

## Explore the New

# FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

for the Museum!

In an effort to make the museum a more inviting and inclusive space for families, we've launched a new Family Activity Guide! Designed for families with children of all ages, the Guide is a pack of 9 cards that come tucked inside a frosted vellum envelope. Each card focuses on different objects on display in the Main Gallery and includes a variety of activities that help families explore the exhibits together. The guide is free to every family and available for visitors to pick up at the volunteer desk.

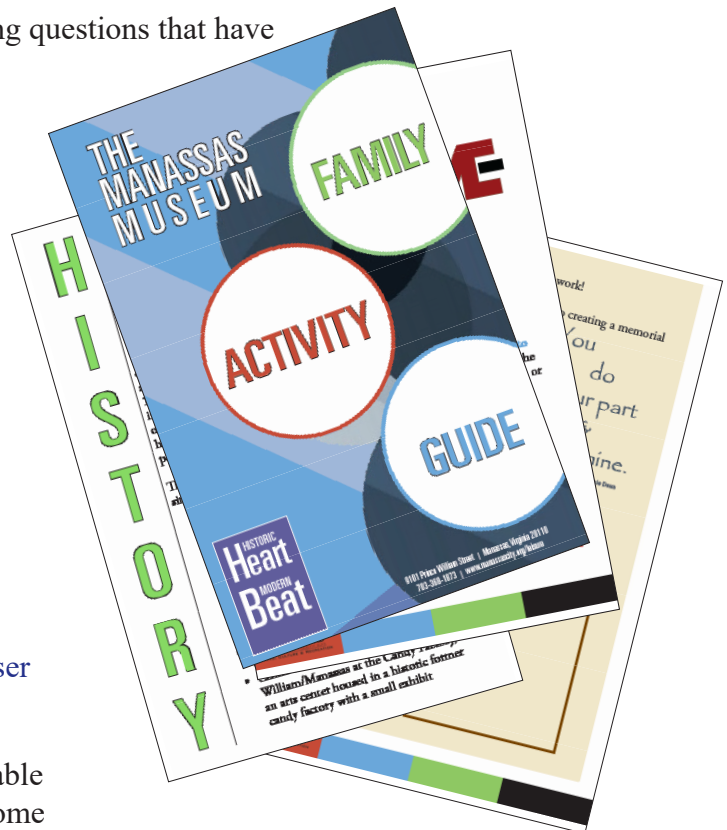
The Guide helps families make meaningful connections to the museum by using a variety of approaches such as:

- Open-ended conversation prompts, including questions that have no specific right or wrong answers
- Looking closely at objects and displays to discover details that help tell the story of each object
- Limiting the number of objects/cards so that the task seems manageable
- Hands-on activities that encourage higher order thinking such as writing and sketching

*“Very useful and engaged children - helping them to understand the area's history.”*

— recent family activity guide user

Research shows that when children have memorable experiences with their parents at museums, they become lifelong museum goers (Reach Advisors, 2008.) By



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# Family Activity Guide

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giving families a fun way to explore the museum together while also making the collection more accessible, the Guide is helping us to not only stay relevant to young families in our community, but is also encouraging increased engagement and investment in the museum and developing the next generation of avid Manassas Museum visitors.

## The Guide Includes 9 Different Cards, Families are Under No Pressure to Complete All of Them!

While the guide includes 9 different cards, families are under no pressure to complete all of them in a single visit! In fact, there is no single correct way to use the guide—visitors are encouraged to start with the card they are the most interested in or curious about and complete as many or as few of the activities as they wish. While some activities are based on information in the gallery and may require reading labels or looking closely at an object, other activities may be completed at home,


*“It assisted with learning for children and adults.”*

— recent family activity guide user

such as sketching a monument for Jennie Dean. There is also a survey in the pack that is designed to

help us to better understand who our family audience is and how they use the Family Guide. When the survey is completed, families may turn it in at the shop to receive a 10% discount. We will use the data gathered from the completed surveys to drive any changes or updates we make to the Guide as well as to inform our other offerings for families. So far, the feedback has been positive!

