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MORVEN

MUSEUM & GARDEN

New Summer Activities to Enjoy in August **Including a deeper dive into America's 250th**

PRINCETON, NJ (July 31, 2026) — Did you know that the Declaration of Independence wasn't signed until August 2nd, 1776? All five delegates from New Jersey signed 250 years ago on that day. Morven's exhibition on these Signers continues through January 17, and there are two events with the museum curators this month that visitors won't want to miss!

On Thursday, August 6, Morven's Deputy Director & Curator Elizabeth Allan and Curator & Registrar Jesse Gordon Simons lead a **Meet the Curators Tour of *Five Independent Souls: The Signers from New Jersey***, a behind-the-scenes look at the landmark exhibition's 100+ historic artifacts and the stories behind how it all came together.

Later in the month, join Gordon Simons for **Curator Corner: *Congress Voting Independence***, a free virtual lunchtime talk on Tuesday, August 18 exploring the history and competing narratives behind this painting, the earliest known American depiction of the vote for independence.

Kids ages 8-12 won't want to miss **Intro to Improv in the Garden**, a brand-new workshop presented with McCarter Theatre Center on Tuesday, August 4. Teaching artist Lillie Reising introduces the foundations of improv through games and activities against the backdrop of Morven's lush gardens.

All ages can enjoy the gardens in August with:

- **Evening Yoga in the Garden with Gratitude Yoga** (Wednesdays at 6 pm, through September 9). A donation-based all-levels Vinyasa class open to everyone.
- **Twilight Garden Tour** (Tuesday, August 11, 5:30 pm). Led by a Morven horticulturist, it's a relaxing and informative stroll through the lush grounds followed by light refreshments.

In addition, fall dates for Morven's popular afternoon teas with The Secret Tea Room, which regularly sell out, are open for registration.

Details on the full slate of August programs are below.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

McCarter Theatre Center in partnership with Morven Museum & Garden presents INTRO TO IMPROV IN THE GARDEN

A special workshop for kids ages 8-12

Kids get to explore the foundations of improv through a variety of games and activities in this 90-minute Intro to Improv workshop, presented with McCarter Theatre Center and led by teaching artist Lillie Reising. Students will build confidence as they play, create, and perform their own original ideas! The program will be held in the fresh air of Morven's sprawling garden, though in the event of inclement weather, it will be moved inside the modern Stockton Education Center. Registration is limited to ensure a great experience. A snack and juice is included with registration.

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 4, 6-7:30 pm

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Registration: \$15

Register at <https://www.morven.org/events/improv-in-the-garden>

EVENING YOGA IN THE GARDEN WITH GRATITUDE YOGA

Take your practice outside with Gratitude Yoga's all-levels Vinyasa class, open to everyone. This weekly donation-based outdoor yoga class takes place in Morven's beautiful garden, located in the heart of Princeton. Please bring a yoga mat, a towel, a water bottle, and an open heart.

Classes are offered on Wednesday evenings through September 9 from 6-7 pm. Please note: there will be no practice on Wednesday, August 26.

In the event of rain, the class is held inside Morven's Stockton Education Center—a lovely, peaceful space with large windows overlooking the garden.

Dates/Times: Wednesdays (August 5, 12, 19; September 2, 9), 6-7 pm

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Tickets: Pay-what-you-can donation

Register at

<https://www.morven.org/events/evening-yoga-in-the-gardens-with-gratitude-yoga>

MEET THE CURATORS TOUR OF *FIVE INDEPENDENT SOULS*

Morven's Meet the Curators tour is an opportunity to get special insight on America's 250th. The museum's Deputy Director & Curator Elizabeth Allan and Curator & Registrar Jesse Gordon Simons lead a behind-the-scenes tour of the landmark exhibition *Five Independent Souls: The Signers from New Jersey*. Featuring over 100 extraordinary historic artifacts—including manuscripts, paintings, furniture, and personal objects on loan from collections across the country—*Five Independent Souls* examines the lives, ideals, and contradictions of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence for New Jersey.

The curators will share stories about the exhibition's development and insight into content beyond the gallery walls. The tour is limited to 20 people. Pre-registration is required.

Date/Time: Thursday, August 6, 6:30-7:30 pm

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Registration: \$15 general admission, \$10 student, \$10 Morven Member

Register at <https://www.morven.org/events/meet-the-curators-tour-5IS>

TWILIGHT GARDEN TOUR

Enjoy a relaxing twilight tour of Morven's blooming historic gardens with one of the museum's knowledgeable horticulturists, followed by light refreshments on the modern Pool House porch.

The tour is approximately 90 minutes and will also be offered on Tuesday, September 1. With garden blooms changing throughout the summer, choose one or take them both. Capacity is limited; please register in advance.

Dates/Times: Tuesday, August 11, 5:30 pm; Tuesday, September 1, 5:30 pm

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Tickets: \$20 general admission; \$15 Morven member; pre-registration required

August registration: <https://www.morven.org/events/august-twilight-garden-tour>

September registration: <https://www.morven.org/events/september-twilight-garden-tour>

CURATOR CORNER: CONGRESS VOTING INDEPENDENCE

During your lunch break, go behind-the-scenes of the museum with this free virtual talk by Morven Museum & Garden's Curator & Registrar Jesse Gordon Simons, discussing the painting *Congress Voting Independence*.

Currently on display in Morven's exhibition *Five Independent Souls: The Signers from New Jersey*, this painting by Robert Edge Pine is the first known American depiction of the vote for Independence, predating the more famous version by John Trumbull on display in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda by more than thirty years. *Congress Voting Independence* is considered the most accurate known portrayal of the Assembly Room of Independence Hall, where the vote for independence was taken and where the Declaration was signed. Gordon Simons will discuss the painting's history, competing narratives, and stories it represents.

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 18, 12-1 pm

Location: Virtual (link provided at registration)

Registration: \$0 (Free!)

Register at <https://www.morven.org/events/curatorcorner-August26>

AFTERNOON TEA WITH THE SECRET TEA ROOM

Enjoy an enchanting afternoon tea service (with a choice of fine teas, warm scones, tea sandwiches, and more) served on fine chinaware in Morven's historic Garden Room overlooking the grounds. Gluten-free and vegetarian options are available. Registration includes admission to the museum and an optional guided tour.

Dates/Times: September 24 and 25; October 15 and 16; November 5 and 6; seatings at 12 pm and 2:15 pm

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Tickets: \$60 per guest, \$50 for Morven Members

Register at

<https://www.morven.org/events/september-afternoon-tea-with-the-secret-tea-room>

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About Morven Museum & Garden:

Most historic sites celebrate a single notable resident—Morven is different. Built in the 1750s for Richard Stockton (a signer of the Declaration of Independence) and his wife, Annis Boudinot Stockton, an early published poet, Morven was home to five generations of the Stockton family as well as generations of enslaved men and women and later, immigrant servants. The twentieth century saw the innovative industrialist and humanitarian Robert Wood Johnson, Jr. and five New Jersey governors. Over 250+ years, its walls have witnessed the lives of governors, political leaders, celebrities, and everyday families alike.

Today, Morven Museum & Garden welcomes visitors to explore this layered history through exhibitions, programs, and historic gardens. The museum, located at 55 Stockton Street in Princeton, NJ, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am-4 pm. The gardens are open daily until dusk. Learn more at morven.org.