

The Corner Forum

for the 1200 and 1300 blocks of E, the 400 and 500 blocks of 13th,
Duncan Place and Emerald Street NE

Issue #67
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37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Derrick L. Taylor Killed

BY RUTH ROMAN (1300 BL. OF E ST. NE)
AND MARC BORBELY (536 13TH ST. NE)



Derrick L. Taylor, 24, of the 1300 block of E Street NE, was killed Sunday, May 9.

Mr. Taylor's funeral will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m., at Mount Zion Baptist Church, 18410 Chapel Dr., Triangle, Va., 703-221-6960.

His mother, Betty Taylor, of the 1300 block of E Street NE, asks anyone with information about her son's death to call police at the number below.

From a police department release...

At approximately 6:43 a.m., police were called to the 3800 block of Jay St. NE for the report of a shooting.

Upon arrival, police located Derrick Taylor, of the 1300 block of E St. NE, suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the head. D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel responded to the scene and found no signs consistent with life.

Mr. Taylor was transported to the D.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and subsequently pronounced dead.

The case is under investigation by members of the department's Violent Crimes Branch. Anyone with information about this case is asked to call police at 727-9099.

The department offers a reward of up to \$25,000 to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any homicide in D.C. §

Sister Afrika: A Poet on H Street

BY THOMAS J. WOODY
1300 block of Emerald St. NE

On Friday, April 29, I had the opportunity to interview a remarkable young lady for the Corner Forum. Sister Afrika explains the journey through her wonderful world of poetry. She is the host of the Royal Words Poetry Lounge, which is located at the DC Sanctuary, 1355 H St. NE. The performance is held every other Thursday from 7-9:30 p.m.

Sister Afrika, from my travels around Washington and the art scene, I know that you wear a lot of hats. I know that you are multitalented and that you are an accomplished and successful visual artist, performance poet and West African dancer. Could you tell me a little about each of them?

As a visual artist, I started Circles and Stick Figures of Nature when I was 5 years old. And then, I went to art school when I was 7 — the Corcoran School of the Arts — and that happens to be the school which I graduated from. I was influenced by Jorge Somarrriba, who was my art teacher at Bell Multicultural High School. Also, influenced by Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence and, of course, Romare Bearden.

Great! He is my favorite.

Mine, too! (*laughter from both*)

In addition, you also authored several books. And me being a librarian, you know that really excites me. Could you tell me about your works?

One, titled "Dancers in the Winds," is a spiritual book. The second book is "Voices of Tomorrow." That speaks about 911, the sniper shootings, and the anthrax and war issues. The third book, titled "And God Loves Me," is basically a self-help bio book. I am also the forthcoming

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Choco Says Hello

BY CHOCO, ASSISTED BY DARRIAN HOPKINS
AND LEAH BANTAVANI, 1200 BLOCK OF
DUNCAN PLACE NE

Hello everyone, my name is Choco and I'd like to introduce myself. I am a handsome 7-year-old chocolate lab and I live on Duncan Place with my friend, Darrian.

When Darrian first brought me here almost seven years ago, I was a scared little pup. At first, I did not want to live in D.C. After all, D.C. was a "big city" and a very long way from home! You see, I'd heard really scary things about big cities: that people are not friendly to dogs, that cities are congested, and that you cannot find a decent patch of green grass for miles! Riding on the back of Darrian's jeep, I was determined to somehow find my way back home...

However, after a couple of weeks at Duncan Place, I decided that the neighborhood (and Darrian!) wasn't too bad after all. So, I put my escape plans on hold and decided to give this city living a chance.

And now here I am, a "senior" dog, still at Duncan Place and loving it. Darrian and I have worked out a nice little routine. He goes off to work during the day, while I stay back and watch the house for him, and in return he rewards me with a nice chunky meal when he gets home. Then, we take a nice long walk around the neighborhood. This is my fa-



Continued on page 3

Liquor Stores

Musante Seeks Input on Pay Phone

BY MICHAEL MUSANTE, 411 11TH ST. NE
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6A05

From an e-mail sent May 6 to a listserv for residents protesting N-A Minit and Excello liquor store license renewals and transfers. Mr. Musante can be reached at 548-2542 or mfm81472@yahoo.com.§

I want to report to the community on the hearing process to remove the phone in front of Excello Liquors [at 419 13th St. NE]. The phone is owned by E&E Communications.

