



The Southwester

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Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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Shaping Southwest: Understanding the Past and Envisioning the Future: Lecture 2

By Cecille Chen

On April 22nd, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, in cooperation with DC Preservation League, presented the second of a three-part lecture series entitled “Shaping Southwest: Understanding the Past and Envisioning the Future.” As a follow-up to the first lecture, which discussed the history of our neighborhood, the second lecture focused on the future of Southwest in light of numerous planned development projects throughout our community. Arena Stage graciously hosted the event in their rehearsal hall, which was filled to capacity. The five-person panel included officials from the Office of Planning, the Historic Preservation Office, and architects with expertise in Southwest.

Tarek Bolden and Steve Cochran from the Office of Planning discussed the Southwest Small Area Plan, a process that would provide public and private stakeholders a land use and urban design framework for guiding development in our neighborhood. The project aims to develop strategies for multiple

District-owned sites in our community and determine more efficient uses or redevelopment of these properties. In addition, it seeks to promote greater pedestrian access and improved connectivity with increased transportation choices.

David Maloney, DC’s Preservation Officer, emphasized the importance of conserving neighborhood character. He cited the development of infill buildings at Potomac Place as an example of a project that disrupted the original design of the property, which seamlessly integrated landscape and buildings. Although Potomac Place received landmark designation, it was too late to save the reflecting pool and pavilion that afforded a park-like setting to residents. In order to avoid losing our valuable green spaces, he emphasized that residents need to advocate for the preservation of the unique character of our neighborhood.

Todd Ray of Studio 27 Architecture provided a vision for Southwest’s future by presenting a study completed by his firm in collaboration with architecture students at Catholic University. The studio analyzed current physical conditions in Southwest, and proposed innovative solutions such as burying

the freeway underground and creating surface parks for pedestrians, as well as adding multi-modal transportation systems and a bridge to Hains Point.

Eric Jenkins, an architecture professor at Catholic University, decided to make his home in Southwest because he was attracted to the modernist architecture in our community. In light of various impending development projects, he urged residents to become more engaged in the planning process in Southwest. He emphasized the value of our green spaces and questioned the notion that an empty space should always be filled in. The danger in giving up all our green spaces is that we would lose the unique character of our community, becoming as anonymous as K Street or Rosslyn.

A lively Q&A session with the audience followed, and concerns regarding over-development emerged as a main theme. In response, the panelists urged residents to participate in the Small Area Plan and to testify at ANC and Zoning hearings to demand better planning and design for our community.

From Humble Roots, A Principal Finds Her Place in Southwest

By Lucy Rojansky

No obvious path brought Izabela Miller from her childhood in the small town of Boleslawiec, Poland, to her current position as Principal of Amidon-Bowen Elementary School. She grew up during a time of great political upheaval in the years before the collapse of the Soviet Union, the middle of three girls in a home where her mother worked as the primary breadwinner and her father mostly stayed home, hampered by poor health. The children made do with very few material possessions.

Miller was a solid but restless student, focused on subjects that interested her most,

such as foreign languages. She graduated from high school, and traveled with a group of friends throughout Central Asia to India. She volunteered at a hospital run by Mother Teresa’s order of nuns and witnessed conditions she had never imagined possible. It was there that she began to hone in on her true passions. Her experience in India made her realize that she was not motivated by the promise of material wealth.

“I knew then that I did not want to be rich, per se, in the sense of earning a lot of money, but that I wanted to be able to leave the world having made a difference in one person’s life. And I knew it then, at 18 or 19 years old,” Miller said. “I didn’t yet know how I was going to go about it.”

She returned to Poland where she attended teacher’s college. Teaching, she realized, fulfilled her internal desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others. After graduating, she moved to the U.S. and devoted herself to learning English full time. She enrolled in an International Business program at Strayer University as a means of facilitating further language learning in a flexible environment that also allowed her to take care of her young son.

During that time, Miller became a reading coordinator for DC Public Schools, working with students who desperately needed remedial attention, and often those who had few other faculty or staff willing to work with them. After finishing her degree at Strayer, Miller decided to pursue her Master’s in Education, Reading, Curriculum and Instruction

See “Principal,” page 2



Isabella Miller

Zev Feder: One Of SW’s Finest

By Kael Anderson and Thelma D. Jones

On a crisp spring evening in May, we joined Zev and Renee Feder at their cozy Southwest DC townhouse to profile a long-time community leader and friend of many.

Zev is a humble but frank Southwest resident who many Southwesters may have never met, but those who have tend not to forget him. Thelma and I were grateful for the opportunity to get to know this successful coach, father, businessman, and community savant on a different level.

Growing up with limited opportunities in a project in Queens, NY, Zev and his compadres found their passion on the blacktop and concrete ball fields behind their residences. Despite his parents’ continued discouragement, Zev took every opportunity possible to play baseball, regularly getting up at 5 am to play. His early morning forays would help to inspire his lifelong passion for the sport.



Zev and Drew Storen with friends and family

One of his greatest childhood memories was when his father took him to a Brooklyn Dodgers game. He fondly remembers going to many games and being able to claim the best (available) seats at the end of the second inning, a common practice at the time but now frequently

See “Feder,” page 2

DC PUBLIC LIBRARY SPRING BOOK SALE!

Save the Date!

The Friends of the Southwest DC Public Library is holding its **Spring Book Sale** on **Saturday, June 8th** at the **Southwest DC Public Library, 900 Wesley SW** (at K & 3rd St SW). All proceeds for the sale go directly to supporting programming and equipment needs of the SW library branch.

Friends Member Sale: Wednesday, June 5 from 6-8pm

General Book Sale OPEN TO ALL: Saturday, June 8 from 10am-2pm

Also, this year a second day is being added on Saturday, June 15 from 11am – 2pm.

Plan For Southwest

By Kael Anderson

After 18 months of lobbying, 12 months of it behind the scenes, by an outside outfit to take over our recreation center, we're pleased to have saved Randall Recreation Center. We welcome the Mayor's support of a Small Area Plan (SAP) for residential Southwest. The SAP will develop an urban design, land use, and neighborhood preservation framework to integrate community amenities and leverage multi-modal transportation choices, among other goals.

However, challenges remain, and many aren't going to be addressed in the SAP. Just this past week, the City Paper documented the bullying tactics of one Southwest developer. The article didn't mention the deception and evasive tactics preceding it. The story is not without precedent. Off-site property owners often find the easiest way to redevelop properties is to minimize communication and community participation. Indeed, community leaders are particularly attuned to ensuring a fair and transparent process for the envisioned redevelopment of DC Housing Authority residences.

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly has been working with residents facing these situations, informing them of the tools, processes, and procedures available to help shape their future. One of the most basic procedures is to document and recognize the significance of their investments. Our residents are finding that their homes not only are important to them, but also the nation.

And it's not just Southwest's residential properties. The Deputy Mayor for Economic Development recently found out that the Wharf's Oyster Shucking Shed and Lunch Room was eligible for National Register of Historic Places. This March, the State Historic Preservation office determined the Jefferson School, Pier 4 Head House, and the Washington Marina Building are also eligible for the Register.

Recognizing that our parks and open spaces are finite and valuable – but tend to be underfunded and under-appreciated – the Assembly has sponsored initiatives to better understand and activate these spaces. Indeed, as we recently witnessed, if the Southwest community doesn't, others will.

Our study of Southwest parks and open

spaces published last year has aided a variety of efforts, including the revitalization of Lansburgh Park and events like Titanic 100, which brought over a thousand people to commemorate our waterfront heritage. It also documented the rich network of pedestrian corridors unique to our neighborhood, and informed people about efforts to buttress and improve these corridors, like linking the Duck Pond with the SW Library.

