



# Newsletter

December 2012

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS 2012

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2012

- Prepared and celebrated the publication of *The Jemison Magazine: Birmingham and Mountain Brook, 1926-1930* at the "Model Estate" on Mountain Brook Parkway, the residence of Bill McDonald.
- Researched and organized the exhibition: *Attorney Shores' Scrapbook: The Life and Times of Birmingham's Civil Rights Lawyer, 1939-1975*, November 4-December 28 at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery and feted the publication of *The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill* by Shores' daughters Helen Shores Lee and Barbara Shores.
- Conducted the Annual Meeting at the Steiner House on Argyle Road, the recently restored residence of Mary and David Kimerling, with architect Jeremy Erdreich commenting.
- Hosted the annual Heritage Society Party at the distinguished Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Swann, the home of Brooke and Daniel Coleman.
- Hosted David Robb's talk on "Ice in the South" at the Avondale Brewery.
- Conducted interviews with members of the historic Bethel Baptist Church, Collegeville for a film for those visiting this National Historic Landmark site.
- Researched the history of distilling in the city, especially that of the Jack Daniel firm, for a future exhibit and publication.
- Finalized documentation of the 1926-1929 Jemison & Company development of Mountain Brook for presentation to the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) of the National Park Service in Washington D.C. and deposit at the Library of Congress. Received a "fantastic" rating from HALS chief Paul Dolinsky.
- Continued to grow Grandmother's Garden, our kitchen and medicinal herb, flower and vegetable gardens behind our offices in the Duncan House, and developed rain catchment systems to water them. Conducted the annual Spring Solstice Plowing Party, visits for garden clubs, and the Books and Basil Sale. The garden has reached demonstration quality and is open to the public year round.
- Organized and conducted Second Saturdays with volunteers working to restore Duncan House. Completed new latticed enclosures of the foundations, new back steps, and installation of a gutter to catch water for the garden.
- Provided resources to the Teaching American History program of the Birmingham Schools.

### EVENTS COMING IN 2013

- **Saturday, Feb. 2, 3-5 p.m.** The **publication celebration** for the BHS 2013 book *MINUTES: Central Committee, Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and Southern Christian Leadership Conference*, Birmingham Public Library Board Room. At the scene, day-by-day reporting on the momentous events of spring 1963 by Mrs. Ruth Barefield-Pendleton secretary to the committee that helped coordinate the campaign that changed Birmingham's, the nation's, and the world's understanding of human rights.
- **Saturday, February 2**, The Society's **exhibition** of Birmingham News Civil Rights Photographs opens and remains in the Library Gallery through March 29.
- **Sunday, Feb. 17, 3-5 p.m.**, The **Annual Meeting**, a Victorian Valentines' Tea, at the historic Hassinger-Daniel Mansion on Highland Avenue, the recently restored bed and breakfast of Sheila and Ira Chaffin.
- **Sunday, April 7, Noon-3**, A Spring Solstice **Plowing Party**, Grandmother's Garden, Duncan House.
- **Sunday, April 21 at Noon**, The Annual **Heritage Society Gathering** at the Hassinger House, Carlisle Road (Heritage Society Membership required).
- **Saturday, May 11, 9-Noon**, A **Rain Barrel Workshop**, Duncan House (fee charged).
- TBA, A **talk by Frances Robb** whenever her book on the history of Alabama photography comes out.
- TBA, Presentations on the **HALS project** (Mountain Brook).
- TBA, Preservation Awards.
- Every **Second Saturday**, opportunities to join in the fun to help fix up Duncan House.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Join as a member for 2013.
- Join us for educational events and workdays.

**To receive the 2013 annual publication, 2013 dues must be paid.** Books will be mailed to paid members if the books are not picked up at the publication celebration on February 2 at the Birmingham Public Library Board Room.

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