

MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES & CRAFTS

A TREASURY OF AMERICAN CREATIVITY AND INGENUITY

WINTER 2011-12

Madison, New Jersey

INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN

Who would have predicted a blizzard in October! The Museum's annual fall fundraiser, this year titled, *Investing in Our Children*, had to be postponed a week due to the surprise Halloween blizzard. Despite the staff having to quickly rework a couple of crucial details to reschedule, the event went off without a hitch. Our attendees enjoyed delicious foods catered by Divine Catering and wine and scotch from Gary's Wine & Market. Delightful music by singer Brynn Stanley and eye catching floral arrangements donated by J&M Home and Garden enchanted guests. In addition, we held our popular silent auction, which included some unique items this year.

The highlight of the evening was honoring Investors Bank for their continued support of the Museum's education programs. Investors Bank has been a major funder of the Museum's *Orange Initiative* program which allows hundreds of students from Orange and East Orange the opportunity to experience the Museum's unique educational programs.

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Throughout the night, and in the weeks that followed, we were told by event patrons that this was one of the best events we have held to date and they had a great time. Thank you to all the staff, trustees and volunteers who helped make that possible!

To see more scenes from the evening, visit us on Facebook.



METC Trustee, Aldona Skrypa & Omari Frazier of Investors Bank



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Marsha Ann Zimmerman & METC Trustees Dorothy Meaney and Judy Mullins



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METC Volunteer Diane Celler-Samiljan

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts

founded by Edgar & Agnes Land in 1969 with their original collection of over 3,000 artifacts.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts is to enhance the understanding and appreciation of America's past by presenting and interpreting the history, culture and lives of ordinary people through educational programs, through preservation and stewardship of our collection, and through exhibition and demonstration of the trades and crafts practiced in New Jersey from its earliest settlement.

METC gratefully acknowledge generous funding from:
1772 Foundation • Borough of Madison

The Charles L. Read Foundation • F.M. Kirby Foundation

The Fatzler Foundation • Hyde & Watson Foundation

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Investors Savings Bank Charitable Foundation • Madison Rotary

Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Morris County Historic Preservation Trust • Russell Investment Group

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

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Photos: Tom Judd & April Lyzak

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts

9 Main Street, Madison, New Jersey 07940

Phone: 973-377-2982 Fax: 973-377-7358

Email: info@metc.org Web: www.metc.org

Hours: Tues.-Sat: 10am-4pm & Sun: Noon-5pm

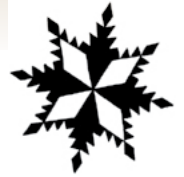
(Summer Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10am-4pm)

Admission: Adults: \$5.00

Students, Seniors & Children: \$3.00

Family Rate: \$13.00

Members: FREE



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Within the past six months, the Museum has withstood an earthquake, a hurricane which flooded our lower level, and a blizzard that left us without power for three days and forced us to postpone our annual fundraiser. We have certainly seen a lot in 2011 and are getting ready for whatever may come in 2012.

We are so appreciative of all those who have been there with support and generosity over the past year and thank them for making the Museum an important entity in their lives. We hope that in 2012 all our friends, members and supporters can continue to be so wonderfully thoughtful towards the Museum. Please note our Annual Appeal form on page 7 and the ShopforMuseums.com program seen on page 3. These are both easy ways to help support the Museum. Every little bit helps!

We are excited to be currently in the process of enhancing the Museum's beautiful architectural features (see page 4) and great exhibits and would like to especially thank Andrew Boles, Paul Niece and Chatham Disposal for their help.

I would also like to thank all those who supported our fundraiser. It was a big success this year. As you read on the previous page, we were told by numerous attendees, that this was one of our best events yet! The Museum is so fortunate to have a great team of dedicated staff, trustees and volunteers who are always willing to work long, hard hours to make this event seem effortless. There is so much planning, preparation and behind-the-scenes running about that goes into making the fundraiser happen. Thank you to everyone involved! It wouldn't have been possible without your help.

We look forward to another successful and active year ahead. Please continue to visit our website www.metc.org for up-to-date information on exhibits, events, activities and education programs.

May 2012 be a happy and healthy year for all our friends. And again, we thank you for your continued support of METC!

Sincerely,

Vivian C. R. James

Jefferson W. Kirby Executive Director



SHOP FOR MUSEUMS



The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts is pleased to be a long time Museum Partner with ShopforMuseums.com. As a Museum Partner, anyone shopping online with their favorite national retailers can have a portion of their purchase directed to Museum of Early Trades & Crafts at **NO ADDITIONAL COST**. ShopforMuseums.com is nationally recognized with hundreds of Museum Partners across the country. Whether you are in the market for books, office supplies, apparel, gifts, travel reservations, home improvement, school supplies, toys, electronics, flowers or gourmet food...You name it, the place to start is at ShopforMuseums.com!

