



The Legacy

summer 2011 | Vol. 35, No. 2

SANDY SPRING MUSEUM — BE INSPIRED!

30TH ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL - JUNE 4TH FROM 10:00 AM TO 5:00

Games, rides, food, and a chance to get to know your neighbors! The Strawberry Festival began in 1981, the year after the Museum was incorporated. Held the first Saturday of June each year, the Strawberry Festival has grown into a widely anticipated highlight of the community calendar. The Festival celebrates the rural heritage we interpret by featuring crafts and plants (from our Garden Club members), animals, live music and entertainment, fresh food, great camaraderie, and, of course, lots of STRAWBERRIES! Many people plan to kick off their summer each year with a bowl of our incomparable homemade strawberry shortcake!!

The Heritage Ensembles of The Washington Revels will be performing throughout the day: Jubilee Voices, presenting songs and stories representing the struggle and perseverance, trials and triumphs of African Americans, as expressed through a capella music, drama and dance, and Gallery Voices, performing period songs, dances, and dramatic presentations which will bring Montgomery County's cultural and historical legacy to festival goers.

See you there! ■



President's Message

Developing a History-Savvy Community

Communities with a strong sense of place, like ours, tend to be healthier, more resilient, and better able to adapt to, rather than be overcome by, change. To ensure that we transmit that sense of place to the next generation, the Sandy Spring Museum has successfully launched an education program linked to Montgomery County Public School elementary and middle school curricula. For example, fifth grade field trip students use our farm and kitchen tool collections to learn the science of machinery, while first and second graders compare and learn about maps. They are always fascinated to discover what has changed and what remains. Complimenting the curriculum, and making what students learn in the classroom more meaningful, the museum now has a vibrant in-house education program run by staff and volunteers that has quadrupled in size, taking in more than 150 students per month from local public and private schools.

We can well imagine that soon our kids may be not only more tech-savvy, but also more history-savvy than we are. While that would be a wonderful thing, there's really no excuse for parents and grandparents to lag behind in the history department. One way to keep up is to join us for a lecture, an art opening, a concert or any of the special events we offer at the museum. Meet friends, neighbors, and the innovators among us. Learn about our shared past, draw inspiration from it, and get that special sense of place that is so vital to a thriving community. ■

— Kathryn Althage,
President of the Board of Trustees

CENTURIES OF MAKING CHANGE WORK

Centuries of Making Change Work, curated by 2010 interns Molly Garfinkel (University of Virginia) and Sarah Hartge (Washington College), introduces Sandy Spring's tradition of innovative problem-solving, inviting visitors to imagine ways to solve today's problems. Through their actual words, visitors meet Ross Boddy (principal of the African-American high school and desegregation leader), Jim Eisele (president of the Greater Olney Civic Association), along with Mary Bentley Thomas, A. D. Farquhar, Rebecca Davis, and Benjamin Hallowell.

Funded by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Heritage Montgomery, and the Maryland Historical Trust, *Centuries* spans the 4 centuries. Leg shackles from a slave ship anchor the 18th century, during which Sandy Spring Quakers and visionary free Blacks worked both to end slavery and reform local agriculture. A cannonball reborn as a ball bearing showcases

(continued on page 3)





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- Volunteer Coordinator** volunteer@sandyspringmuseum.org

From the Director's Desk

NEED HEADLINE

In January, the Museum bid farewell to Margaret Wintz, long-time research and exhibits director, and for many people, the very face of the Museum itself. We are grateful to Margaret for her many years of devoted service. In her honor, the Museum is establishing a small endowment fund to provide summer research fellowships starting in 2012. To donate to the Fellowship, please visit www.sandyspringmuseum.org/museum/gift/margaret.html.

With Margaret's resignation, the Museum is depending more on willing volunteers who are learning how to help visiting researchers during a portion of each week. We look forward to welcoming more people to work in the archives where they can get to know our collection and experience the pleasure and excitement of working with actual historical materials.

The Museum is also reaching more children, as our education program breaks previous annual participation records. Now we need Museum members, many of whom have longed to see more children enjoying Sandy Spring history, to commit to becoming education volunteers. Contact Stephanie (sboyle@sandyspringmuseum.org or by phone) to learn how you can help.

