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### **Friends of John Jay Homestead Celebrate Summer Kitchen Opening with Gala Luncheon**

(10/10/11) – The Friends of John Jay Homestead will hold their second Jay Ladies Lecture and Luncheon on November 2, 2011 at 11:45 am. This annual event focuses on women and family life over the last two centuries, using Jay women as the vehicle for this fascinating story.

This year, the event will celebrate the opening of the newly refurbished historic Summer Kitchen in “Bedford House.” The event includes a chance to explore the space, and a luncheon and lecture in the Ballroom featuring speakers Cinder Stanton, the Shannon Senior Historian at Monticello, and Allan Weinreb, curator of John Jay Homestead State Historic Site. Attendees will also be able to visit the Homestead’s Back Parlor exhibit, *Slaves, Slavery and the Jay Family*. That exhibit shares for the first time stories and information about some of the individual slaves who lived with the Jays.

The Summer Kitchen focuses on the "back story" of John Jay's home: how the hard work inside the house – laundry, cooking, candle- and soap-making – was done, and by whom. The women whose lives can now be more fully explored include both the ladies of the family and the servants and slaves who lived and worked alongside them. Interpretation also addresses the anti-slavery views and actions of the Jay family. Founding Father John Jay, who lived in the house from 1801-1829, owned slaves, but believing slavery to be morally wrong, he manumitted many of them and as Governor of New York State signed into law the Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery. William Jay, who took ownership of the Homestead following his father’s death, was a leading abolitionist.

Furnished entirely with reproduction furniture and objects, the kitchen is the one room in the historic house where visitors may occupy the whole space and handle every object. Special programs will allow visitors an even greater immersive experience, helping to make food and candles using the 19th century utensils, materials, and methods.

CINDER (LUCIA) STANTON is Shannon Senior Historian at Monticello, where she has worked for more than thirty years. In 1993, she initiated the *Getting Word* project, a research and oral history project on the descendants of Monticello’s African-American community, now including more than 170 people around the country. She is the author of *Slavery at Monticello* and *Free Some Day: The African-American Families of Monticello*, as well as numerous articles about Jefferson and agriculture, science and natural history. A collection of her essays on slavery and the lives of the enslaved will be published in January 2012.

ALLAN WEINREB is Interpretive Programs Assistant at John Jay Homestead. A twenty-four-year veteran of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, he has acted as the Homestead's curator since 2001. He is the site’s principal authority on the Jays, and the principal designer of the changing Back Parlor exhibits.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$125 for Friends members and \$150 for non-members. John Jay Homestead is located at 400 Jay Street, Katonah, NY. For more information, visit [www.johnjayhomestead.org](http://www.johnjayhomestead.org).