CAG Salutes Oral History Pioneers at City Tavern Club

On Wednesday, November 20, CAG will hear from well-known Georgetowners Pie Friendly, Billy Martin, Steve Kurzman, Barbara Downs, and Chris Murray, all of whom have participated in CAG’s oral history project. These engaging Georgetowners have recorded their recollections about life in Georgetown in one-on-one interviews with CAG’s oral history volunteers. The results have been fascinating – visit www.cagtown.org to read the summaries and/or the entire interviews. Come and meet these living Georgetown legends and hear some of their intriguing stories first hand.

Tom Birch will introduce the program with a summary of the project. The interviewees will then talk informally about their memories of growing up in or moving to Georgetown, pursuing careers here, raising families, building businesses, entertaining, renovating houses – and more.

Our host for the evening will be the City Tavern Club who will provide refreshments for the reception starting at seven o’clock. The City Tavern Club also invites CAG members to continue the evening following the Oral History panel by offering a cash bar beginning at 8:30 and the opportunity to have a three course dinner for $35 per person. RSVP by Thursday, November 14, to Sue Hamilton at 333-8076 or sueinovent@aol.com.

Please join CAG at the elegant City Tavern Club, 3206 M Street, for an evening filled with well-deserved salutes to significant Georgetowners -- and their role in capturing the history of Georgetown.

Recent Public Safety Happenings

Jennie Buehler

Our very active Public Safety Committee is moving on several fronts: We held a community meeting recently at the Safeway Café during which MPD Officer Atkins along with Lt. John Hedgecock, Lt. Ralph Neal, and Officer Robert Anderson briefed residents on recent crimes, the upcoming holidays, bike and cell phone thefts, and the issue of reporting suspicious people. Because of increased bike thefts over the summer, Officer Atkins directed people on how to register their bikes on the website: http://nationalbikeregistry.com.

Package theft has been reported by many residents and Block Captains. If you are worried about your package being left outside your door, have it delivered to your workplace, or to a family member, friend, or neighbor. If it is being delivered by UPS or Fed Ex, you can have it held at one of their locations and pick it up at your convenience. Coordinate with your neighbors. If a package is delivered while you are out see if a neighbor can pick it up and store it until you are able to retrieve it.

The officers gave other good crime prevention tips and expressed the importance of community involvement. For example, when you are walking in the community, carry your cell phone in order to alert police in the event you notice suspicious activity. This simple tip has and will help prevent thefts and robberies in our neighborhood.

The growing number of over 80 CAG Public Safety Block Captains are communicating very efficiently via their special email network, and passing relevant information to the residents of their blocks. To see who is captain of your block visit our website: http://www.cagtown.org and click on Public Safety Program, a link to block captains is at the bottom. Be sure to give your block captain your email address (and the names of new neighbors) so everyone gets these timely alerts and specific information. If your block doesn't have a captain, consider being one. Call the CAG office at 337-7313 and ask for more information.

And please make a donation to the Public Safety program. A request letter goes out later this month – your contribution is totally tax deductible with perks such as having the CAG Guards cell phone numbers to request house monitoring and escort services for you and your guests.
“GOODNESS IS THE ONLY INVESTMENT THAT NEVER FAILS.”
—Henry David Thoreau

As a leader in Georgetown’s real estate community, our firm proudly supports the Georgetown community. We are proud to sponsor the following event and organizations:

Citizens Association of Georgetown
Concerts in the Park
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Friends of Book Hill Park Reception
Friends of Montrose Park
Friends of Rose Park
Friends of Volta Park
Georgetown House Tour (St. John’s)
Georgetown Jingle
(Georgetown University Hospital)
Hyde-Addison Elementary School Gala
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The chill is in the air and in the late afternoon you can smell the smoke from fireplaces as you walk down the sidewalk. It is tempting to stay a little closer to home. And thoughts begin to turn towards plans for the holidays.

However, the Citizens Association of Georgetown, thanks to many volunteers, is deeply involved in the major goings-on in our community. Our mission is to protect Georgetown’s historic character; improve the community, and advocate for our residents.

