

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow AHS Members:

I would like to continue the theme of action from my previous letter. The Arlington Historical Society and its members and supporters have been very busy since I last wrote. Let me highlight a few noteworthy actions:

- On Wednesday, August 29, a vehicle struck the fence at the Hume School and drove away in a hit-and-run accident. Repairs were funded by the generous donation from the Aurora Hills Women's Club.
- On Wednesday, September 26, I attended the orientation session for the FY 2013 Nonprofit Capacity Building program. AHS Director **John Richardson** identified and applied for this program, sponsored by Arlington Economic Development, and AHS was tentatively selected to participate (dependent on receipt of additional funding by the Arlington County Board).
- On Saturday, October 13, the Friends of Hume, supported by the local Mormon singles congregation, held their annual Fall Volunteer Day to clean up the grounds at the Hume School. **Chick Walter, Bonnie Flynn** and **Shannon Crowley** have been instrumental in organizing this semi-annual effort. (See photo, page 2)
- On Friday, October 19, AHS staffed a table at History Network during the DC Historical Studies Conference. Many thanks to AHS Director **John Richardson** and AHS First Vice President **Tom Dickinson** for representing our organization.



The fence at the Hume School was damaged Aug. 29 in a hit-and-run car accident.

(Please see President, page 2)

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION

We dedicate this newsletter to **Jack Foster**, who turned 100 years old on Aug. 4, 2012. He is a past president of the Arlington Historical Society (1962-63). A native of Michigan, Foster came to Arlington in 1951 as director of personnel for Arlington County and joined the Historical Society in 1956 as a charter member. As well as serving as president, he also held other offices, including director, trustee and magazine editor. Over the years he contributed articles to the magazine. In 1988, when it was suggested that we dispose of the Ball-Sellers House, Foster saved it by moving in as curator/caretaker; he lived there for 10 years. **Jack Hamilton Foster**, we salute you at 100 years!

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AHS WINTER SOCIAL

Members are invited to a winter social.

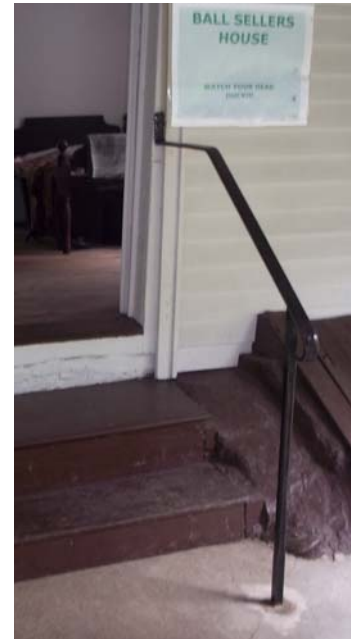
Saturday, Dec. 8
4:30 - 6 p.m.

AHS Hume School
1805 S. Arlington
Ridge Rd.

Sponsor, donor and life members are invited to attend a special reception from 4 - 4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT, CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

- On Friday, October 19, AHS Director **John Richardson** led a talk at the DC Historical Studies Conference.
- On Saturday, October 27, AHS staffed a table at the Arlington Teen Volunteer Fair.
- During the month of September, Museum Director **Dr. Mark Benbow** procured two new display cases and installed an exhibit on the Wright Brothers in Arlington. See update, page 3.
- A group of volunteers – including **Matthew Keough, Eleanor Pourron, Karl Van Newkirk, and Robert White** – met to begin planning a project to digitize the card catalog of articles in past issues of the Arlington Historical Magazine.
- The Ball-Sellers House has a new handrail to provide better access. This improvement was made possible by an anonymous donation and AHS Past President **Gerry Laporte**, who oversaw the installation process.



A new handrail at the Ball-Sellers House provides better access for visitors.

As you can see, it has been a busy fall! We genuinely hope that each of you will choose to join your fellow community members in one of the events to come. If you are on our mailing list but have never volunteered, now is the time! We are particularly in need of docents for the Hume School on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, in addition to general volunteers to help with miscellaneous projects. Please feel free to contact me directly if you are able to share your time or talent – it will be much appreciated.



