

Now You Know

March 2013 Edition

History Center Volunteers Are Special

March Calendar of Events

10	1-4 p.m.	Family Day
12	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
	7 p.m.	Forum
20	11:30 a.m.	Sardis Elementary SOAR Field Trip
21	11:30 a.m.	Board of Directors Luncheon
23	10:30 a.m.	Brenau Admissions Event
26	6 p.m.	Brenau Etiquette Dinner

History Center Veterans Volunteer for School Programs

Outstanding volunteers are the power behind History Center programs, exhibits, and activities. Volunteers who are also military veterans fulfill a special mission both within the History Center and as ambassadors to area schools.

During February, veterans visited Gainesville Middle School for the sixth year of The Veterans Interview Project. Sixth graders participating in the project have an up-close opportunity to talk with military veterans about their experiences during their time of service. Veterans who participate in the project provide an over view of their military lives and respond to students' questions, more like an interview than a speech. Students take notes and write an article or short bio about one or more of the veterans they interviewed.

Mrs. Haynes Kaufman, sixth grade Language Arts teacher, organizes the project at GMS each year with Julie Carson coordinating the History Center's participation. For the past five years, the interviews have been limited to Mrs. Kaufman's students only; however, this year, all six Language Arts classes participated. Thank you to the teachers who planned this activity to correlate with the CCGPS: Amanda Chapman, Molly Collette, Dana Hicks, Haynes Kaufman, Macey Miller, Eileen Toledo, and Lisa Vincent.

Thank you to the veterans who generously gave their time to meet and talk with students: Cal Andrews, Jim Begley, Charles Brown, Chuck Bryan, Dr. John Burns, William Carr, Ed Clark, Alvin Clifton, David Coker, Ray Comerford, Brian Cunningham, Doug Dixon, Dr. Jay Gaspar, Ralph Gibson, Joseph Goble, David Godfrey, Ron Harris, Chuck Hendrickson, Frank Hoell, Harry Jones, J. D. Kirby, Art Kunzer, Saul Levenson, Charles Lindsey, Al Nixon, Howard Page, Wendy Paradis, Ed Parks, Leonard Parks, Dan Rado, Tom Reesman, Gary Ousley, Jack Prince, Horace Thurmond, Francis Turner, Mike Warlick, Darryl Whiting, and Carter Wood.

Recently, Frank Hoell also visited North Georgia Christian School to speak to Beth Feizet's students about his World War II experiences.

See Family Day article in this newsletter for additional veteran activities.

The History Center welcomes inquiries from public and private schools and home school groups regarding veteran speakers. Please contact Julie Carson at 770-297-5900 or jcarson@brenau.edu.



Frank Hoell discusses his WWII service on the Pacific front



Wendy Paradis shares her scrapbook of Vietnam memorabilia



Saul Levenson describes life aboard ship during his Navy service



Bill Carr show students the versatility of a helmet



David Coker, L, and Leonard Parks, R, discuss the Korean War and the Cold War



Dr. John Burns tells students about the end of WWII and also Korean War



Ray Comerford, Dr. Jay Gaspar, & Cal Andrews answer students' questions. All 3 veterans served during the Cold War or in Vietnam

Family Day: Sunday, March 10, 1 to 4 p.m.

Visitors can immerse themselves in the 1940's as we focus on *World War II and Northeast Georgia*. As visitors enter the History Center, they will begin their experience with decoding (World War II-style) messages to guide them through the afternoon's activities and exhibits. World War II veterans will have a special place on the afternoon's program as several of them will be on hand for "Visit a Vet." In addition, another activity, "Find a Vet," will focus on World War II veterans whose names are engraved in An American Freedom Garden—visitors follow clues to locate the veterans.

An extensive exhibit of World War II artifacts, from the collection of Dr. Steve Niklaus, and The Civil Air Patrol of Northeast Georgia curated by Paul Guertner exhibit are on display.

Visitors have opportunities to learn about and engage in historic war-gaming, courtesy of Dr. Clayton Teem, and the importance of planting Victory Gardens, courtesy of the Hall County Master Gardeners.

A World War II-era Willys Jeep, courtesy of Bill Dean, will be on display, a great opportunity for photos.

For the first time, the World War II travel trunk, a boon for educators, will be on display and demonstrated by Beth Woodward.

Admission is free, courtesy of North Georgia Eye Clinic and Laser Center.

Forum: Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.

Did you know that there were two different places in northeast Georgia that minted gold from the Dahlonega Gold Rush? One of them was, of course, the Dahlonega mint but another private mint, operated by Templeton Reid, was located just a few blocks from where the History Center stands today. Bill House, local banker and historian, will present the fascinating history of *Gold Mints in Northeast Georgia*. Mr. House, a local attorney, is Chairman of the Board for Peach State Bank and Trust and serves on several area boards including The Edmonds Telford Foundation.