We look forward to summer interns again this year to further enrich the exhibits and school programs, and to enhance our research and archives services. I invite you to come by and experience their excitement and youthful energy. I also extend a special welcome to Museum members – especially our new members -- to come in and see the new introductory exhibit, *Centuries of Making Change Work*. (More details are in the front-page article.)

I look forward to seeing you here soon! ■

— Dr. Sharon Ann Holt, Executive Director

The Sandy Spring Museum is honored to serve 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.

Centuries of Making Change Work (continued from page 1)

a 19th century community embracing commercial and transportation links to Baltimore, Washington, and beyond. An airman's helmet and radio microphone introduce the 20th century, while transformations of Olney and Sandy Spring raise the issues that confront Montgomery County today. As visitors ponder how to balance preservation and development, *Centuries* offers a blackboard to post their thoughts and ideas and see those of others.

Sandy Spring has been a community of do-ers, repeatedly using new ideas and community organization as tools for building a sound future. This proud history is the reason that Sandy Spring has – and deserves – a museum. We look forward to welcoming you through the door to experience our history all over again. ■

TRUSTEE PROFILES

Arthur Holmes, Arthur Holmes, Director of Montgomery County's Department of Transportation, is a retired U.S. Army Major General. Holmes has more than 26 years of top level management experience, including Vice-President of Logistics Applications and then President and Chief Executive Officer of the Automated Sciences Group, Inc.

A resident of Olney, Holmes has served on the boards of the NAACP, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital Foundation, Leadership Montgomery Foundation, and the Olney Theater. He joined the Museum board in 2010 and desires to see the Museum serve the Olney area more effectively and to increase the presence of local history in county schools.



Cynthia Schneider As the U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands (1998-2001), Dr. Schneider organized a project that enabled Dutch teenagers to collect oral histories from veterans and survivors of World War II. The results were compiled and distributed to Dutch schools and libraries. She also assembled and catalogued a museum-quality collection of American art at the embassy.

Dr. Schneider teaches, publishes, and organizes initiatives in the field of cultural diplomacy, art, and art history at Georgetown University. She is also

co-Director of MOST, an information resource center that encourages nuanced and balanced treatment of Islam, Muslims, and Muslim-majority regions in popular culture, television, and film. Dr. Schneider's writings range from blogs for the Huffington Post to policy papers for the Brookings Institution. Her talks include a TED presentation plus speeches around the world.

Dr. Schneider, a Sandy Spring resident, joined the Museum board in September of 2010 and has already welcomed the Holiday Historic Homes tour to Norwood. She is committed to seeing Museum exhibits made more eloquent and memorable for a wider range of visitors. ■



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UPCOMINGS

Lecture Series

The 2011 lecture series echoes the theme of the new introductory exhibit — how local innovators have helped this community turn challenges into opportunities. The April speaker, Arthur Wallenstein, worked successfully to build corrections practice around community skills that help local youth in county jails avoid cycles of incarceration.

When the lecture series resumes on Saturday, September 17th at 11:00 AM, we'll meet another area innovator with global reach—Scott Beale, founder of Atlas Service Corps. Beale provides fellowships for young international leaders to experience non-profit service work in the United States, and on Thursday, October 13, Sandy Spring poet, Barbara Knox, teams up with Washington mystery writer, Dorothy Phaire, each reading from her work. ■

Gallery Update

Summer Art Exhibit

From June 15th through September 11th, the Sandy Spring Museum will exhibit the works the Bethesda and Chevy Chase branches of the National League of American Pen Women, an organization established in 1897 to promote creative and educational activities in art, music, and letters. Musicians and authors may have CDs and books for sale at the opening reception, on Sun., June 26th, 2-4pm. The Art Committee also welcomes new members, and people interested should contact the Museum staff. ■



Hands-On-History Children's Camp – Summer 2011

Campers learn through memorable hands-on activities and traditional crafts to understand how communities grow, change, and sustain themselves. Participants will receive individualized attention as they engage in unique learning opportunities amid our collection of 18th and 19th century artifacts of rural life, including churning butter, weaving on a loom, making a toy, playing an old fashioned game, watching a blacksmith at work, making ice cream...and more! They also are encouraged to imagine themselves as citizens in their own communities today.

Register your child today! Don't Forget — Members receive a 10% discount at summer camp!

