

Partners Unlimited Bulletin Board

Fall
2014

D.C. PUBLIC
SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM



Goodwin Procter/West Girls on the Run Team. The Goodwin Procter women L/R: Alese Bagdol, Cammy Contizano, Christy Harrison, and Kimberly Vargo.

Goodwin Procter Women Involved in Mentoring & Running With Girls at West

By Kimberly Karcewski Vargo

Goodwin Procter recently got involved with the Girls on the Run organization as part of our ongoing partnership with West Education Campus. Girls on the Run blends leadership training and self-worth programming with running for girls in grades three through eight.

This past spring, Goodwin worked with a team of 15 girls in grades 3, 4, and 5 from West to help them complete a learning program and train for a 5K fun run sponsored by Girls on the Run.

Attorneys from our D.C. office, along with staff from West, met with the girls on a bi-weekly basis over the course of 10 weeks to talk about individual strengths, discuss ways to serve the community, and foster physical and emotional health, as well as train for the road race.

Everyone's hard work paid off on May 17 when our team of runners and volunteers participated in the Girls on the Run 5K in Anacostia Park. Ten Goodwin attorneys, three coaches, and five volunteers from the school ran the race, and were left in the dust by our team of young runners! Runners and volunteers had a great time at our celebratory post-race breakfast.

(Continued on page 6)

November Songs and Celebration To Benefit School Partnerships

On November 24, the Washington Lawyers' Committee will hold its 4th Annual Evening of Song and Celebration for the benefit of the Committee and the Education Project's School Partnership Program. This year's event, a tribute to Pete Seeger, will take place at the Jewish Community Center at 16th and Q Streets, NW, in Washington, D.C.

As in past years, the benefit will include wonderful music and a raffle featuring spectacular prizes. Famed singer-songwriter Tom Paxton, the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices, and the Wilson High School Concert Choir will perform songs inspired by movements for social justice. Tom Paxton, whose singing and songwriting career spans more than 50 years, will receive a Performing Artist Lifetime Achievement Award from the Committee at the event.

Jubilee Voices which preserves and celebrates African American songs and traditions, will perform songs that survived their roots as slave songs and spirituals to become anthems for freedom and social justice during the civil rights movement.

Spectacular raffle prizes include trips to Paris, New York, and Chicago, as well as a sports and entertainment package, and a collection of fine wines.

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WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

P R O G R A M

E R S P E C T I V E



Elinor Hart
Coordinator
DC Public School
Partnership Program

As another school year gets underway, we are delighted to announce four new school partnerships: **Carr Maloney** with Seaton Elementary School, **Price Benowitz** with the Incarcerated Youth Program, **Savills Studley** with Hendley Education Campus, and **Venable** with Kelly Miller Middle School.

This is a busy fall for the School Partnership Program. At the beginning of October, we had a record turnout of over 100 attendees at our Back-to-School Partnership Luncheon for coordinators and principals at **Akin Gump**. On November 24, we will hold our annual Celebration of Song benefit for the Committee and the

School Partnership Program. Our Fall city-wide GeoPlunge Geography Tournament will be held on December 11 at the National Portrait Gallery. In addition, a number of firms will be involving their partner schools and students in the creation of holiday season cards.

The popular geography game GeoPlunge enriches the lives of students, coaches, and volunteers whose participation make the tournaments run smoothly. The students' competitive spirit fills the National Portrait Gallery with energy.

This issue of our school partnership newsletter features other competitive opportunities (on pages 1, 6, and 7) that contribute to student development. Resources that make it easy to connect students to these opportunities are also described. Scrabble and chess help students grow intellectually and socially, while Girls on the Run contributes to their physical and emotional development. The Girls on the Run program is also a big hit with women at **Goodwin Procter** and **Kirkland & Ellis**.

Our Spring newsletter featured the variety of ways that law firms have been helping students at their partner schools improve reading skills. Students also need help with their math skills. **Sidley & Austin** discovered that 24 Challenge, described on page 10, offers students and their mentors an entertaining way to become more proficient at math.

Here's to a great school year for our school partnerships and the students at our partner schools.

