

The Inkwell

WINTER 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's
Corner 2

New Members 8

Donations 9

Volunteer
Spotlight 10

New to the
Society 12

Volunteer!
410-398-
1790

**Renew
your
membership
today!**

Golden Globe Winning—The Green Book: Defeating Jim Crow

By Eric F. Mease

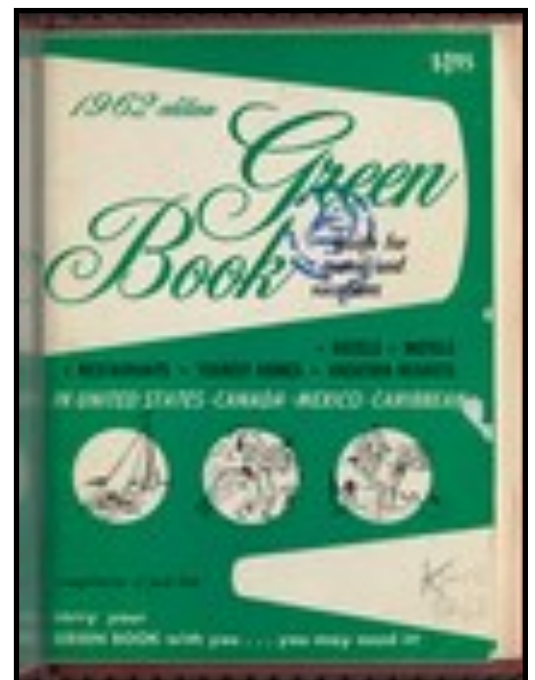
I'm not a movie critic. I don't even play one on TV. I have, however, read and heard the buzz around the 2018 movie, *The Green Book*. It's based on a journey to the deep South in 1962, by an African American concert pianist from Manhattan, Dr. Donald Shirley. His chauffeur, Frank Anthony "The Lip" Vallelonga, is a white man. I have not seen *The Green Book*, but movie critics from *Rotten Tomatoes* have. They write, "*Green Book* takes audiences on a surprisingly smooth ride through potentially bumpy subject matter, fueled by (director) Peter Farrelly's deft touch and a pair of well-matched leads."

"The Wrap" reviewed *The Green Book* too, writing, "The movie gets darker as the journey goes further South, and as the myriad indignities and humiliations mount. But our investment in the characters rarely flags, thanks to Mortensen and Ali and a director who is interested in cleanly and efficiently delivering a

story worth hearing."

So, after two paragraphs of this article, what's *The Green Book*?

The Green Book was a book, or really more like a magazine. It sold from between 25 cents and a dollar between 1936 and 1966. Its purpose, as the introduction to the 1937 edition states, was "to compile facts and information



Continued on page 4...

President's Corner

Annual Letter to the Membership

Dear Member:

We started 2018 by asking you all to renew your membership which I'm hoping you did. I hope you find value in your membership and take advantage of our vast resources and our lively social events.

We issued a Spring and a Fall Inkwell with articles such as: "Cecil County and the History of American Medicine," by Rusty Eder; William Singerly's Elkton Stock Farm," by Emily Kilby and "The Barnes Family," by Irene Butler. For those of you who see the Cecil Whig the Historical Society has an entire page in Friday's edition in the My Cecil

section. We have six active writers who produce articles on an array of subjects.

First Friday's have been building steam and the Society is alive with great food and even greater conversation. We draw a diverse crowd and many of them come in with questions about the history of Cecil County. The Arts Council who shares the building with us is also open and the patrons intermingle and a good time is had by all. Both organizations are supportive of each other and we collaborate on events.

In March we had a

presentation by Margie Blystone on how to tell your story. She gave numerous tips on how to capture your memories in a creative way that told the person's story in a more personal way. She also discussed troubleshooting the pitfalls of storing your photos and mementos in the digital age.

