

LONG AWAITED DEBUT OF THE PRIESTLEY PILSNER

The Gala Weekend introduced alcoholic beverages to the grounds of Priestley House in honor of the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Priestley's Discovery of Oxygen, a first for the museum. The long anticipated Priestley Pilsner, the brain-child of Derek Fisher of Pineknott Brewery and Craig Specht of W & S Beer Distributors, made its official debut on Friday evening of the Gala Celebration Weekend. The idea was born in early October of 2023, with the first test batch of the brew available for tasting and a publicity photo-op in April of 2024.



Its presence on-site throughout the three-day celebration sparked curiosity among event-goers. Of course, drinking the specialty brew from a Priestley commemorative pilsner glass on the grounds of the Priestley House Museum added to the experience.

"It was my pleasure to see the community come together to celebrate history, Northumberland, and Joseph Priestley," observed Craig, when reflecting on the weekend's events. "As someone who loves history and believes in the importance of history education, it was inspiring to work with the businesses and community partners in celebration of the legacy of this great man and his achievements."



Craig Specht and some Priestley Pilsner

Craig and Derek made some history of their own with their Priestley Pilsner, not only in brewing the specialty beer, but also in discovering upon dismantling their portable dispensing system that the weekend-worth of visitors had "kicked the keg"! A sure sign of beer brewing success.

PENNSYLVANIA
THE GREAT AMERICAN GETAWAY



JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE
P.O. Box 226
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA. 17857



Postings from Priestley House

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE

Number 84, Fall 2024

www.joseph-priestley-house.org

570-473-9474

SPECIAL DATES

2024 Season
250th Anniversary of the
Discovery of Oxygen

OCTOBER 15
KIDS READING NIGHT
Priestley House Museum
Grades K-2
6:30-7:30 pm

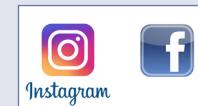
OCTOBER 26
GHOST TOUR AND
SLICE OF THE PARANORMAL
PODCAST
Priestley House Museum
7-9 pm

NOVEMBER 13
ANNUAL JPH MEMBERS
AND VOLUNTEERS DINNER
Whispering Oaks Vineyard
5:30-8 pm

NOVEMBER 23-24
FINAL WEEKEND OF THE
2024 MUSEUM SEASON
Regular Weekend Tours
Resume on March 9

JANUARY 5, 2025
TWELFTH NIGHT
Priestley House Museum
4-7 pm

Check local papers, Facebook,
or joseph-priestley-house.org
for additional details as
event days draw closer.



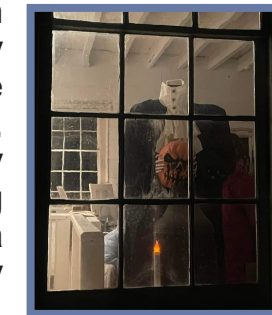
In addition to our webpage you can Like us on Facebook (Joseph Priestley House Museum) to keep abreast of special Joseph Priestley House Museum events or follow us on Instagram (jphmuseum). Also, you can donate to the Priestley House via Amazon Smile! Go to www.smile.amazon.com and select "Friends of Joseph Priestley" as your charity. Everytime you shop at Amazon Smile, a portion of the purchase will be donated to the Priestley House!

TALES OF THE PARANORMAL AT PRIESTLEY HOUSE

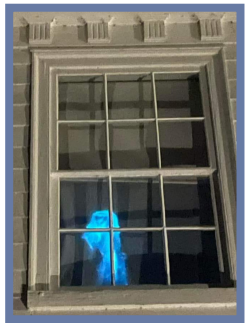
Something new happened at the Joseph Priestley House on October 26th, Ghost Tours. Over the last three years area residents were treated to "visits" from local celebrities, during the



Cemetery Tours, a joint venture between Riverview Cemetery and Priestley House Museum. Of course, Joseph and Mary Priestley were among those who made a reappearance early in the event's history. Now, in 2024, in place of the annual Cemetery Tour, the Joseph Priestley House hosted the first ever on-site Ghost Tour.



