

# DC PRESERVATION ADVOCATE



SUMMER 2003

THE MISSION OF THE DC PRESERVATION LEAGUE IS TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE THE HISTORIC AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT OF WASHINGTON, DC, THROUGH ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION.

## PRESERVATION WEEK 2003

The DC Preservation League announced its *2003 Most Endangered Places List* at a reception on Friday, May 9 at the Thurgood Marshall Center, 1816 12th Street, NW.

The reception was the opening of the “City as Home: A Preservation Community Forum” sponsored by the DC Preservation League and the DC Historic Preservation Office to celebrate Preservation Week. The forum focused on the mid-city neighborhoods within the 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Shaw, Mt. Vernon Square, and U Street Historic Districts.

Tersh Boasberg, chairman of the Historic Preservation Review Board, presented the Mayor’s award for “Excellence in Preservation” to individuals and organizations instrumental in the preservation of three DC historic buildings. The Shaw Heritage Trust received the “Excellence in Preserving History” award for their past successes and continuing efforts in preservation as exemplified in the Thurgood Marshall Center. Homeowner Tania Shand, architect Zahn Design and general contractor Renovations Unlimited received the “Excellence in Residential Preservation” award for rehabilitation of 1901 Vermont Street, NW. In addition, the Public Welfare Foundation, architect Sorg & Associates, and general contractor Forrester Construction Company received the “Excellence in Commercial Preservation” award for rehabilitation of the True Reformer Building.



Tania Shand, Zahn Design and Renovations Unlimited receive “Excellence in Preservation Award” from Tersh Boasberg (left) and Lisa Burcham (center)

On Saturday, despite the stormy weather, many community members and preservationists gathered at the True Reformer Building to hear opening remarks by Andrew Altman, Director of the DC Office of Planning and Lisa Burcham, the new State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Dr. John Vlach, George Washington University Professor of American Studies, presented the keynote address “Washington City: A Compromised Vision, Then and Now”.

After the morning presentation, attendees chose from two concurrent sessions that covered “Planning and Promoting Historic Districts” and “Ask Historic Preservation Staff” – an opportunity for community members to ask Historic Preservation office staff about preservation requirements and processes.

During lunch, Lisa Burcham, SHPO, Charles Withers, Executive Director of the Shaw Heritage Trust, and David Bell, then president of the DC Preservation League led discussions on current local preservation issues.

During lunch, Jane and Bob Levey, co-authors of Washington Album: A Pictorial History of the Nation’s Capital; Iris Miller, author of Washington in Maps; John Vlach, author of The Planter’s Prospect: Privilege and Slavery in Plantation Paintings; Paul Williams, author of Greater U Street; and John Gwynn, Business Advisor for “Homes of Color, The Magazine of African-American Living & Style” joined the forum to sign books and distribute the magazine.

Afternoon concurrent sessions included “What’s Happening on Mid-City Main Streets” with Scott Pomeroy, Executive Director, 14<sup>th</sup> and U Main Street Initiative, and “The Story of Mt. Vernon Square and Shaw Historic Districts” with Kathy Smith, Executive Director, Cultural Tourism DC.

The forum concluded with concurrent walking tours of “Mt. Vernon Square” and “U Street Corridor and African American Civil War Museum and Memorial.”

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

There is so much going on at the DC Preservation League that is hard for me to know where to begin. The Board of Trustees elected officers at its June 10th meeting. I was elected to serve as President and David Bell, who ably held that position for three years, will take on the role of Vice President to oversee the work of our Project Review Committee. I am grateful for David's willingness to remain active on our Executive Committee. Edwin Fountain and Liz Gibson will continue in their roles as Vice Presidents and Evelyn Wrin and Francine Raizes will continue to serve as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.



On May 30, we moved out of our office on 1815 Pennsylvania Avenue, which will soon be demolished. Katharine Graham aptly summed up the experience of moving in her autobiography, *Personal History*, when she wrote, "There are certain experiences — childbirth is one; moving is another - - that nature and time definitely draw a curtain on, so you forget in between times how painful they are." Fortunately, our moving was made less painful by the fact that our new home is in the historic Pension Building at 401 F Street, NW, where we are surrounded by neighbors, such as the Building Museum and the Fine Arts Commission, that share our dedication to architecture and the built environment. The fact that Francine Raizes and Allison Diggles of Karchem Properties handled the logistics of the move also helped ease the pain a great deal. I appreciate their efforts and the generosity of Office Pavilion, which provided us with new furniture for the space.

