



# HOMESTEAD HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME I ISSUE II

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## 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 on Nov. 3. "Cornucopia III" exhibits the bounty of work that the League has created over the last year. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. There is no charge to view the exhibit.

The Homestead Postcard Club Exhibit features antique Thanksgiving cards, some of which are quite stunning. Be sure and come out for a view.

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## The Latin Ballet Will Dazzle at Victorian Christmas

**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. Founded in Richmond, Virginia in 1997, the Latin Ballet is under the direction of Columbia, South America native Ana Inez King. Mrs. King has over twenty years of experience teaching, directing and performing in South America and the United States.

In addition to their evening performances at the Homestead, the Ballet will present nine

performances to over 1,700 Patrick and Henry county elementary students during the week. These lecture-demonstrations will emphasize understanding the culture of Hispanic Americans, North America's fastest-growing ethnic population. The Latin Ballet seeks to expose students of every background to this rich and artistic heritage.



The staff of the Reynolds Homestead is excited about bringing the company to Patrick County. "The Latin Ballet has never traveled this far west in Virginia to perform," says Lisa Martin, program coordinator. "Mrs. King is thrilled to invite everyone to share in this festive evening of dance and music celebrating the Hispanic spirit of the season."

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.

The Latin Ballet is sponsored in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts which provides funds for touring performers based in the Commonwealth. Several groups in the county have volunteered to feed the dancers, including the Patrick County Extension Office, the Joy Workers of Stuart Baptist Church, the P.C.H.S. Spanish Club, and the Stuart Rotary Club.

## AWARD

Reynolds Homestead is the recipient of a \$750 award to support the ballet from the Virginia Tech Office of University Relations as part of its Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series.

# Learning-Discovery-Engagement

## *A Message from Director Kay Dunkley*

The Reynolds Homestead Advisory Committee met on October 8. The group gathers twice a year, giving Kyle Peer, Superintendent of the Reynolds Homestead Forest Resources Research Center, and me an opportunity to provide updates about our projects, research activities, interactions with community leaders, and program outcomes.

The committee is comprised of six members who are descendants of the Reynolds family, four community representatives from Patrick and Henry Counties, four faculty and staff who speak on behalf of Virginia Tech, and five members who work for the VT Foundation and Reynolds Homestead.

The Long Range Planning Committee

(LRPC) is a subcommittee of the full advisory. They meet regularly to talk about future growth and expansion, and to discuss issues related to maintaining the property. The projects that have been identified by the group include:

- Conduct an archeological survey
- Produce a phase I site map to show existing structures and a phase II map that illustrates future construction
- Reconstruct the tobacco barn
- Remove the stumps on Homestead Lane
- Expand the family cemetery
- Enhance the slave cemetery
- Design and place signage at the

intersection of Abram Penn and Homestead Lane

- Develop standard signage throughout the property
- Expand the walking trail
- Build a cost effective marketing plan
- Construct an outdoor kiosk for visitors
- Research the structures and dwellings that once existed on the estate

The LRPC will meet in November to prioritize the projects and determine next steps. We will keep you informed of our progress.

## Outreach and International Affairs

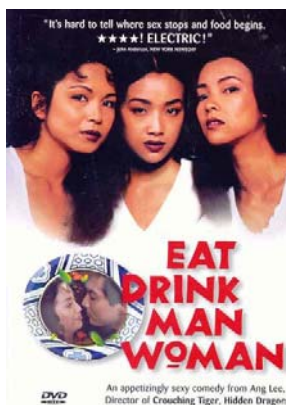
A sister city-type relationship is forming between Martinsville, Virginia and the Town of Martensville, Canada. Recently the Reynolds Homestead served as the host to Canadian Mayor Giles Saulnier and his wife Penny to exchange ideas with educational, governmental, and community leaders from Martinsville and nearby. Ideas were put on the table about how we can work together and share educational and tourism

resources. "The exchange of knowledge is powerful," stated Kimble Reynolds, Vice-Mayor of Martinsville, "as we expose the citizens of both localities to our different, but yet similar geographic landscapes." The two areas share common resources: forestry, auto racing, institutions of higher education, tourist attractions, and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Kimble Reynolds, Vice-Mayor of Martinsville, coordinated the Canadians' visit and

invited individuals from the Museum of Natural History, Dan River Basin Assn., PHCC, National College, New College Institute, and the Reynolds Homestead to talk with Giles and Penny about the initiatives that are currently taking place in our area. The outcome of the meeting was positive and the group agreed to continue our conversations. The partnership is a great opportunity for fellowship-exposing our citizens to other cultures, and sharing ideas about healthy communities!

## Dinner and a Movie Night



November's **Dinner and a Movie Night**, Thursday, November 20, will feature the Oscar nominated drama, "Eat, Drink, Man, Woman".

The movie, produced in Taiwan and directed by Ang Lee, is the delightful story of a senior chef who lives with his three daughters. Unexpected events change the lives and directions of the family members.

The dinner, prepared by Eydie Clifton, will be a menu based on Chinese/American cuisine. Seating is limited for dinner and reservations are required. The meal will be served promptly at 6:15 p.m. and the cost is \$8.00 per person. Please call for reservations – tables fill up quickly!

The movie, which is open to all, is free and begins at 7:00 p.m.

