



P.O. Box 218  
Damascus, Maryland 20872

Linda Olsen, President  
Renee Jackson, Vice President  
Pat Williams, Secretary  
Ephraim Salins, Treasurer

## Damascus Heritage Society News

THE DEVOTED CURATOR OF DAMASCUS HISTORY

SUMMER 2011

VOL. 5 No. 3

### From The Editor

Summer is flying by. Celebrate Damascus has come and gone already and August is just around the corner. I remain completely amazed that time goes so quickly. Maybe it is because we are so busy. I know it can't be old age.... Remember when we were kids and the school year was endless?

Anyway, moving on, we currently have a great exhibit in the museum on the "Houses of Worship". We have 19 of the 22 Damascus churches participating in addition to the synagogue, for a total of 20 participants out of 23 possibilities. It closes on July 27 so you still have time to see it if you haven't been in yet. And a really fun exhibit is ready to open on August 3 titled "***The Wonderful World of Dollhouse Miniatures***". Since we talked last we had our Third Annual Golf Tournament at the Links at Challedon in Mt. Airy. A good time was had by all. Then on Memorial Day we participated in the service at the American Legion – always a wonderful occasion to honor the men and women who serve our country. Our annual membership drive began on July 1. Our main source of income for the year comes from our member dues and our membership seems to grow every year, for which we are grateful.

In between all of these many activities, the museum is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from noon until 5:00, every week, all year. And, we have entertained more than 1000 visitors in the last year. We are extremely happy with the interest and response of our patrons, some of whom are "regulars". The museum is our real purpose and the extra activities are the means by which we meet new people to spread the word about our mission.

We have a fun and rewarding organization with a goal of preserving and sharing Damascus history. Join us, support us, and enjoy the exhibits we have

available for you and your family. Come in to see what's new. We have added something to the current exhibit every week since it opened. It is always improving and you really don't want to miss anything now, do you?

So, see you at the museum.

Linda Olsen, President and Editor

### CELEBRATE DAMASCUS

It was another big year for Celebrate Damascus with the parade and the fireworks on Friday evening and numerous events on Saturday at several different venues. And of course, the Heritage Society was out and about on both days.

The most exciting part was on Saturday when we had **150** visitors in the museum. It was wonderful; we were busy all day. Gary Richard sponsors the trolley and he had a stop again at our front door.



Here comes the trolley.

Anita Fry dressed in period clothing and brought her button jar to make button and string toys that were a hit with everyone, not only the children. Renee and

Linda both wore out their strings playing with them. This was a toy of yesteryear.



Anita sharing her button toys.

There was a steady flow of people all day with some staying for long periods of time, looking over everything. We had many people spend time with our yearbooks and reference material. Lots of people enjoyed all of the church memorabilia, and the new shoe display from Bob Williams was definitely a hit.



Women's and Children's shoes from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, on loan from Robert Williams.



Lots of beautiful shoes.



Charter member Harvey Zeigler, who was one of the parade marshals this year, sits on a church pew with member Bill Nelligan. The pew is from the Montgomery United Methodist Church when it was located at the intersection of Rt. 27 and Rt. 80 and is on loan to the museum for the church exhibit from Gary Richard.

The parade on Friday evening is always fun as we ride in the back of the Olsen's pickup truck and wave to the crowds along the parade route. We had volunteers throwing candy this year, walking along beside us as we are not allowed to throw candy from the vehicles. The candy people were Dan and Daria King's granddaughters, Ava and Gabriella Ciriaco, and also Patricia Regan-Allen who showed up at the museum one day and asked what she could do for us. We thank them all – it was a long walk.



Dave and Linda are sitting in lawn chairs, ready for the parade. Gail and Pat are behind Dave and Linda, also sitting in lawn chairs. Ray and Jim are in the cab of the truck riding in comfort, I might point out. Notice our logo on the truck and on our shirts.

If you missed Celebrate Damascus, you missed a wonderful town event. There were many people, businesses, and organizations involved with food and entertainment around every corner. Friday evening ended with a great display of fireworks

thanks to Darron Long and the guys at the fire department. And look for us again next year during Celebrate Damascus when our plans include an exhibit on Model T's.

We have to thank Linda Panagoulis from the Rec Center for all of her work in organizing the event and we also have to say that we missed the Newman family, Richard, Tammy, and Tiffany, who organized the parade for so many years and have always been such a big part of the day.



