



National Mary Potter Club

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2014

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The Gym is Finally Ours

The deed was recorded in the name of the National Mary Potter Club by our Chairman, Alva Petway on November 22, 2013. This comes after a hard won debate with the Granville County School Board who owned the property.

The school board had previously leased the property to the club for \$1.00 per year but all maintenance fell to the club. The building was beginning to fall into disrepair. A leaking roof was causing damage to the ceiling and floor below. The case was made to the board that the only way the club could raise the funds necessary to maintain and renovate this structure was to have ownership.

The club was fearful that the

School Board would allow the building to deteriorate to the point of condemnation and eventual demolition.

Now that the hurdle of acquiring



Mary E. Shaw Gymnasium

ownership has been surmounted, the club intends to breathe new life into the structure by a near total interior renovation.

The club rents the gym out to

community organizations and individuals for private affairs. In order to be competitive with other venues, the interior needs a complete overhaul. The income from these rentals supports the G. C. Shaw Museum and the community works performed by the club.

The club will be embarking on a major fundraising campaign this year in order to accomplish our goals and make the Gym a true asset to the community .

We've already installed a new long overdue roof .

Come be a part of our progress.

You are the key to our continued success.

Growing Membership Vital to Survival

If Dr. Shaw's legacy is to continue inspiring youth to excellence, we must expand our membership to include those who attended *Mary Potter Middle School*. Because the graduates of the high school are beginning to age out, the last class was 1970, we must embrace all Mary Potter graduates in order to flourish.

Unfortunately, many younger people aren't familiar with our history. In our efforts to correct

this, we sincerely hope to recruit more young and energetic individuals with new ideas to help us instill pride in our youth and a knowledge of our heritage. Please spread the word. Return your membership form to stay informed of all future activities. Our membership year runs July through June. Do not miss the rest of this year's information. Dues will be raised *next* year to help accomplish our goals.



Ellarine Alston
Membership Chair



Historic Home of Dr. George Shaw

“Treasuring our past that defines our Future”

Shaw Museum

www.shawmuseum.com

By Carolyn Williams, Director

The All Communities Festival went well for the Mary Potter Reunion this summer. I'll like to thank all of the volunteers who gave their time and energy to help us out that week and especially that day.

The Golden Genies Belly Dancers from the Durham Senior Center, were the hit of the day.

At present, the art work of the late Mrs. Sallie Peace is on display at the museum. Mrs. Peace was an art teacher in Granville County.

In celebrating Black History

Month, the Strong Men and Women posters will go on display at the museum starting February 1, 2014.

Mr. Ed Strater will start our herb garden later in February. Once we begin harvesting, the herbs will be sold at the museum on Saturday mornings.

The Shaw Museum Gift Shop was restocked for the All Communities Festival. We have the Mary Potter T-shirts, ram engraved key chains, beautiful post cards and other items still for sale.

Future events in the making are presentations on Emergency Evacuations and tours of the museum for the students at Mary Potter Middle School.

We are struggling to keep our doors open to the public on Wednesday-Saturday from 10am-4pm. So if you have a few hours per week, and would like to become a volunteer for the Shaw Museum, please contact me at 919-225-3597.

2013 Reunion Was a Hit

The weekend of July 19- 21, 2013, the National Mary Potter Club, Inc. held its 18th Reunion and celebrated its 124th Anniversary of the school. The reunion was held at the Embassy Suite in Cary, NC. The theme was *“Treasuring our Past that defines Our Future”* Alum, family and friends were greeted, fed,

and entertained on Friday night, music was rendered by Freddy Green *“The Street Genei”*. Saturday started off with a few meetings to get the business done. Then that night Professor Irving L Joyner informed and charged us to continue to move forward for our communities, then recognition of teachers and

principals. Then we danced the night away with *“The Reality show Band”*. On Sunday a Service of Remembrance, and then the recognition of Veterans was made. Music and song led us to Speaker Rev. Ned Thorpe who brought forth the word of God. With the singing of the Alma Mater and benediction a great weekend came to end. See you 2015!

