



# Monthly Mansion Minute

News from the Morris-Jumel Mansion



What's New at  
the Mansion



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Report



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Spotlight On  
Jazz weekend

# Mansion Minute

## Letter from the Executive Director

Hello all,

On October 1, I will celebrate two years at the Morris-Jumel Mansion. It can feel like yesterday that I arrived in NYC from Indiana, and at the same time, like I've truly settled in. Being the director of a small museum has kept me busy! A work anniversary invites a moment of reflection. I have really enjoyed immersing myself in Morris-Jumel and New York City history. I have been fascinated to discover how much I didn't know. I have had the opportunity to meet many people doing extraordinary work in Upper Manhattan and beyond, and have been able to partner with many of them on projects. I have also been able to meet people who had no knowledge of the Morris-Jumel Mansion, and been proud to introduce them to it.

In two years, there have been a flurry of deadlines for reports, grant proposals, events, and new exhibitions. Honestly, I love the adrenaline rush of meeting a deadline, even knowing that another deadline is staring me in the face! One of the ways I have gotten to know so many people is through events and meetings with the staff, board, committees, accountants, planning boards, city agencies, the neighborhood association, the Community Board, and more, with the common goal to improve life in the community, to maintain Morris-Jumel Mansion's extraordinary history, and to connect the past with the present. I look forward to another two years of deadlines, meetings, and new partnerships.

If I have had the privilege of meeting you, I hope I will again soon. If we have yet to meet, I hope we can rectify that before too long.

Yours,  
Catherine Hughes



## What's New at the Mansion

The fiber mixed media artist, Asake Denise Foye Jones (r) gifted an exquisite quilt titled: Marjorie Eliot's Jazz Parlor to Marjorie Eliot (m), showing Eliot at the piano with her son Rudy Drears (l) in silhouette. Marjorie has in turn shared the quilt with Morris-Jumel Mansion. It is now on temporary display in the first floor hallway. The artist describes Eliot, "From her small frame she exudes a genuinely gracious and gently loving Spirit." It is also a nod to 555 Edgecombe Avenue, right next to the Mansion, sometimes called the Triple Nickel, where Marjorie and Parlor Entertainment play every Sunday afternoon.



In photo: Rudel, Marjorie  
and Denise



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



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

HHT and MJM have updated signage, with apologies, to correct the absence of Senator Robert Jackson and Assemblyman Al Taylor as supporters of the Exterior Restoration Project.

**GOALS**

- Preserve the historic building
- Welcome more visitors to experience the history interpreted at the museum

**PHASE I SCOPE**

- Full Exterior Restoration
- Window Restoration
- Full Roof Replacement
- Porch Column Replacement
- Interior Plaster Repair
- Reconstruct Rooftop Balustrades

**PHASE II SCOPE**

- Restore Bluestone Patio
- Construct ADA Ramp at East Entrance
- Renovate Basement Bathroom
- Create ADA Compliant Bathroom
- Reconstruct Architectural Lighting System
- Upgrade Electrical System
- Reconstruct Exterior Basement Stairs
- Waterproof Foundation

## PROJECT INFORMATION

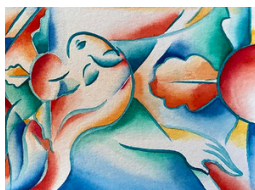
### MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION EXTERIOR RESTORATION

The collaborative design process with Page Ayres Cowley Architecture was completed in June 2024. Once a qualified contractor is onboarded, construction will begin for Phase I of the restoration. Scan the QR code below to stay up-to-date on project progress.

Funding for this project was provided by former elected officials Mayor Bill de Blasio, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, and Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer. It continues with the support of Mayor Eric L. Adams, Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Senator Robert Jackson, and Assemblyman Al Taylor.



*Roger Morris Park will remain open throughout the restoration. Please feel free to visit and enjoy!*



## UPCOMING!

A new exhibition from artist Andrea Arroyo **Faces & Façades** opens October 19, 2024

# Calendar



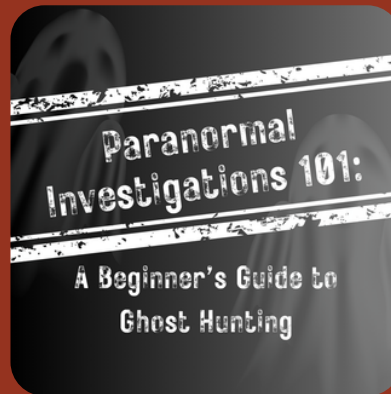
## **ConEd Family and Community Day**

*Hessian Craft Bags with Fragrant Fall Spices*

Saturday, September 14th

1:00-3:00PM, FREE

No Registration Needed



## **Virtual Parlor Chat**

*Paranormal Investigations 101*

Wednesday, September 18th

7:00-8:00 PM, FREE

[Free Registration Here](#)



## **The Music of Bridgerton**

*WHCO Picnic Concert Series*

Saturday, September 21st

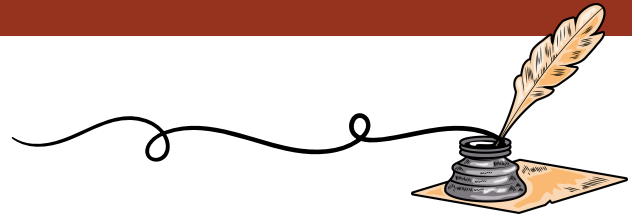
4:00-5:00 PM, FREE

[Free Registration Here](#)

