



The Slate

Winter 2021 Edition

Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.
P.O. Box 431, Port Republic, MD, 20676-0431
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Volunteer Recognition

The school year 2019-2020 will long be remembered as the year that school instruction took a turn into chaos, complete with cancelled programs and cessation of all school field trips in the year 2020.

The One-Room School fall visits proceeded as scheduled but our annual recognition of volunteers was unable to be held. We want to belatedly give a round of applause and THANKS to this year's roster of our wonderful staff. "It takes a village" is true every day that school visits take place.

We recognize those to whom we are indebted.

Trail Guides:

- Shannon Campbell
- Trish David
- Ray Enrico
- Barbara Fringer
- Jack Fringer
- Bernadette Hager
- Susan Hammond
- Pamella Mackall
- Ruth Mora
- Ginny Murphy
- Debbie Roberts

Kudos are due to Barbara Fringer. For many years she trained, organized and scheduled trail guides for each day's school visit. We are especially grateful to her for coordinating each day's trail walk while continuing to serve frequently as trail guide.

Trail Maintenance:

- Dave Campbell
- Barbara Fringer
- Jack Fringer
- John Yoe

Farm Life Presenters:

- Jack Fringer
- Debbie Hance
- Pamela Mackall

Teachers:

- Chloe Ewalt
- Debbie Hance
- Debbie Smith
- Carole Wagner

Program Coordinators:

- Pamela Mackall
- Peter Cochran



Trail guide Shannon Campbell always has students so interested in the trail walk that they often have additional questions and comments.



Jack Fringer shares stories of farm life 100 years ago.

In Memoriam

The Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse is saddened by the deaths of several of members of our corps of volunteers. These were all dedicated individuals who served as teachers, trail guides, farm life presenters, workers behind the scenes, and providers of historic preservation and maintenance. They supplied essential support which made each day's school visits run smoothly, creating the "best field trip ever" as reported by students. Here we note the year of the passing of each of these special individuals: Please remember the enthusiasm and love they brought to the Schoolhouse on each day of their service. We are thankful for their gifts.

- 2017 Mike Khalili
- 2017 Pam Enrico
- 2019 Sandy Roberts
- 2019 Faye Graff
- 2019 Fritzie Zidow

- 2019 Bob Pfeiffer
- 2020 Judy Bibb
- 2020 Bob Platt
- 2020 Jeff Klapper

Donations to the One-Room Schoolhouse

Over the years, the One-Room Schoolhouse has received many valuable donations. From the very inception of the restoration, the Retired Teachers, who restored the Schoolhouse with assistance from many individuals, filled the Schoolhouse with period furniture, books, maps, and memorabilia.

This year, we have added some wonderful family treasures to the Schoolhouse. At the 2019 Jousting Tournament Open House, Linda Barnes Lanzisera shared that she had an old photograph dated October 29th, 1906 from the Broomes Island School with the names of the students listed in order. She wanted us to have a copy of it. Many of her family members had attended this School, as well as many folks from other Broomes Island families - names many of you will recognize. A beautifully framed photograph with both students' names and married last names listed below the picture now hangs on the wall in the Schoolhouse.

John Yoe found "Port Republic Public School" graduation certificates from his Father, Alvin Yoe, who graduated in 1929,

and his Uncle, Howard Yoe, who graduated in 1926. John had these two certificates framed together and donated them where they now hang on the wall in the Schoolhouse. Four of the six Yoe siblings attended the Port Republic Schoolhouse. John found a book that had been presented to his Father at graduation with the inscription, "For the highest average June 1929 Port Republic School." John has also donated this book to the School. Be sure to take a minute the next time you visit the Schoolhouse to enjoy these treasures.

Be sure to circle August 11th
2021 on your Calendar for our
next Ice Cream Social.



