

JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD FRIENDS



Fall 2013
Volume 35



Architecture of the Carriage Barn

Written by Lewis Gleason
Architectural Conservator
Jan Hird Pokorny Associates, Inc.

When Jan Hird Pokorny Associates (JHPA) was first invited by the Friends to begin an assessment for the adaptive use and restoration of the circa 1800 Carriage Barn, we could not foresee the long road ahead to occupancy-eight years to be exact. At the time, the project seemed fairly straightforward: gently evict the NYS Parks shop tenants, their trucks and equipment (and more importantly, the resident wildlife), then begin the process of sorting out what was 'original' and what were non-historic alterations. An active and enthusiastic Friends group, knowledgeable State Parks staff and administrators, and a clear program for reuse made this an attractive and eminently feasible project. Little did we know...

JHPA was hired to survey all portions of the building and create existing conditions drawings, schematic programming diagrams, and a full set of Construction Documents for complete restoration. Field survey work started in the

summer of 2005, followed by a preliminary design and associated documents issued over the following winter.

In the interim, cleanout of the barn commenced, slowly revealing historic fabric as well as areas of deterioration in need of immediate repair. While much of the original structure was intact, the project required careful documentation of surviving historic components after decades of changes. Missing details further complicated the task of providing new elements to complete the building.

As one of the first steps on the road to reuse, the site contracted in 2006 with a local carpenter, Steve Hoyt of Tecumseh Woodworks, to complete repairs to the rotting timber floor structure- with his work complete, survey and plans for restoration of the 'above-grade' elements could proceed.

ABOVE The completed Visitor Center –
Open and free to the public 7 days a week
from April 1 – October 31.

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Letter from the President

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The Mission of Friends of John Jay Homestead, a non-profit educational corporation founded in 1977, is to increase public appreciation and awareness of the history of our nation, our region and John Jay's many contributions as a Founding Father of our country; to encourage use of the John Jay Homestead State Historic Site for both educational and recreational purposes; and to supplement the work of New York State by providing funding and volunteer assistance for the preservation, restoration and interpretation of the site which dates from 1787.

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Wendy Ross, Editor
 Michele Byrne, Design

Additional contributions by
 Susan MacGill, Melissa Vail,
 Dot Voorhees, Allan Weinreb



Dear Friends,

Have you visited our new, beautiful, and impeccably restored 1801 Carriage Barn Education and Visitor Center? If not, you will be, quite frankly, astonished, but the wonderful discoveries that await you on our 62 bucolic acres do not stop there. This fall open yourself to new possibilities and come discover *all* of John Jay Homestead, an original American experience.

“Keep the American story alive, become a member of the Friends today.”

Experience American History at the home of Founding Father John Jay and five successive generations of Jays. Do you want to learn, from a first hand source, about the birth of our nation? Founding Father, John Jay, can enlighten you. Do the origins and advent of the abolitionist movement pique your interest? You will gain perspective from John Jay's son and grandson who were at the advent and forefront of the movement. Discover the stories of the slaves who lived at John Jay Homestead before the family championed the abolition cause. Do you wonder what life was like for early 19th century women? John Jay's daughters have a story to tell.

Experience important furniture and decorative arts. Admire the chairs used at the first U.S. Congress in New York, see a John Singer Sargent hanging in the Great Room, a Houdon bust of John Paul Jones, and the Biennais mirror owned by Marie Louise, the second wife of Napoleon Bonaparte. These original objects, and many more, can be found in the John Jay Homestead collections. Return often to see a current, beautifully curated special exhibition.

Experience John Jay's Bedford Farm. Enter the Carriage Barn Education and Visitor Center where you will begin to experience John Jay Homestead through videos, state-of-the-art computer programs and interactive educational displays. Many of the buildings original to the farm exist today. Did you know that draft horses were the tractors of the nineteenth century farm? At the Restored Draft Horse Barn imagine life on the farm, plowing the fields. Do you want to recreate the experience of 19th century school children? Walk up to the one room Schoolhouse and imagine yourself with chalk and board in hand.

