



Colonial Williamsburg News

INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS
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Colonial Williamsburg photo

The Log Cabin quilt top made of silks and cottons is attributed to Anna Jane Parker of St. Louis, Mo.

A century of African-American quilts to be celebrated in exhibition

The lively tradition of quilting in America following the abolition of slavery (from the 1870s to approximately 1990) will be revealed in a new exhibition, "A Century of African-American Quilts," at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum. Freedom from convention sets these examples apart from ordinary, more common place, appliqué and piecing techniques. The exhibition features 12 quilts, six never before exhibited. This show is part of a larger program of activities and special events organized by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in celebration of Black History Month in 2016. The exhibition opens Jan. 30 and remains on view through Jan. 2, 2018.

"The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is known for its outstanding collection of British and American quilts, but our growing assemblage of African-American quilts has received relatively little exposure," said **Ronald L. Hurst**, the Foundation's vice president for collections, conservation and museums and its Carlisle H. Humelsine Chief Curator. "It seems particularly appropriate to share a substantial number of these striking objects in a single showing as we celebrate the historical and cultural contributions of black Americans."

Depending on the location of the quilter, the purpose for which the quilt was made and the quilter's personal artistic vision, these African-American-made covers varied widely during the time period explored in "A Century of African-American Quilts." Some of the women who made the pieces adapted or were inspired by their Anglo-American neighbors. Others appear to have been guided by their own artistic vision, informed and influenced by their African heritage. An especially unique regional group from the 20th century represented in the exhibition is those quilts from the Gee's Bend, Ala., vicinity. These quilts are renowned for their innovative use of color, pattern, asymmetry and the free adaptation of traditional quilt designs.

Linda Baumgarten, curator of textiles and costumes at Colonial Williamsburg, says, "The stunning bedcovers showcase the lively tradition of African-American quilting in the century-and-a-quarter following the abolition of slavery in America. Many of the quilters worked with a freedom from convention that sets their work apart. The

See African-American quilts, page 4

Thank you!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, I want to thank the employees, volunteers, donors, City officials and members of the community for an outstanding year for Colonial Williamsburg.

This past year we have made significant changes – all in an effort to engage new audiences and instill a lifelong love of this place and its role in our American story. It is only with your support that Colonial Williamsburg can continue to preserve, restore and share the precious assets in our stewardship and educate new generations about the role of Williamsburg in the founding of our great nation and the responsibility of our fellow citizens to preserve it.

The major accomplishments of 2015 include:

- Completed the Market House
- Restored Robertson's windmill at Great Hopes Plantation
- Elegantly illuminated six iconic buildings in the Historic Area
- Renovated Raleigh Tavern Bakery to accommodate onsite baking of our popular ginger cakes
- Introduced a new Colonial Wil-

liamsburg mascot, Liberty the Dog

- Created an archaeological dig for children
- Renovated Chowning's Tavern as an Ale House
- Increased retail sales, hospitality revenues and museum attendance
- Opened Liberty's Ice Pavilion, presented by Dominion Resources
- Introduced a monthly bonus program for employees – with the bonus earned every month since inception
- Created a Transformation Office to institutionalize innovation
- Achieved best summer visitation since 2008
- Introduced Trend & Tradition magazine
- Introduced more than 2,300 new products
- Piloted new signage and way finding in the Historic Area
- First-ever fun- and scare-filled Halloween programming, with free trick-or-treating
- Developed "Escape the King" evening program
- Increased online giving by 10 percent

- Won an Emmy Award for educational programming
- Installed WiFi connectivity throughout the Historic Area

We could not have attained this success without you. 2016 promises to bring even more new experiences for our guests, including the unveiling of a comprehensive new website, a new ticketing system, introduction of a colonial musket range and a remarkable partnership with First Baptist Church for Black History Month. We hope you will visit often and experience Colonial Williamsburg for yourselves.

Thomas F. Farrell II
Chairman of the Board

Catharine O'Neill Broderick, Mark A. Coblitz, Richard M. Donnelly, Antonia Hernandez, Jo Ann Jenkins, Anthony M. Kennedy, Mark J. Kington, John A. Luke Jr., Forrest E. Mars Jr., Judith A. McHale, Leslie A. Miller, Steven L. Miller, Cynthia H. Milligan, Louis W. Mollenberg Jr., Thurston R. Moore, Thomas K. Norment Jr., Joseph Christopher Simmons, Sheldon M. Stone, Y. Ping Sun, Henry C. Wolf, Anthony C. Zinni.

