



Trent House View

Fall 2009 • www.williamtrenthouse.org

Jointly published by the Trent House Association and the City of Trenton, Division of Culture

President's Message

Imagine! The first decade of the 21st century is all but behind us. What dramatic changes the Trent House has seen in those ten years. First, all the furniture was taken away so, for two years, visitors saw a bare-bones house and, to our great relief and amazement, they liked it! Gone were oriental carpets from the floors and heavy damask drapes from Mr. Trent's large, expensive, meant-to-impress windows.

Then, gradually, some of the original collection crept back into the house, accompanied by reproduction copies of period chairs and a looking glass. Beds of varied styles with exquisite fabrics, fringes and tapes appeared in the bed chambers along with other, fine period-style fabrics at the 2nd floor windows, on chairs and Mrs. Trent's dressing table, in custom-made slave clothing throughout the house and bolts of fabric in the storage closet. To be sure, the Trents would find the present furnishing of the house more in their taste than the showy, overly furnished house that became so well known and loved in the previous half-century. Now, over the next decade, we will address the needs of the kitchen as we continue adding to the upstairs rooms of the house to fulfill our goal of furnishing the house according to the 1726 inventory. This has been an exciting beginning to the new century and for the Trent House there is much more excitement to come.

Since our newsletter last spring there has been a lot of THA activity to report. Deb Peterson's presentation on early 18th century working class clothing in America was a huge success at the Association's



Deb Peterson engages the Annual Meeting audience

Annual Meeting in May. The Trent House has never seen the likes of Na' Bodach (Gaelic for Not Old Men). "High energy" is putting it mildly. Five lively men (four in blue jeans and one in a kilt) played, sang and cavorted in the Carriage House for two hours on Saturday afternoon, October 3, while the packed audience tapped their feet and bobbed their heads in time with the Scottish and Irish music – traditional as well as "Na'

Bodicized" arrangements. Nine instruments, most electronic including bagpipes, kept the Not Old Men on the move. Guaranteed – Na' Bodach will return!

In early December our Holiday Open House will run for two days, December 5 & 6, again with Garden Club of Trenton joining the THA and the City of Trenton

in co-sponsorship. The house will be decorated, and wreaths, arrangements and fresh-cut greens will be for sale as well as unique items in our Gift Shop. A shuttle from the 1719 William Trent House to Mill Hill will again transport visitors on Saturday for the Olde Mill Hill Society's Holiday House Tour from noon to five. Highlights for Sunday include a harpsichord concert and the famous holiday treats fresh from the ovens of the THA board members!

Our Annual Fund appeal will be in the mail very soon and once again we are thrilled to have an anonymous \$12,000 challenge grant, so please take advantage of this dollar-for-dollar match to your contribution and give as generously as you possibly can. Your gifts are more important than ever this year when New Jersey Historical Commission grants, that provide general operating support year after year, have been cut almost 50%.

— Suzanne Crilley

Trent House Gift Shop

It's that time of year again, when warm colors blanket the trees and cool crisp nights make us reach for an extra quilt. The Trent House Association Gift Shop offers several gifts that seem made for just this time of year. We've expanded our selection of imported teas, to include White Tea, Jasmine Green Tea, Earl Grey Cream Tea, and a decaf English Breakfast Tea. Try one soon or restock your favorite Highlander, English or Irish Breakfast Tea. To accompany our teas, Tea-for-One teacups, and Brown Betty Teapots, we also now offer New Jersey fresh Honey. Locally handmade Beeswax Candles, both tapers and rolled, honeycomb style, round out the NEW items now available. Of course, old favorites like the Trent House heavy cotton baseball cap, the Trent House crystal ornament, and the lavender soaps and lip balm are also especially popular this time year. If you're looking for holiday gifts, don't forget to browse through our selection of children's historical style toys on your next visit.



From the Director's Desk

As I write the days are getting shorter and the nights, ever colder. Soon, the leaves will be turning various shades of red, yellow and brown before they cover the ground, leaving branches bare and skies, grey. This all means now what it did in Trent's era. It is time, once again, to put our colonial-era kitchen garden "to bed" for the winter.

Thanks to the vigilance and hard work of our Education Curator, Kathy McFadden, and assistance from our volunteer garden tender, Char Moyer, along with Mother Nature's gift of rain all spring and summer, our harvest is the largest yet! We are pleased to share this bounty with the public through various demonstration programs and also, this year, with the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Our sincere thanks to those who donated non perishable food items to accompany the produce harvested from the garden. We will continue to deliver garden surplus to TASK throughout the fall and welcome your donations of canned goods, unopened boxes of pasta, rice, etc which we will happily deliver to TASK in combination with our garden bounty.

Our garden also inspired a plein air water color class led by Ruth Councell, noted botanical watercolorist. The series was so popular in June that we scheduled it again in the Fall and yet again for May of 2010! Look, too, in 2010 for a children's program: Paint and Play! The latter is part of our Family Fun Saturdays series. Using the delft tiles on the fireplace surround in the back chamber of the 1719 William Trent House as a guide, children will paint their own tiles and later in the afternoon, weather permitting, play the colonial-era games depicted on them.

