

# HALE BYRNES HOUSE

## WINTER 2016–2017 NEWSLETTER



606 STANTON-CHRISTIANA ROAD, NEWARK, DELAWARE 19713

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

January, 2017

2016 was a good year for this old house. The State did a tremendous amount of work towards getting our drainage issues under control and we are extremely grateful to Lynn Riley, Cherie Dodge-Biron, and Tim Slavin for coordinating that effort. We are jubilantly celebrating Longwood Foundation's approval of our grant request for \$47,610 which will allow us to have much-needed repairs made to our north and south gable ends. We thank all involved for their generosity and many kindnesses.

Special thanks to go to our new vice-president, Kathleen Desimone, and to Darlene Amobi for coordinating a very successful yard sale in May, 2016. We anticipate doing this again in the new year! The whole Kastner family, the Gray twins, and all of you, are thanked on behalf of DSPA-Hale Byrnes House.

Under Nancy Parker's leadership, we continued our focus on the environment, participating in both the Christina River Clean-Up and in an "Out with Invasives" day, identifying and pulling weeds on the property. We were also delighted to have Audrey Sawyer's students with us, continuing their multi-year work measuring the nutrients in the White Clay Creek, and were pleased to host the annual visit of Emily Reed's Sunshine En Plein Air group. Our members once again volunteered at both the White Clay Creek Fest and the Paoli Battlefield Heritage Day, and we will participate at both sites in 2017.

Our American Revolution Round Table has an excellent reputation in Rev War circles. Major scholars, including Edward Lingle and Christian McBurney, are asking to speak here. For an up-to-date 2017 calendar of events, please visit our calendar page at [www.halebyrnes.org](http://www.halebyrnes.org). In 2016, our speakers included Don Hagist, Editor of the Journal of American Revolution; Joe Becton; Bob Selig; Garry Wheeler Stone, and our own members, Walt Chiquoine, Wade Catts and Chris Mlynarczyk. Mike Kochin and Bob Stark were special hits with their presentations on Ben Franklin. Lafayette's Birthday drew a large crowd who loved Alisa DuPuy and Pamela Bastings' presentation, "What About Mme Lafayette?"

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In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nation's historic preservation act,<sup>i</sup> we added a 2016 Sunday afternoon series on the national theme, "This Place Matters." Speakers included Madeline Dunn on the John Dickinson Plantation; Josephine Eccles' "Armchair Tour of Market Street;" Michele Anstine's talk on the preservation of the Read House and Gardens; Syl Woolford on Newark's Woolen Industry; Denise Clemons's talk on the Maull House of Lewes," Riva Brown on the Claymont Stone School, Missy Vaughn on Belmont Hall, and our own Kim Burdick, speaking on "Saving This Old House," about the preservation of the Hale Byrnes House. This experimental Sunday series was well-enough received that we will try it again in the upcoming year. We thank Cooch's Bridge DAR and Kirkwood Chapter SAR for their assistance.

This year's featured People-to-People *Circles of Understanding* speaker was Emmanuel Atia Ndifor of Cameroon. Over the years, we have hosted programs featuring guests from India, Indonesia, Cuba, Nigeria, and France. We thank member Michael Lynch, and our Board member, Carla Stone, (recently-appointed Director of the World Trade Center-Delaware), for this special opportunity.

Our annual members' meeting saw a changing of the guard, with our excellent President Nancy Parker rotating out of that Board slot, and long-time member, Donna Draper stepping up to the plate as new Board Chairman. Three new Board members were elected; Walt Chiquoine, Catherine Morrissey, and Joe Ross. We welcome them all! Tom Reed, Esq. and Frank Romanelli, our generous and hard-working volunteer lawyer and webmaster, were honored for their many hours/years of pro-bono service, and plans were made for the Holiday Open House.

The Holiday Open House was spectacular with members of the Sunshine En Plein Air Art Group setting up a well-received table with their paintings of Hale Byrnes House and other sites; Fred Noesner demonstrating powder-horn making and Laurel Haring, spinning; the White Clay Fly Fishers making fishing flies, and 1<sup>st</sup> Delaware Regiment explaining regimental life in 18<sup>th</sup> century. Little helpers, Bea and Ellie, were the cutest re-enactors the world has ever known! Special thanks go to Judith Jennings and Dennis Mathews, Margaret Noesner, Walt Chiquoine, and Mary Torbey (see photo above) for helping to festively decorate for the event.

A reminder: Hale Byrnes House is closed for the winter. We will re-open on Wednesday, April 5. Our first Roundtable will be held Saturday evening, April 8. "First Entrepreneur: How George Washington Built His--and the Nation's—Prosperity." Our speaker is Edward Lengel, former Editor of the George Washington Papers at University of Virginia.

Thanks, all, for all you do!

See you in the spring!

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<sup>i</sup> <http://preservatin50.org/about/nhpa-history/>