

Tred Avon Times

TALBOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOUR

by Patricia Bradley



Because Roger Bollman kindly offered to guide a tour of the Talbot Historical Society for Londonderry residents, I found myself at this downtown Easton treasure on a lovely October morning, Friday the fourteenth. Eleven of us boarded the bus and arrived at the site in no time at all. We were greeted by Peggy Morey, General Manager, who invited us into the library where she gave us an overview of the workings of the Historical Society, the buildings they own and operate, and the mission they have to serve all who are interested in the history of Talbot County. We learned of the large climate controlled vault below where items are stored. There are over sixty thousand photographs that have been digitized – a huge effort. They have over eleven hundred books in their reference library. They have a computerized data base that can be accessed by the public. They also schedule a monthly lecture on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.



Historical documents and artifacts from the past often come to the Historical Society from folks who may have kept them for years but now want to find a good, permanent, future home for them. Sometimes new home owners will find some treasure the former owners have stashed away and left behind, and they see that they may have historical value. In these cases the Society is happy for the donation and the donor is happy to have had a part in preserving history.



Our next stop was the exhibit of aerial photographs of certain areas of the Chesapeake Bay taken “Before” and “After.” Roger was very knowledgeable about recognizing the scenes depicted and pointing out the changes over the years that we could recognize in the pictures. We left the Exhibit Hall then and went across the street to the Mary Jenkins House, an early stick built home that may be the oldest house in Easton dating from 1783 or before. It currently serves as a museum and has an exhibit telling the story of the African-American history and culture in Talbot County. Back across the street we toured the James Neall House, ca. 1805, a three story brick building of the Federal style which was very elegant in its day, and remains so. It contains family portraits and artifacts of a comfortable life in the early nineteenth century. James Neall was a skilled cabinet maker, and the brother of Joseph Neall. The Joseph Neall house dates from 1795 and sits at the bottom of the Historical Society Garden. Joseph was also a cabinet maker who managed to fit six apprentices in the very small second floor of his small house. One of

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two other small buildings at the bottom of the Garden is a replica of a house called “The End of Controversy House,” the controversy being the execution of Quakers taking place in Massachusetts. The resident of the house had escaped to Maryland and lived in peace in Talbot County.

The Garden takes up an acre of land between the Neall House and the Research Center. It is beautifully planted and maintained by the Talbot County Garden Club and is open to the public every day during daylight hours. It is available to rent for special events, but when not in use for a special event is a lovely and welcome spot for anyone to enjoy.



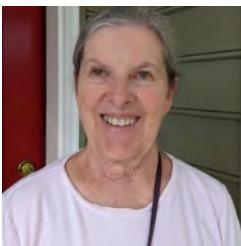
At the entrance to the garden two very large sycamore trees had recently been taken down by a local tree company that donated their services. This is one example of the generous support the Historical Society receives from the local community. They also enjoy a lot of support from volunteers who serve in many capacities; not only as docents and tour guides, but in other ways that, as Roger points out, can be done sitting down, which might be of more interest to our population. That would include archivists and collections, research assistant, school history projects, clerical work, special events as needed, buildings and grounds and writing.

If you want to know more, Roger is a great source of information. You can also always visit the place yourself. The Talbot Historical Society is open to the public on Wednesday through Friday from ten to three o'clock.

TED TALK – OLDER PEOPLE ARE HAPPIER

On Monday, September 26th, Barry Gillman led a TED Talk presentation by Dr. Laura Carstensen. She is the Director of Stanford University Center of Longevity and is a pioneer in the study of ageing. She has spent years studying why old people are happy (at least in developed countries) and developed the Theory of Socioemotional Selectivity - why (and how) older people choose to become happier. She found less stress, anger and worry among the aged and a tendency to be more positive along with a rejection of the negative. Her study produced a graph that showed that even at the age of ninety people are happier than they were in their twenties.

Barry noted that other studies that came up with the same results: A Gallop World Poll, a Stoneybrook University research project as well as other studies by Carstensen showed that when older people see themselves with a limited amount of time, they focus on family and close relationships and choices that they know will make them happy. As the saying goes, "People over 50 don't go on blind dates!"



