I am looking forward to 2009 and all of the opportunities of informing you of the museum’s progress and how it continues to serve Greensboro. You will find considerable news in this issue of the Journal on the last few weeks of 2008 and how they will impact the museum well into the future. The Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc. board of trustees has new leadership for the year and I want to acquaint you with these individuals that will lead the museum.

The 2009 board officers are President Ken Bethea, Vice President Susan Schwartz, Secretary Margaret Benjamin, Assistant Secretary Robby Hassell, Treasurer Emerson Spivey, and Assistant Treasurer Carla Ugboro. Also welcome these trustees to their 2009-2011 term of service: Margaret Benjamin, Mike Cammack, Jeff Davis, Lara Heberle, Ron Pittman, Jim Rucker, Jim Schlosser, Pat Sevier and Carla Ugboro.

The trustees and I also want to say thank you to board members that have contributed to the museum and are concluding their terms of service: Ned Cline, Fred Jones, Jim Schenck, Nathan Duggins and Al Barnett. Ned served as our board president in 2006 and 2007. Fred Jones served as cochair of our planned giving committee. Jim Schenck along with his wife Anita led the museum’s most successful capital campaign from 2005 through 2007 and exceeded the original goal of $1.6 million by more than $500,000.

I can’t say thank you enough to this group of inspiring individuals that have done so much for the museum as trustees and will continue to advocate for the museum after their official board service has ended.
As the months move along we have talked about the variety of ideas during the schematic phase, completing the design development phase and the chronological interpretations of each gallery for this exhibit. The team continues work on the big picture while also developing the details that reinforce the exhibition’s philosophy.

Linda Evans, Community Historian, uses interpretive threads to tell the visitor what is distinctive to Greensboro and to provide connections to American history. Creating, researching, acquiring feedback and editing are part of her dedicated efforts to create a poignant, entertaining and accurate story.

Stephen Catlett, Archivist, and Elise Allison, Assistant Archivist, have spent countless hours selecting local images and archival material to enhance this story. Hundreds of images will be used for large murals and graphics. Rare original documents, photographs and books will supplement the galleries too. Audio clips and video footage have been pulled from our holdings or acquired for the exhibition.

Jon Zachman, Curator of Collections, monitors the needs of the architects and structural engineers as they prepare to transform the exhibit space in our largest artifact, our building. He is also developing an exciting military history technology component. This task will allow visitors to look at additional military objects, learn more about local veterans and provide a way for them to relate their own history. Selecting objects, acquiring new items and creating detailed charts for each gallery have been tasks that Jon and I have worked on together.

Curator of Education Betty K. Phipps is developing exciting interpretive ideas for visitors of all ages and interests. Working with an educators’ advisory board and staff members Anne Foster, Carolyn Malone and Shawn Rogers, Betty K. will soon be scripting tours and developing related educational programs. In collaboration with Kathryn “Kat” Sikes, our new Exhibits Assistant, Betty K. will finalize the hands-on interactives that will allow visitors to see, feel, smell and touch history. Kat brings wonderful ideas and experience in conceptualizing and designing these interactives.

Director Fred Goss and I meet often to review budgets, next steps and strategies for the exhibit’s success. Fred keeps the board and the public informed on our progress.

“The strength of the team is each individual member... the strength of each member is the team.”

—NBA coach Phil Jackson

In October Jerry Eisterhold, founder and artistic director of Eisterhold Associates of Kansas City, provided an update on the exhibit project for capital campaign donors.
Scan Once, Use Forever

by Elise Allison
Assistant Archivist

Over the past few years, Archives has undertaken the monumental task of scanning hundreds of items, ranging from photographs to letters, newspapers, broadsides, and maps, for the upcoming exhibit on Greensboro history. While some of these items will be put on display in their original format, the majority will be reproduced as graphics on text and photo panels and in audiovisual presentations.

Archival standards recommend a “Scan Once” approach with master scans created at 300-600 pixels per inch (ppi) and saved as uncompressed files, usually in the tiff format. These digital masters can then be easily copied and reproduced in many sizes and formats. They also include a color or grayscale bar, placed next to the item to show its size and allow its color to be accurately reproduced by printers and on other computer monitors.

