

A photograph of the Morris-Jumel Mansion, a large white neoclassical building with a portico supported by four columns and a balcony. The image is partially obscured by a dark red banner at the bottom.

Monthly Mansion Minute

News from the Morris-Jumel Mansion



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Letter from the Executive Director

As we begin the new year, I extend warmest wishes to you for 2024. With the new year comes a fresh mode of communication - welcome to the inaugural issue of the *Mansion Minute*, a monthly newsletter from the Morris-Jumel Mansion. In this, we want to share ideas, as well as spotlight historic and programming information, upcoming events, and updates on the exterior restoration.

The newsletter will help us to be transparent and communicate what is happening, what has happened, and future happenings. You are also invited to write letters to the editor, or send in questions you would like answered. The *Mansion Minute* is a two-way exchange of ideas. I am excited to have an additional space in which we can share the latest from the Morris-Jumel Mansion.



Yours,
Catherine Hughes



What's New at the Mansion

Our first *December Saturdays*, a series of special events every Saturday during the holiday season, were a success! We had a variety of games, crafts, and concerts that livened up the Mansion for the Holidays. Special thanks to Marjorie Eliot and Parlor Entertainment, KIPP Washington Heights, and WHIN for sharing their music with us! Be sure to join the fun next December.





Click here to watch the VPC on the restoration.

If you missed the Virtual Parlor Chat (VPC) on December 20, 2023 with representatives from the MJM Board, Historic House Trust and NYC Parks Department updating about the Exterior Restoration and Accessibility Project, we encourage you to visit the MJM Youtube channel to view the recorded VPC.

Currently, construction drawings for Phase 1, which includes, but is not limited to, the roof reconstruction and exterior restoration, are being finalized and the project is anticipated to go out to bid in late January/early February. Construction is estimated to start in Summer 2024.



During the 1990 restoration

Calendar



Virtual Parlor Chat Martin Luther King Jr. in Harlem

January 17 7:00-8:00PM

[Register Here](#)



ConEd Family and Community Day

Protest Signs and Buttons

January 13 1:00-3:00PM

No Registration Required



Paranormal Investigation

January 13 & 24 7:00-9:30PM

[Register Here](#)

Mansion Minute

Education Station

Please welcome our newest Educators to the MJM Education Department. Our Educators are an important part of our team, leading our school programs and community activities!

Khadijah McCaskill is a multimedia artist, educator, and project manager. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a bachelors in Sociology and holds a certificate in Critically Informed International Development from Florida State University. She has collaborated with over 20 institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, The Phillips Collection and Black Space to create community art experiences for youth throughout New York City. Khadijah has over a decade of experience as an art and museum educator having served as a teaching artist in China, Costa Rica, and all over the United States.



Joanna Smith, MA is passionate about sustaining culture and history through education. Joanna has a master's degree in Art History from American University, having written her thesis on the iconography of the ten bronze medallions on Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling.

Joanna has lived in New York City for ten years and loves learning something new about it every day. When not at a cultural institution or getting her steps in, Joanna enjoys photography, friends, and good food.



Mansion Minute

Spotlight On Roger Morris's Letters

The archives of the Morris-Jumel Mansion include the letters of Colonel Roger Morris, who built the mansion for himself and his family in 1765. These letters offer a first-hand account into the life of the family before and during the American Revolution.

Morris spent two years in England at the outset of the Revolutionary War, and his letters to his wife Mary during this period provide glimpses into the character of the man and his family life. After Morris left New York for England in June 1775, their older daughter Joanna, whom they called 'Nancy,' was in residence at school in Kensington, England. His references to his daughter in her late teens show a father offering both criticism and praise. In 1775 he noted Nancy "has taken to Music again which I am sorry for, because I am convinced she will make no hand of it." Two years later, in 1777, he comments: "Nancy is very well, & really a fine young Woman. You know I never thought her handsome, She is genteel & appears modest."

The Morris family were among the thousands impacted by the "Great Fire of 1776," that destroyed nearly a quarter of the buildings on the southern end of Manhattan, which then constituted New York City. Morris wrote to his wife: "What a dreadful Night must that between 20 & 21 Sept. have been in New York." "I saw a Letter... that our House [on Stone Street] had been of the number of those which had fallen by the dreadful fire at New York. It is gone & we must submit...".

Look for more excerpts from MJM archives in future newsletters.



Mansion Minute

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Email info@morrisjumel.org

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