

# ShopTalk



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Editor, Mario Iván Oña, x4-6803

## Green Door Delivers

“Green Door’s given me the chance to go out and work even though I have mental illness,” says Susan Battista, Green Door member.

During her six-month rotation at The Post, which ends this week, Battista distributed ShopTalk



throughout the Northwest Building and also mailed it out to Post bureaus and other Post Co. entities like WPNI and Newsweek located throughout the country.

Rain or shine, snow or heat wave, Battista never missed a distri-

bution date and was always on time. She was reliable, punctual and flexible. Additionally, she will help save The Post nearly \$400 a month by having kept an accurate count of how many newsletters were printed in excess each week, thereby allowing ShopTalk to readjust its printing output.

Battista, like her predecessors for the past 10 years, has distributed ShopTalk through a partnership with Green Door—a D.C.-based nonprofit organization that specializes in preparing people with mental illness to work and live independently.

Maureen Jais-Mick, director of development at Green Door, says, “All of us—whether we have mental illness or not—want to live ordinary lives. Having a job, going to school and making friends gives people with mental illness reasons to get well. Recovery is not just about getting the right medication, it’s also about having a life, being respected and being responsible for yourself.”

According to Jais-Mick, Green Door serves 1,100 D.C. residents coming from mental health clinics, family referrals, St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, foster care and even the D.C. jail and she assures that they are all “capable of being part of the

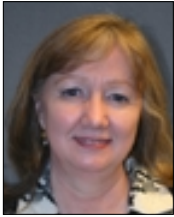
community and giving back.” She says, “Green Door members are mental health professionals, baristas, security guards, truck drivers, maintenance workers, childcare providers, stock clerks, cab drivers—you name it.”

The partnership with Green Door started nearly 10 years ago with former Vice President **Ted Lutz**, Communications, who was also on Green Door’s board. According to former Post Public Relations manager Ruben Rodriguez, who oversaw the weekly distribution of ShopTalk for seven years, the partnership was an extension of The Post’s philanthropic efforts. Rodriguez says, “In addition to providing Green Door with monetary support, we also wanted to assist its members in acclimating themselves to real life situations.”

Rodriguez says that he witnessed significant improvement in Green Door members’ social skills during their short rotations and found them and the organization to be “extremely reliable.” He says, “It didn’t happen often, but I always got a call if a member was not going to make it or was running late. And when a member couldn’t make it, someone from Green

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# New Faces



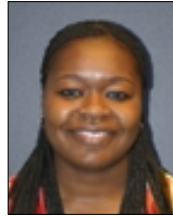
Diana Backlund



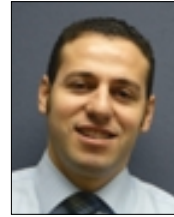
Arthur Badgett Jr.



Mamie Belle



Shaquana Hamilton



Mohamed Machkor



Chinaka Young

**DIANA BACKLUND**, Advertising, is a new international account manager for The Post. She was previously the director of sales for North and Central America at Agencia EFE (Spanish news wire agency). She has 16 years of experience in licensing news and related content to media in countries around the world. She lived in Mexico City from the age of 15 until 21. Though she's originally from California, she's also lived in Miami, Philly and now D.C., among other places. Diana loves to travel and in her line of work, she's been fortunate enough to visit countries that have made a "special impression" on her: Japan, Turkey, Peru, Belgium, Switzerland, Argentina and just about every country she's visited. She reads just about everything she gets her hands on and writes for personal enjoyment. She was pretty good at tennis until she had an accident that left her unable to walk for close to a year.

**ARTHUR BADGETT JR.**, IT, recently came on board as a new senior system analyst and administrator. Before joining The Post, he was a senior telecom programmer and systems analyst for Citigroup. He's worked in telecommunications over 13 years, primarily supporting call centers. Arthur likes to shoot pool and bicycling with the Baltimore Bicycling Club. He volunteers to speak to high school freshmen about staying in school and striving for academic excellence.

**MAMIE BELLE**, Advertising, is an advertising coordinator for The Post. Her past experience includes working at a guest ranch, A Bar A Ranch, in Encampment, Wyo., and at Jefferson Vineyards in Charlottesville, Va. She graduated with a BA in English literature and language from University of Virginia. Mamie (pronounced May-mee, which rhymes with Amy) enjoys hiking and anything outdoors. In 2005, she traveled to Italy as part of a humanities college course.

