



Monthly Mansion Minute

News from the Morris-Jumel Mansion



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Mansion Minute

Letter from the Executive Director

Hello all,

As I write this, a school bus has just dropped off a lively group of fourth graders who will be taking part in our school program, *What It Means To Be An American*. This is one of three school programs Morris-Jumel Mansion offers grades 1-12. This year, Caroline Siavichay, School & Community Programs Manager, has been reworking and enhancing the activities within each program, which she details in this issue. Caroline has also been doing extensive outreach to schools to help meet our mission to be an educational and community resource for New York City and beyond.

MJM is having a great fall with events, exhibits, and additional programming. Just in the last two weekends of October, we hosted two groups from Open House New York to tour the Mansion and Grounds, held a well-attended opening reception for *Faces & Façades*, and a collective Day of the Day "Ofrenda" event (see Spotlight on artist Andrea Arroyo), had a check presentation from NYC Council Member Carmen De La Rosa for \$750,000 to support the Exterior Restoration Project, and contributed a Tarot Card Reading table with Caroline Siavichay as Madam Zoltara to the Morris-Jumel neighborhood Halloween party. Meanwhile, Danielle Gaita, Public Programs & Visitor Services Manager, has been busy organizing Paranormal Investigations and reworking the Candlelight program (see below), and MJM's Board of Trustees is busy preparing for a new Paranormal Fundraiser on December 14 (more on p. 7). These programs promise to be a lot of fun. If you are in the New York area, we hope to see you.

Yours,
Catherine Hughes



What's New at the Mansion

Holidays by Candlelight

The MJM Candlelight program offered in addition to the popular Paranormal Investigations has been revamped and is now a family-friendly offering focusing on the holiday season. It's still an evening program, and participants will experience the Mansion at its dark and moody best, but now there is audience participation! It's 1843 and Madame Jumel has asked that the Mansion be decorated in the new Victorian style, inspired by the publication of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Because she wants all her guests to feel special, Hannukah and Kwanzaa are part of the festivities as well. Candlelight is a part of all celebrations, as the program title suggests. Everyone will contribute to the decorations throughout the Mansion with materials provided, then together celebrate with a country dance in the Octagon Room, and cider in the kitchen.





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



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

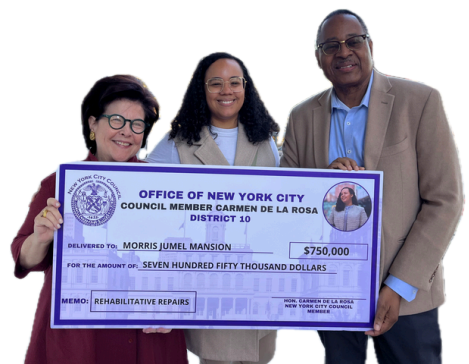
Contract Awarded for Restoration

We are excited to announce that as of October 2024, the Historic House Trust of New York City has awarded a contract to Sienia Construction to complete the first phase of MJM’s exciting exterior restoration and accessibility project. Sienia has a proven track record of completing historically sensitive construction projects across the city. We are confident that they will be an excellent partner in completing this work. Construction will begin once the contract is registered with the appropriate City agencies, a process that can take several months.

The scope for this first phase includes a full exterior restoration, window restoration, roof replacement, reconstruction of the porch columns, full porch replacement, interior plaster repair, and reconstruction of rooftop balustrades.

Check Presentation by NYC Council Member Carmen De La Rosa

Morris-Jumel Mansion Staff and Board were proud to accept a check for \$750,000 from New York City Council Member Carmen De La Rosa. The capital funds allocated by the City Council will support Morris-Jumel Mansion’s long-awaited Exterior Restoration and Accessibility Project. We are grateful for the steadfast support of Council Member De La Rosa and other New York City and New York State elected officials who have, over the past decade, allocated the capital funds needed to ensure that this critical project can finally progress and the Mansion, a City and National historic treasure, will be restored, revitalized and preserved for generations to come.



Board of Trustees President Lisa Koenigsberg and Vice President Wayne Benjamin receiving check from Carmen De La Rosa

Calendar



ConEd Family and Community Day

Make Your Own Lantern

Saturday, November 9th

1:00-3:00PM, FREE

[No Registration Needed](#)



Virtual Parlor Chat

Preserving Native American Heritage and History in NYC

Wednesday, November 20th

7:00-8:00 PM, FREE

[Free Registration Here](#)



Holidays by Candlelight

A new MJM programming series!

