

Corporate Membership Campaign Begins

Corporate Membership opportunities are back! Available at several levels, these memberships offer a meaningful opportunity for generous and public-minded community stakeholders to support the mission and goals of the Historical Society of Washington. Corporate Members foster and enhance HSW's ability to offer research access, exhibitions, and public programs about the many diverse facets of D.C. history. All HSW programs are free to the public and membership – from both corporations and individuals – provide vital support for the Society. To learn more about Corporate Membership, contact Development Manager Leslie White at Lwhite@historydc.org or 202-383-1837 or visit www.historydc.org.

Welcome to HSW's New Members!

In addition to Corporate Membership, Individual Memberships are offered at three levels: Individual \$50, Family \$100, and Benefactor \$500. To join, visit www.historydc.org, come to a program and pick up an application, or call Leslie White at 202-383-1837. Benefits of membership include discounts on services offered by the Kiplinger Research Library, a subscription to the Washington History journal and invitations to members' only events and exhibit openings.

Nancy Alper, Gail Altenburger, Melissa Anderson, Raymond W. Archer, III, Stephen Babcock, Allison Bickers, Robert Brent, Joseph K. Brooks, Richard S. Charin, Claudio Cioffi, Martha D. Clark, Harold Closter, Patricia Conley, Edward Darden, Michael Dolan, William F. Eaton, Joseph S. Emmerich, Francis X. Flaharity,

Barbara M. Fletcher, James C. Gaffney, Walter Gagliano, Carlton L. Harbaugh, Shawn Hendon, Carol Hill, Eric Hirshfield, Charles H. Hoke, Melinda K. Holmes, Patrick Hyde, Thelma D. Jacobs, Joe Kamalick, Maja Keech, Thomas H. Kerwin, Kathleen Kilpatrick, David A. Lamdin, Carol Lancaster, Jacqueline LaRocca, Dianne M. Lee, Nancy E. Lindsay, Yvonne Liser, Laurel Macondray, Sharon Marsh, David L. Miller, Susan D. Moran, Francis J. Murray, Eva Orbach, James Owens, Jr., Jacques Peters, Ronald Pytel, Kurt Rakouskas, Miguel C. Rodrigues, Tom Rollins, Katie Rollins, Elizabeth Sander, Marianne Sardone, Kirk Savage, Diane Schulz, Scott H. Segal, Linda Slonksnes, Lynn A. Soukup, Michael D. Svetlik, Ruthe J. Swinson, Susan Szulman, Peter A. Tinsley, David Trebing, J.D. Trezise, Trust for Architectural Easements, Taylor Vinson, Katherine D. Warner, Naima Washington, Louisa Watson, Gwendolyn K. White, Clarence Wilson, Catherine W. Zipf, Calvin G. Zon

Dick Evans

HSW lost a treasure in June when beloved volunteer Dick Evans passed away. Dick began volunteering at HSW (when it was still called the Columbia Historical Society) in the 1980s when it was located in the Heurich Mansion. Also known as the Brewmaster's Castle, the building was located just a block from Dick's long time residence. An electrical engineer, Dick retired professionally in 2000.

Dick brought his technical expertise and love of history to HSW where he worked to maintain and digitize the extensive photographic collections of the Society. Dick played a huge role in the crafting of HSW's web site and maintaining the digital archives accessible through the website. Dick's extensive knowledge of the HSW collections made him the perfect curator for exhibitions featuring elements of the Collections.

Dick was incredibly generous with his time and talents, he worked four days a week at HSW, and spent copious amounts of time with other organizations that treasured his commitment; these included the National Building Museum, the Heurich House Museum, the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress and the Victorian Society in America. He is greatly missed.

Welcome to our New Education Coordinator

Sarah Carmichael Gamble is a Museum Education specialist with over five years of experience in the field. She received her undergraduate degree in history from the University of Maine and a Masters in the Art of Teaching- Museum Education from The George Washington University.

Her work experience includes inter-generational program development for Jamestown Settlement's 400th Anniversary, research for the National Park Service and El Museo de los Niños in Costa Rica and serving as the lead docent for the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum. She has also worked as an educator for the International Spy Museum's "KidSpy" programs and the award winning "CityVision" program at the National Building Museum.

