

# Winter-holiday-themed events among the 15 special programs at Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs sites in December 2014

(DOVER, Del.—Nov. 18, 2014)—During the month of December 2014, the museums and historic properties administered by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be offering 15 special programs including eight winter-holiday-themed activities. A full schedule of events is listed below. All programs are free and open to the public. For additional information, call 302-744-5055.



Buena Vista mansion will be hosting an open house on Dec. 13, 2014.

Highlights of the month include “Nutcracker Storytime,” a glimpse into the story and characters of Tchaikovsky’s holiday favorite presented by the [Ballet Theatre of Dover](#). The event will take place on Friday, Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at [The Old State House](#), located at 25 The Green, in Dover.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., one of Delaware’s most historic homes—the [Buena Vista Conference Center](#) south of New Castle—will be decorated for the holidays and will be offering special tours, plus ornament-making activities for children. Intrepid travelers can then make the short trip to old New Castle for the annual [Spirit of Christmas in New Castle](#) which includes activities at the [New](#)

## [Castle Court House Museum.](#)

Finally, on Dec. 6 and 20, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Dover's [John Dickinson Plantation](#) will present "Handmade for the Holidays," hands-on programs in which visitors can learn to create a sachet with herbs and spices (Dec. 6) and create a plaster ornament (Dec. 20).



John Dickinson  
Plantation historic-  
site interpreter  
Barbara Carrow  
demonstrating plaster  
casting.

### **Special events, December 2014**

**Note:** Recent program changes are highlighted in brown.

#### **Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014**

**"Hospitality Night."** 1920s holiday-themed program featuring festive décor, music, demonstrations and seasonal refreshments. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. ~~6–9~~ 5–8 p.m. 302-645-1148. **Note additional program info and time change.**

#### **Friday, Dec. 5, 2014**

**"Nutcracker Storytime."** [Ballet Theatre of Dover](#) ~~to present a condensed version of Tchaikovsky's holiday favorite~~ provides a glimpse into the story and characters of Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker." [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 5:30 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **Note change in program description.**

#### **Friday, Dec. 5, 2014**

**Dan and James.** Folk duo specializing in folk-rock from the 60s and 70s. Presented in partnership with the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover.

Program at 7:30 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
302-744-5055. **Recently added program.**

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014**

**“Dry as a Martini: Prohibition in Delaware.”** Guided tours explore how Delaware and its governments dealt with Prohibition. Stories of bootleggers, speakeasies, gangsters, politicians and federal prohibition agents of 1920s will be featured. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
302-744-5055. **Recently added program.**



The Old State House

~~**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014**~~

~~**“A Taste of Jazz: From the Beginning.”** Guided tours explore the sounds of the Jazz Age and the role played by Delaware’s native son, E.R. Johnson in jazz music history, accompanied by early jazz recordings played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
302-744-5055. **Program cancelled.**~~

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014**

**“The Victors of World War I: The Power of Music.”** Guided tours will explore music’s influence during World War I when patriotic songs were being composed throughout America. Hear 78-rpm recordings of this inspirational music played on authentic Victor Talking Machines, and explore how the Victor Talking Machine Company’s Camden, N.J. factory led the fight to make the world safe for democracy. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
302-744-5055. **Recently added program.**

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014**

**Delaware Day awards ceremony.** Event honors participants in

the Delaware Department of State's 13th annual [Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition](#) which challenges students to create displays that help illustrate and explain the U.S. Constitution and the role played by Delawareans in the writing and ratification of the nation's founding document. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. 10 a.m. 302-739-4111. **Recently added program.**

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014**

**2014 Holiday Open House at Woodburn: The Governor's House.** Enjoy guided tours of Woodburn, the official residence of Delaware's governor, and Hall House, the governor's guest house. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. [Woodburn: The Governor's House](#), 151 Kings Highway, Dover. 302-739-5656. **Recently added program.**

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014**

**"Tour Zwaanendael Museum."** Enjoy the museum's festive holiday-décor. Event held in conjunction with the Lewes Historical Society's [Christmas Tour of Lewes](#). [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 302-645-1148.

