



President's Message

I trust you all had happy and productive summers. But as I write this, the leaves are beginning to turn, and it is time for us to turn our attention to the new program year. Our Program Chair has come up with another great series, beginning with Garrett Peck talking about his latest book, "Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C." in September and Carlo DeVito's talk on the origins of Arlington National Cemetery in October. Anyone who missed these missed something good. Then we continue on November 12 with Annette Benbow reprising her 2014 Magazine article on the Arlingtonians who gave their lives in service to their country during World War I. A break in December will be followed by a January presentation by Mike Nardolilli on the impact of the C&O Canal on Arlington's history and development. All of these programs will be held in the facilities of Marymount University, and are presented in conjunction with the Marymount Department of History. Consult our website, www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org, for more information and any changes. I hope to see you at (at least one of) these.

Progress has been made on the effort to save the Reevesland farm house. A new corporation, the Reeves Farm Conservation Society, has been formed, with support from the Arlington Historical Society, Preservation Arlington, and the Boulevard Manor Civic Association. This corporation hopes to save not just the farm house, but to acquire, restore and preserve all three buildings remaining from the historic dairy farm atop the hill overlooking Bluemont Park. In addition, we hope to add a pavilion or other accessory structure near the garage. We hope to use all these buildings separately and together for educational and community uses and for rental to pay ongoing expenses at the property. We have received encouragement and offers of support from several local businesses, as well as from the County Board, the County Staff, the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB), and several neighboring civic associations. In short, we are putting together a broadly-base community effort that we have every expectation of being successful.

Dr. Max Gross, the new editor of our annual Magazine, has reported that he has received a number of interesting articles for this years edition, and that the publication process is well underway. By the time you read this, you shouldn't have to wait much longer for it to show up in your mailboxes.

Karl VanNewkirk

President

In this Issue:

9/11 Memorial BBQ 2

Hume School Cleanup &
Whitman in DC 3

Love Affair with an Old
House & Freedman's
Bridge Dedication 4

AHS Annual Financial
Report 5

Arlington's Fallen Sons
6

AHS Newsletter Article
9/11 Day Memorial Barbeque
By John P. Richardson

The USS ARLINGTON Community Alliance sponsored a barbeque September 12 that combined several historically significant events and actors: the terrorist attack on the Pentagon September 11, 2001, the brave first responders from Arlington’s police and fire departments, and the skipper and crew members of LPD-24, (USS ARLINGTON), the recently commissioned U.S Navy ship named for the events of 9/11 and Arlington’s response. Event organizers were former Arlington Treasurer Frank O’Leary and Jim Pebley, key players on the USS ARLINGTON commissioning committee that raised almost \$500,000 to equip a “tribute room” aboard ship and stalwarts of the alliance whose mission is to maintain an ongoing link between the ship and Arlington County. The barbeque was held inside ACFD Truck Station Five (Crystal City), from which the first equipment and personnel were directed to the Pentagon disaster.

Present from LPD-24 were the ship’s captain, Commander Sean Bailey, and a number of crew members and Marines from the permanent contingent who make it their home when the ship is deployed in areas where American “boots on the ground” may be required to address a national security issue. Also present were Arlington County current and former officials, including County Board Chair Mary Hynes; Jim Schwartz, ACFD chief on 9/11; and Captain Kevin Reardon, a retired ACPD senior officer who was also a first responder. Other attendees were commissioning committee members Bill Dickinson, an officer on the predecessor USS ARLINGTON and AHS Vice President John Richardson. Jim Pebley, speaking for the Community Alliance, noted that the get-together – the day after the 14th anniversary of the Pentagon attack – was intended to remember that day with sadness but also to honor the first responders and ship representatives. Pebley said that Arlington County intends to preserve and maintain a living connection with the ship by welcoming crew members when the ship returns from deployments. Captain Bailey expressed appreciate to the sponsors and to Arlington County for everything they have done on behalf of USS ARLINGTON and endorsed the “living connection” proposed by the Alliance.



AHS VP John Richardson & USS Arlington Skipper Sean Bailey



Trick-or-Treat with AHS!

