

HIGH FIVE *Current accomplishments*



"I remember a couple of years back, a homeless guy came up to me but didn't ask for money; he just told me he really liked my suit."

EBONG EKA

Occupation Certified public accountant and fashion designer

Home Falls Church

Achievement Though Eka's day job has him immersed in numbers and finance, he's always had an eye for style. Now he's doing more than just taking his friends shopping. He's launching a line of high-end menswear called Mi Chiamo Eka. On Aug. 5, a fashion show at K Street Lounge will allow several of D.C.'s eligible bachelors to strut their stuff as they show off the suits. Proceeds benefit the Hoop Dreams Scholarship Fund.



"What I've realized this year is I'm a very good listener."

GARY ALTMAN

Occupation Founder, Altman & Associates

Home Potomac

Achievement Altman just won the Financial Planning Association of the National Capital Area's 2008 Norma Severns Leadership Award — but he's not even a practicing financial planner. The estate planning lawyer, though, was active in the organization for years and has been recognized by Washingtonian magazine as one of the area's best in his field. His secrets? Taking his clients' goals to heart rather than imposing his own values, knowing the law and being a great writer, Altman said.



"We're trying to put a small chunk into the puzzle of how the universe came to be."

ELYSSE VOYER

Occupation Graduate student

Home Alexandria

Achievement Voyer will spend the next three years researching galaxy evolution at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, after securing a prestigious research fellowship. She will use computer programs and photographs from the Hubble space telescope, trying to identify how galaxies near the Earth first formed.



"I started playing piano at age 6, have been singing professionally and started into arts administration even before I graduated college."

RUSSEL P. ALLEN

Occupation Incoming executive director, The Washington Ballet

Relocating from Winter Park, Fla.

Achievement Allen's new position, which he starts Sept. 2, is a homecoming for the established arts executive — he's originally from McLean. In his new role, he hopes to expand the company, one of the country's top groups, to a number of new markets and enhance its ballet school.

"My husband was sick for 20 years and passed away in September. Around November I sat down and asked myself, 'What do I do now?'"



CINDY SALYARDS

Occupation Co-leader of the Grace Mission Network; co-owner of the Bond & Bowery Web portal

Home Chantilly

Achievement After befriending a number of Ghanaian immigrants in her neighborhood and at her church, Salyards was inspired to visit Ghana herself to see what needs were there. After a trip to Accra and surrounding areas, she set up the Grace Mission Network to bring electricity to schools and assistance to orphanages. Last week, she opened up her home to more than 100 guests for a presentation featuring African food and music, in the hopes of raising funds for the country.

A LIFE WELL LIVED



COURTESY PHOTO

Schechter says he is "very fortunate to lead a diverse life."

Peter Schechter *Renaissance Man*

Goat farmer. Consultant. Winery owner. Linguist. Novelist. Restaurateur.

After a while, you start to wonder whether Peter Schechter prefers his martinis shaken, not stirred. Though at his day job he's one of the founding members of the international public relations firm Chlopak, Leonard, Schechter and Associates, it's his side gigs and hobbies that make him even more compelling.

He was one of the first investors in Jose Andres' D.C. restaurant group, and is co-owner of his cousin's Israeli Agur Winery. His first novel, "Point Of Entry," used weapons of mass destruction as a plot point and sold 11,000 copies. He's got another thriller coming next year. And along the way, he managed to pick up six languages and raises more than 100 goats a year with his wife on their Muddy Run Farm in Culpeper. "Washington's a very passionate city, but I think it's often a monochromatic city," Schechter said. "I've been very fortunate to lead a diverse life." — *Melissa Frederick*



AP

It's a horse!

Two baby foals were born at the Smithsonian's National Zoo Conservation and Research Center on June 27. The still-unnamed foals are the offspring of horses Frog and Maja; one is a filly and the other a colt.

The foals were conceived as part of a North American breed-

ing program to boost the number of Przewalski's horses, which were declared extinct in the wild in 1970 and are native to China and Mongolia. About 1,500 such horses are living worldwide in zoos and small reintroduced populations in Asia. — *Melissa Frederick*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES

1789

THE STORMING AND DESTRUCTION OF THE BASTILLE PRISON MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. BASTILLE DAY IS CELEBRATED ANNUALLY IN D.C. BY THE BRASSERIE LES HALLES

WITH A CELEBRATION AND WAITER AND WAITRESS RACE. THE EVENT BEGINS AT 11:30 A.M. TODAY AT 1201 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. N.W.

1862

BIRTHDAY OF FLORENCE BASCOM

(JULY 14, 1862-JUNE 18, 1945), AN AMERICAN GEOLOGIST WHO WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO RECEIVE A DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY AND WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO PRESENT A SCIENTIFIC PAPER AT THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHING-

TON. SHE WORKED FOR THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

1913

GERALD R. FORD WAS BORN LESLIE LYNCH KING JR. IN OMAHA, NEB. HIS MOTHER'S SECOND

HUSBAND, GERALD FORD, GAVE HIM HIS NAME. THE YOUNG FORD WENT ON TO BECOME THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT TO ASSUME OFFICE AFTER A PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION, WHEN PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON STEPPED DOWN IN 1974.