Mayor Gray, Jack Evans, CAG Awards and Elections
May 29 at Dumbarton House

Mayor Gray and Councilmember Jack Evans will be the featured speakers at CAG’s annual awards and elections meeting on Wednesday, May 29. They will present CAG’s prestigious awards to outstanding community leaders. The reception and meeting will be hosted by historic Dumbarton House at 2715 Q Street.

Councilmember for Ward 2 since 1991, Jack serves as chair of the Council’s Committee on Finance and Revenue, which oversees the District’s finances, including tax policy. In addition to earning a reputation as one of DC’s toughest budget and tax stewards, Jack has used this committee to secure approval of many major legislative tax reforms including: reducing tax rates, simplifying DC’s antiquated tax code and establishing incentives for businesses.

Annual Awards: The prestigious Belin Award will be presented to Karen Cruse for her expert and dedicated work in preserving the historic character of Georgetown.

Leslie Buhler, Director of Tudor Place, will be honored with the William A. Cochran Award for “exceptional efforts to protect and enhance the community’s parkland and architectural resources.”

The Charles Atherton Award will be presented to Dana Nerenberg, Principal of Hyde Elementary School, for “exceptional service by a dedicated public-sector professional for outstanding work preserving and protecting historic Georgetown.”

The Martin-Davidson Award to the business persons who have contributed significantly to the community will be presented to Clyde’s Restaurant Group’s Ginger and John Laytham.

And there will be a special appreciation award presented to Ray Danieli for dedicated and distinguished Service to the Georgetown community.

Election of CAG officers and four directors will also take place at the May 29 meeting – which is our organization’s annual meeting. The slate is Pamla Moore, President; Bob vom Eigen, Vice President; Barbara Downs, Secretary; Bob Laycock, Treasurer; and Directors: Diane Colasanto, Karen Cruse, Hazel Denton, and Luca Pivato. Current President Jennifer Altemus will remain on the board as Immediate Past President. (See page 6). Treasurer Bob Laycock will report on the financial condition of CAG.

Please join CAG to hear from the Mayor Gray and Jack Evans and to honor the members of our community who have made Georgetown a better place. The reception begins at 7 pm at beautiful Dumbarton House at 2715 Q Street and you are invited to tour the museum beginning at 6:30. The meeting, the last one until September, begins at 7:30.

Rockin’ the Green Concert May 19 in Volta Park

CAG’s Concerts in the Park 2013 will be another great season of toe-tapping, hand-clapping fun. With three great bands and plenty of family friendly activities.

The first concert is Sunday May 19 at 5 pm in Volta Park — Rockin’ the Green! Back for the fourth year, Georgetown’s own amazing singer and song writer Rebecca McCabe will get the crowd swaying and singing with her lively acoustic, country, pop rhythms. Bring your cowboy hats and two-step shoes, we expect lots of audience participation. The theme of the May concert is Rockin’ the Green! to remind us of the importance of protecting our environment. To that end, concert goers can participate in a park clean-up and planting project, a book swap, and a BabyLove donation truck accepting gently used baby gear and...
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W ow, it is strange to think this is my last president’s letter. The last four years have been amazing. I am eternally grateful to the entire community for giving me this opportunity and for all of the help I have gotten along the way.

I am a little stunned by all that we have accomplished. Where did we find the time?! The most meaningful project was probably the GU Campus Plan. The community came together and effect ed positive change. We are now partnering with the University in a collegial setting to ensure reducing the adverse impacts of the University on the residents. There has been a sea change in the approach and I am confident the results will be a significant improvement.

CAG’s membership has grown and now includes lots of young families. This is due, in large part, to the increasingly popular Concerts in the Parks. What started as a small group of friends hanging out listening to music has morphed into huge extravaganzas with over 400 people, arts and crafts, awesome bands, and food trucks. The committee that plans the Concerts is a wonderful group that I hope will become CAG’s future core. The Concerts is how I started with the organization.

