

Membership Survey Results Rank Museum Priorities

This past summer, the Board of the Oxford Museum conducted a research survey to determine what its members thought should be the Museum's main priorities in the coming years. This survey was part of the Board's new emphasis on building a longer term strategic mission and plan for the Museum. The results are now in.

Overwhelmingly, the Board voted to offer more services to members, such as more trips, tours and workshops. Of the respondents, 321 viewed this as the most important of the Museum's priorities, followed by 318 respondents who thought that the Museum should develop stronger partnerships with local businesses in Oxford, and more formally serve as an Oxford "official visitors' center."

Two hundred fifteen respondents then said that the Museum should focus on special exhibit offerings, such as the recent Norman Harrington World War II photograph exhibit. Lastly, 192 of the respondents wanted to refine the permanent exhibit and use new technologies to make more information available about the Museum's exhibits and collection, as well as about Oxford's history.

"The survey results will help us develop programming that reflects our members' top priorities," says Lisa Harrington, president of the Museum. "We will work to strengthen our partnerships and collaborations with the organizations and businesses in Oxford, so that we can help support a vibrant community."

Winter Schedule

As colder winds begin to blow and fewer visitors come to Oxford, the Museum begins its winter schedule, closing Sunday, November 13. If you need to reach staff, please leave a message on the Museum phone - 410-226-0191. Messages are checked every day or two, and your call will be returned. Also, don't forget that we have books for sale: *Oxford Treasures*, *Then and Now*; *Oxford, The First Three Centuries* and several other popular books about Oxford. As always, books make thoughtful Christmas gifts, so add them to your shopping list.

The Board of Directors and staff are very grateful for your strong support this year. We had some interesting exhibits and exciting events. And, we paid our bills with a few dollars to spare! Our thanks to all of the friends of the Museum. We'll look forward to seeing you on Oxford Day, the last Saturday in April. Have a good winter.

Ellen Anderson, Executive Director

Best Wishes for a Beautiful Holiday Season
and a
Happy and Healthy 2017!

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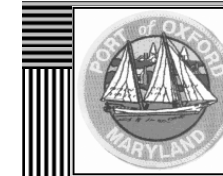
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The
Oxford
Museum, Inc.

*A special place.
A special heritage.*

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The Oxford Historian

The Oxford Museum

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OXFORD MUSEUM HOLIDAY PARTY



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016

5:30 PM TO 7 PM

HOLY TRINITY PARISH HALL

Members and Guests are invited to join in
sharing holiday joys with friends.

Delicious hors d'oeuvres, wines, music and fellowship.

RSVP by December 4: 410-226-0191

Annual Giving

What a great 12 months the Oxford Museum has had, thanks to our many visitors and friends. As we look to 2017, we ask for your help and support.

As the main repository of Oxford history, the Museum takes its mission seriously. We've worked hard to mount exhibits that showcase the achievements of Oxfordians or tell the story of Oxford. Over the past 12 months:

Oxford at War – tracing the history of Oxford residents and their role in war. This program included never-seen photographs of the late Norman Harrington, World War II combat photographer. This exhibit will next travel to the Defense Information School at Fort Meade.

As we come to the close of 2016, we ask that you renew your support of the Oxford Museum. And by all means... help us celebrate the holidays by coming to the Museum's Holiday Party on December 9th. We look forward to seeing you there.



Enclosed is a donation form and return envelope. Your tax-deductible generosity is welcome and appreciated.

Thank you so much for your support.

President's Message

As we enter the holiday season and 2016 draws to a close, I can report that the Oxford Museum had an excellent year. I look forward to celebrating the season with many of you at our annual holiday party and give thanks in person to many of our supporters. Please mark your calendars.

I'd also like to personally thank you for renewing your membership and continuing to support the Museum. We are a small museum, but we have a dedicated following in you, our members. We appreciate that, and could not do the work we do without it.

And thank you for turning out in record numbers for Piga-figa-licious. It was a terrific event and it was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the great food and excellent company. Not to mention participating in our auction fundraising. As you'll see in the article recapping the event, it was a tremendous fundraiser.

Our most recent exhibit, "Mapping Oxford," was a great success. Many of our visitors enjoyed being able to trace the changes in their or their relatives' street or neighborhood over the years. Many also expressed a desire to have copies of the maps—particularly the plat maps. To that end, during the coming months, we hope to begin the work of digitizing many of the maps and making them available to the public. We're just starting to explore this effort and will keep you posted on its progress.

Speaking of attendance, so far this year, we've welcomed over 2,000 visitors from forty states and eight foreign countries.

In a separate article I report on the results of our member survey regarding Museum strategic priorities. The results will help us better serve you, the community at large, and our visitors. We will be working over the winter months to develop programming that reflects your priorities.

Again, thank you for your generous support of the programs and events sponsored by your museum, and plan on celebrating the season with us.

Lisa Harrington, President

Piga-figa-licious

Thanks to everyone who made our annual Labor Day event so successful! Some 250 members and friends attended the event and enjoyed delicious BBQ and other tasty treats, including the eponymous Highland Creamery ice cream. Lucky Sue Denton was the winner of our 50/50 cash raffle, and both she and the Museum each pocketed \$567!

The "Dining and Destinations" auction was the center of lots of activity, and



the Museum realized a profit of \$14,000+. Members and their guests will enjoy various social events including catered dinners and cocktail cruises, with all proceeds benefiting the special needs of the Museum. A heart-felt thank you to everyone!

Piga-figa-licious will be on the calendar again next Labor Day, so be sure to save the date. If you have any ideas for the theme, let us know early in the year.

Yankee Pedler



Don't worry if you drive by the Oxford Community Center and our beloved little skipjack, *Yankee Pedler*, is missing from its prominent place on the front lawn of the Center. The Museum owns and maintains this popular artifact. She is now away receiving some much needed maintenance attention from Dorette and Larry Murray and Tommy Campbell and staff, thanks to funds generously donated by Museum member, Diana Flagler.

So, don't worry, the *Pedler* will return in late April in time to greet residents and visitors alike for Oxford Day.

Oxford's Last Counting House

Many of you may wonder what happened to the little white counting house that until recently was located by the marina on Pier Street. And you may wonder what was counted there. In the heyday of oystering, watermen would bring their catch in bushels to be counted. Once the catch was counted, the watermen would be paid by the packing house owner.

This small building was the last counting house in Oxford, but at one time there were many located around the village. The Oxford Museum took on the project of preserving the building several years ago. When the Town Commissioners decided to improve the boat launch area by Schooner's, they agreed to include the counting house in the space being created by the new launch ramp. For now, the counting house is being refurbished and will be brought out for all of us to see in the spring.



History of Oxford Event Planned for 2017

If you're new to Oxford or just want to brush up on the town's 300-plus year history, you won't want to miss this 2017 Museum event: **Oxford: The First Three Centuries**. The signature event, in initial planning stages, will be an evening photography show and lecture based on the Dickson Preston-Norman Harrington book of that name. Lisa Harrington, president of the Museum and daughter of Norman Harrington, will give the presentation. It is based on a presentation developed by her late father, and includes images of Oxford – its people, places and documents dating back 300 years.

Watch this space for more details as to date, location and time!

Welcome New Docents!

The Oxford Museum is fortunate to have local residents who serve as docents. We are pleased to welcome Amy Bosserman, Jim Foster, Howard Lapp, Luann Madary, George Radcliffe, and Marguerite Webster to this group of dedicated volunteers. It's a great way to meet visitors and residents and to learn more about the fascinating history of Oxford. Though we will soon close for the winter, we will be training new docents next spring; if you, too, are interested in being part of this group, please let us know.