

# NOW YOU KNOW

## February 2013 edition

### ...And a good time was had by all

Despite the threat of cold and ice, History Center members turned out for the annual Membership Meeting held January 17. Great company and great food and wine—what more can one ask for?

A business meeting kicked off the annual membership meeting. The accomplishments of the History Center, through members' and volunteers' leadership and dedication, were enumerated and the 2013 Board of Directors slate was approved. Outgoing board president--Anne Chenault--was recognized and thanked for her service.

The Board of Directors' 2013 executive committee members are President, Jeff Pierce; President-elect, Jeff Whalen; Vice President, Cathy Herdener; Secretary, Cleda Locey; Treasurer, Dick Childers

Class of 2013 members are Pat Burd, Cathy Herdener, Phil Hudgins, Carolyn Jacobs, Ric Kabat, Cleda Locey, Connie Propes, Jim Southerland (B), Ken Wallace, and Jeff Whalen

Class of 2014: Kathy Amos, Dick Childers, Julia Clay (B), Jack Frost, Beth Grimes, Steve Gurr, Jullie King, Tom LeFevre, Helen Martin, Matt Thomas (B), and Fleming Weaver

Class of 2015: Pat Guthrie, Tami Lee (B), Leo Llonch, LaMerle Loveland, Carolyn Mahar, Gnimbin Ouattara (B), Jeff Pierce, Doris Sosebee, John Tefft, and Andy Tymchuk

(B) denotes Brenau University representatives. Board members typically serve a three-year term, thus the grouping of directors by class and year.

February Calendar of Events		
1	9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	BULLI Wisdom Project
5&6	9 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.	Veterans Interview Project, Gainesville Middle School
6&13,	2:30 to 4:15 p.m.	BULLI German Wines Class
7	5 to 9 p.m.	MCOG Alumni Association rental
8	12 to 4 p.m.	BULLI Wisdom Project
10	1 to 4 p.m.	Family Day
12	10:00 a.m.	Meeting—Executive Comm. of Board of Directors
	10 a.m.	Modern Topics Study Club tour
	7 p.m.	Forum
14	10 a.m.	Docent Training
14, 15	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	North Georgia Health Systems rental
21	11:30 to 1 p.m.	Board of Directors Luncheon and meeting
27	10:30 a.m.	Home School Field Trip

### ***History at the History Center!***

January 17 also marked the opening of the newest exhibit in the rotating gallery, *Amongst the People: The Chief Executive Visits Northeast Georgia*. Running through June, the exhibit examines the visits of nine of the nation's Presidents to Hall County. Beginning with James Monroe's overnight stay in 1819 and extending to George H. W. Bush's whistle stop visit in 1992, the stories of what drew these men, as well as many of their family members, to our section of the state are told through rare photographs, archival video and artifacts from those visits. On hand for the opening was Mrs. Francis Johnson Miller Haynes, a cousin of President Lyndon Baines Johnson. He visited Gainesville on May 8, 1964. Mrs. Haynes and her sisters were guests of the President on the presidential platform that day. Johnson later sent her a handwritten letter expressing how much he enjoyed seeing her on his visit.



Dr. Merrienne Dyer, LaCrishia Larkin, and Helen Martin.

The exhibit is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, weekly. Regular admission rates apply for non-members; free admission for members is one of the benefits of being a History Center member. We hope you make plans to see this exciting story of our Northeast Georgia Heritage!

*Jeff Pierce*

### **Under the Dome Exhibit: The Civil Air Patrol in North Georgia**

How many of you have ever heard of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP)? Did you know it patrols the skies above Northeast Georgia? And, did you know that Gainesville has its very own squadron? Come to the History Center during February and March to see an exhibit that talks about its history and what it is doing today.

The Civil Air Patrol was created in 1941 near the beginning of the Second World War. The organization employed civilian pilots, ground crew, and aircraft to patrol America's coast for German submarines. After the war, the CAP continued by helping with training, high school cadet programs, and offering assistance during natural disasters or for search-and-rescue missions. The 160th Composite Squadron of the Georgia Civil Air Patrol is stationed in Gainesville and works with surrounding schools

to offer educational opportunities. Paul Gaertner, public relations officer for the 160th, has done an excellent job of putting this great exhibit together.

