The Architecture of Georgetown Homes &
Tour of Dumbarton House March 15

The Monday, March 15 CAG meeting will take place at historic Dumbarton House and will present a rare opportunity to have an insider’s look at the historic home and to see Georgetown through the eyes of an architectural designer.

Dumbarton House executive director Karen Daly will provide a tour and a brief history of the house. The main presentation will be by Claudia Powell, a specialist in classical architectural design and detailing. She will address the house’s history and style and will expand to the styles of other Georgetown homes and businesses.

Dumbarton House, a Federal Period house, ca. 1800, is one of the few stately brick homes in Washington to survive the early days of the country and capital. The design of the house reflects the shift from Georgian tradition to the Adamesque Federal style popular at the time. From the library to the dining room, through the music room to the parlor, to the bedrooms upstairs, visitors see furniture, paintings, textiles, silver and ceramics that were made and used in the Republic’s formative years.

The mission of the Dumbarton House museum is to preserve the historic structure and its collections and to educate the public about life in Washington, D.C., during the early years of the Republic. Dumbarton House is headquarters for the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

In historic Georgetown, a variety of styles illustrate the nation’s architectural development from Georgian mansions and town houses through early Federal and Classical Revival houses to the ornate structures of the ante- and post-bellum periods. The majority of Georgetown’s building stock was constructed after 1870 and is characterized by row-house construction popular in the late Victorian era. The commercial corridors of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, as well as the waterfront areas, boast development from every era.

Powell, who will share her expertise during this special meeting, received her classical architectural training at The Institute for Classical Architecture in New York and her interior design training at New York’s Fashion Institute of Technology. She has worked as a senior design consultant for a number of major interior design firms, including Bunny Williams and Mark Hampton in New York, and Thomas Pheasant and Franck & Lohsen Architects in Washington.

The reception/tour begins at 7 pm followed by the program at 7:30. Dumbarton House is at 2715 Q Street NW. If you bring a photo of your house, Ms. Powell has offered to do a quick architectural ID of your home.

—Robin Jones

Family Dance Party Kicks Off Concerts

For the past seven years, CAG’s Concerts in the Parks have brought together all ages of the Georgetown community to socialize and enjoy live music — from jazz to reggae to rock n’ roll — performed in our lovely parks. Youngsters, oldsters, families, and friends (and an amazing array of well-behaved dogs) gather at the concerts to picnic, catch up, and enjoy the live bands.

Continued on page 4
It was a winter for the record books, one our children will be recalling in their Oral History memoirs eighty years down the road. I love the snow. There is a quiet and peace that comes with the clean white blanket. I walk almost everywhere I need to go. I swap stories of snow conquests with locals in Georgetown restaurants and shops. I appreciate how everyone is brought together in the “us versus nature” struggle. The days off from work turned many of us into school kids again. The blizzard forced us to do nothing for a little while. It’s not often I get that chance.

I know that a lot of people put a tremendous amount of work into keeping the city running during these “gifts from nature” and I applaud them. I am eternally grateful for all that they did. It is through their efforts that I am able to maintain my childlike snow euphoria. I commend all the neighbors who did such an admirable job shoveling their walks and helping out those in need. Anyone who tried to navigate the sidewalks knows how crucial it is to clear a wide path. It is your civic responsibility and it is the law.

A sure sign that spring is on the horizon is the annual Concerts in the Parks Kickoff Party. The snow didn’t daunt this year’s committee, which planned a stellar extravaganza at hot spot George in Georgetown Court. Co-chairs Elizabeth Miller and Renee Esfandiary Crupi and their committee did a kid-centric event this year. The juxtaposition of the trendy nightclub and the little kids’ crafts tables was priceless. Guests sauntered down the red carpet to have their picture snapped in front of our Wall of Glory (Concerts corporate sponsors). Snowflake jewels were on your right and beers and juice boxes were on the left. The DJ spun the hokey pokey while a disco ball rotated overhead. Super Mario battled it out on one big screen while the Caps took on Tampa Bay on another. And the young families of Georgetown had an absolute blast. It was amazing to see how many precious children live in our community. With this as its launch, the 2010 Concerts season is sure to be the best yet — just one more reason to be wishing summer a speedy return. Thank you to the committee, George, our sponsors, and our raffle prize donor, stylist Madeline Wade. It was a terrific kickoff!

