



COASTAL GEORGIA
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

Journeys Savannah 2023



The King-Tisdell Cottage, built in 1896. *Courtesy of JeffersonLH.*

This year, **Journeys** will explore the cultural history and historic preservation of Savannah, beginning with a field trip on **Tuesday, April 18**. The first stop will be a visit to **The Beach Institute African American Cultural Center** and **The King-Tisdell Cottage**. The Beach Institute was built between 1865 and 1867 by free, formerly enslaved people and was the first official school for African Americans in Savannah. The King-Tisdell Cottage was built in 1896 in a Victorian style and is the only African American historic house in Savannah. It became a museum in 1981 through the efforts of W.W. Law, famed Civil Rights leader, historian, and preservation advocate. During a guided tour, our group will explore period rooms, artwork, and exhibits while learning about African American art, history, and cultural preservation in Savannah.

The tour will be followed by lunch at **Belford's**, located in a 1902 building in City Market that was designed by Hyman Witcover, the architect of Savannah's gold-domed City Hall. Belford's is among Savannah's most popular restaurants.

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The afternoon includes a stop at the **Isaiah Davenport House Museum**, where the movement to preserve Savannah's historic downtown area began. The museum recently opened a new exhibit presenting the stories of the enslaved who worked for the Davenport family. The Davenport House staff will share the stories of the enslaved men, women, and children on the property from 1812 – 1828 and how they navigated daily life with the family. The visit will include a multimedia presentation and viewing of the period rooms.

On Thursday, April 27 at 6 p.m., our journey continues with “Savannah’s Squares: Reflections on Southern Urban Society,” by historian Christopher Hendricks, Ph.D. Dr. Hendricks will discuss how the city’s unique geography has shaped the way three centuries of Savannah citizens have lived, worked, played, and interacted with one another. He will also illustrate how Savannah’s growth and the accompanying changes in fashion and lifestyle have been reflected in the city’s landscape.



Isaiah Davenport House Museum



Christopher Hendricks, Ph.D.

Dr. Hendricks is a professor of history at Georgia Southern University - Armstrong Campus. In addition to teaching courses in American history, he has studied and worked extensively in archaeology, historic preservation, and museum interpretation with such organizations as Colonial Williamsburg, Old Salem, and the Historic Savannah Foundation. He received a B.A. in history from Wake Forest University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from The College of William and Mary. He is author of *The Backcountry Towns of Colonial Virginia* and *Old Southern Cookery: Mary Randolph's Recipes from America's First Regional Cookbook Adapted for Today's Kitchen*, which he co-wrote with his mother.

Registration is required for both the tour and the lecture. Please visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org to register.

The **April 18 field trip** to Savannah is \$150.00 per person, and includes admission and guided tours of the museums, lunch, and all transportation. The tour will depart from the A.W. Jones Heritage Center at 8 a.m. and return at approximately 6 p.m. Once purchased, tickets are non-refundable, although they may be transferred to another person.

The **April 27 lecture** will be held in-person and virtually at 6 p.m. at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church. The lecture is free for members and \$10 for non-members.

Community Recognition and Support for Preservation



Every year, hundreds of thousands of visitors and residents enjoy our sites. The condition of the buildings and surrounding grounds make a powerful first impression and indicate our commitment to an excellent visitor experience. We are proud to announce that the Society was recognized by **Keep Golden Isles Beautiful with a 2022 5-Year Clean Sweep Award** at the Chamber of Commerce's March meeting! This award acknowledges businesses and organizations that adhere to specific judging criteria including beautification and well-maintained premises.

We are also excited to report that the **Terry Thomas Foundation** has awarded a **\$30,000 grant** to restore the gazebo on the campus of the St. Simons Lighthouse and that the Sea Island Gardening Group will complete the project by providing \$5,000 for landscaping. The grants will be used to restore and beautify this structure which once served as the ornamental cover for a water tank at a summer cottage on St. Simons Sound that was built by shipping magnate F. D. M. Strachan around 1910. The gazebo was donated to the Coastal Georgia Historical Society and moved to the lighthouse site in 1989. Since then, it has become an essential part of our school tours where students learn the crucial role of the lighthouse as an aid to navigation. And every summer it serves as the focal point for the Little Light Music Concert Series.

Campaign Update

To date, we have raised \$786,429 towards the \$1.25million goal. **We need your help to complete the Preservation Campaign!** Please consider a gift, or pledge over three years.

