

the ACORN

A PUBLICATION OF THE WOODLEY PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



WWW.WPCAONLINE.ORG
WPCADC@AOL.COM

SPRING 2010

Town Hall Meeting on Crime

On Monday, April 26, Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh held a town hall meeting on the subject of crime. Participants included MPD, Park Police and Metro Transit Police.

The impetus for this meeting was a rise in the burglaries, primarily in the Chevy Chase area. MPD Captain Sledge reported on steps that the police are taking, including a special unit to respond to burglaries, increased deployment of plainclothes officers, and placement of "decoy" (empty) police cars in affected neighborhoods.

A detective also reported arrests of two suspects who they believe to be responsible for a number of the burglaries.

They also reported that a group had been working the Metro stations, focusing specifically on stealing iPhones, as Metro riders often have the phones in their hands getting on and off the Metro, where the thieves could easily grab them. The police recommended putting the phones in a pocket or holding onto them tightly when getting on and off the train.

The Metropolitan Police Department makes a wealth of crime statistics and data available on the department's web site at <http://crimemap.dc.gov/presentation/intro.asp>.

In addition to finding the data, you can also map where the crimes occurred. It doesn't show specific ad-

(Continued on page 2)

Third Annual Woodley Park Picnic

Join us **June 12, from 4 pm to 8 pm**, for a fun-filled community event featuring delicious grilled food with tempting summer sides and beverages.

Sit comfortably at tables in the breezy shade of Woodley Playground visiting with friends and neighbors. Children's activities include face painting — a new event this year — and a supervised activity table.

There will be live music again provided this year by The Sweater Set, a local duo of young women with a summery sound of jazz, sincere folk songs and humorous pop who have been well reviewed by the Washington Post and WAMU 88.5.

Since their early years as teens in a DC church choir, Maureen Andary and Sara Curtin have developed intricate, soprano harmonies and multi-instrumental arrangements of ukulele, guitar, flute, hand percussion, accordion and the occasional kazoo solo.

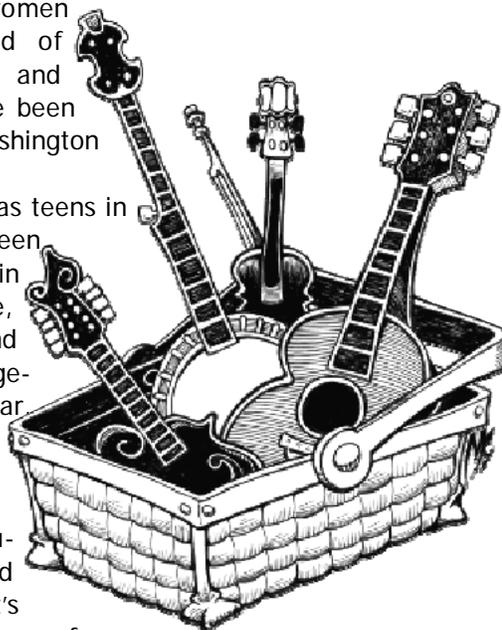
Woodley Park community members are invited into The Sweater Set's joyful songs, and to enjoy a fun afternoon and evening event celebrating the last days of spring.

WPCA membership registration will be available if you are not already a

member. And there will be signature WPCA apparel for sale, including baseball caps, canvas shopping totes and t-shirts, great gift ideas or get one for yourself.

If you can join us, please let us know by June 8th to WP.Picnic.Man@gmail.com (so we can have enough food).

We hope you will be able to join the fun with old friends and make new ones as well!



*(Rain Date is June 13,
4 pm to 8 pm)*

WPCA's MISSION

To maintain and advance the quality of Woodley Park as an in-town, generally residential community; to preserve and enhance the social, physical and historic characteristics of the neighborhood and historic places within and adjacent to it; to provide a forum for exchange of information and discussion of issues relevant to the area; and to represent residents before governmental and other entities.

Any resident of the neighborhood may join WPCA, as may the operator of any neighborhood business that provides goods or services to Woodley Park residents.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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THE ACORN

:: Editorial Board ::

John Goodman, Jay Sushelsky, Emily Wagner

The Acorn is published by WPCA and delivered free of charge to WPCA members and others in the Woodley Park community.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and submissions.