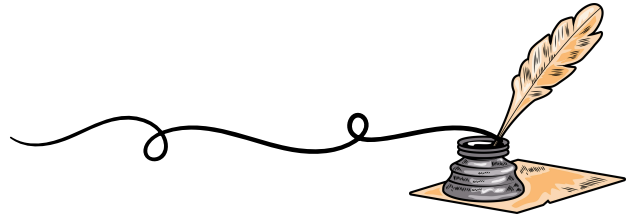
Saturday, November 30th and

December 7th and 21st

6:00-7:30 PM, \$35 per person

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

Education Station



New Elements Added to School Programs

The Education Department is excited to announce a refreshing update of our school programs, aimed at enriching students' educational experiences through interactive and immersive learning. Our revamped objectives align with contemporary educational standards, ensuring that students engage deeply with the history of the Mansion within the broader context of the American Revolution. By transforming the Mansion into a vibrant learning environment, we enable students to connect classroom lessons with tangible historical experiences. Highlights of our updated programs include the Soldiers and Spies Cipher Scavenger Hunt, where students will use a cipher wheel to uncover a real piece of vital espionage information that George Washington actually received while at the Mansion, which helped him avoid defeat at the Battle of Harlem Heights. This hands-on activity enhances critical thinking skills, and connects students directly to the thrilling narratives of the past in the building where it actually happened!

A cipher wheel



In addition to our scavenger hunt, some programs are incorporating dynamic role-playing activities that allow students to step into the shoes of historical figures. Learning how to bow, curtsy, and properly call on someone, provides insight into the social customs of the 18th century. Some programs also explore the foodways of the time, providing students with a firsthand look at the everyday struggles of rationing during the American Revolution. These interactive components foster a deeper understanding of the historical context, making learning memorable and engaging. By utilizing the Mansion's rich stories and unique setting, we aim to create "sticky memories" that resonate long after the classroom lessons are over, ultimately sparking students' appreciation for history and its relevance today.

Spotlight on the Artist Andrea Arroyo



The Morris-Jumel Mansion is fortunate to have as a local friend and supporter, the awarding-winning artist Andrea Arroyo. While her art has adorned the walls of much larger institutions and has been featured in major publications across the world, she is proud to exhibit her newest work, *Faces & Façades*, in the Mansion's temporary gallery on the second floor (October 19, 2024-March 23, 2025). Additionally, Andrea built and decorated a gorgeous "Life Is a Dream" Ofrenda (altar) in the MJM entry hall in honor of the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Community members of all ages were invited to come and add photos and mementos to the altar, creating a lovely and heart-warming tribute to loved ones who have passed.



Attendees to "Life is a Dream" Ofrenda event



Creating elements to add to the Ofrenda

It is a challenge to capture all the honors and accomplishments that Andrea has achieved as a multi-media artist working in painting, sculpture, installations, and public art. Her work has been widely published, including in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and *Ms. Magazine*, and is housed in the collections of the National Museum of



American History, the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the Latin Recording Academy of Arts and Sciences, the City University of New York, and the Richmond Museum. MJM is proud to be included among these stellar institutions showcasing Andrea's unique talent.

Opening reception for *Faces & Façades*

A Paranormal Fundraiser

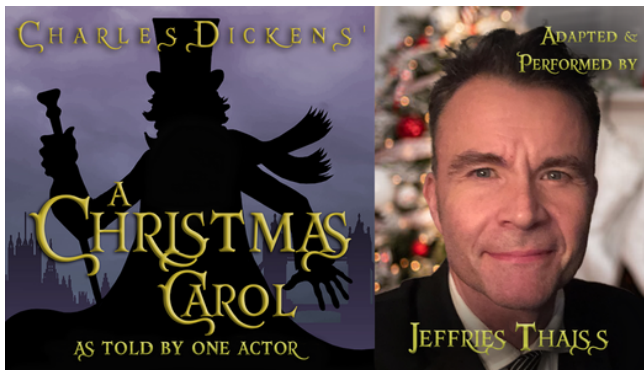
Saturday, December 14, 2024 6:00-9:00 PM

Ever wondered what goes on during MJM's sold out Paranormal Investigations at the Mansion? Find out during this special event on December 14 when MJM opens the Mansion for three hours. Guests will have unique access to explore and investigate the period rooms, nooks and crannies for paranormal activity using electro-magnetic detectors, dousing rods, and other equipment. Ask the spirits questions! Have your Tarot Cards read! You will also enjoy historically-inspired snacks and beverages as you investigate. Have a great evening while supporting MJM. Buy your tickets for MJM's Paranormal Fundraiser [HERE](#).

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as Told by One Actor

Actor Jeffries Thaiss performs his adaptation of Dickens' tale of greed and redemption in one hour at the Morris-Jumel Mansion!

Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM



Limited Tickets
available [HERE](#).

"It was an absolute delight"
Broadway World

Mansion Minute

Thank you to our members and new donors

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

Have a question? Want to know more?
Email info@morrisjumel.org

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