



Press Release

May 7, 2024

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Tudor Place Honors Distinguished Volunteer at Spring Garden Party

WASHINGTON, DC – Mark Hudson, Executive Director, and Dr. Christy Pichichero, President of the Board of Trustees, are pleased to welcome Tudor Place’s most generous friends to the 32nd Annual Spring Garden Party on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. This year’s Spring Garden Party honors Tom Birch for his service to the Georgetown community and as a Tudor Place volunteer.

The Spring Garden Party is the last party of Washington’s spring season and is the institution’s most important fundraiser of the year, raising over 20% of Tudor Place’s annual operating revenue. Proceeds support conservation of thousands of objects in the Tudor Place Collection & Archive, preservation of the 5 ½ acre estate and dynamic educational programming for all ages. Co-chairs for this year’s event are Zoe Persina and Aimee Burck.

During the Spring Garden Party, guests will have the exclusive opportunity to experience Tudor Place as the Peter family did, walking from the front entrance through the vestibule then through the Temple Portico. The domed, marble-floored Temple Portico is the historic house’s most architecturally significant feature and is the only known full temple portico embedded into a residence standing today.

A long-time District resident and friend to Tudor Place, Mr. Birch has been an ambassador, member, visitor, donor and in recent years docent – giving guided tours of the historic house to visitors from around the world. An ANC Commissioner in Georgetown for 14 years, Mr. Birch came to Washington, DC in the early 1970s, earning his JD from George Washington University.

Tudor Place is located in the heart of historic Georgetown, surrounded by 5 1/2 acres of formal and informal garden spaces. The historic house was completed in 1816 by Martha Parke Custis Peter, a granddaughter of Martha Washington, and her husband Thomas Peter. The Peter family owned Tudor Place for almost 200 years before it opened as a public museum in 1988.

To get tickets for this sell-out event, visit: <https://tudorplace.org/join-and-give/spring-garden-party/>

ABOUT TUDOR PLACE: Tudor Place preserves the stories of six generations of descendants of Martha Washington, and the enslaved and free people who lived and worked here for nearly two centuries. By examining their legacy, we challenge ourselves and our visitors to celebrate the triumphs and to confront the complexities of the past.

Earlier this year, the historic house was reimagined to tell the stories of the enslaved and free people of African descent who lived and worked here through a special installation and guided tour *Ancestral Spaces: People of African Descent at Tudor Place*. This tour honors the memories of these individuals while expanding the traditional Tudor Place narrative, recognizing the site as a space built on the labor and presence of generations of people of African descent. The tour is available through October 13.

Open Tuesday – Sunday for guided tours of the historic house and self-guided garden visits.
www.tudorplace.org.

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