

POSTINGS FROM PRIESTLEY HOUSE

Newsletter of
The Friends of Joseph Priestley House



Number 58 Spring 2014

www.josephpriestleyhouse.org

570-473-9474



Representing The Friends of Priestley House at the recent luncheon honoring Roy Olofson at Penn State are: front: from left Kristen Yarmey, Roy Olofson (seated) and Fran Blatchley; standing from left - Bob Bernheim, Ron Blatchley, Tom Bresenhan, Bill Simpson and Bob Minard.

FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE



P.O. Box 346
Lewisburg, PA. 17837

2014 SEASON

Visitor Center open from 1 to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday (except Easter) March 9 until end of November 30 with tours at 1, 2 and 3 PM

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, March 9, 2014

Commonwealth Charter Day and Priestley's Birthday
Open from 1 to 4 PM
Dr. Priestley's demos at 1:30 and 2:30
Free admission this day only.

Wednesday to Friday, July 23-25, 2014

History Camp at Priestley House Camp is for children in 1st - 6th grades.
Registration information soon

Sunday, August 3, 2014.

Oxygen Day –
Open from 1 to 4 PM
Dr. Priestley demos at 1:30 & 3:00pm
Free Admission

September 24, 2014

Annual Dinner Meeting
Priestley-Savidge House
6 to 8:30 pm

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Heritage Day
Open from 1 to 4 PM
Dr. Priestley's demos at 1:30 and 2:30
Children's games
Regular Admission fees

Sunday, January 4, 2015

Twelfth Day
Open from 1 to 4 PM
Dr. Priestley's demos at 1:30 and 2:30
Children's games
Regular Admission fees

TWELFTH DAY 2014

By Susan Brook

Twelfth Day 2014 at Joseph Priestley House ushered in the year with special flair as six teenaged dancers from area schools whirled their way through 18th/19th century social dance with an admiring audience looking on. Thanks to the talent, research and persistence of Dixie Gavason, her costumed students performed with a solemn poise, using the smooth surface of the Priestleys' drawing room as their dance floor. Many thanks to Shikellamy students Kyler Balliet,, Blake Clark, Emma Pettingil and Logan Schindler and Mid-West students Caitlyn Feaster and Cheyenne Gavason. They were equally poised and dignified as they toured the museum and partook of the refreshments, by the way. The dancing was a new addition to our winter festival, and very welcome indeed.

Volunteers Cindy Inkrote and Scott Onsager outdid themselves with some new (to us) treats for our refreshment table. Cindy found a seasonal Pennsylvania Dutch pepper cake and Scott's got a dynamite method for making an all-natural pineapple centerpiece, 18th century style. That symbol of hospitality, the pineapple, surely reigned during our celebration.

We were lucky with the weather and managed to finish our revels and get volunteers and guests home before an evening ice storm hit. Mantels throughout the house had been decorated earlier in the week by a crew including JoAnn Long, Dixie Gavason, Scott Onsager, Becky Hollenbach, Shelley Paul, Barb and Bruce Johnson and their son, Glen, visiting from Texas. As in past years, we collect the greenery from members' yards, roadsides and collections (thank you, Barb, for the pine cones, and John Moore, for the holly boughs).



The queen, Autumn Schmidt, age 9 (left) jester, Lydia Bitler age 8 (right)



Dancers at 12th Day (boys from left) Logan Schindler, Kyler Balliet and Blake Clark, (girls from left) Emma Pettingill, Cheyenne Gavason and Caitlyn Feaster

MEET OUR NEW PRIESTLEY HOUSE BOARD MEMBERS

DEE ANN CASTEEL

Dee Ann Casteel is a new Board member whose term runs from 2014 through 2016. While on the Board Dee hopes, "to increase the visibility of Priestley House and to increase connections with local chemists."



Dee is the Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences at Bucknell University. She joined their faculty as an associate professor of chemistry in 1994, with a PhD in Organic Chemistry from University of Illinois.

In 1996 Dee served as Chair of the Susquehanna Valley local section to American Chemical Society and since 2004 as Councilor for the local section to ACS.

As a musician Dee directs the Heart of Pennsylvania Women's Barbershop Chorus, sings in the Heart's Desire barbershop quartet, is music director at her church and is in the Bucknell Pep band. Dee lives in Lewisburg with her husband Phil Haynes, a percussionist.

LINDY FASOLD

Lindy Fasold, who teaches American History to 8th graders at Shikellamy Middle School, has joined the board of the Friends of the Joseph Priestley House. Lindy has coordinated history camp at the Priestley House with her colleague, Dixie Gavason, since the Friends of the Joseph Priestley House took over administration of the house from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission in November 2009.



She graduated with a teaching degree from Penn State University in 2003 and earned a masters degree in education from Bucknell University in 2012. Asked about herself, Lindy said: "I grew up in Sunbury and now live in Northumberland with my fiancé, Justin, and Yorkie puppy, Lucy. We will be married in March of this year. I love spending time outdoors reading on my patio, walking my dog, hiking, rowing on the Susquehanna, and shooting 3-D archery with my soon-to-be husband."

JOHN L. MOORE

John L. Moore, writer and storyteller, is a retired journalist and resident of Northumberland. His seven books center on Pennsylvania history, the most recent being "Bullets, Boats & Bears," a companion volume to "Traders, Travelers & Tomahawks" (1999). Other titles are "Cannons, Cattle & Campfires" (2002); "Rivers, Raiders & Renegades" (2004); "Pioneers, Prisoners & Peace Pipes," (2006); "Settlers, Soldiers & Scalps" (2008); "Warriors, Wampum & Wolves" (2012). He appears as Thomas Cooper in the Priestley House orientation video and has portrayed Cooper, Priestley's close associate, on many occasions at the house.



