

**To the MDAH Volunteers:**

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You — the volunteers — are the reason that MDAH is able to do all that it does!

During this season of Thanksgiving, we reflect on our close ties with you and the positive impact your service has on Mississippi.

Your volunteer work makes the lives of so many brighter — the public who come to see our sites, the school children who learn Mississippi's story, the patrons who discover mysteries of their families, the scholars who ex-

cavate our lands and study our records, and our staff who work with you to provide services to the public.

Mississippi has much for which to be thankful. One of her most shining treasures is the highly capable and knowledgeable group of volunteers in our great state — YOU!

Sincerely,

The MDAH employees



Volunteers portrayed characters from Mississippi history as part of the two new museums groundbreaking events held on October 24, 2013. Although many MDAH volunteers were “holding down the fort” at our other sites, many other volunteers helped with the educational activities at the event. More images beginning on page 3.

**Right:** Volunteers Christiane Stephens, Meredith Heifler, Kylon Alford-Windfield, MDAH Outreach Programs Coordinator Claire Gwaltney, volunteers Pauline Akers, and Tom Watts



## Eudora Welty House and Garden

**Yes, Virginia Lee, there IS a perfect volunteer!**



The volunteer spotlight at the Eudora Welty House and Garden is on Virginia Lee Cora. Virginia Lee is a regular garden volunteer with the Cereus Weeders, arriving every Wednesday morning with trowel in hand and ready to get down to business.

Virginia Lee also joins us every month for our Brown Bag lunch series to discuss a Welty story with Dr. Suzanne Marrs. Recently, Virginia Lee agreed to the extended training process to become a docent for the Welty House. And when we are in need, she always lends a helping hand.

Arriving for Julia Eichelburger's book signing event, Virginia Lee dove right in and served refreshments throughout the night. She assisted with the preparation and baking of 14 fruitcakes for *Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight* and volunteered the night of the event.

Currently, she is keeping the Welty night-blooming cereus plants safe from the cold at her home! We enjoy having Virginia Lee at the Welty House and Garden because of her generous spirit and her enthusiasm for all things Welty.



***Virginia Lee, thanks so much for all that you do!***

**Left:** Susan Haltom and Virginia Lee Cora working in the Welty Garden

**Right:** Virginia pictured at the Eudora Welty House Education and Visitor Center

***It's official!***

***Please notice the name change — "Garden" was added.***

**Eudora Welty House and Garden**

## Old Capitol Museum

### Hinds Community College Student Christiane Stephens

#### **News from Maura Johnson, Old Capitol Museum:**

Christiane Stephens began her volunteer work at the Old Capitol Museum as part of a school volunteer requirement last year, but after the class ended, Christiane's interest in the Old Capitol did not.

She has since greeted visitors to the Old Capitol Museum with a cheerful demeanor for over a year now, and has even tested her acting chops as a Freedom Summer Worker at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

Christiane has joined a growing number of young volunteers who have added great diversity to our volunteer program at the Old Capitol Museum, and we have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the interest that our museum has generated in our young volunteers.

Christiane spends much of her time away from the Old Capitol working to finish her final year at Hinds Community College this spring. In the fall, she will be attending Mississippi State University where she will study Philosophy.



She will certainly be missed at the Old Capitol Museum when she moves on to the next stage in her life, and we wish her much luck!



Museum Division staff members Stacey Everett, Marilyn Jones, and Claire Gwaltney are pictured as they prepare an old cotton gin as part of the Mini Touch Museum that was created especially for the groundbreaking.

Museum Division staff (employees and volunteers) were able to provide educational activities to school children from across the state.

This was a great way to preview the opening of the two new museums!

***Please see the pictures to follow...***

***Getting ready for the groundbreaking.***

## Two Museums Groundbreaking

### Museum Division Education Activities

On October 24, more than 55 MDAH volunteers donated their time and talents to help MDAH celebrate the groundbreaking of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum — and their talents were wide-ranging! Volunteers helped not only with the groundbreaking ceremony, but also with a host of education activities for visiting school children.

Ten volunteers led groups of school children from across the state to various activity stations where more volunteers helped the children create Crafts from the Past, play old-fashioned games, explore historic artifacts in the Touch Museum, and vote for their favorite

“Groundbreaking Mississippian” online.

