

# At the Gate House

Membership Newsletter

Fall 2003

Volume 2 number 3

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**S**eptember marks the sixth anniversary of the Gate House Museum. At that time, we usually present an annual report to the Mayor and Town Council of Sykesville, who fund the upkeep of the museum, including its building, artifacts and staff. So, it gives us plenty of time to reflect on the accomplishments over the years. Here are just a few:

- ✓ Transferring the “Rooms of History” from the Sykesville Town House to the Gate House (1997)
- ✓ Began a yearly and lifetime museum membership program (1997)
- ✓ Received the Holy Trinity archives and artifacts (1998)
- ✓ Became the home of the Strawbridge Home models (1998)
- ✓ Repainting the exterior of the historic house (1999)
- ✓ Wade Warfield Family Album restoration (1999)
- ✓ Transcribed the microfilm library to CD’s (2000)
- ✓ Created the M.M.&J. Electric Railway (2000)
- ✓ Conversion of the upper bathroom into temporary storage - we have received so many artifacts over the years, additional storage has become imperative (2001)
- ✓ Repainting the porch (2002)
- ✓ Partially restored the “Dinky Track” behind the museum (2002)
- ✓ Accessioned and stored several hundred items of the World War II Civil Defense collection of the late William “Fred” Church (2002)
- ✓ Accessioned and stored over 2,000 photographs and slides from the former Sykesville Photographic Center (2002-2003)
- ✓ Became one of the archives of the Shipley’s of Maryland (2003)
- ✓ Feasibility study for a possible museum expansion (2003)

Over the years the museum has successfully started the annual Thelma Wimmer Day celebration, a World War II Era Dinner Dance, teas, a Cake Walk, annual open house, and expanded upon the already existing Spring History Walk. The Gate House staff has worked to create interesting exhibits every six months, most notably an exhibit on Sykesville founder James Sykes (now a permanent exhibit), antique tools (in 1998), historic Valentine’s, Native American artifacts and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

These things, along with many others simply too numerous to list, would not have been possible without the interest of local volunteers, our town government and all of the community donations of “things of interest.” The Museum itself would not have been possible without the dream of Thelma Wimmer, who at a time when local history was just becoming a fad, canvassed Sykesville for important articles of history. The museum building would not be in its lovely, restored condition without the work and foresight of local leaders like Becky Herman, Wiley and Claudia Purkey, Mark and Kim Rychwalski, Dorothy Clarke Schaefer, Jeanette Miller, Bob McLeod and Jim Purman. The list of individuals who have made this Museum possible is endless, so to everyone, thank you. The Gate House Museum looks forward to helping preserve the history of “our town” and providing interesting programs to its citizens for many years to come. And thank you for your continued Museum membership.

**t**he museum hosted its annual volunteer appreciation Saturday, September 6 at the Old Main Line Visitor's Center conference room. Twenty-two volunteers were in attendance, including the Town's mayor, Jonathan Herman. E.W. Beck's Restaurant catered the affair, which was a "backyard cookout." Guests munched on hamburgers and hotdogs, and tried "dirt" for dessert. A brief program followed the food, with archivist Jim Purman acting as the emcee. Volunteer Tim Kolezar reading a message from Kristin Chapman, now a college freshman at Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Also, Keely Saslow read a short list of her favorite things to do at the Gate House. Kimberly McLeod read the following original composition.

### Volunteering

Volunteering is fun,  
It's lots of work, too,  
And when volunteering,  
These are some of my favorite things to do.

I like to listen to concerts,  
And organize a lot,  
Label old pictures,  
And plant plants in pots.

I like weeding and digging,  
Alphabetizing, too,  
Playing with water,  
And getting candy to chew.

Getting to spend time with Keely,  
Mr. Jim and Miss Kari,  
Organizing the children's attic,  
And eating yummy cheesecake made with cherries.

