

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

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INDEPENDENCE DAY AT JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD

KATONAH, N.Y. (June 11, 2010) Come and enjoy a patriotic Independence Day at the home of one of America's Founding Fathers! On the afternoon of Sunday, July 4, John Jay Homestead State Historic Site in Katonah, N.Y. will hold a special, hour-long program on its front lawn. Admission to the outdoor program will be free of charge.

The festivities will begin at 1:00 p.m. with The American Colonials fife and drum band playing *Yankee Doodle* and other patriotic songs, followed by a spirited reading of the Declaration of Independence from the front porch of the Jay home. The program will then wrap up with visitors, young and old, getting an opportunity to sign a copy of the Declaration themselves.

After the outdoor program finishes, tours of the first floor of the historic house will become available for \$5.00 for adults, seniors, and students. Children age twelve and under, and members of the Friends of John Jay Homestead, can tour the house free. To learn more about the Independence Day program and John Jay Homestead, call (914) 232-5651.

John Jay was a President of the Continental Congress, the second U.S. Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the first Chief Justice of the United States, and the second Governor of New York State. He retired to Bedford in 1801 to live the life of a gentleman farmer. His home is now a beautiful sixty-two acre historic site that includes lovely walks, formal gardens, farm buildings, and a richly-decorated main residence restored to the 1820s, the last decade of Jay's life.

The Independence Day program is co-sponsored by the Friends of John Jay Homestead, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to support the education

programs and restoration of the historic site. For more information about the Friends or to become a member, phone 914-232-8119 or visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

John Jay Homestead State Historic Site is located at 400 Route 22 in Katonah, N.Y. It is one of six historic sites and 16 state parks administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – Taconic Region. For more information about New York State Parks, log onto www.nysparks.com.

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