Our membership meetings have also become more dynamic. We have taken them out and about into the community hosting programs all over town. We have been to House of Sweden, the Four Seasons and the Ritz Carlton, the Nike Store, the City Tavern Club, various beautiful churches, GU, Dumbarton House, the Potomac Boat Club, even the old Georgetown Theater – and that is just a small sampling. Our events have been educational, inspirational and really fun. Topics ranged from a community art show, to a lecture on the Civil War in Georgetown, to how to revitalize businesses on parts of Wisconsin Avenue. These gatherings are a chance to meet your neighbors and learn more about the neighborhood. I’m excited they are so well attended.

The Georgetown Library reopened in all its splendor after the devastating fire. And the Friends of the Library joined on with CAG to further the interests of the library. Trees for Georgetown has planted hundreds of new trees. Now there will be shade as you stroll the new cobblestone streets and read CAG’s historic call boxes. The liquor license moratorium was renewed so you can stop for a cocktail after your stroll but the streets aren’t overrun.

Our neighborhood is safe thanks in large part to our public safety program. We have guards patrolling the streets in marked cars. Our block captain network is a model for the rest of the city. And we have installed safety cameras throughout the neighborhood to act as a deterrent to crime and help with investigations when something does happen.

CAG’s Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee has worked closely with the DC Office of Planning on the new city wide zoning regulations to make sure that our federally protected historic district remains protected. This active committee has been pivotal in maintaining the historic fabric of our neighborhood.

Our Georgetown Gala has grown from an intimate cocktail party at Evermay to a black tie blowout with dancing, vodka and caviar at the Russian Embassy. It brings together over 400 residents, businesses, organizations and government leaders to highlight CAG’s mission of historic preservation and improving the quality of life of the community. This year the Gala will be on October 18 at the Italian Embassy – mark your calendars!

None of this could have happened without the incredible volunteers who make up CAG. I salute each and every one of you. I would like to give a special thanks to our dedicated board and to our executive director, Betsy Cooley. They are all amazing individuals who make serving the community an absolute pleasure. I am also grateful to the ANC which is such a tremendous asset to Georgetown. These men work tirelessly for our community. We all realize that for Georgetown to be its best we need to work together.

I am excited to see where incoming president Pamla Moore takes us from here. She is a remarkable woman with some really innovative ideas. CAG is lucky to have her. I’ll remain on the board as Past President so you aren’t getting rid of me yet. I look forward to my new role.

Thank you for all of your support over the years.

— Jennifer Altemus
Uniquely Favored: The Restoration of Dumbarton Oaks Park

Dealing as we all must with loss and the passage of time, it is quite moving indeed when something beautiful can be restored, made whole again—and is not so lost, ravaged, broken or scattered after all. And how often does this happen? Not nearly often enough. But it is on its way to happening at Dumbarton Oaks Park — that’s the wild area below the famous and well-loved gardens on R Street. Some of us know it and go there to get our fix of nature and wildness, but do we really know what it used to be?

In the 1920’s and 1930’s Mildred and Robert Bliss asked Beatrix Farrand — a towering figure in the field of landscape design — to make for them the illusion of a country estate in the city. It was to be the crowning project of her career. Farrand and Mildred Bliss worked together to create the “garden rooms” of the Dumbarton Oaks we all know. But beyond that and below it in a lovely stream valley Farrand also made a wild garden where a circular path led past a series of water features and wound through meadows and woodlands. The formal gardens above and the naturalist setting below echoed, foreshadowed and complemented each other thus completing the theme of progression from formal to informal, from civilization to wilderness that underlies the Dumbarton Oaks design.

In the stream valley Farrand designed 18 waterfalls of various heights and 18 small ponds of various sizes at the base of the waterfalls. Along the path there were sights to enchant the eye: a spring grotto, a water wheel, benches, a pebble path, and an arbor which spanned a stone retaining wall and seat built into the slope complete with pockets for planting ferns. Nearby there was, and still remains, a beech grove, a Forsythia Gate, a stone bridge, an animal graveyard and a pond shaped like a laurel leaf. A viewing platform to see it all did not survive.

Five meadows, again the idea of “garden rooms,” linked by broad views and directed vistas, led the walker along to the designed woodland. Ah, the designed woodland. Carpets of small blue and white flowers, sweeps of daffodils, blooming shrubs, mossy rocks, under tall handsome trees, and unobtrusive maintenance to keep it all visually clean. The exuberance of nature needs, from time to time, even in a wild garden, the controlling hand of man.

