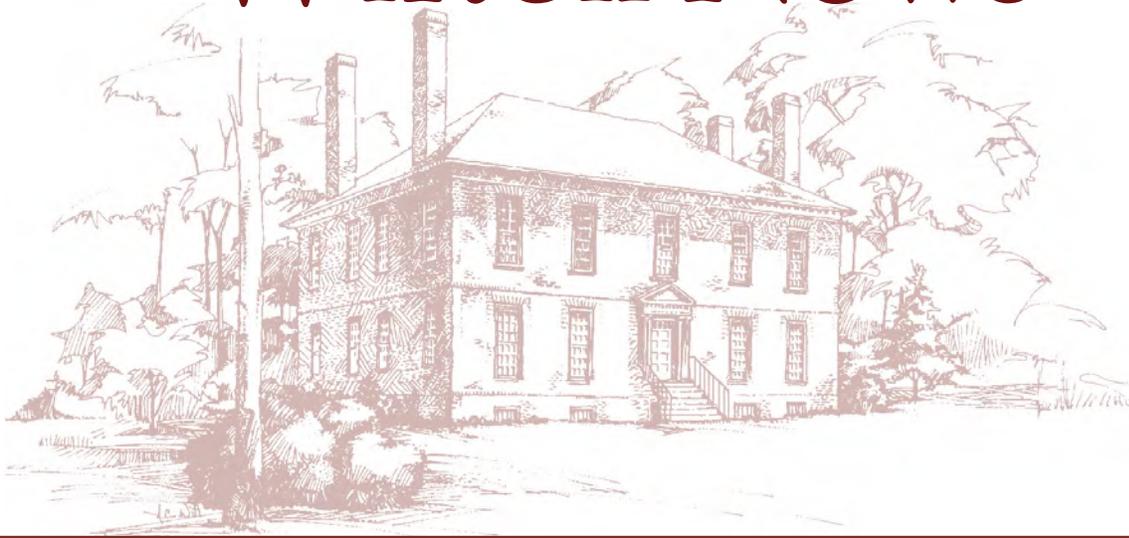


Wilton News



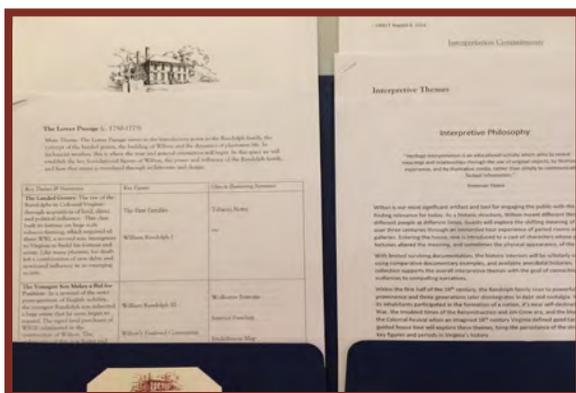
Volume XVII, Issue 4

Fall 2018

New Interpretive Plan Approach Considered by Scholars

Wilton House Museum's Strategic Plan calls for a transformation of the presentation, branding, interpretation, and visitor experience of this historic landmark. This will be done in phases over the next fifteen years. This effort requires the creation of a new interpretation plan for Wilton House Museum. The interpretive plan will identify key historical time periods and historical figures, while establishing interpretive goals and tour themes. Once completed, the Interpretive Plan will guide the appearance of the historic interiors, inspire museum branding, and expand exhibition and guest services spaces. These efforts will expand tour narratives to tell the entire history of Wilton to inspire visitors to find meaningful connectivity between the present and the past. "The Wilton House is embarked upon an exciting renewal, making the most of its fascinating story and evocative building", commented Ed Ayres, President Emeritus and Tucker-Boatwright Professor of the Humanities at the University of Richmond, about the plan.

The above quote from the Interpretive Plan Charrette held on Monday, September 24, 2018. When embarking on a significant initiative, experts in the field were invited to consider the goals and outline for the new interpretive plan for feedback and recommendations. These were Susan Scholwer (Mount Vernon), Jen Hurst-Wender (Preservation Virginia), Diane Ehrenpreis (Monticello), Dr. Ed Ayres, (University of Richmond), Ted Maris-Wolf (Enrichmond previously with Colonial Williamsburg), and Dr. Eric Gable (University of Mary Washington). "Wilton House Museum leadership is courageously reimagining not only the substance and form of the museum's experience for visitors but the very idea of what an historic house museum should and needs to be in the 21st century." remarked Ted Maris-Wolf



New Faces at Wilton

Welcome to our newest staff, Anthony Fiore and Bethany Verrett!

Anthony joins our team as our new Weekend Docent. He is a Costume Design Major and History Minor at Virginia Commonwealth University with a graduation date of Spring 2019. You may have seen him in costume with Agecroft Hall or Military Through the Ages, or even at a local ball: his background features a combination living history, theater, and dance, all of which well-prepared him for working with the public. You can find him Saturdays and Sundays at Wilton, mastering his house tour.



Bethany Verrett will be joining us as our new Weekend Site Coordinator.

Bethany will manage Visitor Services on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. She served previously as Center Supervisor for a historic 1791 historic home called Magnolia Mound Plantation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In that capacity, Bethany served as the weekend point of contact, coordinating site rentals, gift shop sales and visitor services, in addition to giving tours in French as needed!

Be sure to say hello when you run into these two around Wilton as they learn the ropes and the history of this beautiful historic home.