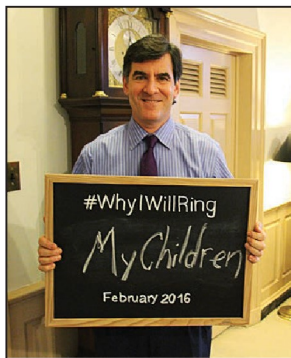
Founded in 1776, a historic African-American church challenges the nation to ring a long-stilled bell

In 1776, the year of America's independence, a group of enslaved men and women secretly founded the First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Virginia. The church, which celebrates its 240th anniversary in 2016, is today one of the country's oldest African-American houses of Baptist worship, and a symbol of the faith, struggle, and perseverance that marks the black experience in America. The First Baptist Church — whose first members met under thatched arbors in the woods — moved to a brick church building before the Civil War and acquired a bell in the late 19th century. Since the days of segregation the bell has been inoperable...unheard throughout the tumult and progress of the civil rights movement and in the presence of famed worshippers including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which had a key role in building the church at the current site, has pledged to restore the bell to working condition and to challenge the nation to ring it throughout the day — every day — for Black History Month in February 2016.

"Bells call people to faith. They send folks forth to do good work in the world," said Reginald F. Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church. "But Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who prayed in our church, also said that freedom rings. A silent bell represents unfinished work of freedom and equality. This bell, in this sacred and historic church, will be silent no more."

An engineering and conservation team led by Colonial Williamsburg experts determined the age, foundry and provenance of the bell, and has completed the painstaking process of restoring it in time for it to toll throughout Black History Month.

"We are going to challenge the nation,



Colonial Williamsburg photo
Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell B. Reiss wrote on the chalkboard why he would ring the bell.

Americans of every color, faith, and creed, to take a turn at ringing the bell," said **Mitchell B. Reiss**, president and CEO of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. "This church and this bell follow the arc of the American story of independence, but this was a dream deferred for far too many. As a nation we constantly strive to form a more perfect union, based on liberty, rule of law and human dignity, and as current events remind us, that work is forever unfinished."

Black History Month also will be honored by Colonial Williamsburg, the First Baptist Church, and The College of William & Mary with an unprecedented range of special programs offered daily during the month of February. This will include a new exhibition at the Abby Aldrich Rockefel-

er Folk Art Museum, "A Century of African-American Quilts"; daily lectures and live theater throughout the Historic Area; concerts, film festivals, oral histories; and gospel music and church services at the First Baptist Church. One of Colonial Williamsburg's Nation Builders — **James Ingram** — portrays the first pastor of First Baptist Church, the enslaved preacher, Rev. Gowan Pamphlet.

"Colonial Williamsburg is in the story-telling business," said Ingram. "We tell the story of America, including our arduous journeys through prejudice and injustice. We want people to come and take their turn to ring the bell, to take their place in the American story, and to help heal the nation of the divides that remain among us."

Colonial Williamsburg's conservation efforts at First Baptist Church go beyond those for the bell itself. In addition, Colonial Williamsburg's team has cleaned and conserved several historic communion vessels owned by the church, as well as two marble carved gravestones from 1851 and 1866 that marked the graves of two free blacks buried in Williamsburg.

"Colonial Williamsburg is pleased to bring its conservation expertise to bear on the preservation of these important artifacts, which help to illustrate the deep and rich history of Williamsburg's African-American community," said **Ronald L. Hurst**, Colonial Williamsburg's vice president for collections, conservation, and museums and its Carlisle H. Humelsine chief curator.

The Let Freedom Ring challenge is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Ford Foundation of New York.

For more information, or to reserve your spot to ring the bell please visit LetFreedomRingChallenge.org.



From the Desk of the President

CW introduces new initiative: Wellness Revolution

Dear Colleagues:

We all know that our health is the most important asset we have. But despite our best intentions, we don't always do what we should to maintain—or improve—our health.

In 2016, we are looking to change this trend by partnering with Viverae on our NEW Wellness Revolution program. Viverae is a best-in-class provider of health management services that will help us by providing exciting challenges and the latest health and wellness content.

Please note that this year's program offers you new ways to improve or maintain your health. In addition, the Wellness Revolution program will help us control our company's health insurance costs, including premiums paid by health plan participants, so we can continue to offer a quality health benefits program.



Our daily lives are filled with constant messages about healthy eating, weight management and physical activity. We all know what we should be doing. The goal of the Wellness Revolution program is not to preach the same message, but to provide the

tools and resources necessary for each of us to succeed. We also hope to mix in some fun competition, starting in early 2016.

