



## Handy's Memo From the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion

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Newsletter No. VII, Spring 2008

### Upcoming Events at Poplar Hill Mansion...

Poplar Hill is pleased to have been selected to host the **Author's Breakfast** for the 2008 Green Earth Book Award on **Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 10:00 a.m. to noon. This event is free and open to the public. The GEBA recognizes authors and illustrators of children's literature who promote environmental stewardship. Scheduled to attend are:

Lynne Cherry, *How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming*  
Adrian Fogelin, *The Sorta Sisters*  
Cambria Gordon, *The Down to Earth Guide to Global Warming*  
OR Melling, *The Light-Bearer's Daughter*

Jean Davies Okimoto, *Winston Churchill: One Bear's Battle Against Global Warming*

The award winning books will be available for sale at the Mansion and the authors will be available to personally sign them.

[www.newtonmarascofoundation.org](http://www.newtonmarascofoundation.org)

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Our annual **Fashion Show and Luncheon** is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 a.m. We are excited to announce that "Head Over Heels" will

be providing the fashions and accessories for this year's event. Advanced reservations are required. The cost is \$20.00 per person payable in advance. Mother's Day is the following Sunday.

This show has been one of our most popular events so call early to make your reservations. 410-749-1776.

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On **June 1<sup>st</sup>** we will be having the first in a series, **Music at the Mansion** highlighting the Salisbury Chamber Singers. Mr. Doug Smith, Director, has graciously offered their services. Some of you might remember them entertaining us during the Newtown Holiday House tour to rave reviews. They will perform twice, at 1:00 and 3:00 singing selections from the Civil War era. Tickets will be \$50.00 per person and will include dessert, wine and coffee. We anticipate raising sufficient funds to finish our interior paint restoration.

Keep watching our website for new events each month.

[www.poplarhillmansion.org](http://www.poplarhillmansion.org)

### **Our Paint Project Has Begun...**

The Board of Poplar Hill Mansion takes great pleasure to announce the interior restoration paint project is underway. The first room to be completed is the small dining room on the northwest side of the house. Mrs. Sarah Huston, the first woman to live in the mansion circa 1805, would approve of the historic, rather than decorative, representation of her tea room.

Handworks Design, LLC, Parsonsburg, has contracted to complete this room. The paint for the flat work has been donated by the Sherwin-Williams Co. at 1211 Mt. Hermon Road in Salisbury.

Stop by to see the changes on the first and third Sundays of the month between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. for a free tour. You may also call for an appointment for your family or group to tour at a nominal charge. The Mansion is closed on Mondays and Holidays.

### **Retiring Board Members...**

At the end of the year three of our most active and supportive Board Members resigned after fulfilling two consecutive terms, six years. We say “*thank you*”, but that just doesn’t seem enough.

Gen Deggendorf  
Judy Jackson  
Dorothy Warner

They recently spoke with me about their time at Poplar Hill. Here is just a portion of their comments.

Ms. Deggendorf stated “As a member of the National Trust for Historic

Preservation, I have always been interested in historic sites. My years at Poplar Hill Mansion were most enriching and productive-a volunteer duty I thoroughly enjoyed.”

Ms. Jackson told me “I am most proud of moving forward, of getting all our ducks in a row. Thank you to Jason Illari (previous curator) for his input and knowledge. This is a magical group of people who are working collectively toward organization, grant writing and fundraising.”

Ms. Warner most enjoyed the Mary Sheppard Burton exhibit of rug hooking here at the Mansion. She is also very proud of bringing to life the Teddy Bears at Tea with Santa. It was a wonderful fundraiser.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

### **Board of Directors Vacancies...**

The Friends are currently accepting applications for three new board members. Recently the size of the Board was increased from twelve members to fifteen. Meetings are held at the Mansion on the third Wednesday of the month (except July or August) at 10:00am. The applicant should have an interest in history and preservation and be enthusiastic to join one of the committees. Anyone interested should send a letter of intent to:

City of Salisbury  
Office of the Mayor  
125 N. Division St.  
Salisbury, MD 21801

## **Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion Board of Directors...**

Marshall Zugehar, Chair  
Bill Gore, Vice Chair  
Steve Bassford, Treasurer  
Gina Boobar, Recording Secretary  
Marge Duer  
Charlotte Langrall  
Louise Nock  
Carol Smith  
Ann Suthowski  
Rita Tiso  
Jane Youngk  
Mary Zugehar

## **Look What's New, and How You Can Help...**

What if **Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion** earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

**GoodSearch.com** is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

**GoodShop.com** is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter **Friends of Poplar Hill**

**Mansion** as the charity you want to support.

Please help us by adding this site to your tool bar and letting your friends and family know how easy, and painless, it is to support **Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion**.



Another way you can help is to donate your time or special talent. Do you like to polish silver? How about helping us serve at one of our many functions? It is already very well known we have some excellent bakers in our midst. As mundane as it sounds, helping us producing this newsletter would be greatly appreciated.

How would you like to adopt a specific project? You could sponsor a Clara Gunby painting restoration, or have one of the Eli Terry mantel clocks brought back to working condition.

This is a hard economy for a small non-profit. Consider alternative ways to lend a hand, to help us continue to restore this beautiful home to its Federal style beauty.

## **In Memoriam...**

Ivan Allen "Al" Hopper, who served along with his mother Adeline Hopper, for several years as caretakers for Poplar Hill Mansion, passed away October 14, 2007.

## **A Little History...**

As always, I have the need to include a little history lesson in all that I do. Here is a fact or two about Poplar Hill Mansion.

Jason Illari writes in his book, *Unlocking the Past: A History of Poplar Hill Mansion 1795-2005*, The name Poplar Hill was probably coined by the Huston family. A bill of sale dated December 1852 between Sarah (Huston) and her daughter Sally states "I have given, bargained & sold and by these presents, do give, bargain, & sell unto her the said Sally F. Huston her heirs and assigns forever all the grain which May be on the Poplar Hill farm either in the house or standing Or growing on the land at the time of my death." Furthermore, a land transaction dated May 1853 states, "Poplar Hill Avenue another Street or public High way laid off by the Said Sarah Huston." It could be possible that the term "Poplar Hill" was used prior to 1852, but further research is needed to find records which use the phrase. \*

\*Maryland, *Worcester County Land Records* (1852), Liber EDM 5 f. 90; Maryland, *Worcester County Land Records* (1853/, Liber EDM 5, f. 420.

No original Poplar trees are located on the property.

If you want to learn more about the history of Poplar Hill you may purchase Jason Illari's book at the Mansion, visit the Wicomico Library and read *The Mystery of Who Built Poplar Hill Mansion* by Jacqueline Dianich, and as always, you are encouraged to tour.

## **The View From the Second Floor...**

Each month I indulge myself with my own version of an editorial. So here I go, again.

Some of you may not be aware that I have the privilege to live at the Mansion, on the second floor. It is a lovely apartment with my own living/dining room combination, a kitchen, two bedrooms, three fireplaces and one and a half bathrooms. My guest bedroom is really the room used by the original families as the nursery and shown during a tour as just that. We also use this room for our brides to ready themselves for their wedding. The center hall, flanked by the Palladian windows, fills the room with light, even on a cloudy day. It is said that the little Huston girls took their weekly bath in front of the southern facing windows. The eleven foot eight inch high ceilings make the already spacious rooms appear larger. All of this is wonderful but...there are things that go bump in the night.

Thanks for the indulgence.

Nancy Marasco, Curator

