



Chapel Hill Historical Society  
PO Box 9032  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-9032

The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill Museum

US Postage PAID  
Nonprofit Organization  
Permit No. 241  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

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Winter 2009

Vol. 1.2

## ☀ Experiencing History Through Children's Eyes



Morris Grove Elementary School

A strong education system is the backbone of any community, and we are fortunate to have such a wonderful public school district to educate our children and young adults. The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will turn 100 on May 4, 2009. The district was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly on this date in 1909. The year-long celebration offers many events and opportunities for promoting the historical significance, preserving the memories and showcasing the tangible contributions of public education in our towns.

Chapel Hill High School teacher and 2007 Historical Society grant winner Bill Melega perhaps says it best, "History makes our life today what it is. Without understanding history, you have no context for understanding how good, or how bad, life may be for people today. You are making our town's history, and I hope you will share it with the students of today as they prepare for tomorrow."

The Heritage Alliance organizations are proud to support programs related to education and to help "make history." The 2008 *Town Treasures*, sponsored by the Chapel Hill Historical Society and Chapel Hill Museum, included Mel and Zora Rashkis, and R.D. and Euzelle P. Smith, all individuals who helped shape the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

The Chapel Hill Historical Society provided a plaque which was unveiled at the dedication of Morris Grove Elementary on Sunday, October 26. The plaque recognizes the historical significance of the school and the fact that it was named for an earlier school which was on an adjacent site. That school was constructed by a freed slave to educate African-American children in our community.

A tangible piece of history will be made by the 4th grade classes at Morris Grove Elementary with a grant provided by the Chapel Hill Historical Society through the Public School Foundation. The students will create a "History Quilt" depicting life from the school's beginnings in the 1880s through the opening of the new school.

The CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM's primary function is education: it has a nine-year history of providing vibrant and varied education programs for more than 2,500 area schoolchildren annually. In October 2008 the Museum's annual fire safety program introduced a new component to its 90-minute program, in a musical puppet show that underscores both the essential life-saving lessons of the program and an overview of CHFD's 112-year history. *Johnnie Joins the Fire Department* was presented to more than 800 local students this fall. In addition to offering independent study programs for home-schooled teens, active internships for UNC students, and a history of NC Art Pottery program that teaches NC history to eighth graders, the Museum will welcome at least 1,500 area fourth graders this spring for its annual *Lost Colony* program. This program teaches NC history through the writings and humanitarian efforts of Paul Green and includes a fully costumed, abbreviated production of *The Lost Colony* performed by the students. Because of its solid record of success with education programs and its role as the repository of Lincoln High School and Orange County Training School's exhibit and historical artifacts, the Museum became a valuable resource for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School system in documenting its own centennial birthday this year. As a result, the school district's film documenting its history is available for viewing in the Museum's James Taylor Theater.

The Preservation Society hosts school groups at the Horace Williams House to learn about the history of the House as well as what it means to be a preservationist. A brochure, *A Walk Down Franklin Street*, produced by The Preservation Society is a walking guide to the historic downtown areas of Chapel Hill as well as the University.

The Centennial Celebration can be experienced by all members in our community whether they are alumni of the district, parents, grandparents, or interested citizens. For an entire schedule of events, please check out the web site at <http://www2.chccs.k12.nc.us> and click on CHCCS@100

## ☀ Forward Together

This second edition of *The Compass* continues the collaboration of the Chapel Hill Heritage Alliance, an informal partnership of the Chapel Hill Historical Society, the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, and the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM. Based on your suggestions, we have enhanced this edition — adding some color, expanding our joint calendar, focusing the front page on one historical theme (in this case, celebrating the 100th anniversary of our local public schools), and including more pictures and articles.

We welcome your input on the newsletter and ways we can serve our community more effectively. Comments may be sent to the Chapel Hill Heritage Alliance, PO Box 9032, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-9032, to [chheritagealliance@email.org](mailto:chheritagealliance@email.org), or mentioned to any member of our boards. We thank you in advance.

The goal of the Heritage Alliance is to allow our three organizations to make the most of our limited resources of people, time, and funds. We are fortunate that our community has a great

heritage; we yearn to build on that foundation through our many activities.

Most importantly, we invite you to join us—not only as members of each of our organizations, but as volunteers and active stewards of our past and helmsmen for our future. And please invite your friends and neighbors to join as well.



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## A Note from the Board

Our history is critical to what we value, how we think, and where we want our community to go. 2008 was a great year for the Chapel Hill Historical Society, and 2009 promises to be better. We are excited about the series of programs, awards, publications, and movies that we will detail in these pages during the year. We look forward to opportunities for growth and friend-

ship, refurbished space, a closer Heritage Alliance, and exciting ventures to make our pasts present. As an all-volunteer organization, we confidently count on our members to lead us in serving our communities. Thanks to all! See you on January 25 at the Chapel of the Cross for our second program on Town, Gown and Altar (see below).



