



FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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The United States Institute of Peace: A Prestigious FB Site



As a parking lot (c. 1997)



As the future home of the U.S. Institute of Peace (c. 2010)

Like a phoenix, the stark construction of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) on 23rd and Constitution Avenues at the NW corner of the national mall dramatically cuts the winter white with seemingly incongruous shapes for such a massive building in the nation's capitol.

The renowned architects Moshe Safdie and Associates have designed this headquarters with three distinct sections linked together by atriums covered by a series of wing-like roof elements constructed of steel frames and white translucent glass that will glow at night. Its design is meant to be symbolic of



America's commitment to peace; it's location makes it visible along the capital skyline. Short of standing out in this frigid weather, construction progress is easily viewed with the live webcam at <http://oxblue.com/pro/open/usip>.

Behind these fine feathers, the USIP is an independent, nonpartisan, publicly funded, national institution established by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by Ronald Reagan in 1984. In its current location, 1200 17th St NW, the Institute employs nearly 200 people engaged in over 400 peace-building projects annually. Its staff comes from the government, military, NGOs, academia and the

private sector. Three-quarters of the Institute's experts have operational experience; two-thirds have worked in the research sector; and 40 percent have both operational and research experience.

A dozen senior research fellows from around the world are also in residence at the Institute annually. Fellowships are awarded to outstanding scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and journalists through a competitive fellowship program.

The new 150,000 square-foot, five-story building will enhance the training and education component of USIP. The campus houses offices for Institute staff and fellows, a library and archive, a state-of-the-art conference center, classrooms, and a public education center designed to heighten understanding of the challenges of international conflict management and peace-building among

(continued on next page)

BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES COMING TO THE WEST END LIBRARY!

Let's Talk About It! Great Literature on Great Themes
Eros and Eris: Love and Strife in Western Literature
Ori Z. Soltes, Georgetown University, Discussion Leader

The West End Library Friends is sponsoring a six-book discussion series, led by Ori Z. Soltes of Georgetown University. It begins January 21 at the West End Library, and will be held 6:30-8:30pm on respective evenings.

The theme is "*Eros and Eris: Love and Strife in Western Literature.*" One aspect of the ubiquitous topic of love in literature is that invariably when it appears its apparent opposite, strife, shows up alongside or intertwined with it. The fifth-century BCE Greek

playwright, Euripides, opined that the Greek terms, eros (love) and eris (strife) came from the same linguistic root. It turns out that his grasp of linguistics was off, but what underlay his assumption was right on. In these six sessions Western literature is the focus.

Here are the books and the schedule:

Book 1, January 20—Near the Beginnings of Western Epic Poetry: Homer's Iliad. The discussion of this magnificent work—if you have only read the Odyssey, you are missing what is arguably a more richly laden work—will include references to Hesiod's Theogony as well as to the Odyssey as parts of the human story and specific

(continued on next page)

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The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:

PRESIDENT – Asher Corson
VICE PRESIDENT – Lev Trubkovich
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius
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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – David Hertzfeldt

FBA Board of Directors:

Victor Ciardello, Dusty Horwitt, Lucia Pollock,
Greg Snyder, Robert Vogt, John Woodard
Ex-Officio: Joy Howell (Immediate Past President);
Susan Trinter (FBN Editor)

Comings and Goings:

WACHOVIA BANK at Columbia Plaza. Community Efforts were not enough to sway Wachovia executives to keep their branch at Columbia Plaza open. We are sorry to see Wachovia leave.

The United States Institute of Peace *(cont'd)*

students and the general public.

The building's three upper floors are considered Working Space and will house the Institute's working Centers, as well as a research library and archives.

The Education Center will be accessible to all visitors, with a particular focus on students and teachers. Its goals are to:

- Raise awareness about the nature and sources of international conflicts;
- Educate about nonviolent approaches to conflict management;
- Highlight the work of the Institute and other organizations with similar missions;

- Attract young people to careers in international affairs and conflict resolution; and
- Encourage public discussion about international conflict and global affairs.

The Center will use multimedia exhibits, simulated games, films, lectures, and other learning techniques. There will be at least 20,000 square feet of exhibit space on two levels, as well as the public plaza and garden dedicated to the center.

The Center will sponsor outreach programs for teachers, students, and others through "virtual" programming even if they cannot visit the center in person. Teaching modules

and other educational resources will be developed and online materials will be made available to the public. Distance learning and webcasts will also bring the Center's learning experience to diverse and dispersed audiences.

With its origins tied to George Washington who envisioned and beginning in 1783, promoted a "peace establishment" as "essential to the well being" and the very "existence of the United States as an independent power", the USIP headquarters will hopefully, be a beacon for peaceful world order in the 21st century. God knows, the 20th century left a lot to be desired.

BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES *(cont'd)*

Trojan War context into which the Iliad fits.

Book 2, February 10—Family Strife in the Hebrew Bible from the Patriarchal narratives to the royal annals of Saul and David.

Why not? This material is as juicy and as poignant with regard to Euripides' theme as any other! Specifically, the focus will be on Genesis 17-18, 21-22, 25, 27-28, 32-33, 37; I Samuel 15, 18-21, 24, 26-28; and II Samuel 2.

Book 3, March 3—Corneille's *The Cid*. This is the consummate work of French theatre that wrestles with whether love or honor should prevail when the two come up against each other—and which kind of love should take precedence: that for a parent or that for a spouse.

Book 4, March 31—DH Lawrence, *Women in Love*. Ever the obsessive writer on the various ways in which love and strife interweave each other, where both general and generational relations (*Sons and Lovers*) are concerned, Lawrence here

offers a novel that presents, as its centerpiece, the question not only of what constitutes real love, but of whether real love is only available to men.

Book 5, April 21 Elie Wiesel, *Day (aka The Accident)*. The third in what has come to be treated as a trilogy—along with *Night and Dawn*—by the eminent writer and Holocaust survivor. This brief, moving novel explores the struggle of a survivor of a strife-torn past to regain the ability to love in the present when those he has most loved have been destroyed in that past: will loving a woman push the loving memory of his mother and grandmother out of his consciousness?

Book 6, May 12—Philip Roth, *The Human Stain*. Love and strife are redirected to the self—how myriad are the ways in which the human penchant for simultaneous self-love and self-distain express themselves?—in this moving story of the meeting of diverse racial, religious and personal worlds, each with its own secrets.

Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative

Sign up today to serve the earth and perhaps, even fulfill an one of your New Year's Resolutions—to be a better steward of the earth



It's not too early to reach the Alice Ferguson Foundation to volunteer for its **22ND POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED CLEANUP** this **April 10, 2010**. Cleanup sites listed for FB/GT include: Washington Rock Creek Park, Georgetown C&O Canal NHP, Fletchers Boat House, Washington Rock Creek Park National Park, and the Georgetown Washington Canoe Club.

To participate in the Cleanup contact the Cleanup Coordinator at **301-292-5665**. Or, for a larger role, email potomaccleanup@fergusonfoundation.org about becoming a Site Leader. For more information about visit www.PotomacCleanup.org or contact Ginny Harris Crake at gharris@fergusonfoundation.org.