And the last, but certainly not the least, operational change we have made in recent months is the hiring of Rebecca Miller as our Office Manager. Rebecca is completing an MBA program from Mount St. Mary's College and plans to enroll in the Goucher historic preservation certificate program this fall. Rebecca comes to us with experience managing an architecture firm on the west coast. Rebecca's responsibilities will include management of the membership database and production of the *DC Preservation Advocate*. Rebecca's editorial oversight and a new grant from the DC Historic Preservation Office will enable us to communicate news to you more frequently and regularly.

For the first time in several years, DCPL has two full time staff members and a lovely new office space. We have taken a calculated risk in committing additional resources for rent and staff salaries because it is necessary to carry out our important, and growing work. Take a look at these pages and you'll see just how busy we've been submitting landmark applications, planning programs, and reaching out to new communities. None of it, however, would be possible without the support of our members. As I take on my new responsibilities I invite your suggestions, volunteer participation, and, of course, financial contributions. To become involved, please call Krista Schreiner Gebbia, Program Manager, or Rebecca at our new office number 202.783.5144. And do stop by to see the new office when you are in the neighborhood!

Best Wishes,

Farleigh Earhart



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whose mission is to preserve, protect, and  
enhance the historic and built environment of  
Washington, DC, through advocacy and  
education.

Readers are encouraged to submit  
information and opinions.

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Krista Schreiner Gebbia  
Program Manager

Rebecca Miller  
Office Manager

Guillermo Saenz  
Webmaster

DC Preservation League  
401 F Street, NW, Room 324  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: (202)783.5144  
Fax: (202) 783.5596

E-mail: [info@dcpreservation.org](mailto:info@dcpreservation.org)  
[www.dcpreservation.org](http://www.dcpreservation.org)

This program has received Federal financial assistance for the identification, protection, and/or rehabilitation of historic properties and cultural resources in the District of Columbia. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its Federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

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## DCPL'S 2003 MOST ENDANGERED PLACES

Modeled after the National Trust for Historic Preservation's program, DCPL announced its first such list in 1996. To qualify for listing, a site must be a resource having historical, architectural, or cultural significance and be in danger of demolition, substantial alteration, or deterioration through neglect or vandalism. DCPL's Landmarks Committee is responsible for soliciting nominations to the list, evaluating the nominations, and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees who then approve the final list. The Landmarks Committee works throughout the year to develop programs to raise public awareness about the plight of these resources and to develop preservation solutions to save them.



### OLD ENGINE COMPANY 6

438 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, NW

OWNER: DC City Government

Constructed c.1855, Old Engine Company 6 was the first volunteer firehouse to be acquired by the city when, immediately after the Civil War, the various fire departments were consolidated as a single city agency. One hundred years later, the fire department vacated the building and several years after that it was transferred to the Office of Property Management. Most recently, the firehouse has been leased to a developer for use as an on-site construction office. The current use is causing enormous wear and tear on the building and no maintenance or repairs are being made.

### RUTHERFORD B. HAYES SCHOOL - REPRESENTATIVE OF DC HISTORIC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5<sup>TH</sup> & K STREETS, NE

OWNER: DC City Government

Built in 1897 by architect Charles E. Burden, the Hayes School is one of the earliest documented examples of a District public school building designed by an architect in private practice under a new policy initiative of 1896-97. The new policy represented a break from common practice of the 1880s and 1890s, when the District public schools were designed in variations of the Romanesque Revival style and all were products of the Building Inspector's Office staff. Currently the DC Office of Aging has plans to convert the building into a senior wellness center and offices. Proposed additions are not sensitive to the historic building. Leaving the building vacant allows for other problems such as neglect and vandalism.