Here is what the phone company has offered if the community does its protest.

1. The call logs will be available to a community organization for review.
2. The phone will be monitored by a camera housing unit and a sign saying area monitored by CCTV
3. The phone will only be able to make outgoing calls after 9 p.m. We could work with them on this time as well.

I would like to hear opinions as to how I should proceed. I can continue to a hearing where a judge would decide after hearing the evidence. I, as ANC Commissioner, would be represented by a public defender. My evidence would be a written letter from the business owner stating they no longer want the phone, a letter from the local police lieutenant stating the phone is used for criminal enterprises and a petition from the neighborhood stating they no longer want the phone.

I explained to the Hearing Officer that since E&E Communications made a counter offer it was only fair I bring those options to the community. Let me know how you all feel. §

Burglars Entering Through Windows

BY RICHARD SUNDBERG, 1200 BLOCK OF DUNCAN PLACE NE
From a voicemail

1201 E St. NE was broken into around noon on Friday and jewelry stolen.

The person that did it got in through an open second-story window, and when the owner of the home spoke to the police later, she was told that there's a rash of these things happening.

Somebody's looking for open second-story windows, or first-floor windows for that matter, and if they can find a house with the windows open, they will attempt to gain entry through them.

So it would be good if a little bulletin or something was put in the Corner Forum about that. It's too bad the police didn't tell us about this at the last PSA meeting. §

Police

New Officers Seem Unaware Of Neighborhood Issues

BY LIBO LIU AND ELIZABETH HAGUE, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH ST. NE

On Wednesday, Police Service Area (PSA) 103 had its first meeting under the new PSA system. Sergeant Moats led the meeting. Sergeant Moats is a new policeman in PSA 103, but he has 14 years of experience in the D.C. Police Department.

Sergeant Moats noted that most problems in the area stem from drug dealing. Thefts, prostitution and even abandoned cars can be traced to drugs. He said the new PSA team will focus on doing all it can to try to make the area unprofitable for drug dealers and compel them to do their business elsewhere. He requested that residents do the following:

- Call 311 whenever there is a problem. Repeated calls are important in order to keep the call statistics elevated and alert the police to problem areas. If residents keep calling 311, the police will come, and eventually drug dealers will stop congregating in the location of concern.
- Attend the PSA meetings. Those people who come are more likely to have their problems addressed. Future meetings will be held every second Wednesday of the month at Miner Elementary School, 601 15th St. NE, at 7 p.m.
- E-mail or call Sergeant Moats with any questions or concerns, at vtcc2@aol.com or 727-4661.

In response to a resident's question about Commander McGuire's plan to use foot beats and bike and scooter patrols to more effectively patrol the area, Sergeant Moats said the plan was well-intentioned but would face several challenges. He said that manpower is a problem. In addition, police officers must undergo a training course before patrolling with scooters or mountain bikes, and current training levels for PSA 103 officers are inadequate.

Several residents complained about the reckless driving of three- and four-wheelers that have become a common sight in our neighborhood over the last couple of months. Sergeant Moats said that it is against the law to drive these vehicles on public streets or sidewalks — or even to park them in a public space — and he nevertheless encouraged residents to call 311 when they see these vehicles, particularly when they are parked.

All in all, the meeting was somewhat disappointing. It seemed that while Sergeant Moats and other police officers at the meeting had good intentions, they did not come to the meeting prepared, and they consistently were unaware of specific problem areas and issues in the neighborhood.

To be fair, however, the sergeant has belonged to the new PSA 103 for only one week. Hopefully, by the next meeting the sergeants will talk to some of the officers from the former PSAs, read a lot of residents' e-mails and be more aware of residents' concerns. §

Trash Talk

Choco: Let's Keep Duncan Place Clean

(continued from page 1)

favorite part of the day! Darrian likes to chat with me, but usually I am too busy with the scenery. I like to look around, admire newly-potted flowers, welcome new neighbors, and generally make sure that everything looks good in the neighborhood. You see, I take great pride in our city, so for my first article there are two things I'd like to mention for keeping it clean and pretty.

