



Trent House View

Fall 2013 • www.williamtrenthouse.org

The Master Gardeners of Mercer County at the Trent House



At the Trent House on Wednesday, July 24th, the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County led a special daylong program entitled “Exploring our Colonial Roots” for 40 eager children ages 8 – 10 from the YMCA of Trenton Summer Camp. The program centered around the authentic 1700’s kitchen garden. The goal was to compare and contrast early colonial horticulture to today by participating in hands-on learning activities designed by the Master Gardeners and historic horticulturalist Charlie Thomforde. The children learned about harvesting vegetables, the growing and uses of herbs, preserving foods, the selection of plants and saving of seeds, and more. The special day concluded with relay races, ice cream, and fife and drum music provided by Stephen Hudak and Drew Wierzbowski of the Fifes and Drums of the Old Barracks.

The Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County allocated a stipend of \$900 from their Mary Jane Trimmer Fund to design and conduct this educational program for the children of Trenton at the Trent House; they look forward to repeating it in 2014. The THA is delighted to be partnering with the Master Gardeners in their effort to educate local children in the wonders of horticulture.

Master Gardeners are highly trained volunteers who provide horticultural information and programs to the community. For more information about the Master Gardeners visit www.mgofmc.org.



Master Gardener Louise Senior and YMCA campers in the Trent House garden.



President’s Message

I’d like to take this opportunity to publicly thank those who have assisted at our fabulous site this past year. The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well at the Trent House. Like all non-profits, the Trent House is often the beneficiary of generous offers of all sorts of assistance.

This past summer for example, the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County initiated the idea to design, organize, conduct and completely fund a full day of children’s programming centered around the authentic kitchen garden. Nearly forty Master Gardener volunteers participated in this, their first foray into children’s education in Trenton. They plan to repeat the program at the Trent House next summer, and in the meantime, will be helping conduct children’s school field trips during the school year. Special thanks to Pat Lagunas and Kay Danbury for chairing this monumental effort. In the meantime, the Master Gardeners have also been spending precious volunteer hours tending and weeding the Trent House Garden beds.

For many years we have partnered with the wonderful Garden Club of Trenton to conduct our biggest event and fundraiser – the Annual Holiday Open House and Greens Sale. These talented and generous women decorate the Trent House and create the fabulous wreaths and arrangements to sell. Many, many thanks to President Janet Laughlin and all GCT members.

The Community Action team of Princeton University students magically appeared last September and helped clean out and organize the Carriage House attic; and this year, cleaned the garden shed and organized the library. The New

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"Contesting Slavery and Confronting Freedom in New Jersey: Two Perspectives"

Constitution Day Lecture by

Roderick A. McDonald and Brooke Hunter of Rider University
Sunday, September 22, 2013 at 2:00pm



In a joint presentation that challenges common misconceptions about enslavement and emancipation in the North, Roderick A. McDonald, Professor of History at Rider University, will examine the origins, development and eventual abolition of slavery in New Jersey, and explore how New Jersey's African American population negotiated the difficult road to freedom. Brooke Hunter, Associate Professor of History at Rider University, will follow up with an in-depth investigation of slavery's local context focusing on Mercer County, where the history of slavery is largely forgotten. Complimentary refreshments. Donations welcome.

Dr. Roderick A. McDonald is Professor of History at Rider University and Editor Emeritus of the Journal of Early Republic, the premier publication on the history of the United States between 1776 and 1861. Dr. Brooke Hunter is a specialist in American history, focusing on the American Revolution.

President's Message *continued from page 1*

Jersey Youth Corps of the New Jersey Department of Labor, being organized under the auspices of Isles in Trenton, will be regularly bringing a work crew to beautify and tend our property.

Two Boy Scout troops worked with us this year; Troop # 257 of Trenton under the leadership of David Parris did a wonderful grounds cleanup in the spring; raking and pruning and removing tree limbs left over from the winter storms. Troop #43 of Princeton handsomely performed the duty of colorguard during the special 4th of July concert.

