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Photos Available

DAVID LIBRARY WILL HOLD OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 27

Public Invited to Learn About “Bucks County’s Best Kept Secret,” a World-Class Research Facility

(Special Events/Calendar Listing: Lectures)

(WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA) -- The David Library of the American Revolution in Washington Crossing will hold its sixth annual open house on Saturday, September 27 from 10:00 AM to 4PM. Scheduled events include a lecture on the gardens of the Founding Fathers, a “gallery chat” featuring rare manuscripts from the Library’s Sol Feinstone Collection, screenings of two educational films produced by the David Library in the 1970s, and more. The open house is planned to help people interested in history learn more about what the David Library has to offer, and this year, it will celebrate the Library’s 40th year at its current location.

Founded in 1959 by Sol Feinstone, the David Library of the American Revolution was originally located in the Visitor’s Center at the Washington Crossing Historic Park. In the fall of 1974, it reopened at 1201 River Road, a mile north of the park’s visitor’s
The David Library is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study of American history in the era of the American Revolution. Its vast and unparalleled collections are available for researchers of every level of academic experience, whether Ph. D. scholar or amateur history buff. In addition, the David Library offers a regular schedule of public programs including lectures, workshops and film screenings. The Library also provides residential fellowships to support the work of professional historians from around the world.

This year’s open house will feature a lecture at 11:30 AM, “Founding Gardens: Penn, Washington and Jefferson,” by Irwin Richman, Ph. D., a Commonwealth Speaker of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Dr. Richman will discuss the gardens of three eminent American historical figures, William Penn, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, in a highly visual presentation. “The element that binds these gardeners together,” says Richman, “is the Quaker gardening tradition, which can be traced from Penn through the founders of Germantown Pennsylvania, especially Francis Daniel Pastorius. This links in turn to John and William Bartram who influenced the gardens of Washington and Jefferson.” Dr. Richman is Professor Emeritus of American Studies and History at Penn State Harrisburg, and a Research Associate at the Landis Valley Museum in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He has taught garden history at Longwood Gardens.

At 1:00, the David Library’s Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Patrick K. Spero, will make a presentation that will illuminate artifacts from the Library’s Sol Feinstone Collection of 2500 original 18th century manuscripts. At 3:00, two short films, “Good Morning, Freedom!” and “Ten Days That Changed the World” will be shown. These
were directed by Ezra Stone, a Hollywood director who was President and Director of the David Library from 1974 to 1994. Peter Osborne, author of the new book “No Spot In This Far Land is More Immortalized: A History of Pennsylvania’s Washington Crossing Historic Park” will hold a book sale and signing in the Library’s Rose Gallery in the afternoon. In addition, there will be opportunities for those who attend to meet the staff, browse collections, learn about upcoming programs, and enjoy refreshments including birthday cake.

The public is invited to attend any portion of the open house, and the events are all admission free. Attending the scheduled events is entirely optional. The David Library is located at 1201 River Road, Washington Crossing, 1.3 miles north of the Washington Crossing Bridge. For further information, call (215)493-6776 ext. 100.

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