



# TATE HOUSE GAZETTE

NEWS FROM TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

*“Connecting people to Maine’s colonial roots and helping them to discover, imagine, and value the relevance of this history to our lives”*

Volume XVII, Number 4

Fall 2007/Winter 2008

## ***New England Winters: A Colonial Perspective***

### ***Hard Winter of 1697-98,***

#### ***Severest of Seventeenth Century***

“The terriblest winter for continuance of frost and snow, and extremity of cold, that ever was known;” 31 snowstorms from November 20 to April 9; Charlestown, Massachusetts, ferry frozen for six weeks; 42-inch snow depth reported at Cambridge; reputation for severity survived for many years.

### ***The Great Snow of 1717***

New England’s most famous legendary snowstorm; consisted of four storms, two major and two minor, from February 27 to March 7; snow depth upwards of three feet in Boston area, five feet in New Hampshire and Maine; many animals perished, houses collapsed, travel hampered; sheep buried under drifts for 28 days dug out alive; Cotton Mather wrote historic account for Royal Society of London.



*Tate House Winter 2007-2008*

### ***Hard Winter of 1740-41***

Considered more severe by old-timers than 1697-98, with more snow and longer freeze-up; three severe winter periods in November, early January, and February-March; Boston Harbor frozen 30 days, Charlestown ferry 10 weeks; snow 36 inches deep in central Connecticut; Connecticut River at Deerfield, Massachusetts, frozen over and snow near Ashburnham 30 inches deep on April 10.

### ***Winter of the Deep Snows in 1747-48***

Thirty snowstorms from December 25 to April piled up unprecedented snow cover; 5.5 feet deep at Portland, Maine, 4 to 5 feet deep at Cambridge, Massachusetts; travel exceedingly difficult; snow melted into unfrozen ground with no serious flooding.

### ***Hard Winter of 1780, Severest of Eighteenth Century***



*Stroudwater Falls  
Winter 2007-2008*

Series of heavy December snowstorms followed by thawless January, the coldest month in history; all highways blocked for many weeks except Great Road from Boston to Hartford; all harbors frozen for four to six weeks; snow in southern Connecticut 42 inches on level ground; military forces immobilized, ships frozen in, troops snowbound; citizens suffered great hardship.

### ***Triple Big Snows in Early December, 1786***

Greatest snowfall since 1717; Hamden, Connecticut, near New Haven, had 20 inches on December 4-5, 9 inches on December 7-8, and 8 inches with sleet on December 9-10, total 37 inches; Kingston Massachusetts, near Plymouth, had 48 inches on ground, Boston nearly four feet; great tide accompanied third storm, destroying wharves and shipping; record early cold wave followed, -12 degrees at Harford on the twelfth.

Source: David Ludlum, *The Country Journal New England Weather Book*

(Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1976), 121-123.

## TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

1267 Westbrook St.  
Portland, ME 04102  
207.774.6177  
www.tatehouse.org  
info@tatehouse.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

### OFFICERS

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*Vice Chair*

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Patricia Waters  
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### MUSEUM STAFF

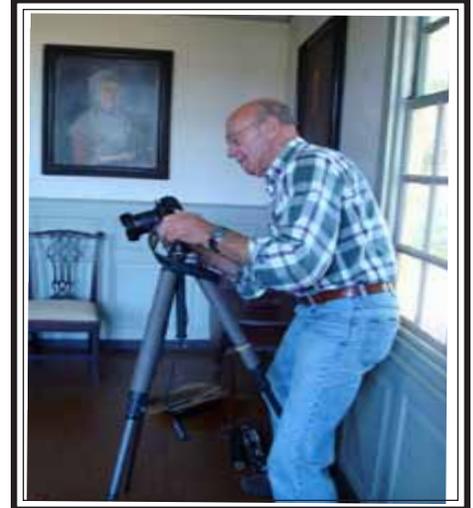
Dr. Andrea C. Hawkes  
*Executive Director*  
director@tatehouse.org

Caitlin Libby  
*2008 Winter Intern*

## VOLUNTEER VOICES

*News and Stories for and from those who  
make it possible to keep our museum open*

This is the initiation of a new column in our gazette that will feature our volunteers talking about what Tate House means to them and why they have made our museum their community of choice. In 2007 volunteers gave over 3,000 hours of their precious time to Tate House Museum by working on committees, planning and hosting special events, tending the gardens, and giving tours of Tate House—to name only a few of the activities they accomplished to keep our museum open. Without our volunteers the museum just would not “be.”