## Sixth Award for History Enrichment

The Historical Society has awarded an education grant to Becky Springer, art teacher at Morris Grove Elementary School. The grant will cover the cost of materials and some adult labor for a large quilt depicting the history of the 100-plus year evolution of the school. Fourth graders will examine the roles of

ethnic groups in the development of North Carolina. We hope Ms. Springer and some of her students will display the quilt at our annual meeting in May. This grant is the sixth in our effort to bring history to life in our local public schools.



## Historical Plaque for Morris Grove Elementary School

On October 26, the Historical Society awarded historical plaques to the Morris Grove Elementary School in honor of Morris and Pantha Hogan (1853-1934 and 1859-1940 respectively). The plaques, which are displayed in a glass case and hung on the school wall, recall that the original school "was built with donations of land, lumber and operating expenses by Morris Hogan. Both he and his wife ... were born in slavery.... Memories of Morris Hogan's remarkable achievements and gifts have faded, but within this school they can shine brightly as timeless role models for all students." The award was presented for the Society by Doug Eyre with Thomas Bulthuis, who designed the plaque.



Morris & Pantha Hogan

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these community helper's roles have evolved over the years. Local firefighters participate in this program and impart essential life-saving skills.



As of Winter 2008, the Fire Marshall and Public Education office of the Chapel Hill Fire Department determined that the Museum had successfully reached more children over an eight-week period than had all five fire stations over the course of the year. In recognition of this success, we have further partnered with the Department to include a musical fire safety puppet show as an enhancement to the established program. This puppet show is performed by the Museum's education committee and firefighters dedicated to providing our children with the skills they'll need if presented with an emergency. And, like all of the Museum's education programs, it is offered to the public free of charge.

This program has been vetted and sponsored financially by the *North Carolina Jaycees Burn Center at UNC Hospitals*, which intends to use it as a pilot program across the state as a demonstration of a positive and effective collaboration between a municipal department and an educational organization.

At State Representative Verla Insko's invitation, the Museum has been asked to perform this musical puppet show to the General Assembly in January 2009. As a consequence, the museum's program continues to spin out positive benefits for our town, region, and state. What began as our documentation of a tiny, six-man fire department of 1896 has culminated in another soaring example of the power of public history.

In spite of CHM's impact on youth, a recent study by a national organization that tracks museum attendance indicates that less than 25% of teens and young adults regularly visit museums. This generation is technologically advanced, extraordinarily diverse, and will soon outnumber its baby-boomer parents. The ongoing challenge of reaching this audience requires vision, an understanding of "edutainment," and funding for the features that will bring this demographic through our doors. Small, community institutions, such as the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM, that depend solely on private funding from membership, special events, and local foundations, struggle with this challenge continually.

A welcome measure of optimism is found in the future prospect of Cultural Heritage Tourism. Visitors engaged in this form of tourism are traveling to experience the places and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. It includes irreplaceable historic and cultural resources. The draw is the power of public history.

In addition to creating new jobs, new business, and higher property values, well-managed tourism improves the quality of life of its residents and builds community pride.

The downtown tourism venues of the Chapel Hill Heritage Alliance—the Chapel Hill Historical Society, the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, and CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM—are the strongest promoters of cultural heritage tourism in Chapel Hill. We find ourselves in a historically unique university town with a vast and vivid history. Tourism is the number one industry in the Southeast and is the second industry in NC. In a town that struggles annually with a tight budget and low sales tax revenue, I believe that with proper funding, planning and execution, Chapel Hill stands to benefit incredibly from its own history.

In order to realize a potential revenue stream that cultural heritage tourism can bring Chapel Hill, I ask that you join me and my counterparts in asking our public officials and town leaders to actively develop new initiatives and policies to support established venues and develop new historic sites. On an even larger scale than the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM has hereto ably demonstrated, the Heritage Alliance and cultural tourism can open all of Chapel Hill to the power of public history.

## CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM, Winter 2009

### The Power of Public History

—Traci Davenport

If you believe as I do that we don't know where we are going unless we know where we've been, then you, too, believe in the power of public history.

Winter 2009 finds the Museum far from the humble hopes and imaginings of its beginnings in 1996. With highly regarded exhibitions, healthy attendance, vibrant special events, and far-reaching education programs, CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM is committed to its mission to preserve, exhibit, and interpret the history and culture of our town, our state, and our region.

Since Fall 2007, the Museum has opened three new permanent exhibits to join an already exciting array of exhibited material. All three of these exhibits demonstrate the power of public history.

