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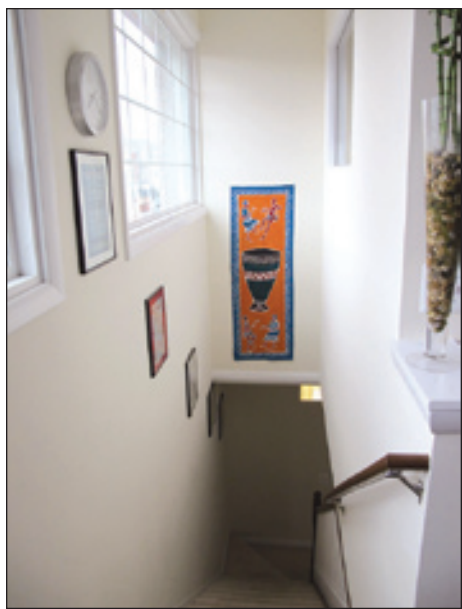
Since 1968 • Serving Washington D.C.'s Intown Neighborhoods

Columbia Heights Homeowner Proves Slashing Pepco Bills Doable Without Sacrifice

By Dan Silverman*

There is a green revolution on Newton Street — a six-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath home on three floors featuring two-zone central heating and air conditioning

Cont., GREEN, p. 15



photo—Dan Silverman.

Maximization of natural light sources is also an important aspect that contributes to the impressive energy savings.



photo—Dan Silverman.

The exposed side wall abutting the alley might be thought to be a negative because no abutting row house to provide insulation, nevertheless allows for the several windows that provide significant natural light within.

Champlain Street Re-opening Leaves Major Elements of Promised Improvements Undone

By Anthony L. Harvey

Recent below freezing temperatures and harsh, blustery winds failed to dampen the enthusiasm of Adams Morgan and Reed-Cooke residents, Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham and Mayor Adrian Fenty who gathered at the Marie Reed Learning Center to celebrate the formal reopening of the block of Champlain Street that runs beneath the covered walkway bridge connecting the two multi-purpose parts of the sprawling and under-utilized Center. (For an earlier report about this project, see, “Champlain Street in Adams Morgan to Re-open; Neighbors Welcome Enhanced Streetscape Design,” *InTowner*, March 2009, page 1.)

Long a dark and neglected site — one whose lack of basic maintenance or landscaping projected a sense of bleak abandonment, Marie Reed has taken on the institutional appearance of repellent brick and concrete walls and prison-style front doors. For many, the exterior appearance of these facilities along Champlain, which includes an indoor swimming pool, a full court gymnasium, a large recreation center, a medical and dental clinic, a daycare facility, and a large and increasingly successful elementary school, has created a magnet for crime, vandalism, and the congregating of the homeless.

With the completion of the new roadway and streetscape, this



photo—Keith Kreger—The InTowner.



photo—Keith Kreger—The InTowner.

View looking north of re-opened and re-built street passing under bridge connecting the Marie Reed recreation building to the left housing the swimming pool and gym with the school building to the right, on the east side of the street. Among the improvements shown are the bollards, the new Washington Globe street light fixtures, and the lay-by for school bus unloading.

block of Champlain now projects a handsomely reconstructed passageway for school buses, bicycles, pedestrians, and, when school is not in session, one-way automobile traffic. Streetscape improvements include wide sidewalks, protective bollards, improved lighting, and a decoratively colored tile mosaic on the ADA-compliant ramp leading to the clinic within the facility. A tree canopy and landscaping may follow.

Not yet done, however, were the surrounding improvements promised to the community as part of this larger project — improvements deemed critical to the creation of a safe and aesthetically pleasing space. These concerns were concisely summarized in a press release issued by Adams Morgan ANC Commissioner Bryan Weaver that was distributed at the Mayor's press conference, which states in part:

Cont., RE-OPENING, p. 7

A River of Troubles on 17th Street*

It was during Monday morning rush hour on one of the coldest days of the winter, January 11th, that a contractor who was removing a catch basin as part of the just getting underway major streetscape project caused the rupture of the 100-year-old cast iron 20-inch water main. By the time the photographer arrived, the huge geyser of water had subsided to what is shown here. But that was more than enough to cause major disruption for the many hours that it took for a WASA crew to get things back to normal later in the afternoon when the street was finally re-opened to traffic.

DDOT then followed up by extensively spreading the affected area with salt so that the re-freezing of the still very wet roadbed would not create a hazard as the temps were to dip into the teens after dark.

—P.L. Wolff

* *Headline used courtesy Borderstan neighborhood blog (<http://borderstan.com>), which focuses on the area encompassing Dupont, Logan and U Street.*



photo—courtesy DCist.com

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SELECTED STREET CRIMES

Reports are available exclusively on our website, www.intowner.com, by clicking the link on the home page labeled “Street Crimes.” Readers not having access to the Internet may call 202-234-1717 and request a copy be mailed; simply leave name, address and contact telephone number.

See in Special Online Content:

- Balancing Neighborhood Retail: The 25% Rule
- Reconstructing Historic Holt House
- A Glass Tower Pops Out on Harvard Street
- When Does My Cast Iron Staircase Need Attention?

For complete articles go to www.intowner.com & click Special Online Content link.



Has Your Landlord Lost Your Apartment Building or Rented House to Foreclosure?

Have you been told that you have to move out or heard conflicting or confusing information about what your rights are? For answers, attend the free workshop for DC tenants and learn about your protections under DC law to be given on Wed., Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. by Housing Counseling Services, a HUD approved non-profit agency, at 2410 17th St., NW - Suite 100. For more info, call Natalie Lebeau at 202 667-7425.

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From the Publisher's Desk...

By P.L. Wolff

ELECTING, NOT APPOINTING, OUR ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mt. Pleasant resident and ANC commissioner Jack McKay, in a recent posting to the twice-weekly TheMail e-group posited, "Whether the DC Attorney General is nominated by the Mayor or chosen by popular election, he's at least answerable to the District. What's more important is that this officer [at present] is limited to the prosecution of only minor crimes — e.g., disorderly conduct — whereas the prosecution of all serious crimes is in the hands of a presidential appointee, the US Attorney for the District of Columbia."

Then McKay questioned whether this matters and reflected on why it might: "I guess I never paid much attention until a matter of a guy firing seven bullets one night into the window of a neighbor's occupied bedroom, an act of extraordinary violence in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. Identified by the occupant, the man was arrested a day later and was to be charged, according to the Metropolitan Police, with 'robbery and assault with a dangerous weapon.' Well, guess again; the US Attorney's Office . . . saw fit to charge the man with a mere 'misdemeanor theft.'"

Continuing, he wrote, "Stunned by these trivial charges for a crime of exceptional violence, I pursued the matter, only to find that the [U.S. Attorney] plainly works for the Justice Department, and the White House, and is in no way answerable to the people of the District of Columbia or their elected representatives. Our complaints about their decisions in this violent incident were dismissed with unconcealed contempt. They weren't willing to take this crime seriously, apparently because they disdained the character of the victim, and that was that."

In conclusion, McKay shared these thoughts: "Evidently the creators of Home Rule considered the District incapable of managing its own criminal prosecutions, and so substituted this Federal office for a homegrown District Attorney, such as every other jurisdiction in the country has. No doubt our own DA would be imperfect as well, but at least he would be answerable to us, the people of the District of Columbia. Delegate Norton has introduced, for the fourth time, a bill in Congress that would allow us to have our own DA. Given the state of Congress, it's now or never for this effort to succeed."

We have long advocated for an elected District Attorney (we think the title of Attorney General for a city is patently presumptuous). We have listened to the argument that it's risky to select the chief law enforcement officer by popular vote since we could end up with an incompetent. Well, that's always a risk, but it's not a given by a long shot. Think New York City and some of the truly great DA's, like the legendary Frank Hogan and the just recently retired Robert Morgenthau; they were elected (and re-elected) by popular vote. Why would we not be able to attract such stellar legal talent and have the good sense to elect such persons into a position of this importance? Is it possible that only a mayor has sufficient smarts (or integrity) to put the public good over political interest and expediency? We think not.

