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JANUARY 12

# The InTowner

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## "Heritage Trail" Markers in Mount Pleasant to be Unveiled by Mayor-Elect Fenty on Sat., Dec. 9th

By P.L. Wolff

The Mt. Pleasant neighborhood will be celebrating the inauguration of 17, informative and artfully-designed "Heritage Trail" poster-sized, illustrated street signs mounted on sidewalk stanchions that combine storytelling, photography, and maps on Saturday, December 9, starting with an 11:30 a.m. unveiling ceremony at Lamont Park (Mt. Pleasant and Lamont Streets). Doing the honors will be Mayor-elect Adrian Fenty, who grew up in the neighborhood. He will be joined by Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham and members of the Mt. Pleasant Heritage Trail Working Group, Historic Mt. Pleasant, and representatives from Cultural Tourism DC.



photo--Nestor Hernandez, courtesy Cultural Tourism DC.

Francisca Marrero Diloné (l) shown in this 1991 photo visiting with Carmen Rivera © outside of her store, Casa Diloné. This was the very first Latino grocery, or bodega, to open in the neighborhood and was an important social center for Latino immigrants at 3161 Mt. Pleasant Street from 1962 until closing in 1998.

Starting at 12:30 p.m. and continuing until 4 p.m. everyone will be able to join in

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## Last-Minute Attempt to Salvage Mayor's Plan for New Central Library Dealt Blow But Proponents Vow to Renew Efforts in 2007; Surrounding Site Development Proceeding on Schedule

By Anthony L. Harvey

Efforts to marshal forces and rush so-called emergency legislation for construction of the Mayor's proposed new central library through the DC City Council at one of its final 2006 "lame duck" sessions collapsed after heated debate on the evening of Tuesday December 5. The effort failed when an evenly divided Council voted six to six – with retiring Ward 6 Councilmember Sharon Ambrose absent – not to discharge the Mayor's bill from the committee to which it had been referred.

The discharge would have been necessary because the Council's five-member Committee on Education, Libraries, and Recreation, chaired by outgoing Ward 3 Councilmember Kathy Patterson, had voted three-to-two to table the Mayor's bill effectively killing the measure in committee at its mark-up session on November 21, 2006. (For our report last month on the new library controversy, see, "Mayor's Plan for New Central Library to Replace existing MLK Building Appears Close to Possible Decision in November," page 1.)

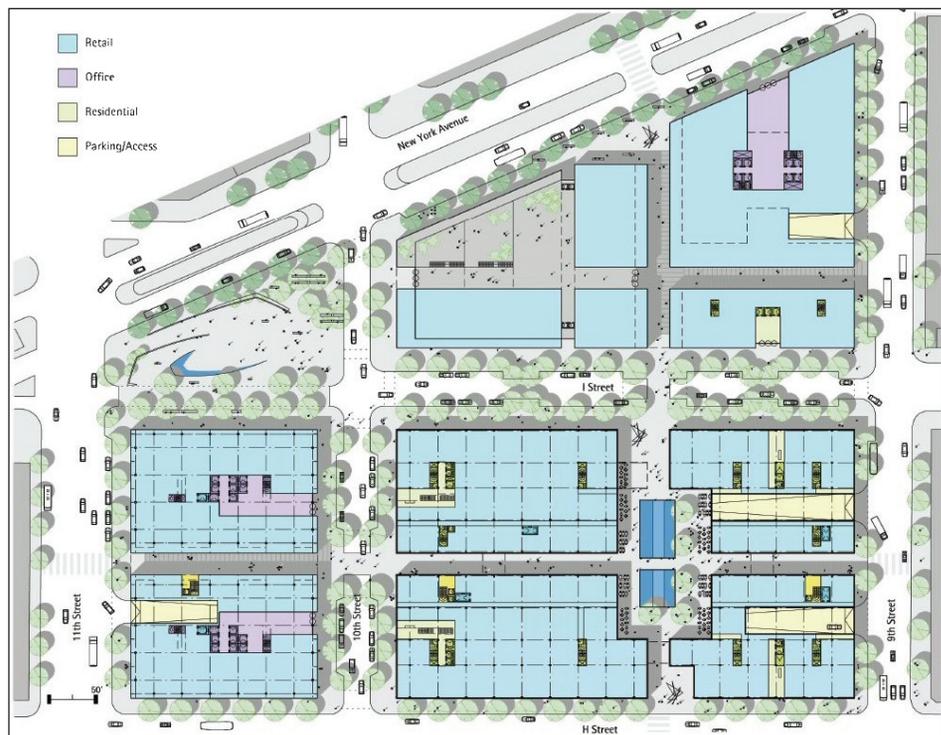
On a parallel track, during the same time frame of these committee activities, the development firms of Hines/Archstone-Smith jointly announced approval by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development of their master plan concept for the redevelopment of the old convention center site. Their press release finessed the question of the disposition of the portion of the 10-acre site designated as "civic," stating that "in addition, the District has reserved approximately 110,000 square feet of land on the side that includes the location of a new central library or alternatives uses."

Already half of this "civic" space, as noted Chairperson Patterson's special committee report, has already been designated as the land being swapped with Kingdon Gould for his equivalent parcel at 9th Street and Massachusetts Avenue directly across from the new convention center which is now to be used for a new hotel that will serve primarily the needs of major conventions using the convention center.

Debate on Chairperson Patterson's discharge was intense and lively with Councilmembers Barry (Ward 8), Brown (At-large), Catania (At-large), Gray (Ward 7), Graham (Ward 1) and Schwartz arguing for fiscal discipline and focus by the District on improving basic branch library services throughout the city with Gray, who will be vacating his Ward 7 seat to assume the Council chairmanship next month, hammering home the fact that four branches – Anacostia, Benning Road, Tenleytown and the Shaw neighborhood's Watha T. Daniel – have been closed for two years with no new facilities in sight.

Kwame Brown spoke passionately of single mothers throughout the city having to make long trips downtown in order to use the Childrens Room at the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) main library at 9th and G Streets, NW, which is far better than most of the childrens rooms in the branches. Marion Barry deadpanned that he suspects someone somewhere simply wanted to put a brand new shiny central library on the old convention center site and then had to back into it as an after-the-fact justification. Barry further noted that the "bright, shiny, new" library buildings in Seattle and Los Angeles, which the Mayor's "Blue Ribbon" Task Force highly touted, were only built following a decade devoted to revitalizing those cities' branch libraries.

Arguments by council members supporting the discharge motion, including Patterson (outgoing Ward 3), Mendelson (At-large), Fenty (outgoing Ward 4; presently Mayor-elect) and Cropp (outgoing chair), emphasized their conviction that the Mayor "had done his homework" and



graphic--Foster and Partners, Architects.

Ground-level site plan for the old convention center site, bounded by New York Avenue on the north (top), H Street on the south (bottom), 9th Street on the east (right) and 11th Street on the west (left). The portion on which the proposed new library would be constructed is the parcel bordered by New York Avenue on the north, the east side of the re-opened 10th Street and the north side of the re-opened I Street to the south.

praised highly the Task Force's report. Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans joined the Mayor in denouncing the Mies van der Rohe-designed MLK building as an embarrassing eyesore and asserted that it was "hardly used." Outgoing Ward 5 Councilmember Vincent Orange reiterated his long-standing priorities as being the "Childrens Museum, a new central library and revitalization of the branch libraries."

Setting the stage for the Council's December 5th debate was the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Recreation's November 21st session that had been packed with both opponents of the Mayor's proposal and equally fervent supporters – primarily library staff and administrators, library trustees, and members of the Mayor's "Blue Ribbon" Task Force on the District's beleaguered library system (DCPL).

In the surprising action that resulted in the tabling action, Councilmembers Barry and Gray joined Councilmember Schwartz in her motion to table the Mayor's ambitious legislation, with only the remaining committee member supporting Chairperson Patterson being Councilmember Mendelson. The standing room only crowd was stunned into silence by this unexpected turn of events.

Council insiders had predicted a vote

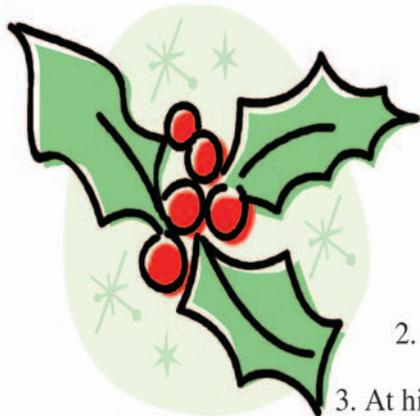
to report favorably either the Mayor's bill or Patterson's substitute measure of either three-to-one with Barry abstaining or four-to-one with only Schwartz in opposition. No other action was taken on any other legislation pending before the committee that afternoon.

Reporters were left to vie with one another and the library trustees who had been present for committee member comments as the mark-up session somewhat chaotically broke up. Only Councilmember Schwartz expressed herself as emphatically opposed to the Mayor's proposal, stating her concerns to *The InTowner* that the valuable old convention center site should not be lost to a tax revenue generating purpose and that if it is not feasible to expand and redevelop the old Carnegie central library on Mt. Vernon Square that the MLK building be renovated and refurbished as a new 21st century central library. Councilmembers Barry and Gray had both informally and at committee hearings expressed the need for further study of the costs, library capabilities, and clientele for a new central library at either of these two most favored sites.

To further set conspiracy watchers to their most vigilant state of alertness, Patterson proposed issuing the education committee's

Cont., LIBRARY, p. 8

## “HAVE A HOLLY, JOLLY CHRISTMAS?”



### A Nativity Quiz (Answers below)

1. Mary conceived before marriage.  
True  False
2. Jesus was born to a teenage mother.  
True  False
3. At his birth, Jesus' family was homeless.  
True  False
4. The infant Jesus was a target of State terrorism.  
True  False
5. Jesus was born to comfort the rich and save the powerful.  
True  False

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“Unity in Diversity,” Oil paintings by Rumanian-born Carmen Dumitrescu

<sup>1</sup>Answers: True, True, True, True, False.

## From the Publisher's Desk...

By P.L. Wolff

### WE NEED TO CHANGE THE CULTURE OF HEARTLESS DC BUREAUCRACY

A couple of days before we went to press, *Washington Post* columnist Marc Fisher had a wrenching story in that newspaper's December 5, 2006 edition titled “The District Bureaucracy Bears Down on a Dream.” While that was certainly an apt title, after reading the report, we would not have disagreed with the headline writer had it actually read, “The District Bureaucracy Once Again Proves Itself to be Cruel and Heartless.”

Now, this was not a report about the usual kind of bureaucratic heavy-handedness that so regularly makes it almost impossible to do business in the city, whether one be a merchant or just a lowly taxpayer attempting to unscramble situations that invariably escalate into disasters.

What Fisher was reporting was about an incredibly rigid approach to applying a provision of a health department regulation that was deemed to apply to a group home that is certified for occupancy by only five disabled persons. In this case, a sixth person was about to be evicted by the city even though the circumstance surrounding both the unique situation of the putative evictee and the reality of his occupancy screamed for not only some kind of humanistic approach to the case but also an admission that some of the presumed “facts” about the living conditions were simply wrong.

What we learned from Fisher's report is that the 75-year-old man the bureaucrats are rushing to evict from the first little apartment he ever had of his very own after having “spent nearly half a century of his life confined to Forest Haven, the city's now-shuttered snake pit for the retarded,” is for the first time in his life independent and not a ward of the city. To summarily take that away from him because of an adverse action based on clearly inaccurate facts is a travesty.

To help the man remain in what to him is a little piece of personal paradise after so many years of misery at the hands of the city should be something the bureaucracy would be geared up to encourage and to ensure its continuation. Yet, because of a technical complaint by the city's health department that he is the sixth resident in an Adams Morgan group home that is certified for only five, the fire department now insists he must go.

The operator of that facility, apparently highly regarded in the 16 states where it maintains these homes in fine condition, many months ago had applied for permission to raise the cap but never even heard back on the application. If the house can indeed accommodate one more person in light of there being several unused rooms at present without creating danger, why

cannot the city allow it? Why would the bureaucrats not even respond to the request of a reputable operator?

A spokesman for the DC fire department, coming to the defense of bureaucrats in another agency, claimed, so Fisher reports, that this action is necessary for the man's protection since, according to the fire department's spokesman, the man “had mobility issues – he's in a wheelchair – and he's on the top floor.” Problem with this statement of presumed “fact,” apparently, is that (a) he is not confined to a wheelchair and has no mobility issues nor (b) does he live on the top floor; on the contrary, his little apartment is on the first floor yet the bureaucrats don't want to know this.

