



SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY ANNUAL REPORT 2012

“The mission of the Assembly shall be to improve the quality of life for all residents of Southwest; to open to every resident the wide cultural horizon of urban living; to help create rich and equal social, educational, and economic opportunities for residents of Southwest; to assist in providing the opportunity for gainful employment for all; to promote development of the economic and aesthetic potential of Southwest, and preserve its diverse history. This mission shall be pursued without regard to the social, economic and racial barriers that have divided cities in the past.”

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SWNA 2011-2013 Officers and Board Members
(as of March 2013)

President: Kael Anderson

Vice-President: Kamilla Kovacs

Secretary: Laura Shin

Treasurer: Dale MacIver (acting)

District Representatives:

1st District: Zev Feder

2nd District: Saadia Athias

3rd District: Kenneth Prater

4th District: Ken LaCruise

Task Forces:

The Southwester: James Duncan-Welke

Youth Activities: Thelma D. Jones

Education/Scholarship: Carolyn Mitchell

History: Cecille Chen

Technology: Perry Klein

Emergency Preparedness Task Force: Josh Strenger and Thelma D. Jones

Message from the President

Kael Anderson

Thank you for your support of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. Whether via contributing funds toward youth activities; writing an article for *The Southwester*, donating a computer, or participating in our events, we thank you. It takes a community to sustain and build one.

I'd like to acknowledge my fellow board members. Southwest is fortunate to have a group of volunteers who offered their insight, values and to our community in 2012. There are a number of members who went beyond the call of duty, and although they know who they are, I should specifically acknowledge our treasurers, Jo Chang and Dale MacIver. Likewise, we are indebted to the support of Southwest organizations and our elected leaders like Arena Stage and Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells.

The Assembly has a noble mission "to improve the quality of life for all residents..." Through community events, communication platforms like *The Southwester*, direct efforts of our task forces, and fiscal support for emerging community groups we strove to most effectively carry out that mission.

This year's community events were diverse and varied, in an effort to reach out and support a broad range of residents and organizations. As in years past, we hosted our elected officials and candidates, including our Ward 6 Councilmember and candidate nights for the ANC and At-Large Council. Other forums featured government agency leaders, including the DC Departments of Employment Services and Housing & Community Development. Recognizing that Southwest's physical environment is quickly transforming, we organized events that explored our heritage while examining opportunities for development, whether it was commemorating Titanic 100, learning about the history of our open spaces, or Studio 27's analysis of development zones. Other events focused on education and social enrichment, including the Edgewood-Brookland Collaborative and the Wellness Works Series co-sponsored with the Smith Center for Healing & the Arts. In partnership with Councilmember Wells' office, we organized monthly movie nights at Lansburgh Park. The highlight of these Lansburgh Park events was when the Kankouran West African Dance Company performed on the terrace and welcomed neighboring youth to join them. Perhaps the most enjoyable affair for all ages was the December holiday party at Pier 7.

We communicated Southwest activities and initiatives through several different types of media. These efforts continue to focus on *The Southwester* despite it being a very time- and resource-intensive operation. *The Southwester* still provide the best means to reach the whole community. We are grateful to have members of our community committed to carrying this increasingly unique operation forward another year.

We made a concerted effort to engage in important events and initiatives affecting Southwest. We provided formal comments on the Southwest Waterfront development, M Street SE/SW Transportation Plan, Maryland Avenue SW Small Area Plan and the extension of WMATA's Route 52 to Southwest. We provided testimony for DC Council hearings on the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Public Schools, and Public Libraries.

We also recognize the importance of supporting emerging community organizations. In 2012 we supported four groups that are well-organized and positioned, but didn't have the financial structure to carry out their objectives: the Amidon-Bowen Parent-Teachers Organization, Neighbors of the Southwest Duck Pond, PAWS of Southwest, and Southwest Gardens Group.

Individually, Assembly board members represent our community neighbors at events and sit on the various steering committees and organizations in Southwest including SW Artsfest, the Washington Nationals Community Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, and SW DC Environmental Justice Group.

