



Gunston •  
**Grapevine**  
Autumn 2014



## FROM THE DIRECTOR: *THE CHORUS OF FAMILY*

**E**arlier this week, my wife and I attended the holiday show at our daughter's elementary school. My oldest daughter, Rebecca, was a member of the chorus and her group was singing a selection of holiday favorites at the end of the show.

The night before, Rebecca thoughtfully picked out her dress and practiced a few songs. She also couldn't fall asleep because she was nervous, but once on the stage with her friends and classmates, songs such as *Ode to Joy*, *Jingle Bells*, and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* never sounded better! Rebecca couldn't sleep that night either, but this time it was because of post-show energy, not to mention a few celebratory cookies with icing and sprinkles.

All of us can in some way relate to Rebecca's range of emotions and reactions leading up to and after her performance, as well as the way in which she relaxed once the moment arrived and she began singing as naturally and confidently as a far more seasoned performer. All of us can also understand and relate to the pride her mother, sister, and I all felt seeing Rebecca on stage, joyful, and successfully doing her part as one member of the much larger chorus.

This experience reminded me a bit of my first 18 months at Gunston Hall, a time which has included a few nervous moments, a lot of practice, tremendous energy and emotion, unsurpassed joy, and unparalleled pride. Perhaps most importantly, seeing Rebecca's chorus on stage, as a group of talented and passionate individuals working and performing as one, I thought about

the tremendous team we are blessed to work with at Gunston Hall.

Under the orchestral direction of the best board of directors with whom I have ever worked, our staff team at Gunston Hall has come together in amazing ways and is performing at an extremely high level. Eighteen months ago, we were all strangers and during the past eighteen months some valued team members have left and some talented new individuals have come onboard. Everyone, at every step along the way, has shared their voice and their talents with the whole of the group and everyone, at every step along the way, has done so for the shared purpose of supporting the whole of the group and creating something of value, meaning, beauty, and quality for those we serve.

The work of our chorus has resulted in the implementation of exceptional educational experiences, the initiation and completion of significant preservation and capital projects, the generation of important partnerships and collaborations, and the facilitation of enhanced relationships with our community and our guests. In recognition of this work, Gunston Hall was named the Non-Profit of the Year by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce in December, an award which is given to organizations providing significant service and meaningful contributions to the community. We could not be more proud of this tremendous honor and our receipt of this award is truly an acknowledgement of the work of our entire chorus, including our Board of Regents, our Board of Visitors, our colleagues within the Commonwealth, our stakeholders and partners

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### **Gunston Hall Mission**

To utilize fully the physical and scholarly resources of Gunston Hall to stimulate continuing public exploration of democratic ideals as first presented by George Mason in the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights.

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throughout the community, our members and supporters, and our staff and volunteers---thank you all very, very much!

While at Rebecca's concert, I was also struck by the diversity of individuals and families in the gymnasium that evening. Our girls attend Gunston Elementary School, three miles away from Gunston Hall, and the audience that evening was as diverse as any I have ever seen. In many ways, the entire group in the gymnasium that evening represented a chorus or perhaps a community of carolers, in a shared space, for a common purpose, and as one. The school principal even began the evening by welcoming the Gunston Elementary *Family* to the event and that is what we were, a collection of diverse families, but also one family.

Gunston Hall is also a family and our site embodies a rich tradition of family. Building on this tradition of family, we are intentionally opening our doors to all families and to our community in ever increasing ways and the diversity of those visiting us is increasing and expanding on a daily basis. We do this not solely to increase audience. At a more basic level, we do this because we are *all* one big Gunston Hall family. This family extends beyond our staff and includes our neighbors on Mason Neck and our entire community. This family extends beyond those with whom we have a relationship and includes those whom we have not yet met. Importantly, this family is by definition diverse and it includes an equally diverse collection of talents, perspectives, and voices—just as is true for any successful chorus.