While my car was buried for a couple of weeks I came to depend on so many local businesses in Georgetown. In talking with the store owners it is evident that they are feeling the negative effects of the economic downturn. We are already seeing too many Going Out of Business signs in the neighborhood. We cannot afford any more without losing the character of the community. It is so important for all of us to make a conscious effort to shop local. Instead of running to the mall or going online, pop down the street and get what you need and browse for some things that technically you might not need. If each of us were to spend at least $50 a week in a locally owned business it would be a big step toward keeping their doors open. And imagine all of the unique treasures you can discover someplace other than Target.

Take advantage of CAG’s Merchant Discount Program, which offers our members discounts at many neighborhood shops. You can get a discount on food, wine, jewelry, furniture, personal training, and even a wedding dress. Now is the time for all of us to show how much our local retailers mean to us.

Georgetown University is still working on its draft 2010 Campus Plan. A major aspect of the plan is the impact the university has on the neighborhood. It is important for neighbors to report and document student noise and trash violations each and every time they occur. For a noise violations, call 911 to help correct the situation, then report it at gtown411@ymail.com. For trash problems, call 311, then report them to gtown411@ymail.com. Your complaints will remain anonymous.

Many thanks to Mary Kay Ricks and Mt. Zion Methodist Church for a terrific program last Monday (February 22). I look forward to seeing you at the CAG meeting at Dumbarton House on Monday March 15!

—Jennifer Altemus
One of Ours

In so far as we have a pleasant life here in Georgetown—and for the most part we do—it is because there are some really nice people living and working here whose lives intersect ours. And our lives are the better for it. You may know Ozra Noble, she has been the subject of at least two previous profiles in local papers. There is clearly something special about her. Even if you know Ozra you may not have known her last name is Noble—it’s almost too good to be true. She is the cheery, kind and thoughtful person at the desk at the New York Cleaners on P Street.

Ozra came to this country from Montego Bay, Jamaica, in 1968. Originally she settled in Boston, but when she came to DC in June of 1972 to attend the wedding of her uncle she knew she had found the place she wanted to live. She got a job at the New York Cleaners (then called New York Merchant Tailoring) and has been there ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Ko, who own the business, recognize that in Ozra they have a star. Watch her at work. In the early morning rush of customers people come in and hurriedly drop off their clothes to be cleaned. Everyone is talking at once. Some customers just leave their things and depart. Ozra doesn’t miss a trick. When things quiet down she knows exactly who has been there and what they have left, even though it all happened at once.

Ozra invited the Ko’s two sons, ages 21 and 22 to Jamaica over Christmas vacation to stay at her uncle’s place there this past year. For nine days they swam and snorkeled and had, as you can imagine, a very good time. The sons are, respectively, a graduate of UVA and a student at James Madison University.

Some comments on the passage of time: When Ozra first came here it cost about $1 to clean a pair of pants, now it costs about $6. A sad commentary: Ozra was robbed at CVS recently, a man grabbed her wallet from her hand as she was paying at the new self checkout and ran out the door. Along with cash and various useful documents such as we all carry, she had a gift certificate at T.J.Maxx. Anyone who knows her will have noticed that she is a snappy dresser and that she always looks well turned out.

New York Cleaners is definitely one of the fine old time classy operations we want to preserve. No, I am not a paid promoter, though I may sound like one, I am just a long time fan. As for Ozra, a standout member of our community, I am a fan of hers too.

—Edith Schafer

Double Your Money When Donating to Peabody Room

The DC Public Library Foundation announced a matching fund challenge from The Alice and Russell True Foundation in which all proceeds go directly to the Georgetown Library Peabody Room collection. Every dollar raised in donations made to the DC Public Library Fund will be matched up to $50,000 by November 1, 2010. The Foundation has already made a generous $10,000 donation to kick start the fundraising effort. Make donations payable to “DC Public Library Foundation” and note “Peabody” in the memo section of the check. Donations are also being accepted online at www.dcplfoundation.org, click “yes” when asked if you’d like your donation to go to the Georgetown Recovery and Restoration Fund.
Family Dance Party Kicks Off Concerts continued from cover

The 2010 kick-off party held at George the afternoon of January 31 was a terrific warm-up for the good times that lie ahead this summer. Parents, grandparents, and children—from toddlers to pre-teens—had a great time at the disco-theme party enjoying a red-carpet photo op, arts & crafts, games, pub food and drinks. A DJ played lots of rocking beats and got families of all ages and sizes involved in dancing competitions.

