EXTRA! EXTRA!
STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM MAKES HEADLINES

Tickets on sale for the Irvington Crab Festival

Tickets are on sale for the fifth Irvington Crab Festival sponsored by the Steamboat Era Museum on August 13.

Doors will open at 4 p.m. and crabs will be served at 5 p.m. The festival will take place under a big tent in front of the museum, 156 King Carter Drive, Irvington.

More than 750 people are expected to pick their way through bushels of crabs, said executive director Barbara Breecher. Jumbo Lump Daddy and the Backfin Boys will rock the crowd with their genre-crossing music. Beer and wine will be available for purchase and a silent auction will be held.

Crowds enjoy crabs under the big top at the Crab Festival. Photo by Michael A. Geissinger
Steamboat Era Museum elects new board members and officers

The 2016 annual meeting of the Steamboat Era Museum was held May 14. The agenda included the election of board members, the election of officers, a progress report on the Potomac Pilots House and the unveiling of new exhibits, reported executive director Barbara Brecher.

Our new board members were elected, including Randal J. Kipp of Randal J. Kipp Architecture; Victoria Oliver of shelf Bank; Fred Peavy, a museum volunteer; and Donna Tibbs of Northern Virginia Community College. New officers include

The Steamboat Era Museum board of directors recently adopted a proclamation to honor volunteer and former board member Anne McClintock with the first "Museum Leadership Award" for her tireless work to make the museum a reality and help it grow, said Brecher. Because of her support, as well as many others in the community, the museum chose her to receive the 2016 Ellin "Ben" Living "Ben" Museum of Virginia Award.

Kelly and Baxter were recognized for their work recruiting and coordinating museum volunteers. Mary and Harry Young were praised for their dedication.

Your help is needed to keep the Potomac Home campus preserving its history. To help fit into this museum, the members at the 2016 annual meeting pledged to continue.

Steamboat Era Museum is excited to host its third annual Holiday Marketplace.

Steamboat Era Museum to host its third annual Holiday Marketplace

Steamboat Era Museum, 156 King Carter Drive, Irvington, offers a special opportunity for the season. The museum will feature more than 20 artisans with work in clay, fiber, stained glass and more, reported executive director Barbara Brecher.

Museum Fall Hours

September 9-November 18, 2016

Friday & Saturday • 10am-4pm

156 KING CARTER DRIVE • IRVINGTON, VA 22480

(703) 481-6486 STEAMBOATERAERUSSIANMUSEUM.ORG

"The House on the Roof," as Mollie Mae Smither displays a selection of work she and her friends made in the museum. The steamboat will be available for day and evening events throughout the month of November.
2016 was a year of significant growth for the museum thanks to a combination of ambitious new exhibits and exciting new partnerships. The number of visitors increased by more than 500 over last year and the museum secured two substantial grants to underwrite new projects.

Winning these grants represents more than funding. It signifies a milestone in the museum’s growth and maturity as cultural institution. It’s a nod to the importance of our mission to preserve the history of the Northern Neck and to our success-to-date in doing so.

Our 2016 season featured four new exhibits and this additional funding will enable us to expand our story. A $100,000 grant from The Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation will support the restoration and installation of the Potomac Pilot House. A $5000 grant from The Gladys Krieble Demas Foundation will fund development of a new exhibition called “Hansford Bayton: The Courage and Determination of a Black Steamboat Captain.”

So this annual report not only recounts the highlights of the past year but gives you a peek at what lies ahead. The museum’s future remains bright with the continued support of our members, donors and dedicated volunteers. Thank you for joining us as trustees in the great legacy of the Steamboat Era.

We also thank our Board of Directors for their financial stewardship. Equally important is the Board’s staunch support for our strong role in the greater community. And speaking of community, our hometown of Irvington continues to be one of our most valued partners.

Read on to learn about how all these pieces come together to spell success for our museum.

Best,

President
Steamboat Era Museum
Plenty of Publicity Puts Museum in the Spotlight

IRVINGTON—During 2016, the museum received generous coverage in our local newspapers. We scored nearly weekly coverage for events and other news in the *Rappahannock Record and Southside Sentinel*. But the museum has continued to broaden its audience through many channels and has met with success in the following areas:

**Advertising**

The museum’s ad was seen around the Northern Neck area, including placement in the *Local Scoop, House and Home Magazine* and *The Chamber Magazine*. Museum events were covered in the monthly tabloid *The Rivah*, a publication of the *Rappahannock Record*. *The Rivah* is published 6 times a year during the season.

**Media Coverage**

An article about the museum appeared in the *Chesapeake Bay Magazine*. An in-depth piece appeared in The Fall issue of *House and Home magazine*, which is distributed in the Northern Neck and Williamsburg.

