



# About Town

*The Kensington Historical Society Newsletter*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>

### MONTGOMERY MODERN

KHS and the Kensington Park Friends of Library have again coupled to invite Clare Lise Kelly, author of *Montgomery Modern*, to speak at a joint meeting March 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held Wednesday evening at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 10401 Armory Avenue in the Octagon Room. Coffee and cookies at 7:00 p.m.

Program begins at 7:30 p.m

*Montgomery Modern* is a chronicle of mid-century modern architecture in Montgomery County. The presentation will include award-winning projects ranging from organic custom residences in rugged stream valleys to glass-walled tract houses on wooded sites, from jewel-box offices in new commercial districts to gleaming corporate campus headquarters and exuberant roadside businesses. Participants will learn about how modern design is a testimony of the optimistic spirit of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century as reflected in the county's built environment and its landscape.

TUESDAY, MAY 17<sup>th</sup>

### WINEMAKING IN MARYLAND

We welcome Laura Rhode from Knob Hall Winery to give us some history of winemaking in Maryland. Their website includes the earliest history of their farm:

"Over two hundred years ago, four brothers came to America from Germany in search of the American Dream. They first settled outside Lancaster, PA, but the times for that area were very turbulent as this was during the French and Indian War. During an attack on local settlers, one of the women in the party was scalped – and survived. Soon after, the Seibert brothers decided to leave Lancaster in search of more peaceful places. Jacob Seibert settled here, in the Cumberland Valley, beneath the forested slopes of Fairview Mountain. His property was named "Good Neighbor Farm" or "Knob Hall"."

We are again meeting at the Town Hall, Lower Level. Come at 7:00 p.m. for cookies and coffee. The program begins at 7:30.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>

### SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

June 4<sup>th</sup> will be a very special concert date. Please come for the dedication of the new Howard Avenue Park arbor at 10:00 a.m.

Wat Stewart started the CONCERT SERIES for the Kensington Historical Society hoping to create an event where the community could come together. He started with a few concerts at the Town Hall and on the grounds of the Warner Manor in the 1990's. He expanded by creating our SUMMER CONCERT SERIES every Saturday morning throughout the summer. Mr. Stewart passed away in 2011, but the KHS sponsored concerts are carried on through the efforts of Julie O'Malley, Betsy and Mary Stewart and other Society members. We are now holding 17 concerts June through September with a different band every week! We're happy to see that so many neighbors are enjoying them.

Last summer the Town's Greenscape Committee focused their efforts on the Howard Avenue Park, which is where the concerts are held. With the loss of two large shade trees, the need was obvious. The committee redesigned the planting beds to include native plants and the Town planted trees and evergreens. Ben Williams has donated a "Kensington" rosebush.

The most recent addition by the Town is an arbor to shade musicians. It seems most appropriate to dedicate the arbor to Wat Stewart. We hope you can join us for this event on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Music by one of Wat's favorite bands, Dixieland Express!



Betsy and  
Mary Stewart

**Kensington Historical Society Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2015**

The Kensington Historical Society Annual Business Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at the Town Hall, Lower Level, 3710 Mitchell Street in Kensington. Coffee and refreshments were served at 7:00 pm and the presentation started at 7:30 pm.

**Presentation**

Speaker James Rada, Jr. discussed his new book: *The Last to Fall: The 1922 March, Battles, & Deaths of U.S. Marines at Gettysburg* (written with Richard Fulton). In 1922, the largest army since the Civil War marched through Montgomery County on its way to Gettysburg to reenact this famous Civil War battle. The "second battle" of Gettysburg was brought to life with a PowerPoint filled with archival photos. Subsequent to the presentation, Mr. Rada sold and signed copies of his books.

**Annual Business Meeting: Elections**

Julie O'Malley called the meeting to order at 8:40 pm. She presented the slate of officers recommended by the Board for a term spanning from January 2016 to January 2018. These were as follows:

President: Julie O'Malley

Vice President: Janet Barnes

Secretary: Angela Mickalide

Treasurer: Yvonne Gurney

She opened up the floor to other nominations, but none were forthcoming. The KHS members present voted to approve the slate of candidates. Julie thanked Steve Cohen, outgoing Vice-President, and Detta Vooser, outgoing Treasurer, for their outstanding service to KHS.

**Walking Tour Mobile Website**

The contract for the walking tour mobile website has been signed by the Montgomery County Park and Planning Commission. KHS is seeking volunteers to sort pictures from the archives to post on the mobile website as well as a web designer with expertise in creating the mobile website. Please send recommendations for the latter to Steve Cohen at [steveco301@gmail.com](mailto:steveco301@gmail.com) or [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org).

**Holiday Party**

The KHS Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Victorian home across from Noyes Library. Invitations will be sent out to all members next week.