PARTICIPATION IS SIMPLE AND SECURE. TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF YOUR NEXT ONLINE PURCHASE TO MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES & CRAFTS, SIMPLY:

- Go to www.ShopforMuseums.com.
- Log in.
- Click on Museum of Early Trades & Crafts.
- Then just click on the link of the store you want to visit and go about your shopping. Stores are organized by categories and some offer special discounts.

The percentage of your purchase will be tracked automatically as long as you begin each time at www.ShopforMuseums.com.

Please use ShopforMuseums.com each time you shop online and spread the word to friends and family. The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts truly appreciates your support!

PARTICIPATING STORES INCLUDE:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
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| • FedEx Office | • Vistaprint | • GameStop |
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| • Starbucks | • CompUSA | • Conde Nast |
| • Lowes | • Restaurant.com | • USA TODAY |
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| • CityPass | • Sears Home Improvements | • The Teaching Company |
| • Avon | • Omaha Steaks | • Old Time Candy |
| • Target | • iGourmet | • AND MANY, MANY MORE! |
| • Staples Copy & Print | • Overstock.com | |

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

(A Tale of Two Towns)

While on a recent cleaning spree at the Museum, Curator of Education Meg Wastie discovered a box full of large puzzle pieces. They were made of wood, one-inch thick, and painted with a map design. Assuming it was a floor puzzle map of Madison, Meg put Drew University intern Samantha Edwards to work constructing the puzzle.

The staff looked over the finished puzzle and realized that the streets and areas depicted were nowhere near Madison. "Ellison Street," "Boudinot Street," and "Hamburg Turnpike" were clues leading to Passaic County, specifically the city of Paterson. Meg contacted Ed Smyk, Passaic County Historian, who put her in touch with Bruce Balistrieri, Paterson Museum Curator.



Bruce and Ed (pictured left with METC Director Vivian James and Meg Wastie) drove down to visit the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts and see the puzzle for themselves. They confirmed that it indeed depicted a section of Paterson, thus providing a final solution for this particular puzzle!

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts happily donated the puzzle to the Paterson Museum, where it will have a good "new home" and be viewed by that Museum's visitors, many of whom will recognize the streets on which they grew up, lived, worked and played. We look forward to additional collaborations with our new friends in the Passaic County museum field.

-Meg Wastie, Curator of Education



PRESERVING OUR HOME

Over the past few years, salt deposits caused by water from outside the building, have been seeping through the walls and lower level floor of the Museum's home the James Library Building. This is a problem because it is deteriorating the ornate hand-painted walls, causing flooding in the lower level and creating other damaging elements to the 1900 building.

In November, the preservation team Historic Building Architects from Trenton, began their study of the building in search of a way to prevent the seepage. Historic Building Architects, LLC (HBA), was founded in 1994 and specializes in architecture, historic preservation and materials conservation. They have worked with other historic sites in the area including Historic Speedwell and Craftsman Farms.

Funded by a grant the Museum received from Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund, HBA has made a number of visits to the site, using special tools, such as a thermal infrared camera, to try and solve the mystery of why water is coming in. They are studying the building's history, foundation and construction. The team is giving the building a physical exam inside and out. One of the procedures they most recently conducted was cutting rectangular holes in the lower level floor and wall and inserting moisture sensors in them to track the amount of moisture coming in.

Once HBA's research is complete, the Museum will receive a detailed report from the firm. From those findings the Museum will then be able to start addressing some of the problems discovered in an on-going effort to preserve the beautiful James Library.

Special thanks to John Solu, Stacy Russo, Ariela Venezia-Zahemski, Carmen Toto, Jr., and Tom Judd for their help with this project.

WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

CARTOONIST THOMAS NAST & HIS INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN HISTORY

Saturday, January 7th 2 PM

Meet Ryan Hyman, the *F.M. Kirby Curator of Collections* at Macculloch Hall Historical Museum and learn about how cartoonist Thomas Nast's illustrations influenced iconic American symbols that we know and love today. Space is limited. Pre-registration recommended; call x14. Regular Admission.

HARP ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Sunday, January 8th 2 PM

Join musician Odarka Stockert as she gathers several of her fellow harpists in one unbelievable afternoon of music. Space is limited. Pre-registration recommended; call x14. \$10 for Non-Members & \$5 for Members.

smART stART

Monday, January 9th & 23rd

1 PM - 3 PM

Children and their parents are invited to drop in and participate in creative, hands-on projects and story time. For ages 3-5. Pre-registration required; call x12 or email schools@metc.org. Admission is \$3/person.