Students also received a special tour of the Old Capitol Museum and were entertained by five historical characters that spanned from our 1817 statehood to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. “It was a fantastic day for everyone who attended and a fantastic day for MDAH because of the all supportive volunteers who helped make it happen,” said Claire Gwaltney, outreach and programs coordinator for the Museum Division.

“We couldn’t keep running without you all — keep up the good work!” said Gwaltney.



*Christy Taylor (left) provided research to develop the Freedom Summer characters for the groundbreaking events. Taylor works at the University of Mississippi Medical Center when she is not volunteering for MDAH. Jean Clarkson (right) introduced the historic characters to the visiting school children. Jean also volunteers at the Governor’s Mansion, the State Capitol, and helps with special MDAH events.*

**See more pictures from the two museums groundbreaking in the pages to follow!**



*Pauline Akers and Tom Watts in historical character roles. Akers and Watts are retired educators who lend their special skills to MDAH. Akers also volunteers at the Governor’s Mansion and State Capitol and helps with special MDAH events. Watts has conducted research for Museum Collections and helps with special MDAH events.*

# Two Museums Groundbreaking

## Museum Division Education Activities



Lee Adams (left) volunteers regularly at Winterville Mounds Park and Museum in Greenville. A former police chief, Adams served as one of the group leaders for the school groups who attended the event.

Adams traveled a long way to help with the groundbreaking, and we are very grateful!!!

Carol Robinson (right) volunteers at the State Capitol, providing information to visitors. When she is not volunteering at the Capitol, Carol works at the Mississippi Department of Health in vital records. During the groundbreaking events, Carol answered questions about the Evers exhibit that was housed in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building.



Kathy Gray helped with the Crafts from the Past tent. Gray volunteers in Archaeology and Historic Sites in Collections. These collections will be used in the new museums.

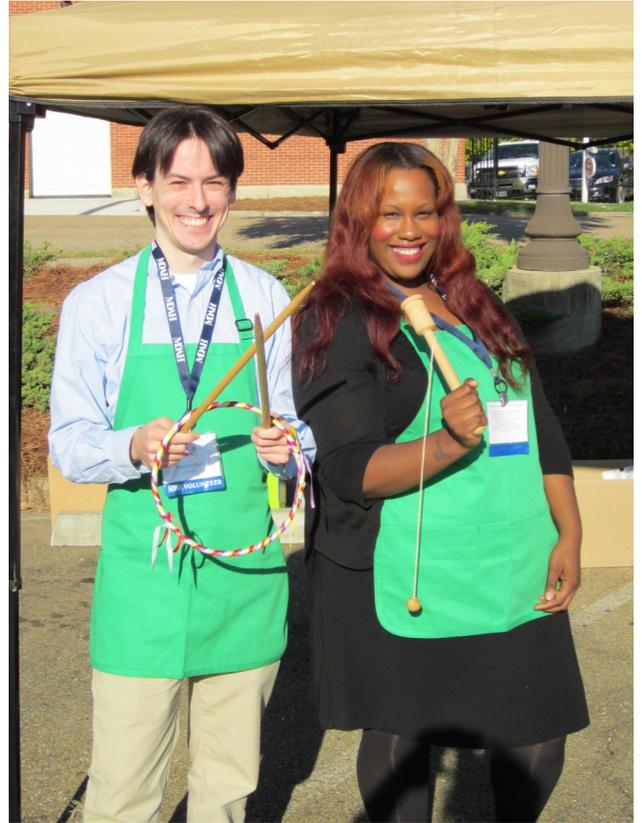


**Above:** Posing as Freedom Summer workers are Christiane Stephens, Kylon Alford-Windfield, and Meredith Heifler. These volunteers dressed in 1960s clothing, complete with SNCC buttons, to perform their roles. Maura Johnson, historian at the Old Capitol Museum, helped with their wardrobe and hair.

