



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

Ephrata Cloister

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Woman's Work Is Never Done

Give the Mothers in Your Life a Day of Relaxation at the Historic Ephrata Cloister

EPHRATA, PA. – “A woman’s work is never done,” is an old English proverb that in Colonial America certainly rang true. From tending the garden to the children, cooking for the household, and assisting her husband with farm work, among other duties, a colonial woman kept herself busy from before dawn until well-after dusk.

On Saturday, May 12, help the mothers in your life take a break from their 21st century duties with a day of relaxation with the new program *Mothers, Daughters, Sisters*, at the Historic Ephrata Cloister, 632 West Main Street, Ephrata, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Immerse yourselves in colonial history and discover some of the daily challenges and rewards that our foremothers faced. Whether they were married women or celibate sisters living at the Ephrata Cloister, an 18th century monastic religious community founded in 1732 by German immigrant Conrad Beissel, their daily lives were more than busy.

Employees of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, who maintains the site, and the Ephrata Cloister Associates, who offer additional support and volunteers, will demonstrate chores from open hearth cooking (weather permitting) to spinning flax and wool.

Be sure to finish your day at the Ephrata Cloister in the historic meeting house, where at 4 p.m. the Ephrata Cloister Chorus will be performing their first concert of the spring season. The chorus will be singing original hymns composed by Conrad Beissel and the brothers and sisters, as well as other early American music, and a rarely performed work by Renaissance composer Hans Leo Hassler. Admission for the day, including the concert, is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for youth ages 3 to 15.

For other chorus and Ephrata Cloister events please visit www.EphrataCloister.org or find them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/HistoricEphrataCloister. For more information call the Ephrata Cloister at (717) 733-6600 during their regular operating hours, Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Ephrata Cloister is an AAA listed attraction.

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Caption: The garden was an important source of food in Colonial America, where women and girls could often be seen throughout the year sowing, tending and harvesting their crops. (Photograph Courtesy of PHMC)