



The Jekyll Journal

WINTER 2023

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The President's Corner...

Tom Pfaffenbach

As most of you know, The Friends of Historic Jekyll Island suspends regular activities during the summer months. However, the new Board of Directors gets busy the first of September continuing existing programs as well as setting goals for the future. The first order of business is to encourage membership renewal and plan an agenda for the coming season.

FOHJI was approached by Rich Van Iderstyne with an exciting opportunity to promote a performance by the world-renowned pianist Robin Spielberg. The Board approved a motion to participate, and Robin's performance on October 15, 2022, was a most enjoyable cultural evening.

Our regularly scheduled Board meeting in September was mostly dedicated to Tom Alexander and Taylor Davis's report on the restoration projects previously approved and funded. This included the construction of the Mosaic Education Space and the Tiffany Window restoration. (We are happy to announce that the Tiffany Window restoration has started!) Tom also reported that because the fumigation of the Baker-Crane Carriage House was successful, it was now possible to proceed with its rehabilitation. The next phase is the stabilization of the foundation for an estimated cost approaching \$75,000. The Board referred the request to David Lodge and Thom

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The President's Corner continued from page 1...

Schuyler to establish the criteria for approving this and future requests. Their investigation confirmed the need and secured the process to enable the funds to be released by FOHJI after completion of the work.



In October, dates were confirmed for the annual Online Auction (March 10 - 19), with profits dedicated to the restoration of Baker-Crane. The Holiday Party for FOHJI members was scheduled for December 15 at Hollybourne. On that date, guests enjoyed holiday music performed by **the Golden Isles Youth Orchestra** and Hollybourne tours led by Taylor Davis and Tom Alexander.

November's motions included naming the internship FOHJI provides JIA's Historical Resources Department to honor Chuck Diefenderfer's memory and his years of service. We also approved a one-time additional internship.

December's Board meeting focused on committee reports as well as Tom Alexander's announcement that Mistletoe Cottage was schedule to receive cleaning and reorganizing. He discovered several sculptures and artifacts belonging to Rosario Russell Fiore. A few years ago, we donated numerous pieces to Valdosta State University, but they left behind several molds and other artifacts, some of which will be available in the auction. We are actively searching for an appropriate location for the remaining items.

January's activities were highlighted by our annual formal dinner, which was moved to the Morgan Center due to the remodeling of the Grand Dining Room's kitchen. David Lodge and Sarah Tallu Schuyler both presented informative and entertaining insight into their family's and personal experiences related to our beloved island.

It is an honor to serve The Friends of Historic Jekyll Island.

Respectfully,

Tom Pfaffenbach, President

jekyllfriends@outlook.com

AmazonSmile

Effective February 20, 2023, **AmazonSmile will cease contributing to individual charities.**

Thank you to all who, in the past, contributed to FOHJI by making purchases through AmazonSmile.

2023 Online Auction

Ruthmary Williams, Auction Chair

The Friends of Historic Jekyll Island is happy to announce the 2023 Online Auction will begin on March 10 and end March 19 at 8:00 PM. Once again, we have some wonderful items, and we thank our donors for their generosity. Item categories include accommodations, sports activities, adventures, food & beverages, and family fun. Plus we have some interesting physical items for LOCAL pick-up only (items will not be shipped). Stay tuned for when the auction catalog will be available for perusal at:

www.charityauction.bid/2023fohji

Please share auction information with family and friends.



2022-2023 Programs and Events

Terry Frey, Programs Chair

For the next few months, programs will be held at Villa Ospo due to the conservancy of the Tiffany Window is currently occupying the Mosaic classroom. Programs are the third Thursday of the month and start at 6:30.

Upcoming Programs

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Michael A Seibert,
Chief of Resources
for Fort Frederica
National Monument
and Cumberland Island
National Seashore,
will present
**“Reinvigoration
of Archeology-Fort
Frederica National
Monument”.**



Thursday, April 20, 2023

FOHJI Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023

**Retired Senior Pastor Dave
Hanson, St Simons Island United
Methodist Church, will present
“John and Charles Wesley
in Georgia”.**

FOHJI Annual Dinner

Rita Thompson, Dinner Committee Chair

Thank you to all who supported our Annual FOHJI Dinner this year. We not only had very strong attendance, but we also received significant donations from those of you who were not able to physically attend this year. I was also pleasantly surprised that several of our guests were first time attendees, and of course, it is always wonderful to see our winter guests and residents with us for this annual affair! This was not only our first fundraising event of the year, but it was also our first traditional Annual Dinner since January 2020 and what a success it was! The event was held on January 24, and although we typically hold this event in the Grand Dining Room at the Jekyll Island Hotel, this year's event took place at the Morgan Center since the kitchen at the hotel is currently under renovations. Those in charge made sure the evening was just as exceptional and extraordinary as ever! We enjoyed the cocktail reception where we were able to visit and converse with everyone before we were seated for our exquisite dinner.