It is, of course, not unreasonable for us taxpayers to want the city's regulatory agencies to be vigilant in watching out for the health, safety and welfare of our less capable citizens. Further, we do recognize that there are sloppy or even unscrupulous operators of facilities of this kind. But where the bureaucracy goes astray is that it seems incapable of recognizing distinctions between the responsible operators and the irresponsible. When dealing with a known operator of stellar reputation, the bureaucrats must exercise discretion so that innocent third parties – usually the most vulnerable and not able to take on the bureaucrats alone – should not be made to suffer even more than they have.

And especially in this case where the operator, L'Arche, which Fisher tells us is a “worldwide charity that operates what many in the mental disabilities field consider some of the planet's best and most humane group homes.”

Ahh – pardon our cynicism – maybe that's the rub: *humane*. Our DC bureaucracy has for too many years now operated within a culture that has discarded the concept of humane. It has taken on the “bean counter” mentality of our outgoing mayor who has seemed to us to be more of a bricks and mortar man – which, of course the mega out-of-state developers and others lusting after private land to be grabbed through eminent domain which our city council refuses to remedy simply love. But we digress.

All we can hope for now is that the incoming regime will restore balance to the way city agencies respond to individual needs on a case-by-case basis and scrap what seems to have become an all-pervasive philosophy of one regulatory size fits all and that's that, go away. □

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### NEXT ISSUE—JANUARY 12

DISPLAY ADVERTISING SPACE

RESERVATION GUARANTEE DATE:

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 5**

Classifieds Deadline: Friday, January 5

(See classifieds section for information about procedures)

News, Events & Letters Deadline: Friday, January 5

NOTE: Publication date always second Friday of month.

## LETTERS

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

**Special Note:** Only envelopes from government agencies, recognized civic groups and other organizations, or mail from individuals in envelopes bearing verifiable return addresses that include sender's full name will be opened; any other postal or hand-delivered mail will be either returned to sender or destroyed.

### Continued Reader Reaction to Our News Story on the Trio ABC Case

A paragraph or two must have been dropped from Anthony Harvey's article on the Trio Restaurant dispute. ["Opposition to Trio's Owner's Application for Approval to Serve Mixed Drinks on Existing Q Street Patio Not Sustained," InTowner, October 2006, page 1.] He indicated that there were two sides to the issue, but only presented the Trio version. Perhaps a future edition might include the dropped material reflecting the view of the residents.

Tim Ayers  
Dupont East

**Editor's Note:** There was no "dropped material"; the concerns of the opponents to the application was summarized in the paragraph describing the protestants' bill of particulars which they had filed with the ABC Board. We stand by our reporter's account.

□ □ □

Whoa! Slow Down! I was at the meeting where 18 of us stood up for Mr. Mallios. Do you have any idea why we did??? We love Trio. I live on 17th Street, am a straight woman, and love to see the families and everyone else come in. If Mr. Mallios has made a lot of money from his restaurants, isn't that the American way? I'm not going to write a long letter, but I know what's right and what's not, and I just wanted to counter some of the negative mail you've gotten about a very good, accurate article. Thanks for the opportunity to champion a place that welcomes all and treats us all very well.

Margaret E. DeJarnette  
Dupont East

□ □ □

I read with interest all the letters from people dissatisfied with your reporting on the ABC hearing regarding Trio's Restaurant. [Letters, November 2006, page 3.] Now I have often disagreed with your reporter on his conclusions on issues but one thing you can usually be assured of is that Anthony

Harvey has his facts right.

And he did again in his October issue article on the ABC Board actions [with respect to the Trio Restaurant's application]. The wild accusations made by the writers and the extraneous issues they bring into their letters are symptomatic of how they try to deal with the business community in Dupont Circle. They would like to bring all their biases and personal choices into the mix and in the case of ANC commissioners forget that they represent the broad community, or at least they should.

Now, I realize that the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) is something different. They represent not the views of the community but supposedly the views of their members. But it would be interesting to see if they even do that most of the time. But be that as it may, they are one small interest group in the community which, unfortunately, through raising a lot of money has managed to take a larger role than they should have.

We have come to a situation where both the ANC and the DCCA oppose every permit requested by any business person in the neighborhood no matter what. They use as their excuse to do so that this is the only way they can negotiate with a business owner. I would dispute that as no one says they can't try to negotiate with a business owner before filing a protest and trying to avoid costly legal fees which the leaders of the DCCA don't have to pay themselves but the business owners do.

In the case of the Trio, if the various groups had gotten together in good faith and not tried to demand a lengthy list of issues from Trio's owner, the same result they got from the protest and ABC hearing could have been had without all the ensuing hard feelings that the protests always invoke.

Mr. McGrath's letter is an example of the

irrelevancy of some of the items people ask of business owners. He brings in the matter of who eats at a restaurant and whether they are gay or straight. What business is that of his? Neither is it his business whether Mr. Mallios, the Trio's owner, makes public donations to groups like Whitman-Walker, apparently Mr. McGrath's favorite charity. Whether Mr. Mallios donates to Whitman-Walker, the Mautner Project, the American Cancer Society or any other charity is really none of his damn business and surely has no impact on his right to run his business.

One of our other ANC commissioners, one who didn't write a letter, tried to get Mr. Mallios to stipulate that he wouldn't ever expand his restaurant and get him to sign on to participate in buying a garbage compactor - neither issue having anything to do with the license Mr. Mallios was applying for or being anything which the law requires him to do.

We keep going over these issues in our community time and time again and I am only appreciative that our business owners are willing to put up with the shenanigans of some of our erstwhile community activists and keep their businesses open. From JR's to Trio to the fight Jamie Leeds had to go through to open Hank's Oyster Bar, to the fight over the name of the bar above Dupont Italian Kitchen, we see the same few people creating havoc for our business community.

I am a long-term resident of Dupont Circle. I moved to the 17th Street area, as did nearly all the people I know who have moved there in the past 20 years, because we have a vibrant shopping, restaurant and bar scene. One of the reasons my home has increased in value nearly five times is because our neighborhood is so desirable.

When I listen to some of our anti-business neighbors I am always reminded of the peo-

Cont., LETTERS, p. 5

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## AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

The editor welcomes the receipt of information about community happenings, such as church-sponsored events, neighborhood and block association activities, public meetings dealing with neighborhood issues, and other events of a non-commercial nature. These may be emailed to us at [newsroom@intowner.com](mailto:newsroom@intowner.com), or sent by regular mail but not by fax.

Because we are a neighborhood newspaper and not a city-wide or regional publication, we restrict our reporting to that about news and activities occurring within the specific neighborhoods we serve — Adams Morgan, Mt. Pleasant, Columbia Heights; Dupont, Scott, Thomas & Logan Circles; Mt. Vernon Square/Pennsylvania Quarter; Cardozo/Shaw, U Street.

• Fri. Dec. 8 (5:30-7:30pm): Mt. Vernon Square neighborhood's long-established Modern Liquors (9th & M Sts.) continues its popular program of wine and spirits tastings. On this occasion Cachaca Da Roca, a Brazilian sugar cane firewater, courtesy of Dionysos Imports will be sampled. And, on Wednesday, the 13th, between 6 and 8 pm, the establishment will be featuring its annual champagne and sparkling wine tasting. For more info, call 289-1414 or visit [www.modernliquors.com](http://www.modernliquors.com).

• Sat, Dec. 9 (11am-5pm): For the second year, Domku Bar and Café at 821 Upshur Street, NW, in the Petworth neighborhood, this year joined by next door business neighbor (at No. 825) Shaka King Fine Menswear Boutique will be hosting the UPSHUR STREET ARTS FAIR. An added treat will be an appearance of singer Aura Kanegis who will perform between 12 noon and 2 pm.

pottery, clothing, greeting cards and jewelry); Shaka King (men's clothing); Stef-n-Ty (jewelry); Liaa Walter (screen-printed sweaters and skirts, crocheted hats); Jeff Watson (pottery); and one of this newspaper's own contributing writers, Michael K. Wilkinson (DC-Cubed, photographs of Washington DC in a unique, miniature cube format).

• Sat. & Sun., Dec. 9 & 10 (10am-dark): Once again, the Ross Elementary School PTA and the neighbors' group, Friends of Ross, are sponsoring the annual CHRISTMAS TREE SALE to benefit the school located in the 1700 block of R Street. Being held on the patio of the Dupont Italian Kitchen (17th & R Sts.), all proceeds will be for the benefit of the school. In addition to trees, wreaths and stands are also available, as is free neighborhood deliveries of purchased trees. For more info, call Rich Hancuff at 744-7147.

• Sat., Dec. 9 & Fri., Dec. 15 (6-8pm): The beautifully maintained Christian Heurich House Museum (New Hamp. Ave. & 20th St.) once again will be opening its doors for its traditional Christmas CANDLELIGHT TOURS. Marvel at the resplendent decoration of this amazingly intact late-Victorian home. Learn about the history and artistic décor of the mansion from the lady docents bedecked in traditional Victorian attire who will also be serving refreshments, and enjoy carols and traditional German songs performed from the music gallery by the Saengerbund and the Alpine Singers.

A landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Brewmaster's Castle, as it is now called by the family trust that maintains the mansion, was built between 1892 and 1894 by German immigrant Christian Heurich, who became Washington's most successful brewer and a leading citizen in the city's growth and noted philanthropist.

The event is open to the public and no reservations are needed. A \$10 donation is requested (\$5 for students and seniors; children under 12 free). For more info, call 429-1894 or visit [www.brewmasterscastle.com](http://www.brewmasterscastle.com).

• Sun., Dec. 10 (4pm): The First Baptist Church (16th & O Sts.) will be presenting its 50th annual CANDLELIGHT CAROL service, preceded by instrumental music. The First Baptist Chancel Choir will be joined again this year by the Friday Morning Music Club Chorale and the Runnymede Singers, as they perform classical, folk, and traditional Christmas favorites. The audience will be invited to join in the singing when the choirs, introduced by a brass fanfare and led by the First Baptist Church Handbells, begin their procession at 4:30 pm. Webster Alexander Rogers Jr., Music Director of the Friday Morning Music Club Chorale, will lead the combined choirs in concert. The program is free of charge, but donations will be received to help defray expenses. For more info, call 387-2206.

• Mon, Dec. 11 (6:30-8pm): AdamsMorgan MainStreet will be hosting a COMMUNITY RECEPTION at the Left Bank Restaurant (2424 18th St.) for the five



photo--Michael K. Wilkinson--The InTowner.  
View of a portion of Domku's inviting interior.

The fair will showcase talented local artists who will be offering a wide range of handmade crafts, jewelry, drawings, photographs, prints and clothing — an excellent opportunity to find original, one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and family, while also supporting these artists from Petworth and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The 21 artists who will be participating include: Jacqueline Arendse (jewelry); AYU (handcrafted accessories); Bill Crandall (photographs, neighborhood t-shirts); John Dowg (screen-printed t-shirts); Carmen Eliam (vibrant copper wire and bead jewelry); Rita Elsner (acid-free prints of original drawings and paintings); Kevin Hayden (Screen-printed designs on t-shirts and framed drawings); Carol Herwig (pottery); LeMair Handcrafts (handcrafted accessories); Lauren Marra (travel photographs from around the world); Melanie Marshall (handmade holiday stockings); Cassandra McKee and Stacey Galik (glass bead chokers and necklaces with semi-precious stones and sterling silver); Allison Merriman (jewelry); Omo Misha (jewelry); Nayomi (hand-sewn fabric wallets and purses); Gina Schaefer and Sarah French (photography,

## LETTERS

From p. 3

ple who move next to an airport and then spend the next 20 years complaining about the noise. I am amazed at those that live neither within hearing or viewing distance of a business who complain about the noise.

I also don't understand those who tell me that parking is so bad only because of the businesses in the neighborhood. Well, they should stop and think about all the row houses that were once single-family and are now split into three or four condos. Many of those are homes to young single people who moved into the neighborhood because of the business community. They often live two or three to an apartment with two or three cars they are trying to park on the street.

But they recognize, as should everyone in Dupont, that you live in an exciting downtown of a growing city. Of course parking is difficult. I guess coming from Manhattan I grew up with difficult parking so it is an issue that doesn't surprise me. But let me suggest if you want a guaranteed parking space move to the suburbs and get a driveway. Or better yet stay in Dupont and get rid of your car and take Metro. I lived happily in Dupont for 18 years without a car. It really can be done.

I would urge our ANC commissioners and the leadership of DCCA to begin to learn the true art of negotiation and to try to learn to live in partnership with our business community. Let's recognize that they play a very important role in making our neighborhood the great place it is. In addition, they pay a lot of taxes which we would all have to make up if they weren't there.

Peter D. Rosenstein  
Dupont East

□ □ □

As usual, the ridiculous revisionist re-telling of matters related to local small business operation and Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) licensees in the Dupont Circle area and over-the-top public commentaries by last month's five letter writers are, if nothing else, of interest for review in the context of contrasting their opinions with those of the overwhelming number of neighborhood residents long weary of the shenanigans of small and unrepresentative citizen groups purporting to represent local residents.

