



# THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2017, Volume 54, Number 3

## WHEN SEWELL'S ORCHARD, THE LAST FARM, JOINED COLUMBIA'S OTHER 14,000 ACRES OF FARMLAND

BY JOAN M. KASURA

As Jim Rouse's Columbia rose up around them during its first decade, Ronnie Sewell, one of two brothers who ran Sewell's Orchard – the last farm – remembered when the liability of being “the hole of the donut” outweighed the pros of being a good local farm resource. “If we had been on the edge of town, we would've looked at it in a different light,” he said. So, in April 1979, almost a dozen years after Columbia celebrated the opening of its first village in Wilde Lake, Donald and Ronnie Sewell began to sell off parcels of their farm to a Baltimore developer. By the mid-1980s, both the orchards and the Sewell brothers were gone to Carroll County, with street names such as Black Cherry Circle, White Peach Place, and, of course, Sewell's Orchard Drive left behind as the only reminders of their once thriving farm.

Like Irvin and George Dasher, farmers to their south who had initially sold to Rouse, the two brothers had come to realize that city folks and country folks would always clash where their boundaries collided so forcefully. George



SEWELL'S ORCHARD CIRCA 1960S, COURTESY OF THE COLUMBIA ARCHIVES

Dasher said as much in a February 1991 article from *The Howard County Times*: “The city people want to see the open space, but they don't want to be concerned with the livestock if it ever gets out,’ [Dasher] explain[ed], or smell the manure, or hear the tractors.”

Yet, neither Sewell brother decried Jim Rouse's vision. Donald Sewell, quoted in several articles as his farm began sprouting crops of houses rather than the fruits and vegetables that first his father and then he and his brother

*Continued on Page 7*

### HCHS MUSEUM

8328 Court Ave., Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
(Formerly First Presbyterian Church)

**(410) 480-3250**

Hours: Friday, Saturday and Sunday:  
1:00 – 5:00 P.M.

[www.hchsmnd.org](http://www.hchsmnd.org)

### HCHS LIBRARY

New location: The Charles Miller Branch Library and Historical Center  
9421 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

**(410) 480-3250** (voice)

Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 1:00-8:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 1:00- 5:00 P.M.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STEVE CASTRO



I'd like to thank everyone involved in making our Strangers in the Night event a big success. We had 225 happy guests enjoy delicious food, wonderful drinks, fun gaming tables, a photo booth, an education in whiskey and cigars, great singing and dancing, and a spectacular synchronized swimming show. The Historical Society raised over \$13,000 thanks to our participants and sponsors. We are so grateful to have the support of the community. I'd like give a special thanks to the following sponsors: Ted & Veronica Mariani for providing Oakdale, Mindgrub,

Eyre Bus, Constellation Energy, Craig O'Donnell from JS Wilson Lumber, Dave Woessner from Dorsey Ridge LLC, Don Reuwer, Bob Manfuso from Chanceland Farm, Slack Funeral Home, Donna Thewes from Keller Williams, Witzke's, Katherine Taylor from Taylor Legal, Davidus Cigars, David Yungmann, John McDaniel from Hickory Ridge Farm, Fisher Collins Carter, J.E. Schenk from Erie Insurance, Greg Gillespie from MidAtlantic Farm Cr, Heritage Reality, Ellen Flynn Giles, Sun Nurseries, Inc., Williamsburg Group, Cakes Plus, Wegmans and Ruwan Alwis.

The Society depends on its members and the community for support. If you have friends, neighbors or family who are interested in protecting and preserving the history of Howard County, please encourage them to become members and take advantage of the programs we have scheduled. If you own a business or know someone that would like to sponsor one of our events, please contact us. All of the information is located on our website [www.hchsm.org](http://www.hchsm.org). ♣



STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT VINTAGE CADILLAC AND PARTY-GOERS

## EDITOR'S NOTE

JANET KUSTERER

See you at the Fair! This year the Historical Society is joining forces with the Columbia Archives to celebrate the story of Columbia through photos and stories at our booth at the

Howard County Fair. Although it is only 50 years old, it is hard to imagine Howard County without this vibrant town. Also, be sure to stop and interact with the volunteers manning the exhibit—they love to have your feedback. Maybe you have a Columbia story you would like to share. ♣

## HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Steve Castro ..... *President*  
 Paulette Lutz ..... *1st Vice President*  
 Patricia Greenwald ..... *2nd Vice President*  
 Kimberly Eggborn ..... *Recording Secretary*  
 Anne Schoenhut ..... *Corresponding Secretary*  
 Charles Lewis..... *Treasurer*  
 Theodore Mariani ..... *Past President*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2017-2019  
 Barbara Bell Cusack  
 Joanna Benedict  
 John Slack  
 Shelley D. Wygant

2016-2018  
 Ellen Flynn Giles  
 Thomas E. Bower  
 Mae Beale  
 Martha Clark

2015-2017  
 Richard T. Clark  
 Leonora Hoenes  
 Mary Boyle  
 Judith Draper

### STAFF

Shawn Gladden ..... *Executive Director*  
 Mary Sanphilpo-Ward ..... *Collections Manager*

### HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Betty Adams  
 George Arthur  
 Charles Coles  
 Doris Fredericks  
 W. Henry Griffith  
 Paul L. Miller  
 Consuelo Regan-Alexander  
 Phil Stackhouse  
 Gladys H. Wahlhapter  
 Barbara Warfield  
 Charles Wehland  
 Granville W. Wehland

### SEND US YOUR ARTICLES

Anyone interested in contributing articles or photographs or anything of interest to the Society, please call the Library at 410-480-3250 or email Janet Kusterer at [janetkusterer21042@gmail.com](mailto:janetkusterer21042@gmail.com)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SHAWN GLADDEN



As we head into Summer, the Howard County Historical Society is hard at work with our continued mission to bring quality programming to our members and the public. We have a lot on our plate this year between the Ghost Tours, the Museum Concerts, the Lunch Lectures, new exhibits at the museum, and raising money for the Quaker School house renovations. I'd like to spend my time in this Legacy talking about a few exciting projects that will be completed by the time you are reading this issue.

### **New Civil War Exhibit: Fractured Howard County:**

When I first started with the Historical Society in 2013, I had identified the Civil War exhibit as something that I wanted to improve and make the focal point of the museum's interpretation. Over the past few years, we have been conceptualizing how an improved Civil War exhibit may look, what artifacts would be featured and what story we wanted to tell, given that there were no military engagements in Howard County during the war. With the help of Jackie Stone, Mike Radinsky, Michael McManus, Bobby LaLuna and our dearly departed friend,

Dustin Linz; we put together an intriguing exhibit script that tells the strategic importance of Howard County, the broken families that resulted from the war, camp life at Ellicott City and Relay, and some intriguing personal stories. This permanent exhibit "upgrade" will open to the public at the Museum of Howard County History in August.

### **New Book: *America's First Factory Town: The Industrial Revolution in Maryland's Patapsco River Valley* by Hal Sharp.**

This project has been in the works for a long time. We were approached by Charles Wagandt on behalf of Patapsco Heritage Greenway in 2013 about funding a 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Hal Sharp's book on the Patapsco River Valley, originally published by Maryland Historical Society in 2000. We were able to secure funds from the county for this publication and have been anxiously awaiting the finished product ever since. Well, the wait is over! We anticipate the book to hit the shelves in August. It is a groundbreaking new thesis by Hal that puts the birthplace of America's Industrial Revolution here in Ellicott City and the Patapsco River Valley twenty years before the textile mills of New England. Thanks to the persistence of Charles Wagandt and Ric Cottom of the Chesapeake Book Company for making this book happen. The book will retail for \$25 and will be available at the archives and museum gift shop in August.

