Summer Events at the Trent House

This year, the Trent House began hosting a family event at least once a month on the Trent House grounds. By increasing our community outreach, we broadened our audience and created fun, educational events which help to strengthen the Trent House’s position as a living historic resource. In June, our Annual Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social drew hundreds of new and returning visitors from the local community. For the first time at this event, we had a live jazz band playing while visitors enjoyed a free buffet bar of ice cream and toppings. Visitors also toured the Trent House and the Museum Garden; children played with Colonial toys and games. For the past three years, this has been our largest event. We will continue the tradition next year!

In July, we hosted Colonial Kids Day to introduce visitors to life during the Colonial Period. Children learned to write with quill pens and ink, made sachets with herbs from our Garden and crafted yarn dolls. In August, Camp Trent Day was a celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th Anniversary. Our Historic Horticulturist Charles Thomforde led visiting children on a scavenger hunt in the Garden. They also learned how to read a compass, made trail mix and created invisible ink.

Our latest event, Apples and Archaeology Day in September, commemorated both Johnny Appleseed’s birthday and the archaeological discoveries made at the Trent House in recent years. Children made their own apple cider using a reproduction wooden hand press. Other activities included making yarn apples, painting with apples and finding artifacts in a mock archaeology dig. Visitors also saw the first six trees of the newly planted Apple Orchard and learned about its development and future expansion.

Please Consider Donating to Our Annual Fund

Through the generous donations of individuals and businesses, the Trent House Association can offer quality programming to adults and children. While the Trent House is owned and maintained by the City of Trenton, it is operated by the Trent House Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the continued preservation of the site. Each year, the organization makes a special plea to those who value the work of the Trent House to donate something to our Annual Fund. The funds go directly toward the ongoing support and programming of the House. If you do not receive a mailed invitation to donate, please consider donating through our website.
President’s Message

Autumn greetings! We have enjoyed a very busy and successful summer season, and our autumn forecast promises to be even more productive. Kate Nolan and Sam Stephens have created outstanding programming and events. Kate is doing a great job coordinating these events, and of course, our inimitable staff, Shawn and Samantha, helps make it possible. Shawn has also prepared and mounted an informative archaeological display in the Carriage House utilizing artifacts from our Kitchen Dig. Please make it a point to see it when you can. Our organization is very fortunate to have these dedicated folks on board.

Once again Louise Senior and the Rutgers Master Gardeners Summer Camps were a resounding success. The weather generally cooperated, and I believe we had record attendance. Louise reports that the Gardeners and Charlie Thomforde harvested more than 18 pounds of produce from the garden and distributed it to the food pantry. Charlie was also instrumental in the great success of our Apples and Archaeology Day.

We welcome two new board members. Sam Davis—educator, scholar, historian, motivational speaker and an outstanding George Washington, is now among our ranks. Sam is a great resource and a valuable addition. Welcome, Sam. Also, I am delighted to welcome back to the board past president Carolyn Stetson, who needs no introduction. Carolyn has graciously agreed to share some of her busy schedule with us once again. We look forward to her wisdom and insight.

Carolyn has helped to arrange an October 19th meeting with Mayor Jackson. We are quietly optimistic that this will instigate a productive dialogue to further our cause.

This summer I met yet again with Randy Baum of BR5, Missy Maxwell of SMP Architects, and several contractors and City representatives to discuss bids for the Trent House rehab work. A 60 to 90 day window was announced. I can only hope that there will be some progress to report soon. We are also waiting for the final analysis from Peter Leach regarding the Ground Penetrating Radar survey on the east grounds.

Finally, Sam Stephens and I have been germinating a project to develop an educational program that portrays and interprets Slavery and the experience of peoples of African descent in Colonial New Jersey. Largely through Sam’s efforts, we have coordinated the interest and potential contribution of principles of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum group, Morven, Pennsbury Manor, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and many others. We are planning a November meeting to combine a colloquium and focus group with designs to gather input, guidance and advice and to create an informational network to help achieve this goal. Great potential and very exciting for the Trent House! Perhaps we will have an update at our October 26 meeting. Thanks.