Recently CAG has drafted proposed legislation that we believe will improve neighbor notification during a home owner’s application for design review of exterior alterations in Georgetown. Because Georgetown is a National Historic Landmark, applications for building permits for exterior alterations or additions are subject to review by the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and in the cases of alterations not visible from a public way, applications for permits are subject to review by the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). However, and this is our concern, permit regulations do not require that neighbors of the proposed project receive notice of the referral of the building permit application to OGB or HPRB. Responding to numerous resident’s concerns and frustrations and talking to our elected officials, architects and preservationists, CAG believes there is a legislative solution. We look forward to sharing the conversations with you that will, hopefully, lead to a process that will better serve our residents.

Another important issue in which I hope you will choose to be engaged is the plan to transform the West Heating Plant on 29th Street, the canal and K Street into a 60-70 unit Four Seasons condominium. By the time you read this, The Levy Group and its team, will have presented their initial “concept” for the abandoned building to ANC2E and OGB. The Levy Group has held a number of public meetings to explain their concept for both the building and the green space surrounding the property. Did you attend one of them? Let me know what you think of the concept plans by sending an e-mail to cag-president@cagtown.org. Although not on-line as I write this, there will be a web site for review of the project plans.

Before I move on to thanking the most amazing group of people who made the annual CAG Gala a total success on October 18, I have a few bits of news to share.

Number one—I am delighted to announce that John Richardson has agreed to join the CAG Board. As many of you know, John gives so much to our community. His many years as president of Friends of Volta Park turned Volta park into a place that brings us all together in a delightful setting. (I believe the high quality of our parks has encouraged young families to move here.)

Second, CAG has planned its next general meeting for Wednesday, November 20 at the City Tavern Club. One of our monthly programs that receives the greatest applause and hearty laughter is our Oral History evening. What is more fun than listening to our renowned neighbors tell personal tales and stories from Georgetown past? With Tom Birch as the moderator, get ready. A new twist, thanks to Susan Hamilton and the City Tavern Club, those attending the meeting may stay on at the club at 8:30 pm for a one-hour cash bar and also make reservations for dinner in the club’s Tap Room.

The Georgetown Gala! What can I add to the many accolades offered about this Italian Embassy extravaganza? It would not have been the success it was without the year-long planning by co-chairs Colleen Girouard and Robin Jones. The Gala committee, including Jill Altman, Florence Auld, Hannah Bahar, Annie Lou Berman, Jennie Buehler, Constance Chatfield-Taylor, Marcie Connolly, Betsy Cooley, Susan Dimarco, Ellen Clare Dreyer, Michele Evans, Caitlin Girouard, Pamela Hines, Darla Jackson, Cathy Kerkam, Lesley Lee, Nancy Miyahira, Jackie Fletcher, Ada Polla, Annmarie Ryan, Kallie Seniff, Nancy Taylor-Bubes, Amy Tereck, Mariella Trager and Beth Webster, showed amazing talents and created the beautiful evening for us all to enjoy. Thank you! Thank you!

The sponsors for the evening were a big part of the success and are key to the CAG’s work to enhance our community. Thank you to Community Pillars: Capital Asset Management and Manhattan Construction Company; Cornerstone Patrons: Beasley Real Estate, Nancy Taylor Bubes-Washington Fine Properties, Chesapeake Management Group, Clyde’s Restaurant Group, The JBG Companies, Georgetown University, Shelley and Bruce Ross-Larson-CDI, The Levy Group, Long & Foster, Vornado Realty Trust, and Western Development Corporation. Dumbarton Patrons: Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Creel Publishing-Digital Lizard, EagleBank, Georgetown University Hospital, M.C. Dean, Inc., and Securitas Security Services USA, Inc. Potomac Patrons: Merribel Ayres with Amina Rubinacce, The Georgetown Current, The Georgetown Current, The Georgetown Current, and PNC Mortgage. And a very special thanks to Ambassador and Mrs. Claudio Bisogniero for enabling us to have the Gala at the Italian Embassy. See page 6 and 7 for photos and visit CAG’s website and facebook page for more pictures.
Georgetown Village: A Success Story

Edith Schafer

A couple of years ago we locals were invited to meetings to discuss the feasibility of starting a collaborative enterprise that was succeeding in other cities. It would be called Georgetown Village. The idea was to put in place the support systems that would enable older people to remain in their own homes and receive help from community members as needed. It sounded like a good idea, as well as a kind one.