First, let's make sure that all dog owners clean up after their doggies! Darrian is really good about that. He always carries a couple of bags in his pockets and always cleans up after me. I'm sure he doesn't enjoy the job too much, but I guess it's part of the responsibility of being a dog owner. If you do come across any irresponsible dog owners please remind them politely that cleaning up after their dogs is the right thing to do!

Second, I'd encourage everyone to just go ahead and pick up any incidental trash left on your street. I've seen Darrian plenty of times pick up empty cans, bottles, candy wrappers, and other stuff left in front of our house. Although it's not *his* trash, it's *his* neighborhood, so he just bites the bullet and cleans up what other people have left. I try to help, but it's kind of hard to pick things up with my paws, so I am mostly there for moral support! The way we see it, Duncan Place is our home and keeping our neighborhood clean is the least we can do for ourselves and for our neighbors.

That's all for now folks. Thank you for reading my first article, and please remember to say hello to me when you see me walking around your neighborhood. §

Neighbor News

Hear Me Sing!

BY DEBRA WYNN, 538 13TH ST. NE

I sing with the Washington Chorus.

There will be a performance of Vaughan William's "A Sea Symphony" (English composer with text taken from the poetry of Walt Whitman) and William Walton's "Coronation Te Deum" (written for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953).

The performance, by the Washington Chorus, will be on Sunday, May 23, at 3 p.m. at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

Tickets range from \$17 to \$46 (see Calendar for details). §

Entertainment

Reality TV Shows

BY TAMMI CIOFFI, 536 13TH ST. NE

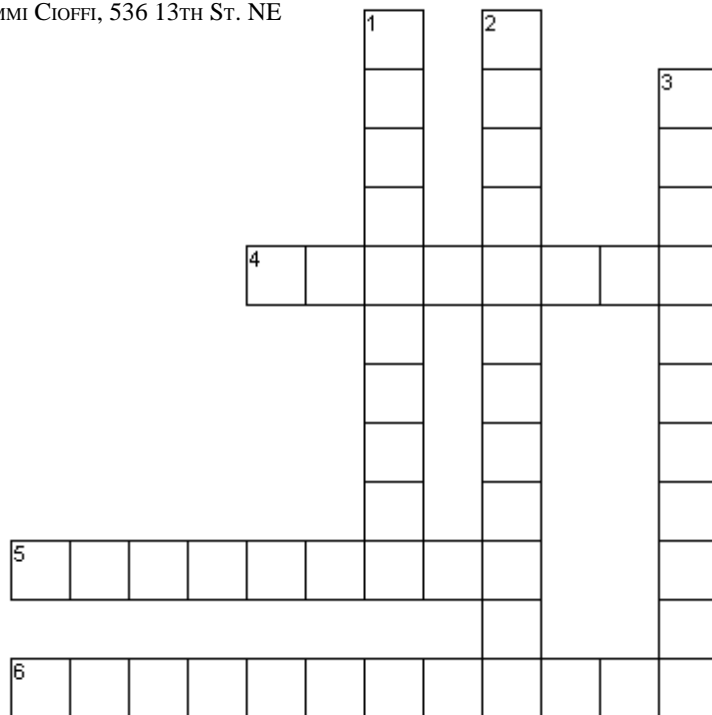
Across

- 4. People are left to live off the land, and the winner gets a million dollars.
- 5. One of the first reality shows, shown on MTV, about a group of young people living in the same house.
- 6. A group of desperate singles fight over the attention of one man.

Down

- 1. Several people live in a house and cannot have any contact with the outside world.
- 2. Singers perform for a record deal.
- 3. People compete for money, usually having to eat something disgusting.

For answers, see bottom of page 5. §



Lead in the Water

A Caution on Lead Testing Results

BY LIBO LIU, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH STREET NE

So you are like me, living in an old neighborhood and worried about lead in the water. Hopefully, by now, you have contacted WASA, obtained a lead test kit, and sent out and got your result already. I really wonder what you've got back.

