A Gala to Benefit Wistariahurst
Saturday, October 27
Hosted by Historic Holyoke at Wistariahurst

Tickets available at www.Wistariahurst.org or in person

Join us for a night of mayhem, mischief and fright to raise funds for Wistariahurst Museum.

Spend an evening reveling in mystical encounters. Enhance your costume with our on-site makeup artist, Mask Makers Face Painting. Experience delicious fall harvest treats with food provided by Log Rolling Catering. Cash bar. Dance the night away to music provided by Cloud 9 Productions. Enjoy a peek upstairs at the second floor of the mansion and a visit to a tarot card reader with our Second Floor Peek Pass.

Costumes are encouraged Please support us in our efforts to be an inclusive museum by being culturally respectful with your costume choices

This event is hosted by Historic Holyoke at Wistariahurst.
Thank you to our Leading Sponsors: HG&E, Log Cabin, Western Mass Master Gardeners Association and Terroir Wines

Homespun: One Hundred Years of Textile Arts in Holyoke
November 8 - 18 2018

This fall, Wistariahurst Museum and ArteSana are coming together to present Homespun: One Hundred Years of Textile Arts in Holyoke, an exhibition featuring textiles and fiber arts pieces from our region’s past and present. The exhibition pays homage to the women who formed the core of the historic textile industry in Holyoke, (those who passed their skills and art forms on to new students at places like the Holyoke Creative Arts Center and the Skinner Coffee House). It also celebrates all those who carry on the legacy of fiber arts today and continue to break new ground while exploring form, media, and meaning through fiber arts.

ArteSana is a social enterprise dedicated to expanding opportunities for women in Holyoke by weaving from recycled tee shirts.

Visitors to the exhibition will have the opportunity to see pieces from the Wistariahurst Archive’s textile collection alongside contemporary pieces by artists across the Pioneer Valley. From 19th century samplers, to intricate quilts, to modern fashion, Homespun shows off the wide range of what is possible with a little thread and a little fabric. The exhibition will allow the past and future of textile arts to come together under the roof of the historic Skinner estate.

SUMMER 2018 BY THE NUMBERS:
More than 490 people toured the historic Skinner Mansion
227 elementary school students participated in Immigration Experience
Over 100 people practiced Yoga at Wistariahurst
Wistariahurst hosted graduations for 5 education programs
**Greening the Great House**

This fall the students of the UMass Arts Extension program’s *Greening Your Arts Nonprofit Organization* class will be using Wistariahurst as their case study site. The students will spend the semester reviewing our current facilities and practices and will develop a list of recommendations for how we can be a more sustainable, earth-friendly museum.

Over the past decade, Wistariahurst has used upgraded lighting, improved heat management and other techniques to significantly lower our energy costs, but we’re excited to have this UMass team spending the time and work to put together a full set of recommendations for how we can better serve the earth while serving our mission.

Stay tuned in the coming months for ways that you can support our efforts.

**Music Room Guest Book**

On March 13, 1920 Belle Skinner wrote in her Music Room Guest Book “There is only one Truth, but it may be approached by many different paths.” – St. John the Divine.

The 15 5/8” tall by 12 1/4” wide, brown, calfskin delicately embossed with decorative gold tooled binding encases the unfolded codex folios of Italian made cotton laid paper. The deckle edge paper is watermarked Theodore B. Starr New York, NY and G C & Co 1921. The endpapers are green and copper jacquard floral chain motif fabric. This guest book is one of the most elegant and personal objects in the Skinner Family Collection, as it gives us insight into what Belle Skinner treasured, and the people she called friend. So personal because all the entries are in the guest’s own hand and includes not just signatures, but quips and quotes about time spent with Belle, music, sketches, paintings, and poems.

Contributors include writers, musicians, diplomats, actresses, aviators, lawyers, educators, architects, engineers, and artists, and what a treat they must have had to see and hear her collection of antique, musical instruments.

Fittingly the opening page reveals a lovely watercolor of the music room painted by Clarence Luce, the room’s architect. The image captures the graceful arches and details of the room complete with some of Belle’s collection of antique musical instruments highlighted with bits of red and blue. Signed “Friends Yet. Clarence Luce, 1912 to Belle Skinner.” This book collects the comments and observations and inspiration from visitors to the Collection by Belle’s intimate circle of friends and family. Entries come visitors from around the world from Austria, Australia, Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and across the US. Handwritten fragments of musical compositions adorn signatures of Koussevitzky (Conductor of Boston Symphony Orchestra from 1924 – 1949), Percy Grainger (Composer and pianist) and Charles Louis Seeger (Composer and folklorist and father of folk singer Pete Seeger).

