Halcyon House Hosts CAG Meeting January 23rd

Save the date, January 23, 2018 and join us to hear about the newest S&R Foundation venture. In 2000 Dr. Sachiko Kuno created the foundation to support talented individuals in the arts, sciences and social entrepreneurship, especially those who are furthering international cultural collaboration. In June, 2015, the Foundation purchased the historic Fillmore School. The space has been transformed into the Halcyon Arts Lab, a nine-month fellowship program providing support and resources to emerging artists as they work to promote social impact and grow as leaders. Halcyon Arts Lab provides the resources and guidance needed to bridge the gap between ambitious ideas and their potential impact. Adapting the well-honed methodology of the Halcyon model, Halcyon Arts Lab fosters creativity through an environment of learning, access, collaboration and support. Please join us at The Fillmore School, 1801 35th Street NW to see the beautiful renovations and learn more about Halcyon. Reception begins at 7 PM.

CAG TOURS DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Pamla Moore

Over 300 Georgetowners were dancing in the streets at the annual Georgetown gala to benefit CAG. Photos on Pages 6-7, see more photos at cagtown.org/gala

CHANCE ENCOUNTER AT OAK HILL

Leslie Maysak, CAG Executive Director

Over 300 Georgetowners were dancing in the streets at the annual Georgetown gala to benefit CAG. Photos on Pages 6-7, see more photos at cagtown.org/gala

Georgetown neighbors, CAG members and history buffs arrived at the front gates of Oak Hill cemetery on the unseasonably sultry evening of October 9 to an unusual sight: a large tent covering the drive adjacent to Ben Bradlee’s mausoleum and the Renwick chapel. The tent had been set up the previous evening for the screening of Emmy Award winning film-maker (retired from the National Gallery of Art) Joe Krakora’s documentary “A Chance Encounter” about the historic cemetery and Oak Hill had generously agreed to host CAG’s public meeting the following night.

The CAG spotlighted the restoration plans for Mount Zion cemetery, Oak Hill’s neighbor to the East. Oak Hill board President George Hill welcomed guests and introduced 6th-generation Georgetowner Neville Waters, President of the Mount Zion Cemetery/Female Union Band Society, who shared background on the cemetery’s history and condition as well as plans for the restoration. The African-American cemetery is listed on the National Register for Historic Places and is in urgent need of landscaping, repair of monuments and fences and cataloguing the interred to the extent possible, so families may know the location of their relatives. Georgetown architect Outerbridge Horsey also made comments about the project’s impact on the community and the need for local support.

The Connecticut-Copperthite Pie Company (established in Georgetown in 1886) generously donated their famous home-style pies to the delight of all assembled.

Photo credits: Judith Beerman

Refreshments from local baker Copperthite Pie Company
“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 events and organizations:

Citizens Association of Georgetown
Concerts in the Park
Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy
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
Tudor Place
President's Letter

There has been plenty of excitement this fall. The CAG gala at the Four Seasons was a great success with emphasis on the theme - “Streets of Georgetown.” The dance floor was crowded and the band “For the Win” played great music non-stop for two and a half hours. Three hundred Georgetowners and sponsors enjoyed the evening, CAG wishes to thank the entire community for their continued support.

Another major issue before CAG is the future of the West Heating Plant (WHP) located across the canal from the Four Seasons. At the hearing before the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) on November 2, there was contention about whether the DC Preservation League needed to seek an historic designation for the WHP. The WHP is a contributing building to the Georgetown Historic District, and CAG’s position is that there is no need for the landmark designation. Nevertheless, the HPRB vote on this subject was approved by a 5 to 3 in favor of granting the landmark designation. Following that presentation, a structural engineering expert, Joel M. Silverman, made it clear that the north, south and east facades are fragile after 17 years of no maintenance with rusted steel support and with cracked bricks. Asbestos and mercury are impossible to eliminate, and demolition of the three facades need to be achieved. The owners of the WHP will seek a demolition of the three facades. The plans developed by David Adjaye for the replacement structure will be judged as whether the structure is regarded as exemplary architecture. The Mayor’s Agent is scheduled to hold a public hearing on January 25-26, 2018 to resolve the dispute.

I wish happy holidays to all CAG members, and encourage everybody to join us at our next Community Meeting at Halcyon House on January 23rd.

Bob vom Eigen, President

Beth Nielson 1943-2017

The CAG community was saddened and shocked by the sudden loss of our longtime Office Assistant, Beth Nielson, on November 1. We have been gratified by the many expressions of sympathy from members of the community, who shared kind thoughts and stories about Beth and attended her memorial service at Dumbarton United Methodist Church.

