

HARPER FAMILY RECONNECTION MEETING NOTES for : Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 4PM

Attending: Beverly Harper-MD, Beverly Harper-PA, Billy Lee- NY, Cynthia Ford-Davis-PA, Faith Harper-MD, Lisa James-PA, Sylvia Ford-George-PA, Tommy Lee-NJ

Note: Yellow highlights = meeting “to do’s”

1. Cynthia Ford-Davis-PA opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Harper Family Tree Distribution** is ongoing. The goal is to have most of it done by the end of the month. (Sylvia-PA is the lead)
3. **Harper Family Sunday Game Night** is going well. Attendees are really enjoying it. The next Game Night is Sunday, March 17th. The following dates were identified for upcoming months: April 28th, May 26th, June 30th. (Lisa James-PA is the lead)
4. **Family Cabins** (Sylvia-PA)

HARPER CABIN: Brookside Nature Center – Wheaton, MD

Contact: Suzanne Bode, Program & Facility Manager | Gerald Rice, Acting Manager

UPDATE:

Cathy Harper-Hogan-GA and daughter Camera, paid Brookside a visit and said the Cabin area still looks great. Cathy reported that Suzanne Bode is still out due to illness, and that she will reach out to Gerald Rice, the Acting Manager. She also spoke with Susan, the Program Director and inquired about our having the reunion there in August. Cathy reported “they smiled about an August date since summer camp season will be over.”

JONES-HALL-SIMS HOUSE: National Museum of African American History & Culture, Washington DC

Contact: Paul Gardullo, Museum Curator

UPDATE:

A couple months ago it was brought to our attention that the museum was conducting genealogy research. After some research, here’s what we found out: The museum’s *Robert Frederick Smith Explore Your Family History Center* conducts *Genealogy Tuesdays* on Level 2. Visitors can register in the Center for free sessions that begin in-person at 11am—or you can request an appointment for a free virtual session over Zoom by emailing them at familyhistorycenter@si.edu.

Beverly Harper-PA will take the lead on this project and will contact the museum for sessions.

5. DISCUSSION: Harper Family Reunion 2024

We discussed several aspects of the upcoming reunion in hopes of finalizing details for 2024.

- a. Why: 2024 will be the 35th year of our reunion + many of us miss getting together
- b. What: 1-day
- c. When: August 3, 10 or 17, 2024 (need to check availability with venue)
- d. Where: Harper Cabin in Brookside Nature Center, Wheaton, MD
-OR- Liberty Lake Picnic Park, Bordentown NJ / <https://libertylakepicnic.com/picnics-family-reunions/>
- e. Who’s Coming: We will send a survey to see how interested family members are in the reunion, and if they want to attend. Survey results will help us plan the best one-day, 35th Anniversary Reunion for family members who want to attend.

Survey Questions:

1. It's been a while since we've gotten together as a family. Are you interested in getting together with the family again. YES NO MAYBE
2. We're planning a one-day reunion for August of this year. Are you interested in attending?
YES NO MAYBE
3. Would you be Interested in helping us gather and/or update information on your branch of the family? YES NO MAYBE
4. What activities would you want to see included during the reunion this year.
5. What location would you prefer for the one-day reunion this year?
Harper Cabin, Brookside Nature Center, Wheaton MD [low cost - BYOF]
Liberty Lake Picnic Park [cost for entry into park and food]
6. Would you be interested in attending church services on Sunday?
7. Are you interested in overnight accommodations?
8. Name (optional)
9. Email address (optional)
10. Mobile #

f. 2024 Additional Information / Things to Do

- Montgomery County Agricultural Fair – August 9-17
- Need name tags that identify which brother attendee is related to
- Offer church services for Sunday
- Secure family photographer and DJ for the reunion

6. Social Media Update

We have a goal of securing better 2-way communications with family members. In order to do so we'd like to boost our social media presence and postings. If you or a family member you know are good at social media and would like to help our family maximize its potential, please give Sylvia Ford-George a call: 215.490.2707. Thank you.

7. Family Updates

- Brandon and Tamara Addison-TX are the proud parents of a baby girl
- Jessica Lee-NY fulfilled a dream of running the Tokyo Marathon
- Fred Murray-DE suffered a fall and is in the hospital (reported after the meeting)

8. Upcoming meetings: April 21st, May 19th , June 23rd—all Sundays at 4pm