Gary Richard picks up his trolley sign from the museum at the end of a successful day.



Dr. Skipton on the putting green getting ready for a day of great golf.

While the day of golf progresses the drink wagon makes the rounds with cold drinks of all varieties. Everyone is always glad to see the drink lady arrive with her cold supply of drinks for a hot day of intense play on the golf course. For the third year the drink wagon was sponsored by Gladhill Brothers. We thank Tess and all of the Gladhills for this continued generous support.



The drink wagon is making the rounds.

After a full day of practice, lunch, and 18 holes of golf, we conclude our day with a banquet and awards. We have good food and great prizes and everyone has a good time.

## Third Annual Golf Tournament - What a FUN day -

The Third Annual Golf Tournament at the Links at Challedon in Mt. Airy was fun and successful and we are ready to do it again next year.

The weather was beautiful all day until just about the time the first foursomes were about to finish up and then the rain came. It wasn't a storm, just a quick shower. I don't think the golfers knew that it rained as they were very engrossed in their game but we on the patio had to take cover. While we were busy staying dry, the diehards kept right on playing and finished in good spirits, never missing a beat.



The registration table and the goodie bags are ready to go.



After a day on the links we all gather in the dining room for our banquet and awards.

For all three years now our banquet sponsor, Bob Williams from Molesworth, has stepped up to make his generous sponsorship offer before we even ask him. He is truly a loyal patron of the museum and we appreciate his support.

Our day was fun and if you missed it, you will have a chance to join us next year, same time, same place, for another day of fun in the sun.

So, see you on the links?

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The museum has several wonderful members behind the scenes that quietly provide great service to the organization. Most people are not aware of the contributions that these people offer to us on a regular basis. Since we are currently in the midst of our membership drive, and the memberships are pouring in, I'd like to tell you about Nan Norton and thank her for her continued writing skills, materials, stamps, and time to respond to all of these museum supporters. Every new member that sends us a contribution hears from Nan. She receives the updated roster of new members almost daily, and gets right to work on her thank you notes. She has been doing this for several years now and has written over 500 notes. She will not even accept reimbursement for materials or stamps. We are so thankful for her contribution, particularly of her time, as it is a very busy job at this time of the year.

*Thank you, Nan, from all of us.*

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## 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.

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## Damascus Heritage Society Participates in Memorial Day Service

For the fifth year the Heritage Society attended the Memorial Day service at the American Legion in Damascus on Sunday, May 29. It is a really nice way to honor and remember the people who serve or who have served our country. Many organizations from the community participate by bringing floral tributes to present at the honor roll during the service. The Browningsville Band is always on hand to provide the music. The Legion not only organizes the service but also provides a free luncheon for the public at the conclusion of the service.



The American Legion Honor Roll with the floral tributes from community organizations at the Memorial Day Service on May 29, 2011

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*Museum visitors love the yearbooks!  
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, and 2010.

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[Check out our Web Site](#)

Thanks to **Tim Hyatt**, our web site is always up to date with the latest exhibits and activities. Check it out at:

[www.dhsm.org](http://www.dhsm.org)

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## In Memory of and In Honor of

The membership drive is currently under way and these five memberships have come in with dedications as of this writing. They are as follows:

*Marilynn Cox  
In memory of  
Ethel B. Bowne*

*Tim & Linda Gilbert  
In memory of  
Martha Bailey Slacum*

*Bobbye Calvert Kudzma  
In honor of  
Penelope Kudzma Weeda*

*Ray & Lois Purdum  
In honor of  
Volunteers who made  
the museum possible*

*Dr. J. David Warthen, Jr.  
In memory of  
Constance Ann Mumma Warthen*

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.

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## Donations of Stuff

We have such wonderful patrons who not only support us with their memberships but also provide us with stuff. Lately, Doris Pope came in to give us a nice folder full of newspapers and articles collected over a period of several years in addition to two old Damascus directories. Thank you, Mrs. Pope.