Drawings and sketches of the gardens, music hall, and wisteria vines produced by visiting artists including John White Alexander and Irving Wiles who painted many Skinner Family portraits. Other names of note include Clara Clemens, daughter of Mark Twain, Martha Dickinson Bianchi, niece of Emily Dickinson, and the Prime Minister of France, Alexandre Millerand.

The most elaborate pages reveal what Belle treasured most, because the entries for Christmas 1922 are all the signatures of her family members who joined the holiday festivities at Wistariahurst that year.

As Belle quoted St. John the Divine, there are many different paths to truth and this book reflects all those whose path lead to Belle Skinner’s Music Room.

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**Winter Hours**

**Gardens:**
Open Dawn till dusk each day

**Visitor’s Center:**
Monday – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m
Closed Fridays

**Tours:**
By Appointment
See website for schedule of guided tours and for research archive hours

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For a complete listing of Art, Music & History events visit WISTARIAHURST.ORG
UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Specialty Tours
New offerings on the schedule in addition to our traditional tours

Chauffeurs & Housekeepers: A Servant’s Perspective:
This new specialty tour will be led by a Wistariahurst docent in character as Hulda Klemm, nurse to the Skinner Family. Learn more about the relationships between the Skinner family and their servants and support staff. Gain insight into the behind-the-scenes workings of the Skinner Estate. Learn more about what it took to run Wistariahurst as a household.

Belle Skinner’s Wistariahurst: On this special tour, dig deeper into the life and work of Ruth Isabel Skinner. Belle, as she was known, was a humanitarian, collector of musical instruments and other antiques, and philanthropist in her home city of Holyoke and beyond. It was Belle who designed many of the distinctive architectural, landscape, and design elements at Wistariahurst, including a room “papered” in hand-painted leather, a driveway paved with dinosaur fossils, and a renowned music room. She was a world traveler and is still remembered today for her charitable projects at home and abroad. Join us, as we use the home she so loved to tell her story.

Wistariahurst by Candlelight-If You Dare!:
Creep through the darkened hallways and rooms of the spooky Skinner Mansion. Learn about some of the unusual stories happening in this house and home. This is a rare opportunity for a guided tour at night. Reservations available online.

A Walk Amidst Forestdale Gravestones: An Evening and Afternoon Cemetery Tour:
Wistariahurst will host A Walk Amidst the Gravestones, a historic walking tour of Forestdale Cemetery. Monuments, Markers, Crypts, and Crosses are but a few of the sights you will see on this insightful walk through Forestdale Cemetery with Wistariahurst staff. Find out the history of some of Holyoke’s founding families, and learn some of the facts of death and dying in the 19th Century. The tour will meet and begin at the Entrance to Forestdale Cemetery at the corner of Sycamore and Pleasant Streets. Parking is available along Sycamore Street. Reservations necessary online.

How Holyoke Honors its Veterans: A Walking Tour of Veterans Park:
Join City Historian Penni Martorell for a walking tour of Veterans Park. This tour will shed light on the history of Holyoke’s community efforts to honor its veterans who served in various military branches. This tour will highlight the monuments located in Veterans Park, share some history about the park, and then walk to the War Memorial Building and learn about the building’s history and its commission history. This tour has been created in conjunction with the War Memorial Commission and Veterans Services and hopes to bring light the sacrifices that were made by community members. Reservations are necessary and are available at our website.

Join us for a free evening of music for the holiday season in the Music Room

Featuring Michael Sheridan
Sunday, December 9
Details coming soon to www.Wistariahurst.org

Seasonal refreshments will be served.
This event is free and open to all,
Donations welcome at the door.

Join us for our Annual performance of The Nutcracker and Sweets

Presented by the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet
Friday - Sunday, December 14 - 16
Tickets go on sale October 22nd!

Register for programs, buy tickets & become a member online  WISTARIAHURST.ORG
New Literary Journal Announced

Since early 2017, Wistariahurst has been opening its doors to a small community of writers from across Western Mass. A core group of writers became familiar faces here at Wistariahurst—our guests, members of our community, and part of a larger story being written into history here last year.

Weekly, these writers would read samples of their work, and now we are happy to announce the creation of Wistariahurst's own literary journal—The Guest Book. It is so titled after Belle Skinner’s music room guest book, which contains art, poetry, writings, paintings, and sketches from the guests she entertained over the years.

Wistariahurst Art History Music

— 238 Cabot Street Holyoke, MA 01040

WISTARIAHURST NEWS

WISTARIAHURST FALL 2018

Become a Member to Support Local Art, History and Music

For as little as $30 annually, start enjoying the benefits of museum membership and become part of a growing community of individuals who take interest in local history, art, and music! Wistariahurst, as an established resource for local memory and creative expression, provides outstanding opportunities for learning, conversation, and entertainment. Your membership supports our mission of preserving the history of Holyoke and inspiring an appreciation of history and culture through educational programs, exhibits, and special events.

Visit www.wistariahurst.org to become a member today!