



TATE HOUSE GAZETTE

NEWS FROM TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

“Connecting people to Maine’s colonial roots and helping them to discover, imagine, and value the relevance of this history to our lives”

Volume XVIII, Number 2

December 2009

Year of the Garden

Summer 2009

by Delene Perley

What a glorious time we had this summer learning about life in the eighteenth century garden and all its many related activities! At the fantastically well attended Opening Day, complete with glorious June sun, our over 100 visitors not only enjoyed their tours but also the wonderful tea and period appropriate refreshments, costumed docents and spinning demonstrations. This kick-off led to nine fascinating and informative weeks of special garden events every Wednesday morning and afternoon, culminating with an entertaining and educational Symposium in the fall.



Above: Visitors touring the gardens opening day. Photo courtesy D. Locke.

Above left: Looking down the gardens toward the river. Photo courtesy D. Perley.

The Garden Events committee led by Marilyn Brinnick and Deb Locke brought guest speakers from across the state to share about the history of and ways to prepare a similar colonial garden and using the harvest from such a garden for aromatic bags, cooking, décor, dying of fabric and yarns, medicinal uses, and even making jams, jellies and teas.



In period costume, docents Shirley Hibbard (left) and Theresa Libby demonstrate spinning during Year of the Garden opening day. Photo courtesy D. Perley.

Thanks to all the many docents who helped with the special set-ups, refreshments and tours that took place for our many interested guests.

continued, see “Year of the Garden” on page 5

June 5th, 2010

YOK

There have been several planning meetings for the Year of the Kitchen. Our latest meeting was held on December 1 and the Opening Day Kicking off the Year of the Kitchen was discussed. Opening Day will be held on Saturday, June 5, from 10 to 4.

Perry Hopf will take care of publicity. He would welcome any assistance that is available.

continued, see “YOK” on page 5

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TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

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207.774.6177
www.tatehouse.org
info@tatehouse.org

Volunteer Voices

News and Stories for and from those who make it possible to keep our museum open.

by Heidi Gage

Greetings from the Tate House Museum office administrator! I'm here three days a week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am - 4 pm. While it is the "slow" season here at the museum, I am striving to rapidly understand all the going's on of this wonderful, historic gem in Portland.

I am somewhat new to the Portland area, having moved here from Massachusetts this past June. I am a "Maine-ah" at heart; I was born in Westbrook, and my extended family resides in the Portland area.

The Tate House Museum offers a wonderful opportunity for me to utilize my many years of experience as an office administrator for non-profit organizations. I am delighted to be here!

There are many tasks in the weeks ahead as we prepare for the 2010 museum season. Already during my short tenure here, I have seen first hand the wonderful volunteer spirit that make THM such a dynamic, diverse, exciting place to visit.

I tallied the hours recorded in the volunteer log and was amazed to discover THM has had over 365 hours donated by volunteers just since September! Keep up the good work! We can thrive and grow with everyone's continued help and input. (By the way, it took six volunteers about five hours to prepare the annual appeal for mailing!)

Please, drop by the office at the Means House and introduce yourself. Remember, the office and gift shop are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am - 4 pm. I look forward to meeting you soon!



Wish List

Consider donating an item (or two) to help the office avoid some incidental expenses.

- several flash (thumb) drives to store old computer files
- Adobe Acrobat (computer program)
- Mac computer
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Desk with file drawers

OPEN!

The Museum Gift Shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm! Stop by and check out the wonderful selection of unique items for sale!

Education Committee Update

by Peter Cook

The partial fall dormancy of the Education Committee will soon be over. Following our loss of the able Education Committee leadership of Elizabeth Oatley we soon found that we needed to regroup and look at the leadership and direction of our whole museum. We were hesitant to appoint a new leader until the Board of Directors felt we were on firm ground with a renewed sense of direction. Through our work with facilitation, our Museum Assessment Program and the talents of new Board Members we feel that we are ready for a new leader who will oversee monthly meetings and a number of subcategories of leadership.