The letter writers included one current and one former Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) member, the current president and a board officer of the notoriously anti-business and anti-nightlife Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA), and other DCCA members and frequent ABC liquor licensing protestants.

Mark Lee  
Logan Circle

□ □ □

George Mallios and his places were here when this place was in very bad shape and people were bailing out every day. Can't people remember how bad it was here. I could not get women tenants to rent in my building at 17th and R - there were break-ins everyday, the police were awful, the street was filthy, etc. Through it all Mallios stayed and invested and built and, yes, he made a buck or two - but since when was that illegal.

Michael Sussman  
Dupont Circle

# The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday,  
December 10  
4:00 p.m.

Featuring:  
The Chorale of  
the Friday  
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Club; The  
Runnymede  
Singers; The  
First Baptist  
Church  
Chancel  
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Handbells;  
plus the great  
hymns and  
stories of the  
season

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## Getting High at 22<sup>nd</sup> & P



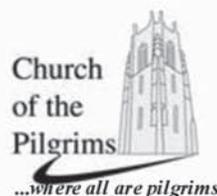
22<sup>nd</sup> & P from Pilgrims' tower



Pilgrims' tower from 22<sup>nd</sup> & P

About 150 Dupont Circle residents climbed Pilgrims' tower at our Fall Festival on October 28. If you missed it in 2006, don't miss it in 2007!

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202-387-6612 or [jeff.krehbiel@verizon.net](mailto:jeff.krehbiel@verizon.net)

### IN THE DUPONT PILGRIMS GALLERY

Through January 12: "Unity in Diversity," abstract, biomorphic oil paintings by Rumanian-born artist Carmen Dumitrescu

## SELECTED STREET CRIMES: Reported, November 1 - November 27, 2006

Following is a sampling of reported crimes in the expanded 3rd Police District and the Bloomingdale neighborhood portion of the 5th District. Times shown are when reports recorded by police; actual incidents will have occurred earlier. Occasionally we include reports not recorded by the MPD. Emphasis here is placed, for the most part, on listing crimes against persons occurring in or adjacent to public space. Not generally reported are the extraordinary numbers of burglaries, auto heists, and "smash and grab" from parked cars. These crimes appear to be consistently a problem from Rock Creek eastward and from downtown north, spread fairly evenly throughout affluent, transitioning, and low-income neighborhoods. Also not reported, for reasons of space, are most assaults stemming from verbal altercations nor most of the numerous, random purse & other snatchings that can occur anywhere and at any hour.

- **Adams Mill, 2600 blk.:** man accosted by 2 others who threw him to the ground whereupon one of them put what he believed was a gun to his head & was then punched in the face & robbed [8:45pm, Thu., 11/9]
- **Clifton, 1200 blk.:** man accosted by 3 others demanding money, one of whom punched him in his face while another started pulling on his backpack [1:30pm, Sat., 11/18]
- **Clifton, 1400 blk.:** man accosted from behind by man who first demanded money & then pushed him to ground whereupon a large group of others approached & joined in the assault & robbery [11pm, Sat., 11/18]
- **Columbia, 1000 blk.:** man robbed at knifepoint [6:45pm, Sat., 11/18]
- **Conn., 1500 blk.:** man accosted by 2 others, one of whom pulled his hand behind his back while the other robbed him [2:30am, Fri., 11/10]
- **Euclid, 1400 blk.:** man accosted by undetermined number of assailants who struck him on the back of his head causing him to fall to the ground, punched & kicked him & then robbed him [6:15pm, Fri., 11/17]
- **Euclid, 1700 blk.:** man robbed at gunpoint by 3 others [3:30am, Sat., 11/18]
- **Fuller, 1500 blk.:** man accosted from behind by another who pressed a knife against his back & robbed him [1:30am, Sat., 11/11]
- **Georgia, 3600 blk.:** woman's property snatched from her hand by unknown person [3:45pm, Mon., 11/27]
- **Girard, 1200 blk.:** woman's property snatched from her hand as she was walking toward her house by man who came from behind [5:30pm, Thu., 11/9]
- **Harvard, 1700 blk.:** man accosted from behind by 3 others who pushed an unknown object against his back & robbed him [2am, Thu., 11/23]
- **Irving, 1200 blk.:** 2 persons robbed at gunpoint by another [1:15am, Fri., 11/17]
- **Johnson, 1700 blk.:** person on the way to work pushed to the ground by another who demanded his money "or I'll stab you in the neck" [8am, Mon., 11/27]
- **Kalorama, 1600 blk.:** man accosted by 4 others, one of whom grabbed him from behind putting him in choke hold while the others removed property from his pockets, following which all 4 began striking him about the face finally pushing him to the ground [9pm, Fri., 11/10]
- **Kalorama, 1700 blk.:** man accosted by 2 others who grabbed him, placed him in a head lock & pushed him to the ground after robbing him [3am, Thu., 11/23]
- **Kalorama, 1800 blk.:** man walking home accosted by a man with a pole who, for no apparent reason, struck him on the head with it & then fled down the street [7pm, Thu., 11/16]
- **Kalorama, 1800 blk.:** man accosted by 2 others from behind, struck in his face causing him to fall to the ground & was then robbed [3:45am, Thu., 11/23]
- **Lamont, 1200 blk.:** man & woman accosted by 3 persons who came from behind, pushed the woman & threw the man to the ground, beating & kicking him while one of the other assailants pointed a gun to her back & telling her to be quiet while both were being robbed [12:30am, Wed., 11/1]
- **Lanier, 1700 blk.:** man getting out of his just-parked car confronted by 2 men with a gun who demanded his car keys & when they noticed that the car was still running, jumped in & drove off [8am, Sun., 11/26]
- **Logan Cir.:** woman walking inside the Circle approached by man who demanded, "Give me that, Woman," whereupon she threw her cell phone to him but he again repeated his demand & then began striking her several times on the back [12noon, Tue., 11/21]
- **N, 900 blk.:** 2 persons accosted by man wielding gun, ordered to get on the ground & robbed [2:45am, Sat., 11/11]
- **N, 1100 blk.:** man with bike attacked by 3 others who punched, kicked & bit him about his face & body before robbing him of his bike [1:15pm, Sat., 11/11]
- **N, 1200 blk.:** man robbed at gunpoint of his cell phone by 2 men who had been sitting on the steps of a house [8pm, Tue., 11/14]
- **New Hamp. & O:** 2 persons robbed at gunpoint by man who threatened to shoot them [10:15pm, Thu., 11/23]
- **New Hamp., 2000 blk.:** 2 persons robbed at gunpoint by another who demanded "money or I will shoot you" [8:30pm, Sat., 11/4]
- **New Hamp., 2100 blk.:** man accosted by 4 others, 2 of whom pushed him to the ground, kicked about his face & robbed him [11:15pm, Thu., 11/10]
- **New Jersey, 1600 blk.:** man accosted by 2 others with gun, ordered to ground & robbed [9:15pm, Sun., 11/26]
- **Oak, 1400 blk.:** man approached by another asking for money & when told he had none a second man approached & proceeded to hit him about his head while the other one robbed him [5:30pm, Sun., 11/12]
- **Ogden, 1500 blk.:** woman's property snatched from her hand by man who rode past her on bike [7:45pm, Thu., 11/9]
- **Otis, 1300 blk.:** man accosted by another who demanded money & when told he had none, was struck on his head with a heavy stick & robbed [2:45pm, Thu., 11/16]
- **P, 1500 blk.:** man accosted by another who came from behind, struck him in his face & snatched property from his hand [7:45pm, Thu., 11/23]
- **P, 1700 blk.:** woman approached by man displaying a gun demanding her bag & when she turned over just her wallet, he said, "no," and grabbed & robbed her of her bag with all its contents [1:30pm, Tue., 11/14]
- **Perry (Pl.), 1400 blk.:** man accosted from behind by 3 others who robbed him of his wallet containing \$120 & ID [1:30pm, Sun., 11/5]
- **Q, 600 blk.:** man attacked by 5 others who knocked him to the ground, punched & kicked him & then robbed him [4:30pm, Wed., 11/1]
- **S, 1300 blk.:** man approached by 2 others who demanded money & when told he had none, was struck in the back of his neck with a gun, whereupon he handed over his wallet [6:45am, Wed., 11/1]
- **S, 1600 blk.:** man attacked from behind by 4 others, hit in the jaw & robbed [9:45pm, Mon., 11/6]
- **U, 1000 blk.:** man accosted by 3 others, one of whom grabbed him by the neck, and robbed [8pm, Thu., 11/16]
- **Vermont, 1100 blk.:** woman walking home approached & surrounded by 2 men demanding her purse but gave up when she kept on walking without complying [7pm, Sun., 11/19]
- **W, 200 blk.:** 2 locksmiths in the process of completing a job saw 6 men running toward them, one of whom was firing a gun at them & striking one of the locksmiths 3 times who had tried to take cover under the truck [4:14pm, Fri., 11/10]
- **1st & N:** person ordered out of car at gunpoint by 2 others (carjacking) [9pm, Wed., 11/1]
- **5th, 1200 blk.:** 2 persons robbed at gunpoint by another [10:15am, Thu., 11/23]
- **11th & Euclid:** person robbed at gunpoint (case closed when robber located, positively identified & arrested) [11:45pm, Sat., 11/4]
- **11th & S:** man robbed by 4 others who came from behind, first striking him before removing his wallet [2am, Sun., 11/5]
- **11th, 2900 blk.:** pizza delivery man robbed at gunpoint of the pizza he was delivering and of his cash [8:30pm, Wed., 11/22]
- **12th, 1800 blk.:** man standing in front of his house asked by another for the time & upon responding turned back to his front door whereupon the man who had asked for the time grabbed him by the arm, placed a knife to his neck & robbed him [5:15pm, Fri., 11/24]
- **13th & Euclid:** man struck & robbed by 3 men who initially walked past him [9:15pm, Sat., 11/18]
- **13th & T:** woman approached by 4 juveniles, one whom grabbed her purse but was unsuccessful in snatching it from her, whereupon she was kicked in the stomach before all 4 fled the scene [10:45pm, Fri., 11/10]
- **13th, 1700 blk.:** man robbed at gunpoint by 2 others [10:45pm, Sat., 11/5]
- **14th & U:** customer sitting inside McDonald's approached from behind by man who struck him on the back of his head with a walking stick & who then went back outside [2:30pm, Tue., 11/7]
- **15th & Belmont:** man accosted by another who pointed a gun to his head & ordered him "to empty his pocket," & when told he had no money was then struck on the back of his head [9:45am, Wed., 11/15]
- **15th & Chapin:** man walking home accosted by 4 others who began assaulting him by striking him on his head with an unknown object causing him to fall to the ground whereupon the men continued punching & kicking him [11:45pm, Sat., 11/11]
- **15th & Euclid:** man accosted by 4 others who punched him, forced him to the ground while brandishing knives, robbed him of various items including car keys, whereupon 2 of them drove off [5:30pm, Fri., 11/24]
- **15th & V:** man walking past 6 juveniles accosted from behind, pushed to the ground & robbed [6:45pm, Sat., 11/25]
- **15th, 1600 blk.:** woman getting out of her car approached by man who startled her causing her to scream, whereupon man pulled a gun & pointed it at her neck causing her to scream again, whereupon he fled the scene [9pm, Sun., 11/19]
- **15th, 2400 blk.:** woman approached by 2 men who grabbed her purse & when she didn't let go was struck on her shoulder forcing her to let go [10:15pm, Sat., 11/4]
- **15th, 2400 blk.:** woman approached by 2 men who demanded her purse & when she refused was struck in her face & her purse then grabbed from her [12:30pm, Sun., 11/5]
- **15th, 2400 blk.:** man robbed by 4 others, one of who grabbed him by the neck & tackled him to the ground, whereupon the others stomped him on his back & then robbed him [8:15pm, Tue., 11/7]
- **16th & Columbia:** man assaulted & robbed by 3 others [1:30am, Wed., 11/8]
- **16th, 3600 blk.:** man approached by another who asked for some "change" & when told he would give him "quarter," the man stated, "No, give me all of it or I'll . . . kill you," upon which the man complied [10am, Fri., 11/3]
- **17th & Swann:** man grabbed from behind by another who turned him around, asked about what the time was & then began punching him in the chest & robbed him [1:45am, Fri., 11/10]
- **18th, 1700 blk.:** woman's purse snatched by unknown person [12mid, Sat., 11/5]
- **18th, 2200 blk.:** man who was putting money into a parking meter had his cell phone snatched by another who came from behind [6pm, Thu., 11/16]
- **19th & Riggs:** 2 women robbed by man who came from behind who first placed his hand on the shoulder of one of them, causing her to jump upon which the man stated that he did not intend to startle her [6:30pm, Tue., 11/7]
- **22nd, 1500 blk.:** man struck in he head & robbed of cell phone [2am, Sat., 11/18]



# LIBRARY

From p. 1

report – which would have been adopted had the committee voted to report favorably either bill that was under consideration for mark-up – as a special report of the committee, one which further reflected that the committee had tabled action on the bills and did not endorse the report. At the November 28th committee meeting to consider this novel proposition, the public audience comprised only three persons, one of whom was Robin Diener, the director of the DC Library Renaissance Project founded by Ralph Nader. Memorializing the important work of the Mayor, his Blue Ribbon Task Force, and the many citizen participants who weighed in on the matter was said by Chairperson Patterson to be the purpose for this extraordinary action.

