

# Georgetown C I T I Z E N S



CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
of GEORGETOWN

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WWW.CAGTOWN.ORG

## CAG Salutes Oral History Pioneers

On Monday, January 14, CAG will hear from well-known Georgetowners Tom Birch, Ed Emes, Kevin Delany, Cooby Greenway, Sewla "Lucky" Roosevelt and Ann Satterthwaite, 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 – and critical to our ongoing program documenting the "living history" of Georgetown.

Annie Lou Berman will summarize the CAG project and Elizabeth Maloy will introduce the interviewees who will talk informally about their memories growing up in — or moving to — Georgetown, pursuing careers here, raising families, building businesses, entertaining, renovating houses — and more.

We are pleased that historic Dumbarton United Methodist Church, at 3133 Dumbarton Street, is hosting the January meeting. The church has been part of Georgetown since 1772, meeting first in a cooper's shop, then on Montgomery Street (now 28th Street), and finally at the present site on Dumbarton Street in 1850. The church was remodeled in 1897 and the present Romanesque front was added. Inaugurated before the official creation of the Methodist Church, Dumbarton UMC is one of the oldest continuing Methodist congregations in the world and has been part of many phases of American history. After the First Manassas Civil War battle, the church was converted into a hospital as thousands of casualties streamed into the



(top l to r) Cooby Greenway, "Lucky" Roosevelt, Ann Satterthwaite, Ed Emes, Tom Birch and Kevin Delany

city. During the war, President Abraham Lincoln visited Dumbarton church and was said to be "much affected by the sermon, being moved to tears."

All of the CAG oral history interviews can be read at [www.cagtown.org](http://www.cagtown.org), but don't miss this opportunity to meet these fascinating Georgetowners and hear their intriguing stories first hand. Unlike most CAG meetings, *the program will be first, starting at 7:00pm* in the upstairs sanctuary and will be *followed by a dessert reception downstairs in the church hall at 8:00*. The church is handicap accessible — there is a ramp from the street and a button to automatically open the large church doors. Oral History interviewers will be on hand during the reception to answer questions about becoming an interviewer.

## Cool Kick-Off for the Hot Summer Concerts Series



Buy your tickets now for the fabulous family skating party at the new ice skating rink at Washington Harbour! It's Sunday, January 13, from 4 - 6:30 and Tony &

Joe's is providing refreshments and libations for all ages during the party. (Tony & Joe's is also offering a 10% discount for anyone who wants to stay for dinner.) The skating rink will give party-goers priority access and free skate rentals so young and old can whirl around the

*Continued on page 5*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**H**appy New Year! I took some time over the past couple of weeks to look at what CAG has accomplished over the year. And it is a lot.

- We started the year off with some looking back. Our Oral History contributors gathered for a fascinating panel discussion at the City Tavern Club.
- In February we had a record breaking turnout for Georgetown ARTS 2012 at the chic House of Sweden. Thirty talented local artists participated and over 300 people came to the opening reception.
- The Ritz Carlton hosted us in March for Debbie Weil's tutorial on social media. One of these days I am going to figure out Twitter.
- Carl Colby gave us a behind the scenes look at his documentary about his late father, former CIA Director, William Colby, at the Georgetown Library.
- In May we welcomed the Mayor and Councilman Evans to Dumbarton House to help us honor some of the incredible people who have made Georgetown a better place to live and visit.
- We kicked off the 10th Anniversary of our Concerts in the Parks series with a Who Dunit Mystery Party at TD Bank (turns out that I did it). Then throughout the summer we had three packed concerts at Rose and Volta Parks.
- September took us to the lovely Grace Church for a presentation by the Georgetown Ministry Center about homelessness.
- We celebrated the reopening of

the Washington Harbour restaurants at Tony and Joes with real estate experts who had lots of insights about the local scene.

- Charley Casserly, former Redskins GM and current Georgetown resident, regaled us with football stories at the massive new Nike store.
- Almost 400 neighbors from far and wide *Put on the Glitz* (and their dancing shoes) for our Georgetown Gala at the Russian Embassy. What a party!