Mark you calendars for the 2010 Concerts:

Sunday, May 23 at 5 pm
Rose Park

Sunday, June 20 at 5 pm:
Father’s Day celebration
Volta Park

Sunday, July 4 at 5 pm:
Independence Day parade returns (at 4)!
Volta Park

Committee
Elizabeth Miller, Co-Chair & Dan Sallick
Renee Esfandiary Crupi, Co-Chair & Eric Crupi
Jennifer & Tim Altemus
Annie Lou & MJ Berman
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Kara & Michael Sullivan
Maryann Surrick & Scott Popma
Dorothy & Stockton Williams
Dima Zalatimo & Amir Yazdanpanah
Bartleby’s Books: Pages From the Past

Bartleby’s Books, located at 1132 29th Street, is the lone antiquarian bookshop in Georgetown. What a treat to pass through its portals and enter a wonderful world of words filled with charm and nostalgia. There is something enticing about old books, some bound in exquisite leather, others whose pages are thin and fragile, locked in glass shelves, all boasting long and rich histories.

Bartleby’s employee Eric Passaglia told me the owners, John Thomson and Karen Griffin, moved the store from Bethesda to Georgetown in the mid-1990s (it was on M Street until the move to the current location in August 2006). The owners missed our snowstorms, being at an antiquarian book fair in Los Angeles selling (and possibly buying) books.

This does raise the question of what is an “antiquarian” book, as opposed to simply a used book. “That is a good question,” Passaglia said, one with which even the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America has struggled. The best Passaglia has come up with: it’s an older “something” that someone wants. “It can be more obscure, more specialized,” he said. In Bartleby’s case, since the shop specializes in Americana and law, it includes pamphlets and broadsides, non-books known as ephemera, so not everything has to be between covers. One local example: a 30-page pamphlet, “Condensed Guide to Washington, D.C. and Vicinity Embracing Points of Interest for Strangers and Residents,” prepared for Willard’s Hotel in 1882, yours for $150.

Along with sets of bound books, which Passaglia said are not much in demand any more because most people don’t have libraries or even sufficient shelf space, he pointed out several rare and pricy editions by, among others, W.H. Auden and Titus Livius, the Roman historian, and showed me rare maps and framed letters from U.S. Grant, H.S. Truman and William H. Harrison. He agreed that the Internet has cut into the rare book business (their website is www.bartlebysbooks.com, phone is 298-0486), but said that his friends would continue to sell their books on 29th Street as long as people enjoyed pursuing their passion for antiquarian books in person.

In wandering around Bartleby’s, I was amazed at the range of subjects displayed on the shelves and the fair pricing. I picked up two photography books for $6 a piece and a book by Shelby Foote for $5, but mostly I was just happy to be among the aged and elegant works of great and gifted writers that spoke volumes about the history of generations past and made me wish I had more shelf space.

—V V Harrison
Despite the cold and rainy night, over 80 people came to the CAG February 22 meeting celebrating black history at Mount Zion Methodist church on 29th Street. Carter Bowman welcomed everyone to the beautiful church sanctuary and talked about the fascinating history of the church—a center of the black community, both enslaved and free, for 200 years. The church, established in 1816, provided not only religious services, but also education classes, and was a critical networking place for blacks who were legally barred from meeting in groups of more than seven or going out at night without a pass. Mount Zion made and kept detailed records of their parishioners; some entries indicate “run away,” “gone away,” or “lost,”—meaning they were believed to have escaped on the Underground Railroad. The church’s original buildings and the old Methodist burial grounds, were important for runaways on their way to the north.

Author Mary Kay Ricks then talked about her book *Escape on the Pearl: the Heroic Bid for Freedom on the Underground Railroad*, providing glimpses into the life of slaves in Georgetown homes. Ricks, a self-proclaimed “recovering lawyer,” used her research skills to comb census reports, newspaper accounts, and the carefully kept Mount Zion records to thread together the stories of a several Georgetown slave families. She explained that many slaves attempted their escape on the Pearl in order to keep their families intact; the waning tobacco industry of Maryland and Virginia was giving way to the booming cotton plantations in the deep south and many owners began to ship slaves to New Orleans—often breaking up families. Though the escape attempt failed, the aftermath made newspaper headlines as far away as New York. Ricks also answered questions from people eager to know more about slavery here and the homes involved in the Underground Railroad. Ricks’ two cases of books sold out at the reception. Sitting in Mount Zion Church, Ricks’ story of the Pearl and history of blacks in Georgetown came vividly to life.

—Elizabeth Maloy
Use ‘em or Lose ‘em

Dear Georgetown Neighbors,

You’ve surely noticed the rapid disappearance of shops, big and small, in the last year. And, if you’re like me, you feel each loss chipping away at the charm that drew you here to this village. We didn’t choose Georgetown for its abundant parking or lavish closets. We were drawn by the ease of walking down the lane to little restaurants and unique shops and local gyms. Wouldn’t it be a pity if that all disappeared? If local businesses kept slipping away and eventually we were a village of vacant storefronts or bland chains?

