

SOTTERLEY TIMES

The mission of Historic Sotterley, Inc. is to preserve, research, and interpret Sotterley Plantation's diverse cultures and environments, and to serve the world as an educational, cultural, and community resource.

NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

SPRING 2017

FARMER'S MARKET EXPANDS, P.4

Slave Cabin Dedication Weekend



In commemoration of Agnes Kane Callum's life and work, Historic Sotterley is honored to announce that our Slave Cabin exhibit will be dedicated to her memory on April 21, 2017. This critical interpretation of Sotterley's history was made possible through grants from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and the U.S. Federation of Friends of Museums. The new exhibit revolves around the lives of Agnes' ancestors, the Cane family, who were enslaved at Sotterley in the 19th century. It is another step toward Sotterley's commitment to tell all the stories of our shared past. Give us the opportunity to share this exhibit with you, and to celebrate the life, passion and work of Agnes Kane Callum. She was dedicated and committed to telling the story of Sotterley for its

preservation and relevance to the education of future generations. Such a momentous occasion necessitates four straight days of educational programs and community outreach. We hope you will join us at some, if not all, of the amazing activities we have going on that weekend:

Thursday, April 20 - 7 pm, Commemorative Speaker Series: Dr. Adam Rothman, Professor of History at Georgetown University will speak on *Faith, Family, and Freedom in the Maryland Jesuit Slave Community*. **More information on page 5.**

Friday, April 21 - 10:30 am, Opening of Slave Cabin Exhibit: Dedicated to the memory of Agnes Kane Callum, her story, and how she served as a trustee to fight for Sotterley to be saved when its doors almost closed. Agnes understood that Sotterley must tell its stories due to its legacy of slavery and the lives it can touch to promote understanding.

Saturday, April 22 - 2 pm - 3 pm, Presentation & Discussion: Practicing Perspective - *How To Speak About Slavery with Any Age*.

Sunday, April 23 - 2 pm - 3 pm, Presentation & Discussion: Keeping the Faith - *Religion and Slavery, Past and Present*.

Telling Her Story

Forty-five years ago, a woman from Baltimore arrived at Sotterley with her father for a house tour. She had never been to Sotterley before, but she already knew she had a connection to this place. Her name was Agnes Kane Callum, and this place called Sotterley would never be the same again.

Agnes was born on February 24, 1925, in Baltimore. Agnes raised her children and worked at the post office. After her retirement, she decided at age 46 she would join her daughter as a college student at Morgan State. She earned two degrees and was a Fulbright scholar. During her time at Morgan she remembered her family stories and began to research her family's genealogy. She interviewed family members and recorded their oral histories. With her research

experience she uncovered many primary sources from the depths of state and local archives, church records, and family memory. Before the digital age, Agnes transcribed volumes of historic record that today, we all can access with the click of our devices. **Continued on page 4.**



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HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

P. O. Box 67

HOLLYWOOD, MD 20636

800-681-0850

301-373-2280

FAK: 301-373-8474

WWW.SOTTERLEY.ORG

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**HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC. IS A
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION CLASSIFIED BY
THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE UNDER
SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL
REVENUE CODE. A COPY OF
THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS
AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE OFFICE.**

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy Spring and welcome to Sotterley's Year of Discovery! There are many new discoveries ahead for us this year.

The Speaker Series, again sponsored by our friends at Boeing, continues to bring in a wide variety of entertaining and educational speakers, and we expect to have another great series this year. Thursday evening, April 20th, our first speaker, Dr Adam Rothman, Professor of History at Georgetown University, will speak about Faith, Family and Freedom in the Maryland Jesuit Slave Community. The following day, Friday, April 21st, will be the official opening of our Slave Cabin exhibit. It will be dedicated to the memory of our Trustee Emeritus, Agnes Kane Callum, who forever shaped how we interpret this site.

Our Farmer's Market starts up again on Saturday, May 27th and is bigger and better! We are expanding so we can touch more lives and more people - nourishing bodies as well as minds!

Our beautiful garden will be blooming soon thanks to the efforts of our incredible Garden Guild volunteer team, and the nature trails are ready for long walks with your pets- come and visit!

Next up is our Gala on Saturday, June 10th. Channel your inner hippie, grab your tie-dye and join us at "The Summer of Love".

