianca Kersellius

program. Kersellius helped plan the awards program, gathered information for scholarship recipients' bios, and wrote an article for *The Southwester* about a former SWNA scholarship recipient. Kersellius turned things around so fast that Evans moved to other items on the task force's to-do list. One of those items was to create a brochure that SWNA could use for fundraising and recruiting students to apply for scholarships. Ever the go-getter, Kersellius conducted research and laid out the soon-to-be-released brochure that SWNA has needed for

years. The brochure will be a valuable tool for fundraising and recruiting for years to come. Kersellius also interned with Athgo International at the World Bank, where she interviewed discussion forum panelists, CEOs of internal corporations, and other special guests at Athgo's annual "Global Innovation Forum."

Kersellius has lived in Southwest since she was two years old. She attended Amidon-Bowen Elementary School from kindergarten through the sixth grade. After graduating from Amidon, she attended Friendship Public Charter School's Blow Pierce campus for seventh and eighth grade. Throughout her public school years, Kersellius was very active in sports (volleyball and softball) and other extracurricular activities. After graduating from Blow Pierce with honors in 2008, Kersellius started high school at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School. She continued to play volleyball and softball and was also active in the student government association, and other clubs and organizations. Kersellius graduated from Banneker in 2012.

The Southwest community salutes Kersellius for her contribution to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship Fund brochure. We look forward to her spring graduation and following her future endeavors.

For more information about the SWNA Scholarship Fund go to www.swdc.org/swna/task-forces/education-scholarship/.



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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.

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

Religious Movie Seminar

Sundays ~ 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Meeting Room •
Jan. 3 — *The Mill and the Cross* (2011); Jan. 10 — *The Day of the Siege: September Eleven 1683* (2012); Jan. 17 — *Seven Cities of Gold* (1955); Jan. 24 — *Of Gods and Men* (2011); Jan. 31 — *The Miracle of the Bells* (1948)

March for Life — January 22

Thursday, January 21 ~ 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. •
Eucharistic Holy Hour. "All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's Creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." Pope Francis (July 28, 2013)

Chant Mass — In honor of St Thomas Aquinas

Thursday, January 28 ~ 7:00 p.m. • Come and experience the beauty of a sung chanted Mass in honor of this Italian Dominican Saint.

The 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off for charity

Saturday, February 6 ~ 6:00 p.m. • Do people compliment you on your chili? Then why not put it to the test for charity! For more details, please contact social@stdominicchurch.org. Even if you don't plan to make chili, you can still help judge the contest. The suggested donation is \$5 for adults, kids eat free. Proceeds will benefit the Church's poor box, which is used to help people who are in need of emergency cash for necessities such as rent, prescription drugs and food.

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SW Students Attend TEDx Event

By: Vyllorya Evans

Nicla De Biasi and Eleanor Holt attended TEDxYouth@ColumbiaHeights on Nov. 21 at the Gala Hispanic Theatre. The Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID), in partnership with the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force, sponsored them at the event. (SWBID was willing to sponsor 20.)

The event's goal was to connect the 170 youth in attendance to new ideas, opportunities, and each other, thereby helping students grow as individuals who can positively impact their communities. It was a success for these students. They liked the diversity of the 11 speakers. The session they found most fascinating was about the Minerva Schools at Keck Graduate Institute, a new accredited university program where students live in seven of the world's greatest cities during their four years of college. During the event, they were encouraged to tweet and use other social media outlets to share this innovative idea.

These young ladies are already giving back to Southwest and the larger community. Nicla is a Sunday school teacher's aide at Westminster Presbyterian Church and completes numerous service projects through her Girl Scouts troop. Eleanor is a junior counselor at skating camp, a math tutor, and a Sunday school teacher's aide.

By bringing an opportunity for students to participate in a program of this caliber, SWBID is exceeding the community's expectations as well as beautifying the neighborhood.

For more information about this event, go to tedxyouthcolumbiaheights.com.

