

# Heritage REPORT

## Heritage Days 2009

Heritage Montgomery continued to build on past success with Heritage Days 2009. The weather cooperated with mostly clear skies and pleasant temperatures for the over 13,000 visitors to our 41 participating sites. New locations this year included Art of Fire Glass Studio, Edwards Ferry, Odd Fellows Hall, Poolesville Museum, Riley's Lockhouse, Seneca Stone Barn, and downtown Sandy Spring.

Heritage Days 2009 saw a dramatic increase in press coverage. In addition to extensive event listings in all local print and on-line publications, Heritage Days was also featured prominently in local newspapers with front page articles in sections of both the *Gazette* and the *Washington Post*. Once again Comcast, the *Gazette* newspapers, and local county television stations were very generous in donating public service announcements, ad space, and featuring Heritage Days on local about-town programming.

Visitation numbers were up an average of 30% for participants returning from last year. Sites including Gaithersburg Community Museum's Living History Day, the Hyattstown Mill Arts Project, Brookville Schoolhouse and the Button Farm all saw visitation increase three-fold. As always, special programs and music drew rave reviews and enthusiastic participation!

**Save the date for next year's Heritage Days — June 26 & 27, 2010!**



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**HERITAGE  
MONTGOMERY**  
Hm! History where you least expect it!

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



## 2010 Mini Grants

The 2010 Mini-Grants were awarded at a special reception at the Waters House on October 21st. The Mini-Grant Program funds projects supporting heritage activities sponsored by groups in the county that contribute to interpreting, promoting, preserving, researching and/or supporting our historical legacy. Seven grants totaling \$12,740 were awarded to the following recipients:

- **Montgomery Preservation, Rockville** – \$2500 for a publication on Silver Spring railroad history
- **Washington Revels, Silver Spring** – \$2500 to develop interactive Civil War musical programs
- **King Barn Dairy MOOseum, Boyds** – \$1270 to revise & reprint their Introductory Brochure on the history of dairy farming
- **Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville** – \$2500 to publish a book on Dr. Edward Stonestreet
- **Sugarloaf Regional Trails, Barnesville** – \$2500 to research, design & produce a new Farm Trail guide for the Sugarloaf Regional Trails website
- **Peerless Rockville, Rockville** – \$970 to develop & produce a walking tour highlighting women important in shaping Rockville's heritage
- **Sugarland Ethno-History Project, Poolesville** – \$500 for a bronze plaque marking the earliest known grave in the original Historic St. Paul Community Church cemetery



*Karen Schofield-Leca (center) of the Washington Revels receiving a Mini-Grant award. From left to right: Naomi Bloch from Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg's office, Michael Parsons from Congressman Chris Van Hollen's office, Delegate Brian Feldman, Delegate Craig Rice, Peggy Erickson, and Councilmember Marc Elrich.*

Heritage Montgomery was particularly pleased to have Delegates Brian Feldman and Craig Rice, Councilmember Marc Elrich, Michael Parsons representing Representative Chris Van Hollen and Naomi Bloch representing Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg in attendance to make the awards. Thanks, also, to Whole Foods for donating refreshments for the evening.

A second grant round closed in November and awards will be announced by the end of the year.

## Visit Montgomery County

HM Director Peggy Erickson took public relations/travel industry representatives from Germany and the UK on a tour of the Heritage Area on a beautiful day in October. The day-long excursion included stops at Woodlawn Manor Living History Museum, Sandy Spring Museum, Sandy Spring Slave Museum, Oakley Cabin, the Underground Railroad Trail, and the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, capping off with lunch at The Comus Inn. These representatives promote the capital region to wholesale travel groups who represent thousands of visitors to the U.S. every year.



*Senior Historian Jamie Kuhns, Montgomery County Dept. of Parks; Werner Claasen of Germany; Matt Gaffney, President and CEO of Capital Region USA, Inc.; Lisa Cooper of the UK; and Taffy Rice of the Montgomery County CVB at Woodlawn.*



# Sneak Preview of The National Parks: America's Best Idea

Despite the curveballs the weather threw, the sneak preview of Ken Burns' new PBS series, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, on Friday, September 11th was a great success.

When rain and chilly temperatures ruled out a screening on the Whalen Commons, Town of Poolesville representatives came to the rescue and offered to move the event into the new Town Hall. Over 100 attendees enjoyed popcorn and lemonade while viewing the fascinating 45-minute preview to the 12-hour documentary series.

The audience was welcomed by Tom Kettler, Heritage Montgomery Board President and member of the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce and Heritage Montgomery's Peggy Erickson, with special acknowledgment of Congressman Chris Van Hollen's representative, Karen McManus. Kevin Brandt, Superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, introduced the film and highlighted for the group the special programs and activities at the park.

