



Spring 2024

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

# GROVE GAZETTE

## INTRODUCING JEROME BIAS LOCUST GROVE'S NEW ARTIST IN RESIDENCE *Kaitlyn Tisdale, M.A., Director of Interpretation*

I first met Jerome Bias in October 2021. The Louisville Coalition on the History of Enslavement (LCHE) was hosting Joe McGill of The Slave Dwelling Project for a full weekend of programming, which included Locust Grove's "Unfolding the Story" tour here at Locust Grove.

After the tour concluded and the actor talk-backs were finished, he pulled me aside and said, "You are doing important work here. Don't stop."

He then introduced himself and asked more questions. We had a long conversation about how art, in all its forms, can be utilized to tell a larger story. To heal. To teach. To connect. And from then on, we have been friends.

Jerome is a man of many talents. He has degrees in biology and interior design. He is an accomplished woodworker, formerly working as a joiner for Old Salem Museums and Gardens in Winston-Salem, N.C. But more than anything, Jerome is a teacher. He has presented his work at Winterthur Museum in Delaware, at the Slave Dwelling Project, and hosted classes for the Smithsonian.

This June, Locust Grove will welcome Jerome as a week-long Artist in Residence from June 2 through June 8, calling it "A Celebration of Food, Family, & Furniture." Jerome will use many of Locust Grove's buildings during his time here — showcasing how the artistry of food and furniture forged strength and family amidst the horrors of slavery . . . how culinary arts were skills handed down through generations . . . and how woodworking and craftsmanship was a tool taught from father to son.

Highlights of this week-long celebration include an opening reception soiree, hearth-cooking workshops, woodworking workshops, a lecture on free Black cabinetmaker Thomas Day, genealogy workshops on

Tracing Your Enslaved Ancestors, specialty tours of Locust Grove, and a special dinner in Locust Grove's pavilion.

Jerome's Artist Statement in his application for Locust Grove's first Artist in Residence program in part sheds some light on his hopes for his time here:

*"How do we see the ancestors?" he asked. "It is easy to see them only through a lens of pain and suffering, or is it possible to see them through a wider lens? In this residency I look at them through a lens of hope and love."*

*"I sit in amazement of the courage it took for a mother to love her daughter knowing that if the crops failed, her baby girl could be sold to pay the plantation's debt. In this project I ask, 'What does that love look like'? I ask the question, 'What kind of generational trauma comes out of that experience'?"*

*"We don't know the names of many of the ancestors and we have very few of their stories. But we have artifacts that were witnesses to their lives. They were the items that made life possible."*

For more details about Jerome's programs or tickets to workshops, visit Locust Grove's website at <https://locustgrove.org/artist-in-residence/>.

We also encourage you to sign up for Locust Grove's mailing list at [marketing@locustgrove.org](mailto:marketing@locustgrove.org). This is the best way to stay up to date on all of our events and programs.

If you would be interested in supporting this event, please email [ktisdale@locustgrove.org](mailto:ktisdale@locustgrove.org). We have sponsorships at all levels.

We are honored to bring the artistry and insights of Jerome Bias to Louisville. We hope you can join us for all or part of this journey of discovery and artistry.



[www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org)



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER — *Carol Ely, Ph.D.*

### Historic House Updated With 21st Century Ventilation, Heating and Cooling Systems

Rarely does a construction project go according to schedule, especially in a historic building, but this one nearly succeeded! We closed as planned, moved furniture as planned, and skilled HVAC technicians installed new ductwork, vents, air handler units, and all the other complex aspects of a modern ventilation system — all while the site was closed for tours in January and February — as planned. On schedule, the house reopened for tours in early March.

But, the work on the third floor is yet to be completed while a complex venting problem is solved. So the third floor remains closed to tours for now.

And we are still seeking an artisan to craft period-style wooden louvers to make unobtrusive vents on a few of the closet doors where air is vented into the rooms on the first and second floor. In the meantime, those doors are slightly ajar to allow for air flow.

