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Washington Conservation Guild holds fundraiser for Georgetown Public Library

Following the devastating fire that burned the Georgetown Public Library (DC) on April 30, 2007, the professional association of Washington area conservators will be holding a fundraiser raffle at its annual meeting, May 3.

“Our planned raffle was to support outreach efforts to the public, but after this terrible event it made sense to donate proceeds specifically to support conservation of the artwork, manuscripts, maps and documents damaged in the fire,” said Lisa Young, President of the Washington Conservation Guild www.washingtonconservationguild.org

“The outpouring of support from people and organizations around the District for the Georgetown Neighborhood Library has been overwhelming,” said Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper. “We appreciate that the Washington Conservation Guild would decide to donate funds to restoring the library and the historic Peabody Room collection and look forward to when we can all celebrate its reopening.”

It is possible to donate directly to the Georgetown Public Library restoration efforts through the District of Columbia Public Library Foundation <http://www.dcplfoundation.org/>

Members of the Washington Conservation Guild (WCG) responded to the Georgetown Library on April 30, and coordinated with DC library officials to perform disaster recovery within the next 24 hours. Firefighters removed paintings and books at the scene, and initially 27 items were removed and taken to conservation labs close by. Once the fire was out, additional WCG members provided onsite expertise for the remainder of the items that were placed into freezer trucks. The Washington Conservation Guild worked with area conservation organizations, museums, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution to establish a plan of action and to mobilize volunteers.

WCG members have pledged to be a resource for the DC Public Library as it determines the next steps for the complete recovery of damaged artifacts from the Peabody Room, Georgetown Public Library.

The Washington Conservation Guild is holding its last meeting of the 2006-7 season at Hillwood Museum and Gardens on Thursday, May 3rd at 5pm. The meeting is open only to the 228 members of the conservation guild.

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