Of course, simply getting Congress to amend the Home Rule Act to allow us to elect our own chief law enforcement officer, whether called DA or AG, will not be of much benefit unless Congress provides that the chief law enforcement officer have total control over the District's law enforcement — and that means completely removing the U.S. Attorney from having jurisdiction to prosecute (or decide not to prosecute) District of Columbia felonies pursuant to District of Columbia criminal law. (Naturally, as is the case everywhere, federal crimes would still be the responsibility of the U.S. Attorney.)

We applaud the on-going — and now renewed — effort by our Congressional Delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton, to achieve this outcome. While we believe there is a good chance of passage in the House, we despair that it can make it through the Senate, even with the Democrats retaining their majority. But try she must.

We do recognize, also, that many city residents have been expressing support for the idea of electing the Attorney General rather than leaving the power of appointment with the Mayor because they detest the present AG. He's viewed as arrogant and appears to serve as the Mayor's personal legal counsel — which, of course, is not what he is supposed to be. Further, his obvious disdain of the City Council, his often odd legal advisory opinions, like the one stating that the illegal contracts awarded to the Mayor's frat buddies and running partners in blatant contravention of the law was indeed legal do raise questions about his judgement. And, he surely didn't endear himself to large numbers of city residents when he said of Ward 3 Councilmember May M. Cheh "She's an angry woman" when, questioning the legality of the Mayor reappointing Ximena Hartsock as director of the parks and recreation department even though the Council refused to confirm the appointment, she observed, "It's almost becoming a lawless administration. They seem to have no limits or restraint on what they are willing to do."

We acknowledge that our appointed Attorney General is a first-class lawyer and has a brilliant intellect, but we can say the same for Councilmember Cheh, who happens to be a distinguished law professor can rightfully claim an intellect of no less quality than the AG. However, his grating personality and obnoxious behavior should not be the reason for us pressing for the needed reform in how select the city's chief law enforcement office or for us to be granted full authority to enforce our own criminal laws and prosecute our own felons pursuant to those laws. □

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NEXT ISSUE—FEBRUARY 12

ADVERTISING SPACE GUARANTEE DATE:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

News, Events & Letters Deadline: Friday, February 5

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LETTERS

Letters must be mailed, faxed, or delivered to our office or sent via e-mail to: letters@intowner.com. All correspondents MUST supply a home address AND both day and evening telephone numbers for verification purposes. Persons employed by or volunteering with entities that are the subject of their letters MUST reveal their positions with same so as to avoid misleading the readers as to their special interest. In appropriate instances, if so requested, letters may be printed on a "name withheld by request" basis. We reserve the right to edit for propriety, clarity, and to fit the available space. Identifiers below writers' names are inserted at the editor's discretion.

Taking Stock!

One man's list of worthy preservation goals is another's litany of neighborhood eyesores. Still, sometimes there must be some consensus on need to protect certain local icons. I cite three: the Tabard Inn, the west side of the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue, and last, but by no means least, the Ginkgo trees on the 1700 block of Corcoran Street, NW.

Preserving the Tabard Inn should be a slam-dunk imperative. It is as much an institution in Dupont Circle as Sholl's Cafeteria was downtown. Inside and out Tabard exudes quality and charm, where old-world comfortable accommodations are married to a legendary kitchen. Now it is threatened by the proposed "N Street Follies," which has kept five historic buildings boarded up for 20 years. Sadly deteriorating, these buildings once housed the Woodbine Apartments, the last rental housing on the block, the Gralyn, another legendary inn, and three mansion-class townhouses. Sought is not only another outrageous zoning change, but the construction of a large hotel on a fragile block that already has two. "Special Exception" zoning ruins historic preservation in this city, making zoning protection infinitely elastic and meaningless. The project would cause serious impediments to the quality and viability of Tabard on a block where a third hotel is a needless absurdity.

We say Tabard yea, "Follies" nay!

Arguments for developing the west side of the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue, a charming sliver of real estate, sound as though it is in the middle of the Mojave Desert. Developers say, "It must be revitalized, and have more life pumped into it," meaning it must have more alcohol pumped into it -- the "cure-all" solution for commercial development. Openings in Dupont Circle these days almost always have booze as their central ingredient, despite 34 liquor licenses less than 600 feet away. A Niagara of suds is always the solution. The opening of "Sweetgreen" is a pleasant addition, but its owner says "that block should be packed." Why? So it looks like 18th Street and Columbia Road or Wisconsin and M in Georgetown? Some see a row of bars and say "karma"; others see a row of endless outdoor cafés and say "nirvana;" I see a peaceful, quiet site, already wonderfully vibrant, and say, "Please leave it alone."

Finally, regarding the slaughter of the beautiful ginkgo trees, somebody should remind DC's Office of Planning and city arborists, if we have any, that the 1700 block of Corcoran Street is not part of the Amazon Rain Forest. "Clear cutting" and "slash and burn" tree removal is "arboricide," a crime against both forestry and humanity. Descendants of Genghis Khan and Attila

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COMMUNITY FORUM

DUPONT CIRCLE ANC ESTABLISHES COMMITTEES; ACTIVELY SEEKING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

By Will Stephens

The writer serves on the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 1B) both as Vice-Chair and as the commissioner representing Single Member District 2B08.

The Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) has established its first three standing committees and is actively seeking community volunteers to serve as committee members along with commissioners.

First is the ABRA (Alcoholic Beverage Regulatory Administration) Policy Committee, the purpose of which will be to inform the ANC and the public about issues related to alcoholic beverage control and to make the ANC's work in this area more transparent and more efficient. The tasks to be delegated to the committee will include creating a model Voluntary Agreement and proposing written ANC guidelines for consideration of ABRA applications. As one of its first projects, the committee will be working with the Metropolitan Police Department, establishment owners, residents, and community groups to consider what actions to recommend with regard to the saturation of nightclubs in the area south of Dupont Circle. Commissioners Ramon Estrada and Will Stephens have been named as the co-chairs of the ABRA Policy Committee.

Second is the Zoning, Preservation, and Development (ZPD) Committee, the purpose of which will be to promote preservation of the historic, architectural, and residential character of the neighborhood while encouraging its economic and social vitality. The tasks to be delegated to the

committee will include liaison with relevant city agencies and community groups, such as the Dupont Circle Conservancy, and proposing written guidelines for the ANC when considering applications related to development, renovation, and construction projects. Commissioner Mike Feldstein has been named chair of the ZPD Committee.

Third is the Community Involvement Committee, the purpose of which will be to promote and encourage a wide range of community activities that help the needs of Dupont Circle citizens. The tasks to be delegated to the committee will include working with other community organizations to plan and coordinate neighborhood events and service opportunities and proposing a community grant-giving system for the ANC. Commissioners Feldstein and Stephens have been named as the co-chairs of the Community Involvement Committee.

The overarching goal of all three committees will be to better engage the public and stakeholders in transparent decision-making on issues that affect our neighborhood and the city at large.

Persons interested in serving on any of these committees or learning more about them are encouraged to send an email to the ANC's Vice-Chair at will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net. □

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AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

The editor welcomes the receipt of information about community happenings, such as neighborhood and block association activities, church-sponsored events, public meetings dealing with neighborhood issues, and other events of a non-commercial nature. These may be emailed to us at newsroom@intowner.com, or sent by regular mail but not by fax. Note that our reporting focuses on our target neighborhoods, all of which are listed along with more information regarding the kind & scope of news we can use in the advisory posted at the top of the Community News page at www.intowner.com.

• Mon., Jan. 18: In honor of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, city trash and recycling service will be suspended and pushed forward one day. In neighborhoods with twice-weekly trash collections, Monday and Thursday collections will be made Tuesday and Friday and Tuesday and Friday collections will slide to Wednesday and Saturday. As for yet to be disposed of Christmas trees, they may be placed with the regular trash and will be collected as truck space permits.

