

# 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 2016

CFC #13401

SLAVE CABIN EXHIBIT, P. 3

## Newman's Own Foundation Grant to Support Sotterley's Quest

Historic Sotterley has received word that it will be the recipient of a multi-year grant from Newman's Own Foundation to help Sotterley in its quest to achieve long-term sustainability. For historic museum sites like Sotterley, it can be difficult to meet the constant and ongoing capital and operational needs of the organization, however, the importance of its mission and its stories compel all who care about Sotterley to ensure that we continue conveying and sharing these stories for generations to come.

**NEWMAN'S OWN**  
FOUNDATION

The first part of the Newman's Own Foundation grant will help Sotterley put in place the infrastructure needed in order to succeed, while the second phase will be a challenge grant to help Sotterley raise the funds necessary to achieve its goal of meeting ongoing operational and capital challenges. We look forward to sharing more details with our supporters in the months and years ahead, and we know that there will be many of you who will join us when the time comes to help us attain our aspiration of long-term sustainability.

We are so grateful that Newman's Own Foundation is willing to work with us to achieve this worthy goal, and are humbled by their belief in all that Sotterley is and all that it can be. While there will be a great deal of work in the years ahead to achieve our objectives, Sotterley, its mission, and its stories are worth all of the effort. We look forward to the journey ahead.



## Reaching our Roots! Celebrating our Third Season of Farmer's Market!

Join us for our third year of Farmer's Market! Sotterley is proud to further strengthen our ties to the Southern Maryland farm community and continue our over 300 year farming tradition! This producer-only Farmer's Market has become a staple community event and a fantastic way to kick off the summer! Join us for the season opener on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 1pm for best quality home-grown vegetables, fruit, and plants, as well as unique, hand-crafted items.

Every Saturday from May 28<sup>th</sup> through September 9<sup>th</sup>, the public is invited to our grounds to shop local. After enjoying local produce and artistry, we hope our guests will stay in order to take advantage of our site's beauty, nature trails, and history. Visitors need only to check in at the Visitor Center, after which they can enjoy hiking and touring the site - and remember that Sotterley members get in free! Leashed dogs are welcome on our nature trails.

**Sotterley is still currently accepting applications from quality local vendors** interested in featuring only locally grown and produced products - vegetables, fruit, honey, eggs, and more. All who are interested in being part of the Sotterley Farmer's Market please contact **Joe Goldsmith** at 301-643-5617.

## Chaney Foundation Fund for Hope Supports Sotterley's Mission

For almost 20 years the Chaney Foundation has understood and supported Sotterley's mission of preservation and providing an educational and cultural resource in our community. The Chaney Foundation Fund for Hope continues to touch the lives of those in our Southern Maryland region through their generosity, and their 2016 grant of \$5,000 will help Sotterley continue to bring the past to life and touch the lives of those who visit. We are so grateful for the Chaney Foundation for Hope's generous and enduring support, and thank them for believing that This Place truly Matters, as does the continuance of its important stories and history.

# **HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.**

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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 to all of you!

First, as many of you know, Jan Briscoe, the President of our Board of Trustees, stepped down this year. Jan had been a Trustee for ten years – the most allowed by our by-laws. During her tenure as President, Sotterley had some incredible accomplishments and weathered some historic challenges – not the least being Hurricane Irene. Jan has promised to continue her love affair with Sotterley and I am sure we will see her at Sotterley often. Jan, words cannot begin to express our admiration for you and our appreciation for your significant contribution!

As you can well imagine, Nancy, our staff, and our wonderful volunteers have been busy with the start of a new season. Many of you will have received our Spring Appeal (and my thanks to those who have already responded), and in that letter we mentioned just a few of Sotterley's latest accomplishments. One shining example will be the opening of our Slave Cabin exhibit this spring. It will be dedicated to the memory of our Trustee Emeritus, Agnes Kane Callum, (the direct descendent of slaves who lived and worked at Sotterley) and who has forever shaped how we interpret this site. We are also planning our next exhibit which will be *Transportation and Trade on the Tidewater* – we are, after all, a Tidewater Plantation, and our history is inextricably tied to the river Sotterley overlooks.

Joe Goldsmith and his maintenance team continue to work magic around here. They balance capital improvement with routine maintenance – and this great old place needs lots of it! Our beautiful garden is just starting to bloom due 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!

