



COASTAL GEORGIA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

The mission of the Society is to connect people to Coastal Georgia's dynamic history through the stories we share and the collections we preserve.

## Winter Program

### *African/American: Making the Nation's Table*

Jessica Harris, Ph.D.

On Sunday, January 29, at 3 p.m., noted historian Jessica B. Harris, Ph.D., will present the Society's winter program, "African/American: Making the Nation's Table." The program is inspired by an exhibit developed by the Museum of Food and Drink and shown at the Africa Center in New York City in 2022. Dr. Harris served as lead curator for the exhibit, which explored the influence of African foods

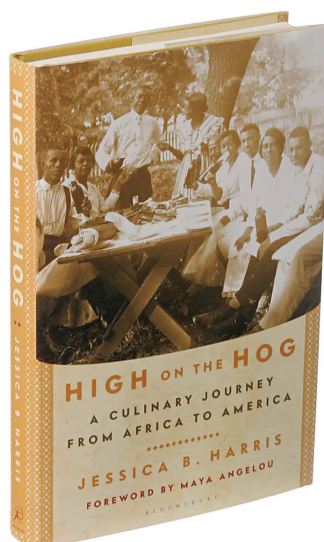


Jessica Harris, Ph.D.

on American cuisine. She is recognized as the world's foremost expert on African and African American cuisine and has written twelve critically acclaimed books documenting the foodways of the African Diaspora. Her bestselling book *High on the Hog* was the basis of a 2021 Netflix docuseries of the same name, which features Dr. Harris. Her lecture will include information about how

Coastal Georgia traditions and agriculture have affected regional cuisine through the decades.

A professor in the English Department at Queens College, City University of New York, for 50 years until her retirement, Dr. Harris holds an A.B. from Bryn Mawr College, an M.A. in French Literature from Queens College, a License ès Lettres from the Université de Nancy, France, and a doctorate in Performance



Continued on page 2

Studies from New York University. Her articles have appeared in most of the major food magazines including *Gourmet*, *Saveur*, *Food & Wine*, and *Southern Living*. She was inducted into the James Beard Foundation Cookbook Hall of Fame in 2019 and received the Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. As a consultant for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., she conceptualized and curated the museum's acclaimed cafeteria.

The lecture will be held at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church at 3 p.m. The lecture is free of charge, but registration is required by visiting [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org).

## CELEBRATING *Black History*

### Film Screening: *The Soul of St. Simons Island, Georgia*



*YaleNews*, May 1, 2017. Photo by Michael Marsland.

Join us in February for a special screening of a short film produced and directed by acclaimed jazz musician Willie Ruff. With support from a National Endowment for the Arts grant, Willie Ruff, Dwiki Mitchell, and virtuoso trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie traveled to the Sea Islands of Georgia in 1981 to meet legendary singer Bessie Jones. As Ruff said later, they visited Jones because she represented an experience that was “as far back as we could get where there was a traceable continuity. Her grandfather had been a slave child when he arrived in North America at

seven years old, and he brought not only memory of some games he had learned as a small child in Africa, but they kept learning more. She was just full of stories and riddles and dances and musical ring games.” The film features conversations between Jones and Gillespie, and Jones and her students teaching Gillespie how to play several games. After revisiting the footage in 2015, Ruff completed an edit of the film, which was shown in 2020 at Yale University. This will be followed by a showing of Ruff's 1973 film *Tony Williams in Africa*, featuring jazz drummer Williams playing with Senegalese musicians and their “talking drums.” In this trip to Africa, Ruff and Williams explored the connections between African music traditions and American jazz.

Willie Ruff, after earning his bachelor's and master's in music at Yale University, formed a duo with pianist Dwiki Mitchell in the 1950s. With Ruff playing the French horn and double bass, the pair worked the nightclub and concert circuits, often as the opening attraction for legends such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Miles Davis. Ruff returned to his alma mater in 1971 and served on the faculty of the Yale School of Music until 2017. During these years, Ruff made a number of films focusing on the history of jazz and African American musical traditions.

Registration will be available once event details have been confirmed.



