



# 19

**2019 MENOKIN ANNUAL REPORT**

*In 1769, a house was built.*

It became the home of a **Signer of the Declaration of Independence**, marked by the fingerprints of the enslaved people who constructed it. Over time, generations of different families lived there too, and **called it home**.

250 years later, the ruin lays bare their lives. Menokin is more than just a house; it's a **vibrant community** of **donors, trustees, descendants**, and **neighbors**. It's a place where professionals and students alike can **come together to learn**. The Menokin Foundation has worked diligently to **create opportunities** for you to **contemplate** and **explore** the building of America, from the bricks in our walls to the ideas that govern our nation.

We are proud to share with you what was possible in 2019 because of your support. **As we look ahead, we are more committed than ever to fostering the community that has grown beyond our walls.**

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# Menokin Leadership

## OFFICERS

**Benjamin Ogle Tayloe, Jr.**  
*President, Arlington, VA*

**Thomas Averill Duckenfield III**  
*Vice President, Washington D.C.*

**James F. Russell II**  
*Treasurer, Heathsville, VA*

**James Zehmer**  
*Secretary, Charlottesville, VA*

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**  
**Hullihen Williams Moore**  
*Richmond, VA*

## TRUSTEES

**Leslie Smith Ariail**  
*Alexandria, VA*

**Abigail Bangser**  
*New Canaan, CT*

**Mary Lynn Bayliss**  
*Richmond, VA*

**Thomas C. Brown, Jr.**  
*Alexandria, VA*  
**H. James Garner III**  
*Hague, VA*

**John H. Guy IV**  
*Alexandria, VA*

**M. Kirwan King II**  
*Warsaw, VA*

**Temple C. Moore, Jr.**  
*Alexandria, VA*

**Isobel "Middy" Morris**  
*Heathsville, VA*

**Reginald A. Pearman**  
*Silver Springs, MD*

**Margaret "Tobey" Taliaferro**  
*Laneview, VA*

**HONORARY TRUSTEES**  
**Calder Loth**  
*Richmond, VA*

**W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.**  
*Mount Holly, VA*

**Harry T. Taliaferro III**  
*Warsaw, VA*

## VOLUNTEERS

**Margaret "Tobey" Taliaferro**  
*Volunteer Coordinator*

**Courtenay Tayloe Altaffer**  
**Sally Conway**

**Lori and Larry Lenz**  
**Troy Mothershead**

**Sandy Orton**

**Lyn Amos and Bill Woodhouse**

**Debra Balsam**

**Sara Credle**

**Cathy and Rob Moody**

**Cyanne Yates**

**Linda Taliaferro**

**Beth Oakes**

**Charles Belfield**

## MENOKIN STAFF



**Sam McKelvey**  
*Executive Director*



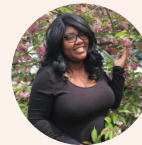
**Alice French**  
*Director of Education & Programming*



**Juliana Grassia**  
*Director of Visitor Services & Community Engagement*



**Clarissa Sanders**  
*Development Coordinator*



**Pia Spinner**  
*Education Research Assistant*



# Our Mission

Our mission is to use the historic ruin and the surrounding built and natural environments to transcend the traditional house museum experience. We use contemporary methods to create opportunities for the public to contemplate and explore the building of America.

# Our Vision

Our vision is to be one of the most engaging destinations for historic preservation and interpretation. Our creative approach reimagines how individuals connect to history and promotes provocative dialogue around our nation's founding ideals and realities.

# President's Message

**AS THESE WORDS ARE WRITTEN**, COVID-19 is upending what we, our families, the country, and the rest of the world have understood and accepted as normal, altering our lives in profound and unpredictable ways. This time of uncertainty may well cause us to question what we can rely on. I submit that at least part of that question's answer lies right in front of us, in each other and our willingness to support each other as part of a larger community.

It is worth noting that upheaval, challenge, and uncertainty are nothing new to Menokin, looking back nearly 250 years, when Francis Lightfoot Lee stepped into the unknown in committing himself, and all that he loved and possessed, to principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence. Then, as now, times were troubled and uncertain, but a community of likeminded people came together for the greater good.

Menokin continues to benefit from such a community, from you and people like you, who have recognized Menokin's distinctive importance as a National Historic Landmark, a site of unique historic preservation, and a center for discovery about the builders of America and our natural environment. And, through your support, Menokin in turn is increasingly benefiting the community, as

evidenced by a rich array of programs such as our free educational programming for local schools, community events like Menokin Illuminated and Menokin Makers Day, free community kayak paddles, and 2020 plans for memory cafes for our seniors and the grounds. These and other initiatives are enabling Menokin to provide tangible connections with our past and to support the larger community. They also enable the community to provide input to Menokin, as will be a focus in 2020, on ways to interpret and present our shared history.

Menokin's community of support has enabled us to continue with the enormously important task of "Raising the Glass." Just last month, Menokin Foundation executed contracts to begin the largest phase to date of the ruin's stabilization and rehabilitation work. When completed, this phase will enable us to proceed with installation of the ruin's glass walls and roof. The current phase of work will begin as soon as possible and is likely to proceed over the next eighteen to twenty-four months. We look forward to updating you on the progress and hope you come out to see it in action.