## October Highlights: Reality Store, Red Hats & a Workshop



A student makes a decision on vehicles at the Reality Store.

*“The Reality Store is a great opportunity for students to see the real world before leaving high school.”*  
**Michele Faircloth**

### Reality Store

One of the student programs offered by the Patrick County Cooperative Extension Office is the annual “Reality Store” hosted by PCHS and sponsored in part by the Homestead.

“Reality Store” is a simulation game in which students are given a career and income. Students then visit booths manned by community members where they pay their monthly bills. At each booth, students must make decisions concerning the standard of living that they will assume. For example, at the housing booth (manned by a local realtor), students decide if they want to pay for a one-bedroom efficiency apartment or a five bedroom house.

The purpose of the program is to have students understand the impact of their educational

choices on their ability to enter the occupation of their choice, and to support the standard of living that they want.

Michele Faircloth and Beth Ford volunteered their time to work at the “Reality Store” this year and the Homestead also provided breakfast refreshments for the over 80 volunteers it requires to run the program.

According to Beth, who has participated in several “Reality Stores” over the years, “The students quickly catch on to the value of money – and the values attached to money or the lack thereof.”

Nearly 450 students participated in the “Reality Store” project.

### Red Hats

The Reynolds Homestead staff also hosted 16 members of a local Red Hat Society for their monthly meeting. The ladies enjoyed a delicious brunch prepared by Eydie Clifton and

then watched the movie “Atonement.”



### Museum Workshop

On Wednesday, October 22, Lisa Martin and Beth Ford traveled to the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond to attend an “Interpretive Workshop,” sponsored by the Virginia Association of Museums. This workshop, taught by colleagues from the Civil War Museum in Richmond, Monticello, and the Edgar Allen Poe Museum, provided hands-on activities to demonstrate various techniques and activities to improve the quality of museum interpretive programs. Expect to see new exciting changes to our tour programs in the spring!

## Dessert and Coffee with.....



The November “Dessert and Coffee with.....” will be especially pleasing for all who harbor a secret desire for adventure! The speaker, Norman

Palmer, retired with his wife Sandra to Patrick County several years ago. Through his

dedicated work with the Lions Club, Norm has become well-known in the community. Also known is his sense of adventure, which has been well-fed through extensive travel throughout the world.

At 3:00 pm, Sunday, November 9, Norm will speak on the adventure of a 2007 trip to Tanzania, Africa. It was there

he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and participated in a Serengeti safari. When asked why he chose to try to climb such a formidable mountain he said, “I have thought about it many times, and when the opportunity came up, I grabbed it. It was very difficult—a hard, arduous climb, but being there was worth the pain.”

Hear more on the 9th!

## November 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Quilters Exchange 2pm
2	3 Mt. Airy Art Show Opens  Photo Club 6:30		5	6 Stained Glass	7 Stained Glass	8 Stained Glass
9 Stained Glass Class Dessert & Coffee 3:00 p.m.	10	11	12 Postcard Club 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15
16 Weavers Exchange 2:00 p.m. Poetry Salon 3:00 p.m.	17 Decorative Painters 9:30	18 Great Books 6:30 p.m.	19	20 Dinner & Movie 6:15/7:00 p.m.	21	22
23	24	25 David Oliver 7:00 p.m.	26 Reynolds Homestead Closes at Noon	27 Thanksgiving- RH Closed	28 Thanksgiving Holiday- RH Closed	29
30						

## Upcoming

### Ward Armstrong to Speak at Postcard Club Meeting

The Reynolds Homestead Postcard Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. This month's speaker is special guest Delegate Ward Armstrong of Martinsville, who will present a program on his model railroading hobby.



"The postcard club is very pleased to have a fellow collector to speak, and we encourage any model railroading aficionados to come out and enjoy the program," says club vice presi-

dent Beth Ford, "A train's whistle calls to everyone!"

The Homestead Postcard Club meets on the second Wednesday night of each month in the Continuing Education Center. Anyone interested in collecting or trading antique postcards is encouraged to join, and meeting programs are open to the public. The club also sponsors an antique postcard exhibit each month at the Homestead. November's exhibit features holiday "Thanksgiving" cards.

### Stained Glass Classes

Emily Booth, glass artist and owner of Glass Acts Studio in Galax, will be conducting beginner, intermediate and advanced level stained glass classes at the Reynolds Homestead beginning November 6.

Beginner stained glass classes will be offered each morning, November 6-9 from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon. The classes may be taken separately, but the projects will be progressively more challenging, so students are

encouraged to take as many sessions as possible. All materials are provided, and individual sessions are \$50 each. Any student may take all four classes at a discounted rate of \$160 (save \$40). Class size is limited, so please call to register.

For those with stained glass experience, a 3-day intermediate class will be held on November 6-8 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. In this class, students will create a simple, but challenging 10" x 14.5" stained glass panel. This class also provides an introduction to lead coming. All materials are provided and the cost of the class is \$50 for all three days.

Advanced students will convene at the Homestead on November 6 through 8 from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m., where they will create a stained glass project using "old school" style processes. Students will learn two types of lead channel coming and also techniques for finishing with a glazing process. All materials are provided, and the cost of the class is \$50 for all three days.

To register call (276) 694-7181