Elinor Hart
Coordinator
DC Public School Partnership Program

SCHOOL PARTNER'S

Goodwin Procter LLP has had a rewarding school partnership with West Education Campus since 2010. Each year, our partnership grows stronger and continues to expand.

Our two longest-standing programs are GeoPlunge and Good Read. GeoPlunge is a geography competition that teaches the students both U.S. geography and critical thinking skills. Goodwin volunteers work with the students at West each year to prepare them for seasonal GeoPlunge tournaments. Our Good Read program helps students improve their reading and writing skills.

Goodwin volunteers visit West once a month to read with their third-grade Good Read “buddies” and help them write journal entries about the books they are reading. The students are rewarded with prizes for the number of books they read and the quality of the journal entries they write. At the end of the year, there is a field trip to Goodwin’s office complete with a mock trial put on by Goodwin attorneys, paralegals, case assistants and staff.

Our partnership activities also include participation in the annual DCPS Beautification Day and in a Career Day. One year, Goodwin ran a book drive and collected over 400 books for the library at West.

This past year, for the first time Goodwin’s Women’s Initiative sponsored West’s Girls on the Run team. Girls on the Run is a youth development program for girls in grades 3 through 8 that culminates in a running event. Female attorneys from Goodwin participated in weekly Girls on the Run practices at West, hosted the West students and coaches at our office for a pre-5K celebration and ran the end-of-season 5K with the West team.

What makes our partnership with West so successful is the broad range of programs



Cameron L. Contizano
Associate and
School Partnership Coordinator
Goodwin Procter LLP

in which we participate – there is something for everyone. People can get involved based on their own interests and according to their own schedules, but the constant thread through it all is that we come together as a firm to give back to our community and invest in the education and success of our West students.

We are honored to work side-by-side with the dedicated teachers and principal at West to continue to make our school partnership program even better. We look forward to all that is in store in the years ahead!

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Y



Beautification volunteers and their families from Venable LLP at Kelly Miller Middle School.

Law Firm Volunteers Turn Out for Schools' Beautification Day

On Saturday, August 23, law firm volunteers turned out in large numbers to help "spruce up" school buildings as part of the DC Public Schools' Beautification Day.

"We had a great time!" reported Andrew Hernacki from **Venable**. "In total we had about 22 volunteers throughout the day. We started the day by planting new flowers throughout the front of the school, and even the torrential rain could not stop us. Our volunteers also helped several teachers to move classrooms and set up supplies, books, and decorations in their new rooms. Many of our volunteers commented on how modern and inviting Kelly Miller Middle School is, and several mentioned that they wished they had gone to a school as nice as Kelly Miller when they were kids!"

"The **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton** team was at McKinley Technology High School in full force with 15 volunteers," said Steve Archibald. "The team was divided up. Some volunteers helped teachers to reorganize classrooms, clean interior windows and hallway displays; while others did general landscape maintenance and cleaned trash from the stadium. Overall, it was a successful day for both our Cleary team and for McKinley."

The 15 volunteers that **Goodwin Procter** sent to West Education Campus made a lot of progress both inside and outside despite the rain. Outside, they landscaped the area around the front of the building and prepped the butterfly garden. Inside projects included creating bulletin boards in the cafeteria, lobby, and library. "It was a fun day, and we look forward to next year," said Kartik Venguswamy.

"Volunteers from **Bryan Cave** worked inside and out at Burroughs Education Campus," reported Oluseyi Iwarere. "The outsiders got soaked but had a great time clearing weed-choked vegetable and flower gardens, planting flowers, and spreading mulch. Inside, volunteers helped with cleaning tasks such as wiping down lockers and cleaning windows and trophy cases."

Mayer Brown and **Pepper Hamilton** also volunteered at Duke Ellington School for the Arts.

Citywide GeoPlunge Contest Set for December 11 At National Portrait Gallery

The annual Fall citywide GeoPlunge Challenge Tournament will be held on December 11 from 9:00 AM to 2:45 PM at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery on the corner of 7th and F Streets, NW.

Three-person teams made up of students in grades 3 through 8 from all DC public elementary and middle schools will be invited to participate in the tournament.

