



THE VINE

News from Wistariahurst Museum

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Winter 2008

Wistariahurst Carriage House Rehabilitation Moves Forward

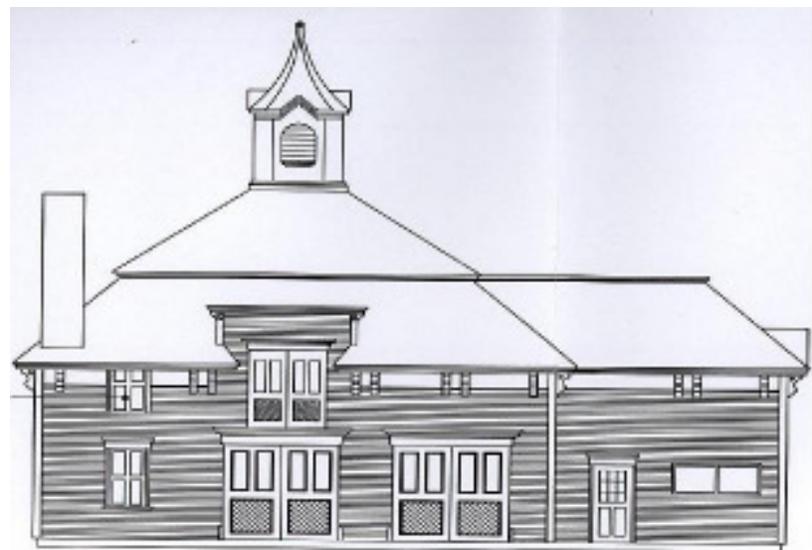
Wistariahurst was awarded a \$414,000 Cultural Facilities Capital Grant for much needed renovations to the Carriage House. The City of Holyoke generously pledged matching funds for the rehabilitation and expansion of our historic Carriage House for the benefit of Holyoke and Western Massachusetts. Exterior work to rehabilitate the appearance of the Carriage House will add significantly to the historical accuracy of the site. The improvements to the Carriage House include critical structural work, the creation of an exhibit space and meeting space, a gift shop area, and climate-controlled archives for historic documents and items including some of our community's most historical documents, photographs, oral histories, and textiles.

The Skinner Carriage House was constructed circa 1880s, as a two story, post and beam, stick framed structure with clapboard siding and a two pitch slate roof designed by William Fenno Pratt

& Son. Originally utilized as a barn for the Skinner Family carriages and horses, the building was remodeled in 1911 when a single story addition was built to house the newly purchased Skinner family motorcar. Over time, weather conditions and the age of the building contributed to the overall deterioration of the Carriage House. A feasibility study conducted for the Museum in 2006 revealed significant structural, interior and exterior deficiencies.

The Museum's current collections include the Skinner Family collection, documents related to Puerto Rican history in the community and a growing collection of documents on the history of Holyoke including photos, maps, blueprints and memorabilia from some of Holyoke's clubs and civic organizations. These precious items need to be stored in a climate-controlled environment to prevent further deterioration. The Wistariahurst Carriage House Project will provide space for these archival needs and create public spaces for educational, historical and gardening programs as well as new display areas for exhibits and scholarly research. The project will provide a space where community members, local researchers and Five-College scholars can browse the Holyoke and Wistariahurst Collections.

Mount Vernon Group Architects is the firm contracted for design of the Wistariahurst Carriage House Project. Work is underway for a ground-breaking this spring. Funding for The Wistariahurst Carriage House Project has been provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the state of Massachusetts, administered through a collaborative arrangement between MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council and by the City of Holyoke.



Wistariahurst Museum

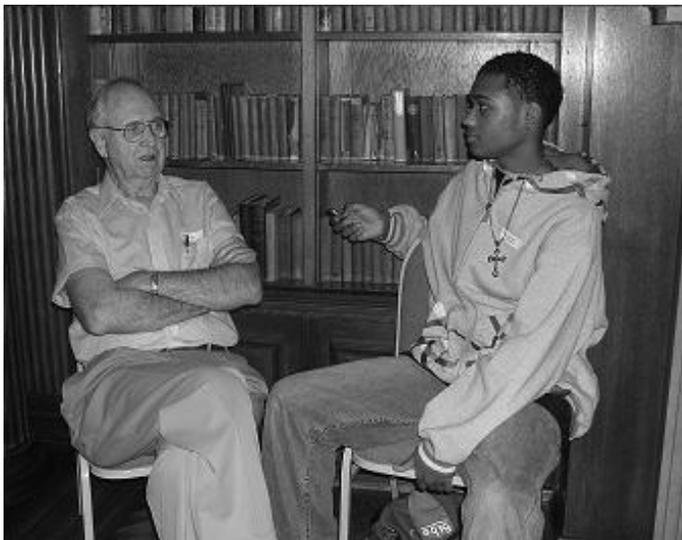
238 Cabot Street, Holyoke, MA 01040
413-322-5660 www.wistariahurst.org