Saturday, October 31, 2015

4:00—6:00 PM

Arlington Historical Museum
1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road

Coloring Activities! Storytime! Candy!



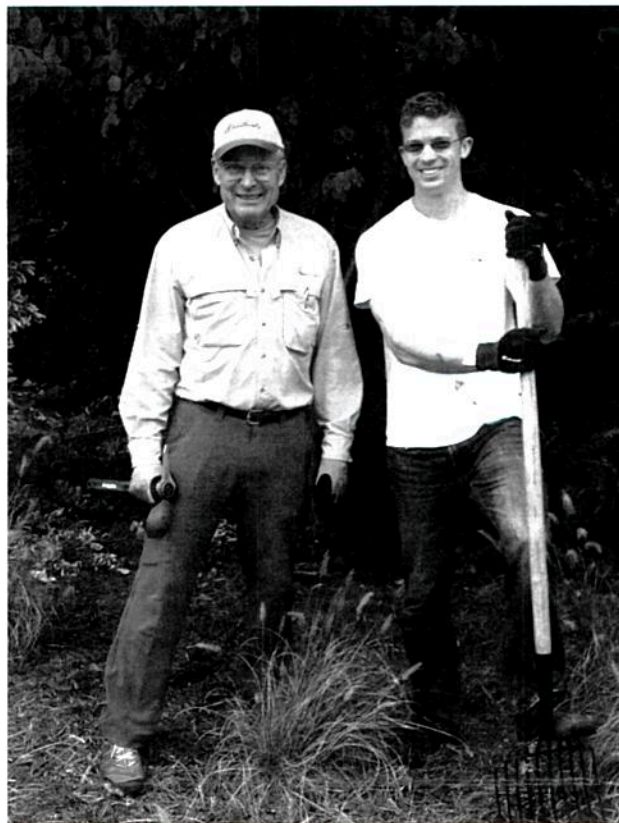
Hume School Fall Cleanup

By John P. Richardson

The fall cleanup at the Hume School was held Saturday, September 26, with participation by an estimated 35 volunteers under the direction of Chick Walter. Impressive logistics were demonstrated by participation of a local Mormon singles group, the Arlington Ridge Civic Association, and the Crystal City Rotary Club, backed up by Arlington County, which provided mulch, tools, and wheelbarrows. As always, restaurateur Rich Kelly donated hot dogs and drinks. The cleanup included not only the school grounds and hillside but also a stretch of planting along the I-395 bridge ramp and a patch at the intersection. Extensive ramp road work restricted traffic to one lane each way, which slowed speeds but narrowed the volunteers' working space.

The 2015 fall project represented the 11th consecutive year of the cleanup; dramatic photos from 2005 show the hillside completely hidden by vines and overgrowth that hid a large, fallen oak tree. The twice-yearly cleanup is the major factor in the Hume School's ability to present an appealing face to the world, and the Friends of the Hume School and Chick Walter are to thank. It should be noted that the group was presented with the AHS "Volunteer of the Year" award at the AHS banquet in June, and Chick accepted it on behalf of the

Friends.



Cleanup leader Chick Walter and Armando Crosland

Review of Discussion of Garret Peck's Book: *Walt Whitman in Washington, DC*

By Jen Jablonsky

On Thursday, September 10, AHS welcomed board member and historian Garret Peck to Marymount University to discuss his latest book, *Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C.* Many are familiar with Whitman's work including *Leaves of Grass* but few may be familiar with the ten years he spent in Washington, D.C. Peck regaled the audience at Marymount University with tales from these pivotal years in Whitman's life including his work alongside injured Civil War soldiers, meeting the love of his life, publishing new literature, and even Whitman's visits to Arlington and Alexandria.

Whitman's time in the Washington, D.C. left a profound mark on both his professional and personal life. While in DC, Whitman devoted a large portion of his time to caring for wounded soldiers in District hospitals. Whitman himself estimates that he offered comfort and support to roughly 80,000 soldiers injured during the war by becoming a friend to those who needed it most. Whitman took to fundraising by writing freelance articles, personal thank you notes, and appeals to donors to fund his humanitarian effort. In doing so, Whitman's words brought the Civil War closer to the doorsteps of the American public.

