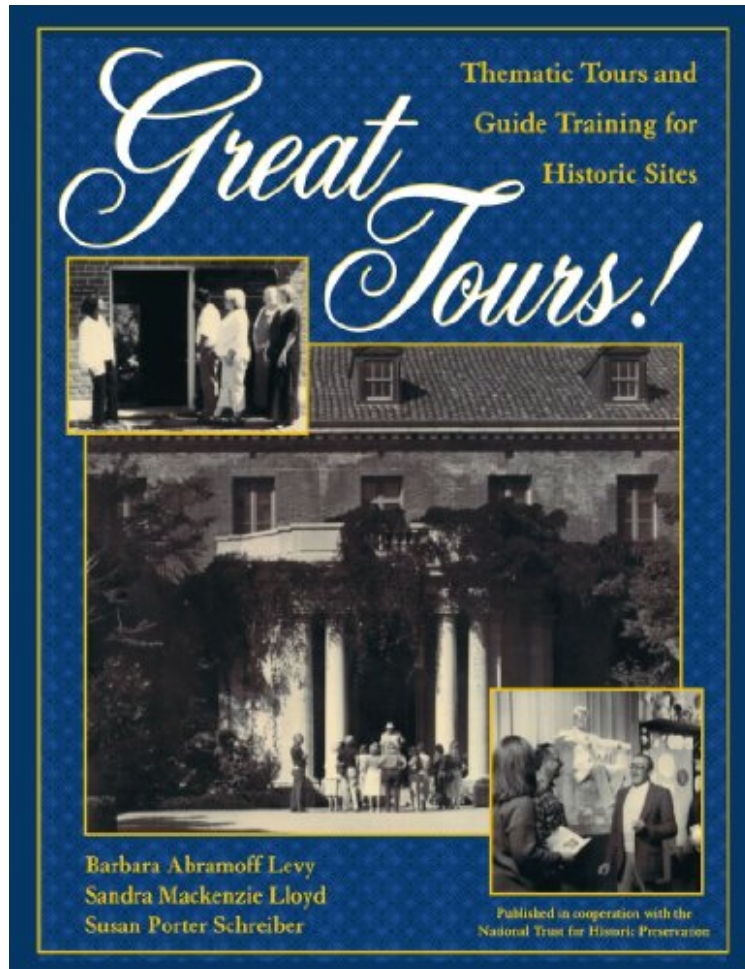


[E-BOOK] Great Tours!: Thematic Tours and Guide Training for Historic Sites (American Association for State and Local History)

Great Tours!: Thematic Tours and Guide Training for Historic Sites (American Association for State and Local History)

Barbara Abramoff Levy, Sandra Mackenzie Lloyd, Susan Porter Schreiber
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Barbara Abramoff Levy, Sandra Mackenzie Lloyd, Susan Porter Schreiber : Great Tours!: Thematic Tours and Guide Training for Historic Sites (American Association for State and Local History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Great Tours!: Thematic Tours and Guide Training for Historic Sites (American Association for State and Local History):

11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Great Tours, and Not a Great Book!By Branislav RabolicI am very disappointed with the book. Just a few ideas are given here and then repeated and repeated and repeated. The authors give very simplified and basic instructions about guide training in a way that can be useful only for schoolteachers in remote areas of Africa.For instance, they suggest a procedure, which begins with the following operation: "Begin the session with an open discussion. Ask the class: What is material culture? If the class know what

it is, ask them to name examples of material culture, both generally and at the site. If they are not familiar with the term (?!?), give a quick accurate definition: material culture is anything shaped by human hands". Another example is the authors' suggestion to trainers about how to prepare their class on "Identifying the Site's Topics". They say: "Assemble materials. Flip chart pages developed during Activity 2.1 (tape to walls or make available for people to see). Easel, flip chart, and markers of at least four colors." For God's sake, it's about the guide training for conducting historical tours and not about kindergarten activities! The whole text of approx. 150 pages twirls around a basic idea that 'a great tour' is based on several elements such as storylines, themes, physical evidence, biography of historic personalities and historical context. How to pull it all together is probably a scheduled purpose of the book, but I'm afraid that its authors missed their aim. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It was worth it. By The Sassy Countess This is another one that I think is very important to the field of Public History. If you have to get it for class, you'll love it. If you want it to learn, you'll love it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book By Ordinary Consumer Very helpful to tour guides. Practical and easy to read suggestions.