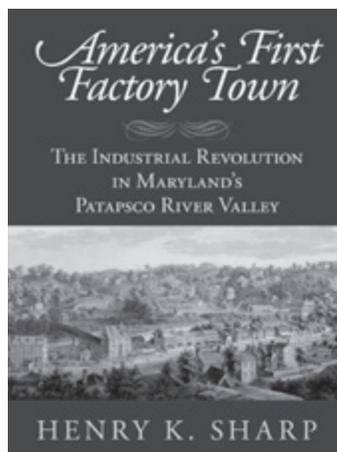
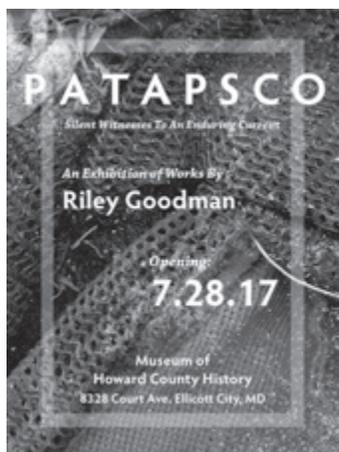
### **Ellicott City Clock, Flood Commemoration Weekend, and a new Art Exhibit.**

On Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> the iconic clock that once proudly stood outside of the B&O Railroad Museum was delivered to the Museum of Howard County History. It has been added to the Flood exhibit and will remain as a permanent part of the museum collection. To commemorate the one year anniversary of the flood, the Museum of Howard County History participated in a weekend of remembrance, July 28-30 on Main Street. To coincide, we opened a new Art Exhibit by Riley Goodman entitled, *Patapsco: Silent Witness to an Enduring Current* on July 28<sup>th</sup>. This exhibit of archival, photographic, and sculptural works recovered from the Patapsco River will run through September.

### **Howard County Fair Exhibit: *From Rural to Suburban: Columbia's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Howard County Fairgrounds August 5 - 12, 2017 Daily Hours: 8 AM - 11PM***

Co-sponsored with the Columbia Archives, this exhibit will be a photo exhibit from both organizations' photo archives illustrating the early years of Columbia.

Needless to say, we are always moving and shaking at the Howard County Historical Society. Please make plans to come by the museum and see the new exhibits. As always, we are very appreciative of the support from our members. ♣



# WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE HCHS EDUCATION PROGRAM?

BY ANNE CLARK SCHOENHUT

The Howard County Historical Society Education Program is making lots of exciting progress as we work toward fulfilling our mission of educating the people of Howard County about the history of the county.

We have had programs for every age from preschool, elementary through high school age students and adults. During the past few years we have been developing programs about Life in A Mill Town and have worked with pilot programs on the Native American period, the colonial era and the Civil War years. We have had groups come to the Miller Library and the Museum and we have also presented a program to a summer camp and an elementary school. We have presented programs to Home School groups, Scout groups, developmentally challenged high school students and adults from the ARC. During the two hour program we introduce the era with a power point, then break into three groups to do a craft, play a game, handle artifacts and so on. At the end we spend time with a multiple choice evaluation using

the clickers – a favorite conclusion to the program.

The Lunch Date With History lecture series has been very popular on the first Friday of the month as various local speakers speak on the history of Howard County. The audience has steadily grown and we have received very positive feedback on each lecture. It is free for members and \$5 for non-members.

The Passport to the Past program is now in the fourth year and has been a wonderful way to spend time with your children or grandchildren during the summer as you show them the sights of Howard County. The passports can be picked up for free at the Miller Library upstairs in the Research Room or at the Museum.

We are currently in the beginning stages of fund raising and looking for grants to refurbish the Second Quaker Schoolhouse (Weir Building) next to the Museum. It would be wonderful for Howard County to have an Education Center like many of the surrounding counties. We would be able to depict what life was like in our mill town during the Colonial Period and easily update it and adapt it to the Civil War era and later the WWII era and so on. We are in the process of developing a monthly two hour program on the first Saturday of each month in 2018 to build up interest and to pilot our ideas. These programs would be for school age children from 5 through age 12 and would be free for members or \$5 for non-members.

So, how can you help us?

1. Donate to the Education Program fund. Do it in memory of a loved one.
2. Join the Education Committee. We would welcome you! If you are interested I would be happy to give you more details.
3. Volunteer to help us sew some period clothes for the children to try on.
4. Save your discarded men's white shirts for us. They make great pinafores.
5. Help us write grants.
6. Help us with your graphic design skills to make flyers, brochures, programs etc.
7. Let us know if you know a Brownie or Cub Scout group who might want to work closely with us as they study their county.
8. Volunteer to be a museum docent and help us get a guide together.

