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Legacy • Winter 2009
Sandy Spring Museum
17901 Bentley Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

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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.**

Museum Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Weekends Noon - 4 p.m.

The Legacy

SANDY SPRING MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

WELCOME, SHAN HOLT!

Many of us were present to welcome Dr. Sharon Ann Holt named Executive Director of the Sandy Spring Museum at the September 9 Annual General Membership Meeting. "Shan," as she likes to be called, has been a professional historian in the Mid-Atlantic region for 15 years, and for the last five years was Director of Programs for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities at Rutgers University-Camden. She has worked with communities to preserve historic places, nurture interpretation, build civic commitment, engage broad audiences, and lay the practical foundations for fiscal sustainability. Her interpretive programming approach will enhance the commitment of staff, volunteers, and visitors to the Museum's mission, to its endowment and physical plant, and to expanding awareness of Sandy Spring's history across the community, state, and region.

Shan holds a doctorate in American history from the University of Pennsylvania and has authored books on post-Civil War African-American landholding and the future of public history. Her husband, Michael Zuckerman, is Professor of History at Penn. She has two daughters and three stepchildren, and, now, an apartment in nearby Olney. Welcome, Shan!

Let's help Shan carry out her belief "that history museums must both preserve important historical assets and make the past a living resource for building the future." ■



Come bounce to the Tangos in April!

Sunday, Jan. 25: Classical pianist Brian Ganz has been called "leading pianist of his generation," recognized for "note-perfect cascades of rippling arpeggios," "melodies soaring into space," and "spectacular musicianship."

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President's Message

Be Part of the Future at Your Museum

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy holiday season and joyous new year. We at the Museum are very excited and look forward to 2009. Shan Holt, our new Executive Director, has been warmly received by our community and already is actively engaged in all aspects of the work of our Museum. Shan is planning some new and exciting programs and exhibits for 2009, including active outreach to area schools.

Our Annual Appeal is underway and I would like to express my thanks to all of you who have already provided your support. In uncertain economic times such as these, it is more important than ever that local cultural institutions like our Museum receive support from their membership. I therefore want to encourage each of you who has not yet acted to do so before the end of the year. Remember your contributions are tax deductible. Once again, happy holidays and I look forward to seeing you at the Museum in 2009. ■

Joe Furey
President





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Director's Desk

Examining Our Changing Community – Then and Now



Greetings from my new chair! As I inherit the reins of this institution, I am keenly aware of the strong shoulders I stand on. The founders of the Sandy Spring community had a vision of community life and religious boldness on which they built a lasting settlement. In turn, the founders of the Museum valued that vision, and moved to preserve it for the future.

The stories of Sandy Spring's emergence are powerful and fascinating. They not only honor and explore your history, but also offer genuine value today.

One story is about Sandy Springers building and sustaining groups and clubs that give this area its resilient civic fabric. While civic discourse and values decline around us, Sandy Spring is living testimony to an alternative. People everywhere can learn from us about how it's done.

Another story is about social and cultural change and how it happens, even when it seems unthinkable — like the move from slavery to emanci-

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Cornerstone, a recent Museum acquisition, is from the rebuilt Isaac Briggs school, opened in 1897 and still on Meeting House Road in Sandy Spring. The original school opened in 1797, became part of the county public school system in 1865, and was destroyed in a storm in the 1890s.

Masters in Music *(continued from page 1)*

Sunday, March 15: The National Philharmonic Trio brings back three outstanding performers by popular demand — violinist Jody Gatwood, National Philharmonic Orchestra concert master and professor, Catholic University; cellist Lori Barnet, first chair, National Philharmonic Orchestra; and pianist Phil Hosford, artistic director of these concerts.

Sunday, April 19: “QuinTango,” two violins, cello, bass and piano, will again display marvelous instrumental versions of tangos, which really got our toes tapping last year. The group performs in all the major local venues including Argentine and Mexican cultural centers.