Councilmember Schwartz, however, voted against the motion to “publish” the report, expressing her fears, according to Diener, that someone might “trundle out” this special Chairperson’s report for use in some subsequent “emergency legislation” maneuver.

Reporters were provided with the report – 114 pages, including a 38-page section of closely reasoned “would-be” committee analysis – together with two-dozen appendices and copies of voluminous witness statements. To add further to this mix of holiday reading material, the Task Force issued its long-awaited “Final Report” on November 20th – day prior to the education committee’s mark-up session. This 370-page report is accompanied by a 16-page executive summary which concludes with Mayor Williams’ oft-repeated mantra of “a capital city requires a capital library. Our citizens deserve no less.”

While replete with glowing accolades for stunning new “destination” central library buildings in cities throughout the country, and low-key painful references to almost cryptically expressed long-standing failings of the stewardship by DCPL of its iconic MLK building, services, and collections, the Task Force presents no specific blueprint for their desired 21st century central library facility. Rather, the report repeatedly states the problems with MLK, problems which are judged to be insoluble. It is only with the adoption of the proposition of the Mayor and the Task Force for a brand new “destination” building on the old convention center site, the report argues, that a financially viable solution can be found.

Some programs are identified for this proposed new facility – if only in summary form. These include basic and “information age literacy,” something called “life-long learning,” and an only metaphysical recommendation for a “commons,” or something akin to a village green. The other components highlighted in the report read as though taken from a standard library science primer for contemporary childrens and youth oriented library facilities. And, indeed, this may be “how it is going to be,” say many informed community activists who follow DCPL matters closely.

While endorsing the Mayor’s proposal, Chairperson Patterson’s special report and substitute bill stipulated several dramatic changes and simplifications in the Mayor’s proposed legislation, reducing its length by half and eliminating much of the disputed provisions regarding the complicated financing that the Mayor proposed.

Significant to critics of the Mayor’s bill were Patterson’s provisions calling for a 350,000 square-foot, stand-alone central library building, and for the historic

## New Library Building Versus Renovating MLK

Prepared by Stuart Gosswein, Committee of 100 on the Federal City

The “Library Transformation Act of 2006” (Bill 16-734) would allow the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library (MLK) to be leased to a private entity for 99 years, with a new facility being constructed on the former Convention Center site (old CC). The following comparisons demonstrate why the better choice is to renovate MLK and continue using it as the city’s main library.

Issue	New Facility at Former Convention Center Site (“old CC”)	Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library (MLK)
Location	Zero Metro stops within 800 feet (2 blocks) <u>Issue:</u> There is great potential that the library will be an isolated structure surrounded by office buildings rather than a magnet.	Five Metro stops serving every Metro line <u>Issue:</u> District residents deserve the safety and convenience of a library adjacent to the Metro system.
Efficiency	Trapezoidal floor plans <u>Issue:</u> Most buildings are square or rectangular because these shapes produce the most efficient floor schemes. The library’s programmatic needs may also change over the years, hence it is important to opt for efficiency and flexibility.	Rectangular floor plans
Size & Floor Plate	340,000 sq. ft. of gross square footage <u>Note:</u> 23,000 sq. ft. smaller than Seattle’s library.  <u>Issue:</u> There is no unused space allowing for future expansion.	440,000 sq. ft. of gross square footage <u>Issue:</u> Library officials project a massive increase in numbers of users but are requesting a facility smaller than Seattle’s. Moreover, the argument that MLK has excessively large floor plates doesn’t stand up to scrutiny. They are smaller than other libraries, such as Nashville. They also provide maximum flexibility for future expansion or reconfiguration of space due to changing needs.
Height	Eight or nine stories above-ground. <u>Issue:</u> Patrons and staff would be more dependent upon elevators and escalators. Library officials cite Miami-Dade, Nashville, Phoenix and Salt Lake City libraries as models for the DC library but these are all 3-6 stories. Only the Seattle library is taller (11 stories) and inconvenient mobility at this facility is a frequent target of complaints from staff and patrons.	Four levels above ground (and a fifth may be added) <u>Issue:</u> MLK’s simple plan and limited number of levels makes “wayfinding” within the building easy.
Adaptability	Potentially restricted by small floor plate and building design. Trapezoidal floor plan that does not allow flexibility.	Mies van der Rohe was a master of “International Style” glass and steel architecture, structures elegant in proportion, material and detail. Mies buildings are rational and contain “universal space” – areas that can be reconfigured based on need, in this case a 21 <sup>st</sup> Century library. To date, library officials have not taken advantage of the building’s flexibility.  <u>Note:</u> Supporters of the alternative site have concocted many questionable arguments for leaving MLK including that it “was designed and constructed before computers became a key resource.” If MLK can be leased to the private market as prime real estate, it can also be adapted as a 21 <sup>st</sup> century library.
Cost	\$274.5 million	\$220.7 million  <u>Issue:</u> While it would cost \$54 million more to build a new facility than to renovate MLK according to an analysis by the District’s Chief Financial Officer, total costs may be the same when expenses for a temporary move from MLK are included. However, alternative approaches on the temporary move can drive these costs down.
Exemplary Architecture	There are no design plans for the building and no guarantee of architectural significance.	Historic landmark nomination pending based on its architectural merits.  <u>Note:</u> City officials in the Office of Planning have halted action on MLK’s landmark nomination until the deal to abandon it is complete.
Aesthetics	The new facility will be a “modern” building. There are no guarantees that the public will like the building initially or 40 years from now. Aesthetics is sometimes a changing sensibility.	MLK is a great example of austere but elegant “International Style” architecture in a city largely filled with neo-classical and baroque buildings. MLK’s stern architecture is probably at the heart of the debate on whether to discard the building as a library, not whether it can be updated to a state-of-the-art facility but aesthetics should not be the basis for abandoning the building. Furthermore, the library’s deteriorated condition has obscured the elegance of the original design.
Stand-Alone vs. Mixed-Use Development	Mixed-Use Development  <u>Issue:</u> Library officials have requested 25,000 sq. ft. of retail at this time, however, the legislation places no limits on the amount of retail or other mixed-use space that can be added once the legislation has been enacted. In fact, the old Convention Center redevelopment plans awarded to the Hines team call for inclusion of much more retail space (calling into question who controls the site). Moreover, there have been discussions about including office space and condos in the library. The library would not be able to dictate use of such space so ten years from now our flagship library may include a shoe store...along with offices and condos.	Stand-Alone Facility  <u>Issue:</u> Mayor Williams cites new library facilities in Miami, Nashville, Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Seattle as comparables. But these are stand-alone libraries and the Mayor has proposed a mixed-use development at the old CC site. MLK is a stand-alone facility.
Memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.	A building dedication is a heritage that is nurtured from one generation to the next. It is not a plaque reattached to another building at the old CC site.	MLK was dedicated to Martin Luther King Jr. in 1971 and it has served as an annual gathering place to honor his legacy. The community lobbied vigorously to have the building dedicated, and then took pride in that commemoration.
Funding	No Money to Build New Facility  <u>Issue:</u> The primary reason the city is pushing for a new facility at the old CC site is because District officials don’t have the money to renovate MLK. Rather, they can secure an estimated \$115 million for a new building by leasing MLK to a developer. This translates into \$3 sq. ft. fixed-rate over 99 years (compared to \$50 sq. ft. in current dollars for other nearby buildings). Consequently, District residents are abandoning prime real estate for 99 years and asking library patrons to walk blocks to a second-rate location.	No Money to Renovate MLK  <u>Issue:</u> (1) If the city can lease MLK, it also works in reverse – the city can lease the rights to the old CC site and dedicate that revenue stream towards renovation of MLK. (2) City taxpayers will benefit more from the building’s continued use as a library than to lease it to private developers rent and tax-free for 99 years after their initial investment.

## LIBRARY

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landmarking of the MLK building. Final attachments to this "Special Chairperson's Report" were an endorsement from Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans, who chairs the Council's Committee on Finance and Revenue, who provided written "support for the financing section of . . . the committee print" and a comparative chart of 10 issues at odds between the Mayor's proposed new library versus a renovated MLK – which was prepared and presented to the Chairperson Patterson by Stuart Gosswein of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, whose arguments are reflected in the chart accompanying this article.

The Task Force's final report concludes with this bland assertion regarding financing: "This revitalization of the libraries will be funded using federal funds, baseball revenue, appropriations from the District and private donations." However, the U.S. House of Representatives has already zeroed out any federal funding for DCPL and, as observers have pointed out, private donations are always wishful expectations and expecting baseball revenues to find their way into a revenue stream for rebuilding DCPL can only be hypothetical at best.

Supporters of Mayor Williams' central library proposal, led by the head of the library's board of trustees, John Hill, vowed, following the Council's vote, to continue their fight for the construction of this project beginning again in January 2007. □

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## COMMUNITY

From p. 4

newly elected ANC commissioners. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet and greet the newbies and to mingle with the returning and outgoing commissioners and other neighborhood leaders. Light appetizers and beverages provided and there will be a cash bar also. For more info, call 232-1960 or visit [www.AMMainStreet.org](http://www.AMMainStreet.org)

In addition, there will be a continuous showing of WETA-TV's recently shown (but scattered throughout the prior month in two-minute segments) of the complete eight-minute, mini-documentary featuring the Adams Morgan neighborhood, including its history, its murals, Adams Morgan Day, the Latino community, and the restaurants.

• Tue., Dec. 19 (6-8pm): Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets (HDCMS) will be holding its very first HOLIDAY PARTY and Volunteer Reception. Neighbors are invited to join community and business leaders and owners at the Commerce Bank branch at Conn. and S as they celebrate the season and the organization's accomplishments during 2006. For the year and gear up for 2007. For more info and to RSVP for this free event, call 441-1474 or send an email to [Morgan.Zehner@dupontcircle.biz](mailto:Morgan.Zehner@dupontcircle.biz).

"Main Streets" initiatives, such this one for Dupont Circle, the one up in Adams Morgan, and over in Shaw, and in several other neighborhoods are not well understood by most residents. Therefore, we think this is a good opportunity to share with our readers a portion of the "scope note" and concept summary as it appears on the HDCMS website ([www.dupontcircle.biz](http://www.dupontcircle.biz)),

as follows:

"In May of 2003, Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets (HDCMS) was awarded a Main Street grant from the mayor's reStore DC program. The application was written by the [Dupont Circle] Merchants and Professionals Association (DC MAP) and others in the neighborhood. The grant provides funding for five years. HDCMS includes the Connecticut Avenue, 17th Street and P Street corridors for improvement and enrichment. By working together, Dupont Circle's residents, businesses, cultural institutions, civic associations – with the help of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and reStore DC – can ensure that our unique neighborhood continues to be Washington's most diverse, active and exciting neighborhood.

"Based in historic preservation, the Main Street approach was developed to save historic commercial architecture and the fabric of American communities' built environment, but has become a powerful economic development tool as well.

"The Main Street program is designed to produce tangible benefits. Improving economic management, strengthening public participation, and making downtown a fun place to visit are as critical to Main Street's future as recruiting new businesses and rehabilitating buildings. Building on a neighborhood's inherent assets – rich architecture, personal service, and traditional values, and most of all, a sense of place – the Main Street approach has rekindled entrepreneurship, downtown cooperation and civic concern." □

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## HERITAGE TRAIL

From p. 1

on what is being billed as the "Mt. Pleasant Heritage Trail Stroll," which will start at Lamont Park where trail brochures and maps will be available and also where volunteer English- and Spanish-language guides will be on hand. Then follow the trail signs and learn about the neighborhood's history while also sampling the neighborhood's many restaurants. More than 20 local businesses will be offering free drinks, snacks, and discounts.

Although it is not necessary to follow the trail signs in their established order to enjoy the 90-minute self-guided walking tour, for those that so choose to do so, the first sign is located at 16th and Harvard Streets and from there the trail winds through Newton Street and Park Road, ending on Mount Pleasant Street. Along the way will be discovered places that many residents will not have known about, such as Ingleside, the neighborhood's oldest house, built in 1851, and designed by Thomas U. Walter, who served as the fourth Architect of the Capitol.