## Preservation Campaign: We are halfway to our goal of \$1.25 million!

Following a memorable celebration of the 150th birthday of the St. Simons Lighthouse in September, the Society launched a Campaign to raise \$1.25 million for the preservation of the Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling and the historic buildings that comprise the World War II Home Front Museum. By now, you will have received a letter and brochure with details about this vital initiative which will safeguard these important sites for future generations to enjoy. Led by generous support from the Board of Directors and the campaign co-chairs, the Donohue and Glasebrook families, we are excited to report that response to date totals \$642,000, over half of the campaign goal!



As a reminder of the critical nature of this effort, please take a moment to recall the appearance of the Historic Coast Guard Station when the Society assumed responsibility for the buildings in 2004. The photograph here illustrates the poor condition of the building and grounds, and the lack of ADA access. In addition to being unsightly and at risk of loss of the original fabric of the building, there was no interpretation for visitors of Coastal Georgia's rich wartime history. Today, as the restored and redesigned World War II Home Front Museum shown in the photograph below, the

site reflects the priority that we place on historic preservation and stands as a unique landmark of Coastal Georgia.

As those closest to the organization, we need your help to protect the major investments made by many generous donors to restore the buildings and create operationally self-sustaining museums. Dedicated preservation funds will also free up resources for the organization to reach beyond the museums and serve the wider region.

**Please consider a year end gift or pledge over three years. Together we can complete this campaign soon!** To learn more, contact Sherri Jones at (912) 634-7080 or visit our new Preservation page at [www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org/learn/preservation](http://www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org/learn/preservation).



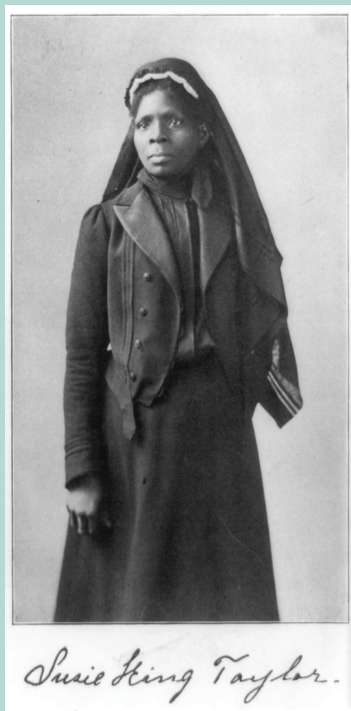


## Buddy Sullivan's Local History Course

Buddy Sullivan will present a four-week lecture series, "History of the Golden Isles—and Slightly Beyond," on Tuesday afternoons, January 17, 24, 31, and February 7, from 4 – 5:30 p.m. at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. The winter series will feature St. Simons, Sea Island, Jekyll, Sapelo, Brunswick, and Darien. The cost is \$50 for CGHS members and \$95 for non-members.



## New Exhibit in the Heritage Center



An exhibit titled *Stories of the Georgia Coast: Its People and Places* has been installed in the lobby of the Heritage Center. Through interpretive panels, 11 coastal stories are presented, which offer a look at individuals and sites that have shaped the history of the coastal region. The goal of the exhibit committee was to select significant and diverse topics that are not included in the interpretation of the Lighthouse Museum or the Home Front Museum. Examples of topics include Susie King Taylor, the nurse and teacher who started a school at the contraband camp on St. Simons during the Civil War, and Georgia architect Alfred Eichberg, who designed Old City Hall and other buildings in Brunswick. We invite you to stop by and view the exhibit, which is accompanied by a reference map of the Georgia coast.



The exhibit is part of this year's project to refresh the public areas of the Heritage Center for the enjoyment of our members, visitors, and those who hold events in the building.

## Online Collection Expands



Since the Society launched an online collections catalog in November 2021, new items have been added to our digital database of archival photographs, documents, and objects. Visit our website to learn about interesting events that took place in Glynn County such as the one depicted in this image from the silent movie *The Wrecker*. The Society holds a collection of photographs showing scenes from the early movie, which was produced in Brunswick in 1916. Filmmaker Richard E. Norman of Jacksonville, Florida, travelled to towns in the South and Midwest, recruiting local talent to

produce a series of films using the same screenplay. The movie would then be shown in the town's theaters where invariably it was a hit with the locals and a financial success for Norman.

