

# THE PRESERVATIONIST

*The official newsletter of Historic Tuscaloosa*



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## A Message from the Director

*By William Hawkins*

Most joyous greetings, fellow preservationists!  
I hope this message finds each of you doing well.

This past year has been one of great excitement and many fantastic events. Our staff members, Rachel and Sarah-Katherine, have been tremendous assets in helping Historic Tuscaloosa achieve many of the things we accomplished this year. Our Board of Directors also has been instrumental in guiding us in a successful direction.

This year we launched the Historic Tuscaloosa Endowment Fund in conjunction with the Community Foundation of West Alabama. This fund will help in laying the groundwork for Historic Tuscaloosa to continue its mission in preserving our five historic structures as well as other historic buildings and places in Tuscaloosa. If you have not given, please consider doing so as we are close to achieving our initial goal and would love to exceed the \$10,000 mark by the end of the year! You can give here:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/htendowment>

Historic Tuscaloosa hosted its first annual Progressive dinner in (month). This fundraising dinner traveled from the Old Tavern with gentle music and hors d'oeuvres set among the beautiful gardens of the historic tavern. We then headed to the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion where our guests were served a wonderful dinner with a French flavor. Afterwards, we strolled over to the Battle-Friedman House where dessert and coffee were served to finish the evening. This elegant event raised funds to have the chimneys repointed and many other projects completed around the Battle-Friedman House. This event would not have been possible without all our wonderful sponsors.

This past summer's Lecture Series was one for the ages. Each lecture was at capacity for seating and could not have been better attended! From the historic 1887 map of Tuscaloosa to old post cards of Tuscaloosa, the 1926 Rose Bowl (Roll Tide), and enslavement in American visual culture, we covered a diverse group of topics that enthralled everyone that was able to attend. We have already made connections and bookings for this coming year's topics which promise to be just as entertaining and educational.

## Historic Tuscaloosa Endowment Fund



I am often asked by Board Members and others in general, "What can I do to help?" There are many ways to help Historic Tuscaloosa. First, become a volunteer! Do you like meeting new people and telling stories? Then become one of our tour guides. Second, help spread the word about Historic Tuscaloosa. With a population of over 100,000 people, many highly educated, we should have a membership of 1,000 people. If each one of our current members simply convinced one of their friends to become a new member, we could easily achieve this goal, so spread the word and invite new members. They can easily join by going to this link:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/htmembership>

Another way of helping is by giving to Historic Tuscaloosa through estate gifts. Many projects have been completed because of estate gifts and other larger gifts. These may be made through either a cash donation or stock transfers. If you have any questions, please reach out to us and we can point you in the right direction.

I would like to thank all our members for your continued support. We are facing a budget shortfall this year, but the support and gifts from our members will see us through. I wish I had the time and opportunity to thank each of you personally, but please know that it is because of you, our members, that we have accomplished so much and will continue to do so with your support. Thank you!

## GRAND BENEFACTORS

Ms. Jessica Cicatiello  
Mr. and Mrs. Evans Fitts  
Ms. Claire Friday  
Mr. and Mrs. William Griffith  
James I. Harrison Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Brock Jones  
Ms. Joanne Martin  
Mr. and Mrs. David Pugh  
Mrs. William Rabel  
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Richardson III

## SUSTAINERS

Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Anderson  
President and Mrs. Stuart Bell  
Dr. Glenna Brown  
Mrs. John D. Cade  
Mrs. Rosemarie Childress  
Dr. and Mrs. Glen Cowan, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Farmer  
Drs. Regina and Andrew Harrell  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haubein

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua P. Hayes  
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Haynes  
Mr. and Mrs. Drew Kyle  
Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Marshall  
Mr. and Mrs. David Morrow  
Col. and Mrs. William Pool  
Dr. Richard Rhone  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Sanders  
Mr. and Mrs. Mem Tierce  
Drs. Angelia and Douglas Woodward

# 2022-2023 Cameo Guild Highlights

By Sherry Jones

Our year kicked off with the annual Information Meeting held on Sunday, August 21st. New and returning members attended with their parents to hear an overview of the upcoming year's events, dress styles, Senior and Junior projects, and Cameo Guild goals for the year.

