



FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Vol. 50, No. 44

www.savefoggybottom.com

October 14, 2009

TOWN OR GOWN?

In a recent issue, we presented a robust list of FBA accomplishments thanks to the hard work of many of our members. This sparked an email from Bob Vogt—current FBA board member and longtime contributor—to remind us that despite these successes, FB/WE is still under constant pressure from our ever-expanding neighbor, GW. Since the late 1990s, GW has increased its undergraduate enrollment to reach its headcount limit. Although the DC Zoning Commission decision on GW's 2009-2020 Campus Plan undergraduate headcount methodology did not satisfy the DC Court of Appeals and will be sent back to the ZC for further clarification, it remains to be seen whether that will help or hurt our community. GW's "surge" has drastically diluted income and property tax receipts in FB/WE, ultimately raising the question of who will be paying the bill for our city services. Bob's account follows here. — Editor

Some of the major GW incursions don't seem to ever get mentioned anymore but have really changed our environment—including the FB Historic District—in the last decade or so. Among them are:

- 1 GW campus boundaries extended on the west and southeast to permit non-taxable dorm and academic expansion;
- 2 Howard Johnson's on VA Ave (across from Watergate) purchased and converted to freshman dorm, now grad "residence" (non-taxable);
- 3 2400 and 2424 PA Avenue temporarily "dormatized" and now transient housing;
- 4 St. James Hotel on 24th St leased for 30 years by GW as undergrad dorm;

- 5 Rowhouses, houses, and condo/co-op/rental apartment buildings east, south, and west of campus with 70-100 percent student tenants;
- 6 Mount Vernon College campus in Palisades purchased and converted to undergrad dorm complex with 24/7 shuttle service to FB;
- 7 Cultivated as an "historic" area of our neighborhood (and subsequently listed in the National Register of Historic Places), the FB Historic District has become an "off-campus" housing area.

Even though our income tax base has been decimated, GW pays no property taxes on 80 percent of its holdings, and

millions of revenue dollars are involved, the District apparently doesn't care about these changes. Now that FB/WE is overrun by students—and absentee owners who profit from the student influx—most are oblivious to the lovely community it was. Our Historic District sign was even torn down and never replaced. In fact, only a few remaining residents even noticed its disappearance and none have chosen to do anything about it, me included. While it's impossible to return to the circumstances of our wonderful "nook of a neighborhood," as the late, great Maria Tyler referred to it, do we care enough to restore what's left? -

OPERA LAFAYETTE Monday at the Kennedy Center

Francophiles and baroque music fans rejoice! The highly and widely lauded Opera Lafayette opens its 15th season Monday, October 19 in its new home, the Kennedy Center Terrace with the performance of Charpentier's *Les Arts Florissants*.

Ryan Brown, Conductor and Artistic Director has lined up an ambitious season: Gluck's *Armide* February 1, 2010, in

Washington (and February 3 in New York); and the modern American premiere of Philidor's *Sancho Pança* May 24, 2010 in Washington. The season features stars from many of Opera Lafayette's past performances, as well as two major Washington area debuts. Information about Opera Lafayette and ticket purchases is on their website, www.operalafayette.org and on

Facebook. Tickets are \$60 (student tickets are discounted 50%). You can also call their box office at 202-546-9332.

A resounding recommendation for me: "The ensemble's artistic director, violinist Ryan Brown, has become ringleader and star of Washington's newest baroque music scene. Through his own high standards he has injected

(continues on next page)

The Friends Behind the WEST END LIBRARY FRIENDS Gently Used and New Book Sale Saturday

This tireless threesome of Library Friends, Lucille Duprat, Mary Dusing, and Ruth Mendelson dedicate two to three hours a week year-round to sorting and



From left, Ruth Mendelson, Mary Dusing, and Lucille Duprat.

organizing donated books in the huge upstairs sequestered room. Their common denominator: love of books. Six-foot bookcases are labeled by book type fully filling three walls of the immense room. They share that specialized book dealers arrive early the day of the sale, each making a beeline for their principle interest area. The day always proves to be one of joy and

festivity as hungry readers of all ages find their own prize. This year there are 7,000 newly donated volumes that offer a world of shopping opportunity. The women say biographies, mysteries, history and reference, and cookbooks are in abundance. Trader Joe's has graciously donated bags for the event. The community is encouraged to come early and buy often. (See calendar) -