— Kevin Joy

New Members

Samuel Davis, Trent House Association Trustee

As the newest Board member of the Trent House Association, Samuel Davis brings to the organization a great love for history and deep ties to the local community. Samuel holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of New Jersey and two Master’s degrees. He is a science teacher and strength coach at Trenton Central High School. His involvement in local organizations includes being a Committeeman in Chesterfield, a Freemason and a member of the Sons of the American Republic. Samuel is also passionate about local history and is a re-enactor who portrays George Washington at many events and programs. He is the official ‘George Washington’ at the Princeton Battlefield and at Summerseat in Morrisville, PA, and has portrayed Washington at the Delaware River Crossing re-enactment on Christmas Day. He has been recommended for the position of George Washington at Mount Vernon when it becomes available.

Jessica Gluck, Community Outreach Intern

As an undergraduate at Rutgers University—New Brunswick, Jessica is double majoring in History and Criminal Justice and will graduate in January 2017. She joined the team this past September as an intern through her university’s Public History Internship Program. She helps lead programs in the museum and maintains communication with the community and other non-profit organizations about upcoming events at the Trent House. Jessica enjoys learning about American history and gravitated towards interning here because of the rich micro-history of the city of Trenton and of greater New Jersey.
New Exhibits

The Visitor Center now has two new exhibits on display! The first is a collection of artifacts discovered during the latest archaeological excavation on the Trent House grounds. Archaeologists dig the area where the 1742 Kitchen once stood, which was removed during the 1930s renovation to restore the House to its 1719 appearance. The artifacts on display include ceramics, pipes, bones, and other interesting pieces!

The second exhibit is called “Tea with the Trents,” and features the types of tea cups and varieties of tea prevalent during the Trents’ time. Tea was not only served along with delicacies, but was also taken medicinally. The type of tea that was served was an important status symbol as well as the vessel in which it was served. Sugar was also stored and used differently than today. Stop by to check out this exhibit and learn about the history of tea-drinking and the rituals associated with it in the early 18th century!

New Thematic Tours

We are developing several thematic tours and programs to bring visitors back to the Trent House to experience the House and grounds anew! In December, we will debut a Revolutionary War-themed tour of the House, highlighting the events surrounding the Trent and the lives of the House residents during the Revolution. An architecture-themed House tour and a “Dining with the Trents” program will debut next year. Stay tuned!

Join the Trent House Association!

The Trent House Association’s mission is to preserve, with the City of Trenton, the 1719 William Trent House and kitchen garden as an historic house museum used for the purpose of public education. Governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, the Trent House Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Operating funds are provided by private donations, fund raising activities, and a general operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. Please support us!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Basic: Unlimited free tours of the house, 10% discount on gift shop items, discounts on events and programs.

Madame Trent’s Coterie: Above benefits + 4 guest passes for tours, discount on events and programs. Invitation to November members-only program.

William Trent Society: Above benefits + Director-led tour of the house to include the view from the cupola.

Membership Application Form

You may purchase or renew your membership online using PayPal at www.williamtrenthouse.org or fill in the form below and mail with your check or money order to Trent House Association.

Please indicate membership level by checking the appropriate box.

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| *Support the Annual Fund   | $_____|

Memberships last for a period of one year, beginning on March 1 of each year. All members with dues paid in full for the year will be invited to the annual business meeting in May. Individual members are entitled to one vote on matters brought before the membership. Family/Household members and above are entitled to two votes.

Name: __________________________ (as you would like it to appear in the Trent House View newsletter)

Address: ____________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________ State: ______ Zip: _______

Phone: ____________________________________________

Email Address: ____________________________________

Make checks payable to: The Trent House Association and mail to 15 Market St., Trenton, NJ 08611

Contributions are fully tax deductible.
Calendar of Upcoming Events
No reservations required for any events.