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*None of this could have happened without the incredible volunteers who make up CAG. I salute each and every one of you and look forward to all we will accomplish in 2013.*

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But it wasn't all fun and games. We spent countless hours working with Georgetown University, the Office of Planning, and the Zoning Commission on a resolution to the 2010 Georgetown University Campus Plan. I firmly believe that we have developed a proposal that will go a long way towards alleviating many of the adverse impacts we experience living in such close proximity to the University. Our Historic Preservation & Zoning Committee is tackling many projects including protecting Georgetown's historic character during the zoning law re-write. Crime is down in the residential district, even in these troubled times,

through our Public Safety Committee's efforts. We have a pilot program underway with safety cameras posted on the residential streets. The ABC Committee took part in Councilman Graham's task force on ABC issues. Dead trees are gone and new ones have been planted thanks to Trees for Georgetown. The Friends of the Georgetown Library had two book sales which raised funds for the Georgetown Library.

Lots of the things are in the works for 2013. We will hear from a new group of Oral History contributors. The Concerts Committee is already lining up the bands for the summer concert series and their Kickoff Party is a family skating party at the Harbour with a reception at Tony and Joe's. Georgetown ARTS 2013 returns to House of Sweden. The new general manager of the Four Seasons has agreed to host our March program in the beautifully renovated ballroom. The Georgetown Gala Committee is recruiting new members and researching venues for the fall festivities.

None of this could have happened without the incredible volunteers who make up CAG. I salute each and every one of you and look forward to all we will accomplish in 2013.

—Jennifer Altemus

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ASPECTS OF GEORGETOWN

## The Eye of Horus

**W**e think we know this place where we live and then, suddenly, there seems to be so much more to it. So we must adjust and realize that we live in a chameleon village. Or are we chameleons, forever noticing, changing, evolving. We good gray citizens muddle along all right, moderately pleased with ourselves. Why not? We have a major university, a broad river (complete with boat races), abundant shopping (too much), a first rate small museum (Byzantine, Pre-Columbian), more than enough churches, somewhat safe streets, semi-adequate transportation (no Metro), a fine hospital, and we have each other. This last item is called community.

Pretty good, right?

But maybe we only skim the surface. We need perceiving and observ-

ing eyes, not just seeing eyes. When we have looked around us what have we actually seen? And now that the world hasn't ended after all, as the Mayan calendar predicted, we ought to take a good look around. It is definitely the ending of one year and the beginning of a new one. A time to take stock.

"Etonne moi," as Diaghilev said, probably to Nijinski, "Astonish me."

Yes, astonish us. If you need to broaden your horizons, get out of a rut, or even just buy something that is not from a chain store. A good way to get some perspective on things — like several millennia of perspective — is to visit Sands of Time, a treasure house of antiquities on P Street next to Morgan's Pharmacy. We need to remember that we reference the larger

world. Sands of Time is there to remind us and to be referenced. We need to be reminded about time and history and art and loss, and that against all odds beautiful objects come down to us from the distant past, to thrill us and lift us up.

When Howard Carter entered King Tut's tomb in 1922, some three thousand years after it was built, the people waiting anxiously outside asked him what he was seeing. He said, "I see wonderful things." You will feel that way at Sands of Time. There, among other glorious things, you will find the Eye of Horus. It is all seeing, it has six doors to receive data. It is one of many objects from times and places, long ago and far away. Objects that will astonish you.

—Edith Schafer

### Cool Kick-Off for the Hot Summer Concerts Series *continued from cover*

new ice. There will be kids' activities off the ice too, for those little ones who get tired – or aren't skating yet. Attendees will also have the chance to win treasures and gift certificates in an auction/prize drawing. Check out the CAG website ([www.cagtown.com](http://www.cagtown.com)) for details and to purchase tickets. Tickets are \$175 for three generations, \$150 for two generations, \$125 per couple and \$65 per individual. Proceeds will help cover the cost of the putting on the summer concerts, which are free and open to the public. Colman Riddell, Kick-off Party co-chair, says "the new skating rink is fantastic and Tony and Joe's is the perfect perch for watching the action. This is going to be a really fun family party. I hope people buy tickets soon before we sell out."

