

# SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2006 – 2007**

March 26, 2007

"The objectives of the Assembly shall be to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Southwest; to open to every Southwest resident the wide cultural horizon of urban living; to help create rich and equal social, educational, and economic opportunities for every boy and girl of the Southwest; to assist in providing the opportunity for gainful employment for every adult resident; to promote development of the economic and aesthetic potential of the Southwest. These objectives shall be pursued without regard to the social, economic and racial barriers that have divided cities in the past."

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# **SWNA 2006-2007 Officers and Board Members:**

President:Marge Maceda1st District Representatives:Lida Churchville and Perry KleinVice-President:Tom Heinemann2nd District Representatives:Ron McBee and Patricia PattersonSecretary:Meg Brinckman3rd District Representatives:Bill Brawner and Carolyn MitchellTreasurer:Ellen Winship4th District Representatives:Ken LaCruise and Vanessa Ruffin

**Task Forces:** 

The Southwester: Dale MacIver and Carole Early

Youth Activities: Jean Macdonald Scholarship: Barbara Murray

History: Lida Churchville and Ron McBee

Website: Perry Klein

**Advisory Board:** 

Naomi Monk Thelma Jones Beryl Rice

Delmar Weathers

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# **Message from the President**

Marge Maceda, President

Could it be this time of the year so soon? The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly has had a busy and rewarding year.

We started the year with a forum on Tenant's Rights and heard from many of our neighbors and friends how difficult it has become to be a renter. Laws have not stopped the "95/5" rule and we still need to support our SW tenants in their struggles.

SWNA held its major fund-raiser for this year and we offered a fantastic Jazz Concert featuring Ben Sands. Ben, by the way was one of the first people to receive a scholarship from SWNA many years ago. He told us that he used his money to buy a saxophone and the rest as they say, is history. Ben became a wonderful musician and gave back to his community by becoming a music teacher at a DCPS high School. The money raised helped all of our programs.

Disaster Preparation supported by SWNA during this past year was a great success. Sixteen Southwest residents completed a course sponsored by Serve DC, a DC Citizen Corp Program, entitled Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Eight units of study included how to recognize and prepare for hazards that threaten personal, family and community safety and the role and responsibilities of CERT Team members in times of disasters. At the end of eight weeks, participants who had met all the requirements for participation received Certificates of Completion as well as Emergency Preparation Kits. This event was arranged by Beryl Rice with refreshments by Thelma Jones.

In October, we hosted one of the most exciting Candidates forums in the city. We had more that 300 people and all of the candidates! A very special thanks goes out to Arena Stage for the use of their facility.

As the President of SWNA, I look forward to being invited to be a judge for the Parade of Boats featured annually during the holiday season. If you have never seen the event, clear your calendar for that first weekend in December. It is truly an amazing sight.

January brought the swearing in of our newly elected government and ANC representatives. To celebrate the occasion, SWNA hosted a congratulatory evening catered by Southwest's own Island Caterers. Good food, good leaders and good community people! What more could we ask for.

The community and all its representatives always come out for the Annual Black History Program. This year was no exception. Students and PTA's from all our local schools and groups throughout SW offering services to our neighbors presented a fabulous presentation. A special thanks goes out to Ms. Thelma Jones who arranges this most informative and special show each year.

So many people have made our work a blessing to do. ANC Commissioner Bob Siegel supported the Jazz concert in a very special way. Monument Realty made a sizable donation to our scholarship fund. Waterfront and AWC and NCRC choosing to work with the community rather than just doing a project all help us get the best that we can have. Naomi Monk always gets the word out using her skills to inform us through e-mail. St. Augustine's church graciously shared its building with us and with St. Matthews when they decided to rebuild.

Where would we be without The Southwester? Dale MacIver and Carole Early and all the writers get kudos for putting out the best and most welcome piece of mail we all get!

This year donations for the Scholarship Fund allowed a new group of Southwest young people to have a little extra when they get to their campus.

Please become a part of the Assembly and be an active member of your community. Our meetings are generally held on the fourth Monday of the month at St. Augustine's Church. Please join us.

# SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY

# **Statement of Operations**

January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006

	Scholarship	Southwester	Youth	History	TOTAL	General	TOTAL
Balance 1/1/2006	\$3,967.63	\$2,087.45	\$8,902.81	\$14,562.94	\$29,520.83	\$5,891.58	\$35,412.41
INCOME							
Contributions	\$8,860.00		\$2,886.00	\$25.00	\$11,771.00		\$11,771.00
Program		\$25,410.84			\$25,410.84	\$7,910.00	\$33,320.84
Total Income	\$8,860.00	\$25,410.84	\$2,886.00	\$25.00	\$37,181.84	\$7,910.00	\$45,091.84
EXPENSES							
Program	\$9,700.00	\$25,709.92	\$7,417.45		\$42,827.37	\$4,168.80	\$46,996.17
Fund Raising	\$174.62		\$333.12		\$507.74		\$507.74
Administrative							
Haymaker & Assoc. (audit)						\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Insurance						\$1,701.00	\$1,701.00
Post Office Box	\$74.00	\$74.00	\$37.00		\$185.00	\$37.00	\$222.00
Postage & Stationery						\$13.75	\$13.75
Verizon (telephone)						\$779.73	\$779.73
Supplies		\$83.22			\$83.22		\$83.22
Master Business License						\$253.00	\$253.00
Meetings					\$0.00	\$650.00	\$650.00
Bank charges						\$108.00	\$108.00
Total	\$74.00	\$157.22	\$37.00	\$0.00	\$268.22	\$4,542.48	\$4,810.70
Total Expenses	\$9,948.62	\$25,867.14	\$7,787.57	\$0.00	\$43,603.33	\$8,711.28	\$52,314.61
Balance 12/31/06	\$2,879.01	\$1,631.15	\$4,001.24	\$14,587.94	\$23,099.34	\$5,090.30	\$28,189.64

# **History Task Force Annual Report**

Ron McBee and Lida Churchville, HTF Co-Chairs

### In the past year, the History Task Force (HTF) has accomplished the following:

HTF supported the historical designation of the Benjamin Banneker Park, the most endangered commemorative site in Southwest DC. Banneker (1731-1806), America's first African American man of science and mathematics, was a member of the team charged with surveying land for the District of Columbia. In 1971, Historian Louise Hutchinson led the effort to name the park for Banneker, making it not only the first public space in the District named for an African American, but also the only site near the National Mall dedicated to the memory of a man of color. Benjamin Banneker Park, one of several designs in Southwest by the dean of American landscape architects, Daniel Urban Kiley, occupies one of the most dramatic sites in the District of Columbia, and it deserves to keep that place.

Carolyn Crouch, of Washington Walks, joined Perry Klein and Ron McBee, in supporting a HTF walking tour of the old Jewish community located along 4<sup>th</sup> Street, the primary settlement location for the Washington Jewish community. The tour of about 75 people was sponsored by Rabbis Herzfeld and Pollak of Ohev Sholom – The National Synagogue and led by Larry Rosen, a former SW resident from 1927-1943, who lived in the famous Al Jolson home at 713 4th Street (formerly 4 ½ Street SW) and was a member of Talmud Torah Synagogue, located then at 467 E Street SW (behind the 1st District Police Station). Mr. Rosen brought along photographs and memorabilia that helped congregation members recall their own memories of the people who lived and worked in SW before WWII.

HTF celebrated the selection of the Zelkova serratta tree located at G & 6th Place SW, considered by many to be the oldest living inhabitant of SW, as the 11th largest tree and the largest Zelkova in Washington, as part of its Living Legacy program.

The HTF sponsored a presentation, "Southwest Renewal Area Revisited," at Arena's Old Vat Room by graduate students at GW's American Studies program in Historic Preservation. The students, under the direction of Dr. Richard Longstreth, a renowned authority on mid-century architecture, reported on their 2006 study of the 562-acre SW Redevelopment Land Agency (RLA) to an audience of over 140 people.