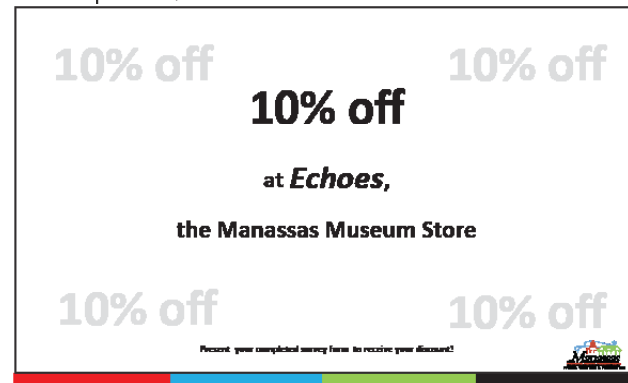
## The Family Activity Guide Helps Families Gain a Sense of Comfort and Belonging at the Museum

Our collection is what makes us unique and connects families to the history of their community. The Family Activity Guide helps families gain a sense of comfort and belonging at the museum and is one way in which we can engage parents and children and create lifelong visitors to the Manassas Museum! 

Please tell us about your experience using the Family Guide.  
Turn in your completed survey at *Echoes*, the Museum Store for a discount!

► Who was in your group today?  
Number and ages of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number and ages of children: \_\_\_\_\_

► What did you like most about the Guide?



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# Welcome to Parks, Culture & Recreation

## Business Service Supervisor - Danay Lewis

Danay Lewis holds two degrees—one in Arts Management and one in Merchandise Management with a focus in Fashion Merchandising. She has always had a love of the arts and fashion/beauty. Her professional background has primarily been in retail and operations. More recently, within the last 10 years, she has been specifically working in management of museum retail/gift shops. At her former position was managing the gift shop at the highly popular Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. She also worked for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, another well-loved museum in the area. Danay loves learning about many cultures and communities, and museums were the perfect places for her to get that knowledge and interact with people.



Fun facts about her: She is a huge fan of Tim Burton's movies (*Beetlejuice*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Corpse Bride*, *Frankenweenie*, etc.). Her favorite movie of all time is not a Tim Burton movie though. It's *The Color Purple*, the only movie that made her want to cry for.

## Programs and Events Coordinator - Rachel Goldberg

Rachel Goldberg is Programs and Events Coordinator at the Manassas Museum System. She is responsible for ensuring a dynamic schedule of programs at the Manassas Museum and works to ensure public engagement in the heritage of the City and its various historical sites, in addition to creating unique and enjoyable experiences for diverse audiences that highlight the city spirit and charm. Rachel has co-authored award-winning teaching kits and family guides based on museum collections, and in 2014 she received an Award for Achievement in Public Diplomacy for a multi-dimensional exchange program hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan. Before joining the Manassas Museum, Rachel held positions at The Phillips Collection, The National Gallery of Art, and the George Eastman Museum. She has also developed and taught summer and after-school art programs for youth in communities with the greatest need through organizations such as Girls Incorporated of Metro Denver and Project Create in Washington, DC. Rachel holds a B.F.A. in Photography from the University of Colorado, Denver and an M.A. in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management from Ryerson University in conjunction with George Eastman Museum. Rachel lives in Manassas with her partner and their dog, cat, and chickens.



# Curator's Corner

by Mary Helen Dellinger

It's a new year and even a new decade! The winter months always make me think of fresh starts, a new calendar and all the things that go along with that. At the Museum, the new calendar year means new exhibitions and all the work that goes along with creating them.

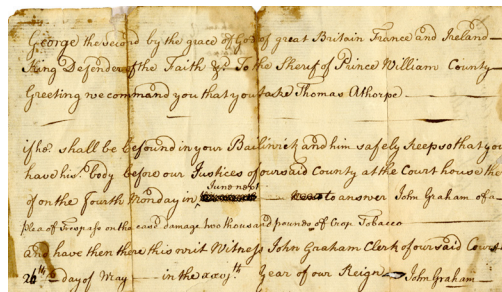
## Artistic Expression - Osbourn High School

We have three special shows this year I think all of you will enjoy. The first one is *Artistic Expression*, the annual Osbourn High School (OHS) art exhibit that will be on display during the month of March. This will be our seventh year partnering with the art students at OHS, and we are continually amazed at their talent. Mark your calendars now for Friday, March 6 for the special opening reception. The students will be on hand that evening and are eager to share their art with all of you.



