

Booth History Spotlight

Greetings at the Start of an Exciting 2010

In 2010, I was honored to become the first president of the Junius B. Booth Society, Inc. Our organization is small but our dreams are big. We are only just beginning and have a long way to go. However, each journey begins with a few small steps. In the year ahead, the Junius B. Booth Society will take some of our first small steps.

The list of things we could set out to accomplish in 2010 is long and varied. However, "Rome wasn't built in a day," and it is necessary to be wise and realistic in what we set out to accomplish in the coming year.

Of all the possible goals and activities the Junius B. Booth Society might pursue, one stands out as the most practical and within our reach.

Over the past two years, the all-volunteer group Spirits of Tudor Hall (for purposes of full disclosure, I serve as coordinator for this group) has worked hard to establish a successful tour guide program to open Tudor Hall to the public for tours on a regular basis.

Due to construction on a new roof at Tudor Hall in the summer and fall of 2009, it became necessary to cancel a number of last year's tours, and Spirits of Tudor Hall lost some of its momentum.

As the new year begins, Spirits of Tudor Hall is renewing its efforts to create a strong and effective tour guide program at Tudor Hall. Lending meaningful support to these efforts is a natural choice for the Junius B. Booth Society.

Therefore, in 2010, the Junius B. Booth Society will actively join with Spirits of Tudor Hall, the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Center for the Arts, and the Booth Research Center of the Historical Society of Harford County in efforts to insure that the best possible tours of Tudor Hall are offered from April through October 2010. More details and information about the Junius B. Booth Society's involvement will follow in the weeks ahead.

I am personally very excited that the Junius B. Booth Society and Spirits of Tudor Hall are joining forces. I am confident that together we can make 2010 a great year for Tudor Hall.

Dinah Faber, President, Junius B. Booth Society, Inc.

Booth Research Center of The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.

The Booth Research Center was created to preserve the history of the Booth family and Tudor Hall (historic home of the Booths in Harford County) and to make related documents and images archived at the historical society more accessible to researchers. In addition, the center supports the preservation and restoration of sites related to the Booth family, especially those in Maryland.

The activities of the Booth Research Center are currently carried out by Maryanna Skowronski, Mary Cardwell, Elwin Penski, Emily Andrews, James T. Wollon, and Dinah Faber.

For the past few years, one of the goals of the Booth Research Center has been to create electronic catalog records for the Stephen M. Archer/Junius B. Booth Collection using PastPerfect software purchased by the Junius B. Booth Society for use by the historical society. Dr. Archer is

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the author of *Junius Brutus Booth: Theatrical Prometheus*. Several years ago, he donated the bulk of the research materials he collected for his book to the society.

We are pleased to announce that in late 2009 Emily Andrews volunteered to assist the Booth Research Center in cataloging the Archer/Booth Collection. Emily is currently creating a database that will eventually be converted into a searchable PDF file that will be incorporated into the PastPerfect catalog.

Meanwhile, Dinah Faber is creating electronic records for all the images of Tudor Hall in the society's archive collection. Each record will include a photograph of the related image of Tudor Hall. In addition, Dinah and historical society board member James T. Wollon (retired restoration and preservation architect with a long association with Tudor Hall) are working together to come up with approximate dates for the images of Tudor Hall when possible.

Once again, the Booth Research Center is joining with the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Center for the Arts, and the Junius B. Booth Society in support of Spirits of Tudor Hall, an all volunteer group created to offer guided tours of Tudor Hall on a regular basis. Spirits of Tudor Hall is currently seeking wide variety of new volunteers in hopes of making the 2010 tours the best yet. Tours are expected to resume in April 2010.

Dinah Faber, Ch.

Volunteer Orientation Meeting at Tudor Hall

17 Tudor Lane, Bel Air, Maryland, 21015

Sunday, February 7, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

Contact: spirits-of-tudor-hall@msn.com or Center for the Arts 410-838-2177

Spirits of Tudor Hall is seeking a variety of dedicated volunteers to help make our guided tours a success in 2010. Not only are we looking for storytellers, actors, and reenactors to tell the story of Tudor Hall but we are looking for people with a variety of skills to provide support services for the tours as well.

An informational meeting for both new and current volunteers will be held at Tudor Hall on Sunday, February 7, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. Anyone with a genuine interest in volunteering at Tudor Hall is invited to attend.

A detailed list of volunteer opportunities is available:

On the Spirits of Tudor Hall blog: <http://spiritsoftudorhall.blogspot.com>

On the Facebook Spirits of Tudor Hall page under "Discussions."

By contacting Dinah Faber at spirits-of-tudor-hall@msn.com

By phoning Center for the Arts: 410-838-2177

Spirits of Tudor Hall is an all volunteer group established in 2008 for the initial purpose of providing tours of Tudor Hall on a regular basis. Spirits of Tudor Hall is a cooperative effort of the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Center for the Arts, the Booth Research Center of the Historical Society of Harford County, and the Junius B. Booth Society, Inc.

Annual Progress Report for 2009

If you would like see the **Annual Progress Report for 2009**, for the Society, go to www.JuniusBooth.org and click on "2009."