

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



What's New at
the Mansion



Restoration
Report



Education
Station



Calendar



Spotlight On
July 10th

Mansion Minute

Letter from the Executive Director

Hello all,

Summer is upon us, and that means trying to keep the Mansion as cool as possible. It is interesting to think of the care the Mansion's original owners, the Morris family, would have given to capturing breezes to cool their summer home. The Octagon Room's windows in particular were placed carefully for ventilation. The Mansion's prominence on the second highest point of Manhattan was a good location to facilitate optimum airflow.

While the house continues to capture any breezes, we now rely heavily on air conditioning. In particular, our Collections Storage and Archives require steady and constant temperature control. Just recently, the AC unit in our Archives puffed out its last cool breeze and required replacement. Thus demonstrating the adage that an old house requires constant attention and expenditures, which is why donations are so important.

The summer has also brought outdoor fun like the recent al fresco showing of Rio, the musical comedy adventure animated film. We had a good crowd for the showing with Inwood Art Works' huge inflatable screen. It is a memorable experience to go to the movies in the Roger Morris Park. Our next screening is on July 25.

Join us!

Yours,

Catherine Hughes



What's New at the Mansion

Summertime fun is underway here at the Morris-Jumel Mansion! When strolling through the park on Saturdays this summer, keep an eye out for our aptly-named seasonal pop-up, "Summer Saturdays". These pop-ups bring bits of the history of the Mansion outside for those enjoying the warm weather. This is an informal program, so there's no set schedule, but you can check out what's



happening any given Saturday afternoon through the end of August. The theme changes with each occurrence, so stop by to see historic artifacts from our collection, learn about the American Revolution and hold a real cannon ball, hear how we are bringing our visitor experience into the digital age, or get to know some of our resident haunts! Stop by and say hello.

Mansion Minute



Click here to watch the December Virtual Parlor Chat about the restoration.



Click here to watch the April Virtual Parlor Chat about the restoration.

We are pleased to share the latest updates on the extensive capital project, which includes much-needed exterior restoration and accessibility as well as ongoing work on the interiors of the Mansion.

It has been determined that the the plaster scope of work on the third floor needs to be revised to make sure it is captured in the current needs, which in turn required revising the drawings, specs, and estimate. Danielle Monopoli, Historic House Trust Project Director, and architects from Page Ayres Cowley Architects are finalizing everything and plan to release the RFP (Request for Proposals) by early July. Bids are due on Friday, August 2.

The Historic House Trust is working with Morris-Jumel Mansion staff to finalize a date for the prebid walkthroughs for contractors wishing to submit a bid. The in-person walkthrough is vital to be sure interested contractors have a complete and clear understanding of the unique project and the nature of the landmarked Mansion, now in its 259th year.

We'll continue to keep you posted as the project moves forward.



Calendar



Yoga in the Park

Every Tuesday starting July 9th, 6:00-7:00 PM

Join us for a relaxing evening yoga class, every Tuesday through August 27th. Spots are limited, so be sure to register online before your session(s)! BYOM (bring your own mat, towel, etc.) encouraged, limited mats available to reserve at registration for a \$5 donation fee.

[Free Registration Here](#)



Virtual Parlor Chat

Gentlemanly Politics

The United States Government After the Burr vs. Hamilton Duel

Wednesday, July 17th, 7:00-8:00 PM

What if one of the biggest political scandals of the 1800's saved an emerging United States government? Dr. Jason Opal (Ohio State University) joins mansion staff to discuss the impact of the duel on the newly formed American Political system, and how we may still be seeing its impact today. A special presentation in commemoration of the 220th anniversary of the duel in Weehawken, NJ.

[Free Registration Here](#)



Movie in the Park: *Stand and Deliver (1988)*

Thursday, July 25th 7:30 PM Start

Bring a blanket and snacks to enjoy a movie screening on our lawn, in partnership with Inwood Art Works. This month's movie may not be appropriate for young audiences (Rated PG). Walk-Ups welcome.