On First Friday in April we opened our newest exhibit "Historical Threads and the Stories That Bind Them." We featured clothing and accessories through the decades along with local history stories relative to that decade. The opening reception

Officers

- ◆ PAULA NEWTON – PRESIDENT
- ◆ BETH MOORE—VICE PRESIDENT
- ◆ DEBBIE STORKE – TREASURER
- ◆ MIKE DIXON – HISTORIAN
- ◆ CAROL DONACHE – LIBRARIAN
- ◆ BETH MOORE – CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
- ◆ MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
- ◆ LISA DOLOR – CURATOR

HSCC wants to email the Inkwell to as many members as possible! Please send us your email address to receive future issues via email.

Trustees

- ◆ GARY HOLMES
- ◆ TRAVIS HUMISTON
- ◆ ERIC MEASE
- ◆ ALLYN NICKLE
- ◆ KAREN PETERSON
- ◆ RUSTY EDER
- ◆ TRACY JENTZSCH
- ◆ MARGIE BLYSTONE

Do you want to get involved? Contact us! cecilhistory@gmail.com

was well attended.

Lisa Dolor, our Curator, and her team allow 6 months to put together an exhibit. It starts with researching the topic and then gathering the objects, creating the design, making the signage. And then putting the whole thing together in a way that will take you back to a period in history.

Also in April we held Family History Day at the Big Elk Chapel. This program was originally scheduled for October 2017, but Mother Nature had other plans. It was still a cold, blustery day, but we filled the little chapel to hear Emily Kilby's presentation on the families of Fair Hill. The Elk Creek Preservation Society and the Ladies Aid Society of the Big Elk Chapel were also there selling baked goods and lemon butter and discussing the work being done at the Bee Hive in Fair Hill. Bluegrass music entertained us and the volunteers from the Historical Society provided a lunch of hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and dessert.

Carol Donache, our Librarian, represented the Society at the Iron Hill Archaeology Day in Delaware and the Scottish Games in Fair Hill, Maryland. When we participate in other organization's programs, we take material relating to genealogy and information about the Historical Society to try and recruit new members and/or volunteers.

Around May we send an appeal to the County's service organizations for a donation. They have been extremely generous in the past and they didn't disappoint this year. This year's proceeds will go toward the renovation of the DeWitt Military Museum.

Several years ago we were approached by Judge Jane Murray who was interested in space to create a garden as a project for juveniles who appeared before her in court. Along with the Arts Council we endeavored to create a garden in front of the Rev. Duke Log Cabin. In July we hosted our first Garden Party. Steak & Main from North East provided food using their mobile restaurant. We had tables scattered about the garden and the cabin was open. It was a lovely evening in the garden. Also, Jack Smith generously donated a riding lawn mower that he had refurbished. The highest bidder took the mower.

At September's First Friday we presented "Elkton Cemetery Tour, A Living History; Politics Then & Now. Yet again Mother Nature did not cooperate and we had to turn the cemetery tour into a parlor talk. We featured Mayor Samuel Keyes played by Ed Ginder, Elkton Planning Board member; Mayor William Mackall played by Rob Alt, Elkton's Mayor and Mayor John Stanley played by Judge Will Davis. Mayor Mackall was also visited by the Jamar Sisters played by Mary Biron, Wanda Owens and Chan Cosans all members of the Friends of Cecil County Heritage Troupe.

Our Fall Raffle tickets were sent out in early September. We collected donations equaling over \$1000.00 and we sold approximately \$3000.00 in tickets. We cannot thank the Cecil County business community and our patrons enough for all their support. The winning ticket, held by Michael George of Elkton, was drawn at Family Heritage Day in October.

In October, Family Heritage Day was held at West Nottingham Academy with a presentation by Rusty Eder, academy historian and teacher at WNA. Refreshments were served by WNA. Following was a guided tour of the campus.

