Hike into History 4, G11, Spring Semester 2015

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware

Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Facilitators are Deborah P. Haskell, Judy Tigani, and James J. Riley, IV

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This course meets weekly at a different museum site. Students are responsible for getting to and from the site each week, either on their own or in a carpool leaving from Arsht Hall at 12:30 p.m. The times the programs will begin at each site are stated beneath the driving directions. We expect that you will not enter the site until close to the time the program will begin. The guides will provide us with a thirty minute (or longer) docent-led experience at that site. We have scouted hikes of between 2 to 6 miles after each museum visit and will be walking with you. Hiking is always optional. These museums are opening their doors especially for this group. We have promised them a contribution for their program presentation. We suggest $5 each week.

February 12: THE GARDEN AND GROUNDS OF WINTERTHUR.

5105 Kennett Pike (route 52)

Winterthur, DE

60 years ago, Henry Francis DuPont opened up his childhood home, Winterthur, for all the world to see. It exists today as the premier museum of 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 acres grounds afterwards.

Directions: Leaving Arsht Hall, turn left on Kennett Pike, route 52, and travel 3.6 miles. On your right is Winterthur Road and travel 0.4 miles to the general parking area.

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

February 19: OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ALONG THE BRANDYWINE

Park Drive and West Streets

Wilmington, DE

"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 exactly one hundred years the small brick building served as a church...then it became a parochial day school for a few years...By 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...to parkland at the foot of West Street and south of the long millrace by the Brandywine." Susan Mulchahey Chase, historian, will lecture about the church and Brandywine Park. We will walk in Brandywine Park afterwards.

**Directions:** The Old Presbyterian Church is 1.6 miles from Arsht Hall. Leaving Arsht Hall, 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 on N. Van Buren and drive one more block to S. Park Drive. Turn right onto S. Park Drive. The church is on your right. Park along S. Park Dr. Parking is allowed for this event.

**Program begins promptly at 12:45 p.m.**

February 26: **MIDDLETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

216 N. Broad Street

Middletown, DE 19709

"Middletown in the Wars." From the early American Wars, the War of 1812 until the Wars of the Middle East, the people of Middletown have served with honor. A new exhibit, mounted in April of 2014, opened in the historical society and details the exploits of the hometown heroes. Historian George Contant will be our docent for this exhibit and Alison Matsen will lead us on a walking tour of downtown Middletown, describing the men and women who lived in these houses and worked the businesses.

George, Contant, Historian,

Geocontant@gmail.com and Alison Matsen (dmatsen@verizon.net)

**Directions:** Leaving Arsht Hall, turn right on Pennsylvania Ave. (Rte. 52). Drive 1.6 miles. Turn right onto I-95 South, and drive 6.6 miles. Take exit 4A (D1,D7) and merge onto Delaware 1 south. There will be a $1 bridge toll over the C&D canal. Drive for 18 miles until you see exit 136, Middletown. Get off route 1 and take a right onto Delaware 229 and drive 2.2 miles to the center of Middletown. Make a right on N. Broad Street .1 mile. The historical society is located in the yellow building on the left. Turn left into the property and park behind the building.

**Program starts at 1:15 p.m.**

March 5, **NEWLIN GRIST MILL**

219 S. Cheyney Road

"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 co-led by a historian and a naturalist. Features to be discussed include machines on the landscape, living fossils, and how to find evidence of historical and environmental changes."
Glen Mills, PA 19342

Tony Shahan, Director

Directions: Leaving Arsht Hall, turn left on PA Ave., route 52, and drive 0.2 miles. Turn right onto Rising Sun Lane, and drive 0.4 miles. Turn right onto the Rising Sun Lane/New Bridge Road and drive for 0.7 miles. Go straight at the light onto Powder Mill Road, or route 141, and drive for 1.6 miles. At route 202, Concord Pike north, turn left and drive 6.8 miles to Route 1. Next, turn right onto US1East and drive for 2.3 miles. At the light at Cheyney Road, turn right and ride into the parking lot for the mill.

Program starts at 1:15 p.m.

March 12, UPPER BAY MUSEUM 410-287-8520
219 Walnut Street
North East, Maryland 21901

Rick and Lori Bouchelle info@upperbaymuseum.org

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 ships captains and sailors on their navigational courses.

Directions: Leaving Arsh Hall, turn right on route 52 and travel 1.6 miles to the entrance 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 until you come to N. Walnut Street. A sign on left of the road indicates the Upper Bay Museum to your right. Take a right and drive straight ahead to the museum near the water. Park in the lot.

Program begins at 1:30 p.m.

March 19, MINERALOGY MUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Penny Hall, 255 Academy Street, Newark, DE 19716

Sharon Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Curator

The Mineralogical Museum in Penny Hall, on the campus of the University of Delaware, originated with a 1964 gift from Irenee duPont, Sr., of an extensive collection of rare minerals. Part of Mr. duPont’s collection, which comes from distant parts of the globe, was purchased
from Tiffany and Co. Other generous donors have helped set up the museum and extend the quality and size of the collection. There are over one hundred examples 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 to walk and explore surrounding woodlands.

**Directions:** Leave Arsht Hall, and turn right on Pennsylvania Avenue (route 52). Drive 1.6 miles to I-95 South. Bear right onto I-95 and drive 13 miles to exit 1B, route 896 north, to Newark. Bear right onto rt. 896 and drive 1.7 miles (over the railroad bridge) to Kells Avenue. Take a right onto Kells for 0.2 miles. **For free parking,** turn right on Academy Street. There is a parking lot at the tennis courts on your left at Lewis Park. **For paid parking** two buildings from Penny Hall, turn left onto Academy Street. Drive 0.5 miles to a parking garage on Academy. Enter that. Both groups should walk to Penny Hall.

