July 2014 E-Newsletter

First Friday History Trivia Night!

Join us for a special Independence Day Trivia Night on Friday, July 4, from 6 to 8 p.m.! Our Celebrity Quizmaster this month is none other than James Monroe himself, on the anniversary of his death, no less.

Questions focus on American history. Admission and participation are free! Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and last place. Light refreshments, a cash bar (beer and wine), and a 50/50 raffle will also make this a perfect way to wind down from long summer weeks!

The Fredericksburg Art Commission's new free First Friday Trolley stops at the corner of William and Charles Streets, right across the street from us! See the Trolley map.

Trivia Night will repeat
on August 1 and September 5. More here.

Rescheduled Program: "Medical Practice in the Colonial & Early National Eras"

Join us on Saturday, July 19, for this rescheduled program, co-sponsored by the Washington Heritage Museums (WHM). We will enjoy a colorful first-person tour of the reconstructed Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop. Learn about the treatments, such as leeches, lancets, snakeroot, and crab claws, that Dr. Mercer administered to the residents of Fredericksburg, who included James and Elizabeth Monroe!

A reception will follow at the James Monroe Museum, during which our curator will show some of the medical objects from the museum's collection, including those used to treat Elizabeth Monroe's mysterious illnesses.

Program: 6:30 p.m., Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop (1020 Caroline Street). Reception: 7:30 p.m., JMM. $10/person (free for Friends of JMM or Members of WHM). Reservations are requested.

RSVP by e-mail here!

Watch the "Raise it Up!" Video!

Our "Raise it Up!" celebration in honor of the bicentennial of the American flag was a huge success!
More than 80 people joined us on Saturday, June 14, to perform the "Star-Spangled Banner" on kazoo.

Watch the video of our performance here!

We're grateful to the National Museum for American History for organizing "Raise it Up." We enjoyed being a part of it!

See more "Raise it Up" performances from around the country here.

What's in Store?

We now have items in the Museum Store featuring the new James Monroe Museum logo! Come by and pick up a new JMM stainless steel travel mug (shown at right) or a JMM pencil for the students in your family.

If the children in your life need a break from electronic diversions this summer, think about picking up some "old school" toys from the Museum Store. We have wooden toys, including yo-yos, cup and ball toss toy and wooden tops. Share the games you played as a child with the book, Toys and Games from Times Past, which features games like hopscotch, marbles and jacks. The Revolutionary War Compass is a great educational toy to take with you on your summer adventures! Or if you will be traveling around the US, pick up a copy of Monroe USA and search for places named for James Monroe throughout the United States!

So don't forget to drop by the Store when you're preparing for your summer vacations or when you have out-of-town family and friends in for a visit!

Director Scott Harris Attends Leadership Seminar

In late June, Director Scott Harris attended the Association of Academic Museums and Galleries
Leadership Seminar at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. The intensive five-day training program included participants from across the United States and three other countries. The seminar emphasizes strategies and processes to help museums function more effectively in an academic environment. As a Seminar Fellow, Harris will have both an expanded knowledge base and a valuable professional network to help guide development of the James Monroe Museum.

Happy Fourth of July from all of us at the James Monroe Museum!

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Visit our website  |  Become a Friend of JMM!

The James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library, located in historic downtown Fredericksburg, Virginia, is the largest repository in the country for artifacts and documents related to the fifth president of the United States. The museum was first opened in 1927 by Monroe descendants as a place to house their own personal collections, which had been handed down through generations of the family. Eventually, the museum and its extensive collections were turned over to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the museum is now administered by the University of Mary Washington.

The museum belongs to the American Association of Museums, the American Association for State and Local History, and the Virginia Association of Museums. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark.