



# The Southwester

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Serving the Waterfront Communities of Southwest and Navy Yard

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## Secretary of Education and DCPS Chancellor Visit Jefferson Academy



Chancellor Antwan Wilson, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, Principal Dohmann

By: Kreshaun Brooks, Sixth grader, Jefferson Academy

On Friday, Feb. 10, the new Chancellor of DC Public Schools (DCPS) Antwan Wilson and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos visited my school, Jef-

ferson Academy. We were the first public school visited by Secretary DeVos since she was confirmed as secretary. It was an exciting and interesting event. I had the opportunity to meet and greet them when they arrived. Of course I was nervous at first, but once I got to know them and talk to them, I felt a lot better. We talked about how I was doing and what I thought about Jefferson.

During the visit, the chancellor and secretary visited two classrooms and met with staff members from Jefferson and DCPS. We shared the great things happening at Jefferson and across the district and asked questions about how the chancellor and secretary would lead our schools moving forward.

While the secretary's visit was somewhat controversial, Jefferson Principal Greg Dohmann saw it as a major opportunity for not only Jefferson, but public schools across the country. "Secretary DeVos's visit was an opportunity to show off what great public education looks like. Many public educators nationwide feel anxious about the new administration, particularly the secretary's views on public versus charter schools," Mr. Dohmann says. "Since Jefferson was her first school visit, we had a responsibility to demonstrate the incredible impact of a great public school. I feel strongly that we accomplished that goal."



photos by Perry Klein

Martin Welles and Bruce DarConte speak with reporters

Overall, having the chancellor and secretary visit our school was a great experience for me and all of my Jefferson Academy family.



## Book on Southwest DC Hit Shelves

**S**outhwest DC, a book from Arcadia Publishing, hit store shelves on Monday, Feb. 20. The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly co-authored book expands on the history collected in the earlier volume about the history of Southwest, *Southwest Washington, D.C.* The previous version of the book chronicled the neighborhood history up to the period of Urban Renewal. Progressing forward from Urban Renewal through the changes of today, this volume provides further context for the rich story of Southwest DC. The book will be for sale/donation at monthly Southwest Neighborhood Assembly community meetings. More information on the book is available at [www.arcadiahpublishing.com/Products/9781467124218](http://www.arcadiahpublishing.com/Products/9781467124218).

## Aging in Place: It Takes a Senior Village

By: Ann Kurzius

**S**ome 100 Southwest residents turned out at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church on a cold, windy February night to celebrate the official launch of Waterfront Village—a neighborhood effort to enable southwest residents to "age in place," i.e., remain in their own homes as they age into their 70s, 80s, and even beyond. Neither a government-sponsored social service nor a corporate enterprise, a village is simply neighbors as they age. That help might mean direct person-to-person assistance, referrals to reliable contractors, or group activities (social activities, informational seminars). It's up to the individual members.

The celebration/fundraiser began with an "expo" where some 12 local vendors offering home modification and maintenance ser-



vices, medical and dental services, and more answered attendees' questions one-on-one. Galley Foods, a local meal delivery service, offered samples of their food.

Inviting attendees to "poke around" the beautiful newly renovated church facilities, Rev. Martha Clark said she looks forward to partnering with the neighborhood to make St. Augustine's a "well-used living space all week long, not just on Sundays."

At sunset the friendly crowd moved upstairs to the glass-walled sanctuary for a town hall meeting moderated by Tommy Wells, former Ward 6 councilman who now directs the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment. Wells said he is a big fan of Southwest, calling it a "special neighborhood" with a unique sense of community and civic responsibility.

He introduced a four-member panel: Bob Craycraft, executive director of Waterfront Village; Rita

Coll, an 89-year old Waterfront Village member; steering committee member Wilma Goldstein; and Wes Ven Johnson, a steering committee member who was also recently elected to the Village Board.

Craycraft, former ANC member for the area, noted that discussions of a possible senior village for the Waterfront/Navy Yard neighborhood began in

May 2013. Around that time he went to visit his father in Ohio who was ill and noticed that their neighbors coalesced around him to help him. This was in sharp contrast to one of Bob's 6th Place SW neighbors, who was recovering from an attack on Metro and receiving no attention from any of their neighbors. They were "good people," he says, "but they just didn't know how to help and there was no mechanism for that."

Newly retired and looking for a way to give back, he was intrigued by what he was hearing about the senior village concept from Barbara Ehrlich and others, and came on board in Oct. 2015 as executive director and Waterfront Village's only paid staff. Village membership sales began in Sept. 2016.

Village members can request a variety of services as needed: help with household chores, periodic "friendly visits," and rides to the grocery store or medical appointments.

New member Rita Coll spoke next, praising those services: "I've only been a mem-

See "Aging," page 4





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*The Short-Term Family Housing project as seen from the north side.*



*The Short-Term Family Housing project as seen from I St. SW.*

## Design Unveiled for Ward 6 Short-Term Family Housing Program

By: Katelynd Mahoney

In Feb. 2016, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced an ambitious plan to close DC General, a previously shuttered hospital now serving as the largest family shelter in the District for the past seven years, and replace the enormous decrepit shelter with smaller shelters in all of the city's eight wards. In Ward 6, the Short-Term Family Housing location is planned for 850 Delaware Ave. SW, which is the current site of the Unity Health Care Clinic. The site is owned by the city, an important point for the DC City Council to consider while reviewing the proposed plans.

Although Mayor Bowser's initial plan changed once before the DC City Council (including several locations so that the sites were on city-owned land and also the timeline of completion to identify new sites), the plan is now well underway with an important new aspect added: direct community engagement. This new aspect highlights an increase in the level of trust the city has placed in the communities, as well as an increase in the level of transparency for this process. This community engagement comes in the form of a Community Advisory Team in each ward, which are composed of community members that include ANC commissioners, representatives from neighborhood civic associations, as well as nominations from the respective councilmember's offices.

