

Isle of Kent - 1631

"To Discover, Identify, Restore and Preserve the Heritage of Kent Island"

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. ■ SPRING 2011
www.kentislandheritagesociety.org

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President's Message

The perfect dawn on Kent Island Day foretold a great day. After weeks of near-constant rain and dreary east winds, the weather could not have been better for our signature event. Our historic sites and docents greeted a large and enthusiastic crowd. New this year was a display of model railroads set up in Historic Christ Church.

Our parade honored Dr. Gil Dunn, as Grand Marshall. Gil's lifetime of leadership, passion, and commitment to the Island and its heritage is a model for all of us.

Many thanks to Kent Island Day planners Joyce Woodford, Gary Walters, Flora Sossi, and Nancy Cook and to board members, volunteers, and patrons who contributed to its success. See the photos on pp. 4-5.

Planning begins immediately for next year. We solicit and encourage ideas from all members.

We've also had an active spring.

The March Publick Forum featuring the fascinating depiction of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton by actress Mary Ann Jung was well attended. Thanks to VP Nancy Cook for the success of that effort. We plan to continue the use of Historic Christ Church for future events. See accompanying p. 1 article about this event.

In April, we enlisted local students to help spruce up our historic sites for Kent Island Day. Maryland was the first among several states that now require "service learning" as a requirement for high school graduation. Each student must complete 75 hours of community service prior to high school graduation. QAC High School's implementation of the program

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New Publick Forum Series A Success

Our new Publick Forum series has been very well received so far, attracting lively and almost SRO audiences, many of whom are so intrigued that they linger on for further discussions with the presenters. Audiences have been about evenly divided between KIHS members and nonmembers.

The Publick Forum is an effective vehicle for reaching out to new Kent Island audiences with more contemporary concerns, making it a potentially useful tool for attracting new members.

Our March Publick Forum was moved to Historic Christ Church in anticipation of overflowing our usual space at Fisherman's Inn. It turned out to be a perfect venue for award-winning actress Mary Ann Jung as she channeled famous Civil War battle-field nurse and founder of the American Red Cross Clara Barton to an almost full-house. This was a participatory performance that involved the entire audience.

The Historic Christ Church venue worked out so well it probably will become our preferred choice.



Kirwan Museum Curator Linda Collier helps demonstrate the difficulty of having to wear a hoop skirt on the battlefield.

DOCENTS★

★ Eileen Dadds
★ Janet Denny
★ Chris Kilian
★ David Leathery
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★ Flora Sossi
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President's Message

Continued from page 1

emphasizes group participation rather than individual service. It was great, as you can see from the pictures on page 6. They fulfilled their requirement, learned about Kent Island history, and we received the benefit of many helpful hands at our sites in Stevensville and Kirwan Farm in Chester. Our heartfelt thanks to these students and to their leader, Ms Kathy Terry.

On May 7 we initiated what we hope will be an annual spring event, a Heritage Society Yard Sale at Kirwan farm. Many sellers and happy buyers participated. We were also able to sell some unique items from among the many boxes of "stuff" that Ms Katherine Kirwan had amassed hoping to open an antique shop. We thank Linda Collier and Toni Gibson for their superb efforts in making it a success. We hope you'll stop by next year on the first Saturday in May.

A major focus of the Board this summer will be the development of a strategic plan under the guidance of our planning chair, Hal Wilson, with the support of a grant from the Maryland Trust. I am constantly impressed by the creative energy and commitment of our Board members and look forward to their input. We will also continue with ongoing maintenance and improvements at our unique historic sites and with creative fundraising efforts. We invite Society members to consider offering their time and talents to any of these areas.

We congratulate the winners of our raffles for the Kirwan quilt and the Kay Roser painting, Barbara Stafford and Merrit Polcak, both of Stevensville. Thanks to our winners for supporting the Heritage Society and to Kay Roser for her generous donation of her unique and beautiful painting.

As you plan your summer activities, consider the open-house tours of our historic sites on the first Saturday of each month through October (noon to four).

