



Pottery Wheel Demonstration



On **Sunday, September 11, 2016** from **1:00-4:00 p.m.**, the Readington Museums will host pottery artisan, Helen Farrant, at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead. Farrant will discuss the history of pottery making, and the materials and techniques used to make pottery. She will include demonstrations of hand-building techniques as well as how to throw on a potter's wheel.

Helen Farrant, a native of Long Island, discovered her love for pottery in her senior year of high school, and has been throwing clay ever since. She currently participates in various art shows throughout the country, and teaches at the Center for Contemporary Art. Farrant holds B.S. in Art and Design from Messiah College as well as a certificate in I/T from Chubb.

Barn Dance in October

Put on your dancing shoes for a night of family fun as the Readington Museums hosts its bi-annual Barn Dance on **Saturday, October 8, 2016** from **7:00-9:30 p.m.** The dance will be held inside the eighteenth century Wade-Wyckoff Barn at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead. This family friendly event is a wonderful way to have fun with the entire family. No experience is necessary. Caller Betsy Gotta will give easy to follow instructions before each dance so even a beginner will be able to dance the night away. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 per adult and \$2.00 per child. Groups of six or more please call for a reservation, 908-236-2327.



Readington Museums

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Presidents and Residents: Reflections on President Reagan's 1982 Visit to Hunterdon County On Exhibit at Readington Municipal Building



On September 17th, 1982, Readington residents lined the streets and gathered in crowds to see and hear President Ronald Reagan during his day-long visit to the county.

Children watched enthusiastically as helicopters circled the Ryland Inn, where Reagan participated in Senator Millicent Fenwick's campaign fundraiser. Families waited outside their homes for the Presidential Motorcade to drive by, bringing the President to the Polish American Citizens' Club. There, on a stage built by local carpenters, about 80 immigrants became American citizens in front of an excited audience that included the President of the United States. Middle School Choral students sang in preparation for Reagan's speech. More residents made sure to find a spot along the county roads to watch the President drive by on his way to the Flemington Fairgrounds. During the large Feast of San Gennaro celebration, local dancers from the Italian-American Club, as well as local high school marching bands, performed for the community and for the President.

Summer intern, Julia Sirota, conducted research, interviewed residents, collected materials, and mounted this exhibit.

This moment in the community's history has proven to be both a single collective experience and a collection of many unique experiences. Residents took part in these communal moments, but each individual saw and lived these moments from a unique and personal perspective.

The Readington Museums collected stories, photographs, and interviews from residents. With these, the Museums designed an exhibit highlighting unique perspectives on the day's excitement. "By looking at these distinct memories collectively," the exhibit concludes, "we can understand what this historic moment meant to our community."

Monday Mornings Children's Summer Program

Sixteen children registered for July's Monday at the Museums' program. With the help of Museum intern, Julia Sirota, and volunteers, Catherine DeLessio, Cassandra Smith, Michaela Smith, and Rachel Newstadt, we were able to offer the program to more children each Monday. Having such dedicated volunteers helped to keep the quality of programming at a high level. The program consisted of hands-on history or nature activities. Throughout the four Mondays, the children learned about the Dutch traditions in the spirit of the Farmstead's history, while listening to Dutch stories. They created windmills, churned butter, dipped candles, became tin smith apprentices, painted rock critters, and danced with a partner -English country style.



Staff back row from left: Program Director, Margaret Smith, Volunteer, Rachel Newstadt, Intern, Julia Sirota, and Volunteer Cassie Smith.



Cassie helps Katherine paint a bumble bee rock.



Julia prepares the group for critter painting.



Lady bug rock painted by Zoya. -with Julia



Open House at 1826 Cold Brook School



The Readington Museums' Cold Brook School, originally built in 1826, will be open on Sunday, October 2, 2016 and will offer visitors the chance to see what it was like to attend school in the early 19th century. The one room school house is a period correct reconstruction built over the original foundations. The original burned down sometime in the late 20th century. The schoolhouse is only opened once a year when the Museums' provide a hands-on school day for all 4th graders attending Readington Township schools. Now, everyone will have the same chance to spend a fun filled afternoon at the school house. Visitors will have a chance to see if they are Abecedarians, try their hand at orthography using a quill pen and ink, solve mathematical problems, and learn some New Jersey history. During recess, visitors can try their

hand at playing a variety of 19th century games, including rolling hoops, in the meadow. Apple cider and bread with apple butter will be served.

The program will run continually from 1:00-4:00 p.m. with different activities happening at different times. Due to the small size of the school house, groups of four or more are asked to call for a reservation. GPS address is 190 Potterstown Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833.



Julia and Cassie teaching English dance.



Churning Butter with Madison.



Julia preparing for butter churning.

Calendar 2016

Sunday, September 11

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Pottery Demo

Helen Farrant

Sunday, October 2

1:00-4:00 p.m.

*19th c. Schoolhouse
visitation at the*

Cold Brook School

Saturday, October 8

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Barn Dance

Betsy Gotta

Sunday, November 6

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Quince Recipes

Susan Plaisted

Sunday, December 4

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Dutch Christmas

Open Hearth Cooking

Bev Altrath and Arlene

Soong

Sunday, February 5

1:00-4:00 p.m.

TBD

Unless otherwise noted, programs will be held at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead, GPS address: 114 Dreahook Road Lebanon NJ 08833.

Donations for all programs are gladly accepted. Prior registration required for groups of six or more.

Readington Museums received an Operating Support Grant in 2015 from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.