DEE CRAIG-Dee was born in Mill Valley, California and worked for the U.S. Naval Academy and the Department of Defense.

JAY CRAIG-Jay served in the U.S. Navy and had a deployment aboard the USS Forrestal as a Plane Captain Hydraulics Boatswain Mate.



RESIDENT BIOGRAPHIES

The above are condensed from the longer, fuller biographies that are posted on Catie.

WINE TASTING

by Dan Tanner

Wine Tasting has been held on the first Monday of each month at 3:30 PM. However, as of October, that has been changed to 3:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month. Wine tasting is held in the library of the Community Center. The fee is \$5.00 cash per person.

Mike Mesko of Town and Country Liquors does the presentation. The October wines were a selection of choice wines that cost less than \$12.00 a bottle:

Bleu de Mer Rose 2021, Sud de France

Cicada Blanc 2020, France

Pierre Blanches Chardonnay 2021, France

Borsao Garnacha Seleccion 2020, Spain

Charles Smith "Vino" Cab/sangiovese 2018, Washington

Siegel Reserve Red 2019, Chile

Mike presents an in-depth discussion of each wine that is sampled. Snacks are provided between samples.

PHILIP DUTTON AND THE ALLIGATORS

by Florence Thompson



On October 4, the postponed summer concert was held in the Clubhouse, and a good crowd of lovers of music, Louisiana style, gave Philip Dutton and his group an appreciative audience. Philip is the native of Louisiana, and his four musicians play as if they were natives. Keyboard, accordion, drums, saxes and clarinet, guitars and other string instruments, a rub board (washboard) played a non-stop-hour of rousing tunes. Their program blends jazz, blues, R & B, Cajun and zydeco.

Photo by Craig Caldwell Some of their selections are familiar popular pieces, some are Philip's own tunes, and some are new to the general public. "Louisiana State of Mind" catalogs many of the sentimental memories of Louisiana and a zydeco piece featuring a Cajun beat and a portion of French lyrics was outstanding. A memorable rendition of "When the Saints go Marching In" was played to a slow tempo and in the final go-round the audience was invited to sing. The hushed voices, singing what is essentially a prayer for salvation, was lovely. The final lively number left the audience in a great mood.

Philip Dutton and the Alligators have had several gigs on the Eastern Shore. They will undoubtedly have repeat performances in the future. Hopefully, at Londonderry.

FOOD TRUCK – SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

by Patricia Bradley

On Tuesday, October 11, Londonderry residents and staff had the opportunity to try a different venue for dinner. The "Red Chef" food truck was on site at the Manor House from four to seven selling their home cooked varieties of burgers, burritos, chicken, fries, with or without cheese, bacon, Old Bay, etc. etc. From all

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reports, the food was really good. And it was just fun to be there. Extra tables and chairs were set up around the pool and that was a lovely place to gather. The weather could not have been nicer and in addition to being able to hang out with friends there was great music to listen to. Rosewood, a local band from St. Michaels, was back by popular demand. They play some country, some folk, a little bluegrass and an occasional rock number. It was all good.



Photo by Craig Caldwell

Some people had invited friends and family to join them. It was fun to see some of the children of our staff members here. The Activity Committee had cookies and fancy cupcakes to sell, proceeds going to the homeless shelter in Easton.

I had a chance to speak with Jonathan, the owner of the food truck, and hear his story. He had been working as a mechanic for twenty years, but deciding to go into the food business was fulfilling a life-long dream. He had the truck designed and built and when it was ready three years ago he started out with it on a part time basis. Then the pandemic hit. It turned out that while the pandemic was very hard on restaurants, his mobile, take out service was very much in need. Business was very good and soon he was doing it full time. James Brooks, Londonderry's maintenance director, volunteers with the Preston Volunteer Fire Department which is one of the organizations The Red Shef has been able to help during the pandemic by holding breakfast events and donating proceeds to the VFD. Jonathan told me he continues to donate to local organizations whenever he can.

LONDONDERRY LIBRARY NEWS

Several noteworthy books have been gifted to the Londonderry Library:

AMERICA'S GREATEST LIBRARY, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS (illustrated) by John Y. Cole

TREASURES OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, by Charles A. Goodrum

(The two books above have been placed in the Londonderry Library by Edna Blakely in honor of her husband, Jim Blakely, who recently passed. Jim was happily employed at the Library of Congress for thirty-five years.)