Concerts Chair Hannah Isles announced that the 2013 concerts are set for May 19th, (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), June 16th (a Fathers' Day celebration), and June 30th (an Independence Day celebration and parade). Mark your calendars because

you won't want to miss this Georgetown fun.

A huge thank you to Tony & Joe's, the Harbour Ice Rink – and last year's top sponsors Long & Foster, Sprinkles, Nancy Taylor Bubes -



Join CAG January 13th at the new ice rink

Washington Fine Properties, and TTR/Sotheby's International Realty.

—Hannah Isles  
*Concerts in the Parks  
Committee Chair*

## CAG Outlines Position on Proposed New Sign Regulations

**W**hen the DC Department of Transportation proposed new signage regulations in August, community groups were invited to review and comment on the draft regulations. The regulations cover not just signs in historic districts, but signs throughout the city such as the controversial signs permitted on the Verizon Center. CAG saw this review as an opportunity to improve our community's landscape. Signs, both permitted and not permitted, have increased in numbers on our streets and neighbors note that signs grow larger and more numerous with little enforcement. Topher Mathews and members of the CAG Historic Preservation & Zoning committee have studied signage issues for several years. After committee and full board discussion and vote, CAG sent a letter to DDOT outlining our recommendations – which are as follows:

Given the unique treatment of the historic neighborhood of Georgetown under these proposed rules, CAG wishes to submit the following additional comments:

- CAG approves of proposed Section 304 “Prohibited Signs” as it addresses many of the concerns that Georgetown residents have over the proliferation of neon signs, light-emitting diode signs (“LED”), and the use of televisions. CAG recommends that in addition to this enumerated list of prohibited signs, that this section also state that all signs must comport with the guidelines issued by the Old Georgetown Board (OGB).
- CAG approves of the provisions of Section 305, particularly the provisions establishing a limit on the size of signs in windows that abut or overlook a street or public way. CAG has been concerned over the proliferation of large signs covering all or nearly all of a window of commercial establishments in Georgetown. However, CAG suggests that the final

rules clarify that these rules govern all signs visible from the street or public way including signs that are set-back from the window.

- CAG believes the proposed regulations as written are ambiguous as to the division of labor between the Commission of Fine Arts (“CFA”) and the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (“HPRB”). It has been the practice of the two agencies that the HPRB would defer to the CFA on any permanent project that falls into the CFA’s jurisdiction. Alternatively, CFA generally defers to HPRB on any temporary change (primarily signage) that will be removed in 60 days. CAG believes this arrangement works well. However, as written the proposed regulations appear to require HPRB approval for all projects subject to its jurisdiction, regardless of whether the project is also subject to CFA review.
- CAG recommends the proposed regulations be redrafted to clearly state that any proposed change to a building within Georgetown that will last 60 days or more shall be reviewed by the CFA unless the CFA has no jurisdiction (i.e. the change is not visible from a public street or thoroughfare) and that HPRB will review all temporary changes and any project not subject to CFA review.
- CAG recommends that the proposed regulations be amended to clearly state that nothing in Chapter 3 restricts the CFA from applying more strict standards than are enumerated in that chapter.
- CAG believes that the time constraints applied to the CFA for its review contained in Section 303.3 are far too short and could result many permits being issued without the necessary CFA review. As written, the city may be forced to issue a permit if the CFA does not return a response in 45 days. However, since the CFA only meets once a month, and not at all in

August, it is quite common for an application to require more than 45 days to be approved by the CFA. Thus this provision could provide a loophole for applicants to avoid the requirement to obtain CFA approval by employing simple dilatory tactics. CAG recommends that this time limit should either be removed or significantly extended.