But we too are coming together as one and this togetherness is reflected in the quality of the experiences—the songs—we are sharing with those we serve. Ultimately, this chorus, this family, this diversity, and these songs are what is necessary for us to truly understand and reflect upon what George Mason meant when, in 1776, he wrote that *all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they*

*enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty . . . and pursuing and obtaining happiness.*

So, this holiday season I encourage you all to reflect upon these words from Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights, spend time with and enjoy your families, and join your voices with others from all walks in life in singing a joyful song of love, tolerance, and peace.

On behalf of both the Stroh family and the entire Gunston Hall family, thank you all for lending your voice to our cause and best wishes for a safe and festive holiday season.

Scott Muir Stroh III  
Executive Director



Gunston Grapevine is a quarterly news magazine for, by, and about all members of the Gunston Hall community. Contributions, ideas, questions, and comments are always welcome. Contact the editor Frank Barker at [fbarker@gunstonhall.org](mailto:fbarker@gunstonhall.org).



“Mansion After a Rainstorm,” photographed by Lael Voeller, was the winner of our Empty Mansion Photo Contest. Twenty-one photographers submitted a total of 118 photographs for the contest.



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In second place, is a photo by Lillis Werder, titled "Golden Hour at Gunston Hall."

In third place, is Hannah Wheeler's "Past Perspective #5."

"Eye of the Arch" by Chadd Michael was ranked number four.



5

Another Lillis Werder photograph “Mahogany Dream Entrance” was ranked number 5 by the judges.

6

“Awestruck” photographed by April Killian came in sixth place.



Other parts of the plantation did not escape the scrutiny of the photographers. Here are “A Gunston Hall Boxwood Hollow” by Megan Fotheringham, “Bucket on the Well” by Brian Sweeney and Spiderweb at Gunston” by Theresa Leining-Miller .



### MEET GEORGE MASON'S GREAT-GRANDSON FITZHUGH LEE

**F**itzhugh Lee was born on November 19, 1835. His mother was Ann Maria Mason Lee, who was the daughter of John Mason, son of George Mason of Gunston Hall. Fitzhugh Lee's father was Sidney Smith Lee, an officer in the United States Navy who would later become a Captain in the Confederate Navy and Robert E. Lee's older brother. Fitzhugh Lee was educated at West Point and went on to serve in the 2nd U. S. Cavalry. First Lieutenant Lee resigned his commission in the U. S. Army when Virginia seceded from the Union in 1861.

Lee became friends with Col. J.E.B. Stuart, and quickly rose through the ranks. He fought at Second Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. In the fall of 1863, after Stuart's promotion to corps commander, Lee was promoted to major general and became a division commander. He received a disabling wound at the 3rd Battle of Winchester in September 1864, but was back in the field by the end of that year. He went on to command all the cavalry in the Army of Northern Virginia, Gen. Stuart having been killed at the Battle of Yellow Tavern.

After his uncle Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Fitzhugh Lee and some of his troopers escaped by flanking the Union Army and riding on to Lynchburg. Days later, he realized that further fighting was futile, so he returned to Appomattox and surrendered.

After the war, he became a farmer and ran, with the help of his five brothers, several commercial interests. By 1875, a large inheritance left him financially secure, and he was able to pursue other interests such as writing articles about his war service and that of his well-known uncle, Robert.

Lee later tried politics and in 1885 was elected governor of Virginia. In 1896, President Grover Cleveland appointed him United States consul general in Havana.

After the sinking of the battleship U.S.S. Maine in 1898, he was the last American official to evacuate Cuba before the U.S. declared war on Spain.

He was commissioned a major general of U.S. Volunteers and commanded the Seventh Army Corps, which was still in training camp when the fighting ended. He returned to Cuba to lead an occupation command. He returned to the U.S. after two years.