"It is important for the District government to truly collaborate with local neighborhood residents," said Andy Litsky, chair of ANC6D and co-chair of the Ward 6 Community Advisory Team. Litsky also stated that "it takes trust on both sides, but when that happens—especially here in Southwest—we arrive at a much more satisfactory result." Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, who helped spearhead the fight for the Community Advisory Teams, also praised the process and the Southwest community saying: "When we began this process, I said it would be a mistake to underestimate the capacity of neighbors in Southwest—and they came through like I knew they would. By engaging neighbors and community leaders in thoughtful and substantive work, the end result will be something that Southwest can be proud of—dignified housing for families in crisis, a new community health center, and a building that fits the special character of Southwest DC."

The Community Advisory Teams are tasked with three main responsibilities: provide feedback on concerns related to quality of life during construction, disseminate infor-

mation to other neighbors and constituent groups, and work with the partners to develop Good Neighbor Agreements. The Ward 6 Community Advisory Team consists of representatives from the Bowser administration (Jay Melder, deputy director of the Mayor's Office of Policy & Legislative Affairs, and Project Manager Henry Miller of DC's Department of General Services), invitees from ANC 6D (Andy Litsky, representing SMD 6D02; co-chair of the Community Advisory Team, Stacy Cloyd, who at the time of the formation of the team was the commissioner of ANC6D, representing SMD 6D02; Lucy Rojansky, former Amidon-Bowen PTA president; and Marilyn Melkonian, president & founder of Telesis), Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) invitees (Andrenia Walker, resident council president for Greenleaf Gardens Extension; and community representatives Robin Walker, Katelynd Mahoney Anderson, and Vyllorya Evans), Councilmember Allen's invitees (Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and Bob Hall, president and member of the Board of Directors for Capital Park IV Condominiums), as well as the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness invitee (Deborah Shore, executive director and founder of Sasha Bruce Youthwork).

The Community Advisory Team was convened in Sept. 2016 and has had three meetings to date (the minutes from which are available online), with the bulk of these meetings focusing on providing guidelines for the design of the Short-Term Family Housing building and its surrounding landscape. The team brought forth a wide array of concerns and input, ranging from protecting the Delaware Ave. view shed and thinking "outside the box" for the building's decision to add a coffee shop to ensure the site is mixed-use and becomes a part of the neighborhood beyond just the design. The team also highlighted the importance of keeping the health care clinic as a part of the final design, given its need in the neighborhood.

Two important topics for consideration the team brought forth were private bathrooms and the flow of people around the building. The team wanted to go above and beyond the minimum number of private bathrooms required by law, with the goal of ensuring each family had their own private bathroom. Although that was not possible given the size and need constraints of the site, the architects were able to exceed the minimum required by law.

Stacy Cloyd, who has been a vocal proponent of private bathrooms for each family said,

"I support closing DC General and having smaller shelters in each ward. The architects who designed the Ward 6 shelter have a history of doing great work; while I don't agree with every aspect of what the District asked them to do, I think the building will fit well in the neighborhood and I'm glad that it will include a new community health clinic all neighborhood residents can access."

When it came to the flow of the building and how people would move through it, the team challenged the architects to incorporate a second elevator, particularly given the needs of families with young children. The architectural team was successful with this particular aspect of the design.

The building, designed by DC-based Studio Twenty Seven Architects, was unveiled at a public meeting on Dec. 15 and it will house up to 50 families on floors 2-7 of the seven-story building. Each of these floors will have its own 450-square-foot outdoor area (allowing for residents to enjoy the outdoors without having to go outside the building), as well as laundry facilities and a community room on the north side providing an unfettered view of the Capitol. The first floor will feature a dining area, as well as office areas and other needs for the administrative support of the programs. The "cellar" (below grade portion of the building) will house the health care clinic, which will have its own distinct entrance on the first floor. There will also be a fenced-in play area along the Delaware Ave. side of the project.

Overall, the design both inside and out has been met with positive reviews, with Urban Turf calling it "an architecturally impactful enhancement to the neighborhood."

Bob Hall, vice president of Capitol Park IV Condominiums, said, "We are proud of what we all did together to design a facility that works for both its residents and its neighbors. We're not done, however. We have to make sure that the streetscaping provides a well-lit, attractive, and secure environment around the facility; that the promised Capital Bikeshare station materializes; and that site security is appropriate and effective."

The project will require zoning relief (an application was filed Jan. 4 with the Board of Zoning Adjustments), specifically to allow more than 15 persons to reside in the building, as well as parking and a variance in height and number of floors. A hearing will be scheduled for March.

Moving forward, and barring any delays, permits will be submitted to the Department

See "Design," page 3

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## Getting Ready for Our Fourth Annual Spring Kick-off!

**A**re you ready to get your hands in some Southwest DC dirt? Well, if you didn't know, Southwest has a community garden located in Lansburgh Park (1098 Delaware Ave.) that has a communal section that's open to everyone to participate. The spring kick-off marks the re-opening of the garden for the year, and the resumption of regular workdays.

During previous kick-offs, we've held

cooking demos and compost workshops, planted potatoes in buckets, painted garden signs, and planted seeds in the communal section. (Photos from previous years can be found on our Facebook page: facebook.com/swgardens.) Neighbors are currently meeting to come up with a list of fun activities for the day. For the date and time of the kick-off, and to stay in the loop with what we're up to, check out our website (swgardens.org) or catch us on any of our social media profiles: @swgardensdc (Instagram) and @swgardens (Twitter). You can also always reach us at our email address: swgardensdc@gmail.com.

Our goal for 2017 is to continue the momentum we've created over the past couple years. In 2015, we grew 65 pounds of produce and averaged about 10 people per workday; in 2016, we grew 140 pounds and averaged almost 14 people per workday. We hope that you'll join us in 2017! Please feel free to share with us your talents, ideas, energy, and any other unique attributes!



