

RIVER PARK FRIENDS of Near Southwest Washington, D. C.

Annual Report for 2009

Honoring Margaret Feldman (1915-2009; RPF Board member 1998-2005)

INTRODUCTION: SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORS REJOICE

The time has arrived when near Southwest Washington residents can celebrate the physical rebirth of our neighborhood. After years of demolition and reconstruction, we see the rise of stylish new commercial buildings and refurbished residential towers, replacing shabby older structures. A dramatic new Arena Stage nears completion to enclose the classic theater complex built during the 1960s. New retailing and dining locations will soon appear along a reconstructed Fourth Street, Southwest. Other new and rebuilt facilities are being planned or completed for police, education, recreation church services, and D.C. Government offices. .

Yet much remains to be done. Neighborhood residents must be supported, their social lives and welfare nourished. The River Park Friends organization continues to offer financial assistance to projects sponsored by voluntary groups in near Southwest Washington, supporting community development, education, and charitable services. In this brief report of the Friends' work in 2009, the year's activities will be summarized.

For another reason, the year 2009 marks a major era in River Park Friends' annals. This year, we honor our cherished co-worker, long-time former Friends board member, Margaret Feldman. Dr. Feldman, who passed away on November 7, 2009, served for many years as a leading social and community activist in our neighborhood. She was an officer of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly as well as River Park Friends. She led several local history projects, including a civic parade and history celebrations at River Park Mutual Homes where she was a member and resident. Originator of the Southwest History Taskforce, Dr. Feldman led in researching and organizing the Southwest Heritage Trail.

Margaret Feldman had an uncanny ability to guide and lead community residents to work together for a better neighborhood. Above all, she inspired us by being a decent and good person. We hope to find appropriate means to honor her memory and achievements.

BACKGROUND

River Park Friends (RPF) was organized in 1998 by Coralie Farlee, Martin Forrester, Keith Melder, and Robert S. Zigler, members of River Park (thus the organization's name) and incorporated in the District of Columbia. From its founding, it has been totally independent of River Park Mutual Homes. The vision was to combine the

contributions of individual donors to support community development, educational, and charitable work of other organizations on behalf of Southwest residents. RPF does not conduct programs itself but, through grants to other tax-exempt organizations, aims to supplement their efforts. RPF received its final tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2003; all donations have been tax-deductible since IRS filing.

A REVIEW OF 2009

River Park Friends began 2009 with the following officers and board members: Coralie Farlee, President; C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer; Joyce Bouvier, Secretary; Preston Amos, Priscilla Dever, Donald Flanders, Thelma Jones, Emerson Melaven, and Keith Melder. The Annual Meeting was held on March 31, 2009. At this meeting, Preston Amos, Coralie Farlee, and Donald H. Flanders were elected to additional two-year terms on the board of directors.

Expenditures for Programs vs. Administration

RPF has no paid staff and always keeps administrative costs low. In 2009, administrative expenses were only 4% of total spending.

2009 Awards to Community Projects

Awards were made to six organizations:

Educational

EmmaUS Learning Center

RPF's grant supported a children's program held on Saturdays during the summer. The program focused on science, math and social studies activities, and the grant paid for books, tickets, transportation, and expenses shared with other organizations for back-to-school events.

SouthWest Comm-Unity Forum

A grant was awarded to supplement other funding for a weekend retreat for 16 youths at Deep Creek, Maryland. Focus was on teamwork, fitness, nutrition, etiquette, financial discipline and higher education preparation.

Southwest Scholarship Fund, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

Our scholarship for 2009 was awarded to Mercedes Allen, a 2009-2010 freshman at West Liberty University in Wheeling, West Virginia. Her planned major is psychology and her minor, criminal justice.

Youth Activities Task Force, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

Our grant was to support several activities: Computer-for-Kids program, Safe Sitter training, field trips, and an exhibit at Amidon-Bowen on Justice Thurgood Marshall, a former Southwest resident.