Although these standards are more than sufficient to meet the needs of most repositories and their users, they are not always adequate for a museum exhibition. We are planning to reproduce some images as murals at sizes many times that of the original items. As a result, we have been scanning at even higher resolutions than those recommended by professional standards, a time-consuming process that produces huge image files.

We have scanned over one thousand items for the upcoming exhibit, but our work will be useful far beyond the opening of this exhibit. In keeping with the “scan once” approach, our master scans are of such high quality that we will be able to derive from them digital and print copies to meet virtually any future need.

Of course, as all good archivists know, use “forever” is not as simple as it sounds. Digital files must also be maintained with regular back-ups and, as technology evolves, migration to new storage formats.
Passport to History

“I’ve Been Writing Exhibit Labels for Years”

by Linda Evans
Community Historian

That’s what I heard myself telling a friend as I declined yet another invitation. I had work to do—research, writing, fact-checking, and such. Yes, I’d been working on this project a long time, four years in fact, but that was okay. Fine in fact, because I’d learned so much and the exhibit was going to be great. Then I woke up, laughed out loud over my dream, and had to smile thinking about how fun it will be when Voices of a City: Greensboro North Carolina opens in 2010.

Part of the exhibit development process has been an evolving list of titles (if you even remember, please forget the previous Greensboro: A Crossroads for Many Voices or Voices of Greensboro). All the while the staff team, led by project manager Susan Webster, has been steadily working to develop a storyline and identify the objects and images that will best express our new interpretation of Greensboro’s history. The task has been both daunting and energizing. The plans for Voices of a City have benefited from staff members’ distinct yet complementary expertise, from creativity to conceptualization to organization and project management.

In the process I’ve been able to meld both new and well-known voices to the exhibition storyline, voices with an extraordinary power to tell Greensboro’s story. In the months to follow, before the exhibition opens, you’ll be introduced to some of the over 200 people who create the framework for Voices of a City. Since this issue appears during African American History Month, I’ll begin with two examples of powerful voices.

Two family stories will powerfully illustrate the institution of slavery as it happened right here in Guilford County. In one, freedman Harry Ash had enough money and support to appeal to the legal system. Ash had purchased America in 1802 for the sum of fifty dollars. The couple had married and welcomed a child, whom they named Jemima. Now Ash sought emancipation for his family and submitted a legislative petition supported with the signatures of over a dozen residents. The House of Commons granted Ash’s request on December 18, 1804. The entire family would from this day forward be free.

In a second story, an enslaved mother named Ede risked all to keep her family together. She took her youngest child and hid in the woods after learning that she was to be sent away from her husband and three other children. She appealed to a Quaker family for help, and teenager Levi Coffin went to talk on Ede’s behalf with her owner, Rev. David Caldwell. Caldwell agreed to keep Ede with her family and promised she would not be punished. Available records don’t reveal what the future held for Ede and her loved ones.

These are only two of the over two hundred individuals who will be introduced to visitors. Some will make a brief appearance; a few will even have part of their story shared in an audiovisual presentation. All will play a unique and powerful role in Voices of a City: Greensboro North Carolina.
For many months Journal readers have read of updates on the Museum Shop with many of the articles ending with the sentence that more news was forthcoming. I take pleasure in stating that this Shop Talk article has considerable news on the museum board’s decision on the Shop and its future operations.

Andrew Andoniadis of Andoniadis Retail Services in Portland, Oregon completed his report on the Museum Shop on October 15, 2008, and provided considerable insight into current and future shop operations. The board’s Museum Shop Committee reviewed the final report and had the consultant present his findings to the full board of trustees to answer their questions. The analysis concluded that the Museum Shop was an integral part of museum operations, was a visitor expectation and served as an extension of the educational experience provided by the museum.

The full board accepted the Andoniadis report and its recommendations on October 29. The report will be implemented with current Museum Shop operations, and includes a total remodeling and remerchandising. A manager will be hired before the new Shop opens in 2009. Exact dates for the closing and remodeling are yet to be set, but will appear in the Journal to keep current shoppers informed of the change. My thanks to the board of trustees for their thorough study of the Shop and providing for its future operation.