**Dates for our 2024 Paranormal Investigations of the Morris-Jumel Mansion will be released soon!**

***Join our waitlist [HERE!](#)***

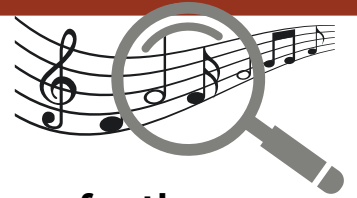
## Education Station



Our new School and Community Programs manager, Caroline Siavichay, attended the Annual Community Picnic and Back-to-School Giveaway on Sunday, August 25 organized by Council Member Carmen De La Rosa at Highbridge Park. Spirits were high and the MJM table was a popular spot for families, with community members of all ages trying their hand at our quill pen-and-ink activity and taking home coloring pages of scenes from the Mansion to extend their experience with us. Flyers advertising MJM field trips were grabbed up. It was exciting to see families using our materials to make connections between life in the past and the present. These impromptu creative discussions with families provided a great opportunity for some inquiry-based discovery that showcased the valuable experiences our school programs provide. Some people had never heard of MJM, and were very excited to learn they had such a historic gem tucked away in their own neighborhood! It was a wonderful afternoon of continuing to build relationships with our community, and we hope to see many familiar faces at the Mansion this year!



# Mansion Minute



## Spotlight on Jazz at the Mansion

Over the weekend of August 24 and 25, it was an honor for the Morris-Jumel Mansion to host the 32nd year of Jazz at the Mansion with Marjorie Eliot and Parlor Entertainment. The weather was incredible and over the two days more than 700 folks attended the concert.

There was an incredible joie de vivre as the music played for four hours each day. It was also a special celebration of life for Marjorie Eliot, who spoke eloquently about how music has supported her and helped grieve the loss of two sons.



Parlor Entertainment musicians include Marjorie on piano, her son Rudel Drears on piano and vocals, Sedric Choukroun on saxophone, clarinet, and flute, Nicholas Mauro on trumpet, Yuma Takagi on bass, and Will Glass on percussion.

There were many newcomers this year, as well as those who attend each year. The Mansion was open for free from 2-4pm both days and more than 200 people toured it, expressing lots of interest in MJM's history, period rooms, and exhibitions.



# Volunteer With Us!

Be a part of the Morris-Jumel Mansion's history by assisting with programming, leading tours, and more!



## MJM Volunteer Perks Include:

- FREE museum membership for as long as the individual remains an active volunteer.
- Invitations to exclusive volunteer-only events.
- Behind-the-scenes access to the Mansion & so much more!

Ready to join our team?

Email: [info@morrisjumel.org](mailto:info@morrisjumel.org)



# Mansion Minute

## Thank you to our members and new donors

Susan Arnot Heaney	Brad Eckensberger	Robert Newman
Joachim Auer	Sehra Eusufzai	Guillaume Nicoud
Brooke Baldwin	Erik Fiks	Sara Parrott
Priscilla Bassett	Ruth Fischbach	Lori Perkins
Wayne Benjamin	Gary + Karen Fowlie	Sherri Phillips
Sean Benum	Daphne + David	Stephen Pickover
Marion Bochner	Geanacopoulos	Joanna Piucci
Stuart Braman	Paul Glassman	Adam Pollack
Robert Burke	Mitchell Glenn	Afua Preston
Antonio Burr	Robert Gregg	George Preston
Jane Campbell	Jeffrey C. Hahn	Zead Ramadan
Glenorchy Campbell	Douglas Hartman +	Bruce Robertson
Alexander Campos	Michael Villani	Camilla Saly
Steven Cappel &	Susan Hesse	Brenda Scott
Katherine Fritts	Elizabeth Hipp	Steve Simon
Jon Carver	Dana Hockenbury	Matthew Spady
Leslie Casey	Lucille Horkan	Suzanne Smeaton +
Sara Chase	Joseph Hummel	Kenneth Gillespie
Katherine Chen	Laura Jacobs	Jerry Thomas
Alan Cohen	James Kerr	Maria Thompson
Karen Compton	Barbara Kiviat	Deborah Trupin
Fred Cookinham	Lisa Koenigsberg	Michael Unthank
Emma Craven-Matthews	Will LeLand	Mary Wagner
Fiona Davis	Suzanne Lemakis	Gregory Washington
Rose Deler	Curtis LeRoy Archer	Isabelle Wedemeyer
Vincent DeLuca	Maria Luna	Glenn Weiss
Isabel Dische	Xavier Mandeng	Kevin White
John Doherty	Berta Matos	Warren Whitlock
Francis Dubois	Patricia McMaster	Jason Wilcox
Suzanne Ducat	John Munoz	Suzanne Wray
Tessa Dunning	Jennifer Nassau	Elizabeth Yockey
Annette Duran		

Have a question? Want to know more?  
Email [info@morrisjumel.org](mailto:info@morrisjumel.org)

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