

# Currents

The Newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area    Issue No. 26 and Annual Report    Winter 2015

## FOUR RIVERS HERITAGE AREA STRENGTHENS IMPACT ON REGION'S HERITAGE RESOURCES

In 2014, Four Rivers made great strides -- through new initiatives, partnerships, workshops, and programs -- to extend the organization's impact and the heritage resources of our region.

- *New Initiatives:* In order to create a strong message about stewardship and land conservation best practices — and share it with far more viewers than a workshop or open house event could expect to reach — Four Rivers staff worked with Stewardship Committee members Rick Leader, Lisa Barge and Barbara Polito and videography team DMH Video Productions, to create an informative video about local resources, programs, and options, entitled “Success Stories in Land Conservation in Anne Arundel County.” The video is now posted on Four Rivers's website.



*Above: Participants who shared in the making of the Maryland Emancipation Quilt gathered together in the Maryland State House for a ceremony on November 1 (see Workshops, page 3). Photo by Valeu Photography.*

- *Partnerships:* Four Rivers forged new partnerships in support of important heritage initiatives in 2014, including “Annapolis 1864”, the celebration of the sesquicentennial of Maryland Emancipation Day; the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 (including the commemoration of the Skirmishes with the British in Deale); the inaugural “RiverFest” on Parrish Creek in Shady Side; and the Anne Arundel County Water Trails initiative, led by the Anne Arundel Public Water Access Committee.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## **Board of Directors**

Chair: Patricia A. Barland

Vice Chair: Diane Nowak-Waring, APR

Treasurer: Barbara Polito

Secretary: Elizabeth Ramirez

Timothy Leahy

Gertrude Makell

## **Coordinating Council**

Linnell Bowen

*Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts*

Robert C. Clark

*Historic Annapolis*

Rod Cofield

*Historic London Town & Gardens*

Jane Cox

*AACO Office of Planning and Zoning*

Alma Cropper

*Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center*

Connie Del Signore

*Annapolis & Anne Arundel CVB*

Alice Estrada

*Annapolis Maritime Museum*

Lynne Forsman

*Annapolis Green*

Anson Hines, Ph.D.

*Smithsonian Environmental Research Center*

Joni Jones, Ph.D.

*Banneker-Douglass Museum*

Rick Leader

*Scenic Rivers Land Trust*

Valerie Miller

*Annapolis*

April Nyman

*Arts Council of Anne Arundel County*

Joanna Ogburn

*Chesapeake Conservancy*

Honorable Michael J. Pantelides

*Mayor, City of Annapolis*

Sara Phillips

*Architect of the Naval Academy*

Jean Russo, Ph.D.

*Annapolis History Consortium*

Honorable William H. Sanders, III

*Mayor, Highland Beach*

Heather Skipper

*Watermark Tours*

Donna M. Ware

*Stewardship Committee Chair*

Laura Wood

*Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc.*

## **Staff**

Carol Benson, Ph.D.

*Executive Director*

Christina Csaszar

*Heritage Programs Coordinator*

## **Four Rivers Welcomes Gertrude Makell to the Board of Directors**



Gertrude E. Makell is currently President of the Galesville Community Center Organization, Inc., after having been the driving force behind the restoration of the Galesville Rosenwald School. With her energy, commitment, and creativity, the school building has been converted into a vibrant space that will serve as a permanent home for the activities of the Galesville Community Center Organization. Her tenacity and vision for a new purpose for the old school, and the raising of more than \$500,000 from community, county, and state funding sources, made the renovation possible. Gertrude is retired from Prince George's County Government, where she served as Office Manager in the Office of the County Executive. She is proud to have

also served as a Mentor for tenth grade students at Southern High School in Harwood. A graduate of the Leadership Anne Arundel Neighborhood Leadership Program, Gertrude was also recipient of the 2007 Community Trustee Award by Leadership Anne Arundel and the Capital-Gazette Newspapers, for helping to "create a more vibrant community" in 2006. She serves on the Board for the Galesville Heritage Society and South County Faith Network, and is now spearheading the efforts to fully utilize local resources to provide education and services to the community.

## **Collaborative Programs and Workshops in 2014**

Four Rivers staff was busy in 2014, developing collaborative programs and offering workshops for our stakeholders. These included:

- Four Rivers, Dr. Joan Gaither, and Anne Arundel County Public Schools partnered to present a series of five documentary story quilt sessions during the spring and summer months of 2014. These hands-on workshops were held in various locations around the heritage area and were attended by many participants who were both new and experienced quilters.
- On September 18th, 2014, the Four Rivers Education Committee presented a new workshop in the "What To Do When..." series. The "I Never Knew That!", Little Known Employment Laws workshop was hosted at Historic London Town and Gardens and featured Steve Bers, an attorney with Baltimore law firm, Whiteford, Taylor, Preston. The workshop reviewed important Maryland employment laws and best practices with case studies and examples from non-profits and small businesses.
- On October 2, 2014, Four Rivers offered "Best Practices for Oral Histories: How to Plan Your Next Project(s)" at Historic London Town and Gardens. Dr. Barry Lanman, Director of the Martha Ross Center for Oral History at UMBC, was the guest speaker and spoke to over 25 attendees about planning and conducting oral history projects at their sites.

## MHAA-FUNDED PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2014

The following MHAA-funded projects were completed in 2014:

- Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc.: a non-capital grant for Archaeological Examination of the Wilson Farmstead & Hot Sox Ball Field in Galesville.
- Annapolis Maritime Museum: a non-capital grant for the second phase of their Technology Integration Plan.
- Historic Annapolis, Inc.: a non-capital grant for their exhibit, "Freedom Bound: Runaways of the Chesapeake."
- London Town Foundation, Inc.: a capital grant for preliminary research and planning for the reconstruction of London Town's Rumney-West Ordinary (Tavern).
- London Town Foundation, Inc.: a capital grant for the final phase of construction to their "Carpenter Shop", a reconstructed building.

