



THE VINE

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News from Wistariahurst Museum

Destination Holyoke: Immigration and Migration to Holyoke

Holyoke, known as The Paper City, was once a booming industrial center that has become a home for immigrants and migrants for 150 years. Irish day laborers that arrived beginning in 1847, provided the first immigrant



Immigrants arriving through Ellis Island were carefully tagged with their names and the steamship upon which they arrived. Some of the immigrants to Holyoke in this photo are still wearing their tags.

workforce in Holyoke and constructed the new dam, canals and mill buildings. German immigrants were textile workers from the Rhineland and Saxony, already trained in handweaving and making woolens. Polish immigrants began arriving after the close of the Civil War following the 1863 Polish Revolt for independence.

The second largest immigrant group, after the Irish, was the French Canadians, who came mostly in the 1870s and 1880s. Mr. Proulx, an agent of the Lyman Mills, recruited women from Quebec Province. The earliest French Canadian immigrants sent their families more money than they had ever seen and enthusiastic accounts of work opportunities in Holyoke. The first Italians came to Holyoke in the late 1880s. Many established confectionery and fruit stores. Frank J. Equi owned a sandwich shop on Main Street for

80 years. He had begun work with his father when he was 16 years old.

By 1941, first, second and third generation immigrants filled the downtown streets. Anita Marcotte Healey remembered, "Main Street was a hustle and bustle place with a good ethnic mixture of businesses- there was a Greek, a Jew, French and Polish. The Irish were mostly up the hill and the Germans on Park Street." An economic recession on the Island of Puerto Rico in 1968 resulted in the migration of Puerto Ricans to Holyoke. Nearly 4,500 people from Puerto Rico came within a few years. Unlike earlier immigrant groups that came to Holyoke during periods of expanding economy, Puerto Ricans migrated to Holyoke when jobs for unskilled workers were becoming harder to find.

All of Holyoke's immigrants and migrants came for opportunity. While they were shaped by their new lives in Holyoke and America, they reshaped their newly adopted community. Evidence of this interaction is seen during events like the St. Patrick's Day Parade and La Familia Festival, with people of many backgrounds coming together. It is seen on High Street, where Brennan's Place and Fernandes Family Restaurant sit alongside the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce. Today the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Holyoke's immigrants and migrants define themselves by both their cultural affiliation and, with pride, as Holyokers. Wistariahurst Museum is launching a four-exhibit series of interpretive and interactive exhibits on immigration and migration to Holyoke, Massachusetts from November 2006 through December 2007. The first exhibit, "...we all are in this strange country": Immigration and Migration to Holyoke, will be presented November and December 2006.



Wistariahurst Receives a *Save Our History* Grant

Wistariahurst Museum and Youth Build, an educational program in Holyoke, have partnered to document Puerto Rican history and tradition in Holyoke. Wistariahurst Museum has long been known for its presentation of 19th and 20th century industrial history and we are expanding our historical focus to include the story of Puerto Rican migration. Puerto Rican migration into Holyoke has not yet been adequately discussed in the context of history or culture of the area in a museum setting. This project entitled “Celebrating the History of Puerto Ricans in Holyoke” will preserve Latino culture and oral histories of the current Puerto Ricans, which will contribute to a better understanding of the place Latinos have in the past, present and future of Holyoke.

This “Celebrating the History of Puerto Ricans in Holyoke” project is made possible thanks to a \$9788.00 grant from The History Channel *Save Our History* program. Sponsored by Lowe’s, the *Save Our History* Grant Program is dedicated to supporting local history education and preservation projects in collaboration with local schools or youth groups. The History Channel created the *Save Our History* Grant Program as an extension of the *Save Our History* philanthropic initiative and is committed to inspiring and motivating local communities to learn about and take an active role in the preservation of their past through projects involving artifacts, oral histories, sites, museums or landmarks that exist in their own neighborhoods. Wistariahurst Museum is one of 27 organizations from across the country to receive a *Save Our History* grant for 2006-2007.

Holyoke’s People and Places: Wistariahurst Seeks to Preserve Holyoke’s Past



Herman Riedel, who worked as a machinist for Skinner Silks & Satins, with his miniature replica of a silk loom. This photo was one of the many that came in during a digitization day!

