



Huntley Headlines

Friends of Historic Huntley

Spring 2022

Historic Huntley Plein Air Event

Saturday, April 30, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Free; co-sponsored by FOHH and FCPA
6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria
For more information, call 703.768.2525

We are happy to announce that the long-delayed **Plein Air Event** will finally take place. Join us to celebrate art and architecture at Historic Huntley as part of the **AIA Northern Virginia Chapter's Architecture Month**. From **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** activities include **observing artists at work "en plein air"** (painting outdoors) and **free house tours** of the site's neoclassical architecture and architectural mysteries.

There will be a **reception for the artists from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.** During the reception the works they painted that day will be available for public viewing and sale. The works will be judged by **Plein Air Landscape Artist Bethanne Kinsella Cople**. Bethanne teaches art classes at the Torpedo Factory Art Center and is a past president of the national non-profit American Women Artists. Her fine art landscapes may be seen at galleries in Carmel, CA; Atlanta, GA; Solomons Island, MD; and Stone Harbor, NJ.

Make the day especially refreshing by pre-registering for the **2:00 p.m. Ice Cream at Historic Huntley program** hosted by the **Fairfax County Park Authority** (\$10, see program listing on page 5). ❖

New FCPA Executive Director Jai Cole

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) has a new executive director, **Jai** (pronounced "Jay") **Cole**. Ms. Cole joined FOHH's first Board meeting of the year to introduce herself. She grew up in Reston and is an ecologist by training, with a focus on stream restoration. Before joining FCPA, she was the chief of the Park Planning and Stewardship Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Montgomery County, Maryland. Her portfolio included 117 standing historic structures. Telling the true history of a place is a priority for her. Race and income equity is also a focus. Executive Director Cole is grateful for park volunteers and looks forward to working with us to forge a future with increased FCPA resources. ❖



Above, FCPA Executive Director Jai Cole. Photo courtesy of FCPA. Below, Sheryl Sims, who presented examples of her art quilts at last year's FOHH members-only event, showcases her creation of Historic Huntley in fabric. It will be on display at this spring's Plein Air event.



President's Column

by Todi Carnes

When I first became FOHH's president in 2014, **Cathy Ledec** was already serving as **president of FOHH's sister organization, the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP)**. As we continued to serve in those respective roles, we have supported the ideal of **"one park"—Historic Huntley and Huntley Meadows Park**—and have reinforced one another where our organizations' interests were mutual.

FOHH has benefitted greatly from this relationship, given FOHMP's more robust financial and publicly visible position, as well as Cathy's own talents as a highly energetic and deeply dedicated advocate. Cathy led the hard-fought and victorious charge against Dominion Power's over-tall utility poles within Historic Huntley's viewshed and along Huntley Meadows Park's border. She also mounted a successful campaign to have a multi-use pathway removed from the Fairfax County Master Plan that was a potential threat to both Huntley Meadows Park's natural resources and cultural resources valued by FOHH.

Under her leadership, FOHMP established a \$2,000 annual contribution to FOHH and has frequently run FOHH-related photos and articles in its newsletters. When FOHH was able to fund only a portion of the \$5,000 cost for an Historic Huntley activity tent requested by Park staff, a Cathy-led FOHMP funded more than half the tent's cost.

I was sad to learn recently that the "joint tenure" Cathy and I have shared will soon end with her move later this year to Massachusetts. However, the legacy of the FOHMP-FOHH partnership she fostered and championed will long live on. As she put it, "I admit to getting goosebumps when I think of the impacts of this work on the future generations who will be able to enjoy the natural and historic resources many years from now (and long after we are gone) as a result of our work together." Thank you, Cathy, for all that you have done for FOHH! We hope your return visits to the area will include a stop by Historic Huntley to visit with your FOHH friends. ❖



Cathy Ledec. Photo courtesy Cathy Ledec.

Cultural Landscape Committee Tours Gunston Hall Terraces

Last November, FOHH's **Cultural Landscape Committee (CLC)**, along with Historic Huntley's site interpreter, Cheryl Repetti, donned hard hats to tour **Gunston Hall's terracing restoration project** under the guidance of the site's deputy director, Eric App. The project began in 2019 and was nearing completion.

Over time, Gunston's terraces had been modified from their original configuration. Based on archaeology, letters, and the expert opinion of historic landscape architects, Gunston has been working to reconstruct its terraces to their original forms. Gunston was the birthplace and family seat of Huntley's builder, Thomson

Francis Mason. It is believed that he may have oriented Historic Huntley to directly face Gunston Hall, with one terraced hillside facing the other.

By touring the site and meeting with Mr. App, FOHH's CLC members sought to glean information helpful to their efforts, in tandem with the Fairfax County Park Authority, to preserve and maintain Historic Huntley's terracing. Much of Huntley's original terracing remains in place, but is at risk of loss without immediate stabilization and consistently applied, tailored maintenance protocols. ❖

Tour Historic Huntley

Enjoy southern Fairfax County's most scenic outlook at **Historic Huntley, the small house with a big view**. 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 grounds are open from dawn to dusk from March through November**. Advanced reservations are required for **Saturday tours at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon from May 7 through October 29**. Purchase tickets at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley/hours-tour. 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 tour by appointment, call 703.768.2525. ❖



Cultural Landscape Committee Chair Carolyn Gamble captures images of Gunston Hall's reconstructed terraces.