*William Hubbell*

The first of the “VOLUNTEER VOICES” we will hear from is William “Bill” Hubbell. Bill lives in Cumberland Foreside with his wife Jean and their new puppy Curry. He is professional photographer ([www.hubbellphotography.com](http://www.hubbellphotography.com)) and the author of the justly popular *Good Fences: A Pictorial History of New England's Stone Walls* (Down East Books, 2006), which of course can be purchased in our museum shop. Many of the photographs we use in marketing and advertising events at the museum are donated by Bill and we are most grateful for this as well as for the time Bill volunteers doing committee and docent work. Here, in Bill's voice is why:

“In the winter of 2006, having just finished work on what I thought would be my last book, I was looking for a volunteer job that would be both interesting and would allow me to contribute in some meaningful way. Wanting to learn more about Portland and loving history, I took the Portland History Docent course. Having lived nearly half my life in homes built before 1800, choosing the Tate House as my focus was a no-brainer. I happen to love gardening, old buildings, architecture, history and working with people.

Being a Tate House Museum docent seemed to be a perfect match for me. And then there was the additional pleasure of being able to contribute photography now and then for various projects. The other volunteers and staff have all been wonderful to work with—and the parking isn't bad either! I look forward to seeing us grow and improve. There are so many wonderful projects ahead of us.”

*For two weeks in January, Tate House Museum had Intern Caitlin Libby working with the Director to publish the Tate House Gazette. Caitlin is a Sophomore at Wheaton College and is the daughter of volunteers Dan and Theresa Libby.*

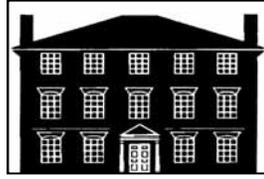


*2008 Winter Intern  
Caitlin Libby*

## PLEASE NOTE MUSEUM ADDRESS CHANGE:

Administrative Office  
(Means House)  
1267 Westbrook St.  
Portland, ME 04102

# Sign up now for the 2008 TRAINING PROGRAM!



## PORTLAND'S HISTORY DOCENTS

*Portland's History Docents is a collaborative training program sponsored by the Victoria Mansion, Tate House Museum, Greater Portland Landmarks, Portland Harbor Museum, and Maine Historical Society.*

### BE A PART OF PORTLAND HISTORY!

Get involved in a unique program designed to be truly fun and interesting, learn about the area's history, and share your enthusiasm and knowledge by giving tours of our wonderful historical sites to adults and/or school children.

#### You will receive:

- Lectures and training with some of the region's leading historians and educators
- Orientation and tours at each of the sites in the program
- Volunteer opportunities at your choice of participating institution
- Special events for educational enrichment and socializing

3

#### We need volunteers who:

- Enjoy working with people
- Want to contribute time and talent to a worthy community service
- Are interested in learning more about our local history, art and architecture
- Look forward to sharing their knowledge with others

*"The PHD Program has broadened my horizons beyond my expectations. The training was enlightening, and serving as a docent has proved extremely rewarding."*  
- Marie Graves, Portland's History Docents Graduate

#### Here's all you need to volunteer:

- **COMPLETE THE FORM** below and MAIL it by February 8, 2008.
- **ATTEND THE TRAINING** at the Maine Historical Society in Portland, Thursdays, 9 AM-12 Noon, February 14 through April 17, 2008.
- **BE WILLING** to make a one-year commitment (about 6-12 hours per month).

If you have any questions, or if you want to volunteer but cannot attend the sessions, call 774-5561, extension 120.



**YES! I would like to attend Portland's History Docents training.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to: **PORTLAND'S HISTORY DOCENTS,**  
c/o Greater Portland Landmarks, 165 State Street, Portland ME 04101

# Tate House Museum Membership Goes to London!

From April 1 through April 7 members of the Tate House Museum will travel to London for the first “Tate to Tate” trip, fulfilling our mission to explore Maine’s colonial roots. The seven day visit will include tours of major London area museums such as the Tate Modern, the Costume Museum, the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Natural History Museum. Other places included in the visit will be daytrips to Bath and Oxford, and outings to Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, Sulgrave Manor, and Blenheim Palace.

One purpose of the trip is to enrich our understanding of the English culture that is often used in the interpretation of Tate House Museum. The day trip to Bath, the cultural center of England during the Georgian Era, compliments the 2008 Sally Cronk Lombard Decorative Arts Symposium theme of Georgian Architecture. The Costume Museum appeals to many of our members’ interest in period costume design. Additionally Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington, is in part owned by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America and acknowledges the close relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States.