Sunday, May 17: “Wind Extravaganza” features exceptional instrumentalists on the faculty of The Academy of Music in Gaithersburg, MD, performing wind ensembles by Beethoven and Poulenc. ■

Garden Club

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

The other morning, members of our fabulous Garden Club trimmed dead branches off patio bushes, removed debris from under bushes, and mulched a bit. The winter grounds are neat and lined with plants bursting with promise. The Garden Club really cares!

Come to **General Garden Club meetings** February 8 and April 12 for a program, refreshments, and loving relationships. Details appear on the Garden Club web page linked to the Museum's web site, announcing gatherings for workshops, workdays and trips — all FREE, with no materials needed. Just bring yourself! You can help us and expand your friendships.

A **May 16 Garden Tour** will tempt spring adventurers to visit and muse over 5-6 fabulous gardens in our lovely community. This is a dynamite event and special opportunity to view "back yards" of close-to-professional gardeners.

In **April/May**, members divide plants at repotting time and coax others to donate pots of seedlings and blossoms to sell June 6 at their Strawberry Festival booth — contributing to the lively atmosphere of the day and Museum's finances.

Join us! We always have a good time and contribute generously to the charm and well-being of the Museum. ■ — *Kathy Lieberman*



Gallery Update

Portrait Painters & Senior Sculptors Followed by "Outloud" Art & Glass Sculptures

Beginning January 7, the Farquhar Gallery will display oil paintings and drawings in pastel and charcoal by members of the Maryland Society of Portrait Painters. Since 1983, the group has promoted the art of portraiture, presented prominent members in lectures and demonstrations, and arranged tours at major galleries on the East Coast.

Alongside the portraits will be sculptures in clay, metal, stone and wood from the Senior Artists Alliance. Ceramics, sculpture, and carvings — abstract, figurative, and realistic — will reflect the varied characteristics of retired doctors and dentists (no longer just using precision tools), engineers (moving beyond blueprints), lawyers, and stay-at-home moms. Their joyous second lives have enabled them to exhibit, sell, and win professional awards. We should find "must haves" for our personal collections.

"Outloud" painters will take over the Gallery at the end of March. Thirteen award-winning local artists paint in diverse abstract styles, ranging from explosive multimedia imaginings to dream-like canvases to elegant decisive colors. Colorful, exciting new works from members of the cooperative, formed in the 1990s, will reflect their "thinking outloud" and work with prominent abstract artist Helen Corning. The spring show will also display glass sculpture and vessels by faculty members of the Washington Glass Studio of Mt. Ranier, MD.

That exhibit will, in turn, be displaced June 15 by photographs of the animal world by the Gaithersburg and Silver Spring Camera Clubs, together with something curious called "soft sculpture." More on that later. ■

— *Jane Preece*

Volunteers Are Our Life Blood



How would our collections get catalogued without volunteers? Joe Reiff, Museum Trustee and Sherwood High's Library Media Specialist, walks across the street to be our librarian. On Sunday mornings, as he catalogues reading room books and the rare book collection, he is joined by Susan Fifer Canby, librarian colleague from the National Geographic Society, who is enhancing biography files, based on work done by Museum historian Sylvia Nash and helped by long-time volunteer Mary Alice Silbert. They connect gifts and information with the right person — assuring critical accuracy.

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Sandy Spring Back When...

Games Our Grandparents Played

Games, games, games! Who recalls how families played in days gone by? Year after year, at community picnics in nearby Maryland, on holidays like Independence Day and Labor Day, farm families enjoyed day-long fun and fellowship, country music, and bands. Afternoons usually ended with country-fried chicken dinners before folks headed home in their carriages.

To make these events possible, farmers created Grange Halls - in Brighton, Brookeville, Burtonsville and nearby Willis Hall, and Mechanicsville (now Olney). Though the buildings are gone, memories remain of games enjoyed. What games did Grandfather talk about?



Brookeville Grange hosted community picnics and games for decades.

Jousting, the Maryland State sport, was part of most gatherings. Like “combat jousting” in the Middle Ages, “ring jousting” riders on trained horses charged at full gallop through three arches, trying to lance 1/4” x 1” rings. The winner’s lady became “queen” for the tournament.