## Consider the Source - Exhibition of our Collection of Documents

After years of offering summer shows that focus on larger, community-wide topics, we are pivoting back to exhibits that draw almost exclusively from our own collections. In June, we will open



our signature summer show centered around the Museum's outstanding collection of documents. You may be thinking to yourself that an exhibit about paper sounds really boring. Not so! We've decided to put a fun twist on our approach to this show. Instead of interpreting the documents for you, we are going to put them on display along with a series of questions for you to consider. Our hope is that by challenging you to think about these documents in different ways, you will come to see them in a new light. I'm working hard to select things that have never been displayed here before, so this will be your chance to see some pieces from our past for the very first time. Watch your inbox and your mail for information about the opening reception for this exhibit – also something we are planning with a fun twist!

## Fun Exhibit that Showcases the Rohr Doll Collection

Finally, we will end the year with a fun exhibit that showcases the Rohr doll collection. For those of you that remember the Rohr Five and Dime Store, you should also recall the amazing collection displayed inside the store. The Museum owns nearly 700 individual pieces from that collection – most of it miniature doll house furniture. We are excited to finally be pulling this out just in time



for the 2020 holiday season. More information will come on this exhibit as we work to develop it.

As you can see, there are three opportunities to visit us this coming year. I hope to see you around the Museum very soon.





# A PEEK AT PROGRAMS

[manassascity.org/leisure](http://manassascity.org/leisure)

by Rachel Goldberg

After a brief hiatus, programs are back at the Museum! Our new Programs Coordinator, Rachel Goldberg, has developed a portfolio of programs designed to appeal to a variety of visitors and engage new audiences such as young professionals, families with young children, and millennials. All programs are being evaluated using surveys designed to gather data that will help us improve programs and tweak our offerings to be the most relevant to our audiences.

Our goals for programs include engaging the public with the museum and its collections, telling the story of all of the diverse people living in Manassas, to engage new audiences, and drawing people inside the museum building.

## Continue to Offer Favorite Programs... Also Launched New Programs

While we will continue to offer favorite programs such as the monthly Stories of Preservation and Progress speaker series, we have also launched



*Stafford-based tribe from Chief Emeritus John Lightner of the Stafford-based Patowomek Indians of Virginia speaks at the February Stories of Preservation and Progress.*

new programs and will continue to pilot additional programs as we get to know our audiences and learn more about what types of programs the residents of Manassas would like to attend. A few of the new programs we've launched include:

### Front Porch Talks

This program is offered on the first Saturday of each month and opens up Liberia House in a new way. This series of casual conversations honors the eighty enslaved people who once lived and worked at Liberia by focusing on topics related to African American history, locally and in a more broad context. During the colder months, Front Porch Talks are happening inside the house, but we look forward to the warmer months when we can host this program outside! Our first speaker was Dr. Eric Williams, Curator of Religion at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington D.C., and he spoke to a sold out crowd!

### Spotlight Talks

Designed to engage visitors directly with objects in the gallery, this short, 15-minute conversation happens twice a month at lunch time. Led by museum staff, these short talks are intended to foster community engagement with the collection by bringing folks living and working in the downtown area into the museum. Our first spotlight talk focused on the piano on display (did you know that it is a fine example of a "square piano" and it was once owned by one of Mosby's rangers?!) and our next one will be led by Ellie Hill and will focus on the objects in the

*See Programs, next page*


# Programs

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gallery that tell some of the African American history of Manassas (Feb. 19th at noon.)

## Family Workshop

Offered on the second Saturday of each month, these workshops give families the opportunity to do hands-on activities, enjoy guided conversations in the Main Gallery and temporary exhibits, and create a craft to take home. Our first workshop explored the temporary exhibit Native Legacy: The Patowomeck Indians of Virginia and focused specifically on tools such as arrowheads and pottery used by this local tribe during the 17th Century. Parents and children worked together to make arrowhead necklaces and to create small pinch- and coil pots out of model magic, a type of air drying clay. Surveys showed that the workshop was enjoyed by those who attended and that they would be highly likely to attend future Family workshops.

