



HOMESTEAD HIGHLIGHTS

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DECEMBER 2008

On Exhibit

The third annual show of the **Mount Airy Art League** will open and be available for viewing in the main gallery at the Reynolds Homestead through December 11.

The Homestead Postcard Club Exhibit features antique Christmas postcards.

WINTER CLOSING SCHEDULE

The Reynolds Homestead will close for Winter Break at noon on December 23 and will reopen Monday morning, January 5, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

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Victorian Christmas Highlights

The Latin Ballet of Virginia, the area's pre-eminent Hispanic dance company, will be performing its annual holiday production of "**The Legend of the Poinsettia**" at the Reynolds Homestead on December 2 and 4. Part of the Homestead's annual Victorian Christmas celebration, the performance is an elegant portrayal of Hispanic holiday traditions, including dance and music.

The story is based on the Mexican legend of a pure-hearted young girl who discovers the true spirit of giving. Unable to offer a gift of material value, she picks a handful of weeds that magically transform into brilliant crimson flowers, and thus the custom of giving poinsettias during the holidays is born. This story is as traditional in the Latin American holiday season as "The Nutcracker" is in the United States.

Public performances will be held Tuesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. The **Patrick County Dancing Arts Center** students, directed by Cindy Jones, will perform three Christmas-themed dances to open the show. And, following tradition, the historic Rock Spring Plantation will be decorated in all of its Victorian Christmas finery and open for tours beginning at 5:30 each evening. **Esprit d'Chord** is performing traditional holiday carols in the house for visitors, and there will be refreshments served afterwards.

Tickets for the event are on sale now. Advance tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for students 12 and under. Day of show tickets will be \$12 for everyone. To make reservations, call the Homestead at (276) 694-7181.

BRING YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS POSTMARK!

Bring your cards any day next week to the Homestead and the Critz post office will stamp them with



our unique Victorian Christmas postmark stamp designed by Garry Clifton.

Great Books II

Great Books, Great Conversations will be moving on to Book Two of the insightful and delightful series which inspires one to read classic authors and writings that may have seemed challenging to tackle alone, but are downright enlightening when discussed with a group. This group is open to anyone with a love of learning and of reading. Please call the Homestead for

more information on purchasing the book and pre-registering. Class will begin on January 13 and meets the second Tuesday of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Don Johnson is the facilitator. Textbook costs \$29.45 and will be ordered 12/15.

Learn to Knit

Knitting groups are springing up all around the country, and now you can join the fun of being a knitter! Fiber artist Celie Casady is offering a novice/beginner level knitting class: "**Knit a Winter Scarf.**" The class will be held on two Saturdays in January, the 17th and 24th, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and students will complete a scarf as the project. Cost is \$40 if registered and paid by 1/10, \$45 after that date. Call the Reynolds Homestead for further details and to register.

ORNAMENTS!

The Homestead's 18-foot Christmas tree is chock-full of unique ornaments created by the Decorative Painters Exchange. All are for sale, and each is a beautiful work of art!

December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Photography Club 6:30	2 "The Legend of the Poinsettia" 7:00 p.m.	3	4 "The Legend of the Poinsettia" 7:00 p.m.	5	6 Quilters 12:00 Dickens of a Feast 5:30 & 8:00
7 Volunteer Appreciation Open House 3:00	8 Decorative Painters 11:00	9	10 Postcard Club 7:00	11 "After Hours" Chamber of Commerce 5:30	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 RH Closes At Noon	24 Christmas Eve RH Closed	25 Christmas Day RH Closed	26 RH Closed	27
28	29 RH Closed	30 RH Closed	31 RH Closed			

Upcoming Classes: Register Early for Discounts!

"Beginning Oil Painting"

Popular Homestead artist and instructor Greg Arens will lead this beginner to intermediate-level class in the time-honored medium of oil. The first session will be a discussion/demonstration of materials and techniques, followed by three sessions of student participation. Participants should bring their own materials; please call for details. **January 10, 24, 31 and February 7.** 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. \$55 if registered and paid by 12/31; \$60 after that date.

"Better Business Writing: Communicating in the 21st Century"

In a work environment where communication is equated with professionalism and efficiency, would you risk your career because of poor writing skills? No one wants the embarrassment of sending out poorly written communications that reflect badly on a company's reputation. In this course instructor Lisa Martin will

identify common writing mistakes and cover ways to better reach your audience. **February 3, 10, 17 and 24.** 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. \$75 if registered and paid by 1/15; \$80 after that date.

"Play With Your Food: Spring Cookies Workshop"

Food Network champion and award-winning baker Lora Mahaffey shows you how to make perfectly decorated cookies for Easter and Spring! Learn the professional tricks like "run-outs" and creating quick fondant flowers. Students will take home six oversized decorated cookies. Bring an apron, a rolling pin, and a tin to transport your cookies. All other supplies are provided. **Friday February 20** 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and **Saturday February 21** 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$50 if registered and paid by 2/1; \$55 after that date.

"Experimenting with Acrylics"

Get ready to lose your inhibitions as

instructor Andrea Morrison shows you how to use unexpected tools and innovative techniques to discover and create exciting, colorful, textured effects with acrylic paints. No previous painting experience necessary! Bring any liquid or tube acrylic paints, palette knives, and brushes, all other materials will be provided. Don't forget to bring lunch each day, too. **February 23-25,** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$80 if registered and paid by 2/15; \$85 after that date.

Creative Writing: "Recalling the Stories of Your Life"

Whether it is to record family recollections for posterity, or simply to enjoy the remembrances of your life, instructor Beth Ford will offer the tools and the encouragement for you to put your memories on paper. No previous writing experience required. **March 9, 15 and 23,** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. \$30 if registered and paid by 2/15, \$35 after that date.

To register call (276) 694-7181