To learn more, contact Sherri Jones at (912) 634-7080 or visit our Preservation page at www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org/learn/preservation. Your gift of \$10,000 or more will be recognized on the page.

New Leadership for a New Year



Jack Crews



Brenda Nease

The Society welcomes Mary Schellhorn as President of the Board of Directors and extends special thanks to outgoing President, Duane Harris for his leadership over the past two years. Jack Crews and Brenda Nease are new to the Board, and we bid farewell to Jim DeLong, Kevin Lokey, and Brenda Thompson who have completed six years of service. Please see the last page of the newsletter for a complete listing of the 2023 Executive Committee and Board.

Little Light Music Concert Series

For over 25 years, residents and visitors have gathered on the oceanfront lawn beneath the Lighthouse for the Society's annual fundrasier. Bring your family, friends, a picnic supper, and lawn chairs for this special summer tradition! Concerts are from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults; children under 12 and Keepers of the Light are admitted free of charge. No cash. We encourage you to purchase tickets in advance in the Museum Store or on our website. For news and weather updates during the season, please visit our website or Facebook page.

The Society is grateful for the support of our 2023 concert sponsors:

MAY 21
Hollywood Band

JUNE 4
Squirt Gun

JULY 16
**Kenny on
the Keys**

SEPT 3
Sounds of Motown



Heritage Trail Milestones



Since the **Georgia World War II Heritage Trail** was launched in February 2021, exciting milestones have been achieved! Trail partners collaborated on several initiatives including the Warbird Tour which featured restored World War II aircraft for public viewing and rides at cities along the Trail. CAF Airbase Georgia, a trail partner based in Peachtree City, sponsored the Tour. A documentary entitled "The Girl Who Wore Freedom" was shown at several of our sites providing statewide access to Georgians. And in December, Chatham County and our partner the Mighty Eighth Museum, won the WWII American Heritage City designation for the state of Georgia.

A planning meeting was held in January at Andersonville National Historic Site, and future marketing goals were established including expanding our website and social media presence, as well as publicizing our joint WWII calendars to become the "go to resource for Georgia's WWII stories and experiences."

Winter Program Review

On Sunday, January 29, Jessica Harris, Ph.D., presented the Society's Winter Program, "African/American: Making the Nation's Table." The noted historian, and world's foremost expert on African American cuisine, discussed the influence of African foods on American cuisine as well as Coastal Georgia traditions. At the program, the Society's annual volunteer awards were presented.

Following the lecture, a reception honoring Dr. Harris was held at the A. W. Jones Heritage Center and featured hors d'oeuvres inspired by Dr. Harris' recipes.



Mary Schellhorn; Mimi Rogers; Dr. Harris; Charlotte Lyons, former food editor for *Ebony Magazine*; Sherri Jones

Volunteer Awards



Since 1978, the **Cunningham Bowl** has been awarded annually to a volunteer who has performed exemplary service in the previous year. The 2022 recipient was **Gretchen Negles**.

Gretchen has taken responsibility for a variety of administrative tasks, supporting staff in Development, Collections, and Education. She efficiently prepares large scale membership and fundraising mailings; she maintains our important database of volunteer hours; and she works on the collections database to prepare records for our online catalog. Extremely organized and

detail oriented, Gretchen works diligently to complete her tasks. Last year she contributed about 225 hours, and we congratulate and thank her for her volunteer service!

At the Winter Program, **Jeannie Kaufmann** received the 2022 **Rodriguez Service Award**, which honors exemplary acts of stewardship and service. Jeannie has been a leading patron of our organization for almost 20 years, first supporting the campaign to build the Heritage Center. She provided funds to hire Gallagher & Associates to study the Coast Guard Station to determine the feasibility of a World War II Home Front Museum. She also donated the funds to name the Liberty Ship Gallery in honor of her parents, Sig and Mary Kaufmann.

Jeannie served on the Board of Directors from 2015-2020 and has been an active member of the Development Committee, where her thoughtful suggestions inspired growth in the Keeper of the Light program. She has always championed initiatives that assist and educate children both in local schools and in our museums. Local children, our community, and our organization are better off because of her wisdom, commitment, and generosity.



Highlights from Cumberland Field Trip



Attendees on the front steps of Stafford House.

On November 10, members spent a memorable day on Cumberland Island and received a rare glimpse into life there, from the plantation period through present day. After enjoying the glorious weather on the ferry over, the tour began with a visit to the Chimneys, the 19th century architectural remains of enslaved people's dwellings, where National Park Service archaeologist Michael Seibert discussed recently completed preservation work to stabilize the structures. Lunch was served at Stafford House, which is privately owned by a Carnegie descendant who graciously allowed us access to the residence and the Chimneys and shared fascinating family anecdotes. The day concluded with a trip to the ruins of Dungeness, the winter home of Thomas and Lucy Carnegie, and several nearby sites.

