21st Annual Coalition Meeting was held at Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia

Quilt by Susan Lenz

The 21st Annual Meeting was held at Christ Episcopal Church

On Saturday, May 5, 2012, members, guests, and speakers met in Columbia for the Coalition’s 21st Annual Meeting. The venue was the Christ Episcopal Church building. The day was beautiful and approximately 36 people attended the meeting.

The members arrived, registered, and collected their tote bags that included rice paper, lumber crayons and directions on how to do a gravestone rubbing. Amanda Becker was responsible for planning the gift bags. The members enjoyed refreshments of pastries, muffins, fruit, and juices.

The silent auction table opened early in the morning with many items, donated by the members, available for bidding. Frances Becker graciously manned the gift shop again this year while Amanda Becker stayed near the silent auction table to
help with last minute donations and answer questions. Not to steal any thunder a full report of the silent auction can be found beginning on page 6.

At 9:30 a.m. President Melvin Mason opened the meeting. He welcomed all who made the trip to Columbia and gave his report. His message can be found beginning on page 3.

David Zinner, Maryland cemetery advocate and director of an organization that provides educational resources on Jewish burial, mourning customs, and cemeteries, spoke about strategies members can use to put their organizations on the frontline. Some of the suggestions he made included the makeup of the cemetery boards. The boards should include someone from the immediate community, family members, landscapers/gardeners, someone from the business community, a genealogist, a conservator, a politician, and representatives from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. He even put the Coalition on the line by making suggestions that included changes to our website and an online message board for people to post questions.

At the end of David’s presentation the business meeting was held. The minutes begin on page 4.

The Coalition presented three Periwinkle Awards this year. The recipients were Justin Stein, the Friends of St. Vincent’s Cemetery, and Donald Willey. Each recipient discussed the work they have done in their respective cemeteries. Each presentation was informative and well received by the attendees. See the article beginning on page 9 that further discusses the recipients and their projects.

After lunch Susan Lenz, a creative fiber artist, discussed her art quilts that combine grave rubbings with vintage household items through meticulous hand and free-motion embroidery.

While Susan was attending an artist conference she took some material and did a rubbing of a tombstone using the fabric remnant and a crayon. She then quilted the rubbing she made. She was hooked. Her interest in cemeteries now includes the epitaphs as well as the carvings. Her collection of epitaphs is stored in a three-ring binder. She admitted to the group that she wanted to stop collecting at 1,100 epitaphs but is now working to fill binder number two. Another side so Susan’s interest in cemeteries involves the silk flowers that are thrown away. She takes the discarded flowers apart and cleans them in her bathtub. The flowers are then used as part of her exhibits/installations.

Susan collects Victorian albums and adds her own photographs of the tombstones and then embellishes the cardboard frames. Some of the embellishments include epitaphs from her vast collection. A very unique way to use an old product.

Susan and her husband have visited many cemeteries in various states and overseas since that first rubbing. The audience was able to visit these cemeteries through the photographs that were part of her presentation. From the response of the audience it appeared many of us were sorry when the program, “The Cemetery in Stitches” ended.

At the conclusion of Susan’s program a break was given so that the silent auction could be ended. Several attendees were able to take a tour of the Old Brick Church before the day’s activities were concluded.

Eileen McGuckian took the lead for the planning and execution of the Annual Meeting. Amanda Becker assisted as well at Gary and Barbara Kraske, Brenda McNeal, and Sandra Wright. Job well done to the committee as it was another successful Annual Meeting.

Diane Nesmeyer

[Note: More pictures from the Annual Meeting can be found beginning on page 11.]

Editors’ Corner

The weather has been kind to cemetery enthusiasts so far this year. We hope you have been able to spend many hours enjoying your cemetery activities.

There were two questions posed to me during the Annual Meeting. The first deals with the caretakers. What happens when the caretakers can’t take care of the cemetery anymore? This is very interesting question. I have seen similar questions posed in other publications but have never seen an answer. If anyone has a suggestion or idea please e-mail me and I will make sure that it appears in a future issue of
the Courier. See page 9 for an interesting article about just such a problem that appears to have a happy ending.

