



LANDMARK LETTER

Historic Mobile Preservation Society

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Coming Events:

Christmas at Oakleigh

December 3 & 4

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

December 5

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

2011 Mobile Historic Homes Tour

March 18 & 19

HMPS Continues to Press Forward

Dear HMPS Members:

First off, I would like to welcome Rhonda P. Davis as our new Executive Director. Rhonda has a long history of working with civic and preservation groups locally and around the State. I also want to thank Dr. Martha Locicero, our outgoing President, for a job well done.

We have had a busy summer, starting with the annual meeting in May. New Articles of Incorporation were written and adopted at the meeting, and we have also written and adopted new By-Laws. Both the Articles and By-Laws were hopelessly dated, had been amended over the years, and needed a general cleaning up. Many thanks to Joy Klotz, Sally Trufant, and Harold Parkman for attending to this task.

Mobile is the land of movable feasts, and in that light, we had our annual *Beauty and Bravery* party and silent auction in July. This has become an annual tradition inspired by President Garfield's visit to Oakleigh and his experience drinking his first Mint Julep. The event was a huge success, with over 200 people in attendance. Special thanks are in order for Sam Gadd and Virginia Edington, who served as co-chairs of the event.

One of the silent auction items at *Beauty and Bravery* came from Ghost Hunters of South Alabama. They offered the highest bidder the chance to spend an evening inside Oakleigh looking for paranormal goings-on.

Speaking of ghosts, the Oakleigh Historic Complex was the venue for Haunted Oakleigh which took place on October 21, 22, and 23. Thanks to Theatre USA for taking this project on, I know it was a great time for all.

We are selling white pine wreaths and garlands, shipped fresh from North Carolina, again this holiday season. Look for ordering information in this Newsletter.

We will have Christmas at Oakleigh from December 3 through 5. The Junior League of Mobile will be decorating the house to reflect a nineteenth-century Mobile Christmas.

If you haven't already done so please renew your membership to HMPS. Reminder letters will be sent out shortly. Many thanks to Virginia Edington, chair of the Membership committee for seeing to this task. Your membership helps to support all the great things that are going on at Oakleigh.

Sincerely,

Douglas Burtu Kearley
President



2010–2011 HMPS Leadership

President

Douglas Burtu Kearley

First Vice-President

Sam Gadd

Second Vice-President

Rev. Rob Gulledge

Third Vice-President

Virginia Edington

Secretary

Sally A. Trufant

Treasurer

Robert W. Peck

Board of Directors

Clara Armbrecht

Paige Drew

Dora Finley

Jeff Garrett

Allen Gustin

Stella Hester

Thomas C. McGehee

Harold Parkman

Julee Sackett

Paul Shestak

Michon Trent

Beth Walmsley

Advisors

Amy Hamilton

Tenne Johnson

Joy Klotz

Robin Roberts

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Dear HMPS Friends:

I can't tell you what an honor and a pleasure it is for me to serve as your new Executive Director. As I assume responsibility for managing HMPS, I want you all to know that meeting the needs of you, our members, is in the forefront of my mind. I hope that by working together we can continue to move preservation forward, protect our valuable historic assets, and teach our children that history is important in knowing who you are.

As we approach this holiday season, it invokes special memories for me. As a child, I remember watching the lucky young girl selected to portray Miss Daisy light Oakleigh's Christmas tree, a Cedar that is still on the front lawn. These warm and magical memories are ingrained in my mind and in my heart. Christmas for me would not be complete without a visit to Oakleigh. I hope you feel the same.

This year, I will be placing the Christmas tree in the Cox-Deasy Cottage in honor of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Pulliam, and in memory of my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Dreading. These are the people who taught me the meaning of Christmas, and who inspired me to love historic architecture and appreciate horticulture. I never dreamed, back in the 1960s, that I would one day be responsible for creating Christmas magic at Oakleigh. Thanks to them, I will.

I am looking forward to working with you all. I invite you to come and visit Oakleigh, enjoy our upcoming events, and explore the Minnie Mitchell Archives. Remember, our door is always open to you!

