

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER...

Almost 350 guests joined us for Cocoa & Crafts with Santa in December. Our Adult and High School volunteers led fun crafts, exciting games, and overall ensured each guest felt the holiday magic. Thank you!

Our Preservation, Innovation, & Education Committee is starting to plan refinishing the floor and refurbishing the desks in the Poppleton School to make it more accessible.

Victorian Christmas returned this past December, and our Volunteer Guides did an excellent job welcoming guests and taking them around the Village. Over 150 guests joined us for the program - many for the first time!

Our first ever Breakfast with the Victorians was held on the Sunday of Victorian Christmas weekend. We served oysters and sang carols. More info on page 2.

The Tuesday Crew has been hard at work tidying up work spaces and making plans for the spring.



Gail, Sheryl, and Debbie curated and created brand new holiday decorations for the tree in the Old Troy Church and the Niles-Barnard House. More info on page 3.

Over 5,700 students & 1,000 chaperones are expected to join us from March - May for field trips at the Village. You know what that means... school craft prep!

Starting February 21, **the Troy Historic Village will be a peanut-free facility.** Please be sure to finish your peanut snacks before you join us at the Village!

We now have a Current Volunteers page on the Troy Historic Village website! More info on page 5.

Spring is ALMOST in the air, and we will soon need help making plans for, cleaning up, and maintaining our **Pioneer Garden**. If you're interested in helping, contact Barbara!

Monthly volunteer meetings will be on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:30am inside the Niles-Barnard House. Any variance from the plan will be communicated in advance! No need to RSVP - just stop on by! You can sign up on our calendar for a reminder if you would like.

BREAKFAST WITH THE VICTORIANS

We hosted our very first Breakfast with the Victorians on the Sunday of the Victorian Christmas program. The intimate gathering sold out very quickly, and when guests arrived they were greeted by the aromas of delicious food like sliced ham, roasted potatoes, and fried oysters.

Costumed reenactors from the Victorian Christmas program joined our guests at the tables to eat breakfast, share historical information, and overall enjoy each other's company. After breakfast, guests joined reenactors in a parlor game and holiday carols. The program went so well, we're already planning on making it an annual experience.

How did we pull this amazing program off? You might be able to guess - our volunteers!Carolynn and JoAnn stepped up to help set up the food, drinks, and tables, clean off the tables, then help reset the room for the start of Victorian Christmas. Lori also jumped right in to help us at the end. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH for your HARD work!!!



Left: The breakfast spread (from bottom to top: roasted potatoes, eggs, waffles, sliced ham. Oysters, muffins and jam were already on the table). Top Right: Carolynn carefully reviews our plans for the day. Bottom Right: JoAnn supervises the beverage table with a big smile and warm welcomes.



Top Left: Volunteer Barbara greets the group she will guide through Victorian Christmas. Top Right: Alex (THV Staff) and Scott (Victorian Era Reenactor) welcome guests to the Village during the program.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

December 2023 was the second year our volunteers guided groups of guests through the Victorian Christmas program. Each guide attended training before the event. During the event, they greeted and oriented their group to the program, then guided them to three stops: 1st stop at the Cabin, 2nd stop at the Caswell House, and 3rd stop at the Parsonage.

Costumed reenactors welcomed each guest into the home and had different stories to share about life during the holidays in the Victorian era. The Cabin was lit by candlelight, the Caswell House was full of giggles, and the Parsonage was immaculately decorated.

The pop-up gift shop was again set up in the General Store, and it was a great place to do some shopping for the holidays.

This program is a favorite of our guests, and one of the only chances to experience the Village at night - and with costumed reenactors! We're already looking forward to Victorian Christmas 2024.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

Gail P and Sheryl S began planning and curating the redesign of the holiday decorations in the Old Troy Church during the summer time. They did an outstanding job! Along with historically inspired homemade ornaments, they created striking red banners to hang along the walls in the church. Not only did they design and curate the decorations, they also help set up and take down the decorations! THANK YOU!



Top: The newly redesigned Christmas tree is on the left between two wreaths hanging on the wall. On the right wall are three red banners hanging from close to the ceiling with white stars on the red fabric.



Top left: close up photo of a paper globe. Middle left: close up of a paper star. Bottom left: close up of felt dove. Right: close up of all the hand-made ornaments including the golden walnuts that were sliced in half, gutted, re-glued and spray painted gold. WOW!



Top: Debbie H created other decorations to place around the Niles-Barnard House that matched the redesigned Christmas Tree.

While Gail and Sheryl were redesigning the Church, Debbie was busy curating a brand new historically inspired look for the Niles-Barnard House. As always, the Niles-Barnard House is home to the tree that our guests take a picture with Santa Claus in front of, and Debbie created many hand-made ornaments this year to create a stunning backdrop for family memories. Thank you, Gail & Janet, for helping set it up and take it down!