Mr. Moore's 46-year newspaper career included stints as a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*; as managing editor of *The Sentinel* in Lewistown, Pa.; as editorial page editor, city editor and managing editor of *The Daily Item* in Sunbury, and as editor of the *Eastern Pennsylvania Business Journal* in Bethlehem, Pa.

Mr. Moore has participated in several archaeological excavations of Native American sites. These include the Village of Nain in Bethlehem, Pa.; the City Island project in Harrisburg, Pa. conducted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; a 1999 Bloomsburg University dig at a Native American site near Nescopeck, Pa.; and a 1963 excavation by the New Jersey State Museum along the Delaware River.

FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Bresenhan, President
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 Sam Geise
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Volunteer Coordinator
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Newsletter Editor
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JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE
 473 PRIESTLEY AVE.
 NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

2014 HOURS OF OPERATION

March thru November
 Every Weekend
 Except Easter Sunday

Visitors Center
 Open 1-4 p.m.
 Tours Given at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

Special Tours
 Can be arranged by calling
570-473-9474 or by e-mail at
info@josephpriestleyhouse.org

Special Assistance
 Individuals who need special assistance or accommodation to visit The Joseph Priestley House should contact us in advance to discuss their needs.

To join the Friends of Priestley House
 Call 570-473-9474 or visit
www.josephpriestleyhouse.org

BLOOMSBURG THEATRE ENSEMBLE VISITS PRIESTLEY HOUSE

In preparation for a new play that the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE) is creating about Joseph Priestley, ensemble members, their families, and friends made a visit to the Priestley House on Saturday, January 25. Board President Tom Bresenhan greeted the group, and Priestley re-enactor Ron Blatchley treated them to some chemistry demonstrations and a tour of the house.

BTE is in the research-and-development phase of a two-year process in which they have commissioned award-winning playwright Anthony Clarvoe to create the play in collaboration with the ensemble. Clarvoe says:

"Priestley's life was dedicated to the proposition that humanity has a duty to experiment...[he] embodied conflict, demanded to be heard, and compelled attention."



Ron Blatchley discusses Priestley House with BTE Ensemble members James Goode and Elizabeth Dowd

...He was honored, vilified, and exiled t[p=-o the new-born United States of America, which embodied, then as now, conflicts of its own. This inveterate experimenter found himself living in the middle of an experiment. There's a play in that."

For their research, BTE and Clarvoe are partnering with Bucknell and Penn State Universities, and Chemical Heritage Foundation scholar Mary Ellen Bowden is a consultant.

"By examining the life of an active participant in the multiple revolutions of the 18th century (chemistry, philosophy, religion, and politics), we seek to create a revolutionary play that scrutinizes the condition of 21st America: who were we at our founding and who are we now?"

EMAIL INTERVIEW WITH DR METS

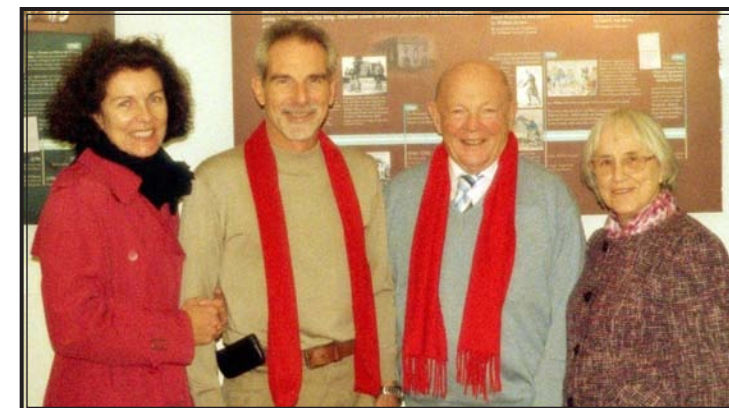
Why do you invite/bring speakers at the Hershey Priestley Program to Priestley House?

Since 1995 the then Professor and Chairman of Anesthesiology, Dr Julien Biebuyck started the Joseph Priestly Annual Lecture Series in the Department of Anesthesiology, where we invite Prominent Anesthesiologists to give an Academic Lecture to the Department and also give an After Dinner Speech at our Joseph Priestley Dinner.

Part of the tradition has been to invite this Prominent Anesthesiologist (and his/her spouse) to visit the Joseph Priestley House on the Friday of this event. I have upheld this tradition over the last 11 years that I have served as Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology. You have always been very gracious in providing access to the JP house and providing a very nice tour for these invitees.

As a member of the Friends of Priestley House, what is your particular interest in Priestley

His role in the discovery of Oxygen and Nitrous Oxide which of course we still use daily as Anesthesiologists. Just for reference, Our Department of Anesthesiology at Penn State Hershey Comprises 58 Specialist Anesthesiologists, 65 Anesthesiology Residents in Training 6 Fellows and 34 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.



Visitors from Penn State Hershey Medical Center from left: Dr. Ulane Neveling and her husband Dr. Berend Mets, Dr. Roger Eltringham and his wife Lorna from the United Kingdom

Berend Mets, MB, ChB, PhD, FRCA, FFA(SA) is the Eric A. Walker Professor and Chair, Department of Anesthesiology Penn State College of Medicine/ Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center