



WASHINGTON STORIES

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Volume 2, Issue 1
April 2008

Spring Events

So much is lined up for spring! See the attached calendar or visit www.historydc.org for details.

Free events include our Saturday Family Series featuring films, quilting workshops, 'Chalking Chinatown', gardening and a wonderful array of performances commemorating both D.C. Emancipation Day and Asian Pacific American Month.

There is something for everyone, check it out!

WANTED Volunteers

Volunteers are incredibly important to HSW and we need more! We are most interested in volunteers who can commit to a regular schedule and have some experience. Volunteers needed:

- Reference
- Image Research
- Collections
- Event Production

To Volunteer: Email your interest to library@historydc.org or call the Library at 202-383-1850. We will set up an interview with you! Thank You!



John Wilson Lecture Series Begins

Entering the room wearing a fedora and dark glasses with a cigarette dangling out of his mouth, Councilmember Jack Evans set the tone for the first in the John Wilson Lecture Series: "John A. Wilson: The People's Choice." Colleagues and friends of late Council Chairman John A. Wilson came together on February 27th to share recollections and stories about Wilson as a city leader, as a brilliant politician, and a forceful personality.

The audience heard remarkable stories from fellow Councilmembers Marion Barry, Jack Evans, Sterling Tucker, Nadine Winter, and from colleagues and community members Stephen Trachtenberg, Eric Jones, Ellie Becker, Sam Smith, Dick Westbrook and Marie Drissel.

This event was the first in the Wilson Series of lectures presented in partnership between the Historical Society of Washington and the Council of the District of Columbia. These lectures are held in the Wilson Building and the next in the series will be announced shortly!

Notes from HSW

Welcome to LIVE! From the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. our events calendar and newsletter of ALL THINGS D.C.! March is a very special month for the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., 2008 marking our 114th birthday. That's right! For 114 years, the Historical Society has collected, preserved and exhibited all things D.C. We are happy to share with you another slate of programs that resonate with the authenticity and warmth of what it means to be a Washingtonian. We have three new exhibits opening this Spring: *Riots are the Language of the Unheard* - a multimedia investigation into the causes and ripple effects of the riots that occurred just "ten blocks from the White House." *Separate and Unequal: Black Baseball in the District of Columbia*, a collaboration with the Smithsonian Anacostia Museum, includes HSW collections from Washington's old Griffith stadium, photographs and memorabilia to help celebrate the opening of the new National's stadium with a critical look at Washington's historical love of baseball. So log on to www.historydc.org to discover your D.C. history and participate in the many FREE and dynamic programs the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. proudly offers.

Merrick Malone Chairman
Sandy Bellamy Executive Director

www.historydc.org

Do Research
Read articles about HSW
Become a member
Find events for the whole family

New Collection arrives at HSW in March

Adding important depth and dimension to our collections, HSW was delighted to receive the archival collections of the Rainbow History Project on March 22nd. The collection will be processed and made accessible under the leadership of Yvonne Carignan, Director of the Kiplinger Research Library. This collection of documents, images and ephemera will then be available to a wide audience of researchers, students, and community members. RHP's collections document the emergence of the LGBT social, political, religious, and artistic organizations as well as local LGBT civil rights campaigns.

Mark Meinke, chair of Rainbow History, believes "Rainbow History's mission of collecting, preserving, and promoting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) history of metropolitan Washington, D.C. fully complements the Historical Society's mission to make 'the history of the Washington metropolitan area and its people accessible and understandable to public audiences in order to achieve a sense of identity, place and pride in Washington for those who live and work here.'"

A reception followed the Women's History Month screening of "A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lord" where guests were able to view part of RHP's collection of *The Furies* newspaper and learn about the new archival partnership between HSW and RHP. Published by a D.C. based lesbian feminist separatist collective, this 1970s newspaper sparked nationwide discussion of the rights, challenges, and opportunities for women in that decade

New Award for HSW

Treasured archives and artifacts held by the Historical Society of Washington will be preserved for future generations with help from the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, a core set of conservation books, DVDs, and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary sources of federal funding of the nation's museums and libraries.