Our own Board of Trustees, of course, are volunteers – devoting many, many hours of thoughtful work in overseeing the running of a significant house museum. Our Collection Committee members generously lend their special expertise. Others such as Charlie Thomforde, Doug Kale of Kale's Nursery, Carl Nittinger, Richard Hunter, and the performers with the Trenton Capital Singers donate their precious time, invaluable talent, and needed supplies to create our programming. I want to also make special mention of the family members and friends of all of us who are the "auxiliary" work team!

The problem, of course, with making a list of thank yous is the risk of leaving someone out, and I hope that hasn't happened here. Sincere apologies if so.

We extend our thanks again to key personnel at City Hall: Sam Hutchinson, Business Administrator; Luis Mollinedo, Director Public Works; Elana Chan, Budget Officer, and Elaine M. Adams, Assistant Chief Accountant, Finance Department. Many thanks also for the ongoing support of Marge Caldwell-Wilson, our North Ward City Councilwoman.

Finally, and importantly, we are very grateful to the New Jersey Historical Commission for awarding the Trent House Association \$6089 for General Operating Support in fiscal year 2014, which covers some of our day-to-day administrative costs. Thank you NJHC!

For those of you who financially support the Trent House Association - THANK YOU – we are grateful for every donation. Please continue to do so and help us find additional sources of support. With the assistance of our new Trustees and support from City Hall, we are making inroads with needed capital repairs at the site, and will be able to more fully report on that in our spring 2014 newsletter. Many thanks to all.

— Peter J. Maruca

The Gift Shop at the Trent House Museum features seasonal gifts, home items, and colonial toys for children. Choose from a wonderful selection of locally made lavender soaps and candles, wine bags, tea, and more. Open daily during tours and events. Be sure to visit the Shop during the Holiday Open House and Greens Sale on Dec 7th! For more information visit www.williamtrenthouse.org

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Fall 2013

Trent House Staff
Tour Guides

Meghan Chapuran
Samantha Luft • Alla Nedoresow

Trent House Association

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609-989-0087 THA office
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www.williamtrenthouse.org

The 1719 William Trent House Museum is owned and maintained by the City of Trenton, with the assistance of the Trent House Association and general operating support grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission.



Calendar of Events Fall/Winter 2013

Sunday, Sept. 22 • 2:00

Constitution Day Lecture at the Trent House

In this 150th anniversary year of the Emancipation Proclamation, Professors Roderick A. McDonald and Brooke B. Hunter of Rider University will present a lecture at the Trent House on the topic of slavery in New Jersey, and in Mercer County in particular. Complimentary light refreshments. Donations welcome.

Sunday, Sept. 29 • 12:30 - 2:00

Children's craft-making and game day

Make pomander balls and herb sachets and experience the wooden toys and games of colonial times. \$3.00 per child covers supplies.

Saturday, Oct. 26 • Noon to 4:00.

Fall Family Fun with Colonial Trades

Experience colonial trades and crafts at the historic Trent House museum: 18th century blacksmithing and apple pressing; spinning and weaving; dip your own beeswax candle to take home. Learn about these essential household skills that preceded the invention of electricity and grocery stores. Plus colonial toys and games; and pumpkin painting! Donations welcome.



Apple pressing with Charlie Thomforde

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 5 & 6 • 12:30 to 5:00

Greens Pre-Sale – Be ready for the Holidays!

Beautifully designed table arrangements and decorated wreaths, created by the Garden Club of Trenton, will be available for sale. Plus fresh cut Christmas trees, undecorated wreaths, and loose fresh greens (holly, ivy, yew, boxwood, juniper, winterberry, pine and magnolia).

Saturday, Dec. 7 • 12:30 to 5:00

Annual Open House and Greens Sale

The magnificent Trent House will be decorated for the holidays by the talented members of the Garden Club of Trenton. The Capital Singers of Trenton,

directed by Richard Loatman, will perform special holiday choral music at 3:00pm in the Trent House. The Trent House Museum Shop features special items and seasonal gifts. And the Greens Sale continues! Complimentary refreshments. Donations welcome.

Patriots Week Events:

Friday, Dec. 27 • 12:30

Hogmanay!!!!

Hogmanay is a celebration of the new year in Scotland, celebrated at the Trent House because of William Trent's Scottish heritage. Traditionally, friends and neighbors cross the threshold any time after midnight and receive food and drink, and good luck, too. Music and complimentary hot mulled cider and cookies. Come on your lunch hour! No reservations required, donations welcome.