We have a full calendar for the rest of the fall and winter as well. Be sure to join us, if you dare, for Ghostly Tales of a Weary Traveler on October 31st as told by noted first person interpreter, Kimberly Costa. In November Mr. Trent, portrayed by Wayne Daniels, will once again, participate in the City's Thanksgiving parade on Saturday, the 21st after which our Family Fun Saturday program will feature candle making (rain date: November 28th). Our popular Holiday Open House during the first weekend in December will feature candy making for children, harpsichord music by Carl Nittinger, and, of course, the much anticipated Garden Club of Trenton decorations and the Trent House Association's Greens and Holiday Gifts Sale.

This year we will again partner with the Olde Mill Hill Society's annual house tour on Saturday providing shuttle service to and from the 1719 Trent House.

To end the year we join with the Trenton Downtown Association along with numerous other groups in celebration of Patriots Week, December 26th through the 31st. Our participation this year will include an exhibit of up to 75 entries of the "What Did Mrs. Trent Look Like?" grade school art contest, lunch time harpsichord concerts in the house, as well as cookies and cocoa in the carriage house during tour hours throughout the celebration.

The end of summer also marked the departure of a long term and popular tour guide, Walter Ritter. Walter joined us about six years ago and leaves now to become a full time grandparent. Joining the team this fall, is Ursula Covington who will fill our weekend tour position. Ursula lives in Trenton and also works at the Motor Vehicle Center nearby. She brings customer service and security skills to her new position and we look forward to her participation in the coming months.

The support of grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission help to fund our educational programs, including program presenters, tour staffing, advertising, as well as website upgrades. Despite cutbacks throughout state government, we were again successful in obtaining a General Operating Support grant for FY2010, though the amount is about 25% less than in the previous year. We are most grateful for this continued source of revenue in support of the 1719 William Trent House Museum! We — both the City and the Trent House Association — have benefited from grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission throughout this first decade of the 21st century. I remember this particularly since January 2nd, 2000 was my first day as the Museum Director for the Division of Culture! Together, we have made significant progress toward the completion of the site Master Plan and the presentation of this important National Landmark to the many publics we serve. Thank you!

— Rhett Pernot, Museum Director &
Historic Sites Supervisor Division of
Culture City of Trenton



Popular former tour guide, Walter Ritter, in the 1719 William Trent House kitchen.

Trent House View

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1719 William Trent House Museum
15 Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-989-3027

www.williamtrenthouse.org

1719 William Trent House Museum Calendar of Events 2010

Colonial Candle Making

Sat., Nov. 21 • 12:30 – 4 PM

In the days before electricity a fall chore in every colonial household was the making of candles to light winter nights. Join the Trent House staff for an afternoon of colonial candle making. Participants may take home a small candle. Rain date, November 28, 2009.

Holiday Open House

Sat., Dec. 5 • 12 – 5 PM

Sun., Dec. 6 • 1 – 4 PM

Two afternoons of holiday fun for the family: **Tours** of the 1719 William Trent House dressed for the holidays by the Garden Club of Trenton. **Greens Sale** – a variety of decorated wreaths and cut greens, including winterberry, boxwood, several types of pine and holly will also be available for purchase. **Candy making** - children may participate in rolling out and decorating marzipan candy. **Shuttle** to the **Olde Mill Hill Society Annual House Tour** on Saturday.

Listen to the melodic sounds of Carl Nittinger on the harpsichord accompanied by Eric Schult on the cello in Trent's manor house on Sunday. Sample the delicious holiday goodies prepared by the Trent House Association on Sunday. Shop for unique gifts for the holidays throughout the weekend festivities.

Children's Art Contest Deadline

Mon., Dec. 7 • 4 PM

What did Mrs. Trent Look Like? Contest rules and application at www.williamtrenthouse.org.

Patriots' Week

Sat., Dec. 26 to Thurs., Dec. 31 • 12:30 – 4 PM

Celebrate the pivotal role that Trenton played in the American Revolution during Trenton's Patriots' Week extravaganza. The 1719 William Trent House will be open for tours each afternoon. As a special musical feature the colonial sounds of the harpsichord played by Carl Nittinger will fill the Trent House from 12:00 to 2:00, December 28 – 31. If you like, bring a bag lunch to eat below and enjoy the melodic sounds wafting through the house. The Carriage House Visitor Center will play host to "What did Mrs. Trent Look Like?"—a children's art exhibit in which entrants from grades 1-6 use their imaginations to create portraits of what Mrs. Trent might have looked like. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served to visitors to the complex throughout the week.

Spotted Dick and Boiled Baby

Sat., Jan. 23 • 2 PM

Sample and learn about oddly named foods of the 18th century. Join Kimberly Costa for an afternoon of humor and tastings as she takes participants on a

ride through culinary history to discover just what spotted dick and boiled baby are along with other odd sounding foods of the 18th century. Sample tastings, if you dare!

Colonial Candy Making

Sat., Feb. 13 • 12:30 – 4 PM

Join the Trent House Staff for an afternoon of discovery. Sweet treats in the colonial era were often made from surprising ingredients! Visitors may participate in both making candy and tasting the finished products.

