Save the dates!

Easter Egg Hunt, Path of Honor Series, Mother’s Day Buffet

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 15, 11 a.m.

Join us for this fun annual event for children ages 1 to 12. Sponsored by the Northern Neck Lodge 32 of the Fraternal Order of Police. No admission charge for participants and their parents. Regular admission applies for Great House tours. The hunt begins exactly at 11:00 a.m. on the Oval, with registration on-site beforehand. No rain date.

The Path of Honor Series
Sunday, April 23, 2 p.m.
Saturday, May 13, 2 p.m.

On April 23, Professor William C. Davis of Virginia Tech and the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies will speak on the relationship of General Lee and President Davis in a talk titled “Partners in Command: Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee.” On May 13, University of Georgia Regents Professor of History Emeritus Emory Thomas will conclude the series by examining the 21st-century perceptions of General Lee in his talk, “Robert E. Lee Right Now.” Seating is limited. Reservations required. E-mail info@stratfordhall.org.

Mother’s Day Buffet
Sunday, May 14, 11:30 to 3 p.m.

Take Mom out to a special place on her special day! The Plantation Dining Room will be having a special buffet just for Mother’s Day. Reservations strongly recommended. For more information, visit the web site, call 804-493-9696 or e-mail diningroom@stratfordhall.org.

Path of Honor Educational Series Continues Through May; Plans Underway for 2007 Events

Did Robert E. Lee torment over his decision to resign his commission from the United States Army and fight for the Confederacy? Did he think the war was winnable? Is the only difference between George Washington and Robert E. Lee that Washington won?

These are just some of the questions raised so far during “The Path of Honor: From Stratford to Lexington—The Robert E. Lee Educational Series.” The series, which began in January, features five well known Civil War scholars covering various aspects of Lee’s life. Sponsorship for the series is being provided by the Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation.

A total of 451 people from a total of nine states attended the lectures in January and February. The series continues on Sunday, April 23, with professor William C. Davis of Virginia Tech and the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. He will speak on the relationship of General Lee and President Davis in “Partners in Command: Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee.”

University of Georgia Regents Professor of History Emeritus Emory Thomas will conclude the series on Saturday, May 13, by examining the 21st-century perceptions of General Lee in his talk, “Robert E. Lee Right Now.”

Seating for the lectures is limited, and reservations are required. Please e-mail info@stratfordhall.org or call 804-493-8038 extension 8504 to make your reservation. A limited number of overnight accommodations are also available by advance reservation.

This free educational lecture series serves as a prelude to the statewide 200th Anniversary Celebration of Robert E. Lee’s birth in 2007. Plans are currently being finalized for a year-long series of events at Stratford and will be featured in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

SUMMER DAY CAMP TO BE OFFERED IN AUGUST

For the first time, Stratford will be offering a Summer Day Camp for children ages 9 through 12. The camp will take place August 7 to 11, 2006 and will encompass various in-depth 18th-century activities. Registration deposit deadline is June 15, 2006.

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PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Stratford is open to the public 7 days a week. The Visitor Center is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Great House tours (on the hour) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Plantation Store shopping from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Plantation Dining Room open daily for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information visit our web site at www.stratfordhall.org.
Lee Circle Established; Recognition Event To Be Held On September 29, 2006

On the eve of Robert E. Lee’s 200th birthday, the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association announces the creation of the Lee Circle. The generations of Lees who lived at Stratford included a circle of friends and family who brought a sense of duty, honor and patriotism to the new country while helping to shape democracy in America.

Today, present Stratford Directors sit in an unbroken circle during board meetings. Thus, it is fitting that this new, highly esteemed group be called the Lee Circle.

The Lee Circle has been established to recognize those individuals, families, foundations or corporations who annually give $5,000 or above to Stratford. These gifts provide essential support to Stratford’s programs and help further its mission. Donors who give between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 will be recognized as Founding Members of the Lee Circle.

The Lee Circle will be honored at Stratford with an elegant dinner on Friday, September 29, 2006. Lee Circle members will have the opportunity to spend the night at Stratford and to hear special presentations on Saturday.

For more information on the Lee Circle event, contact Pat Givens at 804-493-8038 extension 9578.

Time Well Spent

Henry Van Dyke once said, “To desire and strive to be of some service to the world, to aim at doing something which shall really increase the happiness and welfare and virtue of mankind —this is a choice which is possible for all of us; and surely it is a good haven to sail for.” Stratford has opportunities for service. Our needs are simple but the rewards can be great.

Demand for Stratford’s Adventures in Education program has been steadily increasing. We offer school programs throughout the school year and need volunteers to learn about 18th-Century skills such as blacksmithing, weaving, open hearth cooking, gardening and schooling. More programs are being added.

The camp will be held in August and will encompass various activities such as farming, weaving, open hearth cooking, plantation or home of the time, and campers will have an opportunity to find out how much skill this required. They will also learn about animals and agricultural practices of the time and will garden throughout the week. Spinning and weaving was a necessary function at any plantation or home of the time, and campers will have an opportunity to find out how much skill this required. They will also learn about slavery and indentured servants, as well as colonial government and what was required for a new country to break off from England.

There will also be activities such as scavenger hikes to allow campers to explore the natural and cultural treasures of Stratford. All activities will serve to complement the Virginia Standards of Learning.

Cost for the week long camp is $175 per camper, which includes all lunches and materials. A $75 deposit is due by June 15, 2006.

For more information, or to register, please call Diane Beyer, Chief Interpreter, at 804-493-8038 extension 8910. A registration form can be found on the Stratford web site. Space is limited, so make your reservation today.

Adventure Camp for Kids Ages 9 to 12 To Be Held In August

Stratford’s inaugural day camp will allow children ages 9 to 12 to learn about the economy and navigation on the Pocomac River in the 18th Century and the role Stratford played during that time. The camp will be held August 7 to 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Stratford.

All participants will get a chance to try their hand at navigation techniques and view an onsite operating Grist Mill. They will also learn about animals and agricultural practices of the time and will garden throughout the week. Spinning and weaving was a necessary function at any plantation or home of the time, and campers will have an opportunity to find out how much skill this required. They will also learn about slavery and indentured servants, as well as colonial government and what was required for a new country to break off from England.

Gift Certificates For Any Occasion

Need a gift for Mother’s Day or Father’s Day? Need a birthday present or a present for a special occasion? Gift certificates are available for a wide variety of products and services at Stratford, including meals at the dining room, products and gifts from the Plantation Store, tours of the Great House and even overnight lodging.

The plantation store offers a tremendous array of products, including a large selection of books and children’s items. To see some of the products the store has to offer, you can shop online at the Stratford web site. One of the most popular gift certificates Stratford offers is for an overnight stay for two in one of the Plantation’s two guest houses, which includes a continental breakfast and a horse tour. Additional items can be added to these certificates, such as lunch from the dining room.

To obtain a gift certificate, please call the department that has the item you want. For overnight lodging gift certificates, please call 804-493-8038 extension 8504.