Bridging Generations: Shared Stories

Wistariahurst Awarded \$25,000 from Community Foundation *Smart Giving Challenge*

Interviewing people to hear their stories is a large part of history. Wistariahurst Museum's ongoing goal is to gather the history of Holyoke's people for future generations. Much of the local history of a community is lost with the passing of older residents. From a historian's viewpoint, there is an immediate need to collect oral histories from older generations whose knowledge of a region's past is valuable.

Wistariahurst Museum collaborated with elders from Holyoke and Loomis Communities, teens from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke, students from Holyoke High School and South Hadley High School, interns from Mount Holyoke College and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Enchanted Circle Theater to create an oral history project entitled *Bridging Generations: Shared Stories*. A series of oral history interviews were conducted by youth and elders as a means to connect with one another. The project fulfilled several needs in the community including the ongoing need to preserve the voices and stories of Holyoke's people as well as learn about generational similarities and differences.



Jose Garcia from the Holyoke Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke interviews Bob Merritt about his childhood.

In a newly launched Smart Giving Challenge initiated by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, ten individuals were randomly chosen to direct a \$1,500 gift to a charity organization of their choice, courtesy of two anonymous Foundation donors. Wistariahurst was a recipient of this gift. With only 5 weeks to devise, implement and document how the museum made the most creative, smart and effective use of the \$1,500 gift, our organization competed for an additional \$25,000.

Bridging Generations: Shared Stories enabled youth and elders from all walks of our community to understand one another and share stories of vision and wisdom that spans generations. Main project goals included: to dispell negative perceptions about youth and elders by bringing them together; empowering teens to communicate and connect with the elders in their community, creating an intergenerational dialogue, fostering an environment where elders can convey their experiences of living and provide insight into the value

and importance of preserving living history.

Local radio spokesperson Diara Fisk from WMUA 91.1 FM invited participants to the studio to discuss the project on a weekly radio program entitled *Upfront*. The individuals were able to share their experience on live air with listeners tuned into the program.

The \$25,000 award grant received from Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts will allow Wistariahurst and partners to continue the next phases of the oral history project. A component of the next phase entails partnering with One-Book Holyoke and students from the CARE Center and immigrant farmer workers to discuss cross-generational and multi-cultural experiences. Interview topics include racial tension, first job and school experiences, and ethnic traditions. With the successes of *Bridging Generations: Shared Stories*, we will be ready to recruit more youth from Holyoke and elders from Loomis Communities, Holyoke Soldier's Home, and the Council on Aging for additional projects. If you are interested, please contact the museum at 413-322-5660 or send an email to admin@wistariahurst.org.

Creating Holyoke

Open House A Huge Success



Logo by Brendan Ciecko of Ten Minute Media.

Creating Holyoke explores the City of Holyoke's complex and fascinating history of immigration and migration with the goal of bringing it alive and letting it speak to today's community. *Creating Holyoke* places Holyoke's industrial and social history in the context of national trends. By engaging the broadest possible audience through a variety of public exhibitions and programs, *Creating Holyoke* brings the industrial past into conversation with the post-industrial present. It identifies the common ground of the immigrant experience, but does not shy away from the profound differences between generations and centuries. Above all, *Creating Holyoke* is based on the premise of producing a usable past, one that Holyoke, like so many other American cities, needs now more than ever. Our unique approach to urban history includes using multiple sites in the city to interpret the themes of Opportunity and Industry, Family Life, and Recreation and Cultural Life for Holyoke residents, many of whom are recent Puerto Rican migrants.