Sunday, Dec. 29 • 2:00

You are cordially invited to tea in the Trent House!

Susan McLellan Plaisted, proprietress of Heart to Hearth Cookery, will offer her 18th century tea program which explores the etiquette and meaning of taking tea in colonial times. Using reproductions and artifacts, each piece of equipage will be demonstrated as guests sample various types of tea and enjoy homemade gourmet desserts. The tearoom will be set with linens and the famous pink china that was custom-made for the Trent House. Your period dress is welcome (but not required). \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members. Reservations required. This program sold out last year, and seating is limited, so make your reservation today at 609-989-0087 or trenthouse-association@verizon.net. Tickets will be mailed or held at the door. Event proceeds will benefit the curatorial work and educational programming of the non-profit Trent House Association.

Scheduling School Field Trips Now

Introduce students to life in the pre-Revolutionary War colonies.

At the Trent House, students learn about the daily activities and chores of the colonial household; see a real rope bed (sleep tight!); find out the reason behind the fascinating "clock jack" over the kitchen hearth; and much more.

Depending upon the expected duration of the trip, and the season, there may also be an opportunity for students to explore the authentic Trent House kitchen garden, planted with heirloom vegetables and herbs used for cooking, dying and medicine. Please inquire when making your reservation. Call today at 609-989-3027

The Trent House Association Needs your Support

The Trent House Association was founded in the year 1957 to preserve, with the City of Trenton, the 1719 William Trent House as an historic house museum to be operated expressly for the purpose of public education.

Preservation and interpretation of the Trent House, and its authentic period furnishings, enhances public awareness of the history and architecture of early Trenton and colonial New Jersey, as represented by the life of William Trent, his family and diverse household.

Governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, the Trent House Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Capital and operating funds are sustained wholly by private donations, grants, and fund-raising activities.

Please support us. Donors will receive the bi-annual newsletter where your name will be listed, an invitation to the annual meeting and program, and advance notice of other events. To make a donation, please fill in this form, and mail it with your check to:

**The Trent House Association
15 Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08611**

NAME *(As you wish it to appear in the Trent House Association newsletter, Trent House View)*

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Please be sure to enclose your company's matching gift form, if applicable.

COMPANY NAME

I (we) enclose a contribution in the amount indicated, check payable to: Trent House Association.

- \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500
 \$250 \$100
 \$50 \$25

Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Thank you!

For more information, call 609-989-0087 or e-mail trenthouseassociation@verizon.net

Save the Date!

Saturday, December 7 12:30-5:00

The Annual Holiday Open House and Greens Sale

**Tour the magnificent house decorated for the holidays
and take advantage of the opportunity to purchase
fabulous decorated wreaths and arrangements.**

Tour the magnificent Trent House, decorated for the holidays by the talented members of the Garden Club of Trenton. The Capital Singers of Trenton, directed by Richard Loatman, will perform special holiday choral music at 3:00pm in the Trent House. Seasonal refreshments will be provided for our guests all afternoon in the Carriage House.

Beautifully designed table arrangements and decorated wreaths, created by the Garden Club of Trenton, will be available for sale to decorate YOUR magnificent home. Plus cut Christmas trees, undecorated wreaths, and loose fresh greens (holly, ivy, yew, boxwood, juniper, winterberry, pine and magnolia) all for sale and awaiting your creative touch. The Trent House Museum Shop features special items and seasonal gifts for the holidays. Event proceeds will benefit the curatorial work and educational programming of the non-profit Trent House Association.

Take advantage of the Pre-Sale – come to the Trent House on Thursday or Friday, December 5 and 6 between 12:30 and 5:00 and purchase your tree, arrangements or loose greens – to be ready for your own weekend entertaining. And then return on Saturday for the Open House festivities!



Garden Club of Trenton volunteers at the Trent House: President Janet Laughlin, Diana Garrett, Holly Bauer, THA Trustee Ann Sutphin, Suzanne Brookes.

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Open daily from 12:30 to 4:00
Closed municipal holidays
Ample free parking.
Wheelchair accessible.
Groups by appointment.
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