

The Historical Society of Smithfield, Inc.

Smith-Appleby House Museum

220 Stillwater Road, Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917 (401) 231-7363

March 2011 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Fellow Members:

Are you joining me in the delight of seeing your mailbox again? And are you are seeing some crocuses in your yard? This must mean it's time to talk about the upcoming events at the Smith-Appleby House. It also means it is time for our first members meeting for the year. Please join us at the Smith-Appleby House on **April 13, 2011, at 6:30.**

Unusually, we will be opening the house in April, for another Sew What? program, where we will be presenting an appliqué class with a very spring like motif. That will be followed by our 38th Annual May Breakfast, on May 1st. I would like to call upon our membership for people with sewing skills to assist with the sewing class, and for servers for the May Breakfast. The May breakfast will include cranberry, blueberry or other such breads, so if you have baking skills and could contribute a loaf or two it would be appreciated. You can reach me at home at 401 233-2679 if you would be available to lend a hand, a stitch, or a loaf. Also in May, the Historical Society has been asked to march in a Memorial Day parade in North Providence. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote the museum, so if anyone is interested in walking the two-mile parade route, please let me know.

Our September 24 & 25 – Smithfield Yesterday & Today event will combine a Colonial Militia style encampment, combined with information about Smithfield, and showcasing notable figures from the town today. We are still structuring the second part of this program, so please let me know if you have any suggestions, or recommendations.

The October 15, Gingerbread Day will be our first cooking related class, and patient bakers will be required to supervise children, and icing.

The Colonial Dinner this year will have a “Sons of Liberty” theme, but will include our (now) traditional “drumming of the beans.” The video of this in on the Facebook link on our web site, if you haven't seen this yet! We have already received reservations for the Colonial dinner, and will most likely be sold out again.

Our December open house is being called “A Gingerbread Christmas at the Smith-Appleby House,” so the decorations will have that theme. I'm already stitching fabric decorations, so if you are handy with a needle I can provide you with the materials. Last year we enjoyed a very busy day for our Christmas open house, with increased attendance over the past year. Following that, Peter Giammarco, June Giammarco & Sassy, and Greg Williams opened the museum every Thursday from 10:00 – 4:00 pm during the remainder of December and January. Guests came from as far away as New Mexico. Peter seems to be a positive influence when it comes to encouraging visitors to make a donation, as the donation boxes have yielded over \$500.00 since he has been opening the house! Guests arriving were welcomed with the sight of Colonial clothing, hot cider and the scent of chicken or sausage cooking over the hearth fire.

Regarding membership, a great many of our members have paid their 2010 – 2011 dues, however those in arrears will find a notice with their newsletter. Your membership dues provide funds for our operating budget, and your support in this way is greatly appreciated. Warmest spring wishes to everyone, and please try to join us on April 13, at 6:30 for the members meeting.

Sincerely,

Maggie Botelho

**The Historical Society of Smithfield, Inc.
Smith-Appleby House Museum
2011 Calendar of Events**

Sew What? With Maggie & Friends

April 9th, Saturday

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Use existing embroidery skills, or learn how, to create a charming appliquéd wall hanging. All materials will be provided and refreshments will be served. Cost: \$18 per child/adult pair, includes the class and the kit; \$8 each additional child. Pre-registration is required. Call 401-231-7363.

May Breakfast / Brunch (38th Annual)

May 1st, Sunday

11 a.m. seating

Join us for a homemade breakfast of blueberry & cranberry bread, chilled fruit cup, breakfast strata, Johnny cakes, Grandma's old fashioned baked beans, coffee & orange juice served by costumed volunteers in our historic house museum. Cost: \$15 per person, which includes a self-guided house tour. Reservations required. Call 401-231-7363.

Smithfield Yesterday & Today

Sept. 24th, Saturday & Sept. 25th, Sunday

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Speak with the men and women who portray the lives of the soldiers and camp followers encamped during the Revolutionary War – and meet with notable figures from Smithfield today. Cost: The event is free. Tours of the House Museum: \$4 per adult, children free. No reservation needed.

Gingerbread Day

Oct. 15th, Saturday

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Come bake and decorate gingerbread cookies – and leave all the mess with us! In addition to your own batch of freshly baked cookies, your take-home bag will include home recipes, a cookie cutter and an apron. A tour of the House Museum is included and light refreshments will be served. Cost: \$18 per child/adult pair, \$8 each additional child. Pre-registration is required. Call 401-231-7363.

Sons of Liberty Colonial Dinner

Nov. 11th, Friday & Nov. 12th Saturday

6:30 p.m. seating

Our costumed volunteers serve a tradition-filled, candlelit Colonial Dinner in our 18th century house museum. The menu will include bread with various chutneys, a hearty soup, a special entrée, coffee and dessert. Cost: \$25 per person. Reservations are required and will be accepted beginning in May. Call 401-231-7363.

A Gingerbread Christmas at the Smith-Appleby House

Dec. 4th, Sunday

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Gingerbread warms the heart – even on the coldest days. Bring your children, grandchildren – and your camera – to celebrate all things gingerbread and meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus for a photo and to share your Christmas wish list. Holiday refreshments will be served, as our gift. Cost: Adults \$5, children free. No reservation needed.