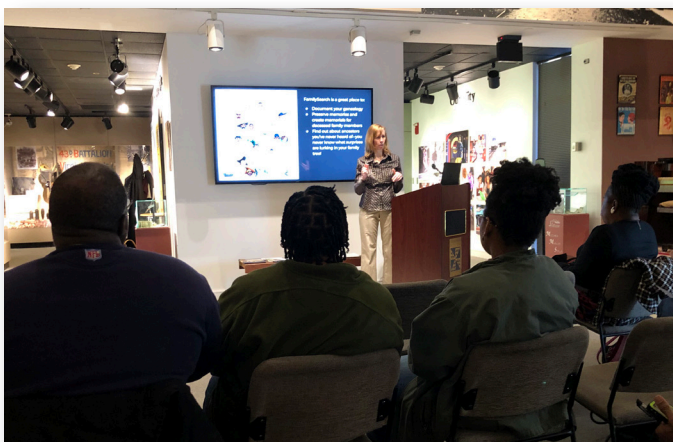
For the most up to date information about ongoing programs, check the website and please be in touch with Rachel if you are interested in helping out with programs! 



*Dr. Eric Williams, Curator of Religion, National Museum of African-American History and Culture speaks at the first in a series "Front Porch Talks."*



*Family Workshop - Parents and children work together exploring the gallery.*



*Attendees enjoy learning to navigate ancestry records during the Genealogy workshop focusing on African-American ancestry during Black History Month.*



*Local educators enjoy an evening at the museum during the Evening with Educators held in late February. Evening with Educators is part of a series scheduled quarterly throughout the year.*





# Notes

from the President's Desk

As we turn our attention to 2020, I want to thank everyone for their support of last year's holiday events. We enjoyed seeing many of you at the annual open house at the Museum, hosting Santa Claus and raffling off a holiday stocking full of gift cards to downtown businesses and restaurants. Congratulations to lucky winner Keith Mueller! We also had a very successful event at Liberia where we partnered with local merchants to decorate the house for the holidays and provide tours.



Of course a new year means new projects and we are excited to turn our attention back to Liberia. Now that work on the house is completed, we want to focus on getting the grounds looking beautiful. The Museum Associates are partnering with community gardeners and the staff from Parks, Culture and Recreation to install a lovely garden on the grounds. If you have driven by the house recently on Portner Avenue, you may have noticed all those white flags sticking up out of the ground. Those mark the area for the planned garden. With spring just around the corner, it is the perfect time to get started on this project. Keep an eye out for improvements on the property and we will continue to update you here.



We are also headed down the home stretch with fundraising for the Jennie Dean statue. Although work has already begun on casting the statue, we are still a bit short of our goal. Please consider giving a gift today. You can do so easily online. Simply visit our Go Fund Me page at [www.gofundme.com/jennie-dean-memorial-campaign](http://www.gofundme.com/jennie-dean-memorial-campaign) to give to the Jennie Dean Memorial Campaign. All gifts, no matter the amount, are welcome. A letter about this project will be coming out very soon, so watch your mailbox for that!

As always, we thank you for your continued support.



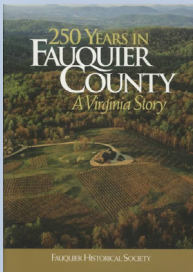
Pat Beuch, President



The Manassas Museum Associates  
9101 Prince William Street  
Manassas, Virginia 20110  
703-368-1873  
[www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org)

HISTORIC  
**Heart**  
MODERN  
**Beat**

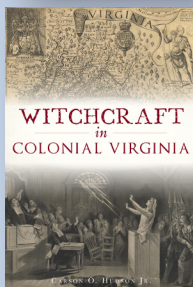
BOOK TALK!  
1:30 P.M., FREE



**March 8**

**John T. Toler**

*250 Years in Fauquier  
County - A Virginia Story*



**April 19**

**Carson O. Hudson, Jr.**

*Witchcraft in Colonial  
Williamsburg*



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