Experience the great outdoors. We have 62 acres –walk to the ice pond stocked with fish and down the Beech tree allée. Stroll through the beautiful Sun Dial Garden, Herb Garden, and Terrace Garden. On Saturdays, through October, come visit our regionally acclaimed Farm Market. In the winter, come and cross country ski. In the spring and summer, bring a picnic and spend the day.

Experience the agricultural past. Consistent with its natural origins, John Jay Homestead has developed a sustainability management program. Walk through the meadow and learn about our meadow management program and the natural treasures of the site. Peer into the chicken coop; see the historic breed of silver-laced Wyandottes. Visit the community garden and bee hives and experience the connection with the Homestead's agricultural past.

Experience great programming and events. The annual Scholars Lecture Series brings world renowned authors and historians to the site four times a year. Attend tours, special exhibitions, and lunches highlighting the Homestead's collection. The outstanding education department hosts family events throughout the year as well as the popular history camp in the summer.

This fall come explore all of John Jay Homestead, an original American Experience.

Keep the American story alive-please send your membership donation in the enclosed envelope and become a member of the Friends today.

Warm regards,
 Heather

Heather Langham
 President

Site Manager's Letter



It took us a while to get here but it was worth the wait! The NEW Carriage Barn Education & Visitor Center has transformed the site. And it's accomplished what we hoped for. The site can now offer meaningful content - we can tell our story - seven days a week, regardless of staffing levels and despite low funding levels - we epitomize "doing more with less." And people ARE coming. Our attendance since the Carriage Barn opened is up 20% over last year.

And it's not just the Carriage Barn that's new - we updated the exhibit in the Main Barn, and we also have added five new Discovery Centers to the site: in the school house, play house, potting shed, main barn and carriage barn, and don't forget the one in the summer kitchen that opened a couple of years ago.*

All these wonderful additions provide visitors a menu of experiences to choose from when they are here - and lots of new things to do and explore every time they return.

And none of it would have been possible without the tireless efforts and generosity of our Friends and members, my terrific staff, and dedicated volunteers. Thank you all!

If you haven't visited us since the carriage barn opening, be sure to stop by - I'll look forward to seeing you soon!

Heather Iannucci
Site Manager

* SEE PAGE 4 FOR RELATED STORY



Backpack Project

Borrow a backpack from the Carriage Barn Education & Visitor Center. We have three backpacks you can take with you while you explore the Homestead's natural environment. Junior Explorers can use magnifying glasses and binoculars to study birds and animal tracks. Handy guidebooks are included as well to help explorers identify birds, mammals, and plants. Findings can be recorded in the journal and the sketch pad and colored pencils can be used to draw a picture of the experience.

We also have backpacks for bird watching and landscape art. If you'd rather play in the courtyard picnic area or adjacent field, borrow a hoop & stick, game of graces, stilts, or a battledore & shuttlecock for some "old-fashioned" fun.



Farm Market

Jennifer Gordon,
Market Manager

The third season of the John Jay Homestead Farm Market is in full swing! We've had over 3000 visitors to the 2013 market since it opened in June. The farm market was started in 2011 with 20 local vendors, the core being small farms within miles from the site. We now have almost 40 vendors from which to draw from, averaging about 27 vendors per week. Each week local farmers and artisans bring fresh fruit and produce, meats, fresh seafood, eggs, cheese, jam, breads, baked goods, pasta, pickles, wine, flowers and so much more! The market is host to a different non-profit organization each week, which this season includes Bedford Historical Society, Energize Bedford and the Herb Society of America. It has become a community meeting place; a place to bring the entire family, where you can shop, eat, listen to local musicians and explore all that the 62-acre site has to offer.

Discovery Centers at John Jay Homestead

Six historic buildings at John Jay Homestead feature NEW hands-on, immersive Discovery Centers, each focused on a different theme. Designed as interactive exhibits and exploration areas, the Discovery Centers help young visitors and their families learn about life on the Jay farm during the 19th and 20th centuries in a fun and engaging way. Pick up a Passport to the Discovery Centers in the Carriage Barn, and be sure to collect your stamp as you visit each one.

