



The Legacy

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SANDY SPRING MUSEUM — BE INSPIRED!

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL'S GREAT WEATHER, CROWDS, CRAFTS, SALES, AND GAMES:

On June 6, a hayride wagon circled all day carrying smiling folks as 4,000 people browsed over crafts, bought plants, sampled cuisines, cheered bands, and played games and relaxed. Again we sold out of strawberry shortcake. The Museum was proud to spotlight local restaurants and farmers, welcome Stargazing Farm animal rescuers, Woodland Horse Center, and Ben and Jerry's ice cream for the first time. ■



Museum board members surround three distinguished residents honored for their contributions to the Hospital and the Museum (l-r): Dr. A. Dement Bonifant, Anne Willson, and Joan Derrick.

Dr. Bird's restored carriage led a parade from Montgomery General Hospital to the Museum to kick off the 28th annual Strawberry Festival on a sunny June day. They were escorted by a biking MGH security officer, a Boy Scout color guard, Brownies, and the lively Browningsville Cornet Band.



**NEXT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7 PM
ANNUAL MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

See Page 3 for details!

President's Message

A Fabulous First Half Year

Thanks to all for making this year's Strawberry Festival so successful.

The weather was beautiful, and seeing two of the Museum's carriages, including Dr. Bird's, rolling through the streets of Sandy Spring once again was fantastic! With the successful Gala and the Festival, the Museum had a very fine spring season.

Recently, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) approved a \$10,000 grant to the Museum for heating units for the forge, the farm implements room, and the cabin. With an earlier grant of \$5,000 from the 1772 Foundation, we now have a significant investment in education program capacity, which will help bring the rural life component of the Sandy Spring story into year-round prominence in all our programs.

The Board of Trustees has been busy. At a recent Board retreat, we focused on strategic planning and refining the Museum's mission, including a two-year activity calendar that will let us plan and schedule a greater variety of events and employ staff and volunteer resources in a more effective manner.

On Tuesday, September 15, 7-9 pm, at our annual general membership meeting, I will talk more about these and other developments. I look forward to seeing you all there and hope you and your families are ready for a happy fall. ■


Joe Furey

President of the Board of Trustees



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From the Director's Desk

THE MUSEUM, A REMINDER OF OUR HERITAGE

Here's hoping everyone had a lovely summer and is rested and ready to take on the start of school and the coming season of activities at the Museum.

You'll have noticed the new logo on this issue of *The Legacy*, which will replace the building sketch on Museum stationery and our new sign. Let me explain why: Early this year, a marketing survey, conducted to help us to prepare for new membership and programming initiatives, discovered that visitors, even neighbors who don't come by, value the Museum as a symbol of history and source of community identity. Living here means being strengthened by a great heritage that nourishes both present and future. The new logo is therefore designed to show how knowledge of Montgomery County's unique rural heritage is sheltered within our distinctive cupola-topped Museum. Our programs, publications, collecting, and exhibits all gain strength from this mission. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to experience it all with you this year. ■

— Dr. Sharon Ann Holt, Executive Director

Garden Club



Garden Club Activities Were Crowned by Spring and Summer!

What a busy spring! Thanks, Betty Hiner and Kathy Gaskill for hard work helping set up the Museum's Spring Gala, Leslie Cronin and Kathy Lieberman for finishing touches for the biennial Garden Tour, and Jan Minow and Anne Petzold for plant gathering for the Strawberry Festival booth. Many volunteers brought success, and Mother Nature was most cooperative. A wonderful dinner in the Museum's courtyard let the steering committee admire its tender care by Mary Dominique, Claire Bode and their helpers. Quite a bunch!

For more on this lively group's plans, stop by a Sunday General Meeting. Martha Best will speak September 13 on chrysanthemums, show how large "show mums" are grown, with slides. Our October 25 "Spooky Christmas Workshop" will teach the "how to's" of preparing bows and Christmas arrangements. The November 8 speaker will be announced shortly.