Marbles, in the pocket of every young person, were once clay, later glazed or glass of different designs — see Dave Yinger’s “shooters” and other marbles in his museum in Brookeville. In one game, a player shot his marble at a 3-5



foot circle on the dirt and kept shooting as long as he hit an opponent’s marble out of the ring. In “winner take all,” a lucky boy or girl took home all the marbles. In “purgey,” aiming at an indentation in the ground several feet away, a “killer” shot at others’ marbles before they reached the cup and tried to hit out the last opponent.

Gunny sack races were single sack (both feet in one sack) or three-legged races (one foot each of two children in a single bag). Who would be fastest running a course over and under fences, tables, and other obstacles?

A greased pole was often the highlight. Children climbed a 12-foot hickory pole coated with lard, competing for a money prize on top — maybe \$3. To make it easier, they threw dirt on the pole or wrapped it with their clothes. Climbers were pretty grubby when they got home! In greased pig chases, young people tried to catch a well-larded young pig, the winner often raising it as his 4-H project. In chicken chases a rooster was released for children to catch as the prize.

Horseshoes required skill: Toss a horseshoe to ring a huge distant nail or stick. Men often tried all afternoon to be the best player of the day.

Penny pitch had people tossing pennies onto a circle on a table to win the waiting Lucky Strike and Camel cigarette packs. In baseball throw, people tried to knock a silver dollar off a bowling pin 30 feet away. Sometimes, five solid wood milk bottles were stacked up to be knocked down with a soft ball. “Knock the hat off the dummy” had our grandmothers trying to knock the head off a dummy with a rolling pin!

“Annie, Annie Over” involved two teams of children on opposite sides of a house. When the ball was thrown over the roof, the other team got it, hollered “Annie, Annie Over,” and chased those who had thrown it. Anyone caught had to switch to the other team, maybe away from friends and siblings.

What fun our grandparents had with simple games! ■
— Leonard Becraft

The Strawberry Festival Will Be Here in No Time!

Begin thinking how you’d like to help plan, set up, equip and supply, run, or simply sell at the Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 6. With the array of crafts booths, petting animals, games, plants, books, baked goods, strawberries, and other food, food, food, there will something for everyone! Call the Museum or visit our website. Planning must get started early. Thanks for taking a role in this always successful Museum event.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE! Do We Have Your E-mail Address?

Your Museum regularly updates its web site and sends e-mails as reminders of events and needs. Please send your current e-mail address to Ellen at ehartge@sandyspringmuseum.org. ■

SANDY SPRING'S CIVIL WAR

Depicted in Sandy Spring Friends School Play

Thursday, February 26 through Sunday, March 1

Sandy Spring in the Civil War was a volatile place: Quaker farmers who had freed slaves and sympathized with the Union, many more slave-holders who embraced the Confederacy, and a large population of African American slaves, descendants of former slaves, and free blacks attracted to the tolerant Quaker community. This is the dramatic setting for *Hide Your Horses!* which premieres at Sandy Spring Friends School in late February.

Hide Your Horses! relives the tensions of living between North and South, of the passing armies that clashed at Antietam and Gettysburg, the soldiers and renegades of both sides who terrorized farms and shops for food, shoes, and horses — always horses, the lives lost, the stresses on Sandy Springers when neighbor opposed neighbor, and finally reconciliation when the guns quieted. We'll be torn, too, as we follow the story of a local girl who fell for a Confederate officer.

Written by Thomas Y. Canby, former National Geographic editor, collaborating with producer/director Bruce Evans, head of Arts and Theatre Arts at Sandy Spring Friends School, this year's "Community Play" offers actors from the student body and the community and is enlivened by music composed and performed by the Sharp Street Methodist Church's Gospel Choir. Diaries, letters, and oral histories from the Sandy Spring Museum's archives fueled the play.

