

THE GEORGETOWN CURRENT

GU intruder gets inapt nickname

By **CAROL BUCKLEY**
Current Staff Writer

Without the nickname, his habit sounds terrifying: Break in to the room of a female Georgetown University student while she sleeps, lie down in bed with her, then escape when she wakes up. But Georgetown students have dubbed the intruder "The Georgetown Cuddler," and the name, some say, has led students to take the matter less seriously than they should.

"It's become something that many students now joke about and think is funny," said Amy Hapip, chair of Take Back the Night, a student group dedicated to raising awareness of violence against women.

"The level of concern could definitely go up" among students, agreed advisory neighborhood commissioner and Georgetown student Aaron Golds.

The 14 incidents over the past 14 months, with the most recent occurring last Wednesday, have left a string of victims but also a cache of "Cuddler" jokes and pranks. One Georgetown student even dressed up as the assailant for Halloween.

But for those students who have
See **Break-ins**/Page 5

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NATHANS



Bill Petros/The Current

Nathans owner Carol Joynt, left, celebrated the restaurant's 40th anniversary with friends and patrons including Debbie Weil, right, in a Thursday night bash. Attendees shared their memories of the Georgetown establishment — and their hopes for its future. See story, page 13.

Federal board gives Stoddert plan a nod

By **ELIZABETH WIENER**
Current Staff Writer

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts last week tentatively approved plans for an ambitious expansion of Stoddert Elementary School and recreation center. The commission's vote came with one caveat — about parking — but the architect said that issue should not delay a project that he said is now "on fast-track."

The commission will review final plans next month, clearing the way for a scheduled construction start in mid-June. The project will include a two-story academic wing,

along with a modern gym, a media room and space for a cooperative preschool run by the Department of Parks and Recreation. They will all be connected to the existing school building by a two-level atrium and an outdoor plaza where the school's scruffy driveway now stands.

Discussions about modernizing the 1932 schoolhouse, located at 4001 Calvert St., have been under way for years, along with plans to expand the dilapidated fieldhouse that sits just to the east.

But those plans have stalled time and again by arguments about the
See **Stoddert**/Page 7

Zoning panel pushes sides to compromise

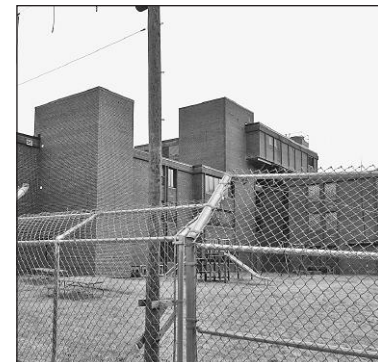
■ **Canal Parc:** Neighbors, builder still apart on 37 homes

By **IAN THOMS**
Current Staff Writer

The D.C. Zoning Commission, having concluded its 12-hour, three-session hearing on a proposal for 37 new town houses on MacArthur Boulevard, implored the developers and neighbors to reach an accord before the commission reconvenes for a vote on April 13.

Prior to the final session, held March 16, the developers altered their plans, in part to appease the community, lowering a unit facing MacArthur Boulevard to three stories. But the gesture did little to assuage the entrenched opposition to the project, with opponents saying the applicant has simply paid lip service to the community's concerns.

Palisades Citizens Association president William Spencer said the developers made no substantial changes. "They stated that the project would not be commercially viable if they budged even a little in



Bill Petros/The Current

A builder is proposing to replace the former Riverside Hospital with a 37-house development.

the direction that the neighborhood groups wanted them to move, and said if they have to so compromise, they would rather abandon the project," he said. "And maybe they should."

The developers — New York-based The Athena Group and Chevy Chase, Md.-based Willco Residential — are seeking zoning permission to build 37 three- and four-story town houses on the site of the former Riverside Hospital, a
See **Riverside**/Page 24

Generally, new license creates confusion

■ **Businesses:** Many caught unaware, advocacy groups say

By **IAN THOMS**
Current Staff Writer

The city established a new type of business license as part of last year's Budget Support Act, adopted last summer. But some business owners say they didn't learn of the new license until they were warned they faced a \$2,000 fine for having failed to obtain it.

The General Business License is designed as a catchall to cover businesses not already licensed by the



Bill Petros/The Current

Suzy Maroon struggled to get her General Business License.

D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs or another agency. The regulatory affairs department issues licenses for most types of businesses, but those that don't fall within certain categories previously didn't require one. For instance, the city has no retail-clothing category, so clothing stores, even those as large as Macy's, didn't need a license to operate in the District. Now they must apply for the General Business License.

The agency estimates the new license applies to roughly 10,000 to 12,000 previously unlicensed businesses. City officials say the licensing
See **License**/Page 7

NEWS

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■ **Council may roll back increase in tax rate on vacant property.** Page 3.



SPORTS

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PASSAGES

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Volunteers to clean up watershed April 4

By IAN THOMS
Current Staff Writer

After helping haul more than 3 million tons of trash out of the Potomac River and its tributaries over the last 20 years — plastic bags, bottles, tires, shopping carts, televisions, even bathtubs — volunteers for the annual watershed cleanup continue to come across bewildering items. Last year, they found a wooden leg.

"It's now a trophy in my office," said Ginny Harris, coordinator for the Alice Ferguson Foundation, which sponsors the annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. "I don't know how you lose your wooden leg, but somehow it happened."

Tons of trash finds its way into the Potomac River every year, much of it litter that flowed to one of its tributaries via storm sewers in the District, Maryland and Virginia, according to cleanup organizers. A soda bottle tossed out a car window onto a District

street can easily end up in the Potomac.

So every year since 1989, the Alice Ferguson Foundation has led an increasingly large cleanup of the watershed — the land area that drains into the Potomac River and its tributaries. The foundation teams with other local organizations to recruit an army of volunteers, who spread out across the region and remove as much trash as they can from the watershed. This year, the cleanup will be held April 4 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Last year, volunteers pulled more than 285 tons of trash from 300-plus sites in the District, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The haul included 13,596 plastic bags; 1,309 tires; 26 shopping carts; 25 bicycles; 23 metal and plastic barrels; six televisions and two bathtubs, according to the Ferguson Foundation's Web site.

"I just love the community spirit that is involved in this," said Ward 3 D.C. Council member Mary See **Watershed**/Page 24

Apple gets enthusiastic nod from federal design board

By ELIZABETH WIENER
Current Staff Writer

The long-running Apple store review played out its final act Thursday before an appreciative audience at the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. The commission unanimously approved a much-revised design for the glass-fronted store to be erected at 1229 Wisconsin Ave. in Georgetown.

Apple had presented designs to the Old Georgetown Board five times before winning approval. But the review by its parent body, the Fine Arts Commission, was an easy sell. Members admired the mullions and recesses that will break up a glass facade in the commercial heart of the city's oldest historic district.

Architect Frank Grauman emphasized that the long review process has reached a happy outcome. "I'd characterize our time with the Old Georgetown Board as extremely collaborative," he said. "We're very pleased where the project ended up."

"The Old Georgetown Board was delighted, too," said Pam Nelson, chair of the commission, which reviews the design of federal and District buildings, as well as structures in the Georgetown Historic District.

The final design will divide the glass frontage with painted steel mullions and a recessed entryway, with four big windows above. "There was a great deal of effort to refine the storefront — and the proportions of the windows — with a very elegant result," Grauman said. There will be no verbal signage, only the Apple logo crafted from a thick piece of Lucite, the architect said.

The front of the store is "about

Georgetown," the architect said. Behind the facade will be an "elegant high-tech middle" and a sort of "garden area" in back, lit by a skylight, that will be a consultation area for customers.

"It's respectful of the character [of Georgetown], yet Apple wishes to differentiate, because that's a respectful way to deal with historic buildings," Grauman said.

The architect presented some mock-ups that showed previous iterations of the design. "It's a history of what we've gone through, not just to respond [to the Old Georgetown Board], but to make this thing really good," he said.

As the presentation wrapped up, commissioner Michael McKinnell recalled having seen an early rendition, a big glass box that the Georgetown board rejected. McKinnell, a distinguished Boston architect and longtime professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, said he liked it.

"Did we not see the all-glass facade?" McKinnell asked.

"It was never presented here. It's not before this body," commission secretary Tom Luebke said.

But McKinnell wanted to comment. He noted that there is a big, glassy Apple store in Boston, amid traditional masonry buildings. "Unfortunately, I did see the original plan," he said wistfully. "I thought the all-glass facade was wonderful."

Grauman was diplomatic. "This project has reacted to the community," he said. "Here, it was not in the cards."

Ultimately, the commission was comfortable enough with the final design that it delegated responsibility for reviewing the final plans back to the Old Georgetown Board.

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Bill would roll back increase in city's vacant-property tax

By **ELIZABETH WIENER**
Current Staff Writer

At-large D.C. Council member Phil Mendelson has authored legislation to roll back last year's dramatic doubling of the tax rate on vacant property. His bill, introduced March 17, would return the so-called Class 3 rate from \$10 to \$5 for each \$100 of assessed value — still roughly five times the tax on occupied buildings.

The vacant tax rate is intended to push property owners to put vacant buildings, often seen as a blight on neighborhoods and even a safety or fire hazard, into productive use.

But Mendelson — and six other council members who immediately co-sponsored his bill — said the doubled rate enacted last fall went too far. With a majority of the council now supporting a cutback, Mendelson said he is "optimistic" about the bill's chances.

"The Class 3 rate is very useful. It incentivizes putting vacant property back to use," he said. "But not everyone can do it right away, and the recession compounds the problem." Doubling the tax rate — a 100 percent increase, Mendelson noted — "is excessive," he said.

For years, District residents have complained of unoccupied build-

ings and unkempt vacant lots, even in pricier neighborhoods, receiving the same tax rate as owner-occupied homes (85 cents per \$100 of assessed value). The 2002 introduction of a higher Class 3 rate, and later administrative changes that simplified the process for classifying properties as vacant, apparently started to help solve the problem.

In Ward 3, for example, homes long vacant and decaying on Quebec Street in Cleveland Park and Van Ness Street in North Cleveland Park were fixed up and sold by their absentee owners once they started receiving stunningly higher tax bills.

Last fall, the council unanimously accepted a proposal from at-large member Kwame Brown to double the vacant property tax rate as part of a broader bill dealing with nuisance properties. The change appears on tax bills due March 31, and the complaints started rolling in.

"It's been many years since I've heard this much outrage," Mendelson said in an interview. "Ten percent of assessed value is far, far, far beyond any other property tax rate. There's a public-policy rationale [for the higher Class 3 rate], but there was never an analy-

See **Vacant**/Page 5

Area charter sees rising scores, expansion

By **JESSICA GOULD**
Current Staff Writer

It's spring break at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, but the classrooms are anything but quiet. In one room, children are performing a rap they've written about Harriet Tubman. In another, they're doing musical improvisations. Downstairs, they're practicing layups.

That's because spring break takes a different form at E.L. Haynes. The Petworth charter school operates on a year-round schedule, with eight- to 12-week academic sessions punctuated by breaks that include a week or more of "intercession." During that time, school is optional and the classes are non-

traditional. This year, for example, the 200 intercession students spent the week crafting quilts, taking drama classes and visiting museums on the Mall, among other activities.

Haynes founder Jennie Niles said the point of intercession is to introduce students to the kind of learning that falls outside the academic curriculum, and it's especially useful for students whose parents don't have the resources to pack their children's schedules with extracurricular activities. "The purpose of it is really to level the playing field," she said. "It's not just school that's helping enrich their lives." Sixty-six percent of the students at Haynes qualify for free and reduced lunch, she added.

See **School**/Page 5

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The week ahead

Thursday, March 26

The D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board will hold its monthly meeting, which will include discussion of a proposed amendment to the historic designation of the Kennedy-Warren Apartments to protect the building's interior common spaces. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in Room 220 South at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St. NW.

■ The D.C. Council's Committee of the Whole will hold a hearing on the Master Facilities Plan for the D.C. Public Schools. The hearing will begin at 5 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

■ The Ward 3 Democratic Committee will hold its monthly meeting, which will include a discussion on fiscal issues with D.C. chief financial officer Natwar Gandhi. The meeting will begin at 7:15 p.m. at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle St. NW.

Saturday, March 28

A community forum will seek input from family members of D.C. residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities on proposed changes to the D.C. law that governs services to the city's developmental disabilities community. The meeting will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 3400 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE. To register, contact T.J. Sutcliffe of the Arc of DC at 202-636-2963 or tjsutcliffe@arcdc.net.

Sunday, March 29

A fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Global Promise Mara Fund will honor the memory of Mara Galaty, who died of metastatic melanoma after surviving a bout of virulent breast cancer at age 32. The event will occur on what would have been Galaty's 40th birthday. A donation of \$20 is requested. The event will be held at 8 p.m. at the Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Ave. NW. To make a reservation, visit info-komen.org/goto/Maras40thBirthday.

Tuesday, March 31

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington and the Jewish Primary Day School will host a town-hall meeting with Ward 4 Council member Muriel Bowser. The meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jewish Primary Day School, 6045 16th St. NW. Reservations are required; for details, contact Debra Linick at 202-552-5355 or dlinick@jcouncil.org.

■ At-large Council member Phil Mendelson will hold a town-hall meeting on tax assessments. Representatives from the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue will attend. The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Marsh Conference Room at the True Reformer Building, 1200 U St. NW.

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DISTRICT DIGEST

Petworth streetscape work to begin in fall

The D.C. Department of Transportation has nearly completed planning the Petworth portion of the Georgia Avenue "Great Streets" improvements, a long-awaited project aimed at revitalizing the prominent corridor.

Though some work on the streetscape has begun, the Transportation Department will begin the bulk of the \$13 million project in the fall, according to agency spokesperson John Lisle.

"I prefer that it would have happened yesterday," said Ward 4 Council member Muriel Bowser. "These projects can't happen soon enough."

Bowser said the project is crucial to Georgia Avenue. It will involve transportation and streetscape improvements intended to lure sorely needed new businesses to the corridor, she said.

The Petworth project encompasses Georgia Avenue from Otis Place to Webster Street, as well as 9th Street from Georgia to Kansas avenues and Upshur Street from Georgia Avenue to 8th Street.

On Georgia Avenue, the Transportation Department will slightly reconfigure the travel lanes, changing the width of the middle two from 11 feet to 12 feet, and the width of the outside travel lanes from 11 feet to 10 feet. The parking lanes will remain 8 feet wide.

At intersections, the Transportation Department will install new teardrop lights with decorative arms to replace the industrial-looking Cobrahead lights. Along the sidewalks, the agency will put up new

Washington Globe lights. The agency will also add new trash bins, consolidated parking meters, signage, bus stops and bike racks, and the sidewalks will be repaved.

The city has also drafted significant landscape improvements at the Petworth Metro station and the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Upshur Street.

Across from the Petworth Metro Station, the agency has begun to extend the sidewalk at the northeast corner of Georgia Avenue and Rock Creek Church Road, creating a more pedestrian-friendly intersection. It will plant trees on the triangular extension. And the agency will construct a median with flow-ers on Georgia to further enhance the prominent corner.

The department will also plant trees — and improve the visibility of crosswalks — around the triangle park at Georgia Avenue and Upshur Street. Also, nearby 9th Street will become one-way northbound on the north side of Upshur Street and one-way southbound on the south side of Upshur Street, with angled parking.

"A big part of developing a corridor is making it clean, safe and attractive," Bowser said. "This is a significant thing to happen to this portion of Georgia Avenue."

— Ian Thoms

Term ends this month for zoning board chair

Ruthanne Miller, chair of the Board of Zoning Adjustment for the past five years, presided over her last board meeting Tuesday. Her term on the board expired last September, and a six-month grace period is over March 31.

Miller's departure could leave a big hole in the five-member board, which has a heavy caseload of applications for exceptions and variances to the city's zoning code. Mayor Adrian Fenty has not yet nominated a replacement, meaning her post could remain vacant for some time. Nominees must be confirmed by the D.C. Council.

Mayoral spokesperson Feras Sleiman offered no timetable for filling the seat. "The administration is currently in the process of vetting candidates for this position," he wrote in an e-mail yesterday.

Colleagues honored Miller yesterday. Zoning Commission chair Anthony Hood said he "stopped by to say some nice words" about Miller, an attorney and Cleveland Park resident.

"She ran the board effectively and efficiently," Hood said, "and tried to strike a balance" between applicants and opponents of new construction. "It's not the easiest thing," he said.

Miller and other board members sit through hours of testimony on contentious cases every Tuesday, on a volunteer basis and earning just a stipend. After she leaves the board, she will not be able to vote on pending cases she has heard.

— Elizabeth Wiener

Show plans to create simulated explosion

A film crew planned to simulate an explosion this morning on the Potomac River just north of the Key Bridge, the District Department of Transportation announced this week. The special effect was designed for a television series by CBS Paramount titled

"Washington Field," a show about the FBI's Washington field office.

Early estimations of the special effect's impact predicted a 30-foot-high fireball lasting minutes and an exploding boat, but an Alert DC e-mail sent yesterday afternoon said that the sight would be far less dramatic, a "brief flash and plume of smoke" lasting two seconds.

The simulated explosion will take place sometime between 9:30 a.m. and noon, according to Alert DC.

Council sets briefing on bribery scheme

D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray and Ward 3 Council member Mary Cheh have invited members of the city's executive branch to a briefing to be held next week on an alleged bribery and kickback scam perpetrated within the D.C. Office of the Chief Technology Officer.

The briefing has been set for 10 a.m. Monday in Room 120 of the John A. Wilson Building.

Gray and Cheh invited Thomas Jones from the Office of the Chief Technology Officer; David P. Gragan, the city's chief procurement officer; and City Administrator Dan Tangherlini.

Though only executive branch witnesses will appear before the council members, the public is invited to submit comments and questions in writing to Cheh's office.

Earlier this month, federal authorities charged two employees from the Office of Chief Technology Officer and a contractor with the alleged kickback scam.

"We are grateful that this scandal came to light because an honest employee blew the whistle," Cheh said in a news release. "But we have to ensure that agencies have procedures and systems which will,

as far as possible, prevent this from happening in the first place."

The D.C. Council is considering launching an independent investigation into the issue, according to a release.

Georgetown to fete role of women in arts

A daylong celebration of women in the arts will occupy several venues in Georgetown on Saturday.

This year marks the second year that Support Women Artists Now Day will be held in countries across the globe.

In Georgetown, events will be spread across three venues: the Barnes & Noble bookstore at M and Thomas Jefferson streets; The Foundry, 1055 Thomas Jefferson Ave.; and Grace Episcopal Church, 1041 Wisconsin Ave.

Events will include screenings of short films written, directed or produced by women as well as readings of short plays by playwrights including D.C. writers D.W. Gregory and Alison Pruitt.

For more information, visit georgetowntheatre.org/swan-day2009.html.

New 16th Street bus to debut on Monday

On Monday, Metro will kick off a new express bus line along 16th Street from the Silver Spring Metro station to 13th and I streets NW.

The new S9 line will follow the route of the current S2 line, but instead of stopping every couple blocks, it will stop about every quarter-mile, reducing ride times.

The S9 buses will depart every 10 minutes during peak periods, which are Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Metro will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday at 10:30 a.m. at 16th Street and Columbia Road.

D.C. releases guide to summer programs

The District last week released the 2009 Spring and Summer Fun Program Guide, which lists summer camps, free summer meal programs, reading clubs, and creative writing and craft classes, as well as various sports and recreation opportunities.

For more information or to register for a program, visit dcsummerfun.dc.gov.

Correction

In sports articles on March 11 and 18, the Congressional Bank Baseball Classic was incorrectly identified as the D.C. High School Baseball Classic.

The Current regrets the error. As a matter of policy, The Current corrects all errors of substance. To report an error, please call the managing editor at 202-244-7223.

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- Political Solutions for Palestine/Israel
- U.S. Policy toward Palestine and Palestinians

Agenda subject to slight modification; please check CCAS website for most up-to-date program information.

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SCHOOL

From Page 3

Niles, a former teacher, served as the head of the Charter School Office for the Connecticut State Department of Education before she completed the urban principal-training program New Leaders for New Schools in 2003. When she arrived in D.C., she came with a mission:

"How do we start a school where all the students are prepared for college when they graduate?" she remembers asking her school-reform-movement friends.

Haynes is her attempt to answer that question.

To that end, Niles said, the charter school synthesizes the best practices from institutions across the country.

For example, she got the idea of a year-round schedule from the Fairfax County school system, and the school's teaching fellows program replicates a similar program established by the New Teacher Project, on a smaller scale.

At Haynes, teachers-in-training assist in classrooms while attending education classes at American University at night. Those teachers then compete for full-time jobs at Haynes, or for positions at other area schools. "It's like an apprentice model," Niles said.

At the school's core is the philosophy that all students can achieve when they get the right mix of supports. "The key for us to teach the kids is: You're not born smart or not smart. You have to work hard to get there," she said.

So far, Niles said, the school is netting impressive results. In 2008, Haynes students made 18 and 19 percentage-point gains in reading and math tests, respectively. That same year, Haynes was chosen from D.C.'s 56 charter schools as the winner of the Fight for Children's Quality Schools Initiative Award. It was also a silver award winner in the New Leaders for New Schools' Effective Practice Incentives Community (EPIC) grant program.

Robert Cane, executive director of Friends of Choice in Urban Schools, said Haynes exemplifies the promise of D.C.'s public charter schools — which now educate more than a third of the city's public school students, according to enrollment data compiled by the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent.

"It's clearly one of the best-performing elementary schools in the city, including DCPS and public charter schools," Cane said.

Niles said she's determined to keep the momentum going. Haynes first opened its doors in Columbia Heights in 2004. Since then, the school has grown by one grade every year, and it now serves 375 students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade.

Last fall, E.L. Haynes moved into a new school building near the Petworth Metro station. Earlier this month, Haynes became one of a handful of charter schools the city selected to negotiate for a vacant D.C. Public School building.

On March 16, the D.C. Office of Property Management announced that it would negotiate with Haynes to occupy Clark Elementary School in Petworth. The city will also negotiate with three other organizations — Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter School, AppleTree Public Charter School and the nonprofit group Building Hope — for use of the Taft Center in Brookland.

Niles said she is still ironing out the details of the Petworth purchase with the city, but she expects to use the space as a high school for Haynes.

She said the earliest the school could move into the new building is probably fall 2010. In the meantime, she said, she's planning to scout out area high schools and see what's working.