I look forward to seeing you soon at an upcoming event!

Best Regards,

Ali Ganjian

ali.ganjian@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

P.S. Visit the Arlington Historical Society online at: www.arlingtonhistory.org.

Friends
of Hume
cleaned
museum
grounds
during
their
annual
Fall Vol-
unteer
Day on
Oct. 13.



CALL FOR HISTORICAL PHOTOS AND FILMS

Wanted: Photographs (slides, prints or negatives) and films of “old” Arlington.

If you have, or know of, a collection of personal photographs or 8mm/16mm films that depict scenes of Arlington from 1900-1980, the Arlington Historical Society would be glad to give them a permanent home. We would arrange to have copies made of anything you wish to retain, or take as a donation anything you no longer need or want.

Please contact First Vice President **Tom Dickinson** at tomwd3@gmail.com. Thank you!

REPORT FROM AHS MUSEUM CURATOR

By Dr. Mark Benbow, Museum Director

The Arlington Historical Museum at the Hume School has added two new small display cases. The Society purchased them from a church via an ad on Craig's List. The glass and chrome cases are small, but they're in good shape, and both are now part of the Civil War section in the museum. We're looking to add a few more cases so that we can display more artifacts in the museum for members and the public to enjoy.



Members of the Marymount University History and Politics Club will be cleaning the Hume School on November 17 as part of their service project. The History Club will be cleaning windows and floors, dusting, sweeping away cobwebs, and otherwise making the museum nice and clean before the holiday season and the Society's Winter Social in December. Members of the club have also expressed interest in working as docents for the Society in 2013.

The AHS Museum has acquired several new artifacts for the collection recently. The MLK Jr. Library in Washington, D.C. gave us several original black-and-white photographic prints of anti-aircraft batteries based in Arlington during World War II. Past President **Tom Dickinson** acquired more than a dozen 1940s-1950s milk bottles from the area and donated them. We've also added a postcard of the Little Tea House via eBay, an antique doll crib and doll, sheet music with the county's official song, and a number of souvenirs from the opening of Metro's Orange Line.

Visit the museum to check out the new artifacts and display cases, as well as the existing exhibits.

The Arlington Historical Museum acquired new display cases for museum artifacts.

AHS MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!

Give the gift of history this holiday season by presenting friends and family members with an Arlington Historical Society membership. Visit www.arlingtonhistory.org/join.

Member benefits include:

- Keeping the Arlington Historical Museum & Ball-Sellers House open to the public free of charge
- A quarterly newsletter
- Copy of the annual AHS Magazine
- Discounts at the AHS Museum bookshop
- Invitations to special member-only events



AHS 2012-13 EVENTS CALENDAR

Save these dates for exciting AHS programs. For updates and additions, please visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

DECEMBER

Holiday Boutique

Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Aurora Hills Women's Club

Proceeds to benefit area non-profits including the Arlington Historical Society

Lourdes Center, 800 23rd St. South

(See details, next page)

Membership Winter Social

Saturday, December 8, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

AHS Hume School, 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Rd.

JANUARY

Membership meeting & public program

Thursday, January 10, 7 - 8 p.m.

MARCH

Membership meeting & public program

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

MAY

Membership meeting & public program

Thursday, May 9, 7 - 8 p.m.

TBD

Annual Banquet

SEPTEMBER

Membership meeting & public program

Thursday, September 12, 7 - 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Membership meeting & public program

Thursday, November 14, 7 - 8 p.m.

DECEMBER

Membership Winter Social

Saturday, November 30, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

AHS Hume School, 1805 S Arlington Ridge Rd.

MARYMOUNT STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT BALL-SELLERS HOUSE

By Annette Benbow, AHS board of directors

This semester, Marymount University students of Introduction to Public History are studying the Ball-Sellers House Museum, Glencarlyn's historic treasure. They are conducting group projects to recommend ways to update the museum displays. Their history professor and Arlington Historical Society curator, **Dr. Mark Benbow**, is challenging his students to come up with realistic recommendations within a very tight budget while also taking into account county and state regulations for historic buildings.



Marymount students are studying the Ball-Sellers House and making recommendations for improvements.