For more than 12 years, Beth was an important member of our staff, a consistent presence providing services crucial to CAG operations. She was also active at the Georgetown Ministry Center and will be sorely missed there. The Ministry Center was important to Beth at a difficult period in her life and we encourage donations to the center in Beth’s name.

Beth’s sweet presence and dedication to her work in the CAG office will be missed by all who knew her. But we who had the privilege to work closely with her will smile as we remember her grabbing the mail, throwing her bag over her shoulder, and cheerfully saying goodbye as she headed for the bus.

Community Update from Georgetown Ministry Center

If you are not already familiar with Georgetown Ministry Center, we are a nonprofit that has been operating in Georgetown for 30 years. Located beneath Grace Episcopal Church on Wisconsin Avenue, we serve our community’s most vulnerable, chronically homeless individuals. Thanks to the generous support of this community, we have accomplished a great deal over the past year:

- More than 25 GMC guests moved off the streets and into housing.
- Neighborhood congregations hosted and prepared meals for the 26th annual winter shelter.
- 8 shelter participants now live in their very own apartments.
- Overall, 781 homeless individuals were able to receive psychiatric and medical care, case management services, meals, clothing, and more.

In addition, our day center is getting a facelift! After 13 years of wear and tear, 46,000 showers and 14,250 loads of laundry, GMC is receiving a major renovation. We anticipate reopening in December and welcome the community to tour the new space, learn more about the ways we serve the community and how you can get involved. Please email info@gmcgt.org to get in touch!

Dates to Remember

C&O Canal National Historical Park public comment period ends!
Friday, Jan. 5 – Tell Georgetown Heritage what you think by visiting https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=70176

CAG Community Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 23 – Halcyon Arts Lab at Fillmore School, 7PM

CAG Community Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 27 – at Georgetown University

Watch for announcements and updates on cagtown.org/meetings and facebook.com/georgetowncitizens

Beth Nielson 1943-2017

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IS CAG ON YOUR LIST?

As my first year as CAG’s Executive Director draws to a close I’d like to take the opportunity to personally thank our wonderful and generous CAG community without whom the many programs and initiatives at CAG would not be possible. Our members, sponsors, volunteers, board of directors, committees and many, many community organization liaisons are crucial to the achievement of CAG’s goals each year resulting in a better Georgetown.

CAG’s programs benefit all residents regardless of membership, but they aren’t free. We do have expenses and take seriously our responsibility to use resources judiciously. And so, as the year ends, please look back on the CAG benefits you may have enjoyed whether it was a free concert in the park, a tree planted on your block, an historic home protected, or maybe it was one of the many fascinating programs presented at our favorite local venues or even a sense of general well-being from being part of a safe, connected community that cares about quality of life, and consider making a year-end donation to CAG or renewing your dues.

Best wishes for the holiday season,

Leslie
Leslie Maysak, Executive Director

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<td>BOTTLE THE ENERGY</td>
<td>Bottled water can cost up to 10,000 times more than tap water! Why? Because you are paying for all kinds of things besides water: the bottle, the water wasted during the bottling process, the energy used to bottle the water and transport the bottle to your store, the paper label and bottle cap. Answer: Buy a reusable bottle for less than $20 and fill it up at home. With your savings, you can purchase a water filter for your tap! Small effort, big Step! — LEE CHILD Georgetown Garden Club</td>
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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGETOWN
MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC SAFETY RENEWAL

- All donations are fully tax deductible -

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___ Check here if you have also included your 2018 CAG membership dues. (Dues are $55 individuals; $75 couples or families; $75 businesses or associate members.)

All contributors receive full program benefits.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME ____________________________

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$___________ Public Safety Donation 2018

Check # __________________ (made payable to Citizens Association of Georgetown)

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Name on Card _______________________

Billing address for this card if different __________________________________

Authorized Signature ________________________________

You may also donate online: www.cagtown.org and click on Public Safety Program

___ I/We do not want my/our names listed as a supporter(s) of the CAG Public Safety Program

___ I/We would like the CAG patrol guard to call and or stop by our house to introduce himself

___ I/We am interested in becoming a Public Safety Block Captain or joining the Public Safety Committee

Please return to: Citizens Association of Georgetown, Suite 200, 1365 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20007 – 202-337-7313

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EcoTip

BOTTLE THE ENERGY

Bottled water can cost up to 10,000 times more than tap water! Why? Because you are paying for all kinds of things besides water: the bottle, the water wasted during the bottling process, the energy used to bottle the water and transport the bottle to your store, the paper label and bottle cap. Answer: Buy a reusable bottle for less than $20 and fill it up at home. With your savings, you can purchase a water filter for your tap! Small effort, big Step!

