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Damascus Heritage Society News

THE DEVOTED CURATOR OF DAMASCUS HISTORY

FALL 2011

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From The Editor

What a summer we had – record heat and humidity, earthquakes, and hurricanes. But we came through it all with flying colors and we are enjoying our beautiful fall and hopefully mild winter. I say “mild winter” with my fingers crossed, by the way. And our little museum building seems like it was built for any kind of weather. Through it all, we were calm, cool, dry, and happy with not a single weather related incident to report.

Our membership drive during July and August was successful with lots of renewals and numerous new members coming our way. It is really rewarding to see so much support from the community. We thank you one and all.

September brought the Community Fair, speaking of weather (see the article on page 3). We have been present at the fair for several years now and always have a good time as we meet lots of people, old friends and new.

Our current exhibit on miniatures has been a huge success as you will read a little later in this newsletter and we are busy getting ready for the next exhibit on the Country Stores of the area which will open in November.

As you see, we are always busy and we would love for you to join the fun. If you want to work, we have a job for you. If you have suggestions, we want to hear them. If you have stuff, we will take it. If you support us with your membership but wish to watch from the sidelines, that is good because we always need a cheering section. If you come into the museum to enjoy our exhibits, we are glad to have your company. We appreciate any and all support and encouragement offered to us.

So, see you at the museum.

Linda Olsen, President and Editor

Miniatures are BIG

We thought we would try something different. But, will anyone come if we don't have old Damascus “stuff” for this exhibit? Is it too different? Will everyone like it?

As it turns out, our concerns were completely unnecessary. “The Wonderful World of Dollhouse Miniatures” is a huge success and has had 501 visitors as of this writing, with another three weeks before the exhibit closes. We will soon break our record of 507 visitors for the Farm Exhibit. In November we will return with Damascus memorabilia but in the meantime, what a crowd of people we have had come through our doors to see this tiny world. We could not be happier.

If you have not been in yet to see this wonderful collection, please come on in now as it closes on October 26. The detail is amazing.



The Italian Winery

The exhibit was organized by Sue Ketchum and features her work along with creations by her

daughter, Katie, and friends Lynda Schrack and Linda Bell. Men seem to also enjoy this hobby and have contributed two or three pieces to the display.



The Southwest Hacienda



The Victorian Catholic School



John's Barber Shop, Connecticut Ave, Chevy Chase

The attention to detail has every vignette looking like you could step in and live comfortably. There are clothes, food, working lights, plants, animals, furniture, and any number of other items in perfect miniature. It is truly a detailed and unique hobby that requires time and patience.

The exhibit runs through October 26. Please come in to view our miniature world and see for yourself why it has been so popular.

So, see you at the museum.

MUSEUM HOURS & LOCATION

Museum hours are Wednesday and Saturday from noon until 5:00 PM or by appointment by calling the Olsen's at 301-253-1811. We are located on the grounds of the Library/Senior Center at 9701 Main Street.

Country Stores Coming in November

A few months ago, Heritage Society member Steve Hawkins suggested that we might consider doing an exhibit on the country stores of the area. His family owned the store in Etchison for seventy years and some of his relatives owned the Woodfield Store. Steve grew up on Mt. Vernon Avenue but now lives in Pittsburgh, PA and keeps in touch with us on a regular basis. We thought he had a great idea and an exhibit was born. Steve is providing many stories, pictures, and some memorabilia for the upcoming display.

If you haven't met Gary Richard, you have missed a little bit of Damascus. He knows all kinds of stuff, has all kinds of stuff, and knows sources to track down any kind of stuff you may need or desire. Gary just happens to have a current hobby that involves research and collection of can labels from the many canneries in Maryland. Since this was such a rich agricultural area, canneries were

popular as places for local farmers to sell their abundant crops. The canneries could then provide nearby country stores with canned goods for resale to their customers.

Gary's can collection is extensive and where better to display them than in an exhibit on country stores. So, in addition to the pictures and information about the country stores of the area, we will have numerous items found in these stores including many cans from the local canneries.



Just a small sampling of the cans from the Maryland canneries that are part of Gary's collection.

The exhibit will open on November 2, 2011. If you have stories, pictures, or information about any of these stores, give us a call at 301-253-1811. We are looking forward to another great exhibit coming

to the Damascus Heritage Museum. In the meantime, be sure you see the **Miniature World** on display until October 26.

So, see you at the museum.

Museum visitors love the yearbooks!