So, for more information about the CAP and its local story, please visit the History Center!

**Family Day: Sunday, February 10, 1–4 p.m., Northeast Georgia Salutes Our Presidents**

February 18 is a national holiday, Presidents Day. In celebration of presidents with Northeast Georgia connections, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington, the afternoon will provide a scope of many (not all) things Presidential. Special events on February 10 include:

**2 p.m. Wauka Mountain Multiple Intelligences Academy Chorus performance**  
Cougar Chorus (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students), Flute Troop (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students), and Advanced Violin Adventures (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students)

**2:45 p.m. Presidential Scavenger Hunt**

In addition, there are ongoing exhibits and hands-on activities throughout the afternoon. Some of the planned Presidential activities include making “George Washington Cherry Pies” and “Hats or Wigs.” North Georgia Eye Clinic, our Family Day sponsor, provides free admission. Remember, Family Days are not only for children, but also adults. For more information, call Julie Carson at 770-297-5900 or email [jcarson@brenau.edu](mailto:jcarson@brenau.edu) or visit website, [www.negahc.org](http://www.negahc.org).

**Forum: Tuesday, February 12, 7 p.m. *Let’s Travel Back in Time: Gainesville/Hall County African American Heroes***

The University of North Georgia Theatre Alliance and The Northeast Georgia History Center present *Let’s Travel Back in Time: Our Local African American Heroes*. This story telling will be led by Ms. Andre’ Cheek (also known as Harriett Tubman) and several members of the African American community. Admission is \$3 for non-members and free for members.

**Volunteer Spotlight: Eleanor Exley**

Eleanor Exley says she leads a boring life. But if you talk to her just a few minutes, you’ll see there’s nothing boring about her. Consider this dialogue between her and the writer of this spotlight:

**Did you work outside the home?**

“Yes, I had three careers. I was a wife and mom for 20 years, an accountant for 20 years, and now I’m just a gardener and a bum. I’m a kept woman.”

**So, you’re a gardener. Have you ever helped with the garden at the History Center?**



Eleanor Exley assists summer camper with knitting.

"I haven't, but I would like to. ... Actually, I'm a master gardener. I took the (master gardener) class more than 10 years ago. My passion is hydrangeas and shade gardening: ferns and hostas, things that grow in the shade."

**Well, we have you on the record now. I'm sure somebody from the History Center will ask you to help with the garden there.**

"I lead a very boring life."

**You have a good sense of humor.**

"When you get to be my age, you've gotta laugh."

**I won't ask you how old you are, but I can do the math. You said you've been married for 54 years, right?**

"Yes, I was very young when I got married."

**Thirteen?**

"Oh, no, I was more like 2."

And so it went with Eleanor Exley, master gardener, former corporate accountant, wife of Slade Exley, mother of four, grandmother of six — the oldest is 25, the youngest eight months — and volunteer at the History Center.

Eleanor volunteers on the reception desk at the History Center, in the Gift Shop, and has helped with summer camp, where she discovered that little boys aren't very good knitters. The girls are considerably better at it.

"I know how to knit," she says. "I call it my therapy. My husband likes to watch television, and he likes for me to watch it with him. So I'll knit while we do that. Frankly, I'd rather be in my garden or reading a book."

Eleanor got involved with the History Center after Betty Ann Chambers approached her about volunteering. "Connie Propes was standing there egging her on," she says. "I think Betty Ann was trying to get Connie to do something, and Connie was already involved." So she became a volunteer.

Eleanor says she really enjoys working in the Gift Shop. One day, a woman named Fiona from Australia was there waiting on her father, who lives in Gainesville. "I had a very nice chat with her," she says. "I enjoy the people I come in contact with, both the visitors and the members."