## DESIGN

From p. 2

of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs in June, with plans to start construction in November. The Community Advisory Team will begin work on the Good Neighbor Agreement in the summer of 2019, which is also the same time frame that the Ward 6 site will be opened. If all goes to plan across the city, DC General will finally be closed for good in 2020.

This process has not been an easy or uncontested one, but all in all the residents of Southwest have come together and worked to ensure that all residents have an opportunity to live in a safe and dignified environment, and that anyone moving into the neighbor-

hood is welcomed.

"The generous, collaborative spirit of the residents of Southwest has been inspiring throughout this process," said Jay Melder, deputy director of Mayor Bowser's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs, who has served as the mayor's point person on the Short-Term Family Housing program in Ward 6. "Ever since Mayor Bowser released her plan to close DC General and replace it with family housing that is dignified, service enriched, and designed specifically for the empowerment and well-being of families, the Southwest community has been at the table, working with us to develop a best-in-class program, and I think that is exactly what we are achieving together."

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

**Saturday:** 9:00 a.m.

#### WEEKEND

**Saturday:** 5:00 p.m. Vigil

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

#### HOLYDAYS

5:00 p.m. Vigil

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

#### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Monday—Friday:** 11:55 a.m.

**Saturday:** 4:30 p.m.

**Sunday:** After the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND

#### HOLY HOUR

**Thursdays:** 4:45 p.m.

#### YOUNG ADULT GROUP

**Thursdays:** 7 p.m. — Adoration;

7:40 p.m. — Talk/Discussion

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### ASH WEDNESDAY—MARCH 1

*(Ashes will be distributed at each service.)*

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

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- March 5 - *Ida* — (2013)
- March 12 - *The Singing Nun* — (1966)
- March 19 - *Mass Appeal* — (1984)
- March 26 - *Under the Moonlight* — (2001)

#### SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH -

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- 6:30 p.m. — Confessions
- 7:00 p.m. — Solemn Mass, followed by a reception.

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## PSA 105 Meeting Notes

The January PSA meeting took place on Wednesday, Jan. 18. Lt. Darnel Robinson (Darnel.Robinson@dc.gov) and Officer Charles (CJ) Smith represented the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) at the meeting. Eleven community members were in attendance.

### Sectors

In early January, MPD announced that it was implementing a sector policing strategy. The First District was split into sectors and 105 is in sector #3. Three lieutenants will be handling 105 and 106 (Navy Yard) each day, one per shift. Lt. Robinson will be handling one of the shifts. He hopes to invite and bring the other two lieutenants to the Feb. 15 PSA meeting. More detail on the sector system is available on the MPD website.

### Update on Neighborhood Criminal Activity

Lt. Robinson started the meeting by talking about his diverse 13 years of experience with MPD, including several years in the Narcotics and Special Investigations Division. He then introduced Officer Smith and noted that they had worked together a few times in the past. He said that he would like to know what is happening in 105 and subscribes to the broken window theory of law enforcement in which general disorderly conduct (e.g., broken windows) can generate or sustain more serious crimes.

He also noted that the time period in which crime tends to occur in 105 is 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Crime Statistics

The following crime statistics were pulled from crimemap.dc.gov for the time parameter Dec. 14, 2016 to Jan. 17, 2017. More detail is on crimemap.dc.gov.

### First District Summary

The First District saw a small decrease in violent crime (55 last month, 49 this 30-day period) over the last 30 days. Theft from auto crimes remain an issue. Burglaries decreased from 18 to 10.

PSA 105	
Assault with Dangerous Weapon	2 cases with a gun (unchanged over last period) 3 cases with another type of weapon (4 last period)
Robberies	2 robberies without a gun (3 last period) 1 robbery with a gun (0 last period)
Theft From Auto	18 thefts recorded in last period but 19 in this period
Burglaries	0 cases this period but 5 reported cases last period

### Questions

#### New Residents from other Housing Units

One attendee asked whether the officers knew about the anticipated new influx of residents from other housing units and whether they had arrived already. The officers responded that they were unaware of a large influx soon but that one individual had moved into Greenleaf and was acclimating fine.

#### Assistance from Housing Authority Police

Another attendee asked whether Housing Authority police could assist MPD with investigations and arrests in their area. Lt. Robinson noted that they do assist with arrests and revoke housing certificates.

### CVS

Several attendees asked the lieutenant about the recent attack of a guard at CVS and asked why it seems to be a problem area. Lt. Robinson noted that the guards are unable to make arrests and need to call MPD when crimes occur. Safeway brought in armed special police and they have noted a reduction in theft. One MPD detective has been assigned to cover the thefts at CVS.

The meeting ended early because of a call for service.

## AGING

*From p. 1*

ber since December, but already my life has changed. You give me a lot for my dime. Best of all is that I've come into a group of people my age in my neighborhood. I may eventually have to move into a situation with more help, but maybe not as soon as I would have without the Village."

Speaking next, Wilma Goldstein recalled visiting her parents in an assisted living facility in Michigan and being told by her father that he had been scolded by the staff for going out for a walk in the snow. "No way," she thought. "I need freedom and control over my own life." She plans on staying in her home indefinitely, surrounded by the familiar faces of neighbors and going to Jazz Night at Westminster every Friday. She says: "If one Saturday I leave this world after Friday Night Jazz at Westminster, I'll go out with a smile on my face."

Wes Ven Johnson, a volunteer since the early days of the Village, explained his take on the village concept. "It's simple! We love our homes, we love our community, and we want to stay here. Why not match up people with a little extra time and people who need a little help?"

The launch date was chosen to coincide with the 15th anniversary of the opening of the nation's first senior village, in central Boston's Beacon Hill neighborhood. The plan was to watch a video live stream from that celebration, featuring *Being Mortal* author Dr. Atul Gawande, but a blizzard in Boston scrubbed the event.