*Heroes of Yesterday, Heroes of Today: The History of the Chapel Hill Fire Department* is a wonderful piece of municipal history that charts the growth of the town over the last 100 years through the progress of Chapel Hill's volunteer firemen as they achieved the status of the nationally recognized professional first-responders that our firefighters are today. Since Summer 2008, this exhibit has been included in the Chapel Hill Fire Academy's class instruction. By directly discovering the history of the community that they will ultimately serve, these new recruits develop a sense of place and pride for their town early in their careers. This joint initiative of the Academy, Department, and Museum offers a perfect example of the power of public history.

Alexander Julian's return to Franklin Street brought a permanent exhibit installation to the Museum. This exhibit details Mr. Julian's formative years spent in Chapel Hill, his professional highlights, and his many awards. Where else can you shop in a one-of-a-kind boutique and travel a few blocks to learn of the career, craft, and personality behind the retail event you just experienced? Only in Chapel Hill, and only through the power of public history.

Late Fall 2007 saw the opening of *Meet Me on Franklin Street: Celebrating the Character and Characters of Chapel Hill* — the largest-ever assembled collection of Franklin Street memorabilia, photos, and the accompanying tales and artifacts that tell the story of this beloved thoroughfare.

*Meet Me on Franklin Street* is the most community-oriented exhibit the Museum has ever launched: it would never have taken place without the community's sharing of material, memories, and resources. The Museum remains the most grateful recipient of these gifts. A little over one year after its initial opening, residents still provide artifacts,

letters, documents and keepsakes, so inspired are they by the exhibit. New pieces of Franklin Street's history are incorporated in to the exhibit constantly—keeping it ever evolving and never static.

Frequently I find myself in the East Gallery listening to our *Meet Me on Franklin Street* visitors. I never tire of the spontaneous conversation that takes place between relative strangers in this space. A murmured "Oh, do you remember the Vienna pastries they sold?" can set off a volley of recollections that start a mass exodus down memory lane. Suddenly, eight or ten people are clamoring to be heard over the din of voiced remembrances. The CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM is never experienced as an old dusty, or necessarily quiet, repository of artifacts. Our galleries act as incubators for reminiscences, professed legacies, and sometimes, some very colorful exchanges.

A number of savvy area realtors have discovered that the Museum's *Meet Me on Franklin Street* exhibit can be an effective selling tool for potential home-buyers. This wonderful opportunity to introduce a possible new resident to our vibrant past translates into another positive instance of the power of public history.

But exhibits are only one facet of what the Museum brings to the community. CHM is a vital instructional facility for area schoolchildren, offering a level of educational experience that simply cannot be replicated in a classroom.

Spring 2009 will herald the education committee's 10th year of presenting a program for area fourth graders on the writings and humanitarian efforts of Paul Green and his play *The Lost Colony*. This program, which hosts 30 students per day for 8 weeks each spring, answers state-wide curricular requirements for the teaching of social studies to our schoolchildren. CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM is the only education facility in the state of NC to provide this type of in-depth and high energy program to fulfill these curricular needs. This year over 1,000 children will attend this important program — *and they will do so for free*. The Museum's all volunteer education committee will serve all of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School District, along with Orange County Schools, home-schoolers and private schools throughout the area.

A second educational program centers on a prized CHM holding—the first piece of motorized fire apparatus ever purchased by the town—a 1914 Model T fire truck. In its ongoing collaboration with the Chapel Hill Fire Department, the Museum has just completed its 8th annual Fire Safety program. This program helps satisfy a second-grade curricular requirement—learning about Community Helpers. With the advent of the exhibit on the department's history, students learn how

## Marvelous Movie Nights



The Historical Society has partnered with UNC's Carolina Club to host over 55 Classic Movie Nights, with a delicious dinner and a classic movie shown on a giant screen. The movie starts at 7:00 and is preceded at 6:00 with a conversation related to the movie's theme and led by a local movie buff. Movie nights are open to members of the Society or the Carolina Club. In February, members of the Preservation Society are invited. Call the Carolina Club at 962-1101 for reservations.

*The Major and the Minor*. Friday, January 23 – 7:00 pm  
Comedy, romance, Billy Wilder's direction, Ginger Rogers, Ray Milland, Robert Benchley — A young woman in New York wants to go home to Iowa but lacks the railroad fare. So she disguises herself as a 12-year old to travel at half-fare. Conversation at 6:00 led by Michael Hornblow and Jim Moore.

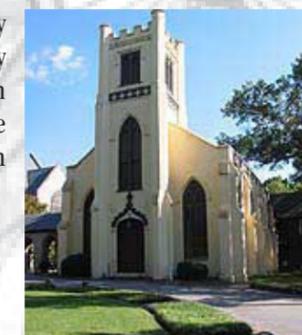
*Now, Voyager*. Friday, February 13 -- 7:00 pm  
On the eve of Valentine's Day, Bette Davis and Paul Heinreid star in one of Hollywood's most memorable romances, with a musical score so lush it won an Oscar for Max Steiner. Join us at 6:00 for conversation led by Duke Professor of Music History, Bryan Gilliam.

