

## Volunteer View

Liberty Hall is a little site with big ambitions. We hope to make the site a destination for visitors from around the world, while maintaining programs to benefit our community in Frankfort. To make this happen, we need the support of great people like you.

Have you volunteered before or considered joining our volunteer group? We have a lot of great volunteer opportunities right now.

## Current Volunteer Needs

**Tour Guide** - Friendly people are needed to give tours of Liberty Hall Historic Site for out guests.

**Greeter** - A great opportunity for friendly people who would like to greet our visitors but may not have the mobility or desire to give tours.

**Educator** - Share Brown family history with visiting school groups from around Kentucky.

**Administrative Assistant** - Help with mailings, take reservation requests, data entry, and more.

**Ghosts of Frankfort Assistant** - Walk visitors to our annual theatrical production in Liberty Hall; October 30 and 31 only.

## Meet the Newest Member of the Liberty Hall Team

Judy Isaacs is Liberty Hall's new Bookkeeper. Judy is retired from Farmers Bank and Capital Trust Co. in Frankfort where she served as a branch manager, department manager, customer service representative, and teller. Since retiring in 2005, she has worked in the mortgage loan business and has been self-employed as a bookkeeper and administrative support person for small offices. Judy is a native of Frankfort and has been very actively involved in many community organizations over the years.



**Gardener Assistant** - Do you have a green thumb? Join our volunteers in the garden Monday mornings.

**Event Assistant** - We always need help with our large special events.

**Curator's Assistant** - Help our curator to organize and label boxes, clean objects, and move furniture.

For more information on any volunteer opportunity, contact Jennifer at 502-227-2560 or [educator@libertyhall.org](mailto:educator@libertyhall.org). The volunteer application can be found on our website at [www.libertyhall.org/friend](http://www.libertyhall.org/friend).



FALL  
2009

LIBERTY HALL  
HISTORIC SITE

VOL. 10 NO. 4

LIBERTY HALL HISTORIC SITE 202 WILKINSON STREET FRANKFORT, KY 40601 (502)227-2560 WWW.LIBERTYHALL.ORG

## LIBERTY HALL HISTORIC SITE

features two houses, Liberty Hall (1796) and the Orlando Brown House (1835), as well as a large historic garden. Liberty Hall was the home of one of Kentucky's founding fathers and first US Senators, John Brown, and his family.

### TOURS

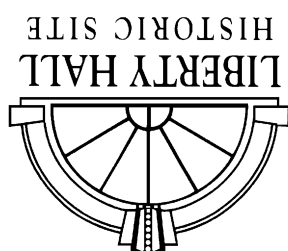
The houses are open for guided tours:

Tuesday-Saturday  
10:30am, 12noon,  
1:30pm, 3:00pm

### ADMISSION

\$4 for adults  
\$3 for seniors age 60 and up  
\$1 for youth age 5-18  
Free for children

For more information, call us at 502-227-2560, toll-free 888-516-5101, or email us at [libhall@dcr.net](mailto:libhall@dcr.net)



202 WILKINSON STREET  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601  
[www.libertyhall.org](http://www.libertyhall.org)

Return Service Requested

## A VERY BRILLIANT PARTY

"Engaged about household matters": Faithfully Restoring Margaretta's Home

Margaretta Mason Brown invites you to A Very Brilliant Party on October 1st and 2nd. The theme of this year's event is "Engaged about household matters": Faithfully Restoring Margaretta's Home.

In 1802, Margaretta Brown had before her an empty, unfurnished house. Calling herself the "steward" of the household, she was charged with decorating and furnishing her new home, Liberty Hall. More than 200 years later we, as the stewards of Liberty Hall,

are working to restore the home that Margaretta created.

A Very Brilliant Party will begin each evening at 5 p.m. with tours of Liberty Hall. Following the tours, there will be a wine and bourbon tasting at the Orlando Brown House. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. Guests will enjoy early 19th century piano music throughout the evening. Dress for the event is semi-formal; 1802 style dress is optional.