**Membership Recruitment**

For the benefit of audience members present who were not yet KHS members, Julie listed some of the benefits of membership including the holiday party, summer concerts, newsletters, guest speakers, spring party, train show in the fall, access to the archives, and the annual calendar. She urged non-members to sign up and pay dues this evening as this supports the many continuing efforts of the Society.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Mickalide, PhD, MCHES  
Secretary/Operations Officer

*Thanks to Our 2016 Supporters: the KHS Members and Sponsors!*

**BENEFACTORS:** The Ditto Group, Kensington Service Center;

**PATRONS:** Kensington Pharmacy, Knowles Printing Services, Matthews General Contracting, Inc, Safeway,

**SUPPORTERS:** Antiques & Uniques, Ayoub N & H Carpet & Rugs, David Gregg's Tree Service & Garden Maintenance, Edward Jones Investment Services, Frankly...Pizza, Hardware City, JennyCakes Bakery, Jubilee Association of MD, Kensington Caboose, Kensington Row Bookshop, Logan's Automotive, Moose, Green & Korom P.A., One-Stop Tax and Business Service, Patrick Realty Co. Inc., Precious Pals, Sage Eclectic Consignment, Smalls & Smalls Movers LLC, sub\*urban trading, Susan I. Wranik Associates LLC, Textile & Rug Museum, & the Town of Kensington.

## GET CREDIT FOR YOUR HARD WORK!

Have you done work this year to the exterior of your home? Remember if you live in the Historic District and spent over \$1000 last year you can apply for a Montgomery County Tax Credit of 20%. DEADLINE is April 1<sup>st</sup>. This is true for all homes and businesses that are working to maintain or restore their property. The County supports Historic Districts by offering credit as discussed at our January informational meeting. Handouts from that meeting are in a packet at the Town Hall Office (open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), as well as on [www.kensingtonhistory.org](http://www.kensingtonhistory.org)

## MONTGOMERY PRESERVATION INC. AWARDS

Montgomery County Preservation Inc, an umbrella organization for preservation groups in the County, has presented two awards of significance to Kensington.

NICHOLAS AND CARRIE STORER, 10234 CARROLL PLACE, received an award for their Compatible Residential Addition.

Kensington's most important aspects of the Historic District include the streetscape; the spacing of the homes, rhythm of the pattern of development, the preservation of the landscape as well as the building itself. From the front, this house is totally unchanged except for paint color. From Montgomery Avenue, the side view shows this plan includes an obvious addition to the original home, which is compatible and defers to this primary resource.

The Storer's, their architect Steve Breslin, and Jodi Longo of Renovation Studio sought a Preliminary Hearing to work with the HPC on all details. There was little structural change to the interior of the resource as they adapted the original spaces creatively to suit their needs. The new portion is a 416 square one story addition with a full basement and does not overwhelm the house or the landscape.

THE HIGGINS CEMETERY HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION received a Special Achievement award.

For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Higgins Cemetery was neglected and its ownership was unknown or disputed. By the 1980s, it was overgrown with invasive trees and other plants and became a dump for household trash and landscaping debris. Beginning in 1997, many groups worked to recapture the cemetery including Peerless Rockville, Higgins heirs, the Kensington Historical Society, and Chevy Chase Chapter of the DAR and other volunteers.

In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, James Higgins established his plantation that today includes parts of Rockville and Kensington. Relocation and intermarriage by subsequent generations and development in this area led to abandonment of the cemetery in the first third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since 1999, the property has been owned by Higgins Cemetery Historic Preservation Association, Inc., which with the help

of volunteers and partners has slowly reclaimed it.

James Higgins (1732-1816), who served in the Maryland militia during the Revolutionary War, and his wife Luraner Becraft Higgins (1744-1819) were the first generation to be buried on their farm. With their son James Becraft Higgins (1772-1848) and his wife Mary Eleanor Higgins (1784-1845), James and Luraner Higgins were memorialized by a red sandstone monument in 1866.

Members of the third generation, Luraner Higgins (1811-1883) and her husband George Knowles (1805-1881) are also here. George Knowles owned most of the land on which Kensington later developed. He deeded land for linking county roads in the Kensington area, and for the B & O Railroad. Trains stopped at the track crossing of County Road (now St Paul Street). This location and the surrounding area came to be known as Knowles Station and later Kensington. Other grandchildren and great-grandchildren of James and Luraner Higgins were interred between 1869 and 1891, as likely were their slaves. An 1851 plat shows the graveyard, and a 1927 survey shows specific burials.

Today, there is a visible cemetery. Several of the marble markers have been recovered and reset. The property is cleared and well kept. It is still a work in progress, but its future will be seen as a tribute to its past.

[The Higgins Cemetery is in Rockville at 5720 Arundel Avenue. Luis Bandon presented his research on the Higgins Cemetery in his articles in the KHS Summer 2014 and Spring 2015 newsletters, online at [www.kensingtonhistory.org](http://www.kensingtonhistory.org) under "About Us.."]