The tournament sponsors are the Committee's Public School Partnership Program, **Arent Fox**, and the DC Public Schools. The Committee and Arent Fox are also actively recruiting coaches and sponsors for GeoPlunge teams from individual schools.

This year, a record number of firms is expected to be involved in coaching teams for the tournament, and a record number of teams is expected to compete. Over 50 team sponsors are needed for this year's tournament.

GeoPlunge is an award-winning set of geography games created by Arent Fox attorney Alan Fishel. As one student describes it, "GeoPlunge is a very educational game. It helps you with a lot of things you should learn—border states, capitals, top cities—everything you want to know about cities and states."

(Continued on page 10)



Oluseyi Iwarere from Bryan Cave plants flowers at Burroughs Education Campus.



GeoPlunge team from Noyes Education Campus makes a critical decision during last fall's tournament.

Fundraising Guide & Toolkit Being Developed For School Partnerships

The Education Project is developing a *School Partnership Fundraising Guide & Toolkit* to help law firms, schools, and parent organizations, and other community partners decide which fundraising vehicle best suits their needs—and then implement it. The Guide will analyze and compare the different fundraising options for DCPS schools and their parent organizations, identifying the pros, cons, and other issues to consider. The corresponding Toolkit will provide practical advice on how to establish and maintain fundraising mechanisms for schools and/or their parent organizations, including specific resources, forms, and contacts.

Toolkits, guides, and reports such as this provide another way that the Washington Lawyers' Committee seeks to support our committed school partners as they help make neighborhood public schools better for every student in the District!

With the leadership of Kari Twaite and Nathan Darling at **Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.**, and the pro bono assistance of a working group that includes attorneys from **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**, **Dentons US LLP**, and **Squire Patton Boggs**, this *Guide & Toolkit* is scheduled to be published by Summer 2015.

To be a part of the working group or otherwise assist with the development of this *Guide & Toolkit*, contact Kent Withycombe (Kent Withycombe@washlaw.org) or Kiva Zytznick (Kiva Zytznick@washlaw.org) They can also be reached at (202) 319-1000.

COMPETING

ON THE FRONT



Kirkland Ellis/Marie Reed Girls on the Run Team. The Kirkland women (L/R): Jessica Pettit, Tracie Bryant, Elizabeth Dalmut, and Jennifer Levy.

Goodwin Procter Women and Girls at West (Cont'd)

One of the most rewarding aspects of our partnership has been the ability to continue our relationship with the students at West. Goodwin first started working with West Education Campus in 2010 when our attorneys began coaching teams of students participating in GeoPlunge. The following year, the firm established its "Good Read" program at the school to encourage and reward good reading habits among third-grade students.

We first met several of our Girls on the Run participants through the GeoPlunge and Good Read programs. We have had the opportunity to build strong relationships with these students and see them grow academically and individually.

Goodwin Procter is immensely proud of the girls who participated in the Girls on the Run program and of all the students at West. We look forward to exploring more ways to get involved with such an impressive group of young students in the future.

Kimberly Karcewski Vargo is Counsel and Co-Leader of the Women's Initiative in Goodwin Procter LLP's Washington, D.C. office.

Girls on the Run at Marie Reed Supported by Kirkland & Ellis

In September, **Kirkland & Ellis** and Marie Reed Elementary School kicked-off their third season of Girls on the Run. A group of K&E women attorneys help coach the team of 15 third- and fourth-grade girls. The K&E women teach the girls practical, every-day tools to tackle hard issues, such as peer pressure, bullying, and positive self-image. Girls on the Run has become a focal point around which K&E female attorneys have rallied together to serve their community.

Girls on the Run - DC is a nonprofit organization, serving girls across all eight wards of the District. Each season consists of a 20-lesson curriculum with three core components: understanding oneself; valuing relationship and teamwork; and understanding how to connect with and shape the world at large. The season culminates in a 5K run for the entire DC Girls on the Run community. This year's 5K is scheduled for December 7, 2014. More information on Girls on the Run can be found at: www.gotrdc.org.



