

Kentucky Gateway Museum Center Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 4

December 2011

KGMC CALENDAR

December

Exhibits

through December 31st—**Civil My Brother, My Enemy: Civil War in Kentucky and A House Divided: The Lincolns' Confederate Relatives**

January

Exhibits

Maysville High School Art Students featured through February.

50 Years of Drama—the Maysville Players through April.

March

Exhibits

Presidents' Art and Essay Contest

50 Years of Drama—the Maysville Players through April.

Mark your calendars!

April 6th—Members' Appreciation Reception 5 p.m.

August

10th—11th Oktoberfest in Historic Downtown Maysville.

September

15th—Sixth Annual Senior Golf Classic to support the Educational opportunities of the KGMC.

2011 MEMBERSHIPS

Phillip Manning; Gail Crane; Mr. & Mrs. Gary Mac Mitchell; Tommy Woosley; Leanne Baraban; Jan Applegate; Mr. & Mrs. William Hopping; Lauren Hartman; Jerry Miller; Melissa Nicholas; William Holton; Gwen McCormack; Leslie Gifford; Neva Fogle; Patricia Mason Friend; Todd Petty; Eileen Tribby; Haywood Jones; Julie Feingold; Mr. & Mrs. Ray Walters; Cynthia Schaefer; Mr. & Mrs. Dale May; Mr. & Mrs. Cory Lee Ellis; June Finch; Julie Finch Corlis; Sandra Swayze; Mr. & Mrs. George Miller; Michael Averdick; Mr. & Mrs. James Castle; Mr. & Mrs. David Johnson; Pamela Erskine; Scottie Marshall; Tanya Marsh Family; Benjamin Piatt; Russ Pollitt; Val McKenzie; Steve Oldfield; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Helvey; Peggy Foley; Dottie Ciok; Jo Anne Bennett; Kevin Weaver; Marilee Ford; Melody DiPiazza; Mildred Lea; Tina Curtis; Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Poe; Anne Marie Hyden Family; Deanna Rice; Ron Ellis; David Prine Family; Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Paul; Mary Kay Marshall Family; and Ann Bennett

Thank you to all who have recently renewed your memberships!

Please check the address label to see if your membership is up for renewal. Also, please notify us if you have a change of address.

ASSOCIATION BOARD

Dee Werline, President
John Stier, Vice-President
Fred Keith, Treasurer
Kent Kalb, Secretary

TRUSTEES

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Grant L. Mathey
Henry E. Pogue
John Steele
Donald L. Wood

TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Louis Browning

MUSEUM CENTER STAFF

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Gayle McKay, Business Manager
Dawn Browning, Director
Jim Shires, Ph.D., Education Curator
Lynn David, Communications
Sue Ellen Grannis, Curator
Brianna Inskip, READ ON! Coordinator
Paula Ruble, Reference Registrar
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Myra Hardy, Researcher

Administered by the Maysville and Mason County Library, Historical and Scientific Association, Est. 1878
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Email: museum@kygmc.org Website: www.KentuckyGatewayMuseumCenter.org

2011 IN REVIEW

**We are counting our reasons to be thankful at the
Kentucky Gateway Museum Center this Holiday Season.**

**Thank you to all our donors, visitors, volunteers, and friends
for making these achievements possible!**

Welcomed **54 new members** • Shared the wonders of Dinosaurs: Tracking The Past with **4,000 schoolchildren** during their visits • Helped **792 research visitors** from 28 states and abroad in our Genealogical/historical research library • Cataloged and added **3,000 digital research files** to our database • Completed **75 research requests** for folks who could not visit • Accessioned **407 new objects** to our collections • **Celebrated our 15th year of Museum Scouts and graduated 40 new Scouts** • Hosted **18 students** for Dig It! Archaeology Camp • Proudly hosted **80 museum professionals** from across the state for the annual Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance Conference • Contributed **50 Hixson's Hoardings** weekly columns to the Ledger-Independent • Opened our doors to over **10,000 visitors** from 46 states and 4 countries • Organized our **first annual Oktoberfest** to support our operational budget • Distributed **1,500 Read On! A Wizard of Earthsea** books to area students during our 4th annual event • Sponsored our **13th annual Presidents' Day art and essay contest** for area schools • Displayed **eight unique exhibits** in our traveling exhibits gallery • Held our **7th annual Maysville Festival of Books** book fair featuring 20 authors • **Gratefully** worked alongside over **60 volunteers who donated 5,000 hours** to the KGMC mission • Hosted the **4th annual Senior Golf Classic** for the education budget • Received a donation of **three room-boxes and three houses** for the Miniatures Gallery • Conducted over **75 organized group tours** • Received with great appreciation, **gifts and grants** from hundreds of individuals, businesses and organizations.