Hide Your Horses! will be performed in the Sandy Spring Friends School's new Performing Arts Center Theater, at 7:15 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free; donations at the door will benefit the school and the Sandy Spring Museum. ■

— Phoebe Lansdale

Museum Education Team Opens Eyes in Many Ways

Play old fashioned games, observe traditional skills, and have fun: Monday, February 16, is Presidents Day. A day off from school can be fun — and educational, too! Our annual Family Fun Day features live music, traditional arts demonstrations, old fashioned games and toys, and hands-on educational activities. Bring your young'ns! It's a great way to get to know our community's unique history, try your hand at an early American craft, and learn more about our on-going educational programs.

Trace three centuries of notable Sandy Springers: We will cooperate with Sherwood High School towards National History Day in June. Sherwood teachers Aileen Woolley and Judy Reiff will, with Museum educators Meg Leeds and Kathy Polletto, help students examine notable Sandy Springers over three centuries, consistent with this year's National History Day theme: "The Individual in History." Students will present their projects at the Museum in February and at the county competition March 21, hopefully competing at the state level April 25 and at the national competition for National History Day in College Park June 14.

Learn early American crafts: March 28 and 29 craft classes will have the Museum hopping. Artists come prepared to both demonstrate their basic skills and teach traditional crafts. Costs are very reasonable, but space is limited, so call the Education Department or check the web site in late January to see who is teaching, what craft you might learn or polish, and claim your spot. We hope to see you there! ■

— Meg Leeds, Kathy Polletto, and Shan Holt





Museum By-Laws Now Allow Board Expansion to 25 Trustees

The September General Membership Meeting amended the By-Laws to allow expansion of the Board from 15 to 25. Towards this number, it approved the following seven new trustees:

Toni Evans of Brookeville, Sandy Spring Friends School head of Middle School, experienced in living history;

June Freitag of Brookeville and owner of The Country Framer, with background in real estate and corporate marketing;

Barbara Gibian of Sandy Spring, Associate General Counsel for OPIC (Overseas Private Investment Corporation);

Mary Kay Harper of Rockville, retired Executive Director, Montgomery County Historical Society;

Joe Reiff of Olney, Library Media Specialist at Sherwood High, Olney Public Library Advisory Committee Chair, and the Museum's volunteer librarian;

Tommy Russo of Olney, information technology chief at Akridge Properties in DC, with background in construction; and

Clint Stinchcomb of Olney, Executive Vice President for HD theater, turbo media programming and strategy.

In addition:

Brooke Farquhar of Clarkesville, organizational consultant, landscape architect, and planner for Montgomery County Parks, accepted a second term. ■



Anthony Benezet (1713-1784), Quaker teacher, writer and abolitionist. From: "Historical poetical and pictorial American scenes" by J.W. Barber, 1850.

Lectures Resume On a February Saturday

Dr. Maurice Jackson, assistant professor of history, Georgetown University, will lecture February 21 at 12:30 at the Museum on the efforts of Anthony Benezet to persuade 18th century Quakers to reject slavery. Copies of Dr. Jackson's book, *Let This Voice Be Heard: Anthony Benezet and Atlantic Abolition*, published this fall by the University of Pennsylvania Press, will be available at the lecture. ■

Director's Desk *(continued from page 2)*

pation, from degrading inequality to neighborliness and mutuality. This story shows how people with fundamental disagreements can still live together, as abolitionists and free blacks did among slave-owners, and how people can cope successfully with neighbors quite unlike themselves.

These lessons need to be learned again and again across the United States, and we have the stories here to help teach them. As I know from years of work across the Mid-Atlantic region, Maryland is a unique hybrid of Mid-Atlantic and southern history — an inescapably visible dual culture. By pointing out that duality, we should draw visitors from all parts of Maryland to Sandy Spring to see their reflections in our mirror.

Those are some of the important threads in the complex fabric of your history.

The physical plant which your board's leaders have created is a beautiful foundation for these lessons. It provides a firm basis for the Museum's growth and for daily service to the community. I'm excited to work with you in this exquisite setting to share our stories across Montgomery County and more broadly. Museum staff and leadership can't do it alone. We will need your support — please tell us how you would like to help.

Let's work together to make Sandy Spring Museum a place where history lives every day and helps shape the future.