Each group visited the museum and is evaluating the displays to prepare a brief presentation with specific suggestions to improve the museum. The student groups will present their projects to the Ball-Sellers House Committee and members of the Arlington Historical Society board of directors in early December before the end of the semester.

We look forward to fresh ideas on how to present the wealth of fascinating information about life in this 270-year-old Arlington treasure.

THIS DAY IN ARLINGTON HISTORY

November 10, 1958

President Dwight D. Eisenhower dedicates the Iwo Jima Memorial, a statue by sculptor Felix W. de Weldon commemorating the men of the U.S. Marine Corps raising a flag on Mount Suribachi during World War II.

November 20, 1861

President Abraham Lincoln is a special guest at a Grand Review of the Army of the Potomac, conducted near Bailey's Crossroads.

December 23, 1938

The Grunwell brothers establish the first section of the Bellevue Forest neighborhood, the 120-acre subdivision named for their family home. John Grunwell played a leading role in the development, bringing to bear skills as an architect and surveyor.

AHWC HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Sponsored by the Aurora Hills Women's Club, the Holiday Boutique will offer baked goods, ready-to-go meals, holiday gift items, raffle baskets, a silent auction, freshly decorated holiday wreaths (which can be pre-ordered from the website) and more. Lunch will be available. Free admission and parking.

The event will benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center and the Arlington Historical Museum. For more information, visit www.ahwc1958.org or email women@ahwc1958.org.



Holiday
7th Annual
Boutique

Shop For Quality Artisan Gifts | Support A Good Cause!

Saturday, December 1, 2012

10am-4pm | Our Lady of Lourdes
800 23rd St. S. (corner S. Hayes St.)

ARLINGTON HERITAGE CENTER IN JEOPARDY

By Gerry Laporte, AHS Past President

The Arlington Heritage Center, once the crown jewel of the Arlington Historical Society's long-term strategic plan, is in serious jeopardy. On Oct. 23, Arlington County Manager **Barbara Donnellan** announced that the County Government had yielded to a Department of Defense interpretation that DoD has a right to unilaterally withdraw from an agreement to provide land for the Heritage Center on the current site of the Navy Annex building. Under DoD's interpretation, the land would be used to expand Arlington Cemetery rather than to build the Arlington Heritage Center.

The Arlington Heritage Center was to house the museum collections of the Arlington Historical Society and the Arlington Black Heritage Museum, as well as other local history resources. It was to be built on a portion of the Navy Annex's land overlooking the historic site of Freedman's Village, a housing complex set up by the federal government for freed slaves during the Civil War that was vacated in the 1890s.

The concept was that the end wall of the Arlington Heritage Center would overlook the site of Freedman's Village. The wall was to be largely glass and contain an etching outlining the buildings of Freedman's Village superimposed on the view of the cemetery land where they once stood. It was thought that this location and glass etching feature would be important to raising the substantial funds required to build the facility, attract visitors to it, and assure its success. Discussions also included talk of incorporating a "Welcome to Virginia" visitors center and a high-end Virginia crafts store in the facility.

Arlington Heritage Center, which would house museum collections of the Arlington Historical Society and the Arlington Black Heritage Museum, would cement Arlington's status as a world-class community. But the project has faced roadblocks.

The Arlington Heritage Center got a substantial boost when the concept was presented to Virginia Senator **John Warner** in a meeting on June 4, 2002. The meeting was arranged by the Arlington Historical Society and included representatives of the Arlington Black Heritage Museum and Congressman **Jim Moran**, as well as then-County Board Chairman **Chris Zimmerman** and County Board Member **Charles Monroe**. In the meeting, Sen. Warner expressed enthusiasm for the concept and pledged his help. His staff immediately started to work with County staff to arrange for the inclusion of language in the 2003 Defense appropriations bill. The language was to lead to transfer of approximately four acres of land underneath the Navy Annex complex, which was scheduled for demolition, to Arlington County for construction of the Arlington Heritage Center.