If you, or anyone else you might know, are interested in serving as a volunteer docent at Wilton House Museum (weekdays or weekends), please contact Director of Education Katie Watkins at 804-282-5936 ext 4, or by e-mail at kwatkins@wiltonhousemuseum.org.

We could always use help in daily tours, special events, and more!

Philanthropy at Wilton

In early October, members of the Finance Committee met with our auditors to review our 501(c)3 990 and Audited Financial Statements. The NSCDA-VA completed another strong financial year from June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018.

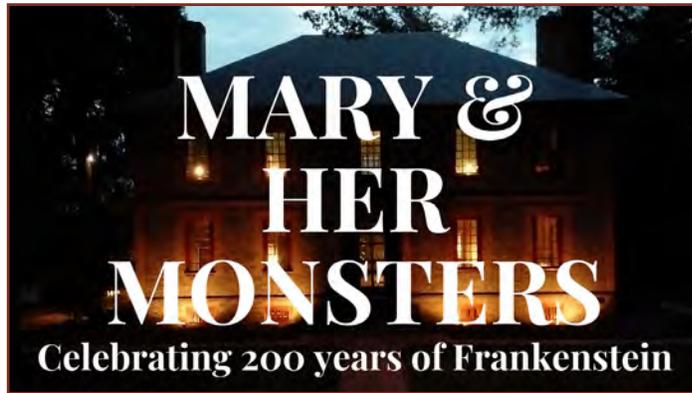
This is thanks to the charitable support of donors to the Annual Fund and 125 Gala, NSCDA-VA membership dues, purchases of the Virginia Scarf, the careful management of operating expenses, and a strong investment performance. The NSCDA-VA closed the 2017-2018 fiscal year with total assets of \$5,115,508 including an investment balance of \$3,391,676. The 2017-2018 Wilton House Museum Annual Report was distributed acknowledging \$191,498 in Annual Fund and restricted gifts.

The IRS classifies NSCDA-VA's non-profit status as a Public Charity. This designation requires that investment income can only account for one-third of the overall operating budget. An impressive 88% of this non-profit's operating expenses come through philanthropic support. Thank you for your continued investment in seeing Wilton House Museum grow!



We hope to have your continued support as we kick off our 2018-2019 Annual fund campaign of 'Making a Daily Difference at Wilton'. You can make the difference and help us reach our goal of \$140,000.00 again this year!

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS



Mary and Her Monsters

Saturday, October 27; 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us October 27th for the first of our Plays in the Passage: Mary and Her Monsters. Mary and her Monsters, be presented by Whitney Thornberry, as she brings Mary Shelley to life in a harrowing Halloween experience. Together we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of publication of Frankenstein, the novel that swept the nation's imagination in 1818.

Before the birth of horror as we know it today, there was a young woman awakened one night by a ghostly nightmare. Haunted by ghosts of her past, tormented by demons yet to come, she took pen to paper and sparked life into her Creation—a book that has graced shelves and plagued nightmares for almost two centuries. Draw close and be pulled back into time, turn beyond the pages, to glimpse Mary...and Her Monsters.

This intimate performance will take place in the lower passage of the historic house, so space is limited. Tickets for Mary and Her Monsters are available through Eventbrite.

If you have questions about the performance or how to buy tickets, please contact

Director of Education Katie Watkins at 804-282-5936 ext. 4

or by email at kwatkins@wiltonhousemuseum.org.



Friends with Benefits: Quaker Cabinetmakers of the Colonial Chesapeake

Tuesday, November 13; 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us for our annual lecture series. November will feature Robert Leath, Chief Curator & Vice President, Old Salem Museums & Gardens.

Free: Sponsored by The Antiquarian Society & The Decorative Arts Trust



Nightingales of the South

Thursday, December 13; 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us for our annual lecture series. December's lecture will feature Kelly Hancock, Interpretation and Programs Manager at the American Civil War Museum.

Admission \$10.00



Neat and Plain: Dressing the 18th Century Virginian

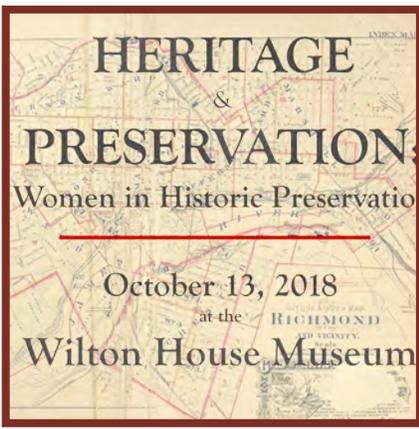
Thursday, January 24; 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us for our annual lecture series. January will feature Neal T. Hurst, Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Admission \$10.00

KEEP UP WITH ALL OF WILTON'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT

WWW.WILTONHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG/EVENTS



A day-long symposium closed the NSCDA-VA's 125th Anniversary Year on October 13, 2018. Presentations explored the pioneering historic preservation work of women, placing their efforts both within an historical context and considering their impact today. The day focused on regional preservation initiatives at Mount Vernon, Colonial Williamsburg, the White House, Richmond's Church Hill, Shockoe Bottom Memorial Park, concluding with a survey of the historic properties saved and stewarded, such as Wilton House Museum, by the Colonial Dames.

Thank you to Dr. Lydia Brandt, Dani Jaworski, James Archer Abbott, Ed Slipek, Dr. Laurennette Lee, and Brantley Bolling Knowles for closing our anniversary year with style and substance.



Save the Date for the next Wilton Symposium

**Saturday October 5, 2019
on Colonial Revival**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The National Society of The
Colonial Dames of America in
at WILTON
215 South Wilton Road
Richmond, VA 23226