



Trent House View

Fall 2011 • www.williamtrenthouse.org

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

The Annual Trent House Holiday Open House and Greens Sale

**Saturday, December 3
Noon to 5:00**

Timed to coordinate with the wonderful nearby Mill Hill Holiday House Tour, the 1719 Trent House Museum is decorated for the holidays by the talented members of the Garden Club of Trenton. Magical colonial era music will be provided by cellist Eric Schuts and Carl Nittinger on his handcrafted single manual harpsichord. Seasonal refreshments will be available for our guests in the Carriage House



Lush, fresh loose greens (holly, ivy, yew, boxwood, juniper, winterberry, pine, magnolia), beautifully designed table arrangements, and decorated wreaths will be available for sale,

provided by the Garden Club of Trenton. Also visit the unique Trent House Museum Shop, which features special items and gifts for the holidays. Proceeds will benefit the curatorial work and educational programming of the non-profit Trent House Association.

Free shuttle to Mill Hill. Suggested donation for the Open House \$5.00 adults, \$4.00 children.

Come and join the festivities!

Ample free parking. Register for the Open House in the restored Carriage House. Wheelchair accessible. Groups by appointment. For more information about the Open House and Greens Sale, please call 609-989-0087.



President's Message

Greetings... Our magnificent 1719 William Trent House on the banks of the Delaware is open for tours, school field trips and programs on a daily basis. Despite the budgetary upheaval in Trenton and the loss of the City's Museum Director, our knowledgeable tour guides and Education Curator Kathy McFadden continue to plan educational programs and provide excellent tours to all comers. Now more than ever, we hope you can spread the word and take advantage of this fabulous resource.

Following up on the strategic decision to raise the responsibilities and profile of the single paid position at the Trent House Association, we crafted a new Administrator's job description and hired

Beverly Mills after a lengthy search. Bev's previous experience was as Executive Director of the Drumthwacket Foundation at New Jersey's official Governor's residence for eight years. She is charged with the care and documentation of the collection, and is working closely with the Board to increase awareness of our historic site and to help intensify our fundraising efforts. We are thrilled to have Bev on board!

In May, we bid a fond farewell to Kate Graves, who previously served as the Administrative Coordinator. In addition to running the daily operations of the THA office, Kate brought us an artist's eye; she provided valuable guidance through the creation of important reproduction textiles

and the fabulous new reproduction daybed as well as other key parts of the collection. We wish her well with her many artistic endeavors.

Our museum director, Rhett Pernot, did not survive the recent budget cuts and that is a great loss for the City of Trenton. Her stalwart advocacy for high standards at the Trent House Museum and her vast knowledge of American cultural history were invaluable to the THA for more than ten years. Rhett certainly knows her way around a grant application, and she enjoyed great success at identifying sources of funding, much to the Trent House's benefit. She will be sorely missed.

Continued on page 2

New in the Trent House Kitchen

Good roasts have always been the centerpiece of good meals. If you were a wealthy person such as William Trent in the early 1700's, your kitchen would have included an impressive mechanical device called a clockjack to turn the meat and keep it roasting evenly. Mounted above the hearth, this early labor-saving rotisserie turned the spit using a system of belts, weights and pulleys.

With the guidance of noted kitchen furnishing consultant Martha Katz-Hyman, the THA has acquired an authentic clockjack and has had its components restored and refurbished.

Members of the knowledgeable Collection Committee include Jennifer Stark (chairperson), Pete Maruca, Doug Kale, Heather Gibson, Sue Crilley (at large), and new member Elizabeth Bidwell Bates, author of *American Furniture: 1620 To the Present*.



Shown here is restoration carpenter Ed Dallas installing the clockjack over the Trent House hearth in August. Coming soon: the rest of its parts are due to be installed before the end of the year. Come and see this most ingenious invention!