Cameo Guild members meet once per month, September through May, with the exception of December. Meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons and include an etiquette lesson and a history lesson of the historic structure where the meeting is being held. The highlight of our first monthly meeting in September was the Big/Little Sister Reveal. Little Sisters were presented gift bags filled with treats by their Big Sisters. The meeting ended with sweet treats for all.

The Heritage 5K and Fun Run/Walk, the Senior project each year, was held on November 6th. The weather was beautiful, and we had the most runners ever to participate in one of our races. The event was a huge success. Without the sponsorship of local businesses, individuals, and Historic Tuscaloosa members, we would be unable to host events like this. We very much appreciate the support for our Junior and Senior Projects each year.

Our November meeting, held the week before Thanksgiving, ended with a Friendsgiving event which included writing thank you notes to all our Heritage 5K Sponsors and Christmas cards for local nursing home residents. Toys purchased for donation to Santa's Elves were collected, and refreshments were enjoyed by all in attendance.

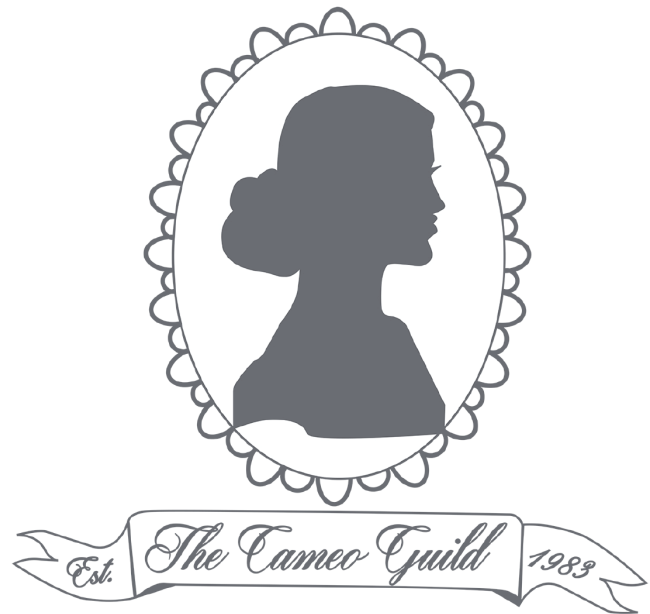
December was one of our busiest months starting with Historic Tuscaloosa's Open House Tour which was lovely. Dickens Downtown followed shortly thereafter and was attended by almost every Cameo Guild member.

The Cameo Guild Formal Dinner was held at the Jemison Mansion on February 24th. Juniors and Seniors were invited to attend along with a date. In preparation for the Formal Dinner, etiquette lessons leading up to the event included how to respond to a formal invitation, proper behavior at a formal event, and formal dining etiquette.

February through March were spent preparing for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Junior Project each year. We had a record attendance to enjoy egg hunts, barnyard animals, games, refreshments, and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

April was an exciting month with new officers being announced and nominations for new members being accepted. Several of our members served as greeters at the Century Club Party held at the Dearing-Swaim Home on April 20th. Our 40th annual Presentation of the Tuscaloosa Cameo Guild was held on Sunday, April 30th. A beautiful ceremony followed by refreshments was enjoyed by Seniors and their parents.

Our final meeting of the year was held in May with new officers presiding. Interviews for new members were held in June and July, and we are looking forward to another great year with the Tuscaloosa Cameo Guild.