Copies of "Modernism Meets Feminism – Chloethiel Woodard Smith and the Architecture of Southwest DC," by Dr. Catherine W. Zipf, were distributed by the HTF. The publication, supported by the Capitol Park Monument Mitigation Grant Fund, is posted on the SWNA Website - www.swdc.org.

HTF members participated in the 33rd Annual Conference on DC Historical Studies held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. The Letita Brown Memorial Lecture was given by Lonnie G. Bunch, Executive Director, of the new National Museum of African American History & Culture to be located on the National Mall. Members also participated in the "Our Stories, Our Voices, Our City," a DC Community Heritage Project, and attended the "Community Organizations Fundraising Workshop" sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

## **Ongoing History Task Force projects:**

Our former HTF Chair Margaret Feldman retired to New York State before the City Arts group even began to work on her Southwest Tunnel dream. We hope Margaret will return to visit DC to see artists in the process of installing 2,400 square feet of decorative mosaic to the walls of the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Tunnel where it joins Maine Avenue SW next to Waterfront Marina and Market. So far, the designs include a wonderful water bird and a stylized fish mosaic on tunnel walls leading into our Waterfront neighborhood.

HTF members are concerned about the plight of the Southwest Heritage Trail signs during the planned development of the waterfront and the reconfiguration of the Waterside Mall area. Installed only two years ago, the "From River Farms to Urban Towers" trail consists of 17 poster-sized signs featuring historic tales providing a self-guided walking tour of Southwest for tourists, school groups and SW residents. The Southwest Heritage Trail is sponsored by

CulturalTourism DC (CTdc), but the historical content on the SW trail signs was provided by HTF, when chaired by SW activist Margaret Feldman. CulturalTourismDC 's historian has assured HTF that CTdc is keeping an eye on the trail signs and care will be taken to protect them during construction. Currently, the entire trail is within a few blocks of the Waterfront, but HTF supports expanding the Southwest Heritage Trail in the future. With the development of the Anacostia River and the opening of the baseball stadium at South Capitol, it makes sense to recognize more of Southwest's historical heritage.

HTF supports the recommendations put forward by the University of Maryland's graduate report, *The History of Old Southwest*, covering Buzzard Point, James Creek and Syphax Gardens in late 2005. These areas will be the focus of great change in the next few years (HTF supported the work done by Hayden Wetzel and the DC Preservation League in Near SE to document and record possible historical buildings). HTF supports making the findings better known by SW residents and their representatives on the City Council and in Congress. Although the report is available in the Southwest Library and online at <a href="https://www.dcpreservation.org">www.dcpreservation.org</a>, a SWNA public meeting featuring the report and its findings could create an interest in, and possible adoption of, the study's findings.

Progress on the "SW Call Box" project continues. As of January 15, 2007, members of the Call Box Committee have located and photographed 28 call boxes in SW. Several call boxes listed on an earlier survey in 2000 have disappeared. With this in mind, and with the construction due to begin in SW, it is necessary that the Call Box Committee do all it can to save abandoned police and fire call boxes and restore them as community art as soon as possible. The good news for this year is that CulturalTourismDC is planning to add staff and possibly more neighborhood funding to *Art on Call*, their citywide callbox restoration effort. With our work plan in hand, the Call Box Committee seeks to find volunteers, including interested artists, and funding to complete the project.

Beryl Rice, past SWNA President, has taken on a special SW history project to document the use of water transportation by SW churches to provided recreational outings to such destinations as Marshall Hall on the Potomac. Louis Jefferson, who started and popularized a tourist industry on the SW waterfront, was featured in the SW: Then & Now photo exhibit at Waterside Mall. Dr. Rice is looking at church-related material on SW water traffic in the past.

Although the HTF removed the *SW: Then & Now* exhibit at the Waterfront Mall at the request of Waterfront Associates who are anticipating demolition and construction with the redevelopment of the Waterfront Mall starting in Spring 2007, the collection of SW photographs will survive. The *SW: Then & Now* exhibit will become a webbased collection feature on the SWNA Website. This project is under the new direction of Mary Ternes who recently discovered that our exhibit had photos by Joseph Curtis not found in the Washingtoniana collection of Curtis' work. Born in Southwest, Joseph Curtis, who lived at Tiber Island before his death in January 2005, was featured on the *SW Remembered* documentary. HTF is now looking for members of Mr. Curtis' family to collaborate on putting his photograph collection on a CD. If anyone has knowledge of his nephew, Donald J. Curtis, or his cousin, Marjorie W. Vernon, please contact SWNA.