Then the sad part begins. Just as the project came to completion in 1940, the Blisses gave Dumbarton Oaks to Harvard and the wild garden to the National Park Service. With the best intentions the Park Service did not have the manpower or funds to keep up the lower part. Flooding and run off from nearby construction projects eroded and silted up the banks of the stream, invasive vines climbed the trees and everything else. Through the years attempts have been made to save and preserve what was being lost, but none as promising as the one underway now. A Cultural Landscape Report was completed. A generous grant has been received and other grants as well are in process. The group in charge of this project is called the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy. They need you. The Park will be on the Georgetown Garden Tour this year on May 11, from 12 to 2:30, with guides stationed along the path to explain things. It’s certainly a departure from the perfect manicured gardens up the hill, but worth it.

I have started working there on weekends removing invasive plants under the watchful eyes of a pair of baby owls and their mother. And I receive guidance from knowledgeable people I consider my new friends. We are all uniquely favored. Country in the city.

—Edith Schafer

NEWSBYTES

El Centro, an eatery specializing in Mexican comfort food and margaritas, will open its second DC location in the former home of Third Edition… A rabid raccoon bit a resident near Montrose Park, residents and police responded quickly and DC Animal Control soon captured the raccoon … The Colonial Parking Garage at The Shops at Georgetown Park (3222 M Street) has re-opened with service 24 hours, seven days a week – and Colonial Parking provides real-time occupancy information and personalization through the ParkMe app… Capital Bikeshare opened two new stations bringing the total number in Georgetown to 7 – one at Wisconsin and O and another on Water Street below the freeway… Graham hotel is slated to open its hotly anticipated rooftop bar, Observatory, at the beginning of May – in addition to dinner and cocktails a weekend brunch will be offered… Zipcar users have two new options in Georgetown: Colonial Park locations near the waterfront and on M Street.
On May 8th, Trees for Georgetown will hold its annual spring celebration and fundraiser at the home of Shelley and Bruce Ross-Larson from 6-8 pm.

In addition, Trees for Georgetown is launching a new program called the “Georgetown Initiative for Family Trees (GIFT)” with the intent to root people and businesses of the community to the trees that shade our streets. “When I was a child, we planted mimosa trees in our garden, and we watched them grow as we grew up,” said Constance Chatfield-Taylor of the Trees committee. “GIFT gives people and families here in our neighborhood a chance to do the same thing.”

GIFT provides Georgetown residents a unique opportunity to connect and care for the trees lining their streets through sponsorship. The sponsored tree could celebrate the birth of a baby, commemorate the passing of a milestone, memorialize a special person, or even honor a pet. Each sponsored tree will be marked with a tag containing a QR code listing the reason the tree was sponsored, by whom, and what species of tree it is. QR codes are the next generation of bar codes and are easily read with a smart phone equipped with a special app that can be loaded for free. GIFT’s vision is to fill every tree box as well as maintain and name every tree in Georgetown.

Since its inception in 1989, Trees for Georgetown has planted over 2000 trees, provided tree box fences, treated the elms on Q street for disease, and watered our residential trees in partnership with the Urban Forestry Administration and their contractor Casey Trees. For more information on how to sponsor a tree ($500) or have a tree planted ($1000) by GIFT, please call 202.345.2400 or e-mail giftrees@gmail.com

—Gwendolyn Van Paasschen

Trees for Georgetown is launching a new program called the “Georgetown Initiative for Family Trees (GIFT)” with the intent to root people and businesses of the community to the trees that shade our streets.
The nominating committee has proposed the new slate of officers and four of the directors. Please come to the CAG meeting at Dumbarton House on May 29 to cast your vote.

President – Pamla Moore

Pamla Moore has lived on Dumbarton Street in the East Village for over 23 years, owned a Georgetown development and public relations firm from 1993-2003 and is a founder and former president of Friends of Rose Park, Inc. She was elected in 2004 to the ANC2e, resigning to accompany her husband to an assignment in Vienna, Austria. Currently she chairs the CAG Historic Preservation & Zoning Committee. She is married to Powell Moore.