Our First Friday in December featured our annual Silent Auction. The items in this year's auction were better than ever. We had a large donation of spirits from Rick's Liquors and we created themed baskets, for example, British Isles, Margaritaville, Whiskey Races, Italian Dinner, Pirates Booty and Pamper Yourself along with baseball memorabilia and multiple framed maps from the 1877 Atlas. I have to mention Butch Cabbage from Pictured it Framed who generously donates time and material to frame items for the auction. We attempt to schedule most programs during First Friday's which gives us a better attendance. Along with all of these activities we have continued to answer research queries that average 3-5 per week and wait on patrons. We recorded 103 walk in patrons from: California, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas, Iowa, Kansas, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, along with dozens of local patrons.

Our curator has continued to catalogue textiles & enter the information into PastPerfect. Her team has also started the same cataloguing process for our furniture collection.

The Society's long awaited new website went live. We are still populating the website pages and fixing some of the bugs, but we find it to be much more user friendly.

Our volunteers are processing boxes of family photographs and getting them into the files and continuing to digitize the newspapers. When a donation comes in our process is to immediately get a thank you letter out to the donor. Larger donations are put into archive boxes for later processing. We continue to work on this backlog. Fortunately we had help from two students this past year. Ryan, who had recently graduated from Shippensburg University, and Parker, who is a student at Brown University, organized and accessioned collections.

We are optimistically looking forward to 2019. Our main focus is a major renovation of the DeWitt Museum along with providing services to our members and patrons. Please stay tuned and consider volunteering. It is very satisfying to know that you are helping people find their past and helping to preserve the history of your area at the same time.
Keeping history alive,

Paula Newton
President

P.S. Check out pages 10 and 11 for some great photos from our past year!



connected with motoring, which the Negro Motorist can use and depend upon.”

During the days of “Jim Crow,” laws segregated white and black America. Not only were the public schools divided by race, but most public accommodations, from hotels to gas stations to beauty parlors, were segregated by law. African Americans, in many locations, both North and South, were not even allowed to sip from the same water fountains as whites nor use the same restrooms. So what was an African American, traveling away from home in those days, to do? How did he or she know where they could go to eat, stay overnight, have their hair done, or go out for a night on the town

without facing legal repercussions? Enter, *The Green Book*.

Between 1936 and 1966, *The Green Book*, compiled and published by Victor Green and George Smith from New York City, listed by state by municipality, all the accommodations that were “open” to African Americans.

Returning to the introduction to the 1937 edition of *The Green Book*, the authors write that “ideas, suggestions, Travel information and articles of interest” were solicited from both *The Book’s* readers, the businesses listed in *The Book*, and those that advertised there.

“Every medium and resources (are) being used to contact Reliable Business Places and

Resorts that will serve your motoring needs. All advertisements contained in this book (have) been carefully selected and we feel sure that your patronage will be appreciated by the advertisers.”

On the other hand, if a motorist found something wrong with a service rendered by “an advertiser, we would appreciate you writing us the complaint, stating all the facts and conditions and we will immediately investigate your case and help to adjust same.”

Again, I have not seen *The Green Book*, but the movie’s synopsis says it’s about a New York concert pianist traveling to the deep South in 1962. The most direct route from Manhattan, where Dr. Shirley lived, to just about any place south of the

1955 Edition \$1.25

The Negro Travelers'
GREEN BOOK
 The Guide to Travel and Vacations

Travel-Wise People Travel by THE GREEN BOOK
 For 17 years the guide used by experienced travelers.

A Chat With The Editor

TRAVELING is one of the large industries of this era. Millions of people hit the road as soon as the warm weather sets in. They want to get away from their old surroundings: to see—to learn how people live—to meet old and new friends.

In this era of the automobile, trains, buses, boats and fast flying air liners, we have an assortment of transportation which will take one to any place that they might wish to go. With all of these transportation facilities at hand, modern travel has brought thousands of people out of their homes to view the wonders of the world.

Thousands and thousands of dollars are spent each year in the various modes of transportation. Money spent like this brings added revenue to trades people throughout the country.

The white traveler for years has had no difficulty in getting accommodations, but with the Negro it has been different. He before the advent of Negro Travel Guides has had to depend on word of mouth and then sometimes accommodations weren't available. But now a days things are different—he has his own travel guide, that he can depend on for all the information that he wants and with a selection. Hence these guides have made traveling more popular and without running into embarrassing situations.