More on photography: the HTF is working on a project with the SW Library to house and maintain documents and video projects on the history of SW. Diane Henry, SW Library Librarian, was provided with two copies of SW Remembered on DVD. Our HTF is trying to locate funding to install photographs in our SW Library on historic and important places in SW. Plans are to include a curriculum for students at Jefferson Jr. High School and to engage our youth in SW efforts to select sites and events to be displayed.

**In honor of our teachers:** The HTF is very excited about all the preservation interests exhibited in SW by our fellow SW residents. We would also like to pay tribute to Dr. Richard Longstreth and George Washington University for having their graduate students participate in our community for two semesters.

# SWNA Southwest DC Web Project (www.swdc.org)

SWNA's Web-site, <a href="www.swdc.org">www.swdc.org</a> was established eight years ago to furnish information for the Southwest community and to acquaint those not living in Southwest with life in Southwest. Besides giving useful links to various aspects of life in the SW quadrant of D.C., it links also to SW and elected District representatives. It also archives *The Southwester* issues back to 1999, and it contains a search box to search the web site or past issues of *The Southwester* by name or topic.

Over the 2006 calendar year, the home page recorded over 44,000 visits, an average of about 120 a day. We are looking into ways of making the web site even more useful, such as adding a camera to monitor traffic on Maine Avenue in real-time.

Our thanks go to Sherry Klein, who maintains the site and to Eda Robinson, who designed it.

# SWNA Scholarship Committee Annual Report

Barbara Murray, Chair

This is the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the SWNA Scholarship Program. Over the past three decades, the community-supported fund has helped more than 200 neighborhood youth achieve their educational goals by providing grants for college. These grants of financial support help to defray the cost of tuition, purchase the ever-increasing textbooks, provide for small necessities, or pay for a trip home when a student is feeling homesick.

In school year 2005-2006, thirteen (13) students were given grants totaling \$9,700 due to the generosity of Southwest residents. This generosity allowed the all-volunteer SWNA Scholarship Task Force the opportunity to assist these 13 students achieve their educational goals. Individual student awards ranged from \$700 to \$1,000. Trinity College freshman, Shakira Thomas was selected to receive the Friends of River Park \$1,000 award, and Morehouse freshman Jamal Hansberry received the Westminster Presbyterian \$1,000 award.

#### The Students

Any student who lives in "near Southwest" D.C. (zip code 20024) and has been accepted to an accredited college or post-secondary institution is eligible to be considered for a grant. A personal interview, scholastic achievement, financial need and community service are considered when making the awards.

Because of the varied housing and income levels of Southwest, our scholarship recipients come from public housing, subsidized housing (Section8) and middle-income residences.

One student's expression of appreciation follows:

Throughout the last two and one-half years of receiving this scholarship, I have really appreciated the financial support that the SWNA has extended to me......

Currently, I am a senior at Hampton University and I have just completed the first semester. Thus far, I have had a great year (made the dean's list). Also I am applying to graduate schools in the DC metropolitan area. I plan to come back to Washington, D.C. for graduate school so that I may work with the District of Columbia Public School System, particularly with my old elementary school, Margaret M. Amidon. .....My dream and goal is to become a successful child and family psychologist, and I am taking the correct steps (acquiring the required credentials) to achieve this goal. Moreover, I believe attaining a quality education is the only way I can become successful in my career, and I appreciate SWNA contributing and supporting my education.