*Special thanks to Carrie and Nick Storer for hosting our Holiday Party!*

## I REMEMBER

Excerpt from an interview with Bertha Clum, 1983:  
One of the picturesque things of early Kensington was the street lamp. They were large lanterns on posts about eight feet tall. Mr. Cresmond and his son Viola kept the light burning every night as they walked from post to post carrying a small ladder and a can of oil. The lamps come on – one by one like fireflies – a pleasant thing to watch.

Do you or a neighbor have a memory to share? KHS conducts interviews to collect memories of early Kensington. If you would like to participate, email Julie at [info@Kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@Kensingtonhistory.org)

It's time to catch up AND...

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Marie Claude Dubois

Ronda & Richard Earenfight

Christine & John Fogarty

Chris, Ed, & Patrick Hyland

Robin Kurtz

Councilmember Tom Rodrigues &

Catherine

Nick & Carrie Storer

Kendal Watson and Carla Rodriguez

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Clean Up Silver Creek: April 2nd 10 a.m.  
Frederick Avenue at the Cabin to the shopping center.

Kensington Park Library Grand Re-Opening:  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. (4201 Knowles Avenue)

Kensington Car Show: April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Howard Avenue, rain date April 10)

The International Day of the Book Festival:  
April 24, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Howard Avenue)

Food Truck Night: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., May through Oct. (Armory Ave. behind the Safeway)

Spring Planting along Silver Creek: Montgomery County Parks Department and the Town of Kensington will be planting trees along Silver Creek.

YES! We love student volunteers!

The Kensington Historical Society is on the approved list for Student Service Learning credit. Come in and see what we do!!

KHS KENSINGTON MUGS are available with the logo: "Where the Train Still Stops and the People Still Walk." Find yours at the Kensington Old Town Market, the Kensington Row Bookshop, or a KHS Meeting, \$5.00.

## Visit the KHS Archives

The KHS Archive is on the ground floor of the Town Hall and is open from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. every Thursday. We can also meet you there by appointment: [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org) or call Julie at 240-460-2548

Come visit and see what we have! Bring your photos and house histories!



*How well do you know Kensington? Can you locate these homes?*

Do you have an early picture of your home you'd like to share with us? KHS can scan them while you wait. You don't have to part with them for a minute! Maybe they'll be in a Walking Tour??

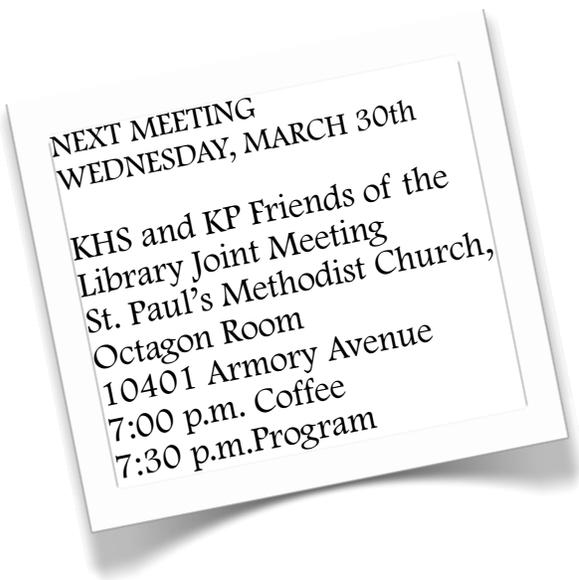
#### MOBILE WEBSITE AND WALKING TOUR

Thanks to a grant from the from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, the Kensington Historical Society is creating a new website, which will include a Walking Tour to be used on your smartphone. KHS is all about history, but we intend to make our information available by the latest methods! We hope to have this completed by the end of the summer. We have hired a development firm, Actualize Studio, and have an active committee that is committed to this project. There is still room for others to volunteer (research, organize photographs, and more). Please contact Steve Cohen for more information ([steveco301@gmail.com](mailto:steveco301@gmail.com)). You can also drop in the Archives at Town Hall on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and by appointment [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org).

Kensington Historical Society  
PO Box 453  
Kensington, MD 20895

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**KENSINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
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Please mail this form to KHS, P.O.Box 453, Kensington, MD, 20895.

You may also join, renew, or donate at [www.kensingtonhistory.org](http://www.kensingtonhistory.org) on the Supporter page using the PayPal button.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Lived in Kensington since (Year): \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership**

Individual (\$20.00) [ ]

Family (\$30.00) [ ]

Business (small and non-profit) (\$75.00) [ ]

Corporations (\$100.00) [ ]

Lifetime (Individual & Family)(\$500.00) [ ]

*Check your label for the "paid through" date!*

KHS is a 501 (C) 3 Charitable organization.

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping on the following committees: ( Please Check)

- |                                   |                                       |                                     |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership   | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Socials  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar   | <input type="checkbox"/> Archives |