Wistariahurst and partner organizations Holyoke Heritage State Park, the Children's Museum at Holyoke, the Holyoke History Room of the Holyoke Public Library and Enchanted Circle Theater, launched a *Creating Holyoke* Open House on December 7, 2007, inviting the community, stakeholders and corporate sponsors to view the project progress. The

exhibit designs by Richard Watanabe of Blackbird Design for 3 new permanent exhibits, along with walking/driving tours and exhibit panels and programming were unveiled and received positive feedback from the public. Community mural concepts and locations throughout the city were featured in addition to a presentation of *Bridging Generations: Shared Stories*, an oral history project. Finally, top entrants of the *Creating Holyoke* design contest were recognized. After receiving over 50 submissions from local professional and amateur graphic designers and students from the Holyoke Public Schools, designs were narrowed down to 8 and Wistariahurst hosted an online voting contest for the final logo. Final selection was overseen by a *Creating Holyoke* committee and entailed a response of over 200 community-wide voters online and by mail for the design that best suits the *Creating Holyoke* initiative. Brendan Ciecko of Ten Minute Media will have his winning logo featured on way finding signs, all marketing literature and the exhibit panels located throughout the city.

The Open House raised over \$2,000 and rallied support for the next steps of *Creating Holyoke*. The primary focus of the next phase is the fabrication and installation of three permanent and simultaneous exhibits at Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke Heritage State Park and the Children's Museum. The permanent exhibits explore the urban and industrial history of Holyoke through the voices and stories of her immigrants and migrants. This city-wide project will promote history and culture and provide a real potential for the visibility and tourism for the City of Holyoke.

Special thanks to our sponsors Holyoke Medical Center and Holyoke Gas & Electric. We also want to thank Artisan's Café for catering the event and Ted Wirt for his musical stylings. If you would like more information on *Creating Holyoke*, please contact Kate Thibodeau at kate@wistariahurst.org or 413-322-5660.

Wistariahurst Museum Winter & Spring Events 2008

❖ Tuesday, February 5 — 6:00 p.m. – Historical Perspectives: *Modern Design for the Victorian Home*

Wistariahurst will host local interior designer Janet Lyons of Janet Lyons Interiors for a talk and discussion about modern interior design in local Victorian era homes. *Admission \$3*

· Thursday, February 7 — 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Artist Reception and Award Presentation for *Celebrating 90 Years of Creativity: The Holyoke Creative Arts Center*

Wistariahurst will exhibit the 5th annual juried art show by students of the Holyoke Creative Arts Center throughout the month of February. Join us for an artist reception and awards ceremony and view the variety of watercolor, oil, pastel, pen and ink, and decorative paintings that make up the exhibition. *Admission to the gallery is \$3 per person.*

· Saturday, February 9 — 2:00 p.m. – Rivers, Mountains & Legends: An Afternoon of Storytelling as told by Carla Bee, Dan Shanahan and Megan Moore

Wistariahurst welcomes long-time storytellers Dan Shanahan, Megan Moore and Carla Bee in the telling of stories that celebrate the earth and all of its creatures! All three are founding members of Boston's Stone Soup Poets and Drumlin, which is a collaborative arts ensemble. *Admission \$5*

· Sunday, February 10 — 3:00 p.m. – Bay State Winds Concert

The New England Winds Woodwind Quintet, a sub group of the United States Air Force Band of Liberty, will perform at Wistariahurst to celebrate our nation's rich musical heritage and enhance esprit de corps for the United States Air Force. *FREE to the public*

· Sunday, February 17 — 3:00 p.m. – Winterreise: Schubert's Winter Journey

Schubert's "Winterreise," will be performed by David Perkins, baritone, and Tanya Blaich, pianist. This is the second in this year's Chamber Music at Wistariahurst series, directed by David Perkins. *Admission \$15*

· Monday, February 18 — 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Girl Scout Program: Textiles

Girl Scouts will tour Wistariahurst, the home of silk manufacturer William Skinner. Girls will create a book of fabric samples, learn hand and loom weaving techniques, and complete a small quilting project. Advance registration required. *\$8 per scout*

· Wednesday, February 20 — 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Girls Scout Program: Architecture

Girl Scouts will take a walking tour of Wistariahurst and note the architectural details. They will explore the work of William Fenno Pratt who was the designer of Wistariahurst and many other local homes. Girls will have a chance to create a model structure and design a garden. Advance registration required. *\$7 per scout*

· Friday, February 22 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Master Class with Artist Madeline Calabrese: Watercolors

This class will show the thought process behind a painting and how to set up for a difficult or complex area. The artist will demonstrate the complexity of — the action wave. Focusing on watercolors because of their liquid, transparent qualities and the surprises they create, Madeline Carnevale Calabrese has been painting steadily since 1986. *Admission \$10*