CBCC Comments on Waterfront Station Parcel Bids

By Fredrica Kramer, CBCC Vice Chair

Applying its principles for redevelopment (see Southwester, November 2015), the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC) submitted comments on October 9 to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) on the three finalists bidding for the 1000 4th Street Waterfront Station Parcel. Although CBCC did not endorse any one bid, its comments filtered the attributes of each through the principles for a new “Main Street” and a redeveloped Southwest that ensures continued social diversity. CBCC has since formed a Task Force on PUDs, including new Board member Gail Fast and Will Rich, retiring from the Board but joining the Task Force, in order to become more proactive in following PUDs and assisting the ANC in negotiations with developers and the City for community benefits that help maintain social diversity in redevelopment, as is CBCC’s mission.

On housing, each of the finalists’ bids provided at least 30% of units at below market rate (per DC law for District-owned land), however none promised larger than 2 BR units and, as with most new housing in SW, will accommodate singles and couples but few families. The size, location and duration of the affordable units, CBCC found, were not explicit. Rental and for-sale percentages could impact neighborhood stability, over time, and CBCC argued should also be considered in redevelopment strategies going forward. One proposal included a small number of permanent supportive housing units and a specified number of permanent jobs, including partnerships with social services providers, and relationships with DC administration and training and employment providers, which could partially address both local employment needs and the citywide crisis in homelessness. CBCC recommended that whoever wins the bid, DMPED might consider a supportive housing component for future PUDs. At its December 14 meeting, ANC 6D passed a resolution supporting DC policy to put new facilities for the homeless to

replace DC General in all eight wards, but the resolution required that these new facilities start with the highest income wards so that equitable distribution is assured.

On proposed retail, CBCC found the bids lacked the specificity to ensure that the profile of retail and rent levels (and mechanisms to hold rents affordable for neighborhood businesses over time) will provide a true Main Street with services targeted to neighborhood residents. The PN Hoffman bid, since endorsed by ANC 6D, would provide the most retail space, but it provided little detail on street frontage and specific content. The black box theater would complement Southwest’s role as a cultural hub, but other neighborhood services were not specified, which according to the critique, could come at the expense of common space and neighborhood level retail and services.

On open and common space to preserve the neighborhood character, most new development will dramatically increase density in Southwest. Other than general references to lively street activity and some idealized visual reference to sidewalk cafes, there was no indication in the bids about setbacks or realistic spacing for sidewalk use. The loss of common space in new 11-story structures with little to no setback or other open space, CBCC argued, does not serve the Small Area Plan recommendations for varied building lines and controlled massing to preserve neighborhood character and feeling of open space. Since no townhouses or low-rise structures have recently been proposed, and many of the common space will be interior in new structures, CBCC recommended that massing does not set a precedent for future development designs.

CBCC was also concerned that the number and allocation of parking spaces needs to be clarified so that some car ownership to support demographic diversity is accommodated but does not compete with scarce street parking. Similarly, the administration and restrictions on private streets, which may be increasingly common in redevelopment, needs to be detailed. The full critique can be found at www.seswcbcc.org.

AMIDON-BOWEN

From p. 1

But to make it happen, we need the sustained effort of our entire community.

Ways that you can get involved:

Attend an open house (open to prospective families and community members alike):

- Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for a community strategy session about the school’s future on Saturday, Feb. 13. Details forthcoming.

Take the prospective or current parent surveys (families who anticipate having children in the next few years are also encouraged to take the prospective parent survey):

- Amidon-Bowen prospective parent survey: <http://goo.gl/forms/Hct1MRmlbL>
- Amidon-Bowen current parent survey: <http://goo.gl/forms/KAETwnzoIs>

Serve on a committee:

- For fundraising, email Marty Welles at martinwelles@hotmail.com.
- For information technology, email Betsy Wolf at betsyjwolf@gmail.com.
- For community outreach, email Lucy Rojansky at rojansky@gmail.com.

To get involved in other ways, email the Amidon-Bowen PTA at amidonpta@hotmail.com.

To donate to the school, contact Marty Welles (PTA president) or Lucy Rojansky (PTA treasurer).

Follow us on Twitter at @AmidonBowenPTA.



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Ms. Belinda Belk (seated, center), president of Greenleaf Gardens senior apartments, surrounded by her residents.