Public service announcements, as well as paid radio spots, were heard on 101.7 Bay FM and 104.9 WIGO Country throughout the season.
Comments and ratings on Trip Advisor are invaluable endorsements.

What a wonderful small museum full of so much history of the surrounding area. Nicely done with wonderful displays that explain and show so much about the area. Good for any age group

December 2016

Nice museum covering the steamboat era on the northern neck region. Very friendly, informative volunteers run the museum. Definitely plan to go back with my grandson.

Nov 26, 2016

Visiting the Steamboat Era Museum August 27, 2016 during my stay in VA was paramount to my research project. I am writing a novel based in the Lancaster County area in the early 20th century, and the amount of information I was able to gather from my tour was invaluable to my writing project. If you visit the Lancaster County/Northern Neck area, you must make the Steamboat Era Museum one of your stops during your stay!

August 27, 2016
Museum Offers New Stories and Some Old Favorites for 2016 Season

IRVINGTON—The Steamboat Era Museum is opening its doors for the 2016 season with a splash: Four new exhibits in the Irvington museum will help visitors understand the importance of steamboats to the history and development of the Northern Neck.

“We’re always looking for new and better ways to tell our story,” says Executive Director Barbara D. Brecher. “Thanks to increased attendance and growing support from our members and the community, we’re able to do just that.”

The museum makes use of film footage to enhance its new Oyster Cannery exhibit. A film clip from the James Wharton Northern Neck Film Collection shows men tonging oysters in the 1930s and preparing them for transport via steamboat.

A second exhibit is built around the trunk of a teacher who, for years, took a steamboat from the Northern Neck to Baltimore where she taught for seven months before returning home to Warsaw, VA. This exhibit on Miss Nevis Ethyl Dungan features a mural painted by local artist Patty Richards.

Two additional exhibits showcase an ambitious new project, the Potomac Pilothouse – the only surviving intact pilothouse from a Chesapeake Bay steamboat. The museum’s 2015 acquisition of this unique artifact represented a real coup for the collection. Visitors can now walk an outline of the floor space that the pilothouse will occupy in the main exhibition hall. Another exhibit in the lobby, shows a portion of the pilothouse at actual size and recounts the passion behind the museum’s restoration project.

The Steamboat Era Museum will open on Friday, April 22. Spring hours are Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Summer hours, which begin on June 21, will be Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Returning programs include oral histories and the children’s scavenger hunt. The fifth Annual Irvington Crab Festival will take place on August 13.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS EMBARK AT STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM

IRVINGTON—The members of the Steamboat Era Museum came together on May 14 to elect four new candidates to their board. Voted to the board were Randall Kipp of Randal J. Kipp Architecture, Victoria Oliver of Chesapeake Bank, Fred Pevahouse, a museum volunteer, and Donna Tibbs of Northern Neck Insurance Company.

The four join current board members Barbara Baxter, Kylie Bransford, Beverly L. Randolph, Lee Stephens Jr., Frank L. Tetrick, Timothy Ward and Phillip Williams. In turn, the assembled board elected new officers. Nancy Travers will serve as President, Helen Slatford as Vice President, Fran Kelly as Secretary, and Randolph Graham as Treasurer. Eric Nost will continue his term on the Board as Past President.

The board members are Barbara Baxter, Kylie Bransford, Beverly L. Randolph, Lee Stephens Jr., Frank L. Tetrick, Timothy Ward and Phillip Williams.

Two long-time board members retired. Jackie Burell served as secretary of the board for many years and Anne McClintock worked tirelessly to make the museum a reality and help it grow. McClintock received the first Museum Leadership Award for her role in helping the museum be named the 2016 “Best Museum in Eastern Virginia” by Virginia Living magazine.

Others honored at the meeting included Fran Kelly and Barbara Baxter for their work in recruiting and coordinating the museum volunteers as well as Patty Richards for her donation of an original mural for a new 2016 exhibit.

Anne McClintock receives a proclamation from Eric Nost, past president of the Board of Directors
Museum Adds Hours and Activities for Summer Visitors

IRVINGTON—Summer means an extended schedule at the Steamboat Era Museum and a calendar of activities with something for everyone. Starting June 21, the museum will be open Tuesday – Saturday from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Irvington residents can look forward to the return of some popular events and tourists will have ample reasons to stop by.

The museum offers many kid-focused activities. Last year’s children’s scavenger hunt was so popular that a brand new hunt will be designed for 2017. Kids who find all the answers win a prize. There’s also a special “kids’ tour” every Friday morning, running June 24 through August 12. Reservations are advised for this program featuring stories, games and other activities about the Steamboat Era. The fee is $5 per person.

