1747 to the Present

Visit the Shirley-Eustis House and experience what life was like in rural Roxbury.

Volume 8, Early Spring 2019

What's new at Shirley Place?

The first month of spring was a busy one for SEHA. From archaeology to our Annual Meeting to special tours over Patriots' Day weekend, Shirley Place welcomed many members and visitors through it doors.

Archaeology Returns to Shirley Place!

Local archaeologists returned to Shirley Place on March 18th to conduct a limited ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey focused on the Mansion's south terraces which face Rockford Street. The survey may have revealed earlier (possibly 18th c.) terraces lying under the ones visible at the surface today.

The brief survey was conducted by John Steinberg, Research Scientist II for the Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The device he used operates on the radar principal and is entirely non-destructive. It produces images that are not as clear as those of a CT scan and thus need to be interpreted by a skilled operator. While certain objects can be detected, the device is most useful for sensing buried foundations and different soil deposits of varying consistency.

The UMass team hopes to extend its survey work across more of Shirley Place's historic landscape. Dr. Steinberg can be seen on the far right of the above photo. He was joined

for his work by (left to right) Steven R. Pendery, SEHA Board Member and Chair of the Archaeology Working Committee, SEHA President William S. Kuttner and City Archaeologist Joseph Bagley.

Patriots' Day weekend brought many visitors

Robert J. Allison, Professor of History at Suffolk University, included the Shirley-Eustis House in his Harvard Extension School class tour of Revolutionary War sites. Thirty-six students, both local and foreign, were guided through Shirley Place by SEHA President William S. Kuttner. The Mansion served as Revolutionary War barracks and hospital during the Siege of Boston from 1775 and 1776. Photo by Jonathan Lane, Revolution 250 Coordinator.

Visitors in town for the Boston Marathon also added the Mansion to their tour itinerary!

Governance: Annual Members Meeting Recap

On Sunday, April 7th, SEHA members gathered at Shirley Place for the 2019 Annual Meeting. President William S. Kuttner greeted guests and provided them with a summary of 2018. The Treasurer's report and Secretary's review of 2018 Annual Meeting minutes immediately followed.

The business agenda included elections of Governors and Overseers to the Class of 2022, appointment of SEHA's Officers for the next twelve months and presentation of Governors' Awards. Also included was a Memorial Tribute to beloved longtime Treasurer Marlowe A. Sigal, who passed away on May 4, 2018.

Guest Speaker Flavia Cigliano, former Nichols House Museum Executive Director, shared her valuable insights on the long and transformational journey required by historic house museums hoping to gain American Alliance of Museums accreditation.

A festive reception in the Great Hall followed the meeting. Photo by William B. Finch.

Board of Governors Elections

Overseer and Nominating Committee member Bonnie Gossels presented the nominees for Board of Governors for the Class of 2022. Elected by the Board of Overseers were:

Mary T. Flynn
William B. Finch
D. Bryan Glascock
Jeanne E. Richardson
Patricia J. Smith
Eileen T. Woodford

SEHA extends a warm welcome to its new Governors Eileen Woodford and D. Bryan Glascock.

Ms. Woodford, who has a MA in Historic Preservation from Boston University, is a former community planning and program management professional. She has worked for the City of Cambridge, the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Park Service. A writer and editor, Eileen is also a licensed middle school

history teacher.

D. Bryan Glascock, Esq. is currently Deputy Director for Regulatory Planning and Zoning at the Boston Planning and Development Agency. He is a former Commissioner of the City of Boston's Inspectional Services Department as well as its Environment Department.

Ms. Woodford and Mr. Glascock are seen below in this photo by Steven R. Pendery.

Board of Overseers Elections

Nominating Committee Chair Jeanne E. Richardson, who is both a Governor and Overseer, presented the following candidates for election by the Board of Governors:

Robert A. Bellinger, PhD
Jonathan L. Fairbanks
David A. Mittell, Jr.
J. Archer O'Reilly, III
James S. Nicolson
Thomas H. Townsend
Patricia A. Violette

SEHA enthusiastically welcomes new Overseers Robert A. Bellinger, David A. Mittell, Jr., James S. Nicolson and Patricia A. Violette.

Dr. Bellinger, an Associate Professor of History at Suffolk University in Boston, is Director of the Black Studies Program, Director of the Clark Collection of African American Literature and Director of the Gewel Tradition Project.

While new to the Board of Overseers Mr. Mittell, Mr. Nicolson and Ms. Violette all have long ties to SEHA.

Mr. Mittell served as its Executive Director from 1989-1991. A columnist and editorial writer, he is a Past President and current Governor of the Historic Winslow House in Marshfield, MA.

Mr. Nicolson, a former SEHA Board Member and Vice President, is a harpsichordist, virginalist, teacher and instrument broker. He is the President of the Cambridge Society for Early Music.

Ms. Violette is also a former Executive Director of SEHA. She is currently Executive Director of the U.S.S. Albacore Submarine and Museum in Portsmouth, NH.

