

October 2021

Harford Heritage News

250th Anniversary of Founding of Harford County—2023

200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Tour of America— 2024

Gala Opening, Finale and More

Representatives from all over Harford County met on September 16, 2021 to help plan for Harford's 250th Anniversary celebratory year. The meeting was held in a charrette format. Participants were divided into small groups based on their affiliations and described their ideal opening ceremony, a possible grand finale and to share ideas and suggestions for the best way to involve the community throughout this celebratory year.

Ideas flowed resulting in more than 12 pages of suggestions. Some overlapped, but many were new and all were extremely helpful.

The Harford 250 Steering Committee is now in the process of reviewing all of these ideas and will be submitting recommendations for the year and begin developing a budget in the next month.

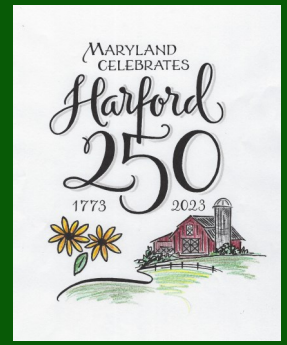
There was general agreement that the opening event should occur in the spring, likely March 2023 rather than January to avoid weather issues. Ideas ranged from a multi-day event to a single day with events in numerous locations. Suggestions included possible speakers, a hybrid event, display ideas, entertainment components and more.

The Finale would be held the following spring, recognizing the date the state legislation that created Harford County took effect. Recommendations ranged from a festival with fireworks and entertainment to a decentralized celebration with hands on activities, community tours, historical reenactments, art shows, youth programs and block parties. Most agreed that the Finale should also focus on the County's future.



During the celebratory year, participants identified many ways that local businesses, organizations and governments could showcase their part in the development and history of the county while enhancing the year's celebration. There will be scavenger hunts, parades, trivia games, storytelling, exhibits, military programs, reenactments, shows, and a time capsule marking the county's historic past, present and future.

The Steering Committee is preparing to share the year-long program over the coming months. Those who were unable to attend the meeting, may send ideas for the opening, finale, or how you or your business or organization might participate in this celebratory year to 250celebration@harfordhistory.org. All ideas are welcome.



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December 31 - Memoir Deadline Time is running short. The deadline for forwarding your story for the 2023 Anthology is December 31, 2021. Submission Requirements on [page 5](#).

Trivia Questions

1. In March 1920, what radical plan was carried out in attempt to break up the ice gorge in the Susquehanna?
2. The Aegis was called "The Southern Aegis" until March 1864, when it became known as "The Aegis and Intelligencer" after incorporating "Harford County Intelligencer". In what year was the name shortened to "The Aegis"?
3. How did "Joppa" get its name?
4. "The Harford Edition" newspaper, a local and short lived spin off from "City Paper" in Baltimore, debuted in what year?



Ice Jam on the Susquehanna

Answers on page 4

Historical Society Announces Interim Director

The Historical Society of Harford County has appointed Christine Potts as Interim Director to replace departing Director Maryanna Skowronski, who has accepted a position with The Manor Conservancy. Ms. Potts brings experience as a non-profit administrator and communications coordinator as well as background as a professional storyteller, college instructor, and researcher. She will direct the day-to-day administrative and research services of the Society during the search for a permanent Executive Director.

Ms. Skowronski has served as Director of the Historical Society for almost two decades. During that time she has guided the organization through a period of growth in its collection and its reputation as a research facility. She initiated efforts to restore the lobby of the Society's headquarters building and to create space for a local history museum. "Maryanna's many years of hard work and dedication to the Society, her substantial contributions to our success, are notable and will not be forgotten," said Society President William "Bill" Walden. "She has kindly agreed to continue to serve as a volunteer on our museum committee."

Committee Updates

The Harford 250 website provides background information on the mission and events planned for 2023. It is also available for you to add your current event information. We hope to engage the public early, letting them know that this is the site to check for many upcoming events in the county so that they will be familiar with the site before the Anniversary year begins. So please take advantage of this opportunity to download the event logo, share your event information and your logos at www.harford250.org.