In an effort to collect and preserve photos of the city’s past, Wistariahurst will host ongoing *Share Your Old Photographs* sessions. While there is a large collection of the city’s landscapes and building structures, very few records reveal images of men, women and children and their activities. The museum is inviting past and present Holyoke residents to share their pictorial family histories so that we may continue to document Holyoke’s stories. We are looking for old family photos and pictures of Holyoke employees (mill workers, store employees, etc.). Do you have photos of people who ran businesses or factories in Holyoke? If so, we are interested in helping you preserve those images and stories as well. All photos will be copied digitally. Any participant who contributes photos for this digital project will receive digital copies to take home. Please see the calendar of events to learn when our next digitization session will take place.

Mary Frank: “At This Moment”

Gallery Exhibition: September 30 through October 31

Opening Reception & Artist Lecture: Saturday, September 30 at 4 p.m.



Memory of a town, Mary Frank

One of America’s leading contemporary sculptors, painters, printmakers and illustrators, Mark Frank will feature her works in the gallery at Wistariahurst Museum as part of the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts Fall Program. Born in London, Mary Frank moved to New York when she was eight and was initially involved in the arts through dance before progressing to the study of the visual arts. Her first one woman exhibition took place in New York in 1961. Since that time her art has been the subject of exhibitions throughout the United States and in France and Germany.

Mary Frank works in a variety of mediums, all of which incorporate classic imagery such as the female figure. Her pieces evoke strong feeling and emotion. Mary Frank’s work is included in major collections such as the Art Institute of Chicago, The Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of Art, and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. She has also illustrated several books including *Shadows of Africa*, *The Mature Poetry of Emily Dickinson*, *Skies in Blossom* and *Desert quartet: An Erotic Landscape*.

An expressive speaker and frequent lecturer, Mary Frank will enlighten the audience on her work during the opening reception of this exceptional exhibition, *At this Moment*, on September 30 at Wistariahurst.

Creating Holyoke: Immigrants’ and Migrants’ Search for Community

Our Research Project on immigration to Holyoke, funded by a National Endowment for Humanities (NEH), is nearly complete. Project partners and consultants have spent the past 5 months researching, meeting and traveling to lead historical sites in the region. The final project envisions exhibits and programming across the city that will utilize the themes of opportunity and industry, family life, leisure and cultural life of Holyoke’s immigrants and migrants. Our goal is to explore the historical complexity of the American Dream particularly as conditions changed over time and to emphasize that while the lives of immigrants and migrants were being shaped by their new experiences in Holyoke, they became active agents in shaping the opportunity, leisure and cultural life of the city. If we are able to implement the final project, we anticipate that the exhibits and programming will draw local and regional visitors to Holyoke. We are now preparing an application for a Planning Grant.

Consultants:

Ted Belsky Ed.D., Oral History Center, American International College **Ginetta E.B. Candelario Ph.D.**, Sociology and Women’s Studies, Smith College **Daniel Czitrom Ph.D.**, History, Mount Holyoke College
Orlando Isaza M.S.W., L.H.D., Office of the President, HCC
Bruce Laurie Ph.D., History, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Preston Smith Ph.D., Politics, Mount Holyoke College
M. Sue Thrasher Ed.D., Education, Five Colleges Inc.

Partners:

The Children’s Museum Enchanted Circle Theater
The History Room of the Holyoke Public Library
Holyoke Heritage State Park
Wistariahurst Museum

Wistariahurst Museum Fall Events 2006

- **Sunday, September 3 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Gallery Reception for *Made In Montauk* with artist Sheryl Jaffe**

A series of works with handmade paper by Sheryl Jaffe will be on display until September 25. *Admission is \$3*

- **Wednesday, September 6 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Pictorial Histories of Holyoke: Digitization Project**

Share your old photographs of Holyoke's faces and places for the ongoing documentation and digitization of Holyoke's rich history. *In addition to leaving with your original images, digital copies can be made for \$1*

- ★ **Wednesday, September 6 at 6 p.m. – Historical Perspectives: *Cornerstones and Headstones***

Join us for a bus tour of Holyoke's historic residential neighborhoods including mills, housing, mansions and gravesites of the city. Narrated by Holyoke Historian, Jill Hodnicki. The bus will depart from and return to Wistariahurst. Light refreshments will be served. *Admission is \$3*

- ★ **Friday, September 15 at 12 noon – History To Go: *Birth of Holyoke Community College***

Neil Moriarty will recall the formation of Holyoke Community College from its earliest days as Holyoke Junior College, 1946-1973. Talk will take place at Wistariahurst. Bring lunch! Coffee will be provided. *Admission is \$3*

