

Hike into History 4, G08, Spring Semester 2020

Mondays, from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Facilitators: Deborah Haskell and Judith Tigani

Contact us at: debhaskell@outlook.com, 302-668-7031, and judytigani@gmail.com, 302-562-2701

(If you have questions on the way to the site, phone one of us and we will try to help.)

This course meets weekly at a different museum or historical site. There are three separate semesters of sites which are recycled with occasional changes—the numbers being 1, 2, and 4. Students are responsible for getting to and from the site each week, either on their own or in a carpool leaving from the OLLI campus. **Carpools gather at the top of the hill adjacent to Goodstay Center, and always leave promptly at 12:30 p.m. for our destination. Goodstay Center is the building to the left of the main entrance near the top of the hill.** You may be asked to drive your car occasionally if you choose to carpool. The times each program begins are stated along with the address on the syllabus. The museum guides will provide us with a 40 minute (or longer) experience at that site. We have scouted walks of between 1 and 3 miles after each lecture. **Hiking is always optional.**

Docents of these small museums will be opening their doors especially for our University group. They will be grateful for the contributions we provide for their programs.

Date and Time

Locations

Monday, February 10: OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ALONG THE BRANDYWINE (The Little Church)

Park Drive & West Streets

Wilmington, DE

Mary Henderer, Hostess, Colonial Dames

Program begins at 1:00 p.m. Michael Melloy will be our speaker

Fee: \$5.00

In the year 1740, a graveyard between Market and King Streets (roughly where the Wilmington Public Library now stands) had been designated, and a small brick church was erected. For one hundred years the small brick building served as a church. Then it became a parochial day school for a few years. Immediately after the Battle of the Brandywine, the British commandeered this building as a hospital for their wounded troops. The British also captured John McKinly, Delaware’s first President and a congregant of the First Presbyterian Church. In June of 1917, the church was given to the Colonial Dames provided that they would move and maintain it and use it for historical and patriotic purposes. The Church was moved to South Park Drive at West Street in Brandywine Park, just east of the long millrace along Brandywine Creek. The cemetery remains of congregants including Dr. McKinly were moved to the Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery on South Park Drive. **Walking will be in Brandywine Park.**

Directions: The Little Church is 1.6 miles from Arsht Hall. Leaving OLLI, turn right onto Pennsylvania Avenue (route 52) and drive 1.2 miles to N. Franklin Street. Turn left on N. Franklin and drive 4 blocks. Turn right onto Lovering Ave. and drive two blocks. Turn left of N. Van Buren and drive one short block to West Street. Turn right on West Street. The Church is straight ahead. You may park on West Street by the hospital or turn right at the next corner and park on S. Park Street (permission has been secured for Park Street parking) for this program.

Monday, February 17: BELLEVUE STATE PARK

800 Carr Road

Wilmington, DE 19809

(Parking fee or DE State Parks Pass required. Why not carpool?)

Host: Claire Mickletz

Program begins at 1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$8.00

Bellevue Hall, formerly known as Woolton Hall, was a 19th Century Revival Castle built for a Philadelphia wool merchant. In 1883, William du Pont, Sr., purchased it and enlarged his holdings to accommodate his equestrian interests. In 1892, William du Pont, Jr., inherited the estate and spent the next several years transforming the exterior of the castle into a Classical Revival mansion, conforming to the popular style of the period. He added among other things a horse-training track and a tennis facility for his wife, Margaret Osborne, a professional tennis player. When he died in 1965, his heirs sold the estate to the State of Delaware. The State opened the property up to the public, creating Bellevue State Park. We will have a tour of the mansion, **with additional walking around the horse track and grounds.**

Directions: Leaving Arsht Hall, turn left onto route 52. Take a right onto Mt. Salem Lane. Stay straight onto route 141 and take the ramp to route 202 to the right. Follow signs for I-95 North and take the ramp. Merge onto 95 and get off at Marsh Road exit. Go straight at the traffic light. You are on Carr Road. Bellevue Park is on the Right. Follow the driveway to the first parking lot on the Right, near the Barn and the horse track. We will gather at the Right. **(Additional walking on the horse track)**

Monday, February 24: JANE & LITTLETON MITCHELL CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

504 North Market Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

Host: Dr. Stephanie M. Lampkin

Program begins at 1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10.00

The purpose of the Mitchell Center is to collect, preserve, research and present for public enrichment the history and heritage of Delaware's African Americans. The exhibition, titled "Journey to Freedom" presents topics of slavery and resistance, faith and freedom, pursuit of equality and expressions of selfhood and community. It also highlights the significant achievements of African American Delawareans within the state and others such as Reverend Peter Spencer and Louis L. Redding, who impacted the nation. **(Additional walking at the Wilmington Riverfront.)**

