



Trent House View

Spring 2011 • www.williamtrenthouse.org

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

President's Message

Greetings! Spring is finally in the air and although we've had some serious setbacks with the city's funding cuts, we're working hard to find the proverbial silver lining and grow from these challenges as an organization. One of our most serious losses has been funding for our Curator of Education, Kathy McFadden. Her loss jeopardizes our ability to carry out our mission, which is "to enhance the historical integrity and interpretation of the 1719 William Trent House Museum through

stewardship of the association's furnishings collection and public programming." Luckily, through contributions from the THA and some additional grant monies from the city, we've been able to keep Kathy on board part-time. With some additional help from local community groups, we should be able to plant and maintain the fabulous kitchen garden that Kathy has worked so hard to cultivate in close keeping with what the Trents would have planted in the early 18th century.

When budget cuts threatened to shutter the house, the board re-visited the original 1929 deed from the Stokes family to the city, which has a provision returning the house to the family if the city does not maintain it in perpetuity as a "public library, an historical museum, or an art gallery." Concern for keeping the house open has caused us to reach out to the Stokes heirs to open a dialogue about the long-term care of this architectural and cultural gem with or without the city's involvement. Obviously, it is in everyone's best interest if the city can maintain the house as arguably it's most important cultural icon, but the important questions remain; what if it can't or what if it doesn't want to do so?

We are fortunate to still be receiving ongoing general operating support from the NJ Historical Commission and the Bunbury Company. Bunbury grants are helping to pay for Martha Katz-Hyman, the featured speaker at our annual meeting at 1:30pm on May 15th. Her talk about the kitchen necessities during the Trent era will certainly prove enlightening and enjoyable. I encourage you all to come by and to bring a friend; maybe someone who isn't aware of the house and its mission, or someone who hasn't enjoyed it recently or seen the improvements to the collection.

On an administrative note, Mike Schnoering, Jen Stark, Kate Graves and Sue Crilley all deserve kudos for their work on our new ADA plan. This document, required by the state grant making entities, lays out a detailed plan regarding compliance with ADA statutes for both visitors and employees. Although the city has its own plan and requirements for the house, we, as an ongoing cultural entity that receives state grant monies, are required to do the same. This plan is

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From the Director's Desk

This spring the 1719 William Trent House Museum's colonial-era reproduction kitchen garden will continue to be a highlight of a visit to the site thanks to the joint efforts of the Isles Youth Build program, Kale's Nursery & Landscaping Service Inc. and the guidance of Kathy McFadden and Jean Shaddow!

The Isles YouthBuild Institute, founded in 1995, is a Trenton based alternative school and training center for individuals, ages 16 to 24, who have struggled in conventional school settings. The Institute provides students with a path to a high school diploma, a career, and greater self-reliance. Graduates will have achieved academic proficiency as well as job related skill sets. The Institute's Garden and Landscaping course will utilize the Trent House colonial-era reproduction garden and grounds as the hands on component of the course curriculum.

Trent House Association Board Member, Doug Kale, heads Kale's Nursery and Landscape Service, Inc., in Princeton and has generously offered to donate whatever plants required to supplement the existing plant stock and seed inventory this year.

Kale's Nursery and Landscape Service, Inc., was established in 1956, and is a design-build firm with a garden center located on Carter Road in Princeton.

Jean Shaddow, recently retired from the City of Trenton's Division of Natural Resources, will teach the YouthBuild course for Isles and she will oversee the spring garden preparation and planting. Kathy McFadden will lend her expertise garnered from many years of work to develop the colonial-era kitchen garden and related programming. Kathy was the victim of the recent City fiscal crisis, however, continues to assist the Division of Culture on a part time basis.

This is a wonderful example of a public/private partnership with multiple beneficiaries. However, the course ends mid June, so we will need volunteers to assist with garden tending throughout the summer and fall growing season. If you can be of assistance, please email me at rpernot@trentonnj.org.

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

Collection Committee Report

There's real excitement afoot – Mr. Trent's daybed is actually going to be in his bedchamber in time for the Annual Meeting on May 15! The leather upholstery is probably being stained at this very moment, and soon it will be tacked onto the seat rails and the couch will be ready for transport from Cochranville, PA to Trenton. The master's bedchamber will take on a whole new air with this handsome addition, its bold turnings and sturdy cover, appropriate for a man of Trent's status.

You will definitely want to visit the kitchen to see what's new there – see if you can find the patch on the pallet under the stairs (the excellent workmanship of Kate Graves our Administrative Coordinator). You should see andirons and a shovel in the fireplace and some kettles and a pressing iron, as well as a churn.