U.S. AIR FORCE, A COMPLETE HISTORY

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF PAST AND PRESENT, DORCHESTER COUNTY, CAMBRIDGE MARYLAND

WWII, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

MARYLAND, THE SEVENTH STATE, John T. Marck, 4th Edition

THE COMPLETE PERSONAL MEMOIR OF GENERAL U. S. GRANT

The books listed above, and others, are placed in the bottom shelf space in the Londonderry Library. In most cases they are too large and too heavy to fit in the general areas of the Library. These outstanding books are unique sources of information and enjoyment. Read them in the Library or take them home with you. Return at your leisure.



OUT TO LUNCH

by Florence Thompson

On Friday 21, a fully loaded bus left Londonderry for the monthly lunch outing. Choosing to travel to Chestertown, hoping that the views of expansive fields during harvest season would be highlighted by fall foliage, the only disappointment was landscape showed up. The counties of time mostly green. This trip did agricultural dominated portion of the

While still in Talbot the Councill brightened the landscape. Their huge and their set up of games and fun was and sizes on the field trips offered to students at various schools in the area. This sight was the colorful highlight of the ride to Chestertown.



that just a small portion of the usual colorful Talbot, Queen Anne's and Kent are at this confirm that the Eastern Shore is truly an state of Maryland.

Farms' usual Halloween festivities pumpkin crop was on display (and for sale) swarming with school children of all ages and sizes on the field trips offered to students at various schools in the area. This sight was the colorful highlight of the ride to Chestertown.

Riding through the historic town of Centreville, we spied the statue in front of the oldest court house still in use in Maryland. On the front lawn is the statue of Queen Anne, and it was related that Princess Anne has been a visitor, viewing the statue of her ancestor and namesake of the county.

Approaching Chestertown, the view from the bridge spanning the Chester River is picture postcard worthy. The colonial style homes each facing the river, boats of all types and sizes, and the ride through town and the campus of Washington College are a sightseer's treat. How old is Washington College? George Washington himself gave permission to name the institution in his honor.

Luisa's Restaurant is on the far side of Chestertown from our approach. It was a lively place last Friday with several groups enjoying themselves. The menu is top side Italian and our group ordered a variety of the offerings. Everyone expressed pleasure in their selections. Several attendees had never heard of this restaurant, but they will be spreading their good revues to friends and families. Marilyn Burns, Dee and Jay Craig, Evelyn Wiblin, Bea Conrad, Sam and Rosemary Trippe and their daughter Regina Stout, Florence Thompson, Susan Andrews, Queenie Swaren, accompanied by Erica Hardeo and driven by Demetri Jenkins – the outing was enjoyed by all.

MISSING BOOKS

TWO COPIES OF A VALUABLE BOOK

HAVE GONE MISSING.

ALWAYS THERE BY ALISON DAVIS

These two books are not Londonderry Library books. Alison is Faith Dobrenski's daughter. She dedicated each copy of the book family members. Faith circulated the books to Londonderry residents and two have never been returned to her. The hard cover book cover is two-toned, tan on the bottom and brown on the top. Please keep your eye out for these two books, they are valuable to Faith, Alison and her family.

AUTUMN TEA PARTY

by Florence Thompson

The very first Londonderry tea party held last spring was such a success that by popular demand the first Autumn Tea Party was held on October 13th. Mother Nature may be holding back on her colors this fall, but the table settings and décor in the Clubhouse were lovely in all the traditional colors. Each attendee chose their flavored tea from a wide array and drank their tea from fine China teacups.

The maintenance crew placed the long tables in a four-sided arrangement; Erica Hardeo, Chelsea Coombs and Lorraine Flisher decorated, placed the savories and sweets on each table and warmly greeted the guests. The goodies were excellent; Shavonte Greene made the delicious scones. Erica played a form of trivia, pulling many of the ladies into a roundtable conversation.

Everyone left expressing thanks for this special occasion and hoping for a repeat of the spring and autumn events.