So, if you want to get involved in any of these ways you can email Anne Clark Schoenhut at [aclarkschoenhut@aol.com](mailto:aclarkschoenhut@aol.com) or stop in the Research Room at the Miller Library on Tuesdays as she is usually at the Welcome Desk. ♣



ANNE CLARK SCHOENHUT WITH THE TIGER CUBS PROGRAM

# PASSPORT TO THE PAST

Three hundred years is a long time! For three hundred years, man has been leaving his mark on what is today's Howard County. The Howard County Historical Society is giving students from Pre-School through Grade 8 an opportunity to discover their county's past with this summer's Passport to the Past Program.

Participants will visit the only known all-iron truss bridge. They will visit a site which was home to two Maryland governors. And then there are two one-room schoolhouses, a finishing school for wealthy young ladies, an early fire house, a meditative shrine, a farm which has been in the same family since 1797, and the road which led travelers West in the early 1800's. Sites are spread from Savage to Ellicott City, from Columbia to Lisbon.

Download the "app" on your

iPhone ("HCHS Passport To The Past", by Award-Winning App developer TownSprout LLC, in iTunes or your App Store) or Pick up a Passport booklet at the Historical Society at Miller Library or the Museum of Howard County History in Ellicott City. Visit fifteen of the twenty-four historic sites pictured and photograph your child at each site. Post or Mount the photos in the app or the booklet to create your child's own personal historical diary. If photography is not your choice activity, the children may draw the pictures. Validate the completed booklet at and bring into either location by August 30 for your child for cool prizes from the gift shop.

The Passport to the Past Program will be available starting June 2nd at the Historical Center & Archives at the Miller Branch Library (9421 Frederick



Road) & at the Museum of Howard County History, Fridays - Sundays 1:00-5:00, 8328 Court Avenue, Historic Ellicott City). ♣

# STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT - A SMASHING SUCCESS!



CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: BOARD MEMBERS KIM EGGBORN, ANNE CLARK SCHOENHUT, AND LEONORA HOENES WITH ALLAN KITTLEMAN; SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMERS PERFORM AT THE PARTY IN 1950S STYLE; ALLAN KITTLEMAN AND TED MARIANI ENJOYING THE PARTY WITH GUESTS; GAMERS AT THE BLACKJACK TABLE.



## 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS



ELI AUGUST



COLUMBIA JAZZ BAND

### AUGUST

8/4

**Lunch Date with History**  
"The Colonial Iron Industry"  
By Lee Preston

8/19

**Museum Concert Series**  
Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes

### SEPTEMBER

9/1

**Lunch Date with History**  
"Savage Mill"  
By Marty Schoppert

9/23

**Museum Concert Series**  
The Classic Hitmen

### OCTOBER

10/6

**Lunch Date with History**  
"Black Churches in Howard County"  
By Pat Greenwald

10/28

**Museum Concert Series**  
Eli August & Nightwatch Paradox

### NOVEMBER

11/3

**Lunch Date with History**  
"Cemetery Art & Symbols"  
By Fred Dorsey

11/18

**Museum Concert Series**  
Historically Inappropriate Comedy

### DECEMBER

12/1

**Lunch Date with History**  
"Rivers, Rocks and Railroads"  
By Ned Tillman

12/16

**Museum Concert Series**  
Columbia Jazz Band

## MUSEUM ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

## THE KIWANIS CLOCK

In 2000, the Ellicott City Kiwanis Club presented to County Executive James N. Robey, the now iconic clock as a joint celebration of the 60th anniversary of their Club and Howard County's 150th birthday. The clock is a replica of one built during the 1850s by the E. Howard Clock Co., of Waltham, Massachusetts. The plaque read, "Dedicated to Ellicott City by the Kiwanis Club of Ellicott City in Celebration of the 60th anniversary of the club in the year 2000 and the Howard County Sesquicentennial in the year 2001."

Its home was the intersection of Maryland Avenue and Main Street, in front of the B & O Railroad Station Museum in Ellicott City. It remained a familiar fixture until the fateful night of July 30, 2016 when a flood took it down the Patapsco River. A local kayaker, Bobby Baker, found the clock wedged behind the flour mill. He pulled it from the river amid cheers from the onlookers.