*12 Angry Men*. Friday, March 20 -- 7:00 pm  
This film dramatizes one of the most serious responsibilities of citizenship — peers weighing the evidence presented to them in a court of law and rendering a verdict of guilt or innocence in a murder case. Henry Fonda, with an A-list of supporting actors. UNC Law School Dean Jack Boger opens the case with us at 6:00.

## Founding of the Mainline Churches in Downtown Chapel Hill

The second of the Historical Society's programs on "Town, Gown and Altar" will be held at the Chapel of the Cross on Sunday, January 25 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. The program will focus on the founding of the mainline churches in downtown Chapel Hill, principally in the years before the Civil War and principally to serve the university community. The first of these was the Chapel of the Cross, built by slaves. Its rector, Stephen Elkins-Williams, will lead the discussion. Why were the churches not built during the first decades of the university and town?

How did they relate to the university and to each other? What did they mean in the life of a small Southern town? How did the war affect the intertwining of religion, education and local politics? And more.



Chapel of the Cross

## Our Geological Past



Dr. Kevin Stewart

And you thought you were old? In February, the Historical Society will explore our distant past — not decades but millennia and millennia. Our time-machine leader will be Kevin Stewart, Associate Professor in UNC's Department of Geological Sci-

ences, and co-author of *Exploring the Geology of the Carolinas*. As Professor Stewart says, "The geology of Chapel Hill provides a record of Earth history that spans hundreds of millions of years. Within these rocks is evidence for plate tectonic collisions, exploding volcanoes, and the tearing apart of an ancient supercontinent." Join us on February 22, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, at the Historical Society's office.

## Annual Benefit Set for Sunday, April 26



Jane Holding

by Gurganus and Jane Holding. *Widow* offers a vivid portrait of Lucy Marsden, the 99-year old widow of America's last surviving Civil War soldier.

The Historical Society's third annual benefit – this time *An Evening with the Oldest Living Confederate Widow* – will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2009, 5:00 - 7:30 pm, at the Carolina Inn. Mark your calendars now for this exciting performance. Invitations will be mailed in early 2009.

*Oldest Living Confederate Widow*: Her Confession is a one-woman play based on the novel by Allan Gurganus. Co-authored

Lucille, a 15 year old tomboy, was married-off to a grizzled wealthy veteran in his fifties. Nine children and 30 years later, the couple's erotic intensities and betrayals constitute a comi-tragic re-enactment of the war itself. By turns bawdy and heartbreaking, the play becomes the last testament-confession of one woman with "a good memory for grudges."

Co-author and actress Jane Holding was born in North Carolina and educated at Swarthmore College, Cambridge University, and Stanford. Her regional theatrical credits include *Birdie* in *The Little Foxes* and *Big Mama* in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

As before, our *Evening with...* will also feature free parking, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and delightful conversations. Save the Date!

## Because We're Still Here (and Moving)

Chapel Hill is a town of neighborhoods, and the Historical Society has supported efforts to bring each neighborhood's history to life. Thus, we applaud the achievement of Hidden Voices, a local NGO led by our Board member Lynden Harris, in recapturing the stories of our historically African-American communities. After a two-year collaboration among local residents, students, photographers and artists, Hidden Voices launched an intricate and acclaimed performance last spring at Carrboro's Arts Center—with maps, dance, songs, stories, photos, and an appeal for residents to help recall and display the joy and tribulations of the African-American community in and around Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Hidden Voices unveils an updated version

in February, with dramatic performances at Playmakers (February 13-17), photographs at the Campus Y and the Hargraves Center, a walking tour map and a text message tour, performances in schools, and more. We congratulate Lynden and all who have worked to bring this history to life, and we are proud to be a financial supporter. Details at [www.hiddenvoices.org](http://www.hiddenvoices.org)



## Town Treasures Exhibit Opens at Seymour Senior Center

Our Town Treasures exhibit, which opened at the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM with a community evening on October 2, will now tour our towns. The exhibit honors the values and achievements of 12 outstanding individuals and couples who have made and documented our history through lifetimes of extraordinary service. Exquisite documentary-style photographs by Catharine Carter, accompanied by descriptive passages about each honoree, link our past and present and give us greater hope for our future. Each honoree has been designated a "Town Treasure" by the Mayors of Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Recognition of lifetimes modeling excellence will be an annual program of the Chapel Hill Historical Society and CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM. Look for the exhibit next at the Seymour Senior Center, starting in January.



Mayor Kevin Foy presents Town Treasure Awards. In foreground, Rebecca Clark, who will be dearly missed.