Legislative language incorporating the Arlington Heritage Center concept eventually found its way into the Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2005, at the behest of Sen. Warner and Congressman Moran. The language was negotiated by County staff working with Capitol Hill staff. Out of that language came a Memorandum of Understanding, dated Sept. 16, 2008, between the Arlington County Board and the Department of Defense. The MOU called for the exchange of approximately 4.5 acres of land on the Navy Annex site for construction of the Arlington Heritage Center for the same amount of land currently underneath Arlington County's Southgate Road. This is the agreement that the Department of Defense claimed a unilateral right to terminate, which is apparently being recognized by Donnellan, the County Manager, and her staff.

It's not clear whether the Arlington County Board has the political will to direct Donnellan to go back to the drawing board and insist that the federal government see through to completing the vision of Sen. Warner and Congressman Moran to build the Arlington Heritage Center on Navy Annex land overlooking the Freedman's Village site. This may require new legislation better encapsulating that vision. Apparently, the existing legislation negotiated by County staff leaves doubt as to its intent.

Arlington County cannot rightfully claim to be a world-class community until it has a facility like the Arlington Heritage Center. No jurisdiction can claim world-class status without a much better local historical museum program than Arlington's. The best way to assure the success of the Arlington Heritage Center is to build it on Navy Annex land overlooking the Freedman's Village site. The County Board's reaction to Donnellan's announcement will say a lot about whether it's serious about assuring that Arlington becomes or remains a world-class community.

AHS KICKS OFF 2012 BELL RINGER CAMPAIGN

Support the Arlington Historical Society with a gift to our annual fund!

The Arlington Historical Society plays a critical role in our county in numerous ways. Most importantly, the citizens of Arlington look to us as the primary guardian of our county's past. We are honored to fill this important role, but the financial demands of our operations and programs are substantial. This situation compels us now to ask our closest friends to make a special gift to our Bell Ringer Campaign, named after the many children who visit our museum and enjoy ringing the old Hume School bell. We also think the name is appropriate for the holiday season in which we make this appeal.

This year marks the bicentennial of the War of 1812, the 165th anniversary of the District of Columbia Retrocession, and the continued sesquicentennial of the Civil War (in which Arlington played a hugely pivotal role). As such, 2013 is an important year for the Arlington Historical Society. It also marks the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Arlington Historical Museum within the then-newly-renovated Hume School. We intend to mount exhibits and conduct public programs for these and other historical events and themes. Our hope is that we can bring Arlington's rich and varied history to life for everyone in the community, and for visitors from everywhere.

However you choose to make your gift this year, be assured that we appreciate your generosity, and that your gift will be put to good use. It will ensure that Arlington's future continues to honor, respect and remind all citizens of its past. Your donation will enable us to maintain two historic properties, the Hume School and Ball-Sellers House; provide the public with admission-free access to two museums, the Arlington Historical Museum and the Ball-Sellers House Museum; and present numerous free programs to the community.

Donations can be made online at www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or by mail to Arlington Historical Society, P.O. Box 100402, Arlington, VA 22210-3402.

AHS PRESENCE AT ARLINGTON FAIR



Photos courtesy of Rebecca Kupper

Above: (Left to right) AHS board member Annette Benbow, Museum Director Dr. Mark Benbow and former AHS board member Rebecca Kupper staffed an Arlington Historical Society booth at the Arlington County Fair in August.

Right: Rebecca Kupper (right) shows a Fair attendee a T-shirt as Dr. Mark Benbow looks on.

The Arlington Historical Society had a booth at this year's Arlington County Fair, held Aug. 8-12 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center. In addition to the AHS table, the fair featured carnival rides, musical entertainment, and arts and craft exhibits.





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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization founded in 1956 and incorporated under the laws of Virginia for literary and educational purposes that support research, collection, preservation, discovery, restoration, and dissemination of the local history of Arlington County.

WWW.ARLINGTONHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

**HISTORY AWAITS.
COME VISIT!**

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

1805 South Arlington Ridge Rd.
Open Saturdays & Sundays
1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Free
Come visit our permanent exhibits on
the 200+ year history of the county.

BALL-SELLERS HOUSE

5620 South Third St.
Open Saturdays 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
April through October
Also arrange a visit by calling 703-379-2123.
Free admission, but donations appreciated.

AHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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