The second question dealt with pictures of the markers in the Courier and on our website. I believe the focus of this question deals with people that are still living and who have purchased and installed their marker pre-need. This is another very interesting topic that deserves a follow up article. If anyone has any thoughts on the topic please send an e-mail and we will include your comments in a future issue.

We would like to thank Tina Simmons, Ann Horvath, Ed Taylor, Jr., Dayle Dooley, Amanda Becker, Melvin Mason, Eileen McGuckian, and Kristin Kraske for their contributions to this issue.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

President’s Opening Address

Welcome to the 21st annual meeting of the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial sites. We are pleased to have this wonderful venue for this meeting and I would personally like to thank the committee for the hard work and many hours they put into the preparation of the meeting.

We have a full schedule and will elect a new President and Vice President.

In an article by Leslie Plummer in the local Anoka County Minnesota, Ms. Plummer set out to explain the historical value of cemeteries, this being the title of her article also.

In defining the value she states, “Lives are commemorated; Deaths are recorded; Families are reunited; Memories are made tangible.”

Explaining that “burial grounds were often a parcel of the land owned by the family and used for their family burial plots”. “When your ancestors sold their land parcels, they may have requested their graves be taken care of.”

She further explained how her searches and research were guided by the art and artistry and by the wealth of information contained on the stones.

She ended her article with “The next time you are driving on a county road and see a sign for a cemetery, stop and look for the oldest headstone – take a look at history, they are, perhaps your ancestors.”

CPMBS agrees with this definition and also has taken action to face the ongoing threats to these valuable cultural resources and sacred places.

It is not enough to just stop and look at a cemetery.

There has to be a program that protects these burial sites from destruction and oblivion.

As a group, we try to be the speakers for the abandoned, neglected, abused and destroyed sites. We try to act in such a manner that we can make a difference in the fate of a site.

We have had some progress, some successes. We have had more failures, more disappointments and more challenges than ever before.

The Coalition will not let these negatives stop us from fighting the good fight. We will take on those challenges that we can.

In honoring the Periwinkle Award recipients today we show that the fight is not lost; we have the will and where-with-all to accept the challenges facing the burial site today.

The awards go from the can-do projects that help preserve the integrity of a burial site with Justin Stein's work at the Riggs Family Cemetery to the far opposite extreme of destruction by Mother Nature with the Anchor of Hope Cemetery and by the destruction of man with the St. Vincent's Cemetery.

David Zinner will help us along with Strategies to Protect Historic Maryland Cemeteries.

Awards and presentations alone cannot and will not protect burial sites. We must strive and strive diligently to face the ever increasing challenges.

Our best defense to the challenges is education. We must continue to educate the public on saving the sites, protecting the sites, and how to go about doing those things that need to be done in the protection of the sites.

We have to grow our membership and we have to grow our activities to match the challenges. We just cannot sit back and think that someone will do it.

I hope the Coalition continues to pursue the outreach opportunities and expand the opportunities to educate.

Melvin
Post Script: At the Annual meeting, we were unable to fill the President and Vice President positions. With an organization of 90 plus members, these two positions should be easy to fill. I believe that our membership has several worthy candidates for these positions; all they need is a little encouragement to step forward. The By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation do not specifically address the lack of an elected President or Vice President, however, they do provide for elections outside of the annual meeting from either the membership or the board as necessary. I do believe that without leadership for an extended period of time, invocation of By-Laws Article XII may be in order.

Draft

Approved: _______

Minutes of the 21st Annual Meeting
May 5, 2012 – Christ Episcopal Church, Columbia, MD

In attendance: Approximately 40 people attended the meeting.

Officers: President Melvin Mason, Vice President Jeff Nesmeyer, Secretary Eileen McGuckian

Directors: Barbara Kraske, Gerhardt Kraske, Kristin Kraske, James Lanier, Thomas Mason, Brenda McNeal, Candy Warden, Sandra Wright.