DRAGON TALES PAJAMA PARTY

Saturday, January 14th 1 - 3 PM

Come in your PJs, make some dragon crafts and meet dragon puppet "Hermione..." as she recites some of her favorite dragon stories. Appropriate for children 2-6 years old. Pre-registered; call x12. \$3/participant & Regular Admission for all others.

COLONIAL COOKING CONTEST

Saturday, January 28th

10 AM - 5 PM

Research a historic recipe, cook it and enter it in the Museum's annual Colonial Cooking Contest. Dishes will be judged and awards will be granted. Children's (12 and under) & Family division will take place at 10am. The adult division will take place at 2pm.

Space is limited. Pre-registration required by Wednesday, January 25th; call x14. \$5 registration fee (*includes Museum admission*) and Regular Admission for all others.

FEBRUARY

PRE-GROUNDHOG DAY

Wednesday, February 1st

4 PM - 5 PM

Pop-up to the Museum to celebrate Groundhog Day with an afternoon of ground hog-themed activities. Appropriate for children 2-6 years old. Pre-registration recommended; call x12. \$3/participants and Regular Admission for all others.

FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday, February 11th

1 PM - 3 PM

Join us at the Museum for lots of family fun and a craft activity. Pre-registered; call x12. Regular Admission.

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Monday, February 13th & 27th

1 PM - 3 PM

Children and their parents are invited to drop in and participate in creative, hands-on projects and story time. For ages 3-5. Pre-registration required; call x12 or email schools@metc.org. Admission is \$3/person

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WIDGET!

Tuesday, February 28th

4 PM - 5 PM

Celebrate our mascot Widget the Beaver's birthday. Join us for an afternoon of beaver activities and birthday goodies. Appropriate for children 2-6 years old. Pre-registration recommended; call x12. \$3/participant and Regular Admission for all others.

MARCH

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Monday, March 12th & 26th

1 PM - 3 PM

Children and their parents are invited

to drop in and participate in creative, hands-on projects and story time. For ages 3-5. Pre-registration required; call x12 or email schools@metc.org. Admission is \$3/person

LUCKY LEPRECHAUN DAY!

Friday, March 16th 3 PM - 4PM

Everyone's Irish for the Day at the Museum. Learn about Irish history, join in various crafts and activities and enjoy some yummy refreshments. Appropriate for ages 5-10 years old. Advance registration recommended; call x12. \$3/participant & Regular Admission for all others.

PYSANKY WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 24th

10 AM - 1 PM & 2 - 5 PM

Learn the ancient art of Ukrainian egg decorating called Pysanky. Participants will get a hands-on experience using the unique techniques needed to create these colorful masterpieces. AM session and PM session are open to ages 8 and up. \$15 for Members & \$20 for non-members (*includes all supplies*). Space is limited. Pre-registration is required; call x14.

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

Saturday, March 31st 4 - 5 PM -

Sunday, April 1st Regular Hours

Bring your favorite stuffed animal or doll for a sleepover on March 31st. Together, enjoy a snack and story time and then tuck your toy in to spend the night at the Museum. Come back April 1st during regular hours to pick them up, make a craft and find out what mischief they got into! Appropriate for children 2-6 years old. Pre-registration recommended; call x12. \$3 admission/participant & Regular Admission for all others (*includes both day's activities*).

**Don't forget to visit us on
Facebook**

facebook

For more information on these or any other Museum programs, call 973-377-2982 & the extension listed or visit our website, www.metc.org.

ONE GOOD INTERN DESERVES ANOTHER!

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts is fortunate to have an ongoing relationship with Drew University's Academic Internship Program, coordinated by Flore Dorceley. Each semester, students from Drew apply for paid internships through the University's Federal Community Service Program. This year we have three interns working with us.

Samantha Edwards, a sophomore from Milford, Connecticut, is majoring in Business Studies. Samantha helps the Museum with all aspects of school and scout education—materials preparation, lesson set-up and take-down, planning and teaching. She also helped to make our Fall fundraiser *Investing in Our Children* the success it was through all her work on preparing gift baskets for the silent auction. In Samantha's words, "I love my internship at the museum because there is no set job that I am designated to do. I have done everything from answering phones, to organizing and

cleaning spaces, to helping to tweak the exhibit, to presenting a craft to children, and even decorating the museum for the fundraiser and the holidays. Through these different tasks I have been forced to think on my feet and make decisions on my own, something I don't think many people in internship positions have the opportunity to experience. The people that work at the museum are such genuine, warm, wonderful people that I have been so grateful to get to know. They make me feel so invited and that I truly am an important part of the museum."

Alyssa Dezic, from Hillsborough, New Jersey, will be graduating from Drew this May, completing her B.A. in History, with a minor in Anthropology and American Studies. She helped research and mount our current exhibit *Whimsies: Ken Olsen & the Folk Art Tradition*. Alyssa is part of our on-going Ralston-Nesbitt Papers Project, scanning the many records from the original Ralston General Store into

Continued on page 8.