Finally, we are pleased to announce that our Board of Trustees has decided that friends of Sotterley who have provided exceptional service and made significant contributions should be designated as "Sotterley Fellows". In this issue, we are announcing our first twelve. This designation is intended to represent a high honor for a friend of Sotterley. I'm sure you will agree that these twelve are extremely deserving of this honor.

Please come visit and enjoy Spring at Sotterley - there isn't a better time of the year to come. And, thank all of you for your generosity and support of our Tidewater Plantation.

Warmest Regards,
Bert Johnston
President, Board of Trustees

P.S. In the middle of this newsletter, you will find a letter requesting your support of our annual Spring appeal. Historic Sotterley could not exist without our closest friends, our strongest supporters, our loudest cheerleaders, in other words: You! Thank you!



EDUCATION CORNER

Her Mission’s Relevance for Today

On February 9th, Historic Sotterley held a public event at the Lexington Park Library in commemoration of Agnes Kane Callum’s life and work. By incorporating the ASALH 2017 theme, The Crisis in Black Education, we were able to open a dialogue about the impact of Agnes Kane Callum’s research on Sotterley and our community. This gave us the perfect platform to announce the opening of the Slave Cabin Exhibit in April. Thank you to all who attended!

Education Trainings Benefit Team

Sotterley’s education team has developed and implemented Front-Line Trainings. The front-line includes anyone who interacts face-to-face with the public and represents Historic Sotterley. The purpose of these sessions is to foster teamwork and learn how each person interacting with the public serves as a vital part of Sotterley’s mission.

Our first session in January, **The Big Picture: A Multi-layered Approach**, featured an overview of Sotterley’s complex history, tours and new research, as well as a brief discussion on learning styles and how to engage and connect with the community.

Our second session in February, **Slavery and Its Legacy: Facilitating, Teaching and Interpretation**, helped us explore our own thinking regarding racism and slavery’s lasting legacy on ourselves and our society in order to better serve the public.

Our third session in March, **Front Line to the Public: Ambassador and Supporter Extraordinaire**, equipped Sotterley’s front-line to know, project and educate the public about Sotterley’s mission and programming, to know why they work and volunteer for Sotterley, and was able to passionately convey and to invite visitors in joining us with our mission.

The April session, **Comfortable, Confident, and Interactive**, is designed to take the skills and information learned from previous sessions and actually apply this knowledge and skill to particular job descriptions. At this writing, training attendance and participation has been rewarding and fruitful. The results will be seen and tested as Sotterley’s important front-line continues to provide meaningful experiences for every visitor.

IN MEMORIAM

J. Spence Howard
1919 - 2016

A lifelong resident of St. Mary’s County and a long time member of the Historic Sotterley family, J. Spence Howard passed away on November 16, 2016. Mr. Howard was a former member of the Sotterley Board of Trustees. His love of Maryland history brought him to Sotterley. He served as Trustee during years of tremendous change when the site was transitioning from a private residence to the Sotterley Foundation. His tenure (1969 - 1995) as Trustee, Board President, Vice President, Building and Grounds Committee member, friend, and supporter was remarkable. His contributions to Sotterley and to our Southern Maryland Community have been both meaningful and significant.

SOTTERLEY FELLOWS

Board of Trustees announces the inaugural class of the Sotterley Fellows.

As a way to acknowledge distinguished service and significant contributions to Historic Sotterley and the greater community, the Board welcomes the following individuals to The Sotterley Fellows. We congratulate them on receiving this honor, and thank them sincerely for the guidance and support they continue to offer Sotterley.

Betty Currie	John McAllister
Wayne Davis	Michael Middleton
Nancy Ruyle Dodge	Julia Moe
Dr. Gita van Heerden	Michael Whitson
Sandra van Heerden	Helen Crettier Wilkes
Dr. Julia King	Ellen Zahniser

Telling Her Story (cont.)

Agnes grew up listening to stories from her father and grandfather about the life of her ancestor that was born into slavery. Using research she found her way back to that ancestor. Hillary Cane, her great-grandfather, was owned by Chapman Billingsley. Billingsley happened to be the brother-in-law of Dr. Walter H.S. Briscoe, who owned Sotterley from 1826-1885. Hillary's family, you see, was owned by Dr. Briscoe. Hillary's wife was Alice Elsa Bond, and they had over a dozen children. Any born before 1864 were also considered the property of Dr. Briscoe.