Due to limited space, please contact the museum at 804.438.6888 by Wednesday of each week to be on the list for Friday. Fee is $5 per person.

Children and adults are invited to attend a Steamboat Era Fashion Show on Sunday, June 26 at 3:00 PM. Tea and sandwiches will be served while museum volunteers model fashions from the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. Each model will tell a story about life in the Northern Neck when steamboats plied the rivers of the Bay. Tickets are $15 per person.

And what would summer be without the Annual Irvington Crab Festival? This museum fundraiser returns for its fifth year on Sunday, August 13, under a big top on Irvington Commons. The festival features steamed crabs, barbecue, and hotdogs along with the music of Jumbo Lump Daddy & the Backfin Boys. This event always sells out so crab lovers are urged to buy their tickets early. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

For complete information on museum activities or to purchase tickets, call (804) 438-6888, or visit www.steamboateramuseum.org.
In 1607, oysters were so plentiful, they could filter all the water in the Chesapeake Bay in three to five days. Today, it would take over a year to complete that task.

Until the 19th century, most Chesapeake Bay oysters were harvested for local consumption. But by the mid-1800’s, steamboats enabled canneries to ship oysters to distant markets or railroad junctions. The Oyster Cannery exhibit examines the rise and fall of the Northern Neck canneries as well as the local community of watermen and shuckers. This exhibit is the first to make use of film shot by native son James Wharton, including footage of a waterman from the 1930’s tonging and processing oysters.

Miss Nevis Ethyl Dungan is waiting for the steamboat at Bundick Wharf to take her to her teaching assignment in Baltimore. The year is 1918 …

Miss Dungan is the poster girl for travelling light. This exhibit features the single trunk in which she packed everything she would need for her seven-month assignment. Steamboats enabled Miss Dungan’s livelihood as a teacher in Baltimore and allowed her to return to Richmond County each summer. Her trunk is an evocative artifact – one that tells a highly personal story while placing the teacher squarely in the Steamboat Era.
Potomac Pilothouse
Closer to Reality

Potomac Pilothouse is one of Virginia’s Top Ten Most Endangered Artifacts.

The Steamboat Era Museum is restoring the Potomac’s pilothouse. The museum’s commitment to and passion for this ambitious project is detailed in the Pilothouse Exhibit that greets visitors in the lobby. The museum leadership makes its case for the importance of this artifact to the history and heritage of life on the Bay and asks for financial support in seeing the project to completion.

Step aboard the Potomac Pilothouse: the largest remaining intact section of a Chesapeake Bay steamboat.

Okay, it’s just an outline. But this is the floor space that the Pilothouse will occupy in the museum’s main exhibit hall. Visitors can walk its length – 27 feet – and turn to cross its width – 13 feet. The restored Pilothouse will measure eight feet tall – and be a hands-on opportunity to experience what it took to navigate a steamboat on the Bay and its tributaries.

Volunteer Research Fuels Exhibits – and More

Behind each of our exhibits is solid research – often conducted by museum volunteers. Fred Pevahouse served that role for the new Oyster Cannery Display. His new project is the Potomac Pilothouse – gathering information which will be used to produce a coffee table book. The book will be sold in the gift shop to support fundraising efforts to restore this artifact. Fred has already put his research to work by penning an article for the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine. Research is also underway for an exhibit on the life of Hansford C. Bayton, an African-American steamboat captain. Volunteers Candee and Fred Pevahouse, Clare Adams, Margaret Hrabe, Michael Geissinger, and our intern from St. Margaret’s School, MacKenzie Burckbuchler are leading this effort – to tell the story of a Northern Neck resident who owned and operated steamboats in the local area in the late 19th and early 20th century. Bayton provided mail service to the area and also offered excursions to Fredericksburg and other points on the Rappahannock. Thanks to a grant from The Gladys Krieble Demas Foundation, the new exhibit will be installed in the Lancaster Room.

Q. What does the outline on the floor indicate?

A. The space the Potomac Pilothouse will occupy in the museum.

The pilothouse will measure approximately 13 feet wide, 27 feet long, and 8 feet tall. Visitors will experience living and working in this very important section of the steamboat.

For more information about how you can help make this a reality, please visit the Pilot the Potomac Home exhibit in the lobby.
IRVINGTON--The Steamboat Era Museum is making major strides in fundraising for the restoration and installation of the Potomac Pilothouse. The museum received a $100,000 grant from The Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation. According to Eric Nost, chairman of the fundraising committee, “Our goal is to have the Pilothouse exhibit up and running for the 2018 season. To achieve this, we must raise an additional $250,000.”