— LEE CHILD
Georgetown Garden Club

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WHEN TRASH BECOMES ART, AND ART BECOMES TRASH

Walter Groszyk

A large new sculpture, Scarlet Natural Chaos, now installed on the Georgetown Waterfront creates an observational dichotomy: when trash becomes art, and art becomes trash.

The accompanying photograph shows the dramatic demise of a creation by Arne Quinze at the Burning Man festival in Nevada. The conceptual artist, known internationally for his unconventional, often controversial, works, has now made his presence felt in Georgetown in a very large way. The Belgian’s Scarlet Natural Chaos, over 40 feet high and weighing nearly 30 tons, graces the lower patio of the Sequoia restaurant, previously home to the outdoor River Bar.

A photograph of Scarlet is omitted, as the sculpture deserves to be seen in person, pondered, and judged. Some may applaud its presence on the waterfront for decades to come, others may conclude it deserves a sic transit gloria mundi fate like Burning Man.

CAG objected to the sculpture, asserting that it really represented greatly out-sized signage calling attention to the restaurant. CAG suggested that it was no different than if a 30-foot high sculpture of the Nike swoosh symbol were plastered on the side of a building on M Street and called “art”. The Old Georgetown Board carefully studied the proposed Sequoia sculpture, even requiring a mock-up, and undertaking a site visit.

There remains a larger question though, as there seems to be no prohibition against property owners installing publicly visible art on their property, even art that seems incompatible with the setting and appearance of historic Georgetown. What of a parade of plastic pink flamingos? Or a Jeff Koons’ monster-sized, orange Balloon Dog? Or worse. One person’s taste in art thus becomes the community’s taste. And the only censure is a passerby’s exclamation: “Yuck”.

For an explication of Scarlet, with many photographs, see: http://arnequinze.com/en/projects/detail/scarlet-natural-chaos

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEETS ON HYDE-ADDISON MODERNIZATION PROGRESS

Hannah Isles, CAG Board of Directors

Monday, November 13- The community working group for the Hyde-Addison Elementary School modernization met at St. John’s Church to get an update on the project’s progress. Representatives were in attendance from DC’s Dept. of General Services (DGS), the construction company, the architectural firm and Councilman Jack Evans’ office.

The initial phase of the project is the water line replacement which is complete. This phase involved digging out the original water line which ran under the Hyde building and moving it to the perimeter of the lot. Throughout the excavation process the project coordinators consulted with archeologists to ensure that any historic artifacts found were preserved and documented. Nothing significant was found and an archeological report will be available in the coming months.

The next phase of the project involves excavating the middle of the lot and building the foundation for the new building that will connect the Hyde and Addison buildings. The contractor reported that they are closely monitoring vibrations from the excavation work that may impact neighbors and that they will be employing an aerial crane for this phase of the project. Assurances were made that aerial cranes are more efficient and produce less noise. The project is reportedly on schedule with the foundation being projected to be near completion by spring.

During the Q&A afterward, issues were raised regarding the landscaping and shade on the playground and the completion of repairs to the wall adjacent to the neighboring property on O Street and representatives stated that these issues are being addressed. A more pressing issue seems to be the current daytime parking restrictions on O Street. Attendees stated that the parking enforcement has been aggressive. Reportedly, Jack Evans will be meeting with DDOT in the next week to discuss ways to address those issues.

To receive notice of future meetings and bi-weekly updates on the Hyde-Addison project please email Monica.Dodge@DC.gov
STREETS OF GEORGETOWN 2017 GALA

Photos by Robert Devaney, Pat Ryan, Oliver Devine, DC Hot Spots and Washington Life photographer Erin Schaff
SITTING WITH SALLY QUINN

V.V. Harrison

Sitting with Sally Quinn on the back porch of her historic house on N Street, where she has lived for thirty-seven years, listening to her recount memorable Georgetown moments, made me think of days past, when our village was the venue for sparkling parties given by doyennes of a by gone era. Evangeline Bruce, the Alsops, Lorraine Cooper, Kay Graham, Scottie Fitzgerald-Lanahan and others, were famous for creating elegant settings and stimulating conversation. Sally Quinn was present at many of these gatherings, as a reporter for the Washington Post, and as a guest. After marrying Ben Bradlee and moving to N Street, she too became a hostess of note. She does not lament the past, but shared some amusing stories: Being present when Evangeline Bruce announced she was giving up seated dinner parties when two Senators called to cancel at the last minute, and watching a woman’s dress catch fire by walking too close to a lighted candle at one of Lorraine Cooper’s stylish soirees.

Mrs. Cooper, dressed to the nines, walked beneath a parasol when strolling the streets of Georgetown. According to Sally, during one of her walks, Mrs. Cooper encountered Kay Graham wearing a kilt and a pair of loafers and severely chastised her for dressing inappropriately for a woman of her stature!