**SHAQUANA HAMILTON**, Advertising, recently joined The Post as a zone account manager in the Community Advertising division. She was previously a recruitment account executive for Fort Wayne Newspapers in Indianapolis, Ind. She spent a few years in the U.S. Navy as an active duty and reserve legal man, where—among other things—she had the daunting task of working with families who recently lost an active duty loved one. Shaquana had to wrestle with dedicating enough time with grieving family members going through life-changing traumas while taking care of her other responsibilities. She earned her BS in business management from Indiana Wesleyan University. She enjoys helping others.

**MOHAMED MACHKOR**, Accounting, is a new customer accounting representative. He previously worked at the Madison Hotel in accounts payable. He's also been a front desk agent and has worked in the hospitality industry for seven years. He's earning his degree in information relations from NOVA Community College (Va.). He's originally from Morocco, but he grew up in the D.C.

area. Tired of being picked on as a youngster, he got into martial arts and 10 years later, it's developed into one of his big passions. Though he says he's never had to rely on his Akido skills, knowing that he has them has allowed him to be assertive, confident and resolve conflict with diplomacy.

**CHINAKA YOUNG**, Advertising, arrived to The Post from Dickey Publishing, where she was an advertising sales coordinator. Now, she's a sales support representative. She earned her BS in Public Relations with a minor in graphic design in 2005 from Florida A&M University. Chinaka considers herself a crossword pro and a self-proclaimed Scrabble champ. She likes to allow her "creativity to seep through [her] pores." She's also a bargain shopper and a picture poser.

Door's staff would come and distribute ShopTalk. In my seven years, I probably had to deliver ShopTalk myself about four or five times."

Jais-Mick reassures that many Green Door members already have substantial work experience and that when they are hired, not only are they "eager and ready to work," but they also come with the support of an experienced Green Door job coach.

In Battista's case, it's only through her own admission and openness about her "illness," which she says includes not feeling comfortable around large groups of people, that you know she has mental illness.

She says, "Distributing ShopTalk was perfect for me because it allowed me to interact with a few people, but not a lot of people. I have a difficult time with large crowds." After The Post, she hopes to land another temporary job through Green Door, but eventually become one of the approximately 50 mem-

bers (annually) who land a full-time job on their own.

Despite the organization's efforts, there is still a stigma surrounding mental illness that makes jobs available to its members scarce. "There's a misconception that people with mental illness are dangerous," says Jais-Mick, "But they're actually two and a half more times likely to be victims of violence than people without mental illness."

Battista concludes, "Green Door helps people strive to do better. The public thinks that people with mental illness can't do better or that they're stupid. But they should be given an opportunity—at least a try, because the only way to fail is by not trying."

If you think you or someone you know might have a job opportunity for a Green Door member or would like more information on how you can help, visit [www.greendoor.org](http://www.greendoor.org) or contact Maureen Jais-Mick at [maureenj@greendoor.org](mailto:maureenj@greendoor.org) or 202-408-1977 (x1). ■

### Other Ways You Can Help Green Door

If you are unable to volunteer or help find a job opportunity for Green Door members, you can also help fulfill "Green Door's March 2008 Wish List":

- CDs of nature sounds/white noise (for a member who has a hard time sleeping)
- Books on creative writing and sci-fi (for a member who likes to write)
- "Leftover" Metro cards (for members to make job interviews)
- Toiletries (particularly toothpaste)
- Office supplies (markers, note cards, pencils, pens, notebooks and paperback dictionaries)
- Food cards (Giant, Safeway, etc.)
- Baby items (high chair, stroller, car seat)
- Women pants (size 11)
- Ready-to-wear women's business attire (size 14 and higher)
- Computers (Windows 2000 or newer, Internet-capable)
- Twin-size bed (frame, box spring, mattress)
- Rubbermaid storage containers

ShopTalk can deliver any donated items to Green Door for you, simply contact: [onam@washpost.com](mailto:onam@washpost.com). You can also contact Green Door directly. Green Door accepts fully functioning, gently used and new items. Contact Maureen Jais-Mick at [maureenj@greendoor.org](mailto:maureenj@greendoor.org) or 202-408-1977 (x1) before donating.

## The Post In The Community



(Left to right) ResourcePlus Show Director Ed Hurley, Food Editor **Joe Yonan** and Public Relations manager **David Jones** mix business with a splash of pleasure during the 9th annual Washington D.C. International Wine and Food Festival

presented by The Post. Yonan opened the three-day event by welcoming all the attendees at the Ronald Reagan Building mezzanine on Feb. 29. Yonan, as well as other members of the Food Section, Travel, Sunday Source and Circulation participated throughout the weekend. Jones and Consumer Promotions manager **Linda Haskins-Wrenn** helped coordinate the event.