Given our nature some of us may have been a little skeptical, but we went to the meetings and became better informed. Time passed. Was anything more going to happen? Then there was a meeting in the Presbyterian Church. We went, and, lo and behold, it was well attended, and our friends were there! Things were moving along. The next challenge was to find an Executive Director who would make it all happen. There is no such person, some of us thought.

How wrong we were! Lynn Golub-Rofrano came on board and everything fell into place. If you sent to Central Casting for the perfect individual, they would be she. She received a lot of very necessary help tracking down much of this in a digitalized world. That was daunting in itself. The Village’s volunteer training emphasizes privacy, boundaries, and the importance of promptness and reliability. So that is what she got: invaluable help offered with efficiency and grace. So that is what she got: invaluable help offered with efficiency and grace. So that is what she got: invaluable help offered with efficiency and grace.

The Village prides itself on responding to what the members want—“just ask and I will try” is Lynn’s mantra. Similarly, finding that there are members and potential members who want the assurance of belonging to the Village, who want to participate in social activities and programs, but don’t need services, there is now a new category of membership. This is a Social Membership. These members pay the same price as other members, however all but $100 is tax deductible as no services are received. This membership can be quickly converted to a full service membership if help is needed.

The Village movement is about community, and universal, common problems: how to deal with an aging population. For instance, an older woman with a disabled husband found herself trying to deal with the inundation of difficult and unfamiliar paperwork that came her way. Help was needed finding medical receipts so medical expenses could be deducted on both Federal and DC income tax returns. These needed to be categorized, e.g., doctor visits, hospital stays, long term care, prescriptions, eye care, medical insurance premiums, (including Medicare) so they can be claimed as deductions with written receipts as proof of payment.

A phone call to Georgetown Village set in motion real help to this beleaguered individual. She received a lot of very necessary help tracking down much of this in a digitalized world. That was daunting in itself. The Village’s volunteer training emphasizes privacy, boundaries, and the importance of promptness and reliability. So that is what she got: invaluable help offered with efficiency and grace.

(If you would like to get involved as a volunteer for Georgetown Village or become a member, please call the office at 202-999-8988 and they will be happy to help you get started.)
Georgetown Entrepreneurs at CAG October 23

On October 23, CAG heard from four fascinating Georgetown entrepreneurs to illustrate what is becoming known as the New Georgetown – a Georgetown that is home to growing tech businesses.

The panel discussion, held at the Powerhouse on Grace Street, was moderated by Professor Jeff Reid director and founder of GU’s Entrepreneurship Initiative. He questioned panelists Daniel Miller, co-founder of Fundrise with his brother Ben; Omar Popal, co-owner of Malmaison and Cafe Bonaparte; Naimish Patel, vice president of Audax Health; and Ashley Peterson, senior director of Personal. Reid asked: what made you create your company instead of taking a more traditional business route? Miller replied that in his previous job he was well paid but bored. He said, one must be “obsessed with an idea, working every day, thinking about it on your free time.” Popal worked for Merrill Lynch and attended London School of Economics. “So, it is about supply and demand in the business of eating and drinking and bringing family together.” Patel said he met his employer online and said they “squatted at the Foley Lardner office and used Starbucks’ wifi” before getting their own offices. Peterson said she saw entrepreneurship as following a vision. Reid then noted: “No one said, ‘I wanted to get rich!’

