



# VALLEY FORGE

## PARK ALLIANCE

*Inspiring appreciation for and citizen stewardship of Valley Forge Park since 1976.*

**E-News - December 5, 2023**

## **TONIGHT! Witness To Revolution: The Unlikely Travels Of Washington's Tent**



Join the VFPA Speaker Series TONIGHT, Tuesday, December 5 for a sneak peek of "Witness to Revolution: The Unlikely Travels Of Washington's Tent," a new exhibit opening in Feb. 2024 at the Museum of the American Revolution.

From the Revolutionary War to the present day, generations of Americans and visitors from abroad have found inspiration in the presence of General George Washington's headquarters tent. Purchased from Washington descendants in the Custis-Lee

family, Reverend Dr. W. Herbert Burk, the founder and first rector of Washington Memorial Chapel, first brought this tent back to Pennsylvania for a display in his new museum at Valley Forge. Today, this remarkable artifact is pitched in Philadelphia at the Museum of the American Revolution.

Tracing the tent's journey from Revolutionary Philadelphia to its display at The Centennial Exposition of 1876 and preservation today, museum president and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson will present exhibition plans, illustrate new research discoveries, and offer a sneak peek at the special traveling itinerary for the museum's popular living history program known as the "First Oval Office Project," which features hand-stitched, full-scale replicas of Washington's tents and camp equipage.

[Learn More and Get Tickets](#)

**Don't Miss March In on December 19**



Visit Valley Forge National Historical Park on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 as we commemorate the 246th anniversary of the arrival of the Continental Army to Valley Forge in 1777 with family-friendly programs, demonstrations, reenactors, and hands-on activities!

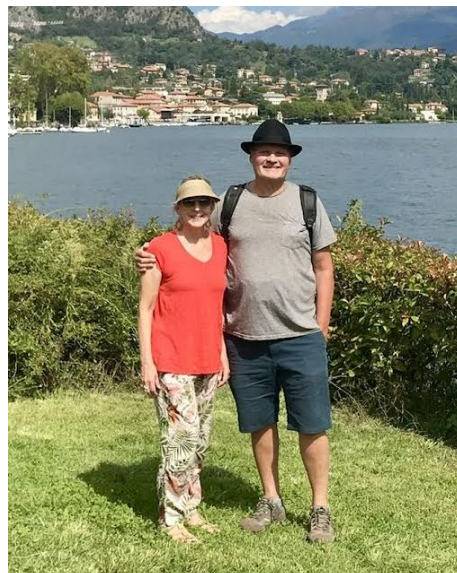
The Visitor Center at Valley Forge and The Encampment Store will be open from 9 AM to 9 PM for holiday shopping and light refreshments. Commemorative activities at Muhlenberg's Brigade will take place from 6 PM to 8 PM.

[See the Full List of Activities](#)

## Show Your Love for Valley Forge and Get Your Name on the Donor Wall at the Maurice Stephens House

"Valley Forge has always been a special place to meet friends and take out-of-town relatives for a tour," says VFPA volunteer Pam DeLuccia. She and her husband, John, have a long history with the Park. In the '70s, Pam got within a few feet of Gerald Ford at the bicentennial celebration. The couple brought their sons to the Park to search for "dinosaur bones" (read: convincing rocks). Now, the pair walks, hikes, and volunteers in the Park.

"Providing support for the Maurice Stephens House has been very meaningful," John says. "It's the ideal space for visitors to stop by a beautiful renovated historical building. We look forward to the grand opening in 2024."



Thank you to our donors like Pam and John who've

made this project possible. We're getting so close to hitting our goal - will you [help us](#) reach it by **December 31, 2023**? Donors of \$2,500 or higher will get featured on the house's donor wall—noted in bold below!



