



HOMESTEAD HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2009

On Exhibit

The J.E.B. Stuart Art Show will open October 4th. Sponsored by Bull Mountain Arts Cooperative, this will be the 34th Annual juried show. The exhibition will be on display through October 30th. Gallery hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The Homestead Postcard Club Exhibit:



Patrick County Postcards

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Victorian Christmas Celebration

Everyone looks forward to the Victorian Christmas celebration at the Homestead each year, and this season should be no exception! The staff have many exciting activities planned for the celebration which will run from December 1-15. Mark your calendars for as many of the following events as you can attend:

Handmade Christmas Ornaments. Each year the Homestead's Decorative Painters Exchange decorates our 20' Christmas tree with handmade ornaments—each is a work of art and all are for sale. Ornaments will be on sale throughout the two weeks of Victorian Christmas.

Victorian Christmas House Tours. The authentically decorated Rock Spring Plantation House will be open for tours weekdays from December 1-15 from 10 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day. The charge is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. Groups are welcome but are asked to call ahead to schedule a time.

Chamber of Commerce "After Hours." One of the largest gatherings of the members of the Patrick County Chamber of

Commerce, our annual "After Hours at the Homestead" will be held on Thursday, December 3 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Enjoy the decorations and refreshments and network with your friends and colleagues. Open to all members of the PC Chamber.



Theatre IV Presents: "A Christmas Carol." This musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic is sure to appeal to children of all ages. What would a Victorian Christmas celebration be without this story of redemption and grace? Richmond's professional company, Theatre IV, will present its public performances on

Tuesday, December 8 and Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students under 12. Make your reservations today—this show will be sold out.

"A Dickens of A Feast" Christmas Dinner. Enjoy an elegant tradition Christmas feast of roast goose and all the trimmings served by the Homestead staff. Traditional Victorian entertainment, games and prizes will be included—all in the parlor and dining room of the historic home. This is a perfect way to follow up the performance of "A Christmas Carol." Two seatings for dinner, 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. and seatings are limited to 10 for each meal. \$50 per person or \$75 per couple.

Volunteer Appreciation Open House. Our Victorian Christmas celebration comes to a close with an event to honor our Homestead's volunteers who help make all of our programs so successful. All volunteers and those interested in becoming volunteers are invited to enjoy traditional Christmas music, refreshments, and an afternoon of fun. The "Volunteer of the Year" award will be presented. Reservations are requested. Sunday, December 13, 2-4 p.m.

Frontier Culture Museum

October's program in "The History Around Us" series at the Reynolds Homestead will feature the **Frontier Culture Museum** from Staunton on Wednesday

October 7 from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. The program, co-sponsored by the Patrick County Historical Society, is a "bring your own lunch" event so those interested can take a break from work

and come down to the Continuing Education Center and learn more about the historical sites of Virginia and surrounding states.

The Frontier Culture Museum tells the story of the thousands of people who migrated to colonial America, and of the life they created here for themselves and their descendents. These first

pioneers came to America during the 1600s and 1700s from communities in the hinterlands of England, Germany, Ireland, and West Africa.

Groups are welcome. The program lasts one hour and is free and open to the general public.

LEARNING-DISCOVERY-ENGAGEMENT

A Message from Director Kay Dunkley

On September 23, Anne S. Beckett, an architectural historian from Roanoke, made a presentation to our volunteer interpreters, interested citizens, and staff. Ms. Beckett was hired by Virginia Tech in June, 2009 to prepare a Historic Assessment Report with a five-year priority plan in order to maintain the 1843 Rock Spring Plantation and associated historic outbuildings. We applaud the university and the office of Physical Plant Operations for their dedication to maintain this National Historic Landmark.

Anne's report outlined the current condition of the house and buildings, the specific needs for upkeep and improvements, and also made recommendations for a 3, 4, and 5 year maintenance plan. Basically, the report indicated the house and

historic buildings were in generally good condition; however, priority repairs will be addressed during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Anne's presentation, based upon an architectural historian's point of view, stimulated some thought provoking discussion. A few of her positions differed from the stories passed down by Nancy Susan Reynolds and others who have written about their perspectives regarding the construction and renovations that have occurred from 1843 to the present. As an outreach center of Virginia Tech, I was pleased by the learning, discovery, and engagement that took place from this rich discussion. Which part of the house was built first—the front or the back? Were the windows incorrectly installed during the 1970 renovation? Was

the icehouse first constructed to serve as a smokehouse?