Fundraising efforts continue on other fronts. Buoyed by the foundation grant, Marshall Orr, a longtime supporter of the museum, has donated $15,000. And the museum has launched a capital campaign called “Pilot the Potomac Home.” A brochure was developed to show donors how the Pilothouse will enhance the collection and build a national reputation for the museum.

Work on the Pilothouse has already begun. John Morgenthaler, local shipwright, is leading the restoration project. He has removed the shrink-wrap which has covered the Pilothouse since 2010. Morgenthaler will make some modifications to the artifact before moving the structure into his barn, where the work will take place. He plans to shorten the structure by approximately 16 feet by removing two aft cabins. The material from the aft section will be reused in construction.

“We acquired the Pilothouse in 2001,” notes Mr. Nost, “so this has been a long process. I think the foundation grant is the catalyst we need to move this project forward – and fulfill a goal of our museum’s founders.”

(R) John Morgenthaler unwraps the pilothouse.
FUNDRAISING FOR PILOTHOUSE RESTORATION GAINS TRACTION

FEATURE

RESTORATION GAINS TRACTION
Fridays are for Kids at the Steamboat Era Museum

Summer means special tours for kids ages 6 – 12 at the Steamboat Era Museum – and fun for the whole family. Every Friday morning through August 19, a dedicated guide provides a kid-friendly tour with stories, games and other activities. Learn about the life of a steamboat captain and the tools he used. Imagine you are the captain and try to turn a ship’s wheel. Join a guessing game at the General Store display. Build a cardboard steamboat with a wheel, anchors and lifesavers – and give it a name. You’ll have fun learning how a steamboat works and why they were important to the history of our community.

MIDDLE PENINSULA/NORTHERN NECK COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Linda Kelly brought 10 children with special needs for a hour and a half tour on Thursday, July 14. They made a steamboat to take home.

More then 500 kids explored the museum through the scavenger hunt.

Museum volunteer, Julia Tilley helps during Friday morning activities
History on the Go Reaches Students

Museum volunteers hit the road to bring the Steamboat Era alive for local students. For example, in January, they visited Lancaster Elementary School and taught kids about three steamboats and their differences and similarities. Over 200 students participated. An October event on Belle Isle featured ladies in period costumes that drew 108 fourth and fifth grade children. These were students from four private schools; Chesapeake Academy, Ware Academy, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Aylett Country Day School.

Music Students Want to Learn More

Learning a song about steamboats inspired music students from Chesapeake Academy to visit the museum to learn more about the Steamboat Era. Over two days in March, 46 kids from the first through fourth grades took a special tour. At the end, everyone joined in a craft session where they built their own steamboats.

LANCASTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First grade students visited the museum on June 10th. We had 70 students which were split, half in the morning and half in the afternoon. Costumed docents gave an hour and a half tour to each group which was tied into their SOL’s, “Past and Present”.

Dear Steamboat Era Museum Volunteers,

Our first grade class recently visited your museum (June 10th) and I wanted to thank you all for your time and effort in making our trip a very special experience.

Our children have limited experiences outside of school so it was very meaningful to them and I believe they came away with a better understanding of their community.

Thank you for setting up the craft as well - what a terrific idea! 😊

We will definitely be back next year! Thanks again - you all were very patient! 😊 Jennifer Bershaw
Ice Cream Social Marks Steamboat Era Day

IRVINGTON – The Commonwealth of Virginia declared September 14 Steamboat Era Day to commemorate the last voyage of the Anne Arundel in September 1937. What better place to mark the occasion than the Steamboat Era Museum? The day was celebrated on the museum’s deck with an ice cream social. The free event attracted families with children eager to sample the frozen treats while listening for the museum’s steamboat whistle.

Museum Partners with Rappahannock Art League to Raise Funds

IRVINGTON – On April 3, the museum collaborated with the Rappahannock Art League to host The Fine Art of Steamboat Era Dining. The seated dinner was held at the Hills Quarter Community Center and featured an oyster bar and wine. The evening’s events included live and silent auctions. Proceeds were split between the two organizations.
Steamboat Era Holiday
FASHION SHOW

Travel back in time and experience the holiday customs, fashions and traditions of the Steamboat Era in Irvington. Enjoy wassail, sweet treats and Christmas carols.

Sunday, November 6
3:00PM
$25 3 Children 12 and under $15

Space is limited. Call 438-6888 to reserve tickets.

