

Chapel Hill Historical Society
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Historical Recognitions

Several individuals have recently been recognized for their significant contributions and service to the Chapel Hill community.

The Chapel Hill Historical Society selected Bill and Virginia Powell as recipients of the Mary Arthur Stoudemire Award for their exemplary and tireless work in the preservation and documentation of the history of Chapel Hill and the University and for their efforts to distribute historical materials to libraries throughout North Carolina. Bill was recognized as the first president of the Historical Society. Also in May, a new award was presented



Roland Giduz and Bill Friday

to Doug Eyre for his commitment to recording the history of Chapel Hill and its environs through monthly columns in *The Chapel Hill News*. The annual award is now named the J. Douglas Eyre History Award.

The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill presented the inaugural Horace Williams Award to Roland Giduz for his lifelong service to the community. The award, which was given by William Friday at the Preservation Society's Old Fashioned July 4th celebration, consisted of a ink pen made from the 150 year-old walnut tree which fell on the Horace Williams property in March 2007.

A New Direction

The first edition of *The Compass* is a collaboration of the Chapel Hill Heritage Alliance, an informal partnership of the Chapel Hill Historical Society, the Chapel Hill Museum, and the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill. The newsletter, as its name suggests, marks a new direction for the three organizations and points the way to continued cooperative efforts to document, display, and preserve the history and traditions of the Chapel Hill community.

The decision to produce a combined newsletter, with one calendar for all fall activities, results from discussions of the Futures

Committee, a group commissioned by the three organizations to think strategically about the separate and collective activities of the historic groups. The Futures Committee will continue this fall its exploration of ways the organizations can serve their members and the town most effectively.

Comments about the newsletter and suggestions for serving the community are welcome. Please address comments to the Chapel Hill Heritage Alliance, PO Box 9032, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-9032 or to chheritagealliance@mail.org.

Town Treasures

On Thursday, October 2, the Chapel Hill Historical Society will unveil the charter class of its new Town Treasures commemorations. The Town Treasures exhibit, opening at the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM, honors outstanding senior citizens who have made and/or documented Chapel Hill-Carrboro history. Their contributions and examples help us to link the past with the present, remind us how far we have come, and herald a town of which we can all be proud.



One of our town's treasures — Mildred Council

Award-winning local photographer, Catharine Carter, has photographed 12 remarkable residents for this charter class. Her exquisite photos will be displayed at the CHAPEL HILL MU-

SEUM, with an opening reception to honor the recipients' years of achievements. Each picture captures one of the Town Treasures in a documentary-style setting in the home or other location that reflects his/her contributions to our community. Accompanying each photograph will be the individual's remarks on Chapel Hill's past and future.

This commemoration of excellence embodied in Town Treasures will be an annual program of the Chapel Hill Historical Society and CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM, acknowledging respectfully and gratefully the contributions that so many individuals make to our community through lifetimes of extraordinary service.

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Join Us...

Look Inside—your fall calendar, a preview of exciting events, reflections on historic happenings, stories about local citizens, and much more. Come, join us —and share the fun.



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"Historical Notes"

On the third Sunday of each month, *The Chapel Hill News* prints "Historical Notes", columns prepared by members of the Historical Society. Here are excerpts from this summer's columns at www.chapelhillnews.com.

May 17: "Back in the 1920's and '30's, Chapel Hill had a volunteer fire department and a small fire truck that is housed in the Chapel Hill Museum... And just how were these volunteers to know the location of the fire? Well, that's the story we unfold here today..." From "'Ponk' from Firehouse Alerted Town to Site of Emergency" by Clarence Whitefield.



June 22: "Glen Lennox Apartments ... provide an excellent case study for understanding both the architecture and culture of the postwar years. After the [Second World] War, American architects largely abandoned historical styles based on European precedents and adopted Modernism. Modernism ... emphasized function and had little or no ornamentation..." From "Glen Lennox was a Center

for Postwar Culture" by Linda Jacobson.

July 20: "It was not until the 1960's that theaters would become fully integrated—an integration that occurred not without protest...[E. Carrington] Smith refused a request from a ministerial association to show *Porgy and Bess* ... to a desegregated audience at the all-white Carolina theater. His action prompted a boycott ... by a group called Citizens for Open Movies..." From "Going to the Motion Picture Show" by Charlene Register.