Arena Stage

RPF provided a scholarship for a Southwest student to attend Camp Arena Stage, a multi-arts summer day camp for young people ages 8 to 15 that has a staff of professional artists and educators who encourage the pursuit of knowledge and self-discovery and of joy through the arts. The students are empowered to express themselves artistically through their own voices.

The Pearl Coalition

A grant was provided to cover expenses related to the development and printing of media and other PR materials to help raise awareness of the story of the Pearl, a schooner on which more than 70 African-American slaves attempted an escape from the Southwest waterfront in 1848. The Coalition plans to place a schooner on the waterfront as a permanent educational exhibit.

Community Development

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

A grant was awarded to cover the printing costs of the Cherry Blossom call box maps and guides. Another grant covered the cost of school uniforms for needy Southwest students.

The Southwester, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

Our advertisements in The Southwester help support this important community resource. They increase RPF's visibility in Southwest, as well as that of our grantees, as we solicit donations and grant applications.

SouthWest Comm-Unity Forum

An additional grant to this organization was toward costs for events of interest to children at the August 1 Third Annual Southwest Community Unity Day at the King-Greenleaf Recreation and Sports Field.

FUND RAISING

River Park Friends raised \$11,832.00 through its fund-raising campaign and matching funds. Grants totaling \$9,075.00 were awarded. While RPF has just one yearly fund-raising campaign, donations of any size are welcome at any time. Tax-deductible

contributions should be made out to River Park Friends and sent to River Park Friends,
389 O Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AT THE END OF 2009

Coralie Farlee, President
C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer
Joyce Bouvier, Secretary
Preston Amos
Priscilla Dever
Donald H. Flanders
Thelma D. Jones
Emerson Melaven
Keith Melder

RIVER PARK FRIENDS
2009 Donors

<p>PATRONS Anonymous (2) Coralie Farlee Keith Melder</p> <p>SPONSORS Emerson Melaven Ray Olson</p> <p>BOOSTERS Joyce Bouvier Priscilla Dever Janet Hartnett Ruth O'Rourke Rod and Clara Ross</p> <p>SUPPORTERS Preston Amos Anonymous Anthony Bowman Peter D. and Stephanie A. Eicher Donald Flanders C. W. Hargrave Martha and William Hunter Lawrence Impett Gale Kaufmann Omega Logan-Silva Dale MacIver Ezra and Laverne Naughton Catherine Robbins Jean Sammon Robert Sewell</p>	<p>CONTRIBUTORS Carlos Beaudreau Joseph Brooks Robert Charkovsky Hans and Katherine Crump-Wiesner Claude Daley and Kitty Daley aka Felde Robert Gabany Irving Gamza Elaine Graves Frederick Herbold Janis Hoffman Fred and Carmel Jordan Thomas and Vicki LaPointe Heidi ("Kristi") McComb Sorab Modi Helen Mulkeen Margaret Oliver Margarita Ortiz Anne Rensberger Daniel Schoeps Jo Ann Scott Charles Sutton Arthuryne Taylor Evelyn B. Taylor Lyndsey Wilson-Williams Lorelle M. Wise Sheila Wood</p>
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RIVER PARK FRIENDS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Calendar Year 2009

ASSETS

Account Balance (December 31, 2008)	\$ 5,526.99
Income (January to December 2009)	11,832.00
Refunds (bank fees; grantee)	<u>19.17</u>
	\$ 17,378.16

GRANTS/AWARDS

Community Development

SWNA/Southwester	\$ 625.00
SWNA/Call Box Map	300.00

Educational

Arena Stage/Camp Arena Stage	1,600.00
EmmaUS	900.00
Pearl Coalition	1,500.00
SW Comm-Unity	1,500.00
SWNA Scholarship	1,500.00
SWNA School Uniforms	150.00
SWNA Youth Activities Task Force	1,000.00

Charitable

None	0
	<u>9,075.00</u>

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

DC Government Fees	75.00
Supplies, printing, etc.	275.90
Bank fees	<u>15.00</u>
	365.90

TOTAL OUTLAY **\$9,440.90**

BALANCE (December 31, 2009) **\$7,937.26**