JIMI HENDRIX AND THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER
AT
FT. McHENRY’S NEW VISITOR CENTER

ABOVE: Detail of the We The People Biodiesel Artcar by Dr. Bob Hieronimus: Jimi Hendrix over the Stars and Stripes; to the right of Hendrix’s figure is a representation of “Light” the Woodstock 1969 Bus, photographed by AP at Woodstock, spreading its image by the media throughout the globe.

BY
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Drs. Bob and Zohara Hieronimus were excited to read that Ft. McHenry is paying as much attention to Jimi Hendrix as they have lately. The Hieronimus's involvement with the home of the “Star Spangled Banner” has been a long and joyous one over the past four decades. From being invited to participate in certified ghost hunts at

By Rob Kasper

There are a couple alternative anthems in the exhibit. One is Jimi Hendrix’s memorable, nearly four-minute performance at Woodstock in 1969, in which he made his electric guitar sound like the bombs bursting in air.

A new visitors center opened at Fort McHenry this week, including varied renditions of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

The jazziest performance, one that zipped right along, is done by Duke Ellington, recorded after World War II. It is similar to the way the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra plays the anthem: with brio.

You can’t start a major sporting event in America until you have sung “the home of the brave,” and Whitney Houston’s soaring version of the anthem, accompanied by the Florida Orchestra, at the 1991 Super Bowl is the strongest vocal performance in the exhibit. She has some pipes.

The rights to another notable sporting anthem, Marvin Gaye’s soulful rendition sung before the 1983 NBA All Star Game, are being tracked down. Fort McHenry officials hope to have that version playing at the birthplace of the National Anthem in the coming weeks. Also on hold pending rights approval.

The Hieronimus’s involvement with the home of the “Star Spangled Banner” has been a long and joyous one over the past four decades. From being invited to participate in certified ghost hunts at
Ft. McHenry in the 1970s, to being invited as a Guest Speaker for the National Flag Day Celebrations, the Hieronimuses have always held a special place in their hearts for Ft. McHenry National Park. It is the location of Dr. Bob’s first interview with Oprah Winfrey, there to review his exhibit of historical Baltimore and Maryland watercolors on display in 1982. And now the *We The People Biodiesel Artcar* has another thing in common with Ft. McHenry with both paying homage to the legendary Jimi Hendrix. Hendrix’s famous performance of the “Star Spangled Banner” at Woodstock is now part of an audio display at the Visitor and Education Center. Few realize that the genius of Jimi Hendrix and his enduring love for America and its symbols were at the center of his consciousness. Jimi Hendrix knew all about America’s eye in the triangle and pyramid in 1968 when Dan Brown was still a child.

A touch screen display allows visitors to access 10 different versions of the song, including the feedback drenched performance by guitarist Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock...
“Ft. McHenry”, watercolor pen and ink by Dr. Bob Hieronimus, 1980

An American Beauty
1987, watercolor, 31”x 48”
The Quest for America’s Pyramid, 1982. In this painting, commissioned for a film proposal on America’s Great Seal, the 5-pointed-star-shaped Fort McHenry is seen on the lower half. Ft. McHenry, home and inspiration of “The Star Spangled Banner,” is a good place in Baltimore to experience palpable spiritual energy.
Orpheus, the divine musician who unites wisdom and love, and the muse of Francis Scott Key and Ft. McHenry. See a tiny Dr. Bob standing at the base during a visit in 2006.

Dr. Bob at the 1982 Ft. McHenry exhibit of Hieronimus folio watercolor series of historic Maryland, as he was being interviewed by Oprah Winfrey (when she was with WJZ-TV).

Zoh and Bob Hieronimus took this photo during one of several ghost hunts at the notoriously haunted Ft. McHenry in the 1980s.

Flag Day 2007 at Ft. McHenry with a Francis Scott Key impersonator and Dr. Bob with the Founding Fathers Biodiesel Artcar.
Dr. Bob with two park ranger friends at the Ft. McHenry 2007 Flag Day celebration and exhibit of Dr. Bob’s “American Beauty” painting.

Dr. Zohara Hieronimus showing off her amazing biceps during a pause at Ft. McHenry’s National Flag Day Ceremony, 1999.
Dr. Zohara and other speakers saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the Ft. McHenry Flag Day Ceremony, 1999.

Dr. Zohara at the podium with a young friend at the Ft. McHenry National Flag Day Ceremony, 1999.

Zoh fans in the crowd as she’s speaking to the National Flag Day Ceremony, 1999.
Ft. McHenry National Flag Day Ceremony where Zoh Hieronimus was a guest speaker in 1999, posing with the Ben Franklin impersonator.

Ft. McHenry National Flag Day Ceremony where Zoh Hieronimus was a guest speaker in 1999, posing with the Abe Lincoln impersonator.
Dr. Bob Hieronimus and Janie Hendrix (sister of Jimi Hendrix) in front of the We The People Biodiesel Artcar before the Experience Hendrix concert in 2010. See the portrait of Jimi Hendrix on the car between them.

LEFT: Dr. Bob and Billy Cox hanging outside the Hippodrome by the We The People Biodiesel Artcar before the Baltimore performance of Experience Hendrix. Meeting Jimi Hendrix in the U.S. Army, Billy Cox was the bassist for the Band of Gypsies and the Jimi Hendrix Experience on the 1970 tour.
Dr. Zohara M. Hieronimus and Dr. Bob Hieronimus, 2010. Planting the seeds for the transformational age since 1966, they are actively pursuing those goals through their radio programs, books, and websites.