

33rd Annual Conference on
Washington, D.C. Historical Studies
October 26-28, 2006
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library

Washingtoniana Division
DC Public Library
901 G Street, NW, Room 307
Washington, DC 20001

Mrs. Jane Freundel Levey
6313 Broad Branch Road
Chevy Chase MD 20815-3343

You are cordially invited to join historians,
preservationists, neighborhood researchers, and
2006 ES&S students at this exciting annual event!



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.

33rd Annual Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

6 PM RECEPTION
Great Hall, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., 801 K Street, NW

7 PM LETITIA WOODS BROWN MEMORIAL LECTURE

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

"The Fire This Time: Race, Memory
and the American Museum"
Lonnie G. Bunch

Founding Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, historian, author, curator, and educator, Lonnie G. Bunch has spent nearly 30 years in the museum field, where he is regarded as one of the nation's leading public historians. With a focus on how there's something about African American culture that has meaning for all of us, the engaging Mr. Bunch will share a wealth of insight acquired from years of museum leadership at, among others, the Chicago Historical Society, the National Museum of American History, the National Air and Space Museum, and the California Afro-American Museum. Introducing the speaker is Carl Cole, co-chair, Board of Trustees, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

8:30 AM ONGOING REGISTRATION
9 AM WELCOME
9:30-11AM PLENARY SESSION

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 Uth, independent producers

Co-producers Glenn Marcus and Robert Uth 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 Greek, 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

"The Cutting Edge: A History of *The Washington Blade*, Metropolitan Washington DC's GLBT Newspaper of Record"

Jennifer King, George Washington University

"Something in the Air—*Friends Radio* Chronicles a Community"

Mark Meinke, Rainbow History Project
"On Screen—Creating Gay Fairfax and TV for the Gay Community"
John Olinger, Rainbow History Project

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 Meinke 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.

4 - 5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4 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 Peace Action Center and the Cultivation of Grassroots Peace Activism in the Nation's Capital, 1961-1963"

David Hostetter, Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherdstown, WV

"Crime on the Bus: D.C. Transit and Driver Safety in 1968"
Jordan Patty, Catholic University of America

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 G. 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.

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Association of Oldest Inhabitants
Cultural Tourism DC
DC Preservation League
Friends of Washingtoniana Division
Humanities Council of Washington, DC
Rainbow History Project
Sir Speedy Arlington

5 This Ole House? You Call This a Landmark?

Moderator: Tabitha Lewis, National Park Service

"Preserving Cedar Hill: The Restoration of the Frederick Douglass Home"

Julie Galonsa, Site Manager, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

"Mary Church Terrell Home: Preserving the Place, Embracing the Legacy"

Alice Aughrey and Maybelle Taylor Bennett, Robert and Mary Church Terrell House and LeDroit Park Museum and Cultural Center

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

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

Sometimes a house needs help in revealing its history. Panelists 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 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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

9 AM ONGOING REGISTRATION
9:30-11 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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

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

"The Architecture of Urban Enslavement at Decatur House Museum"
Katherine Malone-France, Decatur House Museum

"Meridian Hill-Malcolm X Park: The Life and Struggle of an Urban Cultural Landscape"

Amber Nicole Wiley, George Washington University

"Modernism Meets Feminism: Chloethiel Woodard Smith and the Architecture of Southwest, DC"

Catherine W. Zipf, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

The built and landscaped environments of Washington mirror the conditions and ambitions of their times and places. Katherine Malone France examines the living and working conditions experienced by enslaved workers who occupied areas of Decatur House. Amber Wiley discusses the architectural and design significance of Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park and relates how the local efforts of Washingtonians have shaped the image of the park today. Catherine Zipf documents the career of architect Chloethiel Woodard Smith, who helped introduce modern architecture to Washington via the urban renewal of Southwest Washington even as she maintained a strong commitment to preserving existing buildings located elsewhere.