But here is what we got. First draw showed lead at 14 parts per billion (ppb), and second draw 17 ppb. With the EPA standard set at 15 ppb, WASA declared that our water was not safe to drink, and sent us a form for us to get on the pipe replacement list. I applauded their honesty and sincerity, given the fact that our numbers only slightly exceeded the EPA limit.

Then again, the true lead content might be much higher than what they told us. After all, wasn't this the same organization that intentionally misled us last year by sending everyone a newsletter titled "Your Water Is Safe?"

So, like many of you did, I asked for a second opinion. I picked up a testing kit at my favorite Frager's Hardware Store for about \$10, diligently followed the instructions in getting water into the tiny plastic tube, and sent it off, along with a \$15 check, to a company in Florida called Pro-Lab, Inc.

In less than a week, we got the result back from Pro-Lab, but the fun part ended there. A single piece of paper in the envelope proclaimed that the same water that had been tested by WASA as having lead content at 14 ppb and 17 ppb just a few days earlier now had just 0.2 ppb lead. That's eight times better, and I ought to be extremely happy.

But I couldn't. My instincts told me there was something wrong. So I called Pro-Lab, Inc. Alyssa Murray, the company's supervisor of customer service for lead testing, defended the

lab result for our water. She said the company had been in business for 10 years and listed a handful of professional associations the company belonged to. Ms. Murray said there had been a surge of test orders from D.C. and Maryland residents, but she had heard no more complaints than normal. She then said to me decisively, "We stand behind our test results."

Unconvinced by the answers, I did a little more research. I went to the company's own Web site and found this statement: "We will send you a professionally documented lead report revealing the amount of lead in your water to as little as 1 ppb."

With an engineering degree, albeit earned many years ago, I think the statement says the accuracy of the company's lead test is limited to 1 ppb. In other words, any lead content less than 1 ppb is beyond the facility's capability to detect. Hence, our result of 0.2 ppb is simply meaningless.

P.S. After I wrapped up my story, a Washington Post story on this very issue was brought to my attention. The Post reported on May 8 that quite a few area residents received the identical 0.2 ppb results, and that the results were indeed flawed. The story quoted Pro-Lab's CEO as saying that an internal inquiry had found that a subcontractor had used the wrong test on the water — that the 0.2 ppb results should actually have said "less than 200 ppb." The test used by the subcontractor was not precise enough to measure quantities less than 200 ppb, the company's CEO said.

According to the Post story, the subcontractor denied the charge and said Pro-Lab knew all along that the test wasn't meant for measuring lead in drinking water. Also according to the Post story, Pro-Lab will refund \$25 to everyone who got the 0.2 ppb results, and will offer a new test kit and new test at a different lab for free. As of Friday, I had not yet received anything from the company. §

Sports

Capitol Hill Classic 10K

BY REBECCA RICHARDS AND JOSHUA GORHAM
1318 Emerald St. NE

The 25th annual Capitol Hill Classic will be held on Sunday, May 23. The 10-kilometer race starts at 8:30 a.m., the 3-kilometer race at 9:45 a.m., and the Fun Runs at 10:30 a.m. You can register at <http://www.capitolhillclassic.com> or call 301-871-0400.

It is a delightful race with no big hills and lots of chattering with your neighbors.

Money from the race is donated to the Capitol Hill Cluster School, a D.C. public school.

If you don't want to run it, why not bring your coffee and cheer on the runners at Tennessee & East Capitol.

The race goes right through our neighborhood. §

How Far...

BY REBECCA RICHARDS AND JOSHUA GORHAM
1318 Emerald St. NE

Before we had Ellie, we ran quite regularly. Now it isn't quite so regularly, but we always like to know how far we've gone. From Emerald Street...

- to the bottom of Capitol Hill and back by way of Lincoln Park and East Capitol: 4.2 miles.
- to the East Front of the Capitol it is about 1.4 miles. From Emerald St. to Lincoln Park by way of Tennessee: about 0.9 miles.
- to Eastern Market by way of Tennessee and North Carolina: about 1.5 miles.
- to Union Station by way of E Street: about 1.1 miles.

