

# Newsletter

January 2024

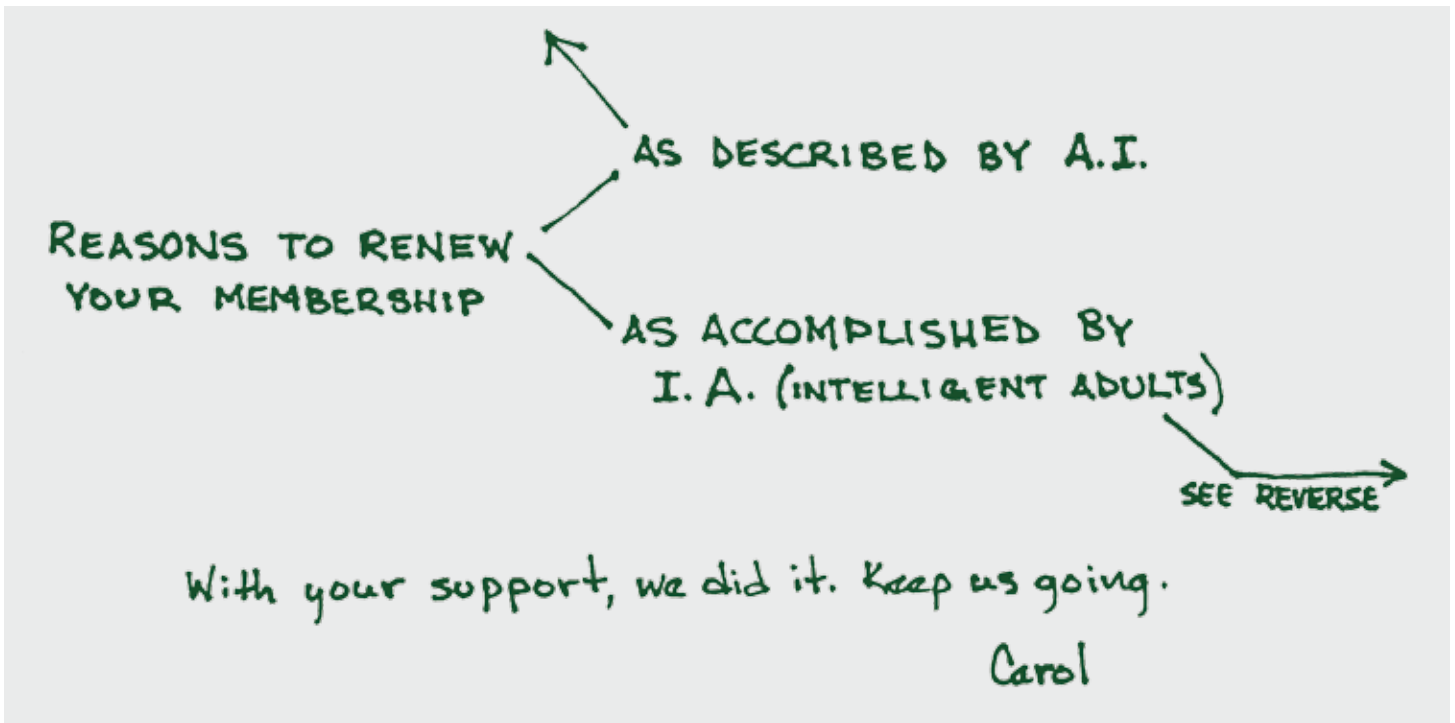
## A.I. Tells Us Why We Matter

“Having a historical society in Birmingham, or any city for that matter, is important for several reasons:

1. **Preservation of History:** Historical societies play a crucial role in preserving and safeguarding the history and heritage of a city. They collect and archive historical documents, photographs, artifacts, and other valuable records that might otherwise be lost or forgotten. By doing so, they ensure that future generations have access to their city’s rich historical resources.
2. **Education and Awareness:** Historical societies provide educational opportunities for the community by organizing exhibits, lectures, and workshops. They help raise awareness about the history, culture, and significant events that have shaped the city. This knowledge fosters a sense of pride, identity, and connection among the residents, fostering a deeper appreciation for their city’s past.
3. **Research and Documentation:** Historical societies serve as valuable resources for researchers, historians, and genealogists. They maintain archives and libraries containing primary and secondary sources that enable the study of local history. This research helps to uncover hidden stories, rediscover forgotten individuals, and provide a comprehensive understanding of the city’s past.
4. **Community Engagement:** Historical societies often engage with the local community through events, volunteer opportunities, and collaborative projects. They create spaces for individuals with shared interests in history to come together, exchange ideas, and contribute to preserving and promoting their city’s heritage.
5. **Tourism and Economic Development:** A well-developed historical society and preservation efforts can attract tourists interested in exploring the city’s history. This tourism can have positive economic impacts, boosting local businesses, creating jobs, and generating revenue for the community.