But it's all good! Now the house has quieter, more efficient (less costly) and more effective temperature and humidity controls. The house continues to “breathe” as it was designed to do by its builders 230 years ago.

Thanks to engineers with **DeBra-Kuempel** and **Kerr Gruelich** and architects at **JRA** for their extraordinary commitment to preserving the historic context, and to the HVAC technicians who ingeniously solved problems while shivering in an unheated house in February.

Thanks also to **David Wilding** at Louisville Metro Parks for overseeing the project, and **Hunter Louis** from our Buildings Committee for his excellent advice and support.

And thanks go to **Kaitlyn Tisdale** and **Geoffrey McMahon** of our staff for ensuring that the collection was protected from any potential stress or damage during the process while still giving the technicians access where needed.

They even rearranged the rooms a bit while re-installing the furniture. See if you can spot the new configurations on your next visit!



*This photo is more interesting than it seems. It's the space that was the closet under the stairs in the corner of the farm office. The plastered wall on the right seems to show the slope of the original stairs that were in this position in the Croghans' day. So, the stairs on the second floor opened closer to the hallway, and the cutout in the floor probably once allowed for the right closet door in the bedroom to actually open all the way – one of the puzzles of the room's layout.*

*Carol Ely*

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The mission of Historic Locust Grove is to preserve and interpret the historic landscape and buildings of Locust Grove, the final home of Louisville's founder George Rogers Clark, and to tell the stories of all the individuals who lived and worked here, both free and enslaved, cultivating a deeper understanding of the present through a richer understanding of the past.

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# Farewell and THANK YOU



## Mark Gaston

Mark was a familiar figure at Locust Grove for many years — most especially at the annual Gardeners' Fair. Mark always arrived early and stayed late to make sure that the parking logistics were under control and that visitors were welcomed and well-informed.

"Mark showed up in waders and a rain poncho for some of the memorably wet weekends of mud and straw," says President and CEO **Carol Ely**. "And when we needed someone to grill at our food tent, Mark was there with an apron and a big smile. He shuttled Fair-goers and ensured that all who wanted to attend our festival events were able to participate."

A litigator for 40 years in Louisville, Mark knew the law and worked tirelessly for his clients — young and old, wealthy and needy. Mark was a kind, generous bulldog who handled cases for some people simply for the sake of justice. He also served as a *guardian ad litem* in Family DNA cases representing children and parents and in Guardianship cases, representing the elderly with no one to stand up for them but him. Mark served on Locust Grove's Board of Directors through many transitions and building projects, bringing to bear his practical experience of assisting with events at Locust Grove and giving his excellent legal advice.



## George Plager

For many years, attendees at Locust Grove's Chamber Music Concerts were greeted by George and his wife Marti, with light libations and delicious snacks prepared by Marti. Both were much-beloved volunteers at Locust Grove for many years.

George and Marti grew up in Iowa, attending the same high school and college, marrying soon after graduation. After a long career with U.S. Navy, TWA, Florida Express, and UPS, George retired in 2001. A history major in college, George was looking for volunteer opportunities — and discovered Locust Grove after a tour with Marti.

"George was a Board member, weekly docent, devoted committee member, and a friend to all who knew him," says Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale**. "He especially enjoyed interacting with schoolchildren as he gave tours. He helped with our events, specifically our Gardeners' Fair. He and I loved to discuss genealogy, fishing, and his children, grandchildren, and newest great-granddaughter."

George and Marti loved traveling internationally and domestically, visiting numerous countries and some 30 National Parks in the U.S. He relished his adventurous fishing trips with his sons, nephews, and brothers-in-law in wilderness Canada and northern Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"I will dearly miss George, as I am sure many volunteers, staffers, and vendors will," adds Kaitlyn. "His memory is certainly a blessing to us all."



## Ted Wright

To many schoolchildren and event attendees, Ted Wright **was** George Rogers Clark. His resemblance to Louisville's founder and hero of the Revolutionary War in the West was uncanny. "When he stood next to the Bush portrait of Clark in the main hall, visitors gasped," says President and CEO **Carol Ely**. "Ted inhabited the role in costume and held court in Clark's chamber in the historic house. He engaged visitors with his insights into Louisville's founder — and his amazing physical resemblance to the General."