Contact us :: wpcadc@aol.com

Website :: wpcasonline.org

A special thanks to Stanford University, All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church and Saint Thomas Apostle Catholic Church for allowing WPCA to use their facilities for meetings and other activities in recent months.

Two-for-One Sale?



This house, 2910 Garfield St., was recently sold to a developer who wants to tear it down and build two houses in its place. Because the lot is too small for two houses, the developer has got a "mini-variance" from the DC Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs. The neighbors and ANC3C found out months later. WPCA, ANC3C and several neighbors will appeal this decision if DCRA doesn't reverse itself. For more information, visit the WPCA website: [www.wpcaonline.org/2910 Garfield Street/](http://www.wpcaonline.org/2910%20Garfield%20Street/).

John Goodman

(Crime continued from page 1)

addresses, just the block where the crime occurred, in order to protect the identity of victims. It is possible to produce maps show all the types of crimes, and also to select different areas and different time periods.

For anyone interested in receiving regular updates, the MPD Second District (which includes all of Ward 3) runs a list serve that includes daily crime updates on in the Second District, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MPD-2D/>.

Crime statistics for Police Service Area 204, which includes Cleveland Park, Woodley Park, Mclean Gardens and Massachusetts Avenue Heights.

PSA 204 Crime Stats	2010 YTD	2009	2008	2007
	1/1 - 4/27	1/1 - 4/27	1/1 - 4/27	1/1 - 4/27
Robbery	10	10	6	9
Assault w. Dangerous Weapon	2	2	6	4
Burglary	19	23	27	17
Theft	76	86	60	77
Theft from Auto	54	68	69	52
Stolen Auto	21	9	15	8

Anne-Marie Bairstow

The Celebrities of Woodley Park, Part IV

By Bill Menczer

Over Woodley Park's more than 200 year history, it has been the home of presidents and their advisors, vice presidents, cabinet members, diplomats, World War II figures, Supreme Court justices, Watergate figures, socialites, news makers and reporters, US Senators and Representatives, Academy award winners, Pulitzer Prize winners, a Nobel laureate, spies and many others. This is Part IV of a multi-part series on celebrities who have lived or still live in our community. Woodley Road is a discontinuous route that bobs and weaves through Woodley Park from 34th Street to its eventual end at Cathedral Avenue. It is another ripe source of celebrities that include journalists, politicians, spies, jurists, and government officials.

According to James M. Goode in his 1988 book, *Best Addresses*, there are more presidents, vice presidents and cabinet members who have lived in the Wardman Tower, located at 2660 Woodley Road, than in any other apartment house in Washington. Only a handful of these politicians is highlighted here.

Spiro Agnew resided here while serving as President Richard M. Nixon's vice president. During his fifth year as vice

president in 1973, Agnew was under investigation by Maryland's US Attorney on charges of extortion, tax fraud, bribery, and conspiracy. In October 1973 he was formally charged with having accepted bribes totaling more than \$100,000 while serving as Baltimore County Executive, governor of Maryland, and as Vice President. He was fined \$10,000 and placed on three years' probation. As a result of a civil suit that stemmed from the bribery allegations, in January 1983 Agnew paid the State of Maryland \$268,482, the amount he was known to have taken in bribes. He is the only vice president in US history to resign due to criminal charges.

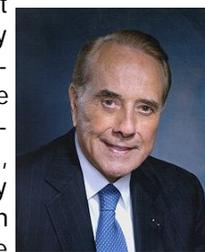


Republican US Senator **Barry Goldwater** of Arizona lived here during part of his career. He served five terms in the Senate (1953-65 and 1969-87) and was the Republican Party's nominee for president in 1964, where he was defeated by incumbent President Lyndon B. Johnson in one of history's largest landslides. He was a major general in the US Air Force Reserve and was cred-

ited for sparking the resurgence of the American conservative political movement in the 1960s. He also had a substantial impact on the libertarian movement. In 1974 as an elder statesman of the party, Goldwater forced the resignation of President Nixon when the evidence of cover-up became overwhelming and impeachment was imminent. Goldwater retired in 1987, serving as chair of the Senate Intelligence and Armed Services Committees in his final term. Despite his reputation as a firebrand in the 1960s, by the end of his career he was considered a stabilizing influence in the Senate, one of the most respected members of either major party. In 1986, President Reagan presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He died in Arizona in 1998 at age 89 from complications from a stroke.



