



Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Spring 2023

Save the Date!

**Art & Architecture Day
at Historic Huntley**
Saturday, April 15, free
1:00-3:00 p.m. activities
3:00-4:00 p.m. artist reception

Following the success of last year's inaugural **Art & Architecture Day**, we are pleased to announce the return of this open-house event on **Saturday, April 15, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** **Activities** will include observing artists at work "en plein air" (painting outdoors), tours of the site's federal-period structures in the context of a carefully designed landscape, and an opportunity to purchase history and other non-fiction titles from FOHH's used book sale.

There will be a **reception for the artists from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.** The works the artists have painted during the day will be available for public viewing and sale.

Art & Architecture Day activities are free. The event is **co-sponsored by FOHH and the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and offered in conjunction with Architecture Month programming arranged by the American Institute of Architects' Northern Virginia Chapter.**

For more information on the day's activities, call 703.768.2525. ❖



Last year's Art & Architecture Day was perfect for capturing images of Huntley, both by camera and by brush. Photo by Casey Pittrizzi.

Orienting Students to Historic Huntley

FOHH was reintroduced to **Malcolm McNeil** in 2018 when he served as Historic Huntley's summer intern. Impressed by his high-caliber performance, the FCPA quickly hired Malcolm as a Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) staff member. In that capacity, Malcolm conducts camps and other programs at Historic Huntley.

Catching up with Malcolm recently, we asked this history major about the first program he created upon becoming a staff member: **Mapping the Past for Homeschoolers.** This popular program is a basic introduction to map reading.

A number of FOHH members have donated maps for the program.

Malcolm's students generally are six to twelve years old, which means they are "digital natives." They have always lived in an era when everyday exposure to maps has been through GPS devices. These devices typically provide a narrow, "linear" view of travel routes, largely free of the background or "bigger picture" in which such routes exist. As a result, Malcolm has found that students have not internalized north, south, east, and west as directions. In fact, they do not acknowledge those terms in roadways that include them in their names. For example, students

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President's Column: Book Sales Update

by Todi Carnes

2022 marked a **revenue milestone for FOHH's used book sale**—a record \$1,800. This is especially remarkable when one considers that since June 2022, FOHH's used book sale at the HMP Visitor Center has been—and continues to be—suspended due to insufficient park staff to support sales activities. Fortunately, FOHH and its book sale have friends!

First and foremost, the book sale enjoys a **wide-ranging customer base**, many of whom make shopping FOHH books a matter of routine. Following an eighteen-month pandemic hiatus, ever-loyal book sale customers flocked to its reopening in October 2021, driving a sales surge apparently fueled by pandemic “revenge” purchasing.

As the surge continued into the opening months of 2022, several **FOHH donors stepped forward with amazing and voluminous book donations**. The special character of some of these donations allowed FOHH to command significantly more money than its standard prices. The donations also resulted in an excess inventory that led FOHH to seek additional venues in the spring. **HMP staff proved great friends** as they generously assisted with a special three-day excess inventory sale taking up the entire HMP auditorium. There was a smaller pop-up sale at last year's inaugural Art & Architecture Day. These special sales boosted revenue through May 2022.

With suspension of sales at HMP's Visitor Center, **two friends groups—the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) and the Ellanor C. Lawrence Park Friends**—allowed FOHH to sell books at their events. [FOHH's friendship with these groups was forged in working together on advocacy efforts aimed at gaining a greater share of Fairfax County's general fund tax dollars for our parks.]

Thanks to FOHH's loyal customers and book donors, dedicated HMP staff, and fellow friends groups, FOHH

doubled its typical annual book sale revenues, despite its usual sale location being in operation for less than half the year. It's good to not only be a Friend, but to have friends, too! Thank you to FOHH's many friends for their support of FOHH book sales! ❖

Supervisor Dan Storck Visits Historic Huntley

At FOHH's invitation, and with superb support from park staff, **Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck** and his staff member responsible for park issues, **Peyton Smith**, visited Historic Huntley on February 17. It was the first time Supervisor Storck had visited Huntley since well before its 2012 restoration. Despite a cool, misty, and sometimes blustery day, Huntley warmed the hearts and minds of all—along with a generous serving of hot tea from Board Member and Tea Hostess Patty Young. Taking it all in, including far-reaching views of the Mount Vernon District from the porch of Huntley, Supervisor Storck enthusiastically declared that the visit exceeded expectations.

Although situated in the **Franconia District**, Historic Huntley has many connections to the adjacent **Mount Vernon District**. The original farm lands associated with Huntley extend into the Mount Vernon District. Huntley's builder, Thomson F. Mason, was born and raised in the Mount Vernon District, at Gunston Hall and Hollin Hall. In 1845, three persons enslaved at Huntley were tried and punished for trespass when they crossed onto neighboring Mount Vernon District lands.