Carriage Barn

The Carriage Barn Education and Visitor Center features our largest Discovery Center. Surrounding a reproduction Governess's Cart you'll find five boxes to explore – each full of hands-on activities.

Our Historic Clothing box has a variety of girl's and boy's outfits to try on. These reproduction clothing items from the early 19th century will help you step back in time as you adopt a persona from John Jay's era, "ride" in the cart and capture your own "old-time photographs."

While dressed up, play with some of the items contained in the Historic Toys & Games box. The hand-crafted, reproduction games from the 18th and 19th centuries include instructions on how to play, and you'll recognize the historic precursors of many of the games we still play today. Additional games are available on loan from the welcome desk.

Test your detective skills with our Object Detective box. What are the reproduction artifacts contained within this box, who used them, and what were they used for?

Many items we use today have a historic counterpart. The Then & Now box contains reproduction objects that look similar to those we use today, but are made using modern technology and man-made materials. Examine our bone handled, boar's hair bristle toothbrush and compare it to the Oral-B toothbrush on sale at your local pharmacy.

As you explore the Homestead, you'll notice all the field stone walls. According to John Jay, "My farm was from its first settlement occupied by tenants. They have left not trees fit for rails; nor can I obtain a supply in this neighborhood. The stones they could not destroy, and they are the only materials I have for fence." Our Rock Wall

box gives you the opportunity to build your own rock wall with our foam field stones.

Main Barn

The Discovery Center in our Main Barn emphasizes the Homestead's agricultural past. Learn about what produce was grown here seasonally, try your hand at daily farm chores, look at historic photos of the farm, and milk our mechanical cow. Don't miss the exhibit in this building describing the history of farming on the property.

School House

An original 1826 one-room school house includes a Discovery Center addressing early American education. Learn what the standard punishment was for tardiness, sleeping in class, and other rule infractions; complete arithmetic problems on an abacus; make your own hornbook – an early primer; and find out how a typical school day today is different from the day of instruction the Jay children would have experienced.

Play House

Constructed in 1925 by Eleanor Jay Iselin for her young son "Buddy," this small playhouse is a fun location for our youngest of visitors to play "house" with traditional handcrafted toys. The adjacent Children's Garden and sandbox, recreations of originals dating from the early 20th century,

BELOW

Buttercup can be milked in the Main Barn seven days a week, 9:30 – 4:30, April 1 – October 31.

provide a lovely fair weather activity area.

Summer Kitchen

Furnished entirely with reproduction furniture and objects, the kitchen is the one room in the historic house where visitors may immerse themselves in the early 19th century experience, learning through hands-on interaction with the objects and space. The completely refurbished Summer Kitchen provides visitors with a sense of the daily routine of the servants and slaves who served the Jay family. Vignettes in this Discovery Center emphasize the labor involved in laundry day, the different methods and materials used in candle and soap making, and show how the kitchen would often serve as living quarters for some of the slaves.

Potting Shed

Adjacent to the Herb Garden are two potting sheds that served the formal and cutting gardens in the 19th and 20th centuries. The larger of the two sheds features a Discovery Center focused on horticulture and the more formal, man-made landscape features of the Homestead. View a 1932 aerial photograph of the property showing the vast formal gardens, learn more about the varieties of flowers and herbs grown at the Homestead today, and plant your own flower to bring home with you. Be sure to visit the many beautiful gardens on the property.