Three sold out ghostly tours conducted by costumed docents guided visitors through Priestley House and provided a t t e n d e e s with stories of the supernatural. In addition to the special house tours, hot apple cider and ghost cookies were available in the Visitors Center, the Museum Gift Shop offered some shopping opportunities, and the Coal Region Paranormal Team debuted its Slice of the Paranormal Podcast episode on the Joseph Priestley House in the Pond Building. The podcast on the Priestley House is now available online at <https://podcasts.apple.com/podcasts> for anyone who was unable to attend the premier event.



2024 SEASON DRAWS TO A CLOSE

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. November 23-24 will mark the conclusion of the 2024 Season's regular weekend tours at the Joseph Priestley Museum. Anyone wishing to schedule a special tour during the months when the museum is closed may do so by contacting Joseph Priestley House Museum Office Manager Murrie Zlotziver at (570) 473-9474 or emailing him at jphopsmanager@gmail.com. The museum will open for the 2025 Season on March 9th with a combined celebration of Joseph Priestley's birthday and Pennsylvania's birthday, formerly known as Charter Day.

VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR LIFE BLOOD

Visitors notice the docents, the greeters manning the house and the Visitors Center, and the people at the Priestley House Museum booth during Pineknott Days, but a great deal goes on behind the scenes in order to make events like this year's 250th Anniversary of the Discovery of Oxygen possible. All of that is possible because of volunteers.

If you have enjoyed events at Priestley House, perhaps you would consider becoming a volunteer. We need volunteers to work on our committees. We are looking for people interested in Preservation and Restoration, Maintenance, Landscaping and Gardening, and Programming and Events Planning.

We also need docents. Without docents we would not be able to provide weekend tours or any of the special tours available for school children, special groups, or special events. Training is also available for anyone interested, and the basic house tour is scripted. Information is available on every room to provide assistance.

If you like history, if you want to see the Priestley House Museum continue for another generation, or if you are looking for a way to serve your community, consider volunteering at Priestley House. Apply on-line or in-person. There is always something you can do at Priestley House.

A PRIESTLEY TOUR AND BOWOOD HOUSE

A small delegation of travelers, led by Friends Vice-President and Priestley House Volunteer Harry Lewis, made a 14-day pilgrimage throughout England, following in the footsteps of Joseph Priestley.

The pilgrimage began in London with visits to Benjamin Franklin's London house, the Lansdowne House, the Royal Society Library, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Dr. Williams Library, and the British Museum. Of course, the travelers had plenty of time to visit the traditional tourist sites and even attend the theater or a concert, if they so desired.

Birmingham was the next stop on their journey through Priestley's past, including visits to sites associated with Priestley and with the Lunar Society, a group of scientists, industrialists, and forward thinkers, of which Priestley was a member.

After a few days at the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Bath, the travelers ended their journey at Bowood House, the place of Priestley's employment at the time of his discovery of oxygen. They also visited Calne, where the Priestleys resided during Dr. Priestley's time with Lord Shelburne. Both Calne and Bowood House hosted celebrations commemorating Joseph Priestley's discovery of oxygen in 1774, with a special 250th Anniversary Celebration at Bowood House on August 1st, the date of his original discovery.

Throughout 2025 we will join these travelers on their journey as they share their Priestley discoveries and participation in Priestley related events through stories and photos. There is more to come.

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OPERATIONS MANAGER

Murrie Zlotziver
jphopsmanager@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Jo Ann Long

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Deborah Bernhisel
jphpostings@gmail.com

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE
473 PRIESTLEY AVENUE
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

Walk-in Visitors or visitors with reservations are welcome during museum hours. For tour reservations go to our web site <https://joseph-priestley-house.org>

The reservations link is available on both the home page and tour page. Reservations will be confirmed by e-mail.

