

Th:Jefferson

MONTICELLO

SUMMER 2010

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From the President

THE BIGGEST snowfall in the Washington-Baltimore area is believed to have been in 1772, before official records were kept, when as much as three feet fell—which George Washington and Thomas Jefferson duly noted in their diaries.

This winter we broke that record here on Jefferson's mountaintop. With the onset of the spring thaw, we are breaking new ground at Monticello.

You'll read in these pages about scores of local sixth-graders who are filming original mini-documentaries at Monticello—and in the process creating a bit of their own history. Nothing like it has ever been tried here, and we can't wait to see how they express their views on Jefferson.

An exciting set of interpretive and restoration initiatives, "New Perspectives on Life at Monticello," will open in June. I invite you to experience the genius of Jefferson in new ways by exploring Monticello inside, outside, upstairs, and downstairs.

If it has been a while since your last visit to Monticello, it's definitely time to come back. The transformed Dining Room will surprise you with its brilliant chrome yellow walls and new furnishings, and you'll also be able to view the newly restored and refurnished Wine Cellar and South Pavilion.

On the new Behind the Scenes Tours of the house's upper floors, you'll see the complete design and layout of Jefferson's architectural plan, includ-

ing rarely visited bed chambers and the Dome Room, and have the opportunity to discuss with our staff the restoration ideas and plans for the rooms.

The stories of those who lived and worked at Monticello will be brought to life for you in the new "Crossroads" exhibition, located at horizontal and vertical junction beneath the house where Jefferson's family members and enslaved workers crossed paths.

You'll also want to visit Monticello's Kitchen, which has been faithfully restored to its appearance during Jefferson's retirement years. The Kitchen was where the produce from Jefferson's revolutionary Vegetable Garden arrived. It's a remarkable story, one that first lady Michele Obama honored last year by planting seedlings we donated in a section of the White House's new organic vegetable garden dedicated to Jefferson.

As we break ground in the Vegetable Garden this spring, we look forward to sharing its bounty with you at the fourth annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello on Sept. 11. It's a family-friendly celebration of organic gardening, vegetable cuisine, and traditional agriculture. We have an exciting roster of national experts on tap for the festival, and that same weekend, "Come to the Table: Historic Plants in the Kitchen," the seventh biennial Historic Plants Symposium, will be conducted by the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants.

In the fall we also look forward to celebrating the grape harvest, by dedicating Jefferson's restored Wine Cellar. Be sure to check www.monticello.org



for information about upcoming wine events at Monticello.

Up on Montalto—Jefferson's "high mountain"—we have broken ground on a world-class education and conference center. Scheduled to be completed in early 2011, the facility on Montalto will provide a spectacular location for advancing our vision for dialogue about Jefferson's ideas and ideals.

We hope this year you will be among the first to experience Monticello in new ways. We are grateful for your friendship and your generosity, which helps us explore new ground every day.

Warmest wishes for an abundant summer season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Leslie Bowman". The signature is elegant and cursive.

Leslie Greene Bowman, President

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Monticello is a newsletter published twice each year by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation is the private, nonprofit corporation that has owned and operated Monticello since 1923. Its mission is preservation and education.

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newsletter@monticello.org