

The Slate

Summer 2019 Edition

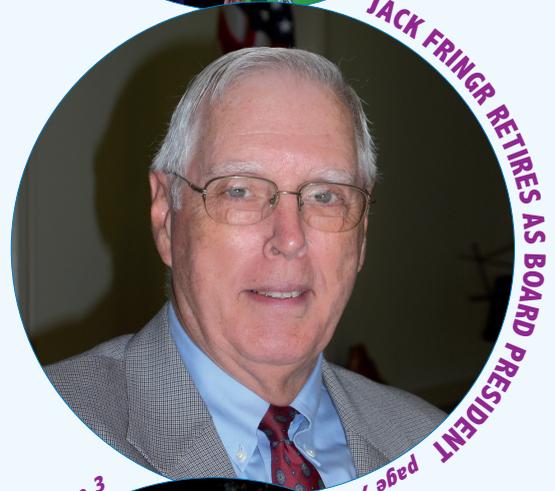
Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.

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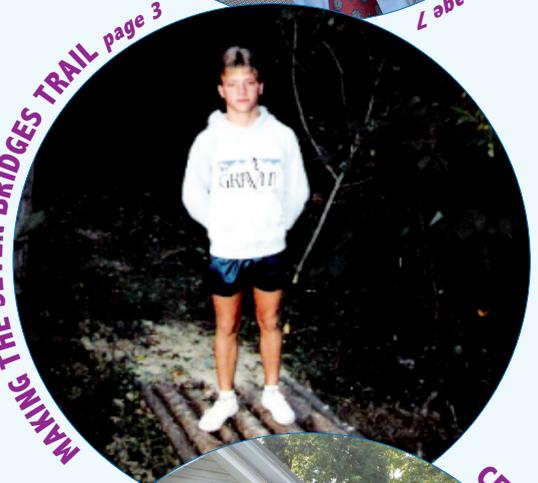
Drawing by Sandy Roberts, 2006



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Fran Armstrong Awarded Honor Roll Status

by Chloe Ewalt

A Born Teacher

Some individuals are born teachers and indeed Fran Armstrong is one of those. When asked what she enjoyed about teaching, her prompt response was –“Inspiring young minds to be creative and love learning.”

Fran moved to Calvert County in 1973 and began teaching 5th grade. She taught all subjects, just as a one-room schoolhouse teacher did.

Long-Time Volunteer in Many Roles for One-Room Schoolhouse

Fran joined the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse Board in 2003. She held the positions of secretary and chair of the ORS committee. But, involvement in the actual program at the Schoolhouse was what she enjoyed the most.



For quite a few years, she was a one-room schoolhouse teacher and taught fourth grade students who came to experience a typical day at the schoolhouse. She then transitioned to coordinating the Program in 2012, and started sharing the Farm Life portion of the student’s visit.

Although Fran retired from the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse Board in the spring of 2018, she continued to coordinate the Fourth Grade Visits to the Schoolhouse through this school year.

Continuing to Give Back to the Community

Now that she has fully retired from that position, she can devote more time to another love of hers—giving back to the community. Fran is involved in various organizations in Calvert County including ACLT, Meals on Wheels, the Library Foundation, and the Scientists’ Cliffs Board of Directors.

Thank you, Fran, for all you have done as an educator and volunteer!

One-Room Schoolhouse Honor Roll

by John Yoe

Perhaps on your visits to the ORS you’ve noticed the plaque in the entryway calling out the names of those on the ORS Honor Roll. And, maybe you’ve wondered what those folks have done to earn this recognition? As it turns out, and as you might have guessed, honor roll inclusion has depended on individuals making multi-faceted and sustained contributions in support of the ORS and its mission.

Over the past several months the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse (FORS) board of directors worked to establish guidelines for the board to consider future honor roll nominees in light of guidance, and not by comparing nominees to those folks already on the honor roll. Further, the board strives to make sure that all of our volunteers’ contributions are properly recognized. Without the work of our many volunteers, the ORS would exist only in our memories.

The honor roll nomination guidance makes the following points:

- Nominees will have made and/or are continuing to make multi-faceted and sustained contributions in support of the One-Room Schoolhouse (ORS) mission.
- “Contributions” are those additions or donations of an individual’s time and talents and are not monetary or financial contributions.
- “Sustained” donations of an individual’s time and talents are recommended to be in the range of at least three to five years.
- Individuals may be nominated regardless of whether their donated time and talents have included serving on the FORS board of directors.
- Nominees may include individuals who are not currently active in supporting the ORS mission.