## Party with a Purpose – 2009

—Bitty Holton

*Party with a Purpose* is back! 2009 will bring the return of these highly acclaimed parties, with the purpose of supporting the educational enrichment programs of the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM. Our varied events of last year, which ranged in theme from Hollywood's Scarlett O'Hara and *Big Night* to Chili-Cooking Chapel Hill Firefighters, featured great food and wonderful hosts. The parties were sometimes educational, sometimes elegant, and always entertaining. Nearly all of the parties sold out, as Chapel Hillians flocked to support the Museum and to be a part of the fun. This coming year, the series will continue



Chef and food stylist Debbie DiSabatino demonstrates how to make the "timpano" to guests

with another round of diverse parties. All promise to nourish both body and spirit—all in a good cause!

For example –  
– Go behind the scenes at Vietri Ceramics; sup on a delicious buffet while listening to jazz; or experience Chapel Hill as it

was in the spring of 1865, during the Union occupation.

- Partake of exotic Far Eastern fare, or Chatham County fried chicken.
- Learn about North Carolina pottery, or line dancing at the Rooster Club.
- Meet a cookbook author, a radio personality, legendary potters, or a renowned jazz pianist.
- Dress up for Oscar night; dress down for line dancing.



This year's wonderful assortment of gatherings, commencing in the New Year, will be held in some fabulous homes and venues, with some equally fabulous people as hosts. Watch for your invitation and be sure to be a participant in the parties that really do have a purpose—to support and sustain our town's own CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM and its award-winning education programs.

## CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM'S 4th Annual Fabulous Flea Market



decorative pieces, household goods, kitchen supplies, tools, newer

Donations of "great stuff" are needed for this spring's annual Fabulous Flea Market, which will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009. The sale will be at University Mall in Chapel Hill (in the former "Storehouse Furniture" space). We are collecting quality items, including furniture,

electronics, toys and children's items, art, jewelry, silver, crystal, books and videos, lamps, linens and miscellaneous. We are not accepting TVs, computers, cribs, car seats or clothing. Please make sure that all items are clean and in good working order.

Know someone who is downsizing or relocating?? Send them our way!! Storage space is currently available; pick-up of any items, including large pieces, can be arranged. Please call 967-1400 for more information.

## CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM Rental

Do you need a unique and interesting space to hold a party, reception, reunion, or celebration?? Consider hosting your event at the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM!! The East and West Galleries on the Museum's upper floor are available for after-hour functions for up to 125 people. We offer great exhibits, limited kitchen facilities, and free parking. The Museum's lower level is a perfect place for meetings, classes, work-

shops, lectures, and seminars for up to 70 people. Lower level space is available daily.

The Museum is smoke-free. Alcoholic beverages are limited to beer and wine. Catering recommendations are available upon request. Contact the Museum at 919-967-1400 for fees and details.



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## CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM Director's Report

—Traci Davenport

In 2009 the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM continues its commitment to bringing to life the character and characters of this special place called Chapel Hill.

2008 CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM highlights include:

- *Sally Bowen Prange Remembered* exhibit: One of the most influential ceramic artists in the Southeast.
- *Town Treasures* exhibit: The Chapel Hill Historical Society's charter class of senior citizens commemorated through photographic portraits and text.
- *Art from the Heart* exhibit: Original artwork produced by local celebrated personalities, heroes and artists.
- Educational program milestones made with the debut of the annual Fire Safety Program's Musical Puppet Show.
- Vibrant collaborations with Kidzu Children's Museum, the Preservation Society, Chapel Hill Historical Society, the University of North Carolina, the NC Jaycees Burn Center at UNC, and the Chapel Hill Fire Department.
- And, new to the Museum's development, we are

working closely with federal, state, and local governments to insure future successes.

2009 will bring to the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM:

- Continued additions to the *Meet Me on Franklin Street* exhibit in 2009.
- Back by popular demand, the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators will return in June 2009 with an exhibit that explores our natural community and environment.
- *37th Frame*: UNC-Chapel Hill Photojournalism department will open their juried senior show in April 2009.
- Spirited and utterly unique Special Events that can only be found at the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM.
- And, most important, further advancements and expansions in our education programs for area schoolchildren.

We hope you plan on visiting often with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in 2009.

## CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM's Honorable Mention

CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM won an honorable mention in the International Association of Fire Fighters 2008 Media Awards. This is an international competition with hundreds of entries from around the world. Only one winner is named, and only a single honorable mention given. The Museum will include this honor in its *Heroes of Yesterday, Heroes of Today: The History of*

*the Chapel Hill Fire Department* exhibit, which formed the basis of the contest submission, along with an interactive website and film. The Museum was mentioned in IAFF's international publication and website.



