



# HOMESTEAD HIGHLIGHTS

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## On Exhibit

Do not miss these two original exhibitions. The main gallery features Rick Hyman's "The Riches of Family: An American Journey from Slavery to Prosperity" and in the downstairs gallery is Pierre Daura, "Virginia Landscapes." Both on exhibition through March 31.

## The Homestead Postcard Club Exhibit: Trolley Cars!



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## Hokie Day at the Reynolds Homestead—April 4

**Calling all HOKIE fans, all students who plan to attend VT, our community of friends, and those individuals who graduated from this wonderful university:**

The Patrick Henry Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association and the staff of the Reynolds Homestead cordially invite you to join us for a day of family fun on **April 4th from noon until 3:00 pm**. All activities are free, including our "tasty tailgate" lunch menu of hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and soft drinks. **Kimble "Jay" Reynolds**, 2008 Alumni Distinguished Service Award recipient and past President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, will give welcoming remarks and provide details about the day's activities. Tours of the historic plantation will be conducted. Attendees will also get a sneak preview of future adult and continuing education offerings that will be offered at the Reynolds Homestead's Commonwealth Campus.

High school students will have a chance to sit down with a staff

member from the Tobacco Commission to learn about scholarship opportunities, as well as talk with university representatives from all six colleges to get answers to



questions regarding academics and to hear about the services Virginia Tech makes available to students.

Children can have fun finding eggs with the **Easter Bunny** and watch the play "**The New Adventures of Spring Rabbit**" presented by the June Bug Center of Floyd. Families

can get a free photograph of their child with the bunny.

This afternoon of fun also includes:

- photos taken with the **Hokie-Bird**—a nationally-known mascot
- a silent auction for an autographed basketball and football
- free raffle tickets to win a chance on gift baskets and other giveaways
- a chance to talk with a representative from the VT Staffing and Recruitment Office who will give tips on how to access future employment opportunities on the Blacksburg campus
- an opportunity for alums to give input into future activities and update association contact information

Come out and show your Hokie pride. We welcome you and your family to participate in this family fun event! Please call and let us know you are coming so we can plan accordingly.

## Welcome to Our New Volunteer Interpreters

The Reynolds Homestead is pleased to welcome a wonderful new group of Volunteer Interpreters to our fold. These new staff members will be giving weekend tours during the April through October tourist season, as well as assisting with special tour groups, student groups and other activities throughout the year.

Joining the volunteer staff are: **Susan Blankenship, Darnell Cockram, Janet Demiray, Lillian Geib, Glennwood Ginter, Jane Hughes, Shirley**

**Keene, Mary Jo Leet, Marsha McKay, Joan Pfeifer, Jeanne Stillman, Renae Wagoner, and Linda Wilson.**

"I am so thrilled at the level of interest that was generated for this new program," says Beth Ford, historical services assistant. "We know that everyone has very busy schedules, and we appreciate these folks who are willing to volunteer their time to help preserve the history and legacy of the Reynolds family."

Volunteers take part in 10 hours of training and will also have the opportunity to visit other historical house museums during the year. On Wednesday, March 18, the new interpreters will travel with Beth and Lisa Martin to Historic Smithfield Plantation to have lunch and learn more about their interpretive programs.

# LEARNING-DISCOVERY-ENGAGEMENT

## Volunteer Interpreter Program

A new volunteer interpreter training program is underway and we are extremely pleased with the number of individuals who are interested in serving as interpreters and tour guides. Men and women of all ages and backgrounds attended a tea on February 18 to get an overview of what it would be like to share the history of the Reynolds family with visitors and tourists. There is a lot of gratification in knowing that one can pass historical facts along to others and we appreciate the time and effort that volunteers give to us and to our community.

The volunteers are excited about the training program as evidenced by comments, such as, "I have a passion

and love for this historic site and would be honored to tell the story, answer questions, and talk about the life and times of tobacco farming in Patrick County during the mid-1800s." Another volunteer stated, "I will learn so much from this experience, far more than I can give to others." What a great example of learning, discovery, and engagement!

## Strategic Planning

The Reynolds Homestead Virginia Tech Continuing Education Center is in the process of developing a strategic plan. The plan will address two areas—the historic home and the

## A Message from Director Kay Dunkley

history and story around it, and the programming and direction for the commonwealth campus.

To assist us with this important activity, we are utilizing the expertise of a professional facilitator who will be conducting focus group meetings in the next few weeks.

Input from our loyal supporters is important to us as we plan for an exciting future; therefore, we invite you to attend one of our sessions planned for March 26.

The facilitator will use a SWOT analysis to determine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to outline a successful approach for us to share the valuable history of the Reynolds family and deliver quality programming to our region.

We invite members of our Clubs and Exchanges to attend a breakfast session at 8:30. Members of our Friends of the Homestead group are invited to attend a lunch session at 12 noon on the same day. Meals are provided for both sessions. Then for the general public—or anyone who cannot attend during the day—an evening forum is planned for 7:00 p.m. with refreshments provided.

Please call Michele at (276) 694.7181, extension 21 to let us know if you are able to attend any of these sessions.

Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to seeing you on March 26.

## Virginia Tech Libraries Recognize Lisa Martin

At a reception held on February 24, 2009 in the Newman Library on the Blacksburg Campus, Lisa Martin was recognized for her outstanding contribution of layout and design

of the publication "From Jamestown to Blacksburg, The Path to the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech." Congratulations to Lisa for her gifts and talents!

