

# Historic Newtown Neighborhood News

www.newtownhistoricdistrict.org

Winter 2018

Salisbury, Maryland

Newtown Association meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at Poplar Hill Mansion and are open to all residents.

## President's Column

As we finish out another year for the Newtown Board and start a new one, here are some good things that happened and some that are in the works:

- Newtown members have maintained the bump-outs on Isabella St. for years, but participation has been falling. In May, the Board voted to engage a landscaping company to do the maintenance. The City provided the bump-outs on the condition that Newtown would maintain them.
- Poplar Hill Mansion and Chipman Center had successful festivals in June.
- About 40 neighbors and visitors enjoyed the Newtown block party on East William Street on June 2.
- Newtown (and David Scheid) hosted a going away party for Judith and Barry Dressel on August 18 at Poplar Hill Mansion to thank them for their service to Newtown and the City.
- The neighborhood yard sale on September 1 had plenty of traffic and was busy for those who participated.
- Newtown's annual meeting and election of new Board of Directors and officers took place on Wednesday October 10. New and re-elected Board members include Lisa Gingrich, Fran and Mary Kane (sharing a membership), David Scheid, and Ginny Young. Officers for 2019 include the following:
  - President: Fran Kane
  - Vice-President: Adam Woodis
  - Secretary: Katie Glaser
  - Treasurer: Susan Rall

Congratulations to all! We look forward to working together to make Newtown even better.

- The Thanksgiving food drive for Joseph House is on Saturday November 17. You will receive an empty bag and instructions the week before.
- There will be a Holiday House Tour in December 2019. Please let Sue Rall know if you would like to open your house for the tour. In addition to highlighting our neighborhood, the tour is Newtown's main source of revenue. We need a successful tour every three years or so to have the funds to support our neighborhood activities.
- Parsons Cemetery's Wreaths Across America ceremony and laying of wreaths will begin at 10 AM on Saturday December 15. For more information, go to the [Parsons Cemetery website](#).

Neill Carey, President Pro-Tem

**REMINDER – Like Newtown on Facebook and keep up to date with our news – [Newtown Historic District Salisbury Maryland 21801](#) and at [www.newtownhistoricdistrict.org](http://www.newtownhistoricdistrict.org)  
To contribute to Newtown newsletters, email Neill Carey at [NewtownAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:NewtownAssociation@gmail.com)**

## Siobhan O'Loughlin's Bathtub Show Comes to Salisbury!

Newtown native Siobhan O'Loughlin is enjoying an acting career and creating cutting edge theater. Recently her specialty is one-woman shows. Her latest, *Broken Bone Bathtub*, is an immersive theatre project that takes place inside a bathtub in an actual home. After a serious bike accident, a young woman musters up the courage to ask for help and shares her story; she explores themes of trauma, suffering, human generosity, vulnerability, and connection. The audience takes on the role of Siobhan's close friends who listen, share their experiences, and assist the artist in the actual ritual of taking a bath.

There are showings in bathtubs in the Newtown area, beginning on November 8.



Tickets: <https://www.artful.ly/store/events/16450>

The show: <http://www.brokenbonebathtub.com/>

Siobhan: <http://siobhanoloughlin.com/>

## Chipman Center Celebrates 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The Charles H. Chipman Cultural Center at 325 Broad Street was originally built by freed slaves in 1838, and was called the *Hill Church*. Over the years it had additions, including the second story and

tower, which were added in the 1880s and 1890s. It was later known as the *John Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Church*. The church has been known as a center of life in the African American community.

In the 1960s the congregation moved to its current location at Wesley Temple, and the church property and building were sold to Prof. and Mrs. Charles Chipman, who purchased it to prevent its destruction. Eventually, the building fell into disrepair. In the 1980s Mrs. Chipman gave it to Newtown Association because she knew Newtown would try to preserve it because of its historical and architectural significance. Previous members of the church and members of Newtown then set up the Chipman Foundation, which now operates the facility as a cultural center.

The Chipman Foundation held a 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on August 25. Proclamations commemorating Chipman's 180 years were presented by the City of Salisbury, Wicomico County, and the State of Maryland. Speakers included Salisbury's three living mayors, current City and County Council Members, Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes, and a representative from the Frederick Douglass Honor Society. The Society for the Preservation of African American Arts performed acapella songs from slavery times. The program was designed to celebrate Frederick Douglass, who spoke at the Wicomico County Courthouse on February 24, 1880 to raise money for construction of the second story of the building. During the program, the upstairs meeting room, the former sanctuary, was dedicated to Frederick Douglass.

