



HOMESTEAD HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2009

On Exhibit

Cornucopia IV. Artists from the Mount Airy Art League will showcase their work in their 4th annual show. The show will be on exhibit from November 2 until December 17.

The Homestead Postcard Club Exhibit:



Military Postcards

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FANTASTIC GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Lora Mahaffey is an award winning baker, an avid gardener, a visual mixed media artist, a musician, a muralist and an all around adventurous, positively energized woman. She has taught culinary arts at the University of Alaska and as a visual artist, holds a degree in art history with a minor in medieval studies. While spending more than a decade in Europe, she held jobs that give her special insight, such as herding sheep in Scotland, pulling pints in a pub in Ireland, gardening, mural painting, storytelling and nanny. She has lived and worked in many interesting places such as the British Isles, Italy and Alaska. She currently lives in Alaska and Virginia.

Lora has baked literally thousands of cookies, cakes and other wonderful confections. She loves free artistry rein with wedding cakes and is well known for her artistic creations. In 2005, Lora



Mahaffey was crowned a National Champion at a "Cupcake Cookoff Challenge" sponsored by the Food Network, coming away with a \$10,000. prize.

The Reynolds Homestead is proud to feature Lora's "Play with

Your Food Series." The next workshop is planned for November 14th 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. "Fantastic Gingerbread Houses" offers you the chance to have fun with Lora as you decorate your own edible Christmas centerpiece. This is the perfect time to bring a young friend and open your imagination to all that is possible. By popular demand we will also be offering a second "Cake Decorating" workshop January 29th and 30th, 2010. Please contact us fast for reservations as these workshops fill quickly.

Call the Homestead at 276-694-7181 for reservations. Workshop cost is \$40 per person and requires a \$20 deposit.

NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE

The staff of the Reynolds Homestead is supporting the Patrick County Community Food Bank in November with a Food Drive. The Food Bank distributes food boxes on the third Wednesday of each month, and our county is finding itself in dire need at the moment.

According to volunteer Brenda Strum, who is also the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program assistant at the county extension office, says that the face of poverty in Patrick County has changed with the economic downturn.

"No longer do we see only

elderly and single-parents needing assistance," says Strum, "more and more families who in the past would be considered 'middle-class' are now needing assistance."

November is an appropriate time for the Homestead to focus on the Food Bank, according to Lisa Martin. "Thanksgiving is a time that encourages us to think about family and bounty and need, and it's therefore a great time for those who can share to do so."

The collection box is located inside the foyer coming into the continuing education center

and is accessible after hours.

The staff encourages everyone who comes to a program during November to please bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry. Especially good are canned vegetables and meats, as well as pasta and rice, crackers, and canned fruits. The food bank also accepts paper products for distribution. The Homestead will also accept monetary contributions.

LEARNING-DISCOVERY-ENGAGEMENT

A Message from Director Kay Dunkley

As Director of this beautiful and historic property, I learn and grow each day. What a privilege it is for me and this talented staff to work at a National Historic Landmark and to have the opportunity to pass along the legacy of Hardin and Nancy Cox Reynolds! I am also reminded that Virginia Tech empowers us to extend opportunities of learning and scholarship to the citizens of this region as we deliver a variety of cultural and professional development offerings through the continuing education center. Partnering with community leaders and serving the citizens of southern Virginia are added perks.

How lucky can one be? At the October meeting of the Reynolds Homestead Advisory Committee, several positive actions were taken. One of the most important was the unanimous approval of the formal naming of the slave cemetery. The name that will be taken before the Virginia Tech Commemorative Tributes Committee is "The African American Cemetery of the Rock Spring Plantation."

Another significant action was moving forward with the reconstruction of the tobacco barn. With several options for

rebuilding, adding a tobacco barn on this property will greatly enhance the tourist experience. We will keep you posted with an anticipated date for completion.

Members of the advisory committee shared ideas regarding signage at the intersection of Homestead Lane and Abram Penn Highway. An environmental graphic designer is preparing several sketches for consideration. The entrance way sign will add distinction to the property.

Thanks to you—our community of friends—who continue to support us with all of our projects and activities.

