



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of
KENT COUNTY

UNLOCKING OUR PAST

2021 Summer Newsletter

***Despite the heat and seemingly endless Covid,
we are moving along!***

On June 13, we held our 85th annual meeting at the beautiful riverfront home of Susan and Bronson Percival. We needed a quorum of 20 to have an official meeting and far exceeded that with attendance of almost 40. With food catered by Galena's Sisters by Chance and fine wine donated by board member Steve Frohock, it was a lovely event.

We elected officers and board members, welcoming Darius Johnson and Gordon Wallace as new members of the board. Barbara Jorgenson moved to president, with former president Gibson Anthony becoming vice president. Bridget Mahoney and Erik Gulbrandsen were re-elected as treasurer and secretary, respectively. Thanks were given to retiring board member, Tim Olinick, who helped spearhead the creation of the Roger D. Brown History Scholarship, awarded to Kent County High School graduating senior, Jon Conner, at the annual meeting.

We were also among the 10 Museums of Kent represented at the Kent County Fair by board member Stephanie Gosman. Steph reported she spoke with more than 70 people about Kent County history.

Inside the Bordley: Legacy Day to be featured

The Bordley museum and shop remain open on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm.

Interestingly, our Saturday attendance now is greater than in pre-Covid days. We are hosting an average of 20 visitors each Saturday. We hope to continue this schedule until the fall with a few exceptions., as noted below.

Legacy Day, the annual event recognizing the local African American community we started in 2014, will be featured in a museum-wide exhibition at the Bordley in August and September. Now co-sponsored with Sumner Hall, this year's tribute is to the African American athletes of Kent County. Historian Bill Leary spent two years researching these young men and women and their coaches, identifying 44 high school athletes and four coaches.

Mark Your Calendars for Members Only Event August 5!

We will host a special Legacy Day Exhibition Preview exclusively for Historical Society members and the Sumner Hall board on Thursday, August 5. Look for your members-only invitation by Constant Contact soon; an RSVP will be recommended.

Also, to offer the opportunity to see the extensive Legacy Day Exhibition, the Bordley will be open on First Friday, August 6, from 5 pm to 7 pm. No program or refreshments are planned. Legacy Day itself is a two-day event, with opening ceremonies at Janes Church on Friday evening, August 20, and an all-out celebration in Wilmer Park on Saturday evening with live music and food and drinks for sale. For details on Legacy Day events, see Sumner Hall's website at www.garpost25.org. For these events, the Bordley will be open on Friday, August 20, from 4 pm to 7 pm and on Saturday, August 20, from 11 am to 5:30 pm.

Special Lecture Set for Maryland's Underground Railroad Month

In coordination with Underground Railroad Month, sponsored by the Maryland Department of Tourism, we will host a September lecture on Henry Highland Garnet, Kent County's fiery voiced African American abolitionist. Look for details by Constant Contact in August.

Committees are back in action!

Our committees are back at work too. Long-time member and former president Sheila Austrian has signed on as coordinator of the program committee, which serves as the incubator for our exhibits, events, and publications. And Kurt Smith, who wears many hats for us, will start meetings for the committee organizing our Spring 2022 House Tour. Kurt has dubbed this event “Historic Places and Spaces,” with an eye toward giving this 50th anniversary event a new look and a twist or two. Erik Gulbrandsen chairs our membership committee, and Cynthia’s Saunders and Susan Percival co-chair our hospitality committee. If any member is interested in participating in any of these working committees (hint, they do more than just talk), please email the office at admin@kentcountyhistory.org, which will forward your email to the appropriate committee chair.

Roger’s on the mend and first board baby in memory...

Finally, we are very happy to report that Roger Brown, our very long-time former treasurer, is home from the hospital and doing well, according to his wife Phyllis. We all send best wishes to Roger for a continued recovery and good health. And we are all anxiously awaiting the birth of our current treasurer’s first child in mid-August (spoiler alert: she’s having a boy, William Rooney Campbell). We all send wishes for a speedy and safe delivery—can’t wait to see if Rooney has Bridget’s red hair!

Stay cool, stay safe, and hope to see you on August 5, if not before!

We count on your generosity to fund our museum, library and programs. Any gift you are able to make is greatly appreciated!

Donate Securely Online via PayPal

If you need to reach the Society for any reason
please send an email to
director@kentcountyhistory.org