



SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009

March 23, 2009

“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, and to promote development of the economic and aesthetic potential of Southwest. 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 2007-2009 Officers and Board Members:

President: Marge Maceda
Vice-President: Carolyn Mitchell
Secretary: (vacant)
Treasurer: Ellen Winship

1st District Representatives: Lida Churchville and Perry Klein
2nd District Representatives: Farid Ben Amor and Peter Atlee
3rd District Representatives: Rick Bardach and Erich Hosbach
4th District Representatives: Ken LaCruise and Vanessa Ruffin

Task Forces:

The Southwester: Dale MacIver
Youth Activities: Beryl Rice and Rick Bardach
Scholarship: Carolyn Mitchell and Barbara Murray
History: Lida Churchville and Ron McBee
Technology: Perry Klein

Advisory Board:

Naomi Monk
Thelma Jones
Beryl Rice
Delmar Weathers

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Message from the President

Marge Maceda

After serving as President for the past 5 years, it is with sadness that I must turn over the reins to someone new. It has been my pleasure to serve the community and work with other people from SW to keep us in the loop and provide information to the community.

Looking back, we have done so much I do not know how to begin or who to thank most for help and support. Suffice it to say that everyone who worked to improve the quality of life for members of our community, I personally thank you and appreciate your efforts.

We have had the best programs and the best guests any civic association could entertain. From Dr. Dorothy Height to Mrs. Marshall to Mr. Dukes to community leaders, we have led the way to excellence.

Our fundraisers like the Antique Road Show Auction to the Jazz concert provided wonderful entertainment and much needed funds.

Our decision to support the Nationals Ballpark was controversial but turned out to be one of our finest assets. Holding Candidate forums was significant as so many officials turned out for the SW community.

Again, I thank everyone for your support and confidence and I look forward to working with the new team you have chosen.

Respectfully,

Marge Maceda

Treasurer's Report

SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY

Statement of Operations

January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

	Scholarship	Southwester	Youth	History	General	Total
Balance 1/1/08	\$6,856.93	\$7,412.96	\$16,496.54	\$14,607.31	\$13,639.75	\$59,013.49
Income						
Contributions	\$11,840.22		\$315.00	\$9,345.51	\$1,840.00	\$23,340.73
Grant				\$800.00		\$800.00
Interest					\$58.22	\$58.22
Total	\$11,840.22	\$0.00	\$315.00	\$10,145.51	\$1,898.22	\$24,198.95
Revenue - Advertising		\$29,050.00				\$29,050.00
Total Income	\$11,840.22	\$29,050.00	\$315.00	\$10,145.51	\$1,898.22	\$53,248.95
Expenses						
Program	\$11,500.00	\$28,882.80	\$7,187.84	\$250.00	\$1,479.40	\$49,300.04
Grant				\$200.00		\$200.00
Total	\$11,500.00	\$28,882.80	\$7,187.84	\$450.00	\$1,479.40	\$49,500.04
Fund Raising	\$220.92					\$220.92
Total	\$220.92					\$220.92
Administrative						
Insurance					\$1,501.00	\$1,501.00
Post Office Box		\$43.00	\$86.00			\$129.00
Verizon					\$353.47	\$353.47
Meetings					\$40.00	\$40.00
Total	\$0.00	\$43.00	\$86.00	\$0.00	\$1,894.47	\$2,023.47
Total Expenses	\$11,720.92	\$28,925.80	\$7,273.84	\$450.00	\$3,373.87	\$51,744.43
Balance 12/31/08	\$6,976.23	\$7,537.16	\$9,537.70	\$24,302.82	\$12,164.10	\$60,518.01

Report of the Program Committee

Peter Atlee (Chair), Thelma Jones, Lida Churchville

In 2008, the SWNA Program Committee continued its goal of refocusing community meetings to address more than just local development. Over the past two years we have attempted to highlight our community's opportunities, history, and upcoming events, while still bringing periodic updates on the developments popping up in Near Southeast and Southwest.

Last spring, we heard from several presenters about summer activities and camps for the youth in our neighborhood. We also had visits from the staff at Fort McNair, a representative from the DC Office of Aging, and Greg McCarthy, who updated us on the operations of Nationals Park in our backyard. The Mayor's office also sent a representative to discuss key education issues in our neighborhood. Finally, before our summer break, we had a discussion about the sale of single serving alcoholic beverages in our ward.

