



The Jekyll Journal

Spring 2022

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The President's Corner...

Rita Thompson

Spring is here! Every month is special on Jekyll Island, but May is one of my favorites. The extreme heat is not here yet, but there is definitely no chill in the air! We have bid a sad farewell to our winter residents and guests, but we have not yet said hello to our summer tourists. The weather is mild and there is a sense of tranquility and calm. The Friends of Historic Jekyll Island will take a summer hiatus, but plans are already in the works for a tremendous upcoming year.

It's hard to believe that I have already served my term as president of FOHJI. It has been my honor to represent this tremendous organization and to work with the wonderful individuals who make up the Board of Directors. I have been so grateful for the tremendous support of our members! The Pandemic experience forced us to examine our traditional annual event processes and challenged us to make changes that would still enable us to achieve strong results. This board showed up and stood out! Positive thinking and creative ideas helped us not only maintain, but also become even more effective when raising funds to implement and support important historic projects. Our popular annual auction has successfully moved to an online event with remarkable results that you will read about later in this publication. We have begun videotaping our monthly programs, and we have received many positive comments from our members who were not yet comfortable or unable to join us in person. We will continue to monitor results and determine if we will make videography a permanent practice for our programs. Yes, we have experienced many positive changes, but we are also looking forward to leaving some changes behind us: voting via email, Zoom meetings, and program cancellations!

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After our summer break, we are looking forward to kicking off our annual programs with Bonnie Householder as our first speaker in September. Have you noticed a pattern? This will be the 6th year Bonnie has opened our fall presentations. She will be telling us about the Goodyear family who once resided in the cottage that is now home to the Jekyll Island Arts Association. As always, we are looking forward to her presentation. We are also looking forward to continuing progress in the Historic District. We are very excited to let you know that work will be resuming on the Baker-Crane Carriage House. As you know, we funded the termite fumigation; that treatment has been completed, and we are now looking forward to the foundation work beginning this fall. We will be sharing more about upcoming projects with you in the very near future. We have already reserved the Grand Dining Room for our Annual Dinner at the Club, and details will be included in our Fall issue.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to two individuals who have contributed so much of their time and hard work and great ideas to FOHJI.

Barbara Stevenson has served on the Board for the past six years. She has been involved in so many different aspects of the organization. Barbara took charge of collecting, organizing, and storing FOHJI archives. She served as President from 2018-2020, and under her leadership FOHJI was awarded the Governor's Award for the Arts and Humanities. She was editor of the new *Jekyll Island National Historic Landmark District Self-Guided Walking Tour*. Barbara very successfully chaired the 2022 annual auction for FOHJI. We are grateful for everything she has done.

Ted Fleshman has also served on the Board for the past six years. As Membership Chairman, he designed and implemented a new computer program to help automate the many processes required to simplify the job of the membership committee and to create a consistent and cohesive system. Ted served as Treasurer of FOHJI during both of his terms on the Board. Ted proposed the idea of creating what is now our newly formed Advisory Committee to ensure that new Board members have the needed support and resources available to them. We are thankful for Ted's service and commitment to FOHJI.

I am so excited about the new Board members who have been elected for the upcoming term. They have such diverse skill sets, which is so important in an organization like FOHJI that has such a variety of projects, events, and needs. Even more importantly, they have already shown so much enthusiasm and have already begun to express interest in different committees and volunteer opportunities. Please join me in welcoming Pamela Harris, Susan Williams, Justin Wilbur, Bruce Piatek, and David Lodge. Thank you for your commitment—you will enjoy working with this Board and we are so excited to have you!

Finally, I wish to thank Barbara Stevenson for the help she has given me during the past two years. I hope that I can be as effective in my new role as Past President. We are so pleased to welcome Tom Pfaffenbach as our new FOHJI President. I can already tell by his outpouring of new ideas and his positive outlook that he is going to lead us to enormous achievements! Congratulations on your new role, Tom!! We are looking forward to your leadership!

ANNUAL AUCTION

Barbara Stevenson, Auction Chair

The 2022 Auction was the most successful fundraiser FOHJI has ever had. The online auction grossed a record \$59,099! The last in-person auction was held in the Morgan Center in 2020, and it amassed over \$20,000, which was considered a significant profit. Because of the pandemic, the auction moved online in 2021, and we were amazed that the online experiment yielded over \$30,000. Given the enormous success of last year's and this year's auctions, future auctions will be held online.