Since 1936, THE GREEN BOOK has been published yearly. A few years after its publication, THE GREEN BOOK was recognized as the official Negro Travel Guide by the United States Travel Bureau, a part of the Department of Commerce, which bureau has been closed, due to the lack of funds. By being such an important piece of literature, white business has also recognized its value and it is now in use by the Esso Standard Oil Co., The American Automobile Assn. and its affiliate automobile clubs throughout the country, other automobile clubs, air lines, travel bureaus, travelers aid, libraries and thousands of subscribers.

Hence we have filled one of our life's ambitions, to give the Negro a travel guide that will be of service to him, by this method we have established ourselves in the minds of the traveling public. THE GREEN BOOK is known from coast to coast as the source of information for travel and vacations.

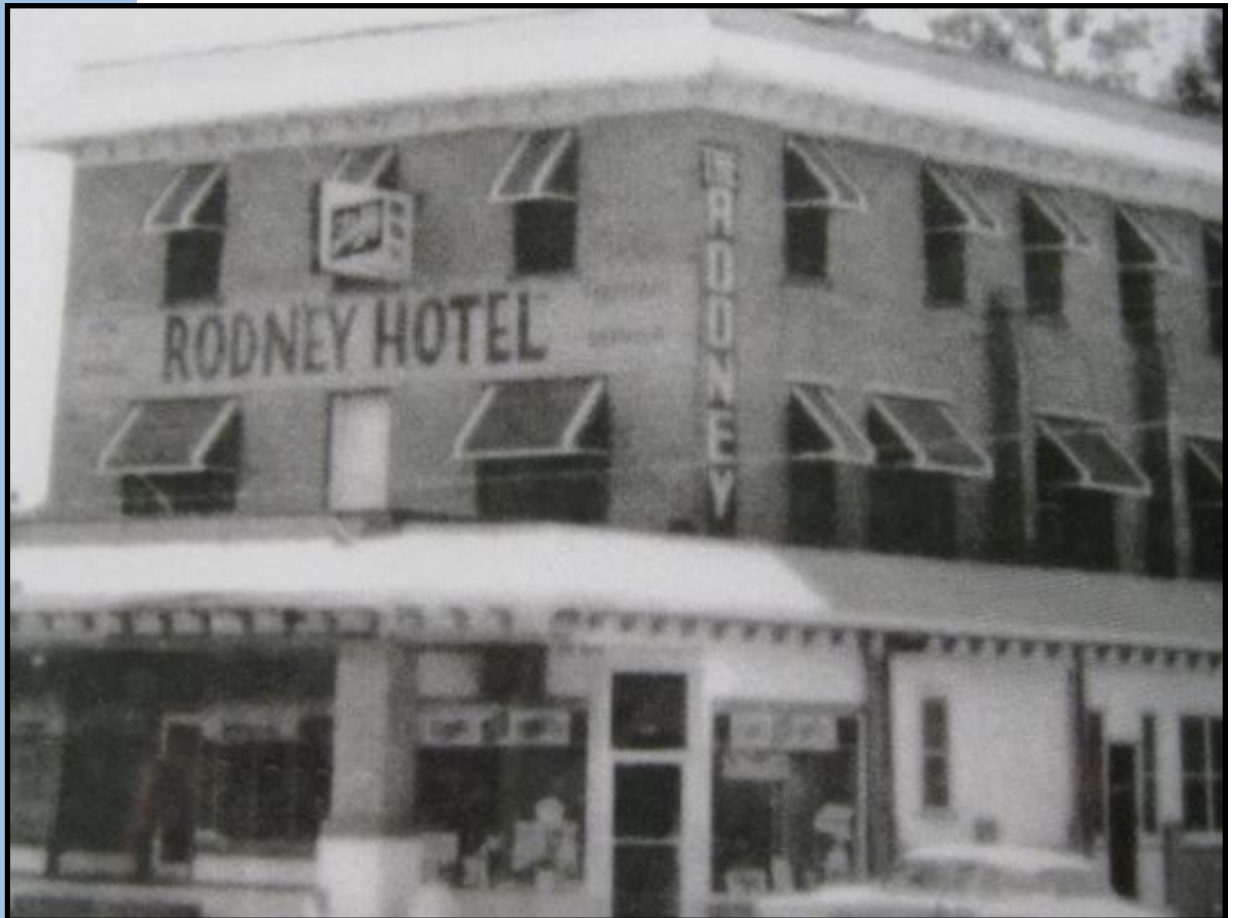
VICTOR H. GREEN,
 Editor & Publisher

1

Green Book ...continued from page 5