As interpreters we can give several points of view; after all, each of us has our own point of view based upon what we have heard, read, or observed. The beauty of lectures and discussions is that we can all learn from one another and those whose opinions are different give us an opportunity to look at things through a different lens. I am glad we can agree to disagree.

Where do we go from here? We will begin to research as many documents as we can that tell the story of the Rock Spring Plantation and property. Adjustments will be made to the story we share with visitors and tourists as additional information is gathered. The story we share with our guests will be enhanced with this new knowledge, reinforcing the adage that "history lives on in the present."

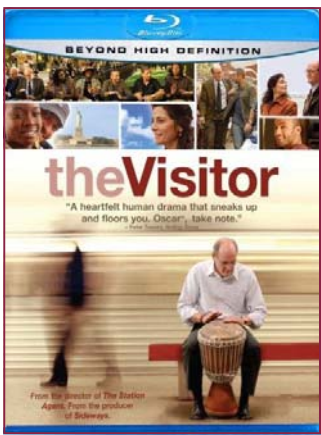
Introducing Traci Petty

The Reynolds Homestead is pleased to announce the appointment of Traci Petty as Assistant Program Coordinator. Traci comes to this position with extensive experience in graphic design and development of marketing materials. In addition, she brings a vast knowledge of event planning, tourism, outdoor activities, and photography. Traci began her employment on September 15. Ms. Petty will be scheduling and planning

cultural and historical programs, assisting in the development of promotional and marketing materials, and creating new programs. Traci resides in Martinsville and she holds an associate's degree from Patrick Henry Community College. She will complete a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a major in Marketing from Averett University in the fall of 2010.

Another staff change has occurred that creates a way to bring additional resources from Virginia Tech to the residents of Patrick and Henry Counties. Lisa Martin will assume the role of Senior Program Manager effective immediately and will assist in the planning and implementation of adult and continuing education courses, workshops and seminars. Lisa has served as Program Coordinator for the past 3 years and brings a wide range of experience to this position.

Dinner and a Movie Night: Guest Chef Ben Dawson



Plan to attend **Dinner & A Movie Night** on **Thursday, October 15**. The featured film is "The Visitor" from 2008 starring Richard Jenkins.

This is the story of a listless, aged professor, a widower, who comes to NYC for a conference and finds a pair of illegal immigrants living there in his apartment. The pair, one a drummer in a small jazz band and the other, his girlfriend, a jewelry maker, had been swindled by a real estate fraud and were unaware they were intruders. What happens with the unexpected meeting is poignant and enlightening. This film has everything—comedy, drama, surprises, politics, and

philosophy—and what it means to be human.

The guest chef for the evening's dinner will be **Ben Dawson**, graduate of Le Cordon Bleu in Atlanta and now chef of Wild Magnolia in Martinsville. Dinner will be "New York City Soup Kitchen" theme, featuring 3 soups, fresh breads and salad with dessert being New York cheesecake. 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. **Food donations for the Patrick County Food Bank are appreciated.**

Teen Advisory Board Plans Events

The Reynolds Homestead Teen Advisory Board held its first meeting of the school year on Monday, September 14. Last year the group decided that it would like to sponsor three events during the school term—during the fall, winter and spring.

To help determine what events students would be interested in, board members conducted surveys of 10% of the student population at Patrick County High School. At the September meeting students discussed the results of those surveys and decided on their events for the year.

Kicking off the fall season will be an exciting **“Teen Night: Halloween Party”** at the Homestead on **Thursday, October 29** from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. The Virginia Tech-UNC football game will be featured on the huge 8’ screen in the main hall, and there will be lots of food, games, and door prizes for those who attend. In addition, a costume contest will award \$25 to the scariest

and most creative costume. Door prizes have been donated by the Alumni Association, the Reynolds Homestead, and others to be announced later. The cost to attend is only \$5 per



student, which is just to cover the cost of food and drinks.

For those with more fashion-oriented interests, the Teen Advisory Board decided to host a **“Prom Fashion Show”** at the Homestead on Saturday, February 27. Students—boys and girls—will get a chance to see the latest prom fashions mod-

eled by their fellow students and also get a chance to model and sell any previously owned prom gowns or tuxes. This event will emulate a New York fashion show, with a catwalk, appetizers and great door prizes for attendees. Students could win cool stuff for prom night including dinner for 2, a gas card, jewelry, and other fun things. February is not too early to begin planning for prom.

