

**Naming the Newsletter  
Becomes Waiting Game**

The contest to name the Newsletter is becoming ancient history, and still no winner! Patient entrants, we promise to reach a conclusion while maintaining decorum. A ballot, as below, will be distributed at the November 23 Mayor's Reception. Either the top vote getter becomes the title of the Newsletter or Chairman John Carroll Byrnes is forced to eat crow instead of sharing the promised prize, a crab fest with His Honor.

But this democratic denouement should not exclude readers who might not make the November meeting. If you care to vote by mail, pick your favorite from this official list and send it along with the renewal form and/or check for boat tour tickets to the address below.

The culled candidates:

- The Peal  The Peale  News A Peale
- Baltimore Beat  Mob Town Crier
- Beguiling Baltimore  The Banner
- Baltimore Clipper  Charm City News
- Pungent Patapsco  Baltimore Gaslight
- The Monument  Monumental Views
- Monumental Messenger
- Newsletter (status quo)

**Program** (Continued from Page 1)

A highlight of the Mayor's Reception, from noon to 4PM at 1417 Thames Street, is presentation of the annual History Honors. Leaders of the academic and professional historic community include:

**JEAN H. BAKER**—professor of history at Goucher College. She has published nearly a dozen books and many articles focusing on families of historic figures, including Mary Todd Lincoln and James Buchanan. **MARY ELLEN HAYWARD**—received her doctorate from Boston University in 1977 and in 1982 joined the staff of the Maryland Historical Society as a curator. She has dedicated her career to urban architecture. She directed the Historical Society's Alley House project and her 1999 book, "The Baltimore Rowhouse," with Charles Belfoure, tells the story of this indigenous architectural form that defines the city. **EDWARD ORSER**—professor of American studies at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Dr. Orser immerses his students in fieldwork, bridging the divide between scholarship and people in community life. His 1997 book "Blockbusting in Baltimore" exposed the relationship between racism and suburban development in the 1950s and '60s.

**JAMES D. DILTS**—former Baltimore Sun reporter and columnist, is author of "The Great Road," a prize-winning history of America's first railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio. Other books tell of the Fort McHenry Tunnel, cast-iron fronts and the "Guide to Baltimore Architecture."

The Living History honorees, those whose lives exemplify the civic value of community involvement, include:

**CAMAY MURPHY**—has engaged Baltimore in the cultural and musical traditions of the African-American community. This is best realized at the Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center on North Howard Street, led by Murphy until her recent retirement. **THE REV. CHESTER WICKWIRE**—chaplain at The Johns Hopkins University, 1968-9, encouraged that college generation to participate in causes such as racial equality and peace initiatives. Almost 50 years ago, he founded the Tutorial Project that brings elementary schoolers and Hopkins students together for mutual enrichment. **WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER**—City Council member, mayor, governor and controller in 51 years of public service. His magnetism drew talented citizens into service.

# BALTIMORE



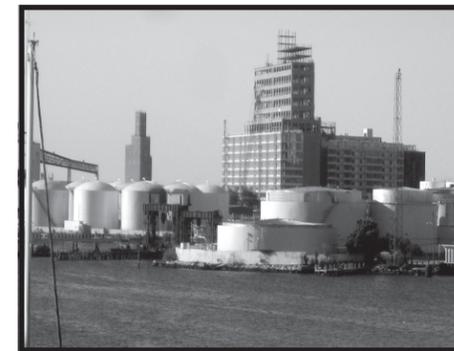
# CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Silo Point Transforms  
Industrial Cathedral**

For the last couple of years, tourists taking in Baltimore Harbor from a boat's observation deck have enjoyed an evolving construction spectacle—with sweep, grandeur and sky-high cranes. What was the city's last grain elevator is reemerging as Silo Point, just east of Domino Sugars on the north shore of Locust Point. Transformation of the venerable tower began haltingly after a 2001 windstorm toppled the end of the ex-B&O pier,

whose conveyors had loaded the ships—up to eight at a time—that exported the grain. The pace of change is picking up and several stories of new steel and glass will top it out. Developer Patrick Turner and his son Erick are wrapping 230 condos around, within and atop the 23-story elevator tower that once contained almost 10 miles of rubber belting to clean, sort, store, lift and load up to 3.8 million bushels of grain at a time. The all-concrete structure included dozens of honeycombed cylindrical silos. The belts alone weighed 149 tons when installed in 1925. Huge blowers were added in the '70s. They came down early on, making room for floors now being added.