### 911-919 NEW JERSEY AVE, SE

REPRESENTATIVE OF WASHINGTON ROW HOUSES

OWNER: PRIVATE

The row house is Washington's quintessential building type, and is the earliest type of non-governmental building erected in the nation's capital that continues to be built today. The bulk of the city's housing stock is composed of two, three, and four story brick attached and semi-detached building in styles ranging from Federal and Italianate to eclectic Victorian, Colonial Revival, and Modernistic. These buildings are present in almost every District neighborhood. Because of



the economic conditions and population shifts that occurred in the second half of the twentieth century, many of these row houses now stand empty and deteriorating. Many others have been modernized with inappropriate materials as their original elements decayed, resulting in widespread loss of historic integrity.



### CARTER WOODSON HOUSE

1538 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NW

OWNER: ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

In 1915, Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), a Harvard-trained historian and DC Public School teacher, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1922, he moved his operations to the house, living and working here until his death. Empty for over a decade, the house has been left derelict, with homeless people squatting inside, broken windows, and interior damage caused by roof leaks.



## WOODLAWN CEMETERY

4611 BENNING ROAD, SE

Owner: Woodlawn Cemetery Association

Designated on the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places, Woodlawn Cemetery was established in 1895 by several individuals associated with Graceland Cemetery (founded in 1872 and located near the intersection of Benning Road and H Street NE). The initial interments at Woodlawn consisted primarily of over 6,000 re-interments from Graceland made from 1895 to 1898; as at Graceland, blacks and whites were placed in adjoining graves. Subsequent interments included many prominent African Americans, among them Blanche K. Bruce, born a slave in 1841 and elected to the US Senate in 1875, and John Mercer Langston, US

Representative from Virginia and Dean of the Howard University Law School from 1869 to 1879. Lack of perpetual care funds has made upkeep of the 24.5 acres in the heart of Ward 7 a continuing challenge to the dedicated volunteers who work to keep these hallowed grounds free of overgrowth and clear of debris. A few specific talents the advisory committee could use are architecture (gate, fence, interior roads, re-use of the crypt), landscaping (planning of what to leave and what to get out, lay-out of walks and steps, best use of existing facilities, signage, front area), and financial and legal planning (best return on our savings, legal questions such as a certificate of occupancy, help with grant applications, etc). You can contact the committee at: woodlawncemetery@hotmail.com, or call Hayden Wetzel (202-526-5986). For further information on Woodlawn, see [http://www.mhcdco.org/woodlawn\\_cemetery.htm](http://www.mhcdco.org/woodlawn_cemetery.htm).

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR, PUBLIC LIBRARY

901 G STREET, NW

OWNER: DC City Government

The District of Columbia's central public library, designed by Modern master Ludwig Mies van der Rhode and completed in 1972, is the only building in Washington, DC, by any of the 'big three' Modernist architects. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library has stood as the only monument to Dr. King in the nation's capital for the past 30 years. The library, the only one ever designed by Mies, was constructed with a flexible interior plan and the capacity to add a fifth story when needed. These measures were taken to ensure the building could continue to serve its intended purpose for approximately 150 years. Due to three decades of lack of preventive maintenance and system upgrades, the future of this building is uncertain.



Courtesy of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

## ST. ELIZABETHS (GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE)

2700 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR, AVE, SE

OWNER: DC CITY GOVERNMENT AND THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Established as the Government Hospital for the Insane in 1855, Saint Elizabeths has a long history in the treatment of the mentally ill. The site is composed of more than 300 acres in the Anacostia section of Southeast Washington, DC. To the north of the oldest of these buildings is a magnificent vista over the city of Washington and the Potomac to Virginia, a prospect that had been chosen for curative purposes. The buildings to the east of Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., which are owned by the DC Government, are largely of the twentieth century and both sides have a campus layout with a succession of quadrangles with curving drives between. There are just over forty contributing historic structures. St. Elizabeths is listed as a National Historic Landmark and on the National Register, but not designated as a local landmark or historic district, and hence, it enjoys no protection under the DC Historic Preservation Law.

## ANNE ARCHBOLD HALL

RESERVATION 13 IN SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON

OWNER: DC City Government

Anne Archbold Hall is one of the oldest remaining structures on the DC General Hospital campus where health care services have been provided to residents of the District of Columbia for over 150 years. The DC Office of Planning has made the redevelopment of Parcel 13 a priority. In March 2002, the Office of Planning submitted a draft master plan for Reservation 13 to the Council for approval. This master plan does not retain any of the current DC General buildings. The preservation and reuse of this well constructed building should be integrated into the planning process and thoughtfully considered before any plan is approved.