Steamboat Era Museum
156 King Carter Drive
Irvington

MUSEUM EVENTS SPARK INTEREST AND FUNDING

Summer Tea and Fashion Show Captures Steamboat Era
IRVINGTON–The tea was English and the models wore period clothing but the Steamboat Era stories were the stars of this fashion show. More than 50 guests attended the museum’s first tea and fashion event on Sunday, June 26. Volunteers modeled late 19th century outfits and regaled the audience with stories about their families, their lives and steamboat travel. The attendees got a close-up view of the petticoats, laces, and trims that defined a fashionable woman in the Victorian Era. Period costumes ranged from a wedding dress to travel attire to the latest in beachwear.

Victorian to Flapper: A Holiday Fashion Show
IRVINGTON–Meet Joan Mary Clarke, an Irvington social butterfly. She’ll tell you about the trials of being a “flapper” during the 20’s. Mrs. Mollie Mae Smithers and Captain William Messick can tell you about Christmas in Irvington and the importance of steamboats during the holidays. These stories were part of a Holiday Fashion Show held at the Steamboat Era Museum on Sunday, November 6. Volunteers modeled festive holiday clothing of the era for men, women and children.

The museum was decorated in Victorian style and Father Christmas made a special early appearance. Santa joined the attendees in some rousing caroling. Wassail and other holiday treats were served.

Museum Tea and Fashion Shows are a Hit’

Jim Ward portrayed Potomac Steamboat Captain Archibald Long, Lily Hughes (left) as Eliza Berkey, and Ainsley Mumford as Julia Rowe joined guests and volunteers singing Christmas Carols at the end of the Fashion Show.
IRVINGTON CRAB FESTIVAL ATTRACTS OVER 700

On August 13, more than 700 people came out in the heat to eat steamed crabs and rock to Jumbo Lump Daddy & The Backfin Boys. The festival is the Steamboat Era Museum’s largest fundraiser.

Taking place under the big top on the Irvington Commons, the Crab Festival is a true community event – where individuals and businesses come together to support the museum’s mission. Attendees ate hot dogs grilled by volunteers from the Bank of Lancaster and barbecue donated by the Tides Inn. Members of the Boys and Girls Club and of Lively’s Boy Scout Troop #222 helped the volunteers serving crabs. Festival beer cups were provided by Chesapeake Bank and crab mallets by the Bank of Lancaster.

A silent auction was an added attraction with donations from around the Northern Neck area.
Captain’s Table Dinner Returns for a Second Successful Year

On August 12, more than 60 people attended the Captain’s Table Dinner, sponsored by the Steamboat Era Museum. Members of the Indian Creek Yacht Club dined under the big top on the Irvington Commons. Costumed interpreters led small groups on tours of the museum and reviewed plans for the restoration of the Pilothouse from the Steamship Potomac. A three-course dinner was catered by Jill and Larry Worth and served by volunteers. Following dinner, noted singer, composer, and keyboardist Ken Sparks concluded the evening with a special concert highlighting many of his original compositions celebrating the Northern Neck and the Chesapeake Bay.

Third Annual Holiday Marketplace Supports Artisans and Museum

Hundreds of shoppers attended the Holiday Marketplace at the Steamboat Era Museum. The museum gift shop featured handmade jewelry, baskets, bird carvings, soaps, birdhouses, garden art, and other gift items from more than 20 artisans. The Marketplace was held on November 25 and 26 as well as December 3, 10, and 17.

Crowds have grown at the annual event which has garnered a reputation for distinctive – and often one-of-a-kind – holiday gifts. A hot item this year was a new hard-bound diary/journal which was produced by the museum.

A book-signing contributed to the excitement. November shoppers met local artist, author, and illustrator Mary Jo Beswick, who was signing copies of her award winning children’s picture book, Lonely Lola Ladybug. A silent auction was also held showcasing artisans’ work, posters, and a four-foot Santa.

Thank You to Our Vendors

David Aiken
Robin Barrack
Mary Jo Beswick
Will Bonner
Barbara Brecher
Kimberly Charles
Paul Cyre
Barbara Dietz
Jan Dobrowolski
Elisa Holland
Tom Holland
Wanda Hollberg
Teresa Howard

Larry Jones
Richard Kantor
John Latell
Kathleen Lowe
Marion Tuckwiller
Suzette Negaaard
Rick Nesossis
Robin Sowell
Christine Swinson
Carol Anne Taylor
Ron Taylor
Yan Wang
Museum finds synergy with Lead Northern Neck initiative

Lead Northern Neck is a local initiative which is focused on resolving barriers to community and business growth. Modeled on the successful Lead Virginia program, it brings together a cross-section of community leaders for a nine-month workshop that fosters dialogue as a catalyst for regional solutions. Participants visited the Steamboat Era Museum to hear Executive Director Barbara Brecher talk about the museum’s commitment to economic growth in the Northern Neck.