7 Music, Movies, and Memories of Washington, DC

Moderator: Jerry A. McCoy, Washingtoniana Division/
Peabody Room, DC Public Library

"Jim Morrison of the Doors: His Teen Years in the Washington Metropolitan Area"

Mark Opsasnick, independent researcher

"The Films of George T. Merriken"

Jeff Krulik, independent filmmaker

"The Lost Downtown"

John Christopher Earnshaw, independent photographer

Panelists remind us that the cultural and social history of Metropolitan Washington are as compelling as any political accounts. Mark Opsasnick discusses rock 'n' roll superstar Jim Morrison's teen years (1959-1961), when he lived in Alexandria, VA, and attended George Washington High School. Jeff Krulik surveys the 16mm films and filmmaking of George T. Merriken, who documented local neighborhoods and community life in the 1940s and '50s. Photographer John Earnshaw presents his 1970s images of DC buildings and streetscapes that have been lost to current revitalization.

11 AM - 12 NOON LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
12:15 - 1:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8 Washington's Not-So-Gilded Age

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

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

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

"'The Same Dog-Trot Life': Government Clerks and the Middling-Class in Antebellum Washington, DC"

Heath Bowen, Michigan State University

"A 'Mysterious Disappearance' and a Public Obsession: Examining the Parker/Sackett Wedding in Post-Civil War Washington DC"

C. Joseph Genetin-Pilawa, Michigan State University

As these panelists reveal, late 19th-century Washington seems best viewed from the safe distance of the 21st century. James Garber recalls how the Washington's innumerable drainage problems beleaguered 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. Joseph Genetin-Pilawa addresses the intersecting 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.



Building the sewage disposal plant on New Jersey Ave., SE, around 1906.

9 The Promised Land: New Deal Opportunities in Washington, DC

Faye Haskins, Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

"New Deal? Raw Deal?: Kelly Miller in FDR's Washington"
Dr. Ida E. Jones, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center,
Howard University

"Comparative Consumer Culture of African American Washingtonians During the New Deal Era"

Adia H. Philips, American University

"The City Beautiful and the New Deal: The Creation of the Mall in Washington"

Kay Fanning, National Park Service

President Franklin Roosevelt's four terms brought changes in the look and the lives of the city and its residents. Ida Jones discusses African American educator Kelly Miller's life, from his family's arrival in Washington during the 1870s mass migration of southern blacks to urban centers, to his retirement in 1934 as dean of Arts and Sciences at Howard University. Adia H. Philips examines the consumer cultures of elite and working-class African Americans here, and investigates the various purchases that resulted from their perceived identities. Kay Fanning offers a survey of the 35-year effort culminating in the 1930s that transformed the Mall from a picturesque park cluttered with World War I "tempo" into a dramatically formal landscape.

1:45 - 4 PM

10 Cemetery Bus Tour Jeanne Fogle, writer and tour guide

Professional tour guide and author Jeanne Fogle takes you on a bus tour to some of the city's best-known cemeteries: Congressional, Mt. Olivet, Prospect Hill/Glenwood, and Rock Creek, with stops as time permits. Cost is \$10 per person. Sponsored by the DC Preservation League.

2 - 3:30 PM

11 Searching for That DC "Needle" in the National Archives "Haystack"

Introduction: Karen Blackman-Mills, Washingtoniana
Division, DC Public Library

"District of Columbia Archival Materials in the National Archives"
Robert Ellis, National Archives and Records Administration

Who can forget that final scene in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* where the camera pulls back, revealing a vast, labyrinthine warehouse filled floor to ceiling with boxes and packing crates as far as the eye can see? That is how a researcher might feel in trying to figure out, much less extract, what District of Columbia documents can be found in the National Archives! Robert Ellis tells of some of the many archival materials covering the years circa 1800 to 1977 that are awaiting discovery.

Program Committee

Karen Blackman-Mills, Carl Cole, Matthew Gilmore, Mark Greek, Margaret Goodbody, Faye Haskins, Jennifer King, Jane Freundel Levey, Jerry McCoy, John Olinger, Michael Rigby, Gary Scott, Ryan Semmes, David Songer, Donna Wells