Cliveden’s mission is to help people understand our shared history and motivate them to preserve it by providing access to the rich continuity of history and preservation in one community and family over time, and by offering direction and knowledge about preserving our built heritage and its value.

We fulfill this mission:
- first, by preserving our houses, grounds and collections;
- second by interpreting Cliveden and Upsala meaningfully to the public based on solid research;
- third, by working with local businesses and community revitalization and historical organizations to be a catalyst for preserving and reusing historic buildings to sustain economic development for historic Northwest Philadelphia and beyond;
- fourth, by promoting our community’s cultural life and historic preservation efforts;
- and fifth by being a model of historic site management and preservation outreach.

“Tucked away in the middle of a busy neighborhood was a treat... Thrilled that this house survived from the Revolution and the people there are knowledgeable and passionate about it too. Will visit again.”

~ Brian, April 2019
Report from Board Chair, Theodore Reed

Promising Year

2019 provided many opportunities for the Cliveden community to creatively address the fulfillment of its mission to help people understand our shared history and motivate them to preserve it.

2019 has been an important year of transition for Cliveden, highlighted by the arrival of Nancy VanDolsen, our new CEO. Nancy was identified for this new role after a national search for new leadership. She comes to us from the North Carolina Museum of the Coastal Plain, a museum that she built through both organic growth and merger with Imagination Station, a local science museum. We are excited about her entrepreneurial orientation, her preservation background, her museum credentials, and her experience in recruiting a diverse and financially supportive group of stakeholders for the museum.

Cliveden has not been idle; during this year of transition, Cliveden staff:

- Completed an active program of Cliveden Conversations that provided participants with new information and insights regarding the Chew family and enslavement in Maryland.

- Offered programs on-site in partnership with the Museum of the American Revolution in connection with their exhibition “Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier” and the American Philosophical Society in collaboration with their exhibit “Mapping a Nation: Shaping the Early American Republic.”

- Produced the fifth year of “Liberty to Go See” our award-winning dramatic event performed in the Cliveden Main House during Juneteenth highlighting the experiences of enslaved and indentured laborers who lived and worked at Cliveden. The Haley Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting the arts, and Cliveden Board members lent their support to the 2019 production.

- Presented the 30th annual Revolutionary Germantown Festival featuring re-enactments of the Battle of Germantown, commemorating the critical Revolutionary War battle that took place on the grounds of Cliveden on October 4, 1777. This year, we were joined by Lt.-Gen. Jonathon Riley, Honorary Colonel of the RWFA, Ltd., who presented the Revolutionary War-era King’s and Regimental Colors of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

- Finished a major capital project, funded by grants from the National Trust and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to undertake structural stabilization and exterior restoration of the Kitchen Dependency (1767) and Colonnade (1776).

- Focused preservation efforts focused on Cliveden’s kitchens and former work with students from Germantown Friends School provided the basis for two specialty tours focused on the kitchens and the people who occupied them.

- Upgraded Cliveden’s technology infrastructure to enable staff to better serve Cliveden’s mission and the public.

- Designed a new fire and security system, to be implemented in 2020.
• Received a Discovery Grant from the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage for “Considering Re-enactments: The Battle of Germantown in the Light of 21st-Century Gun Violence” to evaluate its interpretation around the American Revolution and the re-enactment as an interpretive tool with the help of the community in response to the increase in gun violence across the country and in the local community.

• Served over 2,500 local school children through the History Hunters Youth Reporter Program in partnership with four other sites in Historic Germantown.

• Developed/grew rental venue program to provide an affordable option to neighbors and community organizations, including the local chapters of AARP and N’COBRA, the Rumph Foundation and barter partners Mt. Airy Learning Tree, Philly Goat Project and Historic Germantown.

We would like to extend many thanks to our active board of directors, who stepped up to assist with the CEO search, and who have helped with Nancy’s orientation; and to the staff at Cliveden who worked tirelessly to make all of these events, programs, and projects a success.

We look forward to the coming year, one that already promises to be busy with new educational programming, new and continuing preservation projects, and an active focus on our mission, driven by an update of our strategic plan.

Do join us to help inform our lives through knowledge of our shared history.

“An historical jewel in Philadelphia. Would definitely encourage all history buffs to visit while in town.”

~June 2019
When I began my new position at Cliveden of the National Trust in July 2019, I was extremely pleased to be a part of this incomparable eighteenth-century historic site with a progressive and innovative history of interpretation and education. What I didn’t know, but suspected from my interview, was how very welcoming, accomplished, and dedicated were Cliveden’s staff and board. It truly has been a pleasure to be working with this wonderful group of people.