Greenleaf Senior Residents Celebrate the Holidays

By: Dena Walker

'T is the season to celebrate holiday greetings with the residents of the Greenleaf Gardens senior apartments. The spirit of Christmas was in full swing as the residents, who were dressed in their most stylish and festive holiday colors, gathered to celebrate the holiday season. The room and tables were beautifully decorated for the occasion. The American Veterans (AMVETS) Department of DC has sponsored this event for the senior and disabled residents of the Greenleaf Gardens senior residence for the past five years. On hand

to celebrate with residents and to represent the AMVETS organization was its executive director, Mr. Johnnie Collins, Jr., and judge advocate, Mr. Tony Raines. Ms. Belinda Belk, president of the Greenleaf Gardens senior apartments' resident council, served as the hostess of good cheer for residents and guests. A delicious dinner was served, while jolly Christmas tunes were played in the background. A wonderful time was shared by all, as you can see in the wonderful photos that residents were so happy to pose for and allow me to share. They asked me to wish all of The Southwester's readers a blessed holiday and a happy New Year!

Speak Up and Be Heard at Toastmasters

By: Christina Scheltema

Komen Toastmasters, founded more than 15 years ago to help members advocate for breast cancer research and treatment, continues to help its members acquire both public speaking and leadership skills. Today, Komen is a community toastmasters club, open to everyone over the age of 18. They meet in the basement conference room of the Southwest Neighborhood Library twice a month.

According to one member, "Komen Toastmasters has been instrumental in improving my ability to speak in front of large groups with confidence. At work, I organize and facilitate meetings for a staff of more than 40 people, and Komen has provided the knowledge and practice to help me make these meetings more productive, efficient, and—if you can believe it—fun!"

Another member, who joined Komen to help her transition back to work after having children, found that Komen gave her the public speaking and leadership skills to land a position as executive director of an organization. She was required to give a speech as part of the interview process for this job, and practiced that speech at Komen. In her words, "the awesome feedback from the speech evaluator and other club members surely gave me the edge over the competition." She also said, "my insight from all this is that Toastmasters builds leadership skills not only through leadership roles, but also through

leadership traits as reflected in the speeches we make. The speech-making qualities of body language, word choice, and pacing are all reflections of leadership skill. When we speak, we tell the audience what kind of leader we are."

People join Komen for various reasons. One woman joined to help her prepare to give a toast at a friend's wedding, another to prepare to give the eulogy at her father's funeral when he eventually succumbed to Alzheimer's disease. One man joined to help him talk to people with greater confidence.

As Distinguished Toastmaster Vann-Di Gallo says, "I love seeing shy people blossom with the confidence from being able to express themselves without fear. I have seen members overcome stuttering problems and a stroke victim use Toastmasters as part of his speech therapy recovery program. I have transitioned in my career thanks to Toastmasters. This program works."

Members of Komen Toastmasters work on their public speaking and leadership skills while having a good time. Jokes and laughter punctuate many meetings, especially during table topics, a portion of the meeting when members practice speaking off the cuff, responding to a question.

Komen meets at 10:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of every month. Visitors are always welcome.



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Education Sunday at Westminster Presbyterian

Westminster Presbyterian Church’s annual Education Sunday was held on Nov. 22, 2015. During the regular Sunday service, the Amidon-Bowen choir, the Jefferson Junior High School band, and the Eastern Senior High School choir performed. Eastern became the feeder school for Southwest this year and their maiden performance “stole the show.” Each school was presented a \$500 award from the church. Parents and teachers were present from all the schools.

Photos courtesy of Perry Klein.

The Jefferson Middle School band. Jessica Harris, director.



Director Para Perry and the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School choir. The choir gowns were woven by members of the Westminster congregation.



The Eastern Senior High School choir with Tedrick Bonds, the director. This is the Eastern choir’s inaugural year, and this was their first performance outside the school.



The Amidon-Bowen Elementary School choir. In the second row (left to right) are Director Para Perry, Principal Izabella Miller, and PTA President Martin Welles.



SWBID
Southwest Business Improvement District

JANUARY 2016

SAT 2, 1-2:30 P.M. YOGA NIDRA FOR THE NEW YEAR 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 3, 3 P.M. Weekend LEGO Club, AGES 4-12, Children under 9 years of age must be accompanied by a care provider. SW Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

SUN 3, 6:30 PM St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW, "The Mill and the Cross".FREE. Everyone is welcome. Some people bring food to share, but no one is obligated.

WED 6, 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.

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

SUN 10, 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 10, 6:30 PM St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW, "The Day of the Siege: September Eleven 1683". FREE. There is no obligation, but some people bring food to share.