For access to program information, updates, wellness challenges, webinars and other resources, be sure to sign in to our new Wellness Revolution web portal via www.MyViverae.com. Registering on the site is easy. When you sign in, you will be automatically connected to our Colonial Williamsburg Wellness Revolution site.

Reducing health risks and improving quality of life requires a serious commitment from all of us. We strongly encourage you to participate in the Wellness Revolution. With your support, we can live better and longer.

Best,

Mitchell B. Reiss

MyViverae log in

To log in:

- Visit www.MyViverae.com
- Click New User Registration
- Enter your identifier:
 - Employee: Employee ID (5 digits-numeric)
 - Spouse: SP-Employee's Employee ID
 - Domestic Partners: P-Employee's Employee ID
- Enter the registration code: colonialwilliamsburg

You will then create a username, password and select a security question and answer, then click Save.

For more information, contact Sara Waterman at 220-7006.

Employee Incentive program continues in 2016

Dear Colleagues:

What a year we had in 2015! It was an exciting time of change, collaboration and revenue growth! Congratulations on a strong finish to 2015. I am delighted to announce that due to your efforts and hard work, we once again exceeded net revenue in December 2015 compared with December 2014.

I am very pleased that each eligible employee will receive a \$50 bonus, which will appear in your second paycheck in January.

In 2016, we will pause the employee incentive program for the month of January and reintroduce a modified program in February with targets for year-over-year improvements. Look for more information in the CW News, on bulletin boards and from your supervisor.

All best wishes for a successful 2016.

Mitchell B. Reiss

CW launches new quarterly magazine, Trend & Tradition

A new quarterly publication, Trend & Tradition: The Magazine of Colonial Williamsburg, shines new light on the enduring cultural, intellectual and political relevance of America's birthplace by showcasing the links between its storied history and 21st-century life.

Alongside vivid features that explore colonial-era America through the lens of historical research, collections, interpretation and tradecraft, Trend & Tradition highlights the full range of Foundation offerings—from the work of its award-winning chefs and gardeners to its first-ever ice skating rink. Regular departments such as "It Started Here" and "Past Forward" examine the evolution and 18th-century roots of modern issues, debates and cultural phenomena. As well, a retail section revives elements of Colonial Williamsburg's much-missed catalog of products.

"There is a new energy in the air at Colonial Williamsburg as we pursue initiatives that are inspiring more people of all ages and backgrounds," said Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell B. Reiss. "Trend & Tradition elegantly blends historical

substance and contemporary appeal to fully capture both the relevance and fun of what we offer. I'm certain it will excite our many loyal fans as well as attract new ones."

Colonial Williamsburg's first new magazine in more than three decades, Trend & Tradition succeeds Colonial Williamsburg: The Journal of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, published quarterly from 1984 through 2015. Trend & Tradition will be delivered to more than 100,000 Foundation donors. It will also be available for purchase at Colonial Williamsburg retail locations and at selected newsstand locations.

The new magazine's editorial board solicited suggested names for the magazine from Foundation employees. Trend & Tradition was conceived by Mary Ann Goode of the Foundation's archives and records department.

An online version of the magazine highlights several stories from each issue, offering additional images, and occasionally audio and video clips. The edition is mailed to individuals and organizations who donate \$35 or more a year to the charitable, tax-exempt, and publicly supported Colonial Williamsburg Fund.

Healthcare reporting for your 2015 tax filing

As part of the new reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Colonial Williamsburg must report healthcare-related information to the IRS as well as to each employee who was eligible for healthcare coverage during the previous year. Each year going forward, you will receive a 1095-C Form. In 2016 only, the IRS has allowed for an extension for employers to distribute the 1095-C form to each eligible employee by March 31, 2016. For future years, it is expected that the timing of the delivery of the 1095-C form will be similar to the W-2, which is required to be sent to you by Jan. 31. Colonial Williamsburg is making every effort to ensure the Form 1095-C is sent to each eligible employee as soon as possible.

- **Why should this be important to you?** This form, along with the W-2, will help you file your taxes. To avoid a tax penalty, you will need to provide information on your return regarding your healthcare coverage and if it met the minimum essential requirements.

All of Colonial Williamsburg health plans meet the minimum essential requirements.