2012 Friends of John Jay Homestead Annual Report

REVENUE

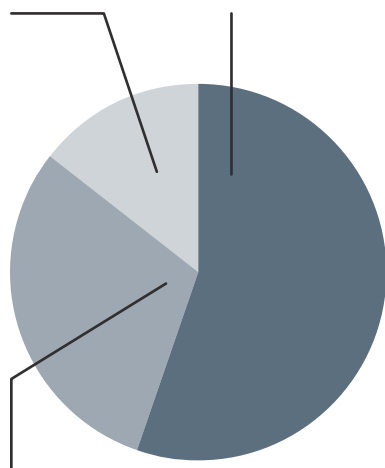
100.0%
\$611,991

MEMBERSHIP

14.3%
\$87,395

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

55.4%
\$338,901



CONTRIBUTIONS

30.3%
\$185,695

EXPENSES

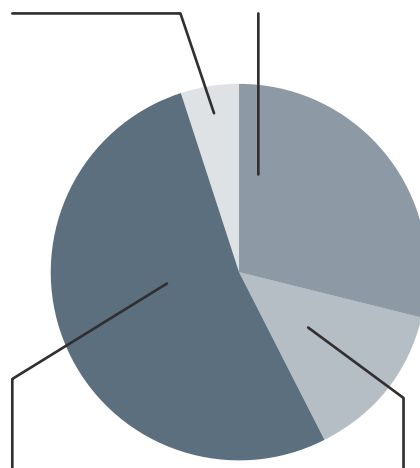
100.0%
\$870,378

MEMBERSHIP

5.0%
\$43,093

EVENTS

29.0%
\$252,573



SPECIAL PROJECTS/ SITE SUPPORT

52.3%
\$455,357

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

13.7%
\$119,355

“The Friends ended the 2012 year in strong financial condition with liquid assets of \$329,705.”

Jonathan Stanley,
Treasurer

The Carriage Barn Education and Visitor Center Project, the largest ever undertaken by the Friends of John Jay Homestead, had a significant impact on 2012 financial results. For the year, the Friends reported a decline in net assets as expenses, including \$334,797 of Carriage Barn project spending, outpaced revenues by \$256,285. The shortfall was anticipated and was covered by surpluses generated in previous years. The Friends ended the year in strong financial condition with liquid assets of \$329,705. Revenues for 2012 reached a record level of \$611,991 benefiting from both successful events and a sharp rise in contributions. Expenses were also at record levels, largely due to project related outlays which included the restoration of the historic Herb Garden wall and landscape and garden maintenance in addition to the Carriage Barn. Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.

Friends Annual Meeting May 30, 2013

The 36th Annual Meeting of Friends of John Jay Homestead was held on Thursday, May 30th, in the newly opened Carriage Barn Education and Visitor Center. After several brief reports, two new Trustees were elected to the Board: Michael Cady and Randy Wilson Hall. Laura Blau and John Lee have agreed to serve on the Professional Advisory Committee (See page 10 for related story).

At the meeting the following officers were elected: Jonathan Stanley, Chairman; Heather Langham, President; Melissa Vail, Vice-President; Robert Saunders, Secretary; Michael Cady, Treasurer.

Ms. Barbara Gatfield, Chair of the Nominating Committee expressed thanks to the departing

trustees, Mary Hamill, Kathy Moreau and Caroline Walker, and departing Advisory Committee members, Shirley Mosely and Andrew Saul. She thanked them for their years of dedicated service and support.

The President's Award was given to S. Mackintosh Pulsifer by Board President Melissa Vail for his ten year leadership as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Vail said, "Mackin Pulsifer is stepping down as Chair of the Board – a big change for us. He has been on the Board for 15 years; Chair for ten years; he's held almost every Officer job, attended almost every event; and allowed us to honor him at a Founders Dinner two years ago. He's unflappable, generous, John Jay's Doppelganger on a horse riding on site trails – and most important, he's agreed to stay

on the Board and continue as our source of institutional memory and wisdom.”

The Ruth Baldwin Sharp Award, which recognizes contributions of exceptional merit to the Friends, was presented to Barry Abisch in recognition for his extraordinary efforts as a volunteer, docent and school group leader. Ms. Vail said, "Barry is a fabulous tour guide, teacher and docent; and a tremendously creative researcher and program developer too. He is fun with kids, and smart with adults. He also, on his own, developed the Walking Tour of John Jay's Manhattan, which is a must-see if you haven't seen it. He takes you through the early locations and dwellings of the Jays, the Founding government, Kings College, and other sites that tell the fascinating story of the mid-18th Century. Where the buildings still stand he makes you see what happened there, and where they're replaced with a Duane Reade, he still makes you see what happened there."