Join the fun December 6-11 workshops, learn interesting tricks, and help the Garden Elves prepare greens for the Holiday Greens sale. Call Gloria Galyon (301-774-4048) to place your pre-orders, because only a few items will still be available for sale at the December 12 Open House. ■ — Kathy Lieberman and Penny Sidell

Masters in Music

Sunday Afternoon Concerts Offer Choice Classical Chamber Music, Jazz, and Musical Theater

Our marvelous Masters in Music series again offers six programs — concerts and lectures about the music late on Sunday afternoons in our fine acoustical space. Subscriptions remain \$85 for six concerts for Museum members and \$95 for non-members, with special options for “pick-three,” at-the-door, and students. Call the Museum for details and to reserve.

October 11. Two internationally recognized performers based in the DC area, cellist Lori Barnet and pianist Philip Hosford, open the series. Chopin’s difficult and beautiful *Cello Sonata* will be paired with the powerful Beethoven *Cello Sonata No. 2*.

November 15, entirely different: The versatile Stephanie Bonte-Lebair, with virtuoso singers and actors and acclaimed pianist Alex Tang, offers a fabulous hour of cabaret and musical theater favorites.

January 24. *Jazz ‘n Classical* brings back Wes Crawford, east coast drummer *par excellence*, and friends, performing works by Dave Brubeck, Claude Bolling, and others.

February 21. Shaun Tirrell, whose recent Bayreuth piano solo debut led a critic to call him “a hurricane at the piano,” is a stunning virtuoso of worldwide reputation and a specialist in Brahms, Chopin, and Liszt.

March 21. Pianists Stephanie Ho and Saar Ahuvia have reaped praise across the US and abroad. Adding to the occasion, fine area actors will join the duo in exploring the fascinating lives of Robert and Clara Schumann.

May 2. Winding up the season, a spectacular recital by violinist Leo Sushansky and pianist Natasha Dukan will fully feature both performers’ dazzling techniques and deep musicianship - an afternoon not to be missed! ■

Get to Know These Museum Trustees, Too



Judith Lowe, long-time Montgomery County resident, moved from Bethesda to Sandy Spring in 2005. She’s taught Spanish in several schools and at the community college level. She currently teaches adults. She makes and sells her jewelry as “*Beadimensions*,” loves to travel, and acts in community theater. In February, Judith played the part of Mary Needles Roberts in the Sandy Spring Friends School performance of “Hide Your Horses.” Judith joined the Museum board in 2007.



Mary Kay Harper recently retired as Executive Director of the Montgomery County Historical Society. She managed its staff and many volunteers, two museums, a reference library, fundraising, collections, exhibits, publications, and programs, stabilized its financial position, and expanded it into neighboring communities. In 2007, this Rockville resident won the County Executive’s Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Community Award. Mary Kay joined our board in 2008. ■

NEXT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7 PM - ANNUAL MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Set aside Tuesday evening for a meeting that matters! President Joe Furey will bring members up to speed on our new, longer range planning that lets us mount a greater variety of events and use staff and volunteers more efficiently. He’ll explain improvements in the farm implements room, forge, and cabin. And he’ll introduce Rob Rogers, Maryland Historical Society President, who will help us put our lovely Museum in perspective alongside neighboring institutions which research and report on our roots. Come learn, have a cookie, and see friends! ■

APPRAISAL DAY

Saturday, October 3, will be our 13th annual Appraisal Day, during which we will honor the late Barbara Lessig. Five professional appraisers donate their time to appraise antiques, collectibles, and heirlooms. To quote Jim Lessig, the day’s organizer, “Today both downsizing home owners and collectors are eager to know the value of their property.” **SO COME!**

Between 11 am and 4 pm, bring your treasures to be inspected, identified, researched, and valued. Fees, which all go to the Museum’s operating fund, are \$15 for the initial item appraised, and \$5 for subsequent items, with no upper limit on the number to be appraised. For more information, call Jim at 301-924-2293. ■

BLACKSMITHING CLASSES

Demand for training in the traditional crafts has led the Museum to expand its offering to four classes of three evenings each in “Beginning Blacksmithing” this fall. The first starts September 30. For a fee of \$160 plus \$10 for supplies, Resident Blacksmith George Epperson and his son Michael will teach two students per class at the forge below the Museum. Each