FOHJI Board Members Debbie Boyd and Pamela Harris

The proceeds from this year's dinner will go towards the restoration of the Baker-Crane Carriage House. We are very excited to be able to help with the funding of this important historical project. The Baker-Crane House was built in 1886 and was used to house carriages and stable horses. It was also used as a social hall for staff and to house carriage drivers.

The program for the evening was even more entertaining than I had imagined! How fortunate we are to have two current FOHJI Board Members who have strong family ties to Jekyll Island! How appropriate their stories were for our theme celebrating "35 Years Of Memories" as FOHJI was established in 1987.

David Lodge shared so many intriguing and entertaining stories dating from the late 1800s and early 1900s about the Struthers Family who originally owned Moss Cottage. Jean Struthers, David's great-grandmother, loved the outdoors, indulged in sporting opportunities, and even challenged JP Morgan in a sharp shooting contest. I felt like I knew her by the end of the evening.

Sarah Tallu Schuyler, granddaughter of the late Tallu Fish who originally established the Jekyll Island Museum and lived in Indian Mound Cottage, shared stories from a completely different era. She delighted us with memories of her grandmother and growing up here on Jekyll Island. She had us laughing until we cried, and we felt the magic she experienced as a child here.

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Thom Schuyler, Rita Thompson, and Sarah Tallu Schuyler

FOHJI Annual Dinner continued from page 4...

Again, thank you to all who attended this enchanting evening with us, and thanks to all of you who continue to support FOHJI in so many ways. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

-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, Tim Kinsey at 912-635-3620 or e-mail Tim at 773trk@gmail.com.

Thom Schuyler Benefit Concert

Ruthmary Williams, Communications Chair



The Friends of Historic Jekyll Island is pleased to announce a special concert by renowned musician and songwriter Thom Schuyler.

Thom has created a catalog of tunes recorded by over 200 artists including five #1 songs, five other Top-5 songs and five additional Top-10 songs. During his time in Nashville, he served as both President and Chairman of The Country Music Association, President of The Nashville Songwriters Association, Chairman of The Nashville Songwriters Foundation, and Sr. Vice President of RCA Records where he started and/or helped to guide the careers of Kenny Chesney, Martina McBride, Alabama, Clint Black, Lonestar, Lorrie Morgan and others. Along with his friends, Don Schlitz and Fred Knobloch, Thom is credited with launching the writers-in-the-round format at the world-famous Bluebird Cafe. Thom was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2011.

The concert is February 23 at Villa Ospo. Doors open at 6:30 and the concert starts at 7:00 PM. Beer, wine, water, and appetizers will be available.

This is a benefit concert with all proceeds going directly to FOHJI. Tickets are **\$60 per person**, payable, check or exact cash, at the door the night of the concert.

We ask that you reserve a ticket via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thom-schuyler-benefit-concert-tickets-523832967507>

NOTE: Reserving a ticket via Eventbrite is free BUT the ticket itself is \$60.

Financial Report

Tim Kinsey, Treasurer

At year end 2022, the Friends of Historic Jekyll Island maintained three checking accounts: a general account with a balance of \$100,097.20, a money market account with a balance of \$102,758.52, and a Faith Chapel grant fund account with a balance of \$7,577.92. The total of the three accounts at year end was \$210,433.64.

Four grants to be funded include:

1. Tiffany Window Conservation Fund - \$30,230.14
2. Chimney Caps Fund - \$9,000.00
3. Chuck Diefenderfer Memorial Internship Fund - \$19,023.84
4. Baker/ Crane Foundation Repair Fund - \$50,000.00

Our Charitable Organization Renewal permit was filed and issued for a two-year period.

Our non-profit tax return was filed with the IRS and the State of Georgia for the year ending 2021.

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

Pam Harris, Membership Chair

The total membership has reached **156** for this year including 16 new memberships that have been received. This represents **228** individuals who have noted the importance of FOHJI. Your membership continues to help the Board and organization with our commitment in preserving the history of Jekyll Island.

Thank you for your continued support of FOHJI and remember to renew your 2023-2024 membership.

You may contact me at [*jekyllfriends@outlook.com*](mailto:jekyllfriends@outlook.com)

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC JEKYLL ISLAND

P.O. BOX 13031

Jekyll Island, GA 31527

REMEMBER YOUR RENEWAL.....

The FOHJI Board has changed our membership year to the fiscal year starting July 1. 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.

2022-2023 Board of Directors

President— Tom Pfaffenbach
 Vice President—Ruthmary Williams
 Secretary—Debbie Boyd
 Treasurer—Tim Kinsey

Members

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

Term 2024: Debbie Boyd, Carol Fritz, Rob Stewart

Term 2025: Terry Frey, Pamela Harris, David Lodge, Tom Pfaffenbach, Bruce Piatek, Thom Schuyler, Justin Wilbur, Susan Williams

Jekyll Journal

Editor—Ruthmary Williams
 Graphic Designer—Joan Samuelson