Lee completed his military career as commander of the Department of the Missouri, headquartered at Omaha, Nebraska. In 1901, he retired as a brigadier general in the regular army. He spent his final years living in Charlottesville. At the time of his death in 1905, he was president of the Jamestown Exposition Company, formed to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. 🌸

*Dear Grapeman,*

*Did George Mason's name continue past his grandson, George Mason VI?*

*From a visitor from George Washington University*

Dear Visitor, The answer is no. There was no George Mason VII. George Mason VI's second-born son was named George Thomson Mason. As George Mason VI had married his cousin, Elizabeth Thomson Mason, daughter of his uncle Thomson Mason, this name honored both sides of the family. Which actually was the same family, anyway.

Second Lieutenant George Thomson Mason of the U.S. Second Dragoons was killed in action near Brownsville, Texas, in 1846, in a skirmish known as the Thornton Affair, which is considered the first battle of the Mexican War.

Lt. George Thomson Mason died childless.

Grapeman

## DEVELOPING HISTORY LEADERS AT THE SEMINAR FOR HISTORICAL ADMINISTRATION

By Lacey Villiva, Education Manager

This November, I had the good fortune to attend an American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) program called the Seminar for Historical Administration. I spent three wonderful, and unusually cold, weeks in Indianapolis.

Coming back to Gunston Hall full of so many ideas has been amazing and challenging at the same time. I'm still trying to figure out where all of the parts fit together.

The major topic of discussion for the three week program is leadership in the history museum field. In that time, we discussed a plethora of subjects that fall into that category, everything from social media to organizational development to financial literacy. Change was an overarching theme across the three weeks as well, as all of our organizations are undergoing, or need to undergo, a change process. All of the speakers who took time out of their regular schedules to speak to us were helping to shape all 21 attendees into change agents as people, professionals and members of the museum field.



Lacey (top right) and the rest of the Virginia Contingent at the Seminar for Historical Administration in November

Not everything was serious, however. While we worked extensively, there were opportunities, both in and outside of class, to visit museums, explore Indianapolis, and to build a network of peers. In varying groups, we visited a number of stellar museums in the greater Indianapolis area. My favorite exhibit was *American Spirits*, a traveling exhibition at the Indiana State Museum covering the rise and fall of Prohibition. The exhibit included a huge range of opportunities for different kinds of learners to engage in the topic from a variety of angles. I was also fortunate to spend the day with our Indiana Regent, Anne Riley, learning about the different neighborhoods in Indianapolis, from their early history through present day. I loved the opportunity to explore some of the 19<sup>th</sup> century trolley neighborhoods, which not having a car, I would have otherwise missed.

One thing I wanted to share about the program was something that came out of the speech given by our keynote speaker, Janet Gallimore, the Director of the Idaho State Historical Society. She has a theory that leaders need a good blend of the four Cs. These Cs are: Competency, Courage, Commitment and Communication. In order for leaders, wherever they may fall in an organization, need to have these qualities in order to be effective.

**Competency** – Leaders need to set a standard for excellence in an organization, and invest in the intellectual capital of others around them. They need to have the skills to analyze strengths and build upon them, and to minimize weaknesses.

**Courage** – Leaders should not be afraid to be clear about the challenges an organization is facing, and how to handle them.

**Commitment** – Change takes a long

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time to stick and leaders need to be ready to give the time to meet the goals they are striving to make happen.

**Communication** – Successful leaders engage in conversation with their staff and volunteers, their donors and their audience in a plethora of ways, from branding to social media.

One other point Janet made was that good leaders model the behaviors and values we want in our organizations; they should be positive, enthusiastic, helpful and motivating. I hope as Gunston Hall moves forward that all of the leaders here, in what-

ever position they may be, can engage with those four Cs and find the right balance for themselves.