Scholarship recipients for year 2006:

Allen C. Dobbins, Jr. (VA Union)
Jamal Hansberry (Morehouse)
Sydney Henriques-Payne (U. of Pittsburgh)
Makai Kellogg (Trinity)
Diamond Kirkland (U. of the Arts-Phila.)
Natania Moscoe (Norfolk State)
Lakeisha Parker (Trinity)

Tiffany S. Robinson (Georgetown)
Shakira Thomas (Trinity)
Seniors:
Courtney E. Dobbins (Hampton)
Kwame S. Drabo (NC A&T)

Kwame S. Drabo (NC A&T)
Danielle M. Flythe (Syracuse)
Melony Hawkins (U. of MD)

### Annual Report of *The Southwester*

Dale MacIver and Carole Early, Joint editors

Twelve monthly issues of *The Southwester* were published in 2006 and appear in full color – photos, ads and all – on the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly web site www.swdc.org.

Articles and material and photos for stories were supplied by many people, organizations and agencies during the year. Here is a list of byline authors in alphabetical order:

Salima Applah-Kubi, Blossom Athey, Curtis Benson, Joyce Bouvier, Meg Brinckman, Lida Churchville, Grace Daughtridge, Carole Early, Marcus Ellis, Ashley Forman, Irv Gamza, Elaine Graves, Rev. Ruth Hamilton, Chuck Huddleston, Howard Johnson, Gary Johnson-Bey, Thelma Jones, Perry Klein, Jean Macdonald, Dale MacIver, Robert Marshall, Ron McBee, John McGrath, Keith Melder, Carolyn G. Mitchell, Naomi Monk, Barbara Murray, Ahmad Nurriddin, Coach Tony Parry, Deborah Redman, Beryl Carter Rice, Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert, Shantella Sherman, Gottlieb Simon, Max Skolnik, Mary Williams and Olga Woltman.

Advertising revenue for 2006 was \$25,410. and expenses (mostly desktop publishing services and printing), totaled \$25,867.

Here is a list of some of the stories covered, issue by issue:

#### January 2006

Summit Calls for Library Changes
Jefferson Volleyball Champs
Baseball Reports to ANC/SWNA
College Grants Awarded
Wilson High Gets More Autonomy
Gregory Kirkland, Drive-by Victim
SW Kidsafe Thanksgiving Dinner

#### February 2006

Reps speak About Waterfront Mall Joint Worship Service Donors for SWNA Antiques Show AARP Christmas Party SWNA Scholarship Recipients "Sanitary Housing" in Southwest Tales of the Circulator Bus Capitol Hill Arts Workshop

#### **March 2006**

Waterfront Mall Plans
City Year Youth Corps at Work in DC
Anacostia Waterfront Corporation – RFP
"Sanitary Housing" built by the Dean of Architects
Salute to Dr. Dorothy Height
DC Libraries, etc., in Bush Budget
ANC and SWNA Explained
The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thelma Jones in Retirement
Jefferson Honor Roll
Athletes at Wilson High School
Promotion at King Greenleaf Recreation Center
Southeastern University News
"The Old Southwest" Surveyed
SWNA General Meeting

#### April 2006

SW Waterfront is 'A Changing Cherry Blossom Festival March 25-April 9 Neal Peirce at SWNA Mar. 27 SWNA Ballot Roger Wilkins Moves the Crowd New Capper Seniors Apts. Open in Oct. Tour the Cherry Blossoms by Yacht Molly Smith Speaks Mar. 30 Javon Abney Wins Award

#### May 2006

Ballpark Advisors Appointed SW Tenant Woes at SWNA Apr. 24 Officer John Coursey – obituary SW Tour Sun. May 21 Kidsafe Featured on WETA-TV Van Ness School Closing Crop Walk Sat. May 20 Apply for ANC Grants

**SWNA** Election Results Free Walking Tours in SW

#### **June 2006**

Play Ball!

