



# Master Docent Series Workshops 2024

**February 24, 2024 \* 8:30am-5:00pm**

**Live in Person at ERUCC**

(15 W Church St. Frederick MD)

**Virtual attendance via Zoom**

(email link will be sent to registered email)

## Themes

Interpreting Difficult Stories

Lafayette \* Emancipation Day

Art \* Moran \* Artifacts

Registration \$40/\$45 for in person (includes lunch and lite breakfast)

Zoom Registration \$15 for the day

Register at Visit Frederick link below

<https://www.visitfrederick.org/master-docent-series/>

email [mmannix@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:mmannix@frederickcountymd.gov) for more information





## 8:30am Registration, Continental Breakfast, Networking & Welcome

### 8:45 am *“Interpreting Difficult Histories at Museums and Historic Sites”*

Dr. Julia “Julie” Rose

Today many history museums and historic sites are working to elevate and expand historical interpretations of enslaved communities. This can be a tough job when histories are newly introduced or added to an existing tour narrative, for example. What do the museums need to ethically recall slave life to reorient the meanings of their sites to be more inclusive? Is it possible to shift the meanings of a place from the home of a European-American planter family to a place once inhabited by enslaved and free families? What forms of individual resistance complicate recalling slavery history? The emerging stories can be disruptive, complex, and uncomfortable. In this talk we will discuss worthy reasons for museum workers and visitors to explore sites of slavery and other histories of oppression. Transitioning the meanings of a site from a home of an enslaving free white planter family to an inclusive interpretation featuring an enslaved community asks us to think about how these stories move us to productive action. Museum workers can inspire empathy from visitors and stakeholders who will want to know more, to want to listen to authentic inclusive stories about enslaved populations in order to make a difference in the present.

*Julia Rose is the director of Marietta Historic House Museum in Prince George’s County. Most recently, Dr. Rose was the director/curator of Homewood Museum at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Previously she was the director at West Baton Rouge Museum, an AAM accredited regional history museum. Her primary research interests focus on interpreting difficult histories and documenting historical enslaved plantation communities for museum interpretations. Currently, Dr. Rose serves a board member for the Hammond Harwood House and the editorial board for the Journal for Museum Education. She received a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, a Master of Arts in Teaching in Museum Education from the George Washington University, and a B.A in Fine Art and Education from State University of New York at Albany. She serves as a peer reviewer for the American Alliance of Museums. She has held positions at the Washington D.C Historical Society (formerly the Columbia Historical Society), East Tennessee Historical Society, and Magnolia Mound Plantation. Rose was also an assistant professor teaching museum studies at Southern University of New Orleans and Louisiana State University. Her recent book, *Interpreting Difficult History at Museums and Historic Sites* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), addresses museum learning and historical oppression.*



10:00am *“Lafayette: Our Nation’s Adopted Son and His Farewell Tour of the America He Loved”*

Dr. Patricia L. Maclay

Dr. Maclay, an official of the American Friends of Lafayette group, will discuss the Marquis de Lafayette’s triumphal 1824-25 tour of the United States as the “guest of the nation.” and also tell us about the plans for the bicentennial celebration of Lafayette’s tour which will take place in 2024-2025. When President James Monroe issued the invitation to Lafayette make a return visit to America in early 1824, Lafayette accepted it eagerly. He arrived in New York in August 1824 and proceeded to tour the entire nation, which consisted of 24 states and the District of Columbia at that time. His trip covered 6000 miles, and included countless cities and towns, where Revolutionary War veterans and the public at large thronged to greet him. The tour concluded in Washington D.C. in September 1825, not only with a grand ball, but an address to both houses of Congress. As we approach the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution, it is important to be reminded how Lafayette’s visit rekindled the nation’s revolutionary spirit. Dr. MacClay, who also serves as a national official of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will describe how the Farewell Tour Bicentennial Committee hopes it will do the same today.

*Dr. Patricia Maclay has also served a commissioner with the Montgomery County Commission for Women and was co-chair of their county-wide Suffrage 2020 Celebration. She is a board-certified internist and rheumatologist with has more than 40 years of experience as a physician, educator and lecturer with a focus on the relationship between stress and disease.*

Baltimore December 27<sup>th</sup> 1824

Gentlemen

Altho I have had the Honor Verbally to Acknowledge the several Testimonials of Kindness, and the Gratifying Invitations with which I have been Honored by the Citizens of Frederick and County I will not presume myself to you before I have answered your more obliging Communication.

You have been pleased to prefer my staying on Tuesday my Departure to you Altho I was under an obligation to stay there Tuesday Night, and still more bound to be returned to Washington City on the Evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> as the next day January the first I must wait on the President's Leave and have had the Honor to be invited to Dinner by the Members of both Houses of Congress.

While I will be ready, on Wednesday, as early as it is thought proper, to depart for Frederick City, I anticipate the High Satisfaction to produce to the Citizens in whose Name you have done me the Honor to Address me and to you, Gentlemen, a Tribute of my Grateful and Respectful Thanks.