For more information, visit [www.CulturalTourismDC.org](http://www.CulturalTourismDC.org) or call (202) 661-7581.

Cultural Tourism DC began collaborating two years ago with the Mt. Pleasant Heritage Trail Working Group and Historic Mt. Pleasant to create the trail. Residents led the effort to collect neighborhood stories and photographs, shaping the trail every step of the way. Neil Richardson, who headed the working group, says, "We're proud to see Mt. Pleasant get its own trail. It reflects the community's vibrant growth over time, and we think visitors will enjoy following the signs from block to block." □



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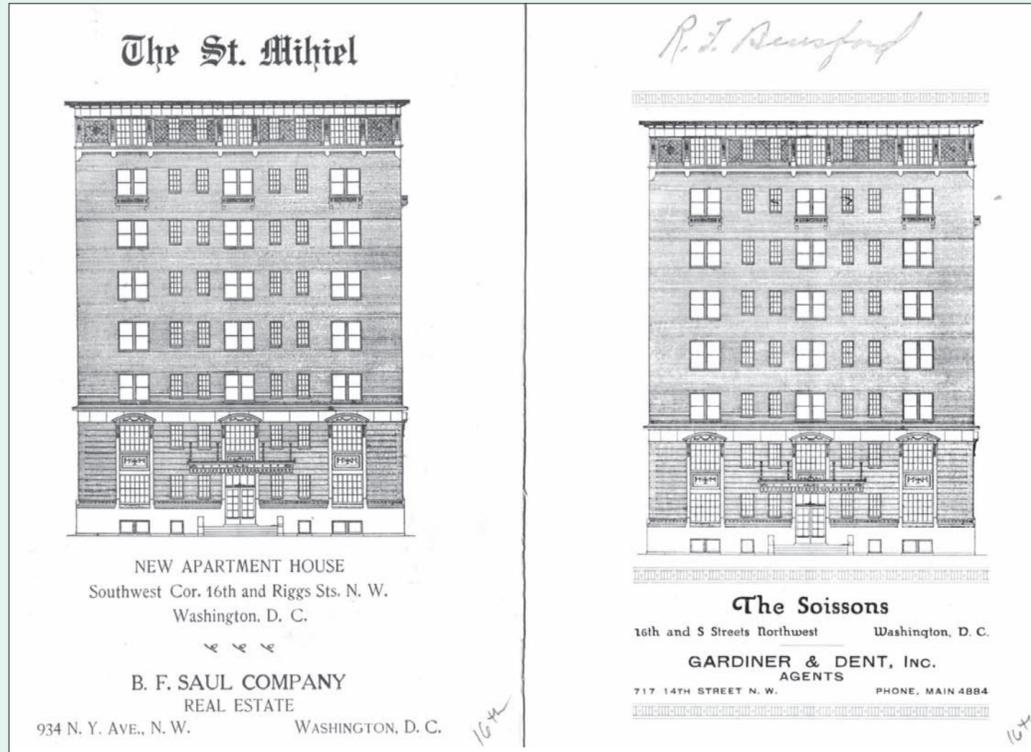
photo—Paul K. Williams—The InTowner.

The St. Mihiel apartment building at 1712 16th Street, on the corner of Riggs Place, as seen today.

The two, similar apartment building in the 1700 block of 16th Street, NW — the St. Mihiel at No. 1712 and the Ambassador at No. 1750 — were both built to the designs of architect Frank R. White in 1920, but were constructed by two different owners and construction firms. Although their façade designs differ today, their original floor plans were virtually the same when the buildings opened for business in 1921. White had, apparently, finished designs for the Ambassador first, as its façade drawing was used to market both buildings in promotional literature produced by the two different owners.

The 63-unit Ambassador, located at the southwest corner of 16th and S Streets, was awarded its building permit in February of 1920. It was originally to be called The Soissons after a French town on the Aisne River about 60 miles north of Paris. The building was owned by Ernest G. Walker, who hired the construction firm of Bush Inzer to build the \$200,000 structure. Its apartments rented from \$47.50 to

# Scenes from the Past...



illus—courtesy Kelsey & Associates private collection.

The sales brochures for both the Ambassador and St. Mihiel apartment buildings used the elevation of the Ambassador (originally The Soissons) apartment building on their covers, despite the St. Mihiel having a different design.

\$100 per month in 1921, depending on size and location.

Ernest George Walker had been born in Embden, Maine in 1869, and first worked in Washington as the City Editor and political writer for the *Washington Post* before he ventured into the real estate business. He also fancied himself an historian, and he authored two history books on his hometown in Maine, as well as a history of the Gridiron Club in DC. He and his wife Romaine lived at 3307 R Street in Georgetown.

The 48-unit St. Mihiel, located on the southwest corner of 16th and Riggs Place, was granted its building permit in April of 1920. It was named after the Battle of Saint Mihiel, a World War I battle fought between September 12 and 15, 1918, by the American Expeditionary Force and a number of French troops under the command of U.S. General John J. Pershing against German positions in the western front of France. Its apartments rented from \$50 to \$140 per month in 1921, depending on size and location.

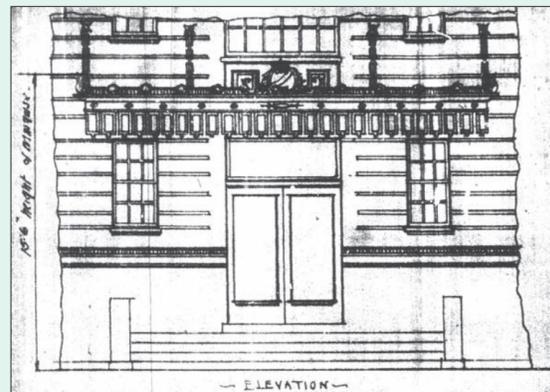
Herman R. Howenstein both owned the buildings and the construction firm that built the \$200,000 St. Mihiel. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1877 and came to Washington with his parents at the age of two. He attended

local public schools, and eventually graduated from The George Washington University Law School. He operated the Howenstein Realty Corporation, a real estate investment and building company located at 1418 H Street, NW for much of his 50-year career in building homes, apartments, and financing real estate deals throughout the city.

Both apartment buildings were built to be fireproof, "to meet the demands of a large class of tenants," according to their sales brochures. The buildings would have resident staff to accept packages, operate elevators, and answer a telephone switchboard. Although produced

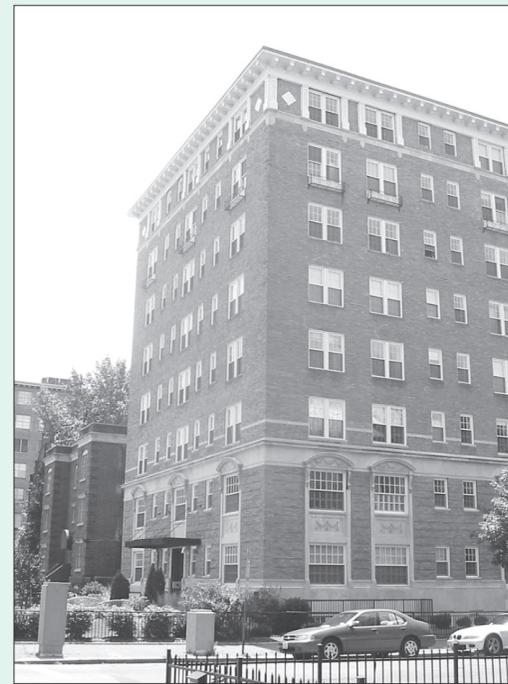
by two different owners using two separate marketing firms, the promotional brochures shared the same language, and read:

"All rooms are large and very well lighted. The bath rooms are thoroughly modern and equipped with fixtures of the highest type — including bath tubs with showers. The floors throughout are of best grade oak, expensively finished and waxed, the woodwork being white and mahogany finish. Specifically designed electric fixtures of the most approved type are installed and all living rooms are supplied with a base plug for lamp, vacuum cleaner, or other attachment. Each



illus—courtesy Kelsey & Associates private collection.

Frank Russell White's design for the Ambassador apartment building's entrance.



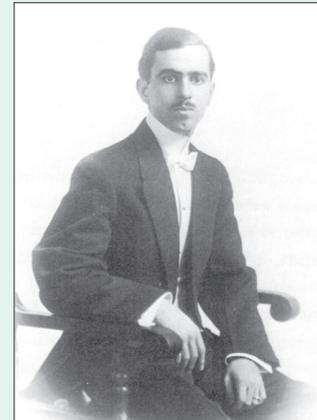
photo—Paul K. Williams—The InTowner.

The Ambassador apartment building at 1750 16th Street, on the corner of S Street, as seen today.

apartment has large closets."

Architect Frank Russell White was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 2, 1889. He attended public schools in New York, and attended the Pennsylvania Military College between 1903 and 1904. He first came to Washington in 1908 to work as an architect for the Harry Wardman Company, for which he worked for the next 25 years.

He specialized in apartment building designs for Harry Wardman, but also designed more than 5,000 single-family houses for the Wardman Company. He and his wife Carolyn resided for most of his career at 4645 Alton Place, NW.



photo—courtesy Kelsey & Associates private collection.

Architect Frank Russell White.

Perhaps his best known apartment building is the Wardman Park Hotel & Apartments at 2660 Woodley Road in Woodley Park, completed in 1917. White also designed three of the Clifton Terrace buildings in 1917, located at 14th and Clifton Streets, and, in 1918, the famed Chateau Thierry Apartments at 1920 S Street.

White established his own practice in 1922 with an office at 1340 F Street. One of his primary clients included Christian Heurich, for whom he designed the Heurich Building at 1627 K Street in 1939.

The Great Depression was difficult for many of the country's architects, but apparently especially so for Frank White. He was arrested in Baltimore on October 26, 1931 on the charge of altering and raising \$1 bills to represent \$100 bills. He pleaded guilty in December of that year and served a two-year prison sentence. He resumed his architecture practice by 1939, and died at his Alton Place home of a blood disorder in 1961.

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

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Reno Road	Military Road to Nebraska Avenue	February 2007
Theodore Roosevelt Bridge	Over Potomac River	November 2006
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## At the Museums

By Anthony L. Harvey\*

There is no better brief introduction to the visual and emotional magic of the art of Joseph Cornell than poet and essayist Charles Simic's slender volume of poems and prose, *Dime Store Alchemy*, published 15 years ago, in which he celebrates Cornell as one of America's great originals, and describes his box constructions, collages, and dossiers as almost altar pieces or reliquaries in which Cornell displays his survival into art over the course of 50 years of art-making. Characterizing America as "that ship wreck of old Europe," Simic notes how Cornell escapes "Houdini-like" from its caged and enclosed boxed-in prisons by opening them to his own constrictions and creative imaginings. Poet Simic concludes his "Street Corner Theology" by observing, "Making art in America is about saving one's

soul."

Cornell's dream-like constructions are filled with beautiful and uncanny objects and images scavenged from flea markets, used book stores, sidewalk peddlers, five and dime stores, and the wonderful junk shops he found in the Manhattan and Long Island venues he frequented almost daily from the early 1920s to that of the 1950s. His art is enclosed in uniquely fashioned contraptions of boxed and framed evocations of penny arcades, nickelodeons, photomats, and backlit natural history specimen

boxes. Of these marvels 177 have been brought together by former American Art Chief Curator and noted Cornell scholar Lynda Roscoe Hartigan, who is now at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Hartigan's Cornell retrospective – the first since the Museum of Modern Art's in 1980 – features examples of all of the artist's finest works, including films and graphic designs and a sampling of source materials from the museum's Joseph Cornell Study Center. Hartigan's scholarship is both deep and thoughtful. The exhibition begins with an overview of Cornell's career, and includes his most famous *Medici Slot Machine* and *Soap Bubbles Set* box constructions, and continues through a series of thematically organized gallery spaces.

Hartigan exploits traditional museum exhibition techniques to lead – almost totally unobtrusively – the viewer through these

10 thematic arrangements of magically creative assemblages of framed, boxed, and laid out art works. Her curatorial ideas are quietly expressed using a minimum of concisely written and extremely informative wall texts and art object labels. Hartigan's themes are: "Cabinets of Curiosity," "Wonderland," "Movie Palace," "Dream Machines," "Nature's Theater," "Geographies of the Heavens; Bouquets of Homage; Crystal Cages; and "Chambers of Times." They serve to enthrall the viewer with Cornell's creations of unparalleled ingenuity, freshness, and eerie beauty.

Among my favorites are *Penny Arcade Portrait of Lauren Becall*, which Hartigan has juxtaposed with *Medici Princess*; his *Owl Habitat*, which is an illuminated box construction with blue glass; *Napoleonic Cockatoo*; and the deeply enigmatic *Caravaggio Boy Dovecote*. These artworks, and a more than a 100 others like them, will startle and delight one's imagination and will add depth and aesthetic wonderment to one's emotional memory bank of art. One senses an almost ecstatic intimacy on the part of the artist with his remarkable assembled images; indeed, one is almost



Untitled (Cockatoo with Watch Faces), 1949.



