

Annapolis Community History Book to be Launched
Wednesday, December 5
Old Fox Books Hosts Publication Party

Annapolis Md. - (Nov. 9, 2018) - *The Amazing Story of Arundel-on-the-Bay: 1600s to Today* was published this month. There will be a launch party on Wednesday, December 5, where local history enthusiasts can get their copy signed by the authors from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The event will be hosted by Old Fox Books and Coffee House, 35 Maryland Ave. Enjoy coffee, wine and snacks while meeting the authors. The book price is discounted that night at \$35.

The book chronicles a community evolving from the Gay Nineties through the segregated Jim Crow era, World War II, women's liberation, and other 20th and 21st century realities. What emerges in the telling is a portrait of America's social and cultural history that shaped a community.

The book's authors, all residents of Arundel-on-the-Bay, banded together five years ago to research and write the book. They include: Aris T. Allen Jr., Phillip Allen, Marc L. Apter, Wilma Coble, Edie Dolberg, Pamela Duncan, Robert Meissner, John Moses, Karen Neale, Bill Semenuk and Arend J. Thomas, III. The lavishly illustrated full color book is available at local book stores and Amazon for \$39.95.

It started in 1890, with the purchase of 350 acres south of Annapolis, Md., on the Chesapeake Bay, America's largest estuary. Lots on this waterfront land acquired by the Chesapeake & Colombia Investment Company were advertised for sale based on the beauty of the site and its solitude as a woodland paradise.

The community distinguished itself in unique ways;

- It began as almost all white to become almost all black in the 1950s, and then evolved into the proudly integrated neighborhood of today.
- Hourly passenger train service from Annapolis connected travelers from Washington, D.C. and Baltimore to the Bay Ridge resort, where the Company's "Blackberry Train," open summer cars, ran along the beach to Arundel-on-the-Bay from 1893 to the early 20th century.
- This smallest incorporated town in the United States for many years was all but wiped out by a major fire in 1916.
- The only community in Maryland where women had the right to vote before 1920.
- Thomas Point Island, just offshore, had a home on it until it was destroyed by two hurricanes in the 1930s.
- Famous folks had ties there including Frederick Douglass, Alex Haley, Martha Washington, Patrick Henry, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Todd Duncan (opera star of Porgy and Bess fame) and Rep. Clarence Mitchell, Jr.
- During the War of 1812 a British Sloop of War ran aground off Thomas Point, an incident which almost caused Annapolis to be burned to the ground.

The Amazing Story of Arundel-on-the-Bay: 1600s to Today is a brand new, fully illustrated, and very detailed chronicle of generations of families that have both loved and endured a special and precarious piece of Chesapeake real estate. This is a book that demonstrates how all of our family histories are worth the telling.

###