Mason Dixon line, takes the traveler through Cecil County, Maryland. So how would Dr. Shirley have dealt with traveling through Cecil County? We don't know. Not only is it not revealed in the movie, but there is no mention of Cecil County in *The Green Book* book either. In fact, the only municipality mentioned on the Eastern Shore is Salisbury and that isn't even close. The closest municipality to Cecil County's east is Wilmington, Delaware. Wilmington featured: the Spot Café, a nightclub located in the Royal Hotel; overnight accommodations at the Lawson Hotel on Poplar Street, both the YM and YW-CAs at 10th and Walnut

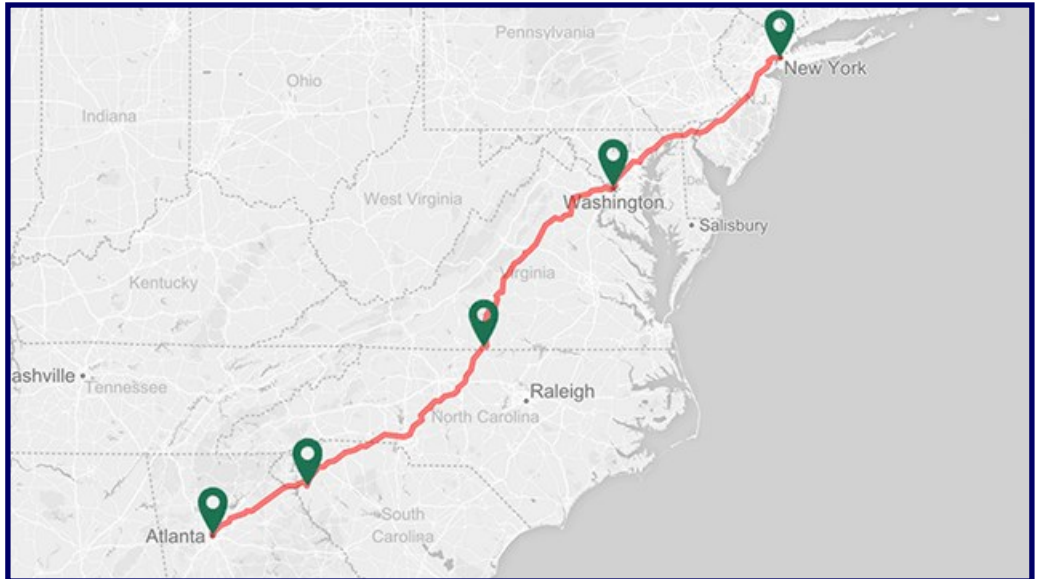
Streets as well as what were called Tourist Homes, which were more like bed and breakfasts, back in the day. Also featured were beauty shops on French and East 10th Streets, and a lone service station between 8th and 9th Streets on King. There is, however, a Maryland connection further south. The Architectural Historian for Delaware's Historical and Cultural Affairs, Carlton Hall, says in Townsend, Delaware, the Rodney Hotel's owner was from Salisbury, Maryland. The Rodney, since destroyed by fire, was one of several "downstate" establishments recommended in



Rodney Hotel, Townsend, Delaware

The Green Book.