## DC WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

WEST POTOMAC PARK AND NATIONAL MALL

Completed in 1931, the temple is located on the National Mall in West Potomac Park in Washington, DC, and is the first memorial on the Mall to list all DC residents who lost their lives in the war, regardless of their race, class, or gender. The DC War Memorial is the only local DC memorial on the National Mall. In a jurisdiction whose civic symbols are often overshadowed by the vast portfolio of architectural gems of the nation, the DC World War Memorial stands as a tribute to DC's vision, its loyalty and honor to the nation, and an expression of love for the DC men and women who served and died for their nation.



Currently, a small committee has laid out several objectives. The first step is to meet with the National Park Service to discuss the status of the Memorial. Also, DCPL is preparing a landmark application for the memorial. If you wish to participate in future discussions regarding the Memorial please e-mail Krista at [krista@dcpreservation.org](mailto:krista@dcpreservation.org). For more information on the history of the memorial please visit <http://www.dwatch.com/richards/020526.htm>

## ULINE ARENA (WASHINGTON COLISEUM)

BETWEEN 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> AND L AND M STREETS, NE

OWNER: LG Industries (Waste Management)

The Uline Arena was built in 1941 and operated by Miguel L. "Uncle Mike" Uline for the Washington Lions of the Eastern Hockey League. This concrete vaulted building was the site of the Beatles' first North American concert and also noted as the home of Go-Go music where local musicians such as Chuck Brown, Trouble Funk, and Rare Essence performed. Political rallies and speeches were a tradition in the Arena, including a rally started by Fight for Freedom, Inc. in support of the US involvement in WWII a month before Pearl Harbor and a speech by Nation of Islam Founder Elijah Muhammad in 1959. Most recently, the building was used as a



trash transfer station. The owners of the Uline Arena, LG Industries, filed a raze permit application on May 19, 2003. On June 11, DCPL filed an application to designate the Uline Arena an historic landmark and it will be heard at the September 25, 2003 Historic Preservation Review Board hearing.

Photo credit:

Michael Ochs Archives.com

To learn more about DCPL's efforts toward the Most Endangered List, please visit our website at [www.dcpreservation.org](http://www.dcpreservation.org)

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### Development

Francine Raizes, Chair

The competition by not-for-profit organizations applying for grant funds is more competitive than ever. We are looking for your suggestions and assistance in identifying new sources of funds for DCPL. Perhaps your employer or client has a foundation that would be interested in our mission. Please contact Krista or me (fraizes@karchem.com) with ideas about how to expand our funding sources.

### Education

Farleigh Earhart, Chair

The Education Committee informs the membership and the general public about important preservation issues, lectures, tours, and panel discussions.

This summer, the committee organized two tours of DC's suburban residential "park" developments: Garrett Park and Takoma Park.

The Garrett Park Tour on May 10, was led by Cliff Sefarlis of Washington Walks and featured visits to a stone carving studio, a "Chevy House", and the Garret Park Train Depot.

The Takoma Park tour held June 22, was developed and led by DCPL Board Member Loretta Neumann, who is also vice president of Historic Takoma, Inc. (HTI) and HTI Board member Diana Kohn.

The two and a half hour tour started at the Takoma Metro Station, the area in which Takoma began in 1883, when developer Benjamin F. Gilbert bought 93 acres of rural land where the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad crossed the DC-MD line. Participants viewed homes on the Maryland side along Eastern and Holly Avenues and



were given a tour of the first floor of the Cady-Lee Mansion (Eastern and Piney Branch Road). Built in 1887, and designed by Leon Dessez, architect of the Vice President's home, and is the only property in Ward 4 that is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The tour snaked its way around Takoma stopping at Trinity Church, Piney Branch and Dahlia NW (built in 1936, designed by Philip H. Frohman, the architect of National Cathedral); Takoma Library, Fifth and Cedar Streets NW (built in 1911, the first branch library in DC); Takoma Theatre, Fourth and Butternut (opened in 1924, designed by noted theatre architect John Jacob Zink); Watkins Apartments, corner of Fourth and Cedar Streets NW (built in 1908-9 by William Walker for his six daughters); the historic Boundary Stone, on Maple Avenue (placed in 1791 at the direction of George Washington); and the Historic Takoma Archives in the basement of the post office building on Laurel Ave.