In July, we opened the front gate on Germantown Avenue, to continue and expand our efforts to create a more welcoming aspect for the property. The continued presence of the goats of the Philly Goat Project added to the more open and friendly feeling of the grounds, and the work of the goats in removing of the invasive vines on the fence and the efforts of Caleb Wilcox and Boy Scout Troop 358 to clean the area at the corner of Johnson Street and Germantown Avenue, transformed our appearance on Germantown Avenue. In addition, a grant from Historic Germantown’s Sustaining our Sites fund enabled repairs to the concrete sidewalk and to purchase the materials to clean the stone wall along Germantown Avenue. This begins our continuing initiative to invite our community to enjoy our grounds. In 2020, we shall begin our preparations for a Cultural Landscape Study, to document, research, interpret, and develop a preservation plan for our five-acre historic landscape.

During the fall, we started working on creating a Friends of Cliveden and the 1767 Circle membership program, which was rolled out in December. Look for the bi-monthly newsletter updating the Friends on all things Cliveden, and for invitations to Members-only activities.

Other efforts in late fall and early winter were in rethinking our financial reporting methods and in preparing for a much-needed round of strategic planning to begin in 2020. In addition, we heard from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage that Cliveden had received a discovery grant to explore the annual Revolutionary Germantown Festival and the Battle of Germantown re-enactment in light of 21st century gun violence. With this grant, we will explore how we conduct our commemoration of the Battle and what that means to our community, and it will help us to begin reconsidering and evaluating our Battle of Germantown interpretation.

Looking forward to 2020,
“A great way to learn about history with family and enjoy less well known areas of Philadelphia! Please support our historic treasures.”

~Jeremy, March 2019
**Board of Directors**

Alex Aberle (Nov-Dec)  
Brenda Beiser, Treasurer  
Glenn Bergman  
Mary DeNadai (Jan-June)  
Darryl J. Ford, Secretary  
Kate Hanssen  
Garth Herrick  
Alan Keiser  
Violette Levy  
Robert MacDonnell  
Katherine Malone-France (Jan-June)  
Randall Miller  
Ahsan Nasratullah  
Conrad Person, Vice Chair  
Theodore Reed, Chair  
Susan Roberts  
Brad Roeder  
Seri Worden (July-Dec)

**Cliveden Staff**

Caroline Boyce, Interim Director (Jan-June)  
William Carroll, Guide  
John C. Dean, Guide  
Libbie Hawes, Preservation Director  
Neil Jordan, Caretaker  
Lanette Mackie, Facilities Custodian  
Christine Mifsud, Guide  
Adelaide Okonski, Guide  
Constance Ragsdale, Guide  
Kelby J. Reed, Guide  
Sharon Reid, Guide  
Jocelyn Rouse, Marketing & Business Operations Coordinator  
Eleanor Smith, Guide  
Jahzeer Terrell, Guide  
Nancy VanDolsen, CEO (July-Dec)  
Carolyn Wallace, Education Director  
Mackenzie Warren, Development Coordinator
2019 Donors

Alex Aberle & Violette Levy
Amina Abdul-Sharif
Alison Anderson
Asher’s Chocolate Company
Richard Baron
Margaret Chew Barringer
Stephen Bartlett
Blanche Baurer
Brenda & Kenneth Beiser
Perry Benson
Barbara Bloom
Caroline Boyce
Declan Carroll
Chestnut Hill College
Adrienne Chew
Frank Chew
Commons & Commons, LLP
Joan Countryman
John Dean
B. Robert DeMento
Anne DiMartini
Elfant Wissahickon Realtors
Peter Evans
Patricia Fiorella
Darryl Ford
Linda Fox
Deborah Frazier
Germantown Friends School
Myron Goldman
Linda Haselbarth
Vickie Hawes
Thomas Hyndman
Johnson & Johnson
Catharine Keim
Alan Keiser
Stephen & Mary Kurtz
Timothy Lacroix
James H. Littrell
Sondra Mabry
Robert MacDonnell
Norman Marcus
Ronald Mehalko
MFR Consultants, Inc.
Randall Miller
David Moorhead
Ahsan Nasratullah
Betsy Neiva
Brenda Oliphant
Laura Oliver
Robert Peck
Conrad Person
Anthony Ranere
Theodore Reed
Reed Group
Richard Hamilton
Samuel Rhoads
Andrew & Susan Roberts
Don & Elizabeth Roberts
Brad Roeder
Anne Roller
Marc Ross
John Schwartz
Elisabeth Shellenberger
Annette Smith
Eleanor Smith
George & Deborah Stern
James Straw
Deborah Terry
Andrew Trackman
Brooke Van Gerbig
Edward & Susan VanDolsen
Stephen VanDolsen
Peggy Vogt
Loretta Witt
Catherine Worrall

We thank the following organizations for their support:

Connelly Foundation
The Haley Foundation
Historic Germantown
The Roy E. and Elizabeth Hock Foundation
The National Trust for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation
Philadelphia Cultural Fund
Philly Goat Project
Rotary Club of Jenkintown