· Sunday, March 2 — 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Artist Reception and Gallery Opening: *Faces of Ireland*

Lifelong photographer and Holyoke resident, Edward Lavallo will present an exhibition in celebration of Ireland. His love of photography and Irish roots is reflected in an exquisite show of people of Ireland, captured in everyday life. Visit with Ed Lavallo and learn about his experience in photographing people from Ireland. Exhibit on display until end of March. *Admission to the gallery is \$3 per person.*

❖ Wednesday, March 5 — 6:00 p.m. – Historical Perspectives: *50 Plus Years of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade*

Wistariahurst will host well-known Michael Burke, beloved Holyoke newspaperman for an overview of the amazing cultural icon – the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. *Admission \$3*

❖ Sunday, March 9 – 2:00 p.m. – Tour the Mansion with a Skinner Descendant

Join Allerton Kilborne for a tour of his grandmother's home as he shares his memories of living at Wistariahurst. *Admission is \$5*

· Tuesday, March 11 – 7:00 p.m. – OFF THE PAGE at Wistariahurst Museum

One-Book Holyoke '08 kicks off with an evening of readings and a panel discussion based on When I Was Puerto Rican. The evening will feature community leaders including Roberto Marquez, scholar, author and editor from Mount Holyoke College and youth readers from the Teen Resource Project. Book giveaways and light refreshments will also be provided. Additional copies of When I Was Puerto Rican will be available for purchase. *FREE and open to the public*

· Wednesday, March 12 — 6:00 p.m. – Seed Collecting & Planting

Wistariahurst Gardener Frank La Montagne will speak about collecting seeds, their soil requirements and the differences in light and temperature, along with seed transplanting and the use of cold frames. He will also discuss genus and species and will give background information along with scientific names for plants and seeds in one's garden. *All talks are a \$5 donation to benefit the garden restoration projects at Wistariahurst. Garden Workshops presented by Wistariahurst Museum Gardeners & Western Mass Gardeners Association*

✿ **Sunday, April 5 — 12:00p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Opening of Gallery Exhibit of Asian Artifacts from the Wistariahurst Collection**

In celebration of a month-long series of events surrounding the Asian Arts and Culture, the museum will exhibit historical and modern artifacts of Asian culture and influence. Exhibit will be on display until the end of April. *Admission to the gallery is \$3 per person*

✿ **Wednesday, April 2 — 6:00 p.m. – Historical Perspectives: Chinese & Japanese Gardens in North America**

In 1916, a Tea House was purchased by Belle Skinner, and was assembled in Wistariahurst's rose garden, which was surrounded by an oriental style garden. Garden Historian and Landscape Designer Mary Parker will speak about the Tea House at Wistariahurst and also illustrate the differences between Chinese and Japanese estate gardens in 20th century North America. *Admission \$3*

· **Sunday, April 6 — 3:00 p.m. – A Cappella Concert: The Holyoke Catholic A Cappella Singers**

Directed by Joseph Toritto, the A Cappella Singers will present a unique repertoire of sacred and folk music celebrating the richness of diverse cultures—from South African rhythms to American Folk; as well as from gospel/spirituals to sacred chant. *Admission \$3*

· **Friday, April 11 — 6:00 - 9:00 - Annual Spring Gala**

Save the date for an evening to benefit Wistariahurst Museum. Tickets \$25

Wednesday, April 16 – Japanese Tea Ceremony

Session I – 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. /Session II – 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Experience the beauty and formality of a Japanese tea Ceremony with the gifted Kimiko Nakatogawa. Enjoy tea in your own tea bowl made by area potter Linda Siska to take home as a memento of this special occasion. *In collaboration with the Asian Arts & Culture Program at the UMASS, Amherst. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Please call the Museum for reservations (413) 322-5660. Tickets \$25 Tea ceremonies are limited to 30 people each sitting.*

· **Thursday, April 17 — 6:00 p.m. – Japanese Kimonos: A Most Beautiful Treasure.**

Learn about the history and styles of the kimono with a lecture, slide show and viewing of a kimono on display. *In collaboration with the Asian Arts & Culture Program at the UMASS, Amherst. Admission \$7*

· **Saturday, April 19 – Japanese Ikebana: Flower Arranging Workshop**

Session I – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m./Session II – 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Japanese inspired bowls and frogs to hold flower arrangements will be available for sale. *In collaboration with the Asian Arts & Culture Program at the UMASS, Amherst. See our website for sponsors. Please call the Museum for reservations. Tickets \$20 per person*