You may notice that our Historic Stevensville Bank is newly repainted. Actually, KIHS doesn't own it. It is "ours" through a generous donated lease by Bob Marsteller and the Marsteller Family of Frederick, Md. We've recently extended the lease and appreciate the Marsteller's generosity.

We've changed our plans for June and cancelled the general meeting normally held at this time. We had originally planned a presentation on the History of the Bay Bridge. However, on that same night, the State scheduled a public hearing on Kent Island on the proposed Bay Bridge toll increases — a hot topic locally. Rather than reschedule so close to summer vacation time, we've opted to cancel the June meeting. Instead the Board will focus its efforts toward the strategic plan. We invite your ideas and suggestions on the plan. Contact Hal Wilson or me. Meanwhile have a great summer!

Jack Broderick

In Memoriam

CHARLES LACIJAN

1924 ~ MAY 28, 2011

WILLIAM E. LANE

SEPT. 1, 1921 ~ MARCH 28, 2011

ARNOLD WOLF

JANUARY 10, 1931 ~ MARCH 11, 2011

The Society is thankful for and will miss the interest and support shown our organization by these members.

Our mission honors their memories.



Raffle winners Barbara Stafford and Merrit Polcak, Stevensville, are pictured with KIHS President Jack Broderick and artist Kay Roser.

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center

Beginning in early July, CBEC will be taking orders for rain barrels and compost bins.

On August 20, CBEC will be having an open house, a flea market and delivery of pre-ordered rain barrels.

For more information and to learn more about rain barrels and compost bins, visit their Website at www.bayrestoration.org.

First Annual Flea Market at Kirwan Farm A Success

By Linda Collier

The KIHS held it's first ever Flea Market/Yard Sale on May 7 in the back yard of Kirwan House.

The weather was perfect, attendance was super, we attracted about 20 vendors,

we brought a lot of new folks to the property to see what we do, we got a couple new members, established some great contacts, met some fabulous folks and we made a little money. All-in-all, the endeavor was a huge success!



New Members

Rosa Calvert
Stevensville

Robert J. Gardner
Chester

Martin Halvorsen
Stevensville

Amy, Jon & Taylor Harmon
Chester

Karen Hastedt
Chester

Claude Lowery Jr.
Chester

J.C. Lowery III
Chester

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Maekins
Sykesville, Md.

Lee Aliff Miles Family
Stevensville

Cecelia Nation
Grasonville

Karen Thomas
Coral Springs, Fla.

Bobby Timms
Stevensville



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County Students Work Off Their Community-Service Requirements

Under the watchful eye of Kathy Terry, service-learning coordinator for Queen Anne's County High School, 28 students from Michelle Emond's ninth-grade history class hacked away overgrown honeysuckle vines and scraped and painted the picket fence at Cray House in Historic Stevensville and cleaned inside and out and mulched flower beds under guidance from Kent Island Garden Club members at Kirwan House in Chester.

The tasks at Cray House proved overwhelmingly challenging and were completed on May 3 by a group of seniors completing their service hours. We are exceedingly grateful for the enthusiastic assistance of these young citizens.



20th Century Kent Island Military Veteran Exhibit

By Linda Collier

For the month of March, K.I. Library's lobby showcased one of KIHS's many collections.

The inspiration for this display came from a gift of WW II memorabilia from Jimmy Tolson of Grasonville. When he asked what I was going to do with it, I said, "probably use it in an exhibit, someday."

Meanwhile, Intern Cameron Sewell was mentally cataloging what we had in our archives, as well as items owned by our families, to do just that. It seemed we had a lot. And so, instead of someday, we started *that* day.

We met with veterans and heard their great stories. Some had received plenty of

recognition; most had received very little. We know there are many more we didn't recognize because we weren't aware of them. We hope in some way this display thanked them for their service to our country.

The library was a terrific venue that was seen by lots of people. We got great feedback. We hope to

partner with them again in the near future because the society has lots of interesting historical items that we would like to share with the public.

Many thanks to all who loaned their precious possessions and to Cameron Sewell and Toni Gibson for their input and help assembling it.



The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

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The Kent Island Heritage Society is deeply appreciative of the continued support of these donors for this important signature event.

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