Jazz Man Ben Sands Featured Sun. July 16 Keeping Emergencies from Becoming Disasters 3 mo' divas! – 2006 Summer Engagement at Arena Stage

Recipients Aim for the Top Huge Tunnels for Storage After Rains Hearings on Water Rate Increase June 8 Ex-Mall Tenants at New Addresses Teenagers Identified in ANC Assault Case River Park Friends Annual Meeting The Men's Titanic Society

# **July 2006**

AWC Picks Five Teams for SW Waterfront Tax Agreement for New DOT Bldg. SW Students Perform at Kennedy Center Southwest Pastor James Butts Dies Folklife Festival Starts June 30 Police Honored at Banquet June 27th, Plan for SW/Near SE **Disaster Preparation Hints** AWC Refinancing H2O at Hogates History of Old Southwest 4th Street Young Mike Locksley "Top Offensive Threat"

# August 2006

Fire Drill Aboard "Spirit of Washington" You Can Meet the Waterfront Finalists July 27 Zoning Board Rejects Baseball Parking Ramps Protect Present Housing Near South Capitol Street Water Bill to Double in Ten Years Political Season for SW Ward 6 Residents Arena Stage's "Voices of Now" SWNA on Baseball Zoning **GU** Training For Non-Profit Careers Rowing Classes on the Anacostia Family Activity at Museum Collaborative Helps Ward 6 Families Jobs Workshop at SEU Free Meals in the Summer **Spring Hoops Tourney** SWNA Jazz Fund Raiser

#### September 2006

Candidate Forum at Arena Stage Two Finalists for Waterfront

SEU Roasts Mayor Oct. 18 New President for SW Kiwanis Mandala and Labyrinth Workshop Sep. 20 Discussion Group Winds Down **Public Comes to Police Cookouts** Kojo Nnamdi at Arena Stage Many in DC Lack Access to Affordable, Healthy Food Community Health Fair Returns Oct. 7 Field Hockey for Girls "Heads Up" Program at Bowen School SW's Own Jazzman Returns for SWNA Benefit

## October 2006

Proposed PUD Modification 14 SW College Students Get Grants Candidates Reached SW Voters Religious News College Fairs in DC Area Summer Cleanup at Schools Jeff's 8th, 9th Grades Graduate in June, 2007 Community Outreach at Arena Stage

Waterside Demolition Starts in April

# November 2006

Southwest Meets Waterfront Developers LSDBE Partners with 50% Equity in SW Waterfront Waterside Mall Discussion Maritime Foundation on Board to Develop the Waterfront New Foster, Adoptive Parents Sought Heads Up Project Fair SW Residents Experience CERT Training Firefighter Picnic at the Capitol Yacht Club

Primary Election Turnout in SW Join Foreign Policy Group in SW Channel 7 Reports Demolition Work at 800 4th Healthcare on Wheels Health Fair Jefferson Jr. High Football

# December 2006

Game Day Plan Due in April Waterfront Timeline, Baseball "Game Day Plan" at **SWNA** ANC Commissioner Assalaam Loses City Winners Carry SW **Developers Negotiate Community Benefits** Pumpkin Party At Westminster SW Tree a Champion

"Cooking Without a Stove" Cancelled

# **Youth Activities Task Force Annual Report**

Jean Macdonald, Chair

YATF organized a Step Show with the theme "Step into College" which YATF member Mike Dobson suggested. He got his fraternity brothers and others to perform at the King Greenleaf Recreation Center in April. There were college information booklets on display and scholarship information available. Sisters With Voices, a group YATF sponsors, made flyers and sold refreshments.

We sent three girls from Sisters With Voices on a trip to historic black colleges in April. The trip was under the aegis of Ebenezer Baptist Church. It was a success as before the trip, the girls weren't thinking of college, and after it, only which college they liked the best!

In May we completed a new version of our brochure and sent it out soliciting funds for the coming year. We had a very good response.

The summer program we cosponsored with the Capitol Rowing Club began without participants but we were finally able to recruit enough rowers who learned to row in a scull and had river ecology lessons. It was enjoyed by all and will be repeated this coming summer, hopefully avoiding the pitfalls we encountered this year.

We provided help with registration and uniforms for King Greenleaf and Club #4 basketball, football and baseball teams.

YATF welcomed new member Gary Johnson Bey of the Cavaliers, and Rhonda Hamilton, a former participant in our programs and a Scholarship recipient. Mike Dobson will leave us for his first year of law school but will stay in touch.

We had a December Christmas party at Jean Macdonald's house to end the season.