Whatever the specifics of the program, she said, building a high school is key to achieving Haynes' mission. "It really is a way to show that every child that starts with us will be ready to go to college," she said.

VACANT

From Page 3

sis done for this increase."

Brown has now signed onto Mendelson's bill to undo the increase. He said Monday that he proposed doubling the rate last fall "to get rid of rundown and abandoned properties, real nuisance properties." The idea was to tax the houses with broken doors or collapsed roofs, the ones attracting vagrants, Brown said.

But the Office of Tax and Revenue, Brown said, "went overboard" and applied the higher rate to properties, such as tidy vacant lots, that were not creating problems. "It was very problematic," he said. "I didn't want to hurt innocent people."

For example, Mendelson said he'd heard from a woman who inherited her parents' home and an ample side yard in Friendship Heights. She sold the house,

intending to build another on the side yard. "She wants to build, but there's no market. She was paying \$12,000 a year in property tax, [and] now it suddenly doubles to \$24,000," he said.

The tanking economy has made things worse. "But even if the economy was not so sour, a 100 percent tax increase is excessive," Mendelson said. "Now some people are so upset they want the whole class repealed." But that move, he said, would be poor public policy.

Some critics have called the 10 percent tax rate "confiscatory" or an illegal "taking."

D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray, at-large member David Catania, Ward 2 member Jack Evans, Ward 3 member Mary Cheh and Ward 7 member Yvette Alexander all co-sponsored Mendelson's bill. It was referred to Evans' Committee on Finance and Revenue.

Brown predicted Monday that the bill may change in committee, as council members try to find a better way to deal with vacant and nuisance properties.

BREAK-INS

From Page 1

met the intruder, the issue is far from funny. Samantha Sutton, a senior at Georgetown, woke up at 5:30 a.m. on Feb. 26 to find a man in her twin-size bed with his arms around her. Too surprised to yell, she said, "Hello, who are you," and he just calmly got up, walked to the door and I could hear him walking down the stairs," she wrote in an e-mail to The Current. Sutton and other roommates barricaded themselves in her room and called Georgetown's public safety department, which arrived quickly, she said.

One of the occupants of the house in the 3400 block of N Street had left a few minutes earlier for the library, leaving the door unlocked.

That's a common problem in group houses, said 2nd District Cmdr. Matthew Klein. "There's so many people coming and going that it's easy for them to lose track."

The group houses have become popular with the intruder: One in

the 3300 block of Prospect Street is home to seven female students and has been targeted four times in the past year, student publication the Georgetown Voice reported last week. But police are working with the school's public safety office to remind students to take precautions as well as to report suspicious activity immediately, said Klein.

"There have been some delays in students reporting incidents," Klein said. A Jan. 30 incident was not reported to the university or police until Feb. 11.

A university spokesperson declined to comment beyond saying that the university is cooperating with police.

Despite the single moniker, there are some discrepancies in victims' descriptions of the suspect, whose crimes are classified as burglaries despite their sexual overtones. Additionally, Klein said that, as far as he knows, the intruder hasn't taken anything from students' homes.

Some victims describe a white male, others a Hispanic male. The

assailant in the Feb. 26 incident was a large Hispanic or light-skinned black male with a shaved head, Sutton said.

The police are "taking all descriptions into account," said Klein, and are allowing for "the possibility that not all the incidents involve the same perpetrator."

Some are worried that the assailant's pattern could change to become more violent. Given the number of incidents, said advisory neighborhood commissioner Charles Eason, the intruder could "be looking at some serious jail time, which could make him very dangerous. This guy isn't a prankster. ... He's a criminal." And Take Back the Night's Amy Hapip pointed out that the incidents "might very well escalate to become more violent."

"Typically," said Cmdr. Klein, "these types of patterns stay the same, but we are taking this very seriously."

As should everyone else, Klein urged. "I wish everyone would stop using that awful name, The Cuddler," he said. "It's not a joke."

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POLICE REPORT

This is a listing of reports taken from March 16 through 22 by the Metropolitan Police Department in local police service areas. Due to a computer issue, the time of incidents was not available.

PSA 201

■ CHEVY CHASE

Theft (bicycle)

- 3300 block, Stuyvesant Place; residence; March 20.
- 5600 block, Connecticut Ave.; sidewalk; March 22.

PSA 202

■ FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
TENLEYTOWN / AU PARK

Robbery (snatch)

- 4100 block, Wisconsin Ave.; restaurant; March 19.

Theft (\$250 plus)

- 4500 block, Wisconsin Ave.; store; March 19.

- 4500 block, Wisconsin Ave.; store; March 19.

- 4500 block, Wisconsin Ave.; store; March 22.

Theft (below \$250)

- 4500 block, Wisconsin Ave.; restaurant; March 17.

- 4500 block, Wisconsin Ave.; store; March 17.

- 5300 block, Wisconsin Ave.; store; March 20.

- 4500 block, Wisconsin Ave.; store; March 22.

Theft from auto (below \$250)

- 4800 block, Yuma St.; alley; March 19.

PSA 203

■ FOREST HILLS / VAN NESS

Assault

- 3900 block, Connecticut Ave.; street; March 22.

Burglary

- 5100 block, Linnean Terrace; residence; March 16.

Theft (\$250 plus)

- 4200 block, Connecticut Ave.; university; March 20.

Theft (below \$250)

- 4200 block, Connecticut Ave.; university; March 16.

Theft from auto (\$250 plus)

- 2800 block, Upton St.; street; March 19.

PSA 204

■ MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
HEIGHTS / CLEVELAND PARK
WOODLEY PARK / GLOVER
PARK / CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS

Robbery (force and violence)

- Edmunds Street and Wisconsin Avenue; street; March 20.

Robbery (snatch)

- 3500 block, Connecticut Ave.; restaurant; March 21.

Theft from auto (\$250 plus)

- 2600 block, Woodley Road; street; March 20.

PSA 205

■ PALISADES / SPRING VALLEY
WESLEY HEIGHTS / FOXHALL

No crimes reported.

PSA 206

■ GEORGETOWN / BURLEITH

Burglary

- 3300 block, Prospect St.; residence; March 18.

Theft (\$250 plus)

- 3200 block, M St.; restaurant; March 19.

- 3200 block, M St.; store; March 21.

Theft (below \$250)

- 3100 block, M St.; store; March 16.

- 1200 block, Wisconsin Ave.; store; March 17.

- 3600 block, T St.; residence; March 17.

- 2700 block, Pennsylvania Ave.; gas station; March 18.

- 3000 block, M St.; store; March 21.

Theft (bicycle)

- 3700 block, R St.; sidewalk; March 19.

Theft from auto (below \$250)

- 34th and Prospect streets; street; March 18.

- 3700 block, R St.; residence; March 20.

PSA 207

■ FOGGY BOTTOM / WEST END

Robbery (attempt)

- 800 block, 22nd St.; parking lot; March 16.

Stolen auto

- 24th and M streets; street; March 18.

Theft (\$250 plus)

- 700 block, 18th St.; sidewalk; March 20.

PSA 208

■ SHERIDAN-KALORAMA
DUPONT CIRCLE

Robbery (force and violence)

- 15th and S streets; sidewalk; March 17.

Assault (knife)

- 2100 block, P St.; sidewalk; March 16.

Assault (other)

- 1300 block, Connecticut Ave.; tavern; March 21.

Stolen auto

- 21st Street and Pennsylvania Avenue; street; March 18.

- 16th and R streets; street; March 20.

- 1200 block, 17th St.; street; March 21.

Theft (\$250 plus)

- 2000 block, L St.; store; March 17.

- 1000 block, Connecticut Ave.; store; March 17.

- 1800 block, M St.; restaurant; March 17.

- 1100 block, Connecticut Ave.; hotel; March 19.

- 1700 block, P St.; residence; March 20.

- 1300 block, Connecticut Ave.; store; March 22.

Theft (below \$250)

- 2100 block, P St.; sidewalk; March 16.

- 1700 block, Connecticut Ave.; bank; March 17.

- 20th and M streets; store; March 17.

- 1300 block, New Hampshire Ave.; restaurant; March 17.

- 1100 block, Connecticut Ave.; restaurant; March 18.

- 1600 block, Connecticut Ave.; store; March 20.

- 1300 block, Connecticut Ave.; store; March 20.

Theft (shoplifting)

- 1100 block, Connecticut Ave.; store; March 16.

Theft from auto (\$250 plus)

- 1800 block, I St.; street; March 19.

Theft from auto (below \$250)

- 2000 block, N St.; street; March 18.

- 1600 block, Swann St.; street; March 19.

- 1500 block, 15th St.; parking lot; March 20.

PSA 303

■ ADAMS MORGAN

Robbery (assault)

- 1800 block, Mintwood Place; sidewalk; March 21.

Theft (\$250 plus)

- 2300 block, 18th St.; restaurant; March 22.

Theft (below \$250)

- 1700 block, Columbia Road; grocery store; March 17.

Theft from auto (\$250 plus)

- 1600 block, V St.; parking lot; March 16.

- 1900 block, Kalorama Road; alley; March 20.

Theft from auto (below \$250)

- 17th and Fuller streets; street; March 18.

PSA 307

■ LOGAN CIRCLE

Robbery (force and violence)

- 1400 block, N St.; sidewalk; March 18.

Robbery (snatch)

- 1100 block, P St.; sidewalk; March 16.

Burglary

- 1400 block, Church St.; parking lot; March 16.

Burglary (attempt)

- 1400 block, 11th St.; residence; March 16.

Stolen auto (attempt)

- 1200 block, O St.; street; March 18.

Theft (\$250 plus)

- 1100 block, 10th St.; residence; March 18.

Theft (below \$250)

- 1400 block, P St.; store; March 16.

- 1100 block, 10th St.; store; March 17.

- 1100 block, 13th St.; office building; March 17.

Theft (bicycle)

- 1400 block, Rhode Island Ave.; parking lot; March 17.

Theft (shoplifting)

- 1100 block, 10th St.; store; March 19.

Theft from auto (\$250 plus)

- 1300 block, R St.; street; March 17.

- 1400 block, Massachusetts Ave.; street; March 22.

PSA 401

■ COLONIAL VILLAGE
SHEPHERD PARK / TAKOMA

Robbery (gun)

- 7700 block, 12th St.; sidewalk; March 22.

PSA 402

■ BRIGHTWOOD / MANOR PARK
LAMOND RIGGS

Robbery (force and violence)

- 1300 block, Tuckerman St.; street; March 17.

- 13th and Peabody streets; sidewalk; March 20.

Assault (knife)

- 500 block, Nicholson St. NE; street; March 19.

Burglary

- 6500 block, North Capitol St.; residence; March 19.

Theft (\$250 plus)

- 1300 block, Tewkesbury Place; residence; March 16.

- 6400 block, Georgia Ave.; bank; March 25.

Theft from auto (below \$250)

- 6000 block, 13th Place; street; March 16.

- 6600 block, Georgia Ave.; residence; March 17.

- 1200 block, Tuckerman St.; parking lot; March 20.

PSA 403

■ BRIGHTWOOD PARK
16TH STREET HEIGHTS

Robbery (force and violence)

- 900 block, Jefferson St.; street; March 22.

Assault

- 200 block, Hamilton St.; residence; March 16.

- 800 block, Longfellow St.; sidewalk; March 18.

Burglary

- 5600 block, 9th St.; residence; March 17.

Stolen auto

- 800 block, Jefferson St.; street; March 20.

Theft from auto (below \$250)

- 5400 block, 5th St.; street; March 17.

- 1300 block, Missouri Ave.; parking lot; March 17.

- 5000 block, 14th St.; public housing; March 19.

PSA 404

■ CRESTWOOD / PETWORTH

Robbery (gun)

- 3800 block, Georgia Ave.; store; March 20.

Robbery (assault)

- 1400 block, Spring Road; street; March 17.

Robbery (force and violence)

- 1500 block, Varnum St.; residence; March 16.

- 800 block, Taylor St.; sidewalk; March 18.

Burglary

- 3900 block, 14th St.; store; March 17.

Theft (\$250 plus)

- 1400 block, Quincy St.; residence; March 18.

Theft (bicycle)

- 4200 block, Blagden Ave.; residence; March 19.

Theft from auto (below \$250)

- 1400 block, Varnum St.; street; March 16.

- 1500 block, Varnum St.; street; March 16.

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MUNITIONS

From Page 1

appropriate size for the new recreation center, lack of coordination between the school system and the recreation department, and plain old bureaucratic delay.

Now that responsibility has been placed with the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization, headed by Allen Lew, the project is moving again.

Architect Sean O'Donnell said his firm, Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Kuhn, was retained only late last year. He presented detailed drawings that won strong praise from both the Glover Park advisory neighborhood commission and the fine arts panel. The \$18 million expansion and modernization project is slated for completion in July 2010.

Although the total site is 6.5 acres, O'Donnell said the project had to respect open space treasured by various users. To the east of the school are "major sports fields, actively used." And to the west is a steep wooded area that most people also want to preserve, he said.

And the old school itself is "a very handsome building," with a large Palladian window over the entry, said O'Donnell. "We're trying to provide more space but respect the architecture of the school," he told the fine arts panel.

LICENSE

From Page 1

effort will improve its ability to protect D.C. consumers.

Michael Rupert, a spokesperson for the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, said the license doesn't apply to businesses that don't have to pay taxes to the District. So small, personal businesses, such as babysitting or a lemonade stand, need not apply.

"We're not in the business of arresting 10-year-olds," said Rupert.

Other exemptions also apply, such as for churches and for businesses licensed by professional boards, like law offices, architecture firms and plumbers. The agency is using a rolling deadline, requiring compliance by certain dates based on a business's Zip code. The deadlines and a list of exemptions are available on dcra.dc.gov. The new license costs \$295 total and must be renewed every two years.

Ward 2 Council member Jack Evans said he has heard from a number of business owners upset by the new license. Many said they didn't hear of the license until they received a notice saying that they needed one and that they would have to pay nearly \$300 for it.

"I wish we hadn't done it, but we did, and I sympathize with those who are angry about it," said Evans.

Evans said because the "license scheme" was part of the Budget Support Act, he and his colleagues didn't pay much attention to it. Had the license come up as part of a typical bill, Evans said, he never would have supported it.

But Evans doesn't envision retracting the license, because it was used to balance the budget. This year's application fees could amount to as much as \$3 million, "which is not an insignificant amount," said Evans.

Nevertheless, Evans noted that the license fee and additional level of bureaucracy could not have come at a worse time for many businesses,

considering the recession. He said some business owners have asked what they will receive in exchange for paying the fee and getting the license — "and the answer is nothing," he said.

Janene Jackson, vice president for external affairs at the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, said complaints about the license involve mostly notification and confusion, rather than the intent of the law.

"A lot of business owners said they were caught unaware ... and only when they were fined did they find out about the new license," said Jackson.

She said she thought the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs had made a good effort toward getting the word out, but she noted the difficulty of notifying business owners who "probably weren't under their purview before." By using business associations as one of the primary forms of notification, Jackson said, the agency may have missed many small-business owners.

Rupert said the agency attempted to notify business owners through groups like the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, as well as through community meetings and by delivering information door-to-door. Applications were also mailed to businesses registered with the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue. And the agency has also held private training sessions with various business improvement districts.

Jackson said she believes the effort could have been more successful if the D.C. Council had created the license as part of its regular legislative process, rather than through the Budget Support Act. "It would have raised public awareness," Jackson said. "And council members would have been inclined to notify businesses in their wards."

Jackson said she understands why the measure was included in the budget, however, as the license was designed in part to raise revenue for the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

Working with those constraints, architects designed what is essentially one connected structure, with the gym, cooperative preschool and new classroom wing all fanning off "a dramatic two-level atrium, the heart of the school," he said. There also will be a multipurpose and dining space north of the atrium "giving some presence on the Davis Place side."

Facing 40th and Calvert streets, a pedestrian-only plaza will replace hardtop, where "most students, cars, buses and garbage trucks" all arrive, creating safety problems. The vehicle entrance and parking lot will shift to the school's rear, with access only from Davis Place.

But the parking lot concerned the fine arts commissioners. Although O'Donnell said the parking requirement was cut from 80 to 40 spaces to preserve open space, the slender parking lot still doglegs onto the western part of the property and into steep woodland.

"With the cutting and grading, that lot will impact the wooded area," said commissioner Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk. "When you're trying to save landscape, I hate to see it destroyed by parking."

Said commissioner Michael McKinnell: "Many trees will expire with the extension of the parking lot."

The commission asked O'Donnell to return in April after exploring ways to minimize the impact of the parking lot on trees. The architect said he is confident he can satisfy the commission's concern.

Julia Christian, executive director of the Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals, said the regulatory affairs agency has been helpful, both with notification and by holding an information session with her group. But confusion still remains, with some owners unable to determine whether they need the new license even after consulting officials from the agency.

"The gray area is really in determining who needs it and who doesn't," said Christian. "I think it's a work in progress."

For some, the new license has proved especially problematic. Suzy Maroon, a Georgetown resident, learned through the Georgetown Business Improvement District that she would need to obtain the new license for her photo licensing business. She documented her difficulty in obtaining a General Business License in a letter to Evans and in a recent interview.

Maroon's first hurdle came when she found out that she didn't have a certificate of occupancy and would need one before seeking the license. After receiving a certificate number but not the certificate itself, Maroon was told she could again try to apply for the license.

"Again I got a number and waited (at some length) my turn, but when I finally got to Window 10 I hit a brick wall," Maroon wrote to Evans. "The clerk there said having only the number of my soon-to-be-issued Occupancy Permit was not good enough because she had to staple the permit to my application; how could she staple a number?"

After an official told her the permit number would suffice, Maroon again returned to the agency to fill out a license permit. But upon returning home she received a call saying she had not filled in her hours of operation. She would again have to return to the agency.

The fourth time proved the charm, though, and she received her permit. "I feel my blood pressure rising again just talking about it," said Maroon.



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THE GEORGETOWN CURRENT

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Say no to gas-and-go

The D.C. Council's Committee on Government Operations and the Environment will hear testimony today on a bill that would create a right of first refusal for the sale of gas stations. The subject may sound a bit arcane, but the legislation is a worthwhile attempt to protect neighborhood-serving small businesses.

Two factors led Ward 3 Council member Mary Cheh to introduce the bill. First, a 2007 D.C. law allowed so-called "jobbers" — entities that buy fuel from producers and resell to retailers — to own and operate service stations for the first time in the District. And second, Exxon Mobil Corp. announced last summer plans to sell about 2,200 stations it owns, 30-some of which are in the District.

Independent operators who lease their space from Exxon fear that the company will sell its stations to jobbers, who would likely replace service stations' repair facilities with convenience stores.

And that would hurt residents.

Convenience stores are easier to run than service stations, but repair businesses are essential to a community. Without them, more residents would likely head to the suburbs for work on their cars.

The bill also requires owners seeking to convert from service to convenience to prove to the D.C. Gas Station Advisory Board that they are experiencing extreme financial hardship — and that there is another station within a mile that offers the repair services.

While some may see the bill as governmental intrusion in business, we see it as appropriate intervention. There's a precedent for right-of-first-refusal laws in D.C. business, with residential-building owners required to offer their properties first to tenants when selling. And the city has long regulated gas stations, requiring review by the advisory board before an owner eliminates full-service lanes.

We see value in protecting locally run businesses and protecting those operators who provide a needed service to the community. It is a fair role for government.

Serving notice

In the District, there's no requirement for visible public notice of a pending raze permit. It is a significant oversight, because demolition is a major undertaking that merits notice to neighbors based on concerns about noise, dust and other environmental factors. It also has long-term ramifications on a neighborhood's architectural legacy — particularly in a built-up urban area, where the first step in the construction of a new building is generally taking down an existing one.

Thankfully, Ward 4 Council member Muriel Bowser is seeking to fill this gap in D.C. law. She has introduced legislation that would require public notification before the city issues a raze permit. The matter is pending before the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, which Ms. Bowser chairs.

The bill would require a property owner to place a "notice, sign or placard" on his or her building so it is visible from the street for at least 30 days before the city takes any action on the application.

City law already calls for advisory neighborhood commissions to get notice, but requiring more expansive public notification is a marked improvement over current practice. The city hasn't always been diligent about providing commissions with a list of permit applicants, and not every commissioner will go the extra mile to ensure that the affected neighbors find out about the proposed demolition. It's far too easy for the current system to fail.

Ms. Bowser says she has heard of instances in which buildings came down without any advance warning to neighbors. One memorable example occurred in Tenleytown, where a late-19th-century farmhouse was cleared away to make way for condos at Nebraska Avenue and Albemarle Street. Neighbors learned of the project far too late to save a vestige of the neighborhood's rural origins. Not every building slated for demolition is worth preserving, but neighbors should have a chance to weigh in before it is too late.

Pitchfork politics and more ...

Pat Buchanan and his pitchfork brigades were a certain kind of novelty in the 1996 presidential campaign.

But pitchfork-style hysteria has made a mainstream comeback.

It's most notable in the blood-lust attacks on the American International Group bonuses, a sliver of the billions that have been thrown against the economic wall in hopes of keeping it from crashing further to the ground.

The National Rifle Association has engaged in pitchfork politics over the District's mighty

effort to get a little piece of the American pie, namely, voting rights in the House. The lax handgun amendment that the rifle association attached to the voting rights bill may doom the whole thing.

Even if the city swallows hard and accepts the gun provision (as Mayor Adrian Fenty prefers), it could be a short-term victory.

As we noted on a WAMU's "Kojo Nnamdi Politics Hour," it's very reasonable to expect the U.S. Supreme Court to reject the voting rights legislation as a violation of the Constitution. If so, the city could lose its voting rights AND be stuck with the rifle association gun bill. The city would then lose on both counts.

■ Guns? What guns? If the gun amendment stays, at-large Council member Phil Mendelson, judiciary committee chair, has some bad news for citizens.

He said the measure, modeled after federal gun laws, would allow persons with a history of violent behavior or domestic violence to possess a handgun. And he says it would be more difficult to trace handguns involved in crimes because they would not be registered.

Mendelson said the National Rifle Association is "giddy" over its gun victory in the District, but he finds it sad that the city is faced with the gun choice.

■ Keep that view! Someone, quick! Get the attention of new Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. She toured the historic grounds of St. Elizabeths Hospital in Southeast with CNN and talked about how the headquarters would be an asset to the impoverished neighborhoods nearby.

She told CNN that the hundreds of millions being spent would be a boost to the local economy.

