

Telling Our Story

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS 2007

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2007

- Continued to grow our Endowment to perpetuate the Society (latest balance \$750,000).
- Honored Richard A. Bowron for his six decades of service as an officer, stalwart supporter and wise counselor to the Society, especially its Trustees.
- Prepared *Hand Down Unharmd-Olmsted Files on Birmingham Parks, 1920-1925* for publication.
- Celebrated historic and contemporary efforts to build urban parks, holding our Annual Meeting at the Botanical Gardens with Tupper Thomas, Director of Prospect Park as our speaker.
- Organized Preservation Awards, celebrating the exciting efforts of many people to preserve our community's special places.
- Conducted Downtown Discovery Tours for school children.
- Hosted the annual Heritage Society party at a distinguished residence.
- Helped organize *Turning On Alabama-Photographs and Artifacts from the Collections of the Alabama Power*

- *Company and the Alabama Historical Radio Society*, an exhibition at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery.
- Drafted nominations for Bethel Baptist Church and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Churches to the "Tentative List" for nomination by the United States as internationally significant World Heritage sites. info@usicomos.org
- Completed National Register of Historic Places nominations for the New Pilgrim Baptist Church (listed 8/24/07), Graymont School (listed 8/30/07) and the Center Street District (listed 10/1/07) and the Parsonage of the First Baptist Church of Ensley; A.D. King House.
- Grew our garden at Sloss Quarters, receiving First Prize for Urban Gardens from Keep Birmingham Beautiful.



Dan Bynum, Dee Haynes, Bill Tharpe, Marjorie White, and Dave Cisco, pictured with a Philco model 189L rigged to play old radio shows, organized the *Turning On Alabama*. The exhibition explores

how the power for lights and radios, industry and agriculture was developed, transmitted, and marketed by Alabama Power from 1920 to 1945.



Cheryl Morgan and the Auburn University Center for Architecture and Urban Design studio at the Young and Vann Building hosted our annual Preservation Awards reception honoring hometown heroes, including the Birmingham Museum of Art for its folk art gallery also located in the building.



The Society celebrated our civil rights heritage with completion of National Register and World Heritage nominations and marker dedications. The First Baptist Church of Ensley saluted its

historic church and parsonage, the Alfred Daniel Williams King House. Naomi Barber King (Mrs. A. D.) is pictured at the parsonage in 1963 and 2007.



With her eagle eye and immense acumen Trustee Katie Tipton presides over the editing of the files of this year's book, *Hand Down Unharmd-Olmsted Files on Birmingham Parks, 1920-1925*. This inside look at five years in a growing city's life — the people, the events, the passion as well as what it really takes (the hard work, the disappointments, the personal battles) to plant the seeds of a vision of a park system for Birmingham. It's a great story.





For their support of “the public good,” the Society honored Sam Frazier for his decades of leadership (*above*); the founding partners of the Norwood Resource Center at the Nygren House: Robert Gilmore, Norwood Neighborhood Association, St. Luke’s Church and The Crisis Center (*below*); and the *No Elevated-Citizens to Save 280* of Mountain Brook and Home-

wood who joined with city officials to develop alternatives to an elevated expressway (*below, right*). Among other award winners are Dru and Susan Ellard (*above*) for their old house revival on Southside; Chad and Chesney Moore and their parents for the transformation of the historic Rialto Theatre (*above, right*); and the team of architectural, engineering, and organizational talent that led the exterior stabilization campaign at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church (*right*).



President Lillie Fincher and Sallie Lee accept the Keep Birmingham Beautiful award from Mayor Bernard Kincaid for our growing garden. Located on a former concrete plant site, roses, collards, purple runner beans, watermelon, and especially herbs are doing fabulous, as are UAB student volunteers.



The Heritage Society gathered with Henry and Mary Moren Crommelin to enjoy their home, a masterful design by architect



D. O. Whilldin amidst festivities orchestrated for the society by Pat and Margaret Camp.

Report on 2007 Contributions

Membership Support to November 30, 2007

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Study of Manning Plan

Marjorie White

TURNING ON ALBAMA

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Alabama Power Company

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TENTATIVE LIST

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Special thanks to Society Trustee Jim Strickland for making the photographs of Society events for this report, and for Society records.