Two graduation certificates from Alvin Yoe and Howard Yoe who graduated from the Port Republic One-Room School



Children at the Broomes Island School in 1906

Schoolhouse Improvements

This past summer, The Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse Board of Directors was definitely of the opinion “make hay while the sun shines!” The Board undertook three projects during the summer and early fall months. In the beginning of June, David Swann, of Swann Electrical, installed two 20-amp outlets inside the building, and upgraded the two existing 20-amp outlets. Our Christmas Open Houses are attracting more and more visitors, with over 100 folks last December, and we found we needed more availability of outlets. Plus, when the fourth grade school groups visit, it will be nice to have fans for both sides of the room to provide cooling in the warm weather.

Close examination of the Schoolhouse revealed blistered paint, deteriorated wood siding and rotting window ledges. John Yoe undertook immediate repair of window framing where needed. We received four proposals for painting the outside of the Schoolhouse. When scaffolding was erected, we were thrilled to see Roberto Cisney of Cisney Painting sanding, scraping, replacing damaged siding, and painting our historic Schoolhouse.

Next there was the “Yard,” the area between the back porch of the Parish Hall and the Schoolhouse. Many of you will recall a small grove of trees had been in that space. They were removed many years ago but left behind rotting roots that created ruts, divots, depressions, and uneven hilly areas, all making for challenging walking. Excitement was in the air in early fall when trucks and equipment from J. Calvin Wood Jr, Excavating arrived to repair, level, and seed the area. Fortunately, many days of warm sunshine and rain followed this project and now there is beautiful grass flourishing. All of these projects are being funded by donations and the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, as we are grateful for the support that Christ Church has given us over the years. Board members have been very busy around the Schoolhouse, and it is obvious that they are not letting any grass grow under their feet! Peter Cochran is beginning to call Christ Church home, as he steadily cleared areas around the Schoolhouse and Parish Hall—take a peek at the once honeysuckle covered holly tree right outside the Parish Hall. Peter, also lent a hand to Roberto Cisney, as some rotten wood was found between the vestibule and the main part of the Schoolhouse. This required hours of extra work replacing and drying out the wood before it could be painted. Dave Campbell tackled poison ivy growing on trees.

With the record amount of rain we received this season, maintenance on the Seven Bridges Trail seems to be continual. Many thanks to Dave and John for periodically inspecting the trail and repairing areas impacted by the heavy rains.

With a Schoolhouse that practically looked brand new, luscious green grass growing, and areas cleared around the Schoolhouse, suddenly the flagpole looked a bit worn and aged. Peter and Dave rose to the challenge with a little help from friends, taking down the flagpole so it could be sanded and repainted before erecting it back in place.

The Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse #7 will be ready for visitors and our Fourth Grade Program once the Covid Pandemic status allows the reopening of schools and field trip programs to restart.



October 21 was an exciting day as John Wood, owner of J. Calvin Wood Excavating, arrived to do the work on the “Yard”.



It was amazing to watch the ground being leveled and smoothed in short order.



Left to Right:

With the warm fall weather and plenty of rain, the new grass flourished quickly.

Roberto Cisney spent many days painting the Schoolhouse.

Peter Cochran and Dave Campbell sanded and painted the flagpole as the final improvement to the School.



Left: Peter Cochran spent many hours helping to repair and prepare the Schoolhouse siding for painting.

Right: Even though there was no Christmas Open House, the little Schoolhouse was decorated for the holiday.

2019's Christmas Open House

Interviews with previous One-Room Schoolhouse teachers and students sometimes mention stories of Christmas celebrations in the Schoolhouses. A tree, decorated with homemade ornaments, homemade goodies, something hot to drink, and usually a small program put on by the children for their families to enjoy seem the consistent theme of these celebrations.

So, for the third year, once again, the One-Room Schoolhouse rang with laughter and music at the annual Ol' Fashion Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 22, 2019. We were delighted to welcome over one hundred visitors to the Schoolhouse and were fortunate with beautiful late December weather as families also enjoyed getting together outside.