A Louisville native, Ted was a proud graduate of St. Xavier High School and Marquette University. With his degree in industrial engineering, he started Kentucky Cutters — a contract die-cutting operation that feeds materials such as foam, cloth, plastic, wood, and cardboard into large presses to be cut into pieces that are shipped elsewhere for assembly.

He was an avid Kentucky history enthusiast, often sharing humorous stories with a twinkle in his eye. "As a docent and enthusiastic amateur historian, Ted added greatly to Locust Grove's ability to interpret our time in history," adds Carol. "As a part-time dealer in period antiques, Ted was most knowledgeable about the house furnishings. We so treasure the life he brought to George Rogers Clark and are so grateful Ted was a part of the Locust Grove family."



# HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE CALENDAR

## WEDNESDAY LECTURES

Hear a variety of speakers on unusual and interesting topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clarks, and the region. Held on the first Wednesday of most months. For afternoon lectures, doors open at 12:50 p.m. for desserts and beverages; lectures begin at 1:15 p.m. Cost: \$8, \$6 for members. For the evening lecture on June 5, doors open at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments; lecture begins at 7 p.m. Cost: \$12; \$10 for members.

### Thomas Day: Free Black Cabinetmaker

June 5, 2024, 7 PM



Join Locust Grove's Artist in Residence **Jerome Bias** for this **special evening edition** of our afternoon lecture series. A scholar of Thomas Day's work for 20 years, Bias will highlight the life and work of Day, a free Black cabinetmaker in the antebellum era. Bias, here at Locust Grove

from June 2 thru June 9 for our week-long Artist in Residence program, is a self-taught woodworker. He is a decades-long student of Southern decorative arts, making period furnishings inspired by the work of Day and other often-unnamed enslaved artisans.

### Freemasonry, Fraternity, and the Frontier

July 3, 2023, 1:15 PM



**Tim Root**, an active Mason in Louisville and Executive VP/COO for L&N Federal Credit Union, will tell us about the Masonic Fraternity's journey from Europe (primarily England) to America in the 18th Century. He will closely examine its impact on our Founding Fathers and the

Revolutionary War. This lecture will take you on a journey as the Fraternity spread from New England into the Frontier and will look closer at Freemasonry in Kentucky, including at Locust Grove.

### Muddled and Bittersweet

August 7, 2024, 1:15 PM



Join us as we continue the captivating saga of Col. George Croghan. Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale** delves further into George and Serena's tumultuous journeys in Louisiana. This lecture will feature meticulously researched documents and important new discoveries that

will piece together the mysteries of George's attempt at operating a sugar plantation in Louisiana — a journey that quickly became muddled and bittersweet.

## EMILY STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

### Three Bassets Sunday, June 2, 5 PM

Experience an unforgettable musical journey as the Three Basset Horns return to Locust Grove, led by Locust Grove chamber musician



**Ernie Gross**. They will perform Mozart operas in Locust Grove's outdoor Pavilion — accessible for all. Join us as we close out our spectacular 40th season with an evening of enchanting melodies and captivating performances that will transport you to the heart of Mozart's timeless masterpieces. Refreshments will be available for sale, or you may bring your own chairs and picnics. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; the concert begins at 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$22; \$20 for Locust Grove members. Included with Chamber Music Series subscription.

## SUNSET YOGA

Tuesday, June 18, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Immerse yourself in the soothing sounds of nature and join us for an experience that embraces the first heat of summer. Connect with your breathing and let the tranquility sweep away the stress of the outside world. Guided by experienced instructors from **Studio Hustle**, you'll unwind and stretch in a serene park setting. This class is open to all experience levels. This donation-based class is in partnership with local business Studio Hustle.