Beacon Hill Village enrolled its first members in Feb. 2002 and was soon deluged with requests for help from other groups wanting to create their own senior villages. More than 200 villages are now active in 45 states and DC, with more than 150 in development, serving 40,000 members. In 2010 the Village to Village Network was formed, to ensure the success of individual villages and the movement as a whole through expert guidance, resources, and support ([www.vtvnetwork.org](http://www.vtvnetwork.org)).

The DC area has by far the most senior villages per capita—Waterfront Village will be the 12th in the District, and the 43rd in the metropolitan area. Those who wish more information about the Village can go to [www.dewaterfrontvillage.org](http://www.dewaterfrontvillage.org) or call 202-656-1834.



# Amidon-Bowen: Still Our Collective Challenge and Opportunity

By: Betsy Wolf

Around this time last year, I wrote an article in *The Southwester* advocating for our neighborhood public elementary school, Amidon-Bowen. It was a call to arms, asking neighborhood families to consider enrolling their children in Amidon-Bowen and to counter the status quo of socioeconomic and racial school segregation in our neighborhood, city, and country. I am happy to report that a number of new Southwest families joined Amidon-Bowen for the 2016-17 school year, resulting in a higher proportion of in-boundary families attending the school.

It's been an exciting year at Amidon-Bowen so far. We have a terrific new principal, Ms. Tamika Sykes; an increasing level of parent involvement; a new focus on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); an increase in fundraising; improved communication strategies; and more volunteer efforts. I recently asked some of the new families to share their impressions of Amidon-Bowen. Specifically, I asked families three questions: Why did you decide to enroll your child at Amidon-Bowen? Did you have concerns about sending your child to Amidon-Bowen and if so, what were they? What are your current impressions of Amidon-Bowen? Below are their answers.

## Grace Hu

*Why did you decide to enroll your child at Amidon-Bowen?*

We wanted to give our neighborhood school a shot. After learning more about Amidon-Bowen, we were optimistic about the future of the school. Plus, we did not want to trek across town (during rush hour) on a daily basis just for preschool.

*Did you have concerns about sending your child to Amidon-Bowen and if so, what were they?*

We had a range of concerns, such as student behavior, school facilities, and student achievement. However, the more we learned about the school (through open houses, meetings with school leadership, and play dates with prospective families), the less concerned we were. In fact, after we had done our research, we felt very good about the school and ranked Amidon as our first and only choice in the lottery.

*What are your current impressions of Amidon-Bowen?*

The school is definitely making progress but challenges still exist. Test scores remain low and while there are pockets of academic success in the school, it is not yet a high-performing organization. However, there is a movement by parents in the neighborhood to transform the school. This effort was initiated by a few parents years ago. Now we have a team of parents that is growing every year.

I want to be part of that movement, and I want my daughter to know someday that I fought to make our neighborhood school better so that she and other kids in Southwest could have a quality education. Some of us can afford to move to an area with better schools or trek across town daily to another DCPS school. But many families don't have that luxury.

There are signs of promise at Amidon: a new STEM education program, school lead-



cutline

ership that is committed and focused, and partnerships with community organizations that also want to see Amidon succeed. I can't wait to see what happens.

## Ava Millstone

*Why did you decide to enroll your child at Amidon-Bowen?*

After visiting over a dozen schools, I thought to myself, "How will I feel if we 'win' the lottery and get in one of the most sought after schools in another neighborhood?" The main feeling I imagined was a sinking feeling. I would experience worry over having to figure out a treacherous commute and disappointment over missing out on being a part of the community of neighbors and friends at Amidon-Bowen. That's when I decided to put Amidon-Bowen No. 1 on our lottery list, and I stopped worrying because our spot was assured.

*Did you have concerns about sending your child to Amidon-Bowen and if so, what were they?*

I heard from some that although the school was good for the younger grades, things get more chaotic and less rigorous in the older grades. Whether or not that is true, we have five years to help Amidon-Bowen improve before my son even enters the third grade!

I also feel strongly that attending our neighborhood school is the right thing to do for my kids and our community. If Amidon-Bowen is "not good enough" for my own kids, what am I saying through my decisions about the children of my neighbors? Sending my child to a "better" school would be leveraging my privilege to perpetuate the racist systems that have plagued our country since its inception. I believe in social justice and equal educational opportunities for all. Sending my kids to Amidon-Bowen is probably the single most important action I can take to live my values.

*What are your current impressions of Amidon-Bowen?*

My son's teacher is so wonderful, responsive, warm, and smart. I also like that his class goes on field trips all the time. Although I don't know every teacher, I have met and talked with many of them, and I'm excited about what some of them are teaching. There is some amazing stuff going on.

## Jennifer Ibrahim

*Why did you decide to enroll your child at Amidon-Bowen?*

My decision to enroll my daughter at Amidon-Bowen was a complete 180 from my thoughts prior to pregnancy. At the time, I thought that by the time I'd have a child that was old enough to go to school, I would have already moved out to the suburbs to find schools in greener pastures. However, the longer I stayed in Southwest, the more attached I became to the area, my neighbors, and the quadrant's surprisingly small town feel. (Sometimes it feels like *Cheers*!) I loved being able to walk to work, to the waterfront, to the museums on the mall, and to our brand new amenities, like Arena Stage and the revitalized 4th Street. I watched as Marty won grants for Amidon-Bowen and updated the school in so many ways. And I became friends with neighbors who were committed to giving the school a chance and seeing it through. I was inspired by their trust in the school enough to visit for myself and give it a fair look. I liked what I saw. I saw loving teachers, happy children, well-appointed classrooms, new playground equipment, a great gymnasium, an award-winning music teacher, an updated library, and staff and parents who truly cared about the school.

*Did you have concerns about sending your child to Amidon-Bowen and if so, what were they?*

Definitely. Having attended a low-income middle school myself, my concerns were mostly related to peer interactions, picking up bad language, and general safety. Thus far, those concerns have thankfully been unfounded.

