



SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY ANNUAL REPORT 2013

“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 2013-2015 Officers and Board Members
(as of March 2014)

President: Kael Anderson

Vice-President: Kevin McDonald

Secretary: Donna Purchase

Treasurer: Anne Martin

District Representatives:

1st District: Jason Kopp and Pat Spencer

2nd District: Saadia Athias and Dena Walker

3rd District: Amira Badawi and Kenneth Prater

4th District: (vacant)

Task Forces:

The Southwester: Shannon Vaughn

Youth Activities/ Education/Scholarship: Thelma D. Jones

History: Cecille Chen

Technology: Perry Klein

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

Message from the President

Kael Anderson

In 2014, we're pleased to be celebrating our 50th anniversary! Back in January 1964, Walter Washington, Neal Peirce, and eight other community leaders established the Southwest Community Council. The Council was merged into the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly on September 29th, 1998.

On that note, we want to thank you for supporting us for the past fifty years. Whether by 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 2013. Likewise, we are indebted to the support of Southwest organizations like Arena Stage and Safeway. We are especially grateful to Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater for hosting a number of our community meetings.

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

We held a number of community gatherings throughout the year. As in years past, we hosted our elected officials and candidates, including our Ward 6 Councilmember, At Large-Councilmember Anita Bonds and candidate nights for DC Mayor and Ward 6 Councilmember. Recognizing that Southwest's physical environment is quickly transforming, we organized a lecture series with the Office of Planning and DC Preservation League that explored our heritage. Given the proposed redevelopment of the Greenleaf housing community, we held two public housing forums. In July, we welcomed Dr. Marc Weiss, Chairman of Global Urban Development, a former Assembly president and DC redevelopment official who shared advice and lessons learned on a changing Southwest. We also held a forum that examined the impacts of the soccer stadium proposal. Perhaps the most enjoyable affair for all ages was our 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. It remains our most important means of reaching the whole community. We are grateful to have members of our community committed to carrying this increasingly unique operation forward another year. This year we inaugurated our Facebook and Twitter presence to complement *The Southwester* and our web sites so the community can stay engaged online.

We made a concerted effort to engage in important events and initiatives affecting Southwest. We provided formal comments on the SW Small Area Plan, Southwest BID, DC United Soccer Stadium, DC Parks and Recreation Master Plan, DC Circulator expansion, South Capitol Street redevelopment,

Maryland Avenue Transportation Study, Long Bridge Study, North-South Streetcar study, WMATA's Momentum Plan, and WMATA's Route 54.

Recognizing the importance of parks and recreation in an increasingly densifying area, the Assembly particularly focused on Lansburgh Park and Randall Recreation Center. We worked with DC Officials to install basketball courts in Lansburgh. We partnered with George Washington University to clean up and improve the Lansburgh and Randall grounds.

When DC proposed to sell Randall, eliminating our recreation center, we led a successful effort to keep the center in part through a petition drive and FOIA request. Our task forces led a coordinated effort with other stakeholders to activate the Randall Recreation building: the Youth Activities Task Force funded programming, our Technology Task Force set up a computer lab, and our History Task force studied and arranged to nominate the property to the National Register of Historic Places.

When District officials proposed to build a soccer stadium in SW with no planning or accommodation for the impacts to Southwest, the Assembly organized the Winning Goal Coalition in partnership with a number of DC non-profits. After meeting with Councilmembers, holding briefings and forums, DC has launched an environmental study as well as a planning study for the soccer stadium area.

We also recognize the importance of emerging community organizations. In 2013 we continued to provide administrative and financial support to the Neighbors of the Southwest Duck Pond, PAWS of Southwest, and Southwest Gardens Group. These groups organized numerous community events including a Chihuahuas race on the Waterfront, a dog swim at the Randall Rec. Center pool, a Ward 6 community gardens bike tour, a weekly farm stand, and a Veteran's Day salute. With the Assembly's assistance, these groups restored and improved the Southwest Duck Pond and Lansburgh Park. The seminal event last year was the July 31st Community Garden Makeover, where volunteers built a community garden, thanks in part to financial support by Fiskars, Inc.

We routinely provide support and work with Southwest organizations on an ad hoc basis when challenges and opportunities arise. For example, when some large rental properties went on the market, we provided support through DC's First Right to Purchase Program to ensure that Southwest residents can continue to affordably live in their communities. We also came to a memorandum of agreement with the Graduate School USA that will provide its facilities available for activities, offer discounted training rates, and provide volunteer services for the benefit of Southwesterners.