**Tours will begin at
1pm, 2pm, 3pm.**

**Admission prices are listed
on the tour page.**

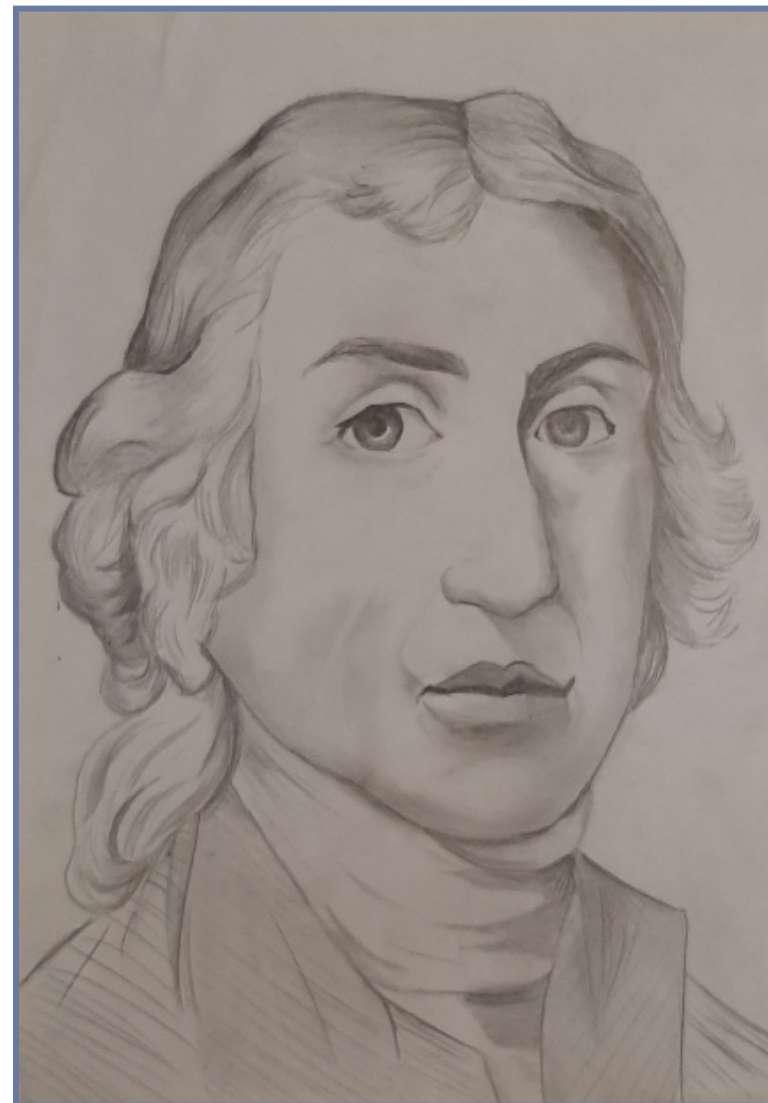
Special Assistance

Individuals who need special assistance or accommodation to visit The Joseph Priestley House should contact us in advance to discuss their needs.

To join the Friends of Priestley House call 570-473-9497 or visit www.joseph-priestley-house.org

CREATIVE RESPONSES TO JOSEPH PRIESTLEY AND HIS LEGACY

In honor of the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Dr. Priestley's Discovery of Oxygen, the Priestley House Museum sponsored art and poetry contests for children K-12, encouraging not only creativity but also research into the life and times of Dr. Priestley. Although we do not have the space to publish all of the contributions in our Fall Issue of Postings, we do want to pay tribute to the young men and women who shared their talents with the museum by publishing a smattering of contributions reflecting different age categories and different skill levels.



Pencil Drawing by Cora Hoover

**Joseph Priestley
Discovers Air**
by Joseph Martin

Joseph Priestley
Oxygen he discovered.
Scientist,
Experiments – he did lots!
Poor dead mice!
He opened doors for science.

Joseph Priestley
by Jude Martin

There once was a man that was fair;
He was the first to discover air.
He was a preacher,
Then became a teacher, exploring
science and chemistry.

He hailed from England,
Moved to Northumberland;
People burnt his house to ash,
Because they thought he was trash,
All because he dabbled in alchemy.

ART EXHIBIT REMAINS OPEN

Hope Buzzelli's artwork remains on display at the museum through the end of the 2024 Season. For those who were unable to visit the exhibit during the Gala Weekend or would like another opportunity to view her work, there is still time. Only a select number of Hope's pieces will become part of the museum's permanent collection after November, so if you haven't seen the entire collection, visit Priestley House on or before November 24th. Check the website for dates and times.

FRIDAY NIGHT'S GALA UNDER THE TENT

In spite of less than ideal weather, a crowd of one hundred thirty-four registered guests, gathered under a large event tent on the Priestley House Museum grounds to kick off a celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Joseph Priestley's Discovery of Oxygen.