- **Saturday, September 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Fall Docent Training, *Part I***

Wistariahurst is seeking volunteers to give guided tours though the museum. Two mandatory training sessions will provide potential docents with basic information needed to interpret the museum for the public. Those interested must be outgoing, articulate, have a positive attitude and be willing to commit ten hours of their time each month to serve as a docent at Wistariahurst. Part II will be held on Saturday, September 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. *For more information or to register, please call (413) 322.5660*

- **Saturday, September 23 at 11 a.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 in the 1950s. *Admission is \$5, \$3 for students & seniors*

- **Sunday, September 24 at 3 p.m. – Afternoon of Traditional Jazz**

Live jazz performed by duo Jerry Noble, piano, and Bob Sparkman, clarinet. Sponsored by Friends of Wistariahurst Museum. *Donations gratefully accepted*

- **Saturday, September 30 at 10:30 a.m. – Garden Talks: *Planting Containers for Autumn Display***

Master Gardener Holly Peloquin will demonstrate how to design floor planter and window box displays using autumn plants and garden products. Sponsored by the Wistariahurst Museum Gardeners & Western Massachusetts Gardeners Association. *Admission is \$5 and benefits the Wistariahurst garden restoration project*

- **Saturday, September 30 at 4 p.m. – Gallery Reception and Lecture by artist Mary Frank: "At this Moment"**

One of America's leading contemporary sculptors, painters, printmakers and illustrators, her work evokes feeling and emotion. Exhibit will be on display until October 31.

Sponsored by Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts. *Admission to the Opening is \$10; regular gallery admission \$3*

- **Wednesday, October 4 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Pictorial Histories of Holyoke: Digitization Project**

Share your old photographs of Holyoke's faces and places for the ongoing documentation and digitization of Holyoke's rich history. *In addition to leaving with your original images, digital copies can be made for \$1*

- ★ **Wednesday, October 4 at 6 p.m. – Historical Perspectives: *From Island to City: Irish Immigration and Puerto Rican***

Migration Mayor Michael Sullivan will speak about his research on the fascinating parallels of these two waves of Holyoke immigrants and migrants. Light refreshments will be served. *Admission is \$3*

- ★ **Friday, October 20 at 12 noon – History To Go: *Tour the Skinner Chapel***

Built in memory of Sarah and William Skinner this chapel is one of Holyoke's most beautiful sanctuaries. Talk will take place at United Congregational Church, 395 High Street, Holyoke. *Admission is \$3*

- **Sunday, October 22 at 3 p.m. – Celtic Harpestry Concert**

Join us for a delightful afternoon as some of the Valley's finest harpers bring us the incomparable aires, laments, slipjigs, strathspeys, and more from Ireland, Scotland, and other Celtic lands. *Admission is \$5, \$3 for students & seniors*

- **Saturday, October 28 – Harp Workshop with Pioneer Valley Harpists (*Session I 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Session II 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.*)**

The Pioneer Valley Harpers' Guild will host noted international harpist, harp teacher, and harp therapist Sunita Staneslow for two workshops designed primarily for Celtic (non-pedal) harp players. Sunita is a superb teacher with fresh approaches for beginners and advanced harpers alike. New Harpers welcome! *Call Sarah McKee (413) 256.6129 for more information*

• **Saturday, October 28 at 10:30 a.m. – Garden Talks: A Survey of Historic Gardens**

Master Gardener Nancy Howell will compare Plimoth Plantation, Sturbridge Village, Historic Deerfield and Shaker Village, regarding each garden's time periods and reflections on who lived there. Sponsored by the Wistariahurst Museum Gardeners & Western Massachusetts Gardeners Association. *Admission is \$5 and benefits the Wistariahurst garden restoration project*

• **Wednesday, November 1 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Pictorial Histories of Holyoke: Digitization Project**

Share your old photographs of Holyoke's faces and places for the ongoing documentation and digitization of Holyoke's rich history. *In addition to leaving with your original images, digital copies can be made for \$1*

☆ **Wednesday, November 1 at 6 p.m. – Historical Perspectives: Polish, Puerto Rican and Islamic Immigration Experiences**

Joe Kos, Xenia Rosado-Merced, and Dr. M. Saleem Bajwa will have a panel discussion about the immigration experiences of these varied ethnic and religious groups. Light refreshments will be served. *Admission is \$3*