So, especially in these uncertain times, we are grateful for Menokin's community of support and for opportunities to serve that community. Together, we will weather the current storm and continue to make the vision of the Menokin a reality.



**BENJAMIN OGLE TAYLOE, JR.**

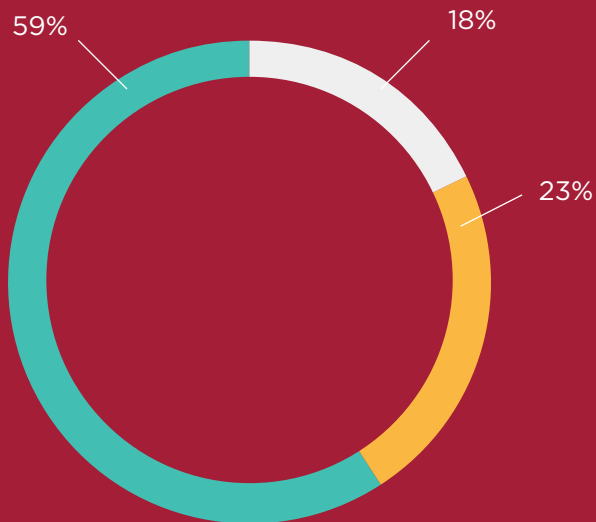
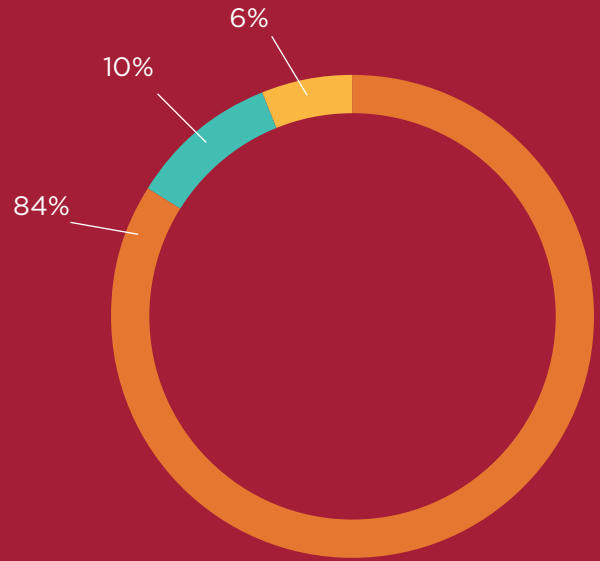
*President, Menokin Foundation*

# Our Numbers

## Income

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- Donations & Grants: \$602,108
- Investment Draw: \$70,000
- Earned Income: \$43,814



## Expenses

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- Administrative: \$97,753
- Development: \$129,352
- Programs & Services: \$324,524

# Like King Tut's Tomb

## *Recollections on the Founding of Menokin*

BY CALDER LOTH

I started work with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 1968. With some regularity we received inquiries about Menokin-- expressions of concern—saying that something should be done to save it.

In the mid-1980s I received a call from Mrs. Dora Ricciardi. She explained that she and her brother, Edgar Omohundro, owned Menokin. She said that the property had been owned by many heirs for many years and couldn't be sold, but now she and her brother were the sole owners and were in a position to do something. She was very embarrassed by the condition into which the house had fallen and realized its importance and would only consider selling it to an organization that would preserve it.

What led to her call was a letter she had received from the National Park Service informing her that they were considering removing Menokin's National Historic Landmark status because of the loss of integrity of the site and she did not want that to happen.

For the next several years we pondered the problem, forming ad hoc committees with the Association for the Preservation of Virginia

Antiquities (APVA), Mary Washington University, Strafford Hall, and local preservationists. All were interested, and all agreed that this was a unique preservation challenge, but no funds for purchase, much less for establishing a viable program were forthcoming.

During this period, Martin King, a retired Exxon executive, who lived in a historic house, very near Menokin became interested. Martin had the time, interest, personal resources, and management skills to take on the Menokin challenge.

In the meantime, Richard Rennolds of the APVA, and I paid a visit to Mrs. Ricciardi's brother, Edgar Omohundro, who lived just outside Warsaw. While discussing the property and what might be done, I asked Mr. Omohundro if he knew what happened to the Menokin woodwork. I assumed it had been sold or stolen.

To my great surprise Omohundro told me that he had the woodwork removed in the 1960s to keep it from being stolen since he was unable to secure the house. We then went to an old bungalow house at Lyells crossroad, a house I had passed many times and there inside, like King Tut's tomb, was the Menokin woodwork.





*“And so it began, 25 years ago the Foundation received its title on July 4, 1995 and began to add its story to the legacy of Menokin..”*

The front of the house was in a state of near collapse and some of the woodwork was spilling through the front wall. Richard Rennolds said gently to Mr. Omohundro that the woodwork was not safe here, and asked if he would consider letting the APVA take custodianship. The woodwork was carefully removed and taken to Bacon's Castle barn where it remained for the next decade.