Goodwin Procter/West Girls on the Run Team. The Goodwin women in navy blue T-shirts (L/R), back row: Katie Shinnors, Katya Lazarev, So-Eun Lee, Britanie Hall, and Christy Harrison; middle row: Alese Bagdol, Alicia Rubio, Kimberly Vargo, Lindsay Lane, and Cameron Contizano.



Nora Awad and Deon Ray from J.O. Wilson Elementary School at the spring Scrabble tournament.

Scrabble Clubs Involve Students In Competition and Learning

Over half a dozen DC schools have Scrabble clubs. Scrabble helps students to develop vocabulary, spelling, math and spatial relation skills.

J.O. Wilson Elementary School's clubs for 4th and 5th graders meet with their coaches from the **U.S. Courts** once a week. Scrabble clubs from J. O. Wilson participate in tournaments twice a year.

Tracy Scarrow, who coaches Scrabble players from J.O. Wilson for the U.S. Courts, recommends that new Scrabble clubs have one coach for every eight students or four 2-person teams. "It is important to be able to give individual attention to students who are learning the game," she says.

The equipment needed for a Scrabble club includes a Scrabble game and a dictionary for every four students and a Cheat Sheet for every two person team. The Cheat Sheet has lists of words that work well in scrabble games. It can be found on Stefan Fastis' blog, <http://www.dcschoolscrabble.blogspot.com/>. Stefan Fastis is a scrabble expert, author and journalist. His blog has many helpful resources for scrabble coaches.

When the coaches from the U.S. Courts launched the Scrabble clubs at J.O. Wilson, they focused on getting the students to play and enjoy the game. After the clubs got underway, the coaches introduced the students to a new aspect of the game each week.

The message from Tracy and her colleagues from the U.S. Courts to law firm volunteers thinking about Scrabble coaching at their partner schools: "You will have a lot of fun, and so will your students."

Ancient Game of Chess Engages 21st Century Students

Chess was invented 1500 years ago in India. Since then, it has spread to every country in the world and is played by an estimated 700 million people, including several thousand students in grades 3 through 12 in the National Capital Area.

Chess improves both academic performance and social skills, according to research cited on the U.S. Chess Center's website, www.chessctr.org.

If you want to explore the possibility of chess as a partnership activity, a good first step would be to consult the U.S. Chess Center's website. It has valuable information and resources, including a 12-week curriculum.

You can also contact David Mehler, founder of the U.S. Chess Center. He has helped introduce hundreds of D.C. students to chess and can be reached at 202-857-4922. The Chess Center provides a variety of opportunities for students to be involved in chess competition.

Chess Challenge in D.C. (<http://chesschallengeindc.org/>) is another organization that involves DC school children in chess.



Young Washingtonian at an event organized by the U.S. Chess Center.

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Students from Watkins Elementary School with a butternut squash from their garden.

Gardens Successful at Growing Number of DC Schools

If your partner school has a garden on its wish list, this may be a good time for you to help the principal and teachers explore this possibility. Over 100 traditional DC public and charter schools have gardens, and there are significant resources available to support school garden efforts.

The DC Healthy Schools Act of 2010 created the city's School Garden Program. This program, coordinated by Sam Ullery in the Office of the State Superintendent for Education, offers a great many resources to school gardeners and potential school gardeners.

The School Garden Program's website (osse.dc.gov/service/school-garden-program-sgp) provides numerous tools, including a Checklist for Starting a School Garden, a DC Vegetable Planting Calendar, and a list of a dozen local organizations that support school garden efforts. The School Garden Program is also in charge of School Garden Grants for which both schools and organizations can apply.

One of the challenges for school garden projects is that watering, harvesting, and maintenance must be carried out when school is not in session. One way that schools are meeting this challenge is to offer parents and neighborhood volunteers picking rights and an area where they can grow food in exchange for summer volunteer areas.

The vegetable garden at Watkins Elementary School is at its peak in September and October. It is one of a number of schools that have aligned their vegetable sowing and harvesting with the academic year.

