

# TIMELINE

AUTUMN/WINTER 2015

## In Gear: Richmond Cycles

Curator David Voelkel cycles through our latest exhibition. A uniquely Valentine take on the history of cycling in Richmond from the 19th century to the present day.

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## Community Conversations

Series participants enjoy discussions with fellow attendees and hear from various speakers who share their views on relevant issues in the Richmond area.

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## Noteworthy Acquisition

The Valentine has been putting artist Nancy E. Beck's ingenuity and talent to work on various projects over the past few years. Our current project has been creating a replica floorcloth (also known as an oilcloth) for the 1812 John Wickham House.

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the  
Valentine



# Richmond's Cycling History

## Showcased in New Exhibition

The Richmond community hosted the 2015 UCI Road World Championships back in September. That said, it may be a surprise that the city's history of cycling is long, rich and diverse. Since opening our doors in 1898, the Valentine has documented many cycling stories, including that of Henry Lee Valentine, one of the sons of the museum's founder, Mann S. Valentine II. Many of these stories are shared in our newest exhibition, *In Gear: Richmond Cycles*, on view in the Stettinius Community Galleries.

Our love affair with two-wheeled transportation can be traced back to the 1870s. Richmond's first documented cyclist is Mr. Tom Sydnor, who rode his ordinary bicycle (often called a "penny farthing") through city streets, to the terror of animals and people alike. A late-19th-century ordinary bicycle example is on view. The steep hills and cobblestone streets of 19th- and early-20th-century Richmond presented challenges to cyclists during the early years of the sport. Today, increased traffic creates opportunities for cyclists and motor vehicle drivers alike to share the road. This ongoing transportation conversation enlivens the city, and the Valentine encourages that dialogue while visitors are exploring the exhibition.

On loan from the Science Museum of Virginia is *Pedal Power*, an interactive installation that allows visitors to test their abilities to convert mechanical energy into electrical energy. This section also features an Electra Rat Fink men's chopper-style bike and

balances the story from the Victorian-era birth of cycling to today's recreational cyclists who enjoy a bit of whimsy.

For visitors who enjoy images and video, *In Gear* features two media pieces created by VCU professor Dana Ollestad. The first is a slide show of more than 100 images from the Valentine's archival collection, including early cabinet views, snapshots, advertising art and trade cards. Supporting the images are timeline moments in Richmond's cycling story from 1876 to today. The second piece features videos of contemporary Richmonders – both cyclists and noncyclists—sharing their individual stories and cycling experiences. The Valentine is eager to collect additional stories during the run of the exhibition, so please consider posting your pictures and experiences to the Valentine's social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram. **#InGearRVA**



Designer Elizabeth Anne Enright and art handler/installer Josh Aubry worked with curator David Voelkel to create a visually compelling experience in the galleries for this temporary exhibition, which is on view **August 28, 2015 – January 3, 2016.**

*David Voelkel joined the Valentine in 2012 as the Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections.*



# You are our elixir!

You can preserve the vision of our founder, Mann S. Valentine II. The Valentine's Meat Juice Donor Recognition Board will be installed soon in our lobby. All donors at the \$1,000+ Annual Giving level will be honored on the board with their own meat juice bottle.

Use the enclosed envelope to send in your donation, give securely online at [thevalentine.org/give](http://thevalentine.org/give) or contact Lauren Plotkin, Director of Annual Giving, at (804) 649-0711, ext. 325, to make your gift today!

Or join the Valentine today for as little as \$25 to experience Mann's vision in action through our collections, exhibitions, programs and tours – all of which reflect the broad issues and diverse communities that define the history of Richmond.

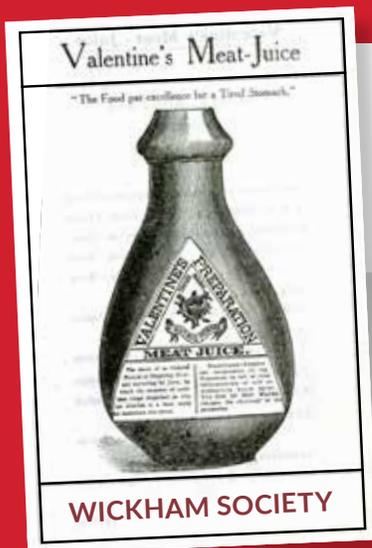
Your membership and donations sustain the Valentine and keep us healthy – thank you!

