

# Winter-holiday-themed events among 11 special programs sponsored by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs in December 2015

(DOVER, Del.—Nov. 19, 2015)—During the month of December 2015, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be sponsoring 11 special programs including seven winter-holiday-themed activities. A full schedule of events is listed below. All programs are free and open to the public.



The holiday classic “Scrooge” will be screened at the New Castle Court House Museum on Dec. 2, 2015.

Highlights of the month include a screening of the classic 1951 film “Scrooge” which will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) located at 211 Delaware St., in New Castle. Based on Charles Dickens’ book “A Christmas Carol,” the film stars Alastair Sim as the curmudgeonly miser who sees the error of his ways after being visited by three spirits. Admission to the film is free but, due to space restrictions, reservations are recommended by calling 302-323-4453.

On Saturdays, Dec. 5 and 19, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Dover’s [John Dickinson Plantation](#), located at 340 Kitts

Hummock Road in Dover, will present “Handmade for the Holidays,” a hands-on program in which visitors can create holiday-themed crafts. On Dec. 5 visitors will learn to decorate cards through the art of paper quilling and stenciling, while on Dec. 19, visitors will learn how to create plaster ornaments.

Finally, the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), located at 102 Kings Highway in Lewes, will celebrate the winter season with the programs “Hospitality Night” on Thursday, Dec. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m., and “Tour Zwaanendael Museum” on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On both occasions, the museum will be festively decorated for the season by the Sussex Gardeners, a local garden club.



#### Zwaanendael Museum

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the [five museums of the state of Delaware](#)—the John Dickinson Plantation, the Johnson Victrola Museum, the New Castle Court House Museum, The Old State House and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State’s contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through displays, exhibits and special programs, the museums explore how the state’s distinctive physical environment, in combination with the people who came to live there, gave Delaware an identity that is different from any other place. Go to the following for a [comprehensive, long-term calendar of museum events](#).

#### **Special events, December 2015**

##### **Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015**

**“Hollywood History at the Court House: ‘Scrooge.’ ”**  
Screening of the 1951 film starring Alastair Sim. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Film at 7 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions,

reservations are recommended by calling 302-323-4453.

**Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015**

**“Hospitality Night.”** Holiday-themed program in which the museum will be decorated for the season by the Sussex Gardeners. Activities will include music, demonstrations and seasonal refreshments. Presented in partnership with the [Lewes Chamber of Commerce](#). [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 5–8 p.m. 302-645-1148.

**Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015**

**“Judge an Album by Its Cover.”** Before the days of downloads people purchased albums or CDs that were clad in decorative and elaborate artwork. Make your personalized album cover to add to your own collection of music while listening to original 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. 302-739-3262. **Note: The museum’s telephone number has changed from 302-744-5055 to 302-739-3262.**

**Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015**

**Delaware Day awards ceremony.** Event honors participants in the Delaware Department of State’s 14th 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.

**Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015**

**“Quill Pen Writing and 18th Century Transcription.”** Write a fancy letter the old-fashioned way with a quill pen while also learning how to translate historic documents. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054. **Note: The museum’s telephone number has changed from 302-744-5055 to**

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**Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015**

**“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. 5, 2015**

**“Handmade for the Holidays.”** Seasonal program in which visitors can learn to create and decorate cards through the art of paper quilling and stenciling, and write a personal note with a quill pen. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015**

**“[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, Dickens-themed holiday activities, re-enactments, programs 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.

**Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015**

**“Woodland Christmas and Jingle Bells”:** Buena Vista Holiday Open House. One-day-only event featuring tours of one of Delaware’s most historic homes decorated for the holidays plus craft activities for children. [Buena Vista Conference Center](#), 661 S. Dupont Highway (Route 13), New Castle. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 302-323-4430.



Buena Vista

### **Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015**

**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.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

### **Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015**

**“Handmade for the Holidays.”** Seasonal program in which visitors can create a plaster ornament. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

### **Exhibits and displays, December 2015**

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

#### **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. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

#### **Ongoing**

**[“Delaware Mourns Lincoln: A Demonstration of Love and Sorrow.”](#)** Utilizing graphics, clothing and memorabilia, the display explores how Delawareans expressed their deep sorrow upon the death of President Abraham Lincoln on April 15, 1865. 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. 302-744-5054. **Note: The museum’s telephone number has changed from 302-744-5055 to 302-744-5054.**



## The Old State House

### Ongoing

**[“Discovering Delaware’s Maritime Past.”](#)** Display explores the DeBraak, a shipwrecked 18th-century British warship including a photo of the hull recovery, reproductions of items aboard ship, and a model of the vessel. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

### 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. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453. **Note: The museum’s operating hours have changed from Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. to Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.**

### Ongoing

**[Sculpture 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. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453. **Note: The museum’s operating hours have changed from Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. to Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.**

### 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. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

### 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. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277. **Note: The museum’s operating hours have changed from Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. to Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. From April 1–Sept. 30, the museum is open Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; and Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m.**



Mansion house at the John  
Dickinson Plantation.

### Ongoing

**[“World War II Through the Lens of William D. Willis.”](#)** Designed by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the display features photographs taken in Western Europe from 1943-45. 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.

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