Finally, throughout the program, I sent thank you notes out to all of the speakers who worked with us over the three weeks. I find myself lacking in one thank you, and that is to all of you. Thank you all for all of the support you provided me which made it possible for me to attend. I plan to pay back that support as we work through bringing Gunston Hall through the great change put into place by last year's strategic plan. 🌸

Thank you,

Lacey

## DAVID DUVAL, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

**D**avid Duval joined the Gunston Hall staff In November to fill the role of Director of Marketing and Public Relations.

David is a native Virginian, originally hailing from the Roanoke Valley in southwest Virginia. He attended George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, and received a Bachelor's degree in Tourism & Events Management. His academic interests focused on sustainable tourism development and the use of technology in events.

Prior to joining Gunston Hall, David worked in marketing and communications for Discover Prince William & Manassas, the tourism marketing agency promoting Prince William County and the City of Manassas as a destination to group, leisure, and business travelers.

What brought David Duval to Gunston Hall? "A mantra of mine is to 'Be Part of Something Great.' The opportunity to help tell the story of such an important figure in our nation's history and to promote the ideals he articulated in the Virginia Declaration of Rights is not something I could pass up."

He says his job description is "To showcase all of the wonderful things Gunston Hall has to offer through marketing, media relations, and community outreach. I hope for my marketing and public relations efforts to lead to audiences engaging in meaningful conversation surrounding George Mason and his ideals both onsite at Gunston Hall and globally."

According to Dave, "Every day has been a new adventure at Gunston Hall. I am not someone who spends a great deal of time in nature, so the setting of Mason Neck, while beautiful, has been an adjustment." He now tells his friends and family that he works "in the woods."

Dave says he loves music. "Whether at the office, at home, or out and about, I always have music playing." Summer, "or as I like to call it - concert season, is one of my favorite times of year because of all the wonderful opportunities to see and experience live music here in the D.C. area.

Dave also proclaims himself "a fan of oxford commas, ellipses, and run-on sentences. "

David closed his interview for *Grapevine* by saying, "A favorite quote of mine is 'There are no problems— only opportunities to be creative.' (Dorye Roettger). I hope to bring a creative passion to Gunston Hall and play a role in our organization's continued success."





December



If you weren't here at  
**Gunston Hall**  
you may have missed...



November



October



September



August



July



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## February & March

### **SEEDS OF INDEPENDENCE**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**2:00 P.M.**

#### **African Paths to African American Worship on Mason Neck**

The eighth annual Seeds of Independence program will consider the sustained influence of West African spiritual traditions within Christian faiths embraced by slaves, and later, free antebellum blacks and post-Civil War African Americans.

*Reception and Mansion Tours to follow.*

*Suggested contribution.*

*Sponsored by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund.*

### **ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINAR**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

**9:00 A.M.– 4:00 P.M.**

Local archaeologists will discuss recent discoveries at dig sites around the Chesapeake. This seminar is open to the public and professionals.

*\$50 Fee includes program, light breakfast, lunch, and Mansion tour; \$40 for Friends, Docents of Gunston, FOFA, and individuals registering before February 8.*

### **PRESIDENTS DAY: The Two Georges**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Examine the complex relationship between George Mason and George Washington in a Two Georges Mansion tour, and then enjoy a hearth kitchen visit.

*FREE Admission for all*

### **LIBERTY LECTURE SERIES Friends and Rivals**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

**3:00 P.M.**

Distinguished lecturers will explore the friendships and rivalries of early American public figures. Lectures start with refreshments at 2:30 P.M.

*Suggested contribution. Up to six teacher re-certification points available. Sponsored by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund.*

### **OPEN HEARTH COOKING CLASS LEVEL II**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

**10:00 A.M.– 4:00 P.M.**

Prepare an 18th-century dinner with Gunston Hall's veteran hearth cooks. This advanced class is held in conjunction with Fairfax County's Adult and Community Education Program

*\$127 fee includes tuition and materials. Register early for the course by phone at 703-658-1201 or online at [www.Fcps.edu/is/ace](http://www.Fcps.edu/is/ace). For information, call 703-658-1222.*