Directors Absent: Jac Knust, Robert Mosko, Edward W. Taylor, Jr., Paul Miller.

Members and Guests: Amanda and Frances Becker, Laurie and Leonard Becraft, Bridget Blake, Richard Crumbacker, Mel Collins, Gisele Cheffi, Dennis Green, Charles Hessler, John Higgins, Jenifer Johnson (sexton, Christ Episcopal Church), Lloyd Hysan, Susan Lenz and Steve Dingman, Dave Mills, Vickie Nelson, Diane Nesmeyer, Fred Oliver, George Rutkoski, Kelly Sowens, Mr. & Mrs. Brett Stine, Justin Stein, Stephanie and Les Town, Patrick and Sarah Warner, Nancy Whitelock, Donald Willey, Sandra Wright’s food service crew, David Zinner, and others.

President Melvin Mason called the annual meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., noting the presence of a quorum. His opening remarks covered recent accomplishments and current challenges.

Guest Speaker: David Zinner, Maryland cemetery advocate and director of an organization that provides educational resources on Jewish burial, mourning and cemeteries, spoke about strategies to protect historic Maryland burial grounds. He challenged the Coalition to broaden its view and to reach out to other groups to help and to partner with us. He proposed an annual one-day Maryland Cemetery Conference – a gathering of religious, nonprofit, historic and commercial cemetery interests – to address cemetery preservation. He talked about building up the Coalition board, developing a priority list of programs and legislation, organized networking, and how to motivate people to volunteer for CPMBS.

Business Meeting:

Reports were presented by Kristin Kraske (Membership) and Diane Nesmeyer (Outreach).

Election of Officers and Board Members

Nominees for President and Vice President: None. As there were no nominations or volunteers at the meeting, CPMBS members agreed to hold these offices open until they could be filled.

For Directors: Melvin Mason, Director for new 2012-2014 term.

Continuing for the 2011-2013 term: Jac Knust (Treasurer), Eileen McGuckian (Secretary), Directors Thomas Mason, Paul Miller, James Lanier, Candy Warden, Brenda McNeal, Sandra Wright, Robert Mosko, Gerhardt Kraske, Edward Taylor, Jr., Barbara Kraske, and Kristin Kraske.

There were no nominations from the floor. The membership elected all of the nominees by acclamation.

Gerhardt Kraske thanked outgoing President Melvin Mason and Vice President Jeff Nesmeyer for their outstanding service and presented each with a gift from the Coalition.

Periwinkle Awards: Melvin Mason introduced 2012 Periwinkle Award recipients. They were Justin Stine, Riggs Family Cemetery at Bordley’s Choice in Montgomery County (Eagle Scout project), Stephanie Town, Friends of St. Vincent’s Cemetery in Baltimore, and Donald Willey, Anchor of Hope Cemetery in Dorchester County.
Each of the awardees presented their projects to the group and was warmly received.

**Open Forum and Group Discussion:** The membership unanimously agreed to present a CPMBS certificate of appreciation to Barbara Sieg in honor of her “decades of caring, intelligent, strategic, articulate advocacy and an excellent record of success in the rescue and preservation of historic Maryland burial grounds.” A CPMBS representative will present this certificate at a special event at Whipps Cemetery on June 2.

Also agreed was to create the position of Vice President of CPMBS for Legislative Matters and to set up a ListServe on our website to better communicate with and among Coalition members and friends. John Higgins volunteered for the former, Melvin Mason to set up the latter, and Sarah Warner to moderate the ListServe.

**Guest Speaker:** Susan Lenz, a creative fiber artist from North Carolina, showed a PowerPoint and talked about her art quilts that combine grave rubbings with vintage household items through meticulous hand and free-motion embroidery. Her presentation, entitled “The Cemetery in Stitches,” was well received. Susan also contributed a piece of art to the Coalition’s silent auction.

