NEWS & NOTES

A HARVEST OF VIRTUAL LEARNING
Festival moves online during pandemic

In a typical year, thousands of visitors from across the country come to the Monticello mountaintop to experience the Heritage Harvest Festival. The popular event pays tribute to Jefferson’s gardening legacy and honors the essential contributions of the enslaved chefs and gardeners who nurtured and prepared the food for his table.

Of course, the past year has been anything but typical. Monticello has reimagined the Heritage Harvest Festival as a virtual series of food, farm and garden classes and conversations designed to bring the festival experience into participants’ homes. A few examples of topics covered during the virtual festival are below.

Wine and the White House
This conversation explored the notable influence of wine on diplomatic relations and hospitality at the White House. The panel included Stewart D. McLaurin, president of the White House Historical Association; Anthea M. Hartig, Ph.D., director of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History; Leslie Greene Bowman, president and CEO of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation; and Frederick J. Ryan Jr., publisher and CEO of The Washington Post and author of Wine and the White House: A History.

The Art of French Brasserie Cooking
Monticello Farm Table chef David Bastide — a native of southern France — led a cooking adventure that featured poulet à l’estragon (tarragon chicken). Participants cooked in their homes, following along with Bastide’s live instructions to prepare an authentic French meal.

The Power of the Flower
Floral designer Gregory Britt, known throughout the Southeast for his “epic floral artistry,” taught a virtual class where attendees learned how to create stunning arrangements to transform their homes.

To see updates on upcoming events, blogs, recipes and more, visit heritageharvestfestival.com.

These programs are part of our Heritage Harvest Festival event series. We thank the following sponsors for their support: The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, The Richard D. & Carolyn W. Jacques Foundation, 2RW Consultants, Dalgliesh Gilpin Paxton Architects, Martin Horn, Shelter Associates, Wegmans and Wine & Country Life. To learn more about how you can support our Heritage Harvest Festival, please contact giving@monticello.org.