



HOMESTEAD HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

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On Exhibit

Mary Jane Oliver Hubbard, **“Currents of the Spirit.”** These large pen and colored ink drawings, with the occasional addition of mixed media, represent cloaks which might have been worn by persons described in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible or the Apocrypha.

Photographs by Brenda Barrow entitled **“Scenes that Caught My Eye”** feature inspiring views that she has acquired over her years of travel.

The Homestead Postcard Club Exhibit features antique New Year’s cards and cards with beautiful snow scenes—might be your only chance to see some this year!!

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Prospective Historic Interpreters Needed

A new volunteer interpreter program is underway at the Reynolds Homestead, and anyone interested in participating is invited to attend the “Prospective Historic Interpreter Tea” on Wednesday, February 18 at 3:00 p.m. in the Continuing Education Center.

As economic challenges reduce funding and grant opportunities, many more non-profit organizations are going to be relying heavily on volunteers to help continue programming.

“The Reynolds Homestead has always been extremely blessed by the wonderful volunteers who donate their time to us,” says Lisa Martin, program coordinator. “But we’ve always asked for volunteers on an ‘as needed’ basis. Now, we’re going to be starting a more formal

program that includes rewards and benefits for those who participate.”

The new Historic Interpreter pro-



Be a part of sharing the story of the Reynolds Homestead with visitors and students as a Volunteer Historic Interpreter.

gram will feature twice-yearly trips to tour other historic home sites, where interpreters would get a chance to see how other sites manage tours and learn from their volunteers. In addition, as volunteers build up hours, they will earn

benefits such as free tickets to events, discounts at the museum store, and discounts and free rentals of the facility for their own use.

“We want our interpreters to have tangible benefits from their volunteer service,” Lisa adds. “There is satisfaction in preserving history and passing it along to others, but we also want to make sure that our volunteers know their time is valuable to us and that we appreciate it.”

The Prospective Interpreter Tea will give the Homestead staff an opportunity to make a

presentation to all of those who are interested in hearing about the program. Attending the tea will not be a commitment to become a volunteer, but will give those interested a chance to learn more.

To register to attend the tea, please call the Homestead at (276) 694-7181 ext. 22.

up your items, contact Beth Ford at (276) 694-7181 or e-mail her at elford2@vt.edu.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Reynolds Homestead!

Book Sale and Art Auction

The Second Annual Book Sale Fundraiser for children’s programming will have an added bonus: a Silent Auction featuring art donated from our visiting artists, members of our clubs and exchanges, and other artists in the community. The event will be held **June 9-13**, so mark your calendars!

In the meantime, your generous donation of new or used books, CDs, DVDs, games, and of course, art, would be greatly appreciated. Last year your generosity help the Homestead bring in

over \$700 in funds for children’s summer programming where we served over 50 children with art, history, and travel camps. This year, the goal is to double our fundraising and expand the summer offerings.

If you have items to donate, bring them to the Reynolds Homestead between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday between now and May 15. You may also bring items to any program where there will be a donation box to take them. If you need someone to pick

Learning-Discovery-Engagement

A Message from Director Kay Dunkley

Institutions that are the most successful are those that have a strategic plan. What do we mean by “strategic?” This is a phrase that is meant to describe a comprehensive, thoughtful, and well-paced direction to achieve realistic and timely goals. Simply put, strategic plans determine where an organization is going and defines how it’s going to get there. Employees are better focused and will work smarter when they know the pathway.

The Reynolds Homestead is in the process of identifying an operational plan for two areas:

the historic home and the history and story around it, and the programming and direction for the commonwealth campus continuing education center. A qualified facilitator will be conducting focus group meetings in the next 8-12 weeks to determine priorities, budgets, and resources needed to improve and expand services. A SWOT analysis is one methodology that will be used where strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats will pinpoint trends and economic forces.

Different people who have diverse ideas and perspectives will help the staff understand and appreciate the need for forthcoming projects as seen from members of the community. In the March newsletter, we encourage you to complete a brief survey. We value the input and suggestions of the loyal supporters of the Reynolds Homestead! Help us chart our course and move with us on the journey to a successful and well planned future.

Don't Miss David Oliver!

David Oliver continues his lecture series “The Mysterious Unity of All Things” with part 3: **“Prime Numbers – Prime Matter”** at the Reynolds Homestead on Thursday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Numbers seem magical, mysterious, and provoke superstitions all over the world. Seven is a lucky number in the West and

13 an evil number. Many hotels have no 13th floor, and in Asia, the 4th and 14th floors are missing because of the bad omens associated with those numbers. Most cities name their 13th street by some other name, such as Pico Boulevard in Los Angeles. Some people are deeply fearful of the number 666, a nervous resident recently petitioning her city to change her street address from the “evil

number” to a more benign 664.

In this lecture Oliver will briefly explain why people are superstitious about numbers and then go on to demonstrate truly magical, mysterious numbers that exist without any superstition whatever. These are the real deal, the prime numbers that cannot be divided by any number but themselves.

The lecture is free and open to the general public. Refreshments will be served.