(Continued from Page 1:)

- *Workshops:* Four Rivers sponsored several regional workshops for the training of heritage museum interpreters, as well as workshops around the county in support of Documentary Story Quilting projects (including collaboration with numerous organizations statewide to create an Emancipation Day quilt [pictured on page 1], under the leadership of Dr. Joan Gaither). Four Rivers also offered a regional workshop on creating meaningful and successful Oral History projects, led by UMBC specialist, Dr. Barry Lanman.
- *Programs:* In 2014, Four Rivers continued the successful Maryland Day Celebration program, taking place for the seventh year last March; and in November, the Eleventh Annual Heritage Awards program was held at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. Each year at this ceremony, Four Rivers recognizes local leaders, new partnerships, and outstanding programs and projects taking place in the heritage area.
- *Funding awarded and leveraged:* In 2014, Four Rivers brought \$155,965 in MHAA grant funding to the area and awarded \$17,155 in new mini-grants, for total additional leverage of \$419,575 added to our total project amount, which now surpasses \$11 million since certification in 2001.

### Jane Cox is Named Chief of County's Cultural Resources Division

Four Rivers sends our heartfelt congratulations to Coordinating Council member, C. Jane Cox, on her recent promotion to Head of the County's Cultural Resources Division (CRD) in the Office of Planning and Zoning of Anne Arundel County. As a life-long resident of the County, and with 18 years' experience in County government, Jane tells us she is eager to build upon the ground-breaking historic preservation and archaeology program that Al Luckenbach and Donna Ware initiated in the early 1980s. Together with colleague Darian Beverungen and a team of talented consultants, she looks forward to continuing the important work of protecting historic and archaeological sites across the County during the development process; partnering with and supporting non-profits engaged in preservation work; and promoting stewardship and appreciation of the County's historic resources through public outreach and education. Jane has an undergraduate degree in Anthropology and a Masters in American Studies, with a focus on Historic Preservation (both at UMCP). She is on the Register of Professional Archaeologists, and serves on the Maryland Advisory Committee on Archaeology for the Maryland Historical Trust. In her spare time, she is actively restoring a National Register-listed Lighthouse. She brings to her new role decades of experience in studying and preserving historic buildings, archaeology sites, and local heritage, including working with government agencies, local history buffs, archaeology volunteers, non-profit organizations, and professional colleagues. Congratulations, Jane!





# Thank You for Your Support!

Thank you to all of our donors who were active supporters of the Four Rivers Heritage Area this year!

In 2014, we received major grant support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis. We are also grateful to the following individuals : \*Patricia Barland, Randy and DeDe Brown, Joseph Budge, Robert Clark, Tara Clifford, Rod Cofield, Ross and Robin Cohen, Deborah Coons, Lisa Craig, Mary Cromwell, Ray, Pat, and Caroline Currey, Maria Day, Connie Del Signore, Phillip Deters, Ann Fligsten, Robin Gross, Ruth Hazen, Jean Jackson, Ray and Jean Langston, \*Tim Leahy, \*Gertrude Makell, Mary Beth McGee, Maureen McMahon, Jane McWilliams, Valerie Miller, Robert Neall, \*Diane Nowak-Waring, Lily Openshaw, \*Barbara Polito, Constance Ramirez, \*Elizabeth Ramirez, Jean Russo, Melanie Teems, Victoria Villano, Donna Ware, Dorothy Whitman, and Laura Wood.

Four Rivers would also like to gratefully acknowledge the following organization and business contributors and sponsors: Anne Arundel County Conference and

Visitors Bureau (AAACCVB), Towne Transport, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), Annapolis Maritime Museum, Highland Beach Historical Commission, Historic Annapolis, Inc., London Town Foundation, Inc., Scenic Rivers Land Trust, South River Federation, Watermark, and West Annapolis Business Affiliation, Inc.

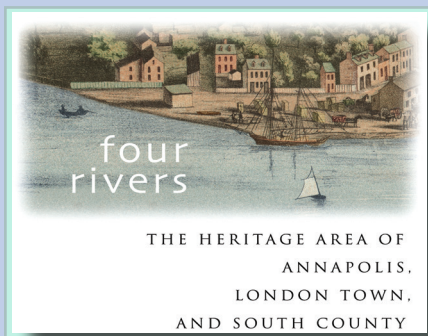
We would also like to recognize the many in-kind contributions made in 2014, including those from: AAACCVB, Towne Transport, Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, AACPS, Charles Carroll House, Historic London Town and Gardens, and Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center.

---

(\*indicates current Board Member)

*Please remember the Four Rivers Heritage Area in your charitable donations. Every contribution has a significant impact and is greatly appreciated. Visit our website, [www.fourriversheritage.org/support](http://www.fourriversheritage.org/support) for details on how you can support Four Rivers, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.*

*Did you know you can also support Four Rivers when shopping on Amazon.com? To do this, login to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) and look us up under our legal name: "Annapolis, London Town & South County Heritage Area." Designate us as your charity of choice and a portion of your purchases support our heritage area!*



*Four Rivers is a 501(c)3, charitable non-profit organization. Your contribution supports the heritage sites and organizations that make a difference to our region's quality of life.*

Four Rivers: The Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town & South County  
Arundel Center, 44 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Phone: 410-222-1805

[heritage\\_area@aacounty.org](mailto:heritage_area@aacounty.org) • [www.fourriversheritage.org](http://www.fourriversheritage.org)