**The excitement carries through the year!  
Please support the Valentine and become a member today.**

To join, please use the enclosed envelope or contact (804) 649-0711, ext. 325.



# MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE



## Museum Exhibitions



### This is Richmond, Virginia

*Ongoing in the Main Gallery*

Explore Richmond's complex history and countless stories through five themes: Why the Fall Line? Where do we live? What do we produce? Who has a voice? and What do we value?



### 1812 John Wickham House

*Ongoing*

A National Historic Landmark, the home allows guests to explore aspects of life in the early 19th century. The home was purchased by Mann S. Valentine II, and in 1898 became the first home of the Valentine Museum.

Guided tours offered  
10:30 am–4 pm Tuesday–Saturday  
and 12:30–4 pm on Sunday



### Edward V. Valentine Sculpture Studio

*Ongoing in the Valentine Garden*

A prominent sculptor, Valentine's works include the *Recumbent Lee* statue and the statue of *Thomas Jefferson* at The Jefferson Hotel. A visit to his restored studio offers a glimpse into the mind of the artist and into his times.



### Creating History: The Valentine Family and the Creation of a Museum

*Ongoing on the 2nd floor of the 1812 John Wickham House*

This exhibition illustrates how every person creates, through personal experience, his or her own usable history. Explore the Valentine family's collecting enterprises, Valentine's Meat Juice and ways in which the Valentine's interpretation of Richmond's history has evolved.



### Signs of the Times

*Ongoing on the Gray Family Terrace*

Vintage neon signs from Richmond businesses illustrate commercial growth and advertising trends, as do other artifacts mounted outdoors on the Gray Family Terrace.



### Beard Wars

*March 26–November 29*

On view during the final year of the American Civil War's sesquicentennial commemoration, *Beard Wars* features local photographer Terry Brown's portraits of members of the RVA Beard League, inspired by images of Civil War generals in the Valentine's collection.



### Classical Allure: Richmond Style

*May 3, 2015–January 31, 2016*

The exhibition explores themes personified by Libertas, Ceres, Virtus and Aeternitas, the four Roman goddesses that adorn the Virginia state seal, in an examination of the classical forms that endure in Richmond fashion.



### In Gear: Richmond Cycles

*August 28, 2015–January 3, 2016*

A uniquely Valentine take on the history of cycling in Richmond from the 19th century to the present day.



### Edith Shelton's Richmond

*December 4, 2015–May 8, 2016*

Explore Richmond's neighborhoods through amateur photographer Edith Shelton's mid-20th century imagery.



### A Chicken in Every Plot

*January 28–June 26, 2016*

Featuring the work of nationally known Richmond photographer Alyssa C. Salomon, this exhibition examines the resurging practice of keeping backyard chickens and how our relationship with food sources continues to evolve.

# Programs and Events

For details and information, please visit the calendar at [thevalentine.org](http://thevalentine.org).

## Homeschool Program: Powhatan Indians (ages 7-10)

Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 10-11 am

\$8 per child and adult pair, \$5 for members (advance registration required)

## Community Conversation: Housing

Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 6-8 pm

Free and open to the public

## 1898 Society Lunch & Lecture Series: What's So Alluring about Classical Fashion?

Thursday, November 5, 2015, 11 am-12:30 pm

For 1898 Society members only  
To RSVP, contact Sarah Kim, Deputy Director,  
at (804) 649-0711, ext. 302

## The Valentine Costume & Textile Collection Mini-Symposium

Friday, November 13, 2015, 1-3:30 pm

This symposium will be followed by a book signing  
with keynote speaker Caroline Rennolds Milbank.

\$10 per person, \$5 Valentine members, free for  
students with valid school ID

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged

## 29th Annual Court End Christmas

Sunday, December 13, 2015, 12-5 pm

A local holiday tradition featuring 10 historic sites  
with tours, performances, crafts, food and more.