Reid asked: why start a business in Georgetown? Miller said he grew up here and was developing the Powerhouse into something beyond a meeting place. Popal is a world traveler and saw that Georgetown was lacking aspects of cafe society and therefore started Café Bonaparte and now Malmaison. Patel said he is here because angel investors live here. “Georgetown is underrated,” he said. “There are a lot of people here with a lot of experience.”

Reid then asked: what are the qualities needed to be an entrepreneur? Miller said, “Persistence” and not caring about obstacles and what others say. Popal agreed and added, “Look to where you want to go” and not that tree you might hit.

Reid concluded that perhaps the biggest benefit to the community was that the jobs of the future are created by new companies which are less than five years old.

For a full report see the CAG website: www.cagtown.org

Open Studios at Jackson Art Center November 16 and 17

On November 16th and 17th the Jackson Art Center Open Studios will feature more than 40 local artists showing works in oil, acrylic, pencil and pastel, as well as photography, sculpture and ceramics. See new art and chat with artists while enjoying food and drink and music by renown jazz guitarist Tom Lagana. Meet members of FairGirls and Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy, two community organizations that pair with Jackson.

As an added bonus this year, there will be an Open Studios Preview on Saturday, November 16, from 3-5pm, when artists will display their work … and there will be a special free Crafts and Cookies Event for children.

The Jackson Art Center is housed in the historic Jackson School, a former DC public elementary school that operated from 1890 to 1971. In the early 1980’s, a group of local artists partnered with the Corcoran School of Art to lease the building from the DC Public Schools and create an art center for classes and private studio space. In 2000, the artists became an independent organization, incorporating as the non-profit Jackson Art Center. The Victorian school building with tall, wide windows is ideal studio space for local artists who also offer outreach art activities to local schools and organizations.

The Jackson Art Center is located at 3050 R Street directly across from Montrose Park. For more information contact Eileen Egan (664-3765) or potterindec@yahoo.com; and visit www.jacksonartcenter.com and the “Jackson Art Center” Facebook page and twitter @ JACKSONARTIST

Your Chance To Make History!

Want to get involved in a new project? Become a CAG Oral History interviewer! A training session will take place on Wednesday, December 4, at 6pm in the CAG office (1365 Wisconsin Ave., entrance is up the black external staircase on O Street). This session is for both new interviewers wanting to learn the ins and outs and for seasoned interviewers who want to share their experiences. Training is an hour and a half with Betsy Cooley and Jennie Buehler. Direction, materials -- and many behind-the-scenes-stories -- will be provided. Contact the CAG office at 337-7313 or cagmail@cagtown.org.
Georgetown Gala Venetian Carnivale Masked Ball and After Party at the Italian Embassy

Photos by Shelley Rees

Jackie Pletcher, Colleen Girouard, Frank Marshall, Florence Auld, John Girouard, and Constance Taylor-Chatfield

Grammy nominated jazz musician Ski Johnson (center) playing with the Danny Meyer (right) and his band

Jennifer Altemus, Honoree Herb Miller, and Betsy Cooley

Candace Mosely and other Georgetown University guests

Beautiful centerpiece by Fabio at Ultra Violet

Auctioneer Joe Lenardo and friends

Doe Browning and Jack Hunn

John and Kristin Cecchi
Courtney and Clark Seniff, Kallie Seniff, Jared Laser, Robin and Jeff Jones

John and Sally Freeman with guests

Sally and Mark Ein

Tina Alster and Paul Fraser

Opera Singers serenade guests

Mask decoration courtesy of Georgetown Tobacco

Caitlin Girouard and Zach Eiseman

Kate Marty, Nick Suggs, Jennie Buehler, Laura-Anne Tiscornia and Doug Parish

More photos at www.cagtown.org and our Facebook page Citizens Associations of Georgetown—be sure to tag yourself and “like” our page!
The “800 Pound Gorilla” at Our Waterfront

Walter Groszyk—Historic Preservation & Zoning Committee

At CAG’s meeting about developments on the Georgetown waterfront, Bob vom Eigen mentioned the “800 pound gorilla” in the room — a future project to control pollution from Georgetown’s sewers.

