

News & Views

on the preservation issues that affect our historic city.



Ken Farmer



The fourth Antiques Appraisal Weekend took place in mid-October 2009, and HLF's venue this time around was the Kamen Gallery at W&L's Lenfest Center. The special two-day event included a Friday night dessert and champagne reception with talks by appraiser Gordon Lohr and art historian Barbara Crawford; a select silent auction featuring fine arts, antiques, and collectibles; and a live auction conducted by Ken Farmer (of *The Antiques Roadshow*). The live auction offerings included a signed Sally Mann photo, a Richmond getaway with a tour of Maymont mansion and overnight at the Hotel Jefferson, a week's accommodations at a Cotswold Cottage and an Italian garden apartment. The evening was both educational and a lot of fun -- two goals HLF strives for with any event! Saturday the 17th was Appraisal Day, and HLF was honored to have four-time veteran appraisers Robert Miller and Gordon Lohr help us out again this year.

Joining them behind the tables were local jeweler Eddie Clowser and Richmond-based jewelry appraiser/gemologist Nina Woolford. The range of items brought in this year to capture the interest of -- and tap into the knowledge of -- our appraisers and other guests included paintings, toys, ceramics, musical instruments, jewelry, gold watches, sculptures, silver, clocks, furniture. We even saw an elaborate carved elephant's tusk. All proceeds from Antiques Appraisal Weekend (Friday and Saturday events) will benefit HLF's community-focused programs and projects.



On November 6th, the Board of Trustees of Historic Lexington Foundation and a large group of guests gathered to dedicate the Fountain Garden at Hopkins Green. The Fountain Garden, an HLF-sponsored memorial to noted area preservationist, conservationist, author, and historian Royster Lyle, Jr., has as its centerpiece a spouting fountain -- the cherub-like Greek god "Pan" -- which was donated to HLF by the Blue Ridge Garden Club. The fountain, formerly located in a memorial garden at the Stonewall Jackson Hospital, had been in storage for several decades until

HLF tracked it down last year. Special guest speakers at the event included Mrs. Frances Brooke of the Blue Ridge Garden Club and retired HLF trustee Dick Sessoms. HLF also welcomed landscape architect Will Rieley and Royster's family members, Frances Lyle Kelly and Cochran Lyle. Cochran, along with friends and co-workers from Village Garden Center, installed much of the Fountain Garden landscape. Lexington's Public Works Department will install a drinking fountain and metal benches this spring, and will maintain the space as they do the larger Hopkins Green park.



Cochran Lyle with Pam Simpson



Mrs. Frances Brooke



Above:
Dick Sessoms,
Below:
Will Rieley

HLF hosted its Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday, January 20th at the Sheridan Livery Inn Banquet Room, with 60+ current and former trustees, supporters, and other guests in attendance. Outgoing president Pam Simpson emceed the program, outlined HLF's 2009 accomplishments, and introduced new trustees Rosa Wiggins and Bruce Macdonald. New president Al Carr presented Jefferson Cups to retiring trustees Pam Simpson and David Coffey. Three Founders' Awards were presented to worthy recipients: Matt Gianniny, Bruce Schweizer, and Barbara and Eddie Clowser of Hess & Co. Jewelers for the rehab of the Old First National Bank on Courthouse Square; to Community Bank for their sponsorship of the Buena Vista Downtown Historic District survey/designation project and for their rehab of the former People's Bank as their BV branch; and to Dick Sessoms, for his service to HLF as a former HLF trustee and board president and for leadership in undertaking the Hopkins Green Fountain Garden project.