Warmest wishes,

Rhonda P. Davis
Executive Director

Membership a focus as we work to strengthen HMPS

If you haven't renewed your membership to the Historic Mobile Preservation Society, now's the time. HMPS is embarking on a new program of work that will benefit our members and help care for the Oakleigh Historic Complex. Your membership contributions will help us create new social events for you to enjoy, develop educational seminars that will aid all of our members in learning about restoration and preservation, and help us strengthen our communication tools. As a member of HMPS you receive quarterly editions of *Landmark Letter*, free admission to Oakleigh, a 10% discount in the Gift Shop, and notice of all of our events and programs.

We hope you will join us in our effort to strengthen HMPS and meet the needs of our members. All contributions to HMPS are tax deductible.

New Educational Program to be Launched in January

HMPS is working to develop a new educational series for our members. The program will be launched in January 2011, and will include a monthly seminar on topics ranging from how to care for vintage linens to talks on the history of food in our region. Watch for a complete schedule in the next edition of *Landmark Letter*.

Christmas at Oakleigh to feature décor from the Junior League

The Junior League of Mobile will be celebrating their 80th anniversary this year. In honor of this milestone anniversary, the organization will be decorating the front parlors of the Oakleigh mansion in recognition of their legacy of historic preservation in Mobile.

Links between HMPS and the Junior League of Mobile are very strong, evident throughout the history of both organizations. Many of our founding members are members of the Junior League. Velma Croom, our beloved past president and a major force in Mobile's preservation movement, served as president of the Junior League of Mobile in 1950-1951. Even today, several members of our board of directors are sustaining members of the Junior League of Mobile.

With this intertwining history, it is a pleasure to welcome the Junior League to Oakleigh. We invite you to tour the Oakleigh complex this December and to remember the impact that the volunteers of the Junior League have on our community. We would like to congratulate this army of women on their 80th anniversary, and thank them for their continued support of historic preservation in Mobile.

Oakleigh Belles lend a hand at Bayfest

The Oakleigh Belles volunteered as Information Ambassadors in the Children's Area during Bayfest. Along with guiding at Oakleigh, these talented young ladies also make personal appearances throughout the year attending special events in the community. The Oakleigh Belles serve as representatives of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society. Pictured are seated from the left: Dawn Allen, Courtney Carpenter, Jasmine Goraum, and Hannah Hill. Standing from the left: Brooke Allen, Elaine Barreras, Kristen Lee, Shelby Pope, Gabrielle Rabon, and Jennifer Rennsink.



Oakleigh Belles at Bayfest.

Connecting to Collections Webinars Planned for Archivists

The Historic Mobile Preservation Society and the Mobile Historic Development Commission are joining together to present *Connecting to Collections*, a series of six webinars designed to assist in the archiving and promotion of collections. The webinars will include information on topics ranging from how to promote your collections to the media to caring for papers, photographs, and audiovisual collections.

The webinars are brought to us by the Institute of Museum and Library Services in partnership with the Heritage Preservation, the National Institute for Conservation, and the American Association for State and Local History; and is produced by Learning Times, LLC.

If your church, school, or social organization has an archives collection; or if you are just interested in learning how to care for family documents and private collections, we hope you will attend.

The *Connecting to Collections* webinars will be held in the CitiSmart Room in Government Plaza. All sessions are free of charge.

Webinar Topics and Dates:

Telling the Story of Your Collections to the Press – October 28, 10:30 a.m.

Using Social Media to tell Your Collections' Stories – October 28, 1:00 p.m.

Getting the Most from your Bookshelf: Care of Art and Objects – November 4, 1:00 p.m.

Funding for Collections Care – November 22, 10:30 a.m.

Public Outreach and Collections Care – December 2, 1:00 p.m.

Getting the Most from your Bookshelf: Care of Paper, Photographs and Audiovisual Collections – December 9, 1:00 p.m.



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Mobile, AL 36604**

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*Preserving tangible links to our past
for the enjoyment of present and future generations.*

We're on the Web!

<http://www.historicmobile.org>

■ **Get all the latest HMPS news!** ■
■ Join our electronic mailing list by ■
■ sending your e-mail address to ■
■ hmps2@bellsouth.net ■



The Oakleigh Historic Museum

Hours of Operation

Wednesday: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Thursday: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Friday: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Saturday: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Other Times - By Appointment.

Tours on the hour.

Last tour one hour before closing.

General Admission:

\$7 for adults

\$3 for children and students

\$5 per person for groups of 10 or more

Visit us on the web at www.historicmobile.org