*What are your current impressions of Amidon-Bowen?*

My daughter is happier at Amidon-Bowen than she ever was at either of her day care centers and that speaks volumes to me. The ratio for her preschool class is unmatched in DC for her age level. She is one of 14 classmates with THREE teachers! Her teachers are also wonderful. I constantly see the students hugging them, sitting in their laps, being carried in their arms, and I really do feel like the teachers treat our children as their own children.

The teachers and administration are also very responsive to our thoughts and con-

cerns. For example, because parents expressed that STEM and world language were priorities last year, we now have an amazing STEM teacher this year and our kids go to Spanish class once a week. In addition, after advocating that the school should take more advantage of the field trip opportunities around DC, my daughter's class has visited or will visit seven different Smithsonian museums.

Finally, my Arab-American daughter is in a class with black, white, Asian, Jewish, and Hispanic children, and I think that is fantastic. Today, her class did an "experiment" where they took different colored eggs and cracked them open to discover that despite their differing shades and speckles, the yolk inside was the same. For her to be learning about diversity and equality at such a young age is more than I could have ever asked for.

## Yvonne Lee

*Why did you decide to enroll your child at Amidon-Bowen?*

Getting two children (ages four and one) out of the house each morning is a modern-day miracle. My husband and I didn't want to overly complicate our already busy lives. Amidon-Bowen is a short walk in the neighborhood. We also are pleased about the very active parent engagement and really liked the school staff. After-school care is a non-negotiable for my family and we are grateful Amidon-Bowen offers this option for working parents.

*Did you have concerns about sending your child to Amidon-Bowen and if so, what were they?*

There is no language immersion. However, after we enrolled our child this year, we found out there is a Spanish class. At home, our child sings to herself in Spanish and is continuously asking me how to say something in Spanish (which I do not know).

*What are your current impressions of Amidon-Bowen?*

The school staff is one of the school's strengths: They are caring and committed. Additionally, they have cultivated a very welcoming learning environment. Prior to enrolling in Amidon-Bowen, my child used to hide under tables at the thought of school. Now she is disappointed when there is a day off.

## Sylvia Cabus

*Why did you decide to enroll your child at Amidon-Bowen?*

When we moved from Capitol Hill to Southwest, we wanted to experience the same community spirit that was centered on the local schools. We were already interested in Amidon-Bowen when our son was a baby, and we were influenced by discussions with Amidon-Bowen parents who shared the similar concerns and interests. We also benefited from meeting the former and current principal at play dates and other community events. Lastly, we were also happy with the ability to walk to school, the range of activities available to students, the pre-K methodology that builds on what our son learned in day care, and not having to do the full lottery.

*Did you have concerns about sending your child to Amidon-Bowen and if so, what were they?*

We are raising our son to be bilingual, and we were initially interested in immersion schools. But we are also interested in STEM, art, and music, all of which are priorities at

See "Amidon-Bowen" page 8



March 2017

**WED 1, 4:30 P.M. Karaoke Club.** Children ages 6-12 and their families are invited to join us in karaoke singing. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW.

**THURS 2, 6-7:30 P.M. Poise of the Soul: Yoga Prayer Practice, every Thursday until April 6.** Transform your body and soul through Yoga practice and simple Anglican chants. Open to all levels of yoga and those interested in prayer practice. Wear comfortable clothing and bring your mat. Led by Diana Gustafson, St. Augustine’s Ministry Intern, dianavmorgan@aol.com. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church. 555 Water St. SW.

**THURS 2, 6-8:00 P.M. Labyrinth Walk and Meditation, every Thurs until April 6.** Walking the labyrinth is a prayer practice that invites us to slow down, pay attention, and fully engage our minds, bodies, and spirits as we open ourselves up to the presence of the Holy. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

**FRI 3, 3 P.M. Friday Films.** Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for a movie! Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**SAT 4, 10:30-12 Noon.** Looking to develop speaking and leadership skills? Ace a job interview? Ignite your career? **Komen Toastmasters** meets on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month in the **SW Library**. Feel free to visit us and to see our communications and leadership program at work.

**SAT 4, 1-2:30 P.M. Yoga Nidra, Meditate, Chant, Breathe and Healing Relaxation. Move toward healing your Mind, Body and Spirit** Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation focused on setting an intention. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. **Bring a mat and light covering.** Invite family and friends. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email: wilsonpj108@verizon.net. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**SAT 4, 3:00 P.M. – LEGO Club.** Children ages 4-12 are invited to design, create, and build structures with LEGO bricks. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**SAT 4, 4-6:00 P.M. Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Benefit Concert,** Westminster Church, 400 I Street, SW,. Guest speaker will be **Bridget Oppong, MD, FACS**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Georgetown University & Attending Physician, MedStar Breast Health Program at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. Performance by **Shirleta Settles**. Shirleta is not just a Voice; she is an Entertainer (www.shirletasettlessings.com). Breast Cancer Survivor & **Jazz Vocalist Iva Ambush** will show her support and serenade us with a special tune. Event emceed by Nick “Dr. Nick” Johnson, WPFW-FM 89.3 (Saturdays at 2 pm). Reception follows. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For ticket information, please visit https://tdjbcf2017.eventbrite.com. For more information, please email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org.

**MON 6, 4:30 P.M. CHILDREN’S BOOK CLUB.** Children ages 8-12 are invited to join us to discuss a book together. Please call or stop by the Children’s Room to find out the latest pick. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**TUES 7, 10:30 A.M. Celebrate Women’s History Month with FREED,** a historical group portraying freed women and men of the Civil War era who contributed to our history. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**TUES 7, 6:30 P.M. EVENING PRAYERS & Simple Suppers, Tuesdays until April 4.** Simple fellowship supper of soup, salad and home-made bread. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

**WED 8, 4:30 P.M. Create Club.** Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for arts & crafts activities. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**THUR 9, 7 P.M. C.R. Gibbs Presents “Hidden Heroes:** African Americans, NASA, & the Quest for the Final Frontier.” Please join us for a special lecture in honor of Women’s History Month presented by noted author and historian C.R. Gibbs. SW Library.