We kicked off our fall meeting season with a Primary Election Forum in August; we were honored by the presence of so many candidates, and we thank them all for their dedication to helping the District of Columbia. This fall we also learned about homeland security and emergency planning in our community and about breast cancer signs, symptoms, and services in the District. We even had a chance to hear from the ANC candidates before the November election, and we rounded out our calendar year with an update on development projects throughout our neighborhood—from the Office of Planning and the Waterfront to the 9th Street Bridge Project and the Corcoran School.

We started 2009 off in a big way when the Mayor and Dr. Dorothy Height both agreed to come speak at our meeting. The Mayor was well aware of the issues in Southwest and fielded a few questions before yielding the floor to Dr. Height who gave some inspiring insights into the Civil Rights Movement. Finally, as we do each year in February, we celebrated Black History Month with an exciting speech from Ofield Dukes and a few beautiful songs from Second Baptist Church, Southwest's gospel ensemble.

As we move forward in 2009, the Committee will hope to maintain its focus on the positive things happening in Southwest. We hope to spend some time discussing education and honoring our neighborhood students, learning about the changes at Southeastern University, and maybe even hearing from Councilmember Wells and Mayor Fenty again! Of course, we will still periodically address development, safety and security, and any other timely and important issues to our residents. We hope you'll join us.

If you have suggestions for upcoming SWNA General Meetings or speakers you would like to hear from, please contact your SWNA Representative or another member of the Committee.

History Task Force Annual Report

Lida Holland Churchville, Chair

History Task Force Annual Report: Call Box progress during 2008, report of March, 2009

The SW History Task Force is open to all who want to understand and further the history of our Southwest community and area. After several years of meetings and hard work, the History Task Force's Call Box Committee is now able to announce that this spring will see the first group of Southwest call boxes completed and unveiled to the public. But this report is about 2008: In the past year, the History Task Force's Call Box Project members have accomplished the following projects and activities:

Call Box Project: With the financial support of Cultural Tourism DC, and the painting help of our youthful Earth Conservation Corps partners, members of the History Task Force's Call Box Project began the year 2008 with 32 newly-painted call boxes – all awaiting original artwork. Our first step was to publicize a call for artists interested in decorating the call boxes in Southwest D.C. We had barely begun this process when we were advised that the funding of the call box project would end with the close of the fiscal year on September 30, 2008.

Fortunately, during the spring of 2008, the Call Box Project team entered into a partnership with the National Cherry Blossom Festival to celebrate our mutual goal of enhancing our community's role as the "Cherry Blossom Capital" of Washington, D.C. Our working partners include Festival President Diana Mayhew and Festival Programmer Lillian Iversen. At an early meeting, we selected appropriately located call boxes for the installation of the Festival's prize winning cherry blossom artwork. We were all delighted when Cultural Tourism DC approved all 14 designs submitted by our Committee in cooperation with the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

During 2008, the Call Box Committee selected Guy Brami, principal partner of Gelberg Signs, as our art interpreter. According to the *Washington Post*, Guy Brami transforms Washington's call boxes into art work, part of a project called "Art on Call" – but Gelberg Signs does more than transform call boxes. The company was named the 2008 Emerging Business of the Year by the D.C. Chamber of Commerce. The award recognized Gelberg Signs' contract with the Washington Nationals, but also noted that the company not only works closely with the Covenant House of Washington, D.C. in creating a workforce development program, but also works to develop the athletic, educational and life skills of disadvantaged youth. Having checked the call boxes completed by Gelberg Signs in other D.C. neighborhoods, we are convinced that Guy Brami will complete our artwork with style.

During the last months of 2008, our group made plans for the Festival's prize-winning Cherry Blossom artwork to be installed in Southwest's call boxes in time for the 2009 National Cherry Blossom Festival. The National Cherry Blossom Festival unveiling of Southwest call boxes featuring Cherry Blossom poster art will take place on April 11th, 2009 following an afternoon walking tour of the 14 Cherry Blossom call boxes from Independence Avenue to the Fort McNair area and before the late afternoon Festival Prelude and evening fireworks.

In addition to the partnership with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the Call Box Project sought grants to support a G Street call box near the home where Thurgood Marshall lived at the time he was named to the Supreme Court by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Thanks to the generosity of our ANC 6D and our Councilman Tommy Wells, we were able to engage artist, Annie King Phillips, to create artwork in Justice Marshall's memory for the G Street call box. In adopting the Thurgood Marshall project, St. Augustine's Church members, including The Reverend Martha Clark, Thelma Jones, Cissy Marshall, the Justice's widow, and Annie King Phillips, his artist, have chosen May 17th, 2009, the 55th Anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka decision, as the date for the unveiling of this important call box.