PHOTO - EMIL ROBINSON

The Creative Dance Center dancers pose with Ned the News-hound following their half-time, Post-produced show during the girls' D.C. Title Championship at the Verizon Center. Mayor Adrian Fenty was in attendance during The Post-sponsored championship.

## AME On Ice



For those of you who missed it, here is your proof that Assistant Managing Editor **Tom Wilkinson**, indeed, got his hockey-on, front and center, at the Verizon Center after the second period of the Washington Capitals versus Minnesota Wild game on Feb. 26.

## Become A Post Hunt Volunteer

**WHAT:** The Post Hunt is a huge mutant brainteaser—a kind of urban safari, where participants will be hunting for the answers to silly puzzles woven into the streetscape of Washington’s eclectic neigh-



borhood of Chinatown/Penn Quarter. The three, who are sorta the Socrates, Plato and Aristotle of humor journalism (**Gene Weingarten** hired Dave Barry, who **Tom Shroder** then edited) came up with and refined the famous Tropic Hunt (now known as the Herald Hunt)—a city-wide contest started in Miami, where contestants solve puzzles that lead to more puzzles for the chance to score some sweet prizes.

Now, they’re bringing their shenanigans to D.C.

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 18 from noon to 5:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** City Center Lot A (Old Convention Center site) Near Chinatown/Penn Quarter

**WHAT (Part 2):** Any Post employee interested in volunteering at this event and attending the volunteer after party can contact **Carla Taylor** at [taylorcy@washpost.com](mailto:taylorcy@washpost.com) or at x4-6494.

Check out upcoming ShopTalk issues for more information and updates!

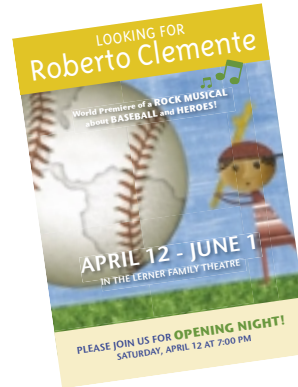
## EAP Tip

Whether conflict occurs in our personal life or in the workplace, it typically conjures up unfavorable thoughts of hurt feelings, disappointment, anger and tension. As part of APS Healthcare’s continuing effort to promote the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), a tip sheet on “Understanding Workplace Conflict” is now available near the Health Center or by contacting ShopTalk ([onam@washpost.com](mailto:onam@washpost.com)). Remember: EAP is committed to being “Healthy Together” and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-765-0770 or at [www.apsheplink.com](http://www.apsheplink.com). Just enter company code: Post.

## Imagination Stage

Mark your calendars: the opening night for “Looking for Roberto Clemente” is April 12 at 7 p.m. at the Lerner Family Theater in Bethesda, Md. While tickets are being distributed on a first come-first serve basis, some

consideration will be given to ensure employees who have not had a chance to attend in the past, will have a chance this year. Please contact **Aurora Gonzalez**, Public Relations, at x4-7973 to submit your request for tickets.



## Dream Job Auction

The Workforce Organizations for Regional Collaboration’s or WORC’s third annual, Post-sponsored Dream Job Auction will take place on May 1 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown (D.C.). All proceeds will go toward fulfilling WORC’s mission of “providing the chance for thousands of people in the Greater Washington region to have access to jobs, ultimately allowing them to create a better life for themselves and their families.”

Among the “dream jobs” (for a day) up for grabs: producing ABC 7 Evening News producer, covering national politics with NPR White House correspondent David Greene, flying a fighter jet, managing the Washington Nationals and commanding a riverboat, among many others. To read more about the event, go to: [www.DreamJobAuction.org](http://www.DreamJobAuction.org).

## Dry Cleaning Service At The Post

Bergmann’s Dry Cleaning is offering their services to Post employees at a 20 percent discount. The best part is that the drop-off and pick-up points are conveniently at The Post. Employees are able to sign up by providing a credit card number. They will be issued a dry cleaning bag that’s assigned to their credit card on file. Bergmann’s picks up and drops off on the first floor L Street entrance within the security center on Mondays and Thursdays between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Of note, Bergmann’s customer service handles any discrepancies, not The Post. Contact **Tammy Johnson**, Purchasing, at x4-7111 with any questions.

## Post Gifts Now On Sale

Looking for Post or Post Media logo-emblazoned gifts for clients or relatives? There are a variety of handy office supplies, clothing items, tumblers, water bottles, mugs and a variety of weather gear available. The items range from inexpensive to high-end. Special orders can also be placed. Please note that the Purchasing Department maintains a low inventory of products; therefore, an advance notice is highly recommended if you need to purchase a large quantity of items for your next project or promotional event. The promo sales hours of operation are: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The store is located in Purchasing on the first floor near the gym.