## VALLEY FORGE PARK ALLIANCE

**Franny and Franny Abbott**

Donald Albacker

**Americana Corner**

Alison Babula

Noah Barsky

Chris Brennen

Michael Brewen

Patricia Carroll

Clinton M. and Beth Cochran

John and Anne Collins

**Connelly Foundation**

Mary Connelly

**Tracie Costello**

**In loving memory of Ann Oppert Cubberley**

William Damask

**John and Pamela DeLuccia**

Judy DiFilippo

**Keith and Mary Dorman**

Bernardine and Leo Doyle

Diane Eagon

Ross Ellis

**Embassy Suites Valley Forge**

FGP Foundation

Mimi Gleason

**Kirk and Sandi Gorman**

Great Valley Chapter, NSDAR

**Thomas and Lesley Gresko**

Thomas Mackay and Dianne Harris

**Barbara D. Hauptfuhrer**

**Dale and Susan Heist**

Eric and Lenora Hume

Carlotta Paxson Hutton

Jerry Jacobson

**Kevin and Amy Johnson**

Carol Kangas

**Robert and Elizabeth Legnini**

Brook Lenfest

**Jay and Dean Lieberman**

**In loving memory of Eun Sook Liebling**

Joseph Manko

Tony and Binney McCague

John McFassel

**Joseph and Margot McGinley**

Patrick McGinley

**James and Terri McIntosh**

**The McLean Contributionship**

**Gerald McNeff**

**David and Marian Moskowitz**

Amanda Muckle

**Gary and Anne Murphy**

**John and Michele Murphy**

J.Craig Nannos

**National Park Foundation**

**Sherrin H. Baky-Nessler and William E. Nessler, III**

**Life's Patina**

Roger Perry Memorial Fund

**King of Prussia District**

**Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program**

Barbara Riley

Steven and Allyson Ross

**Schuylkill Highlands**

**Richard Seidel**

**Mark and Deborah Shryock**

**Scott and Carol Sibley**

Brian and Tracey Sisko

**The Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Pennsylvania**

**The Color Guard of the Pennsylvania Society**

**of Sons of the Revolution**

**Ted and Sherryl Strand**

Jefferson Strider

Marcie Thompson

Wendy Toldi

Timothy and Hope Ulrich

**Univest Corporation**

Fred and Lura Wampler

Deborah Holt Weil

**Joan Woodruff**

**Maurice Stephens House Project Featured by  
National Parks Foundation**



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## NPF Grant Supports Capacity Building at Valley Forge Park Alliance

In 2020 and 2022, the Valley Forge Park Alliance was honored to receive Strong Parks, Strong Communities capacity building grants from the National Park Foundation, the official nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. These grants enabled the VFPA to further its goal of fundraising for, making capital improvements to, and operating the Maurice Stephens House for use as its new headquarters and a program space for the visiting public.

We're proud to be featured in a [new article on the NPF website](#)! Read it for a history of the project, the NPF/VFPA partnership, and be sure to click on the links to learn more about the history of our new home!

## Attention Friends Aged 72 and Over!

If you are age 72 or older and have an IRA account, then you are probably familiar with the IRS rules for the annual IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Did you know that you can satisfy your annual RMD by making a direct transfer from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as the Valley Forge Park Alliance and the Maurice Stephens Farmhouse?

Such transfers are not counted as income on your Federal Income Tax Return, even though normal IRA withdrawals made by you are taxed as income on your annual Income Tax Return. That's right, it is a tax-free distribution, and you get the benefit without the need to itemize deductions.

Already taken your RMD for the year? Not an issue! The above applies to any charitable

To Do:

☐ Take RMD  
from IRA!

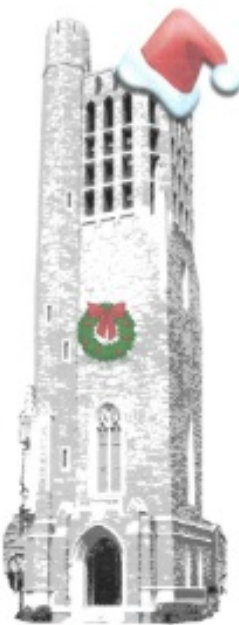
distributions from your IRA, up to \$100,000 annually. Also, the clock for your RMD resets January 1 of the new year, so that's a great time to begin your charitable giving for next year.

To take advantage of this tax benefit, your gift must be made directly to the charity (must not pass through your hands) and it must be made by December 31. To make a qualifying charitable gift to the Alliance, contact your IRA custodian or administrator and request a direct transfer of funds payable to:

The Valley Forge Park Alliance  
PO Box 117  
Valley Forge, PA 19481

For additional information or for other ways to give, visit [VFPARKALLIANCE.ORG](https://VFPARKALLIANCE.ORG) or call 610 783-1777.

## Get in the Holiday Spirit with Washington Memorial Chapel, December 17



## **Caroling at the Carillon**

*Community Christmas Carol  
Sing-Along*

**Sunday**

**December 17, 2023**

**4:00 PM**

Sing your favorite Christmas Carols  
accompanied by the bells of the  
Washington Memorial National Carillon  
Doug Gefvert, Carillonneur

*This free outdoor event takes place in front  
of the carillon tower, so dress warmly!*

**Washington Memorial Chapel**

Route 23, Valley Forge National Park  
610-783-0120



*Pssst! Want your name and logo on our newsletter?*

*Email [info@vfparkalliance.org](mailto:info@vfparkalliance.org) to find out how -  
and you'll get a Friends Circle Membership too!*



*Thank you to our corporate sponsor:*

Jay A. Lieberman, CPA PC  
Lynbrook, NY

**[JLIEBERMAN1@VERIZON.NET](mailto:JLIEBERMAN1@VERIZON.NET)**

516-766-2662



**I Support The Alliance!**



**Donate Today! Text WASHINGTON to 565-12**



Valley Forge Park Alliance | PO Box 117, Valley Forge, PA 19481

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