So, now that you know more, if you know someone who should be considered for the ORS honor roll, or for any other recognition for their efforts and donations of time and talent necessary to maintain and sustain the ORS, please speak with a FORS board member!

The Making of the Seven Bridges Trail

by Thad Shepherd

In the spring of 1989, I had just turned 16 and wanted to find a project for my Eagle Scout award that would be long-lasting and impactful to the community. At the time it seemed like an overwhelming task but I was lucky to have a great scout troop #407 and extremely supportive parents. I eventually decided that I wanted to do something to help the church I was attending.

Christ Church Parish is a parish rich in history and tradition dating from 1672 and the church property is large, consisting of 46.7 acres. In speaking with the Reverend John Howanstine, Jr., I learned of an old English tradition where on Rogation Sunday, parishioners would lead their children on a walk around the church property. Think of it as Mufasa showing Simba the Pride Land in *The Lion King*. Unlike the Pride Lands of Africa, however, our church's property was overgrown and its boundaries were not clearly identified. I submitted a proposal to begin a project to clear a path so that Christ Church could begin the traditional, annual Rogation Sunday walk.

Before we could start clearing the trail, we needed to identify the church boundaries. Arthur Cochran, a church member and surveyor, and I spent an entire Saturday searching the woods with metal detectors for lead pipes in the ground that

had marked the property years earlier. Once the boundaries were identified, we then fashioned a property map.

Next the fun part began as I recruited members of my scout troop to help clear the trail over several Saturdays. My Dad and I played a key role in leading the



Thad Shepherd in 1989, at age 16

scouts to cut the trail. We had a lot of experience cutting horse trails on farms throughout the county. We encountered all the hazards you would expect in trail cutting: thorns, mosquitoes, ticks, poison ivy, but we also realized that the church's property crossed several streams within the St. Leonard Creek watershed. To make the

trail passable by parishioners, we quickly learned that we needed to create several bridges, seven to be exact. These were made using trees in the area which needed to be cleared to make the trail passable.

Upon its completion, the trail was approximately 1.1 miles in length, ranging in elevation from 84 feet

to 170 feet above sea level. The process involved 8 scouts and close to 150 hours to plan, survey, and build. A friend and member of the scout troop suggested that we call it the Thaddeus Shepherd memorial trail but added we could not call it that if I were still alive. I don't know what he meant by that and thankfully, we decided to name it the Seven Bridges Trail.

Earning the Eagle Scout rank is an accomplishment that has lasted with me throughout my life. It is something I still list on my professional resume. Eagle Scout projects cannot be completed in isolation and this was no exception. I understand that several Eagle Scout projects have been completed to improve and maintain the trail

and that it has served the church and community over the years. Hopefully it will continue to do so in the future.

(Thaddeus Shepherd is currently Vice President, Executive Compensation, Marriott International)

June 12, 2019's Celebration and Dedication of

by Carol Khalili and Peter Cochran; Photos by Corinthia

Recognizing the History and Legacy of Port Republic School #7 and How It Still Teaches

Recognition Plaque Installed in Vestibule

As a part of the dedication of the new ADA-compliant ramp there are key individuals who made the One-Room Schoolhouse fully functional today.

Built around 1876 and in continuous use until 1932, the old school was closed and forgotten. During that period, it served as a home for tenant farmers and then stood totally abandoned before ownership of the land and structure was transferred from Thomas and Leta Williams to Christ Church Parish in 1957.

Then in 1976, the Calvert Retired Teachers Association took the lead and worked with other local groups to restore a one-room schoolhouse as their bicentennial project in Calvert County to make the memory of a one-room school come to life.

The teachers selected Port Republic School #7 because it was already situated on an accessible site and was judged suitable for restoration.



Under the leadership of Elaine Cochran Dunkle (*above*) it was restored and preserved to the condition of 1933, the year of its closing.

With the help of Joan Gott (*at right*) the school welcomed children. It was through her efforts that a curriculum was developed and deemed a valuable addition to the Social Studies program of the Calvert County Public Schools.



A permanent plaque is now installed in the vestibule of the school to acknowledge and recognize the exemplary and unselfish efforts of these individuals. There have been 17 years of visits where every fourth grade student spends one full day experiencing education in the era of one-room schools.

The Board of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse wishes to thank them for making today's One-Room Schoolhouse possible!

Today this historic one-room schoolhouse serves as a living museum, evidence of the time period when church and school provided moral and social fabric for the community while farm products and the Chesapeake Bay's bounty sustained life.



Corinthia Briscoe created a custom-made cake representing the One-Room Schoolhouse.