Sally also attended a memorable luncheon for Princess Margaret hosted by the Bruces. After drinking several whiskeys, the royal sister sequestered Ben Bradlee on a couch. As he desperately looked to his wife to be rescued, she turned away with a gleeful smile, as if to say “you’re on your own buddy.”

Sally misses, as we all do, many of the old Georgetown emporiums, including Little Caledonia, Neims Market, the Lamp Store, and our last (save Bridge Street) book store, Barnes and Noble, but is delighted Amazon will soon bring books back to Georgetown.

For supper with friends, she frequents local restaurants, including La Chaumiere, Café Milano, and Martin’s Tavern, where a booth sports a plaque engraved with the Bradlees’ name. When eating in, she often orders from Stachowski’s on 28th Street.

Now living alone, I asked if she was thinking of selling her house. Not for all the tea in China. “They’ll take me out of here in my coffin, which I’ve already picked out at Gawler’s. It’s made of Magnolia wood and called The Savannah, which is where I grew up”. In the meantime, she’s busy promoting her memoir, Finding Magic, and looking forward to the premier of the new film, The Post, starring Meryle Streep as Kay Graham, and Tom Hanks as Ben Bradlee.
HISTORIC PRESERVATION & ZONING
IN GEORGETOWN

FIRST INSTALLMENT IN A SERIES ABOUT HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORK OF THE CAG HPZ

Elsa Santoyo, HPZ Chair

Each time I look out my windows or go for a walk, the historic architecture and setting of Georgetown never cease to delight me. I’ll bet you share this admiration for its historic character, and it’s probably one of the reasons that compelled you to live here.

But do you know that Georgetown, both architecture and setting, is a National Historic Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places? Nationally, there are relatively few historic districts that have qualified for this designation. It is “the highest level of recognition conferred by the US government on privately owned properties of significant historic value” which are associated with “events that have made significant contribution to the broad pattern of our Nation’s history”, and “the lives of persons significant in our past”, and which “embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction”. The span of time during which these significant events, activities, and construction occur is known as the “period of significance”.

For Georgetown, this began in 1751, when what was then a 60-acre port town was established and was formally acknowledged in 1950 when Congress enacted the Old Georgetown Act to preserve and protect its unique history. To this end, federal law requires review of both concept and permit plans for all construction, alteration, reconstruction, and demolition of buildings within its boundaries, and regulates their scale, and design (appearance, volumes, details, color and texture of materials) that can be viewed from public pathways. So while living in our National Landmark Historic District is a privilege and a pleasure, the protection the designation affords presents homeowners with challenges when they seek to undertake modifications to their properties.

The mission of CAG’s HPZ is to preserve the historic character and aesthetic values of Georgetown with a particular eye toward protecting the interests of the neighborhood’s residents and homeowners. We look forward to working with you.

Next time: The review process – when, who, what.
COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

Thurs Nov 23  Happy Thanksgiving!

Mon Dec 4  ANC 2E Public Meeting at Georgetown Visitation, 6:30pm Heritage Room, 2nd floor 1524 35th street NW

Tues Dec 12  Candlelight Tours in the Mansion: Tudor Place tour, reservation required

Fri Dec 8  Georgetown GLOW 2017, Experience the sparkle of the season and view the region's only curated exhibition of outdoor public light art installations

Sun Dec 31  Weekend Tots: Noon Year’s Eve: enjoy a festive counting-themed story time, celebrate the noon-year with noisemakers, confetti, a sparkling craft, and toast 2018 with juice! Tickets on sale, email education@tudorplace.org

PLANNING AHEAD

Fri Jan 5  C&O Canal National Historical Park public comment period ends! Tell Georgetown Heritage what you think by visiting https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=70176

Tues Jan 23  CAG Community Meeting at Halcyon Arts Lab at Fillmore School

Tues Feb 27  CAG Community Meeting at Georgetown University

C&O CANAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Let Georgetown Heritage Know What You Think!

Georgetown Heritage and the National Park Service hosted almost 200 community members on Nov 2, 2017 to review and comment on initial concept design ideas for the one-mile C&O National Historical Park in Georgetown.

Georgetown Heritage is compiling the comments we received at the meeting, but that is just the beginning. Participation is vital to the planning process. Please take some time to review the designs and share your thoughts. Your comments can be submitted electronically at the National Park Service’s Planning, Environmental and Public Comments (PEPC) website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Georgetowncanalplan. The comment period is open until January 5, 2018.
OUR TWELFTH YEAR AS PROUD UNDERWRITER
of CAG’s Public Safety Program

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Happy Holidays

Time to Renew Your Dues!

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