## Dinner and a Movie Night



The monthly "Dinner and a Movie Night" at the Reynolds Homestead for March features the 2007 Oscar nominee "Away from Her" starring Julie Christie and Olympia Dukakis. Movie night is Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

This Canadian film centers round the effects of Alzheimer's disease on a long married couple and the devastating decision a loving husband must make when his wife no longer recognizes him and falls in love with another man.

For those who would like to take a break from cooking, come out and enjoy Eydie Clifton's wonderful lasagna and all the trimmings! 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. Seats fill quickly, so call early to save your spot!

## Jeanette Williams and Friends in Concert

*Jeanette Williams will welcome world-champion fiddler Buddy Pendleton to her stage at the Reynolds Homestead on March 21 at 7:30 p.m.*

**Jeanette Williams**, who released her third solo album "Thank You for Caring" in September 2008, will be playing at the Reynolds Homestead on **Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

Jeanette has become one of the most respected female vocalists in bluegrass music. She has recorded 11 projects during her career, including the critically acclaimed chart album, "Cherry Blossoms in the Springtime." She was also part of the 2006 International Bluegrass Music Association's Recorded Event of the Year album, "Back to the Well" by the Daughters of Bluegrass. Jeanette's original song and the brand new single, "Enough of You," garnered the Chris

Austin Songwriting Contest award in the bluegrass division at Merlefest in 2007.

Accompanying Jeannette on the



21st will be long-time friend and winner of five consecutive world fiddle championships, **Buddy**

**Pendleton.** Buddy Pendleton is still one of the most remarkable fiddlers the southern Appalachian region has ever produced. Fluid, extremely tasteful and innovative, Buddy's fiddling has set a standard that has seldom been matched.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear this talented local group. Reservations are not required, but seating is limited, and the venue fills up quickly. Seating reservations may be made by calling the Reynolds Homestead at (276) 694-7181.



## African American Trailblazers

On exhibition from March 11-31 and sponsored by the Library of Virginia is a new display entitled "African American Trailblazers in Virginia History."

People of African descent have been a part of Virginia's—and America's—story since European colonization of the continent began. Yet the contributions of African Americans have often been ignored, obscured, or

underappreciated by those who recorded history. In observance of African American History Month, the Library of Virginia is pleased to honor eight distinguished Virginians as African American Trailblazers for their contributions to the state and nation.

The men and women featured as Trailblazers offer powerful examples of individuals who refused to be defined by their circumstances. Their biogra-

phies are a testament to the determination and perseverance displayed by extraordinary people during challenging times. Through education, advocacy, entertainment, or armed rebellion, these individuals demonstrate how African Americans have actively campaigned for better lives for themselves and their people. It is these many contributions that the African American Trailblazers program seeks to share.

## March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Teen Advisory 4:00 Photo Club 6:30	3 Fast Track VIP Night	4 Fast Track Public Night	5 David Oliver 7 p.m.	6	7 Quilters Guild 2:00
8 Daylight Savings Begins`	9 Creative Writing 6 p.m.	10 Great Books II 6:30 p.m.	11 AA Trailblazers Opens Postcard Club 7 p.m.	12	13	14
15 Dessert & Coffee 3 p.m.	16 Decorative Painters 9:30 Creative Writing 6 p.m.	17	18 Interpreter Trip To Smithfield 9:30 a.m.	19 Dinner & Movie 6:15/7:00	20	21 Jeanette Williams and Friends 7:30
22 Virginia Assn. of Museums Conf. Begins	23 Creative Writing 6 p.m.	24 Better Painting Class 9:00	25 Better Painting Class 9:00	26 Better Painting Class 9:00	27	28
29	30	31				

## Don't Miss!

### Dessert & Coffee with....Warren Kimmel

The Reynolds Homestead is pleased to welcome Warren Kimmel, classical pianist, to the Continuing Education Center on Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 p.m. as this month's featured "Dessert and Coffee with...." guest. Kimmel was unable to perform as scheduled in February due to an illness, but has been able to reschedule the event for March.

Kimmel, who lives in Laurel Fork, is originally from Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, but he and his wife have lived in Virginia for twenty-eight years. He received his M.A. in Piano Performance from Westchester University. After spending most of his life living in the city, he sought the solitude of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The scheduled program featuring "The Crooked Road Cooks" has been cancelled, due to the unexpected and untimely death of Betty Skeens. Libby Bondurant, co-author of the book "Grazing Along the Crooked Road," has rescheduled her appearance at the Reynolds Homestead for

later this summer on June 7.

"We were shocked to learn of Betty's passing," said Lisa Martin, program coordinator, "but Libby wants to continue promoting their book in her memory. She just needs some time to grieve and we completely understand that. The Homestead sends Betty's family and friends our deepest sympathy at this time of loss."

### Watercolor Workshop with Sterling Edwards

World-renowned watercolor artist Sterling Edwards returns to the Homestead for his annual "Watercolor Workshop" April 6—10 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day. The cost of the workshop is \$300.

Edwards welcomes artists of all skill levels. Each day of the workshop begins with a demonstration of watercolor techniques by the artist, followed by an afternoon of student painting with close instruction.

In 1993 Sterling began teaching his style of painting at watercolor workshops throughout North Carolina, where he now resides. As his reputation as an accomplished watercolor artist and

teacher rapidly grew, he was requested to conduct workshops in neighboring states. Today, Sterling's workshops are attended by hundreds of people annually throughout the United States and Canada.

Sterling's award winning watercolor paintings are in private and corporate collections worldwide and he is represented by several galleries in the U.S and Canada. He works from his home studio in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

**Register for any class by calling  
(276) 694-7181.**



*"A Day at the Battery" by Sterling Edwards*