By 1994, Mrs. Riccardi died, and Edgar Omohundro inherited Menokin as sole owner. Martin King realized that any money raised to purchase the property would be money unavailable for

stabilizing the ruins. With diplomatic skill, Martin convinced Mr. Omohundro, to give the property to the Menokin Foundation.

And so it began, 25 years ago the Foundation received its title on July 4, 1995 and began to add its story to the legacy of Menokin with its ownership of the crumbling ruins of a National Historic Landmark, most of its original 18<sup>th</sup> century woodwork, 500 acres of fields and woodlands, with about a half mile of waterfront! It was the beginning to an amazing preservation project.

# Stories from 2019

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# Your donations allow for expanded educational opportunities with our new brickyard

Your generous support as a donor has allowed Menokin to continue to expand its field days with an all-day immersive experience. Students from 6th - 10th grade come to the site to learn about the Menokin Glass House Project and the beautiful natural campus we conserve. A full day devoted to Menokin gives students the added experience on making bricks and time spent treading in clay. Students tour the various structures on site including the Visitor Center, Tennant Building, Remembrance Structure and the Menokin ruin. They learn how these buildings were used with the landscape while hiking on our new trails, identifying various trees and soils and exploring our waterways by kayak!

The expanded program is meaningful and fun as students learn about the importance of community, the purpose of preserving our past, the history of our country and all the important people who helped build it. Cross curricular partnering with our environmental neighbors allows students to realize the impact conserving this 500-acre landscape has on preserving the cultural landscape that we continue to shape for community use today. The active environment created by physically making bricks, just like they did when building the Menokin house, or kayaking along Menokin Bay, mapped by Captain John Smith 400 years ago has a long lasting impact on youth. It not only creates great memories, but the physical connection also stimulates their brains as they remember more. This is something unique to the learning experience at Menokin. We look forward to expanding our educational opportunities to youth across the region.



# Menokin Launches New Building Arts Programming

In April, Menokin offered a new Building Arts Workshop led by Wayne Mays and James Zehmer, Menokin trustee and Historic Preservation Project Manager at the University of Virginia. The workshop focused on lime mortar conservation. It included introductions to building limes, field analysis of mortar matching, wall prep and application, and installation and repair of wall lath. The two day workshop was well attended and marked the introduction of yearly workshops focusing on historic trades and their use in our contemporary world. Menokin's building arts program will use the only deconstructed National Historic Landmark as its model to learn about the craftsmanship in the former mansion.



Your support to Menokin will allow future students to use Menokin's indoor and outdoor workshops located throughout a 500-acre complex to match and then build upon the original colonial designs. Like the Glass House that defines the property, Menokin students will bridge the gap between the past and the present through the creation of modern applications of these designs while using the original techniques that made American building arts unique. The countless historic properties across the Commonwealth and beyond will benefit from this new and exciting program.

## KAYAKING CATPOINT CREEK

Kayaking continues its increasing popularity at Menokin as locals and weekenders discover our Chesapeake Gateway through Menokin programs and water access. In order to remain accessible to our local community we offer Free Family Paddles once a month, followed by brick making! We are only able to offer this experience because of you and your support of Menokin. These free days create access and instill pride by being able to enjoy the special attributes of living in a rural community. The moonlight paddles continue as one of those magical Menokin moments we uniquely share. In addition to the waterways, an Eagle Scout, Jose Coda, completed our newest walking trail that meanders past the Tobacco Rolling Roads and ends down at the kayak landing. More and more visitors come simply to enjoy the scenic outdoors, whether by foot or boat or horse. There always seems to be something new to discover.





# Menokin Leads the Way...

In 2020, Menokin staff is presenting at a number of conferences and meetings of professional and community organizations. One of our strategic priorities is increasing our outreach to these organizations to not only promote Menokin, but also share best practices with our peers.

Executive Director Sam McKelvey spoke during a virtual meeting of the Association of Preservation Technology, along with former Menokin trustee Reid Freeman. He's also speaking at the National Council on Public History annual conference on a panel about innovative approaches in slavery interpretation.

Director of Visitors Services & Community Engagement Juliana Grassia spoke at the Virginia Association of Museums conference on resourceful fundraising methods that prioritize advancing the mission of museums. She specifically highlighted how social media can be used to cultivate and steward donors. She and Development Coordinator Clarissa Sanders were invited to the April meeting of the American Revolution Roundtable in Fredericksburg to speak about Francis Lightfoot Lee and the Glass House Project.





“Old sins cast long shadows”  
— Danish proverb

Of all the divisions in America, none is as insidious and destructive as racism. In this powerful documentary, the filmmakers, both privileged daughters of the South, who were haunted by their families slave owning pasts, passionately seek the hidden truth and the untold stories of how America—guided by the South’s powerful political influence—steadily, deliberately and at times secretly, established white privilege in our institutions, laws, culture and economy.