Robert Joseph "Bob" Dole lived here during part of his Senate career. He is a retired US Senator from Kansas where he served from 1969-96, serving part of that time as Senate Majority Leader, where he set a record as the longest-serving Republican leader. In 1976, Dole ran unsuccessfully with Gerald Ford, and they lost the election to Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale. Dole ran for the 1980 Republican Presidential nomination, eventually won by Ronald Reagan and in 1988 for the same nomination won by George H.W. Bush. He was his party's 1996 presidential nominee and lost the election to incumbent President Bill Clinton. He has been a television spokesperson for Viagra, Visa, Dunkin Donuts, and Pepsi and has written several books. In 1997 President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his military service and political career. Dole is special counsel at the Washington, D.C. office of law firm Alston and Bird.



Democratic Vice President **Henry**

(Continued on page 6)

TWIN SPRINGS FRUIT FARM



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All Souls Church Parking Lot (Cathedral Ave, east of Connecticut)
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For Artists in Woodley Park, Each Day Is a Celebration

Local artist **Shelia Harrington** has lived in Woodley Park since 1982. She is a graphic designer, painter and homeschooling parent of Eileen; her adult son Devin is also a Woodley Park resident. She and her husband, James Symons, are partners in Studio Five, a museum exhibition and design firm. Working primarily in pen, ink, watercolor and oil, Harrington started her blog, "Each Day is a Celebration," in January, and hasn't missed a day yet.

The Acorn: Why did you decide to start a blog?

Shelia Harrington (SH): A blog seemed a good way to organize the various visual paths of my life: sketching, painting, illustration projects, arts-based homeschooling. For decades I've kept a kind of calendar/sketchbook which includes, among other things, hundreds of birthdays, anniversaries and popular and obscure special events that I have illustrated just for fun. It seemed natural to transfer this concept to a blog with the name "Each Day is a Celebration" and use it as my framework.

The Acorn: What has been the most positive and inspirational aspect of having a blog for you?

SH: I've been surprised and pleased by two things especially. One is that through the blog I've re-connected with a number of people I rarely see, or hadn't seen or heard from in a long time! That's been wonderful. Recently we participated in a multi-family reunion dinner that was a direct result of the blog. The other is that people—including complete strangers—have told me how the daily entry cheers them up and how they look forward to it. It makes me feel it's worth doing, even on

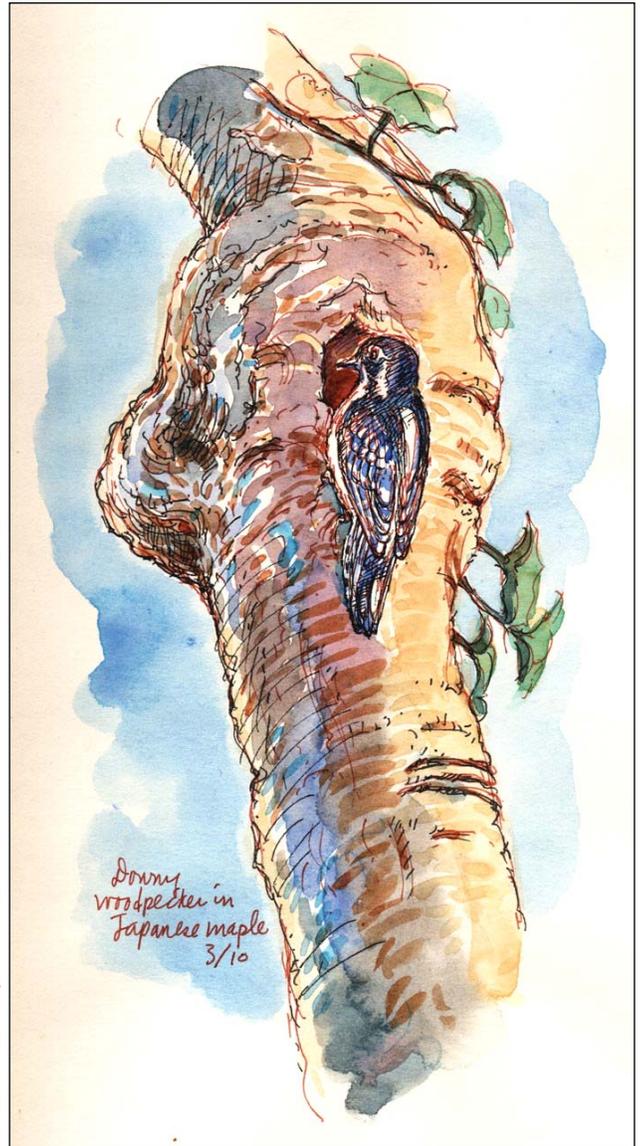
a rough day.