The preview was both visually stunning and intellectually thought-provoking. Viewers were treated to spectacular images of a selection of national parks and heard the unique personal observations of a very diverse group of individuals with special connections to the parks.

Following the screening the group was treated to the reminiscences of Poolesville resident and former Montgomery County Planning Commissioner George Kephart. Mr. Kephart's grandfather, Horace Kephart, was instrumental in the establishment of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park and his story was one of those featured in the preview.



*Mr. George Kephart and Superintendent Kevin Brandt*

## State Grants

Heritage Montgomery is very pleased to announce the local recipients of seven 2010 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Grants totaling \$199,910:

- \$50,000 project grant to Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to develop a training program for Interpreting the Quaker, Underground Railroad and Civil War Heritage in Montgomery County Parks
- \$25,000 project grant to Heritage Montgomery for production of the Civil War in Montgomery County Video
- \$10,010 capital grant to the Sandy Spring Museum for retrofitting outbuildings to expand educational program capacity

- \$9,000 project grant to Heritage Montgomery for Heritage Days 2010
- \$5,400 project grant to Sugarloaf Regional Trails for website development and branding
- \$5,000 project grant to the Sandy Spring Civic Association for heritage area signage
- \$95,500 operating grant to Heritage Montgomery

This is the fifth round of MHAA grants awarded to Heritage Montgomery and the most grants the Heritage Area has received.

"Investment in heritage tourism and, specifically, Maryland's Heritage Areas is a key ingredient to preserving the historic character found in all parts of our State," Governor Martin O'Malley said. "I applaud the activities of these Heritage Areas and congratulate them on these well-deserved awards. Their efforts impact positively on the State's economy and contribute to a Smart, Green and Growing Maryland."



# What's *Happening*

## **Civil War Video Update**

Work continues on our upcoming Civil War video with a working title of “Life in a War Zone: Montgomery County during the Civil War.” The research phase is complete and producer Barbara Grunbaum has begun outlining the storyline and script. Grant proposals were submitted this fall and we are anxiously awaiting good news on funding. Plans still include a November 2010 premiere—we will keep you posted!

## **Coming Soon: New Website and Sign-Up for E-Newsletter**

We are happy to say that we are reviewing designs for our spiffy new website and it's going to look fantastic! A feature we hope to add in the not-too-distant-future is an e-newsletter. In addition to being a more cost-effective means of communicating all of our news, it is also much more environmentally friendly. Once we have collected enough email addresses from our supporters we will begin making that transition. You will be able to subscribe to the Heritage Montgomery email list via our new website. We look forward to being able to directly notify you about events and activities in our heritage areas, but promise not to over do it! *And please be assured that we will not share your email address with any other group or individual.*

## **Magical Montgomery**

Heritage Montgomery participated in the 9th annual Magical Montgomery Festival on Saturday, September 26th. Sponsored by the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, this street fair held in downtown Silver Spring offers the opportunity to present Heritage Montgomery to hundreds of fair-goers. Visitors to the HM booth enjoyed spinning our prize wheel and answering a variety of questions about Montgomery County history. Everyone left with a prize—along with brochures and maps inviting them to heritage sites. Despite a day that turned from cloudy and cool to rainy and chilly, everyone did have a great time and we made many new friends!

## **Wine, Chocolate ... and Thanks!**

On Wednesday, June 10th Heritage Montgomery hosted a special Board Appreciation Meeting at The Comus Inn. Board members and special friends, along with their spouses, were invited to enjoy an evening featuring a “Tasting of Montgomery County” with pairings of wines from the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard in Comus and chocolates from Cacao Chocolates in Bethesda. A representative from the Vineyard introduced each wine which was paired with a specially-selected chocolate. Everyone completed a ratings sheet for each sample and we learned that we all really like wine and chocolate! The evening was made even more enjoyable with the performance of Civil War music by renowned musician Doug Jimerson. Special thanks to Chris Goodwin of The Comus Inn, Jim McKenna of Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, and Doug Jimerson for their contributions to making the evening a success.

## **Washington Revels Partnership**

Heritage Montgomery is delighted to have formed a partnership with the Washington Revels. This dynamic performance organization has, since 1983, presented community celebrations based on traditional music, dance, and drama from around the world and across the ages. The Revels will perform throughout the heritage area highlighting the music of the period and will also provide a broader audience for promotion of HM's Civil War video.

