



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

Editor: Adam J. Youssi

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At few points in our Society's history have we reached such a pivotal position. Having weathered last year's financial debacle, restructured our operations staff, and raised public awareness concerning our very existence, we stand poised to rebuild our membership base, the rate of participation in our programs, and our endowment for future operations. Given strong leadership, a highly motivated member base, and active participation by the public, we will successfully operate far into the future. We currently enjoy the strong leadership necessary for our long-term success as exhibited by our Board and our volunteer leaders. It is in the area of member participation in Society operations as well as public involvement in our programs that we seek improvement. If we can appreciably increase our membership's involvement as volunteers and as program participants, we will soon be able to offer a more robust public program offering. With that programming will come new members and increased revenues; with increased revenues will come financial stability and the capacity to make a difference within the community. The question is how best to involve our members and grow our membership.

Our Society is already blessed with a solid core of volunteers who populate the Board, chair committees, and operate the Society on a daily basis. Even when our doors are closed to the public, these volunteers are at the Alms House working on our behalf. We owe our thanks to those 25-30 volunteers who enable our operations. However, those volunteers represent only 10% of our membership. It is my firm belief that in order to grow our organization we need not only new members but also increased participation by our existing members. We can best achieve our goal by offering members increased opportunities for participation. You will find several of those opportunities within this newsletter. This newsletter also contains our educational programs through January 2010 (additional programs are listed online on our Calendar of Events). I ask you to consider volunteering at the Society or from your home as we carry on the good work of local history. I ask you to not only look at our program to see which events you will attend but, also, which events you would like to help us plan, develop, and present. Finally, I thank you for your membership and your continued support of our very important organization.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *President's Message*
- *Book Notes*
- *Finances*
- *Event Volunteers Needed*
- *Volunteer Request*
- *A Conversation With*

## BOOK NOTES

Our 350th Anniversary book, *Baltimore County: Celebrating a Legacy*, is currently available through the Baltimore County Public Library system (soft cover), Greetings & Readings (both hard and soft cover), or through many Boy Scout units in the county. We have currently sold approximately 21% of the books of which we took delivery in May, and have raised approximately \$29,000.00 through those sales. Remember that these books are perfect presents for the upcoming holiday season.

## FINANCES

For the first time in many years the Historical Society is not involved in deficit spending thanks, in large part, to our book sales. HSBC is \$32,000 in the black for the first quarter of this fiscal year and it may help you to know that nearly 85% of that money was placed in our investment account. For as long as anyone can remember, we have drawn on that account to cover shortfalls in our operating budget. Under the leadership of Barbara Yingling during her term as president, the Board began taking measures to ensure a fiscal turnaround of the Society. The current Board remains committed to that goal and invested over \$27,000 of the ongoing windfall from book sales in order to rebuild our endowment.

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the following events. If you are willing and able to work on any of the following events, please let us know by e-mailing the Society at [info@hsobc.org](mailto:info@hsobc.org) with a subject line of Special Event Volunteer. Alternatively, you can call us at 410.666.1878.

March 27, 2010: Bus Trip to St Michael's Maryland (9:00 a.m.— 8:00 p.m.)

We are looking for someone who is interested in organizing this event. Please let us know if you are interested in that position.

April 10-11, 2010: The 100-Year Patrol: Celebrating 100 Years of Boy Scouting. (Alms House)

We are looking for someone to help organize this event and others who are interested in supporting this event. We hope to have a program in the Alms House, a photo display, and an outdoors encampment by Baltimore County scouts. In the best of all worlds we would have a night-time ceremony by the Order of the Arrow, a weekend display of lashing applications, and a Scout-run swap meet. If you are interested, let's get in touch.

April 18, 2010: Rally Day for History

Do you have experience with road rallies? How about orienteering or geocaching? We are in need of your experience as we set up a county-wide day for people to travel the county while collecting photos and GPS coordinates for us. If you want to help us out, please let us know.

May 15-16, 2010: FarmFest 2010 (Alms House Grounds)

Are you interested in helping us get our farm museum open again? How about contacting local farmers to participate in a weekend farmers market? Would you rather work at coordinating the attendance of reenactment groups, musical performances, or a car show? These are all things we would like to get going for the reopening of our Gorsuch Farm Museum. Contact us if you are interested in helping out.

## 3RD ANNUAL SHRIMP FEAST & SILENT AUCTION

The HSBC held its 3rd annual shrimp feast and silent auction fundraiser this past September 11, 2009. Guests enjoyed music, a dance floor, a buffet, and open bar while they perused the silent auction and engaged in 50-50 and AirTran airways raffles. The event was a great success and raised over \$6,000 in revenue for the Society's mission.

### VOLUNTEER REQUEST

We are still in need of new volunteers with a desire to engage in book cataloguing in our library. Some experience is preferred, but not necessary for the position. In addition, HSBC has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. Please inquire about a position by completing a volunteer applications on our website.

<http://www.hsbc.org/volunteerrecruitment.html>

### ON THE WEB

The list of HSBC surname files, available on our website under 'research library,' now numbers 3,289 and counting. Consider providing your family history and stories. Look at the web listing, you may find a surprise.

### A CONVERSATION WITH...

Members of the Historical Society of Baltimore County were joined by visitors on Sunday, October 18 as they listened to Bob Erlandson, longtime Towson resident, describe his 43 years as a journalist working for the Baltimore Sun. During the program, which took the form of an interview with audience participation, Erlandson described his time as a police beat reporter in Baltimore, war correspondent in Vietnam, foreign correspondent in Latin America as well as Europe, and journalist covering Baltimore County. The interview was conducted by Dr. Glenn T. Johnston of Stevenson University's Public History program. This was the second of 14 events the historical society will be holding through June of next year as part of its educational program.

The Historical Society of Baltimore County, now in its 50<sup>th</sup> year, devotes itself to celebrating the county's rich history and interpreting that history for all visitors. In the coming months the society will be presenting a variety of programs. The society's upcoming program will focus on celebrating the 350 years of military service of Baltimore County's residents. Featuring Maryland's Adjutant General, the 229<sup>th</sup> Army Band, and the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard, the program will open with comments from County Executive Jim Smith. The event will take place on Sunday, November 8, at 1:30 pm at Towson's American Legion Post #22, 125 York Road, at 1:30 p.m. The event is free and open to all wishing to honor Baltimore County's veterans.





HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

9811 Van Buren Lane  
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Phone: 410-666-1878  
Fax: call first  
E-mail: [info@hsobc.org](mailto:info@hsobc.org)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.HSOBC.ORG](http://WWW.HSOBC.ORG)

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PRESENT AND FUTURE

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

See our Calendar of Events Online.



**Hours of Operation:**

Fridays from noon to 4 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2nd Wednesdays 7 p.m. to  
8:30 p.m.