- **What if I don't have the 1095-C form by the time I'm ready to file my taxes for 2015?** If you do not have your form 1095-C before you file your taxes for 2015, the IRS has advised that for 2015 filing only, you do not need to amend your return once you receive your form 1095-C or any corrected form 1095-C.
- **What do you do now?** Once you receive your W-2, if you haven't received the 1095-C form yet, you can still move forward and file your taxes for 2015. If you have the 1095-C form before filing your taxes, be sure to use the information from both the W-2 and 1095-C on your return. Either way, plan to keep the 1095-C form in a safe place with your other tax related documents. *Have more questions? Contact Sara Waterman at swaterman@cwf.org or 220-7006.*

2015 holiday decorations winners named in pro, amateur categories

Residents in Colonial Williamsburg's Revolutionary City homes received awards for the best holiday decorations.

Awards were given in professional and amateur categories. Professional entries were a collaboration between the resident and a Colonial Williamsburg landscape staff person or florist professional. Amateur entries were fashioned by the residents themselves.

The 2015 award winners in the professional category were Kay Wilkinson, Tayloe House, and Cathy Howard, Unicorn's Horn. The 2015 winners in the amateur category were: Debra Lees, Greenhow Tenement Kitchen; Nancy Milton, George Reid House; Ted Horan, Sign of the Rhinoceros; and Jenny Lynn, Benjamin Waller Kitchen.

More than 100 sites in Rev City are decorated for the holidays during a period of five to seven weeks, beginning the week of Thanksgiving. Dried materials used in creating holiday decorations are ordered in early September and are combined with locally harvested fresh materials for the designs. All natural plant materials are used throughout Colonial Williamsburg's residences, offices, stores, taverns and trade shops using a generous supply of pine, boxwood, Frazier fir, holly, magnolia leaves, dried flowers, and assorted fruits and berries.



Photo by Lael White

Al Morris was one of the carpenters and landscape employees who put up holiday decorations in November and December 2015.

CW Career Opportunities

Join your colleagues who are taking advantage of the Employee Referral Award Program. Spread the news to your family, friends and neighbors. We have exciting job opportunities such as:

- American Indian Interpreter (2 openings)
- Arborist Groundskeeper
- Interpreter (15 openings for Sites and Orientation areas)
- Maintenance Service Worker-Hotels & Restaurants (2 openings)
- Server-King's Arms Tavern (4 openings)
- Shields Tavern Associates (over 30 openings)

Please encourage them to apply now at www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/careers



Historic Area, Art Museums programs explore stories of people, culture

Colonial Williamsburg highlights programs daily during Black History Month in February.

Programs in The Revolutionary City include:

- God Save the King, noon, 12:30 and 1 p.m., Mondays, Feb. 1 – 29, Gaol. Guests encounter enslaved men Joe and Dick, reunited after running away. Space is limited. Admission ticket required.
- The Examination of Joe and Dick, 2:30, 3:15 and 4 p.m., Mondays, Feb. 1 – 29, Courthouse. What will be the fate of Joe and Dick, who have been called before the Williamsburg Committee of Safety after they were caught attempting to run away to join the British Army? Admission ticket required.
- Through Their Eyes: The Palace Tour, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 2 – 23 and Thursdays, Feb. 4 – 25, Governor's Palace. Lord Dunmore has just fled the Capitol in fear of his life and left all his belongings, including his enslaved and free servants. What could they do? Admission ticket is required.
- His Chosen Master, 2 p.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 2 – 23, Raleigh Tavern. When Bristol's master died, all of his slaves were given the option of choosing their new masters. Admission ticket is required.
- Freedom's Paradox: The Randolph House Tour, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2 - 27, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Guests take a tour of the Randolph House and discover how the free and enslaved members of the household struggle with their own conflicting desires for freedom. Admission ticket is required.
- Lessons with Ann Wager, 1 p.m., Raleigh Tavern, Fridays, Feb. 5 – 26. In Williamsburg, Ann Wager conducted the Bray School for African-American children in the community. Admission ticket required.
- Slavery and the Law: Capitol Tour, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Saturdays, Feb. 6 – 27. Guests discover how enslaved African-Americans fought to obtain their freedom by petitioning the Virginia courts and legislature. Admission ticket required.