I love volunteering,  
It is a blast,  
This year was my first,  
And I hope not my last!!!  
(K.McLeod)

**M**ayor Herman finished the program by thanking everyone for their hard work throughout the year, including Purman and curator Kari Greenwalt for doing work "far beyond what they get paid for." Dorothy Clarke Schaefer won the door prize - two tickets to the upcoming World War II Dinner Dance.

## Upcoming Events

**R**affle tickets are on sale to mark the sixth anniversary of the museum. The grand prize features an overnight stay at the Inn at Norwood (in the room of the winner's choice), his and hers mini-massages at the Samsara Salon & Spa and \$25 toward dinner at Baldwin's Restaurant.

Second prize includes \$25 towards dinner at Smokey's Barbeque Restaurant, a \$35 gift certificate to Glazed to Perfection and \$10 towards dessert at the Dairy Queen.

Third prize is \$20 for Manny's Deli, \$15 in Fun Quarters money and \$10 towards Wanda's Delites, all located inside Carrolltown Center.

Raffle tickets are \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00, and are on sale at the museum and the Old Main Line Visitor's Center and Post office in downtown Sykesville. Prizes will be drawn October 25 at the World War II Era Dinner Dance.

**B**reak out your best World War II outfit! On Saturday, October 25, the Sykesville Gate House Museum will host its second annual **World War II Era Dinner Dance** at the Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Hall, Route 32, Flohrville.

Dance to the musical stylings of the Thom Roland Big Band (formerly the Hunt Valley Jazz Band) with their 16-piece orchestra. There will be door prizes and contest for best-dressed couple.

The menu will be stuffed chicken breasts and roast beef, tossed salad, parsleyed potatoes, peas and onions, cheesecake and cherry crisp, handled by the fire department's Auxiliary.

Attire is semi-formal or period dress. Tickets, \$20 per person, or tables of 8 for \$150 are on sale at the Gate House. All proceeds will benefit programs at the Gate House.

**O**ld Trinity Cemetery will hold its annual visitation, Sunday October 26, 3:00PM to 4:00PM. A remembrance event at our area's earliest Church site and cemetery (the church was founded in 1771). The program includes guests from the past and refreshments.

For further information and directions, please call Ann Horvath, 410-526-4878 or Jim Purman, 410-795-4184.

**O**n December 28, the Gate House will host its annual Holiday Open House, 3:00PM to 5:00PM.

Come see the Gate House under the warm glow of candlelight, decked in its Christmas finery. Light refreshments, including hot cider and cookies, will be served throughout the day. Musical entertainment will be provided.

For further information, 410-549-5150.

# Sykesville Gate House Museum of History

7283 Cooper Drive; Sykesville, Maryland 21784 ~ 410-549-5150

CALENDAR    SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2003

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Sunday	Wednesday	Friday	Saturday
September 21 “ 28	September 17 “ 24	September 19 “ 26	
October 5 “ 12 “ 19 “ 26	October 1 “ 8 “ 15 “ 22 “ 29	October 3 “ 10 “ 17 “ 24 “ 31	October 4
November 2 “ 9 “ 16 “ 23 “ 30	November 5 “ 12 “ 19 “ 26	November 7 “ 14 “ 21 “ 28	
December 7 “ 14 “ 21 “ 28	December 3 “ 10 “ 17 “ 24 “ 31	December 5 “ 12 “ 19 “ 26	

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**\* Don't Forget These Important Dates\***

October 4, 9:00am – 5:00pm ~ “Fall Festival” (Displays, dance tickets and museum shop items on Main Street, Sykesville)

October 25, 6:00pm – 10:00pm~ World War II Era Dinner Dance (Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Hall, Rt. 32, Flohrville). *Tickets required.*

December 28, 3:00pm – 5:00pm ~ Annual Open House at the Gate House Museum.

**Phone Numbers:** Museum 549-5150

K. Greenwalt (h) 960-0038

J. Purman (h) 795-4184

Justin Tims (Sr. Volunteer) on hiatus

*\*Be sure to include the tiresome “410” first.*