So no need to get in your car when things are so much closer than you might think! §

Youth

Donors Sought for Basketball League

BY ANDRE SULLIVAN (FORMERLY OF TENNESSEE AVENUE NE) AND JEROME HICKS

We're looking for a donor for the Kingsman Basketball Summer League.

We'd like to buy trophies for the youth in the community. We'd like to buy about 20 trophies, at about \$5 each. If you can help out, please call Jerome Hicks at 388-3466.

Our championship game will be on May 29 or June 5.

Editor's Note: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A on Thursday voted unanimously to grant the League \$250 for basketballs, scorecards, a ball-bag, whistles and other items to be used in basketball games for its summer program, but Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Hicks were told the Commission is not permitted to pay for such things as trophies. §

Kids, Spectators Enjoy Games

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

Yesterday, the Kingsman Basketball Summer League held its second day of games this season.



Games for youth 14 and under will be held on Saturdays and possibly Sundays at 2 p.m. at Kingsman Basketball Court (entrance on D, between 13th and 14th Streets) for the next two to three

weeks.

There were about 30 spectators, in addition to the kids waiting to play, at 3:25 p.m.

The Sacramento Kings, named after Kingsman Elementary School, were playing their first game yesterday. Coach Samuel Ronald "Pete" Tilley Jr. (518 14th St. NE), shown above wearing a hat, said his eight players are all neighbors of his. §

Answers to Puzzle

Here are the answers to the puzzle that appears on page 3...

Down: 1-Big Brother; 2-American Idol; 3-Fear Factor
Across: 4-Survivor; 5-Real World; 6-The Bachelor.

Sherwood Offers Summer Programs

BY SHARON COCHRAN, 1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE

The following summer camps will be held at Sherwood Recreation Center, at 640 G St. NE. To register, call 282-0730, visit the Recreation Center or visit <http://www.dpr.dc.gov>.

Cheerleading/Tumbling/Double Dutch Camp: for ages 6-13

In the two-week camp, participants will learn basic skills involved with the sports of cheerleading, tumbling, double-dutch and jump rope.

Participants will also engage in other activities of interest such as swimming, arts and crafts, and field trips. The camp hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The fee is \$70.

Session I: June 29 - July 9

Session II: July 12 - July 23

Session III: July 26 - Aug. 6

Session IV: Aug. 9 - Aug. 20

Discovery Camp: for ages 6-12

At this two-week camp, children take part in an enriching experience focusing on creative arts, recreation, academics, and community service. Camp is held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The fee is \$75.

Session II: July 12 - July 23

Session III: July 26 - Aug. 6

Session IV: Aug 9 - Aug. 20

Book and Reading Club: for ages 6 and up

Participants will enjoy and experience the world through reading, sharing and discussion about various books, articles and other reading material. Meets every Tuesday from July 6 to Aug. 24, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Free, but registration is required.

Camp Star Power: for ages 14 years, 1 month to 17 years, 11 months.

Use the summer to act, sing, dance, improvise, and perform. A theater workshop designed just for teens to study and practice their performance skills as they dream about their debuts on Broadway. Meeting times are weekdays from 1-5 p.m. Monday, July 12, to Friday, Aug. 13. Free, but registration is required.

Golf: for ages 9-15

Students will be able to practice their swing and also putting to help them to be able to play on a regular golf course. Meets each Monday and Wednesday from June 7 to Aug. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon. Free, but registration is required. §

Empty Spaces

Let's Create a Small Garden

BY AMY FISHER, 427 13TH ST. NE

I'm suggesting a "Gardeners Challenge."

Look at the prime real estate next to the alley behind my house! I've taken all I can handle why not claim a foot or ten for yourselves and let's create a community garden.



Consider teaching your kids to garden.

I've been filling in "my" patch with free mulch from Congressional Cemetery (they shredded several dead trees, and the mulch is free for the removing) and compost.

You'll have to supply your own water. The sprinklers in the field help.