One more thought: my own special thanks to Hank Lieberman, for his steady hand and resourceful leadership which he provided at a moment's notice to help sustain the Museum. On behalf of the community, let me extend our profound appreciation for his continued thoughtful contributions to our efforts. ■

— Dr. Sharon Ann Holt, *Executive Director*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter/Spring 2009

Sun., Jan 4	Sandy Spring Museum reopens after holidays
Mon. Jan. 7 - Tues. Mar. 30	New Exhibit: Paintings by MD Society of Portrait Painters and Busts by Senior Artists Alliance, regular Museum hours (Free*)
Sun. Jan. 11	Artists reception for Senior Artists Alliance and MD Society of Portrait Painters, 2-4 p.m., music, refreshments (Free*)
Sun. Jan. 25	Masters in Music: pianist Brian Ganz, 4:30 lecture, 5:00 concert (\$23/door non-members, \$20/Museum members)
Sun. Feb. 8	Garden Club General Meeting, 2-5 p.m. (Free*)
Mon. Feb. 16	Family Fun Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (Free*)
Thu. Feb. 26 - Sun. Mar. 1	"Hide Your Horses," play at Sandy Spring Friends School, 7:15 p.m. Thu-Sat. and 2:30 p.m. Sun. (Good will donations)
Sun. Mar. 15	Masters in Music: National Philharmonic Trio, 4:30 lecture, 5:00 concert (\$23/door non-members, \$20/Museum members)
Sat/Sun, Mar. 28-9	Traditional Arts Classes, hours and fees vary by class; contact the Museum.
Tues. Mar. 31 - Mon. June 1	New Exhibit: "Outloud Art," paintings by 13 abstract artists, plus glass sculptures and vessels by Washington Glass Studio faculty, regular Museum hours (Free*)
Sun. April 5	Artists reception for "Outloud Art" painters and Washington Glass Studio faculty, 2-4 p.m., music, refreshments (Free*)
Sun. April 12	Garden Club General Meeting, 2-5 p.m. (Free*)
Sun. April 19	Masters in Music: "QuinTango," 4:30 lecture, 5:00 concert (\$23/door non-members, \$20/Museum members)
Sat. May 16	Tour of extraordinary neighborhood gardens, 10-5 p.m. (\$12/person + \$6 box lunch)
Sun. May 17	Masters in Music "Wind Extravaganza," 4:30 lecture, 5:00 concert (\$23/door non-members, \$20/Museum members)
Sat. June 6	Strawberry Festival, 10-6 pm. (\$5 admission adults, children under 12 free)
Sun. June 14	National History Day special exhibit, regular Museum hours (Free*)
Wed. June 17 - Mon. Sept. 14	New Exhibit: Gaithersburg and Silver Spring Camera Clubs: "The World of Animals," regular Museum hours (Free*)
Sun. June 21	Artists reception for Gaithersburg and Silver Spring Camera Clubs, 2-4 p.m., music, refreshments (Free*)

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place during Museum hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; 12 noon - 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. To register for courses and for 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.*

Volunteers

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Last fall, Montgomery College students filled our research library seeking information on contemporary descendants of the trustees of the Mutual Assurance cemetery nearby. Dr. Marcia Bronstein and Dr. Leigh Fought from the College collaborated with the Sandy Spring Civic Association whose volunteers assisted the students, as did our own Margaret Wintz and Joe Reiff. The students discussed their findings at a December Museum staff meeting.

Additional volunteers are needed to staff the library during open hours, serving 4-hour shifts to help patrons do research or browse. Requirements are interest in learning about our history and a desire to patiently assist library users. Training is provided. Limited computer skills are helpful. If you are detail-oriented, enjoy learning about our community, and are comfortable at the computer keyboard, please e-mail JReiff@sandyspringmuseum.org to tell him of your interest.

But then, after all, "Why just the library?" Most committee members, program participants, and mailers are volunteers. They form a cheery and hospitable group, without whom the Museum could not function. Cathy Case, Volunteer Coordinator, (volunteer@sandyspringmuseum.org) would love to hear your ideas on how you might help our lovely gem of a museum. ■

— Joe Reiff and Sharon Holt