• Thu., Jan 21 (1:30pm): The **Historical Society of Washington** (Mt. Vernon Sq., enter from K Street directly opposite Convention Center) is offering a free GALLERY TALK & EXHIBIT TOUR of their current art exhibition, "Form and Content: Selected Works by Floyd Coleman," to be presented by the artist who is also an art scholar and a Washingtonian. His works reflect abstract themes and nuances of improvisation, expressing elements of harmonic freedom captured on canvas. No reservations needed and no charge. For more info, call 383-1850 or visit www.historydc.org.

• Thu., Jan 21 (3-9pm): **HomeMade Pizza Company** (1522 14th St.), an icon in Chicago, is inviting neighbors to a GRAND OPENING PIZZA PARTY in its new Logan Circle store at Church Street, just across from the Studio Theatre. To celebrate their arrival, the company's



founders will be on hand to meet neighbors while their chefs demonstrate dough tossing and pizza-making skills and staff will be serving complimentary pizza, salads, cookies and ice cream.

• Sat., Jan. 23 (10am-12noon): "**Energy Efficiency & Old Houses**" will be the topic of a program to be presented at Stoddard Baptist Home (1818 Newton St.). Learn about energy audits and what home improvements are the most cost-effective with particular attention to the issue of window repair, replacement and integrity.

The program will be presented by Pascale Maslin, founder of Energy Efficient Experts, an energy audit firm specializing in reducing energy costs while making environmentalism accessible, and by John Sandor, an architectural historian and expert in the repair and replacement of windows in historic buildings.

The \$10 charge (free to members of Historic Mt. Pleasant and the DC Preservation League) will include a light breakfast. Space is limited and advance registration can be made by calling (202) 783-5144 or sending an email to rsvp@dcpreservation.org.

• Tue., Jan. 25 (7pm): A special COMMUNITY MEETING and discussion with officials from the city's transportation department (DDOT) on the timing and phasing of the 18th Street reconstruction

project between Massachusetts and Florida Avenues, which is likely set to start soon, will be conducted by **Dupont Circle ANC** Vice-Chair Will Stephens at the International Student House (1825 R St.). For more info, contact Commissioner Stephens by email, will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net

• Tue., Jan. 26 (7pm): **Public safety** will be the focus of another Dupont ANC-sponsored COMMUNITY MEETING, this one to be held at the Hotel Palomar (2121 P St.). The location is more than symbolic. Police recently were digging a bullet out of the bricks of the hotel and in that same week there had been a carjacking less than a block away, while earlier in the month there had there had been a break-in and rape in an apartment nearby, in the 2100 block of N Street.

According to the ANC's chair, Mike Silverstein, "each of these incidents is unprecedented. For all of them to occur in within a few hundred yards of each other [and] within several weeks of each other gives a sense of urgency to those in the community who want to meet with police to discuss the situation and see how we can cooperate to restore peace and some sense of public safety."

The meeting will be conducted by Rob Halligan, who for years has worked to foster cooperation between the police and the community, and by Jack Jacobson who chairs the ANC's public safety committee. Lt. Alan Hill of the 2nd police District is scheduled to attend will attend, along with his top deputies.

Underlying the concerns about this spike in crime in this western end of the Dupont Circle neighborhood is the ongoing questioning by many of whether some of the licensed establishments on P Street regularly violate the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. As Chairman Silverstein told *The InTowner*, while "reasonable people can disagree on the POQ issues, when bullets fly and people get carjacked, this moves to a different level and there is no longer any disagreement."

For more info, call either Rob Halligan, at 319-1313 or the chair of Commissioner Jacobson, at 251-7644.

• Tue., Jan 26 (6:30-8:30pm): **AdamsMorgan MainStreet** will be sponsoring another in its series of WINE TASTING fund-raisers to benefit to Main Street program, this time at the new, up-scale The District (2473 18th St.). Featured will be samplings of red and white wines and appetizer tidbits from their menu while enjoying the company of neighbors surrounded by the establishment's unique décor on two levels. \$25 per person. For more info, call 232-1960 or visit www.AMMainStreet.org.

• Mon., Feb 2 (6:30-9pm): An ad hoc committee specifically established by the **Dupont Circle ANC 2B** to prepare a recommended position for the ANC concerning liquor license issues will be holding a COMMUNITY MEETING at Foundry United Methodist Church (16th & P Sts.) to receive testimony and comments on the Dupont East (17th Street) Liquor

Cont., COMMUNITY, p. 5

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COMMUNITY

From p. 4

Moratorium which is set to expire at the end of March. At issue will be the principal question of whether to continue in its present form or to petition the ABC Board for renewal and/or changes.

In addition to expected participation by representatives of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), Dupont Circle Merchants and Professionals Association (DCMAP), and Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, individual residents are also being encouraged to attend and present their views, though, because of the need to accommodate all who will be wishing to present comments, individuals will be limited to brief statements of two minutes each (though more extensive written statements may be submitted to the ad hoc committee's chairman, ANC Commissioner Jack Jacobson by email to jack.jacobson@dupontcircleanc.net. Those doing so should include full individual or business name, whichever is appropriate, along with address. Submissions will be made part of the official record of the proceedings, which will be held open until the beginning of the ANC's regular monthly meeting in February. For more info, call Commissioner Jacobson at 251-7644.

• Thu., Feb. 4 (7pm): The next regular, first Thursday of the month PUBLIC MEETING of the **Cardozo-Shaw ANC 1B** will be held, as usual, in the second floor conference room of the Reeves Center (14th & U Sts.). While at the time we went to press it was too early to learn of the items to be considered on the agenda, we had been informed of the election by the commissioners of their new chairperson, Commissioner E. Gail Anderson Holness, who narrowly won out over incumbent Chair Brianne Nadeau by a vote of six to five. In addition to serving as Pastor of Christ Our Redeemer AME Church on Upshur Street, she is also a member of the DC Commission for Women. Also elected to the other officer slots were Commissioners Peter Raia (Vice-Chair), Myla Moss (Secretary), and Eduardo Ferrer (Treasurer).

• Fri., Feb. 5 (12:15-1pm): The weekly **MUSIC AT MIDDAY** free, 45-minute lunch hour concerts at **National City Christian Church** on Thomas Circle kicks off its 2010 winter-spring season with church's



own organist, Charles Miller performing, to be followed during the next three weeks by David Christopher from the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew in Wilmington, Delaware (Feb. 12); Stephen Harouff from Faith Presbyterian Church in Baltimore (Feb. 19); and concluding with Charles Miller returning to the console (Feb. 26).

These performances all take place inside the soaring John Russell Pope-designed sanctuary (reminiscent of a great Christopher Wren church in London) on National City's magnificent 7,000-pipe, five-keyboard Moller organ. In the words of the church's Dr. Miller, it is truly a "magical, musical, mystical machine [that produces a] most thrilling, floor-shaking, audience-friendly, and entertaining music composed by some of the greatest musical geniuses."

Also enjoy and learn from the hands-on displays of organ pipes, colorful photographs of the inner workings of the organ, interesting information on pipe organ history, and a post-recital demonstration of how the organist operates the five keyboards, pedal board, and over 300 controls will provide an up-close look at this complex and fascinating "King of Instruments."

For those who love wood-working, computers, electronics, and physics, as well as music, these recital/demonstration events are a special treat and are geared to attract and engage people of all ages, those familiar with the pipe organ and those who've never seen or heard one before. For more info, call the church's music office at (202) 797-0103 or send an email to cmiller@nationalcitycc.org. □

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LETTERS

From p. 3

the Hun obviously guided this Dupont Circle chainsaw massacre. Long live our remaining ginkgos, and may the departed on Corcoran Street rest in peace; we shall

not see their like again. [Ed. Note: For background, see "Corcoran Street Ginkgos' Removals Reveal Failure by DC to Follow its Rules," *The InTowner*, Dec. 2009, page 1.]