Vice President – Bob vom Eigen

Bob and his wife, Ann, have lived and raised their children in Georgetown since 1978. Bob practiced law in Washington since 1970 until he retired in 2011 from the firm of Foley & Lardner LLP, located at Washington Harbour. He has served as President of the Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park (FOGWP) since 2006, and served on the fundraising committee of the Georgetown Waterfront Park Commission that preceded FOGWP’s creation. Bob also serves as the Vice President and Director of the Georgetown Village, which provides volunteer assistance to seniors living in Georgetown and Burleith. Bob became a CAG director in 2011, and serves on the Historic Preservation/Zoning sub-committee of CAG.

Treasurer – Robert Laycock

Bob, a CPA who lives on the West side, currently serves as Board Treasurer. He is a Professor Emeritus of Accounting at Montgomery College and Professorial Lecturer in Accounting at George Washington University. Bob has worked with the Trees for Georgetown committee for eleven years and is an active friend of Book Hill Park, having donated and helped plant hundreds of daffodils. Bob lives on O Street.

Secretary – Barbara Downs

A resident of P Street, Barbara has served on the CAG board in several capacities – as President and on numerous committees including Public Safety, Beautification, Gala, Membership and Nominating. She is also active in the Georgetown Garden Club and the Senior Center at St. John’s. She and her late husband, Tim Downs, have been pivotal leaders in Georgetown, from CAG Beautification Days to the O & P Street renovation project.

Hazel Denton

Hazel Denton has lived on P Street for 20 years, during which time she has been active in a number neighborhood activities and organizations including CAG where she is involved in traffic, parking and other transportation issues. She is co-Chair of the Parking and Transportation Working Group of the Georgetown Community Partnership. Hazel currently teaches courses in health and population issues, at SAIS (Johns Hopkins) and at Georgetown University. Previously Hazel had a 20-year career at the World Bank, preceded by government service, academia (Harvard Business School), and in advertising and marketing in London prior to coming to this country. She has a PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

Diane Colasanto

Diane, a resident on O Street, has lived in Georgetown since 2003. She is on the public safety committee, coordinates the block captain program, and is helping CAG transition to an interactive database and website. Having retired from a career as a public opinion worker, she is working with the CAG-GU Community Partnership to design a Neighborhood Quality of Life Survey. Diane and her husband, Andy, are often out and about in town with their black lab, Roscoe.

Karen “Cookie” Cruse

A CAG board member for over fifteen years, Karen is the expert chair of the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Committee, working to create a balance between the residential and commercial sectors. She works with businesses to communicate their plans to community leaders and answers concerns regarding modifications to their liquor licenses — known as voluntary agreements. “Cookie” is a key liaison person with Georgetown University on town-gown matters. She also assists with editing the CAG newsletter and is a regular volunteer at the Senior Center at St. John’s Church and Meals on Wheels. She and her husband, Jim, live on 35th Street.

Gianluca Pivato

Gianluca Pivato moved to Washington, DC from Italy over 16 years ago and settled in Georgetown in 2001. He works for companies all over the world offering IT services, consulting, and technology to modernize legacy systems. As Vice President of the CAG Board, Luca Co-Chairs the Public Safety Committee assisting with MPD and block captain issues and is active on the GU Relations Committee. He also provides invaluable expertise regarding information technology and our new website development.

—Barbara Downs, Chair Nominating Committee
clothing. The littlest concert goers will enjoy face-painting, crafts and more. The May concert is being organized by Amy Kuhnert, Shannon Pryor, Tina Nadler, Ginny Poole, Jessica Heywood, Leslie Maysak and Jennie Reno.

Looking ahead, the Father’s Day Reggae Fest is slated for June 16th in Volta Park. Calling all Dad’s for a special Father’s Day celebration. Dads and their families will enjoy chilling out to The Image Band’s Reggae sounds in Volta Park. There will be games, prizes and other family activities for all ages, including an East vs. West tug o’ war. The Father’s Day concert’s organizing committee: Elizabeth Miller, Christy Foushee, Jennie Reno, Kelly Doolan, Dorothy Williams, and Leila Bremmer have lots of fun surprises in store.