Event season is also upon us. Last month we held our "Backstairs/Upstairs Tour" which was so popular we had to open a third slot! We just completed our very successful first annual "5K Walk Run and Family Fun Day". Next up is our Gala on Saturday, 11 June, with the theme, "Sail Away on the S.S. Sotterley". During the Gala, we will be announcing the raffle winner of our Royal Caribbean Cruise. The Speaker Series, again sponsored by our friends at Boeing, continues to bring in a wide variety of entertaining and educational speakers, providing us with another great series this year.

So, as you can see, there is lots going on at Sotterley! 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 this fantastic place.

Warmest Regards,  
Bert Johnston  
President, Board of Trustees

## Slave Cabin Exhibit to Open in 2016



For the past several years Sotterley has been striving to improve the way it tells its African American history, and this has meant in large part focusing on the institution of slavery and its consequences. To be more inclusive of this important side of our story, we have redesigned our guided tour, created a new self-guided tour and introductory video, produced the War of 1812 living history movie “The Choice”, were designated a Middle Passage Marker Project site, and most recently opened our Land Lives and Labor exhibit in our newly restored Corn Crib.

However, there has been a missing and critical piece to our ability to foster this important connection. Sotterley’s 1830’s Slave Cabin is an irreplaceable and tangible link to this part of our past, but because of the fragility of sections of the Cabin we have only been able to bring guests inside when they have been accompanied by a staff member or docent. The power of the structure is undeniable, however, and entering the Cabin helps establish a connection to the lives of those who lived in this structure and elsewhere on site while they were under bondage.

With the support of a grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and a grant from the U.S. Federation of Friends of Museums, Sotterley began the journey of creating an exhibit inside and outside the cabin. The cabin’s exhibit will be designed to reflect the 1850’s, and we want visitors to feel as though they are entering the structure while the inhabitants are out for the day. Exhibit rails and panels will guide guests inside while telling the stories of those who lived there. For the first time, every guest who comes to the cabin will be able to enter, not just peek inside. This exhibit will be dedicated to our beloved Trustee Emeritus, Agnes Kane Callum, who passed in 2015 but whose legacy lives on at Sotterley in every program, exhibit, or tour that addresses the lives of those enslaved.

We will soon be announcing the grand opening of this exhibit; starting this spring the exhibit will be open year round, just as is our Land, Lives and Labor exhibit. We know that this new exhibit will create better awareness and understanding of this difficult part of our history while honoring the lives of those who lived here, We thank those whose support and belief in this project have helped to make it possible.

## Trail Closure!

But for the best of reasons...

Our eagles have returned! To avoid disturbing them and their new babies, we have closed Eagle Trail until they learn to spread their wings. Thanks for your understanding!

## Community Partner! Essential ‘Elements’ of Success

If you’ve been by Elements Eatery & Mixology recently, you must have seen the 6 foot tall banner of Sotterley in the entryway. Last year, local business entrepreneur, Rob Plant, contacted us to offer this prime piece of real estate for our advertising purposes. When asked why he was making this generous donation to Sotterley, Plant said, “I felt it was important to support Sotterley, not just as a historical site, but as a place that supports education for young people and tells the story of the deep, rich history of St. Mary’s County.” If you haven’t seen the banner yet, be sure to swing by Elements to enjoy Rob’s fresh and inspired cuisine. You will see some beautiful and familiar images hanging in the entrance! and history.



## Education Corner



Our educational initiatives spring to life every year at this time, and it is so wonderful to see children and families coming on site to learn about the past and our Tidewater environment. The fun began during our Spring Break Week in March when families were able to not only take guided and self-guided tours of the site, but every day there were hands on activities such as Colonial Games, Learning at the Schoolhouse, Life at the Slave Cabin, Family Archaeology, and more. Who knew learning could be so much fun?

In March guests also joined us for our ever-popular Backstairs/Upstairs Tour, when guests can go upstairs in the Plantation House and get a behind the scenes experience.

Attendees not only glimpsed rarely seen areas, but they gained an understanding of the challenges faced by Sotterley as we try to preserve our structures and meet the many budgetary demands involved in running this special place.

The sounds of school groups are once again echoing around the site during the week, and field trips bringing students to attend both Sotterley's social studies based programs and the St. Mary's County Environmental Education programs, which are in full swing. Field trips to Sotterley are so much more than a day out of the classroom; each student engages in hands-on activities in an authentic setting that would be impossible to duplicate in the classroom. These classes bring the lessons of the classroom to life for students and instill in them a connection to our past and our environment that will help shape their perspectives for years to come. To make sure that all school-age children can benefit from our programs, we will hold our second Homeschool Day of the year on April 20<sup>th</sup>: "Tidewater Plantation Life".