☆ **Saturday, November 4 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Exhibition Opening Reception “...we all are in this strange country”: Immigration and Migration to Holyoke**

Holyoke's history holds a powerful story of the development of a mill town into a booming industry, as well as the story of immigrants and migrants contributing to our vibrant community. Experience the story of Holyoke's immigrants and migrants by listening to their narratives and viewing photographs of their journeys into Holyoke. At 2 p.m. Mayor Michael Sullivan will give a talk. This historical exhibit is the first of a 4-part series. *Admission is \$3*

• **Sunday November 5 at 3 p.m. - US Band of Liberty Concert**

One of 10 Air Force Bands nationwide, the United States Air Force Band of Liberty is a select group of professional musicians that has been entertaining audiences throughout the New England region for 25 years. *FREE*

• **Sunday, November 12 at 3 p.m. – The Deerfield Wind Quintet**

The Deerfield Wind Quintet includes Ellen Redman, flute; Kirsten Lipkens, oboe; Lynn Sussman, clarinet; Orlando Pandolfi, French horn; and Rebecca Eldredge, bassoon to be performing music for wind instruments. Sponsored by Friends of Wistariahurst Museum. *Donations gratefully accepted*

☆ **Friday, November 17 at 12 noon – History To Go: History and Greenways: One man's quest to make life an interesting journey—and never about the destination**

Craig Della Penna will talk about his research for a photo history of Holyoke and other quests. Talk at Wistariahurst. Bring lunch! Coffee will be provided. *Admission is \$3*

• **Saturday, November 18 at 2 p.m. – Kevin Hubbard: Classical Guitar with a Touch of Jazz**

Classical guitarist Kevin Hubbard will play selections of his music in the Music Room. *Admission is \$8, \$6 for students & seniors*

• **Friday, November 17 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 19 at 3 p.m. - “Schubertiad: Rarely Heard Masterpieces of Franz Schubert”**

Spend the evening at Wistariahurst, listening to the sublime music of Franz Schubert. The concert will be staged as an historical re-enactment of an 1820s “Schubertiad,” an impromptu gathering of Schubert and his friends. The program consists of rarely heard masterpieces. Performers include Estella Olevsky, Jane Hanson, Peter Shea, David Perkins, Maria Scotera, Ed Rosser, and the Schubertians chorus, directed by Ms. Hanson. *Tickets are \$10.*

• **Wednesday, December 6 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Pictorial Histories of Holyoke: Digitization Project**

Share your old photographs of Holyoke's past, both faces and places of the city for ongoing documentation and digitization of Holyoke's rich history. *In addition to leaving with your original images, digital copies can be made for \$1*

☆ **Wednesday, December 6 at 6 p.m. – Historical Perspectives: Contemporary Issues in Immigration**

Vinnie Ferraro, Ph.D. and Professor of Politics at Mount Holyoke College will enlighten current immigration issues in the context of the past. Light refreshments will be served. *Admission is \$3*

☆ **Friday, December 15 at noon – History To Go: The Scents and Traditions of Winter Greenery**

Master Gardener Deborah Long-Smith will give a talk on the history of holiday herbs and greenery, with tips for using them in your home. Talk will take place at Wistariahurst. Bring lunch! Coffee will be provided. *Admission is \$3*

☆ **Sunday, December 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Holiday Celebration**

Families are invited to come and explore how different cultures observe the holiday season through craft projects, ornament making, and traditional customs.

☆ **Starred events are free to HISTORY TICKET holders**

PRESENTING:

In collaboration with Enchanted Circle Theater...

THE SKINNER SERVANTS' TOUR:

A Living History of Wistariahurst

Written by Priscilla Kane Hellweg and Rachel Kubn Daviau



Find yourself behind the scenes in Wistariahurst, the historic home of William Skinner, a renowned silk manufacturer. It's 1927, and the mansion in Holyoke is a flutter of activity as the servants prepare for a visit from the French Ambassador. Experience the grand setting as you walk through the halls, hear a behind the scenes perspective of the Skinner family, and life in the mills. This dramatic house tour explores the dynamics of class relations, education, the economy, and the role of the wealthy in society through stories of very real people. Based on the journals, diaries, photos and oral histories of the family servants, the SKINNER SERVANTS' TOUR reveals the disparate lives between the rich and the poor, and the compelling relationship between them.

"The entire affair is great fun."

- Kathleen Mellon, Daily Hampshire Gazette

"A fascinating time capsule - a triumph of logistics."