B&O built this industrial cathedral after its two wooden elevators on Locust Point burned. Pennsylvania and Western Maryland railroads also exported notoriously volatile grain, receiving it by train from the west or by feeder boats from the



*Old B & O grain elevator makes comeback as condos. At left, last photo of grain pier before demolition in 2004.*



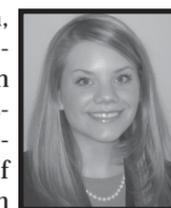
Photos by Lew Diuguid

bay and shipping it abroad in laden ships. Construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway after WWII cut into Baltimore's winter grain trade and by 2001 the last operator of the pier, Archer Daniels Midland, used it only to export several ships annually of soy grown on the Eastern Shore. it shifted that business to Norfolk after the storm and sold the property—the pier itself being retained by the state, which blew up the damaged conveyor structure.

Turner foresaw a cruise ship terminal on the pier and the elevator as the core of a luxury hotel. But Locust Pointers, leery of change, held out for residential use. An accompanying 121 town houses have already been built. The silos, 96 feet tall by 16 feet in diameter, are gone except for half a dozen that define the building's historic shape and envelope a new parking/residence structure. The younger Turner estimated investment in the tower building at \$130 million, with completion by May.

**Arnold Essay Details City's Early Birth Control Efforts**

Lauren P. Morgan, winner of the BCHS's Joseph L. Arnold Prize in writing on Baltimore history, submitted a 7,100-word account of "Baltimore's First Birth Control Clinic: The Bureau for Contracep-



tive Advice, 1927-1932." Morgan (left) recently earned a master's in history at University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She is now an analyst for Lexis-Nexis in Bethesda. The prize was awarded in May at the Baltimore Historians' Workshop.

The Bureau for Contraceptive Advice, Morgan wrote, was "one (Cont. on Page 2)

**Members to Tour Harbor  
— At 300 Years. Museum  
And Condos Make Scene**

The Baltimore City Historical Society will tour the Port of Baltimore on Sunday, Sept. 23, from 3 to 5:30 PM aboard the Prince Charming cruise boat to commemorate the third century of commerce on the Patapsco River estuary of the Chesapeake Bay. Members and guests will join author Robert C. Keith of "Baltimore Harbor, A Pictorial History" and another notable of the observation deck, William Donald Schaefer.

After boarding at Light Street near the Science Center, members will cruise past the site, on the port side, of their Nov. 11 Seventh Annual Mayor's Reception—at the Maritime Park in Fell's Point (details below). Next, on the starboard, they will see the colossal rebuilding of Silo Point on Locust Point (details in story at left). The harbor that started as a colonial tobacco depot 300 years ago now deals heavily in vehicles and containers at docks down water from the Inner Harbor.

Tickets are \$50 each and must be purchased in advance. Appetizers, beer, wine and soft drinks are included. Tickets may be purchased in conjunction with the renewal form on Page 4 or can be obtained separately with a check payable to the Baltimore City Historical Society and mailed to it at 201 West Monument Street, Baltimore MD 21201, by Sept. 17.

The Harbor-side site of the Nov. 11 reception features the oldest industrial building on the water, long known as Chase's Wharf and now as The Living Classrooms Foundation's Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park. It is nearly 200 years old and its restoration was featured in the Spring 2006 Newsletter. Since then, the staff of the Douglass-Myers Museum—located in a complementary new building—has expanded offerings to the point that the histories of the ex-slave abolitionist and the black maritime business entrepreneur have taken root in the history of the Fell's Point neighborhood that gave them their start. (Cont. on Page 4)

**To Join or Renew as BCHS Member**

Please complete this form and mail with payment to the address at the right.

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

My suggestion for naming the Newsletter is \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$50 boat tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

**BCHS Membership Dues**

- \$100 Charter Member
- \$50 Sustaining
- \$20 Family
- \$15 Individual
- \$10 Student/Senior

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c/o The Maryland Historical Society  
201 West Monument Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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Orianda House

**EDITORIAL: Hard Times**

At the June 27 Candidate Conversation with Baltimore's history community, a principal contestant for mayor characterized himself as "not 100 percent preservationist." First, it needs saying that Baltimore history is not all about building preservation, although that is a critical component, and Baltimore Heritage labors hard and well in that field. It is also about appreciating the architecture, and Baltimore Architecture Foundation is in the forefront there. This Society gives attention to another piece of history—recording and telling that history. There is reason to be less than optimistic about the future of this undertaking.

Historic neighborhoods have had to battle repeatedly against prominent developers. The City has lost William Pencek to Governor Martin O'Malley in Annapolis, and it appears that his important Heritage Area office is now, like the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation, a subset of the Planning development arm. We do not doubt that development is crucial. We do doubt that the City's economic future, including tourism, will be fully served without proper respect for its history.

