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Picture in your mind an image of colonial Philadelphia. Did you include women as a part of that historical landscape? Now imagine the researchers who are working to bring the city's past to light. Are woman archaeologists included in that picture?

A cadre of Philadelphia's women archaeologists will be sharing their expertise with the public on October 11th as part of Philadelphia's contribution to the 15th annual Pennsylvania Archaeology Month celebration. Among others, Rebecca Yamin, an archaeologist at the

Digging Our Past

Philadelphia has a long record of women digging into its past. One of the first US municipalities to create a position of City Archaeologist, Philadelphia filled this early, 1970's-era, slot with a female employee. While that job position unfortunately ended a decade later, women have continued to explore the city that lies buried beneath our feet. They work as archaeologists in local architecture and preservation firms, in state and federal government agencies, and in our local colleges and universities. Many other women (and their male colleagues of course!) use the results generated from this

architectural and preservation firm of John Milner and Associates will be holding a signing for her new book *Digging in the City of Brotherly Love: Stories from Philadelphia Archaeology* (Yale University Press). Dr. Yamin will also be presenting a talk about her recent archaeological research at the Convention Center construction site which has turned up fascinating stories about early hairdressers in Philadelphia. Archaeologist Deborah Miller of Independence National Historical Park will join colleagues in sharing the latest finds discovered during curation



1970's-era Excavations: College students wash artifacts excavated at the site of Ben Franklin's Market Street house. Many of the recovered artifacts are on display in the Fragments of Franklin Museum at 318 Market Street. (Photo courtesy of the Archives at Independence National Historical Park).

Living History Center Archeology lab. Patrice Jeppson, a Visiting Research Professor at Drexel University's Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design and her Drexel colleagues will talk about and demonstrate the wonders of computer vision-enabled archaeology reconstruction.

archaeologists about artifacts and archaeological sites, about careers in archaeology, about using archaeology for classroom instruction, and much, much more.

Explore Philadelphia's Hidden Past: An Archaeology Month Celebration, 2008, takes place October 11th, from 10am to 5pm, at the Living History Center in Independence National Historical Park (Third Street, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets). This FREE event is sponsored by the Philadelphia Archaeological Forum and Independence National Historical Park. For a schedule of event activities go to: <http://phillyarchaeology.org>

Several others will present local archaeology information as well. The Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology at Temple University, Muriel Kirkpatrick, will present displays showcasing the activities of the Oliver Evans Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archaeology and the Philadelphia Archaeological Forum. These local interest groups advocate for the preservation of, and education about, Philadelphia's archaeology. In conjunction with the event, Ph.D. student Kelly Britt is organizing an Archaeology Information Kiosk for the Independence Visitors Center that will operate on weekends throughout October. There, the public can talk with professional and avocational



Piecing together the Past. Ceramic artifacts discovered by archaeologists in Old City, Philadelphia. (Photo taken by P.L. Jeppson, 2007.)



Archaeologist Lovely Elise at the President's House Site excavation in Independence National Historical Park. Ms. Elise works for URS Corporation. (Photo by P.L. Jeppson, 2007).

archaeological research to enrich the city's heritage tourism offerings, its museum interpretations, and the classroom instruction provided in public and private schools.

of the artifacts from the National Constitution Center construction site. These artifacts will also be on view to the public during an Open House at the Independence