The evening's hor d'oeuvres were provided by Townside Catering, The long awaited debut of the Priestley Pilsner was on tap in the Pond Building, along with wine from Whispering Oaks Vineyard. Music filled the tent and the grounds, thanks to Elegance Quartet, who wowed those gathered with their musicality and versatility.

Visiting dignitaries and Priestley descendants were among the guests present on August 2nd to officially launch a weekend dedicated to all things Priestley, and most particularly his interest in science. Introductions launched the evening's festivities. Among the special guests were Pennsylvania State Senator Linda Schlegel Culver and State Representative Michael Stender. Senator Culver, who represents the 27th District, presented Friends President Colleen Epler Ruths with a special resolution from the Pennsylvania State Senate memorializing the museum's special celebration in honor of Joseph Priestley. Immediately following Senator Culver's presentation, Representative Stender, who represents the 108th District, presented a similar resolution from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

In addition to food and entertainment, guests were able to visit several new museum displays in a recently renovated second floor room and visit the premier showing of guest artist Hope Buzzelli's scientific illustration art, created especially for the celebration of Priestley's 250th anniversary of the discovery of oxygen. Among the new displays is a copy of Joseph Priestley's History and Present *State of Discoveries Relating to Vision, Light, and Colours* containing a name plate on the inside front cover inscribed "Shelburne," from the library of Dr. Harry H. Mark M.D.



Pennsylvania State Senator
Linda Schlegel Culver



Charcuterie Board by
Townside Catering



State Representative
Michael Stender



Hope Buzzelli

SUNDAY AFTERNOON'S GARDEN PARTY

With the event tent still in place, the Priestley House hosted its annual Oxygen Day Garden Party as the final piece of the Gala Weekend Celebration. This year's event included refreshments, free access to the Priestley House for self-guided tours, and science demonstrations in the Pond Building, all staples from previous years, as well as a few additions, such as child friendly games under the tent and on the grounds, a Brewmeister demonstrating historic beer brewing techniques, and Priestley Pilsner on tap in the Visitors Center.

A giant chessboard graced the stage under the tent, while Priestley related puzzles were distributed among the tables, inviting attendees to spend a leisurely afternoon on the museum grounds. Children attending the day's events went home with a free science or history related book compliments of a grant secured by the museum to encourage reading and youth participation at museum events.

The American Chemical Society's connection to the Joseph Priestley House dates back 150 years, to the 100th anniversary of Priestley's Discovery of oxygen. Dee Casteel, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Emerita of Bucknell

University and Priestley House Museum Volunteer, paid tribute to the American Chemical Society's connection to Joseph Priestley and the museum. In



Dr. Roy A. Olofson

her presentation, Dee emphasized the importance of Joseph Priestley House to the ACS's own history as well as the museum's designation as a National Historic Chemical Landmark.

Also included among the afternoon's events was a tribute to Professor Emeritus Roy A. Olofson, a retired chemistry professor from Penn State University and long time supporter of the Priestley House Museum. Dr. Olofson was present in Northumberland in April 2009, when state budget shortfalls forced the State Museum Commission to propose the closure of six museums. Joseph Priestley House was among those slated to close. Recently, Dr. Olofson, who is credited with 120 research works and 3,453 citations during his affiliation with Penn State, offered to allow his extensive Priestley medallion collection to be displayed in the museum. The medallions, which are currently on loan to the museum, made their display debut during the Gala Weekend.



Brewmeister



Free Books Under the Tent

PRIESTLEYS RETURN TO NORTHUMBERLAND

The Priestley House Museum and grounds were filled with Priestleys on August 3rd. Forty Priestley descendants covering four generations traveled from Florida, St. Louis, Virginia, and Canada, as well as towns throughout Pennsylvania, for an opportunity to visit the Priestley House and learn more about their famous ancestor. And in addition to the extended house tour offered by museum docents, Museum Operations Manager Murrie Zlotziver offered descendants an opportunity to visit the roof top area Dr. Priestley used for his astronomy studies.

After lunch under the event tent, Priestley descendants were given an opportunity to visit several Priestley related sites within Northumberland. One stop was the Priestley Memorial Chapel, built in 1834 on land donated by the Taggart family to house the Unitarian congregation composed of Joseph Rayner Priestley's large family and remnants of Dr. Priestley's original group of Unitarians.