We hope so. Our fear is that walls and fences and security alarms and street barricades and guards with guns and 24-hour cameras and who knows what else will make the new headquarters an isolated post unto itself.

D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton is fighting to secure proper funding for the new headquarters, and she might be able to mitigate some of the super-secrecy impulses that will isolate the agency.

Our main desire is for the securicrats to leave the wonderful northern overlook open to the public so we can sit on a lazy afternoon and enjoy the city the securicrats are supposed to be protecting, not walling off. It was a great place to go until you couldn't get

there anymore.

Maybe the citizens should take up pitchforks to make that happen.

■ Union pitchforks. Organized labor showed up at a recent fundraiser hosted by Mayor Adrian Fenty.

"Fenty's trying to turn this city back into a plantation," said AFSCME Council 20 executive director George Johnson, as the crowd marched outside a

local restaurant.

The unions, which didn't support Fenty's 2006 campaign, marched and chanted their criticisms of

Fenty's get-tough policies on some city workers and sales of city land:

"Fired all the workers and gave away the land — he's a mayor the people can't stand!"

The mayor's budget isn't all that friendly to union forces either, with about 1,500 layoffs or other job eliminations.

■ Nuclear warhead pitchfork. Norton has once again introduced a bill that would require the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons if other nations agree to do likewise.

It's not a realistic issue, and Norton's not particularly passionate about it. She has introduced it each session since 1994, mandated by the nuclear freeze activism and ballot initiative passed in 1993.

■ Dim those lights. It's not as serious as nuclear war, but Ward 3 Council member Mary Cheh wants to cut down on light pollution in the District.

The Notebook was disappointed that the Cheh press conference on the issue was held in the afternoon, rather than in the glow of harsh lights at night. That would have made the event so much cooler.

Maybe hearings on the bill could be held in the shadow of some horrible halogen bulbs.

■ A landmark decision. Veteran gay rights activist Franklin Kameny has received a well-deserved honor. The Historic Preservation Review Board has designated his home at 5020 Cathedral Ave. NW as a local landmark. The designation will now go to the National Register of Historic Places.

Both the D.C. Preservation League and the Rainbow History Project pushed for landmark status. Kameny has used his home since the 1960s to promote civil and legal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens.

More than a few archconservatives have pointed their pitchforks at Mr. Kameny. He's never blinked.

■ Final word. Another marathon has been run in the city. For those of us living in Southwest, the route was not as onerous as previous marathons that stymied our ability to get around.

But there were complaints in a couple of e-mails. One person wanted to know why police officers assigned to the route mainly just sat or stood there, not offering alternative routes. "The police officers are clueless when they are asked," one e-mail posting told the mayor. "Why do you allow this?"

Tom Sherwood, a Southwest resident, is a political reporter for News 4.



TOM SHERWOOD'S NOTEBOOK

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Library's outreach was not sufficient

I'm sure that Ginnie Cooper, the District's chief librarian, believes that her agency has done good outreach to "the community" concerning the plans for renovation and expansion of the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Library ["Library plans need Mount Pleasant input," Letters to the Editor, March 18]. But there's remarkable unanimity among

Mount Pleasant residents, including neighborhood organizations that rarely agree with each other about anything, that the library has not done so.

At least two important mistakes were made. One was imposing a universal requirement that every library have 20,000 square feet, regardless of local circumstances. The existing building is short by about 3,000 square feet, and that modest deficiency has led to a plan, very unpopular in the neighborhood, for a new building adjacent to the old.

A second mistake was in

thinking of the Mount Pleasant library as the library for Mount Pleasant. It's the only library in Ward 1, but negligible thought has been given to the needs of Columbia Heights, Adams Morgan, U Street/Cardozo and other neighborhoods in the ward, many of which are beyond ready walking distance to Mount Pleasant.

The library system seems to have gone through the motions of community consultation, while brushing off such concerns and complaints.

Jack McKay
Commissioner, ANC 1D03

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AAA rating for bonds is indeed good news

I fully agree with The Current's March 4 editorial lauding the recent sale and rating of the District's income-tax-secured bonds ["Making the grade"]. Contrary to what you may read elsewhere, most residents welcome the good news.

These bonds received an AAA rating from Wall Street and will reduce borrowing costs in both the short and medium terms. In fact, we refinanced some outstanding general obligation bonds at a better rate as part of this sale.

Wall Street's rating of our general obligation bonds, of course, will remain the benchmark of the District's overall creditworthiness, as is the case for every jurisdiction. The income tax bonds do not change that.

However, the overall point remains — good news is good news, especially in times like these.

Jack Evans

*Ward 2 member, D.C. Council
Chair, Committee
on Finance and Revenue*

Criticism of bonds was not justified

The March 18 letter "Publicity on bonds ignores basic facts" contains many statements concerning the income-tax bonds recently issued by the District of Columbia. Unfortunately, none of those statements were correct. The facts are:

The District of Columbia cannot go bankrupt; it is not permitted under federal law.

The new bonds will not raise the District's overall costs of borrowing. They will result in lower borrowing costs, because the District is able to borrow at lower interest rates with these bonds, due to their higher ratings.

Regarding the impact on our general obligation (GO) bonds, in its credit report on the Income Tax Secured Revenue Bonds, Moody's indicated that this new bond structure "does not negatively affect [the] District's GO bonds." Moody's further states that "the pledge of income tax revenues to the new bond program shifts revenue away from the District's general fund, but is also accompanied by a shift in debt burden away from the property tax," which is the primary source of payment for general obligation bonds. Finally, the Moody's report asserts that "to the extent that the District's borrowing costs are reduced by the

new program, its overall debt burden is expected to decrease slightly."

In fact, we plan to issue the income-tax bonds in lieu of general obligation bonds for the foreseeable future. While it is true that investors holding the District's income-tax bonds have first claim on the income taxes, it must be emphasized that investors in general obligation bonds have first claim on property taxes, plus all other available revenue. The likelihood of default on either of these securities is extremely remote.

The AA ratings from Moody's and Fitch should not be viewed as a negative simply because they are not as high as the AAA rating provided by Standard and Poor's. Each of the rating agencies has its own methodology for rating bonds, and both Moody's and Fitch cited strengths in the credit and structure associated with the new bonds that allowed them to achieve a rating higher than the District's general obligation bonds.

Even though it's lower than AAA, AA is still a very good rating. Neither Moody's nor Fitch indicated that the possibility of the trustee using the funds for some other purpose was a factor in their ratings. In fact, both cited the strong legal protections and mechanics associated with the trustee arrangement as positive attributes of the structure of the bonds.

The AAA rating was not a "trick," but rather a judicious, resourceful and prudent utilization of the financial tools available to the District in order to produce real debt-service savings for District taxpayers, over the short term and the longer term.

David J. Umansky

*Public Affairs Officer, D.C. Office
of the Chief Financial Officer*

Exxon plans portend yet another disaster

The Exxon Mobil Corp. has decided to sell its 2,200 service stations, 33 of which operate in the District. These stations have operated for years through a lease arrangement that, in effect, has resulted in 2,200 small businesses. Exxon has benefited greatly from this arrangement with these loyal and faithful partners.

However, Exxon is repeating its disregard for the well-being of others, as demonstrated in its disastrous operation of its ship the Exxon Valdez, which 20 years ago this month went aground, creating one of the major environmental disasters of the century.

Like hundreds of other Exxon lessees, Lynn Cook, lessee of Parker's Exxon station on

MacArthur Boulevard, would like the opportunity to purchase the station he now leases. However, Exxon has ignored its lessee's requests. The company's plan has been to bundle a number of these stations — 30 to 40 — and sell them as a unit.

Obviously, few if any of the present lessees would have the wherewithal to buy one of these bundled units, nor would it make any sense to do so when all they are interested in are the stations that they now lease.

Ward 3 D.C. Council member Mary Cheh has introduced legislation to provide the current lessees of a service station the right of first refusal to buy the station if it is put on the market for sale. Exxon and the American Petroleum Institute are opposing this legislation. This legislation will be considered Wednesday in a council committee meeting. I believe all council members would welcome the views of D.C. citizens on this issue.

C.D. Ward
Colony Hill

Public input is vital when crafting a bill

Ward 1 Council member Jim Graham told Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C to solicit additional constituent comment on loitering ["Commission debates new anti-loitering bill," March 11] ... and we did. They were emphatic and clear — no loitering bill. More than 50 Adams Morgan residents — black, white, gay, straight, young, old — came to our recent forum to express their opposition to the proposed legislation.

It is unfortunate the council member decided to question the process of how our commission chose to vote in opposition to his anti-loitering legislation instead of why we took the position we did. It is even more unfortunate that The Current allowed him to do so.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C did its due diligence, and fortunately for all the residents of the District of Columbia, the council member heard the voices in the community and withdrew his flawed piece of legislation.

Moving forward, let's hope the council member practices what he preaches and makes every effort to seek public input on this piece of legislation should he reintroduce it, and on any other legislation he proposes.

Community dialogue, even if you don't always like or agree with what you're hearing, is the key to a successful community.

M. Mindy Moretti
Commissioner, ANC 1C04



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— *Geoff Tracy, Chef, Owner of
Chef Geoff's and Lia's restaurants*


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Current publishes letters representing all points of view. Because of space limitations, submissions should be no more than 400 words and are subject to editing. Letters intended for publication should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Current, Post Office Box 40400, Washington, D.C. 20016-0400. You may send e-mail to letters@currentnewspapers.com.

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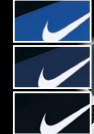
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Matt Petros/Current File Photo

Wilson senior Rachel Bitting played first base last season but will be behind the plate this spring for the Tigers, who haven't lost a league game since 2006.

Senior-laden Wilson will try for 3rd title in a row

■ Softball preview

By **KEVIN HILGERS**
Current Staff Writer

Just three years ago, the Wilson softball team didn't have a pitcher able to throw from a fast-pitch windup. That leveled the playing field in the D.C. Interscholastic Athletic Association, and the Tigers couldn't get past Theodore Roosevelt in the semifinals.

But the Tigers haven't lost a league game since that afternoon against the Rough Riders, and they will add a junior varsity team this season after 35 players tried out for the squad. This year's seniors have presided over a resurgence of the program and are looking to end their high school careers with the winning streak intact.

"It's very much a veteran team this year," said first-year coach Rich Roberts, an assistant the last two seasons.

Senior pitcher Kathleen McLain will once again power the Tigers' defense, getting relief from senior Ellen Levine. Senior Rachel Bitting will catch, moving behind the plate from first base. Roberts said he expects hitting to be strong as well. Wilson has been successful so far, outscoring opponents 15-2 to start the season 3-0 with wins over Edmund Burke, Georgetown Day and Potomac.

The Tigers will be the only public school in an inaugural citywide event, the Congressional Bank Classic at Guy Mason Recreation Center on May 16. Maret athletic director Liz Hall, who helped organize the six-team event, said the concept branched out from the baseball classic of the same name that will be held two weeks later at Nationals Park.

"We really wanted to get something going for the girls," Hall said.

Other participating teams will be Burke, Georgetown Day, Visitation, Maret and Sidwell.

ISL AA

Independent School League AA Division play has yet to begin for **Georgetown Visitation**, but already the Cubs have made a clear case for defending their banner. They are off to a 3-0 start, which includes victories over Good Counsel, Pallotti and Paul VI, the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference runner-up.

The Cubs are experienced at key positions and return the top three batters from last year's order. Catcher Christina Clark and middle infielder Sydney Erickson bring power to the offense, and sophomore Katie Kolbe is back to pitch.

"I think we're going to be competitive with the best of them," said coach Mary Conlon.

Maret has a small program this year, with only three seniors and no junior varsity squad. But on the bright side for the Frogs, their veterans form a strong nucleus that should be enough to keep them in the upper reaches of the conference.

The Frogs are particularly experienced where it matters most. Senior pitcher Lauren Becker is back for a fourth varsity season and will throw to senior catcher Ally Martella, a third-year varsity player who also will pitch. Emerson expects their defense to be solid up the middle, with senior Phoebe Aron at short-stop and senior Annie Sloan in the outfield. A key underclassman will be sophomore Caroline Sealander, who will pitch and play

See **Softball**/Page 12

St. John's crew joins local ranks

■ Crew preview

By **KEVIN HILGERS**
Current Staff Writer

It took barely a school year for St. John's to put together a crew program.

With the help of two parents, Lynda Del Castillo and Renee Slusarczyk, the Cadets formed the beginnings of a team in the fall, with a few introductory training sessions under interim coaches. They got a permanent coach in January, when Chris Cabrera, an Alexandria native and former club coach in Connecticut, came on board.

Nearly all 26 members of the team are new to the sport, and most are freshmen or sophomores, but Cabrera said everyone is

enthusiastic about establishing the new program.

"I was very intrigued by the opportunity because they are literally starting from scratch," Cabrera said.

The squad has been practicing five afternoons a week on rented boats out of Thompson Boat Center on the Georgetown waterfront. Cabrera said he plans to assemble a boys eight and a girls eight. The Cadets are lined up for at least one event, the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Rowing Association novice championships May 2. Depending on how the team progresses, it will compete in the varsity regatta the next weekend.

Cabrera said the team members recognize they have a lot of work to do to become competitive, but

he likes the attitude they have held since the idea for a team first came about in the fall.

"It shows how dedicated these kids are," Cabrera said. "It's a very eager group."

Elsewhere in Northwest

Gonzaga had great success in its new league, the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Rowing Association, with its first eight winning the inaugural championship last spring. Coach Marc Mandel, who took over the team from longtime coach Tom Spooner after last season, said the Eagles will try to build on that success.

"I'm just looking forward to seeing how our team develops and how our speed develops," Mandel

See **Crew**/Page 12

Singles depth key for Frogs

■ Tennis preview

By **KEVIN HILGERS**
Current Staff Writer

There was no Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference boys tennis tournament last season, as the event was washed out by rain. With a rain date already scheduled for this year's tournament, weather won't take away Maret's chance to prove the mettle of its singles lineup.

Frogs sophomore Joe Dorn is back at No. 1 after a season in which he dropped just two matches. He is No. 16 in the under-18 Mid-Atlantic Tennis Association rankings, the best of any player in the District.

Junior Sam Bush, who also is ranked in the top 100, will be welcomed back as a strong No. 2. He played at that spot as a freshman

but missed last season due to a broken collarbone suffered in a snowboarding accident during spring break.

A pair of seniors, Joey DeBruin and Dylan Reffe, will bring a veteran presence to the rest of the lineup.

The Frogs placed third in the conference last season and will have to challenge traditional powers Flint Hill and Potomac for the banner, but coach Zaw Lyn likes Maret's chances.

"I'm optimistic that we will have a pretty deep singles team," he said.

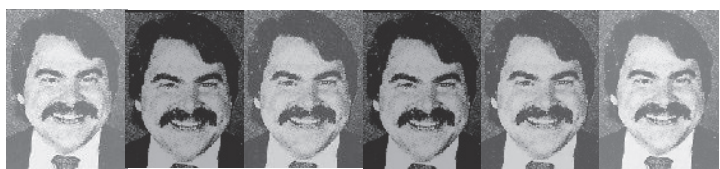
Elsewhere in the MAC

Sidwell, which placed fourth last season, will be led by two seniors in singles play, Jayon Wang, last year's No. 2 player, and Christian McKean. The Quakers

See **Tennis**/Page 12

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SOFTBALL

From Page 11

third base.

National Cathedral will be short on experience this season following the graduation of pitcher Alie Kolbe (Brown University) and power-hitting infielders Meg Krasne (University of Pennsylvania) and Victoria Webb (Trinity College).

Five starters return from last year's second-place team, including senior third baseman Shannon McCullough and second baseman Aislynn Touhey. The Eagles will depend on juniors Tess Berenson and Lauren Fuery in the outfield as well as for hits. Sophomore Julia Reed will return to shortstop.

Freshman Chace Conroy will pitch.

ISL A

Although **Georgetown Day** won the Independent School League A Division tournament, it missed out on a promotion to the upper division, losing out to banner-winner Episcopal by a run.

The Mighty Hoppers graduated several key fielders, but coach Karen Epstein is enthusiastic about their veteran pitcher-catcher combination and strong batting order. Pitcher Lucy Dana will team up with fellow senior and catcher Julia Pockros for the third year in a row. Junior shortstop Kallie Simon and junior center fielder Lucy Cooper will contribute with their bats and defense.

With its opening game coming

Tuesday, **Sidwell** is in search of reliable pitching. The Quakers will depend on a committee of players to get the ball over the plate to junior catcher and captain Casey Butler, according to first-year coach Josh Markey. Other returning players include senior outfielders Lizzie Friedman and Taylor Hilton. One of Sidwell's best could be Kira Ullman, a sophomore shortstop.

PVAC

Tom Camera returned to coach Washington International this season after two years away and was welcomed by a particularly enthusiastic group: Twenty-three players tried out for the team, more than he ever had in his previous six-year stint.

CREW

From Page 11

said.

Three members of last year's first eight are back: seniors Richard Johnston and Peter Prominski, and junior Joe Hanlon. In addition to contributing to the league title, they helped Gonzaga come within three seconds of qualifying for the finals at the Stotesbury Cup Regatta.

National Cathedral coach Amy Weatherby said the Eagles expect to have more speed than last year, when their first eight reached the Stotesbury semifinals. The core of Cathedral's top boat is back to provide leadership: senior coxswain Liz Mills, who will compete for Brown University next year, and junior stroke Christina Bax, the squad's strongest athlete.

"I definitely think we will be faster than we were last year," Weatherby said. "We have a lot more depth."

St. Albans couldn't follow up its 2007 appearance in the Stotesbury Cup final with another last season, and coach Ted Haley said the Bulldogs last year never quite reached their potential. They hope this season will be different.

"I feel like we have a solid group of guys we can build on," said Haley. "The attitude of this team is very positive, so I feel upbeat about the season."

Haley likes the mix of seniors and underclassmen that has made for good competition in practices. Among St. Albans' key seniors is Phillippe Mastroyannis, who will row at Yale University next year. Coxswain Alex Dilley also is back, along with the much-improved

Doug Keating.

Three members of **Sidwell's** first eight are back this year. Seniors Hillary Caldwell and Annelise Haskell will be joined by junior Michaela Cohen-Fuentes as veterans of an otherwise young squad. The team is loaded with sophomores and about a half-dozen freshmen who have the potential to strengthen Sidwell's top boat.

Head coach Bill McLain has high hopes for **Wilson's** boys and girls squads. The boys first eight is young and includes several athletes who helped the Tigers' lightweight eight reach the Stotesbury semifinals last spring. Among the leaders are senior Sam Olmsted and 6-foot-5, 200-pound junior Cory Asnuth.

Seniors Amelia Bell and Kit Evans will lead the Lady Tigers. "They're looking to be one of the fastest boats in D.C.," McLain said.

Gulidov will round out the singles field.

TENNIS

From Page 11

will face tough competition this season as the only D.C. team at the New England/Mid-Atlantic Invitational. The event, to be held April 25 and 26 at McDonogh School near Baltimore, will include 16 private school teams from seven states and the District.

DCIAA

The D.C. Interscholastic Athletic Association should be especially competitive this spring, with 12 schools sponsoring teams, according to tennis commissioner and longtime **Wilson** coach C. Spyke Henry.

The Wilson boys will need to look to new players to carry on the success established by Arnaud Ba (University of Virginia-Wise), who won four consecutive singles titles. Among the Tigers' championship hopefuls are juniors Hai Pham and Ned Jeong, as well as senior Evan Roe.

Henry said he is more uncertain of the lineup for the Lady Tigers, who also won the conference last season, but he expects senior Jodie Singer to take the top singles spot. She went undefeated at No. 2 last spring before falling in the tournament.

IAC

Coach Karim Najdi calls this year's **St. Albans** team young but experienced. The Bulldogs' top four singles players all return from last season, when they placed third in the Interstate Athletic Conference, and only one is a senior. Sophomore Kian Sharafi will play in the top slot, followed by senior Kevin Meers. Sophomore Gibson Johns and junior Volodimir

PVAC

Washington International girls coach Pat Rumbaugh's goal this season is to reach a dozen Potomac Valley Athletic Conference titles. The Red Devils won their 11th last season.

Junior Camille Laurent will try for her third title in four years at No. 1 singles, though she will have to get healthy first. She hasn't played competitively since discovering tendinitis in one of her knees during the winter club volleyball season. Also leading the Red Devils will be freshman Laura Fleck and senior captain Kelsey Kemper-Valentine.

The boys squad will miss its top two singles players after last year's banner-winning season. Junior Jonathan Blutinger will captain the Red Devils.

WCAC

Gonzaga returned to the top of the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference last spring, capturing its second title in three seasons. Six players from that team graduated, but coach Ariel Laguilles said this year's squad is similarly deep and gunning for a repeat.

Gonzaga's top two singles players — seniors Alex Wiese and Paul Mascola — will have the most challenging season of anyone on the team. Mascola will move up to the second spot after winning the league at No. 4 last season. Wiese reached the finals at No. 2 last season but fell to DeMatha's John Collins, now ranked No. 1 in the region.

St. John's will miss Nobu Tanaka (Longwood University), the league's No. 1 singles champion last season. Karl Badin, one of six seniors, will compete in the top spot, moving up from No. 3.

NORTHWEST PASSAGES

THE PEOPLE AND PLACES OF NORTHWEST WASHINGTON

MARCH 25, 2009 ■ PAGE 13

Georgetowners offer their stories, hope for Nathans

By **OLGA KHAZAN**
Current Correspondent

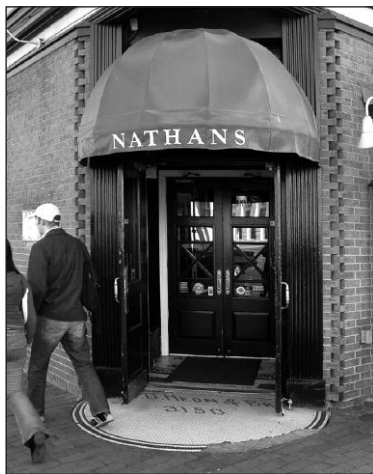
The regulars at Nathans in Georgetown remember watching celebrations from the restaurant's windows when the Redskins won the Super Bowl. They reminisce about dancing to Blondie while sipping champagne in the back room.

Last Thursday, longtime patrons turned out to mark the bar's 40th anniversary, sharing stories of the countless memories they've made at Nathans. With the bar facing a financial crunch and an uncertain future, its fans also celebrated in the hope that their favorite Georgetown staple will live on.