# New Tuscaloosa Cameo Guild Director

I am Jules Shepard from Tuscaloosa, AL. I attended high school at Tuscaloosa County High School. I then attended the University of Alabama where I obtained a degree in Accounting & Finance in 2017. I am now a real estate Controller for a local business here in town. I have the cutest liver-spotted dalmatian named Skipper. Outside of work, I enjoy camping and traveling. Some of my recent travels have included Greece, Iceland, Dominican Republic, and Canada. You can find me at my happiest when it is cold outside (preferably below freezing) with a coffee in my hand. A fun fact about me is that I love cacti - you will find them all over my home!



## Progressive Dinner

*By Shawn Wyatt*

What a Difference a Dinner Makes!

Historic Tuscaloosa's First Annual Progressive Dinner, Dining Through Time: A Taste of Historic Tuscaloosa, was an overwhelming success! Mother nature smiled upon us and provided the perfect September evening.

The evening included live music, appetizers, and cocktails in the courtyard of the Old Tavern; a delicious, seated dinner at the Jemison Mansion; and scrumptious desserts at The Battle-Friedman Home. It was exciting to mingle with old friends, new Historic Tuscaloosa members, and some new faces (hopefully future Historic Tuscaloosa members) as they enjoyed themselves at three of our most charming structures!

Although much fun was had, the evening's purpose had a considerable fundraising goal to cover the cost of the much-needed repointing of the chimneys at the Battle-Friedman Home. With the support of our generous sponsors listed below and everyone who contributed to the success of this event, our goal was met, and we were able to raise the necessary funds. Masonry Arts, a company specializing in that specific type of masonry work, was hired, and we are thrilled to report that the task is complete.

Historic Tuscaloosa's second Annual Progressive Dinner is scheduled for May 2024, and we hope to see you there!



# Cameo Guild Heritage 5k and Fun Run

*By Sherry Jones*

The Cameo Guild Heritage 5K and Fun Run were held on Sunday, November 6th, 2022 with a beautiful Fall day as the backdrop and a record number of runners participating. Each participant was presented a race bag filled with coupons and treats donated by local businesses, as well as a t-shirt designed by JNJ Apparel. The Heritage 5K start and finish lines are located just beyond the Jemison Mansion parking lot. The course winds through downtown Tuscaloosa and much of our beautiful historic district. Road construction on Jack Warner Parkway provided some added challenges for our runners this year, but they rose to the occasion.

Following the race, medals and plaques were awarded to all who placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a number of different age brackets. The fun afternoon ended with the presentation of raffle prizes which is always a crowd favorite.

We appreciate all the race participants, sponsors, donors, and Cameo Guild parents who helped to make this Heritage 5k and Fun Run a huge success.

# Holiday Open House

Historic Tuscaloosa held their annual Holiday Tour of Homes on December 4, 2022, and it was (we think) the largest one ever with an estimated 350 – 500 people coming through our sites.

There were children's crafts, cookies, and hot chocolate at the Jemison Mansion in addition to two special visitors. One was Santa himself, and the other visitor was Miss Ibbey Dickson, 2022 Miss University of Alabama.

At the Battle-Friedman House, there were children's crafts with a special North Pole mailbox for letters to be mailed to Santa. Cal Wilson also played festive music on the grand piano while visitors enjoyed holiday refreshments.

Tom Rathe provided music at the Old Tavern while visitors toured with gingerbread and hot apple cider and admired the decorations by Danny Rountree and Katie Self. Across Capitol Park, students were performing on their string instruments at the festively decorated McGuire-Strickland House.

With the help of local Ceres, Coker, Greensboro, and Tuscaloosa/Northport garden clubs, the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion and Battle-Friedman House were beautifully decorated with live greenery. The Old Tavern, Murphy African American Museum, and McGuire-Strickland House also were decorated and filled with Christmas cheer. All of us at Historic Tuscaloosa would like to thank everyone who helped with their time and support to make this event a great success.

# Pine & Prosecco

By *Shawn Wyatt*

Historic Tuscaloosa has always strived to give its members unique opportunities and experiences. In 2022, we added Pine and Prosecco, an evening of fun, food and floral design.

