

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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www.savefoggybottom.com

December 2, 2009

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON? SOME THOUGHTS FROM FB/WE

Wednesday night, by ticket only, interested persons, their families, and White House guests will witness the 86th lighting of the National Christmas Tree, a tradition begun by President Calvin Coolidge in December 1923 with the gift of a 48-foot balsam fir.

The tree was placed on the Ellipse south of the White House, and was decorated with 2,500 electric light bulbs in red, white, and green. At 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, President Coolidge walked from the White House to the Ellipse to light the tree from his native state, Vermont. And, at this inaugural lighting ceremony, a local choir and a "quartet" from the U.S. Marine Band provided music.

For the record, on December 6, Coolidge gave his first annual message to Americans, recapping where the United States stood—domestically and internationally—just three years after the close of World War I, and following the untimely death of President Warren Harding.

Coolidge said with certainty that regarding foreign affairs "peace reigns everywhere." His standard was to perpetuate peace by granting full justice to others and requiring others'

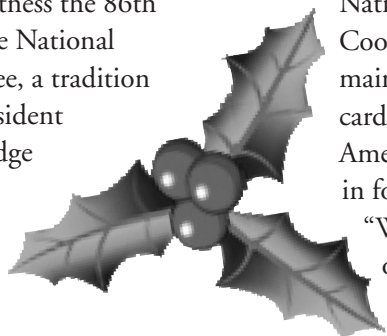
full justice for us in return. Having just refused to adopt the covenant of the League of Nations, President Coolidge emphasized maintaining the cardinal rule, "The American Principle," in foreign policy.

"We attend to our own affairs, conserve our own strength, and protect the interests of our own citizens; but we recognize thoroughly our obligation to help others, reserving to the decision of our own Judgment the time, the place, and the method. We realize the common bond of humanity. We know the inescapable law of service."

Learning Lessons

After the war, the 1923 debt and interest owed to America from foreign governments—exclusive of the British debt of \$4,600,000,000—was about \$7,200,000,000. Coolidge did not favor cancellation of this debt. Now, like then, our main problems were domestic ones, and financial stability was emphasized as the first requisite of sound government.

Coolidge also emphasized "bringing our expenses within our means. The origin of this has been the determination of the American people, the main support has been the courage of those in authority, and the



SAVE THE DATE

SPECIAL FBA MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

THERE IS NO FBA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN DECEMBER

Two development companies, **EastBanc** and **Toll Brothers**, have responded to the DC Deputy Mayor for Economic Development's request for proposals to redevelop the West End Library, MPD Special Operations and Fire Station parcels, all public property. They will make their **project presentations** to the FBA membership and community starting at **7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8**, at St. Stephen Martyr Church Parish Hall, 2500 Pennsylvania Ave NW (entrance on 25th St NW). Please attend. The FBA must respond to the proposals within the allocated time period.

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!!

Saturday, December 12, 5-7 pm

600 RESTAURANT AT THE WATERGATE, 600 New Hampshire Ave, N.W.

Join your fellow FBA members and their guests in celebrating the upcoming holidays with: **HORS D'OEUVRES** and **COFFEE** and a cash bar.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

effective method has been the Budget System. The result has involved real sacrifice by department heads, but it has been made without flinching... It must be maintained, and ought to be strengthened by the example of your observance."

This mandate preceded Social Security and Medicare. It preceded food stamps and unemployment payments. And conditions during the war were tough. As Coolidge indicated, "For seven years the people have borne with uncomplaining courage the tremendous burden of national and local taxation. These must both be reduced... High taxes reach everywhere

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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)

WHAT IS IMPORTANT? *(cont'd)*

and burden everybody... They diminish industry and commerce. They make agriculture unprofitable. They increase the rates on transportation.”

This week, 86 years later, as we revisit the lighting of the National Christmas Tree, Coolidge’s tradition continues right here in our Foggy Bottom/West End community, in the

front yard of our nation’s White House. But can we move from tradition into a genuine flourishing of these worthy principles? As we contemplate the District’s complete lack of transparency in financial matters, we must not be mollified with superficial gestures while the system of questionable operations and management continues. Just as nationally,

we mustn’t let the quagmire of “he-said, she said” hold our system back from achieving common-sense milestones. As we engage in the holiday traditions and contemplate all the blessings this nation continues to offer, let us also remember our responsibility to uphold sound government and common sense principles now, and for generations to come. ~

C A L E N D A R

VISITING THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND THE PATHWAY OF PEACE

After the initial lighting ceremony, they are illuminated each evening from dusk until 11 p.m. through January 1st. Performances by volunteer choirs and dancers will be held nightly on the Ellipse stage. Weeknight performances are scheduled from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Weekend performances are scheduled from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Seasonal displays include a Yule log and a large-scale model train. For the first time, this year the seasonal display will include Santa’s Workshop, which will be open at select times so that children can visit with Santa.

Tickets are required only for the lighting ceremony. For further information and info about the scheduled groups performing call **202.208.1631**.

ANNUAL SWEDISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DEC 5, 11:00 AM — 5:30 PM

HOUSE OF SWEDEN, 2900 K ST NW

Café with traditional Swedish baked goods and delicacies.

Swedish crafts, textiles, books and much more.

The 4th Gingerbread House Competition: edible entries received Dec 4 and 5. Competition judging is 5 pm on Dec 5 and prizes will be awarded.

For more information email

l.cristina.hoffman@gmail.com or call **202.467.2653**.

LUCIA Procession at 5:30 pm

WELCOME! Suggested donation of \$2 at the door

THE RIVER INN:

FOGGY BOTTOM NEIGHBORS SPECIAL HOLIDAY RATES

BEGINNING AT \$89 PER NIGHT.

The website is ***www.theriverinn.com*** or call **202.337.7600** and mention the promotional code GIFT when making reservations.

WEST END LIBRARY FRIENDS’ BOOK SALE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 10:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

WEST END LIBRARY AT 1101 24TH ST., NW (24TH AND L STREETS)

The *West End Library Friends’* is having *another* used book sale.

This sale of used and contributed books is a continuation of our previous sale held in October. Prices range from \$.50 to \$3.00 for the majority of those items on sale.

Special volumes will be appropriately priced. Fun “surprise boxes” covering a variety of topics, DVDs and an abundance of CDs and videotapes are available. There are many gently used art books and cookbooks that you can buy now for inexpensive holiday gift-giving!

West End Library Friends’ tote bags and T-shirts will also be on sale.

The sale is a community-based event and all proceeds benefit the West End Public Library and its services to the community. **Mark your calendars now!**

Come support the library and avail yourself of holiday bargains.