"When milestones happen, I believe they should be shared with the people who made them possible," said Nathans owner Carol Joynt. "If you last 40 years, you might as well be an institution."

Whether they call it "institution," "cornerstone" or "anchor," for Nathans' fan base, the bar is the center of Georgetown, both literally and historically.

Facing into the bustling Wisconsin Avenue and M Street intersection, the bar has been one of the few unchanged faces in Georgetown since 1969. That year, Joynt's husband, Howard Joynt III, opened Nathans with two friends — one of whom is the bar's namesake. With an energetic yet com-



fortable vibe, it was an instant hit among students, socialites and Washington elites.

"Nathans was always the free-wheeling, sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll saloon," Joynt said, "but with a veneer of sophistication that made everybody feel like they were in New York City."

When her husband died suddenly in 1997, Joynt inherited Nathans somewhat reluctantly and left a successful journalism career to enter the restaurant business.

"I am the accidental saloon owner, if there ever was one," she said.

Since then, Joynt has tried to preserve the spirit established by her husband, who patrons say was friendly, outgoing and always ready to chat with customers. She has also enhanced it with a few touches



Bill Petros/The Current

Nathans owner Carol Joynt and longtime patrons celebrated the restaurant's 40th anniversary in a bash last week. Though rumors have swirled about closure, Joynt said she'll stay open for the foreseeable future.

of her own. Since 2001, she has been hosting a lunchtime talk series called the "Q&A Cafe," in which she interviews prominent Washingtonians at the restaurant.

Over time, Nathans has become a little less rock 'n' roll and little more corner pub, at least for its original clientele. They still love it for its history and its familiarity.

"I've been coming here since 1969," said AOL founder James Kimsey. "It's a down-home gin mill where everybody has always known my name."

In Nathans' relaxed front room,

patrons sit at the bar and banter with waiters who have worked there for years. The dining room's menu features pasta that's still freshly made in the basement each morning.

"It has a warm, wonderful spirit, like the big living room of a house you love coming to," said Kathryn Kross, who works for Bloomberg.

Although the once-lengthy lines outside the bar on weekend nights have dwindled, loyal customers say the essence of Nathans has stayed the same.

"We don't want it to change —

it's the real Georgetown," said Ed Brenner, who has been going to Nathans for more than 35 years. "The world goes by in front of Nathans."

The world of Georgetown happens inside of Nathans, as well. The anniversary celebration was filled with stories of patrons meeting their future spouses or landing their future jobs at the bar.

"My husband proposed in booth R6," said Meg Thompson of Georgetown.

Local business owner Alan

See **Nathans**/Page 23

HOME & GARDEN

Amid recession, homeowners still look to improve their surroundings

By **CAROL BUCKLEY**
Current Staff Writer

Lavish displays of home and garden products and services may seem to add insult to financial injury in the current market, when home prices are falling and once-speedy home sales have turned into a long slog.

But the Washington Home and Garden Show's displays at the Washington Convention Center last week told a different story. Homeowners may no longer be able to monetize their greatest asset as quickly and profitably as they once were, but according to home and garden professionals, they're no less willing to invest in a more comfortable and beautiful living space.

"People really are spending more time at home and entertaining at home," explained Molly Scott of McHale Landscape Design, whose "Villa Toscana" was easily the most elaborate display at the Thursday-through-



Bill Petros/The Current

McHale Landscape Design displayed an Italian-themed "wine pavilion" at the show.

Sunday show. Amid a Southern Italian garden adapted for our mid-Atlantic climate, a neoclassical "wine pavilion" stored seating as

well as cases of vino.

The garden, which was partially assembled in the firm's McLean, Va., offices and

installed over four days, highlighted a few up-and-coming trends in outdoor design, said Scott and colleague Will Smith.

First are loose, casual elements tucked into a formal framework. The garden leading to the pavilion was a geometric parterre centered around a large fountain. But the pathways were informal (and inexpensive) pea gravel, and asymmetrical features kept the scene interesting. In one corner, a rustic water feature was a simple copper spigot emerging from a weathered-wood trunk ("an old fencepost from our farm," noted Smith) and emptying into a lined wooden trough.

Clients increasingly want to incorporate edible elements into gardens, added Scott. At once "green" and money-saving, containers planted with vegetables and herbs dotted McHale's vignette. Corraling edible plants into containers also makes them suitable for balconies and the small gardens common in the city. "More and more people are asking

See **Show**/Page 25

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS

Aidan Montessori School

On Feb. 9, parents from Mrs. Chakrabarty's lower elementary classroom (first through third grade) held a "mock trial." A mock trial is a pretend trial, showing the children how the legal process works in real life.

The case for the trial was some-

School DISPATCHES

thing that might actually happen at school. A girl leaves her book on the playground and forgets it there, and then another girl picks it up. When the first girl sees someone holding her book, she asks for it back, but the finder decides that it is now hers. The question for the jury was if the finder must return the book if she did not know that it belonged to another person. Could the loser of the book be lying about it being hers? Parents played the roles of the girls, the lawyers who made arguments for both sides and the judge. The children were the jury ... and the jury says, "The finder of the book got to keep the book because the girl who lost it was not careful."

— **Sam O'Brien and Cole Srere, fifth-graders**

Annunciation School

At Annunciation School on March 5, we had a science fair. Students in grades five through eight competed to win first, second, third or fourth place. Fourth-graders did the display too, but their projects did not get judged. The following students won first place in each class: fifth-grader Ingrid Fekete, for "How Liquids

Affect Plant Growth"; sixth-grader Katherine Precourt, for "Rusty Nail"; seventh-grader Cameron Battle, for "How a Maglev Train Works"; and eighth-grader Taylor Reeves, for "Does Alcohol Have a Positive or Negative Effect on Plants?"

I think that everyone had a good science project. They had rigorous experiments to test and still did well. I could tell that the judges were having trouble deciding who was going to get a ribbon.

— **Sean Robinson, sixth-grader**

Beauvoir School

At Beauvoir we study a different region of the world each year, and we call it Global Studies. This year third grade studied Peru. Over two months, all the grades prepare a museum for Museum Night.

We learn about the big cities, the animals, the food, the clothing, the people and the historic sites. There was a lot of hustle and bustle as we prepared for our museum.

When you walked into the foyer of our school, there were pan-flute players. They wore traditional Incan clothing. It was a great way to welcome family and friends to Museum Night.

In our library there were parrots from a parrot rescue center. The macaws and other large parrots would stand on your arm or your head. The very small parrots would lie down like a baby in your hands. The parrots were beautiful, and it was fun to hold and see them.

In the dining room there was a marimba player and food from the different countries we were studying. Second grade was studying Costa Rica, and first grade was

studying Brazil. Entrees, sweets, fruits and drinks were there for everyone to enjoy.

Every Wednesday as we prepared for Museum Night, we had a special beverage from one of the countries.

— **Camilla Ryder and Bella Gamboa, third-graders**

Blessed Sacrament School

On March 15, a fundraiser to support religious vocations took place at the Verizon Center before the Washington Wizards and Sacramento Kings played. The fundraiser was a basketball game, the DC Hood vs. the PATS.

The DC Hood is a team of young priests and seminarians. The PATS players are principals and teachers at Catholic schools in D.C. Mr. King, our gym teacher, and Mr. Kelly, our principal, played for the PATS. During halftime, the priests and seminarians showed a movie about religious vocations starring some of the players.

The DC Hood won. It was fun and it was for a good cause.

This Lent the middle-schoolers at Blessed Sacrament School attended and took part in the Stations of the Cross. They went to the church for the last three Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. Each week the sixth, seventh or eighth grade was in charge of the service. The jobs of the students in charge were to read aloud the story of the stations and to hold candles next to the stations themselves. During the services either Father Ben or the pastor, Father John, walked to each station and said a prayer with the altar servers and candle holders following him. The Stations of the

Cross have been a good way for students to relax and rest in the presence of the Lord.

— **Fred Kardos, fifth-grader, and Vincent Kardos, sixth-grader**

Deal Middle School

Deal students showed off their projects at the citywide science fair on March 15. The competition was held at McKinley Technology High School. Some winners for Deal were Ruthie Lewis in the animal science category, Evan Katz in health and medicine and William Church in engineering. The overall winner was Deal's Alex Morales-Sanz.

Deal also excelled in the city-wide MathCounts competition. The Deal team placed third in the Countdown Round and second overall. Deal students Derek Levinson and Thuy Nguyen placed second and third, respectively, winning all-expenses-paid trips to Orlando, Fla., to compete in the national competition.

— **Derek Levinson, eighth-grader**

Eaton Elementary

My school is performing a play called "Mulan Jr." This play will have a Chinese and English cast. The person playing the Chinese character will talk simultaneously with the person playing the English character.

Some of the main characters are: Mulan, played by Rena Schwartz-Shighihara as the English character and Emma Walsh-Aker as the Chinese character; Shang, played by Carl Baltimore as the English character and Toby Shapinsky as the Chinese character; Mushu, played by Janea Johnson as the English character and Sam Ringel as the Chinese character.

There are many other characters. For example, Robyn Craig is playing three different characters — a daughter, a hairdresser and a soldier.

The cast will sing some of the great songs that were in the movie, such as "Reflection" and "I'll Make a Man Out of You." They will also sing some new songs, for example, "Written in Stone" and "Keep 'em Guessin'."

The play is being directed by Angelo Parodi, who also directed last year's musical, and Amber Walson, who is new to John Eaton.

— **Robyn Craig, sixth-grader**

Georgetown Day School

Spring is here at last! For Georgetown Day students, not only has spring begun, but so has spring break. For the lower school it began last Friday, after the end of the annual Passover assembly and classroom celebrations.

At the assembly that conveys the Passover message of freedom, third-graders performed and acted out the story of Passover (with the help of the pre-k and kindergarten students, who dressed as pharaohs,

frogs and slaves and sang songs). Other grades participated in telling the story as well. The fifth-grade chorus sang, fourth-graders recited the four questions, and the first- and second-graders also sang songs. After the assembly, students went back to their classrooms to enjoy traditional Passover Seder foods ranging from matzo to hard-boiled eggs and macaroons.

— **Samantha Shapiro, fourth-grader**

Holy Trinity School

Holy Trinity School has been focusing on service and recently held a schoolwide service day. Each class has found many different ways to help others. Here are a few examples of class activities:

In Miss Spear's first-grade class: "We made designs on the bags. We put sandwiches, fruit and cookies in the bags. We washed the apples. We made sandwiches. The cheese and bread ran all out. We had fun! We made lunches for the homeless at Georgetown Ministry Center."

In Miss Brusseau's second-grade class: "We made sandwiches for the McKenna Wagon. We made over 300 sandwiches. We had fun because we like to help the poor. We hope to make sandwiches again soon."

In Miss DeCarlo's third-grade class: "We helped kindergarten students write letters to people who are sick or who have relatives who are ill. We also read stories to the kindergartners. We helped beautify the school by taking out trash and cleaning the classrooms."

In Mrs. Edward's and Mrs. Robinson's fourth-grade classes: "We visited a nursing home for the Little Sisters of the Poor and sang songs for the elderly. We were given a tour and then attended Mass with the residents. After the field trip, we felt like we really did something to help others."

— **Miss Spear's first-graders; Olivia Silsby and Luke Egge, second-graders;**

Natalia Schwartz and Grace Ellsworth, third-graders; and Ursula Hedlund and Anna Bosco, fourth-graders

Jewish Primary Day School

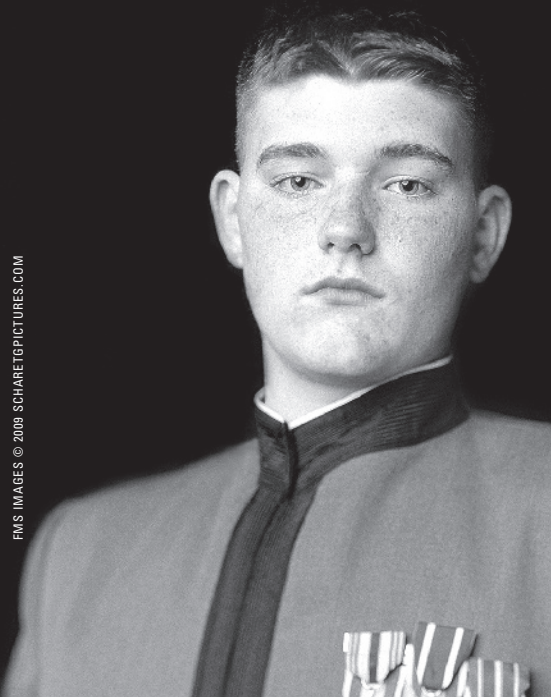
On March 12, the second-grade classes had a "Biography Share."

The Biography Share was something where everybody in the class writes a biography about a famous person. First you had to collect books and information about your person. Then you had to write down the information on special pieces of paper for notes called "bubble paper." You needed information about their childhood, family life, adulthood, job, and dreams and goals.

When you finished all five of your note pages, then you had to turn your notes into sentences and put them onto paragraph papers. You also had to draw an illustration on each piece of paper. Then we chose two pages to read out loud at

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DISPATCHES

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the Biography Share.

At the Biography Share, there were lots of friends and families of the kids in the class who came to hear the biographies. It was really fun! After the share, you got to take home your biography. It took a lot of work and a lot of time to write a biography, but at the end it's nice to feel proud of yourself.

— **Nina Lane, second-grader**

Key Elementary

All of the students are really excited for spring break. Some students are traveling to places like Florida or going skiing, and others are staying home to hang out with family and friends. Others are attending a spring break camp.

All third- through fifth-graders are preparing for the DC-CAS tests. The fifth-graders are preparing for the first time for the Science CAS. Last month third- through fifth-graders took the DC-BAS tests in preparation.

On March 20, all fifth-graders will recite Robert Frost's poem "Birches" for representatives from the Turkish Embassy during an event at the Key School. Some of the students will be performing a step routine as well.

— **Jonathon McCreary and Codrin Parau, fifth-graders**

Lafayette Elementary

The citywide spelling bee was taped at NBC4's studios on March 17. It will air next month. Both Lafayette spelling bee winners, sixth-grader Claire Parker and fifth-grader Jennifer McLish, made it to the citywide bee after placing in the top six in the cluster bee. Unfortunately, Jennifer got out in the first round, and Claire missed in the third.

The first-place winner of the citywide bee, Sonia Schlesinger, is a seventh-grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She will continue on to the national bee, held in Washington in May. Avery Coffey of Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science was the second-place winner for the second year in a row. Both spellers were well-prepared,

and in a real spelling duel between the two, it took over a half-hour before Sonia won.

It was Claire Parker's second experience with the regionals and the citywide bee, too. Claire said, "All three bees were really fun, and they improved my vocabulary a lot. Though it was very nerve-wracking, it was a great experience."

Jennifer added, "The citywide bee was exciting and then boring. The first two bees were really exciting. I really liked learning new words!"

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the bees! A special thanks to their sponsor, Ms. Kathy Echave, who made it possible for Jennifer and Claire to make it this far.

— **May Albee, Kate Stokes and Mia Strazzella, sixth-graders**

Lowell School

The kindergarten classes celebrated their 100th day of school on Feb. 14, which also happened to be Valentine's Day. Each student in each class brought in 100 things to share with and show to the people in their class. Some of the things they brought in were rubber bands, Q-tips and pasta. They also brought in 100 pieces of candy to distribute among their classmates.

This is a very exciting experience for kindergartners because they are not always included in older-student celebrations.

Some kindergartners said that it was one of their favorite things they have done this year. When asked what they did with the 100 things they brought in, the students said they ate the things that were edible and hung the rest of the stuff up on the wall. They also counted everything.

— **Simone Ameer, fourth-grader**

Maret School

During language classes, we play games, sing songs and work on plays. We play games in Spanish like Chutes and Ladders and Candy Land. Recently, we had a language assembly. There were different grades singing songs and doing plays in Spanish and French. The second-grade Spanish class did "La Rana Se Viste." It means "Froggy Gets Dressed." There were six narrators counting me,

and there were four frogs, two moms and one dad. The rest of the students performed a song.

We are now working on farm animals. Burro is donkey. Pato is duck. We sometimes use a smart board to learn new words in Spanish. Spanish is one of my favorite classes in school.

— **Callan Daniel, second-grader**

Our Lady of Victory School

There have been many exciting things going on at Our Lady of Victory School in recent weeks. The school celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a free dress day. Students got to wear green, orange and gold clothes to school.

In social studies class, the fifth-graders learned about the 13 original colonies. Each group of students had to research one of the colonies to learn about its climate, geography, government and job opportunities. Then we had to make a billboard for our colony to try to convince people to move there. We also had to write sales pitches. Each group said its sales pitch and shared its billboard. The drawings on the billboards were really good, and every group created a clever and catchy slogan.

In reading class, we did something called a group book report. There were five different novels for this project. Everyone got to pick which book they wanted to read. Every week we met with our group to talk about the story. We had questions to discuss at each checkpoint, and then we also had to do a mini-project about what we had read. One of the tasks was to make a comic strip of a scene our group liked. This was really fun. We have our last checkpoint this week, and then we have to do a creative book report.

— **Fifth-graders**

St. Albans School

Today is a good day. As I rush down to the St. Albans sports complex, I feel elated. Today is a day unlike any other. Today is the day that signals the start of water polo.

Water polo is a very fun and entertaining game that the entire swim team looks forward to playing every season. Even though Coach Mark Lewis thinks that it is

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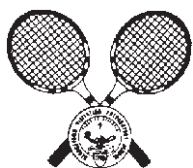
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Football players, ages 7-14, are invited to the Jelleff Practice Field, located at 3265 S St. NW
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March 29, Sun., 4:00 - 6:00 pm • April 25, Sat., 4:00 - 6:00 pm • May 31, Sun., 4:00 - 6:00 pm
June 20, Sat., 4:00 - 6:00 pm • July 19, Sun., 4:00 - 6:00 pm
To receive updates, contact Lindsey Tharp at 202-378-7254 or Lindsey.Tharp@mac.com

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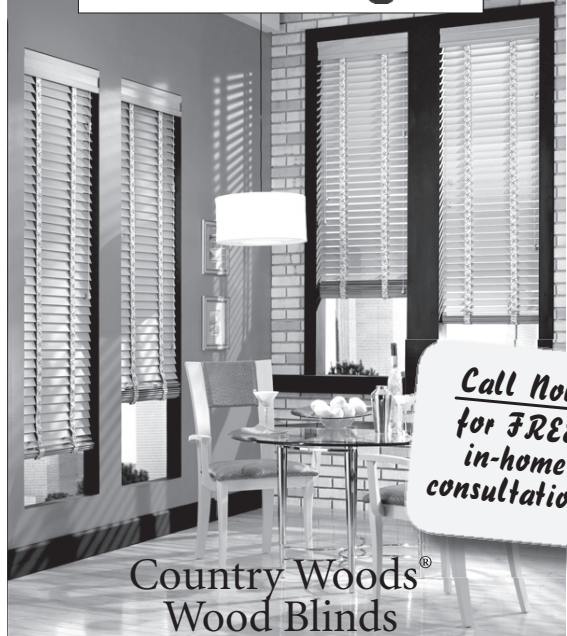
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closest to soccer, I think it is closer to handball.

We rush to change. We jump into the water. Swimming quickly and efficiently, we make our way to the ball. Our middle offender, the one to the right of me, rushes to get the ball. His effort is rewarded as he grasps the ball mere seconds before the opposing offender does. I receive a pass and launch the ball in front of the middle offender, giving him time to get to it. He takes a well-aimed shot and scores! It's 1-0 for our team. After a few more minutes of intense game play, the other team catches up and even pulls ahead.

The second half is much like the first except that we have possession most of the time. This is when the endurance of our team pays off. We score two goals that rely on the speed of our forwards. After many good saves from both goalies and amazing blocking from the defense, the game ends. One team lost, and one won, but both are bet-

ter prepared for the games to come.

— **Derin Dutz,**
Form II (eighth-grader)

School Without Walls

Like the rest of D.C. public schools this week, School Without Walls is on spring break! This past Friday also marked the end of the third advisory and midpoint of the second semester. Report cards for the third advisory will be handed out two weeks from this Friday. The fourth and last advisory will begin this coming Monday.

The Drama Club's performance of "Cinderella's Dream," a two-act comedic retelling of the classic fairy tale, is under way. Parts were given out this past Monday, scripts arrived on Wednesday and the first read-through was Thursday. Full practices will begin after spring break.

Getting ready for next year, teachers are being shuffled. Ms. Bergman, who now teaches biology, will also be teaching AP Biology next year. Mr. Ishmail will be teaching Humanities VI (which he currently teaches) and Humanities III. Ms. Briggs will

continue to teach Humanities I and II, but she will also teach AP Language and Composition after being trained over the summer.

— **Lillian Audette, 10th-grader**

Sheridan School

The United Nations is debating the issue of whether North Korea should be able to fire a test satellite. More specifically, Sheridan School's eighth-grade United Nations simulation is arguing the issue. I am representing Mexico, which is currently on the Security Council. The roll call and opening statement started with Austria. Each representative then delivered a prepared statement to the rest of the United Nations. The most important voices, however, are of the permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States.

Joining our Security Council are some countries invited to take part in the debate. While these countries are not allowed to vote, they are allowed to make their opening and closing statements as well as take part in the debate.

After both the members of the council and the invited members finished making opening statements, the open debate started. Because the issue being debated is based around North Korea, the people with the loudest voices were the permanent members and North Korea. After much debate, countries gave their closing statements, and the representatives for the permanent members voted.

The resolution was declined by a landslide, making it illegal for North Korea to fire the test satellite, at least in our version of the United Nations. As for the real United Nations, it is yet to be determined.

— **Will Brown, eighth-grader**

Wilson High School

The nearing of spring break and excitement that inevitably follows brought a new attendance plan. According to the appropriately titled "March Madness Blitz" plan, the administration has a new no-tolerance attendance policy.

The plan includes many new rules, such as the policy that any student arriving at school after 9:15 a.m. without a note has to be sent home. During the day, there are also many administrators stationed throughout the extensive Wilson hallways religiously checking passes and sending students to class.

The newly placed rules are intended to snap students into shape and to halt the troublemaking that comes along with the excitement over the warming weather. All of the reforms are to make the school "the model urban high school," a goal Principal Cahall is diligently working to reach.

Hopefully, the plan will work, and hard-working students, faculty, staff and parents of Wilson will be rewarded with a greatly improved school. Details of the plan can be viewed at wilsonhs.org.

