In Wake of Bob Keith
‘Susan Pulls Off Pier
Fell’s Pointers who cover the waterfront marked the loss of its chronicler, Bob Keith, in a service on March 28 at Maritime Park which included laments that his fervent effort to keep Moran Tugs on Rec Pier had failed. They are soon to dock in Canton. This week, though, it was learned that an earlier lost cause of his, keeping the anachronistic Black-Eyed Susan off the public Broadway Pier, is reversed and the riverboat has already paddled away to Canton.

J. Leonard Schleider, owner of the dinner boat, confirmed that it has relocated at Baltimore Marine Center in Canton. He said ‘Point residents, such as Keith, had complained so much to the City that he could not face the prospect of a contentious lease renewal hearing next year. In 2008, Keith represented the Task Force before the Board of Estimates in opposing another three-year renewal—citing blocked water views from Thames St, peril to donated bricks on the pier and inappropriateness of a sternwheeler in a port that gained fame in the era of sail.

The March 28 service for Keith, the late captain of Bond St., drew at least 125 celebrants of his life, including his authorship of “Baltimore Harbor—A Pictorial History.” Schleider, asked if he had come to know Keith, said no but he was sure that the turnout for him was deserved. While he decried residents’ opposition to his boat, he said the business community had been supportive.

The Keith service offered a chance to recall another victim of this year’s bitter winter, artist David Dixon soon lost her job and now the sternwheeler is reversed and the riverboat has already paddled away to Canton.

Dr. Danuta Mostwin is a freedom fighter in WWII Poland who after the war tended to emigres in Fell’s Point and through the city for Public Welfare, died Jan. 11 at 88 in Rutson. She was foremost a writer, in Polish, reported Frederick Rasmussen in a Sun obituary Jan. 15. His friend Sen. Barbara Mikulski said of Mostwin’s later efforts to end Soviet rule in Poland: “I was so honored to work with Dr. Mostwin to support the Solidarity movement—and we celebrated together that historic day when Poland took its place as a member of NATO.

‘Through her writing, Dr. Mostwin shared with the world what it’s like to be a Polish immigrant. Her fiction told the story of 200 years of Polish people living in exile. We in the Polish community felt the families she wrote about could have been our own families. What she wrote kept our heritage alive and touched our hearts. And she wrote in a way that twice earned her a nomination for the Nobel Prize in Literature.”

One book by Mostwin is translated as “Testaments: Two Novellas of Emigration and Exile.” Fictional, in an unnamed city, it nevertheless is firmly planted in Fell’s Point of 50 years ago: “The Last Will of Blaise Twardowski” recounts the final days of a broad-shouldered steel worker for whom there was only the steelworks, and Broad Street... the line of Life on the open palm of the city. It begins near the bay, where Blazej had landed. First it runs straight and even, then it rises... passes by the Polish Home and its restaurant, past the bank and the pharmacy. If one should climb... to the roof of St. Stanislaus Church, one could see the steelworks.” And at the crest of the hill is the hospital, “a huge labyrinthine snail with a green dome,” where he dies.

Mostwin published in Polish 20 novels, collections of short stories and academic monographs. She had always wanted to write, she explained in a 2007 interview with the literary journal, The Baltimore Review. Even for a “born writer” to write in earnest though, “what is needed is a crisis.” Hers was “the uprootment and anxiety, the destruction of a home country” during the war, said her son, Dr. Jack Mostwin, in an interview with the Baltimore Gaslight. “At a time when many people her age were going to college, my mother was witnessing public executions and round-ups.”

‘Point Inspired Writing of Dr. Danuta Mostwin
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39th Preservation House Tour
The Preservation Society’s 39th Historic House Tour will take place on Mothers’ Day, May 9, 11AM - 5PM, featuring eight residences that have never been included before. Advance tickets are $15 ($20 on day) and can be obtained at the Visitor Center, 1724 Thames St.; Long & Foster Realty, 701 S. Broadway; V-No, 905 S. Ann St., and Obsidian Realty, 1818 Aliceanna St. Also at 410.675.6750 ext. 16 or www.preservationsociety.com.

Billie Holiday on Thames St.
An illustrated lecture, Billie Holiday: Growing Up in Fell’s Point will be presented on April 18 at 3PM at the Preservation Society’s Visitor Center by Stuart Hudgins. An illustrator and film archivist, he is curator of an exhibit at the Enoch Pratt Library on the jazz singer’s early career. Holiday, like Frederick Douglass, spent her formative years here. An early civil rights activist, she once lived on S. Durham St. The lecture will feature rarely seen photographs of Fell’s Point and Holiday. Tickets are $15. For reservations, call the Society, as above.

Charm Circulator
A long-bruited free Charm City Circulator bus is now running, although not yet reaching Fell’s Point. It links the B&O Museum, Inner Harbor via Pratt St. to Harbor East weekdays 7AM-7PM, returning via Central Ave. and Lombard St. The service is billed as every 10 minutes but tests indicate a 15-minute wait is likely. The stops often but not always coincide with regular bus stops along the route and are designated by bright orange signs. This summer a second line is to link Hopkins Hospital with the Point via Broadway, Harbor East via Aliceanna St. and City Hall. The busses are hybrid EcoSaver IVs.