We will continue to expand our online catalog, so please check our website periodically to discover new content.

## Welcoming Our New Consulting Archaeologist



Sherri Jones, Lindsey Cochran, and Myrna Crook, who has served as the day-to-day manager of the lab since its inception.

Following the Fall program, a reception was held at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Archaeology Lab and to welcome Lindsey Cochran, Ph.D. as our new Consulting Archaeologist. Dr. Cochran first came to St. Simons in 2012 as an assistant for a field school headed by Nick Honerkamp. At the reception, Dr. Honerkamp's valuable role as our Consulting Archaeologist since 2015 was also recognized.

During Dr. Cochran's presentation at the Fall Program, she explained that there are over 62,000 archaeological sites in the state of Georgia. Over 6,000 sites are located on the Georgia coast and barrier islands, and archaeology has been completed on less than 1% of them. For those who were unable to attend the lecture, it can be viewed on our website by clicking on the "View Past Programs" tab. For access to Dr. Cochran's PowerPoint presentation and accompanying links, please contact Leigh Ann Stroud, [lstroud@coastalgeorgiahistory.org](mailto:lstroud@coastalgeorgiahistory.org).

The Society is grateful to Drs. Honerkamp and Cochran, our lab manager Myrna Crook, and the committed volunteers and interns who have made great strides over the past decade towards creating a center for archaeology right here in Coastal Georgia. Over the next year, the Society looks forward to developing a plan for the lab to promote scholarly investigation of the region's rich cultural heritage.





## Veteran's Day Highlight

On Veteran's Day, the Home Front Museum had a very special visitor. World War II veteran Charles L. Crawley, Jr., of Kennesaw, Georgia, came to the Museum with his family to see how a photograph he donated to the Society in 2010 is featured in our exhibits. The picture shows Crawley in his Georgia State Guard (GSG) uniform at a base in Brunswick. At the age of 15, Crawley joined the GSG so that he could contribute to the war effort. After training as a radio operator in Atlanta, he was assigned to Brunswick, arriving in January 1943. At that time, the GSG was assisting the U.S. Army in keeping watch along the coast for enemy attacks or suspicious activity. The barrier islands were particularly vulnerable. For two-to-three-week periods, Crawley was assigned to Ossabaw, Little Cumberland, and Little St. Simons islands, where he served as a radio operator. In April, the

Coast Guard took over this patrol duty, and Crawley returned to Atlanta. He joined the Navy as soon as he turned 17, the legal age for enlistment.

Crawley donated the photographs of his time here, not knowing they would become part of a museum exhibit eight years later. When his son Lamar visited the Museum earlier this year, he recognized the image of his father. He then started making arrangements to bring his father to the Museum for Veteran's Day. We were excited to welcome four generations of the family, seen here posing in front of the enlarged photo: Charles Crawley (age 96), his son Lamar, his granddaughter Marci Bowler holding his great granddaughter Finley Bowler.

## The Society welcomes a new staff member to our professional roster!



In September, Julya Lizarralde joined our staff as Director of the World War II Home Front Museum. Julya was born in Georgia and grew up in Panama City, Florida. She earned her B.A. in Art History from Stetson University and an M.A. in Art History from Savannah College of Art and Design. While in Savannah, Julya worked at both the Isaiah Davenport House and the Owens-Thomas House and Slave Quarters gaining experience in interpretation and tour management. Most recently, she served as Curator of Public Programs at the Lake Wales History Museum in Florida. Julya is exploring her new home in the Golden Isles through photography and walks with her dog Schmidt. She can be reached at [jlizarralde@coastalgeorgiahistory.org](mailto:jlizarralde@coastalgeorgiahistory.org).