Jim McGrath
Dupont Circle

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17th & Q Streets, NW • December 19, 2009



photo—Luis Gomez, courtesy Luis Gomez Photos, LLC.

Around the corner, in the garden behind this newspaper's editorial office, fully protected from the wind, the final snowfall total measured 17 inches!



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For additional information on how to qualify, please contact The District Department of the Environment/Energy Office on 311.

FY 2009 Income Eligibility Guidelines:

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$15,600
2	\$21,000
3	\$26,400
4	\$31,800
5	\$37,200
6	\$42,600
7	\$48,000
8	\$53,400

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Link-Up America is for District residents who are eligible for social service assistance. New customers or customers who move to a new address may qualify for a 50 percent reduction in service connection charges.

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Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Recent Actions/Decisions Entered

Note: Because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, the Board did not convene on December 16, 23 or 30.

Adams Morgan

- 12/9: Accepted an Offer in Compromise and Settlement entered into between Class CR licensee **El Nuevo Migueleño** (1721 Col. Rd.) and the office of the DC Attorney General by which was stipulated that licensee pay a fine of \$500. Licensee had been charged with failing to obtain an entertainment endorsement to have live entertainment.

- 12/9: Accepted an Offer in Compromise and Settlement entered into between Class CR (restaurant) **Mama Ayesha's Calvert Restaurant** (1967 Calvert St.) and the office of the DC Attorney General by which was stipulated that licensee pay a fine of \$500 and to serve one-day suspension stayed for one year. Licensee had been charged with making a substantial change without Board approval by exceeding the number of outdoor seating.

Dupont Circle

- 12/2: Approved 11/19/09 Voluntary Agreement entered into between Class CR licensee **Jack's Restaurant & Bar** 1527 17 St.), the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) and a group of approximately 24 residents by which licensee agreed to the following: (1) that the occupancy for the 2nd floor interior space will include occupancy at tables and a bar not to exceed 48 patrons; (2) the hours of operation and alcoholic beverage service on the 2nd floor interior space will not extend beyond 2 a.m. on Fri. & Sat. or past 1 a.m. on other nights; (3) sound attenuation methods will be utilized in the construction of the 2nd floor space; (4) signs will be posted encouraging employees and patrons to be considerate of residents in the neighborhood after departing the building; (5) no patron of the 2nd floor shall be allowed to ingress or egress from the rear stairway leading to the alley abutting Stead Park.

- 12/2: Approved 11/30/09 Voluntary Agreement entered into between Class CT (tavern) licensee **Mad Hatter** (1321 Conn. Ave.), ANC 2B and residents & owners of 1325 & 1331 18th Street by which licensee agreed to the following: (1) to alarm and secure the door or entryway on the 18th Street side of the establishment and not to allow patrons or employees to use that door; (2) that deliveries shall be made only on Connecticut Avenue; (3) all windows facing 18th Street shall be closed at all times.

Logan Circle / 14th Street

- 12/10: Approved issuance of a stipulated license to Class CR licensee **ACKC Cocoa Bar** (1529 14th St.).

- 12/9: Approved 11/17/09 Voluntary Agreement entered into between Class B (market, beer & wine only) licensee **Cork & Fork** (1522 14th St.) and ANC 2F by which licensee agreed to the following: (1) to maintain a dumpster in an off-street location which is not viewable from the public street and to take whatever steps necessary to ensure that the dumpster does not overflow; (2) to ensure that material shall not be deposited into the dumpster after 11pm or before 8:30am; (3) to require trash and recycling contractors to pick up trash and materials and schedule deliveries after 9am on weekdays and after 10am on weekends and holidays; (4) not to sell or provide refrigerated singles or allow them to be refrigerated on the premises after sale and not to sell or provide individual cups or single servings of ice.

Mt. Pleasant

- 12/9: Approved application of Class CR licensee **Corado's Guatemalan Restaurant** (3217 Mt. Pleasant St.) to change its hours of operation and sales and service of alcoholic beverages to Sun.-Thu., 11am-1:30am and Fri. & Sat., to 2:30am.

U Street / Shaw

- 12/9: Accepted an Offer in Compromise and Settlement entered into between Class CX (multipurpose facility) **930 Club** (815 V St.) and the office of the DC Attorney General by which was stipulated that licensee pay a fine of \$3,000. Licensee had been charged with allowing nude dancing performances, making a substantial change in its operation by allowing nude dancing, and allowing the establishment to be used for an unlawful or disorderly purpose.

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RE-OPENING

From p. 1

“Despite countless assurances at public and private meetings by government officials and despite repeated resolutions from ANC1C requesting these enhancements be part of the project, today there remains a laundry-list of unmet promises. [These include]:

“1 Replacement of the green doors at the Champlain Street entrance to the recreation center with more welcoming, working door treatments that include windows which provide public access to the building when it's open;

“2. Removal of the brick that covers the windows to the swimming pool;

“3. Inclusion of murals by Adams Morgan artists, and neighborhood youth: Adjacent to the entrance to the indoor pool; and along the wall of the former handball court to replace the one that was painted over;

“4. As consistent with best use, an additional handicapped ramp allowing access to the Community of Hope Health Clinic on the side of the newly installed driveway and lay-by adjacent to Old Morgan School Place;

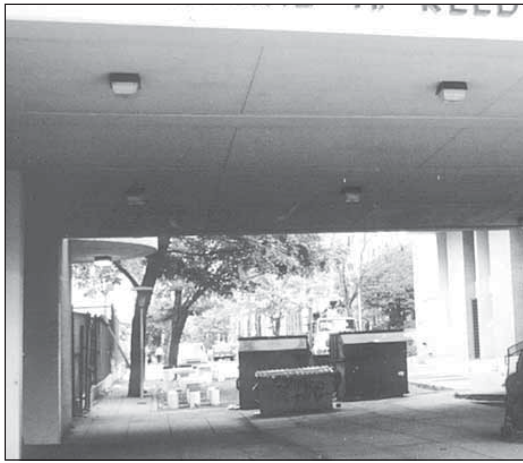
“5. Construction of solid waster collection area using two trash chutes into a dedicated collection point on the South portion of the breezeway — the chutes are needed for the safety of the late night custodial staff of the school, who have been the victims of assaults while taking out trash from the facility.”

The two dumpsters and a recycling bin that were under the covered walkway have simply been repositioned to an



photo—Keith Kreger—The InTowner.

Shown here is the still depressingly uninviting entry into the recreation center.



The dumpsters, while no longer positioned under the bridge as seen in the photo from March 2009, (l), remain in full view as can be seen in the photo from January 2010 (r).



photos—Keith Kreger—The InTowner.

even more prominent position at the corner of Champlain and Old Morgan School Place, and no mention was made of the Marie Reed's derelict athletic playing field, which remains a pothole-filled open space that sees little use.

The actual streetscape project, which is one of the District's Department of Transportation's (DDOT) singular successes, was to have been completed no later than September, 2009 — this to allow for traffic alleviation on neighboring 18th Street between Florida Avenue and Adams Mill Road, which is the second and much larger part of an integrated Adams Morgan streetscape improvement project for one of the community's two central commercial and transportation cores, and planned to have begun the following month.

Both of these efforts have been doggedly championed by Councilmember Graham, the Adams Morgan ANC, civic and business associations, and the public at large. All eagerly await more walkable and wider sidewalks, the shade and attractiveness of a

tree canopy, good street lighting and better traffic signals, bicycle lanes, and traffic calming techniques along this celebrated stretch of 18th Street.

Complicating these efforts to press for early project completion has been the time necessary for Pepco to complete its part of the first stage Champlain project and the time needed to complete Pepco's complex plans and drawings for the electrical work and underground cabling and facilities in a planned reconstruction of the 18th Street roadbed. These plans require coordination with those of DDOT, its subcontractors, and the other DC public utilities, all of which must plan and prepare written specifications for this ambitious and community endorsed undertaking, one that has been developed and seemingly endlessly vetted over the past five years — most recently at a July, 2009 standing room only community forum conducted by Councilmember Graham and DDOT.

