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GARLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dear Friends,



Please come to a party (that will greatly benefit GCHS)! The No Hat, No Cocktail fundraiser for GCHS at the Convention Center, Thursday, May 31, 7:00, Rm. 207 is a tremendous opportunity for us. Visit Hot Springs is throwing the party as the kick-off event for the new Hats in Hot Springs Festival (complete festival schedule is below). The evening will feature hats from Kathern Kinsey's collection, including hats worn by Owney Madden and many others.

Music! Food and drink! Hats! Fun! Tickets are \$25 and include a cocktail. You must be wearing a hat to be admitted. Cocktail attire is recommended. You can buy tickets in advance at our archives at 328 Quapaw ( 8-12, Monday –Friday), by mail (GCHS, PO Box 21335, Hot Springs, AR 71903), or at the Hot Springs Convention Center Administrative Offices, open Monday to Friday 8-5, (134 Convention Blvd.).

Checks should be made out to the Garland County Historical Society.

This will be a wonderful, fun evening—and it's a tremendous opportunity for our society to raise funds that will help us preserve our history and educate the public about it. Please attend, and please spread the word to your friends. Please let me know if you would sell tickets, as well. If you have questions contact me at  
321-2159 (office)  
624-4729 (cell)  
[gchs@hotsprings.net](mailto:gchs@hotsprings.net) or [robbineliz@gmail.com](mailto:robbineliz@gmail.com).

Besides a great party, we're having a great program this month! Dr. Wendy Richter will describe the great impact the Civil War had on Hot Springs and the area that became Garland County at the Garland County Historical Society meeting at noon, Tuesday, May 15, at the Garland County Library.

Wendy Richter is State Historian and Director of the Arkansas History Commission (State Archives). Her interest in the Civil War dates back thirty years, when she first began researching

the topic, resulting in an article published in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly in 1984: "The Impact of the Civil War on Hot Springs, Arkansas." She has been president of the Garland County Historical Society and the Arkansas Women's History Institute; a member of the Arkansas Historical Association Board of Trustees; and Secretary of the Clark County Historical Association. She served as Archivist at Ouachita Baptist University for fifteen years and currently serves on the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Council of State Archivists, and on the board of directors of the Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society and Pulaski County Historical Society.

Richter has authored, compiled, and edited numerous books and articles on state and local history. Her doctoral dissertation, "'Swallowed up in one gulp': Lost Communities of the Upper Ouachita River Valley," details the history and culture of Arkansas's Ouachita Mountains region. Every day, visitors to Hot Springs read the text she wrote for more than thirty historical markers embedded in downtown sidewalks. A native of Garland County and graduate of Jessierville High School, she has a B.A. in Liberal Arts and M.A. in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Heritage Studies from Arkansas State University.

We're grateful to the Sarah Umphers for her donation of Old Gold Books for 1928, 1947, 1948, and 1952, a 1958 Torchlight, and Army Navy Hospital Thanksgiving and Christmas menus for many years, from 1920 up to 1948. We also thank the City of Hot Springs for cassettes of Historic District and Planning Commission meetings for various years in the 1980s and 1990s as well as a 1970s photograph of the Hot Springs Convention Center.

We'll be giving programs this month to the Methodist Men at First Methodist Church and to the Park Avenue Neighborhood Association.

I hope to see you on May 15 at our program and on May 31 at the party! More about HATS in Hot Springs Festival on the next page.

Liz Robbins  
Executive Director  
GCHS



Thursday, May 31st

**7 PM – No Hat, No Cocktail at the Hot Springs Convention Center, Room 207  
(Benefits Garland County Historical Society)**

Friday, June 1st

5 PM – Gates open at Hill Wheatley Plaza  
5:15 PM – Opening Ceremony  
5:30 PM – Hat Games  
6:30 PM – Memphis Soul Review, live music

Saturday, June 2nd

12 Noon – Gates open at Hill Wheatley Plaza  
12:30 PM – Hat Contest – Most Creative  
1 PM – The Hot Springs Concert Band, live music  
2:15 PM – Hat Contest – Most Glamorous  
2:45 PM – The Arkansas State Simon Sez Championship  
3:45 PM – Hat Contest – Best Children’s Hat  
4:30 PM – Hat Games  
5:30 PM – Hat Contest – Most Outrageous  
6 PM – Mass Hat Photograph  
6:30 PM – Hat Contest – Best Men & Women’s Hat  
7:30 PM – Boom Kinetic, live music  
8:30 PM – Crowning of the TOP Hat of Hot Springs 2012