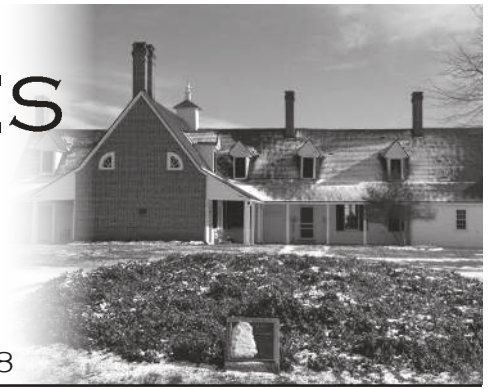


SOTTERLEY TIMES

Preserve our historic structures and natural environment and use the powerful stories of our land, lives, and labor to bring American history to life while serving as an educational and cultural resource.

NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

WINTER 2018



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS, 3

~ WE ARE GRATEFUL ~
THANK YOU for making so many important
and exciting things happen at Historic Sotterley in 2018!



No More Band-Aids!

A Permanent Fix for Sotterley's Manor House HVAC!

Sotterley's Manor House, originally designed to be heated by fireplaces and cooled by breezes through large windows, is now serviced by an aging geothermal system. As the system has aged, there have been problems due to design flaws and wear on the pumps, jeopardizing the mansion and the furnishings. Since its installation technology has advanced and geothermal systems are more efficient and effective. Thanks to a grant from the **Middendorf Foundation**, Sotterley will be installing a new geothermal system to provide the critical balance needed for preservation of the building and its collections. The new unit will retrofit into the existing space and no modification to the ducts is needed. This upgrade will not only increase cooling and heating capacity but has the added benefit of decreasing electrical costs as well. Thank you Middendorf Foundation!

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**HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC. IS A
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THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE UNDER
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THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS
AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE OFFICE.**

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



The season for giving thanks is approaching and we all need to count our blessings and thank those responsible. Here at Sotterley we have so many to thank that we have dedicated this entire Winter Newsletter for that purpose.

Our major events this year were just incredible. Ghosts of Sotterley, WineFest, our Barn Bash and the Gala were, without a doubt, the best ever. Many thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and to our dedicated staff for making these important community events happen.

Our Speaker Series just finished and, while all our speakers this year were amazing, our last, Joe McGill, was especially inspiring. Joe's talk about his Slave Dwelling Project was also the culmination of our Common Ground - Connected Heritage event that started in April. Once again, we thank The Boeing Company for underwriting this great series and also to the Maryland Humanities for sponsoring all of our Common Ground Connected Heritage events.

This issue includes our "Honor Roll of Donors" and lists the individuals, businesses, organizations, and agencies that supported Sotterley our last fiscal year (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018). Take special note of our Sustainers - those who have supported Sotterley for ten years or more. Thanks to all of you on this list - you mean the world to us.

Our Year End Campaign appeal letter has been sent to our supporters, and we thank you in advance for your generous response. This year we asked four special friends of Sotterley to share Sotterley's significance to them - how they came to know Sotterley and why they support us. Don Barber (Trustee), Jeanne Pirtle (Education Director), Dr. Julia King (former Trustee and Sotterley Fellow), and Merideth Taylor (former Trustee and Sotterley Fellow), have written four beautiful letters that all come from the heart. Whichever letter you receive, take the time to savor it.

Winter has arrived and the brisk air is perfect for exploring Sotterley's amazing landscape (Remember, 2018 is our Year of Exploration!). It is also time to plan for our amazing Garden Guild Workshops and Green Sales coming in December.

With warmest regards and best wishes for you and yours,
Bert Johnston
President, Board of Trustees

THE ESSENCE OF SOTTERLEY – OUR HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

FY 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

This list represents the true essence of Historic Sotterley: You! We know that there are many wonderful causes and organizations that call for your support, but by making the decision to support Sotterley you provide the gift and means to change lives, shape perspectives, and consider a new point of view. A special thank you to our “Sotterley Sustainers,” individuals who have supported Sotterley every year for 10 years or more with annual gifts and membership renewals. We are honored that you consider Sotterley worthy and significant.

* Portion In-Kind ^ Employer match o Sotterley Sustainer 10+yrs • Sotterley Sustainer 20+yrs

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“Most importantly to me, is that Sotterley has made truly great strides forward through its tours, exhibits, and educational programs to present a full and accurate account of its history, which, since it is America’s history, has many harsh and painful truths to examine as well as achievements to celebrate. Yes, Sotterley is still beautiful, and very old, and a lovely place for fun family activities, but it is also an absolutely incomparable place to experience the American story. And that’s important.”

Merideth M. Taylor
 Professor Emerita, St. Mary’s College of Maryland
 Board of Trustees, Historic Sotterley, 2007-2017



“My association with Sotterley, simply stated, began with my birth. My parents were both employed by Mrs. Ingalls at Sotterley; my mother as a domestic and my father as a groundskeeper. Growing up at Sotterley, I learned the value of education, preservation, hard work, community, and flexibility. These values serve me well in many aspects of my life, and for that I am forever thankful.”

Donald Barber
 Board of Trustees, Historic Sotterley



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"I was first drawn to Sotterley in the natural way that anyone with a background in history, archaeology, or historic preservation would be. Historic places matter as the visual, tangible record of what we as a community and as a nation have been and could be. Who wouldn't be drawn to that house and that viewshed? It wasn't long, however, before I realized that Sotterley had so much more to offer. Perhaps most importantly, Historic Sotterley was not afraid to face the challenges the past has for the present."