“Tourism is such an important part of our economic base,” Ms. Brecher noted, “We work on many fronts to attract new and returning visitors to our museum.” She pointed to partnerships with organizations like Virginia’s River Realm as well as new and updated exhibits for the 2016 season. Education is also a large part of the museum’s mission and many programs now target children and the local schools. And fundraising events like the Irvington Crab Festival strengthen the museum’s ties to the community.

Ms. Brecher found common ground with Lead Northern Neck’s mission to support VISIONS – a program dedicated to reducing poverty and improving lives in the region. She highlighted the museum’s support of other non-profit organizations. “Whenever possible, we donate to silent auctions or buy ads in programs for groups like the Northumberland YMCA, Westmoreland Players or Rappahannock Concert Association.”

The message from the museum leadership was clear: Lead Northern Neck has a community partner in the Steamboat Era Museum.

Art project honors watermen and raises funds

In Spring 2017, local communities can be on the look-out for a new public art project. Waterman’s Way will celebrate the men and women who have shaped our region’s history with larger-than-life fiberglass sculptures of a waterman’s white boots. Each pair will measure 40 inches high, weigh about 80 pounds and be decorated by a local artisan.

Businesses and organizations can show community pride by purchasing or renting a sculpture for display in a storefront or at an event. Visitors can step into the boots to take pictures they hopefully will share through social media.

Chesapeake Bank has already signed up as well as Burke’s Fine Jewelers, Tides Inn, and the towns of Kilmarnock and Urbanna. Stingray Point Marina is donating a pair of boots to the Deltaville Maritime Museum and Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Lancaster Community Library are sharing one pair of boots, since the Chamber office is located inside the Library.

Funds raised from this public art project will be donated to the Steamboat Era Museum, Virginia Watermen’s Association, and the Rappahannock Art League.

After Hours Event

On July 14, the museum hosted more than 65 members of the Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce for a private evening event. Attendees toured the exhibits at a leisurely pace. For some, it was their first visit to the Steamboat Era Museum.

Tablescapes Redux

For the second year, the museum took part in the Tablescapes Holiday Event at the Reedville Fishermen’s Museum. The concept behind the event is to design a holiday table setting which reflects your organization’s interests. This year, the museum tablescapes featured a Victorian-era child’s tea, complete with a puppy and bear as guests.

Community Presentations

The museum often receives requests for staff or board members to make community presentations. During the past year, we have provided speakers to the Dahlgren Yacht Club, the Retired Military Association, and the Northern Neck Historical Association. Following the NNHA presentation, we were approached to write an article about the Pilothouse for their yearly publication. Publication is expected in Spring 2017.
Museum Honors Volunteers

They serve as docents, desk attendants, costumed docents, special project volunteers, and Friday morning children’s activities leaders. They are the backbone of museum operations and integral to its success. Where would the Steamboat Era Museum be without its volunteers?

The museum hosted a thank-you coffee in December to express appreciation for their volunteers’ contribution to a very successful season. During 2016, the number of visitors increased by more than 500 over the previous year. Many comments in the guest book complimented the museum’s knowledgeable and friendly volunteers.

Volunteer coordinator Candee Pevahouse used the occasion to acknowledge Helen Slattford for preparing 40 trifles for the spring tea. She also thanked Laura Hall for keeping track of the shop’s inventory and Frank Tetrick for his leadership on the Irvington Crab Festival. She gave a shout-out to Randy and Carolyn Graham for hosting the Captain’s Dinner, Eric Nost for his many contributions to the museum, and Jill and Larry Worth for their continuing support and delicious food.

Special thanks went to Mary Ann McKay for her leadership of the Museum’s educational programs and to Fran Kelly and Barbara Baxter for their untiring leadership in recruiting volunteers.

Museum Executive Director Barbara Brecher thanked Linn Ross for her work on membership and Candee and Fred Pevahouse for their tireless volunteer hours (see sidebar on the new museum’s library).

Spotlight on Volunteers

Turning a scattered collection into a library

Thanks to the ingenuity of volunteer Fred Pevahouse, the museum now has a functional library. Books have always been part of the collection but they were tucked away in various locations around the building. As the museum’s historian, Fred took an interest in these scattered volumes. He found each stash and organized the books with a database using the Dewey Decimal classification. To house the books, we converted an unused water closet into our mini-library. Fred created a simple log for loaning books to those interested in learning more about the Steamboat Era.

Our intrepid historian also undertook organizing the museum’s photographs, creating a database and storing them by categories. Now it’s easy to locate images of a specific wharf area or steamboat and share them with museum visitors.