Georgia History Day



Oglethorpe Point Elementary School hosted their annual History Day program on Friday, February 10. Julya Lizarralde, the Home Front Museum Director, attended the event and presented a program to fifth grade classes about maritime codes and the history of the Coast Guard during World War II. The students used interactive alphabet blocks to decode a message about the Coasties' duties during the war. Along with decoding, they also learned about the NATO phonetic alphabet and why it is still used in the military today.

Membership Highlights

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

Keepers of the Light

Nancy Dorn and Will Ris – Sustainer
Margaret and Doug Hunt – Sustainer
Mary Alice Isele – Sustainer
Steve and Debbie Kerr – Patron
Philip and Tracy Saussy – Sustainer
Pam and Ferrell Scruggs – Benefactor
Linda and Rusty Sewell – Sustainer

General

Carol and Bill Brockway – Family
Jack and Dottie Brodhag – Curator
Linda and Steve Bullock –
Lamplighter
Jim Connelly – Family
Jennifer and Rick Farrell –
Lamplighter
Pamela Foster – Family
Linda and Leonard Giddens – Curator
Margaret Hutchinson –
Assistant Keeper
Sue Jacob – Family
Rayea and Paul Pieschel – Family
Mary Kay and Robert Rightnour –
Family
Judy and Craig Sellner –
Assistant Keeper
Janet and James Shirley – Family
Gwendolyn Stevens and Nils Wessell
– Curator
Michael Stroud – Curator
Jeff Zoul – Lamplighter

Welcome New Members!

Keepers of the Light

Lucy Flight – Sustainer
Eleanor and Charles Gregory –
Sustainer
Shirley and Tony Guthrie – Sustainer
Aggie Hattaway – Sustainer
Linda and John Jaje – Sustainer
Susan and Kevin Rassas – Sustainer

General

Dell and Bill Anderson – Lamplighter
Carole Barton – Individual
Mel and Mary Dell Berning – Family

Susan Blakely – Family
Kerry Blind and Ann Higgins – Curator
Cece Bowen – Curator
Angela and Richard Buckley –
Assistant Keeper
Patty and Mike Crowl – Family
Holle Friedman – Family
Paula Gault – Family
Marianne Glasser – Individual
Denise Harmon – Individual
Karen Huff – Curator
Louise Jewell – Family
Brittney Knight – Individual
Melinda Laager – Individual
Aaron Lamb – Individual
Barbara Lyon – Individual
David and Liz Mason – Family
Bob Meier – Curator
Marianne and Bill Miller – Family
Mary Frances and Michael Morgan –
Family
Lynne Mueller – Family
Jane Murray – Family
Victoria Myers – Individual
Kate and John Nailor – Family
Dorothy and Stephen Nix – Family
Lisa and Jake Pool – Family
Richard Poppell – Individual
David Rawden – Family
David and Michele Robson – Family
Leigh Ann Rodgers – Individual
Alan Sigler – Individual
Scott Slechta – Individual
Dana Stone – Family
Roger Stone – Family
Davene Strawser – Individual
Nancy and Tred Shurling –
Lamplighter
Betty and Jim Walton – Family
Kristina Watson – Individual
Sarah and Timothy Williams – Family
Charles Wilson – Family

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Janet Hays
By Joel Gaston, Tomi Sue Kauffman,
James Norman, Natalie Sarkanich-
Watson

In Honor of Don and Susan Myers
By Melissa and Andy Brubaker

Calendar of Events

Journeys

April 18

Field Trip to Savannah

8 a.m.–6 p.m.

\$150 per person

April 27

“Savannah’s Squares: Reflections on Southern Urban Society”

Christopher Hendricks, Ph.D.

St. Simons Presbyterian
Church

6 p.m.

CGHS members free;

\$10 non-members

Little Light Music Concerts

7–9 p.m.

Lighthouse grounds

\$20 per person

Free: Children under 12
and Keepers of the Light

May 21 – Hollywood Band

June 4 – Squirt Gun

July 16 – Kenny on the Keys

Sept 3 – Sounds of Motown



COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 21136
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Georgia 31522

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.

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Call (912) 634-7090, follow us online,
or visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org



American
Alliance of
Museums