

bulletin board

BY MARY-FRANCES DALY

MidCity Business Association Holiday Celebration and Silent Auction

Celebrate the community and culture of the 14th Street and U Street corridors during the MidCity Business Association's holiday celebration and silent auction Dec. 7, 6-9 p.m., at Local 16, 1602 U St. NW. The event, which is free for MidCity Business Association Members and \$25 for others, includes an open bar, lamb roast and local farm fresh food, DJ entertainment, a silent auction with meals, gifts and services from a range of MidCity businesses including Vastu, Miss Pixies, Nana, RCKNDY, Caramel, The Bike Rack, Ulah Bistro, Convention Florist, Nellie's, Cafe Saint Ex, Dukem, Pulp, Solly's Tavern, Home Rule and more. All proceeds support MidCity Business Association marketing and small business assistance programs. To learn more about MidCity BA, visit www.midcitylife.com.

Fifth Annual Toy Drive for Children & Youth

Metropolitan Community Church is hosting a toy and gift card drive for children and youth affected

by HIV/AIDS on Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Event organizers expect 300 children and youth to attend the drive. Unwrapped gift cards and toys for children ages 3-17 can be dropped off at the church during normal business hours between Dec. 1 and Dec. 19. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, during the event, and clean-up. The church is located at 474 Ridge St. NW. Contact Wallace Corbett with any questions: 202-257-1484, blackdcbiker@yahoo.com.

Classes for Business Owners

The Latino Economic Development Corporation is offering the following bilingual classes, free of charge, this month:

- Visual Merchandising. Dec. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Community of Christ Church, 3166 Mount Pleasant St. NW. Visual merchandising is the art of facilitating the shopping experience to increase sales. LEDC will review concepts such as customer flow, visibility and product placement and explore how to apply these principles.
- Getting Ready for the Tax Season. Dec. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Community of Christ Church, 3166 Mount Pleasant St. NW. If you have worked as a contractor or small-business owner in 2009, LEDC will show you how to organize your paperwork to get ready to file your taxes. You will also learn basic accounting to analyze the profitability of your business.

Register for these classes at 202-540-7436 or www.lecdmetro.org.

Ward 4 Democrats Annual Meeting & Holiday Luncheon

The Ward 4 Democrats will hold their annual meeting and holiday luncheon Dec. 12, from noon to 2 p.m., at the Saint George Ballroom and Banquet Center, 4335 16th St. NW. Kim Keenan, Esq., president of the DC Bar, will be the guest speaker for this event. Keenan's remarks will focus on the importance of leadership in addressing community issues. This festive event is one of the major fundraising activi-

ties of the Ward 4 Democrats, and the proceeds will be used to support outreach activities. Tickets for this event are \$25 per person and can be purchased from Joan Thomas, 202-291-7561. www.ward4dems.org.

Holiday Shopping (and Giving) at MidCity's Third Thursday

MidCity Business Association hosts "Third Thursdays" along (and just off) the 14th and U Street corridors every month. Third Thursdays showcase the area's shopping corridors and give shoppers a chance to explore its great retail offerings late into the evening as stores are typically open until 9 p.m. This month's Third Thursday event, Dec. 17, will include a coat drive for Martha's Table, an organization that provides services to the District's at-risk children, families and individuals. Participating Third Thursday stores will be collecting coat to distribute to people in need during the cold winter months. Participating Third Thursday retailers include Cork Market & Tasting Room, ACKC Cocoa Bar, Junction, RCKNDY, Nana, Plan B, Logan Hardware, The Bike Rack, Redeem, Go Mama Go, DEKKA, Pulp, Rue 14, Zawadi, Greater Goods, Treasury Vintage, Caramel, Green Pets, Miss Pixies, Som Records, Lettie Gooch, Bang & Olufsen, Home Rule, Pink November, Habitat, Palace 5, 4NX¢ and Passport Clothing. Visit www.midcitylife.com for more information.