Think of the possibilities. Corn tomatoes, sunflowers... §

ANC Calls for Meeting on Firehouse

BY MARC BORBELY, 536 13TH ST. NE

At Thursday's Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting, the Commission unanimously voted to send a letter to Stanley Jackson, director of the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development, reminding Mr. Jackson of his commitment to hold a public meeting in the neighborhood to seek community input regarding the city's plans for the former Engine House 10, at 1341 Maryland Ave. NE.

On March 11, 66 days ago, Mr. Jackson had committed to holding such a meeting with the community within 60 days. Mr. Jackson's verbal commitment was published in the April 5 issue of the Corner Forum.

Also on Thursday evening, the Commission voted unanimously to support efforts by the Capitol Fire Museum to have the city's Historic Preservation Office designate the firehouse a historic landmark.

Said Commissioner Jessica Ward (6A06): "If it's not designated a historic landmark, then it can be razed. The facade really needs repair, but it means something, and it's part of D.C., and I think we should preserve the facade." §

Goods and Services

Yard Sale, Anyone?

BY DEBRA WYNN, 538 13TH ST. NE

We've been doing some spring cleaning and downsizing (from two households), and we were wondering if others in the area might be interested in having some sort of block/neighborhood yard sale.

We have some usable items that others might be interested in that I could just give away, but I was thinking it might be a nice but modest way to raise some money for a neighborhood or community charity.

If others were interested, we could pool items. §

History

World War II Veterans' Stories Sought

BY DEBRA WYNN, 538 13TH ST. NE

I'll be participating along with numerous other colleagues from the Library of Congress as a volunteer collecting stories from veterans who are visiting the World War II memorial ceremonies on the National Mall over Memorial Day weekend.

If there are any people interested in sharing their stories, they are welcome to participate.

The following is taken from the Veterans History Project homepage at: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/wwii-home.html>...

- Please bring your written memoirs, photos, and letters!
- Every veteran has a story to tell
- Come ready to share your wartime stories
- The Veterans History Project Pavilion will be near the Air & Space Museum, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- The Veterans History Project plans to collect your wartime stories onsite and share compelling accounts from a variety of topics, including POWs, Tuskegee Airmen, Code Talkers, Women in Wartime and D-Day veterans.
- Congress created the Veterans History Project to preserve the memories of veterans and those who served in support of them.

Also, there are online forms for a request for a project kit or for supplying military service stories to fill out as well as more information for volunteer opportunities at the Web site: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/kit.html>. §

SEND IN YOUR THOUGHTS, NEWS AND PHOTOS! — by phone (544-2447); by voicemail (517-9128); by e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); or by mail (536 13th St. NE). Join us Saturdays at 10 a.m. (see calendar) TO SUBSCRIBE (\$10.17 including tax for 26 issues), call 544-2447 or drop off cash or a check to the address above.

H Street

Royal Words Poetry Lounge Presents Readings, Workshops

(continued from page 1)

author of “A Sister’s Journey.”

How did you get started writing poetry?

I got started writing poetry when I was 13, and I got my first poem, titled “Flower,” published by Cera in 1992. I was influenced by E. Ethelbert Miller and of course my mother, Jonetta Rose Barras. I was also influenced by other distinguished poets — Eloise Greenfield, Nikki Giovanni, Langston Hughes and Gil Scott-Heron, as well as Lucille Clifton.

So how did you get started performing your work in front of an audience?

Just going out to basic open-mic venues and people asking me if I do poetry, and my saying, “Yes!” That’s how I got started.

You mentioned Langston Hughes. He is one of my favorites. I recently discovered you at the Martin Luther King Library [where I work]. You performed at our street festival, “Taking Poetry to the Street.” Also at that time, I discovered Chikuyu Johns, and I think you both are talented. And speaking of the street festival at M.L. King Library, aside from it being cold, windy and raining, what did you like about the festival?

I liked that a bunch of poets in the community and out-of-state poets came, as well as youth poets. Because you find now that there are a lot of adult poets that are exploding the streets, and I know that there is a need to have youth poets to express their views about what’s going on in the world.

Were there any teachers who influenced you to write?