Session II (campers entering grades 3, 4, or 5): Monday July 18th - Thursday July 21st 9am-4pm each day

For more information and to download a registration form, see <http://www.sandyspringmuseum.org/museum/education/sumcamp.html> or contact Stephanie Boyle at the Museum (301-774-0022)



Social History...

GLEANINGS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SANDY SPRING CLUBS

by Tom and Susan Canby

The archives of the Sandy Spring Museum preserve an incomparable wealth of historical records detailing community life. Unique among these are hand-written minutes of monthly meetings held by venerable social organizations, or clubs, founded during the 1800s and still active today. Taken as a set, these records reveal household lifeways and individual and group perspectives on an American community from the Civil War era to the present.

Quakers, who nurture individual commitment to community work, founded all the clubs, though they soon opened their ranks to others. The Museum holds monthly minutes from the Women's Mutual Improvement Association, founded in 1857 (America's oldest continuously-gathering women's club); Horticultural Society, 1863; Enterprise Farmers Club, 1865; Home Interest, 1870; and The Neighbors, 1897. The museum also holds copies of the first three years' minutes of the Farmers Club of Sandy Spring, founded in 1844, which continues today as the nation's oldest active farm organization.

The minutes vividly chronicle residents' activities, interests, and concerns, offering scholars and researchers a voluminous resource in fields such as education, technology, politics, conflicts



including the Civil War, a community's transition from agricultural to suburban, and the distinctive social dynamics of the large Sandy Spring neighborhood.

The women's group, known to members as "the Association," was formed to "elevate the mind, increase the happiness, lighten the labor, or add to the comfort of another, or our families or neighbors." Twenty-three current members, some descendants of the original founders and others newer to the community, bring inspirational readings and sentiments to monthly luncheons, along with occasional alerts about needy local institutions. Members and guests can also ask questions of the group, which often elicit informative discussions. Among early entries in the minutes is an 1861 letter citing public fear that President Lincoln would fall to an assassin before his first inauguration.

The earliest Farmer's Club emerged as local families were abandoning farms ravaged by erosion and soil exhaustion and migrating west. A dozen Quaker farmers sought mutual help by joining hands as a club. They, too, met monthly, rotating among homesteads. Meetings included a business session with the reading of minutes followed by a hearty meal. Early minutes portray earnest members tromping over the hosts' farms and suggesting improvements. They record pioneering experiments in fertilizing with guano—nitrogen-rich bird droppings imported from Peru—that dramatically restored the tired land's productivity.

Members of the early Enterprise Farmers Club consisted largely of sons of senior club members. Minutes of an 1868 meeting show they concurred with their elders about guano, recommending it and "dissolved bones" (lime) for fertilizing potatoes.

(continued on next page)

Most club agendas include question-and-answer sessions, recording members' ongoing concerns. The program of a 1914 Neighbors meeting records discussing "How to Compensate Children for Home Work?" The impact of new technologies—newfangled farm equipment, the magical telephone, the automobile's eclipse of the horse—sprinkle the many decades of club conversation. In a community long dominated by agriculture, the minutes show Sandy Spring farmers constantly weighing the merits of tempting but costly new machines. The Neighbors, discussing the economics of horse vs. auto in 1916, agreed that "mile for mile an automobile was as cheap as a horse... but the automobile was without doubt... an extravagance for those who ought not to have one." Home Interest members recorded continuing disappointment with early washing machines.

The Horticultural Society's unique records even permit environmental research. Each month, club members record rainfall and temperature, along with observations of plants that bloomed and animals that appeared—a century and a half of data for researchers tracking climate change. In 1901, a report mourned a sighting of "the last deer" in the neighborhood, a prediction that today's frustrated gardeners would certainly dispute.

Nearly a hundred Sandy Spring clubs, many short-lived,



sprang up in the century following the Civil War, with interests ranging from fox hunting to philosophy—and including a spoofer's One Man Club. "Civilization and progress in a community," observed Farquhar, are "to be found in the power of combining together to accomplish beneficial purposes—the 'clubbing faculty.'" The *Annals* observe that other communities, across Maryland and beyond, patterned clubs after Sandy Springs, often using the same names.

During the 1930s, the Home Interest Society assumed responsibility for "extending and perpetuating" the *Annals*. Since then, members have bolstered the club minutes with local information such as births and deaths, weather phenomena, fires and other disasters, and new residential and commercial development.