A very special Thank You to our educational programming sponsors: **United Way of Buffalo Trace • Emerson Power Transmission • Temple-Inland, Maysville • The Charles E. and Mary Elizabeth Scripps Foundation • Hayswood Foundation • R. E. B. Family Foundation • Larry & Jinny Browning • The Honorable Laurance B. Van Meter • The Maysville and Mason County Arts Council • The Maysville Cultural Arts District • The City of Maysville • Cantrell Companies • Winchester Wholesale • US Bank • National Bank of Adams County • First State Bank • National Bank and Trust • Women of the Moose**

Deepest gratitude goes to you who support our annual sustaining campaign each year. Without your financial donations, literally our doors would not remain open!

EDUCATION CORNER

The 16th fall term of Museum Scouts began September 28 with a tour of our area history exhibits in the Wormald Building. Combined with that tour was a session on Civil War history led by "General Albert Sydney Johnston" to help commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. Their second meeting for the fall had them exploring our KGMC "Behind The Scenes" with Registrar Mary V. Clarke and Curator Sue Ellen Grannis. They have had sessions on photography and personal safety with retired Sergeant Leo McKay and Officer Ryan Hull of the Maysville Police Department. The history and hands-on making of pottery with sculptor Fred Wiesener and a miniatures gallery workshop led by Kaye Browning gave them gifts to take home. A student production of "The First Thanksgiving" was presented the week before Thanksgiving for family and friends of the scouts. Coming up will be learning about oral history with Oral Historian Lynn David and genealogy with Research Librarian Cay Chamberness. Scouts will ride the Maysville Trolley in the Christmas parade and finish their fall term on December 14. The spring term for scouts, fourth graders from Mason County Intermediate School and St. Patrick School, will begin in February.

THANK YOU!



The staff held a festive Christmas brunch at the museum for all our loyal volunteers on Monday, December 5, 2011. It was our way of thanking them for all their hard work and devotion to the museum each and every

week. "Without our volunteers, we could not sustain the services and programs we have come to count on. They give us over 5,000 hours every year of their time and talent. This brunch and a small token of our appreciation is the very least we can do to honor all that they do", said Museum Director, Dawn Browning.

According to the independentsector.gov, we realize that 5,000 volunteer hours equates to almost \$87,000. We also recognize that it is very difficult to put a dollar value on volunteer time. Volunteers provide many intangibles



that can not be easily quantified. For example, volunteers demonstrate the amount of support an organization has within a community, provide

work for short periods of time, and provide support on a wide range of projects.

What we ABSOLUTELY understand is that without our volunteers, our community's Kentucky Gateway Museum



Center would not exist. Thank you to each and every volunteer who helped the Museum this year, from scanning obituaries, to working our first Oktoberfest, your value to our community is incalculable!



Presenting...

JIM AND BARBARA BOHLK

One of our Miniatures Gallery's latest acquisitions is called **Trailer Trash**. The piece was created by a couple of our very own Flemingsburg folks, Jim and Barbara Bohlk! The exhibit is on display in the lobby of the Museum and is a must see.

Jim's hobby of constructing miniatures started about twenty years ago when he assembled a dollhouse kit and furnished it for his friend's granddaughter. He immediately decided it was more fun and creative to design and build his own structures like his diorama of a circa 1950s cottage on a lake's edge typically found in his native northern Michigan.

Jim, who was living in Alexandria, Virginia, met Barbara, a native of Fleming County, in 2000. At that time Barb thought that miniatures only meant dollhouses or horses. Upon observing Jim engrossed in his hobby she said; "you need to get a life". After two years of long-distance dating, they were married and moved to McLean, Virginia. Barb began working at a miniature shop. When a local miniaturist invited Barb to learn how to make miniature pansies the seed was sown! Since then Barb taught herself how to make many varieties of flowers and creative flower arrangements. Jim retired from the federal government, and they moved to Flemingsburg in 2006 and continued their hobbies.