Cheryl Garcia played "My Country 'Tis of Thee" on her flute; and Brothers of Christ Church led and sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee."



Elaine Cochran Dunkle's sons, Peter and Arthur Cochran, raised the American flag.

of New ADA-Compliant Ramp

athia Briscoe

Dedication of ADA-Compliant Ramp

The Friends of The One-Room Schoolhouse welcomed Calvert County residents, members of Christ Church, Board of Education representatives, Calvert County commissioners, and fabulous volunteers.

Attending the Celebration were special guests: former Calvert County one-room school attendees, Bernie Fowler and Jane Fletcher, led us in The Pledge of Allegiance; Elaine Cochran Dunkle's sons, Peter and Arthur Cochran, raised the American flag; Cheryl Garcia played "My Country 'Tis of Thee" on her flute; and Brothers of Christ Church led and sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

At the conclusion of the program Gary Hammett, George Leah, and Jack Fringer, each of whom had a role in planning, designing, and constructing the ramp, stepped up to cut the ribbon, officially dedicating the accessibility ramp.

Central to the Day's Event Was the Dedication of the ADA-Ramp

Regardless of age or abilities, all those who wish to visit Port Republic School #7 will be able to enter the schoolhouse.

The Thomas Williams Family, Elaine Cochran Dunkle, and Joan Rahill Gott, are now memorialized with a new plaque that hangs in the vestibule. Members of their families spoke about each of their significant contributions. They commented that pleasure and pride would fill those individuals to see Port Republic School #7 continuing to teach approximately 1,200 4th grade children each year.

See page 4 for how each of these honorees contributed to the success of this school's programs.

Vestibule Coat Room Had Been Added in 2006

On July 27, 2006, there had been a major celebration at Port Republic School #7, held in conjunction with that summer's Ice Cream Social. The event marked the return of the vestibule, also built by Hammett's Building Services. With the help of funds contributed by friends and families, and raised by the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, students now had an authentic coat room upon their entry. At the time of the 1976 restoration many former teachers and students lamented that there was no vestibule and eagerly awaited its return.

Now the schoolhouse moves into the future, with both a vestibule and accessibility, making it now truly complete.



FORS Co-President Carol Khalili, with County Commissioner Buddy Hance



FORS Co-President Chloe Ewalt welcomed County Commissioner Steve Weems and FORS Director John Yoe.



Peter Cochran, son of Elaine Cochran Dunkle, spoke about his mother's role in the 1976 original rescue of this one-room school house and of her dedication to the project until her death in 2012 when she was in her 97th year. The new ADA-compliant ramp, wrapping around the front and right side of the school, is shown in the background of this photo.



ADA-ramp ribbon-cutting: Gary Hammett, builder; George Leah, former director of school construction for Calvert County Public Schools; and Jack Fringer, former president of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse.



Former State Senator and County Commissioner Bernie Fowler and retired teacher Jane Fletcher both attended one-room schools in Calvert County.

Celebration of One-Room Schoolhouse Volunteers

by Carol Khalili; Photos by Corinthia Briscoe

On June 12, 2019, beautiful weather welcomed the many residents of Calvert County who came together to celebrate the 2018-2019 volunteers who made the One-Room Schoolhouse program possible.

Those who served as Trail Guides, recreated a walk to school through the woods surrounding Christ Church included: Shannon Campbell, Trish David, Ray Enrico, Jack Fringer, Bernadette Hager, Sue Hammond, Pam Mackall, Ruth Mora, Ginny Murphy and Debbie Roberts. Barbara Fringer was in charge of coordinating, making sure a trail guide was present for each visiting group.

More than just guides, volunteers are knowledgeable and share a love of history and nature.

After a lunch on the lawn, students return to the schoolhouse to hear about life at home on a farm. This topic is especially pertinent as the majority of students of Port Republic School #7 lived on farms.

Farm Life presenters included: Fran Armstrong, Sherry Burcham, Jack Fringer, Faye Graff, Debbie Hance, and Pam Mackall.

Chloe Ewalt, Debbie Smith and Carole Wagner took turns acting in the role of the one-room

schoolteacher for the day. They presented instruction and involved students as they participated in writing on slates and classroom recitation.

Students also learned the Virginia Reel, a dance that likely was part of social gatherings of the day.

The efforts of all these dedicated volunteers made for a varied and rich day of unique activities for students.

Our teachers' reward is overhearing students say—
"I wish I went to a school like this!"



Carol Wagner, Chloe Ewalt, and Debbie Smith (not shown) rotated as the school's teacher.