We're sponsoring groups that are improving these spaces and adding amenities: the SW Community Gardens, PAWS of Southwest, and Neighbors of the Southwest Duck Pond.

We're also working with DPR to better activate our recreation centers. Much of the effort at King-Greenleaf revolved around repairing and identifying how the facility can be effectively maintained. Thanks to DPR's improved leadership, this site has become an extremely active community center. At Randall, we're wrapping up a major research effort with the expectation that it will inform future uses about the site.

With respect to transit, we asked WMATA to bring the 52 bus to the heart of our community. We're pleased that they've committed to bringing this important inter-city route to our community this coming fiscal year.

We've executed an agreement with Southwest developers through the Advisory Neighborhood Commission to greatly expand the interpretive signs lining our roadways. The system will improve navigation and understanding of Southwest's heritage, but more planning is needed, as illustrated in our ongoing lecture series *Shaping Southwest*. Southwest's 20th Century redevelopment effort needs an update. The effort, which created our treasured courtyards, national landmarks, and many mobility improvements, also has its imperfections.

Initiatives like the recent \$1 million M Street transportation Plan, which failed to develop feasible alternatives, illustrates what happens without a thorough, transparent process that adequately benefits from community participation.

How we choose to improve our community yet preserve what makes Southwest valuable – whether it be waterfront access or housing/population diversity – is our greatest challenge, but it's with that that we look forward to the SAP informing this process of community development.

PRINCIPAL

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at Trinity University in Washington, DC. Upon graduating, she became a reading specialist and then a literacy coach at Maya Angelou, an alternative charter high school in the District.

After four years at Maya Angelou as a reading specialist and literacy coach, Miller then became an instructional coach at Powell, a public elementary school in Northwest DC. Miller's time at Powell coincided with drastically improved test results and with a change in the DC Public School (DCPS) administration's philosophy about the kind of people they wanted running their schools. Instead of hiring principals with business degrees who could turn around poor management of struggling schools, DCPS began to place instructional experts in leadership roles to refocus schools on instruction, an especially important decision for schools that were falling behind.

DCPS took notice of Powell's improving test results and Miller was chosen as a finalist for the open position of Principal at Amidon-Bowen. Having run the reading program at Amidon for two years, before the merger that resulted in Amidon-Bowen, she knew the school very well.

The final decision on Miller's hiring rested with the community. A wide ranging interview with dozens of community leaders, residents, parents, and faculty with the three finalists for the position meant that she and her fellow applicants would be asked to rank their schools in order of preference, and the communities with which they interviewed would rank their finalists in the same way.

"The community voted, and 95 percent voted for me as their first choice," said Miller. "And I chose Amidon-Bowen as my first choice. So it was almost a perfect match. I felt like I was really meant to work here."

Indeed, Miller's love of her role as head of Amidon-Bowen is palpable and has yielded tangible results for the school. Amidon-Bowen's enrollment is up over 30 percent this year going from a projected enrollment of 254 for 2013 to an actual enrollment of 320. The numbers continue on a similar trajectory for next year. Miller's tireless championing of her school has also translated into financial gains.

"Over the past two years, Amidon-Bowen is poised to receive nearly \$10 million in grants, tax dollars, and donations," said Martin Welles, a parent of three Amidon-Bowen students and president of the school's PTA. "Under her leader-

ship, Amidon-Bowen has renovated the entire school, built a new library and computer rooms, and a new playground is underway. In addition, we have secured more than \$1 million in literacy and enrichment based programming dollars."

Miller, meanwhile, has a fairly straightforward definition of success.

"Personally, there are two ways of measuring success, external and internal," she said. "My internal measurement is when I see children wanting to be in this school and talking about learning. When you see their eyes open and up and they say, 'Ms. Miller, this is what we learned today!' That's when I feel I have done my job."

Externally, success throughout the DC public school system is measured by rising test scores, and that cold calculus has posed a challenge for Amidon-Bowen in the years before and since its reconstitution in 2011.

"Improving test scores is a priority and is really the last piece of the puzzle to turning Amidon-Bowen around," said Welles. "Principal Miller understands the challenges and has devoted a tremendous amount of energy and skill to improving Amidon-Bowen's scores."

Calling standardized testing a "necessary evil," Miller acknowledges that it is essential to have an objective way of measuring student progress.

"For the sake of my students and the sake of my teachers I want so badly for those improvements to show on the standardized scores because everybody is working so hard," said Miller. "But there is so much work to catch some students up because they were so far below basic when we started last year."

There is a clear urgency in her tone when Miller speaks about the exigencies of the testing regime, but time is not on her side. Research indicates it takes between three and five years to really start seeing real improvements in a school.

"I think if we can stay on track, we will actually be that school," says Miller.

Her ambitious vision for Amidon-Bowen's future is one that involves the entire community, not just the parents who have chosen to send their children to the neighborhood school. She emphasizes the importance of community engagement, and believes that the more community members who visit the school, the more they will understand the positive changes underway and the more they will commit to helping the school's progress.

"In the words of the current parents, 'Oh my god, my kids are learning!'" said Miller. "If you want to, you can learn at Amidon-Bowen. And that's what's happening in this school. Kids are learning."

FEDER

From p. 1

discouraged. Learning how to swing by watching television, Zev would go on to become an excellent baseball player. He played all infield positions, but often preferred second base.

At Brooklyn College he majored in Physical Education before becoming a gym teacher. Not one to shy away from a challenge, Zev accepted a Peace Corps assignment in 1973 to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in West Africa. He taught the youth there how to play soccer in French – a sport he'd never played in a language he barely knew.

He mentioned that shortly before he departed for the Peace Corps he was lucky to have met Renee on a baseball field... At that point in the conversation, Renee quickly interrupted with a story of her own – one about an aspiring transcendental meditation teacher dancing at a bar and finding love-at-first-sight. Regardless of their feelings, however, both assumed the romantic entanglement would be short-lived.

As fate would have it, Zev quickly experienced a series of skin infections in Ouagadougou, thus becoming, as he put it, a "living Petri dish." So, after several months Zev returned to Washington, recovered, and wed Renee in December, 1973.

Their romantic relationship would blossom into a successful business relationship. Developing an interest in court reporting, they soon went on to create their successful company, *Feder Reporting*. Originally living in Old Town Alexandria, they settled in Silver Spring to raise their two daughters. Fortunately for Zev, one of his daughters became a softball player. Zev immediately became his daughter Erica's team coach and the first lesson was how to catch (sock) balls. Zev's advice, including the proverbial "don't swing like a girl" proved successful. Erica went on to play varsity level as a freshman in high school.

When the nest emptied, the Feders moved to Southwest. They loved it so much that they encouraged their friends to follow. Two of those friends actually provided a brief interlude to our interview when they unexpectedly dropped off a delicious homemade strawberry pie.

Zev became the Homeowner Association's

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Next Steps For Randall Recreation

By Eve Brooks

The long neglected Randall Recreation Center will be back in service this summer. Jesus Aguirre, Director of DC Department of Parks and Recreation, announced his plans soon after Mayor Gray closed off the KIPP bid on the Randall property with his decision to support the inclusion of the Randall area in Small Area Planning. According to Aguirre, the Randall Recreation Center will house a Teen Camp this summer. He also hopes to open the Center on weekday evenings and weekends for other activities. If all goes as planned, the Teen Camp should be the first of many activities for residents of all ages at the 8,000 square-foot facility at the corner of South Capitol and I St SW. The Center has a large room for dancing and large group activities, and smaller rooms for arts, crafts, counseling, and group classes.