The meeting was followed by a reception in the newly restored Carriage Barn.

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In recognition of those who have donated items to the Homestead collections, or have donated goods and services of significant value the past year.

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 Captain Lawrence Brewing Company
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 Turco's

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Architecture of the Carriage Barn

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



BELOW
A variety of programming is available in the new Education & Visitor Center

BOTTOM RIGHT
Heather Iannucci, Lewis Gleason, Richard Gromek



That first step was the last for some time, unfortunately. While JHPA and the Friends continued to work on documents, programming, and planning, the project was stalled at the state level. Budget woes affected the state's ability to implement capital projects, and the funding for the Carriage Barn was complicated by a mix of sources, including NYSOPRHP and NYSDOT*. Fortunately, Heather Iannucci joined the site staff during this period, bringing renewed vitality to the site. Heather made the realization of the Friends' planned visitor center a priority and cajoled vendors and the Parks bureaucracy to action.

Once the funding and capital projects issues were resolved in 2009, with the help of NYSOPRHP Commissioner Rose Harvey, the documents were dusted off and the program revisited. Close coordination between JHPA and the site established the parameters for occupancy, furnishings, and the upgraded systems needed to support a functional visitor center within a 200 year old barn. The design for the Barn restoration sought to simplify and highlight the original use and circulation of the building, while thoughtfully integrating the new program. The main carriage floor, horse stalls, and tack room would be fully restored while the 'shed' would be fitted with a modern restroom and pantry, as well as a 'theater' space dedicated to presentations and multi-media programs. Restoration of the full exterior to match the earliest photographs would include the reinstallation of missing window openings, new cedar shingle roofs, and the refurbishment of all salvageable elements.

Early on in the design process it was determined that the hay loft, which had recently served as a catch-all for salvaged artifacts from numerous Parks properties, could neither continue to support itself nor provide safe occupancy. To minimize

impact on the open carriage floor below, structural steel was carefully inserted into the loft floor from above to reinforce the existing wood trusses and allow a 'clear span' over the central bay of the building. With storage use in mind, the lighting and fire-safety systems in the loft were upgraded and brought into code compliance. The non-public loft space also allowed for distribution of the new power and data networks without extensive cutting and patching in the interpretive areas below.

One significant intervention was deliberated for some time before being finalized: the replacement of the early 20th century 'shed' addition roof. Though it had carried snow loads for roughly a century, the sagging roof framing was undersized from the start and subject to roof installations and alterations that added even more weight. Using renderings to analyze the impact on the structure and interior atmosphere, several structural reinforcement options were considered before it was concluded that for safe occupancy and a long service life the existing roof would be scrapped. A new, more robust structure was specified to replicate the open feel of the shed interior - it successfully complements the restoration of the interior finishes and ties together the modern amenities with the historic structure.

When the construction documents were finalized in early 2010, funding requirements entailed a full review by the NYSDOT, which added several months to the schedule. Ultimately the project gained the DOT's full support, and after competitive bidding in fall 2011, a local contractor was awarded the project. After years of delays, the project was 'shovel ready' and boots were finally on the ground in April 2012.

As is typical with the renovation of historic structures, numerous hidden conditions arose

during construction. These included areas of rotted or missing structure, procurement issues for historic elements, and a steep learning curve for a general contractor new to Parks projects. Even so, the restoration was completed using 90% of original materials. Perseverance and patience on the part of the design team and client helped shepherd the project along the path to successful completion in early 2013. The Friends deserve praise for having the long term vision and fundraising capabilities to see the project through, and Heather Iannucci should be commended for her persistence and competence in site management. It was a genuine pleasure to work with this team of professionals to bring this project to life, and it is exceptionally gratifying to see the structure perform as intended.