August 17: "On a hot day [in 1847]... President James K. Polk set out from Raleigh ... on a nine-hour journey to Chapel Hill by horse and carriage.... In 1993, President Bill Clinton arrived by jet and motorcade...Eleven other U.S. presidents, presidents-to-be, and ex-presidents, visited the UNC campus, along with one first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt..." From "Presidents visited Chapel Hill by Carriage, Train, Motorcade and Jet" by Harriet King.



Town, Gown, and Altar

The Chapel Hill Historical Society will begin a series of programs this fall on the intertwining of our faith communities with UNC and town of Chapel Hill. The series, "Town, Gown, and Altar," will begin on Sunday, October 26, in UNC's historic Gerrard Hall. Dr. James Leloudis, Associate Professor of History, will speak about religion and the founding of the University. Although UNC was a public university, its culture and curriculum were heavily influenced by a faculty primarily Presbyterian and by a requirement that its students attend chapel services.

The series will continue in the spring of 2009 with two additional programs. The first will explore the

founding of the mainline churches that line Franklin Street, most of whom have their roots well established in the pre-Civil War era and were built to serve the campus community. The second program will recall the founding of Chapel Hill's major African-American churches during and following the Civil War.



Gerrard Hall

The series will continue thereafter with programs on the faith communities in the civil rights and anti-war eras of the 1950's and 1960's and the flourishing of non-Christian communities during recent decades.

All programs will be free and open to the public



The History of Print Media in Chapel Hill

As the internet threatens newspapers, we particularly need to understand the role that the print media has played in reporting on, and fashioning, our town's culture and character. Don Evans, former Assistant

Editor of *The Chapel Hill News*, will report on the history of that paper, and others, and their implications for today. Sunday, November 23, 3-5:00 at the Chapel Hill Historical Society.



Fall 2008: CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM: Collaborations are Key

This autumn finds the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM in new places, with new initiatives, many new collaboration, and some very promising developments on the horizon. In January the Museum chose Bob Broad, Stephen Rich, Don Boulton and Verlene Kuoni to enthusiastically represent the Museum in a series of ongoing discussions with the Chapel Hill Historical Society and the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill regarding closer collaborations between the three organizations.

Last February the Museum received its first individual representation in local government by being assigned Town Council member Bill Thorpe. Council member Thorpe has been a positive asset to the Museum's mission and we look forward to working with him further in 2009. Two additional local and state government officials have spent time with the Museum's executive board this last spring. Congressman David Price and Representative Verla Insko have both eagerly pledged support and assistance in the Museum's future—very welcomed news

by the Museum's community. The success of these efforts weigh partially on the Museum's continued collaborations throughout the town and county. Launching an event with Kidzu Children's Museum, our ongoing educational efforts with the CHFD, to a shared event with the Historical Foundation of Hillsborough and Orange County, CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM relishes its impact on the community and the number of organizations that are interested in working closely with us.

The Museum's education programs remain our focus and foundation for a strong and vital future—watch for additional news about this fall's Fire Safety Program, (including a performance in front of the State of North Carolina's General Assembly), spring 2009's Lost Colony program, and self-study programs on the history of Franklin Street. The Museum is committed to offering area students educational experiences that can't be replicated in a classroom and that will foster a love of life-long learning to all who participate.



Sally Bowen Prange Remembered: an exhibit of her life and work

Sally Bowen Prange was one of the most important and influential ceramic artists in the Southeast. She is beloved by collectors and fellow artists alike and the seventeen museum collections that house her work are a testament to the lasting value of her

vision. After a fifty year career, Prange continued to push the boundaries between form and function. Prange died in 2007 at the age of 80 after having spent 46 years in her Chapel Hill home and studio.



Chapel Hill Membership Update

Many, many thanks to the members of CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM who have so positively responded to the Museum's new membership schedule. By doing so, you are helping the Museum significantly save postage,

administrative and material expenses. Your dues will now be applied to the Museum's ongoing education efforts for area schoolchildren and help foster a love of lifelong learning.



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Party with a Purpose 2008

With open doors and warm hearts, Chapel Hill hosts have wined, dined and entertained hundreds of attendees since last April when this event series was first introduced by Chair, Bitty Holton. From Barbecuing with Bob Garner, to the Big Night Banchetto, from British fare with a southern twist, to a ladies only pool-side party,

the community has embraced this concept like no other-- allowing this fundraiser to be more successful than any in the Museum's history. Hosts and themes are currently being considered for 2009—have an idea or wish to host a party? —call CHM at 967-1400.