Programs at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg include:

- A Mother's Difficult Choice: Hope, Fears and a Good Trade, 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 2 and 16, Hennage Auditorium. It's 1789. The war is over, and the constitution has been ratified. Miriam and Betsy consider what the future holds. Admission ticket is required.
- Secret Keepers: Literacy, Slavery and the Law, 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays, Feb. 3 – 24, Hennage Auditorium. Guests explore how a secret network of free blacks and slaves used the houses and properties in Williamsburg to hide runaway fugitives. Admission ticket required.
- A Gathering of Hair, 3:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Feb. 3 – 24, Hennage Auditorium. As three African-American women prepare to attend a gathering, guests discover how they manage love, work, beauty, friendship and, of course, hair. Admission ticket is required.
- African-American Artists, 2:45 p.m., Thursdays, Feb. 4 – 25. On this guided tour of 18th- through 20th-century folk art and decorative arts, guests explore the accomplishments of African-American artists or art that depicts African-Americans. Admission ticket is required.
- What is a Family? 3:30 p.m., Thursdays, Feb. 4 and 18, Hennage Auditorium. Guests discover the ties that bind

us together in this moving program by **Valerie Holmes**, as she explores the situation of Ann Ashby, who with her children escape the bonds of slavery through the efforts of her free black husband, uniting their family in freedom. Admission is required.

- A Century of African-American Quilts, 10:30 a.m., Fridays, Feb. 5 – 26. Guests discover the talent and explore the accomplishments of African-American artists and artisans from the 18th to 20th centuries. Admission is required.
- The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against Thee, 3:30 p.m., Fridays, Feb. 5 – 26, Hennage Auditorium. Founded by enslaved men and women in 1776, First Baptist Church has a rich and varied history. Guests journey through the history of First Baptist Church and meet many of the important men and women who helped the church flourish through the centuries. Admission required.
- Finding Mammy Sarah, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 6, Hennage Auditorium. **Ywone Edwards-Ingram** discusses the search to find information about Mammy Sarah, a servant of the Semple family. As the only known memorial in the Bruton Parish churchyard honoring an African-American, the monument conceals far more than it reveals about past relationships and causes of remembrance. Free reservation required.
- The Spirit of Liberty, 12:30 p.m., Mondays, Feb. 8, 15, 22 and 29, Hennage Auditorium. Former enslaved preacher **Gowan Pamphlet (James Ingram)** recalls the promises of the Declaration of Independence along with events of 1776 and their impact on the enslaved community. Admission ticket required.
- Banjo on My Knee, 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 9 and 23, Hennage Auditorium. Historian Carson Hudson takes a light-hearted look at the banjo and American history, tracing the instrument's roots back to Africa and following the instrument's evolution into what we are familiar with today. Admission ticket required.
- To Be Seen as an American, 3:30 p.m., Thursdays, Feb. 11 and 25, Hennage Auditorium. Guests meet three black women who didn't accept society's limits on what they could accomplish. Lydia rose from slave to entrepreneur; after the Civil War Katie Marie was educated but lacked resources; Clara Byrd Baker fought for equal rights in the 20th century. Admission ticket required.
- Faith, Hope and Love, 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 13, Hennage Auditorium. Guests meet Johnny and Dolly, two enslaved people, who—though very much in love—are forbidden by law to marry. Admission ticket required.
- Cowardice or Pragmatism: President George Washington Confronts Slavery on a Journey to the New Nation, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 13, Hennage Auditorium. T. H. Breen lectures on his book, "George Washington's Journey." During the first years of his presidency, George Washington organized a bold and difficult journey to all 13 original states. His goal was to strengthen the union, which he feared was extremely fragile. But as he was traveling through the South, he discovered that one of his slaves, Hercules, who he had left in the nation's capital might be scheming to obtain freedom. The clash between the President and the slave forced Washington to do what he vowed never to do—to tell a lie.
- We Look Back and Sing: An Evening with Willie Mae Jordan, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 20, Hennage Auditorium. Willie Mae Jordan, mezzo-soprano and author of the children's book, "We Look Back and Sing: A History of the Spirituals," takes the entire



Colonial Williamsburg photos

During daily programming in February, Colonial Williamsburg examines the lives of African-Americans, free and enslaved. (Photo top, left) Nation Builder **James Ingram** portrays enslaved preacher **Gowan Pamphlet**. (Photo top, right) Interpreter **Valerie Gray Holmes** appears as three women in "To Be Seen as an American." (Photo bottom, left) **Ywone Edwards-Ingram** discusses the search to find information about Mammy Sarah, a servant of the Semple family. (Photo bottom, right) **Dick (Ayinde Martin)** prepares to go in front of the Committee of Safety because he was trying to run away and join the British army.