The annual meeting concluded with the end of the silent auction and thanks to all for attending. There being no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The sexton of Christ Episcopal Church, Jenifer Johnson, then led a tour of Old Brick Church (1811) and the parish cemetery.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen McGuckian, Secretary

**Upcoming Cemetery Events**

**Anne Arundel Genealogical Society**

**Cemetery Inscription Days**

Who: YOU and your friends
What: Help the Society to transcribed information from very old tombstones for use by genealogy researchers.
Where: Cedar Bluff Cemetery, Annapolis
When: Saturday, July 14, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Directions: Rt. 50 to Rowe Blvd. Go through 2 traffic lights then bear right to Calvert Street. Go right on Clay Street and right again on Washington St. Park along Northwest Street. Enter the cemetery through the chain link fence - cemetery is on the left side if facing the creek (St. Anne’s cemetery is on the right)

![Volunteer at Holy Cross Cemetery](image1)

Where: St. Anne’s Cemetery
When: Saturday, September 8, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Directions: Rt. 50 to Rowe Blvd. Go through 2 traffic lights then bear right to Calvert Street. Go right on Clay Street and right again on Washington St. Park along Northwest Street. Enter the cemetery (brick walled one) from the back entrance, closest to the water.
Questions/raindate: Tina Simmons at 410-978-7167 (for either event).

![Volunteers at Holy Cross Cemetery](image2)

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Volunteers at Holy Cross Cemetery
Green Mount Cemetery Walking Tours

The next set of walking tours through historic Green Mount Cemetery will take place on Saturday, October 6, 13, 20, 27 - $ - Opened in 1839 as the city's first urban-rural cemetery, Green Mount is the final resting place of Johns Hopkins, Enoch Pratt, William and Henry Walters, Mary Elizabeth Garrett, Theodore McKeldin, John Wilkes Booth, Betsy Patterson, Walter Lord, and other famous Marylanders. Tours begin at 9:30 a.m. from the main gate located at Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street, and are led by Baltimore historian Wayne R. Schaumburg. Reservations are required. For more information, or to be placed on the mailing list for the October tours, call 410-256-2180 or email wayne.schaumburg@gmail.com.

New Members This Quarter

Bernadette Pettie  Baltimore
Victoria Kinnear  Baltimore
John E. Higgins, Jr.  Montgomery
Donald Willey  Dorchester
David Zinner  Howard

Returning members, welcome back:
Greater Patapsco Community Assoc.
Baltimore

Silent Auction

Another successful Coalition Silent Auction was held at the Annual Meeting. With over 40 donations the silent auction raised $723 for the Coalition’s treasury. Books, flowers and flower bulbs, jewelry, baskets, and cemetery-related items were available for bid. The afternoon speaker, Susan Lenz, graciously donated one of her beautiful grave rubbing art quilts titled “The Urn”. Using vintage linens and a crazy quit block she created a grave rubbing of an urn. Annual Meeting Chair Eileen McGuckian donated a personal tour of Rockville, Maryland cemeteries – a very creative way to visit more Maryland cemeteries. Fierce bidding occurred, but in the end all participants were happy with their winnings.

Special thanks to the additional silent auction donors including: Leonard Becraft, John Becker, Bridgett Blake, Barbara and Gary Kraske, Brenda McNeal, Robert Mosko, Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer, Barbara Piczak, Candy Warden, and Sandra Wright.

Amanda Becker

News From the Counties

Allegany County

Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization

Dear Coalition Members and Friends,

The Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization is a proud member of the Coalition since its beginning. As a non-profit, private historical organization we clearly understand the value of maintaining and building monuments and the care of Maryland cemeteries in a declining culture. In recent years with the increase in cremations and a godless society, cemetery interest is not in the forefront of American citizens. Since 1983 we have erected and restored over 892 monuments throughout Maryland and as far away as Florida with a value totaling over 4.5 million dollars. Every penny of it comes from the private sector. We own nine cemeteries and are historically affiliated with three other cemeteries in the Cumberland area. We use our monuments not only to promote and teach America’s great history from the past but its main purpose is to teach those not even born yet who will someday read our monuments. We feel all those who have invested their time and financial resources in cemetery preservation should
Coalition Courier 
Summer 2012

be congratulated and honored in the highest level for preserving America’s heritage into the future. With an education system in this nation that pays little attention to America’s past, it is even more important for all of us to go the extra mile and recruit volunteers in a very lazy society to promote the great Americans who have gone before us.