Many thanks and wishes for a successful 2013.

2012 SWNA Financial Statement

(following layout required in IRS Form 990 EZ)

REGULAR PROGRAMS	GRAMS	Educa. T.F.	Youth T.F.	History T.F.	Tech. T.F.	Gen'l Fund	Southwester	TOTALS (reg.)	
	REVENUE								
1. Contributions		\$2,450.00	\$4,009.00	\$6,306.06	\$3,016.00	\$5,190.45		\$20,971.51	
8. Other Revenue (Sched. O)						\$73.44	\$33,271.00	\$33,344.44	
9. Total Revenue		\$2,450.00	\$4,009.00	\$6,306.06	\$3,016.00	\$5,263.89	\$33,271.00	\$54,315.95	
	EXPENSES								
10 Grants		\$4,000.00	\$8,024.00	\$650.00				\$12,673.87	
15 Printing, etc.		\$135.00					\$29,669.30	\$29,804.30	
16 Other Expenses (Sched O)		\$200.00	\$276.80	\$8,029.01	\$2,741.60	\$4,970.80	\$3,266.70	\$19,484.91	
17 Total Expenses		\$4,335.00	\$8,300.67	\$8,679.01	\$2,741.60	\$4,970.80	\$32,936.00	\$61,963.08	
	18 EXCESS OR (DEFICIT)	(-\$1,885.00)	(-\$4,291.67)	(-\$2,372.95)	\$274.40	\$293.09	\$335.00	(-\$7,647.13)	
19 Fund balances (end of 2011)		\$1,938.91	\$12,757.40	\$17,381.93	-0-	\$1,579.56	\$1,290.43	\$34,948.23	
21 Fund balances (end of 2012)		\$53.91	\$8,465.73	\$15,008.98	\$274.40	\$1,872.65	\$1,625.43	\$27,301.10	
SPONSORED PROGRAMS		Garden Grp	Duck Pond	PAWS, SW	A-B PTO	TOTALS (Groups)		GRAND TOTALS (REG + SPONSORED FOR FORM 990 EZ)	
	REVENUE								
1. Contributions		\$97.12	\$3,151.77	\$3,598.60	\$38,713.61	\$45,561.10		1. Contrib.	\$66,432.66
8. Other Revenue (Sched O)								8. Other Rev.	\$33,344.44
9. Total Revenue		\$97.12	\$3,151.77	\$3,598.60	\$38,713.61	\$45,561.10		9. Total Rev.	\$99,777.10
	EXPENSES								
10. Grants			\$160.00			\$160.00		10. Grants pd	\$12,833.87
13. Independent contractors			\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00		13. Ind. Cont	\$1,000.00
15. Printing			\$37.14			\$37.14		15. Print, etc.	\$29,841.44
16. Other exp. (Sched O)			\$766.57		\$38,713.61	\$39,480.18		16. Other exp	\$58,965.09
	17. TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ -0-	\$1,963.71	\$ -0-	\$38,713.61	\$40,677.32		17. TOT. EXP	\$102,640.40
	18. EXCESS OR (DEFICIT)	\$97.12	\$1,188.06	\$3,598.60	\$ -0-	\$4,883.78		18. DEFICIT	(-\$2,863.30)
19. Fund Balances (end of 2011)		\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-		19. 2011 Bal	\$34,948.23
21 Fund balances (end of 2012)		\$97.12	\$1,188.06	\$3,598.60	\$ -0-	\$4,883.78		21. 2012 Bal	\$32,084.93

The Southwester

James Duncan-Welke, editor-in-chief

Dale MacIver, editor emeritus

During calendar year 2012, *The Southwester* published twelve monthly issues – two 8 page issues, nine 12 page issues, and one 16 page issue – all of which are available online in PDF format at <http://thesouthwester.com/archive/> . In addition, a limited selection of previous issues, primarily those published after September 1999, are available online in PDF format at www.swdc.org/news/news_archive.htm

Editor-in-chief James Duncan-Welke has lived in Southwest since August 2010 and joined *The Southwester* in January 2012. He directed publication of *The Southwester* from the April 2012 issue onwards. He intends to step down at the end of March 2013 to focus on a new set of duties at work and will be replaced by a new team of volunteers.

