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Cedar Oaks Guild

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CEDAR OAKS GUILD NEWSLETTER

January, 2020

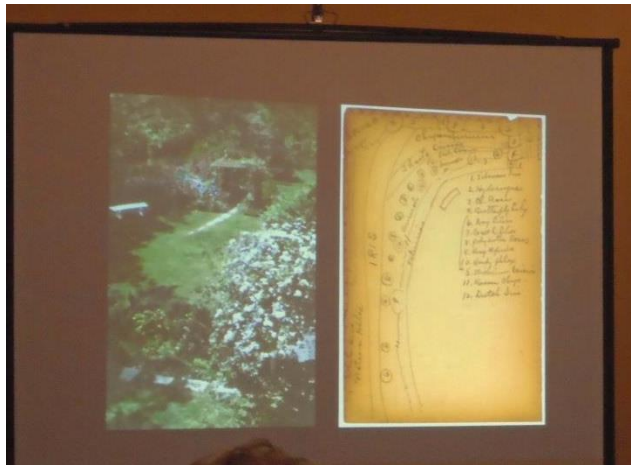


Cedar Oaks Guild gathered on January 14 for the first meeting of the new year. Lunch was served by Beth Ducrest, Jan Huckaby, Peggie Roder, Adielade Chapman, and Sharon Schreiber. The ladies enjoyed poppy seed chicken, green bean bundles, salad and rolls, and luscious lemon cake.



Douglas Vance, Program Chair, introduced the speaker, Susan Haltom, restoration consultant for Eudora Welty's garden in Jackson, MS. With a degree from Ole Miss, Ms Haltom is an artist and horticulturist, with experience as a teacher, museum exhibit curator, and garden design. She is a member of Garden Club of America, past president of the Southern Garden History Society, and past horticulture chair of the Garden Club of Jackson. Ms Haltom directed the restoration of the Welty garden, a National Historic Landmark, and co-authored *One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Home Place*. She has also spent many hours tending it, along with a volunteer group dubbed The Cereus Weeders.

Ms Haltom presented information on Eudora Welty's family, life, and the role of garden clubs. Eudora Welty's mother, Chestina, founded the Jackson Garden Club. Ms Welty cautioned her "Don't make it into something it wasn't." Fortunately, she had Chestina's garden notebook to follow in restoring the garden. The speaker stressed when dealing with a historic site, the priorities are to stabilize and protect it, make scale drawings and maps, and go to original sources for information. Consider who the visitors will be and how they will engage with the garden. Because gardens naturally change over time, what is the period of significance and what factors are important? Ms Haltom also urged doing a 'reality check' of feasibility, affordability, sustainability, and accessibility, as well as record keeping and the availability of plants. She suggested <http://southerngardenhistory.org/> for resources. For more information on the Eudora Welty house and gardens, see <http://www.mdah.ms.gov/welty/>



The speaker was followed by a business meeting. Marianna Ochs presented information on our 5th Spring Tea. This year will be a Classic Southern Tea, featuring traditional Southern treats. Preparation will begin by washing the china on March 12; setup will be March 19. Marianna recommended that the chefs get together at Cedar Oaks or someone's house to prepare food together to ensure that everything is uniform. Signup sheets for various tasks were distributed, as well as for the Valentine's event and pre-prom dinners. We will not sell tickets online for the tea this year .

Officers: If you want to continue in your present job, or if you are interested in serving as president or vice president, talk to Laura Harper.

Guests: We were pleased to have three guests attend the meeting: Nancy Mitchell, guest of Toni Paolillo; Suzanne White, guest of Dianne Fergusson, and Karen Travillo, guest of Nancy Kesselring.



Suzanne and Dianne



Nancy and Karen



Nancy and Toni

Facilities: Do not place items on the hall table; this one also has a weak leg. Note minor repair needs on the whiteboard in the kitchen. If you see major problems, call Martha Huckins.

Looking ahead: We will host a Valentine’s party for children on Sunday, February 9. The March 10 meeting will be a coffee at 10:00AM, focusing on the tea. April hostesses will switch to March; there will not be an April meeting. The calendar will be full with the tea on March 21, Lafayette prom on March 28, and Oxford prom on April 4! With three back-to-back events, there will not be an Easter egg party this year.



Get acquainted with Sally Fitzpatrick: She is a Michigan native and Hillsdale College graduate. Most of her adult life she spent in the DC suburbs of Virginia where she was involved in politics. Even though just arriving in Oxford last year, this town feels like home. Her daughter, Katie, is a junior at Ole Miss. Sally and her husband, Hank Dunn, live in Oxford Commons.

Happy Birthday:

- Jan Huckaby Jan 15
- Sharon Hawkins Jan 18
- Ann Proffer Jan 30
- Marianna Ochs Feb 1
- Reba Greer Feb 12
- Janie Rozier Feb 16



Cedar Oaks Treasure:



The upstairs bedroom with the loom also features a hard rock maple cannonball bed from the Revolutionary War era, with rope “springs.” Cannon ball designs became popular in America in the late 18th century. Cannons were among the most significant weapons used during the Revolutionary War, and cannon balls came to symbolize the victory of the new country. The head and foot boards also have “rolling pin” trim. Bed smoothers, or mangles, of various shapes were used to smooth out the bed.

Rope supports were common until the late 1800s. The first spring-mattress was patented in 1865, but was not very popular. <https://patents.google.com/patent/US46573A/en> It was followed by coiled springs, and in the 1930s innersprings and upholstered box spring foundations became standard. Ropes generally made of hemp, linen, or manila fibers were run through holes in the bed frame or around pegs in a specific pattern and tied. The rope would stretch and loosen and would be re-tightened with the help of a tool called a bed wrench, bed key, tightening wrench or straining wrench. It basically resembled an old fashioned non-spring wooden clothespin with a handle.



The mattress would have been ticking stuffed with straw, corn husks, horsehair, cotton, wool, or if you were fortunate, feathers or down. Periodically the beds were dismantled to wash and re-stuff the ticking. Ropes were boiled to kill bugs and tighten the fibers. Restraining before they were completely dry would tighten them even more.

http://www.colonialsense.com/How-To_Guides/Interior/Bed_Roping.php

Our bed also has wood slats, which would not have been used with the ropes. We do not have a bed smoother or tightening wrench.



Goodnight, sleep tight, don't let the bedbugs bite! This is often cited as referring to tightening the ropes, but that legend is sometimes questioned. The Oxford English Dictionary etymology includes “safely” or “soundly” as a historical meaning for “tight” or “tightly.” The first recorded use of the phrase “sleep tight” by the OED wasn't until 1866, near the end of the era of rope beds. In any case, the bed is beautiful and ropes would have been a great improvement over hard floors!

<https://libraries.indiana.edu/sleep-tight-don%E2%80%99t-let-bed-bugs-bite-%E2%80%93-myth-debunked>