- With regards to the proposed rules governing free standing signs on public space contained in Section 606, CAG feels strongly that as written they would have a significant detrimental effect in Georgetown. The proposed rules would allow sandwich boards on Georgetown streets so long as they would leave at least 6 feet of sidewalk clear. Given the large crowds attracted to Georgetown, many with strollers or large shopping bags, six feet of clearance is far too small. CAG feels strongly that sandwich boards should be prohibited entirely throughout Georgetown. Additionally, CAG is aware that in Alexandria, Virginia the city is authorized to confiscate sandwich boards found on the sidewalk in violation of the city’s regulations. CAG recommends that DDOT adopt a similar rule. This would significantly improve the effectiveness of enforcement.
- CAG feels strongly that the key to the effectiveness of these rules is enforcement. This is particularly true considering the broader scope of the proposed rules compared to the current rules. For that reason, CAG would like to reiterate its support of the Historic Districts Coalition’s recommendation that DDOT request additional funds to hire one or more inspectors to provide for enforcement of these rules.

—Topher Mathews and  
 Pamla Moore  
*CAG Historic Preservation  
 & Zoning Committee*

## GEORGETOWN ARTS 2013 at HOUSE OF SWEDEN FEBRUARY 7 – 10

**G**eorgetown ARTS 2013, the 4th annual Citizens Association of Georgetown art show, will showcase talents of Georgetown’s artists at House of Sweden February 7 -10.

The show opens with a special reception Thursday, February 7 from 6 to 9pm at House of Sweden, 2900 K Street NW. Following Thursday’s opening reception Georgetown ARTS 2013 will be open Friday, February 8 through Sunday, February 10 from 11am to 5pm. The show is free and open to the public and will include a number of demonstrations and artist’s talks.

Art work will feature works by local Georgetown residents and artists who have studios in Georgetown. Media



**House of Sweden projected images of the art on large screens in the lobby**

will include oil and watercolor paintings, prints, sculpture, and photography. Most works will be for sale with a few on loan from private collections. All art will be suitable for viewing by adults and families with children.

House of Sweden is generously sponsoring the show again this year by providing space within its stunning

contemporary architectural building that also offers beautiful Potomac River views.

Prior CAG art shows have been popular events. According to The Georgetowner, the inaugural show “was packed” and offered Georgetown’s “gentler contributions to the world of art,” which is eclipsed by its “political locus.”

The Citizens Association of Georgetown invites all to visit and view the wide range of art and celebrate the creativity of local artists at House of Sweden. For more information contact the CAG office or me at [laticornia@gmail.com](mailto:laticornia@gmail.com).

—Laura-Anne Tiscornia  
*Chair, Georgetown  
ARTS 2013 Committee*

## Parking In Georgetown — Share Your Views January 16

As reported in last month’s newsletter, a group of residential community, business and university representatives has been meeting with the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) to discuss whether improvements can be made to the parking situation in Georgetown. Some readers responded with relief, and others asked if decisions may have already been made (which is not the case). An upcoming community meeting with DDOT’s parking staff on Wednesday, January 16 (6:30 – 9 pm) at Hardy School (34th and S Streets) will be a forum for these parking issues. This is a meeting for DDOT to listen to the community, not a decision meeting.

DDOT will give an overview of parking issues in the city and identify various tools and techniques that

have been used, and then there will be break-out groups to focus on issues of specific interest, then a summation of the discussions. The emphasis will be on identifying the parking situations, issues, and priorities of all involved. Based on the discussions, DDOT will consider what the possible responses and options may be for the community.

Some basic concerns may be widely shared: can parking be improved for residents on residential streets? Is it possible to maintain flexibility to customize parking arrangements to meet local needs, including a thriving local business community and an abundance of churches and other nonprofit institutions? Is there a problem of vehicles coming into our neighborhood for lengthy periods of time using the free on-street parking

while paid parking spaces are underutilized? What is an appropriate, flexible and fair system for visitor parking permits? Some issues may vary block by block. While some routinely face parking problems, others may have no problems finding a space. DDOT wants to hear from us about all of this.

DDOT will explain the available techniques and technology, some of which already are in place in other neighborhoods, providing a variety of options for communities such as ours. The goal is to make the situation better for everyone and it will take community input and consideration. Please come and contribute your views.

—Hazel Denton and Ken Archer  
*CAG Parking Committee*

## Numbers to Know

**Report Suspicious Activity or crimes:** *For emergency and non-emergency situations call 911.* Be sure to relay details such as height, clothing, car make/model.