· **Tuesday, April 22 — 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Girl Scout Program: *Plants- try it!***

Brownies will join museum staff and Master Gardeners to explore plants. Advance registration required. *\$5 per scout*

· **Thursday, April 24 – Girl Scout Program: *Victorian Era Days***

Session I from 9a.m. to 11:30a.m. / Session II from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts experience various aspects of daily Victorian life with hands-on segments such as Victorian Fashion and Hairstyles, Letter Writing and Diary Passages and Victorian Etiquette and Entertainment. Advance registration required. *\$7 per scout*

· **Saturday, April 26 — 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Silk Scarf Painting Workshop**

Paint your own silk scarf in a hands-on program with artist and teacher Nancy Dorian. Learn techniques and design. Create something special to wear or give as a gift. All ability levels are welcome. All supplies will be provided. In collaboration with the Holyoke Creative Arts. *Registration fee \$25 Please call the Museum for reservations*

· **Monday, April 28 — 10:30 a.m. – STORIES FROM THE ISLAND at Wistariahurst Museum**

A local intergenerational story-gathering program will culminate in this presentation by young mothers from The Care Center and the older residents they interviewed in an effort to record stories of migration and cultural transplantation. *FREE and open to the public*

· **Friday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. & Saturday May 4 at 2:00 p.m. – On Silken Threads: Isadora Duncan Dances at Wistariahurst**

Called by some “music incarnate”; “illuminations of the soul”, Isadora Duncan's dances are exquisite jewels, each an embodiment of a mood; myth; aspect of being human; reflection of the natural world. An exhibit of her life and times will accompany this offering. Advance reservations are suggested, seating available day of is as available. *This project is supported in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Admission \$10*

· **Sunday, May 11 — 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Gallery Reception for *We Are Holyoke: A Series of Family Portraits***

Wistariahurst will host a May exhibition with a series of portraits by local photographer Bruce Barone, presenting a photographic exploration of the rich diversity of life in Holyoke and beyond. The reception will provide an opportunity to meet Bruce Barone and view his work. ‘We Are Family’ will be on display for the month of May. *Admission to the gallery is \$3 per person.*

A Celebration of Asian Arts & Culture

Cherry Blossoms in the Valley

This Spring Wistariahurst will offer programs in collaboration with the Asian Arts & Culture Program at the University of Massachusetts.



A Gala Event: A Festival of Asian Arts & Culture

Friday, April 11th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Wistariahurst invites you to take part in a gala event to benefit the museum. The evening will feature a silent auction, music and plenty of festivity! A guest chef will be offering culinary demonstrations of Asian foods and there will be plenty of delicious cuisine to satisfy appetites prepared and served by students of the Culinary Arts Program at Holyoke Community College.

Tickets: \$25 per person

Generous sponsors of the event include: PeoplesBank, E. Dennis Walsh



Japanese Tea Ceremony

Wednesday, April 16th from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Experience the beauty and formality of a Japanese Tea Ceremony with the gifted Kimono Nakatogawa who holds the title of Keigetsu-and from the Sohenryu, a school originated by So Yamada. Mrs. Mineko Iguchi, a classical dancer and expert on organic teas at Kitanodai Kaihatsu Corporation in Japan, will assist Ms. Nakatogawa. Enjoy tea in your own tea bowl and take it home as a memento of this special occasion.

Tickets: \$25 per person which includes a specially crafted tea bowl made by area potter Linda Siska.

Note: Limited to 30 participants at each sitting.

Reduced tickets can be purchased for viewing at a cost of \$5

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Japanese Kimonos: A Talk and Presentation

Thursday, April 17th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The kimono is one of Japan's most beautiful treasures. Join us and learn about the history and styles of the kimono with a lecture, slide show and viewing of a kimono on display. **Tickets: \$7 per person**

Japanese Ikebana (Flower Arrangement)

Saturday, April 19th from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 -2:00 p.m. Garden Conservatory

Create a dramatic and artistic form of flower arranging that has been practiced in Japan for over 600 years. Ikebana is based on the line of twigs and/ or leaves that are filled in with blooms symbolizing heaven, earth and man. *Japanese inspired bowls and frogs to hold flower arrangements will be available for sale.*

Tickets: \$20 per person

Donors include: Carey's Flower Shop ,McClelland's Florist, Lady Bugs, Highland Rose, Nuttelman's Florist, Inc., La Salle Florists, Flowers by Webster and Atkins Farms



Photography by Dani Fine Photography.