Free and open to the public  
[courtendchristmas.com](http://courtendchristmas.com)

## Community Conversation: Historic Preservation

Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 6-8 pm

Free and open to the public

## Community Conversation: Urban Farming

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 6-8 pm

Free and open to the public

## Homeschool Program: African Americans in Antebellum Richmond (ages 8-10)

Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 10-11 am

\$8 per child and adult pair, \$5 for members  
(advance registration required)

## Community Conversation: Recycling

Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 6-8 pm

Free and open to the public

## Community Conversation: Public Spaces (including the James River)

Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 6-8 pm

Free and open to the public

## Homeschool Program: Classical Architecture in Richmond's Court End (ages 8-10)

Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 10-11 am

\$8 per child and adult pair, \$5 for members  
(advance registration required)

## Homeschool Program: Our Changing Community (ages 5-7)

Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 10-11 am

\$8 per child and adult pair, \$5 for members  
(advance registration required)

# TOURS

Don't miss our Hollywood Cemetery walking tours  
in October and November!

## October

### Alleys and Parks of the Fan

October 17, 10 am-12 pm

### Scott's Addition

October 18, 2-4 pm

### Hollywood Cemetery:

#### Symbolism and Monument Styles

October 24, 2-4 pm

### Ginter Park

October 25, 2-4 pm

### Canal Boats and Cobblestones

May 17, 2-4 pm

### NEW! Halloween History on Hanover

October 29 & 30, 6-7:30 pm

## November

### Highlights of Hollywood Cemetery Walking Tour

November 7, 14, 21, 28, 10-11:30 am

### Hollywood Cemetery Walking Tour

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2-4 pm

### I Know Richmond: The Bus Tour

November 28, 1-4 pm

Reservations required: (804) 649-0711, ext. 301

## December

### OUR MOST POPULAR TOUR!

#### Holiday Glitter: Monument Avenue After Dark Walking Tour

December 23, 26, 27, 6-7:30 pm

Reservations required: (804) 649-0711, ext. 301

## Save the Date!

March 5, 12 and 19, 2016

Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority  
will sponsor 3 bus tours.

Details will be announced soon.

Members receive discounted tours!

For complete tour descriptions and starting locations,  
visit [richmondhistorytours.com](http://richmondhistorytours.com)



# The 1898 Society: Lunch and Lecture Series

The 1898 Society is the Valentine's planned giving society. A planned gift is a simple and effective way to ensure that the Valentine is here for future generations.

Our new 1898 Society Lunch and Lecture Series is a special way for us to thank those individuals who have included the Valentine in their estate planning or those who are considering doing so and want to learn more.

We are happy to announce that our second event in the series will take place on Thursday, November 5 from 11 am–12:30 pm. Our featured speaker, Kristen Stewart, Nathalie L. Klaus Curator of Costume and Textiles, will present "What's So Alluring about Classical Fashion?" Her talk will give attendees a peak into the making of the inaugural exhibition in the Valentine's Nathalie L. Klaus and Reynolds Family Galleries.

Lunch provided by Sally Bell's Kitchen  
Thursday, November 5, 11 am–12:30 pm  
Parking adjacent to the museum on 10th Street

If you have questions about the 1898 Society or this event, please call Sarah Kim, Deputy Director, at (804) 649-0711, ext. 302, or [skim@thevalentine.org](mailto:skim@thevalentine.org).

## Community Conversations

### ReRVA: Revitalizing, Recycling and Reimagining Richmond

Our sixth Community Conversations series, **ReRVA: Revitalizing, Recycling and Reimagining Richmond**, kicks off a bit earlier this year due to exciting exhibitions and celebrations.

In October, with the *In Gear* exhibition in the Stettinius Community Galleries and the UCI Road World Championships behind us, we discussed the topic of **Transportation**. In 1888, Richmond was home to the first fully electrified trolley system and continues to experience transportation infrastructure challenges as the city expands.

The Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority will launch its 75th anniversary year this fall and is sponsoring the November conversation on **Housing**. A series of bus tours in March will highlight areas of RRHA communities and efforts.

In January, we will look at **Historic Preservation** and the efforts to utilize historic urban places to meet modern demands. Paired with a new exhibition, *A Chicken in Every Plot*, we will discuss **Urban Farming** in February. You might be surprised by what is growing and living in the city's yards! We round out the spring with **Recycling** in March and **Public Spaces** in April.

The 2015-16 Community Conversations are sponsored by Altria, the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, TMI Consulting and *Richmond* magazine. Community organizations will be participating in the events, including enRichmond Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill Industries, GRTC, Richmond Rapid Transit and many others. We hope that this series will inform participants of ongoing sustainability projects, issues and advocates surrounding each topic.