One day last week I stopped in to pay a bill at the Fuel Company and saw Mary Richards sitting in a car in front of the building. Mary used to be a

neighbor of ours so I had to stop to talk a while. The lady she was with came out of the Fuel Company and I met her for the first time. It was Nancy Shanks, formerly of Damascus, currently of NC. She and her late veterinarian husband used to live in the house that is the current rectory of St. Paul's Catholic Church. Of course we had a big conversation about that since we live in the original St. Paul's rectory on Woodfield Road. She just happened to have a 1974 aerial picture of the house in her car and when I said we have a church exhibit going on at the museum now, she gave me the picture for the exhibit. Come in to see it – we hung it immediately. The moral of this story is, don't tell me about anything that you are not prepared to donate to the museum because I will convince you that it would be a wonderful addition to our collection.... Thank you, Nancy.

Saturday during Celebrate Damascus Dorothy Warfield came to see the church exhibit and seemed to enjoy herself. Shortly after she left, she returned with a picture of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church. It looks like a water color and is nicely framed and again, already part of our display. She purchased it at a sale in June of this year from the estate of Elaine Zepp Paylor Howes. Thank you, Dorothy.

We love your stuff and are so happy that you think about us when you have Damascus items that need a new home. Thanks from all of us.

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## **"The Wonderful World of Dollhouse Miniatures" Opening at the Museum on August 3, 2011**

We have something different but fascinating and fun coming to the museum for the next exhibit. Dollhouse miniatures have been around for centuries. They have primarily been viewed as children's toys, but in the past few years, have been used to give a three-dimensional view of a crime scene in the courtroom, preserve a moment in history, or become a piece of collector's art. Were you aware that there is an adult group of dollhouse miniaturists that has been meeting in Damascus almost every month since 1990? The Mini Wonder Workers club members gather to make group scenes with accessories, mostly in the scale of 1" to

the foot, although sometimes work is on much smaller scales. The club members work on their own projects as well, creating high-quality, extremely-detailed miniatures.

Sue Ketchum, a Charter member of the Mini club, offered to share their treasures with the Damascus community by exhibiting their creations at the Damascus Heritage Museum during the months of August, September, and October 2011. Exhibits include Baltimore row houses, tea shoppes, a Victorian Catholic schoolhouse, a barbershop, an antiques shop, and many, many more.



The miniature Baltimore row house.

In conjunction with our exhibit, free age-appropriate workshops and educational demonstrations will be held in the library on two Saturday afternoons during each of the three months that the display is on exhibit. Space is limited; reservations are required. The projects and sign-up sheet will be located in the museum. The Mini Wonder Workers hope that you will stop in and explore this fascinating hobby.

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## MUSEUM IS ALWAYS SEEKING ARTIFACTS

The museum is always seeking your old stuff. If you have any pictures, newspapers, 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 as spelled out in the "Stuff" article on the last page. 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.

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## **COUNTRY STORES COMING IN NOVEMBER**

The exhibit opening in November will be all about the Country Stores in Damascus and the surrounding areas. If you have stories, pictures, or information about any of these stores, give us a call. We are collecting now and will be ready to open after the Miniature exhibit. Call us at 301-253-1811.

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### 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 at the Damascus Public Library at 7:00 PM. For the remainder of 2011 the meetings are as follows:

**Monday, July 18**  
**Monday, August 15**  
**Monday, September 19**  
**Monday, October 17**  
**Monday, November 21**  
**Monday, December 19**

Mark your calendar now.  
Call 301-253-1811 for information.

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**Join the Heritage Society today.**

**Help us preserve the  
history of Damascus.**

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# DOVETAIL

Dovetail Printing, Signs, and Woodworking has been serving the Montgomery, Frederick, and Howard County, Maryland area for 40 years. They have been fortunate to remain in the same location in Damascus, MD throughout that time.

They enjoy the relationships that they have developed with their customers and neighbors through the years and are grateful for their continued support and repeat business. They try to live up to their customer's trust and expectations as they service their needs, whether it be printing, signs, or woodworking.

**The Heritage Society supports  
Dovetail and says**

## CONGRATULATIONS

**on 40 years of service  
to the community.**

**THANK YOU BILL AND PAT.**

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**July is**

## MEMBERSHIP MONTH.

**If you have not already joined the Damascus Heritage Society, now is the time. Fill out the following form, send it and your check to the P.O. Box and you will soon hear from Nan (see article on page 4). Thank you from all of us.**

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## 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)

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**WE NEED YOU AT THE MUSEUM.**  
**Join us today.**

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

**NEWSLETTER – Summer 2011**

Damascus Heritage Society Inc.  
P.O. Box 218  
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*See you at the museum.*