



THIS IS SURRATTS FOUNDATION E-NOTICE OF March 1, 2022

FOUNDATION CONTINUES 2022 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN. As we reported last month, the Foundation's informal annual campaign has begun for 2022. As in the past, we will use the donations to the annual campaign to replenish the Foundation's various scholarship funds and for other Foundation projects. Please consider making a contribution to this most worthy of causes. Remember: no contribution is too small (or too large) to be of assistance, and since the Foundation has no overhead, every dollar contributed directly supports a Foundation activity. (A donor form is reprinted below and donations may be made online at www.surrattsville.org.)

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT'S PAINTINGS TO BE SHOWN. We just read that the extraordinary paintings of world-renowned painter -- and 2003 Foundation Achievement Award recipient -- Kevin Fitzgerald (71) are being shown at an exhibit at the Principle Gallery at 208 King Street in Alexandria through March. You can call the Gallery at 703-739-9326 for more details. A fascinating interview with Kevin appears on the Gallery's website, <https://www.principlegallery.com/alexandria/>. And here's Kevin's bio -- proudly mentioning his Surrattsville roots, as it appears on the Gallery's website:

"Kevin Fitzgerald was born in Washington D.C. in 1953. It was evident from an early age that Kevin was fascinated with painting. In high school, he began taking drawing classes at the Corcoran School of Art in 1970 and graduated from Surrattsville High School in 1971. In 1973, Kevin began attending the Maryland Institute, College of Art.

At the Maryland Institute, Kevin studied with the Chairman of Painting, Raoul Middleman, and he eventually became his studio assistant. In 1976, Kevin traveled alone across the country painting landscapes. This trip led him to Custer, South Dakota, where he worked under designer and sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, on the Crazy Horse Memorial, which is the largest sculptural project ever attempted.

In 1977, he received his B.F.A. from the Maryland Institute, College of Art and in 1978 Kevin began work on his M.F.A. under full fellowship at George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, D.C. During his time at GWU he restored a 54-foot barge converting it into a floating studio. He completed his graduate studies while making paintings on the Patuxent River and surrounding Southern Maryland landscapes, Kevin graduated in 1982."

What a great chance to see the works of this special Hornet artist!

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT! An alumni agreed to let us share his wonderful email below:

"Ta'Mya:

My name is J.P. Szymkowicz. I graduated from Surrattsville High School in 1987. Thank you for doing what you do for the Surrattsville community.

I watched the documentary, The Tower Road Bus, on PBS this week. As you may know, this documentary was about the integration of Crestview Elementary School in 1973 when I was in Kindergarten.

This movie was also about our amazing principal, Mr. Dotson Burns, Jr., who was the first principal of a primarily white school who was African-American. As a Kindergarten student, I could have cared less what color Mr. Burns was - I just looked up to him as an authority figure and educator! Looking back, he was influential in my life and the lives of my fellow students because of his grace, compassion, love and dedication to his students. Perhaps, because of Mr. Burns and caring teachers at Crestview such as Ms. Jones and Ms. Pringle, I always knew that there were no inherent differences between people of different races and that God created all of us equally in His image and likeness".

We're hoping that others of our readers were able to catch this documentary on PBS.

SEEKING CONTACT INFO FOR BELOVED EDUCATOR OR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY. We're looking for contact information for that legendary Crestview Elementary Principal Dotson Burns, Jr. or members of his family. If you have any leads for us, please sent them to surrattvillehsfoundation@gmail.com.

SEEKING MEMORIES FROM READERS. We were so inspired by J.P's memories of Principal Barns. We would love to share other readers memories in our e-Notices. Please send any you would like to share to surrattvillehsfoundation@gmail.com.

MORE CLASS REUNION INFORMATION! We continue to learn about upcoming Class Reunions! Why not check in with your Class's reunion contacts (who often can be contacted through your Class's Facebook Group) to see if a delayed-by-the-pandemic or other gathering is planned for your Class. Here is an upcoming Reunion that we have learned about:

Class of 1971: Details on the "Surrattsville 1971" Facebook Group, or from Darlene Monaco at darmonaco@gmail.com.

Please send us any Class Reunion information you have at surrattvillehsfoundation@gmail.com!

A BLAST FROM THE PAST! Here's a fascinating article that appeared in a Foundation e-Notice 19 years ago and whose memories go back into the March 2003!

"SURRATTSTOCK PERFORMER HAILED, TWICE, IN THE POST. Speaking of Surrattstock performers, the following glowing article about Surrattstock performer John Previti (72) appeared in the Washington Post on January 29, 2003:

"Previti: Standards That Are Anything but Ordinary.' On a list of Washington-based

jazz ensembles that deserve greater exposure, the John Previti Quartet would have to rank high. At Blues Alley on Monday night, the band moved through a collection of mostly pop and jazz standards with ease, invention and charm. Previti, best known for his work with the late guitar great Danny Gatton, played a typically self-effacing role on acoustic bass, warmly underscoring the swing pulse sustained by drummer Big Joe Maher and fashioning a series of thoughtfully articulated solos that created lyrical interludes or arching bridges. While most of the melodies played by vibist and pianist John Cocuzzi and guitarist Rick Whitehead were familiar, the arrangements stood out with splashing colors, deft interplay and unexpected twists, including some neatly executed contrapuntal passages.