That couldn’t really happen, right? Well, as owner of one of those shops, I’m going to share a spooky little secret: Many (nay, I’d guess most) businesses in Georgetown are just about one really bad week away from slipping under. (By the way, I began drafting this letter at the end of January, before Mother Nature delivered the second and third snow storms.)

As I look at shops around me, I remember the clichéd warning on the first day of law school: Look to your left, look to your right; only one of you will be here next year. I wonder which of these businesses — my own included - will remain a year from now? I think we all want to support the small businesses that make our neighborhood unique and rich. But what can we do? Isn’t the problem bigger than us?

It may be too late for many of us in Georgetown already. But, I’ve been fascinated by the success of The 3/50 Project, a movement started recently by a retailer in Minneapolis who decided she needed to tell her customers how they could help turn around this crisis. The basic theory: Choose 3 businesses you’d miss if they were gone. Commit to spend at least $50 in each of them, each month ($50 you’d spend anyway, but targeted on local businesses you like, not big boxes or on the Internet). Baxter presents these compelling figures:

If half the employed population spent $50 monthly in locally owned independent businesses, it could generate $42.6 billion in revenue.

For every $100 spent in locally owned businesses, $68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures (compared with $43 from national chains).

A survey published in 2009 by CEOs for the Cities cited that homes located within walking distance of neighborhood businesses have held their value through the housing collapse better than those without retail shops.

In my brief career as a lawyer, before donning my retailer’s hat, I worked for Amtrak. Amtrak was formed from bankrupt passenger railroads to ensure survival of the national rail system; the theory was that, should long-distance train service ever be abandoned, the rail infrastructure would be too costly to restore.

I think the parallels are clear. When our shops disappear, they won’t be back - at least not of the same quality, and not in the same rich blend. There will likely always be a national chain willing to move in, but the personally curated, well-loved local businesses may go away forever. And I fear our neighborhood will be much the worse for the loss.

My best to all,
Anna Fuhrman, Owner
Proper Topper, Inc.

NEWSBYTES

Brooks Brothers will be moving to 3077 M Street, the current location of Pottery Barn, which is departing in the spring … with Federal stimulus money, the District has begun repair of the tidal gates at the foot of 30th Street (near the big sundial in front of the Swedish Embassy) – the gates impede a flooding Potomac River from inundating the lowest levels of K Street, which are below the top of the river bank … Georgetown Cupcake is holding on to its old space on Potomac Street for its catering business … there will be a Bergmann’s cleaners at the new Safeway … Il Canale has opened at 1063 31st Street -- owner Giuseppe “Joe” Farrugio, straight from Italy, has named one dish “Georgetown,” a pizza with spinach, sausage, and basil…. Benetton is closed for renovation … Sisley is reportedly closing … on the upside, Bloomingdale’s is still considering a move to The Shops at Georgetown Park … Philly Pizza on Potomac Street lost its appeal to the BZA regarding its operations as a restaurant, apparently forcing it to close … perhaps reflecting the huge shift in the way electronics are sold, family-operated MyerEmco is going out of business after 55 years – its “Georgetown” location is 2241 Wisconsin Avenue … Midtown Café will open on Wisconsin Avenue where District Fine Arts used to be … yep, more cupcakes: Los-Angeles based Sprinkles cupcakes is reportedly opening in late spring at 3015 M Street… California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver spotted in the famous Kennedy booth #3 at Martin’s Tavern — Maria is an alumna of Georgetown and they have a daughter at G U.
A cubic foot of snow can contain 1 billion snow crystals. Impressive. That’s three times the several hundred million blogs that exist on the Web, world-wide. The blog count is perhaps even more impressive.

Blogs are the online commentary of an individual (or occasionally a small group) that may be a personal diary; musings on news of the moment; informative observations, insights and knowledgeable analysis; or, unfortunately, merely the repetitive tantrums and rants that illustrate only a person’s command of invective.

Blogs are a recent phenomenon; the word itself is a truncation of Web log, first coined in 1999. Having grown in exponential numbers over the last decade, blogs collectively have become an apocalyptic blizzard of verbiage and visuals, capable of suffocating any sentient thought. So a navigation of the blogosphere (the world of blogs) is often an exhausting and serendipitous search for the minutely few blogs of merit and interest.

Of the several hundred million blogs, at least three are particular to Georgetown, and worthwhile.