Washington, D.C. is also where Whitman met the love of his life, Peter Doyle, on a street car one evening. His relationship with Doyle also influenced his writing, particularly when it came to Abraham Lincoln. Doyle had been at Ford's Theater when President Lincoln was assassinated and Whitman used his firsthand experience to provide detail to his writing.

These experiences are just a few of the many that impacted Walt Whitman during this time in Washington, DC. Peck's book sheds even greater detail onto a period that tremendously impacted the poet and solidified Whitman's standing as a great American literary figure.

A Love Affair with an Old House: the Ball-Seller's House

By Max L. Gross

Martha (Marty) Orth has been there from the beginning. In 1975 she was membership chair of the Arlington Historical Society (AHS), and her husband Donald was on the Board. It was early in that year that she fielded a call from Marian Sellers, the owner of the old house at 5620 Third Street South in the Glencarlyn section in Arlington. Ms Sellers would like to give the house to the Society to preserve as a museum rather than see it torn down. Built in the 1740s, it was then and still is believed to be the oldest extant house in Arlington. Quite a challenge it was for the Society to take over ownership, restoration and maintenance of such an old house, but with financial help from several civic organizations, it did so, and the house has been an aspect of the work of the Arlington Historical Society for forty years, and Marty Orth has been one of its pillars in taking care of the house and showing it off to visitors.

On July 16, 2015, Martha gave a loving and most informed talk on the history of the Ball-Sellers house. She gave credit to Anne Cipriani Webb who wrote a fine article on the house in the 1975 edition of the AHS Magazine. But in her forty-year association with the house, Marty had clearly done a great deal of archival research concerning its several successive owners who had owned or lived in the house since its original construction by John Ball, one of Arlington's settlers, on a hill overlooking Four-Mile Run. Relying on genealogical records, county property surveys and newspaper articles, she wove a vivid story of the house over a 250-year period. For the sixty or so residents of Arlington who attended Martha's delightful and fact-filled talk, held at the Arlington County Central Library, it was an evening well spent.



Martha Orth

Article on Freedmans Bridge Dedication

By John P. Richardson

AHS participated in a historic and moving dedication September 10 of Freedmans Village Bridge, which carries Washington Boulevard over Columbia Pike. Planning for the new bridge – to replace a crumbling '40's structure – was 20 years in the process, including three years of construction. The ceremony, on a morning threatening rain, featured Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Deputy Transportation Secretary Mendez, the director of Virginia Department of Transportation/VDOT, and Arlington County Board Member Walter Tejada, along with AHS Vice President John Richardson and Craig Syphax, President of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington (BHMA) and a descendant of Freedmans Village residents.

Governor McAuliffe spoke enthusiastically about the importance of the bridge both in terms of easing traffic in a complex area and of its historical significance, having been named for the residential area established for freed blacks in 1863, some of whom had been enslaved on the Robert E. Lee plantation at Arlington House. Craig Syphax provided a thoughtful and personal insight on the history since his family has lived in Arlington (and near the site) since before Freedmans Village was established. He paid tribute to the late Dr. Talmadge Williams, former Arlington NAACP director and BHMA chairman who championed the cause of naming the bridge for Freedmans Village. John Richardson



Craig Syphax with portrait of Dr. Talmadge Williams

described the permanent exhibit on the black experience in Arlington at the Arlington Historical Museum, a joint project between AHS and BHMA. In tribute to the occasion, the rain held off.

**Arlington Historical Society
Summary Statement of Financial Activities
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Income			
Dues-Regular Members	\$ 8,275	\$ 0	\$ 8,275
Dues-Life Members	1,000	0	1,000
Contributions	12,194	7,990	20,184
Interest & Investment Gains (Losses)	0	472	472
Royalties	506	0	506
Ball-Sellers House Rent	9,350	0	9,350
Banquet	3,753	0	3,753
Other Program	669	0	669
Deaccessioning Sales	0	190	190
Museum Shop & Publications	2,327	0	2,327
Total Income	\$38,074.00	\$8,652.00	\$55,378.00
Expenses			
Administration	\$6,613	0	\$6,613
Insurance	8,365	0	8,365
Arlington Historical Museum			
Utilities & Security	5,460	0	5,460
Maintenance & Repairs	1,409	4,733	6,142
Collection Management	723	0	723
Collection Improvement	0	128	128
Ball-Sellers House			
Utilities, Maintenance & Repairs	6,159	7,362	13,521
Historical	677	0	677
Site Programming			
Magazine	4,135	0	4,135
Banquet	3,465	0	3,465
Other Program	149	0	149
Museum Shop	1,791	0	1,791
Total Expenses	\$38,946	\$12,223	\$51,169
Change in Net Assets (Deficit)	(\$872)	(\$3,571)	(\$4,443)
Net Assets, June 30, 2015	\$38,483	\$81,615	\$120,098