An event of this magnitude is only possible because of the support of many individuals and businesses. First and foremost, I wish to thank the hard-working Auction Committee: Ruthmary Williams, Debbie Boyd, Chuck Diefenderfer, Rob Stewart, Carol Fritz, Tim Kinsey, and Terry Frey. There is also a team of over twenty individuals who solicit donations, and without this group's willingness to find donors, there would be no auction. FOHJI is very fortunate that so many businesses are willing to donate to the auction every year, even when enduring the hardships caused by the pandemic. Finally, the many generous bidders who purchased items are deeply appreciated.

Thank you, everyone!



2022 PROGRAMS

By Terry Frey, Program Chair,
and Ruthmary Williams, Communications Chair

Past Programs



On February 18, **Helen Ladson** gave an engaging presentation titled “St. Andrews Beach Community: The Success that Trauma Birthed”; she presented an overview of the African-American experience on Jekyll Island, including the trauma that led to the creation of the St. Andrews Beach Community and its success in the 1950s.

FOHJI hosted award-winning author **June Hall McCash** on April 28. She discussed her most recent book *The Truth Keepers*, which is the second book in her trilogy about the DuBignon Family and Jekyll Island. *The Truth Keepers*, along with her previous publications, was available for purchase following her talk.



FOHJI ended its season on May 19 with an interesting presentation about the *Golden Ray* presented by award-winning photographer **Ame Willis Ivanov**. Titled “Heavy Metal: *Golden Ray*, Work boats, and Shipping 2019-2021,” Ame presented a photo-documentary of the *Golden Ray* from the day it capsized in the St. Simons Sound to the final sections being towed away.

Fall Programs—the following programs are scheduled for 6:30 PM in the Mosaic Tack Room:

Thursday, Sept 15, 2022 Bonnie Householder, “The Goodyears of Jekyll Island”

Thursday, Oct 20, 2022 Bruce Piatek, “First People of Jekyll Island”

Thursday, Nov 17, 2022 Elizabeth DuBose, Executive Director, Ossabaw Island Foundation, “Revealing the Voices and Mystery of Ossabaw Island”

Financial Report

By Ted Fleshman, Treasurer

FOHJI has a total of \$198,185 in checking and money market accounts. A total of \$46,668 is committed for projects, such as Tiffany Window Conservation (\$30,230), Chimney Caps (\$9,000), Pump House Rehabilitation (\$5,000) and Internships (\$10,000), leaving a balance of \$151,517 available for new projects. The \$7,561 in Faith Chapel's account is committed to the Tiffany Window Conservation project.

Each issue of the *Jekyll Journal* will include
a summary of FOHJI finances.

As a member, you are entitled to know all details about
the operation of the organization. Should you wish to
receive a financial report or minutes from a
FOHJI board meeting, send a request to:
jekyllfriends@gmail.com

Membership Report

Tom Pfaffenbach
Membership Chair

Membership has continued to recover from the downturn caused by COVID. To date we have added 30 new members for a total of 165 member units or 270 people. Thank you all for your continued support of FOHJI and remember to renew your membership for the coming year.

Also, please welcome Pamela Harris and Bradley Hoyt to the
Membership Committee.

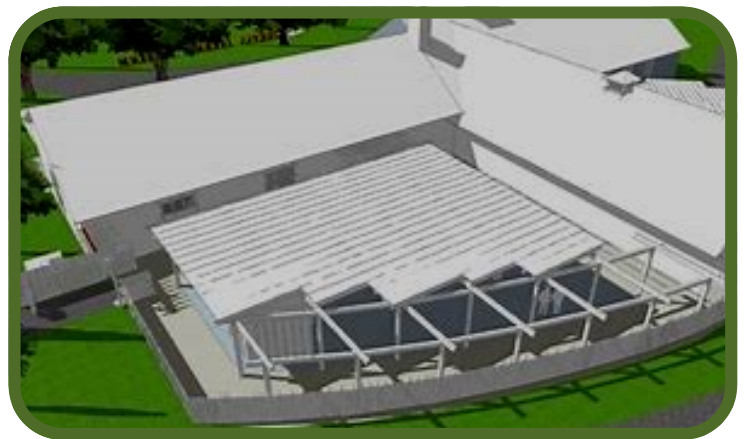
HISTORIC RESOURCES UPDATE

By Barbara Stevenson

The JIA Historic Resources Division has undergone significant staff changes. Michael Scott, former Director of Historic Resources, has left Jekyll, and Tom Alexander, who was Director of the Mosaic Museum, has been promoted to Director of Historic Resources. Will Story, who was Assistant Director of the Mosaic Museum, has been promoted to Museum Director. Congratulations to Tom and Will!