I realize, in most cases, I am probably preaching to the choir; however, we all need words of encouragement. To all of my fellow Coalition members, I salute you greatly. Even though we do not always agree on issues, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites is a very important institution to the great state of Maryland. We all must work very hard to extend that into the future. I continue to look forward to working with all of you. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you all.

Very sincerely,
Edward W. Taylor, Jr., President
Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, Inc.

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Anne Arundel County

Watchdog: A grave concern about cemetery’s conditions

By Allison Bourg, Staff Writer
CapitolGazette.com
June 11, 2012

Shannon Travers, a Harford County resident, stopped at Glen Haven Memorial Park in Glen Burnie. He didn’t like what he saw when he arrived. The grass hadn’t been cut, flowers and litter were scattered about the graves, the bronze plates of his grandparents’ graves were sunk into the ground, and one vase was missing and the other was damaged.

Mr. Travers turned to the Watchdog who met with Marty Haft, the Senior Family Service counselor at the cemetery. The Watchdog was told that markers do sink and all the family has to do is ask the cemetery to have it reset. These types of repairs generally take 7 to 10 days to complete.

[Editors’ Note: Nothing was noted in the article about the overgrown grass and trash. We also assume that the repairs that were referenced in the article included replacement of the missing bronze vase and the repair of the damaged one. We also forwarded this article to Tina Simmons, Cemetery Chairperson for Anne Arundel Genealogical Society.]

Summary by Diane Nesmeyer

Baltimore City

Baltimoresun.com

Baltimore’s oldest black cemetery finally restored, with help of inmates
Mt. Auburn project one of many state funnels inmates to work on
By Justin Fenton
May 14, 2012

[Editors’ Note: There were many articles published about Mt. Auburn’s transformation after its rededication ceremony on May 14, 2012.]

Mt. Auburn in Baltimore City has experienced decades of neglect and has been in the news numerous times regarding the weeds, garbage, and overgrowth. Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church could not maintain the cemetery, the final resting place of generations of African-Americans.

The cemetery was found in 1872 during a period when blacks could not be buried next to whites. Many pioneers of Baltimore’s black community are part of Mt. Auburn’s 55,000 graves.

The 34-acre site has been cleared of trash, debris, weeds, and overgrowth by more than 40 inmates over a four-year period. The prisoners clocked over 700,000 hours of work at the burial ground. May 14, 2012, was a culmination of their efforts when Governor Martin O’Malley, outgoing Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld, III, representatives from the church, the inmate crews most recently on the project, and others attended the rededication services.

The Abell Foundation provided $90,000 for the project which is far from complete. Now that the grounds are once again visible grave markers will be straightened, the grass will continue to be cut, and the weeds addressed as they reappear.

Summary by Diane Nesmeyer
### Carroll County

**Penn Stones Find a New Home**

In the Winter 2011-2012 issue of the Courier, Ann Horvath reported tombstones, belonging to members of the Penn Family, were found when workers were digging a trench behind a barn. Davis and Martha Streaker were planning to find a cemetery willing to accept the tombstones after they had the stones repaired. (Article appeared in the Winter issue of the Courier, beginning on page 5.)

Ann forwarded an e-mail from Mr. Streaker indicating Mt. Olive Cemetery installed the seven stones of the Penn Family. The stones were repaired and are now located near the Milton, Hazel & Thomas Penn marker on lots members of the Board offered to Davis Streaker, a descendant of Stephen and Ellen Penn.

Ann provided the following photographs of the stones at their new location.