Start date for the 18th Street project component now seems in doubt. The most recent date was announced in the recent issue of the Adams Morgan Main Street newsletter as being set for March or April, 2010, according to Main Street Executive Director Lisa Duperier. January, 2010 meetings in Graham's office with DDOT and Pepco, and at the Adams Morgan Business Improvement District's Executive Board meeting, will no doubt further refine this prospective start date. □

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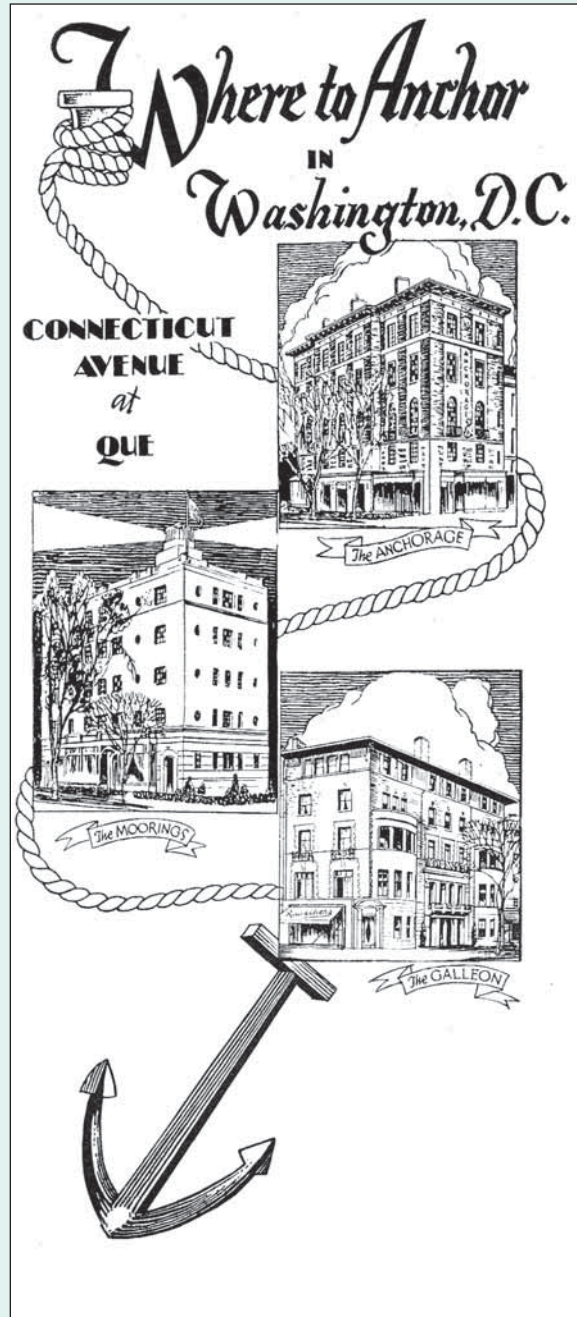
www.earlystagesdc.org



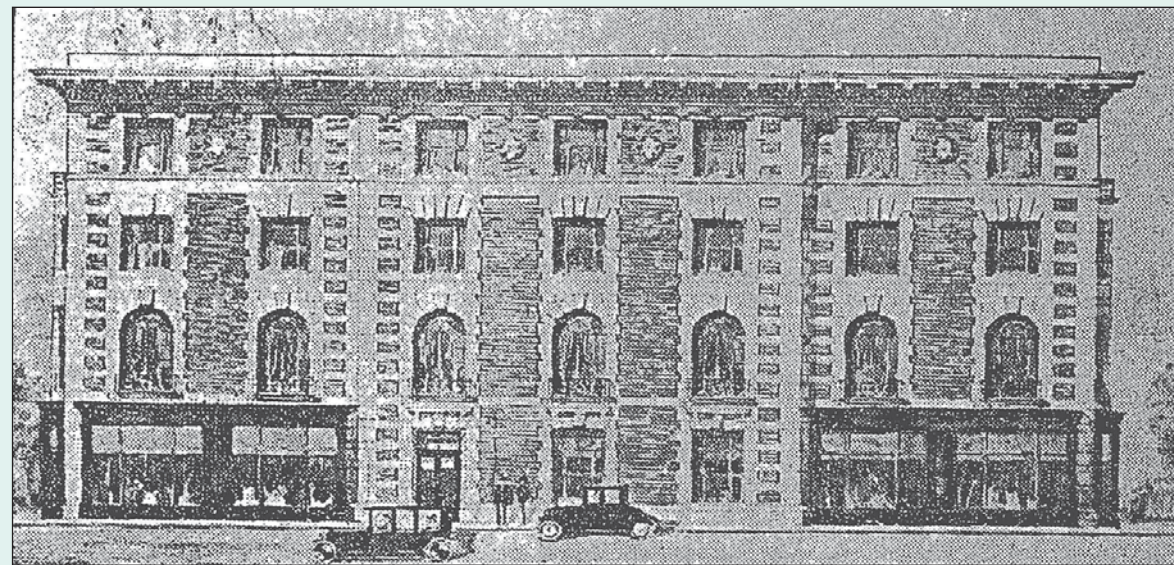
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Special Education

Scenes from the Past



illus.—Kelsey & Assoc. private collection.
The 1924 and 1925 advertisements for the Anchorage apartment building continued its nautical theme found on the exterior and interior architecture.



The Q Street façade of the Anchorage was drawn by architect Jules H. de Sibour in 1924.

While few pedestrians tend to look skyward during a brisk walk up Connecticut Avenue, those that do at the corner of Q Street are likely to spot a variety of architectural details with a nautical theme on what was originally two apartment buildings, the Anchorage at 1900 Q Street, and the Moorings at 1901 Q Street. They are the surviving set of what had originally been four apartment buildings at the intersection, owned and managed by a wealthy socialite, Marie Hewitt Williams, the widow of Colonel John R. Williams.

Williams' daughter, Juliette Leiter, resided in a vast mansion between New Hampshire and 19th Street, facing Dupont Circle, where the Hotel Dupont is located today, and just south of the Anchorage apartment building. She started her foray into providing apartments for single and distinguished residents in 1919 by converting two large mansions on Connecticut Avenue north of Q Street that would eventually

become the Galleon and the Caravel. The five-story Galleon on the northeast corner of Connecticut and Q was built in 1899 as a residence and office for Dr. Henry D. Fry. The Caravel was built about the same time to the north. Williams hired architect Jules H. de Sibour to design the whimsical Anchorage apartment building in 1924, with a six-foot anchor on the façade, nautical sconces and balcony railings, and working fireplaces in each of the 16 units. Three years later, she hired architect Horace Peaslee to design the eight unit Moorings across the street, with rope trim on the ground floor doorways and a lighthouse-shaped cupola atop the roof that remains to this day.

Williams took out a full-page ad in the 1925 *Book of Washington*, published by the Washington Board of Trade, that included a description of the building's operation and a peek into its interior furnishings. It read:

For many years, the Anchorage housed a French restaurant on the ground floor called Pierre's that delivered meals to residents of all four buildings, including Williams herself. More than three dozen members of Congress called the Anchorage home while in Washington, the most famous of which would be Sam Rayburn of Texas, who lived there from 1936 to his death in 1961. Others included Robert F. Kennedy, Charles A. Lindbergh, and even Tallulah Bankhead.

In 1962, the Williams estate sold all four buildings to Clifford Hynning for \$680,000. The Caravel and Galleon were both demolished in 1969 and replaced by a nondescript office building, and the Anchorage and Moorings were converted to office buildings, although much of the original nautical motifs remain on the interior rooms.

—Paul Kelsey Williams
Historic Preservation Specialist
Kelsey & Associates, Washington, DC

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The "Anchorage," the "Moorings," and the "Galleon," — three prominent, convenient, and mod-

illus.—Kelsey & Assoc. private collection.



photos—Paul K. Williams—The InTowner.
Current views (top-bottom) of the Anchorage and the Moorings apartment buildings in the 1900 block of Q Street, along with architectural details.



