



TRAVEL OUR VIRTUAL HIGHWAY WASHINGTON D.C. AT A GLANCE

ISSUE NO. 3



SMITHSONIAN A MISSION TO ENGAGE AND INSPIRE

Established by James Smithson "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge" the Smithsonian is the largest museum, educational, and research complex in the world; comprised of nineteen museums and one zoological park. Smithson bequeathed his entire estate to the advancement of knowledge

in the United States, a country he had never even visited. His story and the rich history of this institution is honored in the Castle, the original Romanesque structure designed by James Renwick, Jr. in 1846. Their vision to engage and inspire more people, where they are, can be **Explored at www.si.edu**

The Smithsonian Magazine has compiled 10 additional museums from around the world to visit while at home. **Take a Virtual Tour at www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/ten-museums-you-can-virtually-visit**



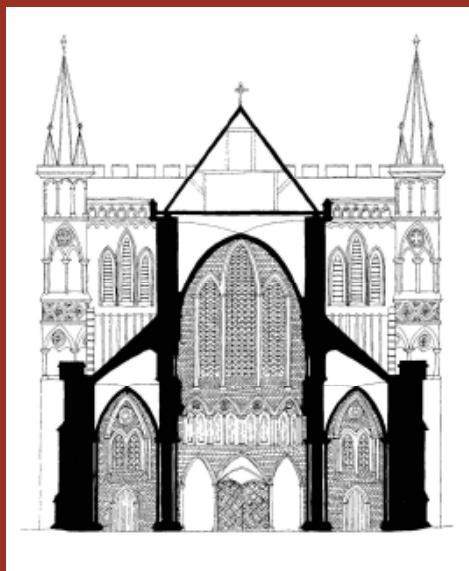
CHERRY BLOSSOMS MEAN SPRING HAS ARRIVED

Spring is here! Washington's famous Cherry Blossom Festival symbolize the brevity and beauty in our lives. In 1912 the Mayor of Tokyo, Japan gifted 3,000 trees to the capital as a sign of friendship. Over 100 years later the tradition continues with both cities celebrating The Yoshino tree and their magnificent blooms. **Follow the trees on the Bloom Cam at www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom**



THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL ART, MUSIC AND A FEW FRIENDLY FACES

Inspired by the role of Westminster Abbey the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul (aka The National Cathedral) was designed as a national venue for great services and celebrations. With the cornerstone set in 1907 by Pres. Roosevelt and its final finial stone set in 1990 by Pres. Bush the Neo-Gothic structure emulating some of the great European cathedrals fulfills Architect Pierre L'Enfant's original vision. Art, music, stained glass and 200 gargoyle and grotesques carvings, with the most unusual being Darth Vader, The Cathedral welcomes and inspires. [Learn more at www.cathedral.org/what-to-see](http://www.cathedral.org/what-to-see)



Although the science behind building a huge cathedral may seem complex, it breaks down to a system of very manageable pieces. To better understand design and construction, and the forces that are constantly at work on all structures read **What It Feels Like To Be A Building** by Forrest Wilson. This illustrated classic quite literally brings architecture to life. Check It Out at your local library.



This is how it feels to be a cathedral with walls that stand up while they push straight down, topped by butting beams that push out and flying buttresses that take to the air to push them back again.

Architecture brings history to life. While in college I had a class affectionately referred to as "Fun and Death". The course was actually Religious and Funerary Architecture, and I was captivated by it. The symbolism designed into these cultural buildings taught me more about its people than any history class ever had; and forever changed the way I interact with the built environment. I challenge you to learn the basics and see if the same doesn't happen to you.

Stay healthy,
Becky



CRYPTOGRAM - QUOTE

" — A N N N A C E D T E V P J R B X
S O T J G X K P E X G T O W G P M E D T E V P J R B X
— C N C A N N C A N X E B P J R B X N C A W J O B Z ."
R D D G W G R X W M O X L X E B P J R B X — N N
— N Y E J X D N R X X R L M

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
O	W												X												



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