"The IMLS award is so important for us to continue building on a tradition of preserving collections in the HSW's Kiplinger Research Library," said Library Director Yvonne Carignan. The Bookshelf will aid us in moving preservation priorities forward in our rich collection of over 100,000 photographs, our comprehensive book and pamphlet collection, and many hundreds of archives, manuscript collections, audiovisual materials, works of art and objects, all documenting the life of the city of Washington, D.C."

"These small libraries and museums are taking up the charge to care for America's heritage," said Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS. "A recent national study tells a sobering story about the state of America's library and museum collections. Without immediate action we stand to lose important collections that are at the heart of the American story."

Popular Exhibit Returns:

"Wardman Washington: Celebrating a Century of Wardman Rowhouse Neighborhoods"

Chock full of photos, maps and drawings, this small exhibit is on display in the foyer outside the Kiplinger Research Library at the Historical Society. The exhibit presents a visual history of the variety of rowhouse and apartment buildings constructed by builder Harry Wardman in northwest Washington neighborhoods from Columbia Heights and Mt. Pleasant to Brightwood and Bloomingdale and more. The exhibit can be viewed during regular Library hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Curated by Sally Lichtenstein Berk and Caroline Mesrobian Hickman the exhibit was sponsored by the DC Preservation League and the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.

NEW!

What are you reading?
See the HSW recommended reading list on page 10 in the events calendar!



Comments from HSW Event Participants

- "This was excellent and so beautiful – Aloha!"
- "Outstanding"
- "This was great! Especially the mix of adult programming and things for kids to do."
- "I think you have a great events calendar. Great workshop! I'm glad I made it."
- "What a great idea!"
- "Thank you for inviting me. I am happy about your program."

Have Fun & Join Us!

New Programs & New Hours a Big Hit

Since January 2008, the Kiplinger Research Library is open five days a week: Tuesday - Saturday. In addition to increased Library hours, the quantity and array of public programs has expanded greatly this year. The addition of the Library, Family, Film and Performance Series to the popular HSW Wednesday Lecture Series offers a wonderful array of program offerings for all ages. The Library Series workshops "Beginner's Guide to Research" pulled in quite a crowd for each session; due to popular demand these will be offered again along with an advanced version. The Family Series included the popular Mother and Daughter Quilting Circle presented by Washington's Daughters of Dorcas Guild; one of the Film Series offerings during Black History Month was the well-attended screening of *Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance*; one fascinating HSW Wednesday Series event was the presentation based on the book *Washington in Flames, 1814* by its author Carole Herrick. These are just a sampling of the programs offered at HSW. All are free, and all are open to the public. We ask that participants register by sending an email to RSVP@historydc.org or by calling 202-383-1828. Details are all listed on the HSW website and included in weekly emails and the quarterly calendar mailed to members. By joining HSW, your membership will help us continue to offer these dynamic programs for all. Visit our website www.historydc.org to learn more and JOIN NOW or call 202-383-1837 if you have questions.

New Collections

HSW is delighted to have received several new archival acquisitions recently, these include:

- "Small Town in the Big City Archives" related to Peggy Fleming's book of the same name about Chevy Chase, DC. Includes comprehensive photos, ephemera, and documentation about stores, theaters, restaurants and other establishments in Chevy Chase.
- Chinatown photograph print and negative collection from donor Wendy Lim.
- "Garfield Memorial Hospital Nursing School Alumni Association Records" from alum Toya Frizel. The records consist of papers, photos, and artifacts from the school which lasted from the 1880s to the 1950s.
- Two framed wall maps depicting D.C. buildings two-dimensionally in the heart of town in 1860 and in 2006. James Goode donated both the maps and the payment of a professional hanger to mount them on the wall.