They soon learned that they work best together when Jim builds the structures and hands them over to Barb to do the landscaping. Such was the case for an award winning greenhouse and back yard diorama. Their Appalachian trailer complete with "moonshine factory" is now displayed here at the museum. Jim's inspiration for this diorama came from observing the many dilapidated barns, sheds and mobile homes in existence on the back roads of rural Kentucky. The trailer is a shortened copy of an actual trade-in mobile home on a sales lot near Jim and Barb's home. Both the trailer and the shack are made from scratch from stripwood and other materials from the Bohlk's horde. The trailer covering is wallpaper and the ground cover is made from real leaves that were put through a food processor. The moonshine still was made by Fred Cobbs of Buford, Georgia. Some people find this rural scene to be very amusing (which it is) and even giggle, but Jim and Barb's primary purpose was to depict and realistically preserve in miniature the way of life of a hard-working group of people who have accepted and made the most of a simpler way of life.

(Note: Jim and Barbara currently sell their creations under the name "Minis R Wee" at miniature shows. They welcome people to their home to view their projects or for flower making lessons from Barb. Please call (606) 375-0212 for an appointment.)

ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN

The Kentucky Gateway Museum Center's Annual Appeal is under way. The Appeal invites all members, foundations, and friends of the Museum Center to support the Museum's programs and activities with an annual gift.

The future is a challenging one, but the spirit of the Museum, its guiding philosophies and its staff and volunteers stand ready to meet both foreseen and unforeseen challenges. But only with your help.

The Museum's ability to maintain and expand its programs and activities is directly related to the success of the Annual Appeal. A gift to the Annual Appeal provides crucial support to the museum's renowned programs in education and historical interpretation, in addition to assisting to preserve its priceless collec-

tions. We appeal to all friends to support the Museum Center - a true treasure.

The Museum's popular core educational program "Museum Scouts" is in full swing for another year. Museum Center's Annual Fund supports the many tasks needed to design and execute current and future educational programs, as well as plan the institutional infrastructure required for a world class facility.

We need your help to preserve our 133 year legacy and to make it grow. Your help, in the form of a generous contribution, will strengthen the Museum in its efforts and ensure that we will be here for the next 134 years. The future of the Museum Center is in your hands, please give generously.

For more information about the Annual Appeal or to make a fully tax-deductible pledge or donation, please call Dawn Browning, at (606) 564-5865 ext. 105.

JOE WILLIAMS

VOLUNTEER OR STAFF MEMBER?

To paraphrase the Postal Service: "Neither sleet nor hail nor dark of night." keeps Joe Williams from showing up at the museum every day and sometimes on Sunday to volunteer his much needed services to the staff. When he misses a day a telephone call is made to see if he is all right because it leaves a hole in the Research Library when "Joe's desk" is empty.

Born and raised in Maysville, Joe attended St. Patrick School and in 1943 he became an employee of Browning Manufacturing in Purchasing. 45 years later he retired from Emerson Electric. After his retirement he and Joyce came to the museum as volunteers, and they remained faithful to their service before Joyce became too ill to come. They were always cheerful and ready to do whatever needed to be done. Her passing was a sad occasion for all of us

Last January, Joe came back to see how he could help and has been with us ever since. It is Joe who takes all the newspapers and clips pertinent articles, then mounts and copies them so they may be put in the appropriate research files. Sometimes he also volunteers to work the front desk on Sunday afternoons when we need an extra hand.

When asked what is important to him, Joe will tell you "Church, Family, Museum, Lions Club and Odd Fellows, in that order." A veteran of the Korean War he has two sons, David a Sports editor in Memphis, and Michael, an Executive in Tuscaloosa. He is also the proud grandparent of a granddaughter and grandson. His sister, Martha Sears, lives in Maysville and a brother lives in South Carolina.

Joe is the Treasurer of the local Lions Club which he joined in 1990 and a "Social Member" of the Odd Fellows since the early 1980s. He is also an avid reader of murder mysteries and brings those he has read to the museum to share with the staff. Is he staff or volunteer? We like to think of him as unpaid staff who would be sorely missed by all if he resigned. He is our friend and co-worker, and we don't want to do without him.