Individually, Assembly board members represent our community neighbors at dozens of additional events and sit on the various steering committees and organizations in Southwest including SW ArtsFest, the Washington Nationals Community Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Small Area Plan Advisory Committee.

Many thanks and wishes for a successful 2014.

2013 SWNA Financial Statement

(following line entries required
in IRS Form 990 EZ)

<u>REGULAR PROGRAMS</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>History</u>	<u>Technology</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Southwester</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	
	<u>Task Force</u>	<u>Task Force</u>	<u>Task Force</u>	<u>Task Force</u>	<u>Fund</u>		<u>(Regular)</u>	
<u>REVENUE</u>								
1. Contributions	\$4,949	\$4,565	\$5,000	\$575	\$1,770	\$900	\$17,759	
8. Other Revenue (Sched. O)		\$620			\$425	\$19,580	\$20,625	
9. Total Revenue	\$4,949	\$5,185	\$5,000	\$575	\$2,195	\$20,480	\$38,384	
<u>EXPENSES</u>								
10. Grants	\$3,000	\$7,317					\$10,317	
15. Printing, etc.						\$18,289	\$18,289	
16. Other Expenses (Sched O)		\$1,446	\$13,825		\$1,924		\$17,195	
17. Total Expenses	\$3,000	\$8,763	\$13,825	\$0	\$1,924	\$18,289	\$45,801	
18. <u>EXCESS or DEFICIT</u>	\$1,949	-\$3,578	-\$8,825	\$575	\$271	\$2,191	-\$7,417	
19. <u>Fund balances (end of 2012)</u>	\$54	\$8,466	\$15,009	\$274	\$1,873	\$1,625	\$27,301	
21. <u>Fund balances (end of 2013)</u>	\$2,003	\$4,888	\$6,184	\$849	\$2,144	\$3,816	\$19,884	
			**\$13,825 is return of an unused grant from several years ago resulting in a deficit					
<u>SPONSORED PROGRAMS</u>	<u>Comm Garden</u>	<u>Duck Pond</u>	<u>PAWS of SW</u>		<u>TOTALS</u>		<u>GRAND</u>	
					<u>(Groups)</u>		<u>TOTALS</u>	
REG+SPONSOREI FOR FORM 990EZ								
<u>REVENUE</u>								
1. Contributions	\$2,559	\$209	\$3,157		\$5,925		1. Contrib.	\$23,684
8. Other Revenue (Schedule O)					\$0		8. Other Rev.	\$20,625
9. Total Revenue	\$2,559	\$209	\$3,157		\$5,925		9. Total Rev.	\$44,309
<u>EXPENSES</u>								
10. Grants							10. Grants paid	\$10,317
15. Printing							15. Print, etc.	\$18,289
16. Other exp. (Sched. O)	\$116	\$1,799			\$1,915		16. Other exp	\$19,110
17. <u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	\$116	\$1,799	\$0		\$1,915		17. TOTAL EXP.	\$47,716
18. <u>EXCESS or DEFICIT</u>	\$2,443	-\$1,590	\$3,157		\$4,010		18. EXC or DEF	-\$3,407
19. <u>Fund Balances (end of 2012)</u>	\$97	\$1,188	\$3,599		\$4,884		19. 2012 Bal.	\$32,185
21. <u>Fund balances (end of 2013)</u>	\$2,540	-\$402	\$6,756		\$8,894		21. 2013 Bal	\$28,778

The Southwester

Shannon Vaughn, Editor-in-chief

Julia Cole, Copy/Web editor

During calendar year 2013, *The Southwester* published twelve monthly issues – eight 8-page issues, and four 12 page issues – all of which are available online in PDF format at www.thesouthwester.com.

This year we also re-designed *The Southwester* website to provide a better user experience. As well, we launched an aggressive social media campaign on both Facebook and Twitter. Overall online readership is up over 1000% over the year previous.

Editor-in-chief Shannon Vaughn has lived in Southwest since 2009 and joined *The Southwester* in February 2013 along with copy/web editor Julia Cole. Their first publication started one month later.

Some highlights of *The Southwester's* published in 2013 include:

- *The Southwester* moderated the DC Democratic Mayoral Debate held at Arena Stage
- Articles on the Washington Kastles breaking the consecutive match winning streak
- National Cherry Blossom Festival
- SW ArtsFest and the (e)merge art fair
- The groundbreaking of The Wharf
- Opening of the new Southwest Community Garden
- Plans for DC United soccer stadium
- CSX Virginia Avenue Tunnel articles
- Save the 74 Metrobus articles and campaign
- Multiple new recurring articles such as 'Know Your Neighborhood', *The Southwester* Crossword, Arena Stage Southwest Nights, Community Calendar, and more.