Leska Taylor, a member and special friend to Historic Tuscaloosa, offered her fabulous floral expertise to a small group (those who were lucky enough to reserve a spot), and each attendee went home with a spectacular holiday arrangement that they personally created.

Participants snacked on delicious charcuterie and sipped prosecco as they designed their masterpieces. Holiday music, hot spiced cider and fresh cut pine filled the air along with the conversation and fellowship of those who attended. Everyone left that night full of the holiday spirit.

Pine & Prosecco will return again this year on Wednesday, December 6th. Registration will open to Historic Tuscaloosa Members in mid-November (more information to come), so be sure to reserve a seat early as this event has become a member favorite and fills very quickly.



# Shoring Up Things

By *William Hawkins*

With the success of our first annual Progressive Dinner and the awarding of a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission, we were able to accomplish many projects in and around the Battle-Friedman House. The first major undertaking was the repointing of the chimneys on the property. Repointing is the process of renewing the pointing which is the external part of mortar joints. Over time, weathering and decay cause voids in the joints between masonry units, usually in bricks, allowing the undesirable entrance of water. Water entering through these voids can cause significant damage through frost weathering and from salt dissolution and deposition. The work was completed by Masonry Arts, a company based in Bessemer, Alabama. The company came highly recommended and has worked on significant projects such as Our Lady of Angels Church in Irondale, AL, the Federal Reserve building in Washington, D.C., the Pentagon restoration post 9/11, and many others.

With the repointing completed, we were able to complete a number of other smaller projects such as making sure all windows and seals are watertight and all of the exterior trim work is sealed. The upper back sitting porch also was repaired and screened in. All of these were much needed projects that have helped to preserve the Battle-Friedman House for many more years.

# Cameo Guild 2023 Easter Egg Hunt

By *Sherry Jones*

Spring 2023 found Cameo Guild members busy planning our annual Easter Egg Hunt that was held on the grounds of the Battle-Friedman Home. Members donated refreshments and candy-filled eggs, decorated the house inside and out, hid approximately 1,800 eggs, and coordinated egg hunts and games for our largest crowd ever. The Easter Bunny stopped by to visit and have photos taken with all the children and was a big hit. The petting zoo provided by the Tuscaloosa Barnyard was another favorite with the children, their parents, and our members. The afternoon ended with the presentation of door prizes donated by local businesses, Cameo Guild parents, and members.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt raises \$2,500-3,000 each year and serves as one of our most rewarding events as it allows us to bring joy to the children and families in our community.



# 2023 Century Club Party

By *William Hawkins*

This year's Century Club Party was graciously hosted by Carrie and Lewis Fitts and her real estate team at the historic Dearing-Swaim Home. They were wonderful hosts and opened the entire home to everyone who attended. Built circa 1830, this home is considered by many to be the finest example of Greek Revival, temple-style architecture remaining in Alabama. The peacock-inspired yard and interior are majestic and made a perfect backdrop for this enchanting evening. We cannot thank the Fitts enough for sharing wonderful access to this stately home. The music was provided by "The Jewels," a local band that fit the scene perfectly and is available for other events.

The Century Club Party is open to members at that level and above and is one of the most anticipated events of the year. We encourage you to become an upper-level member of Historic Tuscaloosa to enjoy fantastic events like this one as well as other perks of upper-level membership!



# Lecture Series

By Sarah-Katherine Helms

This year's lecture series was a total success!

This year, we had four lectures instead of the three last year. We also had WVUA come out for each lecture, which aided in making this year's lecture series a success! You can watch their story about our lecture series here :

<https://www.facebook.com/HistoricTuscaloosa/videos/220105627598908/>

We were lucky to have Crimson Smokers come out to our third lecture and help kick off the football season with some BBQ while guests enjoyed a lecture about the 1926 UA Rose Bowl!

Thank you to everyone who came out this year and I look forward to what's in store for next year!