Top: The newly redesigned Santa tree in the Niles-Barnard House.

GREENS IN THE VILLAGE

Each year the Troy Garden Club makes the Village look beautiful by hanging greens throughout the Village as well as hanging wreaths. Here is a glimpse of some of their craftsmanship from December. Can you guess which building they are on?



RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking to add to our volunteer ranks! If you know of a friend, colleague or neighbor who is interested in becoming a volunteer, please have them fill out our volunteer application at troyhistoricvillage.org/volunteer or grabbing a paper copy from the Village main office. After they complete their application, I'll bring them in for a brief orientation where I'll share all the amazing things our volunteers do at the Village! And, we'll spend some time talking about what they're interested in doing to help them find a good fit.

FEEDBACK FORM

Did you volunteer at an event or attend one as a guest? Do you have feedback for us? We want to hear from you! You can send us feedback anytime by visiting: <https://form.jotform.com/TroyHistoricVillage/general-feedback-form>

CURRENT VOLUNTEERS WEBSITE UPDATE

Thank you all, volunteers, for coming along for the ride while we have figured out the best way to communicate with each other, sign up for shifts, and log hours over the last year and a half. Your patience and feedback have been invaluable, and I am so thankful for your passion and dedication to the Village! I am happy to announce that we now have an active volunteer page on our Troy Historic Village website! I have also made a video on how to access the page. You can watch the tutorial video by clicking this link: [Click Here to Watch Volunteer Website Tutorial](#). You can also visit the page on the website yourself by visiting this link: <https://www.troyhistoricvillage.org/support/volunteer/current-volunteers/>

On the page there is a direct link to our Volunteer Shift Calendar, so you no longer need to search your emails for the link to the calendar! Wahoo! There is also a link to log your volunteer hours from home, should you choose to do so. This is all brand new to all of us, and I am available to help learn how to navigate the page as needed! Please let me know if having all the volunteer information in one spot is helpful - I truly hope it is!

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MIDWINTER BREAK OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 19, 10AM - 3PM FEBRUARY 20, 10AM - 3PM

Our biggest free event of the year is coming up and we'd love your help! We need help welcoming guests to the program, greeting them in the Caswell and Parsonage House, and sharing information about the Village at the Info Table. Shifts are on Shift Calendar.

MONTHLY SCHOOL CRAFT PREP FEBRUARY 13, 10:30AM - 12PM MARCH 12, 10:30AM - 12PM APRIL 10, 10:30AM - 12PM

Our ongoing & continuous need for school craft prep supplies! It's also a wonderful time to catch up with other volunteers, and get to know new ones. Outside of our scheduled monthly gathering, you're welcome to grab supplies to take to work on at home. We also have lots of candle dipping shifts (this can only be done at the Village) on the shift board!

EGG HUNT - SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 22, 4PM - 7:30PM MARCH 23, 11AM - 3PM

It's almost Egg Hunt time! Please save the date to help us put on a hoppin' good time at this year's eggcellent event. Shifts are not on the Shift Calendar yet, but they should be up by the end of February.

EGG HUNT CRAFT PREP MARCH 13, 11AM - 3PM

Help prep the craft for Egg Hunt at the main building at the Village. Shift is on Shift Calendar.

PIONEER GARDEN PLANNING, PREP, AND MAINTAINING ONGOING

We are redesigning our Pioneer Garden by the Cabin in the Village and would love the help of some of our great volunteers. Once the weather starts to get warm, we'll need help clearing out the beds, planting, and maintaining the beds. If you're interested in helping garden, let Barbara know!

MAPLE SYRUP DAYS MARCH 2, VARIOUS TIMES MARCH 9, VARIOUS TIMES MARCH 16, VARIOUS TIMES

The Troy Historic Village does a pop-up shop at the Stage Nature Center during their Maple Syrup Days program each year. We need help greeting guests and helping bag up items they purchase, sharing information about the Village at our Info Table, and helping prep the samples to be distributed by our High School volunteers. Shifts are on Shift Calendar.

PRESERVATION ASSISTANTS FEBRUARY 21, 11AM - 1PM MARCH 20, 11AM - 1PM

We are seeking energetic and compassionate people who enjoy cleaning to help us maintain some of our collections! Some duties may include dusting, sweeping / mopping, cleaning baseboards / walls, and other general housekeeping duties inside of our historic structures. We will provide all the supplies and have some training for handling artifacts! This position will work closely with our curator, Elizabeth! Shifts are on Shift Calendar.

MARKETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION ONGOING

We do lots of fun programs here at the Village, and we would love your help making sure as many people know about them as possible. We are seeking volunteers who are interested and available to pick up materials from the Troy Historic Village and distribute them to local libraries under our direction. We will make sure you have all the information you need to complete this task! Please see the sign up calendar on **February 21**, then on the 3rd Wednesday of every other month we would like our materials to go to (after Feb, the next day is April 17).