The Hand Sculpture



Have you noticed The Hand in front of HSW? As with all HSW Collections, this wonderful work of art has a fascinating history. The sculpture was commissioned by activist Vincent DeForest in 1968 to become the centerpiece of an historical mural celebrating the African American struggle for civil rights; the hand and mural together were intended to be part of the Poor People's Campaign that year. DeForest was a leader in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and wanted to use art as a means to tell the story of African American history.

The mural was composed of panels representing aspects of civil rights struggles, and was erected as part of "Resurrection City" here in Washington. Coming first in May 1968, over 7,000 protesters were living on the Mall when the police tore down the encampment on June 19 and removed everything – including the murals – from the area. The Hand had not yet been installed.

All materials from "Resurrection City" had been hauled to Ft. Belvoir and DeForest managed to rescue the panels and store them safely. These panels are now hanging inside HSW as part of the exhibition *Riots are the Language of the Unheard* which focuses on events of 1968 here in Washington. DeForest kept The Hand for decades at his home. When he and his family left Washington in the 1990s, DeForest moved The Hand to an alley garden near his former home in Takoma, D.C.

In preparation for the 1968-focused exhibition, HSW Executive Director Sandy Bellamy contacted DeForest because she knew he had later worked for the National Park Service and had focused on the preservation of African American landmarks. When she learned that The Hand and the murals were still in Washington she sought permission to include them in the exhibition. The Hand was overgrown and rarely seen in its alley home, now in front of HSW, it is admired every day.

Education at HSW!

Sarah Gamble will be collaborating with local teachers and historians to create a social studies curriculum for area schools and working closely with the Public Programs manager and all the staff to bring even more great programs to HSW.

Sarah is also taking charge of the Docent and Volunteer program. HSW is actively seeking new volunteers! If you have a love of DC history, are able to set a regular schedule and would enjoy helping our visitors, then consider volunteering with us. We are currently looking for Museum Docents to give tours of the exhibits and talk with our visitors and Special Event Volunteers to assist with special events. An application is available on our website. Questions? Send us an email at education@historydc.org.

All exhibits are free and open to the public Tuesday-Sunday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Interested in learning more about what you're seeing? A docent led tour is available by request (check out the Education section of the website or email education@historydc.org.)



JOIN US!

Visit www.historydc.org

and click **JOIN NOW**

or call **202-383-1837**

for more information

WASHINGTON STORIES

How Far Have We Come?

Focused on the events of 1968, and the impact of those events on today's city, two HSW exhibits opened to the public on June 27th. Also part of the evening was a discussion broadcast live on WPFW radio "How Far Have We Come". The exhibits, while tied thematically to the events of 1968, are very different. One exhibition, *Frank Smith: 40 Years Since the Riots* presents the tremendously vibrant art of Washingtonian Frank Smith. Smith came of age during the late 1960s during the height of the Black Arts Movement, and is one of the early members of AFRICOBIA (African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists). Installed in the Washington Artist Gallery through December 15, many of his works are large pieces, some are assemblages of several works, all are gloriously vibrant.

The second exhibition opened that night was *Riots are the Language of the Unheard*, a multimedia exhibition consisting of photographs, video footage and artifacts investigating the grievances that lead to the riots of 1968, the efforts to address those grievances, the riots, and their ripple effects. Found in the Small-Alper Family Gallery, this exhibit will be open until December 15. Artifact and photograph contributors: Marion Barry, Jr., Ronald Comedy, D.C. Archives, Vincent DeForest, The Exposure Group, Rev. Walter Fauntroy, HSW, Bob King, Metropolitan Police Department Police Museum; Anwar Saleem; Frank Smith, Washingtoniana Division DCPL, and the Washington Post.

An integral part of the evening, a lively panel discussion was hosted by Askia Muhammad and broadcast live on WPFW; it featured activists from that period in Washington history: Frank Smith, former DC Councilmember; Frank Smith, the artist; Walter Fauntroy; Lawrence Guyot; A.B. Spellman; Tony Gittens; and Eric Kulberg, photographer.

35th Annual Washington Studies Conference

HSW is honored to be the host of the upcoming Washington Studies Conference on November 13th - 15th, 2008. The Conference is a gathering for all who share an abiding fascination in the local history of Washington, D.C. – everyone from scholars and students to collectors and history buffs.

On Thursday, November 13, Dr. Peniel Joseph will present the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture. Author, historian, activist and Professor of Africana Studies at Brandeis University, Dr. Joseph will present a talk based on his research into Stokely Carmichael and the context for the 1968 Civil Disturbances following the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Joseph is the founder of a growing subfield of historical and Africana Studies

scholarship that he has named "Black Power Studies," and is the author of *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America*.