What was he talking about? Well, Georgetown has a combined sewer that mixes sewage from drains and toilets with runoff water from streets, yards, and gutters in the same pipe. So Georgetown’s sewers flow to a large pumping station near Roosevelt Bridge which sends the flow to Blue Plains for treatment before being discharged into the Potomac. Except when it rains.

When it rains, the runoff often exceeds the capacity of the combined sewers, resulting in an untreated discharge directly into the Potomac River called an overflow. There are six overflows in Georgetown, the largest at the foot of 30th Street. The total overflow averages 200 million gallons a year, 120 million gallons from the 30th Street sewer. As the pumping station receives sewage from an area much larger than Georgetown, an overflow is discharged there as well; it annually totals over 600 million gallons. For perspective, 800 million gallons is equivalent to 1,000 swimming pools, each with a 25,000 gallon capacity, being dumped into the Potomac near Georgetown one day of every ten during the year.

That volume of untreated sewage is a health hazard and the District is under a judicial consent decree to eliminate nearly all the combined sewer overflows into the Potomac from the vicinity of Georgetown. To achieve this, the District will construct an underground storm water retention tunnel, approximately 32 feet in diameter which will hold nearly 60 million gallons of overflow, and stretch along the river from the pumping station to west of Key Bridge. Once runoff from a storm has ended the tunnel will be ‘de-watered’, i.e., the contents will be pumped out and sent to Blue Plains for treatment, —and the tunnel will be ready to collect overflows from the next precipitation event.

Design for the Potomac tunnel is scheduled to begin in 2015, with construction starting in 2021. A set of shafts from the surface to the tunnel level will be drilled. The largest, 100 feet in diameter to accommodate the tunnelling machine, will likely be built near the pumping station. Smaller diameter shafts would connect overflow sewers to the tunnel. Potentially, the location of these could disrupt development plans for the waterfront, or interfere with features of the waterfront park. (Three of the overflow outfalls are located in the area of the park.) The tunnel and shafts constitute the ‘gorilla’.

However, it may be feasible to shrink the ‘gorilla’ to the size, say, of a rhesus monkey. This entails use of flow control devices and a new relief sewer constructed under either Water Street or the bed of the C&O Canal. The relief sewer would collect overflow from four combined sewers between 31st Street and the Washington Canoe Club, and carry the flow westward to the westernmost combined sewer located near the Canal Road entrance of Georgetown University. A bore shaft could be dug there, sending the collected overflow from five combined sewers into the tunnel near its western end. With only a single bore shaft, construction and post-construction impacts along most of the Georgetown waterfront would be minimized. A more radical approach, such as re-routing the nine foot diameter Rock Creek Diversion Sewer away from 30th Street, would be required to minimize construction impact in Georgetown of ending its overflow.

Eco-Tip: Bottoms Up!

In addition to being the perfect accompaniment to fresh fish, rare beef and pulled pork, wine is also the perfect zero-waste beverage–its bottle can be recycled in your DC recycle bin, its corks can be deposited in the cork bins at local Whole Foods, and the wine itself, on the rare occasion there is a drop left, can be added to your compost pile, contributing nitrogen to the mix. Throw in left over beer as well, an excellent source of nitrogen and the yeast feeds beneficial bacteria. As in all things, moderation is the key!

–Lee Child, Georgetown Garden Club

GU’s Department of Performing Arts Neighbor Night on November 8th

The Department of Performing Arts invites community members to join them for their first Neighbor Night All residents who live within the 20007 zip code can enjoy a 20% discount off of the regular ticket price to see Hamlet on Friday, November 8th, at 7:00 pm. Residents should use the offer code “Neighbor” when purchasing tickets. They are also invited to participate in two special events before the performance! At 5:30 pm, “Remember Me: ‘Hamlet’ and Its Contemporary Resonance” will feature a panel of internationally acclaimed artists and scholars to discuss the enduring legacy of Hamlet. Following the panel, residents are invited to enjoy a pre-show reception at 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact the Department of Performing Arts at 202.687.ARTS (2787)