During 2012, *The Southwester* made several improvements to its editorial processes, including the adoption of a formal editorial policy which was endorsed by the SWNA Board of Directors, posting of all stories in the monthly print issues to the website, and holding to a consistent print issue production schedule. *The Southwester* also expanded its web presence by starting a Facebook page and a Twitter feed.

Some highlights of *The Southwester's* 2012 coverage include:

- The National Cherry Blossom Festival (100th anniversary) in March and April
- The inauguration of the Washington Kastles temporary stadium in July
- SW ArtsFest and the (e)merge art fair in September
- Election 2012 in November
- Coverage of the Wharf project and other development projects such as Sky House throughout the year

Readers were treated to regular pieces from *The Southwester's* most reliable contributors, including:

- “Notes on the Nats” by Zev Feder
- A series on the parks of Southwest by Hayden Wetzel
- Monthly ANC 6D reporting from B. K. Lunde
- Regular coverage of Amidon-Bowen Elementary School by Meg Brinckman
- Events at Arena Stage and other arts and culture venues by Sheila Wickowski
- Community activism and youth activities coverage by Thelma D. Jones
- Photographs from Saadia Athias, Perry Klein, and others
- Real Estate updates from Jason Martin

In the next year *The Southwester* hopes to recruit additional contributors and editorial staff, expand its coverage of Near Southeast, and continue to provide Southwest with a high-quality community newspaper in print and online.

History Task Force

Cecille Chen, Chair

In 2012, the History Task Force was involved in 3 major initiatives:

1. Titanic 100

On April 14, 2012, Southwest DC remembered the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic by organizing a commemorative event at the Titanic Memorial at Waterfront Park. The Titanic Memorial was erected "to honor the brave men who gave their lives so that women and children could be saved" from the greatest maritime disaster in history. Designed by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, the Titanic Memorial was originally unveiled in 1931 at Rock Creek Parkway. When the Kennedy Center was built in the 1960's, the Titanic Memorial was moved to its present location in our lovely Waterfront Park.

The History Task Force collaborated with a team of community leaders from the Washington Waterfront Association, Gangplank Marina Slipholders Association, Riverside Condominium and ANC 6D to organize this project. Funds and in-kind services were generously donated by Friends of SW, Gangplank Marina, Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, The Humanities Council of Washington DC, Riverside Condominium, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, *The Southwester*, Tiber Island Cooperative Homes, and the Washington Waterfront Association and Westminster Presbyterian Church. A promotional website, designed by the History Task Force, included an illustrated history of the Titanic Memorial and can still be accessed at

www.swdcheritage.org/titanic100. The event was also promoted via an ad in *The Southwester*, social media, and through 10,000 promotional flyers that were distributed throughout the neighborhood and during the National Cherry Blossom Festival. The event rated "Editor's Choice" by the *Washington Post Going Out Guide*, and on the day of the event, CNN, NBC, WJLA and WUSA sent news crews to report on the commemoration.

The featured events included:

- projections of 60-foot high images of the Titanic, her crew and passengers, onto the facade of Riverside Condominium's north tower
- a "digital museum" featuring 4 monitors running slideshows of images of the Titanic, its passengers, the rescue efforts, and a history of the Titanic Memorial
- 1517 luminaries artfully arranged around the Titanic Memorial and throughout Waterfront Park, each labeled with the name of one of the 1517 people who perished in the tragedy
- Music from the Titanic-era played on a PA system
- a live musical performance by a trio of brass players of "Nearer My God To Thee" which according to Titanic survivors was the last song to be played by the Titanic musicians as the ship went down.