Diane Nesmeyer

### Frederick County

**Vandals desecrate New Market Cemetery**

March 21, 2012

By Cara R. Anthony

Eighteen headstones were knocked over, damaged, or broken by vandals over the weekend of March 16 – 18, 2012, at the New Market Cemetery. The treasurer, Michael J. Sponseller, indicated that there is an estimated $30,000 to $50,000 in damages with some of the plots being damaged beyond repair.

Reward Raised In MD Cemetery Vandalism Case

March 26, 2012

CBS Baltimore

Originally a $500 was being offered for information leading to an arrest of the individuals responsible for the vandalism at New Market Cemetery. Local businesses, fraternal organization, and individuals have pledged more money. The total reward for information is now $1,245.

New Market Cemetery cleanup under way

April 29, 2012

By Cara R. Anthony

At least a dozen volunteers worked on April 28, 2012, to clean up after vandals pushed over or damaged 30 markers in late March 2012, at the New Market Cemetery. The workers pieced together broken stones. Stauffer Funeral Home donated materials to help with the stone repairs and Scot Morrow donated lifting tools – such as a small crane to lift or reposition stones. The citizens focused on what could be repaired.

The reward for information now stands at $1500. Anyone with information is asked to call the sheriff’s office at (301) 600-1046.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

### Harford County

**Gravestones damaged in Aberdeen cemetery include those of late Sen. James and his wife**

Vandalism is a persistent problem, caretaker says, police don’t believe specific graves are targeted
By Bryna Zumer
May 31, 2012
Grove Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Aberdeen dates to the 1870s. Many founding Aberdeen families are buried in the three-acre cemetery. An ongoing problem faced by the church is that the gravestones are continually being vandalized. Henry “Lou” Barnhart, the previous caretaker wrote a history of the cemetery. In the history he wrote, “Vandalism and the knocking over of gravestones has been a problem at the cemetery. In an attempt to curb this discouraging problem, a 7-foot high chain link fence was installed in 1974 along the rear and two sides of the cemetery. For a while there was some lessening of vandalism, but in time, fences were cut and the problem continues.”

The current caretaker, Lambert Rickey, has removed the woodline, installed new lighting and a new fence, and has talked with the neighbors and the young people in the area. For a time the vandalism stopped but started again last October. The police believe that it is random acts of vandalism. They don’t believe that any particular marker has been targeted. There is too much foot traffic through the cemetery from the local neighborhoods. Mr. Rickey believes kids are causing the damage and “unless you catch them in the act you can’t prosecute them.”

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**Wicomico County**

Cemetery caretakers look toward the future


Delmarvanow.com, Apr. 14, 2012

By Brice Stump, Staff Writer

Washington United Methodist Church in Shad Point has a burial ground. The caretaker for the cemetery is 78 years old and has been caring for the cemetery for the last 35 years. The site is two-and-a-half acres and Mr. Williams and his wife try to keep the lots clean and arrange for a spring cleanup to tidy the cemetery each year as part of their duties.

The church is experiencing a declining membership, the board of trustees for the church is aging, and younger people don’t seem to care what happens. The Williams and other church members are concerned that no one will pick up the torch when they can no longer carry it.

This story does have a happy ending. The Williams were passing the cemetery one day and found Scot Disharoon visiting the cemetery. He had family members buried in the cemetery and asked if they would allow him to take care of the entire cemetery. Mr. Disharoon, the principal of Salisbury Monuments, has cleaned up the landscaping, straightened stones, unearthed stones that had fallen and were buried, and has created a comprehensive listing for all the stones, lots, and epitaphs.

What a happy ending. If only some of our members can find similar good Samaritans to step forward and lend a hand or take over the care of their cemeteries.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**Periwinkle Award Recipients for 2012**

Justin Stein was nominated for the Periwinkle award by Leonard Becraft for his work in the Riggs Family Cemetery located on Bradley’s Choice of Montgomery County. Justin is a Boy Scout with the Brookville Troop 264 and attends Walter Johnston High School. Justin's efforts to clean up the 250-year old cemetery included clearing trees and brush that encroached on the burial site, removal of years of debris that had accumulated on
the grounds, groundhog holes were filled in, and benches were installed. Justin is continuing to oversee that the burial site is maintained.