I didn’t have any teachers who influenced me to write. Being that my mother was a writer and a poet, and still is a writer — she doesn’t consider herself a poet now, but I always look at her as a poet and then a writer — she was the person that got me started. In fact, she and I participated in the event “The Ascension Series,” in 1995, which E. Ethelbert Miller founded. It no longer is taking place, but it took place at Vertigo Books.

What advice can you give to our younger audience who may be interested in writing?

To express your ideas now, to attend open mic venues, submit your works to various publications, participate in events such as “Taking Poetry to the Street,” (*laughter by both*) or other events that are happening, join organizations such as D.C. Writers Corps, which was founded by Kenneth Carroll, or participate in groups that are founded by other poets, such as Sylvia Diana Beverly Patterson, also known as “Lady Di” of Collected Voices. And also, Girls and Boys With Hearts.

What inspirations can others seek who would like to get started writing poetry?

To be around other prolific writers such as Sista Joy, or

Jeffrey Duarte, or Kwame Alexander, or Keisha Morris, or any other poets that they aren’t familiar with, such as myself and other unpublished poets, like B. Victoria.

On the new H Street Corridor, there are a lot of new things going on. There’s the H Street Playhouse, the Atlas Performing Arts Center, the DC Sanctuary, the Phish Tea Café, as well as many others. But tell us about the DC Sanctuary on H Street and the Royal Words Poetry Lounge.

The Royal Words Poetry Lounge, which is hosted by myself, Afrika Midnight Asha Abney, presents featured readers, special guests, open mic, workshops, networking opportunities and more.

There is a small cover charge, and it’s free for performers. Royal Words Poetry Lounge is open to all ages seeking to share their works and mingle with other poets, and it began on April 8, and has showcased a variety of local artists such as myself, Sean Felix and Gregory Hill — and we also have a couple of open mic poets. Our youngest poet so far is Ezru Canteh, and he was 5 years old. We also had Joseph S. Briggs and Avery Tanner Lynes. The DC Sanctuary is owned by Z. Dorian Smith and it marks its one-year anniversary today.

Could you recite a poem for our readers?

Sure, I would be more than happy to do that. I will be reciting “A Sister’s Journey.” It comes from my forthcoming book.

A Sister’s Journey

Is a passage comprised of lessons, experiences, sorrows, hardships, relationships, empowerment, legacies, memories, growth, development and rituals.

A Sister’s Journey

is divine, holy, fundamental, global and universal shapes and reshapes the essence of self-principles conceived.

A Sister’s Journey

*the seed
the root
the song heard deep in the woods.*

A Sister’s Journey

Is a never ending story told to society.

A Sister’s Journey

I only wish that my audience could experience your melodic, rhythmical and soothing voice, but since they can’t, they will have to join you at the Poetry Lounge. Any parting words?

Sure! If they would like more information, they can reach me at ashawarrior@aol.com. They could also plug in my name on any search engine and find my Web site. Thank you so much, and I wish you peace and blessings. §

Calendar of Upcoming Events

If you attend any of these events, please send in anything from a few lines to a long article about what happened. And if you know of any upcoming events that other readers might be interested in, send them in! Events are free, unless otherwise noted, and open to all.

— COMPILED BY SHARON COCHRAN (1300 BLOCK OF EMERALD STREET NE) AND MARC BORBELY (536 13TH ST. NE)

Monday, May 17

12:30 p.m. Crusaders in the Courts: Legal Battles of the Civil Rights Movement. Author Jack Greenberg, who argued the Brown v. Board of Education case before the Supreme Court in 1954, will discuss his experiences with moderator Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP. At National Museum of American History, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue NW, 633-1000. <http://americanhistory.si.edu/events>.

Tuesday, May 18

10 a.m. City Council Committee of the Whole Debate and Votes. Includes vote on the “Omnibus Board of Education and D.C. Public Schools Restructuring Act of 2004,” Bill 15-723, and the “Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2004,” Bill 15-516. In the Council Chamber, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 724-8196. <http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/Calen013.htm>.