**There are still a few openings available for this trip so please call today if you would like to join us.**



*Buckingham Palace (above) and Sulgrave Manor (below) the ancestral home of George Washington*

## London Itinerary:

**April 1-** Depart from Boston Logan Airport for an overnight flight to London.

**April 2-** Arrive in London and take transfers to the Imperial Hotel. After check in tour Buckingham Palace and witness the changing of the Guard. In the afternoon tour the Tower of London.

**April 3-** Tour Bath for a full day with a visit to the Costume Museum and a chance to view Georgian Architecture.

**April 4-** Embark on a tour to the city of Oxford and tour Sulgrave Manor and Blenheim palace.

**April 5-** Open day to explore London and shop Portobello Road Market.

**April 6-** Last full day in London. Visit the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Natural History Museum, and the Tate Modern Museum.

**April 7-** Check out of hotel and embark on flight from London to Boston.



# Russian Delegates Visit THM

As part of a Russian exchange program called the Archangel Committee, five Russian delegates came to learn more about museum practice, organization, and finances in the U.S. and toured Tate House Museum on December 11, 2007.

The Archangel Committee was founded to promote exchanges between Greater Portland and Archangel, Russia. The Committee hosts citizens of Archangel in Greater Portland and offers opportunities for people from Greater Portland to visit Archangel. Funds for the visit came from the Open World program at the Library of Congress. Delegates from the committee visited Tate House Museum twice before in 2005 and in 1990.

Two of the delegates are extensively involved in running their own museums in the Archangel region of Russia. Yuri Surikov is the Solovki Museum Director of Education, a historic architectural and natural museum, and Alexander Shayev is the Malye Kareli Museum Director, an open-air wooden architecture museum. Accompanying Surikov and Shayev were Natalia Yakovleva, the Solovki vice Mayor, Elena Kuznetsova, the Archangel Business Media Publisher, and Ivan Tabanin, a Graduate Student in Archangel.

With the help of an interpreter, the Russians, members from the Tate House Board of Directors, and THM's Executive Director had a great repoire discussing similar issues and concerns of running a museum.

## Sprague Foundation Awards Grant to THM

It gives Tate House Museum great pleasure to announce that it was just awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,500.00 from The Phineas W. Sprague Memorial Foundation "for funding a half-time assistant to the Director" position. A budget crisis developed at the museum this past fall that required the THM Board of Directors to regrettably, but responsibly cut the budget, eliminating the position of Assistant to the Director. The Sprague Foundation award to fund a half-time position for the Assistant of the Director will allow the museum to continue the trajectory on which it was heading before the budget crisis.

The fulfillment of this request gives a great boost to the museum's morale, and will be instrumental in providing the means to help us identify and secure the funds to consistently support this position and other essential operational needs from sustaining community sources.



(L to R) Peter Cook, John Swan, Ivan Tabanin, Meredith Harding, Elizabeth Oatley, Yuri Surikov, Natalia Yakovleva, Elena Kuznetsova, Andrea Hawkes, Alexander

### TATE HOUSE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP YES! I wish to become a member of Tate House Museum

- |                          |            |          |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$35.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family     | \$50.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron     | \$100.00 |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Checks

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to "Tate House Museum"

Send form and payment to: Tate House Museum  
1267 Westbrook St.  
Portland ME 04102

SHARING IS CARING:

ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO VISIT TATE HOUSE MUSEUM.

# *Holiday Festivities at Tate House Museum*

Tate House Museum's "A Winter Wedding: Around the Colonial Hearth" was a huge success, both as an educational, and holiday event and a fund raiser; and this in spite of the fact that the fourth and final day was snowed out! The open house that featured three handsomely costumed interpreters, simple and historically accurate Christmas decorations, and many vignettes that told the story of preparing for a colonial wedding attracted almost 200 visitors of all ages.

A highlight of the exhibit was the museum's colonial wedding dress on display in the parlor along with the bride's floral hair wreath and a man's embroidered wedding vest on loan from the Maine Historical Society. Other exhibits included the bride's dowry known as a "portion," examples of courting customs, recipes and ingredients for the posset and wedding cake, and games children may have played by the hearth as their elders prepared for the event. Hosts for each room recited relevant eighteenth-century poems. Period Christmas music filled the air.

After touring the exhibit visitors were treated to holiday sweets including a "genuine" colonial wedding cake (a fruit cake laced with rum) in the festively decorated dining room of the Means House. Guests also had the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for six different, overflowing baskets of kitchen wares that were donated by Becky Quinlan and *the good table*, Belfast Maine.

