

Mission: The mission of the City of Bowie Museums is to preserve, collect, interpret and celebrate for the public's appreciation the history, architecture, city plans, and people of Bowie, Maryland, through education and exhibition, archaeology and advocacy of this diverse heritage.



### Saluting America's Favorite Furry Friend!

Mark your calendar for March 28, at 4:00 p.m. for Belair Mansion's Annual Teddy Bear Tea. Ages 4—104 are invited to bring a favorite Teddy Bear (or other furry friend!) to be honored at tea.

So, who is this furry creature we all cherish? There's actually some pretty "heavy duty" history associated with this American icon.

"Teddy" was "born" in 1902, on a Theodore Roosevelt hunting trip to Mississippi. There were several other hunters competing, and most of them had already shot something. A suite of Roosevelt's attendants cornered, clubbed, and tied an American Black Bear to a willow tree, after a long exhausting chase with hounds. They called Roosevelt to the site and suggested that he should shoot it. He refused to shoot the bear himself, deeming this unsportsmanlike, but instructed that the bear be killed to put it out of its misery. It became the topic of a political cartoon in the Washington Post in November, 1902.

Morris Michtom saw the drawing of Roosevelt and the bear cub and was inspired to create a new toy. He made a little stuffed bear cub and put it in his shop window with a sign that read "Teddy's bear." The toys were an immediate success. Michtom founded the Ideal Toy and Novelty Co., still in business today.

At the same time, a German company, Steiff, produced a stuffed bear, exhibited at the Leipzig Toy Fair in March 1903. They soon exported 3000 to the U.S.

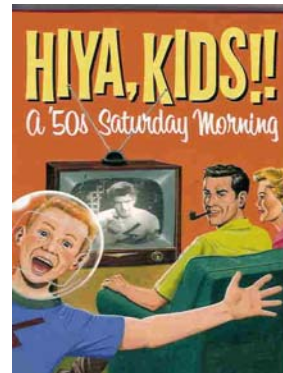
By 1906 manufacturers other than Michtom and Steiff had joined in. The craze for Teddy Bears was such that ladies carried them everywhere, children were photographed with them, and Roosevelt used one as a mascot in his bid for reelection.

To make Teddy Bear Tea reservations, call 301-809-3089 or email: [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

### Fun From the Fifties Radio and Television Museum Programs Look at the Past

"Step back to those thrilling days of yesteryear..." with a visit to the Radio and Television Museum.

The museum is featuring "BoomerVision: Kids TV of the 1950's" weekends through April 12. Featured shows include "Sky King," "The Cisco Kid," "Ding Dong School," "The Rootie Kazootie Club," and a host of others. Bring your children and grandchildren and share memories of past fun.



Programming will run on Saturdays and Sundays, at 2:00 p.m. Admission is free (sorry, popcorn and sugar coated cereal not available at this time!). While you're there, enjoy broadcast history, and hands on exhibits, as well. Museum hours and address are included on the back of this newsletter.

### African American History Exhibit at Belair Stable

Belair Stable now boasts an upgraded exhibit on African American jockeys in American Thoroughbred racing. The exhibit explores the legacy of America's true first sports heroes, a subject long overlooked. Thirteen of the fifteen riders in the first Kentucky Derby were African American. Fifteen of the first 28 Kentucky Derbys were won by African Americans. In addition to the permanent exhibit, Mrs. Edith Godette, of Bowie, has kindly loaned the Stable Museum an engraving depicting Isaac Murphy riding *Salvator*, and E. Garrison riding *Tenny*, in the Great Match Race at Sheepshead Bay, June 25, 1890. Murphy was the winner.

## Baby, It's Cold Outside!



Today, as we shiver in the winter chill, no matter how warm in our modern houses, it's difficult to comprehend exactly HOW cold it was inside and outside in years gone by.

In the 18th century, huge piles of wood were required to maintain any sort of comfort in a dwelling—large or small. In a house like Belair, early residents never fired up every single fireplace in every single chamber. Generally, those at home confined themselves to one room during the day, closing the doors of all others. At night, perhaps a small fire might be built in a bedchamber for a little warm up. Before bed, it was customary for a slave to go above stairs, put coals in a warming pan and pass it between the bedcovers. Sleepers then jumped quickly into bed, and pulled the bed curtains down in attempt to keep body heat inside the bed.