2009 will see the completion of the first part of the Southwest Call Box project – about half the total number of call boxes in Southwest Washington. This first series of call boxes, include many boxes located close to the waterfront and on heavily-trafficked streets, are considered vulnerable to danger during the current and ongoing construction work. It is believed that given their new status as artwork, these historic call boxes will be handled with care.

It is hoped that the community will enjoy seeing the attractive call boxes and that more artists will come forth to show their artwork and the Call Box Project will gain community support to complete the project. Think Marvin Gaye, ~~think~~ Al Jolson, ~~think~~ Lewis Jefferson, Sr., even think The Titanic. There are a lot more Southwest call boxes calling for art.

2008-2009 Call box members: Peter Atlee, Farid Ben Amor, Lida Churchville, Deidre Ehlen, Barbara Ehrlich, Douglas Galbi, Perry Klein, Nancy Masterson, Erinn Roos, Corinne Scott and Mary Ternes.

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SWNA Scholarship Task Force Annual Report
Carolyn G. Mitchell, Chair

This is the 33rd year of the SWNA Scholarship Program. Over the past three decades, the community-supported fund has helped more than 225 neighborhood students 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 2008-2009, twelve (12) students were given grants totaling \$12,000 due to the generosity of Southwest residents. This generosity allowed the all-volunteer SWNA Scholarship Task Force the opportunity to assist these 12 students achieve their educational goals. Individual student awards ranged from \$500 to \$1,500. Trinity College sophomore, Shakira Thomas was selected to receive the Friends of River Park \$1,500 award, and Virginia State University sophomore McKindra Letsinger was awarded \$1,500 from Westminster Presbyterian Church. *New* this year through SWNA's Technology Task Force, three students received reconditioned laptop computers.

The Students

Any student who lives in “near Southwest and near Southeast” D.C. (zip codes 20024 and 20003 [south of I-295, east of South Capitol St. to the 11th St. Bridge to the Anacostia River]) 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/near Southeast, our scholarship recipients come from public housing, subsidized (Section 8) housing and middle-income residences.

One student’s expression of appreciation follows:

I am honored to have been a recipient of the SWNA scholarship and would like to sincerely thank SWNA for contributing to my financial needs during this fall semester of my sophomore year at Virginia State University. I am preparing to graduate from VSU as part of the class of 2011 and continue my education by attending medical school to become an obstetrician/gynecologist. At VSU, I am surrounded by dedicated professors and compassionate students daily who are determined and willing to make a difference in the community and world as a whole. Every day I challenge myself to be a leader and motivate those around me to be the change the world so desperately need. I will continue to put forth the effort that will reward me with many more scholarships so I can be among future scholars and successful professionals.

The Volunteers:

Kudos to our all of the volunteers, Rick Bardach, Thelma Jones and SW Library Volunteer Gerald Schwinn, who made sure applications were distributed, collected and that I was kept informed as to the status of the applications. Thanks also to Rhonda Hamilton, who helped in the interview process.

Scholarship recipients for year 2008-09:

Leon Drabo (Dillard University)
Patricia Harris (Lock Haven University)
Allen Kellogg (Elmira College)
McKindra Letsinger (Virginia State University)
Kyle Mimms (Temple University)
Tiffany Robinson (Georgetown University)
Natasha Rodriguez (University of Maryland)
Shakira Thomas (Howard University)

Seniors:

Allen Dobbins, Jr. (Virginia Union University)
Jamal Hansberry (Moorehouse College)
Sydney Henriques-Payne (Univ. of Pittsburgh)
Makai Kellogg (Trinity University)

The Southwester
Dale MacIver, Editor

The twelve issues published in 2008 are in PDF form on SWNA's website www.swdc.org. Names and organizations can be Googled to find the issues in which they are mentioned. Those issues can be displayed and read on the computer screen.

Dozens and dozens of writers and their bylines appear in the PDFs. Topics covered are as varied as the Near SW-SE area of Washington, DC.

The Treasurer reports that *The Southwester's* income for 2008, mainly from advertising, was approximately equal to the cost of publication, primarily layout and printing.

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Youth Activities Task Force

Beryl Rice – [Rice Beryl@yahoo.com](mailto:Beryl@yahoo.com) and
Rick Bardach – Rrickbar@aol.com

Created in 1982, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Youth Activities Task Force (SWNA-YATF) 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 in support of our programs.

YATF spent a little over \$7,000 during the 2008 year. The YATF end-of-year fund balance is approximately \$9,500. Going forward, this enables YATF to focus not only on the regular sporting programs but also on more life skills and engaging programs for the community's youth and perhaps their parents and guardians.

