

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.

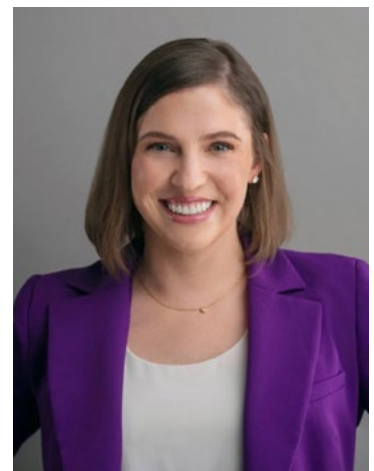
## Winter Program: *Creating a New Nation: President George Washington and the Southern Tour*



George Washington in Savannah, 1791  
Sons of the American Revolution, by Jeff Trexler

**On Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 4 p.m., Lindsay M. Chervinsky, Ph.D., will begin the Coastal Georgia Historical Society's year-long celebration of the Semiquincentennial—or 250th—anniversary of the founding of the United States.** Dr. Chervinsky will show how George Washington used presidential tours to bring the new federal government to the American people, forge bonds between citizens and the Constitution, and build trust in the presidency. These tours included multiple stops in Georgia featuring meetings with local leaders, tours of Revolutionary War ruins, and extensive public celebrations to commemorate Washington's arrival. As the nation celebrates its 250th birthday, Dr. Chervinsky will explore why 1776 was just the beginning of the founding of the nation.

Dr. Lindsay M. Chervinsky is a presidential historian and Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon. She is the author of the

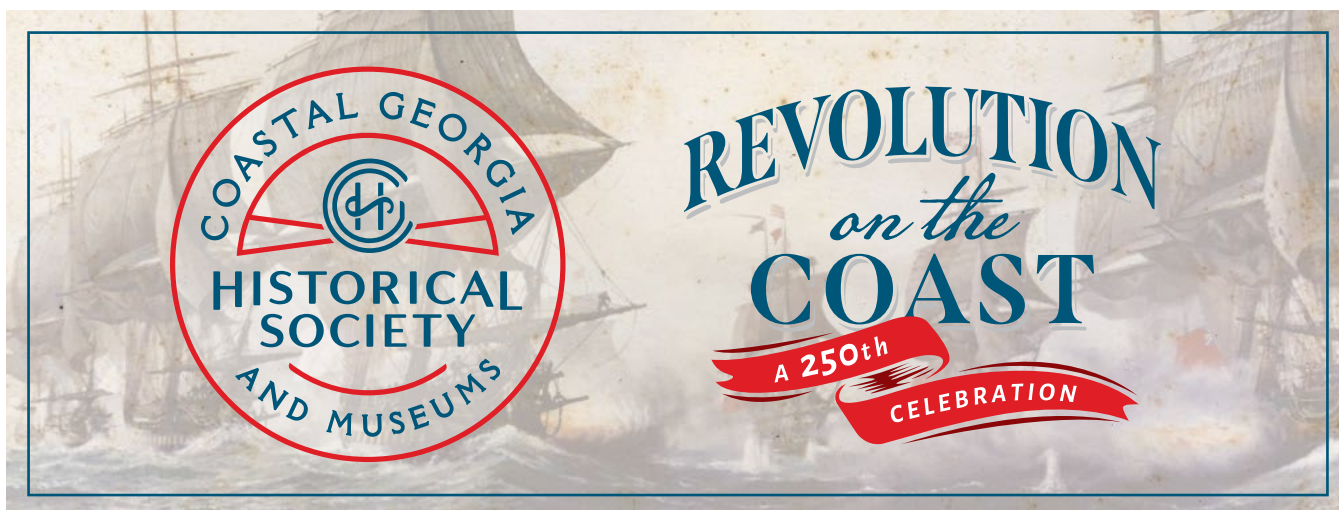


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Lindsay M. Chervinsky, Ph.D.

award-winning books *Making the Presidency: John Adams and the Precedents that Forged the Republic* and *The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution*, and co-editor of *Mourning the Presidents: Loss and Legacy in American Culture*. Dr. Chervinsky regularly writes for public audiences in publications like the *Washington Post*, *TIME*, *USA Today*, *CNN*, and the *Wall Street Journal* and provides commentary and historical context for outlets like *CBS News*, *C-SPAN*, *Face the Nation*, the *New York Times*, and *NPR*.