Children were thrilled to see Santa and Mrs. Claus and to share their Christmas wish list. Each child received a candy cane, a tangerine, and a bag to decorate and fill with goodies.

Many craft projects kept the children busy at their school desks. The Cedar tree inside was festive with homemade ornaments including strings of popcorn and cranberries made at the Schoolhouse. Also, everyone was treated to beautiful Christmas music played on the flute by Cheryl Garcia. All got into the spirit, shaking those bells as everyone sang along with the song "Jingle Bells"!

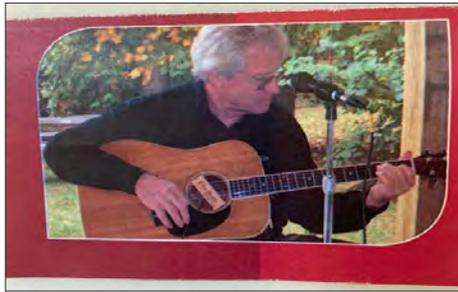
One could hear a pin drop as Briscoe Cruppenink entertained children and adults as he read the classic poem "The Night Before Christmas".

Hot chocolate, hot cider, and a most delicious assortment of homemade cookies were definitely enjoyed by all. We are grateful to Sterling Myers from the St. Leonard Fire Department who arranged the visit from Jay and Jane McClananhan, our wonderful Santa and Mrs. Claus.

It was once again a magical time, and if you missed this fun glimpse back in time, we look forward to seeing everyone in December 2021.



Robert M. Pfeiffer In Memoriam



With great sadness we note the passing of Robert M. Pfeiffer at the end of September 2019. Bob Pfeiffer was an integral part of the restoration of the One-Room School from its beginning in 1976. He was a jack of all trades, giving his time and talents in restoration

of the Schoolhouse, first in preparation for the Bicentennial and then through the years as maintenance needs arose. His involvement culminated in serving as president of the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse from 2000 until 2010.

In this new role his contributions extended far beyond the physical aspects of stabilizing and improving the Schoolhouse. Bob brought to life the long held dream of replacing the vestibule that had been an integral part of the original Schoolhouse. It had been removed after the school closed with consolidation of schools in 1932.

This major feat was accomplished through his securing financial backing from organizations and citizens who valued the historic building. He also worked closely with planning and building the vestibule, making it an authentic reproduction. The now complete building brought the Schoolhouse to the forefront of historic sites in Calvert County.

We are grateful for his tireless efforts and dedication on behalf of Port Republic School #7. He was our great and faithful friend.



Left to Right:

- Children stayed busy creating many different crafts during the Open House.
- You could have heard a pin drop as Briscoe Cruppenink read aloud "The Night Before Christmas"
- After sharing wish lists, children pose with Santa.

2019's Ice Cream Social

Yummy and local farm-fresh ice cream, homemade cookies, Big Band music, games for children, a gathering of friends – old and new, and a spectacular summer evening – it doesn't get much better than that! On Wednesday, August 14th, more than 100 people showed up for the 18th Annual Ice Cream Social at the Schoolhouse hosted by the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse Board and the Calvert Retired School Personnel.

The Calvert Dance Band once again provided the music for the evening, and how could one not get up and dance when they played "In The Mood"? They have been most generous with their time and talent over the years, playing at the Ice Cream Social for almost all of those 18 years.

Once again, guests were treated to the delicious local ice cream made with organic milk from Mrs. Moo, at Spider Hall Farm. Members of the Schoolhouse Board and the Retired School Personnel showed their baking talents with a wide variety of tasty homemade cookies.

Last year, children's games were added to the festivities, and the young ones enjoyed games of jacks and jumping ropes. As always, guests had tours of the Schoolhouse, and it was amazing how many children wanted to play school! We look forward to our family and friends gathering once again on the second Wednesday, August 11, 2021.



Ice cream enjoyed at a leisurely pace is always best!