## JUNE ANTIQUES MARKET

**Sunday, June 30, 10 AM – 4:30 PM**

Check out the treasures at the Antiques Market! From delicate china teapots to silver spoons, vintage jewelry to Kentucky-made chairs — there's something for all tastes and every budget. Featuring dozens of professional dealers from around the region, the Antiques Market offers fine and country furniture, books, textiles, jewelry, ephemera, silver, china, and more. Admission includes the historic house museum beginning at 1:00 p.m. Food and drink are available. Cost: \$10 for adults, free for all under 18 years of age.



## FREE INDEPENDENCE DAY AT LOCUST GROVE

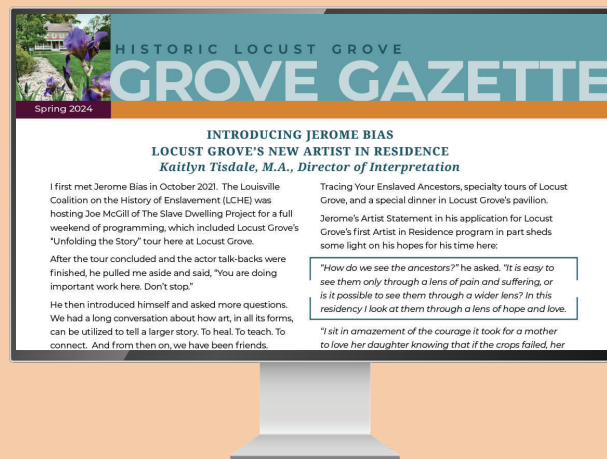
**Thursday, July 4, 10:30 AM – 4 PM**  
**Free admission**



Gather your family and join us this 4th of July for a fun-filled day of learning and celebration! Explore what it means to be an active citizen and how to make a difference in your community through exciting activities and interactive discussions. Join **StageOne Storytellers** as they read stories of citizenship, civics, voting, and much more.

Delve into the meaning of independence while reflecting on the history of the Revolutionary War and of enslavement at our historic site. Engage with our community partners, enjoy family activities, and learn about the meaning of civic engagement on this day to celebrate our freedom and democracy. Food trucks will be on site or bring your own picnic lunch. Sponsored by Independence Bank and the Louisville Cultural Pass.

# THE GROVE GAZETTE IS GOING DIGITAL



Starting with our next issue, the **Grove Gazette** will be sent to our subscribers digitally rather than by mail.

The look and format will be much the same as this issue, but it will be sent out quarterly via email to members and subscribers and posted on our website. You'll be able to print it out if you prefer to read it on paper.

So, if you want to continue to have the **Gazette** sent directly to your inbox, we need your email address. We never sell or share email addresses.

We may have your address already, especially if you are a member or if you regularly receive our emails. But just to be sure, here's how you can send it to us:

Visit our website: <https://locustgrove.org/> and find "Join the Locust Grove Mailing List."

Or send an email to [marketing@locustgrove.org](mailto:marketing@locustgrove.org) and ask to be added to our list.

If you do not have an email address or otherwise cannot receive the **Gazette** via email and you are a member or donor of Locust Grove, we will mail you an in-house printed version. Let us know.

If you change your email address, let us know at [marketing@locustgrove.org](mailto:marketing@locustgrove.org), or add the new address via the email link on our website.

The reduced cost of not printing and not mailing out thousands of copies of the **Gazette** each year will greatly benefit our ability to focus on the content of our programs and ideas that you want to read about, instead of the logistics of communicating them. It will also shorten the communications time lag by eliminating stages in the production process. And you'll be able to forward the **Gazette** yourself to anyone that you want to share it with!

Let us know if you experience any glitches in the process and we'll sort them out.