This cartoon ran in July 2008 with caption “Welcome aboard your mayorship,” after ‘Susan’s lease renewal on public Broadway Pier. Mayor Dixon soon lost her job and now the sternwheeler’s gone, too.”

We should have blown the whistle

—By Cavacos

This cartoon ran in July 2008 with caption “Welcome aboard your mayorship,” after ‘Susan’s lease renewal on public Broadway Pier. Mayor Dixon soon lost her job and now the sternwheeler’s gone, too.”

Ball Circle
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**The Promenader - Walk by Anchorage Unimpaired**

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
Yet... 'Good fences make good neighbors.'

---Robert Frost

By Marty King

Because I have written about the Promenade in the past, your editor gave me a special assignment—Comment on the new brick-piered iron fence separating the harbor walk from the Anchorage Townhouses. So on a beautiful spring day I headed east on the bricks from Henderson’s Wharf. For the first time after our cold snowy winter, I was reminded of how pleasant that stroll is, especially with the newer sections adjacent to The Crescent and the North Shore Condominiums and the absence of the abandoned half-sunken boats that spoiled the view at the foot of Thames Street for so long. The variety of inland fencing and landscaping makes the walk even more enjoyable. I also like the contrasting vacant pier—once a working lumber dock but now with weeds and wildflowers. With no vehicle or utility access, what will become?

I had walked a short distance along the An-

**Water Taxi Revives Routes**

Admiral Cammie Kannane announced route and fare changes for the spring season that began April 1: one-year frequent Floater Pass $100, $90 each for more than one ($75 last spring). The boat transfer at Harbor East is eliminated. Express Route direct from Fell’s Point to Harborplace and back is re-instated. Ticket prices (one day, unlimited on-off ridership) are $10 for adults (formerly $8) and $5 for 10 and under. Ping-pong commuter routes will operate free (City-paid) as last year, Monday through Friday 7AM to 7PM. If any routes will be closed for the day due to weather forecasts, that message will be available by 6AM at 410.563.3901.

The experiment with having Fell’s Pointers transfer at Harbor East to reach the Inner Harbor “saved a lot of money, as we predicted,” Kane said, but most of the customers were unhappy. Kane said she calculated on two fronts. First, she had not realized that the dock thee was unable to accommodate two taxies at once, hence stretching out transfers. Second, she did not realize how many patrons, particularly tourists, take the boat for the pleasure of the voyage as much as for their destination. They missed the single, longer ride, initiated at Inner Harbor, checking on Science Center, Rusty Scupper, Inner Harbor, and terminus at Fell’s Point. Now they can do that but it costs more, because of the fuel. Tourists bound for Ft. McHenry also resented having to transfer in Harbor East as well as the Point.

Kane indicated that the City’s inauguration of free commuter routes linking Canton, Tide Point and Maritime Park at the west end of Thames St. had not impinged on the regular service. Water Taxi provides its boats for the Monday-Friday commuter lines at City expense. A new Water Taxi is in service—similar to the existing catamarans but configured to accommodate bikes.

**Harbor Point: Shaping Up**

Jonathan Flesher, representing Harbor Point’s developers, said the upper floors of the first office building are to be occupied by Morgan Stanley in May. The lower two floors as yet have no occupant. He said two associated projects have been delayed by the recession and their space will be dedicated to parking and landscaping. The permanent Promenade across the first building is due to open, connecting with a temporary one to allow circling of the point. But the Promenade between Maritime Park and Bond Street Wharf still is shunted onto an aspersion. It was 2005 when the opening was first fought and sinking—of this potential showcase segment.

**Schedules**

Trash and Recycling

Current days for trash pickup are Tuesdays and for recycling are Thursdays. Residents are limited to setting out three 32-gallon cans of waste between 6PM on Mondays and 6AM on Tuesdays.

**Neighborhood Meetings**

Douglas Place: Third Tuesday of every other month at Bertha’s, 40th & York Blvd.

Fell’s Point Antiques Dealers’ Association: Call 410.675.4776.

Fell’s Point Community Organization: Second Tuesdays at 605 South Ann St., 443.791.1717.

Fell’s Point Main Street: office, 1730 Bank St., 410.675.8900.

Fell’s Point Residents’ Association: First Wednesdays, 7PM, Bertha’s.

Greenspace Action Partnership: Newsletter, 7PM, Obisdian Realty, 1816 Aliceanna St.

**thanks!**

Printing expenses for this month’s newsletter were shared by Henderson’s Wharf, 1000 Fell Street, 410.522.7777, and a major contributor who prefers to remain anonymous. We welcome donations from readers to augment our tightened operating margin. Questions, complaints and submittals are also welcome.

Newsletters design and layout contributed by Tina Fleming of Warren Communications, warrencommunications@comcast.net.

**The Fell’s Pointer is published monthly by volunteers of Fell’s Point Citizens on Patrol, Inc. Questions, input and participation in patrols and this newsletter are welcome. E-mail fpcop@verizon.net. Online www.fpcoop.com. Write P.O. Box 6137, Baltimore, MD 21231.**