Education knows no age, and the opening of our Slave Cabin Exhibit this spring will touch students as well as the many visitors who come to experience Sotterley's history. This exhibit will honor the lives of the enslaved African Americans whose stories this structure represents, and it will be dedicated to the memory of our beloved Trustee Emeritus, Agnes Kane Callum.

And finally, are your children looking for something fun to do this summer that involves history and interacting with others? We have a perfect opportunity for you! Our Junior Docent Academy will be held on June 20 & 21, 2016, and upon successful completion, participants will become Junior Docents and ambassadors of Historic Sotterley Plantation. Anyone interested can contact our Education Director, Jeanne Pirtle, or visit our website to learn more.

### Your Support is Appreciated!

Our Sotterley supporters will begin seeing our Spring Appeal in the mail soon! The funds raised from this appeal will make so much of what we do in 2016 possible. Thank you in advance for your support of our mission at this unique and irreplaceable site!

### Homeschool Days at Sotterley!

With specialized classes, nature trails and tons to learn, Sotterley offers the perfect spot to bring your homeschool group! Join us on April 20<sup>th</sup> for "Tidewater Plantation Life" for Lessons in the Schoolhouse, Laundry at the Spinning Cottage, and more! Visit 4 stations throughout the day and learn about the lives of children on a Tidewater plantation! With all this fun, admission is only \$5 a person! Kiddos under 5 are free and one adult per family is free! Make a day of it! Pack a picnic lunch, hike our nature trails, fly a kite, and enjoy! No reservations necessary for this rain or shine event!

### Make Mother's Day Memorable!

In honor of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8, 2016, 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 stroll the blooming Colonial Revival Gardens, walk the plantation grounds and nature trails, see the historic outbuildings including our original 1830's Slave Cabin, or picnic out on the lawn while enjoying the breathtaking views of the Patuxent River. Top off the day with buying a memorable gift at the Sotterley Museum Shop, located in the Visitor Center. It will be a day she will never forget!

For more information on upcoming Sotterley Plantation events, please visit our website at [www.sotterley.org](http://www.sotterley.org).



## Inaugural Event Made Possible with Community Support!



On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sotterley hosted our very first 5K and Family Fun Day! Despite the rain, cold and mud, we still had a fantastic turn-out for the race! Over 100 runners took to the soggy trail, racing from the Visitor's Center, down to the Riverside Pavilion, through our wooded trails, across the field in front of the Plantation House, down Sotterley Lane, and ending in front of the Barn. Even though Mother Nature did not smile on the weather that day, the event would not have been possible without all of our wonderful sponsors, including, Baldwin and Briscoe, Team Chopris/Crispell for Century 21, SMECO, Westley Thomas and the St. Mary's County Arts Council. Special thanks to the event's Major Event Sponsor, and long-time friend of Sotterley, Bailey's Party Rentals. This event was but one example of Bailey's generosity, and they are truly a shining example of a business that believes in giving back and making our community a better place for all.

**WIN A CRUISE FOR TWO!**  
**ROYAL CARIBBEAN**  
Caribbean or Bermuda  
1 ticket—\$30  
2 tickets—\$50  
Hosted by Historic Sotterley Plantation

**Drawing Date: 6/11/16**  
**Need Not Be Present to Win**

**All Proceeds to**  
**Historic Sotterley Inc.**

The graphic is a promotional poster for a Royal Caribbean cruise. On the left, there is a stylized illustration of a cruise ship's funnel with an anchor, set against a background of waves and birds. The text is arranged in a clean, bold font. On the right side, there are two horizontal lines, one above and one below the text "All Proceeds to Historic Sotterley Inc."

### Gala in the Garden: Set Sail on the S.S. Sotterley June 11th, 6:30pm

Come aboard for an evening of Mediterranean magic and cuisine inspired by Barcelona, Marseilles and Portofino! Amazing live and silent auctions! Held in the beautiful Gardens of Sotterley Plantation! Tickets on sale now! Visit us online at [Sotterley.org](http://Sotterley.org).