Included in the events are a

silent auction and raffle. The raffle item is a weekend getaway to Louisville, including two tickets to Actors Theatre of Louisville, dinner and a night's stay at Hotel 21C. Raffle tickets are \$25. Silent auction items include a horse training book signed by Clem McCarthy, boxes at Churchill Downs and Keeneland, art pieces, and so much more.

Seats at A Very Brilliant Party are \$75; seating is limited and reservations, made by September 24, are required. Call 502-227-2560 to reserve your seat today.

### LHHS thanks the sponsors of A Very Brilliant Party

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Liberty Hall Historic Site will provide opportunities for education to the widest possible audience upon the highest professional standards. The mission of Liberty Hall Historic Site is to educate the public by interpreting the life and times of Senator John Brown and his descendants. The site will collect, document, preserve, conserve, and exhibit the social, domestic and horticultural aspects of Kentucky life. Beginning with 1796 at Liberty Hall and 1835 at the Orlando Brown House. Liberty Hall Historic Site will provide opportunities for education to the widest possible audience upon the highest professional standards.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

**Karla Nicholson**

Fall brings change, reflection, and thoughts of home; at Liberty Hall we'll be doing all over the next few months. A good change is that we anticipate finally taking down the scaffolding from the front of Liberty Hall. Weather permitting, restoration of the front door and Palladian window will be completed soon.

Work will then shift to the installation of a geo-thermal heating/cooling system for both houses and renovation of the Orlando Brown House's back porch, making the house handicapped-accessible for the first time. Funds from a Save America's Treasures grant secured by Congressman Ben Chandler and a Franklin County Trust for Historic Preservation grant will be used; we are raising matching funds from the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, our Friends, and the public.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will read about our fall exhibits—a gallery-style exhibit on how Margaretta furnished her new home in Liberty Hall and a holiday exhibit on teddy bears in the Orlando Brown parlor. Please bring your family to see all the changes taking place.

Regarding reflection, the Liberty Hall board will hold a series of planning sessions this fall to create a new vision of the vibrant historic site we hope to become. Is Liberty Hall important to our community and state? What services and programs should we provide? What should Liberty Hall be? We welcome your thoughts and ideas; send comments to [director@libertyhall.org](mailto:director@libertyhall.org).

And thoughts of home! We have the opportunity to bring some of John and Margaretta Brown's original furnishings home to Liberty Hall. One of their great-granddaughters has offered us for purchase three 1800-1810 family items—a card table, tall clock, and a serpentine chest of drawers—and Margaretta's monogrammed 1820 silver coffee and tea service. A friend of Liberty Hall has stepped forward to purchase the silver service on our behalf; we hope to find additional funds to purchase the furniture.

Finally, many of you read of the unfortunate theft at Liberty Hall in August in which we lost the miniature portraits of John and Margaretta Brown. The Frankfort police, Kentucky FBI, and our staff have been following up on leads, and placing descriptions and photographs of the portraits with miniature specialists and dealers and on national and international art theft databases. We have faith that these beautiful, special portraits of John and Margaretta will also return home to us soon.

## Curator's Corner with Beth Caffery



I invite all of you to come and take a tour of Liberty Hall and make plenty of time to see our temporary summer exhibit located in the dining room of the Orlando Brown House titled "Tea Time: Selections of tea cups, kettles, and sets from the Liberty Hall Collection." This exhibit was created to go along with Euphemia's Tea Party which took place in June. The objects on display are pieces that are typically in storage. This is a great opportunity for you to see some of the collection that is not usually featured on the tour! This exhibit is scheduled to end on Saturday, September 19.



*LHHS's portrait of Kentucky's third Governor, James Garrard*

I am pleased to announce that Liberty Hall Historic Site has loaned a number of objects to the Old Governor's Mansion located right here in Frankfort. The Kentucky Mansion Celebration is a project to rejuvenate the historic mansion, and we are excited to be a part of it.

On December 21, 1795, the Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation that mandated the state's governor to live in Frankfort. Construction of the Old Governor's Mansion began in 1796, which is the same year that construction of Liberty Hall began.