Untitled [Tamara Toumanova], about 1940.

stunned on the spot to be able to share, even at a distance in time and place, that artist's ecstasy.

A near-by, single-gallery exhibition by the Smithsonian Archives of American Art accompanies this literally marvelous exhibition. Entitled "Exquisite Surprise: The Papers of Joseph Cornell," it reveals, as noted by Archives staff at the press briefing, "Cornell's sense of wonder through his private communications, personal musings and collected ephemera." It too is a treasure.

Sadly, Hartigan's exhibition catalog will not be published until Spring, 2007; an excellent interim guide to Cornell and his work, with beautiful large format, full color photographs, is Diane Waldman's *Joseph Cornell: Master of Dreams*, available in a handsome soft cover edition.

"Joseph Cornell: Navigating the Imagination" continues through February 19, 2007. Among the public programs surrounding this event is a free, public lecture on Cornell and a reading of poems – both by Charles Simic – which will be given at the museum on Sunday, December 10, at 3 pm.

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A deep and profound profession of Abelian pervades this stunningly beautiful exhibition titled "Prayers and Portraits: Unfolding the Netherlandish Diptych," a path-breaking review of late medieval and early Renaissance pairs of paintings typically celebrating an upstanding patron or donor and a saint or a scene from the life of Christ.

Created in the 15th and early 16th century dynamic caldron of luxury, artistic creativity, and intellectual development based on the successful commerce and banking in that region of Europe that today comprises parts of Flanders, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and France, "Netherlandish Diptychs" presents 89 exquisite paintings representing 36 complete pairs, including 22 pairs on loan for the first time in America from collections throughout

Cont., MUSEUMS, p. 13

## Neighborhood Art: Exhibits Not to Miss

By Anthony L. Harvey

Artists in the Dupont Circle area continue to flourish in studios located in some unlikely places that offer the opportunity to view dramatic art work in innovative spaces, such as a converted carriage house which invites the intrepid to climb a spiral staircase and a reconfigured grocery store – all this in the short distance between Massachusetts Avenue and U Street along 17th Street.

## PASS Painting &amp; Sculpture Studio

Pass Group Show 2006 presents the work of four mature Washington artists, two of whom – Willem de Looper and Rogelio Maxwell – are very well-known to Washington art lovers. De Looper's small painterly abstractions, forcefully brushed in lush, rich color confrontations, are the downstairs gallery gems, and are modestly priced during this holiday season. The upstairs gallery stuns the viewer with framed digital prints of brightly painted bent metal sculptures by Washington's polymath of talent Rogelio Maxwell. His abstract works are exuberantly affecting and would bring alive any group art show. Strong work by Joyce Jewell and Wilfred Brunner completes this fine show.

Pass Group Show 2006, located in the former carriage house at the rear of 1617 S Street (enter via alley from 17th Street between S and Swann Streets), is open for viewing on Tuesdays and Saturdays between 1 and -5 pm,

Rogelio Maxwell, *Music for Animals*.

but only through December 16. For more information, call 745-0796 or email to [passgallery@webtv.net](mailto:passgallery@webtv.net).

## Meat Market Gallery

Opening recently in the dramatically renovated and restored original Casa Pena grocery store was this new gallery's latest show – complete with wall hangings up a skylight mezzanine, and a video projection room where the old cold storage locker once sat in the rear of the store – was contrarian installation and performance artist

from Columbia, Marcela Rodriguez, who brought her transgressive artistic talents and aesthetic genuineness to an opening night crowd of younger artists and art enthusiasts.

The show focuses on her drawings, paintings, video, and figurative cut-outs. Rodriguez's work ranges from the erotically light-hearted – her hilarious video displaying the artist in a department store fitting room wearing panties with a sewn on hand glove strategically placed for the act of self-pleasuring – to the deadly serious series of wall pieces which include text, in both Spanish and English, expressing the artist's striving to surpass constraints of self and society. In a clever conceptual piece, the artist expresses emotional reactions to the behavior of lovers and other strangers using differing shades and brightness of color over line drawings of alertly standing dogs. The artist's presence in a performance piece mocking the interaction of consumers with those serving them was a further delight to the show.

Meat Market Gallery's solo exhibition of Marcela Rodriguez's work continues at 1636 17th Street through January 7, 2007. Hours are 12noon to 7 pm, Wednesdays through Saturdays and 12 noon to 3 pm on Sundays. For more information, call 328-6328 or email to [info@meatmarketgallery.com](mailto:info@meatmarketgallery.com).

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## AT THE MUSEUMS

From p. 12

Western Europe and Russia.

As noted in the Gallery's wall text and labels, the popularity of diptychs coincided with the fervent religious movements of the late 14th century and the rise of remarkable artistic talents serving the ecclesiastical and aristocratic courts and the powerful mercantile and banking families of the age. Mystical, humanistic, and pious "imitations of the life of Christ" movements abounded – from Spain to the heart of



*Saint Bernard and a Cistercian Monk, Jean Bellegambe, c. 1507/1533*

Germany. The efflorescence of "devotion Moderna," whose followers focused on Christ's humanity, is reflected in many of these nonetheless aesthetically ecstatic paintings – with Christ and the donor depicted as real persons, and the mysteries and divinity of the sacred being made subordinate to the reality of the observable.

The results of all this are breathtaking. The exhibition's opening diptych unites the National Gallery of Art's famous *Saint George and the Dragon* by Rogier van der Weyden with his *Virgin and Child* from the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid, both painted between 1432 and 1435. Van der Weyden's even more glorious, much later *Virgin and Child* from the Huntington Library is displayed alongside his magnificent portrait painting of Philippe de Croy, who is depicted as an extremely handsome and severely, if elegantly, dressed young man. These latter two were painted around 1460.

The most fascinating and most richly painted portrait in the exhibition is Michael Sittow's capturing of Deigo de Guevara – this from the National Gallery's original Andrew Mellon bequest; here it is united with its pair: a *Virgin and Child* from Berlin. Another favorite pair of mine is that of the Gallery's Kress Collection's *Saint*



*Virgin and Child, Robert Campin, c. 1433 - 1435.*

*Veronica* with its equally powerful counterpart from Munich of Saint John the Baptist, both painted by Hans Memling in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. Very different, and spectacularly beautiful are the Robert Campin paintings of *The Trinity* and his *Virgin and Child* – painted in the early 15th century and on loan

from the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg – and the extraordinarily expressive *The Trinity* and *Saint Jerome* painted at the same time by the Master of the Lille Adoration from the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard.

And among the intriguing, almost mysterious among the diptychs, is the only known profile portrait of Christ – paired with the text of the famous 13th or 14th century "Lentulus Letter," which purports to be an eyewitness account of the public ministry of Christ and of his actual physical appearance, and said to be written by Publius Lentulus, Pontius Pilate's predecessor as governor of Judea, to Octavius Caesar. The description of Christ was famously used for a full frontal portrait by Jan van Eyck (and then by Albrecht Dürer) as the "Holy Face" of Jesus – subsequently migrating throughout Christendom, including the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tennessee.

This fascinating exhibition continues through February 4, 2007. It is accompanied by a sumptuously illustrated, full-color hard-bound catalog, a handsome *Essays in Context: Unfolding the Netherlandish Diptych* in soft cover. Also available is an informative, fully illustrated, four-color leaflet, free to viewers at the exhibition. □

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

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# Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

## Decisions Entered Oct. 4 - 25

### Adams Morgan

• 11/29: Held a Roll Call hearing on the entertainment endorsement application of class CT (tavern) licensee Anzu (2436 18th St.) for permission to have entertainment and dancing between 6 pm & 2 am, Sundays through Thursdays, and to 3 am, Fridays and Saturdays. The Kalorama Citizens Association (KCA) has protested the request. A full status hearing was scheduled for 1/10/07.

• 11/1: Held a Show Cause The Board held a show cause hearing in the matter of class CR (restaurant) licensee Chi-Cha Lounge 1624 U St.) related to allegations that the establishment violated its "voluntary agreement" provision on noise. The Board accepted a joint Offer in Compromise and Settlement which was entered into by the Office of the DC Attorney General and the licensee by which it was stipulated that the licensee was to pay a \$500 fine within 10 days and serve a one-day suspension on 11/16/06, with two suspension days stayed for one year providing there are no further violations.

• 11/15: Held Status hearings in the matters of the substantial change and entertainment endorsement applications of class CR licensee Chloe (2473 18th St.), which include changing the license class from a restaurant (CR) to a tavern (CT) and for permission to have entertainment, dancing, and a cover charge; and of class CR licensee Saki (2477 18th St.), which seeks a change in its license class from a restaurant to a tavern also. The applications have been protested by ANC IC and the Kalorama Citizens Association KCA). Status hearings for both these cases have been scheduled for 1/31/07, but all parties in these proceedings were ordered to mediation prior to that date.

• 11/1: Held a Show Cause status hearing in the matter of class CR licensee Habana Village 1834 Col. Rd.) , regarding allegations the establishment violated its "voluntary agreement" by allowing excessive noise to emanate from the establishment; for having live entertainment without

ABC Board approval; and that a substantial change in the nature of the establishment's operation was made without Board approval. A full Show Cause hearing was scheduled for 12/20/06.

• 11/1: Held a Roll Call hearing on the entertainment endorsement application of class CR licensee Meskerem Ethiopian Restaurant (2434 18th St.) for permission to have entertainment and dancing from between 11 pm & 2 am on Sundays and to 3 am , Fridays and Saturdays. The Kalorama Citizens Association (KCA) has protested the request, citing concerns about the potential impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood.

### Cardozo / Shaw / U Street

• 11/29: Held a continued Protest hearing on the substantial change application of class CN (nightclub) licensee Black Cat (1811 14th St.) for permission to utilize outdoor areas comprising a deck in the rear 230 patrons and a rooftop deck for 230 patrons. ANC 1B, along with a group of more than five neighboring residents, has protested the application. The case was continued until 2/28/07, but all parties in these proceedings were ordered to mediation prior to that date.

• 11/15: Held a Status hearing on the entertainment endorsement and substantial change application of class CR licensee El Paraiso Restaurant (1916-18 14th St.) for permission to have entertainment consisting of karaoke, occasional dancing, and a DJ; and to change the hours of alcoholic beverage sales and service to be allowed between 11 am & 2 am, Sundays through Thursdays and to 3 am, Fridays and Saturdays. Based on an ABRA investigation, it was learned that the establishment had been operating at these later hours for some years, although the original license application stipulated earlier hours of operation. Both applications have been protested by a group of neighboring residents. The Board ordered the matter to mediation prior to its next status hearing scheduled for 12/13/06.

### Cleveland Park

• 10/8: Held a show cause hearing in the matter of class CT licensee Kennedy Warren Club (3133 Conn. Ave.) regarding allegations the establishment failed to have an ABC-licensed manager on duty and had offered entertainment without Board approval. The Board accepted a joint Offer in Compromise and Settlement which was entered into by the Office of the DC Attorney General and the licensee by which it was stipulated that licensee was to pay a \$250 fine and serve a two-day suspension, with one day to be served on 11/28 and the other suspension day stayed for one year providing there are no further violations.

### Dupont Circle

• 11/8: Reviewed the entertainment endorsement application of class CR licensee Ruth's Chris Steak House (2017 S St.) by which licensee seeks permission to have entertainment consisting of a band, piano, or singer. The Board decided this constituted a substantial change in the nature of the establishment's operation and mandated placarding of the request in order to give the public the opportunity to protest or comment on the proposed change.

### Mt. Vernon Square / Convention Center

• 11/15: Held a Show Cause status hearing in the matter of class CR licensee Singapore Bistro (1134 9th St.) regarding an allegation that the establishment changed ownership without prior permission by the Board. The Board accepted a joint Offer in Compromise and Settlement which was entered into by the Office of the DC Attorney General and the licensee by which it was stipulated that licensee was to pay a \$1,500 fine within 30 days.

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# Food in the 'Hood

## "The Truffle Of The Poor" A Bite of the Onion

By Joel Denker

**Editor's Note:** The writer, a former Peace Corp volunteer in Africa many years ago, is the author of *Capital Flavors: Exploring Washington's Ethnic Restaurants* (1988, Seven Locks Press), which evolved from his series in this newspaper over a decade ago, known then as "The Ethnic Bazaar." In addition, in June 2003, his *The World on a Plate: A Tour Through the History of America's Ethnic Cuisines* was published by Westview Press ([www.westviewpress.com](http://www.westviewpress.com)), in which part of one chapter was drawn from articles that originally had appeared in this space.