We are so fortunate that Martha Katz-Hyman will be the keynote speaker on May 15. She will make clear where we are and where we are going with the kitchen furnishing

plans. Her expertise in early American kitchens and the people who worked in them, developed over years of research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and as an independent scholar, combined



with an enviable network of scholars and fine craftsmen, is putting the Trent House kitchen at the forefront of historic house museums in America. You won't want to miss this program!

— *Suzanne Crilley*
Furnishings Collection Chairman

President's Message

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designed to help make a visit to the Trent House a welcoming experience for everyone. You can find out more about accessibility to culture in New Jersey at <http://culturalaccessnetwork.org/>.

Lastly, as the collection grows closer and closer to that catalogued in the 1726 inventory, the THA's mission is shifting toward longer term care for the objects and sustainability of the organization. With those goals in mind, we have defined and begun the search for a paid administrator who will not only oversee the care, cleaning and cataloging of the collection, but also work closely with the board to increase our fund raising efforts with the

long-term goal of financial sustainability for the collection. We will keep our membership posted about the search and its results.

I wish you all a warm and wonderful spring, and urge you to come by the house and enjoy it. Tell your friends about it, visit us on line, www.williamtrenthouse.org and take a stroll through the garden or take advantage of some of our fun and informative programs. Lastly, please continue to give generously of your time, resources and spirit; we owe it to our children and grandchildren to keep our rare and wonderful beacon to the past shining.

— *Peter J. Maruca*

Trent House View

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

The 1719 William Trent House Museum is owned, maintained and operated by the City of Trenton.

Thank You to our
2010-11
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(\$500 and higher)

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**THA Trustee*

1719 William Trent House Museum Calendar of Events 2010

APRIL

No Tours

Friday, April 22

Sunday, April 24

Monday, April 25

MAY

Trent House Association Annual Meeting

May 15 • 1:30-4pm

1:30 pm Short Business Meeting

2:00pm Martha Katz-Hymen "Below Stairs:

Kitchen Necessities at the William Trent House"

House tours at 12:30pm and 3:00pm

Refreshments until 4:00pm

No Tours

Monday, May 30

JULY

**Patriots' Weeks in July –
 a month long celebration.**

Track citywide activities at

www.destinationtrenton.com

Heritage Days – Mill Hill Park

Saturday, July 9

Sunday, July 10

Colonial Ice Cream

Saturday, July 30 • 2pm

Make and Taste at the 1719 William Trent House
 Museum

No Tours

Monday, July 4

Meet our newest trustee, Douglas Kale



The Trent House Association is pleased to introduce its newest trustee, Douglas Kale, President of Kale's Nursery and Landscape Service. His father started the business in 1956. Kale's has installed gardens at the Philadelphia Flower Show, the New Jersey Flower Show, and is responsible for the landscaping at the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey. Kale's has designed and installed many landscapes for historic houses in the area, and the THA is delighted that Kale's brings this expertise to the Museum site by donating the plantings for this year's heirloom kitchen garden.

Doug currently serves on the boards of Concordia Chamber Players and Bowman's Wildflower Preserve, and is a member of the Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Committee. A graduate of Rutgers University with a degree in Plant Science, he is the past president of the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association.

Recently Doug discovered that his great, great, great grandfather, Josiah Hunt, was a member of Washington's Army who spent the winter at Valley Forge and fought in the battles of Princeton, Monmouth and possibly Trenton. He cites his family's long time residence in, and affinity for Trenton, noting that his great grandfather and great grandmother are buried in Riverside Cemetery.

An abiding interest in 18th century buildings and material culture including antique furniture and tall case clocks has encouraged Doug to read widely and to attend lectures on subjects pertaining to life in colonial times. This keen interest is apparent in that he lives on a farm with a house that dates back to 1769.

This personal experience and intrinsic understanding of the significance of New Jersey's history informs Doug's opinion that "the Trent House (is) an utter jewel, and I am truly thrilled to participate in its preservation as well as the growth of the Trent House Association". The association is similarly appreciative of Doug's interest and enthusiasm.



On March 9 the City of Trenton and the Trent House Association were honored for significant contribution to New Jersey history at a grant recognition ceremony: (from L to R) Acting Executive Director New Jersey Historical Commission Sara Cureton; Historical Commission Board Member B. Michael Zuckerman; Administrative Coordinator,

Trent House Association Kate Graves; President, Trent House Association Peter Maruca; Acting Director Cultural Affairs Museum Director & Historic Sites Supervisor, City of Trenton Rhett Pernot; Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, Historical Commission Board Chairman Michael Fernandez.

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*Please join the
Trent House Association for its...
Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 15 2011
1:30 PM
Carriage House Visitors Center
Program • 2:00 p.m.
Martha Katz-Hyman
"Below Stairs, Kitchen Necessities at the
1719 William Trent House"
Tours at 12:30 & 3:00
Refreshments till 4:00 p.m.*

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

