

**NEW MEMBERS  
THANK YOU TO THESE NEW MEMBERS.**

Mary Ellen Bowden  
Ruth Ann Bromfield  
Kevin Cannon  
Elvia Carter  
Nathan A. Carter  
Charles Crutchfield  
Karen Ericson  
Dianne & Thom Fantaskey  
Ross Garside  
Scott & Peggy Gelnett  
Philip A. (Family) Hallden  
James and Jeanne Hartman  
Linda Hartung  
Alan Heldon

Greg & Pat Hess  
Jane & William Hill  
John R. King  
Richard A Knoebel  
Charles H. Mahler  
Todd Miller  
Shelly Paul  
David & Jan Pearson  
Lisa and Steven Reardon  
Gayle Reichner  
Walter N. Ressler  
Tom Scheffelin  
Fred Stahl  
Ronald Supkowski

**MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

To keep the Joseph Priestley House open to the public we must increase the number of volunteers to staff the visitor center and give tours.

To learn more about what you can do contact Joann Long, Volunteer Coordinator at 570-286-6683.

**FRIENDS OF  
JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE**



472 Priestley Avenue  
Northumberland, PA 17857

**MEET SUMMER INTERN  
SAMANTHA RUSSELL**



Q. Where are you a student?  
A. "I'm majoring in history at Lock Haven University, midway through my junior year."  
Q. What has working at Priestley House been like?  
A. "It's been a great experience overall. Priestley House is small enough that I'm getting exposed to just about every aspect of running the place – a great experience for me."  
Q. What is your favorite aspect of your job?  
A. "Working on the Robert Schofield archives. It's helped me understand the back story of Joseph Priestley, what he was thinking and feeling. I'm surprised how much information the letters hold; it's like a personal connection to his (Priestley's) life."  
Q. What are your future plans or aspirations?  
A. "I want to enter the field of public history, Native American history, so it means graduate school, and most likely working for the National Park Service."  
(full text of the interview [www.josephpriestleyhouse.org](http://www.josephpriestleyhouse.org))

**POSTINGS FROM PRIESTLEY HOUSE**

Newsletter of  
**The Friends of Joseph Priestley House**

Number 44 Summer 2009

[www.josephpriestleyhouse.org](http://www.josephpriestleyhouse.org)

570-473-9474

**PRIESTLEY HOUSE TEMPORARILY CLOSED**

The Priestley House temporarily closed at 3 PM Friday, August 14, 2009. The Friends have taken steps to re-open the site on a limited basis using volunteers to staff the visitor center and give tours. This will occur as soon as a Management Agreement is signed between the Friends and the PA Historical and Museum Commission.

**NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AHEAD  
FOR FRIENDS**

The Friends Board is discussing a Management Agreement with PHMC that could result in these increased responsibilities for the Friends.

**Ownership & Maintenance.** PHMC will retain ownership of the site and cover: major maintenance, exterior painting, electric, gas water sewer, and lawn care and snow removal. The Friends would be responsible for interior painting.

**Insurance.** Friends will be responsible for liability insurance for anything conducted at the House (which we now have) as well as negligence insurance regarding the structures and contents (which we don't now have). We may be responsible for the insurance for collections currently on loan from other sites.

**Custodial Care.** Friends would be responsible for custodial care of the facility – that includes general housekeeping, light bulbs, toilet cleaning, etc. A curatorial assistant would be available to respond to the injury or damage to artifacts.

**Security.** Friends would be responsible to provide periodic security visits to site and entrance for emergency responders and lock up after they leave.

**Programming.** Friends are responsible for all events at the site including tours. Special events at the site may include alcohol such as wedding receptions.



**PRIESTLEY HOUSE MUSEUM PUBLIC MEETING**

More than 160 people attended the public meeting on April 9, 2009 about the Priestley House Museum. A March 2009 report recommended that the state discontinue support for Priestley House. Pa Historical and Museum Commission Director, Barbara Franco, stated that with less and less state funding the Commission had no choice but to ask 7 of the 23 sites managed by them to seek other forms of support. State Representative Merle Phillips voiced strong support for keeping the site open. He led a list of 30 speakers in support of the site, including speakers from the American Chemical Society, historians, community members, teachers, volunteers at the site and others.

**FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING**



The annual meeting of the Friends will be held on September 24, 2009 at the Priestley Savidge House 620 Front Street in Northumberland. The event begins with a social hour at 5:30 PM. Dinner is at 6 PM followed by a brief business meeting and speaker. At 7 PM our guest speaker Philip Wilson, historian of science and

medicine at Penn State University's College of Medicine in Hershey, will speak on "Reflections Upon Priestley's Lunar Friend, Dr. Erasmus Darwin". There is a \$20 charge for the meal which includes beverage. The public is invited to attend the talk by Dr. Wilson. To register call 570-473-9474 or visit the website [www.josephpriestleyhouse.org](http://www.josephpriestleyhouse.org)

**WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

In order to speed up communication, reduce printing and mailing costs we need your email address. If you have email please send a short note to the Friends website [info@josephpriestleyhouse.org](mailto:info@josephpriestleyhouse.org)

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
TO FRIENDS BOARD**

This is an open invitation for nominations to serve on the Friends Board of Directors. Each year new board members must be recruited to replace those whose terms have expired and can not or do not wish to serve another 3 year term. Let us know if you would like to serve. [info@josephpriestleyhouse.org](mailto:info@josephpriestleyhouse.org)

## CO-PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

by Tom Bresenhan

With private funding in hand, we have waited for more than 4 years for the renovation of the interior of the Pond Building. I ask this question aloud: why renovate a building designed to serve as a public meeting center and not include restrooms? I support redirecting the renovation toward new uses discovered in consultation with the community and our partners rather than proceed with a project that will not suit us.

## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 1 Heritage Day at Priestley House  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



### ANDREA BASHORE

The Friends of Joseph Priestley House, moving into a new era as a Placed Property under the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, regretfully will lose the expertise of Site Administrator Andrea Bashore, whose position has been eliminated in the 2009-2010 state budget.

Over the past 16 years that she has worked at the site, Andrea has gladly shared her deep knowledge of Priestley's thought and of 18th century ideas and customs with visitors, volunteers and the community at large. She has been the link to the chemistry community, assisting them in planning special anniversary events at the museum, and also fostered connections with the wide network of scholars interested in Priestley, both in this country and overseas. She could show costumed interpreters how to fasten a shawl with hawthorns or a kerchief with straight pins. Chuckling, she would pass along the subtle clues – i.e., shifting from foot to foot, jingling coins in her pockets -- that tell a tour guide when a group is reaching information overload. Wrestling with mice, spiders or hemlock blight? Also in her day's work. Andrea's competent and steady leadership has been an invaluable help to the current Board of Directors as we enter into a new relationship with PHMC and assume new responsibilities.

We will miss her guidance and we wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

## FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Bresenhan  
and  
Susan Brook,  
*Co-Presidents*

Edward Lyon, *Vice President*

William Simpson, *Secretary*

Arlene M. Murray, *Treasurer*

Amanda Kessler

Jack Holt

Cindy Inkrote

Joseph Priestley House is a  
National Historic Landmark and a  
National Historic Chemical Landmark

administered by the  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
Commission with support from the  
Friends of Joseph Priestley House, a reg-  
istered Charitable organization whose  
official registration and financial  
information may be obtained from the PA  
Department of State by calling  
within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration  
does not imply endorsement.

### VISIT

WWW.JOSEPHPRIESTLEYHOUSE.ORG

or

Call 570-473-9474

for

Priestley House hours of operation  
Friends membership information  
& application

Individuals who need special assistance  
or accommodation to visit  
Joseph Priestley House  
should call 570-473-9474 in advance to  
discuss their needs. Pennsylvania TDD  
relay service is available at  
(800) 654-5984.

## BROOKE DEARMAN BIDS AU REVOIR

Brooke Dearman has taken a new job at Laurel Creek Counseling, Lewisburg. After spending two summers as a college intern at Priestley House Brooke was hired fulltime in the summer of 1999. History Camp was one of Brooke's special responsibilities.



She learned from Priestley's example and writings, particularly his forward-looking outlook on life. "Joseph Priestley has always been the invisible person who works here...he often refers to "a kind Providence" working in his life...not all events in his life seemed happy, but he seemed to feel that everything teaches you something, although the actual experience might not have been helpful at the time," she said. Brooke hopes to stay involved as a volunteer. (full text of the interview at [www.josephpriestleyhouse.org](http://www.josephpriestleyhouse.org))

## LINDY FASOLD

Lindy Fasold, a social studies teacher at CW Rice Middle School, Northumberland lead history camp 2009. "I was very impressed how interested the kids were and how the experience brought everything to life. The theme of, 'Joe and Ben – the Electrified Friends' related to the newer more earth-friendly forms of energy" Fasold said. Several of the campers attended history camp before. Fasold said, "I was surprised how many kids have come back 2 or 3 years. They were excited to learn." When one youngster asked Fasold if camp will be held next year, she replied, "I hope so".



### SUMMER HISTORY CAMP 2009

For three mornings at the end of July nineteen elementary school students, returned to the 18th century at Priestley House Museum History Camp in Northumberland, PA. Campers got a kid's point of view at the legacy of Joseph Priestley and good friend Ben Franklin. Under the direction of Lindy Fasold, newly appointed leader of the camp, they learned games and played with toys used by children 200 years ago and experienced history and science coming alive through the presentations of Dr Priestley, i.e. Ron Blatchley and Ben Franklin, i.e. John Moore. Dr. Priestley explained and demonstrated several of his scientific experiments including the creation of carbonated water. That day the campers had a snack of root beer floats for a first hand experience of how Priestley's discovery is enjoyed today. Ben Franklin explained his experiment using a kite with a metal rod attached in a thunderstorm to discover that lightning is an electrical discharge. Campers got to see the lightning rods that were installed at the Priestley residence to protect the buildings as a result of this discovery and saw a copy of the 1767 book Priestley wrote that includes the very first description of Franklin's discovery.