The website committee is currently working on a timeline of Harford's history which will be shared in the near future. Other planned additions will include a media page, memoirs from county residents, current and previous newsletters and more. The Finance subcommittee is searching for grant possibilities and developing a budget for 2023. Once the Budget is complete, the committee will initiate a sponsorship program. Begin developing ideas on how your business, organization or group can participate in the Harford 250 celebration. If you have questions or are looking for advice, there is a list of Steering committee members with their assigned networks on [page 4](#).

Sharing Your Story—A Gentle Reminder

Tell us in your own words a personal tale of your time in Harford or relate the history of your business, organization or institution (churches, fire stations, etc.). To help you get an idea of what others have written, here is an excerpt from a recent submission. Stories will be combined in a book commemorating Harford's past and present, available in a limited edition during the Harford 250 year-long celebration. It is time to start writing. Send submissions to 250celebration@harfordhistory.org on or before December 31, 2021. For details on submission see [page 5](#).

Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra

Sheldon Bair, The Orchestra's Founder and Music Director

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra was founded as the Harford Community Orchestra in late 1977 and early 1978 by Harford County music teacher Sheldon Bair with help from attorney Florio Franetovich, John Carroll Principal, Donald Sudbrink, Bel Air Middle School Principal, Thomas Wimbrow, and first orchestra President, Brinton Cooper. A few years after its creation, the orchestra members decided to rename the ensemble the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (SSO).

The SSO's first concert was held at John Carroll School in April 1978 with just 53 musicians in the orchestra; now it has a more robust number of 75 musicians. The orchestra members are not paid, but instead play for the love of making music and sharing it with others! Over the years, the orchestra has performed its subscription concerts at various Harford County venues in Bel Air, Havre de Grace, and Aberdeen, averaging four concerts per season plus one or two outdoor concerts per year.

The SSO's guest soloists and composers, often with ties to northeastern Maryland, have brought much joy and expertise to the orchestra's rehearsals and performances. Some standouts have included: hornist Barry Tuckwell; tenor Richard Cassilly (originally from Harford County); musicologist Brian Newbould; the Edinburgh String Quartet; the Penn State Concert Choir (Doug Miller, director); and a very young Yuja Wang, now a famous pianist. Local soloists, like violinist Linda Leanza and soprano Carolyn Black-Sotir, have performed with the orchestra many times, as have local choirs like the Harford Choral Society, Cor Rehobeth, and the Deer Creek Chorale (including a memorable performance of Orff's 'Carmina Burana' in March of 2014). The orchestra has had close relationships with many composers, including a memorable week in 2000 when Sir Malcolm Arnold was its guest, and has performed much music by the late African American composer William Grant Still, whose daughter, Judith, was a guest on two occasions.



Photo credit: Tracey Grumbach

Harford 250 Steering Committee

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Trivial Answers

1. Lt. Studler, expert bomber from APG, dropped 50 (short-fused) bombs on the river throughout the day to explode under the ice.
2. 1923 (January 27)
3. It was named for the town of Jaffa in the ancient Holy Land for what is now Israel
4. 1991



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HARFORD 250

SHORT STORIES WANTED!

Together, we're writing a book the Historical Society will publish.

Write a true story (in 2,000 words or less)
about places, events, and/or people
that were part of your past here in
Harford County.

Just a few examples:

- *Did you have a favorite hangout that isn't around?*
- *Perhaps a business was located elsewhere in its early days*
- *A person from the county who had a profound impact.*
- *What were some things we did 50 or more years ago that we don't do or do differently now?*

TELL US!

We want to make YOUR story, part of OUR story.

Email stories to 250Celebration@HarfordHistory.org

DEADLINE for submission is December 31, 2021

All submissions will be reviewed by a committee. The society will notify those whose stories have been selected for publication.

All submissions will be retained in the Society's Archives. Submission constitutes the individual's agreement to allow the use of the story in the anthology and also acknowledges that extracts/pictures may be used for publicity purposes. It is also understood that no payment will be given for use of the stories and pictures.