— **Erin O'Brien, ninth-grader**

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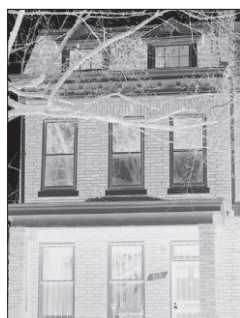
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JAW DROPPING renovation of elegant 4-story residence. Owner's Unit plus 2 rental units! Spectacular Owner's Unit: 2BR/2.5BA duplex 2LR, tree top views, lg roof top terr, 2 car pkg. Absolutely exquisite finishes thruout. Steps to Metro, Whole Foods, restaurants. **www.mattzanolli.com**
Matt Zanolli 202-744-5799
Woodley Park Office 202-483-6300



MT PLEASANT \$1,130,000
NEW PRICE - INCREDIBLE VALUE! Exceptional renovation of elegant semi-detached historic home. Exquisite original woodwork and details, sun-filled eat-in kitchen, 5BR plus library. 2BA, 2 rear porches, patio, landscaped gardens, CAC, two-car garages. 1760 Park Rd
Linda Low 202-363-1800
Foxhall Office

WISCONSIN AVE, NW \$4,500/MO
GORGEOUS renovation. Lt-filled 1973 SF. Elegant, HW flrs, wired for sound. Lg rms, sep DR, Balc w/views of city & Nat Cathedral. MBR suite w/huge WIC & ensuite BA. 1 mi to two Metros. Assgn Pkg. Sect 8 Appl welcome. 3315 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Tamora Ilasat 202-460-0699
Georgetown Office 202-944-8400

BRIGHTWOOD \$252,500
ELEGANCE GALORE! Spacious, inviting, sunfilled 2BR, 1BA. Beautiful parquet floors, gorgeous Gourmet Kit, great floor plan. Elevator building w/superb landscaping in great location. 3 MORE UNITS ALSO AVAILABLE!
Mary Sheppard 202-829-7604
Chevy Chase Office 202-363-9700

BROOKLAND \$275,000
Bright well-maintained 3BR semi-detached home, convenient to Metro and bus transportation. Feat wd flrs, CAC, fin walk-out bsmnt rec rm, small fenced yard & updated windows.
Helen Dodson 202-243-2955
Friendship Heights 202-364-5200

CAPITOL HILL \$399,500
ALMOST 1,000 SF! Gorgeous, renovated two-level in the Car Barn with Parking!!! Hardwood floors, granite/stainless steel kitchen. Lots of closets, office nook, lots of light. View of the pool.
Bill Reuther 202-363-1800
Foxhall Office

CAPITOL HILL \$739,000
FULLY RENOV & bathed in sunlight! Semi-detached 3BR, 3BA house w/ Mste, gourmet KIT, upstairs laundry on lg corner lot. Tour at **www.artofcityliving.com**. 530 12th St NE.
Tony Hain 202-415-8669
Woodley Park Office 202-483-6300

CHEVY CHASE \$879,000
ARCHITECT'S own home! Just simply CHARMING! Beautifully renovated with dream kitchen, extended dining room, outdoor deck. 4BR, 2.5BA. Great storage. Beautifully landscaped garden. HURRY!
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CLEVELAND PARK \$339,900
CHARMING 700 SF 1BR in desirable Mclean Gardens! Warm hdwd floors, private laundry & storage rooms, sep dining area off kit, private exposure overlooking

parkland & walk trails, & 3.5% down financing avail! Pets OK! See @ **www.robbythompson.com**. 3420 39th St NW #705.

Roby Thompson 202-255-2986
Woodley Park Office 202-483-6300

GEORGETOWN/EAST VILLAGE \$2,495,000
NEW PRICE! Georgetown East Village Classic Colonial Revival across from Tutor Place with gracious floorplan for entertaining. Large Living room & Dining room w/3 sets of French doors opening to landscaped terrace, outdoor dining & access to garage. Library/Study w/wet bar & half bath. 5BR, 3FB, 2HB & 3Fpls. 1621 31st St, NW
Sarah Michels 202-285-7875
Georgetown Office 202-944-8400

KALORAMA \$409,000
ENORMOUS, updated 1BR w/private balcony, expansive kitchen w/SS appliances, loads of closets & storage, W/D in unit, roof deck access to enjoy spec-

tacular views of DC and beyond!
The Simunek Team 202-296-4304
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KALORAMA \$1,550,000
PERFECTION personified! 3500 SF of truly gorgeous space in all new top to bottom renovation. Stunning 4BR/3.5BA house w/ legal 2BR income unit! Custom built-ins & moldings, 2 fireplaces, 3 decks, a huge patio, 2 car garage, ultimate master suite, sumptuous baths, chef's dream kitchen, loads of light! See @ **www.robbythompson.com**. 1859 California St NW.
Roby Thompson 202-255-2986
Woodley Park Office 202-483-6300

LOGAN \$389,000
TOP FLOOR, corner 1BR w/ large living room, hardwood Floors, W/D, and tandem PARKING for two. Virtual Tour at **www.artofcityliving.com**. 1200 Q St NW #302
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Woodley Park Office 202-483-6300



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tion w/cathedral ceilings and recessed lights. New high-end Kitchen (\$40K value). 5BR, 2.5BA, CAC. Walk to Rock Creek Park and Carter Barron!
Denise Champion 202-215-9242
Chevy Chase Office 202-363-9700

NW / PETWORTH \$117,000
DRASTIC REDUCTION - PRICE SLASHED! Was \$169,500, now \$52+K less! Tudor revival-style building is "Best Addresses" listed. 1BR/1BA, sep DR, high ceilings, gorgeous hardwoods, newer appliances. Overlooks lovely courtyard. 2 ceiling fans, all utils except electric.
Denise Champion 202-215-9242
Chevy Chase Office 202-363-9700

PALISADES \$259,000
TOP FLOOR light-filled corner one bedroom unit of three-level building. Updated kitchen and bath. Large living room and bedroom. 1930's charm with hardwoods and archways. Metro bus right across the street and a short stroll to Georgetown. 4581 MacArthur Blvd NW #301
Tony Borgia 202-365-8423
Georgetown Office 202-944-8400

PENN QUARTER \$312,500
PRICE REDUCED! Excellent opportunity In full service building w/24 hr desk, roof deck, gym! 1BR, 1BA, HWE, new kitchen appliances, view of Canadian Embassy, Newseum. Easy access to Metro, Verizon Center. Rental parking available.
Simone Seidman 202-363-1800
Foxhall Office

VAUGHAN PLACE \$345,000
FABULOUS 1BR, 1BA condo with large balcony. W/D in unit, granite counters, pool, fitness ctr with wi-fi, 24 hr lobby desk. Free shuttle to metro, walk to favorite restaurants, PET FRIENDLY. Pkg avail to rent. Great Cleveland Park location. **mary.bresnahan@LNF.com**. 3401-3420 38th St, NW.
Mary Bresnahan 202-841-4343
Georgetown Office 202-944-8400

WESLEY HEIGHTS \$645,000
THIS GLAMOROUS freshly painted & carpeted 2BR, 2.5BA duplex with 500sf terr overlooking landscaped grounds & so much more! A must see!
Patty Malloy 202-441-2114
Friendship Heights 202-364-5200

MT PLEASANT \$719,000
SPACIOUS TH on charming quiet street near Rock Creek Park and National Zoo. True 4BR, 2.5BA up + 1BR, 1BA in-law in basement. Center hall entry, large LR w/fireplace, sep DR, granite Kitchen, sunny family rm. 2 front porches, CAC, parking. Near Metro, shops, restaurants.
Linda Low 202-363-1800
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NW / 16TH ST HEIGHTS
1BR - \$229,000
1-STUDIO - \$129,000
2 RENOVATED UNITS! Charming, pet-friendly Art Deco building 1 block from rock Creek Park/Carter Barron & coffee houses. Low fees (\$253/\$184) incl taxes & all utilities except electric. E-Z-transportation!
Denise Champion 202-215-9242
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NW / 16TH ST HEIGHTS \$699,500
DREAM COME TRUE! Large detached Bungalow. First Floor Great Room addi-

NORTHWEST REAL ESTATE

A LOOK AT THE MARKET IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON

MARCH 25, 2009 ■ PAGE 19

Well-preserved 1912 home seeks fourth owner

The District is a city of transients, the conventional wisdom goes. But another maxim dictates that home buyers dislike high

ON THE MARKET CAROL BUCKLEY

turnover among a listing's prior owners, so Realtors are thrilled to find a property that bucks the peripatetic trend. The town house at 1709 S St. is one such unusual home: Three families have owned it (one of them only for one year) since its construction in 1912 by Arthur Heaton, who was also the supervising architect of the Washington National Cathedral for 13 years.

A little change, though, is a good thing, as the current owners have shown since purchasing the nearly 6,000-square-foot home in 1981. Upgrades sit comfortably cheek-by-jowl with the remarkably intact original features of the home; the result allows modern living in Renaissance Revival digs.

In accordance with that style, the home's grandest rooms are on the second floor (called in this scheme the "piano nobile" or "noble plane"), while the ground

floor has lower ceilings and more serviceable spaces.

But the owners' detailed approach to preservation has ensured that there's plenty to note near the ground-floor entry. Original tile is meticulously maintained and covers a wide swath of the floor here. Gilt sconces, also original, hardly reveal that they've been welcoming visitors for nearly 100 years.

This floor offers casual entertaining spaces for the current owners. A game room, now home to a poker table, could serve a host of uses with its gas fireplace, glass-fronted bookshelves, and thick dentil moldings. Also mutable is a billiards room; wainscoting and a coffered tin ceiling are the standout features there.

The main floor's rooms are the real showstoppers, said Realtor Maxwell Rubin, who noted that the home's open house showings have drawn more than their fair share of nosy neighbors. "People have been trying to get a look at this house for decades," said Rubin. "Now they've finally got their chance."

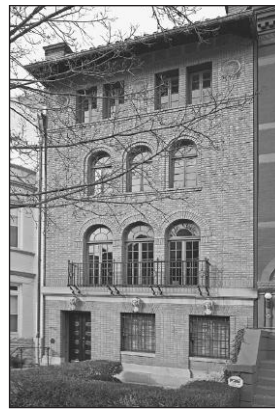
The living room is endlessly detailed. Large Palladian windows with casement openings are spaced among heavy beams that create a

coffered ceiling. Hand-laid parquet covers the floor, and a wide, substantial mantel is flanked by more glass-fronted bookcases. Faux-leather wallpaper fills in the bits not paneled in oak and completes the clubby look.

Across the large landing is the formal dining room. As in the living room, dark wood paneling gets a lift both from sconces and from natural light that pours in the large windows. Another of the home's four gas fireplaces warms up the space.

Kitchens were less than a priority in 1912, and though the space has been modernized, a buyer with a gourmet bent may want to make more improvements here. Some preserved features should survive any renovation, however: a tin ceiling and vintage glass-front upper cabinets in the kitchen, and a copper sink in the butler's pantry. A rear deck off the kitchen offers screened privacy and a hot tub.

Bedrooms are spread over the top two floors. The third floor is currently a large master suite with a sitting room, but the floor could



Courtesy of Jonathan Taylor

The grandest rooms of the Dupont town house are on the second floor, allowing more light to enter.

offer two bedrooms if necessary.

The master bedroom is large and light-filled; a fireplace flanked by two closets gives the space a focal point, while slightly smaller versions of the living room's Palladian windows overlook S Street. The master bath disciplines fussy marble with a strict black-and-white palette, while an antique claw-foot tub connects the room to the home's vintage.

The interior's sole modern addition is a sunroom. Whimsical at first glance, the space is really very practical. Moroccan tile in a lapis-and-turmeric palette provides the

only color in the window-walled and white-trimmed room — a visual relief after the deep tones in the rest of the house. Radiant heat beneath the tiles makes the room comfortable year-round.

Three bedrooms and two baths — one en-suite — on the top floor complete the home's count of five bedrooms and three full and two half bathrooms.

The circa-1912 town house at 1709 S St. is offered for \$2.875 million. For more information, contact Jonathan Taylor of TTR Sotheby's International Realty at 202-276-3344 or jtaylor@ttrsir.com.

FOR SALE



Nantucket Dream House

Chevy Chase. Gorgeous colonial built by master builder Patrick Keating in 2006, features grand foyer and hall, LR w/FP, formal DR, fabulous kitchen /brkfst room/ fam rm w/FP, library, butler's pantry, mud rm; 6 Bds, 6.5 Bas, inc. incredibly beautiful MBR suite, l.l. fam rm/ play rm, exercise rm, landscaped lot, nearly 1/4 ac. \$2,950,000
Ellen Rodin- 202-255-9411; Beverly Nadel-202-236-7313; 364-1700

Dir: Out Wisc, R-Leland to 4316.



Dazzling Renovation

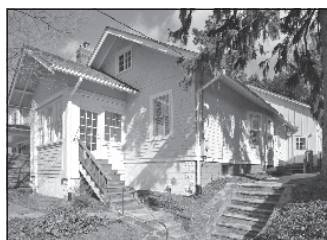
Kent. wonderful bungalow with chic contemporary interior: large entry hall. LR w/FP, sleek kitchen, DR, 1st flr fam rm w/FP, 4 Bds, 3.5 Bas, inc MBR suite; 3 brs up; expandable lower lvl. \$1,159,000 Nancy Hammond- 202-686-6627; 202-364-1700



Front Porch Charm

Chevy Chase/ Friendship Hts. Appealing frame col w/ large LR w/FP, DR w/ Fr drs to sheltered deck; chic renov kitchen; 3 Bds, 2 Bas w/ 1 freshly renov. Ba up; lower lvl in-law suite. Sunny and charming throughout.
Martha Williams- 202-271-8138; Rachel Burns- 202-384-5140

Dir: Out Wisc, R-Fessenden, L-41st St to 5041



Bungalow Gem

Palisades. Adorable bungalow with private setting; encl fr porch entrance, lg LR, sep DR, updated kitchen + fam rm opening to patio and grdn; 4 Bds, + sitting rm. Walk to Canal, bike paths. \$799,000.
Nancy Hammond- 202-686-6627; 202-364-1700



www.EversCo.com

Chevy Chase
202-364-1700

Dupont
202-464-8400

Another Jaquet New Listing!



4330 43rd Street, NW \$899,000

Gracious 3BR, 3.5BA col, 4 finished lev, patio, gar. Unimpeded natural light! Expanded kit breakfast area with cathedral ceiling, Palladian window. Just 3 blks from Tenley Metro!

Susan Jaquet

#1 Realtor Companywide 2006
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NEW LISTING! Authentic Federal located on Historic Smith's Row. Impressive home with gracious entertaining spaces including double parlor & extensive terraces. 3-car Garage parking. \$5,188,000

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Robert Hryniewicki

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MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

NEW PRICE! Only 2 lights to DC! Half-acre lot! Custom Colonial with soaring spaces, gracious rooms and great light. 5 bedrooms, 5 baths and very special! \$1,995,000

Donald Corin
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Handsome 2BR/2.5BA Federal with sun-filled Living Room opening to private rear patio, sun-filled Kitchen, spacious Bedrooms, finished Lower Level Family Room, and rear parking. \$1,195,000

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LOGAN CIRCLE, WASHINGTON, DC

Luxury Flat with 1400+ sf on 1 level. Live in a SOHO inspired flat by ABDO with LR w/ fpl, large DR with exposed brick wall, gourmet kitchen w/ direct access to lovely deck. Master Suite w/ en-suite bath, walk-in closet w/ private deck, + full BR & full BA. Parking avail.

John Eric

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KENT, WASHINGTON, DC

Stunning 2006 brick home with over 8,000 sf of living space. 6BR, 6.5BA, 5 fireplaces, chef's kitchen, embassy-sized rooms, elevator. Beautiful terraced grounds, pool & pool house. 3-car garage. \$4,995,000

Heidi Hatfield
Anne Hatfield Weir

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202-243-1635



FOGGY BOTTOM, WASHINGTON, DC

Rarely available, 3BR/3.5 BA 2,700 sf unit in the Watergate West. Wrap-around balcony offers the most breathtaking panoramic Potomac River & Rosslyn skyline views. Updated Kitchen and Baths. \$1,795,000

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Robert Hryniewicki

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16TH ST HEIGHTS, WASHINGTON, DC

Gracious all brick grand dame on oversized level lot featuring 5 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths. New kitchen, baths, systems, wood floors, central air conditioning, landscaped gardens, 2 car garage. \$1,150,000

Marilyn Charity

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DUPONT, WASHINGTON, DC

April Delivery! Only 5 units left. 2 BR, 2-2.5 BA condos. Gourmet kitchens, bamboo flooring, high end finishes. Soaring ceilings, terraces & PH gardens adorn select units + on-site pkg. Floor plans at: 1617swannstreet.com. Call for on-site appt. Starting under \$600,000.

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Exquisite new residence in sought-after Belle Haven with 9000 sf of living space. This amazing property brings the best of formal & modern living together with exceptional details & amenities. \$3,495,000

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WESLEY HEIGHTS, WASHINGTON, DC

Set on park-like grounds, this gracious 1928 residence boasts classic English-Influenced Architecture and offers elegant principal rooms. 7 BR, 3 full & 2 half BA. Only 2 owners in home's history. \$3,250,000

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BETHESDA, MARYLAND

This 5 year young home in a desirable neighborhood features a wonderful floor plan, warm interior, 4 beautifully finished levels & quality detail throughout. An easy ride to VA & DC. Whitman HS. A great place to call home. \$1,399,000

Traudel Lange

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PENN QUARTER, WASHINGTON, DC

Stunning, stylishly appointed two bedroom, two full and one half bath 2,001 square foot unit with 13' ceilings & 11' windows. Every conceivable amenity, near Metro, shopping & more! \$1,160,000

Heidi Hatfield
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POTOMAC, MARYLAND

NEW PRICE! Customized, end-unit TH with 2-car garage on Avenel PGA course with water views! 2-story foyer, gourmet kitchen, 5 BR, 3.5 BA, terrace on 2nd floor loggia off master. \$1,395,000

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Donald Corin

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Brand New 2 bedroom + Den, 2 bath residence in sought after Columbia Residences with over 1,500 sq. ft., 10'+ ceilings, floor to ceiling windows and reserved garage parking. \$1,095,000

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MEMORIAL OVERLOOK - Ideal for busy executives needing quick access to DC. Luxurious furnished/unfurnished Pied-A-Terre. 2 BR + den, 2.5 BA, 2-car pkg. Near Rosslyn Metro. \$999,999

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Katie Bolt

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NEW LISTING! Fantastic 2BR, 2BA unit with beautiful views overlooking Washington Circle, large Living/ Dining Room with fireplace and reserved garage parking! \$595,000

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MEMORIAL OVERLOOK - Ideal for busy executives needing quick access to DC. Luxurious furnished/unfurnished Pied-A-Terre. 2 BR + den, 2.5 BA, 2-car pkg. Near Rosslyn Metro. \$999,999

Linda Rogers
Katie Bolt

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WEST END, WASHINGTON, DC

NEW LISTING! Stylish renovation of sun-splashed 2BR/2.5BA up unit with coveted balcony at sought-after Sutton! Also offers swim pool, 2 parking spaces & proximity to public transport, parkland & many conveniences. \$553,000

Kay McGrath King

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MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

One of downtown McLean's finest homes! Custom built, professionally designed and less than 2 years young with a terrific floor plan enhanced by over-the-top amenities & upgrades, magnificent landscaping and unforgettable yard. \$2,899,000

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NEW PRICE! Extremely large 1BR + Den, 2.5BA Ritz Residence with dining area, office area, gourmet Kitchen, walls of windows, balcony, and secure garage parking. \$1,249,000

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Matthew B. McCormick

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Luxurious 1 bedroom, 2 bath unit at the renowned Market Square offering incredible views of the Capitol Building from the Living Room, Bedroom, and balconies. 24-hour front desk service, rooftop Terrace and Pool, and Exercise Room.

Patrick Chauvin

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Kay McGrath King

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BETHESDA, MARYLAND

NEW LISTING! Stunning 2002 Arts & Crafts home w/ soaring ceilings, elegant finishes, 5BR, 5.5BA. Terrace overlooks wooded .5 acre setting. \$2,595,000

Patrick Chauvin
Sherry Davis
Susan Koehler

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301-996-3220
703-967-6789



GEORGETOWN, WASHINGTON, DC

Immaculate 2BR/2.5BA situated on extra deep lot with 2-story addition, period detail, luxury amenities throughout, new Master Suite, and brand new Kitchen with French doors to private patio oasis. \$1,195,000

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CLEVELAND PARK, WASHINGTON, DC

This ultra charming French provincial home features a wonderful floor plan, 3-4 BR, 2 BA upstairs, a finished lower level with separate entrance and a level private backyard. Within minutes to metro & city life but so quiet. \$985,000

Traudel Lange

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GLOVER PARK, WASHINGTON, DC

Spacious and Sunny 2 BR corner unit with renovated kitchen and bathroom, hardwood floors, roof deck, parking space, and storage. Steps to Glover-Archbold Park & short commute to Downtown. Open Sunday 3/29 1-4. \$369,000

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Chalice Crest is an elegant community of 13 luxury residences developed by Sekas Homes. Special Jumbo Financing Available. Open Sundays 1-4pm. Homes available from \$1,890,000.

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NEW LISTING! Wonderful 2BR, 2.5BA Ritz Residence with nearly 1,900 sq. ft. of interior living space, balcony and 2 parking spaces. Fantastic value! \$1,295,000

Ellen Morrell
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CLEVELAND PARK, WASHINGTON, DC

Charming house just 3 blocks from Metro! 3 to 4 BRs & 2.5BA up + LL suite with BR, BA & kitchen. Spacious, sunny spaces, separate dining room, 2 sunrooms, lovely garden with hot tub. Garage. \$864,500

Anne Hatfield Weir
Heidi Hatfield

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BETHESDA, MARYLAND

NEW LISTING! CRESCENT PLAZA - Rarely available renovated 1BR + Den at the popular Crescent Plaza! Also offers balcony & 2-car parking. Nearby Metro, boutiques, restaurants & nightlife in downtown Bethesda!

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ANC 2E ■ GEORGETOWN / CLOISTERS BURLEITH / HILLANDALE

The commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. March 30 at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, 1524 35th St. NW.