The Acorn: Has blogging affected your work as an artist?

SH: Well, the daily deadline has compelled me to draw and paint more consistently, which is a good thing. And the more I work, the more I am motivated to push myself further.

The Acorn: How has living in Woodley Park affected your work as an artist?

SH: This neighborhood is beautiful, both architecturally and botanically, and filled with interesting, engaging people (past and present!). There are many other neighbors besides my husband and me who work here from home, so there's always a great feeling of liveliness, activity, and mutual support. It's also a wonderful place to be outside sketching. And the neighborhood has inspired my daughter and me to create illustrated Local History and Geography books for a homeschooling block, with



"Woodpecker in Japanese Maple," Shelia Harrington, Copyright 2010

Woodley Park as the beginning and ending points.

To see more of Shelia's artwork, visit her blog: sheilaharrington.org/eachday.

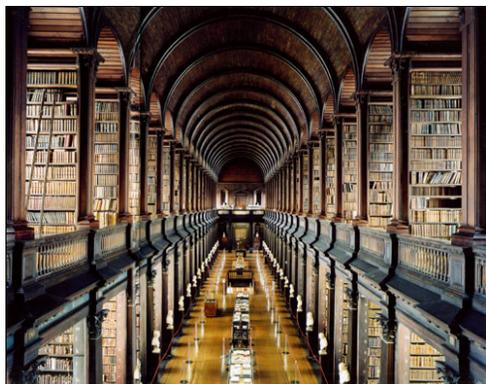


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Information Is at Your Fingertips 24/7 at the DC Public Library

Libraries used to be places that you'd visit to look for books and then borrow the ones you wanted to read. Well, you can still do that, but libraries are now so much more.

Did you know — with your computer and a library card from the DC Public Library — you can do research in the



comfort of your home at any hour of the day or night, seven days a week? Debra Shumate, Branch Manager at the Cleveland Park Neighborhood Library, has gathered a user-friendly guide to the wide range of

free, full-text databases for adults, teens and children the DC Public Library System offers online at www.dclibrary.org. Click on the *Research* tab located at the top of the page and get started!

Looking for materials on geography, history, social science or culture?

Explore full-text art, music, biography, and science publications online. Just for fun, browse an encyclopedia! Primary and secondary sources – we have them here.

Looking for academic journals and popular magazine articles?

Expanded Academic ASAP and *General Reference Center Gold* allows you to read newspapers from around the country via *ProQuest*. You can also check out the historical *Washington Post* with full page articles and images dating back to 1877 or discover your ancestors on *Heritage Quest!*

Looking for literary criticism?

Find it at the *Literature Resource Center* where you can search by author or by title. Are you ready to read another great book, but don't know where to start? Check out *Books and Authors* where you can search non-fiction and fiction by genre, or explore *NoveList* by entering a book title that you have enjoyed to find others like it. *NoveList* will also help you find great reads for teens and children by age group.

Little ones at home?

Take a look at *Tumblebooks* which features interactive games, and stories that are read aloud as text is highlighted to help foster early literacy. Six languages are available. Or try *Bookflix* and enjoy non-fiction and fiction topics on video or ebook. Older brothers and sisters will find a wealth of information online to help with those research papers. Click on *Opposing Viewpoints* or *American Government* to get started.

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Overdrive makes available e-books, audiobooks, video and music for both children and adults available for download to your computer and compatible portable devices. You can also use *Overdrive* to learn a new language!