Creating tours that are interesting and educational for visitors (and guides!) is a challenge every historic site faces. *Great Tours!* helps you focus clearly on the material culture and significance of your site and then shows you how to use that focus to train and energize your guides. You will be able to move your tours to a fresh new level that is engaging and educational for visitors of all ages and abilities. Readings and workshop activities frame the process throughout and allow you to develop what is most appropriate for your site, while working to strike a realistic balance between ideals and every day reality. *Great Tours!* offers a unique combination of theoretical guidance and practical activities, supplemented by reproducible forms and a bibliography and index, that make it an invaluable resource for anyone involved with planning tours and training guides. Published in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Visit their web page.

Great Tours! is a wonderful resource for sites that want to improve their interpretation and guide training. With loads of activities and practical advice, the book is designed to be adaptable for sites of varying sizes, resource levels and sophistication. *Great Tours!* does a good job of addressing new issues and problems facing historic sites today. . . . The book's format is easy to use and its program will help any site to strengthen and discipline its interpretation. *Great Tours!* provides practical help and advice for historic sites, helping them to address the increasingly important and linked questions of visitor experience, good interpretation, and changing audiences. (Jessie McCulley, Heritage Investment Program Insites) This is a book well worth pursuing ... The kind of book for discovering its contents and placing in a convenient slot on the shelf until an idea strikes and one remembers one of its gems and reaches for it once again. (George D. Chapman, Living History Interpretations consultants ALHFAM Bulletin)...this excellent resource guide will help every site, no matter how large or small. (Lori Cox-Paul, John Wornall House Museum Nebraska History) *Great Tours!* is a practical and easy-to-use training manual for anyone developing guided tours of historic sites.... It is a methodical guide to planning, implementing and managing a guided tour program. (Kerri Button, Curator/Administrator, Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame Inform: Newsletter From Museums Of Alberta, Winter 2002) Bad tours are easy to parody. Great tours are hard to copy. And thus the need for this book... The book is divided into three parts: developing the thematic tour, training guides to give such tours, and finally how to manage guides effectively. It is all to the good that the organization is so clearly defined, with the subdivisions given equal care, for the wealth of material would be difficult to absorb without such orderly presentation... One cannot, in all truth, single out a single section or chapter as more useful than another, but there is no doubt that in working with enthusiastic guides the training activities, formatted as worksheets, will be invaluable. Although packed tight with information, the messages are succinct. It will be an unusual reader who does not underline constantly with a pencil or else scatter 'stickies' throughout to secure the most salient places. (Jane Manaster Museline, Texas Association Of Museums) About the Author Barbara A. Levy first practiced her interpretation skills as a choral conductor, singer, and music teacher. Although she moved on to work in the historic site field, her experiences in music and teaching confirmed her belief that interpretation in any field required understanding and effective communication. Her professional commitment to creating great interpretive experiences at historic sites began when she was the Interpretation Planner for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, Planning Division, and continued when she became Director of Education and Interpretation for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. In 1993 she founded Barbara Levy Associates, a consulting group that has helped history museums and historical organizations across the country improve their interpretation, planning, and education programs. Well known as a skilled interpretive planner, teacher, and trainer, she is also a frequently requested presenter at regional and national professional conferences. She holds a B.M.A (with distinction) from the University of Michigan, and both M.M.A and M.A degrees from Boston University. Sandy Mackenzie Lloyd first interpreted history to the public as a kindergarten when she wrote, directed, and starred in a play about Betsy Ross. A year later she began collecting antiques and she was hooked. Her combined love of history and 'things' led to a degree in American Studies from Smith College and the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture. She was the first

curator of Wyck, a historic house in Philadelphia, and the curator of education at Cliveden, a property of the National Trust. She has written several Historic Structures Reports for significant buildings in Philadelphia, given tours of historic sites for over twenty years, conducted guide training, lectured, and taught the toughest historic site audienceschool children. She lives in Philadelphia with her family where she works as a museum consultant to many historic sites including Pennsbury Manor, Paulsdale, Montpelier, the Woodrow Wilson House, Washington's Crossing, and... the Betsy Ross House. Susan P. Schreiber began her career teaching 7th-12th graders in rural Connecticut on the outskirts of a thread mill townor, rather, the students taught her about their dreams and their needs for a sense of connectedness. She cut her teeth in museum education at Old Sturbridge Village in the early 1970s, then a hotbed of ideas about work, family, and community in the past and the present, and how museums could make a difference in our society. She was a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in Museum Education at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and curriculum developer for The Role of Women in Society at the Education Development Center in Newton, MA. In 1979, she moved to Washington, D.C. to work as a program officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities, and spent four years as Assistant Director of the American Association of Museums. Beginning in 1988, she was Director of Interpretation and Education for the historic sites of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She left the Trust in December 2000 to become Director of Interpretation and Public Programs for the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., working on the creation of the City Museum of Washington.