The Kiplinger Research Library at the Historical Society houses our rich collections. These collections may be accessed in person in the Library (open Tuesday – Saturday 10-5); many collections can be accessed online via our website www.historydc.org, open the Library drop down menu for options.

Conserve DC History: Adopt a Project

Help us meet immediate needs by giving a gift specifically for a pressing conservation need of HSW! A gift like this would be a great tribute – in honor of a graduation or birthday, or perhaps in honor or memory of a loved one.

\$35 – Rebinding our well-loved edition of Capital Losses: A Cultural History of Washington's Destroyed Buildings by James M. Goode. This elegant book features 570 photographs and illustrations related to D.C. buildings lost to the wrecking ball.

\$260 – Create an electronic copy and new paper copy of the 1900 Washington, D.C. City Directory. This volume is disintegrating because of brittle paper and scanning would reduce the need to handle the directory by producing an electronic copy much easier to read than the current microfilm version available to researchers today.

\$1500 – Conserve a Baist Real Estate Atlas. These magnificent books contain colorful, hand drawn maps of Washington's streets complete with individual lots and tremendous detail. Published originally by G. M. Hopkins of Philadelphia, George William Baist, a surveyor and mapmaker, began publishing these maps around the turn of the 20th Century. "Baist's Real Estate Atlas and Surveys" are the gold standard of city maps across the country, and HSW has a fantastic collection of over 30 of these beautiful, large atlases ranging from 1892 - 1968. Well used by researchers, their fragile pages must be protected and several volumes need conservation before they can be used.

To Adopt a Library Project contact Library Director Yvonne Carignan at 202-383-1851 or carignan@historydc.org

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

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HSW is a Membership Organization!

Quite simply, members are the backbone of HSW. Their financial support in the form of annual dues are a tremendously important funding source which helps to enable us to operate the stellar Kiplinger Research Library, and to offer a wide variety of public programs and exhibitions. Washington, D.C. is known worldwide as the seat of power and a monumental federal city; what is so often overlooked is Washington as the hometown of hundreds of thousands of people, the vibrant city behind the national spotlight. The mission of HSW is to preserve and share that history – we cannot do this without our members' support.



The Historical Society
of Washington, D.C.

801 K Street, NW,
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Join us!
Visit www.historydc.org
and click JOIN NOW
or call 202-383-1837
for more information.

New & Renewing Members

We think this is good news: in recent newsletters we have listed all of our new and renewing members for the month. But we won't be doing that in this issue because there are too many names this time to fit in any column here!

In recent weeks we have received renewals from folks whose membership lapsed as far back as 1999, and donations from friends who have not given in a very long time.

Not only does this tell us that we are rebuilding well, but this success is helping us to claim the Meyer Challenge Grant! HSW was awarded a spectacular \$150,000 challenge grant by the Eugene & Agnes Meyer Foundation in the fall—and of course that means we need to raise \$150,000 to claim \$150,000. The way we claim this money is to reconnect with past donors and supporters (those who have not given in over one year) and to attract new support. So, that long list of names that won't fit here is a very good thing!

Won't you join us? Become a member or make a gift by returning the envelope in the center of this newsletter, or go online to www.historydc.org and click Join Now!

D.C. History Minute

Coming to television and radio near you, in February HSW debuted the brand new "D.C. History Minute". Literally 60 seconds long, these were researched and narrated by historian C.R. Gibbs. Research for photos conducted by HSW's own Richard Evans. There are twelve 'Minutes' – one for each month. The February Minute spotlighted Carter G. Woodson, the March Minute focused on Mary Ann Shadd Cary. Each Minute focuses on an interesting and often little known facet of D.C. History and an existing D.C. historical site. Both the narrative and the audio versions of the Minutes can be found at www.historydc.org. Future D.C. History Minutes will be posted monthly!

