



PRESS RELEASE

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Non-Profit's Innovative Fundraiser Doesn't Let Corona Dampen Mission

TREDYFFRIN, PA – Pattye Benson, president of the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust (THPT), historic homeowner and local business owner, along with the Trust's Board of Directors, announced the cancellation of their 16th Historic House Tour; an annual program that is the Trust's premier fundraising event.

In its place, the Trust is conducting its first-ever "As History Goes On" non-event fundraiser scheduled on the original 16th Annual Historic House Tour date of September 26, 2020.

These annual House Tour fundraisers benefit the rebuilding of the Jones Log Barn as a local living history and community education programs and raised \$35K in 2019.

Pattye Benson explains, "To avoid serious public health risks, regrettably, we had to cancel our very popular annual house tour and the well-attended house tour preview party, Jazz It Up, which served as an opportunity for the Trust to thank the house tour participants, sponsors and local elected officials for supporting historic preservation and making the annual historic house tour possible. Along with the Board of Directors, we know our historic house tour attendees and preservation enthusiasts are disappointed to hear about the house tour cancellation. The annual historic house tour is a consistent community favorite and the Trust's leadership will miss seeing everyone. We know our group of dedicated attendees enthusiastically enjoyed previous tours as family activities, girl's day out, as passionate history observers, and as cross-generational teaching opportunities with children and grandchildren."

Since 2005, the historic house tours have featured 113 different historic homes including seven Revolutionary War headquarters, fourteen barns, five churches, three schools, including two one-room schoolhouses, two general stores, two springhouses, several historic playhouses, one library, an arboretum, a mill, and the Wharton Esherick museum.

Through the generosity of many individuals and local companies, the rebuilding of the Jones Log Barn is nearing completion. The final phase to be completed by the end of 2020 includes lighting, educational programming, and construction of the wall in the lower portion of the barn utilizing original sliding doors from Fritz Lumber Yard.

Joining the other two historic structures – General Duportail's Quarters and the Federal Barn, both on the National Register of Historic Places – the Jones Log Barn will be the centerpiece of the Living History Center at Duportail.

Benson adds, "Our disappointment today does not dampen our ongoing mission for completing the Jones Log Barn Living History Center, providing an amazing space for sustainable, historic education programs, inviting the public to visit, and hosting future Trust events. With the help of the community, the Living History Center will welcome visitors and provide a glimpse into the stories and experiences of our past."

Supporters and historic home enthusiasts are encouraged to donate to the 2020 "As History Goes On" non-event at www.tredyffrinhistory.org. The public may contact the Trust's president, Pattye Benson with any questions at 610.644.6750.