



# Communique Express

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PLAINFIELD  
DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM

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## MEMBERS BRUNCH AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Trustees will host a members brunch and meeting on Sunday, June 9th at 12 noon in the 2nd Floor Gallery. If you have not yet renewed your membership for this year, you may do so on that day. If you have not had a chance to take in the current exhibit, this will give you an opportunity to do so. Come out and visit with old and new friends. We hope to see you there!

## WASHINGTON ATE HERE! A FOOD TASTING EVENT TO COMMEMORATE THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SHORT HILLS\*

Sure, General Washington slept here, there, practically everywhere! But what did he *eat*? Did he chomp into a juicy cheeseburger with a side of fries and chocolate milkshake? Was he a pizza lover? Maybe George was partial to bean sprouts and tofu?

On Sunday, June 16th, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Gallery, find out what Washington ate, and sample food from the Revolutionary era, including strawberry-rhubarb pie, hoe cakes, pressed cider, hoppin' john, maple cake, and more! Mark Newton, Director of Food Services at John F. Kennedy Medical Center, will discuss colonial era cooking, from soup to nuts! HSP Members Free, All Others \$3.00.

\*It was at the Drake House that George Washington consulted with his officers during and after the Battle of the Short Hills, fought over the entire Plainfield area on June 25th - 27th, 1777.

## REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF THE SHORT HILLS

The Drake House Museum will have a display table at this Revolutionary War encampment and reenactment, featuring The Brigade of the American Revolution. This weekend-long event is scheduled to take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 29th & 30th, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at John Adams Middle School, located at 1081 New Dover Road in Edison.

This event is being sponsored by the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, with support from: *Edison Historic Preservation Commission, Center for Community Renewal, Edison Wetlands Association, Save the Oaktree Pond, and Central Jersey Bicycle Club.*

## PLAINFIELD R.S.V.P. 2002 HOUSE TOUR & GARDEN PARTY

On Sunday, July 14th, from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m., the Drake House Museum will be one of ten fine homes featured on this popular summer tour, hosted annually by Residents Supporting Victorian Plainfield, also known as Plainfield R.S.V.P.

Proceeds from the tour will benefit R.S.V.P.'s Community Service Committee, which will be making a donation to the Historical Society of Plainfield. Tickets (\$15.00 for R.S.V.P. members, \$20.00 for all others) may be purchased the day of the event at the historic Netherwood Train Station, located on South Avenue in Plainfield. As an added bonus, visitors who join the Historical Society of Plainfield on the day of the tour will enjoy a 20% discount on the price of an annual membership!



## RECENT EVENTS

The Drake House Museum had a display table at the Heritage Trail Association's Reenactment of the Battle of Bound Brook. This event commemorated the 225th anniversary of the battle, which took place on April 13, 1777. The reenactment and encampment were staged on the grounds of Van Horne House in Bridgewater on Saturday, April 13th.

HSP President JoAnn Ball and new EPC Rebecca Williams participated in the festivities, handing out brochures, postcards, and flyers for *Washington Ate Here!*, as well as selling copies of *Images of America: Plainfield*. More than fifty new names were added to the HSP mailing list!

### MEET REBECCA WILLIAMS, NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT HSP

The Historical Society of Plainfield welcomes Rebecca Williams as our new administrator of the *Elizabeth Keating Education Program*. For this position, funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, as well as the Plainfield Foundation. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Rebecca moved to Plainfield four years ago. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in English (American Literature) from the City College of New York, and will begin a Ph.D. Program in American Literature at The Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y., in the fall of 2002 as a President's Fellow.

A former filmmaker and adjunct film instructor in the Graduate Film Program at New York University, she sits on the Board of Directors at Women Make Movies, Inc., a media arts organization in New York. Rebecca is a past recipient of a New York State Council on the Arts Individual Artists Program Grant, and is the founder and workshop leader of Evergreen Writers Creative Writing Workshops, based in Plainfield.

Rebecca began working at the Drake House in March, and has already met with Dr. Linnea Weiland, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Plainfield

Public Schools, and has hosted a staff meeting at the Drake House for the Maxson Middle School Social Studies teachers.

"I look forward to working with the Society, both trustees and members, in continuing to bring the rich history of Plainfield to the public," Rebecca says. "I am interested in creating history programs for children of all ages, and will be reviewing the existing program as well as implementing new programs for the fall, including a monthly craft day and an adult lecture series."

### DISTRICT-WIDE CALENDAR CONTEST TO INCLUDE DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM

Students from all thirteen public schools in Plainfield will create drawings, paintings, and collages of local historic and/or architecturally interesting homes for a calendar contest this June. The 2003 calendar is scheduled to be released later this year.

Laura Fattal, Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts for the Plainfield Public School System, chose specific houses near each school for the students to sketch. The students from Stillman Elementary School will be rendering the Drake House in whatever media they choose! EPC Rebecca Williams will be among the judges of the contest.

After choosing the individual winner from each school, there will be a second judging to decide upon the artwork for the calendar cover.

### BOOK SALE CONTINUES!

*Images of America: Plainfield*, by John A. Grady and Dorothe M. Pollard, is available for purchase at the Drake House Museum. Featuring over 200 photographs, including images from private collections (many never before seen by the public), this pictorial history of Plainfield, New Jersey is only \$19.99 per copy.

### NEW DRAKE HOUSE WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION WATCH FOR DETAILS!