

SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

March 22, 2004

“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.”

Report from the President
Treasurer's Report
History Task Force
Scholarship Committee
The Southwester
Southwest DC Web Project
Youth Activities Task Force

Report from the President

Naomi J. Monk

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) has had an informative and rewarding year. The Youth, Scholarship, History, *Southwester* Newspaper and Website members and associates have provided outstanding and invaluable information, charitable and educational programs and presentations to the SW Community. Some of these programs and presentations are listed in each of these yearly reports. The following are additional events that dedicated SWNA members partook to inform the SW Community about services, programs and issues to help to improve the quality of life in Southwest.

- Mayor Williams Budget 2004
- Office of the People's Counsel – Utilities
- Downtown Circulator
- Jefferson Junior High School student provided a few days of outstanding community service in the SWNA office.
- New Hogate's owner spoke about opening the new H2O restaurant in the Fall of 2003
- Best Western Skyline Inn's manager spoke about completion of the Inn's renovation in the Fall 2003
- South Washington/East of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative director spoke of the need for volunteers for this organization.
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) – Camera Surveillance
- National Capital Revitalization Corporation – 5 to ten year Waterfront Plan
- A Wonderful Meet and Greet Pizza Social
- Ten Jefferson Junior High School Students provided several hours of outstanding Community service. They cleaned SWNA new office and put up boarder wallpaper.
- SWNA acted as a conduit for funds donated to Jefferson Junior High School students for football uniforms.
- L'Enfant Promenade – Preliminary Rehabilitation
- Waterfront Mall/Waterfront Taskforce was dissolved.
- Mandarin Oriental Hotel – 5 Star Features – to open March 2004
- Millennium Art Center - Issues
- St. Matthews Lutheran Church – Preliminary Building Plans
- Vacant Church at H St and Delaware Avenue – Replaced with Apartment Building
- DC Planning Office – Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) Plan
- Waterfront Mall Manager - SW Security
- District 3, (Wards 5&6), Board of Education Representative - Current DC School Issues
- Southeastern University – Neighborhood Outreach Program
- Arena Stage – Neighborhood Outreach Program
- Historic Preservation in DC
- Holiday Entertainment for Thanksgiving and Christmas – Violinist, Amidon Elementary School Choir, TaeKwonDo – Kids, Song and Dance, Special SW Song
- DC Federation of Civic Association Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon – Two SWNA Members received awards for their 20 to 40 years of outstanding service.

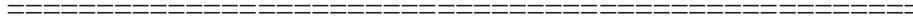
It has been indeed a pleasure to be a part of working amicably with others towards a better Southwest DC Community.

History Task Force Annual Report

The plans and written materials for the SW Heritage Walk have been prepared and are ready to be fabricated into street signs. The delay has been the responsibility of the Department of Transportation which has the contract to do the work. DC Cultural Tourism is promising a terrific celebration to mark the opening of the Trail, which is promised for this Autumn.

The Photo exhibit in the Waterside Mall is still up for viewing and will remain until construction begins for a new beginning for our Mall. Many people are still enjoying the pictures and if you have not seen it, you are invited to do so.

Margaret Feldman, Chair.



SWNA Scholarship Committee Annual Report

This is the 29th year of the SWNA Scholarship program. Over the past twenty-nine years, the community-supported fund has helped 200 neighborhood youth achieve their educational goals by providing grants for college. These grants of financial support may help to defray the costs of tuition, purchase text books, supplement work-study programs, pay for a trip home when a student is feeling homesick, provide for small necessities, or even supplement the student's diet with the occasional pizza. The program started by residents of River Park Cooperative was picked up by the SWNA and expanded. It now stands as a unique example of neighborhood support for the youth in southwest.

Scholarship Committee members are all volunteers who devote many hours to this community effort that includes the solicitation of funds, fund raising such as yard sales, review of applications, and personal student interviews conducted by Henry Evans, Herbert Holmes, and past recipient, David Wormack. This past year, the Committee included: Dale MacIver, Henry Evans, Herbert Holmes, and Barbara Murray, Chair. A total of \$8,500 was awarded with individual student awards ranging from \$400 to \$1,000.

The Students –

Because of the varied housing and income levels of southwest, our scholarship recipients come from public housing, subsidized housing (Section 8), and middle-income residences.

Scholarship recipients for year 2003:

Danielle Flythe	(River Park Friends)	Syracuse University
Wayne Mack		McDaniel College
Dontria M. Brawner		Penn State University
Fatoumata Bah		New York University
Enoch Long		Temple University
Alan Clipper		North Carolina Wesleyan College
John Thompson		Winthrop University
Keith Thompson		Virginia State University
Melony Hawkins		University of Maryland
Eugenia S. Norde		North Carolina A & T University

Annual Report for *The Southwester*

I. Finances – Eleven monthly issues were put out in 2003. Revenue from advertising totaled \$17,721.50, under the guidance of Susan Fischer, advertising coordinator. Cost of producing was \$21,297.50. Bank balance on Dec. 31, 2003 was \$263.59.

II. Volunteer writers – By-lines were given to the following volunteers who wrote stories for *The Southwester* (listed in chronological order of first appearance during the year):

Carole Early, Barbara Ehrlich, Maurice Boyd, Susan Carpenter, B.K. Lunde, Ron McBee, Sarah Livingston, Jean Macdonald, Ray Williams, Naomi Monk, Alvin Hudgens, Gregory G. Gibson, William Bell, Thelma D. Jones, Stehen M. Nanney, Dale MacIver, Mark Clark, Robert Crane, Wallace Babington, Dr. Jerelyn Smith, Perry Klein.

III. Help from many others plus District of Columbia agencies – Many stories are based on information volunteered by members of organizations and agencies with dealings in Near Southwest.

IV. Distribution – Volunteers helping with distribution include Herb Holmes, Maurice Boyd, Jackie Matthews, Carlos Rodriguez, Judy Wise, Susan Fischer and many others in individual housing complexes.

Dale MacIver and Carole Early, Joint editors

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

The Southwest D.C. Web-site (www.swdc.org) was created five years ago to provide a resource for information for residents of Southwest, and to show people not living in Southwest the many things our community has to offer.

In Fall 2003, the Web-site was completely redesigned to give it a new look and to improve its usefulness for day-to-day use. For example, the home page now has up-to-date local weather information and also direct links to past issues of *The Southwester*. It is also easy to search the site by name or topic. It has sections on: *About SWDC*, *Residents*, *Businesses*, *Attractions* and *Community Leaders*. There are many useful links to our local government representatives, to theatres and other attractions, and to the many museums in the area.

The newly-designed Web-site has been averaging around 46 visits a day, at least triple the number the old site had been receiving. If you haven't seen www.swdc.org give it a try, and tell your friends!

Thanks are due Eda Robinson of InterComp 2000 for her excellent pro bono work in redesigning the Web-site, and to Sherry Klein, Web-master for maintaining it.

Perry Klein

Youth Activities Task Force Annual Report

This year the YAFT has sponsored several new programs as well as continuing old ones.

Safe Sitters, a national organization which trains and certifies baby sitters, is now a YATF program with Thelma Jones and Anita Sands, certified instructors, conducting classes for SW youth. These classes are held throughout the year and cost YATF about \$450.

A one- time program has been a seminar for Bowen Elementary School 6th graders on the life and contributions of our former neighbor, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. This was a grant of \$1200 by a grant from the D.C. Humanities Council and the World Bank -IMF African American Association, coordinated by YATF's Thelma Jones.

A group of girls met for "In the Know" discussions and fun, led by YATF's Delmar Weather, at the King Greenleaf Center. They had a "graduation party" in February.

YATF works closely with both King Greenleaf and Randall Recreation Centers. We sponsored athletic programs, and have donated needed sports supplies and books to Randall, led by Director Zakiya Brown. We were able to give her a donated TV and spent a little more than \$1100 for Randall programs. At the request of Marcus Ellis, King Greenleaf Director, YATF purchased a new pool table for \$800, which is proving a very popular activity. We also funded some campers at K-G. The YATF was able to ask the Cavaliers for help in assembling the table and fixing the new basketball hoop.

The Police Boys and Girls Club, headed by Alvin Hudgens, has received YATF funds of about \$1600 for sponsorship of both football and basketball teams.

YATF is assisting Arena Stage's Laura Zam, Educational Director, with SW youth who have written and acted in *Voices of Now*. Beryl Rice has been representing YATF. This is a continuing program in 2004. We helped send some of these young actors to see a professional play, *Crowns* at Arena.

Tae Kwon Do classes have continued with Black Belt Master Philip Baroody. In January 2003 there was an awards ceremony for the students with trophies donated by Master Robert Chung, whose academy also sent our classes beautiful Christmas presents in 2003. A group of students were taken in June to the Smithsonian to see Master Jhoon Rhee perform. A volunteer dance instructor now works with girls after the TKD class and three other volunteer come regularly to help as well as several parents. This is the most expensive program we sponsor, about \$6500, paid in part by small grants and several donations.

An informal bowling activity is sponsored by YATF member Dale MacIver.

YATF is pleased with the increased cooperation of all SW organizations involved in SW youth programs, and continues to search for more participation by the community. Articles in the *Southwester* have helped raise awareness of our activities. We are also very please that after many delays the work on the new King Greenleaf Center is under way!

We held two mail solicitations this year, and have two grant proposals pending. We can use donations all year around to continue our activities.

YATF Members: Jean Macdonald, Chair, Rick Bardach, Zakiya Brown, Marcus Ellis, Rhonda Hamilton, Ida Hernandez, Maria Hernandez, Herbert Holmes, Alvin Hudgens, Che Lopez, Dale MacIver, Lenora Moragne, Sylvia Morris, Kiera Proctor, Beryl Rice, Gina Santos, Delmar Weathers, Niles White, Eve Wilkens, Emma Wright.