This Randall Planning Group, a joint committee of Community Benefits Coordinating Council's Enrichment Committee

and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Youth Activities Task Force, has met regularly over the past year to press elective and appointed leaders to support programs and services to revitalize the facility and turn it into a community center. Ongoing funding is a concern. An estimated \$250,000 annually will be needed in base support to staff the facility, schedule and advertise activities, and oversee volunteers and fundraising. The Community Benefits Coordinating Council has identified Randall as a priority for developer community investments and renovation funding has been promised.

The first step is to turn the empty building into a site of activity and creativity. The Planning Group is issuing a call for programs and volunteers as it works through funding and logistical issues.

■ *By Eve Brooks. Please contact Eve at evebrooks@verizon.net to learn more, to volunteer, or simply to share ideas.*

Amidon's Playground Opens With Squeals Of Delight

By Martin R. Welles, Esq

With the sound of the lunch-time bell on May 10th, 2013, the Amidon-Bowen Elementary playground opened with children smothering every inch of the dynamic new playgrounds – finding places to climb and to leap that only a child's imagination can fathom.

Playground construction was delayed due to an unusually cold and wet winter/spring that prevented the construction crews from setting the equipment and pouring the soft surfaces. The anticipation had been building since December, 2012, when the old playground at Amidon-Bowen was demolished and the playground was effectively off-limits for everyone. During the construction period, children had to remain inside while the nearby athletic fields dried out.

Amidon's new playground has three distinct play areas. The 2 – 5 year-old play area has a deck and post structure with slides, a teeter-totter, a playhouse, and it's very own artificial turf field. Visible from I Street is the eye-catching, arch-shaped playground for children ages 5-11. The bigger children have a versatile, professional-style, artificial turf field suitable for soccer and

football. New fencing expanded the playground and made the play areas visible from the street, thereby improving safety and appeal.

The playground project was funded by DC City Council and was part of the overall renovation of the school. Playgrounds are expensive and the \$500,000 allocated for this playground purchased some of the best equipment on the



market. However, there are still a couple of projects that remain. Future plans include building a 50-yard sprint track, a long-jump pit, and installing a greenhouse with raised flower beds.

The playground is open for community use after school hours and on weekends.

A dedication of the playground will occur on Friday, June 14th at 9:00 a.m. with a community grand opening and PTA fundraiser to follow on Saturday, June 15th, at 10:00 a.m.

■ *By Martin R. Welles, Esq, PTA President at Amidon-Bowen Elementary*

Friends Of Southwest DC Annual Meeting

By Coralie Farlee

Grantees and donors recently attended the 2013 annual meeting of Friends of Southwest DC (FOS), which reported

on the organization's activities for the 2012 year.

Arena Stage, The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, the Southwest Comm-Unity Forum, DC Sail, and EmmaUS received awards from FOS during 2012 and reported on both how their award was used in the SW neighborhood, as well as other activities of their organizations. The donors also voted unanimously to support the amended and updated Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws for FOS, which bring us into compliance with the new DC Non-profit Law.

The theme of most of the awards and activities was support of youth: through scholarships, development, performance of theater projects, activities at the SW Community Day, and learning about safe water habits and safe sailing.

Two Board members retired: Keith Melder, one of the founding members of FOS who has been on the Board since 1998; and Ezra Naughton, who completed one three-year term. We thank both of them for their advice and support of FOS. Since we have vacancies on the Board, if you are interested in serving on the Board or volunteering in other ways, please get in touch with Coralie Farlee, whose contact information is below.

Since 1998 when we organized as Friends of River Park, we have provided grants totaling almost \$115,000 with the missions of supporting community development, educational, and charitable projects to organizations in Southwest DC. The grants program has always consisted of over 85% or more of income, with administrative costs always low – approximately 10-15%, largely because of the volunteer efforts and contributions of Board members.

We look forward to a year of increased visibility, activities, and awards. To make suggestions for our consideration, make a donation, volunteer to help, or apply for a grant, please contact: Coralie Farlee, President, Friends of Southwest DC, 389 O St SW, WDC; or 202-554-4407.

■ *By Coralie Farlee, President, Friends of Southwest DC*

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How Southwest DC Became My Weight Loss Playground

By Julia Cole

I have this loop that I really like to run when I'm looking for a good workout that won't take me too long. I shoot straight up 4th Street all the way up to the Mall, do a little lap there, and jog back down 7th when I'm ready to head home. When I pass Safeway I know my warm-up is over, and when Arena Stage is behind me I'm ready for my cool down. The route is exactly 3.5 miles long.

If you had asked me 4 months ago if I could run 3.5 miles without stopping, I would have laughed right in your face. My round, 163-pound, post-holidays self could barely run for a few minutes, let alone miles at a time. I was overweight, out of shape, and uncomfortable in my own skin. One morning, something inside me snapped, and I realized that I needed to lose some weight and get back into shape. I had a moment of clarity and decided to start a health and fitness challenge to work on throughout the winter and spring so that I would be ready by summertime with a healthy new lifestyle. The goal: to lose 15 pounds in 15 weeks.

As a Southwest DC resident, I looked around me to find out how I could accomplish my goal in a convenient way, and I discovered a myriad of possibilities. First things first, I signed up for a membership at our local Gold's Gym, over at 3rd and D St SW. What I found there was an extremely affordable membership, and a general manager who signed me up himself and personally shared with me some of his very own weight loss tips. Just for signing up I was given one free

session with a personal trainer to discuss my health and fitness levels, talk about my goals, and show me a few exercises that would help me target the areas I needed to improve. I was encouraged to try out their numerous classes, and I was good to go.

As the weeks went on in my challenge and the weather warmed up a bit, I started to venture out and about in my neighborhood for workout opportunities. Once I was able to jog for a significant amount of time, I started doing loops up around the Mall, which is how I discovered my favorite route. I could also head over to the Navy Yard area for workouts on the boardwalk in Yards Park, right along the river. Pro tip: they offer free athletic classes outside there in the summertime! There are even several parks in the area that could double as an outdoor gym for calisthenics and strength training. In one of my most significant accomplishments of late, I ran from my apartment along the waterfront over to the Tidal basin, did a lap around the full circumference, and then kept going back to my neck of the woods at 4th and M St SW. The total trip was 4 miles and it was the first time I had ever run that distance without stopping in my entire life.

Now here I am at the end of my challenge, 15 weeks later. I'm happy and proud to say that I did achieve my goal in the end, and not just 15, but 16 pounds from my former self, I now weigh 147 beautiful, healthy pounds. I'm not here to brag about my weight loss though, I'm here to highlight the endless opportunities that we Southwesterners have right here in our

own neighborhood to get out and get active. We have a whole quadrant filled with historical landmarks, picturesque scenery, and modern amenities to serve as the backdrop for our active lifestyles, no matter the level of fitness. Southwest DC is now my workout playground, and

you could easily make it yours, too.

■ To follow Julia's progress, learn some of her recipes, and get her weight loss tips & tricks, check out her blog at julosays.blogspot.com, or follow her on Twitter @julosays.

FEDER

From p. 2

President, brought on new management, and lowered costs. Eventually he got more interested in the larger community, following up on his early adulthood when he would often go door-to-door promoting his favored politician.

At the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) board meetings, he was an impressively staunch contrarian. He unapologetically offered counsel or raised concerns that others hadn't effectively considered during his tenure as District 1 Representative.

Of course, most Southwesterners know Zev for his National's columns published monthly in The Southwester, the voice of the Assembly. These entertaining yet sage columns would discern things that the baseball team could address. Ironically, several hours before our interview, Zev had been an honored guest at a National's game. He was invited to go on the field and meet the players. The relationships and respect Zev developed in community meetings, columns, and personal conversations were inevitably the

reason for the invitation.