## An Exciting Fall

This fall, the Historical Society was very busy. We hope you didn't miss:

- On October 26, Professor James Leloudis kicked off our series on "Town, Gown, and Altar" with a description of the academic-religious philosophy that underlay the founding of the University in 1793. Held in UNC's historic Gerrard Hall, once the site of decades of mandatory daily chapel services, the discussion focused on the founders' embrace of what they regarded as the moral and natural philosophies that young gentlemen should master.
- Movies at the Carolina Club: *Sunset Boulevard, 1776, The Longest Day*
- *The Chapel Hill News* columns written by members of the Historical Society: "Calendars Recall What Life was like in Chapel Hill" by Val Lauder, September 21; "Student Housing After World War II" by Sam Magill, October 19; "Make History and Share It with a Student" by Chapel Hill High School teacher Bill Melaga, November 16; and "The Friendship Tree," commemorating cooperation with Mexico's

universities, by Bill Burk, December 21.

• On November 23, two veteran local journalists led a wide-ranging discussion of the history and future of the print media in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Don Evans, long time reporter and associate editor at *The Chapel Hill News*, and Kirk Ross, founder and editor of *The Carrboro Citizen*, regaled attendees with stories of past foibles while reminding us how much a community's health relies on a strong local press.



Don Evans and Kirk Ross speak about media history  
—photo by Jock Lauterer

## Our Stories, In Focus

All history begins with individuals and their families. So the Historical Society is pleased to co-sponsor an initiative entitled *Our Stories, In Focus* to help us record and share the tapestry of personal histories that makes up the fabric of our community. *Our Stories* has been launched by the Town of Chapel Hill Public Arts Office, the UNC Program in the Humanities and Human Values, and the Orange County Arts Commission. *Our Stories* begins in February and March with four days of workshops and story collection. Experts will provide ad-

vice on developing your family's genealogical history, journal writing and storytelling, and creating oral histories. UNC students will scan photos and capture stories digitally in text, audio, or video formats. We hope this effort continues so that, using the web, each of us can make our histories available to all, from third graders on their classroom computers to older folks rockin' and whittlin' in Blackberry time. For further information, visit [http://www.chapelhillarts.org/programs\\_comm\\_art\\_ov.php](http://www.chapelhillarts.org/programs_comm_art_ov.php)

## Historical Notes: 100 Years of Movies in Chapel Hill

In the Chapel Hill Historical Society's 2009 calendar, editor Val Lauder describes 100 years of movie-going in Chapel Hill, noting the various sites where movies were shown --- first in the campus Y, then in the Pickwick, Carolina, Village, Majestic, and Hollywood Theaters. Talkies came in 1929, afternoon showings of *Gone with the Wind* in 1940 cost 75-cents, the world premiere of *Joy in the Morning* was held in Chapel Hill in 1965, and *Patch Adams* was filmed on campus in 1998. Townspeople have long been enthusiastic movie fans, and as Ms. Lauder states in the calendar: "Whatever the theater, wherever

it was located -- however technically primitive or advanced the equipment -- for 100 years Chapel Hillians have purchased their tickets, and whatever was happening outside, in good times or bad, peace time or war, taken their seats in a darkened theater to look up at a screen and be transported to another time, another world."

A complimentary copy of the 2009 calendar — *100 Years of Movies in Chapel Hill* — has been sent to all current and life members of the Chapel Hill Historical Society.



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## Make Your Own History at the Horace Williams House

Set in the heart of Chapel Hill's historic district, the Horace Williams House is the perfect location for a special event. This 1840s Greek revival home is original and distinctive, traditional and elegant with its intricate woodwork and architectural detailing and beautiful ceilings as well as the beautiful grounds. It is the only historic home in Chapel Hill available for receptions. In 2008 there were over forty events ranging from wedding ceremonies and receptions to UNC department holiday parties, meetings, anniversary celebrations, birthday parties, and memorial services. The income generated from the rentals helps to cover the upkeep of the Horace Williams House as well as other operating expenses. The next time you are planning a special event, please consider making your own history at the Horace Williams House by having your event here. Complete rental information is available on our website [www.chapelhillpreservation.com](http://www.chapelhillpreservation.com) or give Sherril Koruluk a call at 942-7818.

### Seven Reasons to Have Your Next Event at the Horace Williams House

#### 1. It's authentic!

*The features of the 1840s Greek revival home make the Horace Williams House a perfect place for any special events.*

#### 2. The Majestic Magnolia Tree.

*Must be seen to be believed!*

#### 3. Everyone fits.

*Meeting: 30-40 attendees*

*Seated Dinner: 50 guests*

*Cocktail Party: 75 guests*

*Under the Tent: 150 guests*

#### 4. Conveniently located and with parking!

*The Horace Williams House is in the heart of historic district, three blocks north of downtown Chapel Hill with hotels five minutes away.*

#### 5. Competitive Rates.

*We think you will find that you can afford the Horace Williams House for your wedding or event. Our price is well within most budgets.*

#### 6. Art exhibits.

*The original and distinctive monthly art exhibits feature the work of local artists.*

#### 7. The Brick Walkway.

*Walk along the brick path and see the names of people that have been a part of the history of the Horace Williams House and the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill.*

## Past President's Message

I never knew a year could fly by so fast! As I pass the gavel to Stephen and Sandra Rich, I want to thank each of our Board members and Trustees, as well as our devoted staff for helping make 2008 a terrific year for the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill. Our membership numbers were up from the previous year, our programs were well attended and our mission of preservation was well publicized.

