Volume 9, Issue 2

Spring 2018

READINGTON MUSEUMS

Partners in History

18th Century Ice Cream Making

Sunday, May 6, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Susan McLellan Plaisted** MS RD CSP LDN will present ice cream making from harvesting ice to moulding (molding) of ice cream. For this demonstration, ice cream will be made in a reproduction 18th century sabotiere. Documented flavors of the 18th century will be reproduced using original receipts (recipes). Plaisted is the Proprietress of Heart to Hearth Cookery, a food history business based in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She offers demonstrations of 17th century through 19th century Colonial American and European cooking methods, practices, and receipts (recipes), as well as pre-European-contact and post-European-contact Native American foodways. Plaisted is a founding member, past president, and past newsletter editor of the Historic Foodways Society of the Delaware Valley, a member of Culinary Historians of New York, The Colonial Chocolate Society, and was active in Past Masters in Early American Domestic Arts. In addition, she is a member of the Food History Committee of both ALHFAM (Association of Living History Farms and Museums) and IACP (International Association of Culinary Professionals).

Barn Dance

Put on your dancing shoes for a night of family fun as the Readington Museums hosts its bi-annual Barn Dance on **Saturday, May 19, 2018** from **7:00-9:30 p.m.** The dance will be held inside the eighteenth-century Wade-Wyckoff Barn located at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead. This family friendly event is a wonderful way to have fun with the entire family as no experience is necessary. Caller Betsy Gotta will give easy to follow instructions before each dance so even a beginner will be able to dance the night away. There is a suggested donation of $5.00 per adult and $2.00 per child.

Readington Museums

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Stanton, NJ 08885

Phone 908-236-2327

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www.readingtonmuseums.org

Volunteer 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

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. Call or email the museum if interested.

Tree Identification Workshop

The Community Tree Committee of the Readington Open Space Board will be providing a tree identification workshop presented by Dr. Jay Kelly, Raritan Valley Community College, Environmental Studies. It will be held at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Barn on June 9, at 9:00 AM. Registration is required and a $10 donation is suggested. Please click on the link for more information and to register: https://form.jotform.com/80604727297160

18th Century Sewing Class

The Museum will be hosting an eighteenth century sewing classes this September. The student will learn to make a working woman's short gown as well as the basic work clothing for women, the appropriate fabrics, colors/patterns, and period sewing stiches. Dates are to be determined. If interested, please call or email the museum for more details.

Winter Open Houses Garnered a Crowd of Interested Visitors

Arlene Soong showcases the stiching on stays.

Dana Bala discusses textiles and quilts.

Sheila Paciullo tries her hand at grinding chocolate on the metate.

Reflection of Winter Spin class

Our first spin class with instructor Shari Gifford was a great success. There was lots of laughter and no tears. One of the students had an old wheel that he had received as a gift but never used. The other student found one in an estate sale. Both wheels needed some adjustments and minor repairs. By the last class, both students were on their way to successful spinning on their own wheels.

We started off with the Goldilocks approach to spinning: not too much, not too little, just right. We applied this to all the various judgement calls that must be made while spinning: amount of carding, pre-drafting, drafting, tension, treadling and spin. But what is just right is up to the spinner. There is no one right way. By understanding what more or less of each step does, the spinner can create their own unique yarn.

The students first learned to spin using a spindle, without having to treadle at the same time. Then they learned how to keep the wheel spinning by treadling without worrying about spinning at the same time. Finally, they put the two together and tried to walk and chew gum at the same time, with varying degrees of success. We devised exercises to help get past any roadblocks. They learned how to join when the yarn broke and how to change their bobbins when they were full. Once we had enough yarn, they learned to ply and weasel it and prepare it for the ball winder, resulting in a very pretty ball of yarn ready for knitting.

Along the way, the students learned how various spinning wheels work, how to make adjustments and to be aware of the many sources of difficulties. We searched for things that caused unnecessary friction and fixed them. We checked the drive band and tension and adjusted them when needed. By the last class, when the students brought in their own wheels, they knew how they worked and where the problems were. They were able to get the wheel to line up with the whorl, straighten the maidens, make new drive bands, tighten and straighten legs and supports. Both students also learned how to make potential future repairs and adjustments so that they can keep their wheels in good working order themselves. At the end of the fourth class they knew all they needed to know to become proficient spinners on their own wheels.

We would like to hold another class in the future. If interested in attending, please feel free to contact the museum.

Monday Mornings at the Museum:
A Summer Program for Kids

The Readington Museums is pleased to announce the return of *Monday Mornings at the Museum*, a hands-on summer program for kids ages 5-12. The sessions will be held on three consecutive Mondays – July 16, 23, and 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead, 114 Dreahook Road in the Stanton section of Readington Township. At each session, the children will have a short history lesson followed by a hands on project, with a new theme offered each Monday. Programs include candle making, tin punch designs, butter making, and learning an English country dance. The cost of each session is $5.00. Preregistration and payment prior to each session is required. Visit registration online through the link on our homepage: www.ReadingtonMuseums.org, or contact the museum by email or phone.

Please mail checks payable to **Readington Township** to the Readington Museums, PO Box 216 Stanton, NJ 08885.

Calendar 2018

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.

Groups of six or more please call for a reservation.

Donations for all programs are gladly accepted.

*These programs have a suggested fee.

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

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.