

35th Annual Conference on Washington, D.C. Historical Studies

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

6 PM RECEPTION

Great Hall, Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
801 K Street, NW

7 PM LETITIA WOODS BROWN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Theater, Historical Society of Washington, D.C. 801 K Street, NW

“Stokely Carmichael and American Democracy in the 1960s”

Peniel Joseph

The Associate Professor of African and Afro-American Studies at Brandeis University, recently published *Waiting ‘Til the Midnight Hour*, reassessing the Black Power movement of the 1960s and demonstrating Stokely Carmichael’s role as the historic bridge between the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Black Panthers. His talk uses Carmichael’s activism as a prism to view the struggles for social, political, and racial justice during the 1960s and beyond.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:30 AM ONGOING REGISTRATION

9 AM WELCOME

9:30-11 AM PLENARY SESSION

Please note: room assignments will be posted at the conference.

1 From Riots to Buy-Outs: *The Washington Post*, Past and Future
Moderator: Bob Levey, University of Memphis and former columnist, *The Washington Post*

Panelists: Lionel Neptune, vice president of affiliates, The Washington Post; Robert L. Asher, Howard University and editorial board member, The Washington Post; Joanne Armao, editorial board member and former Metro editor, The Washington Post

In a discussion with audience participation, current *Washington Post* staff look at high points in the agenda-setting newspaper’s recent history, including coverage of the 1968 riots and Watergate. They will also consider the newspaper’s future in the era of staff reductions and the ongoing revolution in communications technology.

11 AM – 12 NOON CONCURRENT FILMS

2 Film: *Perspectives on Urban Violence: An Oral History of the Washington, DC Riots of 1968*
Produced by 2005 AP History Class, Connelly School of the Holy Child.

The 30-minute film will be followed by an audience discussion.

3 Film: *Portraits of a City: The Legacy of the Scurlock Studios*
David Haberstick, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Paul Gardullo, National Museum of African American History and Culture

The 30-minute documentary brings to light the photography studio founded by Addison Scurlock and continued by his sons for most of the 20th century. From the original Scurlock Studio on U Street, to the Custom Craft Studio and the Capitol School of Photography, the Scurlocks’ imagery reached vast audiences here and around the world. A discussion of the collection and related community projects follows.

12 NOON – 2 PM HISTORY NETWORK/LUNCH

A box lunch will be available for purchase (\$7) in the Great Hall, where you can explore local history resources.

2:15 – 3:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4 Queering DC: Roots of Activism and Community in LGBT Washington

Moderator: Craig Howell, Gay and Lesbian Activist Alliance

“Rotten to the Core: Frank Kameny’s Attack on the United States’ Antigay Employment Policy”

David Carter, independent scholar

“‘Gay Is Good,’ Asserting Homosexual Normality, Laying Claim to Civil Rights”

Mark Meinke, Rainbow History Project

“Creating Queer Community and Space”

Rebecca Dolinsky, University of California at Santa Cruz

“Anti-Commercialism, Urban Renewal and Black GLBT Subculture in Washington, 1968-1978”

Kwame Holmes, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Washington, DC, became the center of a self-assured gay civil rights activism in the 1960s. Presenters examine the roots of the Mattachine Society of Washington’s philosophy and strategies, summarized in the

35th Annual Washington, D.C. Historical Studies Conference November 13-15, 2008

SPONSORS

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
The Washingtonian Division of the DC Public Library
Association of Oldest Inhabitants
Friends of Washingtonian Division
Humanities Council of Washington, DC
Rainbow History Project

SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF
Cultural Tourism DC

Special Collections, Gelman Library, George Washington University
Karol A. Keane Design & Communications

slogan “Gay is Good,” and the development of community expressions for marginalized segments. The final paper examines the chilling effect of the April 1968 civil disturbances on the development of African American queer businesses and social centers.

5 Reading the City Moderator: Brett Abrams

“The Changing Façade of E Pluribus Unum”

Maureen E. Connors, George Mason University

“Extending the Life of Our Historic Resources, One Building at a Time”

Raj Barr-Kumar, Barr-Kumar Architects Engineers PC and
Catholic University of America

“The Face of American Science: Exploring the History of the
National Academy of Sciences Einstein Memorial”

Trevor Owens, George Mason University

Panelists consider the city in terms of constants, such as the enduring classical styles that mark our public buildings, and change: the adaptive re-use and preservation of venerable buildings. The final paper takes a case study approach to the public responses to attempts to shape perceptions of mythic figures.