Board of Trustees News

In 2011 the Trent House Association Board reluctantly noted the departure of long serving Trustee Suzanne Crilley, who chaired the Collection Committee since 2000 and served as Board President from 2006 to 2010. Formerly the New Jersey State Museum's Curator of Cultural History, Sue volunteered her vast expertise to the THA in the development and refinement of the collection, securing valuable grant funding and advancing the THA's strategic goals of bringing on board nationally recognized consultants in the fields of 18th century kitchen furnishings, slave furnishings, textiles, metals, and more. Sue will continue to advise the Collection Committee.

Also completing multiple terms on the Board is Derik Sutphin. Derik served as Board President in the 1990's, the critical period during which grant funding was secured and preparations were being made for the temporary closing of the Trent House, storage of its valuable collection, and its complete restoration. Executed during his presidency was the invaluable Historic Furnishings Plan by Kenneth Zogry, the blueprint by which the THA Board has advanced the contents of the collection in the recent decade. Derik and Suzanne Crilley, and Derik's wife Ann, who currently serves as Trustee, were instrumental in instigating the Annual December Greens Sale, which continues as the THA's only major fundraiser.

The Board bids farewell to Jean Bickal, Esq.; who contributed her expertise in period appropriate needle and textile work, and who conducted such valuable educational programs such as *The State of Dress and Undress in the Colonial Period*.

In 2011 the THA Board welcomed three new Trustees: Heather Gibson of Philadelphia, who holds a Master of Arts degree in Early American Culture from the University of Delaware / Winterthur and is currently the Curator of the art collection at the University of Pennsylvania. Trenton resident Nicole Yull, who formerly served as a Trenton Museum Society Board member, brings her diverse skills and interest in the well-being of all things Trenton. And, Jane Rosenbaum, an adjunct instructor at Rider University and member of the Trenton School Board. A hearty welcome to all.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

Speaking of grant funding, the THA has again successfully received general operating grant funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission for the next two-year cycle, FY 2012 – 2013. Operating monies (to run the office) are extremely important in the world of small non-profits like the THA! A sincere thank you to the NJHC.

Please, continue to support the Trent House Association. Member benefits are described throughout this newsletter. We hope to see you here at one of the upcoming educational programs, for a regular tour, or especially at our only major fundraiser, the December 3rd Annual Open House and Greens Sale. See you soon!

— Peter J. Maruca

Trent House View

Fall, 2011

Trent House Staff

Curator of Education
Kathy McFadden

Tour Guides
Celsy Joseph
Diedre Lloyd
Alla Nedoresow

Trent House Association
President **Peter J. Maruca**
Vice President **Carolyn Stetson**
Treasurer of Investments
Michael R. Schnoering, AIA
Treasurer **Douglas W. Kale**
Secretary **Jennifer A. Stark, AIA, CSBA**

Wendy Clarke
Anne Clementson D.A.R.
Susan Fox
Heather Gibson
Robert Innis
Jane Rosenbaum
Deborah Roussell
Bea Scala-Fischler
Ann Sutphin
The Garden Club of Trenton
Nicole Yull

THA Administrator **Beverly B. Mills**
trenthouseassociation@verizon.net

Graphic Artist **Bonnie Jacobs**
bonniej@bonniejdesign.com

1719 William Trent House Museum
15 Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-989-0087 THA office
609-989-3027 Museum office
www.williamtrenthouse.org

The 1719 William Trent House Museum is owned, maintained and operated by the City of Trenton, with the assistance of the Trent House Association and general operating support grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission.



1719 William Trent House Museum Calendar of Events Fall 2011

Butter Churning
Saturday, October 22
12:30 to 4:00

Roll up your sleeves and try your hand (and muscles) at the skill of turning rich cream into fresh butter. Spread on freshly baked bread and enjoy this colonial era staple. Other delicious herb butters and the colonial favorite radish sandwich (!) will be available for tasting too.

Suggested donation \$5.00 adults, \$4.00 children, Trent House Association members free. All special events include your guided tour of the 1719 Trent House Museum. Bring a canned good donation for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and receive a dollar discount.

Candle Making
Saturday, November 12
12:30 to 4:00

Rain date: Saturday, November 19

In the days before electricity the members of the household needed to make candles for the long dark nights of winter. Learn about the art of candle making and dip your own mini beeswax candle to take home.