(continued on page 4)



Gallery Update

Portraits of Our Own Potomac River in New Gallery Exhibit, plus sculptures by Rona LK Schonwald

The Potomac River has inspired generations of artists. A new September-November Museum show features three painters distinctly different from other current landscape painters. Mary Kokoski reflects intimate knowledge of its turns and currents from years of kayaking. Andrei Kushnir, whose first oils were of the Potomac near his home, still draws on 30 years of hiking its paths. Barbara Nuss fondly recalls boating on the river with her family since childhood. All three reflect classic landscape composition - tight drawing, and focused but expressive use of paint, as in early portraits of the river by visitors from the Hudson River School who also captured the Potomac in all seasons and from many perspectives. A fully illustrated catalogue will be available.

Rhona LK Schonwald's award-winning sculptures are sensual reflections of the intricacies of organic natural materials through diverse manipulations of clay and other materials. Evoking serenity and joy, relationships among her forms embody human interactions, reflecting life's milestones, miracles, adventures, and triumphs. Her sculptures flow and undulate, exemplifying rocks, root systems, land contours, shriveled leaves, and the human torso. ■

— Arlene Hoffman, Mimi Hegler

Blacksmithing Classes *(continued from page 3)*

week's lessons, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, will equip students to tend the coal fire, use the bellows, and properly control a hammer and leg vise. Finished products may include tab hooks, drive hooks, or a Texas steak turner.

Space is limited, so call the Education Department soon to register for the session that fits your schedule. ■ — Kathy Polletto

Sandy Spring Neighbors Back When...

Falling Green rises again, once again hosting sports through the Olney Boys & Girls Club!

The house called *Falling Green* presides nobly over the entrance to the Olney Boys & Girls Community Sports Association (OBGC) on Olney-Laytonsville Road. Created in 1969 by parents to provide constructive after-school programs, OBGC now boasts over 7,000 children who participate in its programs organized almost entirely by 800 volunteers. OBGC received the Maryland Nonprofits' "Seal of Excellence" in 2004 for ethics and accountability — a certification which it still holds. In 1999, OBGC bought *Falling Green* — house, barn, and the remaining 118 acres. It has restored the barn, built in 1880, and is now raising funds to restore the house.



Basil, son of James Brooke, one of this area's pioneer Quaker settlers, built the house in 1764 during his father's lifetime, confident that he would inherit that portion of his father's holdings, along with 2000 acres, which he did when James Brooke died in 1784. Though the Brooke family farmed the immense tract with enslaved labor, the house was built by English indentured brick layers expert with the tricky Flemish bond pattern. Originally called *Belleville*, the house, which would shelter members of the Brooke family for two centuries, was renamed *Falling Green* in 1824 to emphasize the vast sloping green lawn in front. Miss Mary Brooke and her widowed sister, Edith Brooke Green, left the house in 1961. In 1980, The Historic Preservation Commission saved *Falling Green* from demolition.

Falling Green hosted enthusiastic youth sports in its early years as it does today. Thomas McCormick recalled his days as a boy in a school founded by local Quaker educator, Isaac Briggs. The schoolhouse, built in the 1790s "near the residence of Basil Brooke," welcomed boys and girls from local neighborhoods, nearby counties, and as far away as Baltimore and Philadelphia. McCormick remembered a teacher who loved playing with the youngsters, even dashing back after the midday meal-break to join in their races through the woods. "Though stout," McCormick recalled, the man was

(continued top of next page)

fast “over a moderate distance” and enjoyed racing. One day, unhappily, he broke his collarbone tripping over a root. Amidst their sincere sympathy and concern, the young scholars dared hope that the injury might win them a few days off from school. However, William Stabler stepped in for the injured schoolmaster and lessons went forward.

Sandy Spring Museum looks forward to helping OBGC interpret the history of the house and the Brooke family, and advising as appropriate on restoration. The Museum owns a number of items pertaining to the house, including James Brooke’s will leaving the property to his son Basil, manumission papers granting freedom to Basil Brooke’s enslaved workers, and photographs of the family in the 19th century. We hope that reproductions of these materials can be permanently displayed in the front hall once restoration is completed. ■ – *Sharon Ann Holt*

Preserve club archives at the Museum for safe-keeping

Sandy Spring is blessed with several active social clubs founded in the 19th century, each leaving a legacy in the form of its historical minutes. Unfortunately, fire, water, insects, and acid hydrolysis threaten the long-term health of paper-based minutes.