Our collection is growing slowly but we still need the following years:

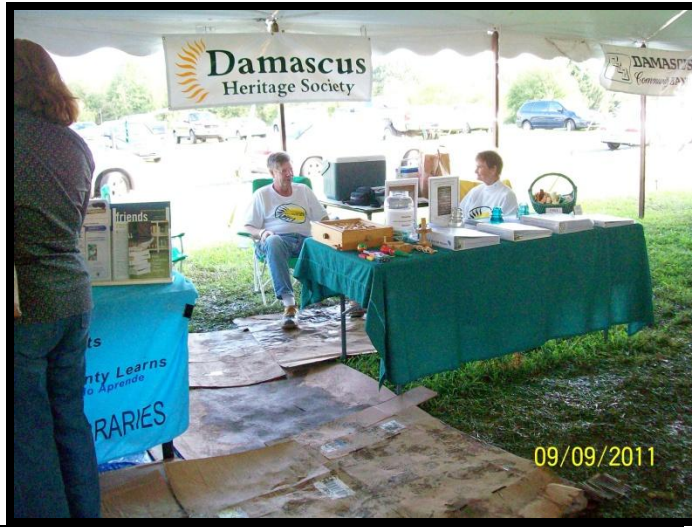
1962, 1966, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Donate your old yearbooks today.
The museum visitors thank you.

THE HERITAGE SOCIETY GOES TO THE FAIR

For several years now, the Heritage Society has participated in the Damascus Community Fair. It is always an experience, weather wise, and this year was no exception. It rained for several days before the Fair so the grounds around the Fireman's Activity Center were more than saturated. As we slogged through the mud to set up our booth, we noticed that we were on an ant hill, and due to the very wet ground, the ants were at the ready for any dry thing that come along. That would be me. There were ants all over my feet, in my shoes, and up my pant legs. The bites were numerous and the itching lasted more than a week. But the show must go on so we set up shop and stayed all three days and met lots of people, in spite of the ants and the mud.

We were next to our friends from the library so Librarian Betty and her husband brought cardboard to put down around our booth in an effort to keep the mud under control. We wore boots all weekend and we got plenty dirty but it was fun and we will do it again next year.



Ray and Pat are sitting in our booth - notice the cardboard.

If you have not attended the Damascus Community Fair, you must do so next year. It has been going on for 67 years. Yes, that is 67 years. Many people in town spend many, many hours organizing the 3-day family event. There are animals of all sorts, vendors of many varieties, and vegetables, flowers, and crafts vying for ribbons and championships. The cake auction on Saturday night brings in several thousand dollars for the benefit of the Fair organization in order to fund the following year. Our friend Dr. Skipton of golf tournament fame, provides his expertise for the pet show on both Saturday for cats and Sunday for dogs and other assorted pets, furry, scaly, and otherwise.

We are happy to participate in such a long established community event where we reach out to new people every year in an effort to spread the word about the museum. It works well for all of us. Come to the Fair in 2012. If you have never been, you will be surprised to see what you have been missing. If you come every year, see you for number 68.

**We have shirts
Lots of shirts
Just your size**

**Support the museum
Get your shirt today**

What is kind of curly and has a long tail?

If you have been to the museum on a day when Pat Williams is working you will see her hands flying around with a crochet hook and a basket of yarn as she sits greeting visitors. Did you wonder what she is so busy doing? She is making bookworms. Have you gotten your bookworm? They reside in a basket on the desk, they are all sorts of colors, and they all wear a tag that says "Thanks for visiting the Damascus Heritage Museum". They are free for the taking so everyone who visits goes away with a bookworm and a smile.

Thank you, Pat, for providing these little guys. They are a source of a fun discussion and free publicity for us as they travel out into the community. We do tell visitors who take one that the only requirement for taking it is that they must read a book. Most everyone seems to be on their way to the library, or have just been to the library, so we are helping to promote our library friends at the same time.

Thanks again, Pat. Everyone loves the bookworms.

Check out our Web Site

Thanks to **Tim Hyatt**, our web site is always up to date with the latest exhibits, newsletters, and activities.

Check it out at:

www.dhsm.org

Thanks again, Tim.