MENOKIN SCREENING: FEBRUARY 2019

## *Menokin Facilitates Conversations on The Long Shadow*

In March, Menokin held the Virginia premier to the documentary “The Long Shadow,” in partnership with Rappahannock Community College. The documentary tells the story about the lingering human cost of the institution of slavery, which casts a long shadow over our national identity and imperfect democracy. Menokin trustee Tom Duckenfield, along with his cousin LaTonya Lawson-Jones, Founder & Executive Director of the Nomini Hall Slave Legacy Project, are both featured in the documentary. Tom and Alice French were facilitators of a group discussion following the screening. Participants in the conversation demonstrated a commitment to tough conversations, anti-racist efforts, and building community in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

# Menokin and Collis-Warner Foundation Partner Accelerate Research

In June 2019, Menokin and the Collis Warner Foundation began a partnership to dramatically accelerate research at Menokin. While the research was expected to hit a variety of different themes, the primary research project was to identify the enslaved laborers that were here during the different eras (Lee, Tayloe, Boughton, and Harwood) and connect with their modern-day descendants. In doing so, we hoped to create a place where those families who played such an important role in Menokin's past will hold an essential and integral role in its future.

With funding from the Collis Warner Foundation, Pia Spinner, a researcher and historian who has worked at Colonial Williamsburg and Henricus Historical Park was hired in September. On being hired Pia said "I am very grateful for Menokin for wanting these stories to be told and for hiring me, but also to the Collis Warner Foundation for their generous grant which allows me to do this. It is my goal to honor the legacies of the enslaved and to showcase their achievements while also highlighting the role their enslavement played in allowing Menokin (and other plantations) to thrive and profit during the era of slavery." Since September, Pia already has accomplished much of the above. The research has created new interpretation around our Remembrance Structure as well as the planning of a new annual Descendant's Day at Menokin.



For a snippet of Pia's research, flip to the following page.

# Research Uncovers a Complex History of Slavery at Menokin



*Each time Education Research Assistant Pia Spinner travels across the state to different research centers, they uncover more details about the lives of the people who were enslaved at Menokin. Focusing on the period of 1836 to 1872, when Richard Harwood owned Menokin, Pia has discovered just how connected Menokin was to its community through the people who were enslaved here. This important research allows us to not only deepen our interpretation of the site, but also connect to living descendants of the enslaved community in a more meaningful way. Below are just three stories based on Pia's research, with many more to come.*



### **One family, two plantations**

Amanda Beverly, enslaved during the Harwood era at Menokin prior to the War, was married to Stafford Gordon. Though sharing a life together, Stafford was not enslaved at Menokin but instead at Farmer's Hall, a neighboring plantation owned by John C. Mitchell. It's likely that Amanda and Stafford met while living at these plantations through a variety of movement that took place not only between the owners but the enslaved alike. Pia determined that Stafford and Amanda had been together since 1846 and had a family of eight children: Emily, Daniel, Jesse, Stafford, Harrison, Andrew, Sedgewick, Peter, and Leland.

Per the laws of the time, the children would have been considered the property of Richard Harwood, Amanda's enslaver. Therefore, they probably lived and worked at Menokin, while Stafford lived and worked separately at Farmer's Hall. If given permission to visit his family, he would have needed to find time at the end of the work day to see them. The perseverance and strength of this family sets the stage for the story of their son, Daniel.

### **What do you risk for freedom?**

In 1863, Stafford and Amanda's son Daniel made the decision to escape from Menokin during the chaos of the Civil War. Given the proximity of Menokin to Fredericksburg, it's a possibility that Daniel traveled towards Fredericksburg to seek refuge with the Union Army who was camped nearby during the Chancellorsville Campaign in 1863.

Escaping was not a decision taken lightly. If caught, punishment could range from whipping to confinement, sale, or even death. There was also a risk that Daniel's family would be punished for his decision. Furthermore, Daniel and fellow enslaved laborer Richard Gaines (who also escaped that year) risked capture by the Confederate Army only to be returned to slavery.

Not only was Daniel risking punishment, but also the possibility of never seeing his family again. However, for reasons unknown, he returned to Menokin by 1867. According to the Personal Property Tax Record of 1867, Daniel is listed as either living and/or working at Menokin. We don't know what he did during his escape, nor do we know what prompted his return. Pia has been working very closely with the descendants of Daniel to learn more. Thanks to them, we have a copy of a photograph of Daniel, the only known surviving photograph of someone enslaved at Menokin.

### **Enslaved husband, free family**

Like the Gordon family, William Parris and his sister Maria were enslaved at Menokin by Richard Harwood. William, who was born around 1833, was married to a free Black woman named Lucetta Cox. Lucetta, her mother and siblings were all listed as a free Black family in the 1855 Register of Free Negroes as living on John C. Mitchell's land, Farmer's Hall.

William and Lucetta were together since 1857 and by 1866 raised two children together: Matilda Ann, born in 1858, and Ezekiel, born in 1865. Per a law that was passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 1662, enslavement was a condition that was passed from mother to child. Because Lucetta was a free woman, Matilda Ann was also free.