Trail Guide volunteers: Pam Mackall, Sue Hammond, Shannon Campbell, Barbara Fringer, Ray Enrico, Debbie Roberts, and Jack Fringer (not shown)



Farm Life presenters Pam Mackall and Jack Fringer Others (not shown) were Fran Armstrong, Sherry Burcham, Faye Graff, and Debbie Hance



Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc. Board of Directors: Left to right : Mary Ellen Romney, John Yoe, Beverly Lusby, Dave Campbell, Peter Cochran, Pam Mackall, Nancy Zinn; and Co-Presidents Carol Khalili and Chloe Ewalt

2019's Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 6-8 P.M. Rain-or-Shine

Enjoy an old-fashioned summer evening with friends, ice cream, and live music. The One-Room Schoolhouse will be open. Bring your lawn chair and come to enjoy.

First Cone or Dish of Mrs. Moo's Ice Cream is FREE!

Families will find period games and activities for young children to enjoy.

Hosted by Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse

The One-Room Schoolhouse is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is now easier for all to access with a ramp and level flooring.



2018's Christmas Open House

by Chloe Ewalt

Our annual Ol' Fashion Christmas Open House was definitely celebrated in style at the One-Room Schoolhouse on Sunday, December 16, 2018.

Children rushed to the windows to get a first glimpse of Santa and Mrs. Claus, and then eagerly awaited their turn to sit on Santa's lap and share their Christmas wishes.

Fresh greens decorated the windows inside and out, and the beautiful cedar tree inside was festive with homemade ornaments including strings of popcorn and cranberries made at the schoolhouse.

Many craft projects kept children busy at the school desks. Also, everyone was treated to the beautiful Christmas music played on the flute by Cheryl Garcia.

One could hear a pin drop as Katie Mathers entertained children and adults as she read the classic poem "The Night Before Christmas."

More than sixty visitors enjoyed the delicious selection of homemade cookies, hot cider, and hot chocolate. It really was the perfect way to begin the Christmas season.



Jack Fringer Retires as Board President

by Nancy Zinn

Thank you, Jack, for serving as the President of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse from 2010 to 2018 and as a Friends Board Member 2007-2009. Jack has also been Trail Guide and Farm Life Presenter for the school sessions since 2007 and in charge of the schoolhouse steps cleaning and repainting, schoolhouse floor and desk maintenance, hanging new schoolhouse blinds and assembling new benches.

Barbara Fringer has been there the entire time supporting Jack in all of his endeavors. They always checked the Seven Bridges Trail before the school sessions and after storms to

make sure the trail was safe for the students. At the Ice Cream Socials, Jack could be seen handing out the tickets for ice cream.



Jack was in charge of making sure the new ADA-compliant ramp was installed to specifications.

Thank you, Jack, for all of your guidance over the years and we are happy to hear that you will still be an active Member of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse.



Eartha HandMade Tile

Calvert artist, Parran Collery, has created lovely hand-made ceramic tiles of our One-Room Schoolhouse. A limited quantity of these tiles is available for purchase (\$25) at One-Room Schoolhouse events—including the upcoming Ice Cream Social!

To contact Parran—
Website: earthahandmadetile.com

**Friends of the One-Room
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*Newsletter layout and design by
Frances Dunkle Poling*



Presidents' Message

by Co-Presidents Carol Khalili and Chloe Ewalt

Readers may notice a new title for this article. As of March 2019, current Board of Directors members Chloe Ewalt and Carol Khalili agreed to become Co-Presidents. We quickly learned that it takes the two of us to replace Jack Fringer.

We are delighted to welcome Dave Campbell to the Board of Directors of the Friends. Recently retired from the National Science Foundation, Dave was involved with Environmental Education for many years and served on the Calvert Marine Museum Board. We look forward to his contributions in maintaining the trails for our student visitors.

We are grateful to have two new Program Coordinators step up to fill the shoes of Fran Armstrong. Pam Mackall and Peter Cochran will share the responsibilities of interfacing with the Calvert County Public Schools and insuring the smooth running of school visits to the One-Room Schoolhouse.

The success of the Program depends on the generous efforts of many wonderful volunteers. We always need more. If you are not yet a volunteer, please join us and encourage others to share in the joy of children as they step back in time.



*Co-Presidents Carol and Chloe,
photo by Corinthia Briscoe*

And the highlight of the summer, Mrs. Moo's Ice Cream is back! Mark your calendars and save the date: Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 6-8 P.M. for the Ice Cream Social. Home made-cookies and the Calvert Dance Band will round out the evening. *See page 7.*

Port Republic School #7 Is on the Web

Website: www.calvertoneroomschool.org • Email: admin@calvertoneroomschool.org