The event was overwhelmingly well-attended, with an estimated crowd of about 1,000 visitors between 7:00-9:30 pm. A few people arrived in period costumes, and some couples danced to the music. Two DC Fireboats made an appearance, spraying water into the air and adding to the festive atmosphere. Scores of people sat on the lawn to watch the projections that became more clear as the sky darkened. The live musical performance of "Nearer My God To Thee" was a solemn capstone to the evening, and the crowds were hushed as all remembered the 1517 souls who perished in the sinking.

Among the many stories that emerged from the crowd:

- A young man said he was a descendant of Gerald Horrigan, the sculptor of the Titanic Memorial. He was very happy to see the recognition given to the statue carved by his ancestor.
- Southwester David Ehrlich was searching for the luminary of Francis Davis Millet, a Washingtonian and a renowned artist, who was the grandfather of David's beloved schoolmaster at the Milton Academy. By pure coincidence, David met a couple also searching for the Millet luminary and together they found it.
- Southwester Peggy Gilgannon, whose Great-Grand Uncle had perished in the sinking, searched relentlessly for the luminary with his name. At the conclusion of the event, with Thomas Kilgannon's luminary in hand and tears in her eyes, she said she felt she was bringing him home.

Titanic100 was an extraordinary event that would not have been possible without the Southwest community's support and the tireless efforts of our volunteers. Indeed this was an exceptional opportunity to celebrate our unique community heritage and to draw newcomers to our beautiful Waterfront Park.

2. Historic Preservation

In the past year, Southwest had the honor of having two historic landmarks designated in our neighborhood. The landmarked properties are Tiber Island, which was designated on May 24, 2012, and Harbour Square, designated on February 28, 2013. The History Task Force testified in support of these nominations at the Historic Preservation Review Board hearings, and the Board voted unanimously to add both properties to the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites, and further recommended that the nominations be forwarded to the National Register of Historic Places with a recommendation for listing at the national level of significance.

In an effort to actualize SWNA's goal of promoting development of the economic and aesthetic potential of Southwest, the History Task Force reached out to community stakeholders and preservation advocates to encourage scholarly research on the history of residential complexes and public parks in Southwest with a view towards preparing additional nominations for historic landmark designations.

During the summer, the HTF was approached by the tenants' association of Capitol Park Towers, because they were interested in historical documentation regarding their building. As a result of our outreach, historic preservationists and architectural historians worked with the HTF and volunteered long hours to prepare a landmark nomination for Capitol Park Towers. Completed in 1963, Capitol Park Towers was designed by Chloethiel Woodard Smith, who collaborated with landscape architect Dan Kiley, and created a modernist high-rise apartment complex with a park, swimming pool, and a sculptural garage pavilion, surrounded by a lush green landscape and polychrome concrete murals by the artist Pietro Lazzari. SWNA held three outreach meetings with the Tenants' Association of Capitol Park Towers, and met with the building's potential buyer. In December, HTF volunteer and historic preservationist Madeline Clites made a presentation of the nomination before the ANC, who voted unanimously to support the nomination. Shortly thereafter, SWNA filed the nomination on behalf of the Tenants Association of Capitol Park Towers, for consideration by the Historic Preservation Review Board.

The HTF has also been approached by other residential complexes, including Channel Square, Waterfront Tower, and St. James Mutual Homes, and is working with them on documenting the historic significance of their communities.

As part of our community outreach to the larger community, HTF made a presentation on the history and architecture of Southwest at Arena Stage on October 22, 2012. SWNA's Technology Task Force provided computer monitors that displayed images of the Old and New Southwest. The HTF funded an honorarium for architectural historian Hayden Wetzel, who researched the history of Southwest's public parks and presented a comprehensive report on the history of Lansburgh Park, the Town Center Parks, Waterfront Park, and Amidon Sidewalk Park.

Finally, in an effort to engage those beyond our quadrant, the HTF is partnering with the DC Preservation League to provide lectures on the architectural history and urban development of Southwest.