Directions: From Arsht Hall, turn right onto route 52 and drive to Washington Street. Turn right onto Washington Street and drive to 7th Street. Turn left and drive for several blocks until you come to Shipley. Turn right onto Shipley and park along the street. There is metered parking, \$.25 for a quarter of an hour. (We'll be no more than two hours). There is a daily lot managed by Colonial Parking at 6th and Shipley Streets, which is \$6.00 per day. A lot at the New Castle Courthouse Garage is \$4.00 per hour and the Renaissance Center parking garage on 5th between King and market, is \$3.00 per hour. (Let's carpool from OLLI.)

Monday, March 2: MINERALOGICAL MUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

255 Academy Street

Newark, DE 19716

Host: Sharon Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Curator

Program begins at 1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$5.00

The Mineralogical Museum in Penny Hall, on the campus of the University of Delaware, originated with a 1964 gift from Irene du Pont, Sr., of an extensive collection of rare minerals. Part of Mr. du Pont's collection, which comes from distant parts of the globe, was purchased from Tiffany and Co. Other generous donors have helped extend the quality and size of the collection. There are more than 350 minerals on display with a focus on crystallized minerals, gem minerals and fascinating specimens from significant recent discoveries. **After this visit, we will drive a mile across town to the Newark Reservoir off Paper Mill Road to walk and explore surroundings woodlands.**

Directions: Leave OLLI, and take a RIGHT onto Penna. Ave. and drive to I-95 SOUTH (1.6 miles). Drive 13 miles to exit IB South, 896 N. to Newark. Bear RIGHT onto 896 and drive 1.7 miles (over the RR Bridge) to Kells Ave. and make a RIGHT.

PARKING OPTION 1: From Kells Avenue, make your second RIGHT and park in the parking lot on the LEFT next to the tennis courts. It's called Lewis Park. If the spaces are taken proceed to the next option.

Parking Option 2: Turn around and head up Academy Street towards the University. There are meters along Academy. You will need 5 quarters for the hour. Penny Hall is on the right. **Parking Option 3:** There is a Pay Parking lot on the 2 buildings on the RIGHT before you get to Penny Hall on Academy Street.

Monday, March 9: NEWLIN GRIST MILL
219 S. Cheyney Road
Glen Mills, PA 19342
Host: Jessica Shahan, Naturalist
Program begins at 1:15 p.m.
Fee: \$8.00

The Newlin Grist Mill landscape hosts a collection of memories of past activities by both nature and humans. Join us for an exploration of this landscape. Features to be discussed include machines on the landscape, living fossils and how to find evidence of historical and environmental changes. **After the slide talk, Jessica will take us on a walking tour of the property. Additional walking is optional.**

Directions: Leaving OLLI, turn LEFT on Penna. Avenue, route 52, and drive about 9 miles to Route 1. Turn RIGHT onto US1 East and drive for 5.5 miles until you come to route 202 and 1. Continue straight on US1 EAST and drive for another 2.3 miles. At the light at Cheyney Road, turn RIGHT and drive into the parking lot for the Mill (an immediate RIGHT after that turn). Park and walk to the log cabin for the program.

Monday, March 16: FAIR HILL NATURE CENTER, MARYLAND
630 Tawes Road
Elkton, MD 21921
Interpreter: Emily Kilby (Guilane is the host at Nature Center)
Program will begin at 1:15 p.m.
Fee: \$5.00

Explore the historic sites of Fair Hill on a hike with local historian Emily Kilby. Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area was previously another estate of William du Pont, Jr., used for raising beef cattle and fox hunting from 1927 until 1975. Prior to du Pont's purchases of approximately 100 contiguous farms and small holdings, the 6,000 acre tract had been a busy industrial and agriculture area. The topic of the lecture will be "All for Sport: How Horses Changed the Course of Fair Hill's History." The newest focus of Emily's research is how horses are the reason Fair Hill came to be and continues to keep it in the news. That history begins with William du Pont's first purchase of Fair Hill farms to build his steeplechase track and continues to the present with grand renovations. Currently there are major changes to upgrade the racetrack area for equestrian competitions (primarily 3-day eventing) at the highest level. **Additional walking in the park is optional.**

Directions: (****Important note: For the first part of the program we will be parking behind the Fair Hill Inn, at the corner of 273 and 213. For the power point presentation after the lecture, we will relocate our cars from the inn to the Fair Hill Nature Center, address above.**) Leaving OLLI, turn right

onto route 52 and drive to I-95 (1.6 miles). Bear right onto I-95 south and drive to Newark, DE, exit 1B (about 15 miles). Bear right onto College Avenue. Drive to the end of the road at route 273. Turn left on route 273. At the Deer Park restaurant, take the left fork of the road out rt. 273. Drive to route 273 and 213 (about 6 miles). Turn left and drive into the Fair Hill Inn parking lot. Emily will meet us there.

