

TrueGrist

NEWS from the FRIENDS of PEIRCE MILL

Grain Fair at Mill in October

In the beginning, all was local. Almost every creek had a mill. And, as Peirce Mill was one of Washington’s first producers of whole wheat flour, the Friends of Peirce Mill and the Common Grain Alliance are co-sponsoring a Mid-Atlantic Grain Fair on October 22, 2023.

We don’t know what bread made from Peirce Mill flour tasted like. But we do know that the shift from freshly ground local grains to all-purpose commodity white flour processed in the Midwest has always been regretted by serious bakers, and customers who pay attention to what they eat.

Now, the tide is shifting back to local. From North Carolina to Penn-

sylvania, the 21st century has seen the revival of a regional grain market.

The grain fair on Sunday, October 22 will take place on the grounds near the mill, with sales by a variety of vendors of fresh breads and fresh ground flours, author signings of cookbooks, traditional baking workshops and more.

The fair will serve as this year’s Heritage Day, with mill tours and family activities taking place from 10am to 4pm. Educators from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences will also be on hand for discussions about their efforts to

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Angela Kramer Named Director

Angela Kramer, FOPM education director, was selected by the board to become the executive director in November 2022. Angela has shared her enthusiasm for history, crafts, engineering, and gardening, leading family programs at the mill since 2015. Her interest in milling began in Brooklyn, NY, where some of the first tide mills in America were built along Gowanus Creek. She created an exhibit and public art project about tide mills, and developed education



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Coming Up at Peirce Mill

The mill normally grinds corn on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from May through October. Please visit our website, friendsofpeirce-mill.org, to confirm dates and times for milling and events below.



APRIL 15

Herring Heroes Obstacle Course



JUNE 3

Kan Kouran West African Dance Workshop



JUNE 10

Create by the Creek



JULY 22

Teatro La Bolsa



AUGUST 12

Ice Cream-Making Demonstration



AUGUST 26

Square Dance



SEPTEMBER 23

Children’s Day

Something for Everyone at the Mill

The Friends of Peirce Mill, in partnership with the National Park Service and the wider community, works to preserve, restore, and interpret the last working gristmill in Washington, DC for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all generations.

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Create by the Creek

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 10AM—4PM

This day-long celebration of art and community features free workshops taught by local artists, art supplies to borrow, and a landscape meet-up with the Washington Studio School.

West African Dance Workshop

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2—3PM

Assane Konte, originally from Senegal, is the co-founder of KanKouran West

African Dance Company. He'll share the rich cultures of West Africa through traditional dance and music.

Teatro La Bolsa: "La gallina y la tortilla de maíz"

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 11AM—NOON

Latino theatre company Teatro La Bolso will present a bilingual play for children that highlights friendship, solidarity, and sharing. Families are invited to participate in this fun, interactive performance at Peirce Mill, where people still grind corn today!

Summer Square Dance

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 7—10PM

The DC Square Dance collective returns to Peirce Mill with a live music program under twinkling lights in the mill yard. A caller will teach all the dances; no prior experience necessary. ♪



Free public programs at Peirce Mill are supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES





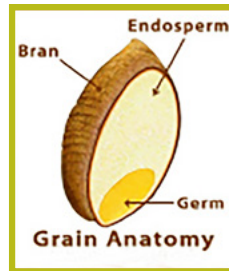
Jonathan Bethony, owner of Washington's Seylou Bakery, talks to visitors at last year's Heritage Day at the mill.



The Common Grain Alliance's Mark Woodward demonstrates processing corn with his tabletop mill. Mark will be at the Grain Fair in October to discuss home baking.

Whole Wheat, Corn, Rye, Rice, Farro, Quinoa

What the heck is a whole grain, anyway?



A variety of breads will be on sale at the grain fair—some 100 percent whole grain, though most will be a mixture of whole grain and flours. Grains start life as whole grains, growing in the field. Whole grains—the entire seed of the plant—contain bran, germ, and endosperm, protected by an inedible husk.

The bran and germ have the most vitamins and minerals, but are often removed during processing.

And, you ask: what's difference between whole wheat and whole grain? *Answer:* What's the difference between a carrot and vegetable? All carrots are vegetables but not all veggies are carrots. Whole wheat is one kind of whole grain, but not all whole grains are whole wheat. Whole grains can be corn, rye, farro—the list is long!

And multi grain? That doesn't mean one type of grain was used to make the bread. It doesn't mean that there is ANY whole grain in the bread. ♡

Grain Fair

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promote whole grains and nutritious breads to DC residents throughout the city.

On Monday, October 23, farmers, millers, bakers and practitioners from across the Mid-Atlantic grain economy will gather at UDC for an all-day conference featuring panel discussions, workshops and networking. ♡

Grant for William Beckett Story

FOPM received a Humanities DC grant to learn about the remarkable life of William Beckett, who was the enslaved manager of Joshua Peirce's vast horticultural businesses on Linnaean Hill—now part of Rock Creek Park. After Emancipation, Beckett became a DC business owner, presidential coachman, doorkeeper at the Library of Congress, and beloved community member. We're planning a public event on DC Emancipation Day in April 2024.



Mill Apprenticeship Tied to Heritage Trades

According to a recent study, the portion of the construction industry that is focused on historic rehabilitation is large and growing. Today, heritage trades make up an estimated 12.6% of all building rehabilitation jobs, and these jobs provide higher earnings than regular construction. Though the number of buildings considered historic, and the money invested in their rehabilitation are on upward curves, there is a serious shortage of workers who are trained and experienced in preservation trades. ♡

Teachers Kevin Hughes and Teresa Broadnax, from DC’s Phelps High School of Architecture, Construction, and Engineering, speak with Ranger Alexi McHugh during a visit to Peirce Mill. The planned restoration of the “Evans” grain processing system inside the mill could provide an opportunity for a Phelps student to learn about the historic preservation trade via a hands-on apprenticeship.

Kramer Named Director *continued from cover*

programs for the Old Stone House and Lefferts Historic House. For FOPM, Angela conceived Create by the Creek, an annual celebration of art and community at the mill, and the Hattie Sewell project, which tells the story of the Black woman entrepreneur who ran the Peirce Mill teahouse a century ago.

Steve Dryden, executive director for the past four years, will now serve as special assistant to the board president, in charge of the grain fair and student internships. ♡

FRIENDS of PEIRCE MILL

Your annual membership makes a difference! Let’s keep Peirce Mill running for another 200 years!

- Student \$25
- Individual \$40
- Family \$100
- Miller \$250
- Millwright \$500
- Master Millwright \$1000
- Other donation \$ _____

NAME *(please print clearly)* _____

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Make checks payable to: Friends of Peirce Mill, mail to: 2039 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Apt. 103, Washington, DC 20009. For more information, email: info@peircemillfriends.org, call: 202.248.1505, or visit: friendsofpeircemill.org.

The Friends of Peirce Mill, Inc. is a non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia, recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.