## Two Museums Groundbreaking Museum Division Education Activities



*Elaine Moss helping at the craft tent. Moss volunteers at many MDAH special events and is a volunteer at the Eudora Welty House.*



*Tim Davis and Shayla Carlisle helped the school children with historic games. Davis is a new volunteer and Carlisle serves in Archaeology and Historic Sites.*



*Historic Characters tent with Pauline Akers, Tom Watts, Freda Spell, and Christy Taylor. Spell introduced historic characters to the walk-up audiences during the event. Spell also volunteers at the Governor's Mansion, Eudora Welty House and State Capitol and helps with special MDAH events.*

## Two Museums Groundbreaking Museum Division Education Activities

Eudora Welty House volunteer Sandra West helped to host the Mini Touch Museum. Volunteers conducted a “show and tell” of Mississippi artifacts such as this shovel (pictured right) from the groundbreaking of the Charlotte Capers (Archives and History) Building held on December 3, 1969.



State Capitol volunteer Montine “Teeny” Bond welcomed visitors to the Mini Touch Museum next to the Highway 61 sign in Museum Division Collections.

We thought it appropriate to picture Teeny with a highway sign since she travels to and from Yazoo City to volunteer. MDAH is very lucky to have volunteers who literally go the extra mile to help us. Teeny is a guide at the State Capitol.

## Two Museums Groundbreaking Museum Division Education Activities



Volunteers (pictured in green aprons) Jan Garrick, Jackie Roman, and Sue Newman hosting the voting station and art contest at the groundbreaking.



**Above:** Volunteers Linda Young and Joy Matthews were a big help at the Crafts from the Past table. **Right:** Volunteer Matt Watson takes a quick break.



## Two Museums Groundbreaking Museum Division Education Activities



Volunteers Leandra Straka and Steve Clyburn wait for school groups to arrive. Straka moved to Mississippi from Wisconsin.

Clyburn is a long-time friend of MDAH. For many years, he brought his students from Monticello to see our sites. As a retired educator, he finds time to make the drive to help MDAH in Archaeology and Historic Sites as well as the Capitol.

**We wish to express our sincerest gratitude to all of the MDAH volunteers who helped with the groundbreaking events. Whether you served giving tours of the Old Capitol Museum, leading groups, helping with education activities, or facilitating the ceremony — please know that your service made a difference!**



# WINTER HOLIDAYS

December 3–20, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 2013

Monday - Noon– 4:30 p.m. Tuesday–Friday 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

**Group Tours (10 or more)**  
 Tuesdays–Fridays, December 3–20 9 a.m. - noon  
 Reservations required. ❄ Call 601-576-6800

FREE



- ❄ Watch model trains run through the fictional town of Possum Ridge
- ❄ View trees decorated in the fashion of Mississippi Christmases past
- ❄ Discover toys enjoyed by generations of Mississippi children

William F. Winter Archives and History Building  
 200 North Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201  
[www.mdah.state.ms.us](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us)



# AmeriCorps NCCC & The Manship House Museum



MDAH is proud to announce that the AmeriCorps NCCC Delta 5 Team hit the ground running at the Manship House Museum. Team members hail from all over the United States and will be at the site until December 4. They will work with employees and volunteers to launch efforts to reopen the site next year.

Kudos to Capitol Facilities for readying the site and lending their expertise to the members. Also, our thanks to Capitol Police for instructing the group on personal safety.

The planned work will involve scraping, priming and painting the very large perimeter fence, excavating the garden and privy areas, working in archaeological collections, removing nuisance vegetation, and general cleanup.

The AmeriCorps members are Tyler Monroe, Brandi Monnett, Alia Holle, Nick Bowlby, Francis McDyer, Cal Howick, and Tom Dorman.

**Note:** Look for more pictures of their work with MDAH volunteers in the next issue of the volunteer newsletter.

**Top:** Capitol Police Lt. Mike Chapman, MDAH Architect John Bondurant, and volunteers Jean Clarkson, and Lucky and Dee Osborne on the grounds of the Manship House Museum with the AmeriCorps members. **Bottom left:** Capitol Facilities employee Robert McPhail instructs the members on fence preparation.





# Natchez Trace Kiwanis Club and Historic Jefferson College

The partnership between the Natchez Trace Kiwanis Club and Historic Jefferson College has been a welcome helping hand to site director Robin Person. Person says that the group has helped her with many special events and important projects at the historic site.