**The 2026 Winter Program will take place at St. Simons Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Livestreaming will be available. The program is free of charge for CGHS members and \$25 for non-members. Registration is required for both members and non-members at [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org).**



Join the Coastal Georgia Historical Society as we celebrate the nation's 250th birthday! **Revolution on the Coast: A 250th Celebration** is a week-long Semiquincentennial festival for our community to explore and experience the history of the American Revolution. **From March 9 through March 15, 2026**, CGHS and our community partners will present a series of engaging programming—including lectures, performances, movie screenings, and more—at venues throughout the area. RC250's main event is the First Oval Office Project of the Museum of the American Revolution, which will bring a replica of General George Washington's Revolutionary War tent—the mobile command center of the Continental Army—to Gascoigne Bluff Park for the festival weekend. The project also includes several other tents, like common soldiers' tents and a dining tent, along with costumed interpreters who will reveal the different experiences of those who served and sacrificed during the Revolutionary War. This will be the first time this special exhibit has visited the state of Georgia, providing a wonderful opportunity

for our state's citizens to interact with the important history of the American Revolution. **RC250 is free and open to the public on Saturday and Sunday; Friday is reserved for school tours by local students. Weekday festival programming will be priced per event. All offerings will require registration. To learn more, visit [coastalgeorgiahistory.org/RC250](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org/RC250).**

If you'd like to donate or sponsor this special community event, please contact Sheila VanderWood, Director of Development, at [svanderwood@coastalgeorgiahistory.org](mailto:svanderwood@coastalgeorgiahistory.org). The Society thanks our early sponsors:

**Commander**



**Colonel**





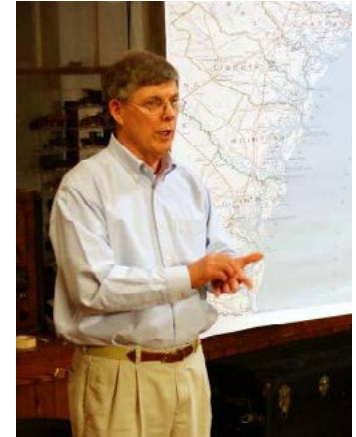
## Buddy Sullivan Winter Lecture Series 2026



Sidney Lanier Bridge, ca. 1958.

This popular series has been conducted by Buddy Sullivan each year since 1995. In addition to his position as the Society's Consulting Historian, Sullivan is the author of 20 books about Georgia history, with a focus on his home region of Coastal Georgia. His recently published titles include *Georgia: A State History* and *Sapelo: People and Place on a Georgia Sea Island*. He served as Director of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve from 1993 to 2013, and in 2005, he received the Governor's Medal in the Humanities from the Georgia Humanities Council in recognition of his literary and cultural contributions to the state. **The cost for the series is \$50 for CGHS members and \$95 for non-members. Registration is required at [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org).**

Buddy Sullivan will present a four-week lecture series, "History of the Golden Isles – and Slightly Beyond," on **Tuesday afternoons, January 20 and 27 and February 3 and 10, 2026, from 3 – 4:30 p.m. at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center**. The winter series will feature St. Simons, Sea Island, Jekyll, Sapelo, Brunswick, and Darien, and will chronologically trace Georgia's coastal history from Indigenous habitation of the islands through the era of World War II.



## Thank You to Our New "Visionary" Keepers of the Light!

Our Keepers of the Light have been crucial to the consistent growth of the Society and continue to allow us to make bold moves in service of our mission. The group has blossomed from a small handful in 2008 to over 200 today! Recently, we were able to recognize a new level of annual generosity: Visionary. This elite group of Keepers of the Light contribute at least \$25,000 toward their annual membership. We are so grateful to the inaugural members of this level, Alice Glenn and Mark and Karen Koulogeorge.

The Society is thankful for the many Keepers of the Light and other members who have contributed generously for years. We appreciate your many gifts and talents as well as your loyalty and encouragement to achieve our ambitious goals.



