



Handy's Memo From the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion

117 Elizabeth Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
410-749-1776
www.poplarhillmansion.org
curator@poplarhillmansion.org
Newsletter No. VIV, Fall 2008

New Tours...

Stop by on the first and third Sundays of the month between 1:00 and 4:00 PM for a free tour, or call to make an appointment for your family or group to visit at a nominal charge. (Friends always tour for free).

The Mansion is closed on Tuesdays and Holidays.

The Board has instituted a docent training program and has volunteers looking forward to telling you the history and stories of the Mansion.

We now offer tours especially geared toward children. Ask your child or grandchild's teacher to make Poplar Hill Mansion their next field trip.

Thanks to a grant from the *Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore*, and the donation of a video camera from Salisbury University, we will soon be able to present a virtual tour in Spanish and those with disabilities will be able to sit in the parlour and view the tour on a laptop. Thank you Salisbury University and thank you CFES!



Thank you...

Thanks to Linda Davis, of Davis Design, a new Friend of PHM, we were gifted with six dozen linen dinner napkins and five large tablecloths. Salisbury Brick Company gave us a sizeable discount on bricks for our Heritage Gardens where Four Seasons Garden Club planted the herbs. The Jeweler's Bench, Head Over Heels, Sobo's Wine Bistro, M. Rita Tiso, Stephen L. Bassford and Associates, and Joseph Lauren Hair Classics all donated gift certificates or prizes for our *Music at the Mansion* raffle or silent auction.

Speaking of *Music at the Mansion*, we thank Susan Zimmer, keyboardist and Aleta Davis, Mezzo-Soprano for doing an outstanding job representing the songs of Cole Porter and George Gershwin last month. It was a great show and enjoyed by an audience of over 35 guests.

On September 28th, Ms. Zimmer and Ms. Davis will be joined by John Allen as they sing the songs of Broadway. More information about this concert is listed on the website and in this newsletter.

The Garden...

The Heritage Gardens, after months of researching appropriate plants and herbs, had the preliminary work begun this summer thanks to The Newtown Association, The Four Seasons Garden Club and the Wicomico Garden Club underwriting this vast undertaking. Successful completion is scheduled for early summer 2009.

Currently, we have basil, St. John's Wart, pennyroyal, thyme, spearmint, rosemary, parsley and tarragon. In 1805, all of these herbs would have been used in the kitchen and had medicinal purposes as well.

Our Gift Shop...

Support the Mansion by purchasing our nicely boxed painted glass ornaments of PHM at \$10.00 each (perfect for a holiday gift), or note cards (a package of 4) for \$5.00 and we now have post cards, too. In the very near future we will sell Jason Illari's comprehensive book "*Unlocking the Past: A History of Poplar Hill Mansion 1795-2005*" for \$20.00.

Our Website...

www.poplarhillmansion.org is almost complete. Our new site will allow for real time updates and changes. Please enjoy all the new photos (again our thanks to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore Technical Mini-Grant for our digital camera), our calendar of events, and feel free to add your comments to the blog page.

Rent the Mansion...

We are pleased to offer a special rate of \$450.00 for parties between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. This is a reduction off the regular price of \$600.00. Our occupancy rate is 97 guests.

Beginning December 5th, the Mansion will be completely decorated by the talented women in the Four Seasons Garden Club. This year's theme is Christmas on the Eastern Shore.

Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion Board of Directors...

Marshall Zugehar, Chair
Bill Gore, Vice Chair
Steve Bassford, Treasurer
Anne Lampert, Corresponding Secretary
Gina Boobar, Recording Secretary
Aleta Davis
Marge Duer
Anita (Tutie) Foskey
Kathryn (Taffee) Hajko
Charlotte Langrall
Louise Nock
Carol Smith
Ann Suthowski
Rita Tiso
Wirt Wolfe
Jane Youngk
Mary Zugehar

Personally, I thank my board members, and their spouses, who are often called upon to cook, bake, clean, paint, polish, address envelopes and assist me with doing just about anything I need. Your support is very much appreciated.

Upcoming Events at Poplar Hill Mansion...