Though free, there were still limitations on Lucetta and Matilda Ann's freedom. Free Blacks in Virginia were required to register with the county clerk and needed to travel with a pass. They were unable to testify against white Virginians in court and were barred from voting. There was also the threat of being kidnapped and sold into slavery. Many free Blacks living in Richmond County, like Lucetta and her family, were tenant farmers working side-by-side with enslaved laborers on lands owned by wealthy white owners. Some probably lived in tenant houses, much like the tenant house located along the trail to Cat Point Creek at Menokin.

After the war, Lucetta and William's marriage was made legal by Virginia with the Cohabitation Act of 1866. They would go on to have seven more children: Wannie (or Nancy), Samuel, Leaven, Susan, Henry, Pheby, and Jas.

These stories represent just a fraction of the lived experiences of those enslaved at Menokin and nearby plantations. It is imperative that we remember that their lives are interwoven with Menokin's history, and that our story is not complete without their representation.

SCHEDULE 2. Slave Inhabitants in Leavenworth Precinct in the County of Richmond State Virginia, enumerated by me, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1850. James M. Bell A.S. Marshal.

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION.					Total & subs. Male, female, or idiots.	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION.					Total & subs. Male, female, or idiots.
	Number of Slaves.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Persons born in this State.			Number of Slaves.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Persons born in this State.	
	1	7	2	2									
	1	5											
	1	4											
William Edment	1	24											
	1	4		20									
Edward Little	1	60											
	1	32		20		10							
	1	18		18									
	1	16											
	1	11											
William Smith	1	40											
	1	27		20									
	1	23		48									
	1	22		20									
	1	16		13									
	1	11											
	1	3		20									
	1	3											
Henry Brinson	1	22											
Wm. H. Woodward	1	45		20									
	1	45											
	1	42											
	1	35											
	1	27		20									
	1	21											
	1	16		20									
	1	16											
	1	16											
	1	15											
	1	10		20									
	1	6											
	1	2											
	1	4		20									
	1	3											
	1	3		20									
	1	1											
	1	1											
William B. Maynes Jr	1	42											
	1	26											
	1	14											
	6												

Oct 10 1850

1850 Census



## JOIN OUR SIGNERS SOCIETY AND MAKE HISTORY

This October, Menokin held its first Signers Society Social. The event was hosted by Mercer Wellford O'Hara and Carter and Priscilla Wellford at their ancestral home, Sabine Hall. This historic Georgian home surrounded by pristine terraced gardens, was built around 1730 by Landon Carter. O'Hara captivated guests with stories of the home and its notable guests, including George Washington and of course Francis Lightfoot Lee. Sabine Hall was named a National Historic Landmark in 1970. Guests were given the opportunity to explore the home's warm wood paneling, beautiful carved stairway, and historic family portraits that were displayed in the center hall.

This historic evening was just the first of several events held exclusively for Menokin's Signers Society. Society members are recognized for their multi-year commitments of operating support totaling \$15,000 and above, which provide an important measure of financial stability over 3-5 years for Menokin's programs and strategic priorities.

Signers Society membership is limited to 56, symbolizing the 56 men who changed history by signing the Declaration of Independence. Society members receive permanent and highly-visible recognition in the King Conservation and Visitors Center for their role in helping to shape Menokin's future.



**Only 15 remaining new memberships are available.  
Make your mark on history today and become a Signer.**







# 250th Anniversary Gala

*In Honor of Calder Loth*

On May 5, trustees, staff, and friends of Menokin gathered for a gala honoring architectural historian Calder Loth. In recognition of his heroic efforts to protect and preserve Menokin, the stabilization of the southwest corner is dedicated in Calder's honor. In front of "Calder's Corner," Guests enjoyed appetizers and dinner from Relish Restaurant & Wine Bar, as well as wine from Ingleside Winery. Speakers included James Zehmer, Menokin trustee; Sally Guy Brown, past president of the Garden Club of Virginia; and Kathleen Kilpatrick, former director of the Department of Historic Resources. Menokin raised nearly \$300,000 for the Raise the Glass Campaign during the gala. These funds will help Menokin meet the 3:1 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Thank you to everyone who made this event such a success!