For the next two days, the Conference will feature concurrent sessions examining a wide range of topics including: faith-based social services; the rise of the Know-Nothing Party as a stage in American political development; Bowie, Rockville, and the CIA's McLean facility as suburban innovations; 19th-century prostitution; the controversy over the Albert Einstein statute; the 1961 attack on anti-gay federal policy and subsequent development of gay activism and more. Registration and further content detail will be available at www.historydc.org.

October Challenge Grant

Beginning in October, when the fiscal year begins, HSW will be working hard to meet the 2nd year of the Meyer Challenge. The Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation issued a challenge to HSW – raise \$150,000 in new or renewed gifts, and claim the matching dollars. What counts? Gifts, memberships, grants and earned income – as long as it is either new, or the donor has not made a contribution for at least a year. Or, if the donor has given in the prior year, any sum in excess of their past giving would count. An example of this would be an individual member, one who contributes \$50 for membership each year. If that donor were to renew for \$50, and add a gift of \$50 this year, the extra \$50 would count toward this challenge. Watch your mailbox later in the fall for a request to help HSW claim this second year of the Meyer Challenge! To be counted, all gifts must be dated and received after October 1, 2008. Gifts, grants and memberships received through the mail or online are all eligible!

KIPLINGER RESEARCH LIBRARY

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Featured Objects from the Kiplinger Research Library

The Historical Society has several collections that document the history of the **German community in Washington, D.C.** The following images provide a few examples of the Historical Society's wealth of resources about that community.

1



Object 1: Ladies Aid Society, Concordia Lutheran Evangelical Church, 1880s
From the Concordia Lutheran Evangelical Church Records, 1833-1975.

The Ladies Aid Society contributed to the well being both of the Concordia Lutheran Evangelical Church and the German Orphan Home. Gotthilde Barthel, seated in the center of the front row of this photograph is the great grandmother of the Historical Society's long-time volunteer, Eda Offutt.

2



Object 2: This undated photograph shows the 2100 block of Good Hope Road, SE, probably in the 1920s. The smaller building on the right became the Orphan Home in the decade of the 1880s. The orphanage moved to the larger building on the left in the 1890s. The photograph came to HSW as part of the German Orphan Home of the District of Columbia Records, 1879-2000.

3



Object 3: Concordia Deutsche Evangelist Church on southeast corner of G and 20th Streets, NW, as it existed in the 1880s.

Object 4: The current church was dedicated in 1892, at the same site as the earlier church, G and 20th Streets, NW. Now named the Concordia United Church, the church can be seen in this photograph, taken in 2007.

4



Book Shelf

A Defiant Life: *Thurgood Marshall & the Persistence of Racism in America* by Howard Ball (NY: Crown Publishers, 1999). The Historical Society's Kiplinger Research Library has recently received a generous donation that fills a gap in our collection for books about Thurgood Marshall. *A Defiant Life* is one of several biographies about Marshall just added to our collections. HSW's Kiplinger Research Library also currently features an exhibit about Thurgood Marshall. HSW thanks Lyda Holland Churchville, reference librarian in the Kiplinger Research Library, for her curation of the exhibit and donation of books to the collection.

Having enjoyed the recent exhibit, Pearls of Service, The Legacy of America's First Black Sorority - Alpha Kappa Alpha, members and friends of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., may be interested in two titles new to Kiplinger Research Library collections about African American fraternities and sororities.

African American Fraternities and Sororities: *The Legacy and the Vision*, edited by Tamara L. Brown, Gregory S. Parks, and Clarendia M. Phillips (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2005) is a collection of essays that form a comprehensive work on black Greek-letter organizations. The book is organized in three sections, with essays on "Historical Context," "Black Greek-Letter Organization Culture," and "Contemporary Issues Confronting Black Greek-Letter Organizations." Both Alpha Kappa Alpha and fraternity and sorority activities at Howard University receive coverage in this book.

The Divine Nine: *The History of African American Fraternities and Sororities* by Lawrence C. Ross, Jr. (NY: Kensington Publication Corp., 2000) recounts the history and achievements of the nine Pan-Hellenic African American organizations. The account is enhanced by photographs. The important roles of Howard University and Alpha Kappa Alpha are included.

To learn more about these and other collections visit the Kiplinger Research Library in person Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., or online at www.historydc.org and click "Search our library catalogue." Have Fun!