Agenda items include:

- public safety and police report.
- transportation report.
- presentation on the Georgetown Business Improvement District's "French Market" event.
- presentation on a Georgetown University alumni event.
- consideration of a request for a curb cut at 32nd and S streets.
- consideration of projects that will appear before the Old Georgetown Board: 1650 30th St., residence, concept plans for alterations to rear, addition of covered porch; 2522 Q St., residence, permit for replacement fence; 1608 Wisconsin Ave., Veena and Vikram Railan, restaurant, permit for projecting sign, spotlights; 1405 34th St., residence, permit for replacement fence and alterations to gate and brick pier; 1415 34th St., residence, permit for brick piers and gates on driveway; 2900 K St., Katten Muchin Rossenman, permit for sign; 3116-3118 M St., Jean Paul Amsellem, restaurant, permit for projecting sign for Reiss London; 1419-B Wisconsin Ave., 1419 Wisconsin LLC, permit for signs for "Yiro"; 1419-A Wisconsin Ave., J Cohen Ltd., permit for sign and projecting sign for "Jan's"; 1425 Wisconsin Ave., Essam Chalf, permit for projecting sign and banner at second floor for "Fringe"; 1525-1527 Wisconsin Ave., retail, permit for "Julep" sign.

For details, call 202-338-7427 or visit anc2e.com.

ANC 3B ■ GLOVER PARK/CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS

The commission will meet at 7 p.m. April 16 at Guy Mason Recreation Center, 3600 Calvert St. NW.

Agenda items include:

- update on Guy Mason Recreation Center renovations.
- discussion of a grant request from Babe Ruth Baseball.
- discussion of a grant request from the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place.
- discussion of a grant request to support a Glover Park farmers market.
- presentation by the People's Property Campaign.

For details, call 202-338-2969, contact anc3b@aol.com or visit dcnet.com/anc/3b.

ANC 3C ■ CLEVELAND PARK / WOODLEY PARK MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS

At its March 16 meeting, the

Citizens Association of Georgetown

The National Park Service, in collaboration with the District Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, is preparing an environmental assessment for proposed improvements to portions of the Rock Creek Trail, including the part in Rose Park. We have submitted a statement to the consultants retained by those agencies reiterating our board's long-held position on the changes under consideration.

Along with the Friends of Rose Park and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E, we maintain that the path that winds through the park should remain in its current location and at its current width. But it indeed needs to be renovated, as its current condition is quite hazardous. We also believe that bike traffic should be prohibited on the path because of the dangers of mixing uses on such a narrow path and because of the intense use of the path by children and pedestrians.

We urge the departments and agencies that are studying this matter to listen to the neighborhood and the groups that have cherished and protected Rose Park for many years.

— Denise R. Cunningham

commission:

■ heard a parent report that Eaton Elementary School will apply for a \$1,000 grant to help pay for its spring musical, "Mulan Jr."

■ heard commissioner Josh Hart announce that a "high-end wine and liquor store" is a potential tenant for the space in Sam's Park & Shop formerly occupied by Blockbuster. He said the commission would discuss it at its next meeting.

■ heard a report about the new D.C. Consolidated Forensic Laboratory by Donna Alexander, the lab's community education project coordinator. She said the FBI had long conducted the city's forensic work, but after Sept. 11, 2001, the federal agency indicated that it wanted to discontinue the work.

Alexander said the lab will benefit the city, speeding up the process of doing forensic work. The facility will cost \$220 million, of which the city will cover 60 to 70 percent, with the federal government paying the rest. It will also involve hiring 100 additional employees.

Officials hope to break ground next month on the lab, which will be located in the Metropolitan Police Department 1st District Station, at 415 4th St. SW, Alexander said. The police station will move into the former Anthony Bowen Elementary School, at 101 M St. SW.

The construction contract for the lab has not yet been awarded, but the project is fully funded, she said.

■ voted not to object to plans for a driveway without a curb cut at the British Embassy, as long as the embassy will repair any damages to the curb that trucks might cause.

■ did not object to the addition of a front porch planned for 3010 Ordway St.

■ heard a presentation from interim ombudsman for public education Jeff Ross. Ross, who is not in the running for the permanent position, said the independent office seeks to help those who have concerns with schools that are not being resolved through other channels. The four-person office submits monthly reports to the mayor, deputy mayor for education, D.C. Council and charter school board, as well as posting them on

ombudsman.dc.gov. Ross can be reached at jeff.ross@dc.gov or 202-741-8777.

■ unanimously supported plans for a rear addition at 3210 Macomb St., but with the condition that the Historic Preservation Review Board determine that there is a noticeable division between the old and new structures and that the eastern wall either cannot be seen from Macomb Street or is compatible with the neighborhood.

■ unanimously opposed plans to move a historic house from 3211 Wisconsin Ave. to 3118 Quebec Place. Commissioners cited concerns with the subdivision of the Quebec Place property, the house's proposed placement on the new site, and the precedent that could be set by moving a house that is considered a "contributing structure" to the historic district.

■ unanimously passed a resolution that raises concerns with changes in zoning regulations governing low- and moderate-density residential areas. Commissioners said the proposed rule changes do not include sufficient details on the potential effects. Commissioner Nancy MacWood will testify at an upcoming hearing.

■ tabled a proposal to buy a timer that would allow for easy capping of audience comments.

■ voted 4-3 to buy an LCD projector and screen for use during presentations, such as when an architect is showing plans for a renovation or new building. Commissioner Josh Hart proposed the expenditure of no more than \$1,200 for the equipment, though he said he expects to spend well under that amount.

Members debated whether the equipment is needed at this time. Commissioners Anne Marie Bairstow, Josh Hart, William Kummings and Catherine May supported the resolution; commissioners Leila Afzal, Nancy MacWood and Lee Brian Reba opposed.

The commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. April 20 at the 2nd District Police Headquarters, 3320 Idaho Ave. NW.

For details, call 202-657-5725 or visit anc3c.org.



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REAL ESTATE

NATHANS

From Page 13

Bubes said he named one of his sons Nathan. "In the Jewish religion, you always name your kid after a bar," he joked. "That's why they call it a bar mitzvah."

D.C. bartender Michael Kelly, who worked at Nathans in its early

A few years ago, Joynt's landlords began scouting for a new tenant, and there were murmurs that Nathans might fold — a prospect that its customers dread.

"If Nathans closed, it would be a loss to the city, not only as a restaurant, but as a meeting place," said Shelley Wright of Georgetown.

Ward 2 Council member Jack

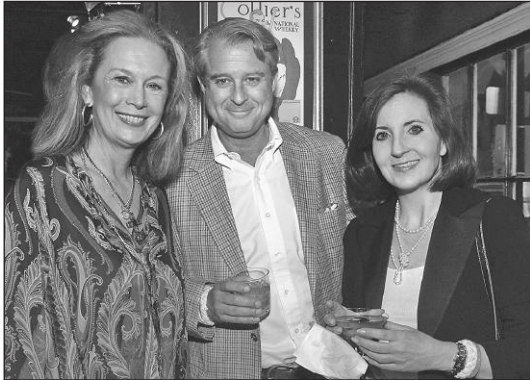
Evans said that even though times are tough for restaurants, he hopes Nathans will pull through. "In an era of chains, we need to celebrate Nathans' existence and keep it around," he said.

Joynt is currently renegotiating the building lease, and she said Nathans will remain open for the foreseeable future. "We always

find a way," she said. "I want this to be a marker. We've made it this far — let's create another generation of stories."

The party guests said they can't imagine a Georgetown without Nathans. Pat McArdle was a freshman at Georgetown University in 1969 when he walked down to Wisconsin and M and saw four businesses on each of the corners: Riggs Bank, the National Bank of Washington, Rive Gauche and Nathans.

"Never would I have guessed that Nathans would be the only one standing today," he said in a speech between courses. "Long live Nathans forever!"



Bill Petros/The Current

Carol Joynt, left, with Adam Mahr and Beckey Bailey at the Nathans 40th anniversary party

years, recounted the time he and Howard blanketed the bar's floor with sod for a laugh.

Lydia Zache, who has been going to Nathans for 20 years, said over the years she's caught sight of comedian Robin Williams, politician John Kerry and actor John Corbett sitting down for a drink.

But the party's festive mood had a somber undertone. Nathans' finances were messy from the outset, and Joynt has struggled year after year to keep the business afloat. She even had to negotiate with the Internal Revenue Service to sort out tax issues. "I'm a human life-support system," she said. "It's a miracle we've made it this far."

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NORTHWEST REAL ESTATE

WATERSHED

From Page 2

Chen, who participated last year and expects to do so again this year. "It's heartwarming."

This year's participants will also include Ward 4 Council member Muriel Bowser and Ward 6 Council member Tommy Wells. Bowser said she hopes to volunteer alongside her counterpart on the Montgomery County Council — Valerie Ervin of District 5 — as she pointed out the watershed issue "is one of those things where borders don't matter."

Both the Alice Ferguson Foundation and

the Friends of Rock Creek's Environment (FORCE), another cleanup sponsor, expect this year to have the largest turnout ever.

The Rock Creek organization alone has increased sites from 15 last year to 45 this year. "We are way stepping up efforts," said executive director Beth Mullin.

So far this year, the Alice Ferguson Foundation has registered 361 cleanup sites, 34 of which are in the District. Organizers said they've had no trouble recruiting volunteers.

"It's really not grueling work," said Cliff Grandy, who is leading the site at the Fenwick Tributary, which the Shepherd Park Citizens Association is sponsoring. "It's just incredi-

ble. There's something about seeing all that trash. It does something to your brain. You're looking at this stream, and there's plastic bags, soda bottles, beer bottles, even automobile tires, car batteries and lawn chairs ... and then you come back two or three days later and you're looking at this clean stream."

Over the years, the cleanup has begun to make a difference — at least it appears so, said Harris. She pointed out that though the cleanup involved a record number of sites and participants last year, it removed less trash than the year before, leading her to speculate that maybe there was less trash to find.

But Harris points out that there is still an

obscene amount of litter in the watershed and that illegal dumping remains a problem. She also fears that the economy may lead more people to illegally dump large objects in Rock Creek Park as opposed to paying for removal.

On local listservs, residents have mentioned seeing illegally dumped items in the park. One saw three doors near Oregon Avenue and another saw a white couch off of 36th Street.

Cleanup sites span much of Northwest, from Pinehurst Tributary in Chevy Chase to Fletcher's Cove in the Palisades. For further directions and a full listing of the cleanup sites, visit potomaccleanup.org.

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RIVERSIDE

From Page 1

psychiatric facility built in the early 1970s at 4460 MacArthur Blvd. The homes would be grouped into six clusters surrounding a central park with a water fountain. The development would be named Canal Parc.

The developers and many in the neighborhood remain at odds over issues of height, density and encroachment on wetlands at the rear of the site. Zoning commissioners said with some tweaking of the project design, they hope the two sides will find a compromise.

"Otherwise, we'll make the tough decision," said commission chair Anthony Hood.

Commissioner Peter May, previously one of the project's harshest critics, said last week that the number of units "is not the root of the problem," but he said a reduction of three or four could help. Instead, the heights and site plans were his primary concerns.

Commissioners gave the developers a laundry list of issues to address in their final submissions. Tops was a response to testimony on behalf of the adjacent Canal View neighborhood. At the March 16 session, Gene Tucker and David Brown, who represented Canal View Homeowners Association,

focused on what they said is an imbalance between what the developers were asking for and what they were willing to give.

Brown said the applicant is seeking zoning allowances on the majority of the site, while offering an amenities package to the community that the city's Office of Planning called "exceptionally light."

"What does the public get for taking an action that greatly improves the value of the property?" asked Brown.

In addition to a response to Brown and Tucker, the zoning commissioners asked the developers to consider reworking the site plan.

"We don't particularly care for it," said commissioner Gregory Jeffries.

Though they are still expressing reservations, the commissioners have appeared increasingly receptive to the plans over time. During the hearing's Dec. 1 opening, most of them told the applicants they would not approve the project as currently designed.

"Although the night did not go as planned, I feel as if it was really productive," project architect Jack McLaurin said at the follow-up Feb. 12 session. On the first night, "I felt like I was on 'American Idol' and the judges told me I picked the really wrong song."

McLaurin said he had tried to

rework his plans to better blend the development in with its urban surroundings, ridding the town-house facades of their "busyness" and adopting a modern take on Tudor and Queen Anne architecture. The architect lowered the heights of the buildings. And he moved the rear retaining wall — long a sticking point for the community — farther from neighboring wetlands and shortened it by roughly 10 feet.

May said at the time that he appreciated that the design had been simplified. He also said relocation of the retaining wall was a vast improvement and applauded the decision to recess the garages.

But while May was less critical than at first, he still held out hope that the developers would return with a more imaginative design.

During the Palisades-Foxhall advisory neighborhood commission's case, titled "Canal Parc: Too much of a good thing," neighborhood commissioner Ann Haas, too, said the community was hoping for a more distinguished design. The commission voted in November to support the project if the developer were to make a series of changes, including increasing green space and reducing density.

"What we'd like to see is something that's going to be a long-term legacy for the community," Haas said. "I frankly think it needs a whole lot more work, to be blunt."

Haas focused her testimony on showing commissioners the community surrounding the site. She argued that the project as planned would set a bad precedent for MacArthur Boulevard.

"The protection of the neighborhood is the responsibility of the Zoning Commission," added colleague Tom DiTonto.

Jeffries tried to resolve the differences between the developers and the neighborhood commission.

"From what I see, the applicant has made some movement," said Jeffries, noting that the developers reduced the number of town houses from 41 to 37. "I have not seen movement on your side."

May, too, tried to manage the neighborhood's expectations. "Ideally, I wouldn't mind seeing a different and more innovative approach to the entire site, but it's hard to imagine we're going to get that," he said.

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NORTHWEST REAL ESTATE

SHOW

From Page 13

us about container gardening in an urban landscape," said Scott.

For some businesses, recent economic woes have meant getting creative as well as keeping up with the latest trends. James Downey, manager of the Richmond showroom of outdoor-furniture company Summer Classics, has banded together with other outdoor specialists — an outdoor-kitchen designer and landscape installer — to give clients one-stop shopping. Together, said Downey, they try to give clients a cohesive look, which, in the Washington area, is most often "relaxed casual — somewhere in that niche between too formal and too casual."

The alliance has helped him respond quickly to the needs of clients who know that they have more bargaining power over merchants now than they did during the housing boom, Downey said. "People that want design services done want them done like that," he said, snapping his fingers.

And they want to be certain of

their service providers, said Lisa Julien of Angie's List, a Web site that allows users to read other subscribers' experiences with home-service providers. Julien reported an uptick in the number of subscribers over the past year.

"People still want to — or need to — have work done on their homes," said Julien, but homeowners are more cautious. "No one's got a backup now," she said. "No one's just hoping for the best."

But surprisingly, the slump in financial markets has driven some consumers who normally would have money tied up in investments toward major home improvements, according to Jimmy Stinson, owner of Broad Creek Kitchens & Millwork, based in Fort Washington, Md.

"People would rather spend it instead of lose it in the markets," said Stinson. "More and more people are telling us they'd rather enjoy their money by putting it in their homes."

Stinson, whose home-show display included a kitchen and bathroom, reported that trends have held steady in those rooms.

Although quartz countertops

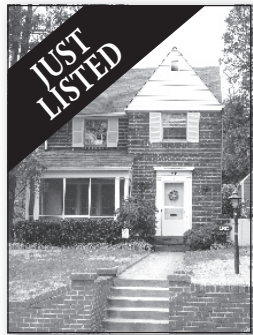
seemed to be gaining on ubiquitous granite for a while, price fluctuations have put granite at a lower price point and back on the top of clients' wish lists, he said.

And those lists haven't gotten any shorter, Stinson claimed. "People aren't cutting back; they don't want any less now than they did last year," he said. "They just want to pay less — what they would have paid \$30,000 for last year, now they want the exact same thing for \$25,000."

Perhaps the dozen or so soothing water features that dotted the convention floor can account for the show's most optimistic retailers, but all interviewed professed a confidence in the resilience of their industry. "These are investments that people can actually see and enjoy — they're always going to want to improve their homes," said Molly Scott.

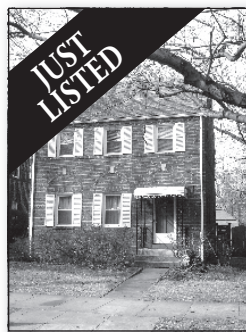
That confidence may be well-placed, at least according to one visitor. Police Chief Cathy Lanier browsed the displays for spring planting ideas. "I love gardening," she said. "It's really my only stress relief. ... I even look forward to mowing."

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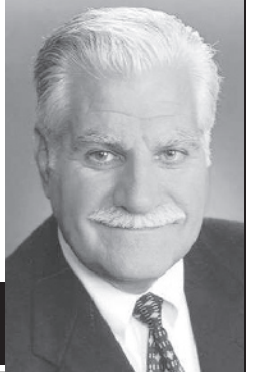


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EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Compiled by Julio Argüello Jr.

Wednesday MARCH 25

Concerts

■ Members of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra will perform Leon Gurrinch's "Oboe Sonata." 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ Jazz pianist Omar Sosa and the Afreecanos Quartet will perform. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Enrique V. Iglesias Conference Center, Inter-American Development Bank, 1330 New York Ave. NW. 202-623-3558.

■ Schola Cantorum, the Chamber Choir of St. Mary's School for Girls in Calne, England, will present "Salvator Mundi," a concert for the season of Lent. 7:30 p.m. Free; donation suggested. St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb St. NW. 202-966-2093.

■ The Washington Performing Arts Society will present mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade and bass-baritone Samuel Ramey performing works by Copland, Berlioz, Gershwin, Offenbach, and Rodgers and Hammerstein. 8 p.m. \$42 to \$87. Concert Hall, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ The Idan Raichel Project will perform Israeli pop music fused with Middle Eastern, African, Indian and other global sounds. 8 p.m. \$30 to \$75. Lisner Auditorium, George Washington University, 730 21st St. NW. 301-808-6900.

■ "Hump Day Groovez" will feature Three Generationz, a traveling musical company dedicated to preserving African and Native American songs and stories. 9 to 11 p.m. \$10. Langston Room, Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW. 202-387-7638.

Discussions and lectures

■ "Stress-testing Central Asia: Financial

Crisis and the Banking Sectors of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan" will feature panelists Sergei Gretskey, professor of political science at Catholic University; William C. Veale, executive director of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Business Association; and Robert S. Pace, former executive director of the American-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce. 5:30 p.m. Free; reservations required. Rome Building Auditorium, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 1619 Massachusetts Ave. NW. 202-663-7723.

■ Mustafa V. Koç, chairman of the board of directors of Koç Holdings, will discuss "A Corporate Responsibility Tradition: Creative Approaches, Rewarding Outcomes." 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Jack Morton Auditorium, Media and Public Affairs Building, George Washington University, 805 21st St. NW. 202-994-5206.

■ Pardiss Kebriaei, attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights' Guantanamo Global Justice Initiative, will discuss her representation of men imprisoned at Guantanamo and the center's network of hundreds of pro bono attorneys representing other prisoners. 7 p.m. Free. Hart Auditorium, McDonough Building, Georgetown University Law Center, 600 New Jersey Ave. NW. 703-519-4486.

■ Thomas Cahill will discuss his book "A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green," about a Texas inmate executed for a murder he steadfastly denied committing. 7 p.m. Free. Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

Films

■ Food & Water Watch will present the documentary "The Water Front," about how outrageous water rates and the risk of privatized service prompted low-income residents of Detroit to mobilize. A discussion with producer Curtis Smith and Food & Water Watch executive director Wenonah Hauter will follow. 6 p.m. Free. Langston Room, Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW. 202-387-7638.

■ "Francophonie Festival 2009," a

monthlong celebration of the French-speaking world, will feature Michel Poulette's 2006 film "Histoire de Famille," about the quiet lives of a family living on a small farm in Quebec's Eastern Townships. 7 p.m. \$13. S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW. 202-633-3030. *The festival will continue through Monday at various venues.*

■ The Echoes of One World Film Festival will kick off with a preview of the film "Gyumri," about the lives of those ravaged by a deadly earthquake. A question-and-answer session with director Jana Sevcikova will follow. 8 p.m. \$10; \$7.50 for seniors, students and ages 10 and younger. Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Ave. NW. theavalon.org. *The festival will continue through Saturday with free screenings at the Goethe-Institut, 812 7th St. NW.*

Reading

■ Theater J will present a staged reading of Caryl Churchill's "Seven Jewish Children," followed by a discussion facilitated by artistic director Ari Roth. 8 p.m. Free; reservations suggested. Washington DC Jewish Community Center, 1529 16th St. NW. theaterj.org. *The reading will repeat Thursday at 10 p.m.*

Special event

■ St. Mary's Court, a senior residence in Foggy Bottom, will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a reception. Proceeds will benefit the medical fund for the building's residents. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$30; reservations required. St. Mary's Court, 725 24th St. NW. 202-223-5712.

Sporting event

■ The Washington Wizards will play the Charlotte Bobcats. 7 p.m. \$40 to \$885. Verizon Center, 601 F St. NW. 202-397-7328.

Thursday MARCH 26

Children's activity

■ A park ranger will lead ages 3 and older on a half-mile "Tyke Hike." 4 p.m. Free. Rock Creek Nature Center, 5200 Glover Road NW. 202-895-6070.

Concert

■ The Vocal Arts Society will present a concert by soprano Susanna Phillips and pianist Craig Terry. 7:30 p.m. \$45. Terrace Theater, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

Discussions and lectures

■ Chief Ojo Maduekwe, Nigeria's foreign affairs minister, will discuss "Democracy and Rule of Law in Nigeria." 10 a.m. to noon. Free; reservations required. Copley Formal Lounge, Georgetown University, 37th and O streets NW. africanstudies@georgetown.edu.

■ Associate curator Diane Wendt will discuss "The Man With a Fish on His Back: Marketing Cod Liver Oil Remedies." Noon. Free. Second floor, National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-633-1000.

■ Joseph Cunningham, curator of the American Decorative Art 1900 Foundation, will discuss the work of Greene & Greene while highlighting several pieces the foun-



Thursday, MARCH 26

■ **Concert:** The Music Institute of Chicago's Stars of the Academy — Quartet Polaris members Vincent Meklis, Matthew Lipman, Andrea Jarrett and Gabriel Cabezas and pianists Paul Juhn and Kate Liu — will perform works by Rachmaninoff, Balakirev, Waxman, Puccini and Bartók. 4 to 5 p.m. Free; reservations required. Kreeger Museum, 2401 Foxhall Road NW. 202-338-3552.

dation has loaned to the current exhibition. Noon. Free. Grand Salon, Renwick Gallery, 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. 202-633-1000.