On Agnes' first tour she noticed the slave cabin and thought of her ancestors. Her mission was to have their stories told. Actually told. From then on she got involved, first with the last owner, Mabel Ingalls, and then the Sotterley Foundation, later Historic Sotterley, Inc. She was the first African American on the Board of Trustees. When Sotterley was on the verge of being sold for lack of resources in 1996, she joined forces with owner descendants to help convince the world that the story of our ancestors during the time of slavery was the American story, our heritage, and Sotterley must be saved. Not even Agnes herself realized the full weight of this legacy's continued relevance, or how it would change Sotterley as an institution.

Agnes passed away in 2015. Wife, mother, student, educator, author, friend - Agnes Kane Callum was an example of passion, patience, and peace. She understood our need to be introduced to our unvarnished past, a past that some of us did not even know we needed.

To read more, visit MDHistoricalTrust.WordPress.com and read March's blog entry by Jeanne Pirtle.

Farmer's Market - Demonstrating Attainable and Sustainable



On May 27th from 8am to 1pm, Sotterley will kick off the fourth season of our Farmer's Market! This year, our Market has grown to be even bigger and better. The market is moving across Sotterley Wharf Road to our former maintenance building. From May to September we will be hosting even more vendors featuring the best quality home-grown vegetables, fruit, plants, cheeses and meats, as well as unique, hand-crafted items and tasty treats. Beginning in June, we will also be open on Friday evenings from 4:30 to 7:00 - giving you more chances to take part in this producer-only Farmer's Market which has become a staple community event.

This year, market-goers will not only be able to buy locally sourced products, but they will also be able to take advantage of more wonderful educational and cultural opportunities as well. Sustainable farming examples, from Garden-By-the-Foot plots, to gardening on your patio, to hydroponic growing, will be on display, and visitors will regularly be treated to programs such as Companion Planting, Demystifying Composting, Finding Your Roots Through Genealogy, and Using Nature to Inspire Your Inner Artist. These presentations and activities will be held regularly throughout the season, with almost every week providing a new opportunity for fun and learning.

From popular cooking demonstrations using food sold at our Farmer's Market, to Sotterley's commitment to donating all excess produce not sold on the stand to local food bank programs (almost 15,000 lbs. in 2016), Sotterley connects our Southern Maryland community to a healthier way of living. While Sotterley has become known for our organic produce, in the process we have also made a commitment to take care of our most precious resource: the land and waterways that encompass Sotterley. Making the transition to sustainable agriculture is a process: from reducing soil erosion and sediment run-off, to providing wildlife sanctuary and encouraging pollination to suppress pests and increase crop yields. At Sotterley we are doing our part to pass these important environmental stewardships skills onto the community. It has become not only a commitment at Sotterley, but also a way of life.

As we prepare our grounds for our 2017 Farmer's Market season, we are excited that we have a new way to connect with our community. Because we have so much going on, we decided the best way to highlight our agricultural story is to create its own website.

Visit www.SotterleyFarm.org to see what we are growing!

Gardener's Weekend

Garden Guild Plant Sale & Community Plant Exchange

Sponsored by the Sotterley Garden Guild, **The Plant Sale** is one of our signature events! Join us on Saturday, April 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Sunday, April 30th, from Noon to 3:00 p.m. Because of their dedication to this National Historic Landmark, these nurturing volunteers have not only raised thousands of dollars in support of Historic Sotterley Plantation, but they are also responsible for the maintenance of the exquisite Colonial Revival Garden. Their passion for beauty is evident in the smallest of details, so take this opportunity to appreciate their horticultural artistry!

The Community Plant Exchange will be held only on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until the plants run out! You can exchange your plants for other annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, shrubs, trees, bulbs and seeds!



Congratulations to the very well-deserving Bob Aldridge for receiving the highest honor the Garden Guild could bestow: The Golden Glove!

Garden Volunteers Needed

There is nothing better for the soul than a few hours on a Wednesday or Saturday morning, listening to the birds sing and watching the butterflies flit from flower to flower – all the while volunteering in the Sotterley garden. All levels of gardeners are welcome – from experts to beginners. We are in special need of a volunteer to edge around the beds, we provide the equipment, we just need the manpower! If you are interested in volunteering please contact the office at 301.373.2280.



2017 SPEAKER SERIES BEGINS

10 Years of Educating the Community with Boeing!



Faith, Family, and Freedom in the Maryland Jesuit Slave Community April 20, 2017

To begin our Slave Cabin Commemoration Weekend, we are honored to host Dr. Adam Rothman, Professor of History, Georgetown University and Author of *Beyond Freedom's Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery*. As a Member of Georgetown's Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation, he is a perfect fit to begin our Speaker Series season.