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

History Task Force

Cecille Chen, Chair

In 2013, the History Task Force (HTF) maintained its focus on the Assembly's mission to promote development of the economic and aesthetic potential of Southwest and preserve its diverse history. With its initiatives, 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.

TWO LECTURES ON THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY AND FUTURE OF SOUTHWEST

In an effort to engage those beyond our quadrant, HTF partnered with the DC Preservation League on two lectures on the architectural history and urban development of Southwest. The first lecture was held on February 26, and featured guest speakers Richard Longstreth, Director of the Historic Preservation program at The George Washington University, and Todd Ray, a principal architect at Studio Twenty Seven Architecture. The speakers explained how the neighborhood came to look as it does and why both individual buildings and the overall planning and development are significant. They examined the role that architects such as I M Pei, Harry Weese and Chloethiel Woodard Smith had in shaping the neighborhood and its architecture. The event was held at Jefferson Middle School and was attended by nearly a hundred people. The lecture was well-received and provoked thoughtful questions and discussion on the future of our community in light of the need to preserve our modernist architecture and landscape.

On April 22, the Assembly and the DC Preservation League presented the second lecture entitled "Shaping Southwest: Understanding the Past and Envisioning the Future." As a follow-up to the first lecture, which discussed the history of our neighborhood, the second lecture focused on the future of Southwest in light of numerous planned development projects throughout our community. Arena Stage graciously hosted the event in their rehearsal hall, which was filled to capacity. Five panelists included officials from the Office of Planning, the Historic Preservation Office, and architects with expertise in Southwest. Tarek Bolden and Steve Cochran from the Office of Planning discussed the Southwest Small Area Plan, a process that would provide public and private stakeholders a land use and urban design framework for guiding development in our neighborhood. David Maloney, DC's Preservation Officer, emphasized the importance of conserving neighborhood character and encouraged residents to advocate for the preservation of the unique character of our neighborhood. Todd Ray of Studio 27 Architecture provided a vision for Southwest's future by presenting an analysis of current physical conditions in Southwest, and proposed innovative solutions such as burying the SW Freeway underground and creating surface parks for pedestrians. Eric Jenkins, an architecture professor at Catholic University, urged residents to become more engaged in the planning process in Southwest and emphasized the value of our green spaces or face the consequences of losing the unique character of our community. A lively Q&A session with the audience followed, and concerns regarding overdevelopment emerged as a main theme. In response, the panelists urged residents to participate in the Small Area Plan and to testify at ANC and Zoning hearings to demand better planning and design for our community.

HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATIONS

In 2013, HTF actively participated in outreach and educational efforts to encourage residents of Southwest properties to apply for historic landmark designation and guide them through the nomination process. As a result, two venerable Southwest properties, Harbour Square and Town Center East, were designated as historic landmarks. These properties take their places in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites, alongside Tiber Island, Potomac Place Tower, Arena Stage, and other historic landmarks in Southwest.

On February 28, the DC Historic Preservation Review Board voted unanimously to approve Harbour Square's application for historic designation. Designed by Chloethiel Woodard Smith, Harbour Square was completed in 1966 and includes multi-story buildings and row houses. Smith's design seamlessly incorporates some of the District's oldest existing residential structures, including Wheat Row (1794), the Barney House (1794), and the Lewis House (1817). The Historic Preservation Office report found that Harbour Square is characterized by its plantings and hardscape, designed by the acclaimed landscape architect Dan Kiley, who had previously collaborated with Smith on Capitol Park. The Review Board found that Harbour Square's green spaces were of "extreme importance" and that the complex was praised as "a benchmark for good design" and "a model for new urban renewal."

On June 27, the DC Historic Preservation Review Board voted unanimously to approve an application to recognize Town Center East as a historic landmark. The application was co-sponsored by the owners of Waterfront Tower condominium and the Assembly. Designed by I. M. Pei, Town Center East comprises twin towers at 1001 and 1101 Third St. SW and surrounding open spaces. In Town Center East (as well as Town Center West opposite Arena Stage), Pei employed an elegant yet simple balance of materials, a glass "skin" and poured cement frame, set on curved piloti and cantilevered at all four corners, giving the structures a unique grace. Residents particularly appreciate how well great architecture works from inside their homes: "the sense of being outside when inside because of the view-framing windows."