OUR LIBRARY

BY THE NUMBERS

197 Books
156 Titles

PHOTOGRAPHS

BY THE NUMBERS

803 Steamboat photos
27 Steam ferry photos
148 Wharf photos

Thank You to Our Extraordinary Volunteers

Barbara Baxter
Loretta Borostovik
Virginia Lee Brown
Bonita Bruce
Virginia Craig
Edwinna Crockett
Jimmy Crockett
Lynne Engstrom
Virginia Fleet
Carolyn Graham
David Graham
Randy Graham
Laura Hall
Ann Harris
Lisa Headley
Jean Hess
Debby Hoyt
Mary-French Hutt
Jayne Jackson
Marion James
Sally Johnson
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Margaret Kennedy
Daria Lowe
Mary Ann McKay
Kathy Meyer
Kay Micklem
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Anne Paparella
Candee Pevahouse
Fred Pevahouse
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Bonnie Schaschek
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Helen Slattford
Kay Somers
Nancy Sullivan
Patrick Sullivan
Mary Ellen Tetrick
Nina Thompson
Julia Tilley
Tarah Tisdale
Jane Vogel
Jean Ward
Jim Ward
Doris Willett
Dick Wilson
Larry Worth
Allan Young
Carolyn Young
Museum membership
Increases with
Added benefit

Membership at the museum increased by 10% in 2016. In addition, the level of giving increased.

Membership has its benefits – including free admission to the museum and discounts on museum merchandise. In December, the museum hosted a members and friends Holiday Party.

New in 2016, the Museum initiated the ROAM program which gives members at the $125 level and above free entrance to museums around the country.
Our Donors

It is impossible to thank our donors enough for the support they show the museum. Thank You!

Mr. Robert L. Adcock
Mr. and Mrs. John Alachnowicz
Mr. and Mrs. H. Walter Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Armen
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barany
Ms. Barbara A. Baxter
Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Birdsong, III
Mr. and Mrs. Scott W. Boyers
Ms. Barbara Brecher
and Mr. Michael Geissinger

Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Burke
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Chase, Jr.
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Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Gwaltney
Mrs. Elaine Hanbury
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Hanky, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Harris
Mr. Earl Haynie
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Haynie, III
Mr. and Mrs. R. Page Henley
Ms. Barbara Hensler
Mrs. Jane Higgins
Mr. Ralph Higgins
Hon. and Mrs. A. Linwood Holton
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hunt
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hurliman
Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Robin Ingram
Mr. Jimmie Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Norwood J. Jackson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Hunter L. Jacobs
Ms. Celia Jacoby
Mr. and Mrs. Leland James
Ms. Sandra J. Jordan
Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Kipp
Mr. and Mrs. J. Wingo Knowles, Jr.
Ms. Sara Amy Leach and Mr. Gary Mason
Mr. and Mrs. John Lucas
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Ludeman
Markel Corporation
Mrs. Elizabeth G. Martin
Ms. Martha B. Mattheisen
Mr. Donald R. Mauney
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKay
Ms. Robin Laurel Meigel
Mrs. Kathleen Meyer
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond T. Michelini
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Mihills
Col. and Mrs. Robert C. Morrison
Mr. Tom Nolte

Mr. and Mrs. C. Jeffers Schmidt, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sennott
Mr. and Mrs. William Sherrill
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Shomette
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Taylor
Mr. Stevenson T Walker
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Wesson
Ms. Priscilla Steger
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barany
Mr. and Mrs. William Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Brent
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Chainey
Mr. and Mrs. William Chapman
Mrs. Lillian S. Cox
Mr. Ralph R. Crosby, Jr.
Ms. Sallie E. Dashiell
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Edmonds
Col. and Mrs. Gary Ellis
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Glover
Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Haynie
Ms. Barbara Hensler
Mr. Ralph Higgins
Mr. and Mrs. William Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Georg F. Koman
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome S. Latell
Ms. Sara Amy Leach
and Mr. Gary Mason
Mr. and Mrs. Winter McCrobie
Dr. and Mrs. Alexander J. McKelway
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Mihills
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Morgan
Mr. Joseph P. Oliva
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Painter
Ms. Roberta B. Peek
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ratcliffe
Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Robbins
Mrs. Barbara Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Roccella
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Sanford
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Somers
Mr. Jesse Swartz
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Thomas, Jr.
Mr. Elwood T. Turlington
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry M. Wachter
Col. Mowton Waring, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Worth

STEVEDORE
Mr. Jay Alga
Susan B. Christopher
J. A. Crichton
Ms. Mary Steed Ewell
Mrs. Elaine Hanbury
Ms. Claudia J. Holmes
Charles and Robin Ingram
Ms. Edna E. Mizele
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ramsone
Mr. and Mrs. John Shaum
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence M. Taylor
Mrs. Jean Ward
Ms. Susan Whitt
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whittaker
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wightman
Dr. and Mrs. Edward J. Wiley, Jr.