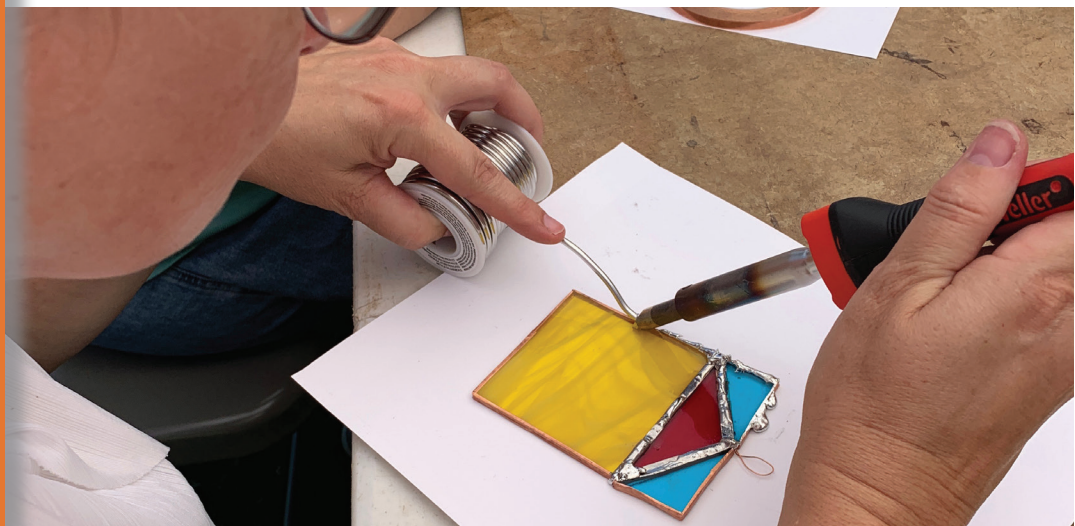




## MENOKIN'S FIRST MAKERS DAY A SUCCESS

The Signers Society and annual donations gave us the ability to put on our first annual Makers Day in June. The event featured demonstrations and activities related to the building arts, skills and crafts. Over 200 children and adults came to participate in this event. Visitors viewed glassblowing by the Chrysler Museum's traveling studio, and had opportunities to try their hand at creating a small stained glass panel. Other activities included making sun-prints, building birdhouses, brick-making, painting, indigo dying and quilting.

Local Warsaw quilt group, The Uptown Quilt Guild, assembled a quilt to donate to the Menokin Foundation. Using the Log Cabin pattern, participants signed the light colored strips of fabric to contribute to the community quilt. Come back to the 2020 Makers Day to see the completed quilt on display in the King Visitor Center!





# Menokin Awarded Coveted Grant

This year the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded the Menokin Foundation a \$500,000 Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant for the innovative Glass House Project. The foundation is one of only twenty-two cultural institutions in the country to receive an infrastructure grant. The 3-to-1 matching grant requires the foundation to raise \$1.5 million in four years. These funds will be used in the stabilization of the historic ruin to prepare the building for the steel armature and structural glass that will make up the final phase of the Glass House Project.

By preserving Menokin with glass instead of traditional preservation methods, the foundation can display the architectural layers that make up 18th century homes and better tell the stories of its builders. Sam McKelvey, Menokin's Executive Director believes that the grant "will have an extraordinary impact on our site and the region as we move this engaging and forward-thinking project into the national spotlight. Through research projects and visitors, Menokin will play an active role in local economic development."



## MENOKIN'S VOLUNTEER FAMILY IS LAUNCHED

In 2019, Menokin launched a new volunteer program. The first of its kind for our organization, the program's goals are to provide support to staff, improve the visitor experience, and create enriching opportunities for volunteers to engage with Menokin. Our first cohort of twelve volunteers was led by Tobey Taliaferro, volunteer coordinator and recently-elected Menokin trustee. Volunteers served visitors, helped with large programs like Makers Day, and promoted Menokin within the community. Volunteers can be identified by their bright orange shirts and fun attitudes. All of the amazing stories you've read in the Annual Report so far would not have been possible without them.





*Illuminating a Region - Menokin Presents*  
***Menokin Illuminated***

On Saturday, November 30th, over a hundred people gathered under a light-filled tent in front of the historic ruin to celebrate our community and to enjoy the stories of the landscape at Menokin Illuminated. Visitors were immersed in a Northern Neck culinary experience that featured locally sourced ingredients and spirits.

After dinner, guests traversed the beautifully lit landscape, on foot and by horse-drawn carriage, from the Menokin ruin to the Remembrance Structure - built on the site of a former slave dwelling. Along the way, interpreters shared stories and history of the many different people who inhabited the site including farmers, people connected to the water, enslaved men and women, tenant farmers, and a Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Visitors of all ages continued to explore the lit landscape and stories of Menokin through most of the month of December, thanks in part to the Town of Warsaw who provided trolley rides to Menokin during its holiday festivities.

Menokin Illuminated was a part of the Virginia Custom, Cultures, and Cuisines Festival, a project of the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution. All proceeds went to support Menokin's dynamic programming and hunger relief in our area through the Healthy Harvest Food Bank. This event was made possible by our community partners: Atlantic Union Bank, Bevans Oyster Company, Clements Tent Rentals, Food Lion, Garners Produce, The Hague Winery, Montross Brewery, and Northern Neck Electric Cooperative. Thank you for your support!

2020

Preview



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# 2020 Preview

At Menokin, our programs celebrate and explore the stories of the people and cultures that lived at this site and carved their place in history by what they made and built for their lives: dwellings; cookware; tools; gardens; clothing; nations and ideas. We then build modern connections and uses of this knowledge for people to carve their own place in our society today. Programming is always changing. We design our programs to build on the unique personal experiences each of you get at Menokin and strive to fill the needs of the communities that support us. Whether that community is geographical, historical or the museum industry at large, we want to serve you.

You can find all of our programs online at [www.menokin.org](http://www.menokin.org).

**Below you can read a sneak preview of a few of our 2020 themes:**



## Building Arts and work with Universities

As Menokin focuses its strategic plan and vision in forming a Building Arts program, we are coordinating with multiple partners in higher education. This long term goal is being built upon a variety of programming and partnerships.



