

Washington DC

After the 45th yr celebration in Philly, Gail and I headed south to visit some friends in Takoma Park, Washington DC. While in Philly, a big storm came through the East coast and made everything snowy white. The storm was pretty bad in some suburban areas in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts knocking out power for over 4 million people. It wasn't so bad in Philly. By the time we left for DC, most of the snow from that winter blast had melted. It was a beautiful ride as the leaves on the trees were turning colors.

We reached Takoma Park at sunset and settled in for the night. Our friends have a beautiful home there. They're former teachers and radicals from the 1970's. They attended Wayne U in Detroit, Michigan back then. As students, they drove from Detroit in 1971 to the Big May Day rally to Free Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins in New Haven. Irving also attended the 35th yr Panther Reunion which was held in DC back in 2002.

The next day, Gail and I headed out to the National Mall. We walked to the new Martin Luther King Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We took some photos and walked over to the American History Museum.

We went to the Civil Rights Division of the museum and to my surprise, I found that many of the displayed materials were things we had in our archives. In their display were a number of Black Panther Party memorabilia. They had a display of Emory's Art and a plate on the wall about Emory and his artwork. I immediately called him to find out if he knew his art was on display in the Smithsonian. Also on exhibit was the famous Gordon Parks black and white photo of Eldridge and Kathleen Cleaver.

After viewing the Civil Rights displays we left and headed to Occupy Washington DC. I have been a supporter and had been to Occupy Oakland a few times before the Pigs attacked them last week. In fact, on the last day of our 45th celebration, a delegation of about 50 members marched down to Bobby Hutton Park to show support for the BPP. They were welcomed by the crowd already in the park.

Today, November 1, 2011, I got out early and went down to Howard University to put out the last of our 45th yr newspapers. I walked all over the campus and left papers in the library and bookstore and other locations on campus. I also left papers at Sankofa bookstore, walked down Georgia St. passing out papers and met a few people who wondered where the real Panthers went. I informed them about the website and told them about the 45th yr celebrations we held in NY, Philly and Oakland. After leaving Georgia Street, I went back to Takoma Park and left papers throughout the neighborhood. Heading back to Cali tomorrow.

Billy X, November 2, 2011