People dressed to stay warm—sometimes wearing more than one pair of breeches or 3-4 petticoats. Heads were covered, necks wrapped—even in doors.

Just as today, the newspaper reported on weather conditions and impact. The January 28, 1780, Maryland Gazette, published in Annapolis reported "Several persons have gone from this [town] to Poplar Island, Rock-Hall, and Baltimore-Town, on the ice, and are crossing to and from Kent Island every day, which has not been known before by our oldest inhabitants, nor has the like ever happened, we believe, since the memory of man."

Winter travel was a big issue. On Jan. 17, George Washington left his mother's in Fredericksburg, VA., and journeyed as far as Dumfries on his way home. Complaining about high wind, he also noted "...the snow had turned to rain and occasioned a sleet...the ground covered with an inch and half of snow..." Upon his arrival the next day at Mount Vernon, he reported the Potomac frozen, in spite of a southerly wind which had melted the snow.



## Mansion to Host Distinguished Visitors

Don't miss the Second Tuesday lecture on March 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Mansion. James and Dolley Madison (presented by character interpreters John and Nancy Gardner) will be paying their first known visit to Belair Mansion.

## New Brochure on the Way

Watch your mailbox...a new updated and redesigned museums brochure is in the works and will be published very soon. Design work is being completed by Johns Hopkins Publications and Designs—designers of the current brochure. A new look is on the way!



Isaac Murphy on "Salvator," Edward "Snapper" Garrison on "Tenny" compete in "The Great \$10,000 Match Race at Sheepshead Bay, June 25, 1890 Artist: Henry Stull, Title: Salvator and Tenny" Printmaker: John A. Lowell and Co., C.1891

Many thanks to Mrs. Edith Godette for the loan of this beautiful engraving, currently on display at the Belair Stable Museum.



## Who's Your Daddy?

Pictured above are three noted racehorses of the 18th century. Left is the Darley Arabian, center is the Godolphin Arabian, and right is the Byerly Turk. In addition to stellar track performance, these three stallions have a greater claim to fame. They are the three "foundation sires" for all modern Thoroughbred racehorses. Belair's famous 18th century mare, Selima, is a daughter of the Godolphin Arabian. Modern equine bloodlines continue, still today, to be traced back to these three stallions. In fact, recent research has found that a majority of American Thoroughbreds today possess a Y-chromosome that can be traced back to the Darley Arabian.

## Coming Soon!

Time flies! We surely all agree to that statement. And, time has flown for Belair at Bowie. In 2011, Belair at Bowie will celebrate its Golden Anniversary. It's difficult to remember Rte. 197 as a two lane road, to recall stores and theaters long gone, or visualize kids now approaching middle age riding Big Wheels down the driveways of newly built homes.

As part of the "Belair 50" celebration, we'd like to archive those memories. If you have photos, memorabilia, or any story you'd like to share, please call the Museums Office at either 301-809-3089 or 301-809-3097 or email to: [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) Please bring your photos, documents, or anything else you'd like us to record for the 100th Anniversary. We can scan on the spot, while you wait, and it will only be a few minutes. We request that you do call first, to make sure staff is available for scanning.

And, get ready to celebrate with lots of fun activities in 2011!



## Banking and Belair—Finance in Our History

The financial woes of the present day are truly a case of "déjà vu." In the first decade of the 20th century, the United States of America faced a banking crisis - "The Panic of 1907" - when the New York Stock Exchange fell close to 50% from its peak the previous year. In the years before 1907, trust company assets had grown by 97%; leaders were prominent members of New York's financial and social elite. In the simplest terms, and shortest story, The Panic of 1907 began with a stock manipulation scheme to corner the market in F.A. Heinze's United Copper Co. Heinze was forced to resign from the presidency of Mercantile National Bank, depositors began a run on the bank—and several others as well. The New York Clearinghouse, a private organization was formed by banks to centralize check clearing, and thereby help to stabilize funds.



Belair's James T. Woodward was an important player in the crisis. Woodward chaired the "Clearing House," and acted as a calming voice of reason in the crisis. Woodward was president of the Hanover Bank, founded in 1905. Following his uncle's unexpected death from an apoplexy, William Woodward, Sr. became president of the bank in 1910, serving in that capacity until a 1929 merger when he was appointed chairman of the new corporate entity called Central Hanover Bank and Trust.