■ Dennis Ringle will discuss his book "Life in Mr. Lincoln's Navy." Noon. Free. U.S. Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. 202-737-2300.

■ Washington National Cathedral will host a lecture on "How in the World Did They Build Washington National Cathedral?" 2:30 p.m. Free. Perry Auditorium, Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW. 202-537-6200. *The lecture will occur weekly through June 25.*

■ Photographer Robert Frank will discuss his work. 3:30 p.m. Free. East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-737-4215.

■ Lincoln's Cottage curator Erin Carlson will discuss Pierre Morand's portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln. 6 to 6:30 p.m. Free. National Portrait Gallery, 8th and F streets NW. 202-633-1000.

■ The Phillips Collection will present a talk about how Giorgio Morandi's reclusive nature may have influenced his paintings. 6 and 7 p.m. \$12; \$10 for seniors and students; free for ages 18 and younger. Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW. 202-387-2151.

■ The D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence will host a discussion on "Your Relationship: Is it Healthy?" 6 to 7 p.m. Free. YMCA National Capital, 1711 Rhode Island Ave. NW. 202-299-1181.

■ In celebration of Women's History Month, four women who direct area museums — Camille Giraud Akeju of the Anacostia Community Museum, Leslie Buhler of Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, Dorothy Kosinski (shown) of The Phillips Collection and Susan Fisher Sterling of the National Museum of Women in the Arts — will discuss the role of women in the nation's cultural life. 6:30 p.m. \$25; \$10 for students. National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1250 New York Ave. NW. 703-231-5242.

■ Phillips Collection chief curator Eliza

Rathbone will moderate a discussion about Giorgio Morandi's sources, influences and place in art history. Panelists will include artist William Bailey; curator James Demetrios, former director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; and art historian and critic Karen Wilkin. 6:30 p.m. \$12; \$10 for seniors and students; free for ages 18 and younger. Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW. 202-387-2151.

■ Catherine Donnelly, professor of nutrition and food science at the University of Vermont and co-director of the Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese, will discuss "Say Cheese! Understanding the Living Foods We Eat." 6:30 to 8 p.m. \$15; reservations required. Marian Koshland Science Museum, 500 5th St. NW. 202-334-1843.

■ Astronomer Alan Boss, an authority on the formation of stars and planets, will discuss "The Search for Living Planets." 6:45 p.m. \$25. Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1530 P St. NW. 202-633-3030.

■ Artist Raphael M. Ortiz will discuss his use of technology, found objects and cultural artifacts to infuse his performances, sculpture, film and video art with social, historical and political resonance. 7 p.m. Free. Smithsonian American Art Museum, 8th and F streets NW. 202-633-1000.

■ David Burnett will discuss his book "Soul Rebel: Intimate Portraits of Bob Marley." 7 p.m. Free. Borders, 5333 Wisconsin Ave. NW. 202-686-8270.

■ Sarah Cash, curator of American art at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, will discuss G.P.A. Healy's historically significant portrait of a beardless Abraham Lincoln. 7 p.m. \$10; \$8 for seniors, military personnel and students. Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St. NW. 202-639-1774.

■ Duke University law professor Jedediah Purdy will discuss his book "A Tolerable Anarchy: Rebels, Reactionaries, and the Making of American Freedom." 7 p.m. Free. Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

■ Jeffrey Magee, associate professor of music at the University of Illinois-Champaign, will discuss "Now It Can Be Told: The Unknown Irving Berlin." 7 p.m. Free. Coolidge Auditorium, Thomas Jefferson Building, Library of Congress, 10 1st St. SE. 202-707-6937.

■ Colleen Jolly will discuss "Demystifying Frida Kahlo" as part of the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop lecture series. 7 to 9 p.m. \$10; reservations required. Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, 545 7th St. SE. 202-547-6839.

■ Harvard University professor John Stauffer (shown), author Nick Kotz and National Public Radio correspondent Juan Williams will discuss "Uneasy Partners: Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, LBJ and Martin Luther King Jr." 7 p.m. Free. Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-633-1000.

■ Israeli illustrator and animator David Polonsky will discuss his work as art director and lead artist on Ari Folman's 2008 film "Waltz With Bashir," an animated documentary about Folman's recollections of



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EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

serving as a soldier during the 1982 war in Lebanon. 8 p.m. Free. Ring Auditorium, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, 7th Street and Independence Avenue SW. 202-633-1000.

Performance

■ Students from Chantilly High School in Virginia will present a one-act version of "The Taming of the Shrew" and the spoof "15 Reasons Not To Do A Play." 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

Special event

■ "Tudor Nights: Wine With Washington" will feature wine blends that George Washington would have enjoyed, as well as local blends from his home state of Virginia. 6 to 8 p.m. \$10; reservations required. Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, 1644 31st St. NW. 202-965-0400, ext. 100.

Friday MARCH 27

Class

■ Don Woodruff will lead a class on "The Vocabulary Experience." 6 to 9 p.m. \$45. First Class Inc., 1726 20th St. NW. 202-797-5102.

Concerts

■ The Friday Morning Music Club will perform works by Debussy, Puccini and Rachmaninoff. Noon. Free. Sumner School Museum, 1201 17th St. NW. 202-333-2075.

■ The Covington String Quartet will perform. Noon. Free. Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I St. NW. 202-331-7282.

■ The Friday Music Series will present the Washington Balalaika Society performing traditional Russian folk songs. 1:15 p.m. Free. McNeir Hall, Georgetown University, 37th and O streets NW. 202-687-6933.

■ Middle C Music faculty members will perform. 6 p.m. Free. Middle C Music, 4530 Wisconsin Ave. NW. 202-244-7326.

■ The Music Institute of Chicago's Stars of the Academy will perform works by Brahms, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Bartók, Glazunov, Waxman, Paganini and Scriabin. 7:30 p.m. \$8 to \$15. Terrace Theater, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ Concert pianist Berenika will perform. 8 p.m. Free. McNeir Hall, Georgetown University, 37th and O streets NW. 202-687-3838.

Discussions and lectures

■ "The Struggle to Vote: The Right to Political Self-determination in the District and Beyond" will feature panelists Wade Henderson, president and chief executive officer of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Walter Smith, executive director of the D.C. Appleseed Center; Johnny Barnes, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area; Ilir Zherka (shown), executive director of DC Vote; Timothy Cooper, executive director of Worldrights; and Seigfried Wiessner, professor at the St. Thomas University School of Law. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free; reservations required. Windows Room, Building 38, University of the District



of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, 4200 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-274-7362.

■ Conservators and curators from the National Portrait Gallery, Museum of Modern Art and Philadelphia Museum of Art will discuss the results of artist Jean Crotti's examination of two drawings by Marcel Duchamp. 10 a.m. Free. National Portrait Gallery, 8th and F streets NW. 202-633-1000.

■ Experts will discuss "China in Africa: Energy and Influence." 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free; reservations required. Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW. 410-245-7213.

■ Roger Frie, associate professor at Simon Fraser University, will discuss the field of psychology. Noon to 2 p.m. Free. Jack Morton Auditorium, Media and Public Affairs Building, George Washington University, 805 21st St. NW. 202-496-6261.

■ Russell Crandall, associate professor of political science at Davidson College, will discuss his book "The United States and Latin America After the Cold War." Noon. Free; reservations required. Room 417, Nitze Building, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW. 202-663-5734.

■ Ritu Sharma Fox, executive director of Women Thrive Worldwide, will discuss "Gender, Politics and Poverty." 12:30 p.m. Free; reservations required. Room 200, Rome Building, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 1619 Massachusetts Ave. NW. 202-663-5943.

■ University of Virginia professors Michael Kubovy and Judith Shatin will discuss the semantic elements of music. 6:15 p.m. Free. Whittall Pavilion, Thomas Jefferson Building, Library of Congress, 10 1st St. SE. 202-707-2329.

■ Karen Greenberg will discuss her book "The Least Worst Place: Guantanamo's First 100 Days." 7 p.m. Free. Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

■ Elizabeth Gilbert — author of the memoir "Eat, Pray, Love," about her international quest for balance in pleasure, faith and love — will discuss "Divine Sanity — Thoughts on Creative Life." 8 p.m. \$22. Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW. 202-544-7077.



Performances

■ Students of the John Sayles School of Fine Arts in Schenectady, N.Y., will perform. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ Jamie Adkins will present "Circus Incognitus," featuring his clowning and acrobatic feats on the ground and on a slack wire. 7:30 p.m. \$18. Family Theater, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600. *The performance will repeat Saturday at 1:30, 4 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 and 4 p.m.*

■ The Congressional Chorus will present "The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Capitol Hill," a candlelit cabaret celebrating American music of the 1940s. 8 p.m. \$35. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St.



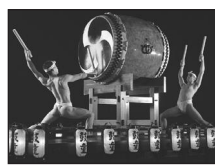
Saturday, MARCH 28

■ **Concert:** The Washington Performing Arts Society will present the London Symphony Orchestra and pianist Alexei Volodin performing works by Prokofiev and Beethoven. 4 p.m. \$42 to \$97. Concert Hall, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

NE. 202-399-7993. *The performance will repeat Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m.*

■ The Paul Taylor Dance Company will present "De Sueños," "De Sueños que se Repiten" and "Beloved Renegade" as part of the Kennedy Center's celebration of American modern dance. 8 p.m. \$22 to \$65. Eisenhower Theater, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600. *The performance will repeat Saturday at 2:30 and 8 p.m.*

■ The Washington Performing Arts Society will present the Kodo Drummers



performing a high-energy, athletic reinterpretation of traditional Japanese arts. 8 p.m. \$24 to

\$53. DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St. NW. 202-785-9727.

Sporting event

■ The Washington Capitals will play the Tampa Bay Lightning. 7 p.m. \$25 to \$250. Verizon Center, 601 F St. NW. 202-397-7328.

Saturday MARCH 28

Book sale

■ Friends of the Cleveland Park Library will hold its semiannual used-book sale. Noon to 4 p.m. Free admission. Cleveland Park Neighborhood Library, 3310 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-282-3080. *The sale will continue Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.*

Book signing

■ Steve Greenberg will sign copies of his book "Gadget Nation: A Journey Through the Eccentric World of Invention." 1 p.m. Free. Main Store, National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-633-1000.

Children's activity

■ A park ranger will teach ages 8 and older how to identify an animal by looking at its scat. 4 p.m. Free. Rock Creek Nature Center, 5200 Glover Road NW. 202-895-6070.

Classes and workshops

■ Don Woodruff will lead a class on "Power Learning: Unlock the Potential of Your Mind." 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$45. First

Class Inc., 1726 20th St. NW. 202-797-5102.

■ Author and horticulturist Jessica Walliser will discuss "Organic Container Gardening." 1 to 2:30 p.m. \$12; registration required. Conservatory Classroom, U.S. Botanic Garden, 100 Maryland Ave. SW. 202-225-1116.

■ Artists and educators Ron Riley and Doris Colbert Kennedy will present a hands-on workshop, "Painting & Charcoal: Come Discover Your Inner Artist." 2 to 4 p.m. Free; reservations required. Foundry Gallery, 1314 18th St. NW. 202-463-0203.

Concerts

■ The George Washington University Music Department will present "The Splendor of the Harpsichord." 11 a.m. Post Hall, George Washington University Mount Vernon Campus, 2100 Foxhall Road NW. 202-994-6245.

■ The Beau Soir Ensemble, featuring Lauren Panfil on flute and Michelle Myers Lundy on harp, will perform works spanning all eras of classical music. 1:30 p.m. Free. Society of the Cincinnati, Anderson House, 2118 Massachusetts Ave. NW. 202-783-2040.

■ The Washington Conservatory of Music and Washington Performing Arts Society will present a master class with pianist Richard Goode. 2 p.m. Free; donations suggested. Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, 1 Westmoreland Circle. 301-320-2770.

■ Vibraphonist and 2005 Betty Carter Jazz Ahead alum Christian Tamburr will lead his quartet, performing works from his recordings "Move" and "Arrivals." 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ Saxophone students of Peter Fraize will perform in a recital. 6 p.m. Free. Middle C Music, 4530 Wisconsin Ave. NW. 202-244-7326.

■ The Left Bank Concert Society will present an eclectic concert that will include the trenchant writing of Korean composer Isang Yun, the offbeat combinations

devised by American composers Charles Wuorinen and Lawrence Moss, and the softness of Robert Schumann's last string quartet. 7:30 p.m. \$30. Terrace Theater, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ The Marlow Guitar Series will feature Spanish classical guitarist Margarita Escarpa. 8 p.m. \$25; \$12.50 for ages 18 through 22; free for ages 9 through 17. Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, 1 Westmoreland Circle. 301-654-6403.

■ Vocalist Jil Aigrot, who starred in the Oscar-winning film "La Vie en Rose" as the voice of singing legend Edith Piaf, will perform. 8 p.m. \$20 to \$35. Lisner Auditorium, George Washington University, 730 21st St. NW. 301-808-6900.



Discussions and lectures

■ Mary Pipher will discuss her memoir "Seeking Peace: Chronicles of the Worst Buddhist in the World," at 1 p.m.; and Colin MacKinnon will discuss his thriller "The Contractor," at 6 p.m. Free. Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

■ Editors Barbara A. Seals Nevergold and Peggy Brooks-Bertram will discuss their book "Go, Tell Michelle: African American Women Write to the New First Lady," a collection of letters and poems that celebrate a newfound hope and speak to a strong sisterhood with Michelle Obama. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Langston Room, Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW. 202-387-7638.

Festivals

■ The Georgetown Theatre Company, Women in Film & Video and Doorway Arts Ensemble Theater Company will host an 11-hour SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day event. Activities will include performances, readings and film screenings at various venues. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free. georgetowntheatre.org/swanday2009.

■ The National Building Museum and the National Cherry Blossom Festival will celebrate Japanese arts and design with a family day featuring hands-on activities, martial arts demonstrations and performances. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free. National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW. 202-272-2448.

See **Events**/Page 28



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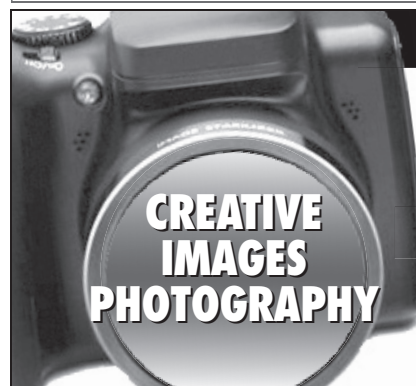


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EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Continued From Page 27

■ The 43rd annual Smithsonian Kite Festival will feature displays, demonstrations and handmade kite competitions. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Washington Monument grounds, 15th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-633-1000.

Films

■ The National Gallery of Art will present Michel Ocelot's animated film "Azur and Asmar." 10:30 a.m. Free. East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-737-4215. *The film will be shown again Sunday at 11:30 a.m.*

■ The National Cherry Blossom Anime Marathon will feature screenings of "Animal Treasure Island," "Evangelion 1.0: You Are (Not) Alone," "Vexille" and "The Girl Who Leapt Through Time," along with a costume show, exhibition and dancers presented by the DC Anime Club. 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Free; tickets required. Meyer Auditorium, Freer Gallery of Art, 12th Street and Independence Avenue SW. 202-633-1000.

■ The National Archives will present the 1933 film "King Kong," starring Fay Wray and Robert Armstrong. Noon. Free. McGowan Theater, National Archives Building, 7th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-357-5000.

■ The Phillips Collection will present Pier Paolo Pasolini's 1961 film "Accattone," about the life of a shiftless pimp and his circle of prostitutes and thieves. 1 p.m. \$12; \$10 for seniors and students; free for ages 18 and younger. Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW. 202-387-2151, ext. 247.

■ "In the Realm of Oshima," a look at films of Japanese director Nagisa Oshima, will feature the filmmaker's 1961 film "The Catch," at 2 p.m.; and his 1926 film "Shiro Amakusa, the Christian Rebel," at 4 p.m.

Free. East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-737-4215.

Performances

■ The "Saturday Morning at the National" series will feature Synetic Theater's "Galactika," about star-struck Captain Galactika's comical quest to conquer the cosmos. 9:30 and 11 a.m. Free. Helen Hayes Gallery, National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. 202-783-3372.

■ Participants in the Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program will perform scenes by American composers. 3 p.m. Free. Grand Salon, Renwick Gallery, 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. 202-633-1000.

■ Area choreographers Jane Jerardi and Daniel Burkholder will present "My ocean is never blue" and "Perspective." 8 p.m. \$22; \$17 for students, teachers, seniors and artists; \$8 for ages 17 and younger. Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE. 202-269-1600. *The performance will repeat Sunday at 7 p.m.*

Special event

■ A resource fair for older adults and their families will feature seminars and information on topics such as retirement living, grocery delivery services, money management and home repair services. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Friendship Terrace Retirement Community, 4201 Butterworth Place NW. 202-364-0020.

Sporting events

■ The Washington Wizards will play the Detroit Pistons. 7 p.m. \$40 to \$885. Verizon Center, 601 F St. NW. 202-397-7328.

■ D.C. United will play the Chicago Fire. 7:30 p.m. \$22 to \$50. RFK Memorial Stadium, 2400 East Capitol St. SE. 202-397-7328.

Walk

■ Washington Walks will present "The



Sunday, MARCH 29

■ **Concert:** Pianist Alon Goldstein will perform. 4 p.m. \$12; \$10 for seniors and students; free for ages 18 and younger. Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW. 202-387-2151.

Blossom Secrets Stroll," about the stories and secrets behind the delicate cheery blossoms along the Tidal Basin. 2 p.m. \$10. Meet outside the Independence Avenue exit to the Smithsonian Metrorail station. 202-484-1565. *The walk will repeat March 29 and April 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 2 p.m. and March 30 and April 3, 6 and 10 at 10 a.m.*

Sunday MARCH 29

Book signing

■ Ann McClellan will sign copies of her book "The Cherry Blossom Festival: Sakura Celebration." 1 p.m. Free. Main Store, National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-633-1000.

Classes and workshops

■ Kate Miller will present "Finding Our Wings: A Therapeutic Shoulder Workshop." 1 to 3:30 p.m. \$50. Circle Yoga, 3838 Northampton St. NW. 202-686-1104.

■ Choreographer and dance instructor Shira Goldberg will lead a class on "Learn the Choreography to Beyoncé's 'All the Single Ladies' Dance Video." 2 to 4 p.m. \$35. First Class Inc., 1726 20th St. NW. 202-797-5102.

Concerts

■ James Madison University's School of Music will present the Madison Singers and the James Madison University Chorale performing works by Menotti, Raminsh, Vaughan Williams and Haney. 2 p.m. \$25. Terrace Theater, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ Chevy Chase Concerts will present the University of Maryland's Men's Chorus. 4 p.m. Free. Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, 1 Chevy Chase Circle NW. 202-363-2202.

■ The Embassy Series will present concert pianist Kevin Kenner performing works by Beethoven, Liszt and Chopin. 5 p.m. \$50. La Maison Française, 4101 Reservoir Road NW. 202-625-2361.

■ Soprano Rosa Lamoreaux (shown), countertenors Roger Isaacs and Chris



Dudley, tenor Tony Boutté and baritone Trevor Scheunemann will join the Choral Arts Society of Washington to present "Masterpieces From the British Isles," featuring works by Purcell, Britten and Vaughan Williams. 5 p.m. \$15 to \$45. National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Ave. NW. 202-244-3669.

■ The Washington Toho Koto Society will present a concert. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ The National Gallery Orchestra and pianist Alan Mandel will perform works by Barber, Hanson and Siegmeyer. 6:30 p.m. Free. West Garden Court, National Gallery of Art, 6th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-737-4215.

■ The George Washington University Music Department will present a concert by Camerata Primavera. 7 p.m. Free. Post Hall, George Washington University Mount Vernon Campus, 2100 Foxhall Road NW. 202-994-6245.

Discussions and lectures

■ Planetary scientist Connie Bertka, former director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Program for Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion, will discuss "Darwin and God: Exploring Evolution." 10:10 a.m. Free. Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW. 202-364-6616.

■ Mark N. Ozer will discuss his book "The Litvak Legacy," about the emigration of a million Lithuanian Jews from Lithuania from the 1880s to the 1920s to establish new homes around the world. 10:30 a.m. Free. Washington Hebrew Congregation, 3935 Macomb St. NW. 202-895-7100.

■ A panel discussion on "The Importance of Social Justice" will feature Rabbi Benjamin W. Mintz, professor of law at Catholic University; the Rev. John C. Haughey, senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University; and S. Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana, assistant professor of international peace and conflict resolution at American University. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free.

Duffy Parish Center, Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 3630 Quesada St. NW. 202-244-7691.

■ Timothy James Clark, professor of art history at the University of California at Berkeley, will discuss "Room" as part of his lecture series on "Picasso and Truth." 2 p.m. Free. East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-737-4215.

■ Vladka Shiova and Joan Mitchie will discuss "Blavatsky's Tibet: A Travelogue." 3 to 4 p.m. Free. West End Neighborhood Library, 1101 24th St. NW. 202-332-1660.

■ Jack Greer will discuss his book "Abraham's Bay & Other Stories." 5 p.m. Free. Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

Films

■ The Kennedy Center will present Michelle Parkerson's film "But Then, She's Betty Carter," about the legendary jazz vocalist. A discussion with artists who shared the stage with Carter will follow. 4 p.m. \$15. Terrace Gallery, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ "In the Realm of Oshima," a look at films of Japanese director Nagisa Oshima, will feature the filmmaker's 1971 film "The Ceremony," a satirical allegory of Japan's postwar predicament. 4:30 p.m. Free. East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-737-4215.

Reading

■ The Washington Shakespeare Readers will hold a participatory reading of "The Winter's Tale." 1 p.m. Free. Second-floor reading room, Chevy Chase Neighborhood Library, 5625 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-282-0021.

Monday MARCH 30

Classes

■ Vanessa Alsondo will lead a class on "Crochet 101." 6 to 8 p.m. \$39. First Class Inc., 1726 20th St. NW. 202-797-5102.

■ A Passover wine-tasting class will focus on kosher wines from Israel and around the world. 7 to 8:30 p.m. \$25; registration required. Washington DC Jewish Community Center, 1529 16th St. NW. 202-777-3268.

Concerts

■ The University of Maryland Brass Quintet will perform works by Eric Ewazen and Victor Ewald, and the Saint James School Choir of Maryland will perform its varied repertoire. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ Slovenian folk-rock musician Vlado Kreslin will perform. 9 p.m. Free. Langston Room, Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW. 202-387-7638.