Free *Christmas Revels* Tickets Available for Student Groups

For over 30 years, Washington Revels has been entertaining audiences with festive, staged celebrations of the Winter Solstice based upon the traditional music, dance, and drama of different times and cultures. Each year, Revels has an outreach performance for which it offers 1400 free *Christmas Revels* tickets to student groups and others who do not have the resources to attend.

The outreach performance this year will be held on December 5, 7:30pm at Lisner Auditorium. Approximately 200 tickets are currently allocated to Public School Partnerships. Participating groups must provide their own transportation, and students must be in the third grade or higher. For additional information, please email info@revelsdc.org by October 25.

This year's *Christmas Revels* will be a high-energy celebration of the fierce spirit of mid-19th century Irish villagers who leave their beloved country for the United States. It begins with fiery music, rollicking songs, and vigorous dancing at a village pub, after which it follows the villagers as they sail to the new world on a three-masted schooner. Revels shows with Irish/Celtic themes have always been popular, and Revels believes that this year's cast (over 100 people ages 8-85) will be performing before large audiences.



Recent Christmas Revels performance.



Students from Hart Middle School in their test-taking T-shirts provided by Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft.

Morale During Testing Boosted by T-Shirts Provided by Cadwalader

As faculty and students at Hart Middle School were getting ready for standardized tests, Angel Cintron, who taught social studies, mentioned to Annie Mohan at **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft** that it would be cool to have T-shirts for the students on the day of the tests. So, Annie and her colleagues at Cadwalader organized a Jeans Day fundraiser to raise money for the T-shirts, and the firm provided additional funds.

On the day of the tests, every Hart student was wearing a Hart/Cadwalader T-shirt, with the slogan, "There's Smart. Then There's Hart Smart." The T-shirt also displayed the school's logo "Charles Hart Middle School HOME OF THE JETS," and of course, the name of the law firm.

"We thought it a great way to show the students our support and to get them familiar with the Cadwalader name," explains Annie Mohan who coordinates the firm's school partnership with Hart.

At first, the students were not as enthusiastic as Angel Cintron had expected. Their initial reaction to the T-shirts seemed lukewarm. But when they all showed up the next day in their new T-shirts, he knew they were a hit.

With 24 Challenge Students Have Fun With Math

One barrier for students in learning math is fear. The math game called “24 Challenge,” which **Sidley Austin** introduced to Thomson Elementary School, manages to replace fear with fun.

The game 24 Challenge is based on the number 24 being the right answer to a series of puzzles involving four single-digit numbers. The challenge is figuring out what combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to use with the numbers to get the answer 24. Thomson uses 24 Challenge during math instruction, and Sidley Austin volunteers play the card game with eager students during lunch periods and at other times when they are at the school.

GeoPlunge Tournament (Cont’d)

The geography games are played with a set of cards, each representing one of the 50 states. The tournament will include three different card games that combine geography and fun. *Guess the State* encourages students to learn the names of the 50 states. Playing *Race for the Borders* teaches participants where states are located geographically. When students *Play the Ranks*, they learn how the states rank in size, population and order of entry into the union.

Before last fall’s tournament, an advanced version of GeoPlunge was introduced to the GeoPlunge competition. Advanced GeoPlunge is faster-paced and requires greater knowledge of the states to do well. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are required to play the advanced version, while those in grades 3 to 5 have the option of playing either intermediate or advanced. This year, schools can bring up to four 3-person teams. However, schools bringing advanced teams are required to bring an even number of teams.

Arent Fox will again be a resource for training coaches and for providing the GeoPlunge cards. For information about cards and training, contact Shaunice Thomas at the firm. The Spring 2015 GeoPlunge Tournament will be held on May 19th at the National Portrait Gallery.

The competition in last fall’s GeoPlunge Challenge Tournament was fierce. The GeoPlunge intermediate champion in the November Tournament was Ludlow-Taylor Elementary, coached by **Veris Consulting**. The Comeback Award for the team that made the greatest



West/Goodwin Procter Beautification team. (L/R): Kiva Zytlick from Washington Lawyers’ Committee; West Principal Andria Caruthers; Kartik Venguswamy and Lindsay Lane from Goodwin Procter.

improvement during the afternoon was won by West Education Campus, coached by **Goodwin Procter**. Teams from Bancroft Elementary, coached by **K&L Gates**, and Thomas Elementary, coached by **DLA Piper**, won medals for Teamwork. Explorer Awards for teams that dramatically improved their performances went to Thomas Elementary and Savoy Elementary, coached by **Beveridge & Diamond**. Marie Reed Elementary School, coached by **Kirkland & Ellis**, won a medal for teamwork.