## HISTORIC TUSCALOOSA LECTURE SERIES

<b>22</b> JUNE	ROBERT REGISTER <i>1887 Map</i>
<b>20</b> JULY	JAMES BARKSDALE <i>Tuscaloosa Postcards</i>
<b>24</b> AUG	JOHN ALLEN <i>1926 UA Rose Bowl</i>
<b>28</b> SEPT	RACHEL STEPHENS <i>Hidden in Plain Sight: Concealing Enslavement in American Visual Culture</i>



## Donation from Landon and Gail Miller

By William Hawkins

In July 2023, we received a major donation of antique furniture from Gail and Landon Miller. The Millers lived in the historic Ormond-Little House located on Queen City Avenue near the University Club. You might remember that they were also gracious enough to host the Century Club party in 2019. The Millers donated an 1884 Jacob Brothers grand piano, a plantation desk from the 1780's, a 19th century chair, an empire card table, and a settee. The Jacob Brothers Piano Company was established in 1878 as a retailer in New York and Boston. Prior to 1905, Jacob Brothers sold pianos manufactured by The Peek & Sons Piano Company. The piano was moved to the Jemison-Van de Graaf Mansion by Allegro Piano and Organ Service who also tunes all our antique pianos. The piano now resides in the library and music room in the Jemison Mansion. The plantation desk resided in the Ormond-Little house from 1836 until it was moved to the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion in 2023. It was initially used by Alabama Supreme Court Judge Ormond to run his affairs. It was found in a few pieces in the parlor corner in 1992 when the house was purchased by the Millers. Restored by Boykin Restoration, including the recovery of its original leather desk covering, it can now be seen in the A.H. Bean parlor at the Mansion. Historic Tuscaloosa thanks the Millers for their most generous and gracious gift.

# 2023 – 2024 Historic Tuscaloosa Board Members

Shawn Wyatt  
**President**

Evans Fitts  
**Vice President**

James Brazil, Jr.  
**Treasurer**

Susan Huffman  
**Secretary**

Cal Wilson  
**Parliamentarian**

Pam Marshall  
**Past President**

Jules Shepard  
**Cameo Guild Director**

Marc Brakefield  
Glenna Brown  
Chaslee Coleman  
Donna Cowan  
Gabrielle Cruz-Uribe  
Linda Ford  
Serena Fortenberry  
Claire Friday  
Courtney Gora  
Marty Hamner  
Brock Jones  
Sherry Jones  
Amy Matthews  
Yolanda Page  
Sarah Palmer  
Frances Pool  
Judi Rabel  
Luther Richardson III  
Ruby Simon  
Angie Sterling  
Elizabeth Wyatt

# Annual Meeting / Awards Reception

By Rachel Culmer

Historic Tuscaloosa recently hosted its Annual Meeting and Awards Reception on August 17th at the Battle-Friedman Home. Each year, Historic Tuscaloosa gives awards to individuals, companies, or organizations that have furthered the cause of historic preservation in Tuscaloosa County.

Rodney Marshall received the Sound Engineer award for his help and expertise in the purchase of audio equipment for Historic Tuscaloosa. In 2022, the Tuscaloosa Cameo Guild used the proceeds from its fund-raiser to help Historic Tuscaloosa upgrade its audio/visual equipment. Unfortunately, purchasing this technology is not as easy as it looks, and we had no clue what to buy. Thankfully, Pam Marshall (our past Board President) knew a guy that could help us: her husband. It turns out that Dr. Marshall is quite knowledgeable when it comes to speakers, microphones, projectors, etc. So, thank you Rodney Marshall for helping us use the Tuscaloosa Cameo Guild proceeds wisely.



Angie Sterling received our Recruiter of the Year award in recognition of her outstanding support and recruitment of new Historic Tuscaloosa members. This last fiscal year, emails or phone calls were received from people saying they just got off the phone with Angie and would like to join Historic Tuscaloosa. There is a saying in the business world that “the best compliment you can give is a referral.” We are humbled and honored at this compliment and would like to thank Angie for her confidence and commitment to Historic Tuscaloosa. Any friend of Angie’s is a friend of ours.