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014**

**"Handmade for the Holidays."** Seasonal program in which visitors can create a sachet with herbs and spices. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program at ~~2:30 p.m.-11-2:30 p.m.~~ Museum open 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277. **Note time change.**

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014**

**"An Illegal Activity."** Utilizing the exhibit "[An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware](#)" as a backdrop, guided tours will explore Delaware's crucial role in the Underground Railroad and on two Delaware leaders who aided in this "freedom enterprise." [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), Delaware Public Archives building, 121

Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. Tours at Noon and 2 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014**

**“Simple Pleasures: ~~Picnic~~, Play and Dance.”** Utilizing authentic clothing and objects from the collections of the state of Delaware, Ann Baker Horsey, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs’ curator of collections, will discuss Edwardian and Roaring ‘20s fall and winter recreational activities and their associated fashions and sporting attire that reflected the spirit of the liberated “modern” woman. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055. **Note change in program title and description.**

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014**

[Spirit of Christmas in New Castle](#). One of the best preserved Colonial-era towns in America will feature tours of historic homes bedecked in holiday decorations, activities at museums including the [New Castle Court House Museum](#), crafts, musical entertainment and more. Festivities will conclude at 5 p.m. with the annual Christmas tree lighting at Market Square. Downtown New Castle. 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. 302-328-3279.



New Castle Court House  
Museum

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014**

**Buena Vista Holiday Open House.** One-day-only event featuring tours of one of Delaware’s most historic homes decorated for the holidays plus ornament-making activity for children. [Buena Vista Conference Center](#), 661 S. Dupont Highway (Route 13), New Castle. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 302-323-4430. **Recently added program.**

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014**

**Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild.** Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014**

**“Handmade for the Holidays.”** Seasonal program in which visitors can create a plaster ornament. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Exhibits and displays, December 2014**

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is presenting the following exhibits and displays:

**Thru Dec. 7, 2014 ~~Ongoing Thru July 31, 2014~~**

**[“An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware.”](#)**

Exhibit explores the First State’s role in the Underground Railroad by showcasing Thomas Garrett and Samuel D. Burris and the actions they took in following their consciences rather than the law. Presented in partnership with the Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), Delaware Public Archives building, 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055. **Note changes in closing date.**

**Ongoing**

**[“Delaware and the War of 1812.”](#)** Exhibit examines the service and sacrifice of Delawareans of 1812 to 1815, and the important role that the state played in a conflict that helped shaped the development of the United States. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; ~~Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m.~~ from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148. **Note correction to museum**

hours.

### Ongoing

**“Dress for Success: The Edwardian Gentlemen’s Wardrobe and Accessories.”** Display of objects of adornment, **fall and winter sporting attire**, fashion and accessories for male grooming from the time period depicted in the Downton Abbey television series. From the collections of the state of Delaware. [Legislative Hall](#), 411 Legislative Ave., Dover. Limited visitation hours; call 302-739-9194 before planning a visit. **Note addition to display description.**

### Ongoing

**[“Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey From Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad.”](#)** Exhibit chronicles the compelling story of Emeline Hawkins and her family and their 1845 odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Mon.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

### Ongoing

**Sculptures by Charles Parks.** Display of works by the noted Wilmington artist featuring historical and political figures including a Minute Man, and presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Mon.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453. **Recently added display.**

### Ongoing

**[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#)** Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty’s Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798 to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10

a.m.–4:30 p.m. ~~Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m.~~ from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148. **Note correction to museum hours.**

### Ongoing

**“[Simple Machines](#).”** Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

### Ongoing

**“Simple Pleasures: Play and Dance.”** Display of original Edwardian and roaring-20s fall and winter fashions that reflect the spirit of the liberated “modern” woman as depicted in the Downton Abbey television series. From the collections of the state of Delaware. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. Free admission. **Recently added display.**



“Simple Pleasures: Play and Dance” display at the Zwaanendael Museum.

### Ongoing

**“Simple Pleasures: ~~Picnic~~, Play and Dance.”** Display of original Edwardian and roaring-20s fall and **winter fashions and sporting attire** that reflect the spirit of the liberated “modern” woman as depicted in the Downton Abbey television series. From the collections of the state of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055. **Note change in**



**display title and description.**

**-End-**

**Contact:**

Jim Yurasek

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Phone: 302-736-7413

E-mail: [Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov](mailto:Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov)

Web: <http://history.delaware.gov>