Used Books and CDs for Sale

FOHH's sales of used books and CDs at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitors Center benefit Historic Huntley. Look for the latest offerings next to the **FOHMP apparel sale**. Launching with a fabulous donation of high-quality **birding books** from a long-time member, FOHH is now stocking select **nature titles**. Other subject matter includes **local, regional, and Virginia history and cookbooks; historic life ways; the Civil War; and historic American architecture**. CDs are mostly classical music, with occasional **historic recordings, historic site audio tours, and sounds of nature**. To donate books or CDs, contact Todi Carnes at todicarnes@verizon.net. ❖



Teas Resume at Historic Huntley!

After a two-year hiatus, teas will again be offered at Historic Huntley, beginning this spring. It is refreshing just to think about, and, of course, even more so to be sipping **Ms. Patty's** teas and relishing their tasty accompaniments.

Along with a variety of teas and tasty treats on white damask, porcelain, and silver, Ms. Patty shares her knowledge of tea and tea service. **Site Coordinator and Historical Interpreter Cheryl Repetti** provides guests with historical information linked to a theme underlying each tea (\$28, *see program listing on page 5 for the upcoming Mason Tea on May 9*). *Photo by Cheryl Repetti.* ❖

Advertisement from the March 21, 1865, Alexandria Gazette seeking a "GOOD GARDENER" for Huntley.

Huntley-Related Web Sites

www.historichuntley.org

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley

www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

WANTED, immediately, a GOOD GARDENER, at Huntley Farm, near Alexandria. Enquire of Mr. Lamb, on the farm, or at 235, King street, Alexandria. mh 21-3t*

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Upcoming FCPA Programs

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**.

Huntley Speaks Architectural Tour (16-Adult)

How does Historic Huntley's architecture connect to America's hard-won independence? Who designed it and for what purpose? Join a historical guide on a walking tour of this Federal-style villa and related outbuildings to discover how architecture from the past speaks to us today. \$10

- March 18, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Code: 093.H9Z8

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

- March 18, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Code: C5B.E6KU
- April 14, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Code: C5B.HVT2
- May 24, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Code: C5B.SCNO

Twilight Hilltop Tour (Adults)

Historic Huntley sits high upon a hill overlooking Hybla Valley and Huntley Meadows Park. It's a dramatic setting made all the more stunning by the setting sun. Join us after hours for a special tour and see the house in a different light. Light refreshments served afterward. Dress appropriately for the weather. \$10

- March 18, 6:45-7:45 p.m., Code: D3E.13X9
- May 27, 8:00-9:00 p.m., Code: D3E.CMV3

Epidemics of the Past (14-Adult)

Disease has always shaped our history. Enjoy a healthy stroll up to a lovely view while we uncover why the Masons built a summer home upon a hill and how epidemics of the past shaped the society we live in today. \$10

- March 20, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Code: ZGS.Z817
- May 6, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Code: ZGS.BK05

Secrets, Spies, Sputnik and Huntley (Adults)

Take a stroll with us on the less-visited side of the park to uncover the history of spies, espionage, and how the Cold War struggle between the United States and the USSR shaped Huntley and the Fairfax County we know today. Meets at South Kings Highway entrance and includes a 2.4-mile walk over flat terrain. \$12

- March 23, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Code: F8B.YLA5
- April 24, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Code: F8B.D1R9
- May 16, 12:00-2:00 p.m., Code: F8B.62PP

Enslaved Lives and the Legacy of Slavery (Adults)

Join a historian for a tour of Historic Huntley that examines the relationship of the Mason family to slavery. Gain insight into the lives of the Humphrey family and other enslaved people whose labor maintained Mason wealth and social status. \$10

- March 24, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Code: BF1.S649
- May 21, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Code: BF1.PNXX

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. \$12

- March 31, 2:00-3:30 p.m., Code: 4NZ.5X6L

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

- April 4, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Code: AN7.44D1
- May 7, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Code: AN7.KOHP

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

- April 23, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Code: YTX.R6WE
- May 18, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Code: YTX.CUS7

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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 Research

FOHH: Fundraising Program Planning Public Relations Special Events

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

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

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.

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Contact changes:

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

Upcoming FCPA Programs *Continued from page 4*

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 25, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Code: F12.ZFRH • May 28, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Code: F12.VNM6

Ice Cream at Historic Huntley (All ages)

Make and enjoy hand-cranked ice cream as Huntley's Harris family may have done. Discover how the histories of ice cream and Huntley follow a similar path from elite luxury to family fare. Ice well and Historic Huntley House tour included. \$10

- April 30, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Code: 633.QXO3

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. \$28

- May 9, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Code: 87A.ETUV ❖

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY

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

www.historichuntley.org
info@historichuntley.org • 703.768.6987