

HARPER FAMILY RECONNECTION REUNION MEETING NOTES for:
Tuesday July 16, 2024 – 7pm on ZOOM

Attending: Beverly Harper-MD, Billy Lee - NY, Cathy Harper Hogan-GA, Cynthia Ford-Davis-PA,
Delores Harris-PA, Karen Copeland-MD, Lisa James-PA and Sylvia Ford-George-PA

1. Reunion details so far:
 - a. 35th Anniversary, 1-day event, August 17, 2024, at Brookside Nature Center, Wheaton, MD where the historic Harper Cabin is located, and where John Thomas Harper is recognized as a resident during an historic era in our country's history. His birthday is also on August 17th. He was born in 1837, 187 years ago.
 - b. Theme: Building on Our Heritage, Tradition & Legacy
 - c. Anticipated Attendance: 50 - 60
 - Save the Date has been emailed and placed on Facebook.
 - Official reunion invitation will be sent next week, including request for RSVPs, so that we can properly prepare for attendance and attendees.
 - Family members who are not receiving reunion info or emails directly should send their email address to Sylvia by text or email (215.490.2707, sfordgeorge@yahoo.com).
2. **Brookside Nature Center - Home of the Harper Cabin:** 1400 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, Maryland 20902
Following-up on ideas and suggestions to strengthen our relationship with Brookside. Following is what we've discussed so far. Any ideas or suggestions family members have can be brought to the next meeting or relayed to any of the meeting attendees.
 - a. Coordinating communications between Brookside and family members re: upcoming events and activities, especially those involving the Harper Cabin. (Sylvia and Faith)
 - b. Securing family members to become family representatives and/or ambassadors.
Faith Harper-MD and Beverly Harper-MD have both agreed to be family ambassadors.
3. **Report on Reunion T-Shirt Contest** (Cathy Harper Hogan-GA):
 - a. The winning t-shirt was announced and shown, and a report sent to the family identifying t-shirt designers and voting info. (See last page of the meeting notes for full report/info.)
 - b. Even though only 31 of 118 family members entered a vote on a t-shirt, we were impressed by the number of you who got involved. We heard that for some of you it was hard to choose, so you didn't. Thank You to everyone who participated.
 - c. A limited number of T-shirts will be available for sale at the reunion for \$10 each until sold out. (Adult sizes S-M-L-XL-2XL-3XL)
 - d. Orders for additional shirts will be taken at the reunion if needed.
4. **Report on Overnight Hotel Accommodations** (Sylvia-PA): We're still working on securing overnight accommodations and should have something to report no later than the next meeting.
5. **Report on Bus from Philly** (Beverly-PA): After the meeting Bev reported that she was having trouble getting a bus, and that the recommended 15-passenger van was not comfortable enough.
6. We discussed identifying a "hashtag" so that photos taken during the reunion can be placed and found in one place.



7. Reunion Itinerary :

- a. **Honoring Our Past:** We'll identify family members who have passed beginning 2020 through this year by the reading of their names and the ringing of a bell, followed by an all-encompassing prayer to pay tribute to all others. **Need to identify announcer. Need family members to forward names and dates.**
- b. **Icebreaker Activity:** Family Member Scavenger Hunt. Attendees will receive "the list" of questions and/or clues about specific family members and/or Harper Family facts to be answered when they sign-in. Their "lists" can be turned in at the end of the day so we can identify the family member who knows the family the best. If you have interesting facts you'd like to include on the icebreaker, call or text Sylvia, 215.490.2707.
- c. **Family Discussion:** Part of the discussion is where do we go from here? Family members who have ideas, suggestions or other topics of interest they'd like discussed should send them to Beverly Harper-PA.
- d. **Door Prizes:** We discussed providing door prizes as we've done in the past. Attendees were interested in doing so. Karen Copeland-MD volunteered to provide candles, soaps, body lotion and bath gels she's accumulated from QVC as prizes. We need to identify how prize winners will be identified (first to arrive, last to arrive, oldest, youngest, etc.; or identifying family members who have been the first to respond to requests for information, voting, etc.; or by providing everyone a numbered coupon ticket and drawing the winners.)