### Row House Task Force

Kate Farnham, Chair

The Row House Task Force continues to sponsor activities to foster appreciation of the District's historic row houses and address the unique challenges of owning one. Planning for the Second Annual Row House Month (September 2003) is in progress, and will include a bus tour of Harry Wardman row house neighborhoods on September 21st, among other activities that are still in the planning stage. The Task Force hopes to improve upon the success of last year's educational events, and would welcome the assistance of anyone who'd like to help with the planning efforts!

Advocacy also remains part of the Task Force's activities. One particular row of houses (911-919 New Jersey Ave., SE), located in the South Capitol Street area, has been chosen as a "poster child" to represent threatened row houses citywide on DCPL's 10 Most Endangered List for 2003. This group of houses poignantly illustrates the plight of rows where one or more of the attached houses is in derelict condition, thus threatening the entire row. Just one "missing tooth" can lead to decay, and eventually loss, of the whole row. Jim Smiles of the Row House Task Force and Hayden Wetzel of the Landmarks Committee have begun working with the South Capitol Street Gateway and Improvement Study to encourage preservation of this row and other threatened homes nearby as redevelopment activities occur in this neighborhood. (continued on next page)

Takoma Park Walking Tour Participants  
at a DC Boundary Stone  
Photo by: Loretta Neuman

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Finally, members of the Task Force have begun participating in a joint effort among preservationists from Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, DC to develop solutions to blight in row house neighborhoods, a problem common to all three cities. Lisa Burcham, State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia, hosted the first meeting in DC in March, and a subsequent meeting was held in Baltimore in April, attended by Krista Schreiner Gebbia and Task Force members Kate Farnham, Donna Hanousek, and Peter Sefton. The group hopes that pooling resources to attack the problem will result in solutions that can help neighborhoods in all three cities.

## Landmarks

Liz Gibson, Chair

With the announcement of the Most Endangered List in May, the Landmarks Committee is working on strategies for each endangered site. This includes on-going communication with residents and other stakeholders to establish solutions for the sites. The Landmarks Committee is also compiling a priority list of sites to be landmarked. If you know a building, neighborhood or site that should be landmarked or is endangered please contact the office.

Recently submitted landmark applications:

January 22, 2003 - Potomac Place, 800 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
June 11, 2003 - M J Uline Ice Company and Arena Complex (Washington Coliseum) 1140 and 1146 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NE

## UPDATE ON POTOMAC PLACE

By Edwin Fountain and Rich Boone, Jones Day Attorneys for DCPL

Potomac Place, on 4th Street between G and I Streets SW, is part of the larger Capital Park urban renewal project dating back to the late 1950s. The site historically included an apartment building and, behind it, an open green space with a patio, decorative pool, pavilion and mural. There were parking lots at either end of the open space (or at least on the I Street end)

In January 2003, before DCPL and the Committee of 100 on the Federal City filed an application to designate Potomac Place an historic landmark, Monument Realty obtained construction permits to build two additional apartment buildings and an underground parking garage at Potomac Place, as well as a site clearance permit to clear the open space in order to undertake the construction. Monument Realty did not, however, obtain a raze permit with respect to the pavilion or the mural. Excavation and construction at the site began earlier this year and is underway.



DCPL and Committee of 100 subsequently filed a landmark application with respect to Potomac Place, bringing the property under the protection of the Historic Preservation Act. Monument Realty then filed an application for a permit to demolish the pavilion and mural. (The patio and pool have by now been destroyed.) Monument Realty took the position that its previously granted construction permits and site clearance permit gave it the implicit right to demolish the pavilion. However, we have defeated that argument before the Historic Preservation Review Board (HRPB) and the DC Superior Court, and the City has issued a stop work order preventing Monument from any further demolition of the pavilion mural.