4-5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

6 The Capitol and Its Neighbors Moderator: Matt Wasniewski, Office of History and Preservation, Clerk of the House of Representatives

“The Fifteenth Amendment in Flesh and Blood’: African American
Members of Congress on the Hill and in D.C.”

Lana Turner O’Hara, Office of History and Preservation, Clerk of
the House of Representatives

“Shaping a Monument: Souvenir Images of the Capitol”

Felicia Wivchar, Office of History and Preservation, Clerk of the
House of Representatives

“The Nation’s Capital: A Revealing Oral Perspective of the Interwoven
Relationship between the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S.
Capitol, and Washington, D.C.”

Kathleen Johnson, Office of History and Preservation, Clerk of
the House of Representatives

Explore the influence of the Capitol and Congress on the local city
(and vice versa) through the unique lens of members of Congress,
their staff, and the building itself.

7 Faith-Based Support for Human Needs Moderator: Mark Meinke, Rainbow History Project

“Caring for the Elderly Poor: The Little Sisters of the Poor in
Washington, D.C.”

Justine Christianson, National Park Service

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Brett Abrams, Sandy Bellamy, Karen Blackman-Mills, Yvonne
Carignan, Mark Greek, Dottie Green, Jennifer King, Jane
Freundel Levey, Richard Longstreth, Mark Meinke, Michael
Rigby, Gary Scott, Donna Wells, Leslie White

“Memory Eternal: Re-Constituting Russia in Washington’s Russian
Orthodox Burial Grounds”

Harold M. Leich, Library of Congress

“Grassroots Mobilization: Charity and Justice during the 1970s”

Christine Elwell, American University

Panelists explore facets of responses to human needs by faith-based
communities: Catholic women religious who aided the poor sheltered
at St. Joseph’s Home for the Aged on H Street, NE; Russian Orthodox
clergy who helped elite Russian refugees fleeing the Bolshevik
Revolution; and to the very recent efforts of faith-based activists that
led to a national movement to end homelessness.

8 Howard University: An Inward Look at 1968 Moderator: Donna M. Wells, Howard University

Panelists: Clifford Muse, Howard University; Russell Adams, Howard
University emeritus; Ruby Gourdine, Howard University; Tony
Gittens, formerly DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

The student take-over at Howard University in 1968 forced changes
on Howard’s campus and in other universities such as the developing a
more inclusive Afro-centric curriculum, better interaction between the
university and the local community, and more student involvement
in university politics. Panelists offer first-person student and faculty
perspectives on the event and its consequences.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:45-9:30 REGISTRATION

9:30-11 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9 Mid-century Residential Architecture Moderator: Richard Longstreth, George Washington University

“Housing Reform Meets the Marketplace: Washington and the FHA’s
Contribution to Apartment Building Design, 1935-1940”

Richard Longstreth, George Washington University

“Beyond Levittown: The Design and Marketing of Belair at Bowie,
Maryland”

James A. Jacobs, National Park Service

“Towards the ‘Ecological’ Suburb: Rockville’s Woodley Gardens and
New Mark Commons”

Isabelle Gournay and Mary Corbin Sies, University of Maryland

The Washington area has been the proving ground for a number
of housing innovations. The FHA-supported low-density garden
apartment complexes offered good quality, affordable shelter between
the wars. Belair at Bowie, the Levitt and Sons high-end development
in Prince George’s County, won the hearts of homeowners by offering
more house for the money. The Rockville developments of the 1960s
provided innovative diversity of housing types in one of the nation’s
first Planned Unit Developments.

10 Vice and Anti-Vice: Urban Reform in Civil War Washington Moderator: Jane Freundel Levey, Cultural Tourism DC

“Madam on the Mall: What an Archaeological Dig Uncovered about
Prostitution”

Amy Ballard, Smithsonian Institution
“A.K. Browne: Law, Politics and Reform in Civil War Era Washington”
Michael T. Caires, University of Virginia
“Prostitutes and Puritans in 1890s Washington: the Case of the Anti-Division Association”
Mark Herlong, independent researcher

During the Civil War, Washington’s population exploded with thousands of newcomers: soldiers, formerly enslaved men and women, businessmen, politicians, and bureaucrats. Also in attendance were hundreds of prostitutes and dozens of reformers. The panelists set the context for a city in turmoil and efforts to clean it up with new streets, parks, charitable relief, and the dispersal of ladies of the evening.