Recently, the site hosted its annual *Ghost Tales and After-Dark Duck Hunt*. Person said, "In addition to raising funds for the event, Kiwanis members helped hide 900 rubber ducks on the HJC grounds, and assisted

with crowd control during the actual event. This program has helped boost the Halloween attendance from **35** in 2011 to **440** in 2013!"

Person said that the Kiwanis group has also built a walkway and small bridge on the nature trail, helped clean out one of the buildings, and assisted with the gate during their living history event in April.

Person credits her role as vice-president of the Natchez Trace Kiwanis Club as being

instrumental in forging a strong tie between the service group and Historic Jefferson College. She said that she just asked for their help, and they gave it.

To learn more about Historic Jefferson College, please follow this link: <http://mdah.state.ms.us/hpr/op/hjc.html>

**Bottom left:** Robin Person dressed as a Chippewa for a living history event at Historic Jefferson College. Person credits the Natchez Trace Kiwanis service group as a catalyst to the success of their programs at the site.



**Top right:** Out of the 900 ducks hidden for the Ghost Tales and After-Dark Duck Hunt, staff found only four ducks the next day! **Thank you Natchez Trace Kiwanis Club!!!**

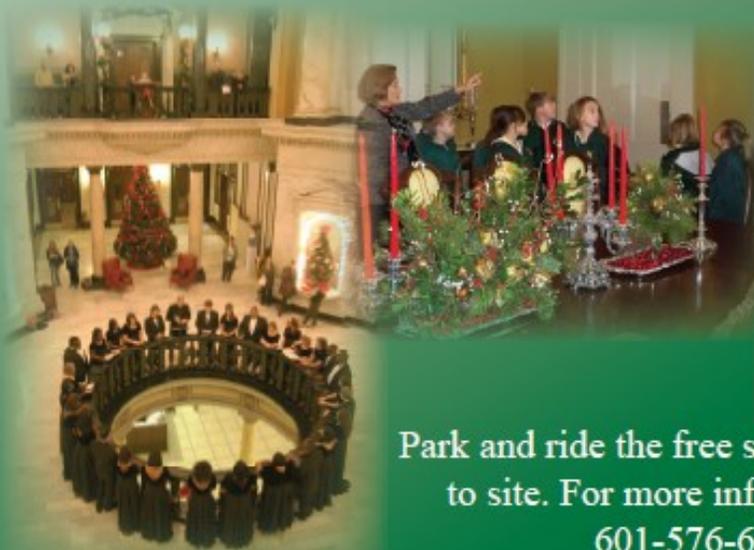
# 18th Annual Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour

Friday, December 6, 2013 ❖ 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Join us for the eighteenth annual *Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight* tour featuring traditional seasonal decorations and entertainment at the

- Eudora Welty House
- Governor's Mansion
- Old Capitol Museum
- State Capitol
- Winter Archives and History Building

The train town of Possum Ridge and Christmas trees and toys from by-gone eras will be on display at the Winter Building. Also visit the state archives library.



Park and ride the free shuttles from site to site. For more information call  
601-576-6800

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

# MDAH Calendar of Events

## November

Through February 14, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. at the Eudora Welty Education and Visitors Center. *Life in Fiction: The Murder of Medgar Evers and “Where is the Voice Coming From?”* The exhibit will examine how that event impelled Eudora Welty to write one of the most gripping and political stories of her career, as well as the repercussions Welty faced after her story was published in *The New Yorker*. Pages from Welty’s original manuscript draft, the July 1963 issue of *The New Yorker*, in which the story was published, photographs, and other related artifacts will be featured. For more information or to reserve a tour, call 601-353-7762 or email [Eudora Welty House](#).

## December

### *Winter Holidays*

**December 3–20** at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. Winter Holidays. Enjoy the model trains of Possum Ridge and period toys and Christmas trees. Exhibit open Mondays, noon–4:30; Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Reservations required for groups of ten or more. For more information or to make a reservation, call 601-576-6800.

### *Years of Yuletide: Christmas in Jackson*

**December 3–31** at the Old Capitol Museum. Years of Yuletide: Christmas in Jackson. This exhibit highlights various Jackson Christmas traditions with selected artifacts and photos. For more information call 601-576-6920.