Raffle tickets are now on sale to win a fabulous cruise to warmer climates! The winning ticket awards a Royal Caribbean Cruise Certificate for two to either the Caribbean or Bermuda at the Diamond certificate level with a balcony stateroom. It will be valid for travel year-round (not valid over holidays or last 2 weeks of the year), for 4-5 nights, with an expanded selection of itinerary choices. Depending on the time and choice of destination, cruises depart from Baltimore, Florida and other possible locations. Certificates cover cruise fare, taxes and their standard recommended gratuities (airfare and alcohol are not included). Certificates have no expiration date. Certificates redeemed more than two years after the issue date will provide the holder of the certificate with a dollar credit amount against the cost of their cruise. The dollar credit amount will be based on the value for that type of certificate as shown in the Royal Caribbean price table in effect at the time the certificate was purchased. The certificate has no cash value. Winner uses the award and works with Travel Leaders to book their cruise of choice. All ticket purchases can be made online at [www.sotterley.org](http://www.sotterley.org)!



### What's New at Sotterley's Museum Shop! You asked, we listened!

With all this gorgeous spring weather upon us, it would be a shame to keep everyone indoors! After receiving a number of requests, we have decided to open our Visitor Center up for tours early! We will now be open every Saturday in April and will resume our normal in-season hours starting on May 1<sup>st</sup>! Beat the crowds and start spring off right!



## Grower's Weekend!

### Plant Sale

Saturday, April 30, 2016 – 9-2pm

Sunday, May 1, 2016 – noon-3pm

### Plant Exchange

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Saturday, April 30, 2016 10- until the plants run out!



Sponsored by the Sotterley Garden Guild, the Plant Sale is one of our signature events! Join us on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 the opportunity to appreciate their horticultural artistry!

The Free Plant Exchange will run on Saturday only 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!

## Hail and Farewell to Trustees!

In February, four of Sotterley's Trustees stepped down from the Board. Jan Briscoe stepped down after serving for 10 years, many of which were spent as our Board President. Jan is committed to continuing to serve in numerous ways at Sotterley, and her dedication and leadership have inspired us all. Bob Aldridge also served for 10 years on the Board, but was serving long before that as co-chair of the Garden Guild and a Site Interpreter. Bob states: "The Board may be in my past, but Sotterley will always be in my future. I will continue in the garden and giving house tours, this place gets in your blood." Karen Holcomb stepped down as she will be leaving our area to be with family, but we know she will take Sotterley with her in her heart. Although Jim Cornelsen, President and CEO of Old Line Bank and our former Board of Trustee Treasurer also stepped down, he has let us know that Old Line Bank will continue to support Sotterley and its mission in the years ahead.

Taking over from Jan Briscoe as Board President, we are so fortunate to welcome Bert Johnston as our new President. Bert states: "Sotterley is a living link to history. Seeing and touching the places where real people lived and worked connects us with our ancestors and gives us roots. Understanding this connection between past and present is essential to creating a better future. This Tidewater Plantation matters!"

Sotterley welcomes two new wonderful members to our Board of Trustees! Ray Dodson, vice President of Old Line Bank, brings with him long years of service in our community. Ray states: "I think Sotterley's past holds an important place in today's world. Its history can help us stimulate conversation to help us solve some of the issues and problems that still plague this Country today. I look forward to working with the many wonderful staff members and volunteers that make Sotterley the remarkable place that it is."

Martin Callum retired in recent years from a career in the health and human services sector of Baltimore, and he bears the distinction of being descended from family members who were enslaved at Sotterley. He follows great footsteps in joining the Board: his mother, Agnes Kane Callum, is one of our Trustees Emeriti and one of the people who has most influenced Sotterley's interpretation of slavery. Martin states: "I would like to serve on the Board of Sotterley because my mother Agnes Kane Callum devoted most of her life to researching and gathering information about her ancestors who were slaves on Sotterley's plantation. She served on the Board of Sotterley for over ten years and was able to bring interest to Sotterley from all over the United States. For that reason, I hope to carry on her legacy and continue to work to preserve Sotterley and its rich history." His twin sister Martina Callum, also served on the Board for 10 years. We are so grateful that Martin has accepted the mantle of joining our Board, and we know that he and Ray will be wonderful assets to our team.



Bert Johnston and Jan Briscoe



Ray Dodson



Martin Callum

## Volunteer Corner

If you have been considering ways to be of service in the community, then look no further ~ Historic Sotterley Plantation needs you! Our volunteer opportunities are plentiful and we welcome anyone interested in helping out! While there are so many ways you can help, our most critical seasonal needs are:

- **Museum Shop / Visitor Center**
- **Docent**
- **Garden Guild**

As a Museum Shop volunteer, yours is the first face visitors will see when they come to Sotterley Plantation. You will have the opportunity to sell our delightful wares and handle tour admissions, while making our visitors feel welcome. Docents will lead guided tours from room to room in the historic Plantation House and tell the rich story of our 300+ year old history to guests. Garden Guild volunteers help to maintain the magnificent Colonial Revival Garden, to the delight of visitors throughout the blooming months.