Overall, historical societies play a vital role in preserving, promoting, and celebrating a city’s history. They contribute to the cultural fabric of a community, inspire curiosity, and provide opportunities for learning and appreciation of the past.

ChatGPT



**Officers**

Wayne A. Hester  
President  
Carol L. Slaughter  
Secretary  
Allison A. Boone  
Treasurer  
Marjorie L. White  
Chairman of the Board

**Trustees**

Kaydee Erdreich Breman  
Vice President  
Rebecca Moody  
Vice President  
Julius E. Linn Jr.  
Vice President  
Richard W. Sprague  
Vice President

Martha Bouyer  
Karla Calvert  
Patrick Cather  
Belle Sumter Coleman  
Gail Cosby  
Jay Draper  
James Emison  
Wyatt Haskell  
Birgit Kibelka  
Cleve Kinney  
Virginia Markstein

Edgar Marx Jr.  
Louise McPhillips  
Linda J. Nelson  
Henry B. Ray Jr.  
Carolanne Roberts  
Brian Rushing  
Elizabeth Saunders  
Barbara Shores  
Sarah Slaughter  
Wilhelmina Thomas  
Katherine Tipton

Karyn Uptain  
Marion Walker  
Gerry Waters  
Gregory Wilson

*Honorary Trustees*  
Alice M. Bowsher  
Charles S. Caldwell III  
Samuel H. Frazier

# 2023 IN

## 1. Preservation of History



ABOVE: Birmingham Historical Society's research files assembled over the past 80 years on historic landmarks, districts, persons, and events are housed at its Highland Avenue offices, at Lakeview Storage, and at the Birmingham Public Library Archives.



RIGHT: Roberts family members help celebrate the Society's editing and publishing of Anne Roberts Gayler's 1985 manuscript, documenting 100 Years of the local and national history she lived.

## 2. Education and Awareness



ABOVE, LEFT: Birgit Kibelka and Marjorie White, *left and right*, addressed a standing room only gathering at their talk to the Hoover Historical Society on the history of and possibilities for a future Bluff Park Preserve.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Historian and teacher Jamie Putman shared the tragic story of his grandmother's liaison with Big Jim Folsom, as well as the political impact it occasioned.



LEFT: Fontaine Haskell, *left*, and her husband Sam, *not pictured*, hosted the annual Heritage Society gathering at their home, the historic Northington House. Attendees included Goodloe and Andrea White, party organizer Virginia Markstein, and Tommy Wolfe.

# REVIEW

## 3. Research and Documentation



FAR LEFT: Current research on Highland Avenue's early residences includes photographs strung end to end across tables at the Society's offices.

LEFT: Documentation of the significance of Brock's Gap led the Alabama highway department to relocate an interstate exchange, preserving the gap and offering opportunities for redevelopment as a greenway. Pictured, Birgit Kibelka at the Public Involvement Meeting.

## 4. Community Engagement



Chestnut Hill residents gathered at our offices to learn neighborhood history, share stories and recollections, and contemplate restoring significant design features, especially those monumental steps.



ABOVE: Kudzu killed, native trees and natural herbaceous regeneration are returning to George Ward's Wild Garden at Vestavia, the property of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church.

LEFT: Baker extraordinaire Wilson Green takes the grand prize at the annual Cake Contest.

## 5. Economic Development



Civil Rights tourism is now the driver of worldwide visitation to our city. City of Birmingham planning and engineering department staff, pictured here with Marjorie White, recognized the Society's decades of research, documentation, and listing of Birmingham's civil rights sites on the national and international registers, a prerequisite to their receiving recognition and funding. *Left to right*, Hannah Garmon, Historic Preservation Manager; Katrina Thomas, Director; Marjorie White; Tracey Hayes, Deputy Director; and Karla Calvert, Urban Design Administrator and City Historic Preservation Officer.