[Reserve a Spot!](#)



EN ESPAÑOL: Tour Edición Especial de Mansión y Terrenos

Sábado, 27 de Julio 11:00AM Comenzar

Una edición especial de nuestro recorrido, Mansion and Grounds, presentado en español por nuestro guía experto. Los boletos deben comprarse con al menos un día de anticipación para asegurar un lugar. \$16 por persona.

[Compra Boletos Aquí](#)

Education Station

Join the MJM Team!

We are looking for a new **School & Community Programs Manager** to be responsible for facilitating educational initiatives at the Mansion, including family, school, and community programming. This is an opportunity to have a positive impact on our diverse community and many audiences while creatively bridging the past, present, and future of the Morris-Jumel Mansion.

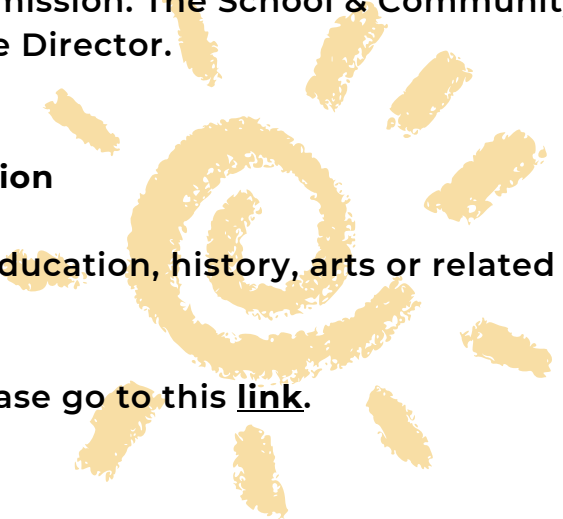
This public-facing position works with the Executive Director to develop and implement innovative, creative programming that advances MJM's mission, increases school and community attendance, raises the visibility and awareness of the organization, and celebrates the museum's collection and historical significance. Because the role is key to engagement with our diverse community, the ability to speak Spanish is essential.

The School & Community Programs Manager is responsible for the execution of the Mansion's vibrant programming for school and community audiences. This individual will perform targeted outreach to local schools, after school programs, community organizations, and collaborate with fellow historic house institutions, as well as activate school tours, and family day programming; and work closely with a small team of museum staff and supervise a team of part-time educators, and program volunteers. School and community programming at MJM seeks to bring history alive, reach diverse audiences, and support the organization's mission. The School & Community Programs Manager reports to the Executive Director.

Qualifications

- 2-3 years experience in museum education
- Bilingual Spanish-English
- Bachelor's degree in museum studies, education, history, arts or related field

For a full description and how to apply, please go to this [link](#).



Spotlight

A Celebration of Battles Won

By Catherine Hughes

Each July, the Morris-Jumel Mansion commemorates the occasion of President George Washington returning to the Mansion to revisit a site and moment in the Revolutionary War of a battle won - in this case, the battle of Harlem Heights. It was a first win for the Patriots, after being driven out of Brooklyn and Queens in the Battle of Long Island by the Redcoats.

Historian Constance Greiff's seminal 1995 report on the history of the Morris-Jumel Mansion summarizes what led to Washington's occupation of the Mansion. In late August 1776, Washington retreated across the East River to Manhattan. A 10-mile picket line of soldiers was established along the eastern border of the island to hold off any attempt by the British to get across the river. Regardless, the British began their attempt on September 14, 1776, and landed at Kip's Bay the next day. Soldiers had been stationed at Colonel Morris's home. Washington headed to Harlem and spent his first night at the Mansion. Reviewing the troop actions near the landing, Washington found chaos and retreating American soldiers.

The next day, September 16, the battle of Harlem Heights took place in an area that is now occupied by Columbia University and Barnard College, and called Morningside Heights. The Americans regrouped and were able to hold off the British. Washington was quoted as pleased by the result, "The Behavior of Yesterday was such a Contrast to that of some troops the day before, as must shew what can be done, where Officers & Soldiers will exert themselves."