In an effort to preserve their minutes, The Neighbors, a Sandy Spring social club founded in 1897, scanned its minutes onto microfilm, digitized the minutes, and organized them in acid-free storage materials. In June, 2009, The Neighbors deposited its historical minutes in the Sandy Spring Museum archives, a crucial first step in a three-stage process agreed to by The Neighbors and the SSM. Discussions are underway about loaning portions of the minutes to the SSM for research purposes and the eventual gifting and stewardship of the minutes benefit future generations. ■ — *Derek Jackson, Archival Secretary of The Neighbors*



All Aboard for the 5th Annual Model Train, Toy and Doll Show

Saturday, December 5, thru Sunday, December 13

(hours: Mon. - Sat. 10 am - 4 pm,

Sun. 12 noon - 4 pm. Santa will be on board Sat., Dec. 12, 11 am - 2 pm.)

Besides the remarkable variety of model trains, this year's exhibit includes early American cloth dolls, as depicted by Judi Ward. Originals are now rare, with the best in museums. Cloth dolls made by enterprising, devoted women were readily recognizable, like

Raggedy Ann, but most with names no longer familiar to us, like Alabama Baby, A Presbyterian, Baby Land Rag, Izannah Walker, and Sweets. Visitors will enjoy them, and learn about their creators. ■



MUSEUM GALA CELEBRATED THE PAST... INVESTED IN THE FUTURE

Sandy Spring's unique history inspired this year's Museum's Gala April 18 at Clarksville's Ten Oaks Ballroom. All evening, supporters and friends were invited to learn about

“ At each table, a Sandy Spring notable was profiled, inviting guests to discover connections between past and present. ”

early Sandy Spring citizens whose impact on business, education and society is felt today. Sherwood High School students, who had recently competed in Maryland History Day, stood by their display boards and talked passionately about Sandy Spring icons like Enoch George Howard (1814-1895), who bought himself and his family out of slavery and became one of the largest black landowners in the area, or Reuben Brigham (1887-1946), who challenged the 19th century railroad monopoly so that farmers could get cheaper Parcel Post delivery. At each table, a Sandy Spring notable was profiled, inviting guests to discover connections between past and present. The evening's murder mystery theatrical production took a light-hearted look at local history, with ghosts from Sandy Spring's past making a surprise visit to set the record straight.

To support the history, the evening's feel of community, and fun, gala guests showed their support of the Museum by donating to and actively participating in the evening's auctions. The Museum raised a record sum that will help underwrite exterior signage, operations, and programming. ■ — *Kathryn G. Althage*

HERITAGE DAYS JUNE 27-28 WERE FUN!

Partnering with Heritage Montgomery and other county cultural institutions, Sandy Spring Museum welcomed dozens of visitors to new exhibits and music by *Tasker's Chance*. Among “20th Century Heritage Games” offered, a children's favorite seemed to be running through sprinklers and tossing water balloons.



Education

HOORAY FOR HANDS-ON-HISTORY CAMP...

July's Hands-on-History camps again taught exuberant boys and girls 5-9 years old what early American life was once like in the home, on the farm, at school, and out in the community. They drew silhouettes, did Fraktur painting, wove on looms, churned butter, made cornhusk dolls, wrote with quill pens, and played with vintage toys.

Guest demonstrators brought life to traditional activities. Tim Conner's "Annie," a baby lamb, taught us about raising sheep and shearing wool. Elizabeth Thornton showed how to card wool, and helped each child spin Kool Aid-dyed wool on her spinning wheel. Leonard Becraft demonstrated an early 1900s gas-powered washing machine and showed us well-digging with divining rods and old well pumps. George Epperson, Resident Blacksmith, forged "S" hooks and decorative leaves, and taught campers to make a leaf from clay. Resident Basket Weaver Kathy Polletto showed unique and functional baskets, and each child learned to weave a simple folk art basket.