Appointment of SEHA Officers

On behalf of the Board of Governors Jeanne Richardson announced the following Governors would serve as SEHA's Officers until the following Annual Meeting in April of 2020:

William S. Kuttner, President
Paula M. Merek, Vice President
Mary T. Flynn, Secretary
Stephen R. Vitello, Treasurer

Mary Flynn and Bill Kuttner are pictured above presiding over the meeting. Photo by William B. Finch.

Ms. Flynn also serves as Co-Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee and is a member of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Kuttner often acts as Chief Docent.

Steve Vitello and Paula Merek are pictured tending to last minute meeting preparations. Photo by Steven R. Pendery.

In addition to serving as Treasurer, Mr. Vitello is a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and oversees grounds maintenance. Ms. Merek is Co-Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee and a member of the Nominating Committee.

Governors' Awards

Honored for their special contributions were, left to right:

Jeanne E. Richardson, Chair, Events Committee

Paula M. Merek, Co-Chair, Finance & Budget Committee

Mary T. Flynn, Co-Chair, Finance & Budget Committee

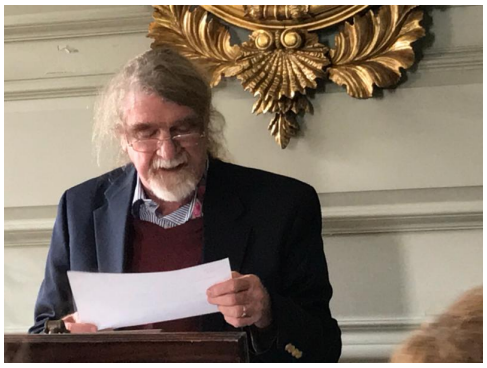
William B. Finch, Chair, Buildings & Grounds Committee

Steven R. Pendery, Chair, Exhibits & Education Committee

Memorial Tribute to Marlowe A. Sigal

Overseer and Past President Thomas H. Townsend, President William S. Kuttner and Overseer and Past President J. Archer O'Reilly, III paid formal tribute to Marlowe's varied and enormous contributions over a fifty year

period. They were joined by William B. Finch, who read a message from Frederic C. Detwiller, and Bonnie Gossels, Father John Mulloy and Erica Sigal, daughter of Marlowe. Mr. Sigal was remembered as a man whose passion and determination helped save and restore Shirley Place and who graciously welcomed everyone through its doors.



Governor/Overseer William B. Finch read a tribute from Frederic C. Detwiller who was unable to attend. Photo by Jeanne E. Richardson.

Below: Shirley-Eustis House c.1970 Photo by Marlowe A. Sigal.

Erica Sigal stands beside the c.1824 Babcock pianoforte her mother Elise recently donated to the SEHA. The instrument was part of Marlowe's extensive collection of Early Musical instruments. Photo by Steven R. Pendery.

Guest Speaker: Flavia Cigliano

Former Nichols House Museum Executive Director Flavia Cigliano shared her insights about the successful professionalization of a small house museum. Ms. Cigliano is nationally respected for having, over a sixteen year period, transformed the Nichols House Museum into an institution which serves as both guiding light and inspiration for small museums everywhere. Her vision led to the NHM earning American Alliance of Museums accreditation in 2017. Photo by William B. Finch.

Members mingled at the post-meeting reception. Top photo by Steven R. Pendery. Bottom photo by Alexandra K. Koblan.

Above: Governors Alexandra Koblan and Michael Genovese, Class of 2021.
Below: Members Earl Taylor and Peter Stott. Photos by Steven R. Pendery.

Retirements

April 2019 brought the retirements of the following individuals from these roles:

Linda Dorcena Forry, Overseer
David Lambert, Overseer
Dean Lampros, Overseer
James S. Nicolson, Governor
J. Archer O'Reilly, III, Governor
Jane O'Reilly, Governor
Byron Rushing, Overseer

SEHA is grateful for their many contributions and years of service.

Upcoming events

May 11th: free tour day in honor of National/Boston Preservation month.

SEHA will participate in National/Boston Preservation month in May! Free tours of the Shirley-Eustis House will be offered to the public on Saturday, May 11th at 11:00 a.m., noon and 1:00 p.m.

June 1st marks the start of our regular tour season which goes through August 24th. Visitors may tour Shirley Place on Saturdays at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.

An Opening Day Members Only Preview Tour is being planned for 11:00 a.m. on June 1st. Coffee and pastries will be served in the Breakfast Room at 10:30 a.m. prior to a guided tour by SEHA President William S. Kuttner.
e.org.org

Become a Member of the Shirley-Eustis House Association

33 Shirley Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Individual membership rates start at only $25 per year! Core benefits include free admission for tours, invitations to special members only events, automatic subscription to the e-newsletter, advance notifications and discounted tickets to programs and events and recognition by membership level in the Annual Report. For more information contact SEHA at (617) 442-2275 or visit our website at https://www.shirleyeustishouse.org https://www.shirleyeustishouse.or

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