7 p.m. Community Standards for Liquor Stores in ANC 6A. Public hearing by the ANC 6A Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Committee, for neighborhood associations, community groups, liquor store owners and district officials. The ANC is seeking input into what demands it should make of stores selling liquor in our neighborhood. “The community will be allowed to ask questions of the participants.” At Sherwood Recreation Center, 640 10th St. NE. Info, Michael Kuiken, kuikenanc6a@hotmail.com or 369-0735. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

Wednesday, May 19

12:15 p.m. D.C. Public Schools Students Dismissed from Schools. Half-day: Staff Development.

6:30 p.m. The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education: Its Heroes and Implications for American Society. Lecture by Kurt Schmoke, dean of Howard University School of Law and former mayor of Baltimore. At Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW. Info, 727-1261. <http://dclibrary.org>.

Saturday, May 22

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mystery History Hunt Benefit for Kid Power-DC. Kid Power-DC works with Miner Elementary School (601 15th St. NE) students in an after-school program. Teams of four will hunt throughout the city for unusual historic landmarks. To register send an email to caroline@kidpowerdc.org or call 703-244-5995. Cost is \$100 per team. <http://www.kidpowerdc.org/donations.html>.

2 p.m. Kingsman Basketball Summer League. Ages 14 and under. At Kingsman Basketball Court, D Street, between 13th and 14th Streets. Info, Jerome Hicks, 388-3466.

Sunday, May 23

8:30 a.m. Capitol Hill Classic 10K. At Peabody School, on Stanton Park at the corner of 5th & C Streets NE. “This 10K run through historic Capitol Hill supports the Capitol Hill Cluster School, a public school in the heart of the nation’s capital.” Info, 301-871-0400. <http://www.runwashington.com/other/chc02list.html>. (See story this issue.)

1 p.m. Capitol Hill Women’s History Cycling Tour. The tour will start at Congressional Cemetery (1801 E St. SE), with stops at the Sewall-Belmont House (headquarters of the National Women’s Party), the Frederick Douglass House, Friendship House, Haines Department Store, once the largest women-owned department store in the country, and Capitol Hill Bikes. “A five-mile ride with lots of stops, suitable for women’s history buffs at all levels of fitness.” \$15 per person, which includes a souvenir T-shirt. Advance reservations and payment required, 546-1210 ext. 23, or register online. Helmets required. <http://capitolhillbikes.com>. (Rain date: June 6.)

3 p.m. Washington Chorus Performs Vaughan William’s “A Sea Symphony” and William Walton’s “Coronation Te Deum,” with Chorus singer Debra Wynn, 538 13th St. NE. Buy tickets, \$17-\$46, from box office, 342-6221, Instant Charge, 467-4600, or online. <http://www.thewashingtonchorus.org>. At Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW.

Saturday, May 29

10 a.m. Corner Forum meeting. Help plan the next issue. At 536 13th St. NE, 544-2447.

2 p.m. Kingsman Basketball Summer League. Ages 14 and under. At Kingsman Basketball Court, D Street, between 13th and 14th Streets. Info, Jerome Hicks, 388-3466.

7:30 p.m. National Memorial Day Concert Dress Rehearsal (see May 30 listing).

Sunday, May 30

8-9:30 p.m. PBS’s National Memorial Day Concert. By the National Symphony Orchestra. “An annual tradition to honor the servicemen and women for the many sacrifices they have made for our nation. This year commemorates 60th anniversary of D-Day.” With Ossie Davis, Tom Hanks, Alison Krauss, Jerry Douglas, Brad Paisley and others. The event airs live on WETA TV 26. At West lawn, U.S. Capitol. Info, 619-7222. <http://www.pbs.org/memorialdayconcert/concert/index.html>.

Ongoing

Friday Evening Parades. 8:45 p.m. every Friday evening through Aug. 27. “Concert by the U.S. Marine Band, Silent Drill Team & Bugle Corps.” Reservations must be made in writing or online, three weeks in advance to: The adjutant, Marine Barracks, 8th & I Streets SE, Washington, DC 20390-5000. (Unclaimed seating will be available at 8:15 p.m. for people with no tickets.) Park at Washington Navy Yard and take the shuttle to parade. Info, 433-6060. At Marine Barracks, 8th & I Streets SE. <http://www.mbw.usmc.mil/parades>. §