



REUBEN BROWN HOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

2016 – A MEMORABLE YEAR

We began 2016 with 33 members attending a delightful **Annual Meeting** and meal at the home of members Charlie and Sandy Mullins on January 28. Their hospitality and love of good food had provided for many good times during the year. An eagerness for 2016 prevailed.

We love having new life in our organization and welcomed **10 new members** during 2016: Susan and Jeff McIntosh, Beth Rector, Faye Smith, Jane Lane and Greg Ward, David and Jenny Greco and Stuart and Keith Rogers.

Internationally prominent Latin poet William Cooper showed 26 persons that Latin was not a dead or boring language at a **Literary Series** program on Feb. 28th at the House. Thanks to Pat Ray and Janice Simms for co-chairing.

The **Executive Committee** conducted business monthly. Thanks to Secretary Hilda Ray and Treasurer Tom Leggett for keeping us current. Bylaws were revised in June at a called meeting to have the President serve a 2-yr. term. Jeanette FormyDuval was elected VP when Dr. Jim Brooks stepped down.

Members launched a campaign to **“Save City Hall”** in April when the potential destruction of the former historic Post Office, circa 1938, arose. RBHPS arranged for professionals from the state Office of Historic Preservation and Preservation NC to tour and to present ideas for preserving the historic building to City Council. Members spoke at Council meetings, wrote letters to the editor. New member Susan MacIntosh was invaluable with this effort.

Renown poet and Columbus County native, Archie R. Ammons would be proud that the contest begun 23 years prior to encourage potential poets in Columbus County would draw 760 entries. Over 200 poets, family members and supporters attended the **A.R. Ammons Poetry** Recognition Ceremony on April 24th at Vineland Station. Thanks to members Jim and Jackie Brooks,

The News Reporter and BB&T for sponsoring the project and to Chair Susan Wood and the committee for their leadership.

Refreshment Chair Karen Dawsey introduced her culinary talents on June 28th as she served a sumptuous selection of hors d'oeuvres at the first Social of the year.

The Social Committee, Sandy Turner, Genie Carter and Margie Rabon, insured that charming and unique floral arrangements adorned the house and grounds for all our events. They always provide a wonderful surprise.

Three **custom-made cypress windows** were made, painted and installed on the west side of the House replacing rotting and leaking windows. This costly project was possible through member efforts in the 2015 Fundraiser. New **latches and rings** were installed by Susan & Willie Wood to ease opening shutters.

We received **federal tax-exempt status** as a 501(c)3 charitable organization in October. Many thanks to CPA Alan Thompson of Thompson, Price, Scott & Adams for the generous assistance.

On October 18th Grounds Committee Co-chairs James and Ann Fowler organized, a **House Workday**. Outside, members washed the exterior, tidied the yard, and painted a section of fence. Inside members began deep cleaning in preparation for the upcoming Pecan Festival Home Tour. The grounds were in tip top condition throughout the year.

Thanks to the many members and the **Fundraising Committee** Co-chairs Ann Fowler and Ann Pait who sold tickets and worked to make our 2016 Fundraiser a success. A technicality caused the event to be cancelled.

Hurricane Matthew brought havoc to the County in October and necessitated cancelling plans for a special event to commemorate the history of Rick and Abbie Edwards' **Mill Pond Camp**. Our thanks to them for their generous offer to host this event and best wishes for the restoration of the main house damaged severely by the storm. Thanks to Historic Plaque Chair Donna Scott, Literacy Co-chair Pat Ray and others who helped in the preparation of this event.

We honored the memory of long-time Columbus County historian and RBH **supporter John A. McNeill, Sr.**, with a donation to his beloved Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum. We sent a letter congratulating Friendship Baptist Church on its 100th Anniversary.

We stayed in the public eye. Reubenbrownhouse.com became more informative and inviting as Steven Bryan created a new website. PayPal options will soon allow for payments and donations. Jeanette spread pics and news for many “likes” on Facebook. Geneva Ashley and Ann Fowler kept our [Scrapbook](#) up to date. Paul Pope caught [candid shots](#) for various media.

Following a wonderful performance, we opened the House for a reception for the Southeastern Oratorio Society.

Guests from around the County toured the House and viewed an exhibit of historic Whiteville photo reproductions as part of the [Pecan Festival Home Tour](#) on Nov. 4th. Thanks to the Social Committee Sandy Turner, Genie Carter and Margie Rabon decorations, to Nan for helping prepare the house, to Susan for preparing the exhibit and to Ann Pait for selling tickets & serving as hostess.

Charlie Mullins, handy man extraordinaire, installed a dimmer for our chandelier, repaired our RBH sign damaged by the storm and replaced a broken window pane as part of helping as [Building Chair](#).

Just when we're thinking what will they come up with next, that same Social Committee decorated the House to the hilt for the December 15th [Holiday Social](#) using gingerbread men and beautiful greenery. Susan and Willie prepared the bar. About 40 members and guests enjoyed the event.

Indeed, a memorable year.

It has once again been my pleasure and honor to serve as your president. Thank you for your encouragement, hard work and commitment to our goals.

Janice Young