-Chris Rohmann, WFCR

Performance Dates:

January 26, 27 & 28, 2007

February 2, 3 & 4, 2007

Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m.

Tickets \$18/\$12 students & seniors. Please contact Wistariahurst Museum (413) 322-5660 for reservations.

Fine Art and Instruments:

Paintings of the Belle Skinner Collection



This Ruckers Double Virginal harpsichord was originally owned by Messrs. Chappell of London. It was then property of Mr. George Donaldson of London and Mr Morris Steinert of New Haven, Connecticut. Belle Skinner purchased it from Mr. Steinert.

Northampton artist and resident David Barclay was inspired by the the delicate instruments that once graced the music room at Wistariahurst. A collector of rare instruments, Belle Skinner aquired over 80 musical treasures throughout her travels abroad. In January 2007, Wistariahurst will once again showcase pieces from Belle's collection in the form of paintings by David Barclay. Although the scale is altered, the paintings capture the striking beauty of the instruments themselves and the enormous craftsmanship of their makers. Among the paintings are a violin, lute and other stringed instruments from the collection, which is housed today at Yale University in the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments.

Made in Montauk

A series of works with handmade paper by Sheryl Jaffe



Exhibition at Wistariahurst through September 25, 2006

Opening Reception Sunday, September 3, 2006 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sheryl Jaffe has exhibited her artwork throughout New York and New England for more than 20 years. The work on view at Wistariahurst Museum in September was made in Montauk, N.Y. during a residency at the Edward Albee Foundation's "The Barn". These works explore handmade paper scrolls, seaweed pulp painting, and historical process photography using handmade paper.

"I have been fascinated by a specific strength of coastline in Montauk, N.Y. for 30 years. I have followed its contours, its vegetation, rocks, grain of sand, waves and storms, in my infrequent visits and in the pieces in the exhibition. Using impressions and sometimes-actual objects; stones, seaweed, shell I offer you this work for contemplation."

Music at Wistariahurst co-sponsored by Friends of Wistariahurst Museum



massculturalcouncil.org

In celebration of the cultural traditions of Holyoke and Belle Skinner's Music Room, The Friends of Wistariahurst will host a concert series featuring outstanding regional musicians. On Sunday, September 24 at 3 p.m. Jerry Noble, piano, and Bob Sparkman, clarinet, will offer an afternoon of traditional jazz. Sunday, November 12 at 3 p.m. we will have a return engagement with Deerfield Wind Quintet, with Ellen Redman, flute; Kirsten Lipkens, oboe; Lynn Sussman, clarinet; Orlando Pandolfi, French horn; and Rebecca Eldredge, bassoon. "Schubertiad: Rarely Heard Masterpieces of Franz Schubert" will be held on Friday, November 17 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 19 at 3 p.m. This program will consist of rarely heard masterpieces for solo voice, small chorus, and two major chamber works for piano & cello, and piano & flute. The series will continue through the spring with an outstanding line-up. Please call the museum if you are interested in more details! This concert series is also supported in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Updates:

Garden Restoration! Mountainview Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. will be re-grading the back lawn and rosebeds in early fall so that they will have the crisp and pristine look of Belle's 1927 gardens. The volunteer gardeners have pruned, planted, and cared for the gardens and grounds this season. Their work will continue on Saturday mornings throughout the fall. In addition, the Master Gardeners of Western Massachusetts are planning work projects and a lecture series in the coming year. Please call the museum if you are interested in becoming involved!

Can't Wait for the Gala! Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Salvadore Dali, the Cold War and Martin Luther King! The 1950s will be revived this year at the Wistariahurst Spring Gala on Friday, May 4 from 6-9 pm. There will be 1950s automobiles, 1950s exhibits, dancing with *Back Seat Patty and the Bone Shakers*, plenty of food and libation! Tickets \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door.

Carriage House Renovation! Mount Vernon Group Architects has been selected as designer for the Wistariahurst Carriage House renovation project. They currently are reviewing structural issues and will prepare bid documents for spring construction.



WISTARIAHURST MUSEUM
 238 Cabot Street
 Holyoke, MA 01040

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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

I support History Programming at Wistariahurst!

Name _____

I would like a

single ticket (\$30 or \$20 seniors)

Address _____

dual ticket (\$40 or \$30 seniors)

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I am enclosing a check of \$ _____

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I am interested in additional benefits through corporate sponsorship