The landmark application and demolition permit application were heard before the HPRB on April 24, 2003. HPRB granted the landmark application, and recommended against the issuance of a demolition permit on the grounds that demolition would be inconsistent with the purposes of the Historic Preservation Act. On May 22, 2003 Monument sought design review by the HPRB of a proposal to relocate the pavilion and mural. The HPRB also rejected this proposal and recommended that Monument work with the DC Historic Preservation Office (HPO) and DCPL to devise a solution that is more consistent with the purposes of the Historic Preservation Act.

On May 23, 2003, one day after the HPRB rejected Monument's relocation plan, the matter was heard by the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation (Judge Rohulamin Quander). The scheduled purpose of the hearing was for the Mayor's Agent to rule on Monument's application for a demolition permit. However, before the Mayor's Agent, Monument dropped its request to demolish the pavilion outright and instead presented its plan to take it down and move it elsewhere on the Potomac Place site.

Monument contends that the Mayor's Agent does not have jurisdiction over the matter because Potomac Place was not properly landmarked within 90 days of the application being filed. Monument contends in the alternative that demolition of the pavilion is justified in order for Monument

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to construct a project of special merit, based on the representation that Monument will be providing housing to moderate-income families, consistent with the Mayor's announced objective of adding 100,000 to the District's population.

DCPL and Committee of 100 opposed Monument's application, and filed a brief before the Mayor's Agent on June 27. That brief vigorously opposed, on various grounds, the contention that provision of "moderate income" housing is sufficient "special merit" to justify demolition of a landmark as well as Monument's procedural argument. The case presented appears to be strong and, though it is always difficult to predict, DCPL feels that it should prevail before the Mayor's Agent.

Unfortunately, a favorable ruling could ultimately provide only a hollow victory. If we win before the Mayor's Agent, Monument has said that it will simply proceed with construction by altering the plan of one of its two buildings in order to build around the pavilion. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and the Corporation Counsel have indicated that Monument may do so under its pre-existing permits, without obtaining any additional permits or review by HPRB or the Mayor's Agent. We and the HPO disagree, but this matter turns on an interpretation of applicable statutes and regulations. Our only recourse to prevent Monument from doing so would be an appeal to the D.C. Court of Appeals, which would be a difficult case to win without DCRA's support. We could therefore be left with a favorable decision on the merits but an unsatisfactory design solution.

Alternatively, if we lose before the Mayor's Agent, Monument will either demolish the pavilion and mural altogether, or it will move them elsewhere on the site and build the two apartment buildings as planned, also an unsatisfactory design solution. Also, Monument has recently appealed DCRA's denial refusal to issue a demolition permit to the Board of Appeals and Review ("BAR") and there is a chance that this body might issue a demolition permit independent of what the Mayor's Agent decides.

With all of these factors in mind, DCPL approached Monument in an effort to determine whether both parties can find an alternative that preserves the pavilion and mural in a context reminiscent of their original setting. At the present time, negotiations are underway.

**Interested in Volunteering with the  
DC Preservation League?  
Contact Krista Schreiner Gebbia at  
info@dcpreservation.org or 202.783.5144**

## Coming Next Month

Beginning in the Fall of 2003 the DCPL newsletter will expand to include a section showcasing the project work and educational outreach efforts of the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Office. Stories reader's can look forward to in future issues include:

- Landmark designations and nominations
- Select Historic Preservation Review Board Cases
- Regulatory and Legal Issues
- New Education and Outreach activities
- DC HPO Event Announcements
- DC HPO Sponsored Projects
- Information on Grants and Tax Credits
- HPO Staff Profiles

Featured in the Fall issue:

- Capitol Hill and Georgetown Historic District Expansions
- Woodlawn Cemetery: An Archaeological Perspective
- Staff Profile on Lisa Burcham, State Historic Preservation Office and Associate Director, Historic Preservation Office.
- Recently listed National Register properties

## Historic District and Historic Landmark Signage

In Fall 2003, DCPL received a Historic Preservation Fund grant to promote a sign program for the District of Columbia's historic districts. While entry points to historic districts have been sporadically marked over the years, no coordinated effort has ever taken place to identify the extent of these places. At the January 2003 Historic Preservation Review Board meeting, Rick Busch from the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition (now known as Cultural Tourism DC) presented sign prototypes for board comment. Cultural Tourism DC received a grant the previous year to develop a prototype for coordinated system of signs and sign eligibility criteria.