LIFE MEMBERS
Bank of Lancaster
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ashburn
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Boley
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bryant II
Mrs. Ann Burgess
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Crockett
Mr. George Frayne, III
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Kipp
Dr. and Mrs. M. Stephen Kramer
Mr. and Mrs. G. William McClintock
Mr. Albert C. Pollard
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Ransone
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Reid
Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Stephens, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Stephens
Mr. and Mrs. Travis Tomlinson
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Westbrook
Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Whay
Mr. Robert H. Whay
Dr. and Mrs. M. Lee Williams
Col. William J. Wright

Let's Eat Dessert First!

STEAMBOAT ERA
MUSEUM
FRIENDS RECEPTION

Mr. and Mrs. Lillian S. Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Haynie
Ms. Barbara Hensler
Mr. Ralph Higgins
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Glover
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Morgan
Mr. Joseph P. Oliva
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Painter
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Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Whay
Mr. Robert H. Whay
Dr. and Mrs. M. Lee Williams
Col. William J. Wright

Dr. and Mrs. Edward J. Wiley, Jr.
**2016 Finances**

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilothouse Donations</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Fees</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
<td>4%</td>
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### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building R&amp;M</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibits</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>General and Administrative</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Life

Steamboat era history comes to life

By Rebecca Riddell

Steamboat Museum, which is located in a beautiful setting on the banks of the Rappahannock River, recently hosted a historical fashion show. Models were dressed in period costumes, some purchased, some donated, and some even handmade. The museum was decorated from top to bottom with holiday decor, which set the scene perfectly for the historical journey on which audience members were taken.

Boat Era Museum

Steamboat Museum

Tickets on sale for the Irvington Crab Festival

Tickets are on sale for the Irvington Crab Festival, sponsored by the Steamboat Museum, on August 13. Doors will open at 4 p.m., and crabs will be served at 6 p.m. The festival will take place under a big tent, located in front of the museum, 156 King Street Drive, Irvington.

More than 750 people are expected to attend the event. Executive director Barbara Brecher, who organized the festival's Jambalaya Festival, will rock the crowd with genre-crossing music. Beer and wine will be available for purchase, and a silent auction will add to the festivities.

Crows enjoy crabs under the big top at the Crab Festival. Photo by Michael A. Geisinger

Steamboat Era Fashion Show and Tea

Fifth Annual Steamboat Era Fashion Show and Tea

August 13, 2016

Irvington Town Square, located on State Route 3, will be the site for the annual Steamboat Era Fashion Show and Tea. Tickets may be purchased at the Museum on Thursday and Friday, 5-7 p.m.

For more information, call 757-569-2002. The event is open to the public. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Tickets sold at the door will be sold with an additional $5 charge. Tickets for children under 12 are $10. The festival starts at 6 p.m. with a silent auction and a fashion show at 7 p.m. A tea dance will follow.

Chins for adults are $15. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Steamed crabs, BBQ, and more will be served. Steamed crabs, BBQ, and more will be served. Tickets may be purchased at the Museum on Friday and Saturday, 5-7 p.m.

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IRVINGTON—The 2016 annual meeting of the Steamboat Era Museum was held May 14.

The agenda included the election of board members, the election of officers, a progress report on the Potomac pilothouse and the unveiling of new exhibits, reported executive director Barbara Brecher.

Four new board members were elected, including Randall Kipp of Randall J. Kipp Architecture; Victoria Oliver of Chesapeake Bank; Fred Pevouse, a museum volunteer; and Donna Tibbs of Northern Neck Insurance Company.

New officers include —

The Steamboat Era Museum board of directors recently adopted a proclamation to honor volunteer and former board member A. Geissinger

2016 Annual Report

EXTRA! EXTRA!

STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM

156 King Carter Drive

Irvington, Virginia 22480

804.438.6888  steamboateramuseum.org

Museum membership offers reciprocal benefit

IRVINGTON—The Steamboat Era Museum, 156 King Carter Drive, Irvington, now offers a new benefit to its members.

Membership at the $125 level or above will automatically enroll members in the Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums (ROAM), a network that connects world-class museums for the benefit of museum members and visitors.

The Steamboat Era Museum board of directors recently adopted a proclamation to honor volunteer and former board member A. Geissinger.

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