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

by Patricia Bradley

Londonderry ladies went shopping on October 25th without leaving the premises. Taylor Marie's Apparel rolled into town bringing a truck-load of fall and winter fashions especially chosen for the demographic they cater to, senior living residences like ours, continuing care facilities, women's civic groups, senior centers and selected fund raisers for example. Erica Hardeo, Christina and LaCree helped to get the racks of clothing from the truck lined up against the walls at the Community Center. The maintenance team got chairs set up for the fashion show, the main attraction of the day. They also created a dressing room for the models making sure the windows were covered up. An important detail.



Photo by Craig Caldwell

There were eight plus one volunteer models who chose their own outfits to show. There were a lot of soft fabrics in fall colors, and textures which could easily be rolled up and packed for travel. Tunic tops were popular as were multi-colored tops and sweaters. They were all accessorized with scarves and jewelry which were also offered for sale. Thanks to our models LaCree Brown, Kristina Carson, Faith Dobrenski, Susan Andrews, Elaine Leahy, Evelyn Wiblin, Carol Lane and Lari Caldwell. They did a great job and took it all very seriously. Not so much the ninth model, our own James Brooks, who came in wearing a pinkish skirt, a white top, a lovely, filmy scarf, and there may have been some jewelry too, I was laughing too hard to be sure. We were all laughing and he kept smiling like he was having fun. His ensemble was over his pants and shirt, his boots were on his feet and he never took off his cap. When told to he took a "saucy" pose for the camera. Fortunately, Craig Caldwell was on hand to record the event for the ages. If we gave out a good sport award, James could win it.

After the fashion show ladies stayed on for more buying. It was a fun afternoon.

CANDIDATE FORUM 2022

by Patricia Bradley

THANK YOU to Jane Bollman and Calvin Yowell who organized the Forum on October 27th that brought all the candidates for election to the Talbot County Council to Londonderry. It was a service to all of us who want to be informed citizens who vote in local elections. And thank you to all who attended and filled those seventy seats and more who sat along the wall. It must have been gratifying for the candidates to be speaking to a “full house.” Thanks all around.



IN MEMORIAM

by Florence Thompson



FREDA MORGAN DALTON was born in Plymouth, Devon, England, from where the Mayflower sailed to Plymouth in America. The port city was bombed heavily in WWII and her family regularly scattered to several air raid shelters in order to prevent a possible complete loss of family. After the loss of their home to bombing Freda was sent to live with an aunt in Hereford. Finishing high school and a year of college and a period of training in radiology, she joined the WRENS (Women's Royal Naval Service). There she trained in radar. This highly sensitive work led her to installation, testing and servicing, in flight, of radar in American and English planes. Freda was credited with the discovery of sabotage originating in the factory producing the systems.

Freda met John Dalton during her training period, he in the Royal Navy. They were on a naval transport bus which slipped on an icy road in the Midlands. John left the bus, returned with a cup of hot cocoa and, in John's words, the rest is history. Leaving service, John went to medical school and they married while he was a student. Freda was employed in a development lab for televisions and amplifiers.

Their first daughter, Catherine, was born in 1951, and son Nicholas born in 1955. Freda did not want her children to grow up in the war-like atmosphere of Europe, John needed more latitude in his career, and they moved to Melbourne, Australia. Son Matthew was born in 1955 and Andrew in 1961. Seeking a settled environment in the country they moved to Wagga Wagga out in the country. Freda became business manager for John's private surgical practice.

After seventeen years they moved to the United States, to Philadelphia. Freda worked at Thomas Jefferson Hospital setting up private practice offices for doctors who had been working in welfare clinics. John began private practice and continued to work there until 1990. The next four years Freda accompanied John in their RV, touring the United States while John surveyed hospitals for JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.) They considered these four and a half years the best of their lives, visiting the wonders and natural beauty of America.

By the time of retirement, Freda and John had settled on the ideal spot, the lake at Wye Mills. Finally loneliness there became a problem. By chance they happened on the Londonderry bus, followed it, and became residents of Londonderry in 2013. Freda was an enthusiastic Hand and Foot player, enjoying teaching it to "new bugs," to quote John. She joined the Memoirs group, sharing many of the events of her memorable and consequential life.