With these historic preservation initiatives, the HTF aspires to educate and engage the community about the importance of carefully assessing our built environment, in order to facilitate a well-managed process for bringing good design and sensible development to Southwest.

3. SW Public Information Display System

In the fall of 2010, a group of SW community leaders from SWNA, ANC6D, Gangplank Marina, Washington Waterfront Association, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church formed to explore the possibility of installing a Public Information Display System in the vicinity of the Waterfront Metro Station. The Southwest Public Information Display System (SW PIDS) is an outgrowth of that meeting. SW PIDS is a community-focused digital public signage project that will display transportation information, way-finding maps, and community information. It will benefit our community in several ways.

Upon exiting the Metro, visitors need a visual guide that will help them get oriented to the locale and provide them with timely information about transportation options and nearby attractions. However, SW is the only centrally-located area without a Business Improvement District to provide way-finding personnel. The SW PIDS would display real-time MetroRail and MetroBus arrivals to enable riders to make better transportation decisions. The SW PIDS would also provide walking directions to attractions like Arena Stage, restaurants and cruise ships along the Waterfront, Nationals Ballpark, etc., which would be very helpful for visitors. Use of QR-code technology will provide smart-phone users with access to interactive maps. Such pedestrian enhancements would foster a "livable walkable community."

In February 2011, the SW PIDS group prepared a pilot project proposal and submitted it to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for funding from DDOT's Performance Parking Fund, under which 20% of parking revenue collected from Ward 6 is designated by law to be reinvested in the community for non-automotive transportation improvements. On March 12, we presented the PIDS project at the ANC6D meeting and obtained the Commission's unanimous support for the project. The Office of Councilmember Wells also supports the project. Subsequently, through the assistance of the ANC, we obtained a Memorandum of Understanding with Safeway that granted permission to install the PIDS in Safeway's window that faces the Metro exit, conditioned upon DDOT's funding of the project. In December 2012, a DDOT representative reported at the ANC meeting that DDOT had agreed to fund the project. The History Task Force is looking forward to collaborating with DDOT, Councilmember Wells, and Safeway on what promises to be an innovative use of technology that will greatly benefit our community.

Youth Activities Task Force

Thelma D. Jones, Chair

The SWNA Youth Activities Task Force (YATF) was created in 1982, and remains one of SWNA's most active entities as it continues to help meet the challenging needs of our community youth. Our efforts continue to make a positive impact in the community that is reflected by the children's enthusiasm and the general support we continue to receive for our programs. Our income comes from soliciting donations from our community residents and other friends of YATF. This year YATF raised approximately \$4000. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to leverage our efforts and support the growth and development of our youth in a variety of ways. YATF has touched more than 400 youth, dozens of teachers, families and coaches during the past year with a goal of increasing that number next year.

One of our most successful programs has been the "Computer-for-Kids" computer training program which began in October 2007 under the leadership of YATF member Thelma D. Jones. That year, 14 youth between the ages of 6-12 "graduated" from the 8-week program. In 2008, two more classes were held, graduating 16 youth, ages 10-12. In addition, 10 adults "graduated" from our first adult class. In August 2011, YATF graduated its youngest ever class of computer students, ages 7-9. This pattern has continued and is helping to reduce the digital divide in Southwest, as approximately 70 children have graduated from the program since its inception in 2007. Upon completion of the classes, each student receives a refurbished computer for their home from the SWNA Technology Task Force, with the understanding they will teach other household members the skills they have learned in the program. Taking advantage of teachable moments, YATF provided nutritional snacks for the program and spent time discussing the importance of eating healthy. We are grateful to the highly skilled, dedicated volunteer instructors, including Gerald Brown, LaShawn Williams, and Frank Fu. In addition, we were fortunate to have three primary partners during the past year as follows: SWNA Technology Task Force, King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, and Syphax Gardens Resident Council.