Last year, the Noyes Education Campus team, which competed for the first time and was coached by **Kelley Drye & Warren**, placed 10th out of 70. GeoPlunge was the first partnership activity for Kelley Drye and Noyes. According to partner Allan Lubarda, “It was a fantastic experience for us. Interacting with the kids was the highlight for everyone who participated, and that included support staff up to partners.”

Deal Middle School was the senior advanced champion and Shepherd Elementary was the junior advanced champion in the November tournament, while Janey and Murch Elementary Schools were also recognized for their achievement in the advanced competition.

In the Spring 2014 Tournament, the intermediate winners were Shepherd and Ludlow-Taylor Elementary Schools. The Advanced winners were Deal Middle School and Murch Elementary.

Benefit (Cont’d)

For ticket information, visit the Committee’s web site at www.washlaw.org.

PARTNERSHIPS

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Tyler Elementary School

Arent Fox
Randle Highlands Elementary School
Eastern Senior High School

Baker Botts
Roosevelt High School

Beveridge & Diamond
Savoy Elementary School

Bracewell & Giuliani
Brightwood Elementary School

BuckleySandler
Walker Jones Education Campus

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft
Hart Middle School

Carr Maloney
Seaton Elementary School

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
McKinley Technology High School

Coburn & Greenbaum
Incarcerated Youth Program

Covington & Burling
Cardozo Senior High School

Crowell & Moring
Plummer Elementary School

Deloitte
Raymond Education Campus

Dickstein Shapiro
Ellington School of the Arts

DLA Piper
Thomas Elementary School

Drinker Biddle & Reath
Ann Beers Elementary School

Epstein Becker & Green
Langley STEM Education Campus

Federal Highway Administration
Payne Elementary School

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson
School Without Walls High School

FTI Consulting
Tyler Elementary School

Gilbert
Eliot-Hine Middle School

Goodwin Procter
West Elementary School

Hogan Lovells
Kimball Elementary School

K&L Gates
Bancroft Elementary School

Kelley Drye & Warren
Noyes Education Campus

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
Middle School at Cardozo Education Campus

Kirkland & Ellis
Marie Reed Elementary School

McDermott Will & Emery
Stuart-Hobson Middle School

Paul Hastings
Garfield Elementary School

Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
Anacostia Senior High School

Pepper Hamilton
Stanton Elementary School

Perkins Coie
Powell Elementary School

Pierce Atwood
Patterson Elementary School

Price Benowitz
Incarcerated Youth Program

Reed Smith
Bruce Monroe at Park View Elementary School

Savills Studley
Hendley Education Campus

Shearman & Sterling
Ketcham Elementary School

Sidley Austin
Thomson Elementary School

Squire Patton Boggs
School Without Walls/Francis Stevens Education Campus

Steptoe & Johnson
H.D. Cooke Elementary School

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
Columbia Heights Education Campus

Tower Legal Solutions
Turner Elementary School

U.S. Courts for the District of Columbia Circuit
J.O. Wilson Elementary School

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
J.O. Wilson Elementary School

Venable
Kelly Miller Middle School

Veris Consulting
Ludlow Taylor Elementary School

Williams & Connolly
Dunbar Senior High School

Zuckerman Spaeder
Orr Elementary School



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2014-2015 **SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP** **DATES**

Saturday, August 23, 2014

DCPS Beautification Day

Thursday, October 2, 2014

School Partnership Luncheon
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

John Burke Pro Bono Breakfast
Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel

Monday, November 24, 2014

Celebration of Song Benefit at Theatre J,
Washington DC Jewish Community Center

Thursday, December 11, 2014

10th Annual Citywide GeoPlunge Tournament
National Portrait Gallery

Partnership Luncheons will be held at
Akin Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld

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