A lively blog with daily postings on happenings about Georgetown is the Georgetown Metropolitan. The blog takes its title from the name of the local newspaper in the early 19th century, The Georgetown Metropolitan. http://georgetownmetropolitan.com

A great source of Georgetown-related news and rumors is the blog, Swimming in Quicksand, penned by Carol Joynt, the last owner of Nathan’s. http://caroljoynt.typepad.com/my-blog/

Another blog, Georgetown Week, is an offshoot of The Georgetowner. Begun last September, the Georgetown Week blog contains news, and event and dining updates. http://www.georgetownweek.com/

There are several blogs for and about Georgetown University. One blog, published by a student newspaper, the Georgetown Voice, features a monthly map of crimes on or near the campus. http://blog.georgetownvoice.com/crime-map/

With so many blogs centered on the District, there is now a blog that daily synthesizes the most interesting postings in this very small corner of the blogosphere. http://www.dcblogs.com/

A very popular blog covering District news and events, and one of the first blogs in DC is DCist. DCist readers tend to be a younger, socializing group. http://dcist.com/

A blog concentrating on new and proposed real estate projects in Washington is http://dcmetrocentric.com/


More of an e-zine than a blog is The Georgetown Dish. (E-zines are the Web’s version of a magazine, usually appearing only electronically, although magazines appearing in print also have electronic editions.) The Dish is a recent start-up, replete with masthead and columnists. Daily updates of Georgetown-related news and happenings are a staple. http://georgetowndish.com/

Both The Georgetown Dish and many blogs encourage reader comments, though this interaction with readers is less than what occurs on bulletin boards. On bulletin boards, members post and comment, and often debate, on various posted topics (also known as threads). A very popular bulletin board where “foodies” opine on Washington restaurants, food stores, beer and wine, and food-related news can be found at http://www.donrockwell.com/

And for those Georgetowners who may have missed the most recent issue of the two printed newspapers serving Georgetown, the papers can be found on-line. The Georgetowner: http://www.georgetowner.com/

The Georgetown Current: http://www.currentnewspapers.com/ (Go to “Download the Paper” for the Georgetown edition.)

—Walter Groszyk
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## March Community Events and Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mon. March 1</strong></td>
<td>Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting; 6:30pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th &amp; Volta Streets; agenda at <a href="http://www.anc2e.com">www.anc2e.com</a>; 338-7427.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sat. March 6</strong></td>
<td>Georgetown Family Saturdays: Banjo Man Frank Cassel; 10:30-11:30 am; St. John’s Church, Blake Hall; best for kids age 1-6; $25 ticket admits two adults and four siblings; all proceeds go to rebuild Georgetown library; <a href="mailto:georgetownprojects@gmail.com">georgetownprojects@gmail.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sat. March 6</strong></td>
<td><em>Date Change Due to Snow:</em> Author Breena Clarke to lecture at Dumbarton House; 1:30 pm; discussion of her novel Stand the Storm set in Georgetown during the Civil War; members free, non-members $10; 2715 Q Street; <a href="mailto:RSVP@DumbartonHouse.org">RSVP@DumbartonHouse.org</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>Tues. March 9</strong></td>
<td>Family Book Club at Georgetown Interim Library; discuss John Feinstein’s Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery; ages 8-12 with parents; 7pm; 3307 M Street; other recurring programs available, visit <a href="http://www.dclibrary.org">www.dclibrary.org</a> or call 724-8783.</td>
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<td><strong>Mon. March 15</strong></td>
<td>CAG Meeting: Tour of Dumbarton House &amp; Claudia Powell on the Architecture of Georgetown Homes, Dumbarton House, 2715 Q Street, reception at 7pm, program begins at 7:30.</td>
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<td><strong>Tues. March 16</strong></td>
<td>GU’s Alliance in Local Living (ALL) Meeting; to discuss community issues with Georgetown residents and students; 6:30 pm; GU Club Room, Leavey Center 3rd floor; 687-3199.</td>
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<td><strong>Thurs. March 25</strong></td>
<td>Dumbarton at Dusk; 60-min after-hours tour featuring British influences in the collection; 5:30 pm; members and students free, non-members $5; 2715 Q Street; <a href="mailto:RSVP@DumbartonHouse.org">RSVP@DumbartonHouse.org</a> or 337-2288.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thurs. March 25</strong></td>
<td>Time Travel Fashion Show; women’s fashion show with historical costumes and the rules of etiquette in history; 7 pm; Georgetown Interim Library, 3307 M Street; visit <a href="http://www.dclibrary.org">www.dclibrary.org</a> or call 724-8783.</td>
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<td><strong>Mon. March 29</strong></td>
<td>Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting; 6:30pm; Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation, 35th &amp; Volta Streets; agenda available at <a href="http://www.anc2e.com">www.anc2e.com</a>; 338-7427.</td>
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