Board members decided to hold off on scheduling a spring event, as bad weather can seriously affect the dates for graduation and other events. Teen Board members include Tyler Knight (Stuart), President; Brian Pendleton (Critz), Vice President; Christopher Turner (Martinsville), Secretary; Jonathan Witt (Critz), Treasurer; Jessica Clark (Stuart), Aubree Touchstone (Stuart), and Cassie Tatum (Stuart). The Teen Advisory Board is open to all students in grades 8-12 who are interested in planning events for teens at the Homestead.

“Thanks so much for giving them [the teens] an opportunity to experience this piece of a bigger world.”
—Amy Shelor Clark, mother of Jessica Clark.



DESSERT AND COFFEE.....WITH WALTER RUGABER

For anyone lucky enough to have met **Walter Rugaber**, the first thing that surfaces is what an approachable and friendly person he is, amazingly so after learning he is the former president and publisher of the *Roanoke Times*, a graduate of Northwestern University, employed at such prestigious newspapers as the *Detroit Free Press* and the *New York Times*, served as interim President of Hollins University, and was named

a Virginia Tech Presidential Fellow in 2003. As Tech President Charles Steger noted, “...the Virginia Tech community, and the communities we serve, will benefit greatly from Walter’s sage input.”

And now the Reynolds Homestead community has the opportunity to spend an afternoon with Rugaber as he leads a discussion on the future of news and newspapers, especially exploring the many

changes facing the industry.

Rugaber will lead an informal conversation stimulated by such questions as “How will economics, technology, and politics continue to change the way we find out what’s going on in the world?” “Will we be better informed?” “Is ‘more’ better?” and “If information is ‘free,’ will it be worth what we’ve paid for it?” Join us for dessert and coffee with Walter on **Sunday, Oct. 11 at 3 p.m.**

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Beginner's Quilting 9 am-12 pm
4 J.E.B. Stuart Art Show Opening 2 pm-4 pm	5 Writing Class 6 pm-8 pm Photography Club 6:30 pm	6	7 History Around Us - Frontier Culture Museum 12 pm	8	9	10 Beginner's Quilting 9 am-12 pm
11 Dessert & Coffee with Walter Rugaber 3 pm	12 Writing Class 6 pm-8 pm Rural Music Coalition 6:30 pm	13 Watercolor Class 9 am-4 pm Great Books II 6:30 pm	14 Watercolor Class 9 am-4 pm Postcard Club Fish Fry 7 pm	15 Watercolor Class 9 am-4 pm Dinner & Movie 6:00/7:00 pm	16	17 Beg. Quilting 9 am-12 pm Nature Photo Workshop 9 am-1 pm
18	19 Decorative Painters 9:30 am Writing Class 6 pm	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Super Monday Photo Event 9 am-4 pm Writing Class 6 pm-8 pm	27	28 Volunteer Trip to Reynolda House 8:30 am—4 pm	29 Teen Halloween/ Football Party 7-10:30 p.m.	30	31 Beginner's Quilting 9 am—12 pm

Upcoming Classes

October 13-15—Tuesday-Thursday—“Fall Watercolor Workshop” with Jim McIntosh. This workshop is designed to stimulate the artist at whatever stage you find yourself. It will allow each person to explore the fun and excitement of painting with watercolors. Learn to produce strong and colorful paintings with an economy of strokes, and to paint quickly and energetically, focusing on the “idea” of the painting. Class will begin with information on materials, such as brushes, paper, and paint and its application. It will then follow with an introduction to design, the importance of value, texture, edges, symbols, and washes. Fun for every artist. Registration required. Materials list provided upon registration. Bring a bag lunch. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. \$30 per day or \$80 for the entire class. \$15 per day deposit.

October 17—Saturday—“Nature Photography Workshop.” Certified Professional Photographer Ricky Dawson will host this four-hour nature photography workshop. Learn how to control light by using a handheld reflector to remove harsh shadows from areas. Ricky will demonstrate both purchased and homemade reflectors, showing how effects differ with the use of each. He will also teach how to use a handheld flash to add light and contrast to the subject. Enjoy the beautiful setting of the Reynolds Homestead in autumn and learn the tricks to achieving beautiful natural photographs. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$35 / \$15 deposit.



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.

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