

The Slate

Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.,
Post Office Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431 • Summer 2009

2009 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

By Carol Khalili



Friends' Board member Carol Khalili, far left, recognized representatives from the Board of Education and the Calvert County Public Schools: Leanne Meisinger, Elementary Supervisor for Social Studies, who presented the \$1,894.15 proceeds from the "Penny Drive"; Lavetta Hutchins, Multi-Program Supervisor; Dr. Jack Smith, Superintendent; Deborah Pulley, Executive Director of School Operations; Dr. Cheryl Johnson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and Rose Crunkleton, Board of Education member. Photo by Fran Poling

Friends, supporters, and volunteers gathered on June 2, 2009, in the Parish Hall of Christ Church. Volunteers for the One-Room Schoolhouse enrich the experience of the visiting 4th grade children of Calvert County. We celebrated the volunteers and thanked them for their significant contributions of time, talents, and energy. Our classroom teachers during the past school year were Fran Armstrong, Casey Duehrssen, Chloe Ewalt, Debra Hildebrand, and Sandy Roberts. Trail guides who lead students on the walk through the woods were: Rita Amtmann, Fran Armstrong, Mark Edmondson, Chloe Ewalt, Barbara Fringer,

Carol Khalili, Jane Manning, Ginny Murphy, Bob Platt, and Fritzie Zidow. Mary Ellen Romney scheduled trail guides.

Camaraderie marked the Luncheon event of 48 guests. The organizations represented included: Christ Church Episcopal, Calvert County Public Schools, Calvert Retired School Personnel Association (CRSPA), Friends of the One-Room School, Friends of the Old Wallville School, the One-Room School Committee, and elected Maryland government officials.

Videos, with lively musical accompaniment, of the One-Room

School Program provided entertainment after the lunch. One highlighted activities enjoyed by visiting students, the second provided a retrospective of special people and events over the past five years.

This year students from each of the 13 public and 3 of the private schools in Calvert County visited the Port Republic School #7. The field trip continues to be a favorite of students and teachers. The spirit of volunteerism keeps this One-Room Schoolhouse a strong and valuable community endeavor.

See Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, cont. on page 4



Senator Roy Dyson presented Carol Khalili a Maryland Senate Proclamation for Outstanding Community Service during the Volunteer Luncheon. Photo by Fran Poling

Carol Khalili Is Recognized for Work on Behalf of One-Room Schoolhouse Committee

Carol Khalili has recently been honored by several organizations for her work on behalf of the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association's (CRSPA) One-Room School Committee. In addition to the Proclamation from the Maryland Senate (*photo at left*) presented by Maryland State Senator Roy Dyson, she was also honored by the AARP and by the Maryland Retired School Personnel for *Outstanding Community Service*.

Carol retired from the Calvert County Public Schools in 2004 and has been very active with the One-Room School Committee as well as the Friends. Congratulations, Carol!

Joe Showalter Steps Down From Friends' Board

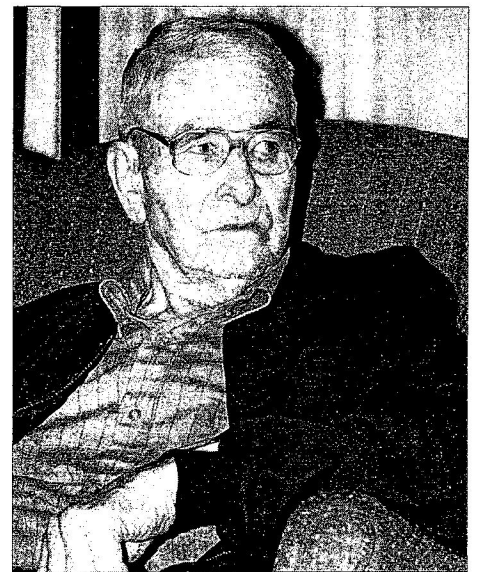
Even before the loss of his wife Ruth earlier this year, Joe Showalter had let it be known to the members of the Board of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc., that he wanted to step down. As anyone who knows Joe can tell you, Joe Showalter has always been an incredibly active member of the community. His service to Calvert County is legendary.

