

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to sponsor 14 free programs during March 2017

(DOVER, Del.—Feb. 22, 2017)—The [five museums of the State of Delaware](#) will be sponsoring 14 special events during the month of March 2017. A full schedule is included below. All programs are free and open to the public.



National Harriet Tubman Day will be celebrated with several programs during March 2017.

Administered by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the five museums—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 tours, exhibits, school programs and hands-on activities, the museums shine a spotlight on Delaware’s unique history and the diverse people who came to live there. The New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation are partner sites of the [First State National Historical Park](#). The Old State House is located on the Dover Green, another partner site of the park. Go to the following for a comprehensive, long-term [calendar of events](#) sponsored by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special programs, March 2017

Saturday, March 4, 2017

“A Woman’s World: Journal Making.” Women have been integral in documenting the history of the plantation through letters and journals. Drop-in for this activity and create your own handmade journal. [National Women’s History Month](#) program. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, March 4, 2017

“The Influence of the Shadd Family.” Presentation by historic-site interpreters Latecia Prophet and Gavin Malone explores one of Delaware’s 19th-century families who led extraordinary lives of privilege despite obstacles of race and gender in their time. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-744-5054.

Saturday, March 4, 2017

“From Prima Donnas to Divas: A Victor Creation.” Program examines the talented female vocalists of the Victor Talking Machine Company and how they paved the way for the divas of today, accompanied by 78-rpm recordings of those artists played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [First Saturday in the First State](#) and [National Women’s History Month](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. Program at 3 p.m. in the museum’s 2nd floor gallery (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.



Operatic soprano
Rosa Ponselle will

be one of the divas featured at the Johnson Victrola Museum on March 4, 2017 as part of National Women's History Month.

Monday–Sunday, March 6–12, 2017

“Stories of Courage and Freedom.” Part of the “Find Your Freedom” series held in celebration of National Harriet Tubman Day. Program will feature stories of bravery, courage and freedom, and visitors can obtain The Old State House Network to Freedom [cancellation stamp](#). [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.

Tuesday–Saturday, March 7–11, 2017

“Run For Freedom.” Part of the “Find Your Freedom” series held in celebration of National Harriet Tubman Day. Program will feature African-American history tours focused on the lives of three enslaved individuals who escaped from bondage. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Friday, March 10, 2017

Concert by Mike Nielsen on Celtic harp and bouzouki. Presented in partnership with the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#) and the [First State Heritage Park](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 7:30 p.m. 302-744-5054. **Note: The starting time for this program has been changed from 7:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Saturday, March 11, 2017

“Thomas Garrett and his Role in the History of Delaware Slavery.” Part of the “Find Your Freedom” series held in celebration of National Harriet Tubman Day. Program will

explore Delaware's history of slavery, the Abolition movement and the activities of noted Abolitionist Thomas Garrett. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Programs at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-323-4453.



Thomas Garrett's contributions to the abolition of slavery will be explored at the New Castle Court House Museum on March 11 and 12, 2017.

Saturday, March 11, 2017

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, March 11, 2017

“Listen Up! African American and Women’s History.” Local youth working with noted Delaware spoken-word artists perform their own spoken-word compositions that bring to light the history of Delaware’s African-Americans and women with special tributes to Underground Railroad conductors Samuel D. Burris and Harriet Tubman. Part of the “[Listen Up!](#)” series that features young people who utilize poetry, theater, dance and song to create compositions that celebrate different aspects of Delaware history. [National Women’s History Month](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Performance at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054. **Note: The spoken-word program on African-**

American history, originally scheduled for Feb. 4, 2017, was combined with women's history for this March 11, 2017 program.

Saturday, March 11, 2017

"Patriots and Loyalists: Life in Lewes—A Town Torn During the Revolution." Lecture by historic-site interpreter Andrew Lyter. Final segment of "Ship to Shore Saturdays," a four-part series that chronicles local Lewes history. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. on the museum's 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than March 10, 2017.

Sunday, March 12, 2017

"Thomas Garrett and his Role in the History of Delaware Slavery." Part of the "Find Your Freedom" series held in celebration of National Harriet Tubman Day. Program will explore Delaware's history of slavery, the Abolition movement and the activities of noted Abolitionist Thomas Garrett. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Program at 2 p.m. Museum open 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-323-4453.

Saturday, March 18, 2017

"A Woman's World: Watercolors." Experience the art of water coloring, view family drawings and paint your own watercolor. [National Women's History Month](#) program. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, March 18, 2017

"The Minstrel Boy: The Life of John McCormack." In celebration of Irish Heritage Month, program by museum interpreter Gavin Malone explores the life of the noted Irish tenor John McCormack, accompanied by 78-rpm recordings

played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. Program at 3 p.m. in the museum's 2nd floor gallery (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-739-3262.

Monday, March 27, 2017

John Dickinson Plantation service project–log'd dwelling clean up. Join staff and volunteers in revitalizing an example of the type of structure that would have been lived in by the plantation's tenants and enslaved people. Volunteers will help move and clean furniture using some of the same cleaning products from the 18th century. Registration is recommended by contacting the Division's Volunteer Services Coordinator at 302-736-7411 or HCA_VolunteerSvc@delaware.gov. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 1–4 p.m. 302-739-3277.



Visitors can help to clean and revitalize the John Dickinson Plantation's log'd dwelling on March 27, 2017.

Exhibits and displays, March 2017

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring the following exhibits and displays. Admission is free and open to the public:

Thru mid-April, 2017

[“The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016.”](#) Display explores preservation work that has been conducted since Delaware's first state capitol building was restored to its original appearance in 1976. 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.

Thru Dec. 31, 2017

[“Rose Color to Gold to Glowing Red: Orville and Ethel Peets in Paris 1913-1914.”](#) Exhibit featuring paintings and painting materials used by the noted Delaware artists Orville Houghton Peets and Ethel Canby Peets. [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. Free admission. 302-645-1148.



Portrait of Ethel Canby Peets by Orville Peets. From the exhibit, “Rose Color to Gold to Glowing Red: Orville and Ethel Peets in Paris 1913-1914,” on display at the Zwaanendael Museum.

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.

Ongoing

“Five Stories.” Display explores the varied lives of people who lived on the plantation including Dickinson family members, tenant farmers, tradesmen, free blacks, indentured servants and enslaved individuals. [John Dickinson Plantation Welcome Center](#), 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.

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

[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.

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.

-End-

Contact:

Jim Yurasek

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Phone: 302-736-7413

E-mail: Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov

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