Spirit of the Jerseys History Fair

Sat., May 1 • 11 AM – 5 PM

Join the Trent House staff along with museum representatives and re-enactors from around the State for the Annual History Fair at Washington Crossing State Park for a celebration of four centuries of New Jersey history.

Botanical Plein Air Watercolor Art Classes

Sat., May 8, 15, 22, 29 • 10 AM – Noon

Back by popular demand, Ruth Councill, an artist and illustrator specializing in botanical art, will be leading another series of watercolor classes in the Trent-era garden. The class will be held on four Saturdays in May. Each session will offer an indoor lesson and the opportunity for registrants to explore the garden and choose their own garden examples to apply the techniques just learned. Lesson topics will include drawing, washes and glazes, color theory, composition, and more. The class is open to all levels of experience. Class size is limited. Registration: \$40. (*List of supplies will be provided upon receipt of registration.*)

Sun., May 23

Trent House Association Annual Meeting

Speaker: Maya K. van Rossum,
The Delaware Riverkeeper

Heritage Day – No Tours

Sat., June 5 • 12 – 8 PM

Join the Trent House staff at the annual city-wide Heritage Day celebration.

Paint and Play

Sat., June 19 • 12:30 – 4 PM

Inspired by the delft tiles surrounding the fireplace in the back chamber of the 1719 William Trent House which depict colonial era toys and games, children will be invited to paint his/her own tile and later play any of the games depicted. Artist, Ruth Councill, and the Trent House staff promise to make this a memorable childhood event.

www.williamtrenthouse.org for the latest information about upcoming events



Threatening skies cleared just in time for the October 3rd Highland Concert. The Carriage House was packed with young and old alike swaying to the sounds of Na'Bodach's Celtic music.

No tours on the following dates:

Veterans Day • Wed., Nov. 11
Thanksgiving • Thurs. and Fri., Nov. 26 & 27
Christmas • Thurs., Dec. 24 & Fri., Dec. 25
New Years Day • Fri., Jan. 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day • Mon., Jan. 18
President's Day • Mon., Feb. 15
Good Friday • Fri., April 2
Easter • Sun., April 4
Memorial Day • Mon., May 31

Trent House Association 2009 Annual Fund

There are several ways to contribute:

- **CASH OR CHECK:** Payable to the Trent House Association
- **MATCHING GIFT:** Your employer, or your spouse's employer, may match your gift. Matching gifts are credited to you and may double, or triple, the size of your contribution. Please send your company's matching gift form with your check payable to the Trent House Association.
- **SECURITIES:** Your gift of stock certificates may provide you with increased tax advantages.

Levels of Giving:

- William Trent Level • \$500+
- Mary Coddington Trent Level • \$250 - \$499
- Billy Trent Level • \$100 - \$249
- Yaff Level • \$50 - \$99
- Joan Level • \$25 - \$49
- My tax deductible Contribution is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Matching Corporation: _____

Mail to:
1719 William Trent House Museum
15 Market Street, Trenton NJ 08611

Administrative Coordinator's Report



Drawing on previous research and furnishing plans for the 1719 William Trent House, a new Kitchen Furnishing Plan by Martha Katz-Hyman has been delivered to the Trent House Association.

We are excited to have this detailed work in hand, for the kitchen

area is an integral part in bringing to life the interpretation of the first quarter of the eighteenth century. Included are object descriptions and images, culled from a wide variety of sources, for both items listed in the 1726 inventory and those considered too insignificant to be listed which would be part of kitchen operations at the time.

One of our collection objects, a waistcoat worn by William Trent the younger at the Court of St. James, will be on display as part of the "New Jersey and the French & Indian War" exhibit at the Old Barracks

Museum. This embroidered silk vest has splendid button details and is in superb condition considering its age.

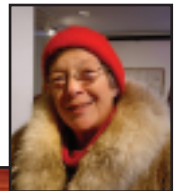
Generous ongoing support from our Board, our members, and from the New Jersey Historical Commission allows us to continue with our mission, but significant cuts in state funding have resulted in reduced daily operations grant funds. The

impact has been lessened by obtaining new insurance with better coverage at lower rates, but to continue with implementation of our furnishing plans we will need to look for increased funding from private sources. Please keep this in mind as our Annual Fund drive is coming up in November- every donation truly helps.

THA Annual Greens Sale

The THA Annual Greens Sale will be held Saturday, December 5 from 12-5 and Sunday, December 6 from 1-4. This two day event will coincide with the Mill Hill Annual Christmas House Tour and the THA Christmas Open House. With the participation again of the Garden Club of Trenton and the contribution of their design expertise, there will be a greater variety of greens, holiday baskets and wreaths than ever before. The greens available will include holly, ivy, yew, boxwood (several types), juniper, winterberry, pine, and some magnolia. The earlier you come, the greater the variety.

Ann Sutphin creates the gorgeous holiday green arrangements.



Rhett Pernot, Wendy Clarke and Carolyn Stetson share the holiday spirit.

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Trenton, NJ 08611
15 Market Street

The 1719 William Trent House Museum