Who is Lt. Dan & Why is He Singing About Fire Safety?

The CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM has successfully operated a Fire Safety Education Program since 2000. This program, held annually, provides a presentation of fire service personnel as community helpers from the inception of the department in 1896 to the present day lives of Chapel Hill firefighters. The Museum's education committee utilizes the Museum's 1914 fire truck to bring this idea to life for area second -grade students. CHFD members participate during this program by demonstrating their equipment.

In October 2008 the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM'S Education Committee and the Chapel Hill Fire Department will debut *Johnnie Joins the Fire Department: a puppet musical*. This 25 minute long theatrical production will accompany the original education program that compares and

contrasts old and new fire apparatus. One live character, Johnnie, and five puppets teach valuable life saving skills through interactive fun and song. This program is offered to Chapel Hill —Carrboro School District, Orange County schools, area private school and home schoolers, free of charge and will be held Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays at the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM from October 6th to November 14th, 2008. This program is sponsored by the North Carolina Jaycees Burn Center at UNC Hospitals.



Seats for Safety Campaign

The CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM'S education programs are expanding! This fall we will expand our Fire Safety Program for area second graders. To help kids enjoy the enhanced program, the Museum's Education Committee is in need of child-sized seating. You can help by donating \$40 for one chair or \$75 for two chairs to our Seats for Safety campaign. Each funded chair will include

an engraved plaque acknowledging the donor by name. Please help us continue the quality of our educational efforts as we expand our programs and their impacts. Call 967-1400 to make a donation by phone or email chmuseum1@bellsouth.net for additional information on these needed sturdy and stackable chairs.

Marvelous Movie Nights

The Historical Society has partnered with UNC's Carolina Club to host over 50 Classic Movie Nights, with dinner and a classic movie shown on a giant screen. The movie-dinner starts at 7:00 and is preceded by a conversation related to the movie's theme and led by a local movie buff. Open to members of the Society or the Carolina Club. Call 962-1101 for reservations.

The Longest Day. Friday, November 21 – 7:00 p.m.
One of the finest World War II films ever made, almost a documentary of the Allied landings in Normandy on June 6, 1944 – D-Day. Forty-two stars signed on for the movie version of

Cornelius Ryan's book *The Longest Day*, for which Ryan wrote the screenplay, and which took its title from German General Rommel's description of the 24 hours on which the outcome of the invasion would hang. John Wayne, Henry Fonda, Richard Burton, Sean Connery, Robert Mitchum, Rod Steiger, Robert Ryan, Red Buttons, Peter Lawford, Eddie Albert, and Edmond O'Brien, and many more. Join us at 6:00 for a conversation with Gerhard Weinberg, Kenan Professor of History Emeritus, recognized worldwide for his knowledge of World War II.



2009 Calendar Now On Sale

2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the first movie theater in Chapel Hill, The Pickwick. In its honor, the Chapel Hill Historical Society has printed a 32-page, four-color calendar for 2009 that reprises a century of movies in our town. This calendar continues a Society tradition that recalls our past as time ticks forward. Recollections and essays by Val Lauder, Woody Durham, D.G. Martin, Kimball King, and Charlene Regester inform and entertain. Photos of Clark Gable, Richard Chamberlain, Dorothy Devore, Bette Davis, Gary Cooper, Lena Horne, and many others will adorn your desk and refrigerator. Feast on stories of rowdy stu-

dents rocking the silent screen, Thomas Wolfe upstaging Wild Bill Hickok, blacks overcoming segregated theaters, stars on set on campus, and month after month of fascinating facts and you-read-it-here tales. Stay organized for a whole year. And a bonus: two pages of Bill and Ida Friday revealing the secrets for making their famous peanut brittle (a prelude for our 2010 calendar).

Now on sale for \$14.95 at fine stores, including the Chapel Hill Museum Gift & Book Shop. For quantity discounts, call the Chapel Hill Historical Society at 919-929-1793.