- family on a historical, musical journey through the development of the spiritual. A free reservation is required.
- "This is Our War": A Tribute to the African-American USOs, 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27. During WWII, a time of segregation, Bruton Heights School was where African-American soldiers found their "Home Away from Home." Admission ticket is required.
- "African-American Quilts over 200 Years of History," 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 29, Hennage Auditorium. Quilt scholar Kyra Hicks will discuss the history of African-American quilts in America. Book signing to follow. Admission ticket required.
- Kimball Theatre programs include:
 - "Selma," 12:45 p.m. on Feb. 1 and 4 p.m. on Feb. 5. Guests see a chronicle of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., in 1965. All seats \$4.
 - "The Amazing Nina Simone," Jan. 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 31 at 4:30 and 7 p.m., Feb. 1 at 3:15, 4:30 and 7 p.m., Feb. 2-6 at 2, 4:30 and 7 p.m. Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Much beloved and often misunderstood, the story of America's most overlooked musical genius is finally brought to light in "The Amazing Nina Simone." Director Jeff L. Lieberman brings audiences on Nina's journey from the segregated American South, through the worlds of classical music, jazz joints and international concert halls. Tickets are \$8 adults, \$7 senior and \$6 employees/dependents with 2016 ID.
 - William and Mary Mug Night: "Do the Right Thing," 7 and 9:30 p.m., Feb. 4. On the hottest day of the year on a street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, everyone's hate

- and bigotry smolders and builds until it explodes into violence. All seats \$4.
- William and Mary Mug Night: "Remember the Titans," 7 and 9:30 p.m., Feb. 11. Guests watch this powerful cinematic dramatization of a true Virginia story of community healing and a true titan of the sports movie genre. All seats \$4.
- "12 Years a Slave," 12:45 and 7 p.m., Feb. 12. In the antebellum United States, Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery. All seats \$4.
- "Lee Daniels' The Butler," 1, 4 and 7 p.m., Feb. 15. As Cecil Gaines serves eight presidents during his tenure as a butler at the White House, the civil rights movement, Vietnam and other major events affect this man's life, family and American society. Starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey. All seats \$4.
- "Rosenwald," 2, 4:30 and 7 p.m., Feb. 22 - March 3. Aviva Kempner's Rosenwald is the incredible story of Julius Rosenwald, who never finished high school, but rose to become the president of Sears. Tickets are \$8 Adults, \$7 Seniors and \$6 for employees/dependents with 2016 ID.
- Affairs of the Heart, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 26 – 28. It is the wedding day for William and Anne. How will this new union affect the relationships that have already been forged between the free and enslaved members of the household? What will this mean for the lives they have always known? Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$6.50 for youth between six and 12.
- "Say Amen, Somebody," 11 a.m., 1:30 and 4 p.m., Feb. 28. This documentary



Black History Month programs

Continued from page 3

- ry about the American gospel music scene focuses on two pioneering forces, Thomas A. Dorsey and Willie May Ford Smith. All seats \$4.
- Additional programs
 - Buffalo Boyz, 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 7, Williamsburg Library. Inspired by the unity of men and the message of the 1995 Million Man March in Washington, D.C., the visiting group returned to Williamsburg and organized themselves in the spirit of the 9th and 10th US Cavalry named by Western Indians (Native Americans) as Buffalo Soldiers. No admission required.
 - HERO Live! Jim Crow, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11, Bruton Heights School. This powerful program carries guests from the post-Civil War promise of citizenship and equality for African-Americans to the harsh realities of the system of legal segregation known as "Jim Crow."
 - Free Black Families of Southern York County, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11, College of William and Mary Campus, Miller Hall. Guests learn more about these families and the black experience

African-American quilts

Continued from page 1

exhibition promises to be an exciting visual experience for all of our visitors, not just those who love quilts."

Among the highlights of the exhibition is a graphically eye-catching log cabin quilt top, probably made between 1875 and 1900 by the formerly enslaved Anna Jane Parker (Mrs. Charles E. Parker) (b. ca. 1841 in North Carolina), in St. Louis, Mo. According to Anna Jane's granddaughter, Helen Edmonia McWorter Simpson, to whom the quilt descended, worked as a seamstress and "sewed beautifully." Typically, Log Cabin quilt pieces are assembled and stitched onto a foundation textile. Here, a wide variety of everyday and mismatched cottons were used to form the foundation, because that element was eventually hidden by the decorative pieces. This quilt remained unfinished without any batting or backing.