Architect:
Jan Hird Pokorny Associates – Bud Motzkin, Richard Pieper, and Lewis Gleason

Structural Engineer:
Robert Silman Associates PC – Katrina Tribble, Nancy Hudson, and Joseph Tortorella

NYSOPRHP Restoration Coordinator:
Richard Gromek

NYSOPRHP, Capital Facilities Regional Manager:
Garrett Jobson

NYSOPRHP, Historic Site Manager:
Heather Iannucci

Friends of John Jay Homestead:
Wendy Ross, Executive Director

* NYSOPRHP – New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

* NYSDOT – New York State Department of Transportation

Board and Committee News

Friends of John Jay Homestead elect new officers and trustees.



- 1 Jonathan Stanley
- 2 Heather G. Langham
- 3 Michael Cady
- 4 Randy Hall
- 5 Laura Blau
- 6 John Lee
- 7 Paul Briggs

At the 36th annual meeting of Friends of John Jay Homestead held on May 30th, Jonathan L. Stanley was elected as Chairman, Heather B. Langham was elected as President, and former President, Melissa Vail elected as Vice-President. Michael Cady and Randy Hall were elected to the board; John Lee, Laura B. Blau and Rev. Dr. Paul S. Briggs were invited onto the Professional Advisory Committee.

Jonathan Stanley has lived in Bedford since 1991. He is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford CT and the Columbia University Graduate School of Business and is currently a Managing Director of Glenmede Trust Company. He has served as Treasurer of the Friends of John Jay Homestead for the past nine years and was a former Treasurer and President of the Bedford-Katonah Hockey Association. Jonathan and his wife Deborah, who has served on the board of the Friends, have two grown children, Nicholas and Christopher.

Heather G. Langham has lived in Bedford since 1998. She graduated from Kenyon College with a B.A. in History and distinction in her major. Heather's prior work experience was in the field of employee benefit consulting from which she retired in 1996 from Johnson & Higgins. She has served as Chair of the House Committee of the Friends of John Jay Homestead for the past nine years and presently serves as the Co-Head of the Bedford Garden Club's Civic and Conservation

Committee and is Co-Head of Branch Out! a street tree planting project funded by the Bedford Garden Club. Heather's other volunteer commitments have included St. Matthew's Church and Rippowam Cisca School. Heather and her husband Tony have two children, States and Susannah.

Michael Cady was born and raised in Bedford, NY. He is a graduate of University of Vermont and the Wharton Advanced Executive Education Program, and is currently a Managing Director of Guy Carpenter and Company, an operating company of Marsh and McLennan Companies. He is a former trustee of the Westminster School and the Indian Mountain School. Michael and his wife Charlotte have four grown children and live in Greenwich, CT.

Randy Hall grew up in Bedford and currently resides in Pound Ridge with her husband and children. She graduated from Middlebury College and has a Dual Masters from NYU in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education. Growing up less than a mile away from the Homestead, the site has always been a part of Randy's life. Today, there are two benches in the Sundial Garden in honor of her late mother, Linda B. Wilson.

Laura Blau was raised in Newton MA and attended Farleigh Dickinson University with a major in English and minor in Fine Arts. She

received her MA in English from Columbia in 1971. Laura has one grown son and lives with her husband in Bedford, NY. Laura is currently active as the co-chair of the Native Plant Center Steering Committee, and is currently serving on the board of the Women of St. Matthews Church and the New York Botanical Garden Corporation Board. She has been co-chair of Art Show Bedford for the last five years.

John Lee has lived in this area most of his life and has owned and operated Bedford Center Landscaping for over 25 years. He studied Horticulture at University of Connecticut at Storrs, and has been advising the Friends on landscaping issues. John and his wife, Guy Manning, live in a historic house in Cross River.

Paul Briggs is in his tenth year as the engaging speaker and Pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church in Bedford Hills. As a community leader in interfaith cooperation, under his leadership Antioch continues to be the "conscience of the community" hosting various interfaith gatherings and offering support to agencies through benefit concerts. He has been involved with the Homestead for several years, helping to extend the reach of lectures and exhibits. With a background in education and the arts, Pastor Briggs remains an exhibiting ceramic artist and youth advocate. He lives in Katonah with his enthusiastic and supportive wife, Hope; they have three children: Charity, Luke and Faith.

Upcoming Events

11



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Friday, October 11th **PLAY DAY @ JAY**

An afternoon of fun in the Discovery Centers at John Jay Homestead.