Queries, comments, suggestions can be sent to [denker@starpower.net](mailto:denker@starpower.net).

Abdallah Hashish, the Egyptian-born owner of the Astor Mediterranean restaurant, enjoys a simple snack of a raw onion sprinkled with salt and cumin. In his country, "farmers eat raw onion and bread and salt and pepper." Among its many virtues, Abdallah says, the onion "helps the appetite" and "is good for the immune system."

In his restaurant kitchen, Abdallah practices the onion arts. He fries up onions that top kushary (or kushari), the earthy Egyptian street dish of lentils and macaroni. Make sure, the onion purist reminds me, when preparing fried onions to "lay them out flat after cooking them."

Abdallah has adapted to the tastes of his American customers. "Americans don't eat raw onions," he says, except on hamburgers. The Astor therefore doesn't include onions, inseparable from the Egyptian salad, in its green salad.

"We don't have any dish without onions," Abdallah reminisces about Egyptian food. "We marinate almost all chicken and meat with onion," his son Wesam points out.

Onions, Elizabeth Rozin observes, are the starting point in much of the world's cooking. Frying onions and ginger is the first step in making many curries. Latins build their dishes from a sofrito, a mixture of onions, sweet peppers, and garlic sautéed in olive oil.

The onion, a member – along with leeks, garlic, and chives – of the lily family, was not only associated with daily sustenance, health, and vitality in the earliest civilizations, but, curiously enough, the bulb also came to symbolize danger.

The onion fed the ancient Egyptians and was also expected to nourish their souls. Peasants survived on a diet of bread, raw onions, and beer. The workers who slaved building the Great Pyramid of Cheops were given a daily ration of onions and radishes. So fond were the Israelites of the tastes of the Nile Valley that they pined for them in their exile: "We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, the melons, and the leeks, and the onions and the garlick." (Numbers 11:5)

The onion was essential in Egyptian ceremonies honoring the dead. Mourners carried baskets of onions to funerals. More than any other objects, onions were depicted in carvings on the walls of tombs. Bulbs were inserted in the bandages of mummies, probably to awaken the senses of the dead. The mummy of Ramses the IV, the 12th century B.C. monarch, was discovered with onions bulging from his eye sockets.

An honored antiseptic, the onion also accompanied the dead on their journey, probably to cleanse the body of poisons. Onions in Egypt were grated to make dressings and ointments for cuts and wounds, even acne.

They were also invested with other

miraculous powers. A paste of onion juice and wine was rubbed into the vagina to prevent menstruation.

The onion, whose name derives from the Latin for "one," awed the Egyptians as a spiritual symbol. Emblematic of the universe, the onion's layers represented the concentric circles of heaven, earth, and hell. Leaders swore with their right hand on the onion when making oaths. The Roman poet Juvenal poked fun at this peculiar form of religiosity: "It is sacrilege to bite the leek or onion. O holy nation in whose gardens divinities spring up."

The sacred vegetable was disparaged by the upper classes as the food of commoners. Sophisticated cooks rarely honored the onion in its own right. It was seen primarily as a flavoring for sauces and dressings. A recipe for Alexandrian grilled fish in the cookbook of the Roman writer Apicius called for a sauce blending onion, pepper, coriander, vinegar, and oil.

Onions, it was feared, might defile holy men. Egyptian priests were prohibited from eating the bulbs. The onion, the historian Plutarch remarks, was avoided because it excited the sexual appetites of the clergy.

The contradictory feelings, adoration and dread, stimulated by the onion were even more pronounced in Indian culture. Brahmins, high-caste Hindus, were forbidden from eating onions and garlic. The twice born, as they were called, would lose their high station if they indulged.

Onions were also shunned by the devout because of their assumed impurity. Their smell, it was thought, contaminated both the believer and the deity being worshipped.

Hindus believed that the pungent onion might arouse forbidden passions. Honey laced with onion juice, an Indian friend suggested, was as effective as Viagra.

The root vegetable, Hindus supposed, lived in the demonic underworld. In some Hindu myths, onions are beloved by the devil, who also lusts after meat, blood, alcohol, and other strong foods.

The same belief that led the orthodox to renounce onions encouraged soldiers to embrace them. Warrior castes in India today are permitted to eat the "very hot" vegetable. Onions, it is said, will provide them with martial strength.

Believers were revolted by the sight of onions and garlic because, food scholar Frederick Simoons points out, of their similarity to meat and the body. Onions looked too much like flesh. When the bulbs were cut up, they conjured up images of meat. Many Indian vegetarians, then, will not eat onions. Southern Indians, who are fervent vegetarians, minimize the use of onions in their cooking. Northern Indian dishes, which bear the stamp of the region's less fastidious Muslim conquerors, are often onion-laden.

In China, where the spring onion has

been an integral part of the diet since ancient days, the onion has similarly been inviting and threatening. The Chinese placed great stock in the green onion's restorative power. It was supposed to warm the body in frigid weather.

For the Chinese Buddhist as for the orthodox Hindu, the onion was a forbidden food. The stimulating vegetable, Buddhists believed, could awaken slumbering sexual urges. One of "five vegetables of strong odor," the onion was especially dangerous for priests, who were commanded to lead pure lives.

Since the onion's powers derived from sinister, subterranean forces, it was useful in warding off hostile invaders. Between 200 B.C. and 200 A.D., Frederick Simoons points out, the Chinese hung onions and garlic from red cords above their gates and doors to ward off evil. They were also supposed to frighten away insects.

As the onion moved west, it evoked strong reactions. In Rome, where it was often eaten with garlic, wild celery, and cheese, the poet Horace derided the onion as plebeian grub. The attitudes of the cultivated classes did not prevent its wide circulation. Excavators turned up a basket of the bulbs in a Pompeii brothel.

In Medieval Europe, onions continued to be a basic food of the poor. Tenants were allowed to pay their rent to landowners with the staple. Following ancient medical lore, physicians prescribed the bulbs to cure hair loss, headaches, snakebites, and other ills. Raw onions for breakfast, late medieval doctors advised, could help conquer the plague.

Long-held beliefs vanish slowly. Abdallah, the Astor owner, remembers watching another Egyptian pressing an onion on a pimple on her face. I was pleased to

### Onion Outlets

- Astor Mediterranean, 1829 Columbia Rd.; tel., 745-7495. The café usually offers kushary (see above) once a week.

- Hank's Oyster Bar, 1624 Q St.; tel., 462-4265. Try their scrumptious, lightly fried buttermilk onion rings.

- Mandu, 1805 18th St.; tel., 588-1540. The recently opened Korean restaurant has a wealth of dishes flavored with green onions. The scallion pancakes come with a soy dipping sauce seasoned with chili and sesame. It is flecked with bits of green onion.

- Santa Rosa Restaurant, 2224 18th St.; tel., 518-8100. Many of the Peruvian seafood eatery's dishes come with tender, sweet red onions.

hear that the much-overlooked onion still bewitched us. □

\*The title quote is from the French gastronome Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin.

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## RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

By Alexandra Greeley\*

### JUNIPER Fair Trade

In DC, restaurants come and go, and those that stay may get major facelifts and come back to life as something else. That's what happened to The Bistro, now Fairmont Hotel's Juniper, a swanky place that's all about the Power People. As such, it's a great setting to overhear some interesting conversational gambits like, "When I retire, I'm going after that secret FBI file." Or to watch a job interviewer asking all the right questions of a candidate who talked too much.

Keeping pace with the formal, dressy décor, Juniper's menu takes a serious look at haute cuisine. When its doors reopened about a year and a half ago, chef-about-town Martin Saylor manned the cook pots, a chef who is probably best known for opening the trendy Butterfield 9. Saylor's gone, and his replacement has framed a menu to fit into the hotel's "Fairmont Lifestyle Cuisine," inspired by the hotel group's Willow Stream Spas. Because it is worded vaguely, the menu blurb about spa food may – or may not – describe every dish on the menu. But it does probably mean that all the ingredients are fresh and unprocessed, and each dish balanced for health and good nutrition.

Clearly, the menu is not tailored, however, to suit calorie counters, for dieters would avoid the restaurant's generous breadbasket with the ramekins of butter and of hummus, and such entrées as Maine lobster risotto, the Cobb salad with turkey breast and applewood-smoked bacon, and steak frites accompanied by a béarnaise sauce. Watching calories and figuring out an entrée choice here, sadly, means sticking with the roast chicken and avoiding the far more tempting Angus beef burger with fries.

OK. Predictable as roast chicken can be, at least this chef's version is tender and juicy, with a darkly-crispy skin. And the wild rice pilaf? Great, but the chef stirs in generous scoops of white rice, plus a few slices of wild mushrooms. Somewhere along the way, the butternut squash, advertised as an accompaniment, got diced and a few pieces tossed into the pilaf. Since everything on the plate seemed slicked with vegetable oil, this selection was not the best low-cal choice.

Throwing out the calorie counter, the typical patron would probably opt for any of

the other entrées, and I, for one, would have gone for the crab cakes served with a warm corn salad and fritters or the steak frites with those house-made fries. And I surely would have started off with the roasted fig bruschetta accented by Maytag bleu cheese and a pomegranate reduction. Instead, I sipped on the soup of the day, a tomato-ey broth that was, like other offerings here, overly salty.

Sticking to a diet is especially grim when the dessert menu comes around. Then you think that heaven must surely include chocolate with a sense of humor, and what could be more amusing than that childhood delight, chocolate Smores? Better yet – and talk about having your chocolate cake and eating it too – Juniper runs a dessert sample special, from which you can choose three of five dessert options, including a decadent three-layer chocolate pâté How's that for outmaneuvering the calorie counter?

Juniper has a lot going for it, not the least of which is that it's open for three meals a day; sprays of heavenly scented stargazer lilies are strategically placed; its menu offers an appealing selection of entrées (if you are not on a diet); and you can walk away having rubbed elbows with some of DC's high and mighty. □

*Juniper • 2401 M St. , NW ; tel., 457-5020.  
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*Alexandra Greeley is a food writer, editor, and restaurant reviewer. She has authored books on Asian and Mexican cuisines published by Simon & Schuster, Doubleday, and Macmillan. Other credits include restaurant reviews and food articles for national and regional publications, as well as former editor of the Vegetarian Times and former food editor/writer for the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong.*

**Find past reviews  
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# The InTowner Classifieds

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All straight line ads appear on our web site in addition to being published in the print edition. The cost for these is as follows: **\$5.00 minimum charge for up to 10 words and 50¢ per word thereafter**, whether business or non-business ads. The same rate applies to nonprofit organizations. Phone numbers, e-mail addresses (and URLs) as well as abbreviations count as single words. All-capitalized and/or bold-faced words are charged at the rate of 75¢ each—*except* that the first 2 or 3 words of each ad are automatically set as all-caps bold at no extra charge. Thus, when composing your ad, it should be written so that those first words clearly state the main selling point being emphasized.

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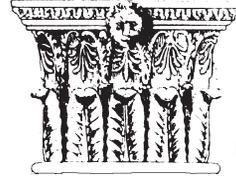
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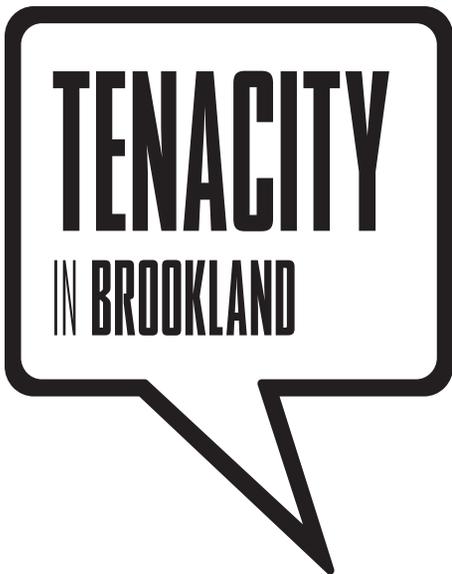
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1. Based on yearend 2005 statistics by Inside Mortgage Finance 2/17/06. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. © 2005 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. #43000 11/06-2/07



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for 3 years of past issues

## Selected Recent Real Estate Sales

**Prepared for the InTowner by Jo Ricks\***  
**Reporting Period: September and October 2006**

### SEPTEMBER

#### SINGLE FAMILY HOUSES

1422 Belmont St.	1,025,000
744 Columbia Rd.	237,000
1709 Euclid St.	510,000
1753 Euclid St.	794,900
1222 Girard St.	635,000
718 Gresham Pl.	355,000
771 Harvard St.	440,000
782 Harvard St.	382,500
1665 Harvard St.	745,000
1745 Harvard St.	540,000
1838 Ingleside Terr.	675,000
1849 Irving St.	920,000
1676 Kalorama Rd.	540,000
625 Lamont St.	335,000
1535 Monroe St.	615,000
743 Morton St.	215,000
3437 Mt. Pleasant St.	542,500
730 Newton Pl.	645,000
1878 Ontario Pl.	665,000
2476 Ontario Rd.	800,000
1729 P St.	1,600,000
768-B Princeton Pl.	424,000
1336 Q St.	1,250,000
47 R St.	570,000
2026 R St.	2,000,000
1461 S St.	875,000
1713 Seaton St.	675,000
1344 Shepherd St.	650,000
1221 T St.	640,000
124 U St.	525,000
611 U St.	615,000
2817 11th St.	559,000
1610 13th St.	1,200,000
3647 13th St.	680,000
4200 14th St.	550,000
4013 16th St.	690,000
2815 18th St.	795,000