Sunday June 30th concert features our Independence Day Celebration and Patriotic Parade in Rose Park. Don your red, white and blue early this year for this lively Independence Day celebration. Concert attendees will enjoy the music of Max Impact — not your average military band — performing Rock, R & B and Country music favorites as well as patriotic tunes and some original music! Don’t forget to dress and decorate for the annual Patriotic Parade, which will be held this year during half-time. There will also be games and activities for all ages. Concert organizers: Erika Donohue, Michelle Korsmo, Robin Baker, Erin Mullin and Maggie Handel have more surprises in store. Check cagtown.org/concerts for more details.

—Hannah Isles, Chair
Concerts in the Parks

Block Captains and MPD Officers Meet

Dozens of CAG Public Safety block captains and Metropolitan Police Department officers met at my house on April 22. Many topics were covered and Public Safety committee members Maggie Handel and Bev Casserly have followed up by emailing relevant materials.

Crime trends were discussed — fortunately crime is down significantly in 2013 thanks to the hard work of the police and the great cooperation between the police and residents. The statistics thus far are encouraging: year-to-date robberies are down 50% compared to last year, assaults are down 67%, burglaries are down 38% and all other property crime is down 11%. These declines follow the significant progress that was made from 2011 to 2012 in reducing crime. For up-to-date information about crime on your block visit the website crimemap.dc.gov/CrimeMapSearch.aspx. The site provides instant access to crime statistics in DC by entering an address, search distance and date range.

CAG is continuing to install security cameras on the residential blocks. The CAG public safety program funds private guard coverage five nights per week. These programs provide a great service to the community but are expensive and completely supported by donations. To make a contribution or find out more about the public safety initiatives, visit the CAG website at www.cagtown.org.

Reminder: any issue needing the attention of the police should be reported to 911, even if it is not an emergency. Remember: 911/police; 311/other city agencies. There is also an app for iPhones, iPads, and Android devices called "DC311" that lets you easily report problems needing the attention of city agencies.

Trash problems on your block can be reported directly to the DC Trash Inspector responsible for Georgetown, Sonya Chance, at sonya.chance@dc.gov. There is also an app for iPhones, iPads, and Android devices called "DC311" that lets you easily report problems needing the attention of city agencies.

—Diane Colasanto
Block Captain Coordinator

Thanks to all the generous Concerts supporters:

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CAG Tours GU’s New Science Building

On Monday, April 22, George-town University hosted CAG at a lovely reception in the grand old Copley Formal Lounge and provided student-led tours of the new state-of-the-art LEED certified facility dedicated to the sciences.

We were welcomed by Provost Bob Groves and VP for Community Engagement, Lauralyn Lee. Ali Whitmore, a key leader in the development of Regents Hall, gave a fascinating talk on the innovative technical aspects of the 154,000 square building. She – and the guides – explained the facility’s many environmentally friendly features such as the open ceilings which allow flexibility in updating plumbing and electrical without much construction; using renewable materials for construction and furnishings, the green roof with low water plants which is slightly sloped to guide water run-off, and numerous student lounge/work space areas to attract all students – not just science majors.

CAG thanks Georgetown University for providing a truly memorable evening and for allowing us to get to know the newest at GU!

—Betsy Cooley

Rose Park Farmers Market Opens

The Friends of Rose Park, in cooperation with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, is sponsoring the Georgetown Farmers Market in Rose Park for its tenth season. The market is open every Wednesday 3 -7 pm near the corner of O Street.

We welcome three newcomers to the market:

**Bread House** — breads, baguettes and loaves along with croissants and other baked goodies.

**All Things Olive** — olive oils, aged vinegars, Tapenades and salts.

**Nicecream** — locally made ice cream from local sources!

Regulars from last year:

**Anchor Nursery, Quaker Valley Orchards, Praline Bakery, Groffs Content Farm, Les Caprices de Joelle**

Neighbors/volunteers interested in helping at the market one day a month and local non-profit groups interested in being on the calendar to promote your organizations at the market contact us at: roseparkmarket@yahoo.com, or me at 643-8352.