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The Business and Company Resource Center provides company profiles and histories, brand information, rankings, investment reports and full text news articles. Search *REF USA* by SIC code to identify competitors in your area, or locate contact information for your neighbors and invite everyone to the next community gathering. Obtain standard *Legal Forms Online*, or explore stocks and mutual funds with *Morningstar*.

Need homework help?

Find free homework help from *Tutor.com* where kids can connect with a live tutor every day between 2 pm and midnight. Study guides and practice tests to improve academic skills are available at *Learning Express*. Elementary through college students will find something here to sharpen their abilities. Technical, GED, and citizenship tests are also covered. *The Testing and Educational Resource Center* offers practice tests for college prep, NCLEX, ASVAB, PRAXIS and civil service jobs, as well as the post-graduate GRE, MCAT, and LSAT, among others. You can also find help with TOEFL, polish your resume or search for graduate schools.

Additional databases are available for browsing when you are in the library. Stop by the information desk on your next visit.

Shredding Day Success



On Saturday April 17, WPCA hosted a successful hazardous waste clean up and shredding day. Neighbors emptied their basements and garages and filled the truck with batteries, paint, electronics and other items they can't leave with regular trash. They also were able to watch as the giant shredder ate up their personal papers. Volunteers included Paul Poe, Anne-Marie Bairstow, John Goodman and Bill Kummings. — *Photo by Peter Brusoe*

The Celebrities of Woodley Park, Part IV (cont'd)

Wallace lived at the Wardman from 1941-1945 during his term in office. He also served as the Secretary of Agriculture (1933-40), and the Secretary of Commerce (1945-46). Following his term as Secretary of Commerce, Wallace became the editor of the *New Republic* magazine, using his position to vociferously criticize Truman's foreign policy. In the 1948 presidential election, Wallace was the nominee of the Progressive Party, soundly defeated by Truman,



receiving only 2.4% of the popular vote and no electoral votes. His platform advocated friendly relations with the Soviet Union, an end to the nascent Cold War, an end to segregation, full voting rights for African-Americans, and universal government health insurance. He died in Danbury, Connecticut in 1965.

Republican **Charles Curtis** lived here in the early 1930s and was a US Representative (1892-1906), a US Senator from Kansas (1906-19), a Senate Majority Leader (1925-29), and the 31st Vice President of the United States (1929-33). He was the first person with



acknowledged Native American ancestry to reach either of the two highest elected offices in the executive branch. Curtis ran for Vice-President with Herbert Hoover as President in 1928. They won a landslide victory. Although they ran again in 1932, the population saw Hoover as failing to alleviate the Great Depression, and they were defeated by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Pearl (Perle) Shirvin Mesta, the socialite, political hostess and the first US Ambassador to Luxembourg from 1949-1953 lived at the Wardman from 1940 to the 1960s. She was known as the "hostess with the mostest" for her lavish parties featuring the brightest stars of Washington society, including artists, entertainers and many senior level political figures. Invitation to a Mesta party was a sure sign that one had reached the inner circle of Washington political society. Her one bedroom suite (dining room, parlor, sitting room, and bedroom) in 2010 rents for \$2950 per night at the Marriott Wardman Hotel. She was active in the National Women's Party and was an early supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and of President Harry Truman who appointed her Ambassador. She was the inspiration for



Irving Berlin's musical *Call Me Madam* which starred Ethel Merman as the character based on Mesta in both the Broadway play and in the movie. She was also the model for the character Dolly Harrison in the 1959 novel *Advise and Consent*. She appeared on the cover of *Time Magazine* in 1949 and died at age 85 in 1975.

Two Chief Justices of the United States lived at the Wardman. One of them was Chief Justice **Fred M. Vinson** who served in all three branches of government. He was a member of the US House of Representatives from Kentucky for 12 years. He was the Secretary of the Treasury from 1945-1946 under President Truman who appointed him in 1946 as the 13th Chief Justice. His final public appearance at the court was when he read the decision not to review the conviction and death sentence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. After Justice William O. Douglas granted a stay of execution to the Rosenbergs at the last moment, Vinson sent out special flights to bring vacationing justices back to Washington in order to ensure the execution of the Rosenbergs. He is the last chief justice to be ap-



(Continued on page 7)

:: MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM ::

NAME:: _____

STREET ADDRESS:: _____

MAILING ADDRESS:: _____

E-MAIL:: (Including your e-mail address will allow us to send you meeting notices and periodic updates.) _____

AREAS OF INTEREST/CONCERN:: _____

SIGNATURE:: _____ DATE:: _____

Contribution :: \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other

WPCA membership is free of charge, but seeks contributions to cover expenses.

WPCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please mail your completed **Membership Registration Form** to:

WPCA MEMBERSHIP DESK, P.O. Box 4852, WASHINGTON, D.C., 20008

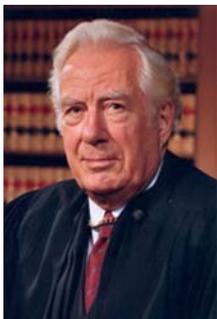
Checks should be to Woodley Park Community Association.

You can also renew and contribute online: www.wpcaonline.org/join

(Celebrities continued from page 6)

pointed by a Democratic president. He died suddenly of a heart attack in 1953.

Chief Justice **Warren Burger** was nominated by President Nixon and served from 1969-86. He was considered a strict constructionist. On July 24, 1974, Burger led the court in a unanimous 8-0 in *United States v Nixon*. This was President Nixon's attempt to keep several memos and tapes private relating to the Watergate scandal. Burger's first draft of the opinion supported



Nixon as he wrote that executive privilege could be invoked when it dealt with a "core function" of the presidency and that in some cases the executive could be supreme. However, the other justices were able to convince

Burger to excise that language from the opinion – the judicial branch alone would have the power to determine whether something qualifies to be shielded under executive privilege.

John Foster Dulles, born in DC, served as Secretary of State under President Dwight D. Eisenhower from 1953 to 1959. He came from a family of public servants as his grandfather and uncle both served as secretaries of state and his brother Allen served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency under Eisenhower. He was a significant figure in the early Cold War era, advocating an aggressive stance against communism throughout the world. He advocated support of the French in their war against the Viet Minh in Indochina and it is widely believed that he refused to shake the hand of Zhou Enlai at the Geneva Conference in 1954. He also played a major role in the CIA operation to overthrow the democratic Mossadegh government of Iran in 1953 (Operation Ajax) and the democratic Arbenz government of Guatemala in 1954. In 1959, he received the Presi-



dential Medal of Freedom from Eisenhower. He died at Walter Reed Army Hospital in May 1959 and is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery. Washington Dulles International airport is named in his honor.

William P. McCracken, Jr. (left in 1926 photo) was the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics under Commerce Secretary (and later President) Calvin Coolidge. In April



1927 he received the first ever pilot's license from the Federal government, license number one. In January 1934 then-US Senator Hugo Black opened hearings into the award of subsidies and contracts to commercial airlines for carrying mail. Many of the routes were awarded without competition under McCracken and the Postmaster General. McCracken had already left office and was the principal DC lobbyist for the airline industry. He refused to honor a Senate subpoena to produce records from his tenure, claiming that they were destroyed. As a result of this defiance, President Roosevelt annulled all existing domestic air mail contracts in February 1934 and ordered the Army Air Corps to fly the mail during the interim. The contract records were found by committee investigators, and Black's committee voted to try him for contempt. He served 10 days in DC jail. As a result of the fiasco, new contracts were negotiated with the airlines, and Congress passed legislation covering mail and passenger service which later led to the passage of the Civil Aeronautics Act.

Woodley Place

Sari Horowitz lived in the 2700 block of Woodley Place, was one of 3 *Washington Post* reporters to win the Pulitzer Prize in 2002 for Investigative Reporting, for a series on the District's child protection system where children have died due to government agencies placing them in unsafe homes and institutions. She is the co-author of the

Some news from the younger WPCA members...

The Great Test

By Anna Gorlick

There was a test called the District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System (DC-CAS). The DC-CAS is a test so that teachers can see how well the students are doing in reading and math. In order to get ready for the DC-CAS, I was given an assignment on the computer, and was told to go to the website called www.study-island.com.

During spring break, I studied online for two hours each day. When I was doing the work on Study Island, my sister and my dad helped me on a few questions. To get ready for Study Island every morning, I had a good breakfast and a good night's sleep.