Thomson's wife, Betsey, was an early vice-regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, which operates George Washington's Mount Vernon, after which the Mount Vernon District is named. Huntley's connections with the Mount Vernon District continue with many of FOHH's members, including a majority of its board members, living in the district. We hope that a long-lasting relationship with Supervisor Storck and his successors will be added to Huntley's many close associations with the Mount Vernon District. ❖



Historical Interpreter and Site Coordinator Cheryl Repetti uses park signage to illustrate her comments about enslaved life at Huntley. Supervisor Dan Storck and his accompanying staff member, Peyton Smith, listen attentively as FOHH board members look on. Photo by Carolyn Gamble.

The Team Behind Historic Huntley Teas



Left to right, FOHH members Robbie McNeil, Patty Young, and Susanne Lepple, and Historical Interpreter and Site Coordinator Cheryl Repetti. As at all Historic Huntley teas, Patty and Cheryl serve as tea and site hostesses, respectively. Patty procures all the tea and treats and lays out the table settings. Cheryl gives site tours and historic information relevant to the program. Robbie, frequently assisted by others, including Susanne, provides critical, behind-the-scenes support as head dishwasher. Patty, Robbie, and assistant clean-up personnel support teas as FCPA volunteers. FOHH thanks them for this selfless work! Photo by Todi Carnes.

Gina Sando: FOHH's New HMP Staff Liaison

Hi! I am super excited to be the **new HMP staff liaison with FOHH!** If I haven't had the honor of meeting you yet, I became the new **Visitor Services Manager at HMP** in October 2022. I worked my way up to this position since being in the park and recreation field in some shape or form since 2015, with one year off to do a long section hike on the Appalachian Trail. Previously I worked at Lake Fairfax Park and with AmeriCorps. In my spare time, I'm usually taking my senior dog on short hikes, curling up with a good book (my goal is to read 10 books a month in 2023), or knitting something. You might occasionally see me lifting heavy weights in the gym or training for my next road race. So far, I've run about 15 half marathons and three full marathons. ❖



Photo provided by Gina Sando.

Huntley-Related Web Sites

www.historichuntley.org

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley/

www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Purchase a Tea Party!

FOHH member Susanne Lepple had been through a challenging time and wanted to acknowledge and thank the many friends who had helped her through it. As it often does, Historic Huntley came to mind! In a stroke of creative originality, Susanne decided to **purchase an entire tea program at Huntley** for more than a dozen of her friends. She dubbed it the **"Appreciation Tea."** It was held in December 2022 and was a resounding success. If you would like to follow suit and purchase a special, private tea event, contact Huntley Meadows Park Staff Program Manager Melodie Stehling at melodie.stehling@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703.768.2525. ❖

Tour Historic Huntley: Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., spring through fall

Discover a view for all time during a tour of Historic Huntley, with its many vistas, voices, and stories, many reflecting the American quest for freedom. The tour includes the late Federal-style 1825 villa, farm outbuildings, stories from the Huntley community, and an unparalleled view of Hybla Valley. A Fairfax County Park Authority site, the property is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

The villa is a short walk up a steep hill and the grounds are open from dawn to dusk from March through November. For tours, advanced registration is recommended. Purchase tickets at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley/hours-tour: \$10, adults; \$8, seniors, youth, students; free for children up to 4. Check in at the lower house adjacent to the parking lot at 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306.

For more information or to schedule a private tour by appointment, call 703.768.2525. ❖

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refer to roadways like “I-95 North” as “I-95 N.” “I-95 South” becomes “I-95 S.” The “N” or “S” letters convey no sense of direction to them.

Displaying maps on the tenant house computer monitor (which FOHH helped to purchase), Malcolm has students visualize the four cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) as indicated by the maps’ directional indicators.

He then teaches students how to use a compass. The students and Malcolm head up to the Huntley villa with compass in hand. There, the students are challenged to identify the “east rooms,” the “west rooms,” the southern side of the villa, etc. In directionally orienting Huntley, the students literally orient themselves in terms of place.

Directional location is just one form of map literacy that Malcolm teaches his students. He also teaches them how, by looking at maps of the same thing over time, one can learn



Malcolm McNeil, with compass in hand and a map close by, stands ready to offer direction, in more ways than one, to youngsters in his mapping class at Huntley. Photo by Todi Carnes.

about change. As Huntley fans can appreciate, it’s as important to know “when you are,” in terms of what has come before, as it is to know “where you are” in terms of place.

Given the success of his Mapping the Past program, Malcolm would like to create a more advanced iteration. We can’t wait to hear all about it! ❖

FOHH Board Returns to Meeting In Person



FOHH board members toast their first in-person board meeting since the pandemic’s beginning. Front row, left to right: Jere Gibber, Charlotte Brown, Patty Young, and Erica Hershler. Back row, left to right: Carolyn Gamble, Robbie McNeil, and Peter Christensen. Photo by Todi Carnes.