#### CONDOMINIUMS

2630 Adams Mill Rd. #101A	Adams Mill House	450,000
2009 Belmont Rd #303		420,000
1451 Belmont St. #424	Fedora	537,500
1454 Belmont St. #7	City Overlook	1,150,000
1454 Belmont St. #12	City Overlook	849,900
1845-B Biltmore St. #38		560,000
1840 California St. #6A	Crescent	456,500
2123 California St. #D8	Brighton	630,000
2138 California St. #406	Lonsdale	360,000
2138 California St. #501	Lonsdale	420,000
2149 California St. #C	Ghirardelli	525,000
1934 Calvert St. #4	Whelen	650,000
2301 Champlain St. #314	Adams Row	459,500
2363 Champlain St. #2	Orlovon	480,000
1417 Chapin St. #509	Columbia Heights	498,000
1421-23 Chapin St. #302	Meridian Heights	750,000
1400 Church St. #N301	Lofts 14 Two	635,000
1747 Church St. #4		320,000
1341 Clifton St. #203	Vista Hill	245,000
1401 Columbia Rd. #410	Adams Court	344,500
1465 Columbia Rd. #303		365,000
1954 Columbia Rd. #605	Schuyler Arms	309,300
2311 Connecticut Ave. #305	Woodward	499,000
1754 Corcoran St. #50R	Corcoran Mews	365,000
1756 Corcoran St. #3B	Corcoran Mews	445,000
1324 Euclid St. #201	Majestic	458,000
1324 Euclid St. #403	Majestic	475,000
1324 Euclid St. #406	Majestic	383,000
1454 Euclid St. #4	Columbia Heights	360,000
1125 Harvard St. #1125F		375,000
1907 Kalorama Pl. #1016		455,000
2425 L St. #409	Columbia Res.	468,900
2425 L St. #702	Columbia Res.	1,033,920
1111 M St. #6	Saxa	359,000

1212 M St. #303	Boyd	469,000
1627 Marion St. #B		500,000
555 Mass. Ave. #606		344,900
555 Mass. Ave. #718		560,000
1711 Mass. Ave. #134	Boston House	290,000
1727 Mass. Ave. #308	Winthrop House	198,000
1436 Meridian Pl. #4		199,000
1863 Mintwood Pl. #1	Judson	482,500
1863 Mintwood Pl. #2	Judson	550,000
1863 Mintwood Pl. #3	Judson	635,000
1300 N St. #413		234,128
1440 N St. #406	Towne Terrace West	255,000
1440 N St. #911	Towne Terrace West	252,350
2130 N St. #110	Hastings Court	200,000
1730 New Hamp. Ave. #2		485,000
1930 New Hamp. Ave. #1	Haddon	45,000
1930 New Hamp. Ave. #051	Haddon	489,000
2012 O St. #13	Leland	359,000
2512 Ontario Rd. #1		479,900
1718 P St. #720	Webster House	250,000
1767 P St. #1		560,000
1105 Park Rd. #5	Columbia Pri	510,000
1615 Q St. #909	Cairo	245,000
1723 Q St. #C6	Harmony House	218,000
51 Randolph Pl. #401	Nebraska	239,900
1008 Rhode Is. Ave. #A	Nickson	679,000
1425 Rhode Is. Ave. #51	Willison	650,000
1441 Rhode Is. Ave. #110		454,000
1441 Rhode Is. Ave. #119		455,000
1441 Rhode Is. Ave. #708		417,000
1 Scott Cir #819	General Scott	235,000
1437 Spring Rd. #14	Spring Flats	252,000
1437 Spring Rd. #22	Spring Flats	325,000
1437 Spring Rd. #31	Spring Flats	330,000
1714 Swann St. #4	Stacy	755,000
121 T St.		445,000
1413 T St. #408		212,000
1825 T St. #705	Meredith	275,000
1111 11th St. #411	Eleven	390,000
1111 11th St. #709	Eleven	335,000
2004 11th St. #324	Lincoln	525,000
2001 12th St. #206		430,000
1211 13th St. #207	Rutherford	450,000
1211 13 St. #406	Rutherford	391,000
1225 13th St. #303		354,000
1245 13th St. #709		286,500
1925 13th St. #B		680,000
2025 13th St. #3		449,000
2822 13th St. #2B	Bartley	292,500
3500 13th St. #508	Columbia Station	297,000
1407 15th St. #3	Ancey	560,000
1407 15th St. #4	Ancey	587,000
2656 15th St. #C2	Celsius	327,600
2656 15th St. #C3	Celsius	243,100
2656 15th St. #103	Celsius	300,000
2656 15th St. #105	Celsius	310,800
2656 15th St. #201	Celsius	314,900
2656 15th St. #203	Celsius	295,000
2656 15th St. #304	Celsius	297,500
1835 16th St. #2		505,000
1901 16th St. #202		205,000
1502 17th St. #7	Dupont Manor	412,000
1502 17th St. #10	Dupont Manor	379,000
1700 17th St. #505	Admiral Dupont	399,000
1325 18th St. #609	Central	327,000
1545 18th #605	Dupont East	330,000
1701 18th St. #102	Duncan	950,000
1701 18th St. #301	Duncan	1,100,000
2038 18th St. #203	Ashley	475,000
2424 18th St. #R4	2424 Lofts	2,150,000
1733 20th St. #102	Nelson	429,000
1155 23rd St. #8A-North	Ritz-Carlton	2,050,000
1155 23rd St. Pres.PH#2	Ritz-Carlton	4,125,000
1155 23rd St. PH#2E-North	Ritz-Carlton	2,850,000

#### COOPERATIVES

2801 Adams Mill Rd. #103	Clydesdale	255,000
1801 Clydesdale #321	Saxony	170,000

1820 Clydesdale Pl. #302	330,000	
1869 Mintwood Pl. #24	330,000	
1875 Mintwood Pl. #1	260,000	
2853 Ontario Rd. #422	Ontario	600,000
2853 Ontario Rd. #510	Ontario	395,000
1225 13th St. #205		253,000
1701 16th St. #232	Chastleton	290,000
1701 16th St. #302	Chastleton	305,000
1725 17th St. #303	Rutland Court	215,000

### OCTOBER

#### SINGLE FAMILY HOUSES

2122 Bancroft Pl.	3,100,000
1754 Church St.	845,000
206 Elm St.	320,000
976 Florida Ave.	449,000
34 Hanover Pl.	409,000
522 Harvard St.	245,000
629 Keefer Pl.	369,000
1209 Kenyon St.	570,000
2130 Leroy Pl.	1,870,000
649 Morton St.	365,000
2014 North Capitol St.	421,225
81 O St.	395,000
1522 Ogden St.	580,000
730 Otis Pl.	382,000
624 Q St.	465,000
1238 Quincy St.	539,000
1404 Quincy St.	400,000
1306 Riggs St.	699,900
1529 S St.	1,100,000
3321 Sherman Ave.	325,000
1421 Swann St.	688,500
2032 1st St.	395,000
1414 3rd St.	400,000
3824 10th St.	610,000
2711 11th St.	660,000
2109 12th Pl.	659,000
2118 12th Pl.	674,900
1313 12th St.	740,000
1825 12th St.	799,000
1832 15th St.	800,000

#### CONDOMINIUMS

1401 Church St. #501	Lofts 14	1,285,000
1454 Belmont St. #5	City Overlook	463,000
1454 Belmont St. #10	City Overlook	586,000
1454 Belmont St. #13	City Overlook	787,000
1833 California St. #205	Bedford	370,000
2123 California St. #F7	Brighton	389,000
2301 Champlain St. #1 04	Adams Row	539,000
2363 Champlain St. #6	Orlovon	496,000
1438 Columbia Rd. #102	Piedmont	300,000
1438 Columbia Rd. #201	Piedmont	397,000
1438 Columbia Rd. #202	Piedmont	303,000
1438 Columbia Rd. #301	Piedmont	399,000
1438 Columbia Rd. #302	Piedmont	299,000
1438 Columbia Rd. #305	Piedmont	294,000
1438 Columbia Rd. #402	Piedmont	299,000
1851 Columbia Rd. #305	Woodley	344,000
1901 Columbia Rd. #203		310,000
1954 Columbia Rd. #807		195,000
1754 Corcoran St. #46B	Corcoran Mews	259,000
1441 Euclid St. #B2	Euclid Manor	260,000
1827 Florida Ave. #404	Phoenix	470,000
736 Girard St.		429,900
1741 Johnson Ave. #302	Dupont Lofts	600,000
1902 Kalorama Pl. #1052		517,000
27 Logan Cir #7		675,000
555 Mass. Ave. #705		366,500
555 Mass. Ave. #1112		408,500
1711 Mass. Ave. (pkg.) #18	Boston House	27,500
1711 Mass. Ave. #731	Boston House	239,000
1513 Meridian Pl. #5		220,000
1428 Monroe St. #D	Modena	380,000

1300 N St. #5	Radius	229,000
1300 N St. #403	Radius	329,900
1420 N St. #402	Towne Terrace East	230,000
652 Newton Pl. #B	Laurens	375,000
507 P St. #1	Conrad I	484,000
507 P St. PH	Conrad I	585,000
509 P St. #2	Conrad II	615,800
1413 P St. #205	Cooper Lewis	925,000
1531 P St. #7	Highland	490,000
1531 P St. #8	Highland	846,500
1332 Park Rd. #B		570,937
1340 Q St. #12	Abbey	379,900
1408 Q St. #22		355,000
1615 Q St. #814	Cairo	329,900
1741 Q St. #D		799,900
1516 R St. #3		810,000
1727 R St. #503		450,000
1752 S St. #4		435,000
1 Scott Cir. #213	General Scott	246,300
1 Scott Cir. #619	General Scott	295,000
1704 T St. #401	Dupont Renaissance	810,000
1722 U St. #A		458,000
1390 V St. #413	Langston-Hughes	452,000
1331 Vermont Ave. #1A		417,000
2120 Vermont Ave. #621	Rhapsody	426,500
2030 1st St. #2	Ledroit Park	425,000
2129 1st St. #1	Forman	250,000
2121 2nd St. #3		264,000
1117 10th #306	Quincy Court	385,000
2004 11th St. #232	Lincoln	445,000
1229 12th St. #3		449,000
1918 12th St. #2	Woodson Row	1,047,500
1325 13th St. #6	Iowa	599,000
1600 14th St. #302	Q14 Residences	700,002
1600 14th St. #401	Q14 Residences	600,020
1600 14th St. #404	Q14 Residences	822,921
1600 14th St. #501	Q14 Residences	609,768
2656 15th St. #C4	Celsius	255,000
2656 15th St. #102	Celsius	319,900
2656 15th St. #104	Celsius	282,000
2656 15th St. #302	Celsius	325,000
2656 15th St. #305	Celsius	302,500
1612 16th St. #3	Tapes	1,375,000
1813 16th St. #1A		549,000
2001 16th St. #201	Brittany	432,000
2000 16th St. #502	Balfour	305,000
1724 17th St. #2	Whyland	405,000
1325 18th St. #707	Palladium	362,000
1545 18th St. #919	Dupont East	355,000
1701 18th St. #201	Duncan	1,050,000
1701 18th St. #202	Duncan	1,340,000
1740 18th St. #101	Hampton	580,000
2300 18th St. #108		295,000
2410 20th St. #204		347,000
1260 21st St. #401	Newport	225,000
1308 21st St. #201	Burton	415,000

#### COOPERATIVES

2032 Belmont Rd. #532	Valley Vista	257,500
2122 California St. #457	Westmorland	635,000
1801 Clydesdale Pl. #621	Saxony	179,900
1669 Columbia Rd. #115		260,000
1875 Mintwood Pl. #46		275,000
1026 16th St. #702	Presidential	694,000
1526 17th St. #411	Cavanaugh Court	479,000
1725 17th St. #105	Rutland Court	370,000
2100 19th St. #302		235,000

\*Jo Ricks is Associate Broker at City Houses in Washington, DC. The sales shown here were handled by various agents from the many real estate brokerage firms actively working in the neighborhoods reported on by this newspaper.

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