

ShopTalk

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Editor, Mario I. Oña, x4-6803

Speaker's Bureau Hits 1000

On Oct. 31, the 34-year-old Post Speaker's Bureau marked its astonishing one-thousandth event since its overhaul in May 2005 with a lecture by Columnist **Jeff Birnbaum** at Georgetown University attended by over 50 senior government executives.

Managing Editor **Phil Bennett** explained the importance of the program: "The Speaker's Bureau is one of the valuable ways that The Post connects with the communities we serve. These appearances so often involve thoughtful and passionate exchanges about issues in the news and the workings of the newspaper. They show readers the depth, expertise and diversity of our newsroom and fix a human face on the newspaper."

During the revamp in March 2005, apart from a publicity campaign designed to reignite the program, a decision was made to also broaden the bureau beyond the newsroom.

"We wanted to reach out

to the community from a business standpoint," explained **David Jones**, Speaker's Bureau coordinator. "Consequently, since last May, we've had our president, **Steve Hills**, and even our chairman, **Don Graham**, engage the community."

organizations as "crucial in achieving so many events in such a short period of time."

The symbiotic nature of the program also helps explain its success. Not only does the Post service the community, but it also provides its

"I once gave a speech to an organization of African American lobbyists—the Washington Government Relations Group. They got from me a political and legislative outlook. I got from them a column: 'Number of Black Lobbyists Remains Shockingly Low,' published on Aug. 7.

"Through the bureau, I talk to lots of folks—from students to Washington insiders—and I get to know them and they get to know me. What else is being a journalist about?"

January Payne, News (Health), explained how the program goes beyond the typical Q&A session:

"By helping to put a human face on our newspaper and Web site, the Speaker's Bureau shows our readers that we're real people who lead real lives, and that we're diverse and care about their ideas, beliefs and thoughts.

"This also enables us to interact with people we might not otherwise meet. This is never a bad thing when we're meeting and talking with people within the community that we cover." ■



Representative photo collage of the various and diverse events under the auspice of the Speaker's Bureau.

Jones went on to site the support of 13 community partners including Fairfax and Howard County library systems; Prince George's County, Alexandria, Falls Church and D.C. public school systems and various universities and nonprofit

reporters and other employees a forum to meet the same community.

Some Speaker's Bureau regulars shared their thoughts and some positive experiences:

Jeff Birnbaum, News (Columnist), cited a typical Speaker's Bureau exchange:

PHOTO - DAVID JONES

Third-Quarter Award Recipients

Sales Achievement

Rita Coopersmith
John Richmond
Wanda Frazer
Amy Strange
Charlie San Filippo
Carlos Silva
Ellen Gerhard

Sales Excellence

Larry Calvert
Kim Faulkner
Lynne Maloney
Yasmine Gahed
Judy Wise Olsen
Ed Aduss
Nick Bernardo
Bob Vitriol

Service Excellence

Emery Rogers
Kenny Brown
Audrey Washington
Kadine Fynn
Joy Miller
Jeanette Strange
John Peter Sande

CAU Outstanding Sales

Allison White
Kim Mallory

Pre-Call Planning

Hubert Telesford
Amy Strange

Third-Quarter VP Club Winners

Pete McCormick
Yasmine Gahed
Mark Gross
Diane DuBois
David DeJesus
Darlene McGiveron
Wanda Frazer
Kathryn Whitener
Donna Singletary
Larry Calvert
Mary Veney
Terry Lando
Dave Chiles
Iqrama Muhammad
Bruce Ewan
Brendan Foley

Weekend Trip Winners

Pete McCormick
Donna Singletary

Eagle Awards

Kevin Hancock
Cameron Jones
Tom Konisiewicz



Decked out in an elegant suit covered with Post advertisements, **Brian Gilman**, Advertising, works the makeshift catwalk during the quarterly Advertising awards fashion show.



Triple-crown winner **Larry Calvert**, Advertising, receives his third sales excellence award of the morning from Gilman.



Kevin Hancock, Advertising, brings his team up to receive their Eagle Award.



Sporting her daughter's hand-made jewelry, **Ellen Gerhard**, Advertising, receives an award for sales achievement. Editor's note: Her daughter's jewelry is available to Post employees at a discount.



Marketing Excellence Award recipients **Madonna Rabatin** and **Jeff Giuffrada**.

THE WASHINGTON POST
**Music
 & Dance**
 SCHOLARSHIP
 AWARDS

Story in Photos

Columnist **Gene Robinson** and Assistant Managing Editor **Bob McCartney**, *Metro*, on hand to watch the region's talented youth.



After greeting actress and co-host Jasmine Guy, **Lionel Neptune**, vice president of Affiliates, shakes hands with her associate, Erika Ganier, during the reception at the Warner Theatre's atrium lounge before the main event.



Eric Grant, director of Public Relations and Contributions (right), welcomes two of the awards night's many important sponsors: Alexander Boyle, vice chairman of Chevy Chase Bank (left) and James DeGraffenreidt, Jr., chairman and CEO of Washington Gas (center).



Aditi Hardikar from Walt Whitman High School (Md.) comes off the stage, but only to sing and perform a rollicking "I Got Rhythm" on the drums with the house band.



(Left to right): Ruby Wang (Col. Zadok Magruder High School-Md.), Lucia Petito (Walter Johnson High School-Md.), Monique Twyman (School Without Walls Senior High School-D.C.), Paulena Papagiannis (Eleanor Roosevelt High School-Md.), Erin Sonoda (T.C. Williams High School-Va.) backstage before their individual performances.