Our new Officers and Board of Directors are listed on page six. I also welcome new Trustees Nerys Levy, Wendy Maxwell, Lee Pavao, Charles Roupas, and Pat Thomas. Beth Isenhour leads our Trustees and we look forward to having the Trustees provide additional leadership and guidance for the Society.

As you read this second edition of the Compass, you will see the work of three very important organizations who strive to promote and preserve our dear Chapel Hill. These three groups have worked well this

year to coordinate programming and compliment one another's missions. It is important that this cooperation continue as we all may face unprecedented budget challenges in the year ahead. Please support each of these organizations with your membership as well as your time and service.

It has been an honor to serve as president of the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill and work with such a wonderful group of volunteers. I end my final president's column by offering a special thank you to our Executive Director Ernest Dollar and our Assistant to the Director Sherril Koruluk. The day to day operation of the Preservation Society and the seemingly endless attention needed to care for the Horace Williams House is in excellent hands and I thank them both on behalf of our membership.

Laurie Norman, President 2008

## Director's Report: A Busy 2008

—Ernest Dollar

For the Preservation Society, 2008 was a productive and busy year. We had 11 art shows, sponsored ten historic lectures, three music concerts, three major public events, co-sponsored one hike, organized a historical reenactment and architectural symposium, as well as orchestrated a major house tour. In addition to these events, we have been aggressive at promoting preservation in Chapel Hill.

We have helped raise over \$7,000 for mural restoration for the *Painted Walls* Project. We awarded seven historic plaques, gave out four preservation awards and wrote the same number of preservation articles for the newspaper. Our demolition ordinance passed in the State Legislature. We helped lobby the town of Chapel Hill for the establishment of a town cemetery advisory board and fielded dozens of calls from the community asking for help on historic topics. Plus we had almost 40 rentals of the Horace Williams house.

It is exhausting, and expensive work but it is what we at the Preservation Society truly enjoy – educating, entertaining, and inspiring the residents of Chapel Hill. As plans for 2009 are coming together, we are forced to scale back on some of our programs. Non-profits like ours are the first to be affected by a weak economy. The Preservation Society will continue its mission to save our town's historic treasures but our means to achieve our goal may be compromised. In addition to raising funds for our preservation and outreach programs, our attention will also

be focused on basic necessities such as keeping the Horace Williams House open and our already lean staff paid. This is the plight of many organizations such as ours. But perhaps for the Preservation Society, it can have a silver lining.

The economic slowdown has affected local developers and frozen some of our pending historic demolitions. This halt in development gives the Preservation Society the opportunity to take the offensive and be more proactive in our preservation efforts. With a financial boost we would execute our plans for a preservation outreach program to educate the public on the benefits of preservation. We are also planning to work with the Town of Chapel Hill to update and enhance the ordinances that protect historic structures.

Please take a moment and consider how important Chapel Hill is to you. How much is it worth to keep those trees or old homes or other iconic elements that first drew you to town and have kept you here? In March, the Preservation Society will begin its annual membership drive and we hope to continue to have your support. Please renew your membership and encourage a friend to become a member of the Preservation Society and help us keep Chapel Hill the same place you fell in love with.

Within the context of today's rapid development, preservation of larger, more distinctive homes has left the dwellings of common people to suffer. Preserving this home and homestead represents an effort to ensure that the story of nineteenth-century, middle-class Chapel Hillians can be told alongside that of the upper class along Franklin Street.

Since the property became vacant, the house has been vandalized and numerous period architectural elements, such as mantles, have been looted from the site. The current owner boarded up the site in December 2008 in order to prevent future destruction. Without development of the site, few opportunities emerge for the home's preservation.

The Preservation Society believes that including this renovated house as part of a development plan not only protects an important part of

## ☀ Volunteer!! Volunteer!! Volunteer!!

There are numerous opportunities to volunteer at the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill/Horace Williams House. We selected office duties, helping with preservation work, hosting during the Holiday House Tour and other cultural events, training to do various walking tours of Franklin Street, other historic sights and possibly the Old Chapel Hill cemetery.....interacting with old and young, visitors and long-timers.

## ☀ A New Year

Preservation...what does it really mean for us? Is it just preserving the man-made built environment? Does it include preserving the natural environment? And how does the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill fit into the picture? We continue to discuss these questions in our attempt to make our community the best it can be. We honor and preserve the past as a way to learn from it as we move into the future.