The Maryland Historical Society has been forced to close two of its assets in Baltimore—The Fell's Point Maritime Museum and the Civil War Museum. We are not even close to recovery from the catastrophic loss suffered with the closing of the Baltimore City Life Museums in 1997. This Society, with Baltimore Heritage and the Baltimore Architecture Society, is making a major effort to re-open the Peale Museum as the History Center, but the response of the City has been very discouraging.

Our political leadership need not be "100 percent preservationist," but it does need to regard history as more than an annoyance, adequately served by token encouragement and questionable "compromises."

**Arnold Prize Winner**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

of the first birth control clinics established in the United States. . . . Unlike Margaret Sanger's [earlier] New York clinic which closely linked access to safe birth control as a woman's right, the BCA was run by physicians and scientists" associated with Johns Hopkins' founding School of Public Health, who "focused on investigating and providing contraception as good public health care . . .

"Designed as a research facility for the advocacy of public health initiatives, the BCA was part of groundbreaking work that helped to move contraceptive medicine from the fringes of birth control activism to the arena of mainstream-physician-provided public health care."

Morgan reviewed the impact of the 1870s Comstock Act, which "made it illegal and punishable to send through the mail six kinds of material: erotica; contraceptive medications or devices; abortifacients; sexual implements, such as those used in masturbation; contraceptive information; and advertisements for contraception and abortion, or sexual implements. The legislation reflected the fears of some Americans that the nation's morality was declining as urbanization and demographic diversity expanded."

The BCA largely avoided the controversy by concentrating "on its extensive statistical analyses of medical data obtained during its five years of operation," said Morgan. "Although the clinic served a relatively small number of women, the information obtained . . . altered previous stereotypes associated with race and fertility that had up until this point gone relatively unchallenged and untested by scientific methods.

"In addition, the members of the Hopkins community that were active in the clinic's operation had strong connections with the national birth control movement and made significant inroads for public policy and legislative changes that came about in the mid- to late-1930s."

**Rail Baron's Mansion Celebrates 150 Years**

By Donald Torres

Nestled in the rolling woods of Leakin Park, in the City's northwest, is the former summer estate of Thomas DeKay Winans. It is known as Crimea. Under the tutelage of Ross Winans, who brought the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to prominence, sons Thomas and William amassed a fortune in the mid-1800s by building a 420-mile railroad for Czar Nicholas I of Russia, from St. Petersburg to Moscow. In 1844, the Winans brothers set up shop at Alexandroffsky, near St. Petersburg, to build 200 locomotives and 7,000 rail cars to serve the new railroad.

After eight years in Russia, Thomas with his wife Celeste Revillon, of French and Italian descent, returned to Baltimore and built a magnificent in-town estate at Baltimore and Fremont Streets called Alexandroffsky. In 1857, Winans purchased 1,000 acres for a summer home to the northwest. The estate he called Crimea, and his summer home, Orianda House.

Although Alexandroffsky was lost to the wrecker's ball in 1927, the imposing Orianda House still stands, a classic Italianate three-story stone structure with wide porches and a large cupola atop a flat roof. It was designed by Niersee & Neilson, who also designed Alexandroffsky (1853) and the major enlargement of Johns Hopkins' summer estate in Clifton Park (1852).

The entrance drive from Windsor Mill Road is still guarded by two wrought-iron eagles produced in Russia. A charming gothic chapel and other outbuildings remain, but the many European furnishings and works of art that filled the house with its 20-foot ceilings were sold at auction in the 1940s to allow the City to purchase Crimea from descendants of Winans.

The maintenance of Orianda House and its future restoration look promising, through Friends of Orianda House, whose members are collecting historical records, photographs and oral histories from former workers on the estate. More information is on the website, www.friendsof Oriandahouse.com, or from President Richard S. B. Smith, 410.299.7613.

The Friends as well as Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park (410.448.3134) invite all to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Crimea Estate on Oct. 5-6 and an Open Mansion on Dec. 28.

**How City Responded When Lynchings Shamed State**

The focus of the May Workshop for Baltimore Historians, cosponsored by BCHS, was "Maryland Lynchings: the Illusive Record of Mob Violence and Shameful Denial." The role of the city once nicknamed Mob Town was passive in the case of these 1930s killings. All took place on the Eastern Shore and indeed no lynching ever occurred in Baltimore. But the response of the city's newspapers was critical in the assessments rendered during this third annual workshop at Westminster Hall.