MON 11, 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 check out the latest pick. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

MON 11, 7 P.M. ANC 6D Monthly Business Meeting, 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd floor. Agenda at www.anc6d.org

WED 13, 4:30 P.M. Create Club. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for arts & crafts activities. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

THURS 14, 3-6 P.M. Employment Legal Clinic. Neighborhood Legal Services attorney will be available to meet with drop in clients regarding employment law. SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 16, 3 P.M. P.M. Build-it Studio. Children aged 6-12 are invited to join us in creative, hands-on fun building structures using everyday materials. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

SUN 17, 6:30 PM St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW, "Seven Cities of Gold". FREE. There is no obligation, but some people bring food to share.

TUES 19, 6:30 P.M. Birmingham Jail Players perform inspired by King: Readings in Observance of MLK, Jr. Day. All are welcome to this presentation featuring readings by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders who were inspired by him. SW Neighborhood Library.

WED 20, 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.

WED 20, 6:30 P.M. Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Support Group Meeting. Confirmed guest speaker is Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, SWNA-ANC6D Office, 1101 Fourth Street, SW, Room W120. Refreshments will be served. Seating is limited. RSVP required at info@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or (202) 251-1639.

SUN 24, 3-5 P.M. Book Reception, Reading and Signing by DC author Karen Branan, a seasoned journalist will read from her new book, The Family Tree: A Lynching in Georgia, A Legacy

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.

of Secrets, My Search for the Truth". Also with live music of well-known artist who are part of Westminster Blue Monday Blues. Discussion to follow. This is a part of Westminster's January theme "Marching in the Light of God" to address past and present racism and injustice. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street, SW

SUN 24, 6:30 PM St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW, "Of Gods and Men". FREE. Everyone is welcome. Some people bring food to share, but no one is obligated

WED 27, 4:30 P.M. Wii Time, Ages 6-12, come and play the games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

THURS 28, 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 30, 1:30 P.M. Southwest Book Discussion. Copies of this month's selection, "Give Us the Ballot" by Ari Berman, are available for check-out at the information. SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 30, 3 P.M. Winter Fun Day for children and families. Winter themed activities and stories. . Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

SUN 31, 6:30 PM St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW, "The Miracle of the Bells." 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 18th). 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.
Jan 5 - Library Website
Jan 12- Email Basics
Jan 19 - No class scheduled
Jan 26- Microsoft Word

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

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, Thursdays, 1-6 P.M. One-on-one sessions offering help with resumes, cover letters, applications and other aspects of the job search process. By appointment only. Call 724-4298 or stop by the information desk to make an appointment. SW Neighborhood Library.

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

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

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

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

OPEN MIC NIGHT -Every Friday, 5:30-7 P.M. hosted by Sasha Bruce Youthwork. Free open space

for Spoken Word, Poetry, Music, Rap, and Monologues. Sasha Bruce at Randall Community Center 9 "I" (eye) Street SW. More information **Email: bford@sashabruce.org**.

PAJAMA STORY TIME, Thursdays, 6 P.M. Bed-time stories and activities for toddlers, preschoolers and care providers. SW Neighborhood Library.

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, January 20, 2016**. PROGRAM Part I-Chapter Annual Business Meeting. PROGRAM Part II-A Community Conversation with the District of Columbia Chief of Police, Cathy L. Lanier. 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. All levels welcome. Mats are provided, or you can bring your own. SW Neighborhood Library.

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

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

ZUMBA, 6 P.M. Tuesdays & Thursdays, **FREE, Sasha Bruce Youthwork at Randall Community Center**.

ZUMBA for Adults 7:30-8:30 P.M. Mondays (no class on 18th)- A fast paced, aerobic dance fitness program. SW Neighborhood Library.

Computers-for-Kids Winter Graduation

By: **Thelma D. Jones**

More than 30 guests attended the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force (YATF) Computers-for-Kids graduation on Saturday, Dec. 12. Held in partnership with the James Creek Resident Council located on N St. SW, the winter graduation was déjà vu, as this was the site of the first and most successful computer training class held in Oct. 2007. YATF Chairperson Thelma D. Jones welcomed the guests, which included parents, relatives, and siblings of the eight graduates and noted the enthusiasm of the returning partnership with James Creek Resident Council. Southwest youth leader Dayon Lewis-Thomas, 16, provided an impressive summary of her extracurricular activities (i.e., student athletic trainer, varsity girls basketball manager, junior varsity and varsity boys football manager, member of the flag football team, all while maintaining a 3.2 GPA at Wilson Senior High School), prior to introducing guest speaker Paul L. Rau, youth advocate and YATF member. Rau gave a well-received speech on the elements of succeeding in life, including setting goals, taking advantage of resources, and being adaptable. Although geared to the graduates, Rau's speech resonated with practically the entire audience. Afterward, the audience sang a rousing rendition of "Jingle Bells," which was a welcomed tune by the young kids.

