

THE PRESERVATIONIST

The official newsletter of Historic Tuscaloosa



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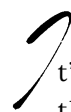
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Message from the President

By Shawn Wyatt



It's the most wonderful time of the year! You may think that I am referring to the holidays, but for me, you just can't beat spring. It is a time for renewal and reminds us that anything is possible.

When I think of spring in Tuscaloosa, many things come to mind including longer days, smocked dresses, Easter egg hunts, gardening, deviled eggs, Alabama's A-Day Game, Mother's Day, and graduations, just to name a few. I also believe that spring is when Historic Tuscaloosa's properties are at their most stunning. At each location azaleas, dogwoods, and tulips abound leaving our citizens and visitors alike feeling as if they have stepped back in time. How lucky we are to be the custodians of these grand structures.

Spring is an especially active time for Historic Tuscaloosa and is packed with exciting happenings. The annual Cameo Guild Easter Egg Hunt was held at the Battle-Friedman House on Sunday, March 24th.

Our Century Club Party took place at the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Moreton on April 25th. At this year's party we honored The Tuscaloosa Cameo Guild Senior Class and The 1819 Society which honors the initial contributors to the Historic Tuscaloosa endowment. That same week, on April 28th, Historic Tuscaloosa's Cameo Guild had their formal presentation of this year's young ladies. Our annual progressive dinner "Dining Through Time; A Taste of Tuscaloosa" was held on May 9th and again included The Old Tavern, The Jemison Mansion and The Battle-Friedman House. Last, but not least, we are planning this year's Ramble. Look for an announcement about it soon. I hope to see many of you at these wonderful events.

For some of our members, spring is the time to renew your commitment to Historic Tuscaloosa. I would ask that if you receive a membership renewal letter, you not only renew, but also please consider moving up to a higher membership level as the care and upkeep of our structures is ever increasing.

I am honored to be working alongside such a special group of dedicated people in order to achieve our mission to develop an awareness and appreciation of the historical and cultural heritage of our community.

Happy Everything!

HISTORIC TUSCALOOSA

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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
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Dr. Richard Rhone
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Roberts
Drs. Angelia and Douglas Woodward

Thank You

Message from the Director

By *William Hawkins*

Happy Spring and greetings! I hope this brief message finds each of you well and enjoying the wonderful flowers in bloom. Speaking of flowers in bloom, if you have not visited the Old Tavern at Capitol Park recently, you really need to swing by and enjoy the wonderful garden Katie Self has been working on. It is spectacular and she is amazing asset to our organization. These past few months have gone by so quickly we hope to get you up to date on everything that has transpired.

Our long time office manager Rachel took a new position and has moved on from us. She was an amazing asset and we could not be happier for her. With her departure we were able to fill her missing role with Nikki Fair who is her replacement. Nikki has done a tremendous job in stepping in and keeping the office running smoothly. You will hear more about her later in the Spring Newsletter.

We successfully launched Historic Tuscaloosa Endowment Fund in conjunction with the Community Foundation of West Alabama by meeting our original goal of \$10,000! Thank you to each one of you who gave. If you have not given yet its not late, simply follow this link <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/htendowment> and give there.

Another way to give is through estate gifts as well as stocks and bonds. We do hope you consider contributing.

This summers Lecture Series is fast approaching and the July, August, and September dates are filled and ready to go. This year we will feature lectures on the Bryce Hospital Coal Mine with George Adair, the restoration of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, France with Jennifer Feltman who is working on the project, and the social fabric of the Jemison era and the complex relationship between Senator Jemison and Horace King with Sharony Green. Each one will be spectacular, informative, and entertaining.

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>

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!



Cameo Guild Heritage 5k and Fun Run

Thank you, Sponsors



2024 Progressive Dinner Sponsors

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Yuletide Socials

By Chaslee Coleman

In a whirlwind of festive activity, Historic Tuscaloosa kicked off the 2023 Christmas season with Yuletide Socials. It began with the annual Christmas Open House on the first Sunday in December when we welcomed guests who came to see our five structures beautifully decorated by local garden clubs. Children visited with Santa and created holiday crafts while adults enjoyed refreshments and visiting with other guests. Entertainment was provided at the McGuire Strickland Home by students of the Capitol School and at the Jemison Van de Graaff Mansion by Cal Wilson.

Pine and Prosecco returned with great anticipation by many of our patrons. The participants had a wonderful evening creating beautiful centerpieces for the Christmas season under the excellent tutelage of Leska Graves Taylor while sipping on Prosecco and nibbling tasty hors d'oeuvres. Each person left with their own creation and memories of a fun evening spent with friends.

Two new events were added this year. A sold-out crowd participated in "Bourbon and Barbecue" as Mr. Luke Alexander presented three outstanding brands of bourbon for sampling and Crimson Smoker's Catering provided a delicious meal of southern style barbecue with all of the trimmings. "Mistletoe and Masterpieces" featured beautiful holiday creations by 19 local artists for a silent auction. Guests enjoyed a wonderful charcuterie table prepared by Shawn Wyatt and Angie Sterling as they awaited the announcement of the winning bids.

The Events Committee is currently planning Yuletide Socials 2024. Watch our newsletter for dates and details as we draw closer to the holiday season. We hope that we will see you there!

2023 – 2024 Historic Tuscaloosa Board Members

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Frances Pool
Judi Rabel
Luther Richardson III
Jules Shepard
Ruby Simon
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Elizabeth Wyatt

New Staff

Nikki Fair



Please join us in welcoming Nikki to Historic Tuscaloosa!

Nikki, a native of Tuscaloosa's surrounding areas, has joined us as our new office manager.

An advocate for historical appreciation, Nikki is a member of the Greene County Historical Society, where she serves as the event chair.

Nikki has also been awarded the honorary title of certified Master Gardener Volunteer and is a member of the Greensboro Garden Club and New Era Club in Eutaw.

As a mother of three, she is involved heavily in homeschool outreach programs, having served as a 4-H Direct Volunteer and 4-H Archery Volunteer.

Of her many talents, Nikki flourishes as an experienced seamstress and tailor.

We're excited to have Nikki join the team. Please contact her if you need assistance. Her email is officemanager@historictuscaloosa.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

 Ramble – early summer 2024

 Lecture Series – July 25th, August 22, 2024, September 26, 2024