

Th: Jefferson

MONTICELLO

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News & Notes

FIRST FAMILY VISIT

First lady Michelle Obama and members of her family paid a visit to Monticello on July 23. The party, which included Mrs. Obama's daughters, Malia and Sasha, and her mother, Marian Robinson, arrived shortly after 3 p.m. and left at 5:30. While at Monticello, the Obamas and their traveling companions viewed the introductory film *Thomas Jefferson's World* in the Theater at the Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and spent time in the Smith Education Center's Griffin Discovery Room before heading up the mountain for a private tour of the house and a visit to the Vegetable Garden.

EMPLOYMENT AWARD

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation received the sixth annual Employer Leadership Award from the Charlottesville branch of the International Rescue Committee. The presentation was made June 19 on Monticello's West Lawn. The Charlottesville IRC branch, which has operated a resettlement program for refugees since 1988, cited the Foundation for hiring refugees, paying a living wage with benefits, and offering opportunities for advancement. Monticello hired its first IRC client in 2005 and currently has six on its staff.

EX-FELLOW TO SPEAK

Michael Kranish, Washington correspondent for the Boston Globe and a visiting fellow at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies in 2008, will speak at Monticello's Jefferson Library on March 18 as part of the annual Virginia Festival of the Book. Kranish will discuss his new book, *Flight from Monticello: Thomas Jefferson at War*, which is to be published early in 2010.

'TOP EIGHT' LISTING

In September, budgettravel.com, the Web site of Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel magazine, listed Monticello as one of "8 places every American should see." The article was later featured on the home pages of MSN and Yahoo! and CNN's Web site.

IN MEMORIAM

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation lost a great friend and supporter on Sept. 23 when noted Jefferson scholar Merrill D. Peterson died in Charlottesville at age 88. A longtime University of Virginia professor and administrator, he was the author of two highly regarded books about Jefferson, *The Jefferson Image in the American Mind* and *Thomas Jefferson and the New Nation*, and was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from

the Library of Virginia. Dr. Peterson served as a member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees from 1987 to 1991, including a two-year term as secretary, and as an Emeritus Trustee from 1992 until his death.

COMMENTS?

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Monticello is a newsletter published twice each year by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation is the private, nonprofit corporation that has owned and operated Monticello since 1923. Its mission is preservation and education.

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