As the evening came to a close, Zev shared some final thoughts with us:

"Redevelopment of Southwest presents a tremendous opportunity for residents to become part of a new, better neighborhood...Own something...Pick up your litter...Expect effort to improve behavior and environment.

My daughters think I have taught them to 'swing hard' where they have chosen to play and find things they love to put effort into. So my lawyer daughter became a public defender rather than a corporate lawyer, and my nurse practitioner daughter works at HIV/AIDS/drug rehabilitation clinics."

On the morning of May 23rd, Zev Feder passed away. He will not be easily forgotten in our Southwest community. The Feder family thanks you for your love and support during this time. Please see The Southwester online for details regarding his memorial service.

■ Kael Anderson is the president of SWNA. Thelma D. Jones is a SWNA board member and breast cancer survivor.

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Summer fun also includes table tennis, bean baggo and free WIFI.

THE WHARF

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THURSDAYS - Waterfront Jazz and Blues: 6-8:00pm

- June 6** Thad Wilson Quartet
- June 13** Memphis Gold Blues
- June 20** Marshall Keys Jazz Ensemble
- June 27** Tom Newman Blues Band

FRIDAYS - Sounds of Summer: 6-8:00pm

- June 7** Will Gravatt Band (Country)
- June 14** Levi Stephens Band (Soul)
- June 21** Blue Tips Rhythm Review (Motown)
- June 28** Jonny Grave & The Tombstones (Blues)

SATURDAYS - Workout Beside the Water: 9-11:30am

- June 8** YaLa Fitness (9am) *and* Flow Yoga (10:30am)
- June 15** YaLa Fitness (9am) *and* Flow Yoga (10:30am)
- June 22** YaLa Fitness (9am) *and* Flow Yoga (10:30am)
- June 29** YaLa Fitness (9am) *and* Flow Yoga (10:30am)

WHARF

Waterfront Jazz and Blues is produced with the support of Jazz Night in Southwest in partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church. Sounds of Summer is produced with support of Gangplank Marina and Gravatt Entertainment. Workout Beside the Water is a collaboration of YaLa Fitness with Laurent Amzallag and Flow Yoga's Istar Guven. The Wharf is within four blocks of the L' Enfant Plaza and Waterfront Metrorail stops. Capital Bikeshare is located at 700 Water Street, SW. Making Waves at The Wharf is free and presented by Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, developers of the new, world-class, mixed-use waterfront. More information is online at www.wharfdc.com or at 202-688-3590.



ANC Meeting: The People Push Back

By B. K. Lunde

The press, the people, and the Internet demonstrated their power at the April ANC 6D meeting on May 13th. Allison C. Prince, Esq., speaking for the Bernstein Com-

panies, said that she would ask the DC Zoning Commission to postpone the hearing for their development at 3rd and M St SW.

The City Paper website had posted an article about Bernstein Companies threatening suit against condominium owners for taking any action to oppose the development of land around their buildings. The paper posted the article on May 10th. After summarizing the article, the chairman of ANC 6D, Andy Litsky, said, "Who do you think you are?" to representatives of the Bernstein Companies and the standing-room-only crowd of 78 people at the meeting. The meeting broke out into a full minute of loud applause.

The Bernstein Companies presented their proposal for two buildings of 11 stories each to be built north and south of the existing buildings that were designed by I. M. Pei. They were also proposing a four-story building to be built between the existing buildings. The new buildings would have 401 new apartments.

The commission unanimously approved a motion to write a letter requesting the DC Zoning Commission to postpone the hearing for the case that was scheduled for May 30th. They were discussing a motion to oppose the DC Zoning approval of the request when Allison Prince dramatically rose to say that the Bernstein Corporation itself would ask for a delay in the hearing. The opposition from the crowd to the gag order they felt they had and the proposed development was so great that Allison Prince said her client would need the extra time gained by postponing the hearings to meet with the condominium owners and consider changes in the design before presentation to the zoning commission. Many of the audience comments got applause, which was much more frequent than at any other recent meeting.

The commissioners voted unanimously to accept a substitute motion that delayed their consideration of the case, subject to a written retraction of the Bernstein letter to the condominium owners. The commission voted unani-

mously to conditionally approve a proposal for a 365-unit apartment building, with four small stores, to be built southeast of the Duck Pond. The conditions are that the amount of retail space is increased and that the construction plan does not harm the Southwest Duck Pond. Perry Kline asked, "What is the schedule?" The answer was that it would be done in the first or second quarter of 2015.

Saturday, June 15th, the Fatherhood Education Empowerment and Development Program is sponsoring a Celebration of Fatherhood from noon to 3 PM at Lansburg Park. They will have barbeque, music, NFL Exercise Training, a video game demonstration bus, and lots of other activities, all for free.

Almost at the end of the meeting, the commissioners first voted against endorsing the approval of an alcoholic beverage license for Riverfront at the Ball Park. Then, after discussion by the applicants, they reversed themselves, four to one, to reconsider and endorsed the application, subject to a positive report on its environmental impact from the DC Department of the Environment and hired crossing guards for street safety. The proposal is for a large playing field, food trucks, beverage sales, and a parking area on the Anacostia River, just south of the ballpark at Potomac St and South Capitol St SE.

The meeting lasted until 12:30 AM, so Melonee Bryant had to wait until then to voice her community concerns about stray cats, which are fed by a woman from Virginia, and other animals in the neighborhood of the King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Melonee said, "If you have animals, you are responsible for animal waste." She was also concerned about residents of James Creek housing and Spinx not getting information about community developments, such as the small area plan, and also about representation of these groups on such things as the Small Area Plan committee.

The next meeting of ANC 6D is June 10th at 7 PM at 1100 4th St SW on the second floor.

Success Stories: Jefferson's Project AIM

As a 26-year veteran teacher, Dr. Alesia Slocumb-Bradford has spent her career teaching middle-schoolers mathematics and science. Dr. Slocumb-Bradford chose middle school as she believes it provides her with great resources for tapping into how students "think about learning." Over the last eighteen years, she has used her role as the robotics coach to do just that. Her pet project is Jefferson Middle School's "Project AIM" (Activities Involving Mathematics). More about the course:

Prerequisite: A desire to learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) instruction in a fun and exciting way.

Course Description: To actively engage students in activities surrounding mathematics. Activities will involve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The "technology" component of STEM is the foundation for each activity. With technology as the basis, students will learn about: robotics (*science*), building bridges and flying airplanes (*engineering*), and financial education, PSAT, MATHCOUNTS/Challenge 21 (*mathematics*).

Expected Learning Outcomes: Upon the successful completion of this course, the students will be able to become critical thinkers and better decision makers; build upon their cooperation and communication skills; become independent researchers; understand the difference between a saver and an investor; learn "rigorous" mathematics; better understand the components of aviation; compare the five senses of humans to those of robots; describe a robotic design qualitatively, observing it quantitatively (torque, speed, distance) over time, and incorporating the standard units for all measurements; and, lastly, classify the many types of robot components (types of sensors, motors, power sources, structures, etc.)

In her words, Dr. Slocumb-Bradford says, "Student achievement has just been out of the stratosphere! Students have made the connection that mathematics is not simply this isolated course of a series of numbers and algorithms. Mathematics plays such a critical role in so many different aspects as well as in helping to solve real-world problems. With Project AIM (Activities Involving Mathematics) students are involved in presenting their ideas and solutions to the public throughout the school year. After intense hard work arriving at plausible solutions to real-world problems, Jefferson students have entered their solutions in STEM fairs across the city; presented their projects to the Police Department, Transportation Department, DC Mayor; and entered them into two national competitions!"