"Three Little Words," "On the Street Where You Live" and other tunes found Cocuzzi on vibes, showering bright melodic variations over the dominant chords set into swift motion by Whitehead. When it came time for Whitehead to take the lead, he infused his improvisations with everything from subtle harmonic extensions to bluesy exclamations. The group was briefly pared down to just three pieces -- vibes, guitar and bass -- a combination that proved particularly alluring on the ballads. Like the band's new CD, "Swinging Lullabies for My Rosetta," the show also featured complementary vocals by Marianna Previti, the bassist's wife, and Maher, one of the best blues and jump singers in town. Among other things, Marianna Previti put a wonderfully sly and sensuous spin on "Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me."

... and this glowing review of John's latest CD appeared in the Post on January 24, 2003:

"John Previti Quartet, *Swinging Lullabies for My Rosetta*.' It's easy to lose sight of the fact that the John Previti Quartet's new CD was recorded in the studio, since the band often sounds as if it's in the midst of a late-nightclub performance, casually swinging its way through a collection of vintage jazz and pop standards. About the only thing missing is the sound of tinkling glassware. Occasionally augmented by vocalist Marianna Previti, no stranger to swing-era sounds herself, the quartet devotes the 12 performances on "Swinging Lullabies for My Rosetta" to music that has never gone out of fashion in jazz circles. Duke Ellington's handiwork inspires three appealing collaborations, beginning with bassist Previti's ruminative reprise of "In a Sentimental Mood" and ending with "Do Nothing Til You Hear From Me." The latter tune, intentionally or not, finds Marianna Previti evoking images of another contemporary vocalist with similarly old-school tastes: Maria Muldaur.

Sidney Bechet, Earl Hines and Fats Waller also receive affectionate nods. Yet when the band reprises Waller's "Jitterbug Waltz," relying on an arrangement that makes wonderful use of Previti's upright bass, pianist John Cocuzzi's switch-hitting work on vibes and Rick Whitehead's fluid guitar, some listeners will also be reminded of how much guitarist Charlie Byrd -- one of the bandleader's friends and collaborators -- admired the same tune. Drummer and singer Joe Maher rounds out the lineup, adding brush-stroked motion and soulful vocals to a series of performances that often charm effortlessly. (Appearing Monday at Blues Alley. To hear a free Sound Bite from John Previti Quartet, call Post-Haste at 202-334-9000 and press 8124. (Prince William residents, call 703-690-4110.)"

Way to go John!"

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE FACEBOOK GROUP OF YOUR CLASS, AND THE FACEBOOK GROUP OF THE FOUNDATION. More and more of the

communications about the Foundation, Surrattsville generally, and about individual Class year activities, have moved to the applicable Groups on Facebook. The Foundation's general Surrattsville Group, called "Surrattsville Alumni," has over 2800 members, and the various Class Groups – such as "Surrattsville 1971," "Surrattsville 1973," etc. – continue to grow and always seem to contain interesting information and photos.

To stay in touch, and to see a regular parade of interesting photos and info about dear ol' Surratts, please consider joining the Surrattsville Alumni Group and your own Class Group. (Or starting your own Class Group – using the standard titling of "Surrattsville [four-digit class year]" – if you don't already have one.)

YEARBOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE 1990s AND EARLY 2000s. The Foundation still has a limited number of Boomerangs from some years from the 1990s and early 2000s. They are for sale for \$20 (which includes shipping). If you would like us to check our inventory for a particular year, please send an email to surrattsvillehsfoundation@gmail.com.

PAINLESS (I.E., FREE) WAYS TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE FOUNDATION. Thanks to the many of you who make your Amazon purchases not through "regular" Amazon, but through <https://smile.amazon.com/>, with the Surrattsville High School Foundation designated as their charitable beneficiary. The smile.amazon.com prices, products and Amazon website are identical to "regular" Amazon, but Amazon makes a charitable contribution to the designated charity for every purchase made on smile.amazon.com.

MEET THE BOARD. If you haven't already, please stop by www.surrattsville.org to meet the Foundation's Board, who each express there why it's important for us to be a part of this important enterprise that supports the great kids, faculty and staff at Surrattsville High School.

THE FOUNDATION'S WEBSITE. And don't forget that on the Foundation's website at surrattsville.org you can find lots of additional information about the Foundation, such as photos and bios of the Foundation's Scholarship recipients, photos and bios of the Foundation's Achievement Award recipients, back issues of Foundation e-Notices, information about Class reunions, and the like.

Hoping your winter has been a wonderful one!

All the best,

Ta'Mya Harrison (07), tamya.harrison@outlook.com

MANY THANKS TO THESE EARLY DONORS TO THE 2022 CAMPAIGN!

Donna Rae Sturtevant Smith (70), In Memory of Glendal Jenkins (faculty)

Henry Smith (71), In Memory of Glendal Jenkins (faculty)

THE SURRATTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION, INC.

IRS ID No. 52-2224546
P.O Box 1543
Clinton, MD 2075

DONOR CONTRIBUTION FORM

[Use this form to make a contribution to the Surrattsville High School Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is a tax-exempt, charitable corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Foundation are charitable contributions for tax deduction purposes.]

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Special Directions (e.g, General Fund, Principals/Faculty/Staff Memory Fund, Charlie Waddell Memorial Fund, Thomas V. Miller Memorial Fund, Esther Clifton Miller Memorial Fund, Roland Coluzzi Memorial Fund, In Memory Of, Etc.):

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