Admission is free for members and \$3 for non-members.

History Center Summer Camps 2013

Life Among the Cherokee

☆ **June 10-14—Session 1**
☆ **June 17-21—Session 2**

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. daily Limited to 20 campers per session

Volunteer Spotlight: Stephanie Mills

“Once a Texan, always a Texan,” the saying goes.

That may be true for some, but there’s one Texan who has made Gainesville her home — and is perfectly happy.

“When I retired,” Stephanie Jo Mills said, “I had planned on going back to Texas. But I really like Gainesville so much.”

So she’s still here and still volunteering at the Northeast Georgia History Center, where she’s done everything from serving as a docent to helping with Family Day.

“Julie (Carson) knows she can count on me if I’m available,” she said.

So did her bosses at Southwestern Bell and AT&T — although some of the men were reluctant to admit it.

You see, Stephanie has never been afraid of hard work, even if it meant pulling on her spiked Texas boots and climbing a telephone pole.



Stephanie, also a Master Gardener, teaches Boy Scout about Victory Garden



Stephanie helps Family Day visitor with origami

While with the communication companies, she worked as a telephone operator — which is the job that most women employees did in 1969, when she started — but also as a cable-splicer, an installer, a switchman (or switchwoman) and a communication technician.

“I wasn’t the first woman,” she said, “but I was one of the first women to do that kind of (outside) work.” That would have been in the mid- to late-seventies, before women were expected to work outside with the guys.

“They (the men) were great one-on-one,” she said, “but when you got a group of them, they liked to show you up.”

Even her boss in Texas didn’t compliment her in front of the men. “When I left installation and went to cable-splicing,” she said, “my boss came out and he said, ‘I hear you’re leaving.’ I said, ‘Yeah, just kind of a change.’ He said, ‘Well, don’t tell anybody I said this, but I sure do hate to see you go.’”

In 1994, AT&T needed to transfer a number of employees to North Georgia. Most of them chose the Conyers area; Stephanie read a number of tour books on the area and chose Gainesville. “I think I got the better deal on that,” she said.

Stephanie retired from AT&T in 2000, but she didn’t sit down and rock on the porch. She now has her own business, mostly driving travelers in and around Gainesville to the Atlanta airport. She’ll make anywhere from two to six trips a week.

So because she sometimes is called on to drive without much notice, she can’t commit to regular volunteering at the History Center. But, as she said, if she’s available, she’s there to help. She fills shifts on the front desk, helps get out school fliers about activities, and sometimes volunteers on Family Day.

“I’ve enjoyed some of the little kids when they get excited about doing activities,” she said. “Family Day is a great thing.”

Stephanie became a volunteer a year or two after the History Center moved into its new building. Asked about her favorite activity, she said. “I just like doing. Even when I was working, I never thought about getting into management, because I’d rather do the work than do the paperwork, I guess.”

Besides her History Center volunteering, Stephanie is active in the Lanier Women’s Club and sometimes as a learner in Brenau University’s BULLI classes.

“I like what all (Gainesville) has to offer,” she said.

And we like what you offer at the History Center, Stephanie. But you may take comfort in knowing this: We won’t ask you to climb any telephone poles.

Welcome New Volunteers

 Marie Lundquist

 Bianca Poindexter

Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Tea—Sunday, April 21, 1:30-3:30 p.m.



All History Center volunteers, whether new or long-term, whether desk volunteers, occasional helpers or board members, whether young or getting older,

reserve the date and time above to attend the annual Volunteer Appreciation Tea. We will have delightful refreshments and will recognize volunteers by hours of service.

If you have not brought your hours of service log sheet up to date, **now** is the time. Service honors are calculated based on the hours recorded in the Volunteer Time Log notebook. The volunteer “year” is April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013. Even if you haven’t kept up with your time, please make plans to attend.

Delights from the Gift Shop

Keep the Gift Shop in mind as a great source for books on local and regional history. On Family Day, March 10, all World War II books will be sold at 10% off the regular retail price.

Scenes from the Presidential Family Day, February 10



Betty Johnson helps girls make Abe Lincoln stovepipe hats



Children make George Washington Cherry Pies



Violinists from Wauka Mountain Multiple Intelligences Academy

The History Center sends a big thank you to the Wauka Mountain Multiple Intelligences Chorus, Flautists, and Violinists for an outstanding Presidential music program. The chorus and musicians are directed by Mrs. Gretchen Welch.



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