All in all Project AIM has been a great success. The amount of time and effort our students spent working was nothing short of a miniature thesis/dissertation exercise. Success stories include second place in the Alliance Division at Mt. Vernon HS in Alexandria, Virginia; a top 20% ranking (out of more than 4,000 groups) for the Stock Market team; and multiple students won at STEM fairs this year as well. To top it all off, two teams entered the eCybermission competition, and both teams won – first and second place with awards totaling \$6,000!



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St. Paul's A.U.M.P. Church Gets Some Long Awaited TLC

By Bruce DarConte

St. Paul's Church is the small building that residents know is there. Many walk by it daily and it is clearly visible as you exit the 6th Street ramp from the freeway either heading home, or to a Nationals game. Many Capitol Hill residents see it on their way South to Yards



Construction underway on St. Paul's Church.

covers the original tin ceiling, which is in surprisingly great shape.

The building, built in 1924 and designated as historic in 2011, watched from its location on the corner of 4th and Eye Street SE on the footprint of Capitol Quarter as the area has been transformed more than once. It has witnessed the construction of the Capper Carrollsburg housing project in the 1940's, the building of the freeway just feet to its north by Virginia Avenue in the 1960's, and the recent completion of the Capitol Quarter row homes, which replaced Capper Carrollsburg.

Now, the building is finally getting some long awaited tender loving care.

Thanks to a generous corporate grant and the efforts of Pastor Karen Mills, construction has begun on a brand new roof, which has only seen some

light patchwork over the last 3-4 decades according to Mills, who attended the church as a child and returned a few years ago as Pastor.

The neglect was so evident that the roof was beginning to buckle in the center and water had nowhere to go except inside the building.

The African Union Methodist Protestant Church congregation that became Saint Paul's began as a prayer group in 1900. R.C. Archer, Jr. who was the second licensed African American

architect in Washington, designed the church. It was his first church commission in the city. The Gothic Revival style building was completed in 1924. Saint Paul's is the only church that survives from a predominately working-class African American neighborhood in the Navy Yard area.

It is also one of the area's last surviving buildings from the first part of the 20th century. The vast majority of its congregation relocated as the area changed and many people born in the early days of the building have passed away.

The new roof will go a long way toward restoring the building to its former glory. Complete with its new roof, the interior will get a good buff and scrub as we collect pictures of the

original interior so that plans can get underway to restore it to its original beauty.

On the back wall by the altar, the sign reads: "Embracing the Community with God's Love". That is what the church wants to continue doing, as the plan is to open the building to host some community meetings and events.

So, the next time you walk by 4th and Eye St. SE and see the door open on a Sunday, stop in and check it out (don't worry, you don't have to convert). Pastor Mills will welcome you with open arms. After all, it is about embracing the community, as their sign says.

■ By Bruce DarConte, Education Chair, Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC)

Park to attend a Friday night concert or any number of events that are held there.

As the Capitol Riverfront area has grown, this little church watched from the sidelines as its congregation shrank and the neighborhood around it sat barren.

Although many have seen the exterior, most have never seen the interior, which is rich with history, yet in poor condition. The pews are wood with red cloth inserts and a drop ceiling

Residential Associations Join Forces For Underpass Improvements

Seven of Southwest's homeowners associations have joined forces with the Office of Planning (DCOP) to lead an effort for underpass improvements between residential and Federal Southwest. The Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association, an affiliation of six homeowners groups north of I St SW, and the Capitol Park IV Condominium Owners Association are preparing a recommendations document to DCOP to highlight their concerns and make recommendations on how they feel the

underpasses could be improved in terms of both safety and aesthetics.

On Saturday, June 1st, interested parties will meet at the 4th & G St sidewalk park at 1:00pm to undertake a walking tour of the underpasses to include 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th Streets, and Maine Avenue SW. Angela Kordyak will be the walk leader, with Jim Dougherty photographing the structures and Jane Connolly acting as scribe to capture participants comments and suggestions.

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2nd Annual Running Of The Chihuahuas

By Kate Renner

On May 4th, 2013, 96 Chihuahuas, their owners, and hundreds of spectators were at the Kastles Stadium for the 2nd Annual Running of the Chihuahuas. The event was put on by OnTap Magazine as a celebration of Cinco De Mayo and a fundraiser for the Paws of SW Dog Park Group.

The centerpiece of the event was the fifty-foot turf "race track." The rules stated that every dog had to have someone to release them and also someone to catch them at the other end. There were no toys or treats allowed on the racetrack. 12 preliminary races determined who went on to the semi-finals. The racing was fast as

most of the dogs ran quickly from one end of the "race track" to their waiting owner at the other end. The crowd was doubled over with laughter during heat 7 when none of the dogs ran the track but decided to play with each other and run around in circles instead. After an official restart only one dog made the entire sprint to win heat 7.

The final race was very competitive and the finish was close. In the end Lola, won out as the fastest Chihuahua of the day! Her owners accepted a \$150 gift card on her behalf.

Some of the dog vendors that came out included: Dogma, Howl to the Chief, Barkley Square, Fur Get Me Not, Unleashed by Petco, the Healthy Dog Store, Dogtopia, and

Valerie's Animal Den. Food was available for purchase from the SOL Mexican Food Truck, Simplicity Ice Cream, and the Red Hook Lobster Pound Truck. Other generous sponsors included Corona Light, Pacifico, The Kastles, The Wharf, Cantina Marina, and Dr. Katy.

Paws of SW would like to thank everyone who came out and helped make this event a success! We

raised over \$2000 towards building the dog park. Please check out the status of the dog park at www.pawsofsw.org. The location and tentative layout have been approved by DPR and are we waiting for a design and build contract to be finalized. The SW Dog Park is going to be built in Lansburg park as part of a revitalization that also includes brand new basketball courts and community garden



Nationals Park: A Home Away From Home For Nationals Employees

By Megan Schneider

In her fifth year as a ticket taker for the Washington Nationals, Deneen Campbell continues to exhibit tremendous enthusiasm while greeting fans at her post near Home Plate Gate. According to Campbell, she can't picture working anywhere else because for her, Nationals Park is home.

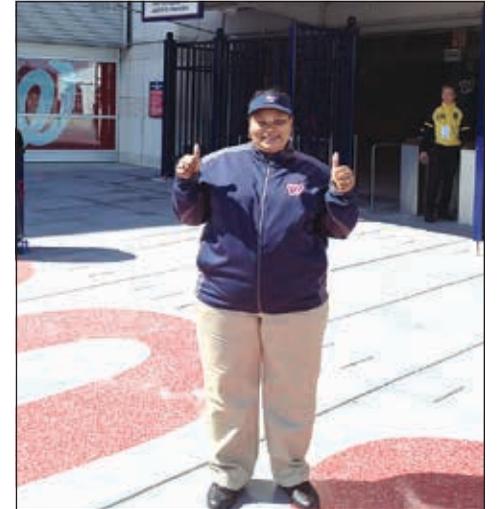
"The Nationals and I, we're like family," said Campbell. "I'm not trading them for anyone. This is me right here. This is my family when I'm here at Nationals Park."

She enjoys meeting the thousands of fans who stroll through her gate for every baseball game, including a popular television personality who happened to enter the ballpark through the Home Plate Gate.

"I remember [local news anchor] Jim Vance came through with his family, and the way he came through, I didn't know it was him at first," said Campbell. "I had to look again, and I was like, 'Wow! Jim Vance actually came through my gate!'"

Memories like these are endless for Campbell. From interacting with the fans, to constantly learning new things on the job, she wouldn't trade it for the world. This season, she even stepped out of her comfort zone as a ticket taker to serve as an usher for the first time – an experience she was especially proud of.

"I love working here," said Campbell. "I would never turn [this job] away. No matter what goes on, I'm coming back. I've got to come



back because this is like my family."