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Service at THE ANCHORAGE includes heat, electric light, linen for beds, wood for open fires, ice and Continental breakfast. Also complete valet service, such as pressing of clothes, ordering of railroad or theater tickets, or any other request that can be met by the efficient steward in charge. A private dining room can be engaged without extra charge for parties of twelve or less. A table d'hôte dinner at \$1.50 will be served on request in the sitting rooms of the apartments.

No fees are allowed in THE ANCHORAGE, the fixed rents cover everything.

OPEN FOR INSPECTION

illus.—Kelsey & Assoc. private collection.

Neighborhood Art Exhibits Not to Miss

By Anthony L. Harvey

Meridian International Center
1630 Crescent Pl., NW (202) 667-6800
Wed.-Sun., 2-5 p.m. Admission, Free



photo—courtesy, Mixografia®, Los Angeles, Calif.
Dog Wags its Tail (1974).

Rufino Tamayo is the odd man out in the quartet of the greatest of 20th century Mexican visual artists. Unlike his three better known contemporaries — Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros — Tamayo was neither a muralist nor was he politi-

cally committed to any of that century's violent and convulsive revolutionary movements. In the words of the catalog for the outstanding 2007-'08 exhibition, "Mexico and Modern Printmaking: a Revolution in the Graphic Arts, 1920 to 1950", Tamayo instead shared the modernist cosmopolitan outlook of the Mexican Contemporaneos, who were advocates of a revolutionary Mexican art rather than an art of the Mexican Revolution.

Tamayo's beautiful prints in that path-breaking exhibition, organized by the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, included traditional Indian domestic scenes, religious tableaux, and symbolic and figurative reveries and preceded the 1970s development of the mixographic relief method of print-making developed for Tamayo by Luis Remba, together with his wife and son, in their famous Mexico City print shop. This technique enabled Tamayo to create relief prints that have the depth and varied textures



photo—courtesy, Mixografia®, Los Angeles, Calif.
Man in the Window (1980).

Cont., NEIGHBORHOOD ART, p. 11

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SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART

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info, 357-2700 / Daily, 10am-5:30pm

In a large and grandly installed exhibition of sculptures, paintings, photographs, and films, the museum is presenting a mid-career retrospective of the astonishingly inventive work of the London-based contemporary artist Yinka Shonibare MBE. A Nigerian aristocrat of wealth and privilege, Shonibare was born in London in 1962 of upper class parents who were preparing — and being trained — to lead their native Nigeria in its newly granted independence from the British Empire. Educated first in elite private schools in Nigeria, Shonibare was subsequently sent to equally elite boarding schools and colleges in England. By all accounts good-natured and charming, Shonibare wears his lineage from great Yoruba kings lightly; happily he is as talented artistically as he is insightful culturally — some would say wickedly so!

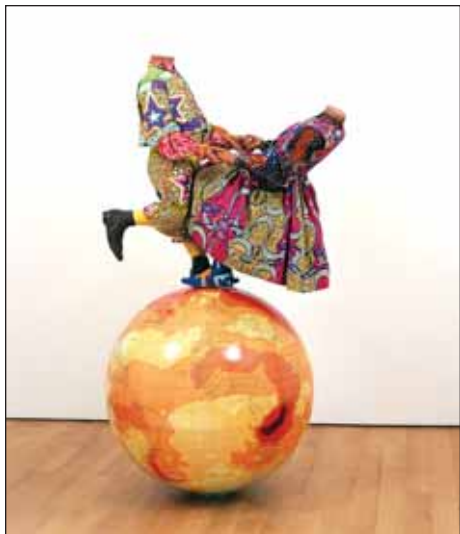
To see his work in all its lavish glory laid out in the cavernous spaces of the African Art Museum is a — wondrous treat for Washingtonians. Shonibare's signature productions could not be more informatively and visually engaging in their presentation. The artist's signature products are headless fiber glass mannequins clothed in outrageously sumptuous — in colors, patterns, and pictorial elements — Dutch wax-printed cotton ensembles mimicking all forms of human dress. Shonibare's selection of the Dutch patterned fabric is itself subversively delicious. A luxury cloth based on the artisan-produced Indonesian batiks long admired in both Africa and the West, Dutch wax printed cloth was first produced in the West as a cloth of exchange value that would replace the labor-intensive, handmade product of Indonesia — a process requiring 27 to 29 separate steps. Rejected in Indonesia as inferior to their handmade product, the cloth found great acceptance in Africa, the ground for which had been laid by the cloth brought back to Africa by mercenaries hired by the Dutch during their

At the Museums

By Anthony L. Harvey*



Leisure Lady with Ocelots.



Globe Children



Scramble for Africa

warfaring struggles during the 19th century against Indonesian rebels seeking to throw off colonial rule.

Attired in such finery, Shonibare's exaggerated figures are typically grouped to form tableaux and are headless, both when grouped in Victorian settings of power-

based sexual relations akin to a Playboy mansion version of polymorphous perversity or when seated around a conference table such as that of the 1880s Congress of Berlin, where the European powers carved up the so-called "Dark Continent" according to the prowess of their respective colonialist ambitions. Singular and doubled sculptural presentations are often more enigmatic in their arrangements and in the astounding amount of aesthetic, political, and cultural information incorporated in the patterns and symbols of their printed compositions. Knowledge-rich, content-filled, and infused with grace and humor, these figures reward concentrated and cognitive absorption over multiple viewings.

A case in point is Shonibare's recently constructed *Globe Children* of 2008, which mixes such multi-layered messages in presenting a celebration of the energy of young people on top of a world seeming to offer great promise and excitement while closer examination of the information on the globe itself reveals a cartographer's depiction of the ravages wrought by global exploitation and climate change.

Shonibare's films are more cerebral and visually lush. Their meanings are even more complex and deal, as in his riffs on Oscar Wilde's famous novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and its film adaptations, with questions of appearance and reality, race and gender, and wealth and social standing. Even Shonibare himself appears in certain of his

film works; his guises include the real world fact of his being made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 2005, thus his MBE, by Queen Elizabeth II.

An informative and colorful free leaflet together with a handsome catalog of the exhibition accompanies this brilliant showcase of the mid-career retrospective of this remarkably accomplished contemporary artist. On view through March 7th. □

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

8th & F Sts., NW; info., 633-1000
Daily, 11:30am-7pm / www.npg.si.edu

"Faces of the Frontier," the National Portrait Gallery's fascinating exhibition of "Photographic Portraits from the American West," presents a content-rich collection of stunningly detailed portrait photographs of prominent and famous personages accompanied at times by anonymous and more ordinary persons — native American Indians, miners and roustabouts, soldiers, railroaders, cowboys, and aides — whose life experiences in this vast expanse of uncharted territory comprise much of the 19th and early 20th century history of U.S. expansion into the great American West. The Portrait Gallery has compressed this defining history lesson into an array of over 130 daguerreotypes, stereographs, and still photographic prints of images recorded between the mid 19th century's U.S.-Mexican War of 1846-48 and the 1924 enactment by Congress of the Indian Citizenship Act.

The Gallery's basic four-part organization of these photographic works into sections titled "Land," "Exploration," "Discord," and "Possibilities" is both thoughtful and instructive. Land was the American panacea — its so-called safety valve — for economic inequality among its allegedly universally privileged whites and a "begin again" or start-over opportunity for land users who had exhausted existing land resources or desired to expand their slave plantations or who needed a refuge from family responsibility, debt or the law.

Many of these individuals are pictured in the finery of their period dress. From the imperialist President James K. Polk, who manufactured the war with Mexico — a war of conquest in the interest both of furthering economic empire and for expanding the number of slave states, one moves through the faces and settings of slave holders and anti-slavery activists, those of ruthless railroaders and their agents, portraits of two of the four great California robber barons — Leland Stanford and Collis P. Huntington — along with conservationists, writers, and visual artists who celebrated the beauty and majesty of the American West. Both heroic

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Dorian Gray



L.Chase, *Jeannette Pickering Rankin* (1917).

and ignominious tales can be spun from their writings and painterly depictions, the vast majority of which are too tragically true.