Another visually striking quilt to be shown in the exhibition is a star quilt made ca. 1970 by Indiana Bendolph Petway (1913-1996), who was raised in poverty in Gee's Bend, Ala. A dramatic and unusual choice of black and white with shading from grey to blue for the lone star pattern (the design is more commonly worked in multicolor), Indiana adapted the traditional design. This quilt, based on its faded, stained and mended condition, was clearly functional and well used for many years. Older, printed cotton was used as a filling and can be seen beneath the white areas of relatively thin double knit fabric. A bright daisy print in yellow, orange, brown and white backs the quilt and forms a narrow finishing edge around the front.

Fascinating use of symbolic images in an appliquéd quilt made by Dora Smith (working ca. 1901) in DeKalb County, Ga., makes her quilt another highlight of the exhibition. The longtime oral tradition that was passed down with the quilt was that the names appliquéd on it were those of the quilt maker's children (Liza, Amos, Ruth and Toby), and the initials "DS" are appliquéd on it as well. Although genealogical research reveals several African-American women in Georgia named Dora Smith, none of them located thus far, however, had any children with these names. In addition to the initials and names on the quilt, the maker also included words "CATS," "DOGS," "BOYS," and "GIRL" along with motifs including scissors, a kettle, stars, the moon, crosses, snakes, abstracted human figures, a hand and an eye, all of which were taken from domestic life and the environment.

A new acquisition to the Colonial Williamsburg collection and never before ex-

hibited—a tied quilt made by Susana Allen Hunter (1912-2005)—is another centerpiece of "A Century of African-American Quilts." Susana left a legacy of at least 100 artistic quilts and despite her poverty—or perhaps because of it—she expressed herself by making warm, useful quilts for her family, and used whatever fabrics were available to recycle from worn-out denim work clothes to synthetic curtains and dresses. Around 1970, Susana and her husband, Julius, moved to Dallas County, Ala., where she remained after his death. She eventually moved to Mobile, where she lived until her death in 2005 with her grandson Tommie and his wife, Susie. This tied quilt came from Tommie's collection. Combining remnants of used clothing, including a grey-blue diamond-pattern polyester dress, tied to the backing with brilliant red yarn knots with long tails left on the front of the quilt, this dynamic design is backed with cut apart and opened, 100-pound sugar and flour sacks.

- Hand Bells and Freedom Concert, 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 14, Williamsburg Library. The Music Ministry of the Historic First Baptist Church will present the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church Handbell Choirs in concert with the First Baptist Church Handbell and Sanctuary Choirs. No admission ticket required.
- Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County, 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 16, College of William and Mary Swem Library. The program tells the story of a Virginia community that defied the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education ruling. No ticket is required.
- Hometown Treasures, 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 21, Williamsburg Library. Guests experience the performances of some of Williamsburg's finest performers including saxophonist James Randall III, pianist Rob Hall Jr, vocalist Lisa Reid-Williamson and dancer/mime Missy Baker. No ticket is required.

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An appliquéd counterpane made by an unknown quilter in possibly Baltimore or New York State (c. 1920) is a dynamic bedcover attributed to an African-American stitcher, partly because some of the motifs, including a cross, hearts, chickens, human figures and others relate to African textiles. The quilt's former owner, a prominent scholar of African-American art, has identified African cosmology motifs found in it: the chicken accompanies the soul to the other side, the eight-pointed stars symbolize perfection or God, the short-armed cross appears in art from the Congo and the hearts may refer to memories. The angels beneath the central cross may memorialize two young African-American sisters who died in one of the epidemics of the early 20th century, and their white faces symbolize the fact that they had died. Made as a collage of cotton and silk fabrics with lace, braids, beads, buttons and window shade pulls, the textiles were fastened to white cotton ground fabric using a variety of stitching methods, including traditional appliqué with slip stitches, calling to mind conventional Baltimore Album Quilts, as well as chain, running stitches and machine stitching. Some of the cotton shapes were gathered prior to being stitched to the ground, which creates texture and depth. Yellow cotton satin backing forms a wide border when brought to the front.

"A Century of African-American Quilts" is made possible through generous gifts from The Stone Family Fund of Los Angeles, Calif., and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich.

News Briefs

VITA volunteers offer free income tax assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, sponsored by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, will provide free tax assistance to employees, retirees and volunteers at four neighborhood sites for this year's tax season.