Traces of the Trade May 24, 2017

From 1769 to 1820, the DeWolf family trafficked human beings into the United States. In *Traces of the Trade*, Katrina Browne tells the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. The film follows Browne and nine fellow family members on a remarkable journey which brings them face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England's hidden enterprise. There will be time after the film to ask Browne questions.



All the President's Gardens June 28, 2017

Bestselling author Marta McDowell tells the untold history of the White House Grounds, starting with plant-obsessed George Washington and ending with Michelle Obama's kitchen garden. History buffs will revel in the fascinating tidbits about Lincoln's goats, Ike's putting green, Jackie's iconic roses, and Amy Carter's tree house, while gardeners will enjoy the information on the plants whose favor has come and gone over the years and the gardeners who have been responsible for it all.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - April through June

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

April 7

Spring into Summer time! No matter what the weather, it'll be summer fun on April 7th! Join us to celebrate Sotterley's most important resource, our volunteers. Whether they stand behind the counter in the Museum Shop, invest hours into our gardens or lay down straw at WineFest, we couldn't be more grateful for their help! Please RSVP to Ashley Morgan at coordinator@sotterley.org.

SPRING BREAK

April 10 - 14

During this week of discovery, explore the grounds and history of our beautiful Historic Site. As a bonus for this year, we will also learn about the all-important role of pollinators in our agricultural community! With a wide range of activities, we have family fun for all ages. We invite you to enjoy activities such as Discovering Sotterley Farm, Learning at the Schoolhouse, Working for the Big House, Living in the Big House Tour, Life at the Slave Cabin, and Sotterley, A Tidewater Legacy. Admission per person: \$3 daily, or \$10 per person for a Spring Break Pass for admission all week! Visit us online at sotterley.org to purchase your Spring Break Pass. Children under 6 are free. Additional cost: Living in the Big House tours must be purchased onsite the day of your visit. \$5 per person ages 18 and older, free for children.

SLAVE CABIN DEDICATION WEEKEND

April 20 - 23

Thursday - Commemorative Speaker Series: Dr. Adam Rothman, will speak on, *Faith, Family, and Freedom in the Maryland Jesuit Slave Community*.

Friday - Opening of Slave Cabin Exhibit.

Saturday - Presentation & Discussion: *How To Speak About Slavery with Any Age*.

Sunday - Presentation & Discussion: *Religion and Slavery, Past and Present*.

More information on page 1.

GARDENER'S WEEKEND

April 29 - 30

For the 19th year in a row, our incredible group of volunteers, the Garden Guild, will be hosting one of their amazing Plant Sales in April. These nurturing volunteers support Sotterley through their gardening talents and keep our beautiful Colonial Revival Gardens looking stunning!

More information on page 5.

SPRING BIRDING

May 7

Free and open to the public! Join David Moulton and Michael Patterson as we celebrate the surge of migrating birds to Sotterley. May is "Moving Month" for birds as they return from their wintering grounds, some to nest here and some to refuel on their journey further north. Nesting Bald Eagles, migrating warblers, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can all be found via Sotterley's extensive new trail system. RSVP at 240-278-4473 or moulton.davidh@gmail.com.

A TASTE OF SOTTERLEY

May 13

Join us on May 13th for our brand new event, *A Taste of Sotterley*, featuring fine food and wine, celebrity pourers from our local community, and great company, all within the historic core. Drink a little, eat a little, and learn a lot! Tickets must be purchased online and are \$45 a person, or \$80 a couple.

MOTHER'S DAY

May 14

In honor of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14, all mothers will receive the Guided Tour of the 1703 Plantation House at Sotterley Plantation for HALF PRICE on their special day! From noon to 4 p.m., we welcome you and your mother to tour the house, stroll the gardens and enjoy our beautiful grounds!

GALA IN THE GARDEN

June 10

It's the 50th Anniversary of that fateful summer that brought us Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead, Grace Slick and the Jefferson Airplane, and Janis Joplin. So channel your inner hippie, make sure you have "some flowers in your hair," put on some tie-dye, and join us for the magic of the summer of 1967. If you weren't born yet, no worries, the fashion is back in style! Join us as we celebrate the Summer of Love! Tickets on sale at Sotterley.org!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS - July through August

BUTTERFLY FRIDAYS

July 7, 14, 21, 28 and August 4

Enjoy kid-friendly fun on the farm. For the first time ever, we will be holding programs in our newly developed butterfly garden. Bring your small fry to enjoy fun activities that are geared towards smaller hands. All Butterfly Friday activities are included with regular site admission!