Jack Maguire, Richard Dodds, and Father Christopher Garcia get a peek at the delicious goodies as Bart Ewalt enjoys the first cookie.

Congratulations to Nancy Zinn

Did you know that one of our One-Room Schoolhouse Board members and a member of the Christ Church Port Republic Parish is a celebrity? Yes, indeed! Nancy Zinn has been selected for induction as part of the Class of 2020 into The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF). In part, her congratulatory letter from MSCHF said "Your nomination and selection honor you for the many hours that you have given for others". The One-Room Schoolhouse Board is especially proud because it is the group that nominated her for this honor.

Now this comes as no surprise to those who know Nancy well. We have observed for many years the extreme dedication, loyalty, and love Nancy gives to Christ Church and the One-Room Schoolhouse. Her responsibilities at Christ Church include being Senior Warden, Coordinator of the Heart F.E.L.T. Program, Editor of Christ Church's Monthly Publication, *The Bell*, Co-Chair of the Annual Tournament Supper, a Member of the Church Altar Guild, and Chair of Greeters and Ushers for Church Services. Her involvement with the One-Room Schoolhouse includes being both a Board Member, Treasurer, and Committee Member for the two major events sponsored by the Board. Nancy is also involved with the St. Leonard Vision Group, the 4-H All Stars, and the Calvert County Fair. One does wonder — When does Nancy sleep?

The final paragraph of her nomination reads ... Calvert County is indeed fortunate to have an individual like Nancy who contributes in so many ways. Her volunteer hours simply cannot be calculated. I think of Nancy with this quote by Einstein: "Not all the things that can be counted count and not all the things that count can be counted". Nancy's volunteer responsibilities certainly can be listed and even described, but it is the intangible effect of positivity and goodwill which endears Nancy to us all. She is an exemplary role model for young and old. Without sounding trite, indeed the world is a better place because of Nancy. Congratulations Nancy!!!

Due to coronavirus restrictions, the MSCHF Induction regrettably will not occur. We will plan a special celebration for Nancy at the Ice Cream Social in August.



One of Nancy's many talents is baking the most delicious cookies for any Schoolhouse gathering.

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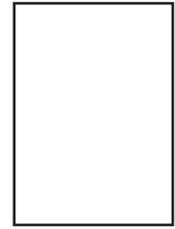
Interested in joining/? Please contact us at:
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Pamela Mackall
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John Yoe

Newsletter layout by Ellen Farr



President's Corner

Without a doubt, the year 2020 will not be forgotten for many reasons! We hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy while dealing well with the challenges of COVID. As with all organizations, our events were cancelled out of caution and restrictions. We have missed the laughter and energy of the Fourth Grade students visiting for the day, as well as our Summer Ice Cream Social and Christmas Open House visitors.

But if every cloud has a silver lining, the One-Room Schoolhouse Board found it to be a wonderful opportunity to take on needed projects at the Schoolhouse. Many of our Board members rolled up their sleeves and helped. Clearing around the Schoolhouse area,

trail maintenance, assistance with Schoolhouse painting and repairs, and getting proposals and contractors filled our Board member's days. The Board continued to meet, first by zoom, but as the weather warmed up, we met outside—masked and six feet apart—to discuss the Schoolhouse projects. We have been extremely fortunate that many donations were made toward the projects completed this summer and early fall. We thank you and greatly appreciate your time, talents, energy and generous monetary contributions.

We remain hopeful, as many organizations are, that with a vaccine on its way we can look forward to returning to normalcy, resuming our fun times with students and visitors. As always, the success of our Fourth

Grade Program depends on the wonderful efforts of many volunteers. Once our Program resumes, please consider volunteering as a teacher, trail guide, or farm life presenter to share in the joy of children as they step back in time.

Chloe Ewalt and Carol Khalili
Board Co-Presidents



Following COVID-19 protocol, Board Members meet outside the Schoolhouse.

Port Republic School #7 is on the Web

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