Co-host and WRC TV NBC 4 News Anchor Jim Vance, sharing the duties with Guy on the opposite side of the stage, also showed his poise and provided some entertaining off-the-cuff humor.



After a riveting vocal performance, Peter Kim from Episcopal High School (Va.) shares the honors with his family.



Erica Molina, representing the Academy of the Holy Cross (Md.), sings and dances a convincing flamenco-esque number before returning to the stage to receive one of the 12 scholarships awarded.



For the grand finale, the renowned Urban Nation H.I.P.-H.O.P. (Hope, Integrity, Power – Helping Our People) Choir of Washington, D.C. performed "Lean on Me" and got most of the audience on their feet dancing, singing and clapping along.



Meditation: De-Stressing at The Post

Post employees are invited to close their eyes, relax, forget their to-do lists, distance themselves from anxiety and participate in 20 minutes of guided meditation. Meditation

Ron Charles, *News and Book World*, in touch with his Halloween side on Halloween.

ShopTalk Suggestion Boxes Available Soon!

As reported in the past few weeks, suggestion boxes will be available in the Northwest Building and both plants in the coming weeks. The boxes will allow Post employees to submit questions, suggestions and ShopTalk story ideas — anonymously if preferred. The ShopTalk editor will review submissions and publish answers or incorporate suggestions. Every effort will be made to answer most questions. Keep in mind that submissions do not constitute notice to Post management of a complaint or problem in the workplace. Feel free to make suggestions on improving ShopTalk or any aspect of the newspaper, pitch your story ideas or ask general questions (preferably questions you would feel comfortable asking in a town hall meeting setting). If you have any questions, contact x4-6803 or onom@washpost.com or shoptalk@washpost.com.

instructor Klia Bassing, MBA/MPP and Director of Visit Yourself at Work (www.VisitYourself.net), explains that even though the Northwest Fitness Center might seem like an unlikely location for “existential insights,” she is confident that “serenity is only a breath away, no matter where we are.” The series of five weekly meditation classes began on Nov. 8 in the Fitness Center (membership not necessary) from 1:45 to 2:30pm. To register, email: meditate@visityourself.net.

Body Composition Profile Test

It's back! Body Composition Profile Testing at the Northwest Building Health Center on Nov. 14 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The test measures fat-free mass, body fat and total body water. It's a simple, painless and non-invasive procedure done by lying down for 10 minutes with electrodes attached to your hand and foot, similar to an electrocardiogram machine (EKG). By appointment only. Contact the health center at x4-7192.

United Way 2006 Campaign

The annual United Way drive is underway. After a recent inquiry, in response to negative press about the United Way last year, Publisher **Bo Jones** said, “The United Way today is an organization we want to support fully.” Department chairpersons will

distribute identifications and passwords for making pledges online. Contact your chairperson or campaign chair and vice president of Affiliates, **Lionel Neptune**, with any questions or concerns at x4-4228 or neptunel@washpost.com. The deadline for contributions is Dec. 1.



Marketplace

HOUSE FOR SALE: Appraised at \$505K, selling for \$449K. \$5000 closing help. \$2000 agent bonus! Charming 2BR/1.5 BA/2-level brick end unit. Capitol Hill location. Total renovation. Huge kitchen w/ limestone counters, dishwasher. Separate laundry, storage shed, deck, front porch w/ front yard. Near Metro, Eastern Market, stadium, restaurants, grocery stores, shopping, etc. Adjacent lot available for \$350K. Both properties: \$740K. Virtual tour at www.spicer-realestate.com/prop_detail.aspx?property_id=173. Contact Mildred at x4-4512 or Rob Spicer or Chester Valasco at 301-770-1301.

FOR SALE: Legs too tired to walk? Rascal Scooter. Double batteries. Good Condition. Retail \$3200; asking \$1600. Contact Ellen at 703-743-5890 or x4-7762.

FOR SALE: Sears Brand LXI 19" color TV with stand-\$75; RCA ProScan 30" color TV (PS31122)-\$250; Epson Expression 1680 scanner, 1600 ppi, 48-bit processing with transparency lid adaptor-\$600; Epson Stylist 3000 color printer-\$100. Contact Donna at 410-871-0117 or x4-6437.

FOR HIRE: IT Project Manager. IT Department seeking experienced project manager to lead technology projects. Experience in software deployment and business process management necessary. BA or equivalent and experience in “full system lifecycle” implementation required. Project Management Institute certification strongly preferred. Contact Jeanne Koch, Manager IT HR Development at kochj@washpost.com or x4-6217. NOTE: Position eligible for enhanced employee referral bonus of \$5000. For more details on referral program, contact Nellie Goddard at x4-7941 or goddardn@washpost.com. Email resumes for consideration to seresumes@washpost.com (Subject: Employee Referral – Project Manager). Deadline: 5:00 pm on Nov. 17.

NEW MARKETPLACE DEADLINE:

Noon THURSDAYS. Please include your name, extension and phone number. Ads are for Post employees only. Send ads to ShopTalk, seventh floor, or call x4-6803. To send ads via fax dial x4-4963 or to email send to shoptalk@washpost.com or onom@washpost.com. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee. ShopTalk reserves the right to publish and edit all ads.