Welcome Lisa Nicholson, Wistariahurst Program Coordinator

On April 4, Lisa Nicholson joined our staff in the brand new position of Program Coordinator. Lisa’s career has spanned education and engagement positions ranging from Interpretive Ranger with the National Park Service to Paraprofessional in a public school system, as well as her most recent position as Educator with the Springfield Museums. At Wistariahurst, Lisa will be taking over our flagship school program Immigration Experience, facilitating school and group visits, and designing new educational programs to serve the needs of our local youth and families.

Civil War Sketchbook Returns Home to Holyoke

In 1862 Joseph Perkins left his home in Holyoke and enlisted as a private with Captain Thompson’s Company D, 34th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers. Perkins, a painter by trade, sketched and painted what he saw as the regiment travelled through the Shenandoah Valley and West Virginia during the Civil War. Our newest archival acquisition is one of Perkins’ sketchbooks featuring five pen and ink landscapes of Wheeling, West Virginia; Martinsberg and Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

The sketchbook was purchased and donated by Historic Holyoke at Wistariahurst and will be preserved in our archive for research and educational purposes. If you are interested in seeing the sketches you can view them online in the “Archive/Recent Acquisitions” section of our website www.Wistariahurst.org

Winter 2015 at Wistariahurst:

2,000 sq./ft of historic parquet floor buffed and waxed
We presented history to 200 students off-site and presented The Nutcracker to 797 people over three days.
AROUND THE MUSEUM

Amor Fati: Paintings and Drawings by Christopher Willingham
Opening Reception and concert
June 3, 5:30 p.m.
Free and open to all

Amor Fati presents recent paintings and drawings by Christopher Willingham, adjunct professor of visual arts at Holyoke Community College. Charged with mark and color, and evoking themes from classical mythology, these powerful images reveal emergent forms and compositions in a language of exploratory abstraction. Grounded in vivid materiality, they record the search not for specific objects, but for an emotional exactitude—a specificity of feeling in which features of light, landscape, weather, and organic form pulse as elements of urgent process. Naming his creative engagement as amor fati, “love of fate,” the artist offers his works as a Stoic meditation on life as eternal, transformative process, and on the aesthetic as life itself.

Amor Fati is sponsored by MIFA

HCC Students Curate History Exhibit
Immigrant City: Social Space for Social Change

This spring the research archive at Wistariahurst hosted sessions of the Holyoke Community College (HCC) and Amherst college combined history course titled Immigrant City. Using primary source documents and artifacts from the Holyoke Collection and the Vega Collection of Latino History, students researched the waves of immigration, labor and management issues, and socio-economic issues that have faced the city over its 143 year history. Professors Frank Couvares and Mark Clinton integrated readings to complement the archival research. Select HCC students took on the additional role of guest curators to tell this story from the immigrant perspective. These curators investigated the archives more thoroughly to come up with objects, artifacts and documents to illustrate how Holyoke’s history was shaped by waves of Immigrants and Migrants. The exhibit was on view in April and May.

A Century of Service Above Self:
The Rotary Club of Holyoke at 100

As part of the centennial anniversary of the Holyoke Rotary Club, Wistariahurst was delighted to accept a donation of twelve boxes of material from the organization’s historical archive. Materials in the collection include “The Turbine” newsletter, membership rosters, organizational records that pertain to their worldwide fundraising efforts, and many awards and proclamations for their charitable work. Rachel Liptak, Simmons College MLIS intern processed the collection and was guest curator for an exhibit opened at the Rotary’s Centennial Gala and was on view throughout April. Rachel’s work has now made this collection accessible for historical research, and the finding aid can be found in the “Archive/Collections” portion of our website.

Simmons College Intern Tackles Archive Challenge

Each semester Wistariahurst is proud to be part of the Simmons College Graduate Archive and Library internship program. Earlier this spring Rachel Liptak of South Hadley, MA and John Levin of Brattleboro, VT joined our archive team. John took on the archive backlog, a random collection of one-off items donated but not yet processed nor put into storage. John’s time was consumed by learning the organizational structure of the Skinner Family Collection and the Holyoke Collection. He then focused on finding appropriate storage locations, and updating the database and corresponding finding aids. From silver trophy cups and women’s garments to photographs, correspondence and ephemera, this was a challenging task that John stepped up to confidently. After finishing his 60 hours and looking back at where he started John remarked “It doesn’t look so scary now!”

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

The Lavender Blues
Thursday, June 24, 7 p.m.
Pre-sale ticket $12, $10 for Museum members
Modern cabaret performer Sarah Kilborne, great granddaughter of William Skinner and the author of American Phoenix, returns to Wistariahurst with a brand new show that brings to light the quiet, yet powerful emergence between the world wars of songs that spoke about what it was like to be gay or “in the life.” From such legends as Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Gladys Bentley and Josephine Baker, Kilborne performs songs – written almost a century ago – that describe what it is like to be non-binary.

Women in History Storyteller Series
An accomplished Performing Artist/Storyteller, Tammy Denease specializes in bringing to life the lives of very important, yet “obscured” women in history. This spring she will present three, free public events at Wistariahurst:

Sunday, May 22, 3 p.m.
Clo Pratt

Sunday, June 5, 3 p.m.
Elizabeth “Mum Bett” Freeman

Sunday, June 26, 3 p.m.
Bessie Colman

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency and by and by the New England States Touring Program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six New England state arts agencies.

FredBrassMass
Saturday, July 30, 6 p.m.
FREE Lawn Concert
Join the teachers and students of Fred Brass for a rousing brass band summer lawn concert at Wistariahurst!

Bring a folding chair, blanket, picnic and enjoy the music!
Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Family Open House Day
August 20, 2016, 1:00-3:00
Free and open to all

Lemonade, lawn games, and history for all ages!

Beethoven’s Wig
Sunday, September 25, 3 p.m.
$10 Adults, $5 Children

Some years ago, Richard Perlmutter toyed with the idea of writing lyrics to masterpieces of classical music. While humming Beethoven’s 5th Symphony, the words “Beethoven’s Wig is very big” popped into his head. With that spark of inspiration, Beethoven’s Wig was born. Hailed as opening the door to “serious music” in a way that’s fun, Beethoven’s Wig is now the most honored musical group in family entertainment.

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 educational programs, exhibits and special events.

Your Membership support helps us fulfill our mission of preserving the history of Holyoke and inspiring an appreciation of history and culture through educational programs, exhibits and special events.

Member benefits include free house tours, discounted tickets to events, members-only events, subscription to The Vine Newsletter and a 10% discount in the Museum Gift Shop. Most importantly, your membership supports all of our culturally rich programs for youths and adults.

Wistariahurst 238 Cabot Street Holyoke, MA 01040

In the Gallery
Holyoke League of Arts & Crafts Annual Show 2016
May

Amor Fati: Paintings and Drawings by Christopher Willingham
(Sponsored by MIFA)
June - July

Holyoke Views September - October

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit #125 Holyoke, MA