This fall, after you visit Liberty Hall, I encourage you to tour the Old Governor's Mansion and see more Liberty Hall treasures featured in the nation's oldest official executive residence.



*This watercolor by Robert Burns Wilson, one of several in the LHHS collection, is on display at the Old Governor's Mansion.*

## WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Places noted on our guest register this summer:

**KENTUCKY:** Danville, Fort Thomas, Frankfort, Lakeside Park, Lancaster, Lawrenceburg, Louisville, McKee, Owenton, Richmond, Russell, Wilmore

**OUTSIDE KENTUCKY:** Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada, France

## Bulletin Board

*Announcements, Save the Dates, Etc.*

### NEW GAZETTE SCHEDULE

The Gazette will now arrive in your mailbox three times each year instead of four. Expect the LHHS newsletter on September 15, January 15, and May 1.

### Exhibit

See "Tea Time" at the Orlando Brown House before it closes on September 19.

### MUSEUM STORE NOW OPEN

Visit the newly revamped museum store in the Orlando Brown House. The shop offers gifts and mementos from a visit to LHHS. Items include LHHS postcards, photographs (matted for easy framing), notecards, tote bags, and DVDs. Soon there will be 19th century games and books on topics related to the Browns and activities at LHHS.

The LHHS museum store is the perfect place to purchase your holiday gifts.

Interim Director Karla Nicholson has been named the permanent Executive Director of Liberty Hall Historic Site, effective August 1, 2009. Congratulations, Karla!

## Meet Our Guests... with Becky Shipp



Starting in June, I have had the privilege of meeting many of the people visiting Liberty Hall Historic Site. Most are pleased to tour the house in its current disarray of restoration and see it as a rare opportunity for a 'behind the scenes' tour. They respect the efforts underway to restore and preserve.

The family from Canada shared their perspectives on American history. The teenage daughter seemed touched when I explained to her how Canada had been a symbol for freedom for enslaved African Americans prior to the Civil War and many had made the journey to freedom from Kentucky.

Three young boys came by for a tour earned with a coupon from the Library's summer reading program and got into a

## Education News by Jennifer L. Koach



Its fall, so that means its time for field trips! As we enter the 2009-2010 school year, I am preparing to welcome hundreds of children to Liberty Hall. I have mailed invitations to visit Liberty Hall to more than 300 elementary schools. Last year's schools came from places as near as Second Street in Frankfort and as far as Walton-Verona up north. I hope that we will have even more diversity this year.

This fall I am also hoping to launch the "Meet Margaretta Brown" program. This program will bring a costumed interpreter (me) portraying Margaretta Mason Brown into Kentucky classrooms. Margaretta will speak about her early life in New York and her life in Kentucky during the early part of the 19th century. Topics discussed will include religion, education, childhood, and issues facing women. She will bring with her a trunk full of interactive materials to enhance the learning experience. The program will address the 4th grade social studies curriculum but can be adapted for other age groups. Due to sponsorship from the NSCDA-KY, this program will be free to schools this year until the money runs out.

To schedule a tour of Liberty Hall or to bring Margaretta to your school, call me at 502-227-2560.



*Three happy campers at July's Seeds Weeds, and History Camp.*

spirited debate about the Gray Lady. Four sisters, who now live in separate Kentucky towns, came to Liberty Hall for their annual get together. They were fascinated by all the details and loved that they were seeing it together.

A couple from Indiana on their return trip from delivering school supplies to Appalachia decided to get off the Interstate and see some of Kentucky on their way home.

A young couple on their honeymoon were interested in walking through the gardens. I was able to give them one of the garden brochures for their memory book. The dear and energetic lady from California on her way to an Elderhostel in Berea was delighted to see this home in Kentucky and compared it to homes out west.

Consider volunteering as a tour guide. You will collect your own stories from folks you meet. And you will be encouraged that our preservation efforts on behalf of Liberty Hall and the Orlando Brown House are truly meaningful.