The nearest listing for anything even close to Cecil County was the Johnson Hotel in Havre de Grace, across the Susquehanna in Harford County. It was located at 415 South Stokes Street. A quick check of Google maps shows no sign of a hotel and only houses and a church near that location today.



Greenbook Roadtrip Route

Now, to have a really good time, the traveler would go to Baltimore where there were no fewer than 4 hotels plus the “Y,” seven restaurants, two barber shops, four beauty salons, eight taverns, five night clubs, one road house, two liquor stores, and one service station open to the African American patron.

Eventually, to our nation’s credit, times changed, especially with the passage of the Civil Rights act of 1964, the death knell for both Jim Crow and *The Green Book*. In fact, on page 2 of the last edition of *The Book* covering 1966-67, the introduction addressed the new legislation.

“Civil Rights: Facts vs. Fiction. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a new bill of rights for everyone, regardless of race, creed, or color. Public Accommodations: effective at once, every hotel, restaurant, theater or other facility catering to the general public must do exactly that. Thirty-one state laws, already in effect, have even stronger provisions.”

So, while white America attempted to limit, among other things, the free movement of African Americans through decades of Jim Crow laws, the black community found at least a partial work around; until eventually, the laws changed and

seemed to support what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”



**Have you found
answers to your
Cecil County family
history mysteries?**

Share your Stories!

cecilhistory@gmail.com

Welcome, New Members!

Do you know someone who should become a member? Let us know!

Send us an email or give a call.

March 2018

Linda Cox
Sherrie Dack
Mark & Karen Gilder
Loretta Little
Morgan Miller
Alison Nichols
Tacy Powers
Denise Redkar-Brown
Rebecca Vodusek

April 2018

Mary Biron
Norman Gallion
James & Anna Lambdin

May 2018

Ann & Robert Bennett
Crystal Calderon
Ted Carrithers
Joe & Lily Chaika
C. Phillip DeWeese
Phil & Colleen Giesling
Jasmine Good
Rod Hartman
Kathryn Hart
Elizabeth Hopkins
Tracy Jentzsch
Anjanette Kezell
George W. Lutz
Eli Perlman
Teena Pouska
Jody Stairs
Ann Wagoner

June 2018

Mike Booth
Rich Braco
Karen Cline
Valarie Crockett

Stewart & Betty Ewing
Sarah Michailof

July 2018

Bonnie Aldridge
Christina Aldridge
Robin Iler
Torbin Jenk
Elyse Ostland
Linda Post
Pete Reich
David Woodruff

August 2018

George Archibald
Darla Avila
Pamela Brett
Elizabeth Cameron
Martin Schenck

September 2018

Bob & Linda Meffley
Barbara Park
Town of Rising Sun
Brenda Sexton

October 2018

Edith Bacon
Chris Farmer
Denise Marvel
Earl & Paula Rakes

November 2018

Nancy Brown
Andrew DeGrasse
Brian Harris
Anna Meyers
Joseph Mitchell
Doris Stockly
George Walter

December 2018

James Campbell
Ware Tech Studios

Donations — Thank You!

The Historical Society would like to thank everyone for making our fall fundraising event successful. Every contribution is important to help us meet our goals of preserving the history of Cecil County.

Raffle Basket & Silent

Auction Fall of 2018

- APGFCU
- Bath & Body Works
- Brookbend Interiors
- Margie Blystone
- Chesapeake Bay Coffee
- Chesapeake Inn
- Chick-Fil-A
- Crouch Funeral Home
- Butch Cabbage
- First State Floats
- Food Lion
- JoAnn Gardner
- Goodchild Towing & Automotive
- Granite Run Taproom
- Impressions Hair Salon
- Lee's Landing Dock Bar
- Brian McCandless
- Martin's Grocery Store
- Maryland Recycled Creations
- Joseph W. Mitchell, Sr.
- Lyn Nickle
- Nature's Nectar
- North East Chocolates
- North East Nails
- Peak Cryotherapy
- Red Robin
- Sandy Cove
- Sentman Distributors
- Silver Buckle
- Snatcher's Creekside
- Spork
- Studio 13
- Sweet & Spice
- Turkey Point Vineyard
- Walt's Tavern
- WAWA
- Dr. Tom Banks, Head of School, West Nottingham Academy
- Woody's
- Mr. Rick Kelso/Rick's Liquors

Duke Log Cabin Sign

- Helen Long
- Linda Talarowski
- Stevens Remillard
- Jack Smith

Become a Member!