## Super Museum Sunday

On **Sunday, February 8, 2026**, the Coastal Georgia Historical Society is proud to join more than one hundred museums and historic sites across Georgia in offering complimentary admission for Super Museum Sunday. This annual event is organized as part of the Georgia History Festival. Admission to both the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum and the World War II Home Front Museum is free for all visitors—adults and children—from 12:00 to 4:00. **For more information and a list of participating organizations, please visit [georgiahistoryfestival.org/events/2026-super-museum-sunday/](https://georgiahistoryfestival.org/events/2026-super-museum-sunday/).**



## Emmy Thompson, Events Manager

CGHS is thrilled to welcome Emmy Thompson as our new Events Manager! Emmy has worked in catering and events for the past decade and has lived in Glynn County for over thirty years. As an active volunteer on a Red Cross Disaster Action Team, she responds to fires in the local area, delivering assistance and resources to help families. She is a musician, a former roller derby skater, and the proud owner of eleven goats. Emmy is excited to be part of CGHS and “serve the mission of historical preservation and education!” To reach her or inquire about events at CGHS, please email [events@coastalgeorgiahistory.org](mailto:events@coastalgeorgiahistory.org).



# HISTORY IS HAPPENING

In partnership with the Cassina Garden Club, Dr. Aaron Ellrich, CGHS Archaeologist, recently led an excavation at Hamilton Plantation on Gascoigne Bluff as part of the Club's "Dig a Little Deeper" program. He also spent time in southwest Georgia collaborating with Dr. Dennis Blanton of James Madison University and a team of researchers investigating early Spanish colonial encounters. Their work continues to shed new light on Hernando de Soto's 1540 expedition through Georgia.

In addition, Dr. Ellrich has been working with the Florida Museum of Natural History to transfer St. Simons Island archaeological collections to the Society. This effort supports one of the key objectives outlined in the Society's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan and strengthens our commitment to preserving and interpreting Georgia's coastal heritage.

Dr. Whitney Nell Stewart, the Society's Executive Director, presented at the annual meetings of the American Association of State & Local History and the Southern Historical Association. She was also interviewed by *News4Jax* about the history—and contentious origins—of Brunswick stew. Allison Dupuis, CGHS Historian, appeared on *News4Jax*'s segment about the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum. In January, she will deliver a presentation for the City of Roswell, near Atlanta, about several prominent Roswell families' origins in Coastal Georgia.



Dr. Aaron Ellrich with the pommel of a 16th-century sword that he found in southwest Georgia.



Executive Director Dr. Whitney Nell Stewart (center left) with representatives of Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation.

## Award Highlight

CGHS is the proud recipient of a 2025 William Bernard McCloud Community Impact Award from Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation. The purpose of this award is to provide Operational Support to 501(c)3 organizations serving Camden, Glynn, and McIntosh Counties. The Society was one of 12 recipients out of over 50 applicants. Funds from this award will support the growth of our thriving organization.



Members of the crew on the ladder of the flagpole, which was restored in 2018.

## Hoisting the Colors at the Historic Coast Guard Station

The Historic St. Simons Coast Guard Station, built as part of a series of New Deal projects across the country, had its “First Watch” and commissioning ceremony on April 1, 1937. Among the structures on the Station’s complex was a flagpole. This original element of the Coast Guard Station’s design still stands—and performs its function—today.

The tallest part of the pole houses a halyard, or rope mechanism, for the American flag. As part of their daily duties, station personnel hoisted the American flag at 0800 and performed evening colors at 1700. The original 60-foot flagpole at the St. Simons Coast Guard Station also includes lines for signal flags, smaller flags with bright patterns that represent the International Code of Signals. These signal flags could be strung together to communicate messages to offshore vessels.

Recently, the American flag halyard broke at the Home Front Museum. With the help of Lieutenant Carrier, Lieutenant Weekley, Fire Fighter Rowell, Fire Fighter Davis from Glynn County Fire Rescue, Officer Wooten from the Glynn County Police Department, and our United States Coast Guard Auxiliary members Jeff Cole and Ted Madaj, we were able to re-rig the upper most halyard. The American flag, Coast Guard flag, and Georgia flag are all flying high and although there is construction at East Beach, the World War II Home Front Museum is open during this time!



Glynn County Fire Rescue at work on the halyard.