An unwritten stricture discourages club members from discussing "religion, sex, and politics." Nevertheless the minutes record frequent discussions of political issues, particularly during the protracted national struggles over woman suffrage and temperance.

This uniquely rich and deep reservoir of community information, now available to the public at Sandy Spring Museum, offers countless opportunities for research at the college, masters, and doctoral level. Starting in 2012, the Museum will also offer the Margaret Wintz Summer Research Fellowship—modest stipends to defray travel and housing costs for visiting researchers. Those desiring to pursue research projects or seeking information about the fellowships are invited to contact the Museum. ■

RAFFLE!

SUPPORT THE MUSEUM, AND TAKE YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A \$10,000 TRIP to Asia, Europe, Australia – or other destination of your choice. The Museum has contracted with Odysseys-Unlimited, an organization that provides small-group, high-value tours for university alumni associations nationwide, to provide two tickets for the lucky winner of our first annual summer trip raffle! The winner will select from a catalog of magnificent 2012 travel experiences. Raffle tickets are \$50 each and will be on sale from April 29 through July 16 at the Museum and online (www.sandyspringmuseum.org). Only 1000 tickets will be sold, so the chances of winning are excellent. The winning ticket will be drawn at noon on Sunday, July 17, at the Olney Farmer's Market. Don't miss your chance for the fabulous travel experience you've dreamed of, on your schedule, with a small group of good companions, on our nickel!! All proceeds from the raffle will support Museum programs.



From the Editor

In the midst of the January doldrums, I received an e-mail from the Museum asking for volunteers. Being a researcher and a lover of history, I fancied working in the library and archives. The following Tuesday, I hopped in my car and drove to the Sandy Spring Museum. During my drive, I heard a news item on the radio about the former Iranian hostages who were gathering to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their release from captivity. I vividly remember that time.

I walked through the doors of the museum I was graciously greeted by Ellen Hartge and introduced to Sharon Holt, the Museum Director, who consequently offered me the opportunity to fill the recently-vacated editorship of the Museum newsletter, *The Legacy*.

After tentatively accepting the offer, I began to peruse back issues of the newsletter in the beautiful Ladson Library. A note on the back page of the first issue (Jan/Feb 1981) caught my attention. Florence V. B. Lehman, the very first newsletter editor, was apologizing for the delay in publishing the first issue. She stated:

It might have reached you sooner if the past days had not been filled... with such attention-gripping reports. Watching and listening to the former hostages makes one realize that this country produces citizens like no other people on earth in their unquenchable spirit. (Museum News, 1(1), Jan/Feb 1981)

(continued on page 7)

Education

A LETTER FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR

As the school year comes to a close, I wanted to update the Museum community on our educational programs. We began running four new programs this year, developed by our 2010 summer interns, Julie Bell and Blair Dugan. Our

three main programs: Past & Present (grades 1 & 2), Machines & Motion (grade 5), Montgomery County and the Civil War (grade 8), along with our Black History Month program, have already enriched the lives of over 750 students, and there are almost 400 more scheduled to experience the programs before the end of this school year. We've welcomed Somerset, Greenwood, Sherwood, Sequoyah, and Laytonsville public schools; private schools like Green Acres, Sandy Spring Friends, and St. Peter's, and groups of homeschooled students. It has been a busy and happy first year for me, seeing our programs grow and reach more students than ever before. We were also happy to see several "alumni" of the school programs bringing their families back to the Museum.

With as many as 100 kids in one visit, I could never run these programs without my wonderful volunteers. Judith Lowe, Kathy Gaskill, Rita Leggett, Agnes Soo Hoo, Kathleen O'Malley, Gloria Canonico, Liz Kay, and Vicki Heath have given the programs their time, talent, and patience. Also, thank you to our demonstrators Dianna Guenther (spinner), George Epperson (blacksmith), John Laird (blacksmith), Bob Morris (blacksmith), Ellen Hartge (weaver), and Elizabeth Zuckerman (cross stitch), who shared their trades and artwork.