## **Maryland Life Dinner**



*Heritage Montgomery representatives enjoyed a special evening celebrating Mr. J.W. Marriott at Maryland Life magazine's 2009 Marylander of Distinction Award dinner in September. Pictured at the dinner are Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Peggy Erickson, and HM Board President Tom Kettler.*



## A Special Thank You!

*“If one advances confidently in the direction of their dreams, and endeavors to live the life which they imagined, they will meet with success.” — Henry David Thoreau*

Mary Kay Harper has met with expected success in everything she has done.

What can I say about my good friend and mentor? From my first day at Heritage Montgomery, Mary Kay has been there with a helping hand. From helping me install the computers (this was the blind leading the blind, but we did it) to learning how to organize for the audit and offering every-day advice, she has been an enormous force behind the success of HM.

I want to thank Mary Kay for her leadership of Heritage Montgomery. She has served as President of the Board of Directors for the last eight years. She helped develop the Management Plan, saw the certification of HM and has worked to grow the program into what it is today. Under her leadership Heritage Days has grown from attendance of 1,500 people in 2004 to over 13,000 in 2009. Mary Kay has stepped down as President of the Board and is now serving as Treasurer. She has been deeply involved with the history of Montgomery County, serving as the Executive Director of the Montgomery County Historical Society in addition to her role with HM. Montgomery County is so lucky to have someone of Mary Kay’s caliber.

Thank you, Mary Kay, for all you have done and will continue to do not only for Heritage Montgomery, but for this county.

— Peggy Erickson



*Mary Kay Harper receiving recognition for her years of service to Heritage Montgomery from Michael Parsons on behalf of Congressman Chris Van Hollen.*

## Year-End Fundraising

Heritage Montgomery is kicking off its annual fundraising campaign this month. Each year, in order to qualify for State grant funding, the Alliance must be able to supply equal matching funds. This means that your tax-deductible contribution could count as twice the benefit to Heritage Montgomery! In these challenging financial times, thank you for remembering Heritage Montgomery in your year-end charitable contributions.

## New Board Officers

You may notice a new look to the Heritage Montgomery Board of Directors. In keeping with term limit guidelines in our bylaws, some changes to our slate of officers were necessitated. First and foremost, we would like to thank Mary Kay Harper and Steve Goldberg for their support since the very beginning of Heritage Montgomery. We are very pleased to have Tom Kettler take over as President. Mary Kay will continue on the Board as Treasurer and Debbie Rankin will move into the office of Vice President. Thanks also to Fran Abrams and Jack Cayouette for their support over the years... and to all members of our Board of Directors for their dedication to Heritage Montgomery.

## Heritage Montgomery Staff

**Peggy Erickson, Executive Director**  
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 301-515-0753 • [www.heritagemontgomery.org](http://www.heritagemontgomery.org)

**PLEASE REMEMBER  
 HERITAGE MONTGOMERY  
 IN YOUR CHARITABLE DONATIONS.**



*Every donation has a significant impact and will be gratefully appreciated! Heritage Montgomery is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your contributions are tax deductible.*



## Heritage Site *Profile*



### **Hyattstown Mill Arts Project**

14920 Hyattstown Mill Rd.  
 Hyattstown, Maryland  
 301-874-2452

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

The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project (HMAP) is a non-profit cultural arts organization dedicated to preserving the cultural and historical heritage of the region. HMAP is based in the beautifully renovated Hyattstown Mill. The Mill was reconstructed in 1918 after a fire destroyed the original structure dating to the 1790s. Water-powered mills were of critical importance in 19th-and early 20th-century Montgomery County and the Hyattstown Mill is one of the best preserved from that time period.

The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project sponsors art exhibitions, literary and musical events and classes that are held in the Mill or in the Miller's House (part of which dates to the early to mid 1800s). An inspiring outdoor sculpture trail can be found on the beautiful 2.3 acres surrounding the mill site.

## Heritage Montgomery *Board of Directors*

- President** – Thomas E. Kettler  
*Poolesville Chamber of Commerce*
- Vice-President** – Debbie Rankin  
*Montgomery County Historical Society*
- Secretary** – Judy Christensen  
*Montgomery Preservation, Inc.*
- Treasurer** – Mary Kay Harper
- Bobby Donovan, *Hyattstown Mill Arts Project*
- Steve Goldberg, *Historic Medley District*
- R. Christopher Goodwin, *The Comus Inn*
- Kelly Groff, *Conference and Visitors Bureau of Montgomery County*
- Sharon Holt, *Sandy Spring Museum*
- Chris Kirtz, *The Gaithersburg Inn*
- John Pentecost
- Delegate Herman Taylor Ex-Officio
- Scott Whipple  
*Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Ex-Officio*
- Laura Anderson-Wright  
*Sandy Spring Slave Museum*