# MUSIC UNDER THE PAVILION New Summer Series

*This new series celebrates our community's rich musical heritage with performances under Locust Grove's beautiful new outdoor pavilion. Each concert will feature performances by local artists, covering an eclectic mix of musical styles, including chamber music, Celtic tunes, bluegrass, country, and Indigenous flutes. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; performances begin at 6:30 p.m. Beverages and snacks will be available to purchase or bring your own picnic treats. Cost: \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 4-16, free for children 3 and under.*

## Keltricity

**Tuesday, May 21, 6 PM**

Our kickoff event begins with **Keltricity**, transporting you to the heart of Celtic Culture, where soulful melodies and lively rhythms come together in perfect harmony. Embark on this musical journey through the lands of William Croghan's childhood. Keltricity is a Celtic-world band featuring traditional, contemporary, and eclectic Celtic-influenced music from Ireland, Cape Breton, Scotland, England, Brittany, New England, and French Canada.



## Music Under the Pavilion: TBA

**Tuesday, June 25, 6 PM**

Please check Locust Grove's website: [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org) for information.

## Louisville Folk School

**Tuesday, July 16, 6 PM**

Experience the soulful sounds of bluegrass music as the talented musicians from the Louisville Folk School take the stage. Join us for an evening of foot-stomping rhythms, heartfelt melodies, and authentic Appalachian tunes that will have you tapping your toes and singing along.



## Fred Keams Fred Keams (Navajo [Dine])

**Tuesday, July 30, 6 PM**

Locust Grove welcomes **Fred Keams** (Navajo [Dine]). He will demonstrate the sounds and melodies of traditional Navajo flute music and demonstrate the tradition, skill, and power of Indigenous music.

Fred grew up in Navajo, N.M., and is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. He continues the Navajo's musical traditions by crafting authentic traditional flutes by hand and playing them. He named his business **Yellowknife Flutes** after the nickname given to him by a friend and co-worker in Fort Defiance, Ariz. He organizes the Native Flute Gathering held every May in Harrodsburg, Ky.



## Music Under the Pavilion: TBA

**Tuesday, August 13, 6 PM**

Please check Locust Grove's website: [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org) for information.



Now entering our 2nd season, Locust Grove Historic Site will be a Farm Share CSA pick-up site for Rootbound Farm, a local certified organic farm in Crestwood, KY.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) provides a direct link and relationship between people and the food they eat, the land it grows on, and the farmers who grow it. CSA members receive a weekly "farm share" box full of fresh veggies and fruits grown on the farm. Rootbound Farm's CSA program is customizable, so you can choose the items in your box each week and even add local organic eggs and meat whenever you'd like.

There are three box sizes available and they offer a flexible payment schedule, including a four-week plan that allows you to try it out and see if the CSA is right for you.

Rootbound Farm offers many pickup locations throughout the city. Locust Grove's pickup will be on Wednesday afternoons. Visit Rootbound Farm's website to learn more and to sign up today.

Website link to sign up and learn more: <https://www.rootboundfarm.com/csa>. Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ArVWU-zDTg>

# AMERICA UNCORKED New Series

*Join us for an evening of lively discussion and exploration into the complexities of history. Delve into the depths of pivotal moments for our country, uncover hidden truths, and shed light on the diverse experiences that have shaped our nation. Engage with experts, share your insights, and sip on the finest drinks as we toast to uncovering the essence of America's rich tapestry. They will be enlightening events that challenge perspectives and inspire deeper understanding. Refreshments at 6:00 p.m., discussion starts at 6:30 p.m. Attendees of America Uncorked receive one complimentary crafted cocktail curated to pair with the night's topic. All ages are welcome, but you must be 21+ to receive the crafted cocktail. Cost: \$25, \$22 for members.*

## A Spirited Revolt

Thursday, May 16, 6 PM

Join us as we welcome author **Brady Crytzer** to explore the complexities of the Whiskey Rebellion and its reverberations throughout the fledgling nation. Gain a deeper understanding of the struggles faced by individuals and industries during this transformative period in American history. This enlightening conversation should bring the past to life and highlight its relevance to our present-day society.