To help us bridge the gap between the past, the present, and the future, please contact **Ashley Morgan, Volunteer Coordinator** at (301) 373-2280 or email: [coordinator@sotterley.org](mailto:coordinator@sotterley.org)

## Speaker Series

### Historic Sotterley Plantation is proud to welcome back Mitch Yockelson!

In April of 2013, Mitch Yockelson and Greg Tremaglio regaled us with the tale of *A Conspiracy to Steal History!* This April, Mitch Yockelson returns, celebrating the release of his book, *Forty-Seven Days: How Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army in World War I*. This celebrated historian offers a definitive account of the U.S. Army's astonishing triumph at Meuse-Argonne—the deadliest clash in American history, and an unlikely victory which ultimately ended the Great War.

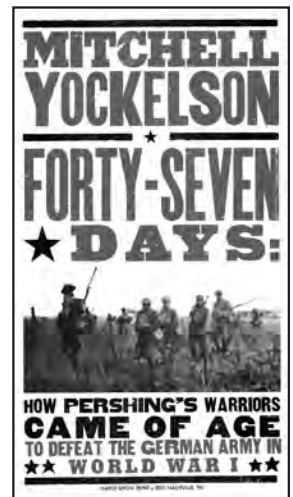
In the fall of 1918, more than a million untested American soldiers went up against a better-trained and more experienced Germany Army in the Meuse-Argonne battle in the French countryside. It was the largest independent American offensive against the Germans and the bloodiest battle the U.S. had ever been a part of, costing over 26,000 lives and leaving nearly 100,000 wounded. Yet under the leadership of General John J. Pershing, American troops came to battle in an era of new technology, proving themselves to be more than worthy opponents. They defeated the Germans, bringing the Great War to armistice, and its end, after four years.

This is the only book to tell the real story of the Meuse-Argonne, as it has never been told—not through the eyes of the infantrymen, but from the top-down, through the perspective of Pershing and his replacement, General Liggett. Featuring some of our greatest personalities of the 20th century—MacArthur, Patton, Truman, George C. Marshal—Yockelson's masterful telling is a critical look at how an untested group of American soldiers, and one exemplary leader, helped bring World War I to a close. Learn why New York Best Selling author, Brad Melzer, said that Yockelson's work,

"Takes you right there and shows you all the minute details, from the pings of a bullet, to Pershing's confidence and fears."

Mitchell Yockelson, the recipient of the Army Historical Foundation's Distinguished Writing Award, is an archivist with the National Archives and former professor of military history at the United States Naval Academy. His work has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times, and he has appeared on 60 Minutes, Fox News, PBS, and the History Channel. The author of four books, Yockelson regularly leads tours of World War I battlefields for the Smithsonian Journeys and New York Times Journeys.

We hope to see you on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Barn!



**Contact us to find out more about including Historic Sotterley in your estate planning!**  
**Call the office at 301-373-2280 or Go online to [sotterley.org](http://sotterley.org)**  
**Your support matters!**



# 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit [www.sotterley.org](http://www.sotterley.org) for more information

Homeschool Day	April 20
SS: Mitch Yockelson	April 27
Garden Guild Plant Sale	April 30 & May 1
SS: Paul Dickson	May 18
Farmer's Market Begins	May 28
Gala in the Garden	June 11th
Junior Docent Academy	June 20-21
SS: Susan Schoelwer	June 26th
Small Fry Fridays	July 1, 15, 29; Aug. 12
Barn Bash	August 19 <sup>th</sup>
SS: Arthur Allen	August 24h
Backstairs/Upstairs	September 10
Homeschool Day	September 14
SS: Christie Coleman	September 21
Riverside WineFest	October 1-2
SS: Steven Reiss	October 5
Ghosts of Sotterley	October 21-22; 27-29
SS: George McDaniel	November 2
Family Plantation Christmas	December 10

## Eagles, Earth Day and Sotterley!

Sunday, April 24, 2016

8 am – 11 am Field Trip

Leaders: David Moulton and Michael Patterson

In conjunction with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society, we invite you to cap off your Earth Day week exploring the abundant bird life on this scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Nesting Bald Eagles, early migrants, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can be found via Sotterley's extensive new trail system.

RSVP at [moulton.davidh@gmail.com](mailto:moulton.davidh@gmail.com) or 240-278-4473.



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



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*Experience is Our Best Asset*



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