

30th Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony

Peerless Rockville will host its 30th annual Preservation Awards Ceremony on Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 pm in the Grand Courtroom of the Red Brick Courthouse.

This year's keynote speaker is Barbara A. Campagna, F.A.I.A., Graham Gund Architect of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She will address the question, "Are historic buildings green?" The event is free and there is unrestricted free parking behind the Courthouse after 5 pm.

In Memoriam

Wayne M. Goldstein, President of Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Peerless is saddened by the death of Wayne M. Goldstein, award-winning preservationist and president of Montgomery Preservation, Inc. Wayne collapsed on the steps of the County Office Building on his way to testify at a hearing and doing the work he loved: working with and for local government, championing neighborhoods and citizens, and pursuing righteousness under the law. "Wayne believed wholeheartedly in civic activism

continued page 2



Congratulations to our 2009 honorees!

- Jerusalem-Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church and The Ross Development and Investment Company: restoration and rehabilitation of the former church parsonage at 17 Wood Lane, today known as Cordelia House
- Steve and Tina Morris, Mangan Group Architects, and Rosenthal Homes: renovation of and compatible addition to 501 West Montgomery Ave.
- The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: "green" design and construction of new headquarters building at 2200 Research Blvd.
- City of Rockville, Department of Parks and Recreation: "green" design and construction of Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr., pictured above
- The Tower Companies and Lerner Enterprises: "green" design and construction of new corporate headquarters building at 2000 Tower Oaks Blvd.
- City of Rockville, Department of Public Works: restoration and rehabilitation of the Twinbrook Stream
- Mary Lou Luff and Clarence Hickey, history re-enactors for the Montgomery County Historical Society. Hickey portrays 19th-century Rockville physician Dr. Edward E. Stonestreet and Luff portrays two 19th-century women, Mrs. Upton Beall and Mrs. Samuel Stonestreet.

Calendar

For updates, check our website at: peerlessrockville.org

Peerless Rockville's Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 7pm, Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Sq.

Peerless Rockville's Annual Preservation Awards

Thursday, June 11, 7:30pm

Grand Courtroom, Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Sq.

A Century of Learning

Saturday, June 13, 11am-2pm, Montrose School, 5721 Randolph Rd.

Heritage Day

Sunday, June 28, 12-4pm, Beall-Dawson House, 103 W. Montgomery Ave.

2009 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, chaired by past president Bob Wright, recommends the following persons for service on the Board of Directors. Additional written nominations may be filed with the secretary any time through June 11.

For re-election to a second two-year term as Officer, term to expire June 30, 2011: Continuing as Secretary: **Patricia Neame**, a conference assistant at World Bank Group who has been in the Washington area since 1996 and a Peerless Board member since 2006.

To fill four vacancies on the Board of Directors, terms to expire June 30, 2011: **Daniel Lavoie**, an archivist and historian interested in issues of collections management, museum professionalism, and outreach; **Erik Ledbetter**, a program director for the American Association of Museums in Washington, DC, who moved to Rockville in 1996 and is a volunteer and Board member with several history and preservation nonprofits; **Steve Morris**, a scientist working for the Federal Government with experience in the renovation of historic homes and application of energy efficient (green) technologies; **Bethany Portner**, an interior designer with experience in nonprofit board service and architecture and design.

Remaining on the Board, with terms ending in June 2010 are **Joan Zenzen, Dick Stoner, Nancee Simonson, John Beins, Pat Rodgers** and **Mary Lynn Scott**.

Retiring from the Board at the end of June 2009 is **Carl Peterson**.

Peerless People & News

Welcome to new members:
Tom Moore, Robert R. Williams, III, Rachel Sultanic

Welcome to Rachel Cannara and Marcos Sanchez, our new tenants at Frieda's Cottage.

Collection News: Peerless is pleased to announce the acquisition of *Rockville Train Sta-*



Left: Graduation day at Montrose School, June 14, 1949. Students surround upper grades teacher Grace Beall Howes.

Below: Students today at Montrose School.

A Century of Learning, Student Reunion at Montrose School

Join us at historic Montrose School for a school reunion and 100th celebration on Saturday, June 13, from 11am–2pm. Alumni will gather from 11am–12noon to exchange memories, share photographs, and pose for a “class” picture. From noon–2pm, visitors can



enjoy guided tours by former students; exhibits; a special “visit” by Grace Beall Howes; and a presentation at 12noon featuring Dr. Jerry Weast, former and current students of Montrose School, and a birthday cake. The event is free. Come and enjoy a school day.

In Memoriam

from page 1

and a government that was directed by and responsive to the citizens it governed,” notes MPI Executive Director Judy Christensen. “He worked tirelessly within that framework in many positions with the Montgomery County

Civic Federation, as a columnist for the *Sentinel* newspaper, and as an unprecedented four-term President of Montgomery Preservation, Inc.”