Glen Lennox Neighborhood History

Continuing our series of meetings that celebrate neighborhood histories, the Society was pleased in May to gather residents of homes in the Glen Lennox neighborhood. Hosted by Betsy and John Anderson, guests heard a series of stories, read old clippings, reviewed photos of residents and guests (including famous astronauts), and pledged to foster the collection and appreciation of the heritage of a

unique part of Chapel Hill. Society Board member Linda Jacobson extended this exploration in June with an article in the Chapel Hill News on the history of the Glen Lennox apartments. And Ernie Dolar, Executive Director of the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, extended the history further with a subsequent article on "Glen Lennox and the Space Race."





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Preservation Update!

An important home in Chapel Hill is on the verge of extinction and we need your help. As the Edward Kidder Graham house continues to deteriorate daily, our community moves closer to losing a true historic landmark. In the past several months, offers for the home have not met the asking price of \$850,000. The cost of restoration is a notable factor in the home's sale and contractors have hinted rehabilitation costs may equal the initial purchase price. But looking past the "sticker shock," the Edward Kidder Graham house offers one of the last opportunities to own a piece of old Chapel Hill. Besides walking in the footprints of one of UNC's presidents, the property's large double lot offers a chance for wonderful gardens. The location of the property also offers the luxury of being able to walk downtown. Living in this home would be a priceless experience.

If restoring the historic home is not for you, we are seeking contributions to help potential buyers restore this grand home. Our partners in this project, Preservation North Carolina,

have been soliciting tax deductible pledges to assist in attracting the right buyer to restore the house to its former glory. If you love Chapel Hill, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Edward Kidder Graham House Fund and save this historic treasure.

Here is some good news!

- The mural preservation program provided the funds necessary to restore the first mural. Michael Brown will continue this project as funds permit.
- The PSCH is also involved with helping local citizens restore some of Chapel Hill's famous stone walls.
- Our petition to change the town's historic structure ordinance was granted by the N.C. Legislature. We are now working with the town to write a new ordinance, which will hopefully discourage reckless demolition of our architectural heritage. Only four other North Carolina towns have such an ordinance!

Painted Walls Project Update

You may have noticed that Chapel Hill became more colorful this July. The project sponsored by the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, the Chapel Hill Historical Society, and the Downtown Partnership is raising both awareness and funds to restore the murals painted by Michael Brown over the past eighteen years. Enjoy the newly restored pencil mural on Henderson Street and consider making a donation to help bring the other murals back to life. Visit www.chapelhillpreservation.com/mural.htm to learn more about the program and how you can help. The next mural in the Painted Wall Project scheduled to be restored will be the musicians on the side of Studio Art Supply at 421 West



Director's Report

The dog days of summer have been busy for the Preservation Society. We started the summer off with our Old Fashioned July 4th celebration on the lawn of the Horace Williams House. The highlight of the day was the presentation to our friend Roland Giduz, the inaugural Horace Williams Award for his lifetime of service to the community of Chapel Hill. Roland was presented with a hand-turned pen from the walnut tree which fell on the property in March 2007.

The most unique event the PSCH hosted this summer was the special showing of the 1968 film, *Three in the Attic*, filmed in the endangered Edward Kidder Graham House. A large and enthusiastic crowd packed the Horace Williams House lawn for the "cinematic experience", to put the endangered home back in the spotlight.

Another preservation event highlighted the endangered Modernists houses in the Triangle. A symposium entitled, Atomic Age Architecture, was held at the CHAPEL HILL MUSEUM on August 2. We discussed the intellectual framework of this unique architecture movement of the 1950-60 and the wide variety of styles in Chapel Hill. Most importantly the symposium explored ways to save these treasures for future generations. Look for a tour of these wonderful homes next year.

In closing, please mark your calendars for the annual PSCH Holiday House Tour on December 13 and 14. We have named this year's tour, "The New Treasures" because it will highlight historic homes which have recently been renovated and restored. This is going to be one Holiday House Tour not to miss! Call the Preservation Society for more details.

PCSH Membership Celebration

Come kick up your heels with other members of the Preservation Society in October. Each year the Preservation Society hosts a party where all of our members can get together and meet others who care about saving Chapel Hill's historic treasures. All PSCH members are invited to come and party at the Horace Williams House on October 16th at 6 p.m. This year's entertainment will be provided by our favorite house band, the Puritan Rodeo Show. Please make plans to attend and enjoy some great food and fun while supporting our organization.