*Please see the calendar on page 4 for details on each event and tour.*



# Noteworthy Acquisition: A 2015 Floorcloth for the 1812 John Wickham House

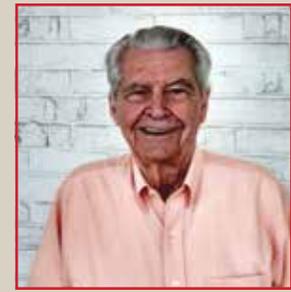
Richmond native Nancy E. Beck has been an artist all of her life. She was drawing, painting, creating and designing throughout her childhood and attended Virginia Commonwealth University. The Valentine has been putting Beck's ingenuity and talent to work on various projects over the past few years. Our current project has been creating a replica floorcloth (also known as an oilcloth) for the 1812 John Wickham House.

Examples of original floorcloths are rare as they were literally worn out, unlike many other more durable household furnishings of the 18th and 19th centuries. From a curatorial standpoint, this makes the Wickham floorcloth one of the most important surviving elements of the house's early domestic life. Discovered "in situ" during the house's early-1990s restoration, we were able to determine the floorcloth's full pattern from a surviving fragment in our collection. The design, which was popular in the 18th century, is called "tumbling block." The fragment also reveals the floorcloth's original colors, texture and finish. Beck recreated this design for the 2015 replica floorcloth at her temporary Richmond studio space in the historic Manchester Pie Factory.

Beck's process for making the replica was a traditional one with a modern twist. Working from the 200-year-old fragment, she was able to fabricate a modern floorcloth that would be recognized by house owners John and Elizabeth Wickham.

How does one go about making a floorcloth in 2015? A large, uninterrupted work space to accommodate the size of the canvas sections was critical to kicking off the project this past summer. Beck carefully prepared the heavyweight canvas fabric by painstakingly building up layers of sizing and paint on both sides of the canvas. This preparation promotes stability and makes the textile less attractive to insects. Beck hand-carved printing blocks and stamped or rolled the design onto the canvas to give the effect of oak-grained wooden blocks. After the base and finish layers of paint were applied, manipulated and allowed to dry, the floorcloth was sealed with several layers of varnish, resulting in a durable final product that will last for many decades to come.

On October 5, the replica floorcloth was installed in the "Anteroom and Hall" of the 1812 John Wickham House, returning an important piece of the puzzle to our house museum interpretation for our visitors.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Ray Schreiner

When Ray Schreiner contacted the Valentine in 1999 to inquire about volunteer opportunities, he had no idea that the project offered to him would last for 16 years.

Ray began to organize the Archives' vertical files, which contain thousands of newspaper clippings and other research materials arranged by subject. The vertical files are heavily accessed by both museum staff and the general public, making his work essential. Throughout the week, Ray clipped informative articles from a wide assortment of regional publications to keep the files up-to-date. Given his immersion in the museum's research files, he wrote more than a dozen booklets on various Richmond history subjects. These booklets are held in the collections of both the Valentine and the Virginia Historical Society, where Ray has volunteered for 24 years. Until recently, he also wrote Richmond history columns for the local publication *Fifty Plus*.

This past summer, Ray finally decided to retire from his weekly volunteering at the Valentine. Luckily, he'll still be working to keep the vertical files in shape, albeit by clipping articles remotely and filing on-site as needed. Ray's dedication to the Valentine these many years is only one example of how important volunteers are to the museum's core functions of preserving and interpreting Richmond's history.

Thank you, Ray!

## The Valentine

1015 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219

[thevalentine.org](http://thevalentine.org)

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Richmond, VA  
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# 2015 Richmond History Makers Honorees

### Promoting Stronger Communities:

Darcy S. Oman, The Community Foundation

### Improving Social Justice:

Ana Edwards, Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project

### Creating Quality Education Opportunities:

GRASP - Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.

### Demonstrating Innovative Solutions:

WRIR-LP 97.3 FM

### Encouraging Regional Collaboration:

The Greater Richmond Age Wave

The honorees were recognized at a reception on Tuesday, October 20.



Photo Credit: D. Bickel/Times-Dispatch

From the left: Darcy S. Oman, Jesse Oremland, Carol Olson, Ana Edwards, Paula Buckley, Ayn Welleford, Bettsy Heggie, Thelma Watson

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