In 2012 our grants totaled nearly \$8,000, including:

- \$3,000 to King-Greenleaf Recreation Center for recreational equipment and games
- \$442 to assist King-Greenleaf Recreation Center football teams
- \$724 to support King-Greenleaf Recreation Center baseball teams
- \$1,550 to support Girl Scouts Troop #4298 – 2 camping trips
- \$608 for SW youth to participate in two Christmas performances (The Nutcracker and the Lion King) at Howard University
- \$800 for uniforms for the Jefferson girls' basketball team
- \$800 for a Jefferson Academy scholarship for spring trip to Costa Rica

YATF provides annual support to the Southwest community public schools, namely Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and Jefferson Academy. This year, YATF expanded its efforts to reach more girls and with the help of our new mini grants program which awards grants between \$200-\$800, we achieved our goal. YATF assisted in the purchase of uniforms for Jefferson's Academy newly-created girls' basketball team. We also supported Southwest's Girl Scout Troop #4298 on two camping-related trips. A first for Jefferson Academy is a trip for several students and some parents to Costa Rica planned in 2013. YATF contributed to a "scholarship" for one Southwest student to make this trip.

Annually, YATF supports sports teams that play at the King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, operated by the DC Department of Parks & Recreation. Of 2012 expenditures, \$1166 supported the football and baseball programs at King-Greenleaf Recreation Center. We are proud to continue our long-standing support of these teams. Long-time Southwest volunteer Ronald “Coach Horse” Hines is the backbone behind the sports programs in Southwest.

YATF continues to be proud of its accomplishments and gratefully acknowledges the support of our patrons and the community at large. Remaining focused on our mission and increasing our membership will help to ensure that we provide support to our community youth and help achieve their overall developmental changes. YATF welcomes new member and Southwest resident Laura Hutson who has been an asset to our Computer-for-Kids program.

Current YATF Members:

Rick Bardach, Chair thru June, Thelma D. Jones, Chair as of June, Andrea Akiti, Saadia Athias, Vyllorya Evans, Frank Fu, Clynthia Graham, Rhonda Hamilton Cheryl Hansberry-Moore,, Maureen Hill, Perry Klein, Anniki Laine, Dale MacIver, Lenora Moragne, Beryl Rice, Tanya Stevenson, Delmar Weathers, Niles White, Eve Wilkins and Kael Anderson (Ex Officio).



Computer-for-Kids students

Technology Task Force

Perry Klein, Chair

The SWNA Technology Task Force has been established to help reduce the “digital divide” within our community. For the past several years, SWNA’s Technology Task Force has collected surplus computers from the community in order to refurbish them and make them available to needy families, primarily in the public housing projects in Southwest (James Creek, Syphax and Greenleaf). We have collected several hundred donated computers, including nearly 300 from the Graduate School USA and over 200 from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, both located in Southwest DC. We receive software at low cost through Techsoup which arranges software for non-profits, and SWNA is also established as a Registered Microsoft Refurbisher, which makes it possible to obtain Microsoft Windows and Office software at very low cost. Still, it averages around \$100 to refurbish a computer.

In 2012, we set up several computer laboratories at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and Jefferson Middle School, and continued to maintain computer centers that we had set up at Syphax Gardens and Greenleaf Gardens Midrise public housing administered by their Resident Council offices. The Syphax Gardens computer center has been used for SWNA’s “Computer-for-Kids” program, the free eight-week training program run by volunteers of SWNA’s Youth Activities Task Force and described in their report. We delivered desktop computers to families whose youngsters completed the program. We have also been refurbishing notebook computers and made several available for needy college-bound students in support of SWNA’s Scholarship Task Force program.

During the summer we provided internships to two young adults from Greenleaf Gardens public housing in our neighborhood, to train them to rebuild computers and help install them for our new computer centers. These were funded by a grant from the Friends of Southwest DC and individual donations.

SWNA Interns Duane Patterson and Andre Wilkinson, with Mayor Gray and Chancellor Henderson at one of the computer labs the interns set up at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School.