## Modern Day Makers at Menokin

As Menokin looks to be a place of learning from onsite examples, we are also looking to become a center to continue development of new tools and methods for hobbyists, historic preservationists, architects and others in the building fields. These programs merge the traditional skills with new technologies and historic design. Preserving the past in the present.



## Speaker Series looks at our Founding Fathers

As we gear up for the 250th anniversary of the birth of our country, Menokin is hosting lectures centered on the Founding Fathers. Future presentation and materials will be made available highlighting the conversations Francis Lee and his colleagues were having during the critical period leading up to the war.



## Menokin as a Community Hub

Menokin belongs to the community, so we want to hear from you. What do you want to see in 2020 and beyond? How can we best serve you? Many of our programs, such as Descendants Day, are created based on the needs of our community. We're always listening.



## Menokin Illuminated

Join us again as we celebrate our Northern Neck community under the ambient lighting in front of the historic ruin this December at Menokin Illuminated. Proceeds from this ticketed event will benefit Menokin's dynamic programming and the Healthy Harvest Food Bank.

Remember we want to hear from you on what you want to see at Menokin or how we can be a service to you!



Alice French  
*Director of Education*  
afrench@menokin.org



Juliana Grassia  
*Director of Visitor Services & Community Engagement*  
jgrassia@menokin.org

# We welcome our class of 2020 Menokin Trustees!



## Reginald A. Pearman

Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist whose 20+ year career includes working as staff at The Oakland Tribune, The Associated Press, and WashingtonPost.com. Having contributed regularly to The New York Times, TIME Magazine, and National Geographic, Reginald's work is archived in The Oakland Museum and The Library of Congress. Mr. P (as the students call him) is an influential, enthusiastic instructor who has mentored photographers and lectured at universities. What began as teaching photography at the Bullis School's Summer Visual Arts program has evolved into PhotoMath Inc., a non-profit organization that helps students reinforce math and science concepts through creative technology.



## Tobey Taliaferro

Tobey taught French for seventeen years at Essex High School, also serving as Chairman of the World Languages Department and as sponsor of the French Honor Society. In 1999, she began teaching English and later English as a Foreign Language at St. Margaret's School; she was the Director of the EFL and International Program for four years and sponsor of the Class of 2009 for four years. Tobey worked in other capacities as well: faculty advisor of the literary magazine, coordinator of the Speakers' Bureau, and co-leader of a school-endorsed trip to Costa Rica. While at St. Margaret's, she received an "Appreciation" in the 2009 school yearbook, the John T. Rice Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Waitzer Master Teacher Award. After her retirement in 2014, Tobey tutored both domestic and international students at St. Margaret's. She is a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Tappahannock, where she was a member of the Vestry for three years. Before devoting her volunteer efforts almost exclusively to Menokin, Tobey was the fundraising Chairman for the Tappahannock Artists' Guild for two years.







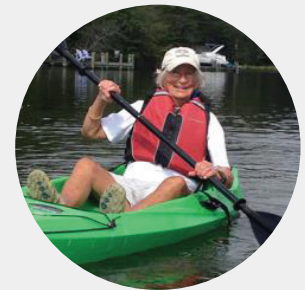


## Our Dear Helen...

The Menokin Foundation was deeply saddened by the death of Helen Turner Murphy, who passed away in October 2019. Helen was a cherished friend and a valued leader of the foundation. She served as the President of the Board of Trustees from March 2004 until March 2010. Under her guidance as the President, trustee, and later honorary trustee, Menokin grew to include new facilities, a growing staff, and an innovative outlook on preservation that became the Glass House project. Immediate Past President Hullie Moore said that “Helen Murphy led Menokin at the critical time when the Board had to decide “What do we do now?” With her leadership, the Foundation envisioned the ruin of Menokin as the glass house it will become.”

Helen left her mark on Menokin, much like the original builders who left their mark on the bricks and stones that make up the historic ruin. As a member of the 1769 Legacy Society, Helen chose to continue her legacy at Menokin through a bequest.

The 1769 Legacy Society is made up of members who have kindly indicated that they have remembered Menokin in their estate plans. It is easy to support charities you love with a simple bequest added to your will. Bequests serve as a capstone of your Menokin experience and help to secure the future of the foundation. In the words of Penelope de Bordenave Saffer, a Legacy Society member: “I have made this commitment to ensure that future generations will also benefit from Menokin.”





# Glass House Project

We are pleased to announce that Menokin is moving forward with its next phase of our Glass House Project to stabilize the Menokin ruin using architectural glass to fill in the missing walls and roof sections. This spring and summer, Consigli Construction, Oak Grove Preservation and their contractors will be working on the southwest corner of the house. The precarious corner in the rear of the home is currently held up only by wood bracing. The entire stone masonry corner must be dismantled and rebuilt plumb. To do this, preservationists will carefully take down and document the stones- organizing them in the order from which they were dismantled in a stone yard nearby. Once the corner is down, it will be rebuilt using the same historic stones, joined with historically accurate lime mortar made on site and sourced from local materials. The stones will be built back into the wall with as much accuracy as possible. Due to the ruin's eventual inclusion of glass, the corner must be built in a precise manor using surveyors to verify that the corner is aligned. While the corner is being worked on, the famous Menokin barrel vault in our cellar will be protected and stabilized with scaffolding- the first time this was done since it was built in 1769. Included in our 2020 work will be the dismantling of the south porch and our popular locust stump. Look for photos, videos, and time lapsed photography to come. Our mason's and preservationists will be working daily during the work week. We would love to see you down at Menokin to see them in action.