Eleanor and Slade have lived in Gainesville since 1969. Eleanor was a stay-at-home mother until her youngest child entered the second grade. Then she went back to college, got her degree in accounting and became a corporate accountant.

Early on, she was involved in a number of organizations, she says, "but when I went back to school, I dropped out of everything." She reiterates how boring her life is.

Don't believe her. She serves on the board of Friends of the Parks, a city park and rec organization that, among other activities, sponsors the Butterfly Release in the spring. She is a member of the Hall County Beautification Committee, sponsored by the Chamber of

Commerce. The committee recognizes businesses, organizations, and individual home owners for their efforts in making the city and county more beautiful.

Eleanor tends two gardens — one at her home in Gainesville, one at the family's mountain place near Blairsville. She reads, she knits, she pretends to watch television with her husband, she plays with her grandkids, and, thankfully, she brings her volunteer spirit and her sense of humor to the History Center.

We appreciate your help, Eleanor. We'd like to have more "boring" volunteers like you.



### **Training Session for Future Docents**

Thursday, February 14, at 10 a.m., Steve Gurr will lead a new docent training session. Present docents who would like a refresher are also welcome. Please reply to Julie Carson if you plan to attend.

### **Northeast Georgia History Center Presents Portrait to The Longstreet Society**

On Sunday, January 6, the Longstreet Society conducted its annual observance of the birth of Gen. James Longstreet at his gravesite at Alta Vista Cemetery, in Gainesville. After the ceremony, an open house and reception was held at the General's former establishment, The Piedmont Hotel, on Maple Street in south Gainesville. At the open house, Northeast Georgia History Center President Jeff Pierce presented to the Longstreet Society's Joe Whitaker a portrait of John Garland Longstreet, eldest son of the General, and the first manager of the Piedmont Hotel. The younger Longstreet was a noted architect who designed many structures in the southeastern United States in the last years of the 19th century and early 20th century, before his death in 1918. The photograph depicts Garland as a student at the Virginia Military Institute in 1869, and

was acquired from Jamie Longstreet Patterson and Dan Patterson, the granddaughter and great-grandson of General Longstreet. It was used in the recent exhibit at the Northeast Georgia History Center which highlighted the architectural legacy of James Garland Longstreet in Northeast Georgia. It now hangs just outside the research library at the Piedmont Hotel site.

### **Delights from the Gift Shop**



Find a gift for your valentine or yourself in the Gift Shop. Check out the newest pieces of pottery by Steve Turpin. The Gift Shop also has copies of the newly published *Church History: Gainesville First United Methodist Church*. The book was written and compiled by a committee of First United Methodist Church members most of whom also happen to be History Center members. The authors are Willis McLemore, committee chair; Jerry and Lavinia Head, Kathy Amos, Johnny Vardeman, George and Sandra Romberg, and Evie Langston. The book is priced at \$20. And, after a long wait, *Mountains and Waterfalls of North Georgia*, by John D. Anthony, Jr., has been published and is now in the Gift Shop. The expanded and updated sequel to *Waterfalls of North Georgia*, (which is no longer in print), sells for \$39.25.

### **Alta Vista Cemetery Receives National Recognition**

Alta Vista Cemetery recently has been recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior as one of the newest members of the National Register of Historic Places. Alta Vista was one of the first municipally planned cemeteries in north Georgia. It is the final resting place of General James Longstreet, two Georgia governors; poultry pioneer Jesse Jewell, hymn-writer Luther Bridges, and many other Northeast Georgians of note. The committee that worked for several years to achieve this goal included History Center members Kathy Amos, Gail Hogan, Jeff Pierce, and Joe Whitaker.

### **Honoring and Remembering**

- © In honor of Staff & Volunteers at History Center by Cathy & Tony Herdener
- © In honor of Martha Pinson, Frank & Ruth Pinson, Anna & Jim Poyner, Will & Courtney Pinson, Mel Pinson, Noel Pinson, Molly & Scott Simoneau, Allen & Janice Pinson, and Lacey Pinson by David Pinson