During Wayne’s tenure, MPI worked to save the Comsat Laboratories Building in Clarksburg and championed historic sites throughout Montgomery County. According to Christensen, “He led the on-going fight to protect the historic preservation laws of Montgomery County and, through these laws, its tangible history. This is a fight that MPI will continue in his honor.”

Wayne’s many friends and colleagues are devastated by the loss of his knowledge, clear analysis, candor, strong voice, and his loyalty and friendship. A long-time ally of Peerless, Wayne served on our Recent Past Advisory Committee and could always be counted for sound advice, tireless support, and principled commitment. We will miss his presence.

tion—1890 by local artist Houston Hancock. The painting, purchased with funds from the Pettit Family Charitable Foundation, hangs in the first floor meeting room of the Rockville Library next to Vinson’s Soda Fountain.

Email Address: Do we have your email address? Let us know so we can keep you posted on the latest Peerless news and happenings!

Peerless People

George Baker, Jr., “Father Divine”

by Judy Christensen,
Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Maryland was home to a number of black leaders who fought racial injustice and provided spiritual leadership – Josiah Henson, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Thurgood Marshall, to name only a few. Rockville can claim George Baker, Jr., today known as Father Divine, the son of a former slave and charismatic leader of a spiritual movement.

Born in Rockville in 1879, George Baker, Jr., was the son of Nancy Smith, a former slave, and her husband, George Baker, a farm laborer. The Bakers owned a small house on Middle Lane in a segregated black neighborhood disparagingly called “Monkey Run.” The Bakers attended Jerusalem Methodist Church, and their children attended the Rockville Colored Elementary School.

Soon after his mother’s death in 1897, he left Rockville for Baltimore, where he became familiar with new storefront religions and evangelists. He became involved with “New Thought,” a movement akin to the power of positive thinking.

Baker allied himself with Father Jehovia, adopting the title of “The Messenger.” Jehovia’s group believed they could embody God by practicing pure religious beliefs. Baker was renowned for his powerful sermons and charismatic presence.

In 1912, Baker left Father Jehovia and declared that he was the only true expression of God’s spirit, taking the name of Father Major Jealous Divine. He spent



five years in the South as a circuit evangelist, calling himself “Messenger of God.” At one point, he was judged insane and confined. He was also the victim of mob violence and claimed to have narrowly escaped lynching.

Baker’s followers were held to strict behavioral standards, including temperance, renunciation of family ties, and celibacy. Father Divine married, but characterized the union as spiritual rather than physical. He purchased a home in the all-white town of Sayville, Long Island, where he founded the interracial Peace Mission Movement. By the 1930s, a network of missions had spread across the nation with headquarters in Harlem, New York.

Under his leadership, 150 missions were established, offering living space and jobs for the poor. The movement also amassed

a network of businesses (restaurants, gas stations, hotels, clothing stores) and other enterprises that provided employment and quality services, including integrated facilities, to those in need. By the late 1930s, the movement claimed more than \$15 million in assets.

Father Divine’s message of equality and self-sufficiency attracted both blacks and whites; his crusade for anti-lynching laws and elimination of racial barriers were precursors to the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Father Divine’s philosophies spread internationally, but were never part of the mainstream. His religious philosophy and practices were rigid and controversial, and he was called a charlatan who deprived his followers of family ties and profited from their labor.

Later in life, he moved his Peace Mission to Philadelphia. Father Divine died in 1965, but the movement he founded was incorporated as a church and continues to this day, spiritually led in his name by his second wife, Mother Divine. His 1892 mansion in Gladwyn, Pennsylvania is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He never returned to Rockville.

For additional information see: Jill Watts, *God, Harlem U.S.A.: The Father Divine Story* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1992); Robert Wiesbrot, *Father Divine and the Struggle for Racial Equality* (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1983).



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**30th Annual Preservation
Awards Ceremony**
Thursday, June 11

Mission:
Peerless Rockville
safeguards and promotes
Rockville's past by
preserving buildings,
spaces, objects, and
information important
to our city's heritage.
Peerless Rockville
advances its goals through
education, example,
advocacy, and community
involvement.

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Hours:
Resource Center, Library
and Peerless Store:
**Monday-Friday,
10 am-1 pm
and by appointment**

Office:
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9 am-3 pm**

**2008-2009
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Join Peerless Rockville Today!

MEMBERSHIP: Sign me up to be a member: Renew my membership:

Individual—\$35/\$25 for Senior/Student Family—\$60/\$50 for Senior/Student Family

Friend—\$250 Sponsor—\$500 Benefactor—\$1,000 Patron—\$2,500

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DESIGNATED FUNDS: Intern Stipend Eileen McGuckian Preservation Fund Montrose School

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