It has now found a new home among the other treasures to be found at the Howard County Historical Society. So come out and visit your old friend. ♣

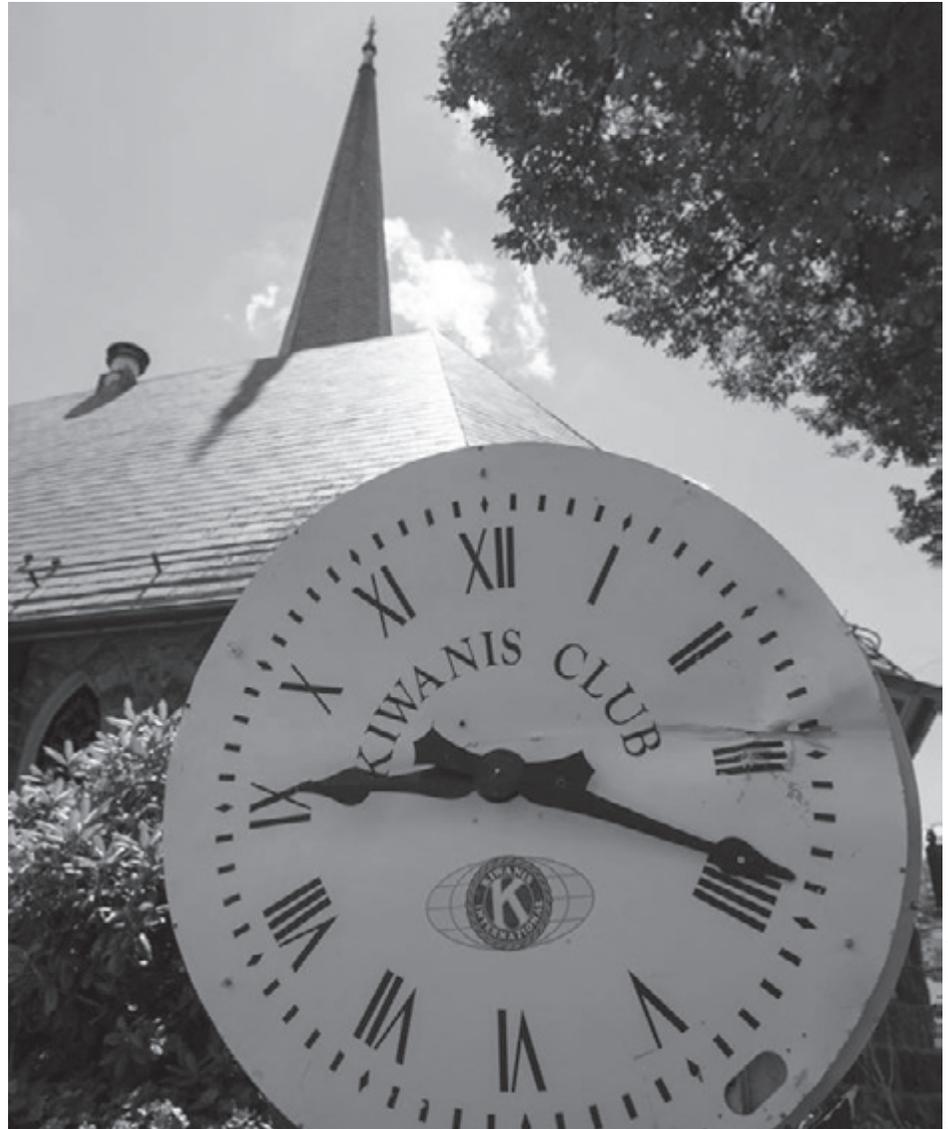


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM LONG PHOTOGRAPHY

## WHEN SEWELL'S ORCHARD, THE LAST FARM, JOINED COLUMBIA'S OTHER 14,000 ACRES OF FARMLAND

*Continued from Page 1*

had become known for, stated in a 1981 Preview of Homes article, "Any criticism of Jim Rouse should be well thought out before said. The planned community has been tremendous for Howard County. It's healthy, vibrant and good economically—it's great."