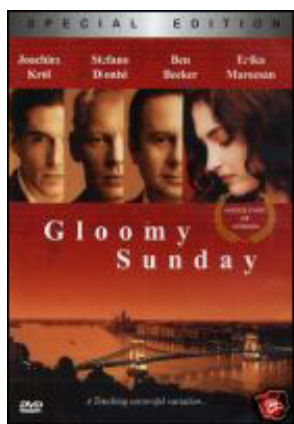
TALE OF TWO PLANTATIONS

The Reynolds Homestead is pleased to announce that Beth Almond Ford will join Park Ranger Betsy Haynes to tell the tales of The Reynolds Homestead (Rock Spring Plantation) and Burroughs Plantation, comparing life and slavery in the mid-19th century. The program will be held

on November 8, 2009 beginning at 2 p.m., at the Booker T. Washington National Monument in Hardy, Virginia. Join Beth as she talks about plantation life on Rock Spring Plantation. Discussion will ensue about the store, the tobacco factory, the bartering/banking system, farming, family,

cooking and the individual roles played by family members and slaves. Betsy Haynes will discuss similar information regarding the Burroughs Plantation of Franklin County to compare and contrast life in the two places. A walking tour of the Booker T. Washington National Monument will follow the discussions.

Dinner and a Movie Night: Guest Chef Janet Demiray



Plan to attend **Dinner & A Movie Night** on **Thursday, November 19**. The featured film is "Gloomy Sunday" from 2003 starring Stefano Dionisi.

Set in pre-World War II Budapest, the film is a romantic melodrama that evokes the song of the same name, fabled to have caused over one hundred suicides in the 1930s. In the movie, a restaurant owner hires a pianist to play, and then both men fall in love with the beautiful waitress Ilona who inspires the composition "Gloomy Sunday," which is at first loved, then feared for

the chain of suicides its melancholy melody triggers.

The guest chef for the evening's dinner will be **Janet Demiray**, a retired Foreign Service Officer who visited Budapest many times in her career. She will be preparing a traditional Hungarian dinner of chicken paprikas and noodles, cabbage-apple salad, rye bread rolls and crepes. Dinner is **\$10** per person and reservations are required. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 p.m. The movie begins at 7:00 p.m. and is free.

CLOSE UP PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP



Photographer
Rick Dawson

Close up photography, or macro photography as it's technically known, is a method of seeing ordinary things in a completely new way. The possibilities are endless and easy to discover and with macro photography, small and intricate features that you can't see from a distance are shown in vivid detail. There are, however, many issues that must be addressed in order to get the perfect photographs.

Subject Selection

While macro photography focuses on smaller things, your subject does not have to be small. Larger subjects require that you focus on a part of the subject. For example, part of a building or just the nail on a finger could be good subjects.

Focus

Subjects are often very small and the compression factor of the depth of field focus must be very precise. The depth of field in macro photography is often so small that only a piece of an insect or other subject will be in

focus. It is essential in these cases that the "right" part of the subject is in focus.

Depth of field

Macro photography offers a limited amount of sharpness in front and behind the main point of focus. This is known as depth-of-field and is very shallow at close range. This means you may, for example, get a really sharp flower stamen but the petals in front and behind will be disappointingly soft.



Light

Macro photography requires much more light than "standard" photography. This is because of the fact that high magnification lenses and extension tubes lead to less light reaching the film/sensor. Also, the small apertures used to get as much depth of field as

possible require much more light for an adequate exposure. Another problem you may encounter, especially when using a camera with extremely close focusing capability, is that the camera is so close to the subject that it can cast a shadow.

The Reynolds Homestead will host Photographer Rick Dawson November 10th and 12th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to teach students all about how to avoid the problems discussed in this article and many more techniques to get the best possible photographs.

Join Rick as he demonstrates how to build a light tent for photographing reflective objects using a simple cardboard box. This course will also cover several ways to control lighting using hot lights and other items.

Call the Homestead at 276-694-7181 for reservations. Workshop cost is \$35 per person and requires a \$15 deposit.