Project delays caused by the pandemic are finally coming to an end. Construction of the Mosaic Outdoor Classroom is scheduled for this summer. FOHJI funded this project during the 2019-2020 year, and so it is exciting that this addition to the Mosaic should be finally ready by the fall. A couple of years ago FOHJI funded the fumigation of the Baker-Crane Carriage House, but no other work has been done on the structure. FOHJI is excited to support the renovation of this building in the coming year!

MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLASSROOM—PHOTO GALLERY





Remember to make your dollars go farther with AmazonSmile! You shop and AmazonSmile gives to the Friends of Historic Jekyll Island (FOHJI)! EASY!

SAME PRODUCTS, SAME PRICES, SAME SERVICE as Amazon.com, but with an extra bonus—you can earn money for FOHJI! It's a simple and automatic way to support FOHJI *every* time you shop, at no cost to you. Plus, you can use your existing Amazon.com account.

WHAT IS AMAZONSMILE?

The AmazonSmile Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation created by Amazon to run the AmazonSmile Program. AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com, with the added bonus of earning proceeds for charity. AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of the purchase price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charity selected by its customers.

HERE'S HOW EASY IT IS:

1. Online go to: https://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi_se_dshb_bk_smi
2. Make sure that "Friends of Historic Jekyll Island" is designated as the charity of your choice where you have the option that says "Supporting" with a down arrow.
3. Then shop to your heart's content.

-LEGACY PROGRAM-

FOHJI now has a LEGACY PROGRAM for planned giving that makes it possible for you to donate through your will, investment portfolio, charitable trust or other beneficiary designations. We encourage you to support FOHJI's mission of preserving the historical nature of Jekyll Island through these tax deductible avenues.

One of the easiest ways to give is a one-time donation of a specified amount that may be provided through a single or multi-payment structure. Donors have the flexibility of providing contributions as a recurring monthly automatic disbursement to FOHJI.

Additional avenues of giving include:

- Designating FOHJI as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance policy;
- Providing for a distribution to FOHJI from your charitable trust;
- Transferring stocks, bonds and other securities to FOHJI for sale and the benefit of FOHJI's projects;
- Providing a restricted contribution to a specific FOHJI project that you would like to see move forward;
- Designating FOHJI to benefit from the sale of real estate or specified personal property.

Thank you in advance for considering these avenues of supporting FOHJI's mission. If you are interested in one of these methods of providing support, please consult your financial planner and/or tax consultant, if needed. Then contact FOHJI's Treasurer Ted Fleshman at 912-635-3620.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC JEKYLL ISLAND

P.O. BOX 13031

Jekyll Island, GA 31527

REMEMBER YOUR RENEWAL.....

The FOHJI Board approved a plan to change our membership year to the fiscal year starting July 1, 2014. All of our money goes toward historic preservation endeavors and we need your continued participation. You might consider increasing your level of membership. The various levels are:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| • Single Membership | \$ 25.00 |
| • Family Membership | \$ 40.00 |
| • Preservation Partner | \$ 100.00 |
| • Business /Sponsor | \$ 250.00 |
| • Patron | \$ 500.00 |
| • Benefactor | \$ 1,000.00 |

There would be a tax advantage to upping your membership. If you are not now a member of FOHJI, we welcome you to become a part of our group. Make checks payable to FOHJI and mail to P.O. Box 13031, Jekyll Island, GA, 31527 and you will receive membership information by return mail.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

President—Rita Thompson
 Vice President—Tom Pfaffenbach
 Secretary—Debbie Boyd
 Treasurer—Ted Fleshman

Members

Term 2022 - Ted Fleshman, Terry Frey, Tom Pfaffenbach, Barbara Stevenson, Thom Schuyler, Rita Thompson

Term 2023 - Bradley Hoyt, Tim Kinsey, Sarah Tallu Schuyler, Ruthmary Williams

Term 2024 - Debbie Boyd, Carol Fritz, John Gross, Rob Stewart

Jekyll Journal

Editor—Barbara Stevenson
 Graphic Designer—Joan Samuelson