I appreciate the patience and support that many members have provided while the Museum Shop Committee conducted its study these past months. I am excited about the Shop and look forward to its changes in 2009.
Event Calendar

January

NEW YEAR HOLIDAY
Museum closed

NORTH CAROLINA CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
Saturday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m.
Civil War historian Ed Bearss
“The Escape and Capture of John Wilkes Booth”
Tickets $15; E-mail ctommycole@yahoo.com or call 725-8797

MILITARY HISTORY GALLERY CLOSES
Sunday, January 11

DOCUMENTARY AND BOOKSIGNING WITH CONNIE CURRY
Friday, January 16 from 4 – 7 p.m.
Senior Resources Partnership
See the award-winning documentary An Intolerable Burden
For more information, call 373-4816

KIDS’ CLUB WITH BRIGHT STAR THEATRE
Saturday, January 17 at 10:30 and 2:00
Honoring the legacy and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
For grades 3 and up; Tickets $5

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
Offices closed Monday, January 19

February

LOCAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM TOURS
Every Saturday and Sunday in February at 3 p.m.

LEGACY OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS WITH ERNEST HOOKER
Saturday, February 7 at 2 p.m.
Inspirational stories of legendary African American soldiers
For grades 3 and up; Tickets $2

PRESIDENTS DAY
Monday, February 16

GUILD MEETING
Monday, February 16 at 10:00 a.m.
Timber Framing and Barn Raising with Tillers International member Ed Morrah

DOLLEY MADISON EXHIBIT CLOSES
Sunday, February 22

KIDS’ CLUB WITH BRIGHT STAR THEATRE
Saturday, February 28 at 10:30 & 2
Heroes of the Underground Railroad featuring Harriet Tubman, Levi Coffin, Frederick Douglass, John Parker, and Henry “Box” Brown.
For grades 3 and up; Tickets $5

March

FROM FOREST TO CITY & O. HENRY EXHIBITS CLOSE
Sunday, March 7

In Memory of

MRS. MARJORIE SMITH
gift from Terry & Gayle Fripp

MR. EMMETT BRINGLE
gift from Blake and Nancy Clark

In Honor of

CAROL MOORE
gift from Museum Guild

BETTY K. PHIPPS
gift from Guilford County Schools

JIM & ANITA SCHENCK
gifts from Ms. Marilyn Anderson Mrs. Merle Frazier Mr. Francis McNairy Mrs. Juliet Davis

BETTY GALE SIKES
gift from Mrs. Phyllis Lashley
Alice Caldwell Davidson Abel

Davidson Abel left a most generous bequest to the B. Craighead Davidson Endowment, a gift that will allow the museum to offer additional paid internships for students pursuing museum careers.

Abel, who passed away last winter, had a passion for history and antiques. Her childhood home, Rosedale, now welcomes guests as a house museum. As an adult she became a founding member of the North Carolina Association of Dealers in Antiques and active at both the Historical Museum and Blandwood. In 1998 Abel funded a paid internship program in her father’s memory, helping a new generation learn about the fields she so loved.

Each summer since, Davidson Interns have assisted in museum projects and written Abel letters of thanks.

“When I moved to Greensboro in the 1960s, the museum was one of the first things I found out about,” Abel recalled. We and students selected for the Davidson program are most thankful her fondness never wavered.

Alice Abel, about 1960

Carolyn Stevens

Anyone who came in contact with Carolyn Stevens saw a sparkle in her eye and realized her joy for life and lifelong learning. Her experience as a professional educator and her love of people made her the ideal museum volunteer, and for years hardly an event or project took place without her help and presence. As a docent she drew young charges under her storytelling spell, and as a Guild member and president she created a wonderful sense of community for the museum and local history.

After Carolyn’s death in 2007, director Fred Goss received a letter from her estate informing him of a major monetary gift. “Ms. Stevens is fondly remembered as a consistent advocate for the museum and its services,” notes Goss, adding, “We recognize the loss to the community and appreciate her final gift that will reach visitors for years to come. Her bequest will go toward the gallery renovations for our exhibition opening in 2010 at which time her generosity will be duly acknowledged.”