Listed by the Society on the Tentative List for World Heritage in 2007, Bethel Baptist Church and Sixteenth Street Baptist Church were visited by international reviewers this past summer. Pictured at Bethel are members of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) team with Reverend Thomas Wilder, Pastor of Bethel, *second from left*, and historian Glenn Eskew, *fourth from left*, who is leading the current campaign for World Heritage recognition, working closely with the Alabama Bureau of Travel and Tourism.

# REPORT on MEMBERSHIP and CONTRIBUTIONS

December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2023

The following have generously supported the Society at levels above the general membership dues.  
We acknowledge their support and express our gratitude.

## CORPORATE MEMBERS

### PATRONS

Alabama Power Company  
Dance N Things  
Dunn-French Foundation  
Marx Brothers, Inc.  
Medical Properties Trust, Inc.  
Royal Cup Coffee & Tea

## HERITAGE SOCIETY

### BENEFACTORS

Mr. & Mrs. Ehney A. Camp III  
Ms. Virginia Markstein  
Ms. Carol L. Slaughter  
Mr. & Mrs. James H. White III

### PATRONS

Ms. Allison A. Boone  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Blair  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Boulware III  
Mr. Charles S. Caldwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles William Daniel  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Johnston  
Dr. F. Cleveland Kinney  
Mr. & Mrs. Garrett McNeil  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rediker  
Ms. Carol L. Slaughter  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Sprague  
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Stephens  
Ms. Gerry R. Waters

### MEMBERS

Mrs. Craig Allen Jr.  
Dr. Graham Boettcher  
Mr. Alex Boles & Mr. Mike White  
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Bowron Jr.  
Ms. Alice M. Bowsher  
Mr. & Mrs. Merrill N. Bradley Jr.  
Ms. Kaydee Erdreich Breman  
Mr. & Mrs. John Brock  
Mr. Stan Burnett  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Carraway  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Richard Cashio  
Peter Casten & Cecil Clark  
Mr. Patrick Cather  
Ms. Sheila Chaffin  
Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey H. Cohn  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Coleman  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Coleman  
Mr. & Mrs. Clay Cook  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim D. Cooley  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Cospier  
Judith Crittenden & Philippe Lathrop  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Crockard Jr.  
Mark A. Crosswhite  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Cunningham III  
Dr. & Mrs. James F. Davies  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Dean Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve DeMedecis  
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Denson III  
Mr. Gil Diethelm  
Mr. John C. Draper IV  
Ms. Helen Drennen  
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Dresher  
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Driscoll  
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Emison  
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin L. Erdreich  
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Forrester  
Mr. Samuel H. Frazier  
Mr. & Mrs. William D. French  
Mr. Wilson Green &  
Ms. Amanda Adams  
Ms. Sara Fuller Hamlin  
Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt R. Haskell  
Mr. & Mrs. Meredith R. Hazzard Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Holman Head  
Mr. Samuel David Herring  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne A. Hester  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Scott Hill  
Ms. Margi Ingram  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Carlisle Jones Jr.  
Mr. John Kearney  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kilgore  
Doug Klick & Greg McCormick  
Dr. Julius E. Linn Jr.  
Mrs. J. L. Lowe

Mr. Henry Sharpe Lynn Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon G. Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar B. Marx Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Garrett McNeil  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank McPhillips  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Philip McWane  
Mrs. Ellen L. McWhorter  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Moody  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Nading  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Ruffner Page Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Gray Plosser Jr.  
Mrs. William A. Powell Jr.  
Mrs. Wilmer S. Poynor III  
Carolyn Sloss Ratliff  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Ray Jr.  
Ms. Elberta Reid  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ritchie  
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Roberts  
Mr. Banks Robertson Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Eladio Ruiz de Molina  
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh J. Rushing  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Rushton IV  
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Sandy  
Ms. Elizabeth R. Saunders  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Serra  
Ms. Allison R. Sinod  
Mr. & Mrs. B. Hanson Slaughter  
Mr. & Mrs. William Slaughter  
Mr. & Mrs. Will Slaughter  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Thomas Somers  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan W. Speaker  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald B. Sweeney Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Brent Uptain  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Scott Vowell  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Walker Jr.  
Ms. Marion F. Walker  
Mr. Zachary Westall  
Dr. & Mrs. James B. Whatley  
Mr. & Mrs. Goodloe H. White  
Mr. James H. White IV  
Dr. Marjorie Lee White  
Mrs. Peter Worthen