At the final "old fashioned social," featuring ice cream churned by hand, campers shared their projects with parents and friends, and celebrated new-found appreciation for life in the past. Summertime learning seemed to be great fun. ■

— Meg Leeds



Grants Expand Understanding of Our History

Maryland Humanities Council and PNC Bank: A 2009 grant of \$9,800 for our project, Emancipation Comes Home, funded two lectures last spring, three fine intern research efforts, and presentations this October and November. In February, Dr. Maurice Jackson discussed Anthony Benezet's efforts to push Quakers towards international abolitionism. The next month, Dr. Kathleen Fawver detailed ways in which slavery ended in parts of Maryland, and challenged listeners to dig for our own basic data and to analyze links between our Quaker-led social evolution and that in the larger Chesapeake watershed.

On September 26, two interns from UMD will explain their research on Sandy Spring's history: Kristie Kendall tracked changing crop mixes and commercial networks through early account books. Karen Gurman reconstructed discussions on manumission in old Baltimore and Sandy Spring Quaker meetings. Also, Vicki Heath, UMBC intern, combed the Sandy Spring Annals for incidents and people who make this place special.

In November, we will hear from both Dr. Kristen Block from Florida Atlantic University, respected for nuanced work on trade and commerce, and Liam Riordan, Assoc. Professor, U. ME. Both presentations should be very stimulating.

“ We are gratified that our programs, buildings, and library are being rewarded. Sandy Spring members can be proud, as on the ground investors, that your commitments are bearing fruit. ”

In these ways the Museum is sharing research results with audiences here, and we anticipate productive interchanges with colleague institutions through the Humanities Council's networks and at conferences. Our thanks to the Humanities Council and PNC Bank for making this possible.

1772 Foundation: Its new support started with a \$5,000 grant to expand our National History Day project. The event was a popular success.

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority: A \$10,000 grant lets us expand our school program focus on rural lifeways by adding winter programs in formerly unheated exhibit areas.

Institute for Library & Museum Services: The Museum was chosen to receive almost \$1,000 in top quality resources for collections management and control.

We are gratified that our programs, buildings, and library are being rewarded. Sandy Spring members can be proud, as on the ground investors, that your commitments are bearing fruit. ■

— Sharon Ann Holt

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS?

E-mail us to be sure you're on our list for Constant Contact updates — the best way to know what's going on.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – September through December 2009

SEPTEMBER

- Sun. Sept. 13** Garden Club General Meeting, 2-5 pm. Martha Best will speak on growing chrysanthemums (slides). Free*.
- Tues. Sept. 15** 15th Annual General Museum Membership Meeting, 7-9 pm. Speaker: Rob Rogers, President Maryland Historical Society. Free*.
- Wed. Sept. 16 to Sun. Nov. 29** New exhibit: Potomac River School paintings and sculptures by Rhona LK Schonwald. Free*.
- Sat. Sept. 26** "Emancipation Comes Home," community forum on Quakers and slavery with UMD researchers, 1-3 pm. Free*.
- Sat. Sept. 26** Smithsonian Day. Free admission for Smithsonian members.
- Sun. Sept. 27** Reception, "Meet the Artists!" from Potomac River School and sculptress Rhona LK Schonwald. Reception 2-4, live music, refreshments. Free*.
- Wed. Th. Fri. Sept. 30, Oct. 1-2** Blacksmithing classes, 6:30-9 pm, \$170 for 3-night series by George Epperson. Call to register.