Prototype for Historic  
District Signage

At the Preservation Week Forum in May the selected historic district market was unveiled. The DC Historic Preservation Office will continue to work with the appropriate city departments, historic district neighborhood organizations and preservation consultants to establish a long term plan to identify all historic districts and historic landmarks.

Utilizing \$35,000 from the Washington Convention Center Authority, the Shaw, Mount Vernon Square and Blagden Alley/Naylor Court Historic Districts will be the first to receive the new signs.

## Meet our new Trustees!

We would like to introduce our three newest Trustees: Shalom Baranes, principal of Shalom Baranes Associates, PC; John Bellingham, president of Monarc Construction; and Richard T. Busch.

As founding principal of Shalom Baranes Associates, PC, Shalom Baranes has established a firm nationally recognized for its work on significant buildings in the nation's capital and surrounding regions. The firm has won over forty design awards for projects involving renovation and new construction. Some notable projects include the Ritz Carlton Georgetown Incinerator, Warner Theater, Turkish Chancery, Homer Building, 800 F St., and 1111 Pennsylvania Ave, NW.

John Bellingham founded Monarc Construction in 1987 after having worked in construction for large general contractors, both in England and the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Notable renovation projects include the Forrest Marbury House, the Bond Building, EC Ambassador's residence, British Ambassador's residence, GW University Faculty Club and the Folger Shakespeare Library Education Center.

Richard "Rick" Busch has lived in Washington, DC since 1969, and has been actively involved in historic preservation since 1993, when he joined the staff of the DC Preservation League as an intern after a career with the federal government. During five years on the League's staff, Rick worked as Administrator, Acting Executive Director, and Director of Issues and Education. As a private consultant, he contributed to in-depth studies on the development of Sixteenth Street, NW, and the impact of transportation in the development of the District of Columbia. Between 1998 and early 2003, he served as manager for the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition's Neighborhood Heritage Trails Project, an initiative focused on developing walking routes in city neighborhoods. These trails highlight some of the rich and diverse history of the city and are meant as attractions for visitors who may want to explore Washington beyond its monumental core.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS:**  
URS Corporation, EHT Tracerics Inc, Winter Companies, J.A. Jones/Tompkins Builders and Heery International.

## DCPL holds it's Annual Meeting at The Hotel Monaco

In the spring of 1999, wearing dust masks to protect against mold and boots to climb the marble steps covered in plaster dust, DCPL members were given the unique opportunity to see the Tariff Building in its mothballed condition before renovation work got underway through a public-private partnership between the General Services Administration and the Kimpton Hotel and Restaurant Group. It was only fitting, then, for DCPL to return to the building in January for its 2003 annual meeting to view the results of the ambitious undertaking.



Members mingle at Annual Meeting

After a welcome by DCPL President David Bell, Robert Peck, President of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, spoke to the membership about the importance preservation to good economic development. Peck served as administrator for public buildings at GSA when it competitively offered the Tariff Building for private sector adaptive re-use. Peck also served as president of DCPL, so concluded his talk by encouraging preservationists to be vigilant in monitoring the threats to the built environment posed by increased security measures. Following Peck's address, Carlos Osorio and Ravi Tamaskar of URS Corporation delivered a "before and after" visual presentation



Kate Farnham receives her raffle prize from Krista Schreiner

focused on the challenges of renovating the building, which originally was constructed between 1839-1842 and expanded in 1855. Andrew Altman, Director of the DC Office of Planning introduced Lisa Burcham, the new SHPO and Director of the Historic Preservation Office. Members enjoyed a reception and were able to visit a newly renovated hotel room at the conclusion of the program.

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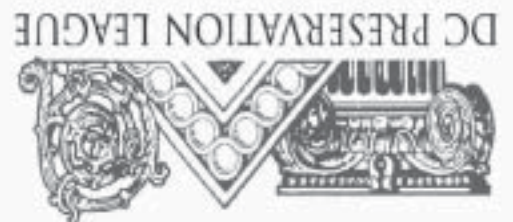
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