# Membership Highlights

**Thank you to those who have generously upgraded their membership or increased their level of annual giving.**

## **Keepers of the Light**

Phillis and Max Harrell – Sustainer

## **General**

Judy Benjamin – Curator

Tom & Darlene Godfrey – Curator

Beth Kempe – Family

Lisa and Matthew – Lamplighter

Becky Miller – Curator

Greg Pease – Family

## **Welcome New Members!**

## **Keepers of the Light**

Jim and Mary Bishop – Sustainer

Peter and Ingrid Kolln – Sustainer

Paige and Tom Webster – Sustainer

## **General**

Sherry and Thom Atwood – Family

Nina and Lee Bell – Family

Ann Marie Burley – Individual

Laura Butler – Lamplighter

Diane Closs – Family

Joy and Mario Corti – Curator

Joe Guy – Individual

Patti and Chris Kielt – Family

Aaron Lembo – Family

Forrest Lott – Curator

Kathy and Bob McCullough – Family

Barbara McIntyre – Individual

James Miller – Family

Vicki Moore – Individual

Emerson & Jennifer Mungin Jr – Family

Sandra Nemetz – Individual

Mike Newell – Individual

Jeanne Pescitelli and Bob

McCammon – Family

Donald Peterlin – Individual

Pat and Al Prater – Family

Gail and Matthew Reid – Family

Allie and Tom Rooke – Family

Dora Lee Rosendorf – Individual

Sonya Russell – Family

Bess and Shannon Thompson – Family

Deborah Vagasi – Individual

Pam and John Versaggi – Family

Lynn Whitten – Individual

## **Memorial and Tribute Gifts**

In Memory of Sonja Svendsen Tiller

By Heather Bullard, Arthur Chin,

Susan Dubs, Margaret Fern, Steven

Grosswald, William Hagler, Nancy

Harris, Marc Keller, Joe McGoogan,

Moore Stevens Tiller LLC, Arthur

Pittman, Peaches Piper, Alice and Billy

Reeves, Harold M. Shadron, Donald

Thompson

# We're Looking for Volunteers

## *Ways You Can Volunteer:*

- **Museum Docent**— Greet visitors and interpret the exhibits of the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum and the World War II Home Front Museum.
- **School Tour Docents**— Help children gain a special appreciation of the history of Coastal Georgia.
- **Administrative**— Perform general office duties such as mailings, filing, and database entry.
- **Special Events**— Assist staff at various special events such as concerts and lectures.

Register to volunteer online at [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org) or contact Julia Lizarralde at [jlizarralde@coastalgeorgiahistory.org](mailto:jlizarralde@coastalgeorgiahistory.org), (912) 634-7091. Thank you for your interest!

# Calendar of Events

## Museums and Museum Stores Closed for Inventory and Maintenance

**January 9–13**

## Local History Course

**January 17, 24, 31, and February 7**

*History of the Golden Isles — and Slightly Beyond*

Buddy Sullivan

4–5:30 p.m.

A.W. Jones Heritage Center

\$50 CGHS members;

\$95 non-members

## Winter Program

**January 29**

*African/American: Making the Nation's table*

Dr. Jessica Harris

3 p.m.

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Free of charge

## Black History Month Film Screening

**February**

*The Soul of St. Simons Island, Georgia*

*Tony Williams in Africa*

Willie Ruff, producer

Dates and times TBD



# COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 21136  
St. Simons Island  
Georgia 31522

FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Brunswick, GA  
31520  
Permit No. 369

## Our Staff

### **Executive Director**

Sherri Jones

### **Curator**

Mimi Rogers

### **World War II Home Front Museum Director**

Julya Lizarralde

### **Director of Development**

Sheila VanderWood

### **Public Relations Director**

Leigh Ann Stroud

### **Office Manager**

Heather Cason

### **Director of Retail Operations**

Eric Oberg

### **Events Coordinator**

Jessica Aldridge

---

### **Senior Historian**

Buddy Sullivan

### **Consulting Archaeologist**

Lindsey Cochran, Ph.D.

## 2022 Board of Directors

### **Executive Committee**

Duane Harris

*President*

Kevin Lokey

*Immediate Past President*

Mary Schellhorn

*Vice President, Development*

Keith Calhoun

*Finance*

Jan Payne

*Collections and Education*

Sherri Jones

*Executive Director*

Mimi Rogers

*Curator*

Jim DeLong

Craig Donohue

Lucy Glasebrook

Cheryl Hargrove

Ed Hawie

Mike Hodges

Michelle Johnston

Jim Kielt

Jeffrey Molitor

Susan Myers

Janis Rehlaender

Bill Stembler

Brenda Thompson

Call (912) 634-7090, follow us online,  
or visit [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org)



American  
Alliance of  
Museums