OCTOBER

- Sat. Oct. 3** Appraisal Day. Appraisers will price your treasures, 11-4 pm. \$15/first item, \$5 each additional item.
- Th. Oct. 8** Lecture by Dr. Gary Nash (UCLA): "Influence of Quaker abolitionism," 6:30 pm. Free*.
- Sun. Oct. 11** Masters in Music: cellist Lori Barnet with pianist Philip Hosford, 4:30 lecture, 5 pm concert. Subscriptions \$85 for six concerts for members, \$95 for non-members, \$20 or \$23 individual admission. Call for reservations, student rates, special at-the-door and "pick three" subscription prices.
- Mon. Oct. 19 to Fri. Oct. 23** *En Plein Air* project art on display. See www.olneyfarmersmarket.org/pleinair.html, or call 301-570-5173 for more information. Free*
- Sat. Oct. 24** Gala and auction of *En Plein Air* art works. Time to be announced. Free*.
- Sat. Oct. 24** "Hidden Cemeteries" tour with Leonard Becraft, 2-5pm. Call for reservations. \$5/person
- Sun. Oct. 25** Garden Club General Meeting, 1-5 pm. "Spooky Workshop" to share decoration-making skills and prepare for Museum Christmas greens sale. Free*.
- Wed. Th. Fri. Oct. 28, 29, 30** Blacksmithing classes, 6:30-9 pm, \$170 for 3-night series by George Epperson. Call to register.

NOVEMBER

- Sat. Nov. 7** Lecture by Dr. Kristen Block, Florida Atlantic U: "18th Century Plantation Household Life," 11 am. Free*.
- Sun. Nov. 8** Garden Club General Meeting, 2-5 p.m. Speaker to be announced. Free*.
- Sat. Nov. 14** Family craft workshop. Parents and children make seasonal corn husk figures. 12-4 pm. Modest fee per figure.
- Sun. Nov. 15** Masters in Music: Stephanie Bonte-Lebair and friends, cabaret and musical theater favorites, 5 pm lecture, 5:30 concert. Subscriptions \$85 for six concerts for members, \$95 non-members, \$20 or \$23 individual admission. Call for reservations, student rates, special at-the-door and "pick three" subscription prices.
- Wed. Th. Fri. Nov. 18, 19, 20** Blacksmithing classes, 6:30-9 pm, \$170 for 3-night series by George Epperson. Call to register.
- Th. Nov. 19** Lecture by Liam Riordan, Assoc. Professor, U. ME: "How the Revolution Changed the Mid-Atlantic Region. 6:30 pm. Free*.

DECEMBER

- Tu. Wed. Th. Dec. 1, 2, 3** Blacksmithing classes, 6:30-9 pm, \$170 for 3-night series by George Epperson. Call to register.
- Sun. Dec. 6 to Fri. Dec. 11** Garden Club Christmas Greens Workshops, Museum basement. 9 am-4 pm. Call Gloria Galyon (301-774-4048) to sign up. Free*.
- Sat. Dec. 5 to Sun. Dec. 13** Model Train, Toy, & Historic Doll Show, M-Sat. 10 am-4 pm, Sun. 12-4 pm, Donation requested at the door.
- Sat. Dec. 12** Garden Club pre-ordered greens pick-up, 9-1.
- Sat. Dec. 12** Santa at the Museum, 11am-2pm.
- Sat. Dec. 12** Christmas Open House, 1-4, cider, cookies, tours, Garden Club Holiday Greens for sale.
- Th. Dec 24** Museum closes for holiday season; re-opens on regular schedule Mon., Jan. 4, 2010, **EXCEPT**
- Mon. Dec 28** **Open Today Only 9am-4pm. —** Show off your Museum to holiday visitors.

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place during Museum hours: 9 am - 4 pm Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; 12 noon - 4 pm Saturdays and Sundays. For reservations and more information, call 301-774-0022 or see www.sandyspringmuseum.org.

** Suggested Museum contribution for non-members is \$5/visit, \$3 for seniors. Free for members and children under 12.*



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MUSEUM SHOP

Many friends have discovered how perfect our finely crafted and unique treasures are for special gifts — for holiday giving, a hostess, birthday, or graduation. And students may cherish a poster of their home town to warm up a dorm room. Look around the Museum Shop. Each purchase supports the artists and the Museum, and showcases this remarkable community.

Museum Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 am - 4 pm
Weekends Noon - 4 pm

**Serving the Greater Historic
Sandy Spring Neighborhood Including:**

Ashton, Brighton, Brinklow, Brookeville, Burtonsville, Cloverly, Ednor, Holly Grove, Norbeck, Olney, Spencerville, Sunshine, Sandy Spring, Unity, and neighboring Howard County.