**Free Emergency Medical Help:** The Georgetown Emergency Response Medical Service (GERMS) provides 24 hour-7 days a week free quality emergency services and transportation to the residents of Georgetown. For help, call 687-HELP (687-4357).

**Call Georgetown University's Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP)** at 687-8413 to report student disturbances on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights – SNAP will respond to the site of the report. At all other times, the Hotline is answered by GU's Department of Public Safety, who notify the Metropolitan Police Department and send a report to the University's Off Campus Student Life staff for follow up. If you want to follow up on your call the next day, please call 687-5138 or email [ocsl@georgetown.edu](mailto:ocsl@georgetown.edu) – both the University and CAG always appreciate details that describe what residents experienced. Anne Koester, director of Off-Campus Student Life is at 687-3199.

**Request City Services:** See a street light out? Broken sidewalk? Other problems in Georgetown? Report it by calling 311 or using the DC City Services website: <http://311.dc.gov>.

**To report clogged or flooded storm drains,** visit the DCWASA site: [www.dcwasa.com/report\\_problem](http://www.dcwasa.com/report_problem).

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## West Heating Plant Update

The General Services Administration has distributed its final version of the Environmental Assessment (EA) of its proposed auction and sale of the West Heating Plant (WHP). The final EA and the associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are now in a 30 day period of public review and comment. Comments are due to GSA no later than January 14, 2013. If GSA receives no information that would necessitate GSA revising the FONSI, GSA would proceed to finalize various covenants that would convey with the title, and commence the auction and sale process.

The final EA contains draft language for the covenants. The covenants of most interest to CAG are those for historic and cultural preservation, access to the C&O Canal retaining wall, and maintenance of the sea wall and associated landscaping.

CAG had sought the creation of a National Park Service property interest in the strip of land along the south

side of the C&O Canal between 29th St. and the canal's confluence with Rock Creek. This strip abuts the north perimeter wall of the WHP site. According to the final EA, the National Park Service did not formally seek an easement to allow the NPS access to the canal structures that are part of the strip. The covenant will provide for NPS access, but not provide public access. GSA indicates that public access could be established in the future by DC government planning or regulatory authorities.

CAG also sought preservation of the strip of land along the east side of the site, adjoining Rock Creek. This strip consists of a bulkhead wall (sea wall) and a grass terrace feature. A covenant will require future property owners to maintain the sea wall and the current landscaping. Development of this strip is precluded, although there is no provision for public access.

The historical and cultural preservation covenant prescribes that any alter-

ation or modification of the WHP conform with the Secretary of Interior's standards for treatment of historic properties, and the guidelines for rehabilitating historic buildings. The covenant would allow the District Government, for good cause, and on request of the property owner, to modify or cancel provisions of this covenant. Potential developers have expressed concern that rigid application of the Secretary's standards would preclude some adaptive reuses of the heating plant building.

CAG members of the Historic Preservation and Zoning Committee will continue reviewing the 554 page document, and assess whether CAG will provide comments on the final EA. Copies of the final EA can be downloaded from [www.gsa.gov/portal/content/121663](http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/121663)

—Walter Grosyck  
*Historic Preservation &  
Zoning Committee*

## Eco-Tip: Recorking

In this season of salutation and celebration, let us cheer and recycle the lowly cork. Born of the cork oak in forests which dot the Mediterranean basin, the cork is completely natural, biodegradable, renewable, energy efficient, and sustainable! Unlike plastic and aluminum closures (made from petroleum based products) which are almost impossible to recycle, the cork is the perfect candidate - it can be reused in floor tiles, building insulation, footwear, packaging and sports equipment. And not a single tree is cut down during cork extraction. The bark of these glorious trees which can live 300 years is hand peeled every 9 to 12 years. There are over 6 million acres of cork oak forests that support an eco system that not only provides a habitat for native

plants and animals but also contributes to an economy that has sustained farmers for centuries. In addition, these forests absorb millions of tons of carbon dioxide, and are a vast supplier of oxygen to our planet.