11:15-2:00 LUNCH & GALLERY TALKS

A box lunch will be available for purchase (\$7) in the Great Hall. Docent-led gallery tours of “Riots Are the Language of the Unheard,” and “Frank Smith: Forty Years Since the Riots” are offered.

2:15-3:45 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11 Panel Discussion: Freemasonry in the Washington, D.C. Area
Moderator: Gary Scott, National Park Service

Participants: Julius Jefferson, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge; Mark Tabbert, George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria; Paul M. Bessel, Masonic Leadership Center

A look at the impact of Freemasonry on the life and design of the city and surroundings since the organization’s earliest days. Bring your questions about this ancient and intriguing benevolent society.

12 Collections Update
Moderator: Karen Blackman-Mills, DC Public Library

An informal discussion on the new acquisitions and exciting initiatives underway at the area’s key repositories of Washington history.

Participants: Yvonne Carignan, Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; Derek Gray, Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library; Ida Jones, Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, Howard University; Jennifer King, Special Collections, Gelman Library, George Washington University; Susan McElrath, American University; Mark Meinke, Rainbow History Project

2:30-4:30 SPECIAL OFF-SITE SESSION

13 Walking Tour: An Environmental History Walk along T Street
Leaders: George Middendorf, Department of Biology, Howard University; Charles Nilon, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, University of Missouri; Brett Williams, Department of Anthropology, American University

Discover how gentrification has affected the environment, including human residents, vegetation and wildlife habitats, along T Street, NW, where more than 60 years have seen middle-class stability, civil unrest, reinvestment, and gentrification. Meet at 2:30 pm at the Dupont Circle Metro station (Red line) north exit, 19th and Q Sts., NW.

Tour ends at 4:30 at Shaw-Howard University Metro station (Green and Yellow lines), Seventh and S Sts., NW, a short ride back to the Historical Society.

4-5:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

14 Film: *The Night James Brown Saved Boston*
Moderator: Dorothy Green, Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Producer Eric Kulberg will discuss this 55-minute film and accompanying slide show on the James Brown concert on April 5, 1968, that reportedly calmed the city of Boston one day after Dr. King’s assassination. The documentary includes important segments on the civil disturbances here in Washington, DC, and in other cities.



Scottish Rite Temple, 16th Street, NW
Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

15 Elementary, My Dear Watson!: Collectors as Real *History* *Detectives*
Moderator: Mark Greek, DC Public Library

Occasionally collectors come across a mysterious document or series of documents that require a closer inspection to uncover clues to their creation or historical value. The panelists will discuss their methods for researching and solving archival mysteries.

Panelists: Philip J. Merrill, Nanny Jack and Co.; Jerome Gray, collector; James Hill, collector.

4:15-5:45 SPECIAL OFF-SITE SESSION

16 Walking Tour: Insider Tour of Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia, 1000 U St., NW. Join Worshipful Grand Lodge Archivist/Historian Julius Jefferson on an insider’s tour of this temple of African American Freemasonry. Meet outside the building. Metro: U Street/African Amer Civil War Memorial/Cardozo station, (Green and Yellow lines), Civil War Memorial exit.

Reservation Form

The Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture and all conference sessions take place November 13-15, 2008, at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. in the historic Carnegie Library.

Admission: \$10; students and seniors, \$5.
Space is limited.

Please reserve your spot by Friday, October 31.
CALL 202-383-1850
OR FAX this form to: 202-383-1872
OR MAIL this form to:

Historical Studies Conference
Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
801 K St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Number attending: _____

Payment enclosed: _____

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

I plan to attend:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 16 |

Please reserve a box lunch (payment is due at the conference).

Number of lunches: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*Questions? Interested in volunteering?
Please call 202-383-1850.*

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
801 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

35th Annual Conference on
Washington, D.C. Historical Studies
November 13-15, 2008
Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

You are cordially invited to join historians, preservationists, neighborhood researchers, students, collectors, and history buffs at this exciting annual conference.



April 1968
Washingtonian Division, DC Public
Library