

# HALE BYRNES NEWSLETTER

## WINTER 2013-2014



COME ON IN AND SIT A SPELL!

2013 has been a very good year, full of fascinating programs, new outreach efforts and wonderful volunteer activity. We thank you all for your kindness, generosity and hard work.

More than 120 visitors attended our holiday open house on Saturday, December 7, surely a record number for us on the day when almost every town, museum and historic site is open simultaneously.

We were delighted to have Linda Moss of the *Fifes and Drums of the Delaware Militia* and flautist Bill Lindsey providing period - appropriate music; were extremely blessed to have Dick and Lois Niekamp with us again, and welcomed Rich Paul of the *Thomas Massie House* in Broomall, PA with his beautiful display of antique lighting devices. Special thanks go to Anna May Case and her son for armloads of beautiful fresh holly, and to Barbara Miller for decorating the house, to Ralph, Nancy, Kathy, Oriole, Debbie, Donna, Linda and Barbara for food and holiday cheer. We all especially want to thank our newest volunteers, Linda Duffy and the Gray twins, Beth and Cathy, for all their hard work and dedication to HB

House. The twins generously made and contributed Hale Byrnes key chains, book marks, postcards and magnets which were very well-received by our visitors.

Our Revolutionary Round Table of Northern Delaware continues to attract high caliber speakers and audiences. The Yorktown Campaign scholar (W3R-USA), Bob Selig of Holland, Michigan was our very popular December speaker. Other wonderful 2013 scholars who made our old house come alive include Wade Catts speaking on Cooch's Bridge; Jane Calvert on John Dickinson; the irrepressible Diane Shaw, Curator of the Lafayette Collection at Lafayette College and Benjamin Goldman as young Lafayette; Bert Dunkerly on George Washington's early military career; Stephen Case, author of *Treacherous Beauty: the Story of Peggy Shippen*; and Joel Fry, Curator of Bartram's Garden.

Our 2013 public outreach programs also included hosting People-to-People's *Circles of Understanding*; one on Kenya, the other on Indonesia; Newark Center for Creative Learning, and Julie Dooley's shad release program; Christina River Clean-Up; the State museums volunteer appreciation day; and the coordination and sponsorship of a day-long symposium on 18<sup>th</sup> century abolitionists, funded by the Delaware Humanities Forum, which was held at Wilmington Friends Meeting. Curator Kim Burdick, a DHF Speakers Bureau member, also spoke at Friends of Hockessin Public Library and to the Newark Historical Society. Kim will be the keynote speaker at the Philadelphia Round Table, ARRTOP, in January.

PLEASE NOTE: We will be closed for the winter (including on first Wednesdays) until April 2. Our first Round Table of 2014 will feature Ms. Kip Cherry of Princeton Battlefield Society, who will update us on the current "battle of Princeton," a battle of developers vs history. We also plan to assist once again with the Christina River Clean-up. Please visit our website at [www.halebyrnes.org](http://www.halebyrnes.org) for photos, history, and public programming information. Our webmaster, Frank Romanelli, does a great job of keeping our website fresh and beautiful.

Many, many thanks for all you do. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the spring!