**The Friends of St. Vincent's Cemetery** Baltimore was nominated by Melvin Mason for their work in restoring dignity to the St. Vincent’s Cemetery in Baltimore City. Accepting the award was Stephanie Town. Just a few years ago people visiting the site of St. Vincent’s Cemetery in Clifton Park saw nothing but overgrown vegetation and trash. There was no hint for the purpose of the land except a few piles of grave markers scattered throughout the property. Outraged family members found each other through Facebook and a group on Yahoo. A few articles appeared in the local newspaper about the group and the cemetery. Within the two+ years that the Friend’s group was first formed, members continue to meet on a regular basis, a database of close to 3,000 burials was compiled, members worked with the Catholic parish responsible for the site to have the years of vegetation and trash that had accumulated cleaned up and removed, they have held volunteer days in the cemetery, negotiated arrangements to have the lawn cut on a regular schedule, and have applied for and received a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit status by the IRS. Discussions continue for the creation of a permanent memorial for the site.

**Donald Willey** was nominated by Melvin Mason for his work to save the Anchor of Hope Cemetery on Hooper’s Island. Donald Willey has worked for a number of years to rescue the cemetery as it is gradually being consumed by the Chesapeake Bay. Don has recruited volunteers to assist in cleanups and he has requested, and received, assistance from the Department of Correction’s inmates from Salisbury in a huge cleanup of the overgrown vegetation in 2011. He has moved an unknown amount of concrete and boulders to create a barrier along the shore to slow the erosion of the soil. Don continues his work to protect this cemetery from the relentless waves lapping at its boundary.

Melvin Mason
Diane Nesmeyer

**Outreach Committee**

We have sent letters to the 26 libraries within the State offering a free copy of the Coalition’s Guide to Burial Site Stewardship for their collections. Five county libraries have responded and Melvin has mailed the Guides. We also included membership applications and Guide sale flyers. The five counties that have responded were very enthusiastic about our offer and were anxious to add the Guide to their collections.

At the Annual Meeting I gave a brief report of the activities of the Outreach Committee during the 2011 – 2012 year. The Outreach Committee is very important to the Coalition as it is the front line for our group. The members represent the Coalition when meeting the public and provide information to interest the people in joining our organization.

The following are the individuals that have helped make the Coalition’s Outreach a success this year:

Amanda and her sister Frances: Amanda made several trips last year to festivals and other events. She carried and set up the gift shop with her and spent weekends meeting and greeting the public and putting the plight of Maryland cemeteries in the forefront.

Robert and his children – Desi, Evan, and Destin: Together they manned the Coalition’s booth at several events and talked to visitors about the plight of cemeteries and the Coalition’s mission.
Melvin and Thomas Mason: They made several trips throughout the year visiting cemeteries, attending cemetery group meetings, and checking out distressed cemeteries.

Kristin, Gary and Barbara Kraske: They helped staff our table at the Hands On History Day.

Brenda McNeal: Another member who gave selflessly of her time this year, especially at Hands On History Day.

Finally, my husband Jeff who helped me put 2,575 miles on our vehicles for Coalition business. Not all was for Outreach but a large percentage was.

We thank this small group of dedicated members (and non-members) who have stepped up to the plate and helped to get the Coalition’s name out there to the public.

Diane Nesmeyer

The Cake

Amanda Becker found someone through FreeCycle who baked a “gravestone” cake for our Annual Meeting. Amanda was going to write a short article about her wheeling and dealing but was unable to meet the deadline. A picture of the cake follows and hopefully Amanda will tell you the story behind the cake in a future issue.