8. Menu: AM: Dunkin Donuts: water, coffee and donuts, fruit - whole

PM: Chicken, sliced ham, potato salad, coleslaw, dinner rolls, chips, water and soda, fruit salad
 Birthday cake to celebrate John Thomas Harper's birthday

9. DRAFT Timeline/Schedule:

	Time	Activity	Team Lead(s)
a.		Need to identify event layout for the day: AM: <input type="checkbox"/> AM Snacks <input type="checkbox"/> Sign-Ins <input type="checkbox"/> DJ <input type="checkbox"/> T-Shirt distribution + Orders <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin Photos <input type="checkbox"/> Program <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint PM: <input type="checkbox"/> Family Group Photo <input type="checkbox"/> Light Refreshments	
b.	10:00 am	Set-up	Team
c.	10:30 am	Start: Meet & Greet : Sign-ins & Sign-ups : Distribute Icebreaker info	Sylvia + TBD
d.	10:45 am		
	11:00 am	Program Opening:	TBD
		Show Brookside PowerPoint re: The Harper Cabin	HFR/Brookside
		Quame to speak on how family lived during Emancipation	Quame
		Q&A	
		Honoring Our Past (Family members to provide names and dates)	TBD
e.	12:00 pm	Where do we go from here...	Bev-PA moderates
		Guest speakers	TBD
		Family discussion	Bev-PA
f.	1:00 pm	Group Family Photo	Clinton Hogan-GA
g.	1:30 pm	Light Eats & Refreshments	Evelyn & Faith
h.	2:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Meet & Greet : Sign-ins: Photos : Family History Updates Carousel, miniature train, adventure playground available for little ones 	Sylvia + TBD
i.	2:40 pm	Wrap-up : Door Prizes : Closing – Until next time	TBD
j.	4:00 pm	Clean-up	Team

10. Identifying reunion costs: There were no new uncovered costs identified.

11. Next Steps:

- a. **Family Members:** Send the names of any loved ones who have passed January 1, 2020 and after, along with the date to Sylvia-PA by email: admin@harperfamily.online, text or call: 215.490-2707 **by August 5th.**
- b. **Family Members:** You can also send the programs and/or obituaries of your loved ones to Sylvia for adding to the new family website memorial page.
- c. Sylvia-PA: Follow-up meeting with Brookside.
- d. Sylvia-PA: Communications re: speaker.
- e. Sylvia-PA, Cynthia-PA: Finish calls to hotels (Sylvia-PA, Cynthia Ford-Davis-PA),
- f. Cynthia-PA: Name tags that identify which brother and what generation attendees are related to. (It's one of our goals that by the end of the year all descendants of Alfred Harper know which of his son's they're related to (John Thomas or George Columbus) and, what generation they are.

12. Non-reunion Topics

- a. **New family website *harperfamily.online*** is still under construction, but you'll be getting a sneak peek soon. The website will house info that has been researched so far + keep family members updated with one another. Comments, suggestions and/or request responses can be forwarded to Sylvia, Keisha or admin@harperfamily.online.
- b. **National Museum of African American History and Culture** in Washington, DC (NMAAHC) - Virtual Genealogy Meetings: Beverly-MD is taking the lead on identifying when these meetings are occurring and making sure family members who want to participate can. The meetings last one hour, and are usually provided on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 11am and 3pm. Bev will get info regarding the next session and let us know when.

13. Upcoming Dates

- Next HFRR Meeting Date : Tuesday, July 30th at 7pm by Zoom
- Next Harper Family Game Day : TBD

HFR 2024 T-SHIRT DESIGN VOTING RESULTS

And the winner is...

"D" with 9 votes (29%)



designed by Sylvia Ford-George

A limited number of T-shirts will be available for sale at the reunion for \$10 each until sold out. Orders will be taken at the reunion for additional shirts if needed.

Thank you to all of the T-shirt designers. Here's how the rest of the shirts ranked in the voting...

<p>"A" with 8 votes (26%)</p> <p>designed by Cynthia Wimbush</p>	<p>"B" with 4 votes (13%)</p> <p>designed by Cathy Harper Hogan, M.D.</p>	<p>"E" with 4 votes (13%)</p> <p>designed by Cathy Harper Hogan, M.D.</p>
<p>"C" with 3 votes (10%)</p> <p>designed by Cathy Harper Hogan, M.D.</p>	<p>"F" with 2 votes (6%)</p> <p>designed by Cathy Harper Hogan, M.D.</p>	<p>"G" with 1 vote (3%)</p> <p>designed by Sylvia Ford-George</p>

Thank you to everyone who voted!

118 people started - 31 submitted a vote
84% voted by cellphone - 16% voted by desktop