



Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission Minutes 6 November 2022

Commissioners Present: Scott Billigmeier; Paul Coyer; Adrian Dias-Mattina; James H. Hershman, Jr., Chair; Elizabeth Scheib, Vice Chair; Russ Woolard

Commissioners Absent: Mandy Kinne

Others Present: 65 attendees from the local community; Virginia, New York, and Florida

Staff Present: Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director; Echo Rue, Senior Library Associate

The November meeting of the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission was held in conjunction with the thirtieth annual Loudoun History Award Ceremony on Sunday November 6, 2022. The event convened at 2PM by James H. Hershman, Chair. Presentation of awards were made for both 2021, delayed due to the pandemic, and 2022. Following a general welcome and greeting by Vice Mayor Mary Martinez, Hershman took a few moments to remember those no longer with us:

Martha A. Schonberger (1961-2022) TBLAC Commissioner 2002-2010; 2017-2022 Chair 2004-07, Vice Chair 2008, 2019-2022; Henry G. Plaster (1928-2022) 2009, Evelyn Porterfield Johnson (1937-2021) 2008, and Pauline S. Singletary (1930-2022) 2005; first Chair of the Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library.

The 2021 awards recognized, **Michael R. Napper** for his many contributions to preservation and documentation of the memory of African Americans in Loudoun County's history and **The Family and Friends of the Mount Sinai Cemetery**

For their contributions to the conservation and documentation of African American cemeteries in Lovettsville: Claudette Bard, Ron Campbell, Edward W. Spannaus, and Howard Gilbert Timbers, Jr. **The Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library**, previous recipients of the Loudoun History Award, received special recognition for their commemorative efforts in connection with Frederick Douglass Elementary School

The 2022 awards recognized **Susan Pemberton Webber** for her many contributions to the advocacy and furtherance of history through participation in and support of Thomas Balch Library, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, and membership in heritage organizations and **Charles A. Johnston** for his many contributions to educational outreach and the preservation and documentation of Leesburg and Loudoun County history.

Sixty-five people, including Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall and Vice Mayor Marty Martinez were in attendance. [Press release and photo are appended.]

Next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 14 December 2022 @ 7PM**, Thomas Balch Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra S. Gressitt
Library Director
7 November 2022