Having lived in Southwest DC for 13 years, Campbell has witnessed the team's impact on the area since the ballpark's construction began in 2006. She recalls the transformation from a disheveled, vacant lot to the beautiful facility it is today, but more importantly, she appreciates the effect the team has had on the community as whole.

"[The Nationals] really did a whole lot for us down here in Southwest," said Campbell.

For the Nationals, Campbell is a local ambassador whom they can count on to provide a welcoming smile and help extend the family connection to the team's fans.

Former Resident Gives Back

By Dale MacIver

On the first Friday of the month, residents of the Greenleaf Senior Citizens building at 1200 Delaware Ave SW get a treat from a man who grew up in Southwest and wants to "give back to the community."

Resial (BayBay) Shannon, now a Prince Georges County resident, who grew up in Greenleaf Gardens housing on 3rd St SW, graduated from Amidon Elementary, Jefferson Junior High School, and Mackin High. He buys fish filets at the SW Waterfront Seafood Market, prepares them in the kitchenette of the Community Room of 1200 Delaware Ave SW, and serves 100 or so seniors.

Mr. Shannon says, "I was asked, 'Man, why are you doing this?' I paused, with a sly grin, not because I had to give the question some thought, but, whether or not I should even entertain it. While shaking my head, I asked, 'Are you serious?' I then stated 'Man, because these are some



Resial (BayBay) Shannon serves a Greenleaf Seniors resident at his first Friday Fish Fry

of the same people that fed me, and I never forgot.' From the times of Ms. Jackie giving me chicken wings while paying her a visit, to being offered, and accepting, breakfast from Ms. Paris on any given weekend. Not to mention having Thanksgiving dinners at Ms. Perry's house. It was a gratifying feeling to feed some of the same people that fed me. It was not only a pleasure, but an honor'. Then I turned and asked him,

See "Resident," page 9

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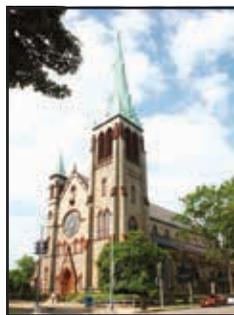
- ▲ Information evening: Tuesday, September 3 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Dominic Parish Meeting Room, 630 E Street, SW (lower level)
- ▲ Regular teaching evenings continue on Tuesday evenings beginning Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. and continue through Tuesday June 3, 2014. Location: St. Dominic Parish Meeting Room, 630 E Street, SW (lower level)

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Little Farm Stand Returns To Southwest Duck Pond

By Chris Beck

The Neighbors of Southwest Duck Pond are pleased to announce that June 22nd marks the return of The Little Farm Stand to the park for another season of locally grown Virginia bounty. Farmer Lori O'Rea advises the delayed date is due to the cooler than normal spring having an impact on the harvest, but she happily reports the buds which will become strawberries are now well in evidence.



The Little Farm Stand pitched its tent at the Duck Pond in August of last year and immediately became a popular stop for people out and about in the neighborhood on Saturday mornings. Running through Thanksgiving and coupled with programmed events with local school and civic groups at the park, it has added a new vitality to the area as neighbors meet neighbors and learn more about what is going on.

The initial harvest is expected to be a myriad

selection of early summer berries as well as vegetables, such as asparagus. The NSWDP expects to repeat such popular features as cooking demonstrations and recipe cards.

So for the many who have asked, but who may not have seen the announcement through social media, again circle June 22nd on your calendar as the start of this encore season, and get those recipe ideas cooking. Please stop by our table for more information.

RESIDENT

From p. 8

'Now do you understand why I do it?'

"Fish fry hopefully will be every first Friday of the month until August. June, July and August," says BayBay. "Special thanks to Ms. Savoy, Mr. Wagner, and all those who helped."

In various issues of The Southwester in 1985

alone, BayBay Shannon wrote a by-line story on the 16 and under Police Boys & Girls Club #4 baseball team, is listed as a member of the King-Greenleaf 16 to 18 baseball team, hitting "a run-scoring double", and is shown, as one of the Southwester's youth production assistants, holding the Washington Post trophy awarded to The Southwester by the DC Federation of Civic Associations for "the outstanding civic association publication of 1964."

April Southwest Real Estate Update

By Jason Martin

While last month we didn't see much in the way of movement from the same time last year, this month paints an entirely different picture. Sold volume, average sold price, median sold price, units sold all showed sizeable gains from this time last year. Southwest is clearly in demand, take a look at the average days on market: 17.

	Apr-13	Apr-12	% Change
Sold Dollar Volume	\$6,436,205	\$2,926,500	119.93%
Avg Sold Price	\$357,567	\$243,875	46.62%
Median Sold Price	\$306,000	\$219,250	39.57%
Units Sold	18	12	50.00%
Avg Days on Market	17	175	-90.29%
Avg List Price for Solds	\$366,939	\$251,333	46.00%
Avg SP to OLP Ratio	97.4%	96.4%	1.08%

-Courtesy of Jason Martin, a real estate professional & resident of Southwest. He may be contacted by phone at (202) 641-0299 or by e-mail at jason@jasonmartingroup.com.

St. Augustine's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse

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*Source: Preventable Risk Factors Attributed to Preventable Causes of Death in the District of Columbia, 2007, Department of Health Center for Policy, Planning, and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics

JUNE

SAT 1 @ 4-5:30 P.M. Experience Yoga Nidra: Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation with the opportunity to set your intention. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email email: wilsonpj108@verizon.net

WED 5 @ 7 P.M. St. Augustine's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse presents Arena Stage's **Voices of Now** which includes the Jefferson Middle School Ensemble and the



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Community Calendar

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

Mentor Ensemble presenting original plays "Security Blanket" and "Power Play". Coffee and desserts, followed by audience Q&A. Free, donations accepted for artist honorarium. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St, SW. www.staugustinesdc.org 202-554-3222 or rector@staugustinesdc.org

THURS 6 @ 8-9:30 A.M. Councilman Tommy Wells office hours, Channel Inn café, 7th & Water Street S.W.

FRI 7 @ 6:30 P.M. potluck, 7 P.M. games. St Augustine's Game Night. Bring a potluck dish to share. Board and card games provided, but feel free to bring your own games too. All ages welcome. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St SW, 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

SAT 8 @ 10:30 A.M. Family Storytime, Enjoy stories, songs, fingerplays and other activities, suitable for toddlers and preschoolers from 18 months - 3 years of age. SW Neighborhood Library.

MON 10 @ 7-10 P.M. ANC6D Monthly Business Meeting, 1100 4th St SW, DCRA Hearing Room on 2nd floor.

SAT 15 @ 11 A.M. Read-in Read-a-thon Relay Race. Teams of 3 or more people will read out loud and compete for prizes. All ages welcome. SW Neighborhood Library

WED 19 @ 6:30 P.M. "Know the Law Before It Knows You." An attorney will talk with teens and adults regarding how you know if your problem is a legal one, and your legal rights on the job. SW Neighborhood Library

THURS 24 @ 12:30-2:00 P.M., NARFE-The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, at SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 29 @ 1 P.M., Kitchen Table Book Discussion, SW Neighborhood Library. Copies of the June title, "Candide" by Voltaire, are available for checkout at the library.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ADULTS/SENIORS BINGO BRUNCH, 1-3 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201

N St SW, FREE

AEROBICS WITH Ms. Dee, 6:30-7:30 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW in the Multipurpose Room.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW, Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

COMPUTER CLASSES, Thursday 10-12 Noon, SW Neighborhood Library

THURS 6 DC Public Library Website

THURS 13 Email Basics

THURS 20 Microsoft Word

THURS 27 No Class

JULY 4 No Class

GIRLS SCOUTS Troop #4298 WEDNESDAYS, 5:30-7:30 P.M., ages 5 to 12. King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW. Call: 202-570-4475, Email: girlscoutswdc@gmail.com

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12-2 P.M., Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St SW, Community room off Wesley Place, SW.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12:45-3:45 P.M., King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW. 202-645-7454

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, FRIDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

JOB SEEKERS PROGRAM, WEDNESDAYS 1-8:00 P.M. By Appointment Only. Call 724-4298 to schedule help with resumes, cover letters, applications and online services. SW Neighborhood Library.