We're looking forward to a summer full of visits from day camps, our own Hands-on-History camps (see separate article), developing more curriculum-based programming with new interns, and booking field trips for the fall! I hope in the coming year you continue help to spread the word about our education programs. Please consider volunteering to help and encourage your friends and family to do the same. ■ — Stephanie Boyle



Acquisitions

NEW IN THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

We are reveling in the chance acquisition of four surviving fragments of the famous Olney Inn murals, commissioned from Austrian artist Oskar Hauenstein in 1930 by Clara May Downey. Painted on fabric, the murals featured important episodes in Maryland history. The Olney Inn was founded in 1926 and remained a fixture in the community for decades, hosting presidents and other dignitaries in high style, until it was destroyed by a catastrophic fire in 1978.

Long-believed lost in the fire, the mural fragments survived thanks to Elizabeth Altobelli, a history-loving resident of Sunshine who daringly entered the burned Inn after the blaze and cut away what she could salvage. She and her husband, Louis, stored the fragments, which were mostly heavily damaged by heat and water, in their home for decades. Recently, Mrs. Altobelli's son, Lou, retrieved the fragments from the family garage and kindly brought them to the Museum for permanent safekeeping.

Garden Club

DO WE HAVE FABULOUS ACTIVITIES FOR YOU!

Garden Tour, Saturday, May 21st from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (rain or shine). This spring's tour will feature five gardens in the Layhill/Ashton area, including one with unique and rare plantings, statuary settings, and garden rooms; a hillside woodland with many varieties of shade loving perennials, trees, and shrubs; a garden with noteworthy varieties of evergreens and shrubs which create privacy; a visit to Garden Gate Landscaping (a national award-winning company), and a visit to the Friends House Retirement Community's raised vegetable garden beds. Owners will be on site for first-hand tips and to answer questions. Plein Air Olney artists add to the festivities this year will by painting in each of the gardens and holding a "wet paint" sale with a wine and cheese reception at the museum from 3 to 5 pm. All are welcome to attend the reception. Cost for the tour is \$12/person in advance, or \$15/person the day of the tour. Box lunches (\$7.00) must be pre-ordered by May 18th. Tickets may be purchased at the Museum, by calling the Museum (301-774-0022), or online, at www.sandyspring-museum.org/museum/gardenclub/garden_tour.html. Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at the Museum and individual gardens.

Plant Sale at the Strawberry Festival, June 4th. Volunteers are needed for the annual Strawberry Festival on June 4th. Please divide and pot up your plants for us to sell at the Festival. Contact Andrea Mohr (301-260-1252) for more information.

Christmas in July Workshop, July 24th The Christmas in July Workshop will be held on Sunday, July 24th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Come and make bows and other items for our annual Greens Sale in the fall. Call Penny Sidell (301-924-3410) for more information.

We would love to have new members join us at any time and for any event. It's lots of fun enjoyed by wonderful and friendly people. ■

— Kathy Lieberman and Kathy Gaskill



The most important surviving fragment shows Ft. McHenry under attack in 1814. With the approaching bicentennial of that day, which saw the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, the Museum is delighted to have the mural fragment in its collection. We are investigating how best to stabilize and conserve it, for the public to see. ■

From the Editor (...continued from page 7)

Wow! What timing!

The first issue also contained this mandate from Penny G. Jacoby, the first Director of the Sandy Spring Museum:

The purpose of our museum will be to tell the story of the land, the people, and the events of the Sandy Spring area—from the earliest prehistoric and Indian times through Colonial, Federal, Civil War periods and the first part of the twentieth century to the ongoing present... (Museum News, 1(1), Jan/Feb 1981).

The Legacy serves as an ongoing vehicle to tell these stories, as well as a way to preserve them for future generations.

So on this 30th anniversary of not only the Sandy Spring Museum, but the publication of *The Legacy*, I'm excited to pick up the editorship of this newsletter and, with your help, *The Legacy* will not only continue on, but thrive and move ahead with the Sandy Spring Museum as a voice of sharing and learning, community and belonging, and hope in an rapidly-changing world.

— Sue Morrisson, Editor

Annals Vol. VI Replacements:

A number of people who purchased Vol. VI of the Annals (with the Index) have seen the binding come apart more quickly than it should have. In fact, the editors discovered that the volumes were poorly bound in the first printing. Vol. IV has been reprinted and correctly bound, and free replacements are available. During museum hours (M,W,Th 9-4, Sat/Sun 12-4), please bring in your old volume and the museum will happily make the exchange. We regret the inconvenience. ■



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