This landmark event set records in terms of attendance and revenue raised, and was the result of six months of dedicated planning by the Holiday Committee, which was co-chaired by Cesca Galluccio-Steele and Elizabeth Oatley and included Cynthia Griswold, Theresa Libby, Barbara Luke, Dean Lyons, and Ginny Bishop. Each member of the committee contributed her special expertise, which made for a very collegial and richly diverse experience. Special thanks goes to Elizabeth Oatley who spent her summer months researching, designing, and hand making the three costumes that included the kitchen help and a lady and gentleman of the day. These costumes will be used for future Tate House Museum events.

"A Winter Wedding: Around the Colonial Hearth" was supported in part by Maine Bank & Trust and including museum shop revenues it raised over \$2,000.00 for Tate House Museum.



*Winners of the Holiday Raffle Baskets were:*

- 1. Zella Dewey, Bailey Island*
- 2. Dolores Testa, Portland*
- 3. Cindy O'Neil, South Portland*
- 4. Maureen Gorman, Cumberland Foreside*
- 5. Mary Lou Sprague, Cape Elizabeth*
- 6. Sheri Fistal, Falmouth*

## **2008 Sally Cronk Lombard Decorative Arts Symposium**

The theme for Tate House Museum's annual decorative arts symposium for 2008 is the exploration of architecture in the Georgian Era, 1714-1820 (the years in which King George I through George IV ruled Britain, and in turn, the American colonies). This is a continuation of the theme we explored of furniture and interiors in the Georgian Era for the 2007 symposium. Tom Johnson, former curator of the Museums of Old York and now curator at Canterbury Shaker Village in New Hampshire, created an exhibit called "Georgian at the Tate House" from the collection at Tate House to accompany this two-part symposium theme. According to Johnson, "This exhibit brings a number of wonderful objects from the Georgian period out of their regular historic room context" and "sets them against each other as statements of design and taste. . . . Tate House is an important touchstone in the study of the now-vanished elegance of Georgian era development in this region." This exhibit will continue to be on view in the museum's exhibit gallery during the 2008 touring season.



# TATE HOUSE MUSEUM 2007-2008 ANNUAL APPEAL

**At some point in your life you take stock and ask:**

**“What have I done with my life? Of what can I be proud? What will be my legacy?”**

Nurturing and teaching the children in our families and communities fulfills many of us, and we feel great pride watching them become good citizens. But we also crave to be a part of something continuous, to carry on an endeavor that was important to our ancestors and that will be valued by future generations. **Being a part of the continuum of people who have preserved and promoted Tate House Museum can be your legacy.** Including Tate House Museum in your priorities makes a difference in the preservation and interpretation of our shared cultural heritage.

In 2005, after three-quarters of a century, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maine invited the Greater Portland community to manage the museum with a community Board of Directors and to decide its future course. This new Board of Directors has continued the traditional programming of school tours and the Annual Decorative Arts Symposium, while also encouraging the development of new ideas. The special architecture focus tours were extraordinarily popular this summer and the seasonal programming now includes Historic Stroudwater Burying Ground Tours in October and this December, “Around the Colonial Hearth: A Winter Wedding.” Tate House Museum is doing well with our increased visitation and programming. **In the coming year we pledge to you even greater opportunities for family membership and participation.**

It is now up to us all to preserve, support, and lead Tate House Museum in a direction so that it may reach its potential as a community resource. **We respectfully ask that you demonstrate your interest and commitment by responding to this year-end Annual Appeal.** Your extended generosity and participation will benefit a great historical resource and the quality of life within this wonderful region that was, is, and will be our “home.”

With best wishes and much gratitude,

Andrea C. Hawkes & William A. Macleod, Chair  
Executive Director      Annual Appeal Committee

## YES ! I WANT TO SUPPORT TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

\$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$1,000     OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Information:     Master Card     Visa

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Please make checks payable to: **TATE HOUSE MUSEUM**  
Mail 1267 Westbrook St., Portland, ME 04102

If you would like to make a donation of stock, please call Tate House Museum office 207.774.6177

*Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law*



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## 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now scheduling for Spring 2008 School Tours  
Email ([info@tatehouse.org](mailto:info@tatehouse.org)) for programing

“Tate to Tate”

London Trip Meeting & Presentation

January 24, 2008

6:30 PM Means House

April 1-7 2008

“Tate to Tate”

Museum Membership

Trip to London

June 12, 2008

Tate House Museum

Annual Meeting

September 25, 2008

2008 Sally Cronk Lombard

Decorative Arts Symposium

“Exploring Architecture in  
the Georgian Era, 1714-1820”

Open for 2008 Summer Tours June 3, 2008

TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

1267 Westbrook Street  
Portland, ME 04102

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[www.tatehouse.org](http://www.tatehouse.org)