STAR PARTIES

July 29, August 12

Thanks to our friends at the Southern Maryland Astronomical Society, we are proud to host two brand new events! Join us at 9:00 pm to enjoy a sky full of stars on grounds full of history. Free and open to the public! Grab your picnic blanket, your telescope (if you have one) and join us for two different star-gazing evenings on our grounds!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL THAT WE DO POSSIBLE!

Are you a history buff who loves to share your passion with others in order to make history come alive? Would you love meeting and greeting the public by working in our Visitor Center? Do you love getting your hands in the dirt and making things grow - even if you don't have a green thumb? Or do you have talents that could be used and appreciated by our Maintenance and Farm team? If you are a friendly, organized, outgoing person who's looking for a volunteer gig that feeds the soul, or a person with a generous heart with talents to share, Sotterley can use your help! Contact Ashley Morgan at coordinator@sotterley.org to join the Sotterley Family of Volunteers and find out why our volunteers are not only fabulous, but essential to Sotterley's story.

Volunteer Spotlight: Louise Snell

Louise Snell believes in giving back, lifting up and taking every opportunity in one's life to connect. She has volunteered at Historic Sotterley since 1996 and has served as a model of volunteerism, philanthropy, and community activism for decades. She has served St. Mary's County in many capacities: as a leader, a cheerleader, a supporter, an adviser, a counselor, and a friend. Her name was submitted with admiration, love and gratitude by Historic Sotterley for the St. Mary's County Commission for Women's 2017 Woman of the Year Award.



BUILDING BRIDGES, DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS

Yes, you can support Historic Sotterley and be environmentally friendly and sustain this treasure for generations to come . . . How?



Update your email address

Save paper. Save a stamp. Share or update your email address. Want to keep in touch with Sotterley news through email?



Give Monthly

No added paperwork or renewal notices to deal with. You choose the amount of your gift. Want to know how small amounts can make a big impact?



Tell your boss you want to support History

Did you know that many companies offer a Matching Gift Program for their employees?



Leave a Legacy

Historic Sotterley needs your support now and in the future. Talk to your family. Want to ensure Sotterley endures and inspires for generations?

We'd Love to Chat!

Call 301.373.2280 Or Email:

Laura at stewardship@sotterley.org

Jane at development@sotterley.org

DOUBLE OR NOTHING - GOING GREEN AND SAVING GREEN!

Dear Friends,

Part of being good stewards of our environment is to reduce waste. This year, to reduce paper waste and save on printing costs, we have combined our Spring Appeal letter with our Spring Newsletter! Interested in helping us save more? Notify us at stewardship@sotterley.org if you would like to receive a digital copy of our Summer Newsletter, instead of a mailed one.

Cheers,



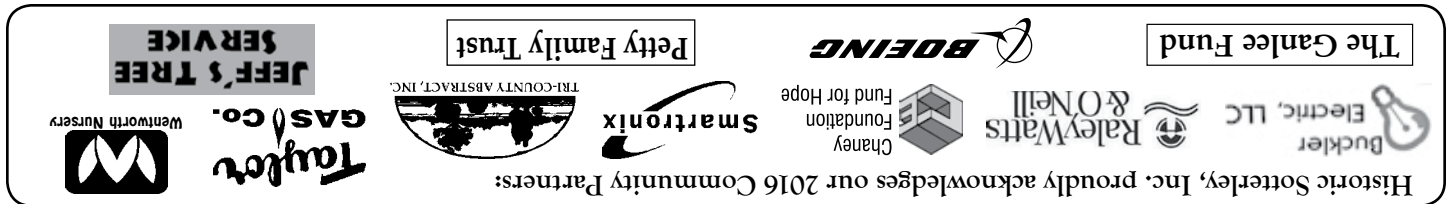
Nancy Easterling

Channel Your Inner Hippie at Gala in the Garden June 10, 2017

Tickets on sale at Sotterley.org



Historic Sotterley, Inc. proudly acknowledges our 2016 Community Partners:



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HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.
P. O. Box 67
HOLLYWOOD, MD 20636