In school, my class got ready for the DC-CAS by learning more about math and reading. We had to practice a writing exercise called a brief constructed response or BCR. Our class also got ready by doing physical exercises like jump roping and running. The DC-CAS was easy because my class worked hard and practiced a lot.

When the DC-CAS was over, school was easier than before. We got to have more field trips and have lots of parties. The teachers want to make our school day easier because we had really worked hard for the DC-CAS. The teachers congratulated us for the good work. That's the story of the great test.

Anna Gorlick is a 3rd grade student at Oyster-Adams Bilingual School

book, *Sniper: Inside the Hunt for the Killers Who Terrorized the Nation*, about the DC snipers in October 2003. She



also covered the Chandra Levy murder for the *Post*. Ms. Levy was an intern in the office of U.S. Representative Gary Condit (D-CA) who was having an affair with her shortly before her murder in Rock Creek Park.

You're invited to the Woodley Park Picnic

Join your neighbors to celebrate the last days of Spring...

Saturday, June 12th

4 pm to 8 pm

3000 Block of Cortland Place

at the park adjacent to the Woodley Playground

PICNIC FOOD AND SOFT DRINKS

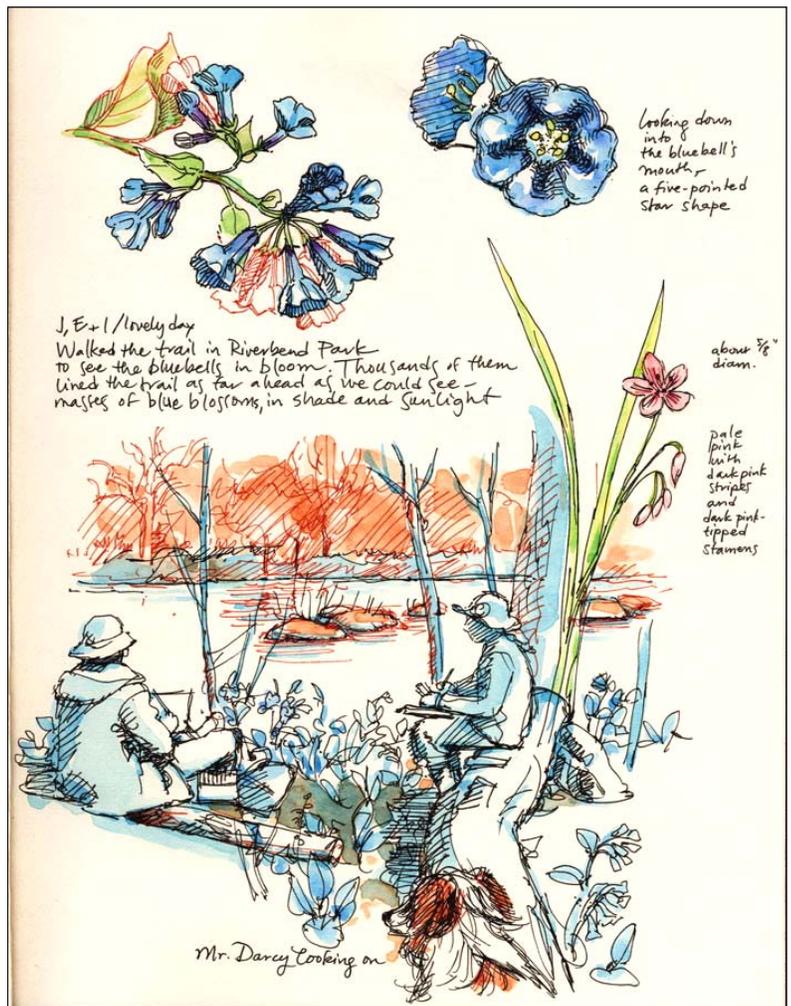
PROVIDED BY WPCA

RSVP by June 8th

WP.Picnic.Man@gmail.com

(so we can get enough food for everyone!)

Rain Date: June 13, 4 pm to 8 pm



A page from the notebook of Woodley Park artist Sheila Harrington, copyright 2010

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Has your membership expired or will it expire soon?
WPCA members will see their membership **expiration date on the address label** of this mailing.

If your date has passed, please use the **Membership Form** in this issue (**Page 6**) to re-new!

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www.wpcaonline.org/Join

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