On August 26, the Assembly submitted a landmark nomination for the Randall Recreation Center, which was the former District Pound and Stable. Designed by Snowdon Ashford and completed in 1912, the District Pound and Stable's significance is rooted in its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history. The construction of a modern, purpose-built building to house the District Pound was a symbolic expression of the formal development of health and safety programs, as well as the further progression of Washington, D.C. as a city.

HTF continues to work with other communities in Southwest, reaching out to community stakeholders to encourage scholarly research on the history of residential complexes and public parks in Southwest with a view towards preparing landmark nominations. HTF would like to acknowledge and give special thanks to Hara Bouganim, Hayden Wetzel and Madeline Clites, who worked wholeheartedly and tirelessly to preserve Southwest's architectural heritage.

Technology Task Force

Perry Klein, Chair

SWNA's Technology Task Force was formed to help make computers available in our Southwest community. In 2013 we supplied additional refurbished computers to Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and the Jefferson Academy, our two neighborhood public schools. We also set up a new computer center at the Randall Community Center and arranged the donation of high-quality tables and chairs. Most of the computers were donated by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Graduate School USA, located in Southwest DC. We also refurbished notebook computers and made them available to several college students in Southwest, including the two undergraduates who received scholarships from the SWNA Scholarship Fund.

In 2013 Microsoft announced that they would be discontinuing support of their Windows XP operating system in support of their newer, more advanced Windows 7 and 8 operating systems. The consequences of this are that the cost to upgrade the hardware on most of the computers that have been donated to SWNA will increase substantially and make refurbishing them too expensive to be feasible unless grants are received to subsidize the work.

Youth Activities Task Force

Thelma D. Jones, Chair

Created in 1982, the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force (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, the general support we continue to receive in support of our programs, and the development of new partnerships. Our income comes from soliciting donations from our community residents and other friends of YATF. This year YATF raised approximately \$5,200. With the generosity of our community and supporters, we were able to impact the lives of hundreds of youth and their families in a variety of ways.

One of YATF's most successful programs has been the "Computer-for-Kids" (CFK) Computer Training Program which began in October 2007 under the leadership of YATF Member Thelma D. Jones. To date, approximately 80 children have graduated from the program since its inception. We are grateful to the highly skilled, dedicated volunteer instructors, including Gerald Brown, LaShawn Williams, and Frank Fu. Upon completion of the classes, students receive a refurbished computer for their home, with the understanding they will teach other household members the skills they have learned in the program. This program had several partners, including SWNA Technology Task Force, King-Greenleaf Recreation Center (KGL), and Syphax Gardens Resident Council. A special acknowledgement goes to Friends of Southwest DC (formerly River Park Friends) for awarding us a \$1,000 grant for this program a couple years ago for which benefits are still derived.

In December 2013, YATF resumed its Safe Sitter (babysitting) Program, graduating 11 students from Girl Scout Troop 6088. As a result of the training, the girls are more confident in taking care of children and infants in their charge. YATF has been invited to conduct the training for other troops throughout the metropolitan area. YATF is poised to conduct Safe Sitter training for Southwest youth ages 11-13+, including its SW Girl Scout Troop 4298 as well as the students at Amidon-Bowen Elementary and Jefferson Academy. For several years, YATF was proud to hold the distinction of being the only registered Safe Sitter Program in the nation's capital, having started our program in 2001.

In 2013 our financial sponsorship included:

o Supported a new program for girls on anti-bullying at King-Greenleaf-----	\$ 800
o Assisted King-Greenleaf Football teams-----	800
o Assisted purchase of uniform pieces for King-Greenleaf Baseball team-----	722
o Purchased uniform jerseys & trophy plates for King-Greenleaf Girls new Volleyball team-----	520
o Program costs for conducting Safe Sitter program for Girl Scout Troop 6088-----	929
o Purchased banners for Jefferson Academy Football city champs -----	350
o Purchased uniforms for Amidon-Bowen Elementary Girls Basketball team -----	800
o Purchased supplies for Amidon-Bowen Elementary Saturday School -----	625
o Supported Arena Stage "Voices of Now" program -----	100
o Contributing partner for summer program at Randall Community Center through Sasha Bruce----	1,000
o Supported SWNA's Technology Task Force Computer Center at Randall Community -----	800
o Contributing partner for SW Comm-Unity Family Day in August -----	800
o Small grant for YATF members to take several children to museum -----	69
o Administration costs -----	449
Total -----	\$8,764