Shawn Wyatt received our Volunteer of the Year award for her countless hours of volunteer service and for her fund-raising efforts for Historic Tuscaloosa. During one of our board meetings in 2021, Shawn shared the idea of a Progressive Dinner to help raise funds needed for repairs at the Battle-Friedman Home. A lot of behind-the-scenes work was required for this event, and Shawn was the mastermind behind it all.



Laura and Barry Fields received a Brick and Mortar award for the restoration of their four properties in the Jemison Historic District and next door to the Jemison Mansion. The Fields have done a great job preserving and updating the interior of all the homes and have been wonderful neighbors. They have truly elevated the neighborhood and helped bring a refreshed look to this section of 14th Street. Thank you to the Fields family for undertaking this big project.

Carrie and Lewis Fitts received a Brick and Mortar award for the restoration of the Dearing-Swaim home located on 14th Street. The Fitts have been longtime members of Historic Tuscaloosa and have done a great job of preserving several historic homes in the downtown area. Historic Tuscaloosa was elated when we heard that Carrie and Lewis were the new owners of the Dearing-Swaim home, and they have done an incredible job in preserving one of the most iconic homes in Tuscaloosa. Thank you to the Fitts family for your outstanding work and continued support as well as for opening this beautiful home to Historic Tuscaloosa for its annual Century Club party.



Historic Tuscaloosa does not give Brick and Mortar awards for buildings that have simply been given a facelift. The owners of these homes have gone to great lengths to preserve their buildings with countless hours and effort, in addition to the many dollars (often with several zeros at the end) to restore their properties. We greatly appreciate the contributions of the Fields and the Fitts toward ensuring that the history of Tuscaloosa is maintained for current and future generations.

# Welcome New Board Members

## *Linda Ford*

I was born in Memphis, TN, and have lived in Memphis, Mobile, San Antonio, Redondo Beach, Wewoka, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette. In 1994, I made Tuscaloosa my home.

My husband of 43 years (David) passed away in 2020. I have 4 children (all married), 10 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren (soon to be five come February). I have worked for Bank of America, Southeastern Psychological Association at LSU, Century 21 Real Estate, Lafayette Police Department, and Capstone College of Nursing. I have active memberships in Commissioned member of Zoning Board of Adjustment, Modern Culture Club, Ceres Garden Club, Original City Association, the University Club, Merri Makers, Harlequins, Mystics, Masquers, and Historic Tuscaloosa. When I have the time, I love to play tennis.



## *Courtney Gora*

Courtney Gora, a Louisiana native, has called Tuscaloosa home for 6 years now, after moving to the area in support of her husband Nicholas' career as General Manager at Indian Hills Country Club. A specialist of Fine Wine and its sales and marketing for many years before moving to Alabama, Courtney is now a Realtor with Pritchett Moore Real Estate, a family-owned brokerage with a long history of serving clients in West Alabama. When she is not working, Courtney can usually be found with a book in hand, surrounded by her three rescue dogs, Nola, Millie and Mabel. She still enjoys pairing wines with delicious food, and is always planning her next culinary endeavor, finding inspiration everywhere for developing unique dishes. As often as possible, Courtney likes to drag her husband away from their responsibilities, finding Cortona, Italy to be their favorite frequent vacation spot.

## *Susan Hoffman*

I was born and raised in Starkville, MS and graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration. I also hold M.Ed. and Ed.S. degrees from the University of West Georgia and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama. I work at the University Registrar's office training faculty, staff, and students on the various systems used by the University. I've been married to Scott Huffman for 29 years. We have two children, 4 grandchildren, and 2 Shih Tzu puppies (named Rosie and Major). I enjoy traveling, concerts, and rolling with the Tide. Scott and I have been to 7 countries to see Bruce Springsteen in concert. We currently live in downtown Tuscaloosa in a historic district and love being so close to everything.