The Education Committee is looking to reduce its responsibility over exhibit planning and installation. The Education Committee is charged with *interpreting* our collections and exhibits. The Committee will need to work in concert with the Board of Trustees and membership.

We are looking for volunteers who wish to take the **Portland History Docent (PHD)** program in the spring and who will want to zero in on a specific day of the week that they will be available to lead tours and interpret the collections throughout the season.

We are also looking for volunteers to participate in our monthly **Soup and Connoisseurship Program** by participating in presenting, cooking, or just attending whenever possible. [See Elizabeth Oatley's article in the adjacent column!]

We also have **Museum to the Schools programs, specialized tours such as architecture or garden, or special museum days or holiday openings.**

The Education Committee is one of our most active Committees. To join or take a leadership role please contact our Museum Office (info@tatehouse.org).

Country Auction

Tate House Museum announces that it will hold an old-fashioned country auction in April 2010. They will be accepting antique or near-antique items in December by calling 885-9177. Donors will receive a tax-deductible certificate from THM. We have already received a donated week on Little Cranberry Island, in season, and a set of six English Regency chairs for the country auction.

We hope that everyone will come and have fun with us on Auction day! There will be free victuals and libations. More details will be forthcoming. Please call 885-9177 with any questions and to arrange pick up of large items. Volunteers are needed!

Annual Appeal

The Tate House Museum annual appeal is underway. Your tax-deductible donation will be most welcome. All contributions go towards furthering the mission of the museum.

TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

1267 Westbrook St.
Portland, ME 04102

Soup & Connoisseurship

by Elizabeth Oatley

Volunteers come to Tate House for many different reasons. The love of history is the top reason, but the second most popular reason is the opportunity to learn new things and engage with new ideas, so we provide a variety of exciting learning opportunities. These opportunities serve to keep volunteer interest high as well as provide in-service training. One such opportunity has been our Soup & Connoisseurship program.

Once a month, rotating on different evenings Monday through Thursday, a team of 2 or 3 people volunteer to provide a light supper - that's the Soup. Then we present a short educational talk or demonstration - that's the Connoisseurship. This season there were about 25 people attending each month to share soup and learn about things like kitchen implements, embroidery, sounds of colonial life, and ceramics in the kitchen cupboard.

The socializing has also been an important part of the evening. When our volunteers start talking and sharing ideas, exciting things happen. One of the most impressive parts of the program is that the presenters are drawn from our own ranks. We have a tremendous amount of expertise right here at Tate House and our volunteers are incredibly generous with their time and talent.

If you would like more information, please contact info@tatehouse.org!



The Currier Museum is located in a scenic area of Manchester, NH.

by Peter Cook

On November 12th a VIP Coach departed from the Means House with over thirty members and friends who joined us for a **Ramble** to the Currier Art Museum and the Zimmerman House. The Veterans Day outing was a huge success for all that participated. The trip to Manchester, New Hampshire was less than two hours. We were met at 10:00 A.M. by a very attentive staff that welcomed our group. Another seven participants who had driven to the museum on their own from Amesbury, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island joined us.

The Zimmerman House is a Usonian residence designed by the famed twentieth century architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. The house was the home of Dr. Isadore and Louise Zimmerman who had commissioned Wright to design a house for them in 1952. The house is a treasured museum building owned by the Currier Art Museum. The tours of the house were limited to twelve visitors at a time. The rest of our group had guided tours of the Currier Galleries.

Of particular interest was the Out of the Shadows Exhibit featuring the photographs of Brett Weston; a twentieth century specialist in black and white photography. His prolific body of work covered the years 1920 - 1980.

The eighteenth and nineteenth century decorative arts included furniture by New Hampshire's famed Dunlap family of craftsmen. A Robert Crossman Taunton chest and a John Gaines chair from Portsmouth were also admired.