## DONOR MEMBERS

Lynn & John Adams  
Edward S. Allen  
Catherine & Lee N. Allen  
Regina & John Ammon  
Angela Anderson  
David Bains  
Peggy & Michael Balliet  
Frances C. Bennett  
William Robert Bond  
Martha Bouyer  
Clyde Boykin  
Elna Brendel  
James Broome  
E. T. Brown III  
Mardi & Blaine Brownell  
Jim Byram  
Karla Calvert  
Michael Calvert  
Mary Alice & Donald Carmichael  
Cindy Cantley  
Peter Casten & Cecil Clark  
Ralph Cassell  
Alleen Cater  
Charles Clark  
Faye & Bill Clark  
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Clark  
Mrs. John Cocoris  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Cunningham IV  
Jacquelyn Dobbs  
Jeffrey Doss  
Patsy Dreher  
Daniel Drennen  
Katie & Brad Dunn  
Barbara & Royce Earnest  
Michael L. Edwards  
Beverly & Stanley Erdreich  
Barbara Fant  
Eugenia & Howard Folts  
Robert Gambrell Jr.  
Jimmy & Lee Gewin  
Carey P. Gilbert  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert P. Glaze

Gillian & Mike Goodrich  
Christopher Grebe  
Mira & Eddie Griffith  
Brenda Hackney  
Dr. & Mrs. William Hansford Jr.  
Fontaine & Sam Haskell  
Linda Henckell  
Kathy Hinkle & Herb Trotman  
Dr. & Mrs. William Holman  
William Hood  
Tyler & Tom Huddle  
Henry Hughes & Lois Woodward  
Martha & Chervis Isom  
Theresa & Charles Johanson  
Sallie & Jimmy Johnson  
Cathy Sloss Jones  
Gerard Kassouf  
Karen & Mike Keel  
Mary & David Kimerling  
Cornelia & Joe LaRussa  
Leah Leaf  
Virginia Loftin  
Sherry & Jeff Loper  
Dana & Linn Lower  
Linda Lucas  
Suzanne Lucas  
Maria & Coke Mathews  
Dr. & Mrs. Willard McCall Jr.  
Scott Edward McCulley  
Daniel McCurry  
Mary Carol McGlaughlin  
David Middlemas  
Eve Moore  
Barbara & William Morgan  
George Munchus  
Linda Nelson  
Gary Nichols  
Georgeann & Alton Parker  
Virginia Patterson  
Patty Pilkerton  
Gail & Robert Pless  
Frances Poor  
Margaret & Kip Porter  
Linda & William Prewitt  
Dan Puckett  
Marion Renneker  
Paul Roderick  
Jeanne & Mabry Rogers  
Pat & Sam Rumore  
Jennifer & Brian Rushing  
Paula & Mike Rushing  
Pat & Karl Seitz  
Diane & Scott Selman  
Marilyn Smith  
Ginger & Joe Socolof  
Elinor Sue & Michael Staff  
Mary & David Stewart  
Wilhelmina Thomas  
William Thompson III  
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Tipton  
Rosemary Fisk & Howard Walthall  
Martha Weber  
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Welden  
Mathew West  
Frances & George Wheelock  
Christine & Joe Wilson  
Gregory Wilson  
Odessa Woolfolk

## GIFT MEMBERSHIP GIVERS

Regina Ammon  
Allison Boone  
Kaydee Breman  
Sumter Coleman  
Linda Nelson  
Marjorie White

## DONORS TO PROJECTS

**ONE HUNDRED YEARS**  
Sumter Hazzard and Peter Adolph  
Mena Hazzard and John Brock  
Robert Louis and Jennifer Carmichael  
Colin Robert Carmichael  
Ian William Carmichael  
Belle Sumter Carmichael  
and Stephen Coleman