Ready, Willing & Working Fundraiser

The second annual "Magic & Miracles at The Mansion" – a benefit for Ready, Willing & Working, Dec. 17, 7-10 p.m. – celebrates the magic of opportunity and the miracle of the human spirit at the Mansion on O Street (2020 O St. NW). Proceeds from this event will provide opportunities for individuals who want to work, to lift themselves out of poverty, to escape destructive cycles and to be included in mainstream society. Ticket includes reception from 6:30-7:30 p.m., open bar and a dinner buffet until 9:30 p.m. \$50/individuals. For more information, call 202-842-3333 or visit www.rwwdc.org.

Signs of the Season

About 135 people had something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day this year, when Letha M. Blount cooked and served a holiday dinner at the Foster House Apartments in Shaw. This was the 10th year that Blount, 79, who is the founder and director of the American Classic Pageant in DC, put out a spread, featuring turkey and all the fixings, and more unusual items like pigs feet, in the building's community and dining rooms, and threw open the doors to the neighborhood. Ladies from the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA across the street, as well as residents from other apartment buildings in the neighborhood that didn't have anywhere else to go, were effusive in their gratitude to Ms. Blount for the love she demonstrates to the community every year. "I thank God that he's blessed me with the health and strength to do this again," Blount observed.

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The pageant's 2009 First Runner Up, perpetual DC mayoral candidate Faith, attended with her husband, Jude Crannitch, who was dressed as a Native American and serenaded the diners with his guitar. During the previous week, Shaw Main Streets distributed turkey baskets and gift cards to nearly 300 Shaw families to help with holiday expenses, with financial support from Metropolitan Development, Independence Bank, Inle Development and others. The next day, the team at Old City Green at Ninth and N streets NW, was ready to help Shaw prepare for the next holiday with hundreds of fresh fir trees, wreaths and other holiday decorations on their outdoor lot. Byron, Jesse and Frank greeted customers eager to get their homes and offices ready for the December holidays with Fraser and Balsam firs, and Scotch pines, from 3- to 13-feet tall. Photos by Alexander M. Padro, Courtesy Shaw Main Streets.



CHRISTmas Toys to Needy Kids Rally

The Extension Center will give toys and gifts to 3,000 inner-city children and youth living in shelters, prisons, foster care and the community on Dec. 19, 10 a.m., at the CHRISTmas Toys to Needy Kids Rally with the theme, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." The Extension Center sponsors this event at McKinley Technology High School, 151 T St. NE. To help with the event, please consider making a tax deductible donation of \$50 so that the center can purchase two presents for two kids or donate \$75 to purchase T-shirts, wrapped candy, soaps, candy, bath and body lotions, bath gels, etc. for incarcerated males and females. Call 202-387-3082 or visit www.extensioncenter-dc.org for more information.

Take a Tree Tour with Casey Trees

Casey Trees staff will host a tour of North Portal Estates, a residential neighborhood in Ward 4 on the edge of Rock Creek Park, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will look for trees with winter interest and get a bare-bones look at the importance of trees in an urban residential neighborhood. The cost is \$10. North Portal Estates is located at North Portal and 16th streets NW. For questions, call 202-349-1907 or e-mail cherwig@caseytrees.org.

Bikestation at Union Station Registration Open

Membership registration is now open for the Bikestation at Union Station. Interested cyclists can go to www.bikestation.com to register. Members will receive a card that will allow 24/7 access to the parking area. Introductory membership rates are \$96 per year or \$30 a month, plus a \$20 annual administration fee. In addition to parking, Bikestation, on the west side of Union Station, offers rentals, repairs and retail accessories. Bike and Roll, a local bike rental company, will operate the center. Visit www.bikeandroll.com for more information.

Save H Street Shuttle Funding

Funding for the free H Street Shuttle is up for renewal, and Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells has been working hard to make sure the H Street Cooperative receives the money it needs to keep the shuttles running nightly. The H Street Shuttle is a free shuttle that runs each evening from 5 p.m. until the Metro closes, which means midnight Sunday through Thursdays and 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. It runs along H Street with limited stops beginning in Chinatown by the Gallery Place Metro stop and ends at the Minnesota Avenue stop. Since its debut in January of 2009, the shuttle has become an easy way for customers, patrons and staff to get to H Street and helps reduce the number of cars parked on nearby residential streets. The corridor is undergoing a dramatic streetscape renovation which will eventually result in a beautiful H Street, but the construction has further reduced (the already limited) street parking and increased aggravation for drivers. Learning from similar projects in other areas of the city, the shuttle was

introduced before major work began and has been a vital way to keep patrons coming here during this challenging time.