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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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
TREASURER – Bille Hougart
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)

OPERA LAFAYETTE (cont'd)

a vitality and intellectual focus into performances." – Pierre Ruhe, *The Washington Post*, October 10, 1996

In addition, Naxos, the world's leading classical music label, will release Opera

Lafayette's latest recording, Rebel and Francoeur's *Zélinde, roi des Sylphes* this month. The recording features tenor Jean-Paul Fouchécourt in the title role and soprano Heidi Grant Murphy, with Ryan Brown

and the Opera Lafayette Orchestra and Chorus. Visit www.naxos.com to order or hear excerpts from this and other Opera Lafayette recordings. ~

OCTOBER CALENDAR**FARMER'S MARKET!**

Wednesdays – It's not to Early to Order Your Thanksgiving Turkey

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14 – 7:00 PM

AUTHOR TALK. Bruce Rosenstein will discuss his new book *"Living in More Than One World: How Peter Drucker's Wisdom Can Inspire and Transform Your Life"*

A 21-minute interview with Drucker, conducted in Claremont, California, 7 months to the day before Drucker died in 2005, also will be shown. Refreshments will be served. (There are details on the author and the book on the web at www.bruceroenstein.com)

West End Library, 1101 24th St NW, (24th at L St NW)

SATURDAY, OCT. 17 – 10:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

BOOK SALE. West End Library

Over 7,000 volumes: many fiction, mysteries, cookbooks, history, reference books; audio books and CDs are for sale this October. In support of greening our community, BYO Bag and tell your neighbors and friends. All proceeds used to support

West End Library programs and initiatives.

West End Library, 1101 24th St NW (24th at L St)

SATURDAY, OCT. 17, 11 AM TO 3 PM

FAMILY DAY. House of Sweden. A day of story-telling, children's movies, and live entertainment. Swedish refreshments for children. In conjunction with the Kids Euro Festival, House of Sweden will host activities for children ages 4 to 12 with storytelling, movies, games and performances. Kids Euro Festival features talented European children's entertainers from almost every performance genre. House of Sweden 2900 K Street, NW

SUNDAY, OCT. 18 – 2:30 PM

"SUNDAY AFTERNOON AUTHOR SERIES",

FB Neighbor C.M. Mayo discusses her book, *"The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire"*
DC Historical Society of Washington, 801 K St NW at Mt. Vernon Square

MONDAY, OCT. 19 – 7:30 PM

LES ARTS FLORISSANT, OPERA LAFAYETTE

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater. Tickets available at 202.546-9332

TUESDAY, OCT. 20, 12:30 PM – 2 PM

WEST END LIBRARY BOOK CLUB discusses CAMUS's *"The Stranger"* during this event that occurs the 3rd Tuesday of each month. All are invited to attend.

Contact Bill Turner, Adult Services Librarian with questions

at 202-724-8698 or by email, bill.turner@dc.gov

West End Neighborhood Library 1101 24th Street, NW (at L St NW)

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21 – 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

GRAND GARAGE SALE (clothing, jewelry, appliances, houseware)

11:30 am to 2:00 pm, Octoberfest Lunch

4:30 to 6:30 pm, Dinner – Kraut, potato salad & wursts.

(ala carte or priced by plate; take-out available)

The UNITED Church, 1920 G Street, NW

THURSDAY, OCT. 22 – 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

GRAND GARAGE SALE continues,

11:30 am to 2:00 pm, Octoberfest Lunch

The UNITED Church, 1920 G Street, NW

SATURDAY, OCT. 24 – 10 AM TO 3 PM

BOOK SALE sponsored by West End Library Friends,

West End Library, 1101 24th St NW (24th at L St)

TUESDAY, OCT. 27 – 7:00 PM SOCIAL; 7:30 PM SPEAKER

FBA MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans, Speaker. Community welcome.
St. Stephen Martyr Church Parish Hall (entrance on 25th St) Penn and 25th St NW