Joining the Historical Society of Cecil County is a great way to support the Society's undertakings.

All members are invited to attend meetings and functions sponsored by the HSCC, receive discounts on books and items, use the HSCC library for free and get a subscription to *The Inkwell*, our newsletter.

For over 75 years, we have connected people with Cecil's past by collecting and preserving the county's history and we count on membership dues to help fund this endeavor.

Through your membership you help connect people to the county's past through our library and its significant collection of rare books, manuscripts and photographs; our outreach services, helping others understand county history; a website that attracts hundreds of visitors monthly; our museum, which contains fascinating displays; and our widely distributed print newsletter.

Ways to Join

Become a member online or send your payment by mail (the old-fashioned way!). Membership renewal is on an annual, calendar year basis.

Members joining on or after August 1st will receive credit for the remaining months of the year of receipt as well as a full 12 months in the following period.

By Mail

Membership
Historical Society of Cecil County
135 E Main St.
Elkton, MD 21921

Online Payment with Paypal

Select the appropriate category and click on the "buy now" button. It will take you to a secure PayPal page for payment.

You will receive your membership package within about two weeks.

Volunteer Spotlight: Margie Blystone



Name and where you are from: Some people from Facebook know me as Em Bee. I was born and raised in Southern California. Moved to the East Coast in 1988 with my Virginia born and bred husband. Moved to Elkton, Maryland in 2003 and began volunteering downtown in 2007.

What did you or do you do in your working life: Before I 'retired' to be a full-time homemaker, I was a photographic typesetter for the flight test division of Lockheed in Burbank, California. Since then I've done everything from raising a family, to teaching scrapbooking classes, interior decorating, assisting in getting a successful art gallery business (The Palette & The Page) up and running and featuring my own gallery opening as an artist. I currently chair Elkton's Arts & Entertainment District.

What is your job at the Historical Society: Board Member

What encouraged you to volunteer at the Society: I am excited to help organize events with the society's involvement in First Friday Art Loop activities.

What are your interests or hobbies: Art, Design, Socializing & Volunteering. ✨



*April's First Friday
"Historical Threads and the
Stories That Bind Them."*



*Family Heritage Day
at West Nottingham Academy.*



*First Friday, September 2018
"Elkton Cemetery Tour, A Living History;
Politics Then & Now"*



*First Friday, December 2018
Cookie Throw-down Event
HSCC came in 2nd place!*

Items Donated to the Society: September – December 2018

By Carol Donache, Librarian

Shipp, Mary Lea & James Perry - Improved Order of Red Men Pin; Shawnah Craft Pin



Park, Barbara J. - Book: Herman Husband by Mary Elinor Lazenby

McCool, Emma - Hardbound book: Augustine Herrman by Earl L. W. Heck.

Polk, John F. - Softbound books: Beyond Damned Quarter: the Polk/Pollock family of the Chesapeake Eastern Shore in the Colonial Era; Orphan Court minutes, Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1734-1746/7; Records of Orphans' Court for Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1747-1761; Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore vol. 15



Irwin, Miriam - Black and white photo postcard of two women sitting in a horse drawn sleigh with boy in background.



Fazio, Anne - Hardbound book: The Civil War in Maryland by Daniel Carroll Toomey

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

135 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921

(410) 398-1790

Hours of Operation

Monday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

1st Saturday of each month

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Since 1932, the Historical Society of Cecil County Maryland has been the go-to resource for researchers, students and history buffs looking for answers about the culture and materials that defined (and continue to define) our county. We are a 100% volunteer-based organization.