Mary Potter Middle School Mentoring

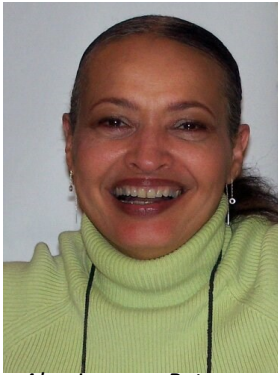
By Rosalyn Greene

Volunteers are need at Mary Potter Middle School. Mentors currently meet the kids sent to the Media Center to *“refocus”*. Mentors listen to children's

issues of the day and offer advice on conflict resolution, etiquette and manners, assist with class work, assist the Media Specialist with replacing/stocking book shelves. Mainly just being there for the children

to talk to someone without judging them is the most important aspect. Volunteers need to first complete a background check . The form can be picked up and returned to the administrative office at Mary Potter School.





Alva Laverne Petway

I am very humbled to have been elected your new Chairman of the Board of the National Mary Potter Club. In my attempt to live up to the task, I will call on the entire membership to assist me in this

Letter from the Chairman

herculean endeavor.

It is only working together as a strong, united unit with singular purpose, will we thrive and grow. If we allow benign neglect to overcome our resolve to make our organization flourish, we will do a horrible disservice to our ancestors and to Dr. Shaw. Our institution was built upon excellence in education and character. These qualities are being lost too frequently in our society. It is up to us to keep our heritage alive for future generations.

What will it take for us to accomplish our goals? WE NEED YOU!

We need your willingness to share your gifts and talents. We all have something that can be of great value to the organization. Some of you have skills that are not being used, some have time, some have ideas, and some fortunate ones of you have money that you would love to share. We need it all.

Please take the time to send in your membership forms on the last page. THAT IS YOUR 1ST STEP.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, concerns or questions or if you wish to be a benefactor.

My email is:
alvapetway@aol.com

My Cell # is:
562-208-3121

*Join us TODAY
and become a
part of our
future*

Fundraising Committee Organized

Co - Chairs Barbara Harris and Bertina Tyler

This committee is actively exploring the many possibilities available to raise funds to support the Museum and Mary Potter Club activities. Also we are looking for ideas that will yield a greater return in order to finance the renovation of the Gymnasium. We need to think big because the tasks

ahead are great.

We will need the support of all our members and friends in order to be successful. CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

Don't forget to send in your membership so that you can stay informed and

not chance missing some of our exciting events to come. The first event is scheduled for June 28, 2014. Please save this date on your calendar. More information will be coming. Remember, the success of these events will depend on your level of interest and participation.

Christmas Party End of Year Celebration

By Vivian Holmes—Social Committee

The National Mary Potter Club celebrated Christmas with a pre-Christmas party, held on December 21, 2013 at the Mary E. Shaw Gym. The gym was decorated in all white with red poinsettias, red and green candy filled ornament boxes and a tree trimmed in gold. The poin-

settias were given to one lucky person seated at each table. Fun was had by all who attended; the number of people was over 100, which included alum, friends and family. We were entertained by the music of DJ Rodney Green, and thanks to Otis R. Chavis spirits were avail-

able and flowing. Thanking all of you who helped to make this a success.



Patricia Fields having fun



National Mary Potter Club
P.O. Box 586
Oxford, NC 27565

National Mary Potter Club

Annual MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 7/1/13—6/30/14

Annual Membership \$15.00

Renewal _____ New Member _____ Additional Tax Deductible Donation \$ _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (h) _____ (cell) _____

Email _____

Occupation _____ (If retired, former occupation)

Interests/Hobbies _____

Committees (please check all those with which you would like to participate):

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Property and Grounds <input type="checkbox"/> | Governmental Relations <input type="checkbox"/> | Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> | Museum Docent <input type="checkbox"/> | Social <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hospitality <input type="checkbox"/> | Membership <input type="checkbox"/> | Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> | Publicity/Marketing <input type="checkbox"/> | Board of Directors <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other interests _____

Please make check payable to and return to: National Mary Potter Club, P.O. Box 586, Oxford, NC 27565