## Keeping Track of Stuff

Frequently, visitors and donors ask how Museums keep tabs on collections items (ofttimes referred to as "stuff").

Museums use different systems, but the most employed systems which, within the assigned number, tell the year, and month the item came to the collection. "1999.8.2" tells us the object was accessioned in August of 1999, and was the second item accessioned that month. The term "accessioned" means it has formally come into the Museums' collections. At the City Museums, we utilize two sets of numbers. One set includes antiques and irreplaceable items—such as our Ogle chocolate pot, or each of the paintings of the Seasons. The other set is reserved for items that we use for educational or decorative use only. Included in this category are things like reproduction stoneware, clothing or even furniture that are NOT old or valuable. Numbers on those items are preceded by the letters "DU" - for "decorative use."

# Winter Musings



# CALENDAR



**Belair Mansion**  
Tuesday, March 10 7:30 p.m.  
Second Tuesday Lecture

“A Visit with James & Dolley Madison”  
Free—Donations accepted 301-809-3089



**Bowie Train Station**  
Wednesday, March 18 12:00 Noon  
Huntington Heritage Society  
Monthly Meeting



**Bowie Train Station**  
Thursday, March 19, 10:30-12:00  
Kids Kaboose

A morning of railroad fun for ages 1-10  
Crafts, stories and trainspotting  
Free 301-575-2488



**Belair Mansion**  
Monday, March 23 12:00 Noon  
Brown Bag Lunch Lecture

A look at HERstory for Women’s History  
Month. Bring your lunch and discover some of  
the “local ladies.”  
Free No reservations required 301-809-3089



**Radio and Television Museum**  
Sats./Suns. Through April 12  
BoomerVision!

Enjoy kids’ programs from the 1950/60’s  
Free No reservations 301-390-1020



**Belair Mansion**  
Saturday, March 28 4:00 p.m.  
Teddy Bear Tea

Ages 4-104! Honor a favorite furry critter.  
Advance registration/payment required  
\$22 per person 301-809-3089



**Belair Mansion**  
Monday, April 6 10:00 a.m.  
FOBE Furnishings  
Committee



**Belair Mansion**  
Saturday, April 18  
11am—4 pm  
Girl Scout Day

Scouts are invited to meet ladies of the past  
and discuss their lives.  
Free — reservations required (for troops or  
individuals) 301-809-3089

## Hours: All Free Admission

**Belair Mansion, 301-809-3089**  
Tuesday - Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.



**Belair Stable, 301-809-3089**  
Tuesday - Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.



**Bowie Welcome Center, 301-575-2488**  
Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**Bowie Railroad Station, 301-809-3089**  
Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**Radio & Television Museum**  
[www.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org) 301-390-1020  
Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday & Sunday,  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



**Prince George’s Co. Genealogical  
Society Library, 301-262-2063**  
[www.rootsweb.com/~mdpgcgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdpgcgs)



Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (1st Wednes-  
day of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), and last  
Saturday of the month, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



*The City of Bowie welcomes the participation in City  
sponsored activities and programs of individuals with disabili-  
ties. Please contact the City at least two weeks in advance of  
the date on which the activity will either begin or be held to  
request an accommodation.*



## CITY OF BOWIE MUSEUMS

**Support the Museums. Give a gift membership!**

**City of Bowie Museums**  
12207 Tulip Grove Drive  
Bowie, Maryland 20715  
301-809-3089 fax 301-809-2308

TTY/TDD 301-262-5013 or MD Relay System 800-735-2258

*This material is available in alternate formats. Call 301-809-3089*

email: [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

[www.cityofbowie.org/museum](http://www.cityofbowie.org/museum)

### City Council

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James L. Marcos, Councilmember  
Diane Polangin, Councilmember  
Geraldine Valentino Smith, Councilmember  
Isaac Trouth, Councilmember

### Museum Committees

David Taft Terry, Chair Bowie Heritage Committee  
Robert Rapczynski, President Huntington Heritage Society  
Jean Lancaster, Chair Friends of Belair Estate  
Karen Duffy Miles, Archivist PGC Co Genealogical Library  
Ken Mellgren, President Radio History Society

### Staff

Pamela L. Williams, Manager—Historic Properties/Museums  
Jason D. Illari, Museums Curator  
Russell E. Davies, Stable Facilities Manager  
Ruth A. Murphy, Welcome Center Facilities Manager