In no particular order, Joe has served on the following:

- Calvert County Nursing Home, Board Member and Chair
- Maryland State PTA, President
- National PTA, Regional representative
- Calvert County Heart Association, Board Member
- Calvert County Historical Society, Board Member and Chair
- Calvert County Board of Education, Board Member
- Calvert County Hospital Board, Member and Chair
- Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Board Member

After many years of service to many organizations, Joe wanted to spend more time around the house and nursery. It was not an easy discussion for the Board as

we had all come to respect Joe's hard work on our behalf. For example, Joe provided the first sketches of the proposed vestibule at the time we were just beginning to consider the costs of the project. He also advised us on several maintenance issues, including the long overdue repairs to several of the window sills.



Nonagenarian Joe Showalter. Photo by Bruce Armstrong

Even after announcing his intentions to leave the Board, Joe delivered on a promise in the early spring to acquire and plant three juniper trees, with the assistance of Hutch Valanidas, to provide a screen for the new storage building.

Small Museum Conference

By Chloe Ewalt

Who doesn't enjoy an adventure – and that is exactly what Carol Khalili and I found at the three-day conference of the Small Museum Association. Held in Ocean City at the end of February, this event provided a wonderful learning opportunity for two first-timers at this type of gathering.

The variety of workshops and sessions were impressive, and selecting just two for each time slot was difficult. Topics such as Grant Writing, Fundraising, Archival Methods, Oral History, Education, and Volunteers were all relevant and helpful. Speakers shared current research and ideas about marketing and PR, and stressed the importance of small museums changing their structure, programs, and services in response to the changing needs of the community.

Roundtable discussions were engaging as everyone enjoyed listening to the ideas and concerns voiced by the other members of small museums from the six states of Delaware, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia.

Each evening, Carol and I would share and discuss all we had learned – which would generate more ideas and possibilities in our minds for our one-room schoolhouse. We were definitely excited to come back and share! At the banquet we found we were the top bidders for four hours of consultation service from Paris Design in Takoma Park. (*See follow-up article below.*)

Consultation with Paris Design

By Chloe Ewalt

At the Small Museum Association Conference this past winter, board members Carol Khalili and Chloe Ewalt were the delighted high-bid auction winners of four hours of consultation from Paris Design in Takoma Park, Maryland. During the conference, Carol and Chloe had the opportunity to talk with owner Dean Paris and to view some of his work. They were very impressed with his creativity and the professionalism of his final products.

Outdoor Display Discussed

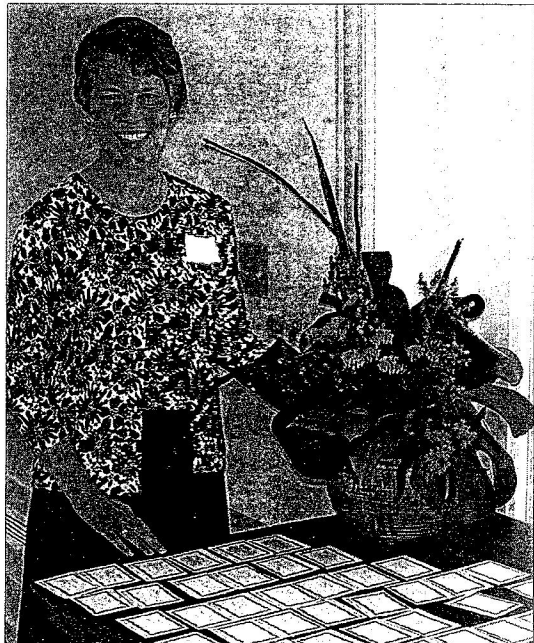
On Wednesday evening, June 3, Dean Paris and an associate, met with the One-Room Schoolhouse Board and members of the One-room School Committee of the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association at Christ Church Parish House to discuss ideas. After many thought provoking questions and lots of brainstorming, everyone agreed that an outdoor display would be most beneficial. This display would help tell the story of the one-room schoolhouse to visitors who come when the schoolhouse is not open.



Dean Paris CEO, left, with his associate Graham Campbell, met with the One-Room Schoolhouse Board and members of the One-Room School Committee of the CRSPA at Christ Church Parish House to discuss ideas.

Photo by Bruce Armstrong

Committee members are submitting ideas of what should be included on this display, and then will talk with Paris Design as to how this display should look. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting venture.



Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, cont. from page 1

An annual school activity is the Service Learning Project where 4th grade students conduct a Penny Drive designated to support historic preservation in Calvert County. This year the combined total raised by the elementary schools was \$1,894.15. Leanne Meisinger, Supervisor for Social Studies in the Elementary Schools, presented the check to The Friends of The One-Room School. The monies collected will be used in repainting the schoolhouse, the first repainting of the interior since the restoration in 1976 which will be done this summer with the students' generous donation helping to make this possible.

Left: Mistress of Ceremonies, Carol Khalili. Photo by Jack Fringer. Photos Below by Fran Poling.



Retired educators Mary Briscoe, Nancy Thompson, and Elaine Dunkle.



Vanessa Willett's father, Daniel Butler, attended a one-room school in Calvert County.



Retired educator and past president of CRSPA Irving Long assisted Carol Khalili with the "premiere" of her newly-created videos about our one-room school.



Above: Retired educators who support the one-room schools in Calvert County—Vivian Jones, Sally Douglas, and Jane Fletcher.



Left: Sandy Roberts, long-time educator and tireless volunteer, received a bouquet in honor of her service to the One-Room Schoolhouse.

From the Podium

Robert Pfeiffer, President



With the arrival of summer, one often associates this period with a general level of inactivity in schools. While this may have

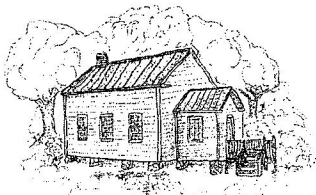
been the case back when Port Republic School #7 was in operation; the Friends have used this period to focus on program planning, a social activity, as well as some repairs in preparation for the start of our fall program. In short, we've not been idle. As you read the summer issue of the Slate, I think you'll feel that your involvement with the One-Room Schoolhouse is not only appreciated but managed well. Before you move on, however, I'd like to touch on the "why" of the value of the Port Republic School #7 that sits on the side of Broomes Island Road.

During our recent Volunteer Luncheon, Jack Smith, Calvert County's Superintendent of Public Schools, offered some comments at the end of the program. To paraphrase, Jack was touched by the sense of community and place that the schoolhouse programs bring to the county schools as well as the community at large. Later in the week I was given a book review in the Wall Street Journal of a new book entitled *Small Wonder* by Jonathan Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman reviews the role of the one room schoolhouse in the fabric of the 19th and early 20th century's communities and what has happened

since these buildings and their programs were consolidated into larger schools in the name of "progress." One of his major conclusions involves the type and level of instruction provided in these early settings and how our modern classrooms are now trying to replicate the individualized, self-paced instruction that was the foundation of this early educational model. I firmly believe that our classroom program appeals to both teacher and student alike because of the very personal nature of the experience.

Mr. Zimmerman also reviews the history of school consolidation throughout the United States, an activity that ultimately led to the closing of the one-room schoolhouses in Calvert County. Many parents argued at the time against the loss of community control over their schoolhouses but "progress" carried the day and education moved to larger facilities. Mr. Zimmerman speculates after a thorough discussion of the evolution of American Education in the 20th century, that Americans "gained the whole world of technological conveniences and lost the soul of their communities." It is not by accident that one of the most popular social networks on the "web" is *My Space*® where people build their own communities of "friends" of like interests. So, as you ponder the greater community of Port Republic, please mark August 6 on your calendar and come join us for an evening of ice cream and music.

In closing, I think you'll see that a lot is going on during the summer of 2009. Thanks for your continued support.



We Always Encourage and Welcome New Members as Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.

The Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization formed to establish a partnership between the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association and others who are interested in preserving Port Republic School #7.

Membership includes a newsletter plus information on activities with updates on coming events.

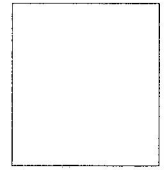
Make your *tax-deductible* check payable to "Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc." and mail to Post Office Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431.

- Individual or Family \$20.00
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**Friends of the One-Room
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Post Office Box 431
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Richard Dodds

Jack Fringer

Carol Khalili

Mary Ellen Romney

*(Newsletter layout and design
by Frances Dunkle Poling)*



Save the Date & Bring a Friend

Thursday, August 6, at 6 P.M.

Port Republic Schoolhouse #7

Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse

Ice Cream Social

with Music by the
Calvert Dance Band