Councilmember Wells' chief of staff, Charles Allen, has recommended that concerned citizens contact Valerie Santos, deputy mayor for planning and economic development, to let her know how important the shuttle is to the whole community. Santos is the key decision maker. Her e-mail is Valerie.SantosYoung@dc.gov. Allen has asked that e-mails to Santos include a "cc" to Tommy Wells at twells@dccouncil.us.

Washington DCJCC Accepting Submissions for 2010 Washington Jewish Music Festival

The Washington DCJCC is now accepting submissions for the 11th annual Washington Jewish Music Festival, to be held June 6-13, 2010, where masters of traditional music from around the globe will perform alongside cutting-edge contemporary musicians who blend traditions into a new fusion of Judeo-world music. Festival-goers experience live performances and take music into their own hands at workshops and discussions. Through collaborations, educational programming and free events, the festival actively engages people from all walks of the greater DC community in cross-cultural dialogue. If you would like to submit music for consideration in the festival, please contact Lili Kalish Gersch at lilikg@washingtondcjcc.org or mail a sample CD and press material to: Attn: Lili Kalish Gersch, Washington DCJCC, 1529 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036. For information and photos from the 2009 Washington Jewish Music Festival, visit wjmf.org.

David Black Sculpture at Fifth and K Streets NW

The DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, in collaboration with the Office of Planning, CityVista, Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District, art experts and community representatives, selected noted artist David Black to create a dynamic sculpture for the intersection of Fifth and K streets NW. The DC Commission allocated approximately \$250,000 to sponsor this project through its Public Art Building Communities grant. David Black is internationally recognized for his monumental public sculptures. His creation, "Lift Off," is being installed right now in front of Busboys & Poets adjacent to its outdoor café at CityVista. Footings were installed last year. To learn more about the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, visit www.dcartarts.dc.gov. Visit the Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District online at www.mountvernontriangle.org.



Self Portrait: The Copper-Toned Black Man Carrying One Thousand Years on My Palette, City of Tlacoatlapan / Autorretrato: El negro cobrizo cargando mil años en mi paleta, La ciudad Tlacoatlapan. Credit: Ignacio Canela (b. 1950), 1999, oil on linen / óleo sobre lino, National Museum of Mexican Art Permanent Collection. Photo: Michael Tropea.

The African Presence in Mexico From Yanga to the Present

On view at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum through July 4 is a traveling exhibition developed by curators Sagrario Cruz-Carretero and Cesáreo Moreno at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. The exhibition looks at the history, culture and art of Afro-Mexicans, and begins in the colonial era and continues to present day. Included in the presentation is the companion exhibition, "Who Are We Now? Roots, Resistance and Recognition" curated by Elena Gonzáles. Highlights of the exhibition include "casta" paintings – paintings used to delineate racial categories and the ever-increasing complexity of racial mixture; discussions of African slavery in Mexico and the hero/slave rebel Yanga; artifacts related to the traditions and popular culture of the Afro-Mexicans; and many paintings, masks, photography and other works of art. Open daily from 10-5 p.m. except for Dec. 25, the museum is free and located at 1901 Fort Place SE. Visit anacostia.si.edu or call 202-633-4820 for exhibition and public program information.

Skip the Bag, Save the River: District to Give Away 122,000 Reusable Bags

The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) has launched an education campaign to prepare the community for Jan. 1, when the District-wide five-cent surcharge on disposable paper or plastic carryout bags takes effect. The proceeds from this tax go to the new Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Fund. The bag fee does not apply to bags used for newspapers, produce, hardware, frozen foods, plants, bakery items or prescription drugs. DDOE will distribute 122,000 reusable bags to low-income residents and seniors; CVS/pharmacy will contribute 12,000 additional "Skip the Bag" reusable bags; and Safeway will distribute 10,000 bags beginning Jan. 1. For more information about the Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act of 2009 and the bag fee, please visit <http://green.dc.gov/bags>.

Have some news for the Bulletin Board? E-mail bulletinboard@hillrag.com by the 20th of the month prior to publication. Submissions may be edited. CCN cannot guarantee publication. ★