**A special tour with the experts is currently being planned.** Please check back on the website for dates and information. In addition, regular Hard Hat tours can be scheduled Tuesday through Friday at 2 p.m. We are open for scheduled tours Saturdays from 12-4 p.m. through the summer and fall months.

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- 1 Menokin House
- 2 Remembrance Structure
- 3 Visitors Center & Conservation Barn
- 4 Brick Yard
- 5 Kayak Landing
- A House to Cat Point Creek
- B Tree Trail & Road
- C Tobacco Rolling Road
- D Rolling Roads Traverse
- E Dancing Point Bluff to Muddy Run
- P Parking  
Handicapped spaces available at VC & Kayak Launch
- 🍷 Picnic Table
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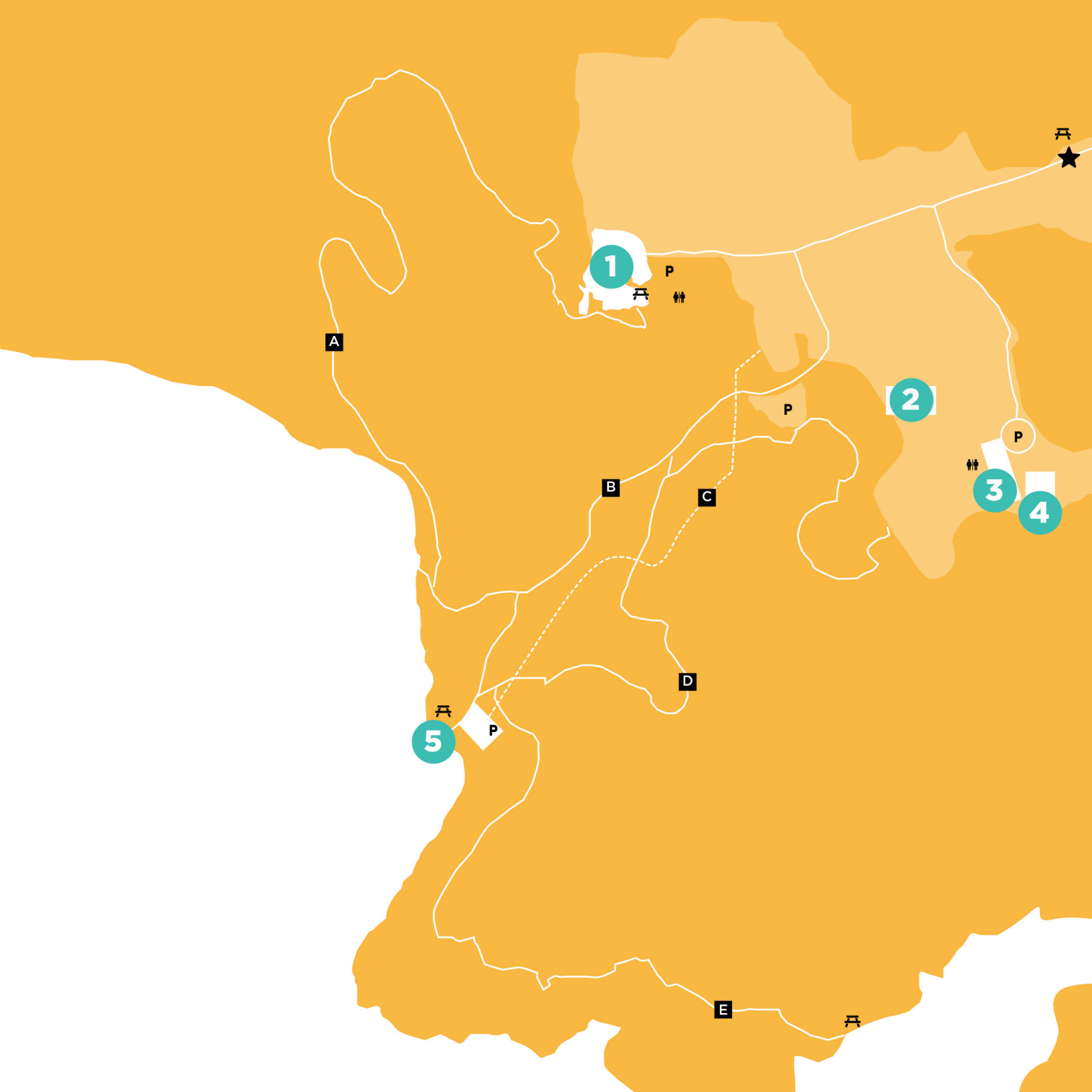
**Address:**

4037 Menokin Rd, Warsaw, VA 22572

**Hours:**

Menokin grounds are open daily  
7 AM - 7 PM





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