Welcome to the Team!

Brian Yebernetsky (DPW) has joined us as our new Maintenance Assistant. Brian had previously been working at the War Memorial building in Holyoke and will split his time with our neighbors at the Holyoke Senior Center. He’ll be jumping right into some restoration and repair projects this winter, including some upgrades to our gallery space.

Sigrid von Wendel joins us as Concert Promoter for the Belle Skinner Music Room. After working in the field of international development out of New York for many years, Sigrid came to town in 2015 to become Program Manager for Celebrate Holyoke. She will be working with Wistariahurst to curate a selection of high-quality and entertaining cultural performances in 2016.

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One of the projects we are most excited to embark upon is the creation of an outreach unit which will enable us to bring our exhibits, artifacts, and programs off-site and into the community. Thanks to a generous donation from The Adams Foundation of South Hadley, the project will include the creation of a **portable story and document collection station** and the development of a **portable museum structure**.

During the quiet winter months we will be making some **much-needed improvements to our facility** including repainting our gallery and repairing and upgrading portions of our electrical systems. We will also be working hard on **Nuestras Abuelas de Holyoke**, an exhibit and community-based project funded by Mass Humanities and the Pioneer Valley History Network’s ‘Herencia Latina Project.’ The exhibit will be unveiled in March 2016 along with related programming and opportunities for public engagement throughout the year.

We are lucky to be an institution supported by so many volunteers, members, donors, and residents. 2016 is shaping up to be one of our most impactful years yet, with innovative programs, exceptional cultural events, and, of course, really great history.

Happy New Year!

What's New in the New Year?

2015 was full of excitement here at Wistariahurst. From new events like our first-ever Pumpkin Glow, which brought over 250 people to our grounds, to old traditions like The Nutcracker breaking new attendance records, it was a year to remember. As we plan for 2016, we continue to set our ambitions high with resolutions to: Broaden our educational impact within Holyoke; Support the community-building work of our neighbors and colleagues in the City; and Rise to the challenge of serving as a role model for what it means to be a museum in the 21st Century.

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Fall 2015 at Wistariahurst:

We served 3,455 individuals in programs and activities; Provided 200 intern hours to local students; Presented on 13 different topics in history
2015 Nutcracker Highlights

Once again the annual Massachusetts Academy of Ballet production of The Nutcracker brought over 800 people through Wistariahurst’s doors in December.

The young dancers filled Belle Skinner’s Music Room with a special Holyoke-adapted version of the ballet, choreographed specifically for our historic setting.

The weekend was sponsored by Holyoke Gas & Electric and the Holyoke Cultural Council and was made possible by the hard work of over 30 volunteers from Wistariahurst and the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet.

PopUp Museum

Wistariahurst is hitting the road in 2016 - bringing our preservation and education efforts to all corners of our community. Our new “Pop-Up” units will allow us to engage more people with our local history.

The project will include two components:

1. The creation of a portable story and document collection station. Audio and scanning equipment will allow us to collect interviews, facilitate story-sharing programs, and add photos and documents from the private collections of residents to our digital archive.

2. The development of a portable museum structure. We are teaming up with some talented local designers to create a pop-up museum experience which we will enable us to take exhibits, documents, and artifacts to schools, parks, and other locations.

Keep an eye out for us as we make our way around the City this year!

Nuestras Abuelas de Holyoke: Empoderamiento y Legado Empowerment and Legacy

Coming this March, Wistariahurst Museum presents the photography and bi-lingual text exhibition Nuestras Abuelas de Holyoke: Empowerment and Legacy by guest curator Waleska Santiago.

This exhibition will narrate stories of women in general, and Latinas in particular drawing attention to concepts of family, challenges faced by grandmothers raising their families, gender expectations, and the connections between grandmothers and their grandchildren who reside in Holyoke.

Work began earlier this winter as the team, including HHW Board Trustee Maria Cartegena-Salgado and community partner Nelson Roman, contacted potential subjects and began collecting the stories to be featured in the exhibit.

During its two-month run, Nuestras Abuelas will be complemented by programming, music, and more.