From then to October 20 or 21, Washington occupied the Morris-Jumel Mansion. From here, according to Greiff, Washington could observe British troop movements, especially on the river; try to determine where to house troops for winter; and bring order and discipline to his troops. On October 16, it was determined that the American Army should move north to avoid a trap set by a British force at the area known as Throg's Neck. Washington was out observing troop conditions. It is not clear exactly when Washington departed the Mansion, but it is known that his domestic staff left the Mansion on October 21.

It was to celebrate this battle that on July 10, 1790 Washington and his wife Martha, returned to the Mansion, with his first cabinet members and other esteemed guests that included three future presidents: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and John Quincy Adams, as well as Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of War Henry Knox, their partners, and others, such as the Washington's Custis grand children. It was a fine and festive evening to celebrate the first battle won, and a key to the success of the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States... and it took place in the Morris-Jumel Mansion!



Mansion Minute



JOIN US FOR THE 2024 MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION GEORGE WASHINGTON DINNER

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024
6:00 - 9:00 PM



Liberty · Equality · Brotherhood
Liberté · Égalité · Fraternité

The George Washington Dinner is an elegant and fun evening commemorating a dinner hosted by President Washington in July 1790 for his Cabinet. This year it takes place on Bastille Day, the French National Day, and we celebrate the principles of liberty, equality, and brotherhood. Individual tickets and tables of 10 are available. Learn more about this unique event that takes place in the historic Mansion and on the beautiful grounds.

Visit the [Dinner web page](#) to learn about the Honorary Chairs and Program and to purchase tickets.

Thank you to our growing list of sponsors:

Signature Sponsor: Harlem Community Development Corporation

Sponsors Listed Alphabetically:

Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Edge Hotel Washington Heights

Landair

Gary McKay

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Bruce & Lynne Robertson, Compass Realty

Smith Buss & Jacobs LLP

Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture

West Harlem Development Corporation

TICKETS

Contact Catherine Hughes chughes@morrisjumel.org for information on sponsorships ranging from \$750 to \$20,000.

Mansion Minute

Thank you to our members and new donors

Susan Arnot Heaney

Joachim Auer

Brooke Baldwin

Priscilla Bassett

Wayne Benjamin

Sean Benum

Marion Bochner

Stuart Braman

Robert Burke

Antonio Burr

Jane Campbell

Glenorchy Campbell

Alexander Campos

Steven Cappel &

Katherine Fritts

Jon Carver

Leslie Casey

Sara Chase

Katherine Chen

Alan Cohen

Karen Compton

Fred Cookinham

Emma Craven-Matthews

Fiona Davis

Rose Deler

Vincent DeLuca

Isabel Dische

John Doherty

Francis Dubois

Suzanne Ducat

Tessa Dunning

Brad Eckensberger

Sehra Eusufzai

Erik Fiks

Ruth Fischbach

Gary + Karen Fowlie

Daphne + David

Geanacopoulos

Paul Glassman

Mitchell Glenn

Robert Gregg

Jeffrey C. Hahn

Douglas Hartman +

Michael Villani

Susan Hesse

Elizabeth Hipp

Dana Hockenbury

Lucille Horkan

Joseph Hummel

Laura Jacobs

James Kerr

Barbara Kiviat

Lisa Koenigsberg

Will LeLand

Suzanne Lemakis

Curtis LeRoy Archer

Maria Luna

Xavier Mandeng

Berta Matos

Patricia McMaster

John Munoz

Jennifer Nassau

Robert Newman

Guillaume Nicoud

Sara Parrott

Lori Perkins

Sherri Phillips

Stephen Pickover

Joanna Piucci

Adam Pollack

Afua Preston

George Preston

Zead Ramadan

Bruce Robertson

Camilla Saly

Brenda Scott

Steve Simon

Matthew Spady

Suzanne Smeaton +

Kenneth Gillespie

Jerry Thomas

Maria Thompson

Deborah Trupin

Michael Unthank

Mary Wagner

Gregory Washington

Isabelle Wedemeyer

Glenn Weiss

Kevin White

Warren Whitlock

Jason Wilcox

Suzanne Wray

Elizabeth Yockey

Have a question? Want to know more?

Email info@morrisjumel.org

Donate

Volume VII July 2024