LaFayette





### 11:30 am *“Getting to the Art of the Matter”*

Artists: Dr. Debra Jean Ambush, Nick Hutchings, Jim Roberts  
 Delaplaine Staff: Corey Frey, Exhibitions Manger &  
 Kristen Butler, Director of Programs



Panel discussion of the Delaplaine Arts Center's Frederick County 275th Anniversary Exhibition, which was on display in the summer of 2023. The invitational exhibition featured works created by local and regional artists and inspired by stories submitted by members of the Historic Sites Consortium. This discussion will focus on works inspired by the Catoctin Furnace.

### 12:30pm *Lunch with Speakers: “Oakdale Black History Exhibit Project”* Kate Ehrlich and Students

Hear directly from students of Oakdale High School about their process and findings from their creation of a 20 panel traveling exhibit. The creators believe that Black History is everyone's history and that all members of the community will benefit from reading these stories, many found through original research by the students. The informative panels are on display during the month of February at the C. Burr Artz Public Library. Several panels will be visiting Master Docent for the day.

### 1:30pm *“Be the Indiana Jones of your Collection...Or At Least Make the Visitor Think You Are!”*

Tracy Evans

Ever wonder about the story behind the identification label on an artifact in a museum exhibit. Where did the artifact come from, how did the museum acquire it, how do they know its authenticity? This program will provide you with insight to the collection at Monocacy National Battlefield and give you the tools to ask or research those question at your site, as well as how to then interpret that information to your visitors. A hands-on component will provide additional incite to finding clues about artifacts as well as handling cool stuff!!

*Tracy Evans is the Acting Chief of Resource Education and Visitor Services at Monocacy National Battlefield. Her duties also include park curator and volunteer coordinator. Tracy has been with the park since 1997, when she started as a seasonal.*



## 2:45pm “*Frederick Emancipation Celebrations*”

Michelle Diane Wright

For several years, the Frederick Emancipation Association, Inc., sponsored one of the only celebrations commemorating African American emancipation from enslavement in the state. The annual Emancipation Celebration boasted a parade, picnic, sports, speeches, music, dances, and other activities. The festivities attracted thousands of attendees from all over the region. Even before this building housed the organization, regional notables were part of a day-long event that occurred in mid-August virtually every year from 1865 to 1951. During the Jim Crow era, Black populations throughout the nation sought to strengthen their neighborhoods and communities. Frederick, Maryland was an important part of that tradition revealing perseverance of African Americans during an era that society sought to vanquish all efforts of advancement.

*Michelle Diane Wright was born and raised in Frederick, Maryland and graduated from Governor Thomas Johnson High School. She is currently an historian and professor living in Baltimore, Maryland, but maintains strong connections to her hometown. Michelle Wright is Assistant Professor at the Community College of Baltimore County teaching History and Africana Studies. She attended Dartmouth College where she received a dual B.A. degree in English and Art History in 1987. Following undergraduate study, she attended The Ohio State University in 1989, received a M.A. in Black Studies, an M.A. in Political Science and an A.B.D. in History. Wright taught Black Studies and Political Science at The Ohio State University following graduate school. Michelle Diane Wright is the author of three books; "Let's Learn Swahili," published in 2001, a workbook designed to teach Kiswahili to children aged 5-12. Her second book was released in 2004 and was entitled "The Case of Marshall 'Eddie' Conway," a resource manual outlining the case of former Black Panther and 40 year political prisoner Eddie Conway. Her most recent book was released in 2007 and was entitled "Broken Utterances: 19th Century Black Women's Social Thought." Currently, she is in the final stages of writing a book about anarchist labor leader Lucy E. Parsons. The working title for that book is "More Dangerous Than A Thousand Rioters."*

## 4:00pm “Bill Moran Facts & Fiction” Robert Wilson

Frederick County native William Francis “Bill” Moran Jr. (1925 – 2006) was a pioneering American knife-maker who founded the American Bladesmith Society and changed the process of modern knife making.



*Robert Wilson is the President of The William F. Moran Jr. Museum & Foundation, Inc. & Executive Director of the W.F. Moran Bladesmith & Artisan Academy in Middletown, will discuss Bill’s history, dispel some myths, rumors, and assumed stories that surround Moran and present stories that are true that the general public may not know.*

*A Charter Life Member of the foundation Robert’s involvement started when he was asked to conduct the Estate sale for William (Bill) Moran in 2006. Starting out as a Board member and was then asked to step into the role of VP (2014) after successfully putting together the first ever Frederick’s All-Forged Knife Show & Auction for the Foundation. In 2016 Robert was asked to step into the position of President. In this tenure, the foundation decided to take a leap of faith and build a 3500 s.f facility adjacent to Bill Moran’s original shop. This project was 4 years in the making with ground breaking in December of 2021 and completion in August of 2022. Robert was asked to be the onsite director of construction of the day to day activities and responsibilities. Robert was also successful in helping with the fund-raising efforts by receiving grants from The Delaplaine Foundation & The Ausherman Family Foundation along with private funding procured the \$1.1 million dollar. The building and equipment is fully paid for.*

*Robert is an Associate Broker with Maryland Real Estate Group, he is also a Professional Auctioneer for over 40 years and has been a Personal Property Appraiser for 30 years. He owns Robert A. Wilson Auctioneer & REALTOR with his wife Debbie. Married for 33 years to his best friend they are both active in their church serving on the board as Board Chair and Secretary as well as serving on the district level. He is a member of the Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society and served as the first Vice President and has served as President of the Wolfsville Ruritan.*