What does 2009 hold in store for us? There are some things with which we are already engaged...our attempt to save the Edward Kidder Graham home on Battle Lane...the Kirkland/Hogan/Altemueller farmhouse...our work with Michael Brown to restore the murals around town. And there are some things that are unknown to us today. Our January board planning session will be a stimulating day around these issues. Ernest Dollar, our director, has brought great energy to our organization and engaged new people to assist our causes. We

Chapel Hill's history, it also creates a unique atmosphere that embodies the town's historic character and creates an economic advantage for potential businesses and clients. To this end, the PSCH has been working on a complete history of the site and a business plan to make the restored house attractive to potential investors. Additionally, the PSCH is working with a LEED-certified consultant and building contractor to present a "best practices" plan for a "green" restoration of the farmhouse. The PSNC will be offering financial aid for this restoration through a no-interest loan from the Society's revolving fund.

The Kirkland/Hogan/Altemueller farmhouse symbolizes Chapel Hill's vanishing past; if preserved, it will surely become a unique place of pride and inspiration for future generations.

A volunteer job with PSCH means working in the best venue in town (HWH) with some of the best people around. But mainly it means helping to preserve and protect our wonderful heritage by sharing your time, talents, and interests with the community. It is a great way to really be part of Chapel Hill.

must continue to use the media to support our efforts and to attract new members and supporters.

We want to thank Laurie Norman for her leadership in 2008 as our board president. Laurie led us in a very straight forward, professional manner. Under her leadership, as well as that of our Executive Director Ernest Dollar, we got refocused on preservation.

We are excited about 2009 and are anxious to share some new ideas with everyone. The tried and true will be preserved: the Easter Egg Hunt...the Old Fashioned Fourth of July...the historic homes house tour...the concerts of period music...the lunch box lectures. Please join us and bring a new friend to help build on what so many before us have created.

Sandra and Stephen Rich, Co-Presidents 2009

*continued from page 7*

## ☀ When the Common Becomes Uncommon: *Saving the Kirkland/Hogan/Altemueller Farmhouse*

Traveling north on Martin Luther King Boulevard, one may notice on the left, a small, brown house set upon a slight rise. It is not a particularly striking house, but for the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill (PSCH), it is the object of a major preservation effort. In a recent discussion of this historic property, someone asked "Why are you saving that place?" The answer is that while the house is a common example of a nineteenth-century Carolina farmhouse, the astonishing rate at which houses of this style are disappearing makes it an increasingly uncommon site. Working with the property developer and the Town of Chapel Hill, the PSCH is fighting to save the home, thereby recovering the lost history of a well-known family who helped make Chapel Hill the town it is today.

The land where the farmhouse stands today was originally bought by Andrew Patterson in 1784 and later sold to the Kirkland family. Samuel C. Kirkland, a distant relative of the builders of Hillsborough's most historic home, Ayr Mount, acquired the land sometime in 1830s. In 1853, Kirkland married Martha Craig, a member of another early Orange County family, and worked the large farm. The Kirkland family grew with the birth of a daughter, Laura, in 1858 and the purchase of a 16-year-old male slave sometime before 1860. In 1879, the home was given as a wedding present to the Kirkland's daughter and her new husband, Oscar Hogan.

In the 1890s, the Hogans donated a portion of their land for the establishment of an African-American school — listed as "Colored School House Number 23" — which was destroyed by fire in 1906. For the next century, the Hogans lived in the farmhouse and continued to work their farm and raise cattle. In 2006, the last member of the Hogan family was forced to sell the property before she could establish a preservation plan for the home.

RAM Development purchased the tract and presented plans for a mixed-use development. Unable to obtain approval for their plans, RAM Development sold the tract to developer William Christian who is also considering a mixed-use plan for the site.

The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill is working with the Community Design Commission and the Town of Chapel Hill to preserve the Kirkland/Hogan/Altemueller family farmhouse, located at 1641 Martin Luther King Boulevard, by requiring any redevelopment plan for the site to include an adaptive reuse proposal for this historic home. The PSCH urged for the inclusion of the homestead in the Northern Area Task Force Report, which recommended the following: retention of "the building and tree group as an active focal space for the community. Adaptively reuse the farmhouse. Protect natural and cultural heritage of the site."

The house is a classic example of the vernacular homes that once dotted the local landscape and represents a centuries-old agrarian lifestyle that is quickly vanishing. Built in the late 1860s, the farmhouse tells the story of several generations of the Hogan and Kirkland families and embodies 140 years of history including the changing social and racial dynamics of Chapel Hill.



More than just an old home, the house and structures together reflect a style and aesthetic taste that characterizes local farmers of the late nineteenth century and the changes they made in the twentieth century. The various other structures on the site — barns, smokehouses, and an outhouse — remain as a wonderful set of clues as to how a Victorian farm operated and flourished.

*continued on page 10*

# Photo Collage