Saturday, October 12th **SECOND SATURDAY FAMILY FUN AT THE FARM MARKET**

Help us close another season of the Homestead Farm Market with a craft activity and cider pressing in our new Potting Shed Discovery Center.

Friday, November 1st **FOUNDERS DINNER**

Cocktails in the period rooms, dinner and Founders Award presentation in the ballroom, and dancing in the solarium.

Friday, December 6th **ANNUAL GOODHUE LECTURE**

Myron James Magnet is an American journalist and historian. He was the editor of City Journal from 1994 to 2007 and is now the magazine's Editor-at-Large. His latest book, *The Founders at Home: The Building of America, 1735-1817*, will be published in November 2013.

Monday, December 23rd **WINTER BREAK MINI-CAMP**

A two hour educational program for children ages five to ten, held during winter break, with each day focused on a different topic and activity: Go on an architectural scavenger hunt and make your own gingerbread house.

Thursday, December 26th **WINTER BREAK MINI-CAMP**

Tour the dining room and kitchen and make a traditional holiday treat.

Friday, December 27th **WINTER BREAK MINI-CAMP**

Learn about early 19th century health and medicine, tour the bedrooms and make a pomander ball.

Monday, December 30th **WINTER BREAK MINI-CAMP**

Take an art tour throughout the house and make a silhouette portrait.



6



7

1 Guests enjoy the opening reception of the Carriage Barn Education & Visitor Center.

2 Katonah Elementary School fourth graders outside the Main Barn Discovery Center.

3 Descendants of John Jay in the new Education & Visitor Center: Oliver Dominick, Guy Paschal, Nonie Reich.

4 Kathy Abbott, Ellie Rice, Randy Hall and Christina Struble at the Carriage Barn opening reception.

5 Two friendly pigs are ready to race at the Barn Dance.

6 Rose McDonnell sings at the Barn Dance.

7 James and Virginia Flood arrive at the Carriage Barn opening reception.

Friends of John Jay Homestead
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Reflections on Our Past: A Viewer Response Exhibit

John Jay Homestead is home to a large collection of historic objects, only a fraction of which are on public view. The main story we tell is about the lives of John Jay and his family in the 1820s. But we possess thousands of items that were owned by later generations of the Jay family, and thousands more that were donated by benefactors from our community. These are kept in storage rooms here in the museum.

Reflections on Our Past: A Viewer Response Exhibit was conceived as an opportunity to display a wide variety of objects not normally seen, from the precious to the everyday, without any chronological or thematic connection. We invited an equally wide variety of people to select an artifact and express how that object speaks to them. Their responses are personal and individual. The goal of *Reflections on Our Past* was to say much about John Jay Homestead, its diverse collections, and the many people who enjoy and support it.

We invite you to respond to one of the following five objects included in the exhibition. Stop by and view the exhibit, and submit your response to heather.iannucci@parks.ny.gov. The exhibit is open to the public on Saturday through Wednesday as part of our general house tour.

1 Fruit squeezer, marked "Pat. Mar 1884"
Made of cast iron and tin-plated on the inside.

2 Musical glass decanter, French, 1905-1915
Inside the dark area at the bottom is a music box that plays when the decanter is lifted off a table by someone pouring himself a drink. The joke is that the music functions like an alarm, so a person can't sneak his tippling. The music box plays two songs, "La Mattehiche," which was a popular dance, and "La Tonkinoise," a song about an Indochinese woman who sings that of men of all nationalities, she likes Frenchmen best.

3 Peter Jay's penmanship book
Peter Jay was John Jay's father; this penmanship book, mostly in French, was executed by Peter in 1714, when he was ten years old.

4 Measuring devise with pistol grip. Made by D. S. English of Newark, N.J. 19th or 20th century.

5 Portrait miniature of Peter Augustus Jay (1776-1843), John Jay's elder son.
Painted in watercolor on ivory by Joseph Wood around 1807. Peter Augustus gave this portrait to his sister, Maria Jay Banyer.