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.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 105, Community meeting, 7-8:30 P.M., every Third Thursday, location announced at previous meeting.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, 10-11 A.M., every last Saturday, Senior Citizen Community Room 900 5th St SE.

PRE SCHOOL STORYTIMES, 10:30-11:30 A.M., Tuesdays and Thursdays, featuring stories, songs, and fingerplays, suitable for children 18 mos.-3years. SW Neighborhood Library.

SEATED YOGA, 11:00-Noon on Mondays, and Wednesdays 4-5 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church. 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.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, 8:30 P.M., Mondays, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St SW, (202) 554-3222.

SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP, 9:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M., Mondays, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St SW, Contact Mary Henderson at (301) 336-9058. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except June, July and August.

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

TUESDAY WALK FOR WELLNESS while walking to music, 11-12 P.M. in the gym of King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW.

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 4th St SW. 202-863-0564

WEDNESDAY EVENING CHESS, 6:30-8:30 P.M., SW Neighborhood Library.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW, 4 P.M. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5 P.M. Tai Chi (Manifest Ra). 5:30 P.M. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 6:45 P.M. Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). 7 P.M. Narcotics Anonymous SW Freeway Meeting.

Open Volunteer Position: 'The Southwester' Business Manager

Want to give back to your community by helping your local newspaper? The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (www.swdc.org) seeks a motivated, energetic volunteer to oversee the advertising relationships of the 50-year-old, respected newspaper of Southwest Washington DC. The Business Manager is a highly organized, responsible individual who collaborates with *The Southwester's* Advertising Manager to track the finances and advertising revenue of the newspaper.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Working with Advertising Manager to generate and send invoices to existing advertisers
- Keeping track of payments from advertisers
- Managing a merchant credit card account and other resources to accept payments
- Coordinating with the Assembly's Treasurer regarding *The Southwester's* finances, including: Notifications of advertising income
- Requesting payment for newspaper production
- Providing Treasurer with monthly accounting reports (on a cash basis)
- This is an unpaid volunteer position comprising about 2 hours of work per week
- Duties can be completed from home using a phone, computer, printer, and Internet access; or from the Assembly's office at M and 4th Streets SW

Required Skills:

- Computer experience: Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat
- Experience with basic accounting/bookkeeping
- Knowledge or willingness to learn Quicken for Home & Business
- An organized, professional manner
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills

Desired Skills:

- An eagerness to represent our community newspaper and help it thrive

Interested? Email your resume to Kamilla Kovacs, Assembly VP, at knkovacs@gmail.com.

Open Volunteer Position: 'The Southwester' Advertising Manager

Want to give back to your community by helping your local newspaper? The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (www.swdc.org) seeks a motivated, energetic volunteer to oversee the advertising relationships of the 50-year-old, respected newspaper of Southwest Washington DC. The Advertising Manager is an outspoken representative of the mission and significance of *The Southwester* and works to broaden the pool of advertising support for the newspaper.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Soliciting new and existing advertisers by email, telephone, and in person (usually within walking distance of Southwest), and following up on late payments as needed
- Coordinating with *The Southwester's* Business Manager on the newspaper's finances
- Working with advertisers on newspaper ad content and communicating with *The Southwester's* layout team about ad placement and design
- This is an unpaid volunteer position comprising about 2 hours of work per week
- Duties can be completed from home with a phone, computer, printer, and Internet access; or from the Assembly's office at M and 4th Streets SW

Required Skills:

- Computer experience: Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat
- An organized, professional manner
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills
- An ability to communicate the mission, value, and readership of *The Southwester* to advertisers and the general public

Desired Skills:

- An eagerness to represent our community newspaper and help it thrive
- A willingness to seek new sources of advertising support for *The Southwester*
- A belief in the values of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, as captured below

Interested? Email your resume to Kamilla Kovacs, Assembly VP, at knkovacs@gmail.com.



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Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Reading Is Fundamental Returns Home

By Sam Marrero and Shannon Vaughn

On Friday May 10th, after 46 years, Reading is Fundamental (RIF) returned home to where it was founded in 1966 by Margaret McNamara: Amidon-Bowen Elementary School. Amidon's Principal Izabela Miller welcomed RIF President and CEO Carol Rasco, RIF Board of Director Margaret McNamara-Pastor, DC Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson, as well as RIF's guest speaker, the NBA's all-time leading scorer, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Mr. Abdul-Jabbar's larger-than-life, 7'2" frame did not disappoint. He began the morning by tossing out potato chips to the easily excitable students while explaining potato chips were invented by innovative African-American chef, George Crum. Mr. Abdul-Jabbar then shared his own book *What Color is My World* – a collection of stories on African-American inventors. Finally, the NBA legend read the American children's classic, *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendek.

Marty Welles, Amidon-Bowen PTA president said, "Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is one of the few players to play 20 years in the NBA. But his message, that his mind is his most valuable asset, is really compelling. Professional sports provide opportunities for very few, very elite athletes, but the chances are extremely great for every child at Amidon to be successful if they use their mind."

The NBA legend echoed those same comments saying, "Education, to me, is something that enabled me to do the things I wanted to do in terms of going places and knowing things; helping to open doors." Highlighting the personal emphasis on education in his family, the author said, "Education is everything to my family. For example, one of my sons is in residency at the LSU

University Hospital [to become a doctor]." He made it a point to say, "[we] can do much more than stuff a ball through a hoop."

Mr. Abdul-Jabbar stated that basketball should not be our student's goal in life, learning should be. "[Reading is] the foundation for all learning. If you can't read there's not much you can do in life," he said. In parting, he offered one bit of advice to the local students: "Reading is the key to knowledge, and knowledge is power. So if they want to accumulate the power and get the things they want to get in life, they're going to have to learn how to read, and read well."

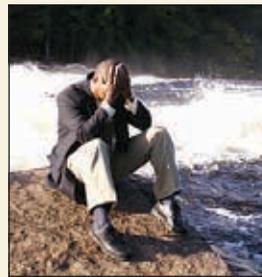
On behalf of Amidon-Bowen, Principal Izabela Miller was honored to receive RIF's Multicultural Book Collection, just one of 27 DC-based RIF

programs to receive the Collection. In the end, Principal Miller was very happy with the success of the event, but mainly for her students. "Seeing the smiles on the faces of the children and teachers as they received their books was priceless and a great way to end the week. First grade students approached me after the event and said: 'We are really important to them, aren't we?'; 'Yes, you are very important to all of us,'" she said.

She could not help but smile seeing how many students actually started reading *Where The Wild Things Are* on the way out of the library. Principal Miller says, "We are definitely on the right track with RIF's support. Building personal libraries is what will help our students continue reading at home during breaks."

Let Nothing Disturb You

By Rev. Ida Moss, Senior Pastor • www.MyGreaterWorks.org



In Philippians 4:6 we are told, "do not be anxious about anything." The concept seems inconceivable. When we look at the many challenges before us it seems impossible not to worry. But the words from Philippians are filled with wisdom. Not one of us can think of a single time when worry helped to make a situation better. Worry anticipates trouble that may never come. As difficult as it may be, God expects us to take this life one day at a time. The cure for worry is to realize that TODAY I have all I need. Should an emergency arise tomorrow, we must believe that God will make a way for us to handle it.