More than 35 years later, Ronnie Sewell echoed his brother's sentiments in a discussion about the Dashers, Seilings, and the other farmers who originally sold their land to Jim Rouse back in the mid-1960s. Sewell pointed out that the farmers' ages

— most were in their late 50s or early 60s with no children interested in taking over the family farm — along with the agricultural practices of the time—Sewell's father was one of the first to move away from general farming to agritourism thanks to his retail grocery experience in ElkrIDGE — meant that most "were ready to be done with farming." In fact, Sewell said, he remembers "George Dasher saying he was 'glad for it. Maybe I could have held out for more, but I was ready to sell.' [And] that's," Sewell said, "why Rouse was a good thing. They

probably would have still all sold out, but it wouldn't have been as well organized, and it wouldn't have accommodated the diverse demographics [that Columbia encouraged.] A lot of people welcomed [Rouse's] vision including his determination to enhance the aesthetics. It was amazing he could pull it together."

Like his brother in those earlier articles, Ronnie Sewell acknowledged that he "wanted to keep farming" all those years ago; but, again like his brother, "I didn't want to have a city wrapped around me." ♣



HOWARD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
9421 FREDERICK ROAD  
ELLCOTT CITY,  
MD 21042  
ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ELLCOTT CITY, MD  
PERMIT NO. 117

#### GOLD SPONSORS

BOB LUCIDO TEAM OF KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY  
BROOKS WHITTAKER  
SLACK FUNERAL HOME  
EYRE BUS SERVICE (RON EYRE)  
KINGDON GOULD, JR. (OVERLOOK FARM)  
HOENES FAMILY FOUNDATION (RICHARD HOENES)  
ELLEN FLYNN GILES  
CHARLES LEWIS  
DON REUWER  
HARRY H. WITZKE'S FUNERAL HOME  
BRYONY BLOOD

#### SILVER SPONSORS

KATHERINE ARTH  
EDITH ALBRECHT  
V. ALLAN AND MARILYN B. BANDEL  
CLARK'S ACE HARDWARE  
RICHARD T. CLARK  
PHILLIP DENNIS  
LOIS LANIER  
W. EDWARD LILLEY  
PAULETTE LUTZ  
KAREN MICHAELSON  
CHARLES H. MILLER  
MICHAEL J. OSBORNE BOOKS LLC ABAA (MICHAEL OSBORNE)  
RUFF ROOFERS, INC.  
RYAN SIMMONS  
THE TAYLOR FOUNDATION  
TESS WALSH  
KARL BRIERS

#### BRONZE SPONSORS

MAE BEALE  
BURNETT H. CHALMERS  
RICHARD CLINCH  
EDWARD CLARK  
HAROLD L. AND MARTHA M. CLARK  
MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH L. COLBOURN, JR.  
BARBARA CUSACK  
S. DONALD DALFONZO  
JOHN EVANS  
MARGARET S. FITZPATRICK  
JEFF FLOYD  
GENERAL TRIMBLE CAMP SCV (JAMES BIBB)  
ED GERMROTH  
VICTORIA GOELLER  
MAT ABOUT YOU - CHARLES GRUSS  
DOUGLAS ISOKAIT  
JANET AND THOMAS KUSTERER  
LOIS K. LANIER  
THEODORE F. AND VERONICA MARIANI  
VLADIMIR MARINICH  
SHIRLEY MATLOCK  
ANNA MAE MILLER  
FENBY MOORE  
DESSIE MOXLEY  
KATHLEEN O'BRIEN  
MR. AND MRS. PAUL PALLADINO  
DONALD M. POWERS  
MICHAEL J. SMITH AND MARY LOU RAYBALL  
CHARLES REES  
ANNE RIVERA  
DOUGLAS ROSS  
ANNE SCHOENHUT  
KATHY SMITH  
JOHN AND AVERY SPITZ  
SUSAN STONESIFER  
JOHN TEICHMOLLER & KATHY FARNSWORTH  
THE COLUMBIA ACADEMY (APRIL WAINWRIGHT)  
RICHARD P. VOELKER