

# CLASSIC INTERIOR DESIGNER LADY HENRIETTA SPENCER-CHURCHILL TO SHARE TALES OF BLENHEIM PALACE AT 50TH ANNUAL DELAWARE ANTIQUES SHOW

*Top-Rated Show Also to Feature Celebrated English Garden Expert and Author Barbara Paul Robinson*

**Winterthur, DE**—Anglophiles and antiques lovers will converge at the Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington, Delaware, November 8–10 for the *50th Annual Delaware Antiques Show*. More than 60 of the finest dealers from the United States and beyond make this one of the top five shows in the country, and this year's featured lecturers promise to take guests on an unforgettable transcontinental tour.

Honorary chair and keynote speaker Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill is the eldest daughter of the 11th Duke of Marlborough, John George Vanderbilt Henry Spencer-Churchill. A prolific author and lecturer on classic design and entertaining, she has designed homes for nobility, celebrities, and others who treasure fine taste with a classic and functional aesthetic. She studied at the Inchbald School of Design before forming the internationally acclaimed Woodstock Designs and Spencer-Churchill Designs. Her most recent book is *The Life of the House: How Rooms Evolve*.

Lady Henrietta grew up in the legendary Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, a 187-room palace considered one of the most important Baroque houses in England. The birthplace of such notables as Winston Churchill, Blenheim Palace also was occupied by Lady Henrietta's colorful and illustrious great-grandmother, Consuelo Vanderbilt, a close friend of Winterthur founder Henry Francis du Pont and his wife Ruth.

Despite a title that some may find intimidating, Lady Henrietta is known as a warm, gracious, down-to-earth speaker with a deep passion for antiques, design, and historic architecture. She will delight visitors to the Delaware Antiques Show with tales of life in this legendary landmark, drawing on her personal experiences as a child and adult. In 2005, she wrote a best-selling historical and anecdotal account of her homestead and family, *Blenheim and the Churchill Family: A Personal Portrait*.

When asked by *Palm Beach Illustrated* what the walls of Blenheim would say if they could talk, Lady Henrietta replied, "I think it would be like listening to an historical novel with lots of intrigue, drama, and fun depicting the life of the different family generations and their guests over the last 300 years, i.e., a Blenheim *Downton Abbey*."

Lady Henrietta's keynote address will open the *Delaware Antiques Show* on Friday, November 8 at 10:00 am with a book signing to follow.

Lady Henrietta, Delaware Governor Jack Markell and First Lady Carla Markell are honorary chairs of the *50th Annual Delaware Antiques Show*.

On Sunday, November 10, lovers of the traditional English garden will be captivated by speaker Barbara Paul Robinson beginning at 2:00 pm. While on sabbatical from her professional life as the first woman partner in the leading international law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton, Robinson worked as a gardener for Rosemary Verey at Barnsley House, Gloucestershire, then for Penelope Hobhouse at Tintinhull, Somerset, experiences

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Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic garden, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house, as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$18 adults; \$16 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11. Tickets are valid for two consecutive days.

## Museum hours

10 am–5 pm, Tuesday–Sunday

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit [winterthur.org](http://winterthur.org).



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she found life transforming. In fact, she credits this time with soon thereafter becoming the first woman president of the New York City Bar.

Robinson's own home, Brush Hill, is an 18th-century farmhouse in northwestern Connecticut surrounded by her own interpretation of the English garden. It is included in the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens, a testament to Robinson's role as the hands-in-the-dirt gardener and her husband's role as designer and builder of the garden structures.

Robinson's lecture will focus on the fascinating life of English garden legend Rosemary Verey. Although she began gardening late in life, Verey achieved international recognition for her devotion to the "English style" on display at her home at Barnsley House in the Cotswolds of England. She was a garden adviser to clients from Prince Charles to Elton John and is a beloved and wildly popular lecturer in America. Robinson has written the first, and so far, only biography of Verey's remarkable life, *Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener*.

A book signing will follow Robinson's Sunday lecture.

These two intriguing women will bring their unique backgrounds and common passions to the Chase Center as part of the 50th Anniversary of Winterthur's *Delaware Antiques Show*, a spectacular showcase of art, antiques, and design.

The show also will feature a special exhibition, *Collecting Treasures: Celebrating 50 Years of the Delaware Antiques Show*, featuring objects acquired by Winterthur Museum and friends of Winterthur during the half-century run of this highly acclaimed antiques show. From a gothic pattern bedcover and an armorial porcelain plate to an anti-slavery seal and an Uncle Sam figure, this exhibit will highlight treasures that celebrate the joy of collecting for personal and public enjoyment.

Proceeds from the show benefit educational programming at Winterthur.

### Show Hours

Friday, November 8: 11:00 am–7:00 pm (Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill keynote address at 10:00 am)

Saturday, November 9: 11:00 am–6:00 pm

Sunday, November 10: 11:00 am–5:00 pm

### Location

Chase Center on the Riverfront

Street and GPS Address: 815 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

### Opening Night Party

Made possible by  WILMINGTON TRUST

Thursday, November 7: 5:00 – 9:00 pm. All tickets include unlimited daily admission to the show.

Purchase tickets online or call 800.448.3883.

### Sponsor

\$225 per person. Early entrance at 5:00 pm.

### Patron

\$175 per person. Entrance at 6:00 pm.

### Young Collector (guests age 35 and under)

\$125 per person. Entrance at 6:00 pm.

### Weekend Lectures

#### Friday, November 8

10:00 am—Keynote address and book signing with Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill. *Sponsored by DelawareToday, MAINLINE TODAY*

#### Saturday, November 9

2:00 pm—Guest lecturers Donald L. Fennimore and Frank L. Hohmann III will introduce guests to the Stretch family, America's first family of clockmakers. Book signing to follow. *Sponsored by THE HUNT*

5:00 pm—The inaugural presentation of the Wendell D. Garrett Award, established to honor the memory of one of Winterthur's most venerated alumni. The first recipient is Gerald W. R. Ward, senior consulting curator and the Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture Emeritus at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. *Sponsored in part by the Society of Winterthur Fellows and* **FREEMAN'S**  
AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS SINCE 1805

*Sunday, November 10*

2:00 pm—Barbara Paul Robinson will share her personal insight into the fascinating life of renowned gardener Rosemary Verey.

Book signing to follow. *Sponsored by* **THE HUNT**

### **Special Events**

50th Anniversary Raffle—Enter for a chance to win a \$5,000 voucher to be used at this year's show. Each raffle chance is \$50. Raffle tickets can be purchased through Winterthur or at the show. Drawing will occur on November 7 at the Opening Night Party. Need not be present to win.

*Sponsored by* **Drexel Morgan & Co.**  
Investment Management

Special Loan Exhibition—*Collecting Treasures: Celebrating 50 Years of the Delaware Antiques Show.*

### **General Admission**

\$15 per nonmember; \$13 per Winterthur Member; children under 12 free. Tickets are valid for all three days and include the special lectures on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as well as the special exhibition. Purchase tickets online at [winterthur.org/das](http://winterthur.org/das) or call 800.448.3883.

### **Ticket Upgrade Option**

Upgrade your ticket for \$10 for general admission to Winterthur and see the landmark exhibition *Common Destinations: Maps in the American Experience* and enchanting *The Look of Love: Eye Miniatures from the Skier Collection*, on view in the Winterthur Galleries.

### **Group Rates**

Special discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Please call 800.448.3883 or e-mail [groupstours@winterthur.org](mailto:groupstours@winterthur.org) for more information.

For more information on the 50th Annual Delaware Antiques Show, visit [winterthur.org/das](http://winterthur.org/das).

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