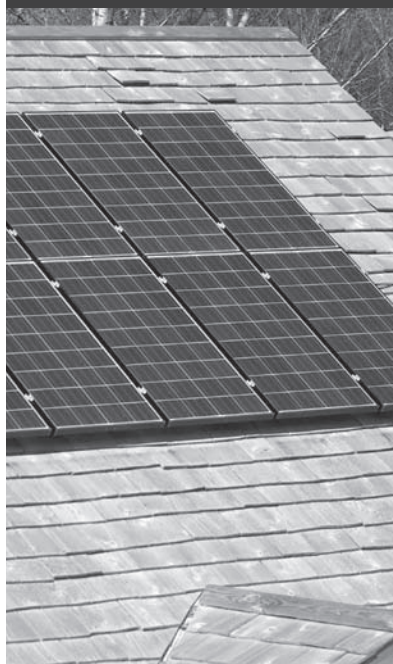


Discussions and lectures

■ The National Museum of African American History and Culture will host a two-day symposium on the history and impact of the black power movement of the 1960s and 1970s. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Free; reservations suggested. McEvoy Auditorium, Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery, 8th and F streets NW. 202-633-3030. *The symposium will continue Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

See **Events**/Page 29

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EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Continued From Page 28

4:30 p.m.

■ Melanie Gifford and John Gordy of the National Gallery of Art will discuss "The Fall of Phaeton": Exploring Rubens' Creative Process Through an Interactive Web Feature." 12:10 and 1:10 p.m. Free. East Building Small Auditorium, National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. 202-737-4215.

■ Andrés Alonso, chief executive officer of the Baltimore City Public Schools and former deputy chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, will discuss "Urban Education: America's Inner-city Schools." 5:30 p.m. Free. Aquinas Hall Auditorium, Catholic University, 620 Michigan Ave. NE. 202-319-5955.

■ Anne Wagner, professor of modern art at the University of California at Berkeley, will discuss artistic responses to globalization. 5:30 p.m. Free; registration required. Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW. 202-387-2151.

■ Doloris Coulter Cogan will discuss her book "We Fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy." 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Langston Room, Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW. 202-387-7638.

■ "By the Way: Designing Views of the Natural Landscape," about the history and current state of scenic byways in the United States and Europe, will feature Norwegian architects Henning Koland and Tommie Wilhemsen and Scenic America director of conservation services Brad Cownover. 6:30 to 8 p.m. \$20; \$12 for students. National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW. 202-272-2448.

■ Georgetown University's Lannan Literary Programs will present "Cry Havoc! Poetry of War and Remembrance, 1968-2008," a two-day symposium and festival. Seymour Hersh (shown), Father Daniel Berrigan and Amy Goodman will join other poets, critics, journalists and artists as they recall the lessons of war over the past half-century. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Gaston Hall, Georgetown University, 37th and O streets NW. 202-687-6315. *The event will continue Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. with events at various venues on campus.*

■ Sociologist William Julius Wilson, a professor at Harvard University, will discuss his book "More Than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City." 7 p.m. Free. Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

■ Landscape architect Wolfgang Oehme, co-creator of the innovative New American Garden style, will discuss his free-form designs. 7 p.m. \$25. Hammer Auditorium, Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St. NW. 202-639-1770.

■ Imran Ahmad will discuss his book "Unimagined — A Muslim Boy Meets the West," about growing up torn between his Islamic identity and his desire to embrace the West. 7:30 p.m. Free. Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St. NW. 202-882-6650.

Film

■ "Globalization — Threat or Opportunity?" will feature Erwin Wagenhofer's 2005 documentary "We Feed the World," about the origins of the food we eat. 6:30 p.m. \$6. Goethe-Institut,

812 7th St. NW. 202-289-1200.

Performance

■ The "Monday Night at the National" series will present City at Peace's teen participants performing dramatic scenes based on real-life experiences. 6 and 7:30 p.m. Free. Helen Hayes Gallery, National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. 202-783-3372.

Tuesday MARCH 31

Concerts

■ Classical guitarist Chris Anderson will perform works by Bach, Falla, Granados and Giuliani. 12:10 p.m. Free. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW. 202-347-2635, ext. 18.

■ The Washington-Lee High School Jazz Big Band of Arlington and the Heritage High School TWELVE jazz choir of Leesburg, Va., will perform. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600.

■ The Georgetown University Jazz Ensemble will perform new and classic arrangements. 8 p.m. \$5; free for students. McNeir Hall, Georgetown University, 37th and O streets NW. 202-687-2787.

Discussions and lectures

■ Diana Hollingsworth Gessler will discuss her book "Very Washington, D.C.: A Celebration of the History and Culture of the Nation's Capital." Noon. Free. Borders, 1801 K St. NW. 202-466-4999.

■ Herman Belz, professor emeritus of history at the University of Maryland, will discuss "Lincoln and the Constitution." 4 p.m. Free. Monsignor Stephen J. Happel Room, Caldwell Hall, Catholic University, 620 Michigan Ave. NE. 202-319-5600.

■ Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, chair of the Democratic National Committee, will discuss the U.S. political scene and plans for the Democratic Party. 6 p.m. \$45; reservations required. Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW. 202-223-7363.

■ Randy Shaw will discuss his book "Beyond the Fields: Cesar Chavez, the UFW and the Struggle for Justice in the 21st Century." 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Langston Room, Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW. 202-387-7638.

■ "Sustainable Communities: Water Knows No Boundaries," about how to clean up watersheds that cross multiple jurisdictions, will feature panelists Will Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Iris Miller, professor at Catholic University; and Ward 6 D.C. Council member Tommy Wells (shown). 6:30 to 8 p.m. \$20; \$12 for students. National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW. 202-272-2448.

■ Leslie H. Gelb, president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, will discuss his book "Power Rules: How Common Sense Can Rescue Foreign Policy." 7 p.m. Free. Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

Film

■ The launch of Genocide Prevention Month will feature a preview of Righteous Pictures' forthcoming documentary "The Last Survivor," about four survivors who have taken up anti-genocide advocacy. Afterward, former CNN anchor Andrea



Wednesday, APRIL 1

■ **Tasting:** Author Trevor Corson, world-renowned chef Hiroko Shimbo (shown) and sake expert Michael John Simkin will guide a tasting of sustainable sushi and sake. 7 p.m. \$95. Grosvenor Auditorium, National Geographic, 1600 M St. NW. 202-857-7700.

Koppel will moderate a discussion among a group of survivors, anti-genocide advocates, policy experts and the filmmakers. 7 p.m. \$6. Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, 600 I St. NW. 202-408-3100.

Reading

■ Solas Nua will host a reading by Brian Lynch, author of "The Winner of Sorrow." 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I St. NW. solasnua.org.

Special events

■ "Cathedral Crossroads" will feature a workshop with Randon Billings Noble about how different writers have described their spiritual journeys. 6 to 8:45 p.m. Free. Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW. 202-537-6200.

■ "Women Artists/Women Healing: Multicultural Artistic Narratives of Trauma and Survival," featuring literary readings, performances, exhibitions and facilitated discussions, will focus on "The Fragile Body: Restoring Health and Healing." 6 to 9 p.m. Free. CentroNia, 1420 Columbia Road NW. 202-841-7182.

Tour

■ Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens will present a guided tour of Marjorie Merriweather Post's Japanese-style garden. 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. \$12; \$10 for seniors; \$7 for students; \$5 for ages 6 through 18; free for ages 5 and younger. Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Ave. NW. 202-586-5807. *The tour will be offered again Wednesday at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.*

Wednesday APRIL 1

Concerts

■ Jazz pianist Roger Smith will perform. 12:30 p.m. Free. Hammer Auditorium, Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St. NW. 202-639-1770.

■ The 12th anniversary of "Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead" will feature a performance by jazz artists completing their week-long residency at the Kennedy Center. 6 p.m. Free. Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600. *The concert will repeat Thursday and Friday at 6 p.m.*

Discussions and lectures

■ Terry Crowley will discuss his book "Deceiving Hitler: The Masterman Memorandum." Noon to 1 p.m. Free. International Spy Museum, 800 F St. NW. 202-393-7798.

■ Artist Joel Ross will discuss his exploration of the road as a mythic presence in the American psyche. 5:30 p.m. Free; registration required. Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW. 202-387-2151.

■ Australian journalist Paul McGeough will discuss his book "Kill Khalid: The Failed Mossad Assassination Attempt of

Khalid Mishal and the Rise of Hamas." 7 p.m. Free. Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

■ Author, librarian and historian Sibyl E. Moses will discuss her book "African American Women Writers in New Jersey, 1836-2000: A Biographical Dictionary and Bibliographic Guide." 7 p.m. Free, donations accepted. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. SW. 202-554-3222.

■ Diana Hollingsworth Gessler will discuss her book "Very Washington, D.C.: A Celebration of the History and Culture of the Nation's Capital." 7:30 p.m. Free. Barnes & Noble, 3040 M St. NW. 202-965-9880.

Performance

■ The CityDance Ensemble will perform. Noon. Free. Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW. 202-547-1122.

Reading

■ Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post staff writer Anne Hull will read from her work. 8 p.m. Free. Butler Board Room, Butler Pavilion, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW. 202-885-2971.



Special event

■ An exhibit about anti-apartheid activist Helen Suzman, a member of the South African Parliament for 36 years, will open with a reception and remarks by her daughter, Frances Suzman Jowell, and a close ally, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Joseph Lelyveld. 5 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Intercultural Center, Georgetown University, 37th and O streets NW. africanstudies@georgetown.edu.

Sporting event

■ The Washington Capitals will play the New York Islanders. 7 p.m. \$25 to \$250. Verizon Center, 601 F St. NW. 202-397-7328.

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EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Washington Savoyards bring 'Iolanthe' to D.C.

The Washington Savoyards will present Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe" Friday through April 5 at the Atlas Performing Arts Center.

Iolanthe, a fairy, marries a mortal, and her son, Strephon, is half-

On STAGE

fairy, half-mortal. Strephon loves Phyllis, and she loves him, but the entire House of Lords loves her as well, especially the Lord Chancellor. Fairies never age, so Iolanthe looks 17, and Phyllis doesn't believe she's Strephon's mother, so she leaves him to marry a politician. Upset, the fairies send Strephon to Parliament and cast a spell to ensure that all his legislation is passed — including a bill requiring that politicians be elected because of their intelligence.

Performance times are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets cost \$20 to \$40, with free admission for ages 16 and younger with a paying ticket holder. Atlas is located at 1333 H St. NE. 202-399-7993; savoyards.org.

■ **Ford's Theatre** will present "The Civil War" Friday through May 24.

A landscape of the people, voices and sentiments of the American Civil War, this song-cycle is inspired by the words of Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, as well as the lives of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

Performance times generally are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets cost \$16 to \$53. Ford's Theatre is located at 511 10th St. NW. 202-397-7328; fords.org.

■ **Georgetown University's**



The Washington Savoyards' production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe" will open Friday at the Atlas Performing Arts Center.

Mask & Bauble Dramatic Society is presenting "Jekyll and Hyde" through Sunday in Poulton Hall.

When Dr. Jekyll conducts research to isolate the evil in human nature, using himself as a lab rat, he turns into the uncontrollable and evil Mr. Hyde. The musical follows the struggle between these two alter egos and the people in their lives. Mask & Bauble is reinterpreting this Victorian tale to explore questions of genetic research.

Performance times are 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$12; \$8 for students. Georgetown University is located at 37th and O streets NW. 202-687-2787; performingarts.georgetown.edu.

■ **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** will present the world premiere of Robert O'Hara's "Antebellum" Monday through April 26.

Part mystery, part Hollywood romance, O'Hara's new play bridges time, space, religion and race to track a love affair that

defies history's harshest cruelties.

Performance times are generally 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday. Pay-what-you-can previews will be held March 30 and 31 at 8 p.m. Otherwise, tickets cost \$26 to \$60. Woolly Mammoth is located at 641 D St. NW. 202-393-3939; woollymammoth.net.

■ **National Theatre** will host "Chicago" Tuesday through April 12.

Set amid the razzle-dazzle decadence of the 1920s, "Chicago" is the story of Roxie Hart, a housewife and nightclub dancer who maliciously murders her on-the-side lover after he threatens to walk out on her. Desperate to avoid conviction, she hires one of Chicago's slickest criminal lawyers to transform her crime into a barrage of sensational headlines.

Performance times are generally 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$35.25 to \$82.50. The theater is located at 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. 866-276-2947; nationaltheatre.org.

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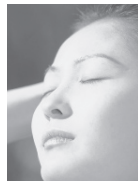
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EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Artist Maya Lin brings the landscape inside

By MARK LONGAKER
Current Correspondent

“You use the landscape. You don’t fight with it. You absorb the landscape ...”

— Artist and architect Maya Lin, describing the philosophy behind her design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall.

Lin’s memorial met some resistance at first because of its minimalist design, essentially a long stone wall inscribed with the names of the more than 58,000 U.S. casualties of the Vietnam War. It looks about as dramatic as the gently rolling parkland it inhabits. But that’s the point. Lin designed the memorial on site, to blend in, to “absorb the landscape.”

Its power comes from its natural setting, and from traversing the gently downward-sloping path past the wall with all those names on it. The path concentrates visitors at its deepest point, bringing them into some sort of communion with each other and the war’s dead and missing.

The Wall, as it’s called, personifies the war in a meditative setting and now, a quarter century on, has received high praise from most quarters. Certainly its approval rat-



Above, “2X4 Landscape,” wood, courtesy of PaceWildenstein; left, “Waterline,” aluminum tubing and paint, courtesy of PaceWildenstein

ing exceeds that of the World War II Memorial, dedicated five years ago at the other end of the Reflecting Pool. This monument to a larger war, centered on a plaza the size of a football field plunked down on the landscape, seems impersonal by comparison. Some have even called it “bombastic,” “vainglorious” and “pompous” and compared it to Nazi architecture.

Whatever one’s take on the war

monuments, plain environmental sensitivity ranks high these days. This provides a timely reason to visit “Maya Lin: Systematic Landscapes,” an exhibition that opened recently at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The traveling show, Lin’s second, features three large-scale sculptural installations that essentially bring outdoor environments inside with the aid of computer modeling. Subsidiary pieces includes several sculptural series visualizing geologic phenomena, along with a map of the Potomac River made from myriad pins.

See **Lin**/Page 37

Meridian highlights Chinese contemporary art

“Metropolis Now! A Selection of Chinese Contemporary Art,” highlighting the changes taking place in China’s cities due to globalization and urbanization, will open today

On EXHIBIT

at **Meridian International Center** and continue through June 26.

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of formal U.S.-China relations, the show features 52 paintings, sculptures, mixed-media pieces and video installations by 31 urban Chinese artists.

A symposium on globalization in China and economic ties between the country and the United States will be held tomorrow from 6:30 to 9 p.m. For an invitation, call Siobhan Tiernan at 202-939-5543.

Located at 1630 Crescent Place NW, the center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. 202-667-6800.

■ **Susan Calloway Fine Arts** will open an exhibit



Billy Colbert’s sculptures are on display at Long View Gallery.

Friday of paintings by Virginia artist Christian Platt, born in the District 23 years ago and recently a wran-



Christian Platt’s oil on canvas “Beartooths From the Switchback” is part of an exhibit at Susan Calloway Fine Arts of the D.C. native’s art.

gler and ranch hand in Wyoming and Montana. He paints large-scale landscapes and still lifes. The show will stay up through April 25.

An opening reception will be held Friday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Located at 1643 Wisconsin Ave. NW, the gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 202-965-4601.

■ “Love Is a Losing Game,” highlighting new sculptures by Shaw artist Billy Colbert in the shape of helmets that might be worn in the battle of the sexes, will open Friday at **Long View Gallery** and continue through April 24.

An opening reception will take place Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. Located at 1302 9th St. NW, the gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 202-232-4788.

See **Exhibits**/Page 32

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EXHIBITS

From Page 31

■ "Berlin Kreuzberg SO36," an exhibit of photography by Peter Frischmuth showing a Berlin district before and after the fall of the Wall, will open tomorrow at the **Goethe-Institut** and continue through May 22.

An opening reception will take

place tomorrow from 6 to 8 p.m. with remarks by German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth, and a discussion with Frischmuth. Reservations are required.

Located at 812 7th St. NW, the institute is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 202-289-1200, ext. 165.

■ "The First Ladies and Me," an exhibit of portraits by Capitol Hill

artist Laura Elkins examining notions of power, femininity, sexuality and aging, will open tomorrow at **Sixth & I Historic Synagogue** and continue through May 1.

An opening reception will take place tomorrow from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Located at 600 I St. NW, the synagogue is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 3 p.m. 202-

408-3100.

■ "Yesterday's Tomorrow," an exhibit of new paintings and mixed-media pieces by D.C.-born artist Ellington Robinson inspired by the poems of Lao Tsu, will open Friday at the **District of Columbia Arts Center** and continue through May 3.

An opening reception will take place Friday from 7 to 9 p.m., and the artist will give a talk May 3 at 5 p.m. Located at 2438 18th St. NW, the center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 2 to 7 p.m. 202-462-7833.

■ "Inventing Marcel Duchamp: The Dynamics of Portraiture," featuring 100-odd portraits of Duchamp, will open Friday at the **National Portrait Gallery** and continue through Aug. 2.

The show "demonstrates that Duchamp harnessed the power of portraiture and self-portraiture both to secure his reputation as an iconoclast and to establish himself as a major figure in the art world," according to a release.

Located at 8th and F streets NW, the gallery is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. 202-633-1000.

■ **Marsha Mateyka Gallery** will open an exhibit Saturday of new

paintings by New York artist Kathleen Kucka and continue it through May 2.

"There is an otherworldly quality to Kathleen Kucka's paintings," states a release. "Their illusionism and remarkable depth give her abstract shapes a context that is convincing and somehow familiar."

An artist's reception will take place Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m. Located at 2012 R St. NW, the gallery is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 202-328-0088.

■ **Studio Gallery** will hold a special two-day memorial exhibit and sale for former gallery member Erwin Lachman this Sunday from 2 to 7 p.m. and Monday from 4 to 7 p.m.

"The artist used spontaneous techniques and unconventional materials such as sand and dry pigments to obtain highly textured surfaces and iridescent, luminous colors that contrast sharply with deliberately austere geometric forms," states a release.

A reception will take place Sunday from 4 to 7 p.m. The gallery is located at 2108 R St. NW. 202-232-8734.

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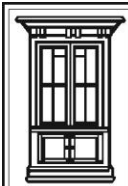
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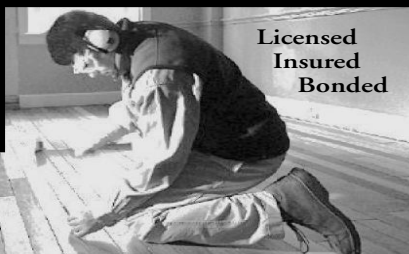
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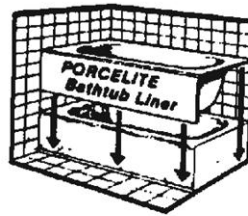
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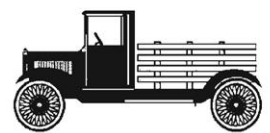


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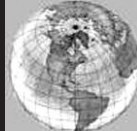
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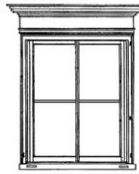
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From Page 31

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Lin catapulted to fame in 1981, as a 21-year-old undergraduate at Yale University, when she topped some 1,400 submissions to win the design competition for the Vietnam Memorial. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, she continues to design memorials, parks and buildings in her New York studio. Her high-profile commissions have included a civil rights memorial in Montgomery, Ala.; an Ohio University park emulating a computer punch card; and seven installations along the Columbia River celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The largest installation at the Corcoran is "2X4 Landscape" (2006), covering some 2,000 square feet of floor space with a 10-foot-tall hill made from more than 50,000 two-by-fours stacked on end, side by side. The boards are grouped in a way to create an irregular, cobbled surface that looks at once highly ordered and random, like a natural hill might. Indeed, the piece draws inspiration from the undulating Palouse Hills of eastern Washington state.

The Rocky Mountains near Lin's summer home in southwestern Colorado inspired "Blue Lake Pass" (2006), which breaks a mountainous landscape apart into 20 blocks, each 3 feet by 3 feet. Making up each block are particle boards stood on end, cut along their top edge to resemble a topographic line and stacked side by side. Visitors can walk between the blocks and get a sense of entering a 3-D topographic map, while appreciating the sinuousness of the landscape close at hand.

This sense of inhabiting a 3-D topographic map is also strong in "Water Line" (2006), in which quarter-inch, black-painted aluminum tubing replicates Bouvet Island and its underwater base on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge about 1,000 miles from Antarctica. The tubing creates a topographic grid from wall to wall, allowing visitors to walk beneath it and study how the massive underwater region builds to the tiny peak representing the island.

Smaller pieces on view include 3-D representations of the Red, Caspian and Dead seas, landscapes cut into the gallery walls and rubbings made from broken glass that resemble ice flows. There are also bronze representations of Lin's landscape works. It all adds up to a moving tribute to earth's endless diversity and quiet beauty.

"Maya Lin: Systematic Landscapes" will continue through July 12 at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St. NW. The gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday until 9 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and free for ages 5 and younger. 202-639-1700; corcoran.org.

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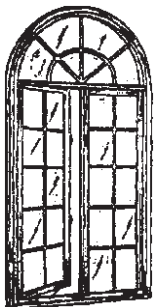
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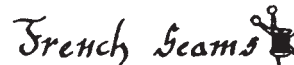
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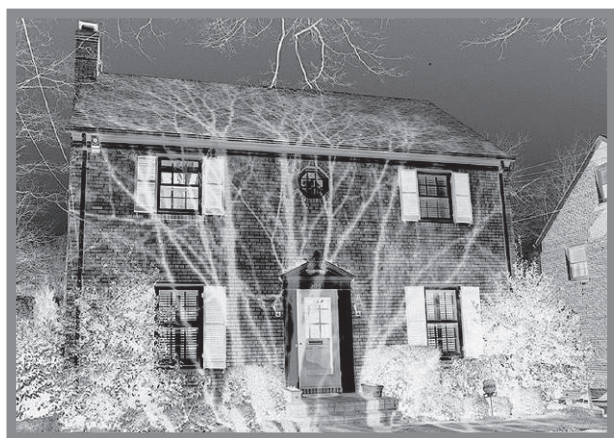


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