David Oliver

DESSERT AND COFFEE WITH.....DAVID OLIVER

Join us Sunday, November 15th at 3 p.m. for David Oliver speaking on "The Pleasure of the Universe." Bask in the visual pleasure of breathtaking images of the universe from the Hubble telescope to the accompaniment of music and poetry. Follow the

cycle of a star from birth to death. Reach into the deepest limits of the known universe billions of light years away and behold galaxies, nebulae and exotic structures never before seen. Listen to the words and music of fellow human beings as they praise the

wonder and beauty of the universe.

Sit back with a cup of warm and delicious coffee along with your favorite dessert and enjoy this special presentation. Groups are welcome and the event is free and open to the general public.

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Teen Advisory Board 4 pm Photography Club 6:30 pm	3 Election Day!	4 History Around Us—"Reynolda House in Winter" 12 noon	5	6	7 Quilters 2 pm
8	9 Rural Music Coalition 6:30 pm	10 Great Books 6:30 pm Close Up Photo Workshop 6:30 pm	11	12 Close Up Photo Workshop 6:30 pm	13	14 Gingerbread House Workshop 10 am-2 pm
15 Dessert & Coffee with David Oliver 3 pm Weavers 2 pm	16 Decorative Painters 9:30 am	17	18	19 Dinner & Movie 6:00/7:00 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25 Close at noon for Thanksgiving	26 Closed for Thanksgiving	27 Closed for Thanksgiving	28
29	30					

Upcoming Classes and Events

November 10 and 12—Tuesday and Thursday—"Close Up Photography Workshop" Learning to photograph images at very close range is a special skill in photography. This workshop will teach students how to get the best possible images using micro settings and micro lenses and filters. A perfect course for anyone who sells on e-Bay! Certified Professional Photographer Ricky Dawson is the instructor, and he will demonstrate how to build a light tent for photographing reflective objects by using a simple cardboard box. The course will also cover several ways to control lighting using hot lights and other items. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. \$35 / \$15 deposit.

November 14—Saturday—"Play with Your Food: Fantastic Gingerbread Houses!" Start the holiday season off right by decorating a fantastic gingerbread house! Already built, you get to do the fun part. Decorate! Everything you need is supplied to make a wonderful and edible Christmas centerpiece. Basic skills will be taught. Just bring an apron and your imagination. Ages 8 and up. Children under 12 must have a helper present. Class is limited to 20 students. Bring a bag lunch. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$40 / \$20 deposit.

December 8 and 10—Tuesday and Thursday—Theatre IV presents "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. Perhaps the best loved Christmas story of all time, The Theatre IV adaptation of this classic is suited to audiences of all ages, and features a magnificent score by Paul Deiss. Experience all the joy, sentiment and meaning of this timeless story with

a delightful performance by a professional acting ensemble. Tours of the historic home begin at 5 p.m. and are free with the purchase of tickets for this performance. \$8 adults, \$5 students 12 and under.

December 11—Friday—"A Dickens of a Feast" : A Traditional Victorian Christmas Dinner. Enjoy an elegant traditional Christmas feast of roast goose and all the trimmings served by the Homestead staff who will entertain you with Christmas customs, music and games throughout the meal. Served in the dining room of the historic home. This is a perfect way to follow up the performance of "A Christmas Carol"! There will be two seatings for dinner, 5:30 and 8:00 p.m., and seating is limited to 10 for each meal. Reservations and payment required by December 1. \$50.00 per person or \$75 per couple.

January 29 and 30—Friday and Saturday—"Play with Your Food: Cake Decorating Class" Back by popular demand. Learn the joys of cake decorating! From properly frosting a cake to making fondant decorations, we explore the fun world of cake decorating. Practice new skills such as using a pastry bag, piping borders, writing with royal icing and making flowers and doodads with fondant. Everyone gets to decorate a yummy chocolate cake from start to finish and then take them home to eat! Students please bring an apron, a lazy susan and something to transport your cake in. All other materials will be supplied. Class is limited to 10 students. Hurry as this class fills up fast. Bring a bag lunch. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$65/\$30 deposit.

To Register for any event, class or workshop, please call the Homestead at 276-694-7181.