The first speaker, Professor Sherrilyn Ifill of the University of Maryland Law School, reviewed "How Maryland Newspaper Reported on Lynching" and found them wanting. While The Sun reported on the four lynchings of the time and conveyed outrage at the injustice, its perspective was that of whites and in no way reflective of the black community's reaction, she found. For her book, "On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching in the 21st Century," she pursued that side of the story in the archives of the Baltimore Afro-American.

Marion Elizabeth Rodgers, author of "Mencken: The American Iconoclast," spoke of the Sun luminary's outrage in print at the killings under her topic: "Courage in the Time of Lynching." Mencken's "strength was his courage," she said, as he pressed the issue despite the limited coverage by then obvious on his own Sunpapers. The immediate result of his excoriation of the lynchings "as a curse on humanity" was a boycott of the paper on the Eastern Shore. In conjunction with Mencken's writing, Sun cartoonist drew his widely acclaimed "Maryland, My Maryland."

Commenting on the presentations, Maryland State Archivist Edward C. Papenfuss addressed the gaps in docu-



mentation of the state's response to the lynchings. Testimony given at a grand jury impaneled on the topic does not survive. He noted that the archives show one Baltimore reporter, Louis Azrael of the News-Post, did interview the principals in the cases where possible. "My budget has not changed . . . for ten years," he noted. The other commentator emeritus Professor C. Christopher Brown of the Maryland Law School and historian of Eastern Shore racial discrimination, said he has documented the state-wide nature of the lynchings, including four in Anne Arundel County, four in Frederick County and four in Dorchester in the total of 44 since 1863. While blacks were overwhelmingly the victims, four were of whites on whites and one was of blacks on a black. In discussion involving many of the more than 60 workshop attendees it emerged that the term "lynching" came into the lexicon from a case of mob justice in the Revolutionary War in which the victim was named Lynch.

**U of Baltimore Takes Up Fraught 40th Anniversary**

To mark the 40th anniversary on April 3, 2008, of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death, the University of Baltimore will re-examine the riots that followed in this city—their causes and consequences—in a series of public events in April called "Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth."

The University has established a Web presence for "Baltimore '68," www.ubalt.edu/baltimore68, saying, "This site should be considered a work in progress: Its only constant will be

change, as more is discovered about what happened in the city in April 1968, and a better understanding of that time is reached 40 years later."

Jessica Elfenbein, director of the Community Studies and Civic Engagement program in UB's Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts, is organizer of the events and can be reached at 410.837.5340, or jelfenbein@ubalt.edu. To request postal mailings of related materials, email john.schwallenberg@ubalt.edu.

**When Sour Mash Spiked the Patapsco**

By Jay G. Merwin, Jr.

Water pollution has long been with us, but during the era of Prohibition it took a sweet and intoxicating turn as federal agents broke up moonshine stills along the banks of various sources of the municipal water supply. The resulting corn mash runoff was of concern to the Baltimore Water Department and a source of some tension with the IRS, whose sledgehammer approach to such illicit distillation left some environmental clean-up to do.

Thanks to Ronald Parks, a Maintenance Supervisor with the current Baltimore City Water Department, and his research in the files at the Montebello Filtration Plant, we have vivid details of whiskey-making in the greater Baltimore area during Prohibition and the aftermath of its discovery by the authorities. Although not quite a superfund site, the ruins of the busted distillery on the banks of the Rockburn Branch of the Patapsco River in Howard County prompted a report and a plan for government clean up from mechanical engineer Edward G. Rost.

In a letter dated October 20, 1923, Rost reported to his supervisor on the potential contamination to Baltimore drinking water, as the broken boxes containing liquor mash "drained off in the ground and then into the nearby stream."

Rost's account of the dismantled half-acre site indicates the rudiments of the jerry-built operation. The moonshiners drove sawed-off tree limbs into the stream bed and backed them with planks to form a dam. The pooling water was drawn off by a hand pump through rubber hose and metal pipe to 27 rough pine boxes, each about 8 feet long, 4 feet wide and 4 feet deep, all held together with wooden battens and caulked with muslin. A coal-fueled, 30-hp steam boiler had been knocked into the stream. Rost found about a ton of bituminous coal.

Rost advised that the mash be bailed from the boxes and "dumped into some farmer's manure pit" and the owner of all this wreckage should be made to . . . restore the ground to a sanitary condition." His supervisor, V.B. Siems, forwarded the report to Edmund Budnitz, Prohibition director for the area, who worked in the Custom House in Baltimore. The results were prompt. Budnitz dispatched five men who buried the mash 100 feet from the stream, after consulting with neighbors.