Wetlands Awareness Day

Huntley Meadows Park
Sunday, May 7, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
Rain or shine; all ages; free

After a three-year pandemic hiatus, **Wetlands Awareness Day** returns to Huntley Meadows Park! This year’s theme is **Huntley welcomes you to a thriving wetland sanctuary**. Discover the beauty and importance of wetlands. Come stroll the forested paths and immersive half-mile boardwalk trail to learn about the plants and animals that live in the park. For more information, call 703.768.2525. ❖

Upcoming FCPA Programs at Historic Huntley

For more information and to register, call 703.222.4664 or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes, click on **Find a Program**, and search by **Historic Huntley**, **program name**, or **code**. Preregistration is required for many programs.

A tip for finding **ALL programs** at Historic Huntley. Enter the following:

Search text: **hist**; Category of activity: **All Categories**; Place: **Historic Huntley**; Month: **All Months**;

Day of the week: **7 Selected**; Age range: **All Ages**

Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge (10-18 yrs.) \$48

- April 9, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Code: 28A.1DJS

Civil War at Huntley—Division and Endurance (16-Adult)

Fairfax was as divided as the nation in 1861. Yet these divisions help to explain how Huntley endured the war. Examine Huntley during the Civil War through the experiences of the Mason family, their neighbors, and an occupying army. Tour of Historic Huntley included. \$10

- March 31, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Code: 4NZ.RA10

Family Hilltop Outing (5-Adult)

Join us for a family friendly tour of Historic Huntley high upon a hill. What significance does this villa have to one of our founding fathers? Hop back in time. Can you hold a block of ice with just one finger? Challenge yourself using historical tools like ice tongs. Learn to master old-time children's games. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$10

- May 6, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Code: AN7.XB01

Mapping the Past for Homeschoolers (7-13 yrs.)

Supplement your historical studies with a fun day of exploring, interpreting, and making maps. Try your hand at orienteering, learn about different types of maps from around the world, and take home a personalized map of your life. \$14

- April 13, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Code: C5B.HAUM

Mason Tea (Adults)

Enjoy an afternoon tea circa 1830 much as Betsey Mason would have, with the gleam of polished silver and proper tea etiquette. Sample a menu of tasty treats appropriate to the period in an historic setting as you brush up on your tea history. Tour of Historic Huntley included. \$35

- May 8, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Code: 87A.TO6M

The Art of Calligraphy (12-Adult)

Mary Teichman says, "calligraphy is a great antidote to modern life." Explore the connection of Huntley's past residents to the beautiful art of writing. Try your hand at a variety of pens and brushes. Supplies included. \$12

- May 17, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Code: YTX.SXCM

The Women of Historic Huntley (16-Adult)

A society matron, an enslaved wife and mother, a farmer's daughter, a military wife. Historic Huntley has been home to some interesting women and has seen the lives of women change dramatically since the house was built in 1825. See Huntley from a refreshingly different view as we stroll the house and grounds. \$10

- April 24, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Code: F12.K4X

Join Friends of Historic Huntley today!

Support Historic Huntley by joining this group of history- and historic preservation-minded people. Members receive the newsletter, an invitation to a members-only event, and a 10% discount on FOHH merchandise. FOHH is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. With your volunteer efforts and financial support, we can make a difference.

Name _____ Tel _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Huntley Headlines and event notifications are emailed to members.

Current and past issues of the newsletter and event information can be found at www.historichuntley.org.

- \$15 Individual \$20 Family \$10 Student/Senior
 \$150 Lifetime Membership Additional donation _____
 New Member **Renewing Member** **Total enclosed** _____

I'm interested in volunteering in the following area(s):

HH (work with staff at HMP): Docent Greeter Special Events

FOHH: Fundraising Program Planning Public Relations Research

Send completed form with check payable to *Friends of Historic Huntley* to:

FOHH, P.O. Box 7241, Alexandria, VA 22307-0241

Questions? info@HistoricHuntley.org

Huntley Headlines is produced by Friends of Historic Huntley, a local citizens group formed to preserve Historic Huntley and related cultural resources through advocacy and education.

Board of Directors: Todi Carnes, President • Robbie McNeil, Vice President • Carolyn Gamble, Secretary • Jere Gibber, Treasurer • Erica Hershler, Publicity • Charlotte Brown • Peter Christensen • Charles O. Davis • Patty Young • Susan Escherich, Emeritus • Todi Carnes, HMHOA Representative • Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church Representative

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Please send your email or mailing address changes to info@HistoricHuntley.org or **FOHH, P.O. Box 7241, Alexandria, VA 22307-0241**.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

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