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TJ MAXX: The Max for the Minimum

VV Harrison

The new TJ Maxx and Home Goods Store at 3222 M Street has caused quite a stir in Georgetown. On opening day there was a big crowd waiting for the doors to open, and when they did, someone said it looked like Supermarket Sweep. The day I dropped by there were fewer customers which made it easy to peruse the merchandise and chat with some of the employees. The store is well appointed in every sense of the word, easy on the eye and in many cases the pocketbook. It's truly a one stop shopping experience, offering high end McQueen purple hand bags priced from $1,500, neo colored spatulas for $2 each and a great variety of things in-between. Designer blouses, skirts, and dresses for day and evening are offered in the Runway which is sort of like the Backroom at Loehmann's.

I saw terrific DKNY winter jackets with lamb's wool collars and fur trimmed hoods for $99 and nice Ralph Lauren tweeds for $129. There's a men's, girls' and boys' department and even a selection of clothes for tiny tots. Socks, jewelry, wrapping paper, perfume, table cloths, pajamas, sweaters, scarfs, sheets, shoes and towels, you name it and you can probably find it at TJ's. The Home goods section is a nice addition offering lamps, chairs, tables, rugs and other assorted furniture.

I asked Sharon Timpane, the store manager, who did the merchandise buying and she said it's done by the corporation, which operates approximately 1000 stores around the globe. “We are delighted with the space,” she said, “and added “we couldn't pass up an opportunity to be part of the Georgetown scene and are very pleased with our first month here.” I told her I was impressed not only with the variety of items in the store but with the helpful sales people.

Before I knew it, I had a shopping cart filled with things I never intended to buy, but with the holidays looming it was hard to resist picking up a few bargains. Erica, my cashier, said she was having a good time working at the new store and I told her I had had a good time shopping there, and I thought I might be turning into a Maxxinista!

Store hours are 9:30am-9:30pm Monday through Saturday, and 11am-8pm on Sunday.

Friends of the Georgetown Library Book Sale November 16
The Friends of the Georgetown Library will hold a sale of used books at the library at R and Wisconsin Avenue on Saturday, November 16, from 10 am to 3 pm. Books include a large number of books on art, architecture, gardening, fiction, non-fiction, modern history, and music as well as some rare books.

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(Please submit items and info by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication.)
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International Networks and Offices
Community Calendar

Thursday, November 7
Georgetown Village Volunteer Training
Help seniors age safely in their home
6 pm, 3000 K Street NW, Suite 310, email lynn@georgetown-village.org or call 202-999-8988 for more information

Friday, November 8
GU’s Department of Performing Arts Neighbor Night
See box on page 8. For more information call 202-687-2787

Tuesday, November 12
Civil War Photographer, Mathew Brady: Portraits

Of A Nation - A Landmark Society Lecture
Author Robert Wilson will discuss his book on Civil War photographer Mathew Brady
6:30-8pm; Tudor Place members $15, non-members $20; 1644 31st Street NW; register at www.tudorplace.org

Saturday, November 16
The Friends of the Georgetown Library Used Book Sale
A variety of books from art and music to non-fiction
10am-3pm; Georgetown Library, 3260 R Street NW

Sunday, November 17
Jackson Art Center Open Studios
Visit the studios of more than 40 local artists, refreshments and music. See story on page 5
12pm-5pm; Jackson Art Center, 3050 R Street NW

Wed., November 13
Georgetown Concert Series: Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Daniel Reuss Conductor
Ambassadors for one of the most exciting choral traditions in Europe
7:30 pm; St. John’s Episcopal Church, 3420 O St. NW; Tickets $30 call 202-338-1796

Wed., November 20
CAG Meeting: Oral History
Hosted by the City Tavern Club
See cover, reception 7pm, program 7:30

Wed., December 4
CAG Oral History Interviewer Training
See box on page 5
6pm, CAG office 1365 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 337-7313,

Friday, November 19
Friday Morning Music Club
Chamber Concert music Noon; Dumbarton House,