Music at the Mansion...Broadway Comes to the Mansion*

Sunday, September 28 2:00PM
\$10.00PP / \$15.00 Couple

FREE for Friends of PHM.

Your favorite songs from Broadway musicals performed by John Allen, Aleta Davis and Susan Zimmer.

Underwritten in part by The Farmers Bank of Willards.

Candle Light Ghost Tour and Halloween Costume Party*

Friday, October 31 9:00PM
\$10.00PP Ghost tour. Refreshments.

Do you dare attend, perhaps to encounter a ghost?

President's High Tea and Fashion Show*

Monday, November 3 11:30 AM
\$15.00PP Fashions from "Head Over Heels".

Poplar Hill Mansion Second Annual Art Show & Sale

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 22 & 23
FREE Admission

Jewelry, Photography, Candles, Soaps, Artwork, Pottery, Candy and more. Silent auction.

Poplar Hill Mansion Holiday Open House / Music at the Mansion ...Christmas

Sunday, December 7 1 – 4PM
FREE EVENT. Refreshments. Live musical performances.

Come see the Mansion beautifully decorated by the Four Seasons Garden Club.

Tea with Santa*

Saturday, December 13 1- 3PM
\$5.00 PP Includes tea, sweets and a photo with Santa.

Newtown Holiday House Tour

Sunday, December 14 3-7PM
\$10.00PP in advance, \$12.00 at the door. Tour several homes in the Newtown Historic District.

Refreshments. Live music.

*Reservations suggested. Checks, MC, Visa, and cash accepted. Call Nancy at 410-749-1776. Call today. Don't be disappointed as a lot of these events will sell out.

The funds raised from these events help to continue the interior paint restoration project. We are a 501 (c) (3) corporation and will be happy to write a letter for tax purposes for your donation.

Keep watching for the continuation of *Music at the Mansion* in the coming months. Do you have a suggestion for the genre of music you would like to hear next?

Music at the Mansion...Broadway comes to the Mansion, is underwritten in part by the Farmers Bank of Willards. If you would like to sponsor live music that features local artists, contact the Mansion at 410-749-1776.

To continue this series, we are looking for an electric keyboard. If you have one you are willing to donate please let us know. The Mansion's acoustics are amazing and we want to fill the rooms with the sounds of melody.

The View from the Second Floor...

On October 7, 1971, thirty-seven years ago, after months of dedicated energy and masses of paperwork by volunteers, Poplar Hill Mansion was accepted to the National Register of Historic Places.

This past year we have successfully increased awareness of the Mansion which has brought about positive results in fundraising. Grants have been written and awarded; "Friends" have continued to be supportive by becoming and renewing their membership; in-kind donations from craftsmen have been appreciated; we realized a 32% increase in renting the Mansion to celebrate special occasions.

Through the years there have been changes all guided by a volunteer Board of Directors, now seventeen members strong, and implemented by the Curator. We continue our goal which encompasses our mission statement:

The Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion, Inc. is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the fostering and perpetuation of the Federal Period heritage of Poplar Hill Mansion, a public property located in Salisbury, Maryland, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now perhaps the greatest project left to complete is the historic restoration of the interior paint on the first floor and the second floor hallway and staircase. Through the paint analysis of Croxon and Ward, we know the colors, textures and treatments of these areas as they appeared circa 1805. Lead abatement and encapsulating, plaster repair work, painting flat work by brush, (there were

no rollers in 1805), the fine art of reproducing the faux finishes seen on the baseboards, mantelpieces and window trim are a time consuming and costly expense.

There was great excitement in April when the work on the small dining room was completed. The Ribbon Cutting ceremony was attended by a lot of loyal supporters and several new friends. Mayor Barrie Tilghman officiated along with representatives from local, county, and state governments.

Share our excitement. The next room in the project is the large dining room, slated for January, 2009. Please consider making a donation specifically earmarked for the historic painting. There are no administrative fees associated with project. 100% of your donation goes toward the painting.

Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Your contributions may be wholly or partially tax deductible. You should consult with your tax advisor.

Nancy Marasco, Curator