

Dahlgren Heritage Museum

Deck Log

I Love the 80's to Death!

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Do you have your tickets to our Murder Mystery Dinner Theater on April 15 at Estate at White Hall Vineyard? There are only a few left – enjoy a tubular good time with dinner, the show and a silent auction featuring some amazing items! Be prepared to bid on a Star Wars movie poster with authentic signatures from the original cast, as well as autographed Eagles sheet music, an autographed Johnny Cash album, trips to Cancun and Nashville, a Pampered Chef gift basket and an Estate at White Hall Wine Party.

Tickets are \$60 and available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/529665302177>. Event begins at 6 p.m. Dinner will be catered by Mission BBQ. Please come in your favorite 80s gear!

Can't wait to see everyone there for a gnarly good time!

MEET OUR NEWEST DOCENT – HARRY BLACK

Harry Black recently retired after forty-two years of U. S. Navy operations experience and technical management as a U.S. Naval Officer and as a civilian employee in various Naval commands, including Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD). His service included compiling over 3,000 flight hours primarily on P-3B Orion and LC-130F/R Hercules aircraft and completing three operational deployments in support of the U.S. Antarctica Program at McMurdo Station.

Harry and his wife Nidia have two children. He is interested in golf, Civil War and alternate history, NASCAR, and NCAA football.

We hope that you will stop by the museum sometime soon to meet him.

**DAHLGREN
HERITAGE
MUSEUM**

PRESERVING NAVAL HISTORY



Dahlgren Museum is hiring docents! New docents will attend training sessions on the museum's programs and exhibits. There is no requirement that applicants have prior experience with the base or the museum. Most docents will be scheduled for one or two six-hour periods per week. This is a paid position. Resumes and questions can be sent to the museum by email at dahlgrenmuseuminfo@gmail.com, or mailed to Dahlgren Heritage Museum, PO Box 816, Dahlgren VA 22448.

DAHLGREN FOUNDATION BOD STRATEGIC RETREAT

In 2020, the Foundation embarked on a deep exploration of what needed to be done to emerge from COVID stronger and better positioned to engage and expand the audience and leave a legacy for future generations in support of its mission. The result of this deep exploration was a five-year strategic plan with a targeted goal of becoming a 21st century non-profit organization and creating a “museum not bounded by walls” by the end of 2026. It is a multi-dimensional strategy from organizational change, partnerships, exhibit developments, making the museum and associated activities a “haven for families”, and putting into place processes and measures to assess progress. The journey began in January of 2022.

The BOD held a retreat on January 14, 2023, to assess the Year One progress of the plan and determine what worked and did not work. Year one resulted in many successes, including:

- an increase in paid memberships by over 28%
- securing grants to fund student internships in support of museum projects
- the release of a new website feature called Sound Bytes of History
- working with the UMW Historic Preservation Department to create a mobile exhibit to showcase the years of the Base from its establishment in 1918 to the end of World War 2 and its impact on King George County
- opening a new exhibit featuring Ira and Dr. Gladys West, the first in our anthology of Dahlgren Pioneers of the 20th century
- new partnerships with the Estate at White Hall Vineyard and the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail group
- developing a kiosk panel about the history of the Dahlgren Railroad
- enhancing our communications with a sign on the building, a billboard with Topside Federal Credit Union in Maryland, and an “Open” banner
- holding multiple forums and STEM events

The BOD decided to not only stay the strategic course with the five original elements of the plan but to add a 6th element focused on Facilities Planning and Museum Operations.

2023, Year Two of the plan, looks to be another active year with a new Pioneer exhibit being developed featuring Dr. Charles Cohen, another mobile exhibit being developed with UMW featuring the years 1945-1975, a new website in development providing more features for members in a special member’s only section, facility improvements including a new kiosk at the museum, the return of the Murder Mystery Dinner event, forums, STEM events, and more. We look forward to continue serving the members and community in sharing the stories of Dahlgren and its workforce.

GUIDED BUS TOURS

Only a few tickets remain this year’s first historical tour of Naval Support Facility Dahlgren (followed by a guided tour of the museum!) on March 18. We’re offering eight tours this year, all on Saturdays. Tours leave from the museum promptly at 11 a.m. All tours are free, but you must register on Eventbrite to attend (search Dahlgren Heritage Museum). Donations are always encouraged!

2023 tour dates:

March 18	July 15
April 22	August 19
May 20	Sept. 16
June 17	October 21



By Emily Genter

The University of Mary Washington's wonderful array of Great Lives lectures included a fascinating and unusual one on Dr. Gladys West held February 2, 2023. It was unusual in that the lesson's topic was a living person and it was conducted by a panel rather than one speaker.

The first to speak, Virginia Museum of History & Culture curator Dr. Karen Sherry, provided a summary of Gladys' life, describing the obstacles she faced because of the times and the historical implications of her achievements. Former Dahlgren employee and current UMW adjunct instructor Alan Dean then gave a brief overview of the history of navigational solutions and how GPS works in order to explain the scientific impacts of Dr. West's complex and impressive work at Dahlgren. Marvin Jackson, coauthor of her autobiography *It Began with a Dream*, recounted his interactions with her, successfully conveying an impression of an admirable and amiable woman. Finally, Carolyn West Oglesby answered questions from the perspective of a daughter of the Wests, sharing interesting info such as how her mother does not like to use GPS and how, for some time, none of them knew of her involvement in the development of the now commonly-used technology.

For my part, I appreciated learning of Dr. West's goals, achievements, and desire to inspire young women to do similar things. She labored to reach her dreams despite the difficulties and saw them carried out. Having means later in life to do what she always wanted, she earned a Ph.D. so as to hold the highest degree possible when, growing up, no one in her family could afford to go to college. Remembering her struggles, she and her husband set up a scholarship fund to help students seeking a career in a STEM field reach their goals. Mr. Jackson said Dr. West's goal was to be an inspiration for young women, who have long been underestimated, and perhaps is best summed up by repeating the quote from her book by American poet Mary Oliver: "Always keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable."



DAHLGREN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Telling the Story and Reflecting the Spirit of the Navy and the Community at Dahlgren

- Join Our Crew! [Click here.](#)
- To make a tax deductible donation, [click here.](#)
- Visit us on the web: www.dahlgrenmuseum.org
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P.O. Box 816, Dahlgren, Virginia 22448

www.dahlgrenmuseum.org

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2022 - 2023 Membership

Thank you for your support of the Dahlgren Heritage Foundation! With your help we are educating the community on the Dahlgren story, running a museum, and working towards hosting more interesting and exciting events. We wouldn't be able to do any of this without you. We look forward to another great year and we are thankful for your membership! Donate by mailing a check to PO Box 816, Dahlgren, VA 22448 or visit www.dahlgrenmuseum.org and click Membership.

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I would like to make an additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

_____ I'd like to volunteer at Dahlgren Museum and fundraising events