Senior Computers-For-Kids instructor Gerald Brown and instructor Frank Fu presented the certificates of completion to the following graduates: Kaleb Boulware, Kalia Boulware, Siani Crews, Antwon Gibson, Sky Simons, Chantell Switzer, Jaylen Jenkins, and Adrianna Williams. Each student received personalized gift items compliments of YATF members Jenelle Leonard and Thelma D. Jones. The students will also receive one refurbished computer per family from the SWNA Technology Task Force under the leadership of Perry Klein. Instructors Brown and Fu also acknowledged and presented the volunteers with a certificate of participation. Volunteers included YATF members Paul L. Rau, Nanette Cochran, Renee Feder, Jenelle Leonard, Cheryl-Hansberry Moore, Christine Spencer, and Anna Fu, spouse of instructor Frank Fu. A special recognition was awarded to

Christine Spencer, vice president of the James Creek Resident Council, for her leadership efforts in ensuring the success of the winter class. Spencer was instrumental in recruiting the students, assisting with overall attendance records, and providing the space at James Creek's computer center, which was also set up by the SWNA Technology Task Force under a grant from the Friends of Southwest DC.

Graduation requirements included good attendance, good behavior, and good participation. The eight-week program of one-hour classes on Tuesday evenings covered computer parts, typing skills, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, and creating biography and autobiography Internet searches. In addition, healthy snacks were served to the students accompanied by brief and engaging talks on healthy eating. Incentives were awarded to the students with perfect attendance and who had the most guests present. Khalil Boulware and Adrianna Williams were awarded \$10 each for perfect attendance and Adrianna was awarded \$10 for having the most guests (10 family members). Incentives continue to be a part of the program. Previously, chairperson Jones and instructor Brown have awarded first (\$75), second (\$50), and third place (\$25) prizes to the students for perfect attendance and for inviting the most guests. Giionna Marshall, 11, who graduated in June 2014, attended along with her mother and young sibling. Marshall won the incentive award in 2014 for inviting 15 family members, including her parents, maternal and paternal grandmothers, maternal and paternal aunts and uncles, and cousins, making it one of the YATF's most well attended graduations.

Closing remarks were provided by Southwest resident Demetric Mason, 22, a fitness instructor and entrepreneur. Mason is interested in working with the YATF in providing lessons on fitness and wellness and was inspired by the YATF's efforts to provide healthy snacks and refreshments during the classes and at the graduation's reception.

A special thanks to the Friends of Southwest DC, Washington Cable, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Officer Marshall, who underwrote the cost of the pizzas and drinks that complemented the healthy refreshments.

The History of Southwest DC

as published in the pages of *The Southwester*

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PUBLIC MEETING

On the Remediation of the Proposed DC United Soccer Stadium Site

Thursday, January 21, 2016 | 6:00pm

Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)

1100 4th St SW, Washington, DC 20024 | 2nd Floor Mtg. Room



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PARADE OF LIGHTS CONTEST

More than 45 boats participated in this year's Parade of Lights contest, during which the vessels sail from Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, across the Potomac River to Southwest DC. The event took place on Saturday, Dec. 5. The contest also features an in-slip portion that is reserved for Gangplank Marina slipholders only. Please enjoy these photos of this year's festive event.

At right, the contest judges (left to right): Diane Groomes, Theresa Belpulsi, and Lt. Col. Johnathon Kupka. U.S. Army photo.

Photos courtesy of Tashia McCarty, communications & social advocacy chair of the Gangplank Slipholders Association.



Above, the best in-slip winner, Yellow Rose.



Above, the in-slip first place boat, Shannon's Steal.



Above, the in-slip third place winner, Laconic.



Above, the second place in-slip winner, Blue Skies.