—Leslie Wheelock

A Note from the Capella Hotel

Capella Washington DC, would like to thank its community members for their generous support during the construction of our charming little boutique in the heart of Georgetown. In appreciation and celebration of our opening, we would like to offer you and your visiting families 15% off of our Best Available Rate for rooms booked from May 1st through May 15th and consumed by August 31st. Your booking includes the following amenities: A Personal Assistant, flexible check in and check out, complimentary refreshment center in your guest room, complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel and up to 5 garments pressed complimentary upon arrival. We look forward to welcoming you and your guests!
West Heating Plant Sells

The Federal government’s auction of the former West Heating Plant on 29th Street is over. A group comprised of Georgetown business owner Richard Levy, the New York-based Georgetown Company, and the Four Seasons was the highest bidder. The Georgetown Company is a privately-held New York real estate firm, whose principals include Marshall Rose and Joseph Rose. Marshall Rose is extensively involved in the remodeling of the New York Public Library on 42nd Street, and the rejuvenation of Bryant Park.

The winning bid was $19.5 million, and a total of five bidders participated in the auction.

The winning group intends to convert the West Heating Plant into Four Season residences: condominiums whose owners enjoy many of the services and amenities offered by hotel. Typically, the Four Seasons residences and the Four Seasons hotel are in the same building. In this instance, the design for the Heating Plant as residences is likely to propose a means of connecting with the detached hotel.

The design will likely include significant changes to the building façade, particularly on the north, east, and south sides. The strips of land along the north and east sides of the site will remain as open space, and early indications are that a park will cover much of the south yard.

The architect is David Adjaye, a London-based architect. Adjaye designed the National Museum of African American History and Culture, now under construction on the Mall, and two public libraries in the District. The landscape architect is Ignacio Bunster Ossa, a principal at the Philadelphia firm of Wallace Roberts and Todd. Bunster was involved in the design of the Georgetown Waterfront Park.

Future issues of the newsletter will describe the scope and nature of the changes proposed to both the building and the site. The process for securing needed government approvals and permits for this adaptive re-use project will begin in early summer, when the final sale and transfer of ownership will be concluded.

—Walter Groszyk
Our Eighth Year as Proud Underwriter
OF CAG’S PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

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INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND OFFICES
May Community Events and Calendar

Sat. May 4  Friends of Georgetown Library Book Sale; 10am – 3pm; Georgetown Library Wisconsin and R St., all genres of books, CDs, DVDs, & more

Wed. May 8  Trees for Georgetown Spring Celebration; 6-8pm; hosted by Shelley and Bruce Ross-Larson 1611 29th St. NW; tickets $150 for individuals, sponsorship $500 to $1500; for more information GIFTrees@gmail.com

Sat. May 11  Georgetown Garden Tour; 10 am – 5pm; tickets $35; purchase online www.georgetowngardentour.com, by mail 3313 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20007, or the day of the tour at Christ Church 31st and O St. NW

Fri. May 17  Bike to Work Day 2013; 7:30 to 9:30 am.; bike to Georgetown's pit stop at the Waterfront Park, K St. & Wisconsin Avenue NW, and receive a free t-shirt, enjoy refreshments and more.

Sun. May 19  CAG Concert Series in the Park Rockin’ Green! Featuring Rebecca McCabe; 5pm; Volta Park, 34th & Q St.

Wed. May 29  CAG Annual Meeting: Mayor Gray and Councilman Jack Evans Speaks; CAG Awards and Election of Officers; reception at 7pm, program at 7:30pm; Dumbarton House, 2715 Q St.

The Georgetown Senior Center Welcomes You

The Georgetown Senior Center provides so many good things to our community — recreation, stimulation, music, friendship and a delicious lunch. All these are available three times a week — Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays— at St John’s Church, 3240 O Street NW. The festivities begin at 11:30 with a session of seated stretching, followed by lunch and a program featuring a fascinating speaker or a musical performance.

New guests are warmly welcomed by the seniors and volunteers. Please join us whenever you can. Reservations aren’t necessary for the lunch, but are advised if you need transportation. A shuttle bus is available for door to door service. For further information, please call Janice Rahimi at 202-316-2632.

—Barbara Downs