Among my favorite photographs in this last category are William Dassonville's of the great naturalist John Muir; Arnold Genthe's of handsome and world-famous writer Jack London; William Edwin Gledhill's of one of the period's greatest landscape painters and watercolorists, Thomas Moran; and Carleton Watkins of himself in the guise of a gold miner using the techniques of the early California argonauts.

The section entitled "Exploration" opens with two 1873 photographs of the great explorer, geologist, anthropologist, and one arm Civil War hero John Wesley Powell and two different Paiute Indian men, both taken by John K. Hillers. To know of the greatness of Powell's fulsome embrace, deep understanding, and profound respect for native lands and their people is to be deeply moved by these quiet but powerful images.

The following section, "Discord," is book ended by photographs of casualties of the period's violence — General George Armstrong Custer as a young and uniformed military cadet and a regal presentation of Sitting Bull at rest. Contrasting artists are presented — Frederick Remington, captured as a young man prior to the acquiring of his great girth — and Charley Russell,



John Swartz, *The Wild Bunch* (1900).

charmingly depicted in his studio painting his beloved native Americans in the settings he knew first-hand.

With the section titled "Possibilities," the human ethos of avarice and greed kicks in with the gold rush, the development of the

Great Salt Lake and its surrounding desert, the early San Francisco merchants, the financial and transportation magnates, and the ever-present bank robbers make their appearances. A wonderfully humorous example is a studio print of a group portrait of the Wild Bunch, including Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, dressed as dandies in recently acquired and quite dapper three-piece suits and hats — the fruits of their increasingly successful robberies — which was mailed to their pursuers, the Pinkerton detectives and subsequently donated to the Smithsonian.

Separated in time but united in seductive talents are portraits of the period's entertainers, such as Lola Montez and Gloria Swanson. Reformers of the period are wonderfully captured in first, a handsomely robust Victorian image of America's first woman member of the U.S. Congress, the anti-War activist Jeanette Rankin, and next, in an emotionally commanding image in Indian dress, of Sarah Winnemucca, the tireless advocate for the rights of native American Indians. Daughter

of a prominent Northern Paiute chief, Winnemucca is best remembered today for her 1883 publication, *Life among the Paiutes; Their Wrongs and Claims*.

Scholar/Curator Frank H. Goodyear, III's beautifully illustrated exhibition catalog accompanies and further informs this terrific show, which continues on view only through January 24th. □

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*Anthony L. Harvey is a collector of contemporary art, with an emphasis on Washington artists. He is a founding member of the Washington Review of the Arts. For many years he was the staff person in the United States Senate responsible for arts and Library of Congress oversight by the Senate's Rules and Administration Committee and the House and Senate's Joint Committee on the Library.



Above, photographer unknown, *George Armstrong Custer* (1860).

At left, Bailey, Dix and Mead, *Sitting Bull* (1882).



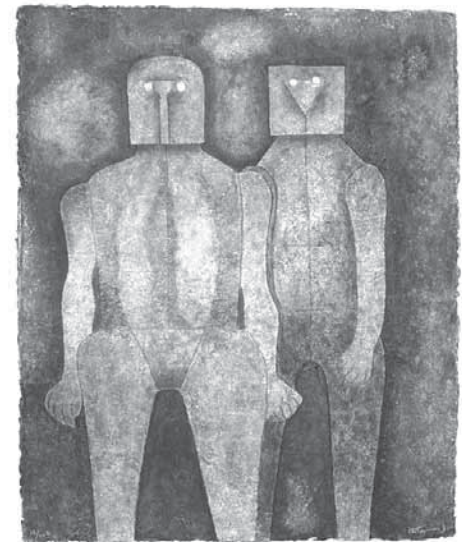
George H. Johnson, *Domingo Ghirardelli* (1860).

NEIGHBORHOOD ART

From p. 9

of the artist's great paintings.

Forty of these extraordinary art works are currently on display at the Meridian International Center. Building on litho-



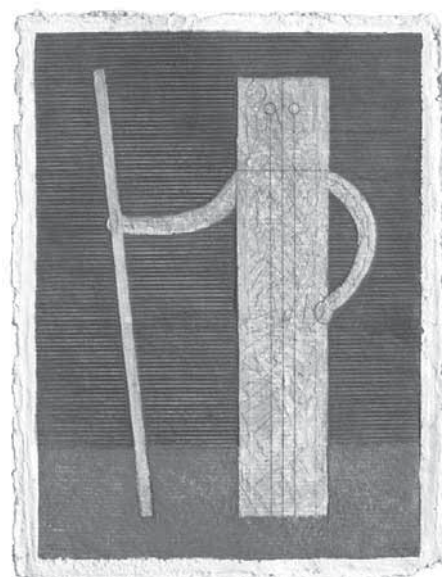
photo—courtesy, Mixografía®, Los Angeles, Calif.

Two Brothers (1987).

graphic and engraving skills, the Remba family devised a process that allowed Tamayo to first construct a built-up relief image on a variety of grounds -- from a block of limestone to a matted piece of fabric board and then having a mold made of the resultant multicolored relief image. A metal plate was cast from the mold, handmade paper was prepared, and with the culmination of the process being a printed edition. The results are astounding; many of these 40 works are as powerful as Tamayo's signature painterly images and reverberate with the same aesthetic and cultural issues found in all his great works.

The imagery of these prints fall into three broad categories: motifs and scenes of iconic Mexican symbolism; depictions of universal situations of man and the human condition; and enigmatic and even humorous conundrums of the magic of human wonderment. All of this is captured in strikingly unique colors which share with the relief projections and the picture elements themselves in the ingenious overall compositions of these works.

An almost visceral visual assault is provided the viewer by the first and most powerful work in the show – the five by eight-foot vision of *Two People Attacked by Dogs* from



photo—courtesy, Mixografía®, Los Angeles, Calif.

Man with Cane (1980).

1983; it is a frightening and mesmerizing picture of an expulsion of an everyman and everywoman from an earthly garden, painted in earth and flesh colors of somber browns, muted ochers, and brightly-lit light tans for

the classically-Tamayo formed figures' arms and legs. Its meanings are universal and timeless. The viewer will next encounter another of my favorite pieces in the show is from 1978 -- a double-coiled serpent titled *Quetzalcoatl*, featuring an ominous palette of shades of black and dark greens. On the opposite wall is the figure of an aboriginal man in reds and blacks with his arms and hands held high above his head in fright. Painted in 1983, this work, titled *Protest*, reflects one of the most fundamental of the human dilemmas.

Not all is darkly deep in this wonderful show, however. Tamayo's *Watermelons* from 1980 are delightfully delicious, and *The Dog Wags Its Tail* from 1974, with its charming but mysterious symbolism is deeply affecting. And Tamayo's humorous *Moon and Sun* of 1990 will bring a smile to the face of the most hardened of gallery-goers.

"Rufino Tamayo and the Mixographia Years (1974-1990): A Cross Border Journey" remains on view through February 14th. □

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Food in the 'Hood

From Arabia to Scandinavia:
A Cardamom Chronicle - Part II

Editor's Note: The writer, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa many years ago, is the author of *Capital Flavors: Exploring Washington's Ethnic Restaurants* (1988, Seven Locks Press), which evolved from his series in this newspaper two decades ago, known then as "The Ethnic Bazaar." He is also the author of *The World on a Plate: A Tour Through the History of America's Ethnic Cuisine* (paperback, 2007 / University of Nebraska Press), in which part of one chapter was drawn from articles that originally had appeared in this space. In addition, he has written about ethnic food for the *Boston Globe*, the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, *Washingtonian*, as well as continuing his monthly food column with *The InTowner*.