Year in and year out, YATF supports sports teams that play at King-Greenleaf, operated by the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). This year's expenditures of \$2,042 went to support the football (4 teams and a cheerleading squad), baseball (3 teams) and girls' volleyball programs at King-Greenleaf. Also, this year we supported a new "pilot" program for girls that addressed the issue of bullying. YATF's efforts in supporting programs and activities at our two neighborhood schools, two recreation centers and other venues have directly impacted more than 300 youth. These efforts, combined with other YATF-supported programs and activities such as SW Comm-Unity Day and Voices of Now, have positively impacted the lives of over 2000 youth and families in our community by providing structured and fun-loving activities in a safe environment. Our new young adult members have regularly documented our programs and activities on poster boards that are regularly displayed at SWNA events with high viewership. In addition, YATF regularly provides articles to *The Southwester* on our programs and activities, adding a tremendous sense of pride and increasing youth self-esteem.

Seeking a greater gender balance in our overall programs both in the schools and at KGL, YATF awarded grants that represented first-time girls' program or included a healthy mix of both genders. For example, YATF-funded programs earmarked for girls included a new "pilot" program that addressed bullying, uniform jerseys and trophy plates for the new KGL Girls Volleyball team, uniforms for Amidon-Bowen Elementary Girls Basketball team and Safe Sitter training for Girl Scout Troop 6088 to name a few. Other YATF-funded programs representing greater diversity included our signature Computer-for-Kids program and field trips to the Gaylord, Air and Space Museum and the skating rink.

YATF was also proud to contribute to the community effort to reopen the Randall Recreation Center, which had been closed for several years. The Center, under the jurisdiction of DPR, was opened this summer under an agreement with DPR that allowed Sasha Bruce Youthworks, a long-standing operating non-profit organization that serves youth, to provide programs at the center. YATF contributed \$1000 towards the operating costs and assisted in funding the SWNA Technology Task Force to establish a computer center at the recreation center. Again, our efforts helped to reach hundreds of youth and their families, ensuring that they benefitted from structured, age appropriate and fun-loving programs and activities.

In the coming year, YATF will assume the role that was previously accomplished by the SWNA Education Task Force (formerly Scholarship Committee). For many years, the Scholarship Committee has independently raised money to award scholarships to SW youth who are attending colleges. A void in leadership has prompted YATF to rise to the occasion to help ensure that the awarding of scholarships continues. Effective 2014, YATF will assume this important effort to support some of our college youth. Vyllorya Evans has been appointed to co-chair the effort to reestablish the awarding of scholarship grants.

YATF continues to be proud of its accomplishments and gratefully acknowledges the support of our patrons and the community at large. Their generous support will enable us to leverage the efforts of the schools and recreation centers to cover costs not budgeted by the District. Also, we are appreciative of our membership growth, including young adult members who have benefited from our program as youth and are now proudly giving back. Remaining focused on our mission, continuing to increase our membership, and developing new partners will help to ensure that we provide support to our community youth and help achieve the overall developmental changes.

Current YATF Members:

Thelma D. Jones, Chair, Saffiyah Aleem-Woods, Saadia Athias, Rick Bardach, Jamila Bey, Vyllorya Evans, Renee Feder, Frank Fu, Cheryl Hansberry-Moore, Dale MacIver, Vincent Matthews, Lenora Moragne, Perry Klein, Beryl C. Rice, Tanya Stevenson, Marcellus Watson, Delmar Weathers, Niles White, Andre Wilkinson, Eve T. Wilkins and Kael Anderson (ex officio).

SWNA Scholarship Task Force

This is the 38th year of the SWNA Scholarship Program. Over the past three decades, this community supported fund has helped more than 260 neighborhood youth achieve their educational goals by providing grants to help defray the cost of tuition, purchase textbooks and provide for small necessities.

For the 2013 – 2014 school year two students were awarded grants in the amount of \$1,500 each. The grants were made possible due to the generosity of Friends of Southwest DC.

The Applicants

Any student who lives in the “near Southwest” community (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 (Section 8) and middle-income residences.

One student’s expression of appreciation follows:

“Thank you for your generosity! I appreciate your effort in ensuring that I achieve my education and career goals.”

The Volunteers:

Thank you to our volunteers, Rick Bardach and the SW Library Staff, who ensured that applications were distributed and collected in a timely manner.

The Scholarship recipients for year 2013/2014:

Marlon Mitchell, Kent State University

Vincent Omekam, Temple University

Both were also given notebook computers by the Technology Task Force to bring to school.

Vincent Omekam at Temple University, with his notebook computer.