## *Yolanda W. Page, Ph.D.*

Yolanda W. Page is the 8th president of Stillman College, a role that she assumed in July 2023. Prior to arriving in Tuscaloosa, Yolanda was Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Savannah State University (Savannah, GA). Yolanda considers herself a southern girl in that she has lived in several southern cities including New Orleans, Louisiana; Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Little Rock, Arkansas. She has worked in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana.



Yolanda earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Business Management from Dillard University and a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in American and African American Literature from Louisiana State University (LSU). She has studied abroad in Ghana as a UNCF/Mellon International Faculty Seminar Fellow. Her passion is first generation college students. Yolanda is married to David D. Page, a higher education professional; they have two children, William, a college junior; and Brooke, a ninth grader. Yolanda likes baking and reading during her spare time.

## *Frances Pool*

Frances has been a member of Historic Tuscaloosa for many years and has been a pillar of support to this organization. She has been a sponsor for the Tuscaloosa Cameo Guild (formerly Tuscaloosa Belles). For a long period of time, Frances would work past Preservation Society events, like the Century Club party, with Jean Gordon, Celeste Burnum, and other faithful members of our establishment. Frances has served as a board member before, and we are grateful to have her back on Historic Tuscaloosa's board. Welcome back Frances!



## *Brock Jones*

Brock's hometown is in Camden, AL. He has a wife, Anne, live in Tuscaloosa and have and three children. Brock graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelors in Corporate Finance, and later with a Law degree. Brock has served on several boards: United Way of West Alabama, America Red Cross, West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, and was once President of our board. Welcome back to the board Brock!

## *Judi Rabel*

My name is Judi Rabel. I grew up in Philadelphia where I went to nursing school at Albert Einstein Medical Center. I eventually got my BS at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. My husband Bill and I were lucky to do a lot of traveling with his connections to Insurance associations from around the world. We had 3 children, Nicole, Huitt and Danielle who is deceased. Since moving to Tuscaloosa in 2006, I have been very involved in historic preservation, Theatre Tuscaloosa and Christ Episcopal Church. I have a border collie named Skye who has been my companion since my husband died of COVID in July, 2022.



## *Ruby Simon*

Ruby Simon currently lives in Greymont Subdivision which is on the outskirts of Tuscaloosa County and Moundville, Alabama. She lived intermittently in the Big Bend community of west Tuscaloosa from 1954 through 1998. She is a member of the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church where she has served dutifully for more than fifty years in many capacities including youth directress, church secretary, Sunday school teacher, Girl Scout leader, youth advisor/counselor, facilitator, Bible lecturer, and church historian.



She matriculated through the Tuscaloosa School System and graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (K-9) in 1982. Simon served twenty-six years as a sixth-grade teacher in the Tuscaloosa City School System assigned to worked at Westlawn Middle School for more than twenty years and over five years at Tuscaloosa Middle School. Ruby is a passionate history buff, and her favorite hobbies and pastime activities include reading/learning, crossword puzzles, house plants, traveling, and collectibles. She adored her daughter's Shih Tzu furry friend that passed away in 2019, and is now trying not to become attached to her grand-daughter's English bulldog. Lastly, she is a member of the Tuscaloosa Education Retirees Teachers Association; Alabama Retired Teachers Association; First Thessalonians 5:17 Prayer & Bible Study Group; and board member of the following non-profit organizations: Murphy African-American Museum; 10-4 Corporation; 10,000 Strong; and the Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History Trail's Bloody Tuesday Recognition Committee.

We would also like to welcome  
Elizabeth Wyatt and Amy Matthews  
to the Historic Tuscaloosa Board!



# UPCOMING EVENTS



Holiday Open House – December 3, 2023



Bourbon and BBQ – December 4, 2023



Pine and Prosecco – December 6, 2023



Mistletoe & Masterpieces – December 7th



Century Club Party – Spring 2024



Easter Egg Hunt – Spring 2024



Progressive Dinner – Spring 2024



Ramble – early summer 2024



Lecture Series – June 27th, July 25th, and August 22, 2024