Queries, comments, suggestions can be sent to denker@starpower.net.

Part I traced the journey of cardamom, the ancient spice, from its birthplace in India to Arabia.

The Arabian countries no longer import their cardamom from India, but strangely enough, from Guatemala. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest user of the spice, is the Latin American country's biggest market. Exports of cardamom, which was first planted in Guatemala in the early 20th century by German settlers, are wealth producers. "Cardamom is the heart of our economy and Guatemala is the biggest exporter in the world," Otto Chavarria, a prominent "cardamomero" from the mountainous province of Alta Verapaz, told journalist Larry Luxner. "In this province, cardamom is even more important than coffee."

Because the Saudis covet the greenest and plumpest pods, Guatemalan workers carefully pick and sort the spice pods by color and size — an arduous process. "Cardamom pods are like Christmas trees," Dr. Luis Pedro Torrebiarte, president of the Cardamom Growers Association in Guatemala, told reporter Luxner. "The greener and bigger they are, the more they're worth."

Arab artists have long extolled the glories of cardamom. In the 1960s, Samira Tafiq, a singer known as the "passionate Bedouin girl," had a big hit with her recording, "Pour the Coffee and Don't Spare the Cardamom."

Not far from the Gulf nations, in Ethiopia, cardamom is inseparable from tea drinking. Nations in the Horn of Africa have long traded with India and Arabia. Cardamom, one of the fruits of that trade, is roasted in Ethiopian households to flavor tea.

Cardamom traveled with the Ethiopian diaspora to America, Canada, and other countries. *Hale*, the Ethiopian word for the spice that was borrowed from Arabic, is a much sought-after "tea spice." Packages of the green capsules line the shelves of their grocery stores.

The spice also found a home in an especially unlikely location — Scandinavia. Some speculate that the Vikings, who were extensive travelers, transported the aromatic there from Constantinople. In these northern lands, families stock their cupboards with cardamom, which imparts a sweet fragrance to breads, cakes, pastries, and other treats.

Kardemummakaka, a Swedish coffee

cake, is scented with cardamom. It is also essential to Swedish sweet breads. *Julekaka*, a Norwegian Christmas bread studded with candied fruit and raisins, is made with the spice. The Finns bake a *pannukakku*, a pancake fragrant with cardamom. It "billows from the oven like a giant Yorkshire pudding," in journalist Robert Jurney's image.

During the frigid holiday season, Scandinavians celebrate with cardamom-infused refreshments. Swedish mulled wine, *glogg*, is a blend of red wine, cardamom, cloves, cinnamon, ginger, and orange peel. It is reminiscent of heavily spiced medieval drinks like mead.

Cardamom also enlivens savory dishes in Northern Europe. Swedish meatballs are flavored with the spice. Germans season pickled herring with cardamom and use it in some varieties of sauerbraten.

When Scandinavians emigrated to America, they carried their fondness for the spice with them. Its aroma filled the room when the ethnics and their friends gathered for coffee in the new land. Cardamom-spiced breads and cakes were a fixture of these occasions.

Cardamom continues to be reincarnated. In pursuit of ever-new flavors and fragrances, modern marketers have resurrected it. Sellers of aroma therapy products purvey cardamom oil to stave off fatigue and stress. Perfumes highlight its aroma. *Elettaria* (Latin for cardamom), an Indian restaurant in New York City, offers the 8th wonder cocktail, a blend of cardamom-infused bourbon, lemon juice, and sweet vermouth.

Chai, the tea often infused with cardamom, is being offered in varied forms — iced *chais*, smoothies, shakes, cocktails, and even chocolate bars. "*Chai* is a high-profile replacement for those who don't drink coffee," Don Reynolds, owner of Port City Java in Wilmington North Carolina, told the *Nation's Restaurant News*.

Back in India, a company recently unveiled a cardamom-flavored toothpaste. It is promoting the mouth freshener of old as a healer of gums and a remedy for tooth infection. □

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Cardamom Pleasures

■ **Black Lion** (3500 14th St., NW; tel., 797-0044). This Ethiopian market in Columbia Heights sells good tea spices, both cloves and cardamom.

■ **Firehook** (1909 Q St., NW; tel., 588-9296). You can specially order their pumpkin and pecan pies, both flavored with cardamom.

It's right out of the oven, says the cheerful waitress about the gooey wedge of meringue-topped lemon meringue pie she serves. As she patrols the dining area, greeting patrons like old friends — and most clearly they are just that, eating at Trio for years — she reminds one of the good old days when restaurant service was both friendly and welcoming. Much like eating at home, it seems.

And that's what makes Trio Restaurant in Dupont Circle such a classic and why it is celebrating its 60th anniversary: Trio is circa 1948 and it's Aunt Millie's Iowa farmhouse kitchen offering no-frills and homespun comfort food. (Visit www.triodc.com for a delightful story of its history.)

Although they liken much of their food to diner fare, the Trio's owners obviously have long since realized that trends come and go, but nothing can quite replace the nostalgia and desire for home-cooked "Mom's" food. So don't expect to find fries with truffle butter or artful presentations of designer fare.

Even the décor is homespun: booths, dark woods, a collection of tables, and it would all seem retro, but bets are on that not much has changed since the place opened. The patrons resemble some sort of family gathering: over here, spreading out at a window table, one woman is working on her computer. And over there, with her hat set firmly on her head, another woman thumbs through the morning paper while she lunches.

Are you ready to toss trendy aside? If so, a Trio's meal is just the ticket: A menu scan turns up such non-cutting edge dishes as stuffed green peppers, chicken-fried steak and penne with Italian sausage. That's just for lunch, but a quick take of the regular listing turns up even more of the same: seared calf's liver with caramelized onions, turkey potpie, crispy-fried half chicken, meatloaf,

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

By Alexandra Greeley*

DOWN MEMORY LANE = TRIO

and cabbage stuffed with ground beef and rice.

Probably the closest the kitchen comes to borrowing dishes that might appear on the Food Network are their herb-crusted rainbow trout, glazed sea scallops with ginger-soy sauce, and grilled Atlantic salmon with Hollandaise sauce. You might even consider an order of grilled New Zealand rack of lamb and chicken korma over basmati rice. Supposedly, Aunt Millie likes to experiment now and then.

But most of us have that inner-child craving for the simple stuff. For example, at lunch recently: crunchy Idaho potato chips, mozzarella sticks, salsa and chips, feta cheese dip, baked onion soup, a tuna platter, baked ham and cheese triple-decker, and a hot roast beef sandwich with mashed potatoes. And don't overlook the turkey: it's real, hand-carved from the actual roasted bird — a rarity in today's world but at Trio, never the processed substitute with no texture!

So many choices for our recent lunch — all narrowed down to crispy calamari with a fresh marinara, a guacamole cheeseburger with ultra-crispy fries, and yes, lemon meringue pie. Served hot and fast, with the crispiest fries this side of Houston, lunch was divine, though not exactly keyed to fit a healthy diet profile. What was missing? A thick and creamy chocolate milkshake.

What was the clincher for wanting to lunch here? Reading ahead on their website that Trio serves lemon meringue pie, a true Americana, old-timey hit that recalls childhood pleasures. A rarity in this city of high-

profile cooking, this pie even makes great breakfast fare. Speaking of which, Trio offers a full-scale breakfast menu all day long accompanied by hot coffee — or a Bloody Mary. Now do you see why Trio has lasted for six decades? □

Trio Restaurant • 1537 17th St., NW; (202) 232-6305. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10am-midnight; Sat. 8am-3am, Sun. 8am-midnight. Lunch entrée price range:

\$10.95-\$14.95. web: www.triodc.com.

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Alexandra Greeley is a food writer, editor, and restaurant reviewer. She has authored books on Asian and Mexican cuisines published by Simon & Schuster, Doubleday, and Macmillan. Other credits include restaurant reviews and food articles for national and regional publications, as well as former editor of the *Vegetarian Times* and former food editor/writer for the *South China Morning Post* in Hong Kong.



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