Volume 9, Issue 1

Winter 2018

READINGTON MUSEUMS

Partners in History

18th Century Clothing From The Inside Out

We all know "Lucy Locket Lost Her Pocket" but have you ever stopped to wonder how one can actually *lose* a pocket? How a petticoat is held up? How the common 18th century woman dressed? All these mysteries of 18th century dress and more will be answered as the Readington Museums proudly presents, *18th Century Clothing from the Inside Out*, with historians Bev Altrath and Arlene Soong on **Sunday, February 4th from 1:00-4:00 p.m**.

Bev Altrath and Arlene Soong, will provide a fun and insightful look into what exactly went on under all those 18th century petticoats. Starting with foundation garments, they will explain and show how an 18th century garment was worn, including accessories and outer wear for the everyday working woman.

Presenter, Arlene Soong dressed in common clothing.

Spinning Class

Instructor, Shari Gifford

Come learn the ancient art of hand spinning in the historic Bouman-Stickney House. The goal of these four sessions is to give the novice spinner the knowledge and skill to create plied skeins of wool ready for knitting or crocheting. You need no previous experience or even a spinning wheel or spindle because you will learn on the museum wheels and equipment. However, if you have a wheel, you are welcome to bring it. All supplies will be provided.

Shari Gifford, a retired college professor, will be conducting the class. She has used her gift of free time to discover the joys of knitting and spinning, as well as rehabilitating antique spinning wheels. Thanks to Shari's wheel repairs, the museum now has a variety of working wheels to practice with.

The four sessions are $130, and will be held on Saturdays: **March 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

(Continued on pg 2)

Readington Museums

P.O. Box 216

Stanton, NJ 08885

Phone 908-236-2327

readingtonmuseums@gmail.com

www.readingtonmuseums.org

Spinning continued

To register, call the museum at 908-236-2327. Make checks payable to **Readington Township.** Mail to: Readington Museums, P.O. Box 216, Stanton, NJ 08885.

Class description:

Session 1, March 10: In this introduction to the magic of twisted wool, you will learn how to twist the yield strength by practicing to spin wool with a drop spindle. In the process, you will learn how to join, draft, and card wool. However, you will also quickly realize, how the limitations of the spindle leads to its eventual attachment to a wheel. Finally, you will be introduced to the workings of the spinning wheel, so that when you begin to spin, you will know how to regulate your wheel to get the result you want.

Session 2, March 17: Having become somewhat proficient with the spindle, you will now practice treadling a wheel with consistency while learning about the history and variety of spinning wheels. Once you can treadle without thinking about it, you will add drafting to treadling and spin your first yarn. With practice, you will be able to regulate your drafting and spinning to determine the characteristics of your yarn.

Session 3, March 24: Now that you can spin yarn, you will learn how to ply and how to create a skein using a niddie-noddie and spinner's weasel. You will set the twist, store skeins and wind balls. There will also be instructions on how to purchase fleeces and how to scour and dry them.

Session 4, March 24: To perfect your proficiency, you will spin on each of the museum's wheels and learn in detail how each works, the wheel's peculiarities, and how to adjust for them. This will help you to think about the type of wheel you might want to acquire.

Chocolate Making

Susan McLellan Plaisted grinds chocolate on the metate.

How did a bitter seed become the chocolate that so many of us love? As the drink of choice in Colonial America, and popular among all social classes, it was not unusual to start one's day with a hot, spicy cup of chocolate. It was perceived to cure common ailments, and was even sold in Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia print shop.

Come on **March 4,** as **Susan McLellan Plaisted** MS RD CSP LDN, demonstrates the use of the metate by turning the cacao bean into chocolate. Find out what really went into making chocolate from bean to drink, from drink to sweets, and from sweets to the modern candy.

Smokehouse Demo Rescheduled

Unfortunately, this past November's smokehouse demonstration with **Susan McLellan Plaisted** MS RD CSP LDN, was canceled due to inclement weather. It will be rescheduled for **Sunday, November 4** from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar.

Newsletter: Email or Snail Mail?

The Museums' newsletters are offered to the public many ways. Some of you receive a PDF through email, and others receive a paper copy to your mailbox. In addition, the newsletters are posted on the Museums' website. In an effort to streamline our newsletter distribution and continue to "go green", we are offering a chance for you to receive your color copy via email rather than receiving the black and white paper edition through the postal service. If you are interested in an email copy just email the museum at:

readingtonmuseums@gmail.com

Put "email newsletter" in the subject line, and let us know the mailing address that should be removed. If you enjoy the hard copy sent to your postal mailbox, just do nothing and you will receive your copies as always.

Fun Had By All At Dutch Sint Nikolaas Day

Opportunities

The Readington Museums is looking for volunteers. Are you interested in gardening, carpentry, painting fences, cleaning, and data entry? Volunteers can set up a schedule that fits their needs. These are just some examples of possible tasks:

- Gardening — there is basic weeding or you can adopt the entire garden
- Carpentry — repairs to window panes, floor boards, or screen porch repair
- Painting —fences, small structures, or signs
- Cleaning — floors, windows, light dusting, porch, or barn
- Data entry —advertise programs through online submission.

Many of these are a great way for scouts to finish badge requirements or for anyone to work on service hours such as honor societies. Please call for more information at 908-236-2327.

Calendar 2018

Sunday, February 4 *18th c. Clothing* Bev Altroth and Arlene Soong 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	**Sunday, March 4** *Chocolate Making* Susan McLellan Plaisted 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	**Sunday, April 8** *Textiles in Early America* Dana Bala 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 6 *18th c. Ice Cream Making* Susan McLellan Plaisted 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	**Saturday, May 19** *Barn Dance** Betsy Gotta 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	**Friday, June 29** *Lecture: 18th c. Tea** Susan McLellan Plaisted 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Friday, July 20 *Lecture: Witchcraft** Janine Quimby 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	**Friday, August 24** *Lecture: Dutch Architecture** Christopher Pickell 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	**Sunday, September 9** *Open Hearth Cooking* Deborah Peterson 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 7 *19th c. Schoolhouse Visit* Cold Brook School** 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	**Saturday, October 20** *Barn Dance** Betsy Gotta 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	**Sunday, November 4** *Smokehouse Demonstration* Susan McLellan Plaisted 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 2 *Dutch Christmas* Cooking, Musicians, Sinterklaas 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.		

Unless otherwise noted, programs will be held at the **Bouman-Stickney Farmstead.**

GPS address: 114 Dreahook Road, Lebanon NJ 08833.

Donations for all programs are gladly accepted. *These programs have a suggested fee.

Groups of six or more please call for a reservation.

**Cold Brook School, GPS address: 190 Potterstown Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833

HUNTERDON COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION

The Readington Museums received an operating support re-grant from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, with funds from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

NEW JERSEY Historical COMMISSION