In Memory of and In Honor of

Many members have dedicated their membership this year in memory or in honor of a family member or friend. The following dedications have come in since the summer newsletter:

*Doris & Ray Schwalm
In honor of
Daria & Dan King*

*Eleanor Stipe
In memory of
Harry Stipe, Sr.*

*George Stipe
In memory of
Harry Stipe, Sr.*

*Brian A. & Melissa B. Sadtler
In honor of
Phil & Lorraine Sadtler*

*Edna Searles
In honor of
Bernardine Beall*

*Hazel B. Hoyle
In memory of
Claude E. Burdette*

*Patti Mathes
In memory of
Lena Moxley Gilliss*

*Robert W. Newlin
In honor of
Kay Newlin*

*Robin Duvall Johnson
& Craig Philip Johnson
In memory of
Russell E. Duvall*

*Pleasant Plains of Damascus
D A R
In memory of
Mrs. Elaine Zepp Howes
& Mrs. Dwillia Deck McIntyre*

Keep in mind that you can dedicate your membership to a loved-one, friend or family, at any time. We will publish the current names each quarter in this newsletter but you can find the complete list of names in our "Dedications" books in the research corner of the museum for your perusal any time you are visiting.

**Winter is coming -
don't you need a sweatshirt?**



MUSEUM IS ALWAYS SEEKING ARTIFACTS

The museum would love to have your old stuff. If you have any pictures, newspapers, or old Damascus related items that you want to give away or throw out, throw it our way. We will find a use for it during an exhibit in the future. You would be surprised what old items someone out there is interested in looking over. Remember, we are a 501C3 not-for-profit organization. Call us at 301-253-1811 or stop in the museum on Wednesday or Saturday, noon to 5:00 PM. We love to see you and we would love for your old stuff to become our old stuff.

Test your memory

Our Country Stores exhibit opens on November 2. We will have lots of pictures and items from many stores in the area. Maybe you will see a store you have forgotten. Test your memory below.

Do you recognize these Country Stores?



Maybe the shape of the building will give you a clue as it still looks the same today.



This is an old one but it is still there.



Everyone drives by this one.

**Come to the museum
to get the answers.**

People that make a difference:

Joe Abrahams The Chef of Damascus

On March 22, 1980, Joe Abrahams was recognized at a dinner in his honor at the American Legion in Damascus. Joe was a businessman, a major real estate and investment broker, and most notably for Damascus, a chef. At the dinner, American Legion Commander Gerald Duvall, Sr. and Past Commander Len Tolley commended Abrahams for "giving unselfishly of his time and expertise in the art of chicken frying" with a certificate of appreciation. He fried his famous chicken (we understand that it is still the recipe Tom & Ray's uses today) and oysters and many other delectable dishes for not only the Legion and Tom & Ray's, but the Elks, the VFW, antique car clubs, the Mason's, the Fire Department, and numerous other up-county volunteer groups. Over the years, he received citations from Governor Harry Hughes and Delegate Jerry Hyatt for his public service to our community.

In addition to his cooking skills, Joe was also involved in community sports and was instrumental in building the Damascus baseball diamond on Lewis Drive.

Future Meetings

Our meetings are open to everyone and we invite you to join us as a visitor or member at any time. We meet on the third Monday of the month in the large conference room (unless otherwise noted) at the Damascus Public Library at 7:00 PM, with the exception of January and February when we meet on the fourth Monday. The meetings are as follows:

Monday, October 17

Monday, November 21

Monday, December 19

Monday, January 23, small meeting room

Monday, February 27, small meeting room

Monday, March 19

Monday, April 16

Monday, May 21, small meeting room

Monday, June 18

Mark your calendar now.

Call 301-253-1811 for information.



Ray Luhn and Joe Abrahams

Just recently Joe Abrahams' granddaughter, Tammy Watkins Porter, came into the museum to bring us some information, pictures, and Joe's famous fried chicken fork. All of these items will be on display in our Damascus memorabilia area of the museum during the Country Stores exhibit. Stop in to see what a difference one man can make in the community he loved.

So, see you at the museum.

*Information obtained from 1980 newspaper clippings written by Monica Schairer, paper unknown.

Join the Heritage Society today.

Help us preserve the
history of Damascus.



WE NEED YOU AT
THE MUSEUM.

**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE
DAMASCUS HERITAGE SOCIETY**

All payments are tax deductible - we are a
501c3 non-profit charitable organization.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Mail to:

**Damascus Heritage Society Inc.
P.O. Box 218
Damascus, MD 20872**

Memberships:

Individual \$25

Family \$35

Business/Friend \$50-\$99

Fellow \$100-\$499

Sponsor \$500-\$999

Patron \$1,000-\$4999

Benefactor \$5000+

If desired, in Memory/Honor of:
(circle one)

Copying service provided by our friends at **DOVETAIL** - Printing – Signs – Woodworking

NEWSLETTER – Fall 2011

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