Brady Crytzer is an esteemed history professor at Robert Morris University in Pennsylvania and winner of the 2023 Judge Robert K. Woltz History Award. Renowned for his expertise in Imperial History of North America, Crytzer captivates audiences as a narrator on popular cable shows like "Into the Wild Frontier" and "Lawmen and Outlaws." He also hosts the widely acclaimed podcast "Dispatches: The Podcast of the Journal of the American Revolution" and the cable series "Battlefield Pennsylvania." Crytzer's prolific scholarship has earned him prestigious accolades, and his work has been featured in prominent publications and reviewed by esteemed journals. Sponsored by the Society of Colonial Wars in Kentucky and the Greater Society of Colonial Wars.

## What is Independence?

Thursday, July 25, 6 PM

Tonight's "America Uncorked" will delve into a thought-provoking community discussion exploring the implications of the Declaration of Independence. We'll reflect on who truly experienced freedom in the early days of our nation and contemplate how independent we are today. Let's ask the tough questions and explore the potential for further growth in our pursuit of true independence.

## RAFFLE! WIN SOME PAPPY VAN WINKLE BOURBON



We are thrilled to announce another exciting opportunity to win some Pappy!

This year, we are raffling the full six-bottle flight of the Pappy Van Winkle Family

Reserve Bourbon, signed by Julian Van Winkle III. We thank Delta Dental of Kentucky for their support in making this raffle possible. Don't miss this chance to savor some of the finest bourbon while supporting a National Historic Landmark.

The prize for one lucky winner will include:

- 10-year Old Rip Van Winkle
- 12-year Van Winkle Special Reserve
- 13-year Van Winkle Family Reserve Rye
- 15-year Pappy Van Winkle Family Reserve
- 20-year Pappy Van Winkle Family Reserve
- 23-year Pappy Van Winkle Family Reserve

The raffle launches online on May 3rd (Derby Eve). Tickets are \$100 each and sales are limited to 1,500 tickets. There will be no limit on how many tickets each entrant can purchase. The drawing will be June 1st, and entrants are not required to attend in person to win. Be sure to check our raffle page, [www.locustgrove.org/raffle](http://www.locustgrove.org/raffle). And check the QR code below for updates and to view the drawing live online.

By purchasing a ticket, you play a crucial role in supporting our mission. Proceeds from the raffle support our efforts towards historic preservation, providing educational programs for a diverse audience, managing the 55-acre historic landscape that protects local wildlife, our future capital projects that will expand exhibit space and improve site accessibility, and so much more.

Join us in raising a glass to history, community, bourbon, and beyond! Mark your calendars, purchase your tickets, and embark on a journey through time and taste with Pappy Van Winkle and Historic Locust Grove. Cheers to preserving history, one sip at a time!

A special thank you to the Van Winkle Family.







Historic Locust Grove  
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[www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org)



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June Antiques Market  
Sunday, June 30  
10 AM – 4:30 PM

Spring 2024

## GARDENERS' FAIR

**Gardeners' Fair — Saturday & Sunday, May 11 & 12, 10 AM – 4:30 PM**



Discover a botanical wonderland at the 2024 Gardeners Fair hosted by Locust Grove. There will be many new and exciting vendors this year — along with our other beloved vendors and non-profit partners. Immerse yourself in vibrant blossoms and foliage. Witness captivating demonstrations showcasing farm animals, gardening techniques, conservation efforts, and more.

The Gardeners' Fair celebrates nature's wonders and the passion of those who nurture it. Join us for a weekend of growth, inspiration, and the pure joy of all things botanical. General admission to the Fair is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-18, and free for children under 6.



**New this year — two Gardeners' Fair teas on Saturday, May 11.**

**Tea in the Gardens** is a tea experience celebrating that special mother figure in your life. Attendees will enjoy seasonal tea expressions and light fare in our garden quad overlooking the Gardeners' Fair. Two seating options are available — at 11:30 a.m., "British Garden Traditional Tea with Seasonal Fare," and 3:30 p.m., "Spirited Tea with Seasonal Fare." (Must be 21 to attend). At the time of this printing, both teas are sold out, although we have a waiting list. Please contact Program Director **Raina Melvin** ([rmelvin@locustgrove.org](mailto:rmelvin@locustgrove.org)) for costs, to sign up for the waiting list, and to express interest in future teas.



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