Monday, March 23: UPPER BAY MUSEUM
217 West Walnut Street
North East, Maryland
Hosts: Rick and Lori Bouchelle
Program begins at 1:30 p.m.
Fee: \$5.00

The Upper Bay Museum houses a collection of hunting, boating and fishing artifacts native to the Upper Chesapeake Bay. The watermen and hunters have shaped the culture of this region and their lives on and around the water are highlighted here. Rigs, carved decoys, model boats and engines are on display. Built in 1880, the original structure of the museum was a fish house. We will also visit and walk at Turkey Point, which is a bluff overlooking the Elk and North East Rivers where they meet in the upper part of the Chesapeake Bay. There stands the lighthouse, built in 1833, whose light once guided ship captains and sailors on their navigational courses. A succession of predominantly female lighthouse keepers, most of them widows, guarded the flame of the Turkey Point Lighthouse for over a century and a half. **Walking will be at Turkey Point.**

Directions: Leaving OLLI, turn right on route 52 and travel 1.6 miles to I-95 south. Turn right onto I-95 south and travel 25 miles through the toll to exit 100A-100B, called Maryland 272 South/North East Road. Head towards North East, Maryland, for 3.2 miles, traveling through the town along Main Street until you come to W. Walnut Street. A sign on the left of the road indicates the Upper Bay Museum is to your right. Take a right and drive straight ahead to the museum near the water. Park in the lot.

Monday, March 30: SPRING BREAK. SEE YOU NEXT MONDAY.

Monday, April 6: HAGLEY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
200 Hagley Creek Road
Wilmington, DE 19807
Program begins at 1:00 p.m.
Fee: \$10

Hagley was the site of the (important) du Pont black powder mills on the Brandywine river. We'll have a docent-led history-walking tour starting at the Visitor's Center, stopping at the Machine Shop, the Steam Engine House, the barn and then to the garden. **Then we'll walk back to the Visitor's Center by way of Workers Hill.**

Directions: Leaving OLLI, turn left on route 52. Drive 0.2 miles to Rising Sun Lane. Turn right and drive for just 0.2 miles and then make a left onto Main Street. In 0.2 miles Main Street turns right and becomes Stone Block Road. Follow that road for another 0.2 miles and go straight onto Hagley Creek Road. You will see the museum. Turn left and park. Meet in the Visitors' lobby.

Monday, April 13: CHESLEN PRESERVE
1199 Cannery Road
Coatesville, PA 19320
Host: Kirsten Werner of Natural Lands
Program will begin at 1:15 p.m.
Fee: \$5

ChesLen Preserve is the largest privately-owned nature preserve open to the public in Chester County. In 1763 surveyors and astronomers Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon came to the New World to end a bloody, 80-year boundary dispute between Pennsylvania and Maryland. Their survey established the official line between the two colonies and stands among the greatest scientific achievements of the time. The Preserve was once part of a 17,000-acre tract owned by the legendary Texas-based King Ranch, which expanded to this area so their cattle could graze on the lush fields and fatten up before sale. ChesLen's agricultural past also includes sod farming and mushroom production. **Walking will be to the Star-Gazer Stone, placed by Mason and Dixon – 2 miles each way. Cars will be positioned so that some students may walk one way, 2 miles.**

Directions: From OLLI, turn left on Route 52 and drive to Route 1 (about 9 miles). Turn left on Route 1 and a right soon after that onto Route 52 north. Drive to Route 926, a stoplight (this piece is 1.2 miles). Turn left and travel .8 miles to Doe Run Road. Turn right and travel 2.2 miles to Oak Tree Road. Turn right once again and travel .8 miles to a T (unnamed. It is Wawaset Road). Turn right and travel 1.8 miles to Cannery Road. Turn left on Cannery and travel 1.4 miles to the main building. Turn left and park near the building where the program will begin. (Total of 8.2 miles from route 1 to ChesLen Center)

Monday, April 20: BELLANCA AIRFIELD/DELAWARE AVIATION HALL OF FAME
2 Centerpoint Blvd., just off Route 273
New Castle, DE 19720
Host: Francis A. Ianni, Retired Major General