POETRY EXCURSIONS: A POETIC JOURNEY BY THE CRAIG SCHOOL



The poets and their advisors

This fall, thirteen sophomores from The Craig School in Lincoln Park were able to visit the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts for a Visiting Poets Program, expanding their classroom experience to learn that intellectual pursuit and inspiration come from everywhere. The Craig School is an independent school that specializes in working with students with learning disabilities.

These students visited the Museum to be inspired by the architecture, the exhibits and individual artifacts. They hand-made their own Idea Journals and wandered the Museum, sketching, photographing, writing ideas, and drafting poems.

Assisted by their teachers back at school, they studied the nuances of poetry, learned about figurative language and poetic technique, and polished their rough drafts into literary gems. The students' poems were then framed and

displayed *in situ* near the objects that inspired them all around the Museum.

The Visiting Poem Program is an on-going grant-funded program that reaches out to students with developmental disabilities and offers them unique learning experiences.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the New York Tri State Area, Provident Bank & the Junior League of Summit, for funding this program; thank you to the Craig School for their forward-thinking staff; and thank you to the METC staff for allowing this program to evolve and for helping to make this exhibit and reception come to fruition.

But most of all, thank you to these inspired poets who have looked at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts in new and different ways and have shared their creativity with us!



Some of the student poets next to their inspirations

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Lorraine Abell
 Tom Blanck & Maggie Land Blanck
 Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin M. Cahill
 Sarah Z. Chapman
 Lori Cox
 The Deffenbaughs
 Jeanne R. Eisele
 Katie & Doug Harter

Henry & Claire Joostema
 Zigmund C. Kaminski
 Iris Keim
 Denville Public Library
 The Joseph Mc Laughlin Family
 Tyler C. Messon
 Michael & Margaret Nicolais
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(Memberships/donations received after December 16th are not included on these lists)

ANNUAL FUND

Please Support the Museum's Annual Appeal.

Your donation helps the continuation of our on-going, high-quality public and education programs.

- Associate \$50-99
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- I am interested in including the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts in my/our will or estate plan.
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ONE GOOD INTERN DESERVES ANOTHER! ...continued



Interns Samantha Edwards and Alyssa Dezic preparing supplies.

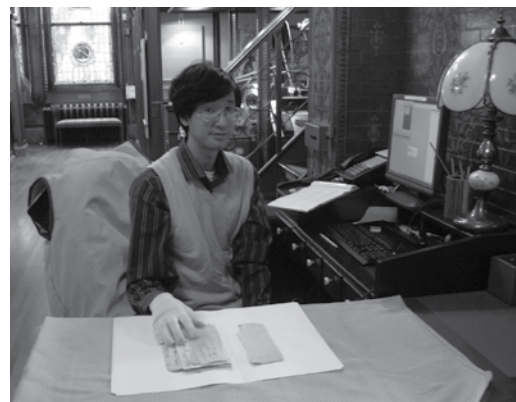
our computer system in preparation for a web-research project. She also works with all of our education programs. *“I have learned an extraordinary amount from working at the Museum: everything from how to handle and preserve documents to the fact that one is never too old to celebrate National Teddy Bear Day with a picnic! It is truly an experience that I treasure.”*

Peter Lee (seen right), from Simi Valley, California, is a graduate student in Drew’s History and Culture PhD program, having earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees in History from California State University, Northridge. In addition to helping with exhibits and artifacts evaluation, Peter has also been a diligent member of the Ralston-Nesbitt Papers Project team, and can often be seen at our main reception desk, handling and interpreting original documents. Peter feels strongly about Museum research: *“Historians often work in a vacuum, and conducting research is generally a solitary experience. At METC, I’ve had the opportunity to engage the public and interact with patrons of all ages as they understand and utilize the tools and craftsmanship of early America. As I read about American life in two hundred year-old documents, I can easily see their livelihoods reflected in the faces of the museum’s visitors and staff, without whom this facet of the American experience would slip into the chasm of time. As a result, my own enthusiasm for history skyrockets!”*

All three interns have also been invaluable assistants helping us with “The Big Dig”—our much-needed site clean-up and reorganization. They have worked tirelessly with the Museum staff to clear out areas of the Museum and file and organize materials and artifacts.

“Working with the Drew students is a win-win situation for all

involved,” commented Curator of Education Meg Wastie. *“The interns take part in meaningful work-related experiences and the Museum receives invaluable assistance from the brightest and best students around. We wish them luck in their studies and look forward to continuing our work with them during the spring semester.”*



-Meg Wastie, Curator of Education