Thanks Amanda. The cake was a very nice addition and was well received by the attendees at the Annual Meeting.
Silent auction table

Part of Susan Lenz’s display

Melvin Mason and Amanda Becker

Frances Becker manning the sales table

Gary Kraske at the registration table

Old Brick Church and Cemetery

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Quarterly Board Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday July 7, 2012,</td>
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<tr>
<td>from 1 p.m. until 3:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miller Branch of the Howard County Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>9421 Frederick Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellicott City, MD 21042</td>
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<td>Phone: (410) 313-1950</td>
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The Coalition Courier

The Coalition Courier is published quarterly by the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc., P. O. Box 1533, Ellicott City, Maryland 21041, (410) 772-8602. Members of the Coalition receive the Courier as part of their membership which runs from June 1 through May 31st of each year. Individual memberships are $10.00, household memberships are $15, student memberships (grade 12 and under) are $5, and organizational memberships are $20.00 per year. Dues should be mailed to the Membership Chairperson at the address listed above.

The President, Board of Directors, and the Courier editors encourage all members to submit articles to the Courier. They further invite members to write to the Courier with questions or comments about any topic that pertains to burial sites. The topics can include preservation, protection, restoration and maintenance, historical and cultural significance, and documentation. They are also looking for questions or comments you may have about the Coalition. The questions, answers, and comments will be printed in future editions of the Courier. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about your Coalition and to have questions answered that you may have regarding burial sites.

All articles, questions, items of interest may be sent directly to the Coalition at the address listed above or e-mailed to the editors at their address listed below.

Reprint Policy

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Coalition's Objectives

The Coalition, through its members in each county, hope to reach out to all areas of the state to:

Facilitate the exchange of information among individuals and organizations concerned about the protection of Maryland burial sites.

Increase public awareness of the historic and cultural significance of burial sites and the serious threats to them.

Draft and gain passage of new laws to more effectively deal with criminal acts against burial sites and to establish effective and uniform procedures for the protection and preservation of burial sites regardless of their age, cultural affiliation or condition.

Organize support for stronger laws in Maryland to protect burial sites—Native American burials as well as traditional cemeteries.

Raise funds for statewide public education programs, focused on burial site protection, and to provide information and guidance to any government agency, group, organization or individual interested in preserving human burial sites.

Editors

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer, de_nesmeyer@yahoo.com
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2012 Publication Deadlines

Spring March 15, 2012
Summer June 15, 2012
Fall September 15, 2012
Winter December 15, 2012

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held quarterly and scheduled by the President. Meetings are first posted on the Coalition’s Web Site and announced in the issue of the Courier published just prior to the meeting.

The Annual Meeting is held during the board meeting in April of each year. Election of new officers and Board members takes place as well as presentation of the annual reports, adoption of the budget for the coming year, and presentation of the Periwinkle Awards.

2012-2013 Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President Vacant
press@cpmbs.org

Vice President Vacant
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Treasurer Jae Knust (410) 465-8900
treas@cpmbs.org

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Past President Melvin Mason (301) 325-1248

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Standing Committees

Archives Events
Awards Courier
Finance Fund Raising Legislative Nominating
Outreach Publicity Family Remembrance

Web Site
http://www.cpmbs.org
Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites
Membership Form

NOTE: This is NOT a renewal notification; it is provided for convenience only.
Membership year is June 1 through May 31st

Name______________________________________________________________________________________
Address____________________________________________________________________________________
City_________________________County_________________State________ ZIP______________________
Phone______________________E-mail_____________________________Date____________________
____New                   Annual Membership Rates:                     ___
____Renewal                  Individual………………………$ 10
                                  Student (grade 12 and under)…$ 5
                                  Organization…………………. $ 20
                                  Household………………….$ 15
Questions? Call Kristin Kraske, Make Checks Payable to: Coalition to Protect Maryland
Membership (410) 461-6313
Burial Sites, Inc.
P.O. Box 1533
Ellicott City, MD 21041-1533

Can you help us in our various efforts? Please list occupations / skills / interest. _______________________________________
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