Belle Marie Fitzgerald Edelberg  
Anne Gayler  
Alexander Groves and Kim Gayler  
Christopher Alexander Gayler, Elaine  
Sohier Gayler *in honor of*  
*Christopher Noel Gayler*  
Leah and Meredith Roberts Hazzard Jr.  
Sarah and Meredith Ryne Hazzard  
Gillian and Thomas Adair Hazzard  
William Miles Hazzard  
Sarah E "Swiss" Larsen and Peter Britt  
Melissa Roberts Larsen Hogan  
and John E. Iffland  
Evelyn Roberts Larsen, Anne Roberts  
and Petr Ledvina  
Annie Carmichael Ledvina  
Eva Noel Ledvina  
Caroline Gayler Maness  
Anne Gayler Miller  
Deborah Gayler Poisot  
Beebee and David Roberts IV  
David Roberts V  
John Allen Roberts, Robin Roberts  
and Patty  
Laura Susan and Thomas A. Roberts  
Fluff and Thomas Atkins Roberts  
Belle Sumter St. Denis  
Hilty Hazzard and Jeff St. Denis  
Katherine Roberts Matthew Smith  
Maria Roberts Larsen and Doug Todd  
Libby Hazzard and Win Tuttle

## ENDOWMENT GIVERS

### \$100,000 AND ABOVE

Philip McWane

### \$50,000 AND ABOVE

Charles S. Caldwell

### \$1,000 AND ABOVE

Gail & Tom Cosby  
Wayne Hester  
Henry S. Lynn  
Lia & Rusty Rushton  
Richard W. Sprague  
The Steiner Foundation  
Mary Karyn Uptain  
**\$500 AND ABOVE**  
Lynn & John Adams  
The Cadmean Circle  
*in honor of Marjorie White*  
Patrick Cather  
Sheila Chaffin  
James W. Emison  
Sarah & Will Slaughter

## DONORS

Catherine & Lee Allen  
Regina Ammon  
Frances C. Bennett  
Betty Joyce Bock  
Graham Boettcher  
Clyde Boykin  
Elna Brendel  
T. Michael Brown  
Jimmy Byram  
Karla Calvert  
Thomas N. Carruthers Jr.  
J. Richard Cashio  
Gail & Ralph Cassell  
Peter Casten  
Charles Clark  
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Clark  
Mark Crosswhite  
Susan & James Davies  
Patricia D. Dreher  
Patti B. & Dave Driscoll  
Glen Eskew  
Father Nature Landscape  
Elizabeth Gadilhe  
Robert Gambrell Jr.  
Lee & Jimmy Gewin  
Linda Goode  
Elizabeth & Mike Goodrich  
Brenda Hackney  
Carey & Bill Hinds  
Linda & William Holman

William Hood  
Therese & Charles Johanson  
Karen & Mike Keel  
Leland Keller  
Kent T. Keyser  
John Lauriello  
Leah Leaf  
Julius E. Linn Jr.  
Carolyn W. Long  
Dana & Linn Lower  
Linda Lucas  
Suzanne Lucas  
Mary Fontaine & J. Michael Marcoux  
Maria & Coke Mathews  
Katharine Marx  
Emily H. McCall  
Anne McCormick  
Mary Carol McGlaughlin  
George Munchus  
Providence & Charles Murphrey  
M. Pittman Owen  
Virginia & Ruffner Page  
Virginia C. Patterson  
Charles K. Porter  
Mrs. William A. Powell  
William H. Ray Jr.  
Jeanne & Mabry Rogers  
Samuel Rumore  
Paula & Mike Rushing  
Linda M. Speaker  
John O. Spinks Jr.  
Mary & David Stewart  
Rebecca & John Thomas  
Cameron Vowell  
Marion Walker  
Gerry Waters  
Martha Weber  
Barbara S. White  
Odessa Woolfolk  
Worthen Family Fund  
A.J. Wright  
Louise Wrinkle

*In Honor of Pat Camp*

By Carolyn Satterfield

*In Honor of Jay Draper*

By Patrick Cather

*In Honor of Gerry Waters*

By Marjorie White

*In Memory of A. Steve Williams III*

By Patrick Cather

*In Memory of Betty Griffin*

By Gerry Waters

*In Honor of Marjorie White*

By Lynn Adams

Birmingham Historical Society  
Research Publishing Education

**WHO WE ARE**  
A non-profit established in 1942. Birmingham Historical Society educates and engages the public to make our shared history and heritage more visible, identify its value, and empower its stewards.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
The Society relies on donations to support the many programs and initiatives that promote education about and stewardship of our shared history.

Members receive newsletters, invitations to events, and the annual publication. Members joining at the Heritage Society level receive invitations to additional events.

More than 30 Society books are available for purchase at [BirminghamHistoricalSociety.com](http://BirminghamHistoricalSociety.com)