## *Newtown Bids Judith and Barry Dressel Farewell and Best Wishes*

Newtown threw a party at Poplar Hill Mansion on August 18 to honor the Dressels as they move to Newport News in late August. About 35 neighbors and friends attended the event organized by David Scheid, which featured good food brought by all and good times. Salisbury's Mayor Jake Day attended and proclaimed August 18, 2018 *Judith and Barry Dressel Day*.

Judith and Barry moved here in early 2013.

They had a huge effect on Newtown and the City in the short time they were here.

Highlights included the following:

- They co-chaired the 2016 Holiday House Tour and opened their house for the tour.
- They recognized how attractive Newtown and Salisbury should be to retirees and others seeking a quieter way of life, so they chaired and did much of the work of the Newtown Marketing Committee. The Committee produced a brochure to promote Newtown and developed a website to market Newtown ([www.Newtownhistoricdistrict.org](http://www.Newtownhistoricdistrict.org)). It includes a brief history of Newtown, Newtown's Walking Tour Brochure, frequently asked questions about living in Newtown, positive information about the Historic District Commission, and listings of homes for sale that automatically update when houses are listed for sale. The site also includes a list of contractors organized by specialty and other useful information about Newtown and Salisbury. The website won the 2016 Preservation Award from the Maryland Historic Trust.
- Barry was appointed to the Historic District Commission and was instrumental in revising the guidelines, which now allow modern building materials where appropriate.
- Barry revived Newtown's Traffic Committee, which convinced the City to install two additional 4-way stops on East Isabella and North Division Streets.
- Judith was President of Newtown Association from 2016 to 2018.

We wish the Dressels all the best!



### **Upcoming Events at Poplar Hill Mansion**

#### **Yuletide Open House**

December 2nd from 1:00-4:00. Come see the Mansion fully decorated for the holiday season. The first floor features beautiful greenery, flowers, and arrangements from the Four Seasons Garden Club. The second floor features a Christmas tree with more than 1,500 ornaments, Christmas village, and our Nutcracker Nursery. Enjoy holiday music from harpist Kara Dahl Russell and light refreshments. Free event at Poplar Hill Mansion, donations welcomed. Please also consider bringing canned goods and non-perishable foods for Joseph House.

#### **Tea With Santa And Mrs. Claus**

December 8th from 1:00-4:00. Why go wait in line at the mall to see Santa, when he will be at Poplar Hill Mansion! Bring your children or grandchildren to have peppermint tea, punch, and assorted sweets and have a visit and picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Photos mailed to your home address. See the house fully decorated for the Holiday Season. Cost: \$5.00 per mailing address.



### Parsons Cemetery Walking Tour

If you haven't walked through Parsons Cemetery before, it's worth taking the time to do so. The cemetery, owned by St. Peter's Church, is located just north of Newtown on N. Division Street. The cemetery includes more than 13,000 graves that cover 18 acres; many predate Benjamin Parsons' bequest of his farm in 1873.

Benjamin opened his family burial grounds to others during the Civil War. During the mid-1800s, moving graves from other locations was an acceptable practice, so it is not uncommon to find a gravestone that predates 1873. Currently, the oldest gravestone in the cemetery, which dates to 1814, can be found in the recently restored Jackson Family plot. These old gravestones include names, dates of birth and death, family relations, and scripture verses. However, they can also tell us more through art and symbolism.

The Parsons Cemetery Advisory Committee is celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Peter's Church by creating a series of walking tours and has published several walking tours on the [website](#). The tour includes a set of slides that a visitor can review ahead, download, or review in real time with a smart phone while walking through the cemetery. To make it easier for visitors to find their way around the cemetery, a kiosk with a map and more information has just been installed near the main gate, and a copy is available on the website. The map shows the locations of the graves of military heroes and veterans and also give the general location of each designated area of the cemetery. The website also describes the varieties of trees that are found in the cemetery. More walking tours are planned to present the history of Parsons Cemetery, histories of some of the more famous people who are buried there, and the artwork of the monuments in the cemetery.

### Newtown Association Membership

Newtown Association membership runs for the calendar year. Together we can make a difference!

Please send this form with your dues check to Newtown Association, PO Box 543, Salisbury, MD 21803.  
 (If you have questions, send an e-mail to Sue Rall, [newtowntreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:newtowntreasurer@gmail.com))

Resident: \$15	Name: _____
Non-Resident: \$20	Address: _____
Family: \$35	Address: _____
Lifetime: \$200	Phone _____ Cell: _____
Enclosed: \$ _____	E-mail: _____

**Thank you for your support!**