**SAT 11, 3:00 P.M. Johnny Appleseed Day.** Celebrate with an apple related craft. Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**SAT 11, 7-9 P.M. FAITH 7 FILM PRESENTS: “Loving” - PG-13, 2016, Duration 2hrs.** Release Date: 11/4/16.

Community Calendar

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

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

Loving is a historical drama which tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, the plaintiff’s in the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court Decision Loving v. Virginia, which invalidated state laws prohibiting interracial marriage. 7pm Pizza. 7:30 p.m. Movie followed by discussion. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**SUN 12, 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 Library.

**MON 13, 4:30 P.M. Children’s Book Club.** Children ages 8-12 are invited to join us to discuss a book together. Please call or stop by the Children’s Room to find out the latest pick. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**MON 13, 7 P.M. - ANC 6D** Monthly Business Meeting, 200 I Street Southeast. Agenda at [www.anc6d.org](http://www.anc6d.org)

**MON. 13, 7 P.M. Life Design Working Group.** Based on Designing Your Life by Dave Evans and Bill Burnett, upstairs program area. SW Library.

**WED 15, 4:30 P.M. LEGO CLUB.** Children ages 4-12 are invited to design, create, and build structures with LEGO bricks. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**WED 15, 12 Noon. The Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter** to host a Series of Programs at its March 2017 Business Luncheon Meeting. Program Part 1 Speaker: Lauren C. Vaughan, Secretary of the District of Columbia. Topic: City Resources and Community Services. Program Part 2 Speaker: Douglas Klein, U.S. Attorney, Department of Justice. Topic: Fraud, Elder Exploitation Protection, and other Senior Services. Program Part 3 Speaker: Shannon Redd, AARP DC. Associate Director, Introduction to AARP Fraud Watch Network. AARP offers Giveaways To Anyone Who Signs Up. Current AARP members, new prospective members and visitors are welcome. Join us at River Park Mutual Homes’ South Common Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. Lunch Available: COST: \$5.00.

**WED 15, 6:30 P.M. Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Support Group Women’s History Month Celebration.** Featured guest speaker is Author Nanci Young, CEO, Nanci’s Gift. Come and hear Nanci share her incredible journey of survival and faith as a three-time breast cancer survivor and be eligible to win an autographed copy of her book “My Path to Faith”. It’s the perfect gift that uplifts and encourages! For questions or to RSVP, please email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 555 Water St SW.

**THURS 16, 6:30 P.M. ABC Committee, ANC6D.** Alcohol license applications, renewals, enforcement, and other issues. To be added to e-mail list for agenda & notifications contact: Coralie Farlee, Chair, ABC Committee, 202-554-4407, cfarlee@mindspring.com. King Greenleaf Rec Center, 201 N Street, SW.

**SAT 18, 10:30-12 Noon.** Looking to develop speaking and leadership skills? Ace a job interview? Ignite your career? **Komen Toastmasters** meets on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month in the **SW Library**. Feel free to visit us and to see our communications and leadership program at work.

**SAT 18, 3-6 P.M. Viewing and Discussion of the documentary “13th”, directed by AvaDuVernay** (Selma, Queen Sugar). The film focuses on the 13th Amendment of the Constitution and the history of the criminalization and mass incarceration of African Americans. Light snack and beverages will be available. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**SAT 18, 3 P.M. Wii Club.** Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us to play Wii games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**WED 22, 4:30 P.M. Wii Club.** Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us to play Wii games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**WED 22, 7:30 P.M. Dancing Mindfulness.** Meditation and Movement. SW Library.

**FRI 24, 11:00 A.M. Amazing Animals.** Meet different animal species and learn about them. Children ages 6-12 are invited. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**SAT 25, 10 A.M.-3 P.M. Friends of the SW Library. BOOK OF SALE.** Sale proceeds support events and supplies for the SW Library. Question? Have Books to Donate? Email us at [friendsofswlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofswlibrary@gmail.com).

**SAT 25, 10:30 P.M. Baby Sign Language Class.** Parents and babies are invited to a special class hosted by an instructor from Gallaudet University. Babies as young as four months can learn to communicate in signs. SW Library.

**SAT 25, 1:00 P.M. SOUTHWEST BOOK DISCUSSION** — Copies of “**Hemingses of Monticello” (part3)** are available at the information desk. SW Library.

**SUN 26, 1:30-4 P.M. SAT 25 Friends of the SW Library. BOOK OF SALE.** Sale proceeds support events and supplies for the SW Library. Question? Have Books to Donate? Email us at [friendsofswlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofswlibrary@gmail.com)

**MON 27, 7 – 9 P.M. Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Annual Meeting.** Arena Stage.

**WED 29, 4:30-5:30 P.M. “The Pillow Case Project,”** a disaster preparedness activity for 3rd to 5th graders, led by the American Red Cross. SW Library. Contact Ben Curran for further information [ben@swna.org](mailto:ben@swna.org) (202) 494-3940.

**THURS 30, 7 P.M. Friends of Southwest DC (FOS) Annual Meeting.** Invitation to hear how donations to FOS were used to support grantees’ missions in SW DC; learn more about FOS. Refreshments. Contact: Coralie Farlee, President, [FriendSWDC@yahoo.com](mailto:FriendSWDC@yahoo.com) or (202) 554-4407. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St SW.

**FRI 31, 3:00 P.M. Friday Films.** Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us for a movie! Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

**ADULT RECREATION, 10 A.M. - Noon, Saturdays, Ages 18 & up,** King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

**ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP. 10:30-11:30 A.M. 2nd Tuesdays of the month.** Free and open to the Public. Location: Faith Presbyterian Church 4161 S. Capitol St. SW. Take the A4, A2 or A8 bus from Anacostia Metro. Contacts: Vickie Henrikson [vlenrikson@gmail.com](mailto:vlenrikson@gmail.com) or Carroll Quinn (513) 763-9921. For more information: [alz.org/nca](http://alz.org/nca) or 800-272-3900.

