Reservation Form

All conference sessions take place on October 27 and 28, 2006, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. The Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture and reception are held on October 26 at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. (formerly the City Museum).

This conference is free and open to the public.
Space is limited.
Please reserve your spot by Monday, October 16.

Email to: michael.rigby@dc.gov
OR Fax this form to 202-727-1129
OR MAIL this form to:
HISTORICAL STUDIES CONFERENCE
Washingtoniana Division
DC Public Library
901 G Street, NW, Room 307
Washington, DC 20001

Number attending: __________________

Please indicate which sessions you will attend so planners can choose appropriately sized rooms.

I plan to attend:
☐ Session 1 ☐ Session 2 ☐ Session 3
☐ Session 4 ☐ Session 5 ☐ Session 6
☐ Session 7 ☐ Session 8 ☐ Session 9
☐ Session 10 ☐ Session 11
☐ Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture

Name: ___________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City: __________________ State: __________________ Zip: ___________
Phone: __________________ Email: __________________

Questions?
Interested in volunteering?
Please call 202-727-1213.
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Name: _______________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
City: ____________________________________________
State: ___________________________ Zip: ___________
Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________

1. From Civil War to Civil Defense: Recent Scholarship in Washington, DC History
Moderator: Matthew Gilmore, H-DC Net

"Lincoln’s Other White House: The Untold Story of the Man and His Presidency"
Elizabeth Smith Brownstein, independent scholar

"This Is Only a Test: How Washington, DC Prepared for Nuclear War"
David Krugler, University of Wisconsin, Platteville

This plenary session presents authors and filmmakers whose recent works document how war, and the threat of war, affected Washington’s inhabitants on both a small and large scale. Elizabeth Brownstein tells the story of President Lincoln’s summer White House on the grounds of the Soldiers’ Home, where, in a 14-room Gothic Revival cottage, Lincoln put the final touches on his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Now known as the President Lincoln and Soldiers’ Home National Monument, the structure is undergoing preservation by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. David Krugler presents the first comprehensive study of the Cold War’s impact on Washington. Using Washington’s often conflicting identities—capital, city, and symbol—he explores the connections between different preparations for nuclear war, including the attempted dispersal of vital government offices to distant suburban sites, and how the Cold War directly affected Washington and its racially divided population.

11 AM – 12 NOON
"The March of the Bonus Army," a film
Glenn Marcus and Robert Uhl, independent producers

Co-producers Glenn Marcus and Robert Uhl screen their new 30-minute documentary examining the 1932 Veterans’ Bonus March on Washington, followed by a discussion on the film and the making of it. Participating in the discussion are Lucy Barber, author of Marching on Washington: The Forging of an American Political Tradition and Paul Dickson and Thomas B. Allen, co-authors of The Bonus Army: An American Epic.

12 NOON – 2 PM
HISTORY NETWORK/LUNCH

Explore local history resources and sites in the MLK Library lobby. Lunch is on your own.

2:15 – 3:45 PM
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2. Documenting the War: World War II Oral History Projects in the DC Area
Moderator: Mark Greef, Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

“Speaking about the Unspeakable: Uncovering Secret Interrogations at Fort Hunt, Virginia during World War Two"  
Brandon S. Bies, National Park Service

“Veterans History Project”  
Tom Wiener, Veterans History Project

With an estimated 1000+ World War II veterans passing away every day, the conducting of oral histories is critical. Brandon S. Bies describes how the National Park Service interviewed an elite group of American soldiers who interrogated German prisoners of war, from U-Boat sailors to the scientists developing the Nazi nuclear program. These POWs were held near Mount Vernon at a secret site known only as “P.O. Box 1142.” Tom Wiener will discuss the many oral histories conducted of metropolitan area veterans for the Veterans History Project, created by the U.S. Congress in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

3. Finding Its Voice: Washington, DC’s GLBTQ Community Creates Its Own Media
Moderator: Kenneth Jost, National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association

Jennifer King, George Washington University

“Something in the Air—Friends Radio Chronicles a Community”
"Crime on the Bus: D.C. Transit and Driver Safety in 1968"

John Olinger relates the development in the 1980s of the first TV programs that catered to the GLBTQ community.

"A Measure of Reality in a Wilderness of Dreams": the Washington 1960s

As it emerged, Washington's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and queer community lacked media for reaching out to community members and for chronicling the community's development. Jennifer King discusses the history of the Washington Blade, begun in October 1969 as The Gay Blade. Mark Minke covers the nine-year run of Friends Radio, which chronicled the life and development of the community from 1973 to 1982 through interviews, investigative reports, and live reporting. John Olinger relates the development in the 1980s of the first TV programs that catered to the GLBTQ community.