Program will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$5

General Ianni will provide us with a presentation about the history of aircraft designer and builder, Giuseppe Mario Bellanca. We will learn about the superior aircraft this aeronautical genius designed, his interactions with other notables such as Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhardt, the politics of early aviation and the story of Delaware's importance in its development. He will lead us around the exhibit through a hangar full of memorabilia, including 3 of Bellanca's aircraft, the fuselage of a fourth and numerous models of Bellanca's airplanes. **We will probably walk a piece of the Industrial Park path, which is now part of the Jack Markell bike trail from the Wilmington Riverfront to New Castle.**

Directions: Leaving OLLI, turn left on Route 52 about a mile to Route 141 South. Bear right onto 141 South and travel all the way to Route 273. This will take us over I-95. Continue on past William Penn High School on your right. Take the next right, which will be Route 273 (There is a sign that says Truck Route.) Drive just 0.5 miles past a hangar on your left to Centerpoint Blvd. Turn left and park behind the hangar.

Monday, April 27: THE GARDENS AND GROUNDS OF WINTERTHUR

5105 Kennett Pike, Route 52

Winterthur, DE 19735

Host: Chris Strand

Program begins at 12:50 p.m. at the Brown Horticulture Learning Center.

Fee: \$5

A little over 65 years ago, Henry Francis du Pont opened up his childhood home, Winterthur, for all the world to see. It exists today as the premier museum of American Decorative Arts. His estate is set amidst a 1,000 acre preserve, consisting of rolling meadows, trails through woodlands and a superb 60-acre garden of rare plantings. Chris Strand, Director of the Garden and Estate, will lecture about the Winterthur property and history of the estate. We will walk through a portion of the 1,000-acre grounds afterwards. **There may be additional walking on the grounds when the tour has been completed.**

Directions: Leaving OLLI, turn left on Kennett Pike (Route 52) and travel 3.6 miles. On your right is Winterthur Road. Enter the estate. Drive 0.4 miles to the general parking area where you will be directed to the program.

Monday, May 4: SMYRNA MUSEUM

11 South Main Street

Smyrna, DE 19977

Host: Robert Keen

Program will begin at 1:15 p.m.

Fee: \$5

The Smyrna Museum Complex includes a main building, called the Barracks, donated to the Duck Creek Historical Society in 1981, and the Plank House, located behind the Barracks. This is completely restored and one of the finest examples of a local structure from the early 1700s. There are permanent and changing exhibits in the Barracks about the history of the town and its inhabitants. Following our tour through the museum, we will enjoy a guided walking tour of the historic town. **Walking will be included in the program.**

Directions: Leaving OLLI, turn right onto PA Ave./Kennett Pike, and drive to I-95 SOUTH, 1.6 miles. Bear right onto I-95 and drive SOUTH to Delaware Route 1 SOUTH. Take that toll road and drive south for 26.8 miles and exit Route 1 at 119A, Route 13 SOUTH and Smyrna. Continue straight on Route 13 SOUTH and drive for 2.4 miles into Smyrna until you see East Commerce Street. Turn right and drive for 0.2 miles. Take the second left onto South Main Street. The Smyrna Museum is on your right. Please park along the street, or in the city lot across from the museum.

.....

Monday, May 11: WILMINGTON AND BRANDYWINE CEMETERY

12th Street

Wilmington, DE

Host: Laura Lee (Superintendent of Auburn Heights)

Program will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$5

This cemetery is an 1843 city landmark—a 25-acre burial ground where the “Who’s Who” of early Wilmington now reside. American Revolution and Civil War soldiers rest here, as do the indigent children from a long-ago Childrens’ home. Highlighted topics will be common causes of death, marker and mausoleum styles and meanings, plus the spectacular landscape which includes vintage oaks, ginkos and other exceptional trees and shrubs. **Optional walk along the Brandywine River afterwards.**

Directions: Leaving OLLI, turn right onto Route 52 for 1.7 miles. Get into left lane and turn left on Jefferson Street. Take the first left again onto 12th Street. Move to the right lane. Go one block, continue past Madison Street. Drive slow because this turn into the cemetery is easy to miss. Just past the bend in the road, turn right into the cemetery. You will see a building on the left, the chapel. Park along the road inside the cemetery.

.....

Since this is the last day of class for the semester, our tradition is to stop somewhere fairly close for a beverage and to chat about the favorite sites. Gallucios, located at the Augustine Cut-off bridge, is our stop today. Join us if you like.

Have a good summer break!

