

CLC students study culture to a "tea"

Students from Community Learning Center (CLC), an adult literacy program serving Kensington and North Philadelphia neighborhoods, visited Winterthur Museum. The trip to Winterthur complemented the various units CLC students have been working on for their arts and culture curriculum this year. For example, some students

have explored the culinary arts through readings and creating their own traditional tea party, while other classes combined the knowledge of immigrant students with native-born citizens to create a presentation on cultural similarities and differences.

Upon arrival at Winterthur Museum, students were split into small

groups of five, each with their own tour guide, and went to a classroom for a hands-on lesson about the art of a tea party. Each student played a role: guest, hostess or servant, and they used the materials of the early Americans to learn about the customs of the 18th and 19th centuries. Students were amazed to learn that there was no running water or

electricity. CLC student Dolores Gazda said, "Much of what we take for granted would have been considered a luxury then."

Students also learned about the importance of the tea trade in the 1800's and even played Winterthur's version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" to determine who was the craftiest tea trader.

They used their math skills to calculate the length of the voyage to China and what profits they would gain if they were successful. After the lesson, students explored the various galleries at the museum with their tour guide. Not all visitors have the privilege of such personal learning at the museum and the experience was a hit with CLC.

Finally, the students went on a relaxing tour of Winterthur's beautiful gardens where they saw wild geese and, to their astonishment, a red fox.

As the group waited to board the bus for the ride home, CLC student Florencia Maccari remarked that she wished "we had more time here." All of the students enjoyed the



CLC student Priscilla Paris learns how to use sugar nippers in the hands-on room at Winterthur.

trip and agreed that there was still more to see.

Community Learning Center's mission is to provide adults with literacy skills to help them effect change in their lives and in their communities. CLC

offers **FREE** classes in basic reading, writing, and mathematics; GED preparation; and English for Speakers of Other Languages. Classes start again in January, 2002. Call 215-426-7940 for a complete schedule.