Miller-Cory House Museum Offers Sampling Of Colonial Life

A Westfield landmark nestled amidst a bustling residential stretch along Mountain Avenue, the historic Miller-Cory House Museum invites visitors to experience firsthand the everyday lives of Colonial-era New Jerseyans.

Samuel Miller purchased 100 acres of land in the "West Fields" of Elizabethtown and began building the farmhouse for his bride, Sabra, in 1740.

All of Samuel's and Sabra's eight children were born in the house, and three sons served in the Revolutionary War. In 1784, the house was sold to Joseph Cory, also a Revolutionary War soldier. The Cory family owned the house for almost 140 years.

An inventory taken of Joseph Cory's possessions at the time of his death serves as a basis for furnishing the house.

Beginning in 1972, a group of historically-minded citizens formed the Miller-Cory Volunteers to save the 18th-century farmhouse.

Clad in authentic costumes, the Miller-Cory Volunteers provide tours of the farmhouse and demonstrate crafts and tasks which were practiced by families on 18th- and 19th-century New Jersey farms, when life was regulated by the seasons.

SHEARING FUN...Visitors to the Miller-Cory House Museum witnessed an early American tradition of sheep shearing at the museum's annual Sheep-to-Shawl Day on April 26, 1998.

Each Sunday, from mid-September through mid-June, visitors of all ages are introduced to activities such as maple sugaring, soap making, straw hat weaving, stenciling and cider making.

Children make crafts to bring home at the annual Fall Festival in October. "Sheep to Shawl Day" each spring enables visitors to see how wool was processed into cloth and features sheep shearing, spinning and weaving.

Early-American foods are researched and prepared over the open hearth by members of the Cooking Committee using herbs and vegetables from the museum's gardens.

"Pleasures of Colonial Cooking," published by the New Jersey Historical Society, contains more than 200 recipes from the 1700s tested by Miller-Cory cooks. Sixty of the recipes have been updated for modern day cooking.

"Showcase," the museum's outreach program, brings Early-American crafts to schools. Last year, nearly 1,800 children participated in this program.

The museum has been featured on television and in magazines such as *Colonial Homes*, *Early American Life*, *Americana*, and *Garden State Home and Garden*, as well as in a social studies textbook entitled *New Jersey: Yesterday and Today*.

Volunteer training sessions run throughout the year for anyone interested in becoming a part of this "living museum." It is an opportunity to learn new skills. No experience is necessary.

The museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue and is open on Sundays starting the second Sunday in September through the second week in June. The museum hours are 2 to 4 p.m. in January and February, and 2 to 5 p.m. from March through June. There are no hearth demonstrations during the winter months.

A gift shop, containing a variety of educational materials and gifts appropriate to the time period, is open during museum hours.

Group tours are available during the week by appointment. For additional information about the museum and its programs, please call the office at (908) 232-1776.

How to Get Involved:
Miller-Cory House Association
(908) 232-1776
mc@westfieldnj.com
www.westfieldnj.com

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First Night Westfield Provides Festivities Galore On New Years

First night Westfield, sponsored by the Westfield "Y," the Town of Westfield and The Westfield Foundation is Westfield's community celebration of the arts,, held on New Year's Eve.

This program, begun in 1996, offers an alternative to the traditional celebration of alcohol. Each year, since its inception, approximately 5,000 residents have rung in the New Year with ballroom dancing, synchronized water show, theatrical performances and a wide selection of entertainment ranging from magicians to comedy acts, symphony and classical to bluegrass music. Most of the entertainers are local, Union County, artists.

This affordable event emphasizes community participation for families of all ages. The planning committee recruits and hires age-specific entertainment that is family friendly.

Last year's new hit was the circus, sponsored by PNC Bank. Each year, some new entertainment is included, some of the standards remain, and some of the acts that have been standards are rotated off to be included again in future years. This way, the participants can see some of their old favorites and enjoy some new ones.

To attend, participants purchase a $10 First Night Westfield button and wear it as an admission ticket. After attending an opening event at 6:30 p.m., the schedule of entertainment begins.

Attendees are encouraged to map out their evening with first and second preferences of over 50 performances. Held in 24 different venues, at 11 different sites, indoor events continue until midnight. Most performances are scheduled for 45 minutes each.

Participants may choose to attend three or four complete performances, or for greater variety, may attend partial performances. All events are held inside so the weather is not an issue Each site has parking so participants can walk or drive to each site A finale including a traditional countdown to January 1, is held at midnight.

Activities for First Night Westfield are held in three clusters of buildings surrounding the center of town. Participants may choose to stay in one venue or cluster or travel back and forth between the clusters by car or trolley.

The sites used in 1998 included the Westfield "Y," The First United Methodist Church, The Presbyterian Church of Westfield, The First Congregational Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church The First Church of Christian Scientist, the Westfield Community Room, Holy Trinity Roman Catholic School, Westfield High School, and the Westfield National Guard Armory.

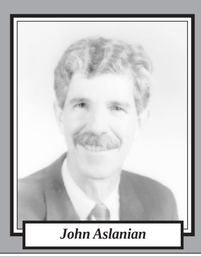
For more information, to sponsor or volunteer, please call Julia Black at the Westfield "Y" at (908) 518-2983 or leave a message.

How to Get Involved:
First Night Westfield
(908) 233-2700
firstnight@westfieldnj.com

Kimberly Aslanian Haley

Barbara Callahan

FAMILY TOGETHERNESS


John Aslanian

Coldwell Banker Style

The dynamic family team of Barbara Callahan, John Aslanian and their daughter, Kimberly Aslanian Haley, has joined Coldwell Banker.

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– Barbara Callahan

In 1998 Barbara Callahan earned the Silver Level of the NJAR Million Dollar Club with listings and sales of more than $9 million. Rising star Kimberley Aslanian Haley had a 1998 production of more than $10 million, an achievement that earned her Coldwell Banker's highest sales award, the International President's Elite and the lofty Gold Level of the NJAR Million Dollar Club. John Aslanian listed and sold more than $3 million in property in 1998.

The Westfield office has been the #1 Coldwell Banker office in the greater New York area for 14 consecutive years.

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