Suggested donation \$5.00 adults, \$4.00 children, Trent House Association members free. All special events include your guided tour of the 1719 Trent House Museum. Bring a canned good donation for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and receive a dollar discount.



In brief

Many thanks to the members of the Allentown Garden Club, who have been donating their time to the care of the Trent House kitchen garden, under the supervision of the knowledgeable Jean Shaddow and our own Education Curator, Kathy McFadden. Students from the Isles YouthBuild program in Trenton had helped plant the garden in the spring. We are very appreciative of the beautiful plant donations from Trustee Doug Kale, of Kale's Nursery in Princeton. Thanks to Trustees Mike Schnoering and Jennifer Stark, who recently donated a new copier/scanner/fax machine to the THA office, which will surely make our work easier!

Special Theme Tours:
Colonial Christmas Traditions
For the entire month of December
Open daily (except December 25)
12:30 to 4:00

Did you know that in colonial times the typical time to exchange presents was not at Christmas, but at New Year's? This holiday season come and tour the Trent House and learn how the City of Trenton's founder William Trent would have celebrated the December holidays. The house is simply and elegantly decorated by the talented members of the Garden Club of Trenton.

Suggested donation \$4.00 adults, \$3.00 children, Trent House Association members free.

Patriot's Week
special music, refreshments and theme tours
Tuesday, December 27 - Friday, December 30
12:00 - 4:00

Celebrate the pivotal role that Trenton played in the American Revolution during the city-wide Patriot's week festivities. The historic 1719 Trent House will be filled with the sounds of colonial-era harpsichord music, performed by Carl Nittinger. Bring a bag lunch and take a seat, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies provided by the Trent House. Guided house tours will focus on the occupants of the Trent House during the Revolution - American patriots, Tories, and Hessians!

Suggested donation \$4.00 adults, \$4.00 children, Trent House Association members free.

Ample *free* parking. Tours begin in the restored Carriage House. Wheelchair accessible. Groups by appointment. For additional special event information please call 609-989-3027.

◀ *Summer campers from the Old Barracks marched over to the Trent House for a tour, to the beat of the Fifes and Drums. What a thrill to hear them coming!*

The Trent House Association Join Us!

The Trent House Association was founded in the year 1957 to preserve, with the City of Trenton, the 1719 William Trent House as an historic house museum to be operated expressly for the purpose of public education.

Preservation and interpretation of the Trent House, and its authentic period furnishings, enhances public awareness of the history and architecture of early Trenton and colonial New Jersey, as represented by the life of William Trent, his family and diverse household.

Governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, the Trent House Association is a 501c(3) non-profit organization. Capital and operating funds are sustained wholly by private donations, grants, memberships and fund-raising activities.

Please join us. Member benefits include our bi-annual newsletter where your name will be listed, 10% discount in our Gift Shop, and your personal invitation to the annual meeting and program; plus advance notice of all other events. To help support our important work, please print out and fill in this form, and mail with your check to:

The Trent House Association
15 Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08611

NAME (As you wish it to appear in the Trent House Association newsletter, Trent House View)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Please be sure to enclose your company's matching gift form, if applicable.

COMPANY NAME

I (we) enclose a contribution in the amount indicated, check payable to: Trent House Association.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 |

Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Thank you!

For more information, call 609-989-0087 or e-mail trenthouseassociation@verizon.net

The 1719 William Trent House Museum. Trenton's history starts here!

Built in 1719 by Philadelphia merchant William Trent, from whom the city of Trenton takes its name, this gracious Georgian-style manor house is the oldest surviving building in our state capital. Home over the years to governors, mayors and other prominent citizens, today the beautifully restored site offers visitors a glimpse of what life was like in pre-Revolutionary times. Using the inventory of Trent's possessions at the time of his death, the house is furnished as it would have been in the early 1700's.

**The William Trent House
is open for special events
and guided tours
daily 12:30 to 4:00
(closed municipal holidays)
Please come and visit!**



Trent House View • Fall 2011 • www.williamtrenthouse.org • Page 4

**The 1719 William Trent House
Museum**
15 Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08611