Winterreise: Schubert's Winter Journey **Sunday, February 17 at 3 p.m.**

In keeping with the Chamber Music at Wistariahurst series, artistic director David Perkins will present the second of a 3-part line-up of outstanding performances in the intimate setting of the Music Room. Schubert's "Winterreise," one of the great works of the German song literature, is a journey through desolation and despair that ends up a life-affirming experience thanks to Schubert's energetic, imagery-rich music. The 24-song cycle will be performed in its entirety. No reservations are required. Tickets are \$15 available at the door. Also, mark your calendar for the upcoming May 18 concert directed by David Perkins: *Schumann & Brahms.*



Modern Dance at Wistariahurst

In May 2008, Wistariahurst will host a unique performance entitled *On Silken Threads* by members of the Isadora Duncan International Institute. Isadora Duncan at times has been called the Mother of Modern Dance. She pioneered a style, form and art of movement in the first years of the 20th century. Isadora created dances which broke through the traditional boundaries of classical dance. During a time when dancing was considered a suspect career for women, and with limited opportunity to dance on the stage, Duncan forged a solo career and was the first to dance to classical symphonic music previously heard only in concert. Gluck, Chopin and Brahms, representing the classical, romantic and modern sensibilities brewing during that time, are three of the composers whose works inspired Duncan to create the dances chosen for *On Silken Threads*. The Duncan dance performance at Wistariahurst will remind visitors of their historic and living connection to nature, art and beauty. An exhibit of Isadora Duncan's life and times will accompany this offering in the conservatory. Presented by Laura Pravitz, Jeanne Bresciani, and the Isadora Duncan International Institute Dancers: Merry Kidd, Stephanie Condon-Perry, Mary Beth Hraniotis, Colleen Quinn, Sharon

Sassaman, Yi-Hsin. Performances will be held on Friday evening, May 2nd at 7 p.m. and Saturday afternoon, May 3rd at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person, available in advance and at the door as space is available. Reservations are suggested. Please call the museum at 413-322-5660. *This project is supported in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.*



Three generations of Skinners.

The Skinners Return to Wistariahurst

While most visitors to Wistariahurst can only imagine what living at the Skinner mansion was like – there remains a host of Skinner Family descendants who can convey a more accurate story of life in this historic home. This past Thanksgiving holiday, Wistariahurst welcomed descendants of the Skinner family for a reunion celebration. The lineage of attendees came from Katharine Skinner and Robert Stewart Kilborne. Katharine was the last occupant of Wistariahurst, and many of her kin have fond recollections of visits to Holyoke and memories of Katharine.

The reunion afforded the family an opportunity to reacquaint themselves with one another, to visit the Skinner Chapel, and stroll the grounds at Wistariahurst to see the progress of the garden restoration. Wistariahurst is an open door into the past, even more so for the Skinner descendants, as journals, scrapbooks and photographs inform us of the past and tell a fascinating family story.

Wistariahurst continues to be connected to the family and honors the meaning and memories it holds for them. The Skinner Family and their former home contribute to Holyoke's rich industrial and social history and remains a vibrant part of the community.



WISTARIAHURST MUSEUM

238 Cabot Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

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Permit #125
Holyoke, MA

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Julie Bullock

Maintenance Supervisor

Jerry Deschenes

Maintenance Associate

Thomas Wilhelmi

Destination Holyoke:

Ticket to Holyoke's History

Support History Programming by Purchasing a HISTORY TICKET

\$30 – Single \$40 – Dual \$50 – Family

A HISTORY TICKET allows you free admission to all History Talks and History Exhibits (the starred listings on the calendar of events). In addition you will receive a \$3.00 discount on hands-on history workshops scheduled this Spring. Most of all it entitles you to the exquisite feeling that you are directly supporting history programming at Wistariahurst! Corporate sponsors receive additional benefits. Please call the museum for details. Make checks payable to "Wistariahurst Museum" and send to: 238 Cabot Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. Indicate what level of support you would like, along with a phone number. Thank you!

The Museum is open for guided tours every Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 12-4 pm. The Gallery is open every Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 12-4 pm. For more information or a schedule of other upcoming events, please visit our website at

www.wistariahurst.org or call us at 413-322-5660.