Cork recycling is catching on - Whole Foods has a designated cork drop box in each of its 292 stores; restaurants like Bistrot Lepic recycle their corks and will take yours as well. Encourage your favorite wineries, restaurants, and bars to get on board. Check out ReCORK.org for more information. The humble cork has the potential for an extended life far beyond its first use in a fine bottle of wine! Cheers!

—Lee Child  
*Georgetown Garden Club*

## NEWSBYTES

Georgetown may see more bikers – **Capital Bikeshare** proposing to expand with three more stations: 34th & Water Street, Wisconsin & O outside CVS, and in front of Hyde School on O Street... **Conan O'Brien** was spotted at Martin's Tavern and Café Milano... **Patisserie Poupon** (1645 Wisconsin Ave) was crowned the winner of the first ever Georgetown BID holiday window competition... **Anna Banana**, an art studio just for kids, has opened at the corner of Wisconsin and S Street... **Frye Company** and their western style boots are moving in to the old Papa Razzi location.

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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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Jane Howard  
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Sally Marshall  
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Margot Wilson  
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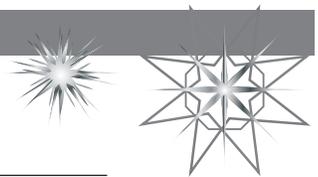
INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND OFFICES

**Citizens Association of Georgetown**  
1365 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington DC 20007  
202 337-7313  
Fax: 202 333-1088  
E-mail: [cagmail@cagtown.org](mailto:cagmail@cagtown.org)  
Website: [www.cagtown.org](http://www.cagtown.org)

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## DECEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR



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- Wed. Jan 2** Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2E) Public Meeting; 6:30pm: Heritage Room, Georgetown Visitation; agenda available [www.anc2e.com](http://www.anc2e.com); call 724-7098 for more information.
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- Thurs. Jan 3** Old Georgetown Board Meeting; 9am; National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, #311; visit [www.cfa.gov](http://www.cfa.gov) for more information.
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- Sun. Jan 13** Concerts in the Parks Kick-Off Party; 4-6:30pm; family friendly ice skating party hosted by Tony & Joe's Seafood Place at Washington Harbour; tickets available at [www.cagtown.org](http://www.cagtown.org), \$175 for three generations, \$150 for two generations, \$125 for a couple and \$65 per individual.
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- Mon. Jan 14** CAG Meeting: Georgetown Oral History Salute; program at 7, dessert reception at 8pm; Dumbarton Church, 3133 Dumbarton Street NW.
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- Wed. Jan. 16** Parking in Georgetown — Share Your Views; DDOT meeting with community, Hardy School, 6:30pm to 9; 1819 35th Street (entrances at T & 35th Streets and Wisconsin Avenue and 34th Street.)
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- Fri./Sat. Jan. 18/19** Tour for the Presidential Inaugural; 10am and 4pm; tour the Tudor Place museum using the collection to trace Washington, DC history; adults \$12, children \$5; reserve by calling 965-0400, ext. 115; visit [www.tudorplace.org](http://www.tudorplace.org) for more information.
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- Mon. Jan 21** Actor's Repertory Theatre Film Screening; red carpet reception 7, screening at 7:30pm; students of the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts film screenings; admission is free, reservations recommended, 333-2202; 1556 Wisconsin Avenue NW, <http://www.theconservatory.org>.
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- Thurs. Jan 24** Lecture & Book-Signing: Jodi Daynard's *The Midwife's Revolt*; 7-8:30pm; suggested donation \$5, signed book \$20; to ensure availability, pre-purchase, 337-2288 or [Rsvp@DumbartonHouse.org](mailto:Rsvp@DumbartonHouse.org); for more information visit [www.dumbartonhouse.org](http://www.dumbartonhouse.org).
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- Sat. Jan. 26** Dumbarton Concerts Presents Lark String Quartet+ and Yumi Kurosawa, koto; 8pm; tickets \$33, students/seniors \$29; Dumbarton Church, 3133 Dumbarton Street NW; visit [www.dumbartonconcerts.org](http://www.dumbartonconcerts.org) or call 296-2000 to purchase tickets.
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