KIPLINGER RESEARCH LIBRARY

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

Book Shelf

Small Town in the Big City:

The Shopkeepers and Business Community of Chevy Chase Washington, D.C., at the Beginning of the 21st Century by Peggy Fleming and Joanne Zich, features the stories and photos of 56 Chevy Chase, D.C. businesses as well as historical details about the properties. Available in the Kiplinger Research Library of the Historical Society of Washington D.C. (Washington, D.C.: Three Sisters Press, 2005) \$24.95

The Washington National Mall

Historian and photographer Peter Penczer provides both an overview of the history of the Mall and an account of the Mall's monuments, buildings, streets, gardens and canals, whether still present or long-removed. Adding to the story is a visual feast of historical maps, photographs, and aerial views contrasted with contemporary maps and the author's own impressive color photographs. (Arlington, VA: Oneonta Press, 2007) Available in the Kiplinger Research Library of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. in paperback for \$9.95.

Ten Blocks From the White House: Anatomy of the Washington Riots of 1968

by Ben W. Gilbert and the staff of the Washington Post, is a favorite of the staff here at HSW. Gilbert's narrative captivates the reader with a riveting hour-by-hour report of what happened in Washington during the 1968 riots. *Ten Blocks From the White House* may be perused at the Kiplinger Research Library of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. and in other local libraries. *Ten Blocks* can be purchased in used book stores and other book outlets. (Washington, D.C.: Washington Post Company, 1968)

Featured Objects from the Kiplinger Research Library

Object #1: "10th and U Streets, Northwest"

Edward A. Hubbard's photograph showing the northwest corner of 10th and U Streets, NW, perhaps a Howard University homecoming circa, 1948, is one of hundreds of photographs from the Hubbard collection in the Historical Society's Kiplinger Research Library. The photograph collection includes a wide variety of subjects taken by Hubbard for professional as well personal reasons. A particularly important facet of the collection is his coverage of African American social life in Washington, D.C., after WWII. There are also many samples of his highly professional photographs of the city's monuments and public architecture. We are seeking help identifying people in Hubbard's social setting photographs because they lack labels. If you have information concerning the identities of persons in the 1940s era photographs, please contact Yvonne Carignan at 202-383-1850.

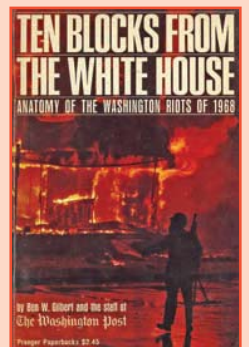
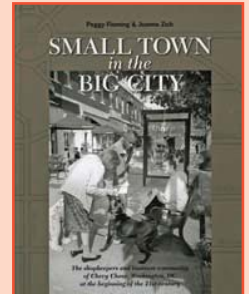
Object #2: "Ed A. Hubbard"

Hubbard was born in Rock Hill, South Carolina in 1919 but moved to District at an early age. His career encompassed work in the CCC starting in 1934, and service in the US Army Signal Corps, South West Pacific, Signal Photo Battalion from 1942 to 1945, finishing with the rank of Sgt. T/C3. Mr. Hubbard married Dorothy Johnson in 1947 and worked for the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Defense primarily as a photographer. He retired in 1976 from the National Institute of Health. He continued working as a photographer privately. The Hubbards lived for forty years at 6101 16th Street, Northwest. Edward A. Hubbard died in Washington, D.C. in 1996. Hubbard's work is featured in "Riots are the Language of the Unheard" Exhibit.

Object #3: "Patients and Nurse in Garfield Memorial Hospital, 1932"

Opening in 1884, Garfield Memorial Hospital existed under that name for sixty years. It merged with Episcopal, and Central Dispensary and Emergency Hospitals in 1944 to become Washington Hospital Center. This photograph is part of the Garfield Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Collection, donated by alum Toya Finzel.

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!



#1



#2



#3