Lunch was available in the a museum courtyard and our trip home included some wine and cheese treats that were furnished by our museum and long time museum friend Babette Schmidt who with friends circulated the coach with bubbly and commentary.

The trip was a great success. We look for even greater participation on our next **Ramble** that will be announced soon after the holidays.

Photos accompanying this article courtesy of Pat Jackson.



Above: THM members linger on the rear lawn at the Zimmerman House.

Left: Fenestration detail at the Zimmerman House.



Website update

WWW.TATEHOUSE.ORG

Last spring through our THM volunteer, Deb Locke, we arranged with Louis Torrieri from her office to volunteer his non-work time to develop a new website for Tate House Museum. After his initial effort, THM volunteer Delene Perley has been responsible for updating the website, which she did over the summer including the many events of the *Year of the Garden*. Delene will continue to work on the website next year including photos from the summer events and other information of interest to our website visitors. Take a look: <http://www.tatehouse.org>. Contact Delene at deleneperley@gmail.com with ideas, suggestions and comments. Thank you Deb and Louis for helping us in this effort.

YOK, continued from front page

If you have some time to assist him in sending out the press releases you can leave a message for him at the Means House. He has a list of all the publications. He just needs help sending the press releases out on a timely manner. We also want to make it a point to invite our neighbors in the Stroudwater neighborhood as well as City Officials. If you know of anyone else who should be invited, please let Perry or Marilyn know.

Our next meeting will be held on January 12 at 1:00. At that time we will be discussing whether or not we will have workshops and demonstrations during the summer. Anyone who is interested in participating in this exciting program is urged to attend this meeting. If you have any questions or suggestions you can contact Marilyn Brinnick at brinnick@maine.rr.com. She will pass it on to the Planning Committee.

Year of the Garden, continued from front page

The planning began in August, 2008 with monthly meetings of the Year of the Garden Committee, chaired by Delene Perley. We were pleased with our colorful brochure distributed throughout the community, a new banner on Congress Street to announce our various special days and the community calendar publicity in print and on-line publications along with feature articles. Thanks goes to the committee for their work and dedication to obtaining community sponsors, carrying the theme throughout the house, publicizing our activities, and preparing the various events themselves.



Peter Cook, aka the Town Crier. Photo courtesy D. Perley

Plans are under way for a Year of the Kitchen in 2010.

Your involvement, ideas and participation will help us make 2010 even more memorable for the museum and the greater Portland area and its many visitors. Contact Marilyn Brinnick or the office (info@tatehouse.org) with your willingness to assist.



THM Docents, Adeline Allen and Marie Clarke. Photo courtesy D. Perley

YES! We want to join the Tate House Museum!

Individual - \$35

One free admission. 10% discount in shop. 10% discount at Symposium. Access to our library. Invitations to special events. Subscription to Tate House Gazette (4 per year).

Family - \$50

Same as Individual but with 2 free admissions.

Patron - \$100

Unlimited visits to the museum. 10% discount at shop and symposium. Access to our library. Invitations to special events. Subscription to Tate House Gazette (4 per year).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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Please make check payable to:

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NEWS FROM TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

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Upcoming Events

- May 29th, 2010 Annual Herb Sale
- June 5th, 2010 The Year of the Kitchen Opening Day!
- June 16, 2010 Garden Tours begin!

Deadline for the next issue of the Gazette is February 25th, 2010

The Museum Gift Shop is **OPEN** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am - 4 pm! Stop by and check out the wonderful selection of unique items for sale!

TATE HOUSE MUSEUM ANNUAL HERB SALE

May 29th, 2010
8:00 AM until noon

Support Tate House Museum as you plan and plant your garden. Herbs come from Broadway Gardens but the proceeds benefit museum programs. We will gladly accept donations (to sell) of your own potted perennials with information about color, sun/shade, and height.

FMI, contact info@tatehouse.org.