

# Booth History Spotlight

## Dinah Faber Accepts Presidency of Junius B. Booth Society, Inc.

by Elwin C. Penski

In 2004, I was playing tennis and fairly healthy for a 69 year old. By 2005, doctors, who are not always right, were suggesting that I had ALS which by the medical books gave me a one year life expectancy. In 2006, I started working on the paperwork for incorporating the Junius B. Booth Society<sup>1</sup>, Inc. knowing full well that I could not do much more than paperwork. Dinah Faber has been a big help. She is a dedicated and thorough historian. She has become a very knowledgeable expert on Tudor Hall, the Booth family of Harford County, the log home of the Booths, and other Booth sites. She has accepted and will make a great president of the Junius B. Booth Society, Inc. She deserves your support.



Dinah Faber is a writer, photographer, and historian who graduated from Kansas State University with a BS in anthropology and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a MA in English. Dinah has worked in libraries, taught literature and writing at the college level, and served as development coordinator for the Kansas Office of the Nature Conservancy. Dinah and her husband, Ben Knight, moved to the Baltimore area in 1995 and have lived in Bel Air since 1999.

Dinah's interest in the Booth family began in 1995 with information she received from the Bel Air Chamber of Commerce that briefly described Tudor Hall. As a member of the Preservation Association of Tudor Hall

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<sup>1</sup> Junius B. Booth Society, [www.JuniusBooth.org](http://www.JuniusBooth.org)

(PATH), Dinah wrote text for PATH's website. She also prepared self-guided tours of Booth sites in Harford County and the Baltimore region for the Historical Society of Harford County's website<sup>2</sup> and has done extensive research on the history of the log house where a number of the Booth children were born.

In addition, Dinah wrote two booklets published in the *Harford Historical Bulletin*, a scholarly journal published by The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. "Edwin Booth: Harford County's Prince of Players" includes biographical information about Edwin Booth and describes the various ways he has been honored in Harford County over the years. "Joseph and Ann Hall: Behind the Scenes at Tudor Hall" explores the history of an African American family that was associated with Tudor Hall for many years. Dinah's research currently focuses on the women of the Booth family and the history of Tudor Hall.

Since 2008, Dinah has served as coordinator for Spirits of Tudor Hall, a volunteer group created for the initial purpose of opening Tudor Hall on a regular basis for guided tours. Spirits of Tudor Hall<sup>3</sup> is a cooperative effort between the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation (which manages Tudor Hall), the Center for the Arts (a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a regional Center for the Arts in Harford County), and the Booth Research Center of the Historical Society of Harford County. In 2010, the Junius B. Booth Society will be exploring ways to support the efforts of Spirits of Tudor Hall.



Progress at Tudor Hall on the Chimney Reconstruction and New Stainless Steel Roof  
August 25, 2009

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<sup>2</sup> The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc., [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

<sup>3</sup> Spirits of Tudor Hall, <http://SpiritsofTudorHall.blogspot.com>