Having pledged to each other seventy years ago that they would be home together until the last, with the help of Hospice that pledge was honored. Freda is survived by daughter Catherine and husband William Hollis, son Andrew and his wife Tracey, Son Matthew and his wife Mary Ann and their children Genevieve and Christian, and son Nicholas. Freda's Londonderry friends and neighbors join John and their family in their mourning.

Newsletter Committee

Editor	Barbara Reisert	Contributor	Florence Thompson
Layout Design	Phil Dinkel	Contributor	Dan Tanner
Photographer	Craig Caldwell	Proof Reader	Florence Thompson
Contributor	Pat Bradley	Contributor	Don Parks
Contributor	Judy Harrald	Health Corner	Lorraine Flisher & Liz Whitby

Health Corner

With Lorraine
Director of
Health and Wellness

Affordable Hearing Aids, Finally

An August 2022 rule from the FDA gives consumers access to over-the-counter (OTC) affordable hearing aids, which will be cheaper than their predecessors and will be available without the cost of audiologist visits. Why does it matter, and what might that mean for you? Close to 25% of Americans aged 65-74 and 50% of those over 75 HAVE HEARING LOSS. This deficit not only keeps seniors from participating in conversations and hearing their favorite television shows, but hearing loss has also been linked to social isolation, depression, and EVEN COGNITIVE DECLINE. However, according to a study published in Archives of Internal Medicine, 86% of those over the age of 50 who need hearing aids do not use them.

The stigma attached to these devices keeps many people from using them, but the exorbitant cost and the complicated process to be fitted may be an even bigger deterrent. The process involves testing by an audiologist up front, and then having the hearing aids tuned and rechecked regularly. Worse, there is no way around that time and expense-until now.

Introducing a new category of hearing aids...

Because of the magnitude of this as a health problem, Congress passed legislation in 2017 directing the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create a new category of hearing aids. Over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids will be much more affordable and they will be available directly from stores or online retailers without the expense of a medical exam or fitting. This will make hearing aids accessible to a greater number of people.

“Hearing loss has a profound impact on daily communication, social interaction and the overall health and quality of life for millions of Americans,” said FDA commissioner, Dr. Robert Califf. “This is a tremendous worldwide problem where I think American ingenuity can make a huge difference.”

Are these new affordable hearing aids right for you?

This new category of hearing aids is designed for those with self-perceived mild to moderate hearing loss. This level of hearing loss ranges from not being able to hear people who are talking softly to having difficulty in participating in phone and group conversations or having to turn the television up louder and louder. One of the advantages of the new OTC hearing aids is that you don't have to be screened by an audiologist, however, assessing your own hearing isn't easy. Luckily, there are many online or app-based hearing evaluations, plus some retailers are planning to offer their own screening tests in conjunction with the release of their devices.

How are these hearing aids different?

Chances are that you might already have seen OTC “hearing aids” out there. Technically, some OTC devices that are currently available aren’t hearing aids at all but “personal sound amplification devices”. These devices aren’t as loud, don’t have targeted frequency-range boosts, and are more geared for specific uses, such as birdwatching or suppressing noise in airports and subway stations. In comparison, the new OTC hearing aids are designed for people with hearing loss. They must be regulated by the FDA as well as meet specific ANSI (American National Standards Institute) safety standards. They are also required to have a user-adjustable volume control and include clear, simple user instructions.

What do they cost?

Hearing aids currently cost on average \$4,000 per pair, but you could also spend much more, some as much as \$14,000!

Unfortunately, you won’t get any help paying for them from Medicare or many insurance plans (unless you purchase an add -on to your plan)

The new OTC hearing aids are no different in terms of insurance coverage, however, it’s less of a factor because of the cost. Experts estimate that they could cost as little as \$600 a pair, making them much more feasible for even those on a fixed income.

What if you don’t like them?

Acclimating to hearing aids of any kind can take time and a good deal of adjustment, which you will be doing on your own with OTC hearing aids. With patience, you will eventually become accustomed to the change in sound. However, if you simply can’t adjust to the hearing aids or they don’t fit your needs, it’s critical that you understand the return policy. If you do decide to return them, be sure to try another OTC pair or seek help from an audiologist. The worst outcome is that you give up and live with declining hearing.