Arlington Historical Society Presents Arlington's Fallen Sons in World War I at November Program

Contact: Garrett Peck (571-243-1113) or garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org



The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) will host Annette Benbow, who will present “Those Who Gave Their Lives: Arlington’s Fallen Sons in World War I” at its next public program on Thursday, November 12.

The Arlington County War Memorial is a familiar site in Clarendon’s public plaza, often with a half-police, half-taxi car parked in front to warn against drunk driving. The granite column serves as the memorial for Arlingtonians who died in major conflicts from World War I through Afghanistan and Iraq. Thirteen sailors and soldiers are listed on the memorial from the First World War. Eleven of the men were white. Two were labeled in the vernacular of the day as “colored” (African American). Three were in the navy; the rest were in the army. Benbow will bring these names alive and describe who these men were, how they died, and why we should remember them. The discussion will help commemorate Armistice Day amid the Centennial of World War I and reflect on these men’s contribution to Arlington and American history.

Annette Benbow is an active member of the Arlington Historical Society and is the museum director for the Ball-Sellers House, the oldest structure in Arlington. She is a tireless researcher with an inquisitive mind determined to put faces to names. She has a degree in Middle Eastern history from the University of New Hampshire and has lived in northern Virginia for more than thirty years.

The hour-long program will begin at 7:00pm at Marymount University (2807 N. Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22207). The talk will be held in the Reinsch Library auditorium. Note that this is a seasonal change-of-venue from Arlington Central Library. The program is free and open to the public. For additional AHS information, please contact [703-942-9247](tel:703-942-9247).

For those who take public transit: A free shuttle bus provided by Marymount University is available from the Ballston-MU Metro Station (Orange and Silver lines). The University is also accessible via Metro bus routes 23A and 23T; exit at the N. Glebe Road and Old Dominion Drive stop.

For those who drive: Marymount University provides free parking. Attendees should enter the main entrance gate (located at N. Glebe Road and Old Dominion Drive) and park in the main lot in front of The Lodge. If that lot is full, visitors may also park in the White Garage, located next to the Reinsch Library, or the Blue Garage, located under Ostapenko Hall.

The Security Station at the main entrance can help direct where to park.

Local high school senior Jazmin Pettiford volunteered to help the Arlington Historical Society this summer. She scanned in a decade’s worth of the AHS Magazine for us. Ms. Pettiford, a 2015 graduate of George C. Marshall High School, scanned in all issues from the 1980s and turned them into PDF files for the Society. While AHS has hard copies of the magazine, dating back to the first issue in 1957, we did not have the older issues in electronic form. Ms.

Pettiford is now studying at East Carolina University. We wish her well in her studies and thank her for her support!

Arlington HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 100402
Arlington, VA 22210

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
ARLINGTON, VA
PERMIT NO.1578

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
1-4 p.m., Free

Come visit our permanent exhibits on the
200+ year history of the country.

BALL-SELLERS HOUSE
5620 South Third St.
Open Saturdays 1-4 p.m.
April - October

Also arrange a visit by calling 703-379-2123
Free admissions, donations appreciated.

AHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Karl Van Newkirk

Vice President

John P Richardson

Secretary

Gerry Laporte

Treasurer

Mike Febrey

Directors

Dr. Mark Benbow, Luis Araya, Annette
Benbow, Ali Ganjian,
Max Gross, Garrett Peck, Fred Stokeld, Jen Jablonsky,
Lynne Porfiri

Newsletter Editor

Emily Tye