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

**BABY/TODDLER STORYTIME 10:30 A.M., Mondays.** Join us for fun songs, finger plays, baby bounces and rhymes as we work together to develop early literacy skills. Designed for children. Ages birth to 2 years and their caregivers. SW Library.

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

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

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

**CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 A.M. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church,** 555 Water 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.

**COLOR CLUB, Mondays, 7:00 P.M.** Children and their families are invited to join us for Color Club. We’ll have special coloring sheets and supplies available. Children

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

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

**COMPUTER CLASSES, 1-3 P.M. Thursdays.** SW Library.
  
March 2 Microsoft Word
  
March 9 Microsoft Excel
  
March 16 Microsoft Powerpoint
  
March 23 no class scheduled
  
March 30 Personal Computing basics

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

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

**GAME CLUB, 4:00 P.M. Fridays.** Children ages 6-12 are invited to join us to play board games. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP by Kevin Bliss. 6:30-7:30 P.M. Mondays, thru March 27; The Center for Contemplative and Healing Arts** at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church. Donations Accepted. [kbliss@kevin-jbliss.com](mailto:kbliss@kevin-jbliss.com).

**HAND DANCING, 12:30 - 3:30 P.M., Saturdays** with Mr. Zeke. All ages welcome. King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

**INSPIRING WORSHIP AND KID’S CHURCH, Sundays, 11 A.M. - noon.** Westminster Presbyterian Church.

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

**KING GREENLEAF BOYS 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.

**KOMEN TOASTMASTERS, 10:30 - 11:40 A.M.** First and third Saturday of each month. Looking to develop speaking and leadership skills? Ace a job interview? Ignite your career? Feel free to visit us and see our communications and leadership program at work. SW Library, basement, 202-724-4752.

**LENTEN STUDY GROUP, 11:00 A.M.-12 PM,** Reading and discussing excerpts from “America’s Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America” by Jim Wallis. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS,** Wednesday 7-8 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**NARFE:** The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association **1:30-2:30 P.M.** meets the fourth Thursday of the month, September through May at the SW Library.

**PAJAMA STORY TIME, Thursdays, 6 P.M.** Join us for an evening story time where pajamas are encouraged but not required. These evening programs are designed to delight children of all ages. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Library.

**PICKLE BALL, Tuesdays, 10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.,** Ages 18 & up. King Greenleaf Recreation Center. 202-554-7945.

**PRESCHOOL STORYTIME, Wednesdays, 10:30 A.M.** Join us for books, songs, rhymes, and fingerplays as we continue to strengthen early literacy skills while enjoying stories together. An easy craft activity follows story time each week. Designed for children ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers. SW Library.

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

**SENIOR ARTS & CRAFTS, 2-3 P.M., TUESDAY** - King Greenleaf Recreation Center. 202-554-7945.

**THE SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER #4751.** Monthly Meetings are held every third Wednesday at 12:00 noon. Current AARP members, prospective members and visitors are welcome. Costs: \$5.00 for





## Music Venue Coming to the Heart of The Wharf's Entertainment Street

Restaurateurs Bruce A. Gates, Nicholas Fontana, and Henry Gandy announce Pearl Street Warehouse, a 4,000-square-foot, 300-person live music venue to open at The Wharf on DC's Southwest Waterfront in Oct. 2017.

Evoking great American music cities such as New York, Seattle, Nashville, and Austin, Pearl Street Warehouse will showcase music seven nights a week including rock, blues, roots, bluegrass, and country. The venue, located on Pearl Street, the center of The Wharf's entertainment alley, will also include a full bar and diner offering comfort staples and classic cocktails. The 40-seat diner will be open from first call for breakfast through post-performance eats and drinks.

Pearl Street Warehouse will offer a unique

front-row experience with a classic and authentic American vibe. The venue's state-of-the-art stage will showcase local and regional acts in addition to well-known touring bands and rising artists. Built to accommodate 150-person seated performances to 300-person concerts, Pearl Street Warehouse gives area music lovers a new home in Washington's hottest new neighborhood.

"Pearl Street Warehouse is our ode to some of the great music venues of DC's past," says Gates, who along with Fontana and Gandy owns the DC waterfront dock bar and restaurant Cantina Marina. "We're building the venue that DC needs, and a place where we want to go every night: an authentic experience where the music is the focus and the

See "Music Venue" page 8



## St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

*"A Spiritual Presence on DC's Southwest Waterfront"*

*Wherever you are on your faith journey and in your life ... what ever questions, doubts and experiences you come with ... we welcome you to join us!*

### Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017

"Ashes to Go" at Waterfront Metro Station, 4th and M Streets, SW  
8:00 -10:00 a.m. and 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m., St. Augustine's.

### Sunday Mornings

Service of Holy Communion 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Lenten Study Group 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

"American's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America" by Jim Wallis.

### Tuesday Evenings

Evening Prayer & Simple Suppers March 7--April 4 6:30--8:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer followed by simple fellowship supper of soup, salad & homemade bread.

### St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

*The Rev. Martha Clark, Rector*

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## INVITATION TO ANNUAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017, 7 PM**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street, SW

*All are welcome to hear grantees discuss how our awards have been used. Representatives from grantee organizations will make presentations. Donors, others may discuss and make suggestions to FOS Board members. Refreshments.*

You may send your tax-deductible donations at any time to:  
Friends of Southwest DC  
389 O Street, S. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

OR  
by credit card on "donate page" of our website:  
[www.FriendsofSWDC.org](http://www.FriendsofSWDC.org)

For further information, contact:  
Coralie Farlee, President, 202-554-4407  
[FriendsSWDC@yahoo.com](mailto:FriendsSWDC@yahoo.com)

Applications for grants may be submitted at any time to the above address

**We support The Southwester through our advertisements.**



## THELMA D. JONES BREAST CANCER FUND BENEFIT CONCERT

**Saturday, March 4, 2017**  
**6-9 PM**

WESTMINSTER CHURCH  
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and "Friday's Jazz Night" in DC  
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Emceed by Dr. Nick, WPFW-FM 89.3 (Saturdays at 2 pm)

Donation \$75 (in advance) \$85 (at the door)

Purchase tickets at <https://tdjbcf2017.eventbrite.com>

Proceeds benefit the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund for education, prevention, screening and early detection efforts.

Donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, email [thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org](mailto:thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org) or call 202-251-1639

## AMIDON-BOWEN

*From p. 5*

Amidon-Bowen, and we also knew that our son had other opportunities for foreign language. (He currently goes to French Saturday school.) We wanted to make sure that our son went to a diverse school and had friends from different backgrounds and learned social skills from an early age, in addition to academics.

*What are your current impressions of Amidon-Bowen?*

Since our son started in August, he has absolutely exploded in his conversational skills, which we credit directly to the classroom environment. It's also great to receive on a regular basis support materials on how to reinforce our son's skills at home. We are also very lucky that our son and his classmates go on regular field trips and also visit the library.

We are generally happy with Amidon-Bowen, and the few concerns we have (for example, potty-training) are individual issues and not institutional ones. We have very open and regu-

lar communication with his teachers, who have been very supportive.

Looking ahead to the next school year, I'll conclude by stating that Amidon-Bowen is still our *collective* challenge and opportunity. Each family can and should make what it feels is the right decision for their children, but when Southwest families opt to send their children to schools outside of our neighborhood, it's a loss for all of us. Yet as more parents choose to send their children to Amidon-Bowen, that means more time, energy, and resources that will be available to continue improving educational opportunities for all the children of our neighborhood.

Of course, making the decision about where to send your child to school can feel daunting: "School choice" and the DCPS lottery will make any parent frantic. Because "choice" exists, parents scramble to understand what the "best" choice is; I certainly did two years ago. We go on hearsay and reputation because those of us who are working have limited free time to attend open houses all over the city. We come up with

spreadsheets filled with everything from curriculum philosophy to commuting times. How do we really know what the right choice for our child is?

I won't pretend I have all the answers, but I think I've learned a lot about what works for my family. I started as a nervous parent willing to give Amidon-Bowen a try. Now, I understand that sending my four-year-old to a school like Amidon-Bowen means that he's getting a truly holistic education. Not only is he thriving academically, he's learning how to make friends with children of racial and cultural backgrounds different than his own. He's experiencing true diversity, with no majority racial group in his classroom. He's learning to treat all people with dignity and respect. And these civic values, important in their own right, have additional school-wide benefits as well: Research has shown that school integration can reduce the racial and socioeconomic achievement gap by up to 50%.

So although some parents may opt for other schools, I continue to believe that Amidon-Bowen is the right choice for my child and our family,

and so do an increasing number of neighborhood families. The parents at Amidon-Bowen are some of the best folks I've ever met, and it is a joy to work with them. And it looks like our numbers may be growing: According to lottery data, as of January, 15 families already ranked Amidon-Bowen as their No. 1 choice for Pre-K through third grade for the 2017-18 school year, nearly double the number as this time last year.

Amidon-Bowen is on the rise. Will you join us? #DCPSrising

**To learn more:**

- Join us for an open house for prospective parents and community members alike on Wednesday, March 8 at 9 a.m. Stay tuned for details about an open house in April.
- Attend a neighborhood play date and let your child run free in a large, open space. All are welcome. The winter play dates will take place on Saturday, March 11 from 10 a.m. to noon in the school's multipurpose room.
- Visit our website at amidonbowen.org.
- For additional questions, please email amidonpta@gmail.com.

## MUSIC VENUE

*From p. 7*

atmosphere is one that is genuine and comfortable."

"In addition to being a great venue for music, Pearl Street Warehouse will be the ideal neighborhood spot within The Wharf," Fontana says. "It's the place where you can grab a quick bite for breakfast, lunch or dinner."

**About Pearl Street Warehouse:**

Pearl Street Warehouse is a live music venue and neighborhood bar that will provide

music lovers in DC with an American music experience, featuring a variety of local and regional acts paired with a sophisticated bar program and a creative culinary component. Pearl Street Warehouse was developed by Nicholas Fontana, Bruce Gates, and Henry Gandy, principals and founders of Cantina Marina, a fixture on the Southwest Waterfront for 14 years. The authentic, intimate venue will debut in the fall of 2017 on Pearl Street, the entertainment heart of The Wharf. For more information please visit PearlStreetWarehouse.com, Facebook.com/PearlStreetWarehouse, and @PearlStreeLive on Twitter and Instagram.

## CALENDAR

*From p. 6*

lunch. River Park Mutual Homes Community Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901.

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

**WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7-9 P.M.** First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St. SW

**YOGA BY PAM WILSON, 8-9A.M. Wednesdays. The Center for Contemplative and Healing Arts at St.**

Augustine's Episcopal Church. Bring a mat if you have one. Donations Accepted. For information, call Pamela Wilson (202) 746-6654 or email: wilsonpj108@verizon.net

**YOGA FOR ADULTS and TEENS, 6:30-7:30 P.M. Tuesdays & Thursdays at SW Library.**

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

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

**ZUMBA, 7:30-8:30 P.M.** Mondays, Instructor Roshaunda Jenkins will lead this one-hour fitness and dance workout — all fitness levels welcome. The class is free and no registration is required. Dance your way to fitness! SW Library.

THEY'VE ARRIVED

Our earth is only one polka dot among a million stars in the cosmos.  
-Yayoi Kusama, 1968

SWBID

Southwest Business Improvement District

HIRSHHORN

 Smithsonian Institution

YAYOI KUSAMA

Infinity Mirrors

FEB 23-MAY 14