Dinner and a Movie Night



The Reynolds Homestead’s monthly “Dinner and a Movie Night” kicks off the 2009 season with the 1941 Oscar-winning classic “Citizen Kane” starring Orson Welles and Ruth Warrick on Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Considered by many to be the best film ever made, this is the story of Charles Foster Kane, newspaper baron and one of the world’s richest men. Told in flashbacks from Kane’s life, the story seeks to uncover the meaning of his last enigmatic word: “rosebud.” As the story unfolds,

a portrait of a man who traded his soul for power is revealed. The film tracks the fascinating Kane’s rise to fame and his fall from the top of the world.

The movie is rated PG and is free to the public.

Dinner is available for those who would like to take a break from cooking. The cost is \$10 per person and reservations are required. Dinner begins promptly at 6:15. Call the Homestead at 276-694-7181 to reserve a seat. There are only a couple of seats left, so call now!

December Highlights: Christmas the Victorian Way

Former Interim Director Susan Short returned to entertain at the Volunteer Appreciation Open House.



"The dinner was wonderful. We will definitely be back next year!"

*Brenda Barrow
Martinsville, VA*

Victorian Christmas at the Reynolds Homestead was a wonderful event again this past year, where over 3,000 visitors enjoyed the performances, receptions, dinner, and tours.

The Latin Ballet

"The Legend of the Poinsettia," performed by the Latin Ballet of Virginia from Richmond, was the focal point of Victorian Christmas, and a huge success.

1,800 school children from Patrick and Henry counties attended the daytime performances, which were received with rousing enthusiasm. Parent Cian Robinson, whose son attends Carlisle School in Martinsville, noted that his 8-year-old "came home from the performance and danced all over the house and furniture for a week." Teachers and students alike raved about the show and several stated that it

was one of the best that the Homestead has ever held.

The staff enjoyed hosting the dance company, and wishes to thank once again the community partners who assisted by providing meals: The Joy Workers of Stuart Baptist Church,



Nancy and Ray Dietz enjoyed opening their Christmas "crackers" at the Dickens Feast.

the Spanish Club at P.C.H.S., the VT Extension Staff, and the Stuart Rotary Club.

A Dickens of a Feast

The "Dickens of a Feast" fundraising dinner was a first for the Homestead—including the first time a meal had been served in

the historic Rock Spring Plantation House for at least 40 years.

Fourteen people gathered at the home for a traditional feast of goose and stuffing with all the trimmings, carols, gifts, and a chance to learn about how the Victorians celebrated and influenced our current holiday. Chefs Paul Farrar and Garland Linkous—with assistance from Eydie Clifton—provided the delicious meal, and even Mother Nature cooperated with a lovely light dusting of snow to enhance the mood.

Other Events

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Open House allowed the staff to show its appreciation for those who have given time to the Homestead this year. We also hosted the Chamber of Commerce's "After Hours" event, and gave tours to the 6th and 7th graders from the Millennium Charter Academy in Mt. Airy. They had previously visited Reynolda House and were interested in seeing where it all began.

Hokie Day at the Reynolds Homestead

Calling all Virginia Tech alumni: Bring your family and come out for a barbeque lunch, an afternoon of fun, an update on the alumni association, and an opportunity to have input into future alumni activities. Saturday, April 4 at 12:00 noon!

The June Bug Center in Floyd

will present a play for the youngsters, "The New Adventures of Spring Rabbit," followed by photos with the Easter Bunny and a huge egg hunt to round out the afternoon.

Representatives of the alumni association will be here to talk

about upcoming activities, and there will be Hokie items for sale, and lots of giveaways as well.

There is no charge to attend the event, but call the Homestead to register so we can plan. Bring the family and show your Hokie pride!



January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	3	3
4	5 Teen Advisory Board 4:00 Photo Club 6:30	6	7	8	9	10 Beginning Oils 9:00 Quilters 2:00
11 Dessert & Coffee 3:00	12	13 Great Books II 6:30	14 Postcard Club 7:00	15 Dinner & Movie 6:15/7:00	16	17 Beginner Knitting 9:00
18 Weavers 2:00	19 Decorative Painters 9:30	20	21	22 Unity III: David Oliver 7:00	23	24 Beg. Oils 9:00 Beg. Knit 9:00
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Beg. Oils 9:00

Upcoming Classes

Business Writing: Communicating in the 21st Century

We live in a world where good communication is paramount. 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. \$80

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. Students need to bring an apron, a rolling pin, and a tin to transport their cookies. All other supplies are provided. **February 20-21.** Friday 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., Saturday 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. Monday-Wednesday, **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

How often have we heard, "I wish someone was writing these stories down.."? Whether it is to record family recollections for posterity, or simply to enjoy the remembrances of your life, instructor Beth Almond Ford will offer the tools and the encouragement for you to put your memories on paper. Participants need not have previous writing experience but should come prepared to listen to their lives, experiment with writing styles, and be willing to share with other students. **March 9, 15, and 23.** Preregistration is required, as class size is limited. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. \$30 if registered and paid by 2/15; \$35 after that date.

Create a Better Painting

Award-winning artist Arlene Daniel welcomes all levels of students from beginner to advanced. In this three-day workshop you will explore the use of composition, color, values and edges, incorporating all of these elements to make a stronger painting. Students may use any medium of their choice. Tuesday-Thursday, **March 24-26.** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$70 if registered and paid by 3/15; \$75 after that date.