



Winter 2018-2019

TrueGrist

News from the Friends of Peirce Mill

Coming Up at Peirce Mill

November through March: mill open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4pm.

April through October: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10am – 4pm. Millstones grind corn second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

Please check our website (friendsofpeircemill.org) to confirm dates and times for the events below.

January 5, 2019:
Cider Tasting (members only)

March:
Morris Dancers
Welcome Spring

April:
Herring Heroes Family Activity

May:
Art Barn Reunion and Plein Air Painting

Family Saturdays At Peirce Barn

Free family activities on the second and fourth Saturdays, starting in Spring.



The Mill Is For Kids!!

Youth education and hands-on family fun have always been at the center of the Peirce Mill experience.

Since the mill re-opened seven years ago, over 2,500 elementary age and pre-school students have visited for curriculum-related lessons about food production, simple machines, and DC history. Participatory activities, such as grinding corn on a small quern, are always part of the educational mix. *(Continues on next page)*



FOPM Given Painting of Mill

The Friends of Peirce Mill recently received a very special gift: a beautiful painting of the mill by noted Washington artist Lily Spandorf. This original work was donated by DC residents Lena and Matt Frumin. Spandorf (1914-2000), an Austrian by birth who immigrated to the US, became known for the news illustrations she created for the *Washington Post* and other periodicals. Late in her career Spandorf became celebrated for passionately recording the transformation of Washington DC urban landscape, especially buildings facing demolition. The painting will be displayed at the mill along with other portraits. For more information on the Spandorf collection: lily-spandorf-art.fineartamerica.com

(Kids continued from page 1)

On Saturdays during the warmer months, the Friends of Peirce Mill offer family workshops where young children play with a model mill wheel, create toys and let their artistic talents flower. In early September, we bring all these activities together for a special Children's Day. Our youngest millers make cornhusk dolls and cup and ball toys, and families play traditional games on the lawn, enjoying time together in beautiful Rock Creek Park.

We've also taken our distinctive brand of learning on the road. On a recent rainy afternoon in Silver Spring, hundreds of children gleefully pounded corn with a rock, crushed grain with a quern, sifted fresh cornmeal, and made paper millstone models. Peirce Mill was at KidFest, an annual celebration of creativity and invention sponsored by the KidMuseum.

A new grant from the National Park Foundation will allow the Friends of Peirce Mill to bring students from parts of the city where schools often can't afford private bus transportation.

"Our partnership with the National Park Service is growing," said Angela



This lantern slide of the mill (undated but taken before the mid-1930s since the teahouse on the right is still present) was discovered on the web by board member John DeFerrari.



RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY ... There were nine official floods of the mill this year, probably a record.

Kramer, the Friends' education director. "Working together, we're developing new hands-on programs

for young children, and a STEM-focused program for older students."

The Friends of Peirce Mill work in partnership with the National Park Service to preserve this historically significant example of early American industry. Located in Rock Creek National Park, the water-powered flour mill offers educational experiences to all generations.

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO COMPLETE MILL RESTORATION

FOPM is preparing to launch a capital campaign to complete the restoration of the mill's unique operating system. Earlier this year, an anonymous donor gave us a generous contribution to kick-start fundraising for the campaign, which will cover repairs to the water-powered features of the mill, including the sifting apparatus and the grain elevators (the initial 2011 restoration allowed the millstones to grind grain again, and included installation of a pumping system and extensive structural improvements). We are in the process of evaluating estimates for the work and making sure that the campaign will raise sufficient funds for the restoration.

Heritage Day 2018

The mill's annual Heritage Day on October 13 drew about 500 visitors - a record for this always popular event. New this year was an opportunity for youngsters to learning wall building skills from Park Service specialist Sarah Polzin. Blacksmith Mark Bogue (top photo, at right) fired up his forge and demonstrated metal bending for an attentive audience. Our apple press and corn shucker, tended by volunteer Stacey Lincoln (in red shirt, far right) stayed busy most of the day. Local musician Clara Delfina entertained with a selection of Americana and folk songs, and to round things out, board member Greg Nau and his wife Elise assembled and gave away almost 50 drop spindle kits for spinning yarn.



Third Annual Cider Tasting

Please join us on January 5, 2019 as we begin the year with a celebration of winter and try out local hard ciders from apples and other fruits. The event begins at 4pm and will also feature a talk by DC historian Kim Prothro Williams about her new book, *“Lost Farms and Estates of Washington DC.”*

Rockin' Square Dance

Summer in the city can be dirty and gritty. What better way to escape the heat than to dance the night away at Peirce Mill on the cool banks of Rock Creek? This past July we had an estimated 350 folks join us for the hoe down.

Your annual membership can make a difference! Let's keep Peirce Mill running for another 200 years!

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|-------------------------------------|-------|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Millwright | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Millwright | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miller | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaac Peirce Society | \$1000 |

Other donation: \$ _____

Name _____

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Make checks payable to Friends of Peirce Mill and send to 2039 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Apt. 103, Wash. DC 20009

For more information, email us at: info@peircemillfriends.org or call: 202-248-1505
Or join and pay by credit card at www.friendsofpeircemill.org

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



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