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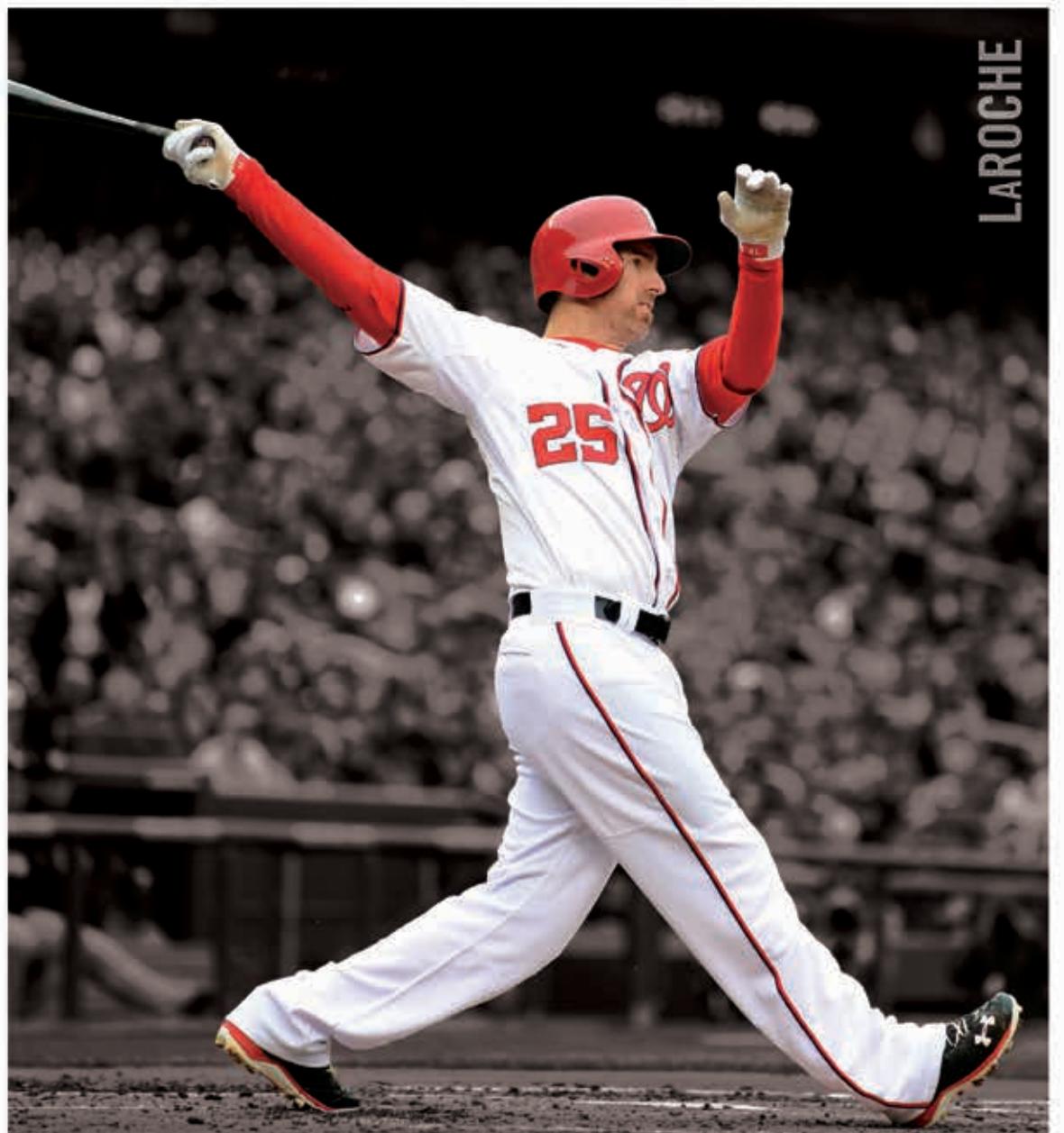
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DC High School Baseball Teams Get To Be Major Leaguers For A Day

Adjacent to the Anacostia River in Washington, DC, a quick 10-minute drive from Nationals Park, sits Anacostia High School. The young men on the school's baseball team follow the Washington Nationals' every game and consider players like pitcher Steven Strasburg their role models.

For Anacostia's senior pitcher and team captain, Alonzo Tabron, a unique opportunity to practice on the field at Nationals Park in May was an honor and a privilege.

Tabron and his teammates were able to run the ballpark's bases thanks to the Nationals' DC High School Initiative. Through this unprecedented program, the team invites high school baseball teams in the District to hold one 90-minute practice at Nationals Park, utilizing both the field and the indoor batting cages. This year, nine schools in the District put this special practice on their calendars including Anacostia, Woodrow Wilson High School, Bell Multicultural High School, and Francis L. Cardozo High School.

"It's really important for us to have the local high schools here because our goal is to foster greater connections between the Nationals and the DC community," said Shawn Bertani, Senior Director of Community Relations for the Nationals. "Specifically, we want to reach kids who are interested in baseball to continue to show them how great the game is, and encourage them to keep playing."

Head coaches from participating teams realize the impact this program has on the student-athletes and are proud to bring their teams to the ballpark for an unforgettable experience.

"To have the Nationals open their park like they do to DC public schools is a wonderful



thing," said Woodrow Wilson's head baseball coach James Silk. "To have our kids here on a beautiful day like today – take some cuts, take ground balls, run the bases, take BP in their cages, put their gloves in [Bryce] Harper's and [Ryan] Zimmerman's helmet box – it's just special."

When Woodrow Wilson sophomore outfielder Devin Rivera first stepped foot on the field, he was simply "dumbfounded." He truly recognized the "beauty of this [opportunity]."

"It's very special because I think about all the other kids," said Rivera, who channeled his inner Bryce Harper as he threw right and batted left.

"I come from the Caribbean so there's a lot of kids that have the same dream as me – coming to America to play baseball and it's just like, 'I'm one of the few living the dream!'"

As local high school student-athletes live out their dreams at Nationals Park, they also focus on improving their game like they would during any practice.

"You kind of have that feeling coming out of the tunnel that baseball players do this," said Reiss Allen, Bell's head coach. "This is what baseball players do. So, I think they all felt like a real baseball player at that point."

After experiencing the Major League mental-

ity for a day, Bell's baseball team is even "hungrier" to succeed this season.

"With Bell Multicultural baseball, we're starting to make a name for ourselves," said senior catcher and captain Rayonte Campbell, who is inspired by Harper's work ethic and personal drive. "Maybe this opportunity will motivate us to make it to the [DC High School Baseball Classic] championship again, and this time, win the championship."

With this initiative providing a sound platform for encouraging success among local student-athletes, Woodrow Wilson senior outfielder Joe Greenberg recognizes the life lessons he can learn from the sport.

"I play right field and I was thinking about Bryce Harper a lot when I was out there," said Greenberg. "I was trying to get every play just as he would and act like a professional out here because that really enhances your game and helps you reach your potential."

Professionalism on the field translates to the players setting career goals off the field.

"It means a lot to me to be able to come to a major league field and practice," said Nicholas Hinton, a sophomore catcher for Cardozo. "This is a good experience for kids to have something to look forward to – for some goal to set."

Though this experience at Nationals Park may be just another practice, it is an opportunity of a lifetime that players will carry with them into the future.

As their time at the ballpark drew to a close, the players couldn't hold back their excitement to try one last time to hit a homer over the Nationals scoreboard.

As Campbell said, "Magical things happen here. We're just proud to be here."

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