Sat., October 22
6:30-9:30PM GHOSTS AT THE TRENT HOUSE
Experience a living exhibit inside the Trent House Museum! Actors will inhabit the museum rooms as the people who have died at the Trent House, including Mr. William Trent himself. Tour the museum and speak to them to learn about their lives and deaths at the Trent House! $5 per person, includes pizza and refreshments.

Sat., November 5
1PM Illustrated Lecture by Richard Hunter
The results of the recent Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) scan on the Trent House grounds will be presented. Engage in a discussion on the significance of archaeological activities at the Trent House. Private, free event for members at the Madame Trent level or higher. New memberships accepted online. Refreshments and tours of the museum included.

Sat., November 12
12-5PM ART ALL DAY!
As a participant in this city-wide event, the Trent House will be open during this time for tours and will offer these activities:
1PM – Illustrated Lecture by Meghan Chapuran on William Pedrick, an early 20th century Trenton artist whose work is displayed in the Trenton Public Library and in State buildings. One of Pedrick’s paintings is in the Trent House Collections and it depicts William Trent purchasing the land on which he built the House. Funds are being raised for its restoration.
2-4PM – Children’s activities celebrating both art and National Native American Heritage Month. Activities include creating a depiction of the Trent House, making yarn pumpkins, crafting Indian corn and weaving bracelets. All activities free!

Sat., November 19
1PM Illustrated Lecture by Joseph Grubes
This presentation will discuss deeds, boundaries, and property disputes in early New Jersey. $10 for non-members, $8 for members. Refreshments and tours of the museum included.

Fri. and Sat., December 2 & 3
ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AND GREENS SALE
Purchase your holiday greens at the Trent House and support the museum! Each year, we partner with the Garden Club of Trenton to create and sell beautiful wreaths, trees and other decorations.

Sat., December 10
1PM Presentation by Samuel Davis portraying “George Washington”
Hear this locally celebrated Washington re-enactor discussing the effects of the Revolutionary War on this area. Also experience the debut of a new Revolutionary War themed tour of the Trent House! $10 for non-members, $8 for members. Refreshments and tours of the museum included.

Sat., December 31
1PM ANNUAL HOGMANAY DURING PATRIOT’S WEEK
Celebrate the Scottish New Year at the Trent House! Hogmanay is commemorated at the Trent House because of William Trent’s Scottish heritage. Listen to music and enjoy hot mulled cider and cookies. Free for all visitors!

Save the Date!
Sat., December 3
12:30-4PM
The Annual Holiday Open House and Greens Sale
We are continuing our partnership this year with the Garden Club of Trenton. With their help, the Trent House will be decorated for the holidays so that our visitors can enjoy a festive Open House!

The Club’s talented members will design beautiful table arrangements and decorated wreaths for our sale. Cut Christmas trees, undecorated wreaths and loose fresh magnolia branches will also be available for sale and awaiting your own creative touch. Proceeds benefit the Trent House Association’s ongoing curatorial and programming efforts.

The Trent House Museum Shop will feature special items and seasonal gifts. Seasonal refreshments will be provided for our guests all afternoon in the Carriage House/Visitor Center.

Take advantage of the Pre-Sale! Make your purchases at the Trent House on Friday, December 2nd, between 12:30 and 4PM to be ready for your weekend entertaining!

Volunteers and Interns Needed
As a non-profit organization with limited staff, the Trent House Association relies on volunteers and interns to help fulfill its mission. These wonderful volunteers and interns perform a variety of tasks and projects, all of which contribute to ongoing programming and outreach efforts. Examples of these projects include: preparing for and helping to execute events, researching the people and events associated with the Trent House and assisting with marketing to current and new audiences.

If you are interested in volunteering or interning at the Trent House, let us know! We can accommodate morning or afternoon hours and during the week or on the weekend. For internships, we will coordinate with your college or university to help you receive credits for your work. Internships can be accomplished completely onsite or with a combination of onsite and offsite work.

Help us ensure the preservation of the Trent House by continuing its use as a living historic resource!