One of our most successful programs this year has been a computer training program called "Computer-for-Kids Training." The first class was held in the fall of 2007; 14 youth "graduated" from that 8-week program. In 2008, two more classes were held, one in the spring and the other in the fall; 16 youth "graduated" from these two sessions. In addition, 4 adults also "graduated" from our first adult class. We are very grateful to the highly skilled, dedicated volunteer instructors, LaShawn Williams, Gerald Brown, Craig Ferguson and Steve McCoy. Each student receives a refurbished computer for their home, with the understanding they will teach other household members the skills they have learned in the program and participate in a periodic survey. This program had several partners, as follows: SWNA Technology Task Force, King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, James Creek Resident Council, and First Time Computers. In addition, support was received from River Park Friends, Safeway, Washington Cable and ANC Commissioner Ron McBee.

As a result of a suggestion from one of the students in the Computer-for-Kids program, we added a field trip component. Students have attended several Nationals baseball games. They also attended a play by the organization "City at Peace" at The ARC located in Southeast. Another trip was to Baltimore to visit the Harbour Place, the Reginald Lewis Museum and view the Thurgood Marshall Statue. Finally, students spent a full day at Six Flags in Maryland.

On the negative side, our community was dealt a severe blow, in that we lost the Boys & Girls Club #4 that had been a major youth activity for many years. The Club always sponsored teams in football, basketball and baseball. It also operated a large summer camp and was a great place for youth to frequent just to “hang.”

On the positive side, the King-Greenleaf Recreation Center has come forth with an enhanced sports program to partially take up the slack. Much credit goes to Henry Moton, the Center Manager, who came to our community early in 2008.

YATF again supported sports teams in 2008, as it has year-in and year-out. In January, \$2160 was spent in support of B&G Club #4’s basketball teams. Then in the spring, we contributed \$900 towards registration fees for the Club’s baseball teams. This fall, YATF spent several hundred dollars in support of the King-Greenleaf football teams. Finally, in December, we contributed \$280 to the Jefferson Middle School’s basketball team.

For the second year, a new group of SW residents and former residents that had formed an organization called the Southwest CommUnity Forum put together a summer fun day event called “Southwest Unity Day.” It has been a very successful, well-attended weekend event both years. YATF contributed \$750 for this event.

YATF also supported “Voices of Now,” a theater group led by Arena Stage community staff, Ashley Forman and Psalmayene24. The participants were students of Jefferson Junior High. Their play was created and acted by them. The title of the play was “Lost & Found.”

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 the overall developmental changes.

Current YATF members:

Beryl Rice & Rick Bardach, co-chairs, Rhonda Hamilton, April Hines, Thelma Jones, Dale MacIver, Valerie McCambry, Lenora Moragne, Delmar Weathers, Niles White and Eve Wilkins.

Technology Task Force

Perry Klein, Chair

The Technology Task Force was organized in February 2008. Its mission is to use technology to improve the quality of life of residents of Southwest and near-Southeast DC. This includes

- o Maintaining the www.swdc.org Internet web site as a resource for information important to residents.
- o Collecting and supplying computers to families who can benefit from them.
- o Assisting with Internet access for residents who need but cannot afford it.

Projects include:

- 1) Update and expand the www.swdc.org web site.
- 2) Collect old computers and refurbish them for use by families in Southwest.
- 3) Obtain computer software at low cost for distribution to needy families.
- 4) Set up Wi-Fi access points, especially for families in Syphax, James Creek & Greenleaf.
- 5) Scan or photograph all available past issues of *The Southwester* and publish them on the SWNA web site and on CD.

Over the past year, we collected over 60 computers donated by residents, organizations and churches in the community. We have been refurbishing them and then giving them out to residents who have completed the “Computers for Kids” and “Computers for Sassy Seniors” training in Southwest, to take home to share with their families. We have also been collecting laptop computers and have refurbished and given out three to college students recommended by the Scholarship Committee for use in college. We are also grateful to Microsoft and Symantec for donating Windows XP, Windows Office and Norton Antivirus software licenses. Also to Adobe for donating very expensive software to help our volunteer editors layout *The Southwester*.

We are still seeking laptop computers, recent enough to work with Windows XP, to give out to additional students designated by the Scholarship Committee for use in college. We are also in need of help with scanning or photographing old issues of *The Southwester* for publication in searchable electronic form. This is an especially important project because these early issues of *The Southwester* document the history of the Southwest community after redevelopment.