## SPRING PROGRAM SAVE THE DATE

**Zara Anishanslin, Ph.D., will present the Society’s Spring Program on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Simons Presbyterian Church.** Based on her book *The Painter’s Fire: A Forgotten History of the Artists Who Championed the American Revolution*, Dr. Anishanslin’s lecture will also serve as the kickoff for a week of programming surrounding **Revolution on the Coast** and the First Oval Office Project’s visit to Coastal Georgia.



# Membership Highlights

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

## **Keepers of the Light**

Barbara and Bill Abbate –

Sustainer

Chris and Tom Ernst –

Benefactor

Jim and Gail Eskew –

Sustainer

Alice Glenn – Visionary

Maureen Lennon and Fred

John – Patron

Karen and Mark Koulogeorge –

Visionary

Susan and Don Myers –

Patron

Lodi Palmer – Patron

Michael and Laura Shea –

Sustainer

Jane Thau – Sustainer

Susan Watts – Sustainer

David and Deborah Wright –

Patron

## **General**

Marti and Bill Jeffers – Family

Trey and Martha Hayden –

Lamplighter

Linda Olsen – Family

Elissa and Horace Stone – Family

*CGHS lost a true friend with the recent passing of Mr. David Fox. We extend our deepest condolences to Mrs. Mike Fox, their family, and the community that loved him dearly. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.*

## **Welcome New Members!**

## **Keepers of the Light**

Gigi Capes and Jim

Compton – Sustainer

Ron and Christine Dorrestein –

Sustainer

Bob and Diane Levy –

Benefactor

Georgia Ann and Jack

Markley – Sustainer

The Jim and Lynn Moroney

Family Foundation – Luminary

Cate and Rick Waddell –

Sustainer

## **General**

Wanda Allen – Individual

Sally Brown – Individual

Bob Bowers and Elizabeth

Aguillon – Family

Stephanie Conti – Individual

Robert Cooper – Individual

Blair and Deanna

Cunningham – Family

Robin Dampier – Individual

Martha Eckert – Individual

Susan Fant – Individual

Jim Johnson – Family

Celeste Jones – Family

Joye Karstensen – Individual

Robert Landow – Family

Mark and Mary Langlais –

Lamplighter

Janet McDonald – Individual

Justin McLoughlin – Family

Sheri Wagener Peck – Family

Robin Pounds – Family

Catherine Seymour – Individual

Charlotte Seymour – Individual

Sheila Smith – Individual

Deborah States – Individual

David and Marsha Stewart –

Lamplighter

Tami and Michael Stogner –

Lamplighter

Dotti Tomat – Family

Stephanie Wilson – Family

Mitchell Yawn – Family

*We appreciate you, our loyal members, for your continued support. Please consider CGHS when making your required minimum distribution from your traditional IRA or 401(k) before the end of the year.*

# Calendar of Events

## Winter Program

Sunday, January 25, 2026

“George Washington’s Southern Tour and the Making of a Nation”

Lindsay M. Chervinsky, Ph.D.

4 p.m.

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

CGHS members free;  
\$25 non-members

## Buddy Sullivan Winter Lecture Series

Tuesdays,

January 20 and 27,  
February 3 and 10

3 p.m.

A.W. Jones Heritage Center

CGHS members \$50;  
\$95 non-members

## Revolution on the Coast: A 250th Celebration

### Weekday Programming

Monday, March 9, through  
Thursday, March 12

Programming each evening

Priced per event

Venues throughout the region

### First Oval Office Project Tents and Additional Programming

Saturday, March 14 and  
Sunday, March 15

Free entry

Gascoigne Bluff Park



**Scan for updates and  
more information**





# COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

## Our Staff

### **Executive Director**

Whitney Nell Stewart, Ph.D.

### **Director of Development**

Sheila VanderWood

### **Director of Museum Operations**

Eric Oberg

### **Historian**

Allison Dupuis

### **Archaeologist**

Aaron Ellrich, Ph.D.

### **Education and Programs Coordinator**

Caitlyn Price

### **Office Manager**

Trish Scott

### **Events Manager**

Emmy Thompson

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### **Consulting Historian**

Buddy Sullivan

### **Consulting Archaeologist**

Lindsey Cochran, Ph.D.

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## 2025 Board of Directors

### **Executive Committee**

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or visit [coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org)



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Alliance of  
Museums