Saturday, October 28

9 AM – 12 NOON LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:15 – 1:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Designing the District: Architectural Successes and Failures in Washington, D.C.

Moderator: Brett Clement, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

"The Architecture of Urban Enslavement at Decatur House Museum"

Julie Galonsa, Site Manager, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

"Preserving the Life, Times, and Service of Carter G. Woodson"

Robert Parker, Site Manager, Mary McLeod Bethune House Museum and Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site

"Keeping the peace locally has required strong leaders at key moments. David Hostetter describes the years 1961 to 1963 at the Washington Peace Action Center (PAC), where Quaker nonviolent peace activists led by Lawrence Scott employed nonviolent vigils, civil disobedience, and fasting to convey demands for superpower negotiations and disarmament, all while contributing to the local preparations for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Jordan Patty details the labor negotiations conducted by Monsignor George H. Higgins, a labor expert and the longtime head of the Social Action Division of the United States Catholic Conference that ensued in the late spring of 1968, when bus drivers working for D.C. Transit announced that it was unsafe to carry cash at night, and they would no longer do so.

11 AM – 12 NOON LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:15 – 1:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Washington's Not-So-Gilded Age

Moderator: Ryan F. Semmes, Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

"Foul, Repulsive, and Unsightly," Washington, D.C.'s Sewage Problems and Improvements, 1865–1880"

James T. Gaber, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

"The Same Dog-Trot Life": Government Clerks and the Middling-Class in Antebellum Washington, D.C.

Heath Bowen, Michigan State University

"A Mysterious Disappearance" and a Public Obsequy: Examining the Parker/Sackett Wedding in Post-Civil War Washington D.C.

C. Genetin-Pilawa, Michigan State University

At these panels reveal, late 19th-century Washington seems best viewed from the safe distance of the 21st century. James Gaber recalls how the Washington's innumerable drainage problems beluga-guared commissioners, engineers, sanitarians, congressmen, and presidents, not to mention the long-suffering residents. Using the journals and letters of career government clerk Benjamin Brown French, Heath Owen explores how Washington's bureaucratic middle class came into being as well as their social experiences in a politically, socially, and economically divided capital. C. Genetin-Pilawa addresses the interconnecting discourses of race, class, and gender that surrounded the marriage of the Seneca leader and Civil War General, Ely S. Parker, to the young, white, Washington socialite, Minnie O. Sackett, in 1867.

Saturdays that DC "Needle" in the National Archives "Hatstack"

Introduction: Karen Blackman-Mills, Washington D.C. Public Library

"District of Columbia Archival Materials in the National Archives! Robert Ellis tells of some of the many archival materials covering the years circa1800 to 1977 that are awaiting discovery. Program Committee

Karen Blackman-Mills, Carl Cole, Matthew Gilmour, Mark Green, Margaret Goodbody, Faye Hawkins, Jennifer King, Jane Freundel Lewey, Jerry McCoy, John Olinger, Michael Rigby, Gary Scott, Ryan Semmes, David Songer, Donna Wells
As it emerged, Washington's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer community lacked media for reaching out to community members and for chronicling the community's development. Jennifer King discusses the history of The Washington Blade, begun in October 1969 as The Gay Blade. Mark Meinke covers the ninety-year-run of Friends Radio, which chronicled the life and development of the community from 1973 to 1982 through interviews, investigative reports, and live reporting. John Olinger relates the development in the 1980s of the first TV programs that catered to the GLBTQ community.

4 – 5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

The Times They Are A-Changin': Non-Violent Activism and Urban Unrest in 1960s Washington, DC
Moderator: Jane Freundel Levey, Cultural Tourism DC

“A Measure of Reality in a Wilderness of Dreams”: the Washington On Screen—Creating Gay Fairfax and TV for the Gay Community
1960s Washington, DC
Radio

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Saturday’s house needs help in revealing its history. Panels will discuss the struggles and accomplishments involved in preserving these three homes of eminent African American leaders in the context of their communities: Frederick Douglass in Anacostia, the Mary Church Terrell Home in LeDroit Park, and Carter G. Woodson in Shaw. Each case study highlights the historic figure’s biography, and the preservation challenges, adaptive re-use of the home, and the importance of place in African American communities.

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