It was Taggart and Priestley descendants who kept the chapel in operation until about 1890. Another stop was the Priestley-Forsyth Library, which was originally a private home occupied by descendants of Joseph Priestley, M.D. (great grandson of Dr. Priestley) and houses several Priestley family artifacts, including some of Annie Priestley's dolls. A few visitors braved the rainy afternoon weather

to visit a third site, the Riverside Cemetery, the final resting spot for Joseph and Mary Priestley, their son Henry, and a significant number of other Northumberland Priestley descendants.

Rainy, humid weather didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm of the descendants, who made the trip to Northumberland to visit the Priestley House, and for many of those participating in the day's activities, it was their first visit to the American home of their illustrious ancestor.



2024 Gathering of Priestley Descendants at Priestley House

THANK YOU. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

We would like to thank the area businesses and organizations that partnered with Friends of the Joseph Priestley Museum to make the yearlong celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Dr. Priestley's Discovery of Oxygen possible. Without you, much of what we did would not have been possible.

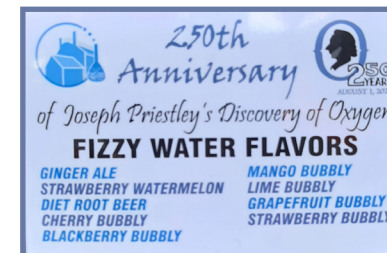
Affordable Events by Nicole
Entertainment Tents
On A Roll
Priestley-Forsyth Library
Slice of the Paranormal Podcast
Townside Catering

Belle Vue Studio
Marotta/Main Architects
Pineknottter Brewery
Quality Print Shop
Something Special Flower Shop
W & S Beer Distributors

Coal Region Paranormal Team
Patterson Media Team
Priestley Chapel Associates
Riverview Cemetery
Tibbs Interiors
Whispering Oaks Vineyard

PRIESTLEY HOUSE VOLUNTEERS AND 250TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA

The Priestley House stand at Pineknottter Days had a new look this year. No more ping-pong balls, no more gold fish crackers (the live gold fish having been phased out several years ago), and no more prizes for a game of chance. Instead, visitors to the Priestley House stand found merchandise for sale celebrating the upcoming 250th Anniversary Celebration of Priestley's Discovery of Oxygen. Particularly popular among that merchandise were the pilsner glasses commemorating the 250th Anniversary and celebrating the debut of Pineknottter Brewery's limited edition Priestley Pilsner.



Priestley Merchandise and volunteers

Although the Priestley Pilsner did not make its debut until the weekend of the 250th Gala Celebration, the glasses provided some additional advertising for the upcoming festivities on-site at the Priestley House Museum. The availability of multi-flavored fizzy water played its part in advertising, as well, reminding those who stopped by the stand that the world has Joseph Priestley to thank for carbonated beverages.

When Priestley first developed carbonated water, i.e. fizzy water, he thought he was developing a cure for scurvy, which was prevalent among sailors of his day. Fizzy water did not cure scurvy, but his experiments at the brewery near his home in Leeds sparked Priestley's interest in natural philosophy (science), and eventually led to his most well-remembered discovery, oxygen.

SCOUT DAY AT THE JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE

Forty Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts from approximately ten different groups gathered at the Joseph Priestley House on Saturday, September 21st. Girl Scouts from as far away as Liverpool and Berwick traveled to Northumberland to participate in a 250th Anniversary of the Discovery of Oxygen designed just for Scouts.



John Moore

For three hours participants rotated among four learning stations, where they learned about Dr. Joseph Priestley and life in the late 1700s. At one station local historian and storyteller John Moore captivated young listeners with Priestley stories and history, while the Pond Building provided the second station, where the museum's resident Dr. Priestley, portrayed by museum

docent Ron Blatchley, captivated his young audiences with a science show based on Priestley experiments. The third station involved touring the Priestley House under the guidance of museum docents, who were on hand during the event. And finally, station four, held under the white event tent, involved a activity called the Game of Graces.

Then, to end the afternoon, participants enjoyed root beer floats, a nod to Priestley's discovery of carbonation. And, unlike the premier Scout Event in 2023, the participants were able to participate in everything on-site and without any rain.



Scout Day participant from Pack 3325