Julia A. King

Professor of Anthropology, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Board of Trustees, Historic Sotterley, 1994-1998



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"I always say that I learn something new every day at Sotterley. Each new person that I meet, each visitor, student, or descendant that tells me their story or asks a question adds another layer of perspective to this place. To witness Sotterley's evolution in both mission and growth has been extremely gratifying. I feel blessed to be a part of it. I always believed there must be a reason that Sotterley has survived this long over the centuries, through weather, wars, unimaginable hardship, slavery, and segregation, and financial struggle. Sotterley still survives and the mission thrives. Why? Sotterley is the unvarnished story of America, and these stories must be told."



Jeanne Pirtle
 Education Director, Historic Sotterley

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO HUNTER JOHNSTON

Keeping our website fresh throughout all our special events and site happenings is a relentless, never-ending task. Hunter Johnston, son of Sotterley's Board president Bert Johnston, graciously stepped up since March 2018 to keep our site updated. Weekly (and often more frequently!), Hunter has responded to myriad update requests to keep the Sotterley site current. His personal time to keep us going these past eight months has been truly invaluable, and we would have been lost without him. Not all superheroes wear capes! On behalf of all Sotterley staff, we cannot thank Hunter enough.

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WHAT SOTTERLEY MEANS TO SOME OF OUR FRIENDS

“Sotterley’s stories are just as relevant and well-preserved as any major National Park or site like Mount Vernon or Monticello.”
 ~ Julie Woods, Volunteer & Docent

“Recognition of slavery—not a monument to slavery but as a place for learning—Sotterley is doing a great job talking about this.”
 ~ Francie de Peyster, Member since 2012

“Years ago I chaperoned my daughter’s 4th grade field trip. I remember experiencing her joy and excitement.”
 ~ Mary Lynn Stone, Member since 1999

“As an architect, I am intrigued by the timeline the house itself reveals—where roof lines stop and start. The evolution of 300 years of families, buildings, and stories is fascinating.”
 ~ James W. Ritter FAIA, B&G Committee since 2017

“Sotterley is genuinely interested in its grounds and using them differently—being a productive farm and community gathering place that is working toward more ecological improvements. It’s far more than a museum.”
 ~ David Moulton, Member since 2012

WHAT DOES SOTTERLEY MEAN TO YOU?

(We really want to know! Please email Eileen Miller at marketing@sotterley.org)

The MOST PRECIOUS GIFT is given from the HEART!



In 1955, an episode of *The Honeymooners* gave a nod to the beloved holiday story, O'Henry's *Gift of the Magi*. Ralph (Jackie Gleason) looks for the perfect present for Alice (Audrey Meadows) for Christmas. Without money, he pawns his prized bowling ball to buy her an expensive gift, only to find out in the end that she bought him a custom bowling ball bag.

We endeavor to share our gifts with our community and those we serve, but in the spirit of O'Henry's tale, we know that it's your generous gifts of the heart that make Historic Sotterley the Crown Jewel of Southern Maryland.

Our events and programming are possible *because of you!*

Our beautiful site is preserved *because of you!*

Our stories and history resonate *because of you!*

You recently received a request to make a gift to Sotterley's year end campaign.

Your continued support, whether in the form of a one-time gift, monthly giving, or membership, makes all that we do possible, which in turn makes our community a richer place.

Thank you for your generous gift!

The Sotterley Garden Guild's Winter Wonderland Workshops!

Have you tried DIY holiday décor projects before, but just couldn't seem to pull it off? Great news—the Sotterley Garden Guild is offering two workshops on Saturday, December 8th to share their decoration making expertise! \$30 per workshop by advance reservation only.

9:00 a.m. – noon. Workshop #1:
Wreath making

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Workshop #2:
Tabletop Arrangements & Okra Angels making

Light refreshments and greens are provided, but please bring gloves and clippers, if possible.

Tickets required online at Sotterley.org or call 301-373-2280.



Sotterley Was Ready For Our Close-Up!

Maryland Public Television visited Sotterley in September to film an upcoming program about the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom sites in Maryland. Sotterley has this designation not because it is part of the Underground Railroad, but because Sotterley has so many stories of flight and resistance. Documented examples include people like Nace and Charlie, who went with the British during the Revolutionary War; Joseph, who escaped from Sotterley more than once in the 1780s; and the Munroe and Seal families, who left with the British in 1815 during the War of 1812 to settle in Nova Scotia. Sotterley's people were strong and resilient. Stay tuned for programming information.

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A LOOK AHEAD AT THE 2019 SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 23:
St. Mary's County History Day

March 30:
Insider's Tour "Love in the Afternoon"

April 15-19:
Spring Break Week

April 25:
Building Bridges to Common Ground:
With All Deliberate Speed Film Viewing & Discussion

May 11:
Pre-Mother's Day 5K Run-Walk
&
A Taste of Sotterley

Stay tuned for our 2019 Speaker Series
lineup, to be sponsored again by
The Boeing Company for the 12th year!

COMING SOON WE'RE NOT GREAT AT KEEPING SECRETS, SO ...

Thanks to the generosity of dear friends, we will be unveiling a beautiful, new website that allows for more engagement. Here is a sneak peek of one of the many elements of our new look.