Opening Reception will take place on Saturday, March 5, (snow date of Saturday March 12)

Garden Art Fair

April 30 & May 1

This spring join us for a special art show and sale in our gardens, held in partnership with the Holyoke Creative Arts Center’s ARTery project.

Saturday and Sunday will feature a carefully selected set of local artists and their work, food, and a special preview party Friday, April 29 for Wistariahurst members.

The ARTery seeks to empower creative enterprise by providing training, development resources, place-making tools, and marketplace opportunities to the artists, innovators and creative entrepreneurs of Western Mass.

For a complete listing of Art, Music & History events visit WISTARIAHURST.ORG
I Love Wine!
A Tasting to Benefit Wistariahurst
Friday, February 13, 6 p.m.

Join us for an elegant and festive evening at our most popular wine event! Guests will enjoy a sampling of various wines from different regions. Light refreshments will be served.

All proceeds benefit Wistariahurst Museum. The event is sponsored by Liquors 44 and Historic Holyoke at Wistariahurst.

Tickets are $25 per person in advance, $30 at the door. Reservations are necessary.

Love or Lack Thereof
An Alternative Valentine’s Variety Show
Hosted in partnership with MIFA
Sunday, February 14, 2 - 6 p.m.

Do something different for Valentine’s Day. Come enjoy an afternoon of music, poetry, snacks, and drinks in the one-of-a-kind Wistariahurst Museum music room. Come together, come alone. All hearts welcome.

Music from: Ray Mason, Kevin O’Rourke, Mark Schwaber, and more.

Tickets: $8 advance, $10 at the door.
Presented by Wistariahurst Museum and the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts.

Getting to the Stories
Workshops for Recording and Documenting Family and Community History
Mondays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

This series of workshops will give you the tools and know-how to capture stories from the past. Whether you are interested in documenting stories from your own family or embarking on a research project, our workshops will help you learn the skills for capturing and recording stories.

Presenters range from a photojournalist to a seasoned storyteller. Other presenters will offer tactics for writing; conducting oral histories; interviewing and podcasting. Workshops will take place in our Carriage House and require no prior experience, just an interest and willingness to participate. $5 for members $7 for not yet members Registration is required

Mar. 14 Storytelling with Gail Herman
Mar. 21 Heirlooms Tell a Family Story with Abby Scanlon
Mar. 28 Oral Histories with Sam Redman
Apr. 4 Interviewing Techniques with Dennis Hohenberger
April 11 Podcasting Basics with Stevie Converse
April 25 Writing Memories with Renee Denenfeld
May 2 Photojournalism with Greg Saulmon

Check our website for program descriptions and to reserve your spaces.

Stories from a Skinner Descendent
Sunday, February 21, 3 p.m.

Allerton Kilborne, the last living Skinner descendant to have resided at Wistariahurst, returns this winter for a special program. Mr. Kilborne will bring the past alive as he shares his memories of living at Wistariahurst with his grandmother, Katherine Skinner Kilborne, and a full time staff. An historian himself, Mr. Kilborne weaves his personal memories into the broader narrative of Holyoke.

Tickets are $15 or $10 for Museum members.

Get Ready for Gardening
Tuesday & Friday Mornings beginning April 5

Looking for a way to get your hands in the earth and make some new friends? The volunteer gardeners at Wistariahurst would welcome you to their weekly gardening sessions. We have lots of meaningful work continuing the restoration of our historic and beautifully maintained grounds. These cordial and hard working volunteers set to work on a variety of projects every Tuesday and Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. Interested volunteers are invited to join them on Tuesday, April 5 at 9 a.m. in the Carriage House.

Register for programs, buy tickets & become a member online WISTARIAHURST.ORG
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 year-round opportunities for learning, conversation, and enrichment for everyone. Your membership supports all of our education programs, exhibits and special events.

Member benefits include free house tours, discounted tickets to events, members-only events, subscription to The Vine, and much more. Non-members are encouraged to visit Wistariahurst Art Museum at 238 Cabot Street in Holyoke, MA or online at www.wistariahurst.org.