## December

### *Christmas at the Governor’s Mansion*

**December 3–20** at the Governor’s Mansion. Christmas at the Governor’s Mansion. The historic section of the Governor’s Mansion features traditional holiday decorations using seasonal greenery. Free guided tours are offered Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the half-hour. (Closed weekends and Mondays.) Reservations must be made in advance for groups of ten or more. The Governor’s Mansion will be closed for tours from Tuesday, December 24, through Friday, January 3, 2014. The Mansion may be closed at other times during the month for official state functions. To confirm the availability of the Mansion for tours or for information, call 601-359-6421.

*Telling Tales*: December 5, 12, and 19, 10 a.m. at the Old Capitol Museum. Join us for story time with an ethical focus. For more information call 601-576-6920 or email [info@oldcapitolmuseum.com](mailto:info@oldcapitolmuseum.com).

### *Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour*

**Friday, December 6, 4:30–8:30 p.m.** This popular annual event features traditional seasonal decorations at the Eudora Welty House, Governor’s Mansion, Old Capitol Museum, and State Capitol. The train town of Possum Ridge and the historic Christmas trees exhibit in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building will also be on the tour. For more information call 601-576-6800.

### *Sounds of the Season*

**December 6, 13, and 14, noon.** Enjoy local choirs in the Old Capitol Museum’s rotunda on selected Fridays and Saturdays. For more information call 601-576-6920 or email [info@oldcapitolmuseum.com](mailto:info@oldcapitolmuseum.com).

### *Statehood Day*

**Tuesday, December 10, noon–1 p.m.** at the Old Capitol Museum. Celebrate Mississippi’s 196th birthday with the unveiling of the state’s bicentennial plans for 2017. Reception to follow. For more information call 601-576-6850.



# MDAH Calendar of Events

## December

### *Celebration of Christmas Trees*

**December 10–31** at Historic Jefferson College. Celebration of Christmas Trees. Local school groups and home educators adopt Christmas trees and decorate them for class projects. For more information call 601-442-2901 or email info@historicjeffersoncollege.com.

### *Deadline for Scholastic Writing Awards*

**Monday, December 16, 5 p.m.** at the Eudora Welty Education and Visitors Center. Deadline for Scholastic Writing Awards Submissions. This competition is open to 7th through 12th grades statewide for public, private, and home school students. The regional competition is hosted by the partnership between the Eudora Welty Foundation and the Eudora Welty House and Garden, and is made possible through a grant from the C Spire Foundation. Submissions must be registered online at [www.artandwriting.org](http://www.artandwriting.org) and mailed or delivered to the Education and Visitors Center. For more information, call Lee Anne Bryan at 601-353-7762.

## January

### *175 Years of History at the Old Capitol*

**Tuesday, January 7, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.** at the Old Capitol Museum. Kick off the Old Capitol's 175th birthday celebration with special activities, re-enactors, and tours. The event will begin a year-long contest where visitors vote for the most important event in the Old Capitol's history. For more information call 601-576-6920.

## January

### *Mystery Happened Here: An Evening of Intrigue at the Old Capitol.*

**Thursday, January 23, 5:30-8 p.m.** at the Old Capitol Museum. *Mystery Happened Here: An Evening of Intrigue at the Old Capitol.* Enjoy an evening of mystery and comedy with the Detectives Mystery Dinner Theater players as they attempt to solve a spectacular crime. Wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres reception to follow. Tickets required. For more information or tickets call 601-576-6920. \$40

### *Face to Face with History*

**Thursday, January 30, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.** at the Old Capitol Museum. Face to Face with History. School groups come face to face with key figures who helped shape the history of the Old Capitol and the state of Mississippi. Reservations are required. For more information or to book this special tour, call 601-576-6920.

## Reminder



**Please be sure to enjoy Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour on Friday, December 6, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Event information can be found on page 12 of this publication or you may visit our website:**

[www.mdah.state.ms.us](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us)



The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902 and is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the country. The mission of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is to collect, preserve, protect, research, and interpret the state's rich and diverse historic resources and to promote the appreciation and use of those resources.