From Feb. 1 - April 16, VITA volunteers, certified by the Internal Revenue Service, will complete "while-you-wait" Federal and Virginia income tax returns on a first-come, first-served basis at the following locations:

- Mondays from 2-5:30 p.m. in February ONLY (Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29) at the Abram Frink (Formerly James River) Community Center (AFCC); 8901 Pocahontas Trail (Highway 60 East);
- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-5:30 p.m. at Bruton Heights School Education Center, Room 204;
- Monday, Feb. 1 and Monday, Feb. 8 ONLY from 2-5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays (all tax season) 2-5:30 p.m. at James City County Recreation Center, 5301

Longhill Road, Room C;

- Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Quarterpath Recreation Center, 202 Quarterpath Road.

Filers should bring:

- Year 2015 tax documents, including wage and earnings statements (W2s and 1099s), receipts for deductions;
- a copy of Federal and State tax returns for 2014;
- a driver's license or other government-issued picture ID;
- dependent Social Security card(s) if claiming dependents;
- health insurance information (e.g., Form 1095);
- bank account routing information, and any other relevant information about income, expenses and deductions.

For more information, please call the automated message line at (757) 220-7029 (press option 3) or contact **Jane Lloyd** at 220-7163 or jlloyd@cwvf.org.

Expo seeking junior interpreters

Colonial Williamsburg's Junior Interpreter Expo will be held Feb. 6 at Bruton Heights Education Center from 9 a.m. - noon.

If your child, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a junior volunteer for the 2016 season, please attend the Junior Interpreter Expo to apply and learn which areas will be recruiting.

All children between the ages of 10-18,

who live in the Williamsburg-James City County area, as well as the Bruton Heights District of York County, are eligible to become volunteers. Children of Colonial Williamsburg Employees are also eligible.

Only children present the day of the expo will be considered for volunteer positions.

For more information, contact **Trish Barner** at 7181.

Historian discusses Revolutionary War battle

The Williamsburg/Yorktown American Revolution Round Table invites Colonial Williamsburg staff to attend the program, "The 1777 Battle of Hubbardton-The Rear Guard Action That Saved America." Historian Bruce Venter presents the free lecture

at 7 p.m. on Feb. 4 at the Yorktown Victory Center.

For more information, e-mail the organization's president, Andy Zellers-Frederick, at AndyZF@aol.com or call (215) 904-2344.

Remembering Friends..

Mr. Ronald G. Roob died Dec. 15 in Williamsburg. He had a 19-year career at Colonial Williamsburg before his retirement in 2007. He first worked as a sales interpreter at the Raleigh Tavern Bakery, later transferring to the security office. He worked as a security officer and communications officer for the department. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Ms. Kirtlett M. Williams died Dec. 16 in Newport News, Va. She worked

for Colonial Williamsburg for 21 years, beginning as a sales interpreter in 1989. She also held positions as customer service representative in the products division at the Catalog Center. Since 2012, she worked as a guest service specialist at the Visitor Center. She is survived by husband **Kurt Williams**, a room service attendant at the Williamsburg Inn and a 28-year employee, a son, three daughters and two grandsons.

Marketplace

WANT TO LEARN TO PLAY THE DRUM SET? Now accepting students of all ages and experience levels. Lessons in your home at reasonable rates. CALL (757) 645-5917.

FOR SALE: 1997 Mazda MPC Van. V6. 3 rows of seating, cruise control, air and AM/FM Cassette player. Needs some work, but a good deal for a handy person! Has an oil leak and the windshield leaks. 185,000 miles. Runs well and is in good shape otherwise. Only \$600. CALL 253-7786.

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT: \$1,040/month. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, W/D in unit, water/trash/sewer included, pet friendly, pool and playground on-site, on bus line, ample parking, low deposit rate, quiet community with good management. Townhouse has easy access to I-64, Colonial Williamsburg, Premium Outlets and New Town. Available now with bonus! CALL Jessica at (804) 824-7983 for more information.

FOR SALE: RV/Trailer - Pull behind - 2005 M-266 28' Springdale by Keystone, 2 axle, 1 bump out, 5,400 lbs. tow weight. Greatly used. Extras include: 4 point equalizer hitch, on-board battery replaced with 2 eCG2 golf cart batteries - tripled time between charges while camping. New water heater control. Tires are in excellent condition. Well maintained. NADA price: Listed for \$21,501, Average Retail: \$11,015. Asking \$8,995. CALL Bob at (757) 847-9915.

Good and service advertised in CW News are offered by individual ads and are not endorsed by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation or Colonial Williamsburg Companies.

Deadline for Marketplace ads is Monday at noon one week prior to publication. Ads must include employee's name and personal telephone number. Ads can run for up to two consecutive issues if you would like your ad to run again, please submit the ad in person or through e-mail to progr@cw.org.

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