**Program begins at 1:00 p.m.**

March 26  **FAIR HILL NATURE CENTER, FAIR HILL, MD.**  410-398-4909

630 Tawes Drive
Fair Hill, Maryland

Explore the Historic sites of Fair Hill on a Hike with local historian Emily Kilby. Fair Hill was owned by the duPont family at one time. There, an established 600-head beef cattle herd, using a most modern feeding operation, was established—the remains of which are near the Nature Center. The Nature Center is a natural history and environmental center that aims to preserve the ecological balance of this vast acreage, and educates us all about this precious resource. The superb hiking here includes walks along the Big and Little Elk rivers.

**Directions:** Leaving Arsht Hall, turn right onto route 52 and drive to I-95 (1.6 miles). Bear right onto I-95 south, and drive 9.1 miles to exit 3, 273 west. Take that road to Main Street, Newark, 1.3 miles. Drive through town and continue on Main Street, 273, for about 1.3 miles. Continue out of town on 273 west for 3.3 miles. Turn right onto Appleton Road for 1.2 miles. Turn left into the Black Bridge Road parking lot. At the back of the parking area is a sign for the Fair Hill Nature Center. Continue straight ahead onto the Black Bridge gravel road. Cross the bridge over the Big Elk creek and turn left. Drive until the road turns right up a hill. The Nature Center is on your left. Turn right into a parking area.

**Program begins at 1:15 p.m.**

April 2, Spring Break. **No classes.**

16,  **HAGLEY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY**  302-658-2400, ext. 261
Wilmington, DE

Hagley was the site of the (important) duPont black powder mills on the Brandywine. 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 (the house is closed for HVAC renovations). Then we’ll walk back to the Visitor’s Center by way of Blackberry Hill. Class members may stay and tour the museum on their own.

**Directions:** Leaving Arsht Hall, 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.

**Program begins about 1:00 p.m.**

**April 23, BATTLE OF COOCH'S BRIDGE, AMERICAN REVOLUTION WAR**

This was the only battle or "skirmish" of the American Revolution fought on Delaware soil. Wade Catts has written a book about this event and will talk about his research in the historic Dayett Mill.

Dayett Mill, off Old Baltimore Pike between routes 896 and 72 in Newark, DE 19711

Historian Wade Catts, wcatts@johnmilnerassociates.com

**Directions:** Leaving Arsht Hall, turn right onto Pennsylvania Ave. (Rte 52) and drive to I-95, 1.6 miles. Turn right onto I-95 and drive 13 miles to Newark/Middletown exit 1A, I-95. Drive south toward Middletown just 0.9 miles and turn left at the first light onto Old Baltimore Pike, 0.7 miles. Drive about a half mile across Cooch’s bridge and make a right turn onto a dirt road, called Dayett Mill Road. Park along that road and walk straight ahead to the mill. Walking after the lecture will be along the Old Newark Road.

**Program begins about 1:00 p.m.**

**April 30 WILMINGTON AND BRANDYWINE CEMETERY**

Laura Lee, Park Superintendent at Auburn Heights

We will have a guided walk through this 1843 city landmark--a 25-acre burial ground where the "Who's Who" of early Wilmington now reside. Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers rest here, as do the indigent children from a long-ago Children's 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.

**Directions:** Leaving Arsht Hall, turn right on 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 and meet at the chapel.

**Program begins about 1:00 p.m.**
May 7, **BELLANCA AIRFIELD AND DELAWARE AVIATION HALL OF FAME**

2 Centerpoint Blvd., just off route 273  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Francis A. Ianni, Retired Major General, Host

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 that this aeronautical genius designed, his interactions with other notables such as Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart (to name a few), 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 three of Bellanca's aircraft, the fuselage of a fourth, and numerous models of Bellanca's airplanes (and other famous airplanes).

**Directions:** Leaving Arsh Hall, turn right onto PA Avenue, route 52 and travel 1.6 miles to I-95 south. Turn right onto I-95 south and drive 6.3 miles to exit 5A, 141 South. Travel 1.2 miles on 141 south until you come to route 273. Turn right onto 273 and drive just 0.5 miles. Take a left onto Centerpoint Blvd. The hangar is on your left and park behind the hangar. Walk to be determined.

**Program begins about 12:50 p.m.**

May 14, **SMYRNA MUSEUM**

11 South Main Street, Smyrna, Delaware 19977

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 relaying the history of the town and its inhabitants. Following our tour through this museum, we will enjoy a Guided Walking Tour of the Historic Town.

Host: Robert Keen 302-653-8471

**Directions:** Leaving Arsh Hall, turn right onto PA Ave. and drive to I-95 south, 1.6 miles. Turn right on I-95 south and drive 6.6 miles to exit 4A, Delaware route 1 south. ($1 toll). Drive south for 26.8 miles and exit route 1 at 119A, 13 south and Smyrna. Continue straight on route 13 south, and drive for 2.4 miles until you see East Commerce Street. Turn right and drive 0.2 miles. Take the second left onto South Main Street. The Smyrna Museum is on your right. Please park along the street. **Program will begin about 1:15 p.m.**

**We will celebrate the end of the course by stopping by Sheridan's Irish Pub on Commerce Street for a late afternoon"libation."**