

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

Mansion Minute

Letter from the Executive Director

Hello all,

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month and Happy spooky season. We have lots happening around MJM to mark this time of year, which you can see in our calendar offerings. We are proud to host two events with the multi-talented artist Andrea Arroyo, who recently returned from participating in events in Italy and France. Many of you might remember Andrea's previous show here *Art as Solidarity*. On October 19, we will open *Faces & Façades*, her new exhibition, and on October 26 in honor of Dia de los Muertos, Andrea is building an ofrenda with audience participation. That same day, MJM will be working with neighbors to celebrate Halloween by adding some fun to the street party with our own Caroline Siavichay reading Tarot cards.

We are also getting more concrete in planning for next year, as we face the reality of the extensive exterior restoration, and how that will impact our operations. Working with our partners, the NYC Parks Department and the Historic House Trust of New York, MJM's collections and archives stored on the third floor will be moved to temporary spaces while the new roof is installed. We are making plans to minimize the impact of the restoration on visitors to the Mansion and the Park. Big news we are happy to share in this issue of the Mansion Minute is that a contractor's bid has been awarded by the Historic House Trust.

You can read more in the Restoration Report in this newsletter.

Yours,
Catherine Hughes



What's New at the Mansion

Faces & Façades opens October 19

Faces & Façades is an exhibition showcasing new artworks by award-winning artist and Washington Heights resident Andrea Arroyo. The project is a love letter to the uptown community and the women who hold it together. The paintings in the exhibition blend organic and non-organic forms, taking inspiration from two sources: the female body and the architectural elements of uptown buildings.

The women of Washington Heights motivated the artist by their dedication to lovingly caring for their neighbors and homes. Additionally, the project was inspired by the beautiful local architecture and miniature Latin American folk art doors in her neighborhood. The artist photographs unique architectural elements to serve as the foundation for an intricate painting that combines these different forms. The artist's process will be showcased in the exhibition.



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



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

Update on the Restoration

The Historic House Trust is pleased to announce that it has selected a contractor for construction and is finalizing the contracts for Phase 1 of the Exterior Restoration & Accessibility Ramp Project of the Morris-Jumel Mansion and the protection of the museum's collections. Phase 1 of the project provides for a full exterior restoration, including the windows and doors, a full roof replacement, reconstruction of the rooftop railings, reconstruction of the porch columns, and repainting the exterior of the house. We are excited to get this project underway for the Mansion's restoration so that it can continue to be a valuable resource for the community and historic landmark for New York City and beyond.



Calendar



ConEd Family and Community Day

Día de los Muertos Celebration

Saturday, October 12th

1:00-3:00PM, FREE

[No Registration Needed](#)



Virtual Parlor Chat

Dominican History in the Heights

Wednesday, October 16th

7:00-8:00 PM, FREE

[Free Registration Here](#)



Exhibit Opening Reception

Faces & Façades By Andrea Arroyo

Saturday, October 19th

3:00-4:30 PM, FREE

[Free Registration Here](#)



Life is a Dream

A Day of the Dead Ofrenda with Andrea Arroyo

Saturday, October 26th

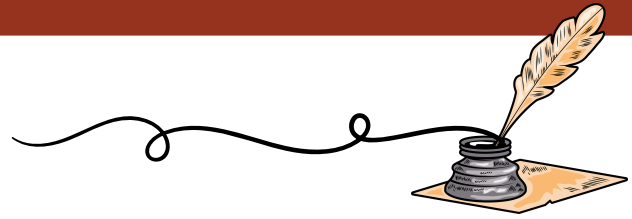
3:00-4:30 PM, FREE

[Free Registration Here](#)

Dates for our 2024 Paranormal Investigations of the Morris-Jumel Mansion sold out in just two days!

Join our waitlist [HERE!](#)

Mansion Minute



Education Station

We are proud to introduce two new educators who recently joined the staff at MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION.

Krista Homicz Millar, MA, ABD PhD, English and Education, has over 13 years experience teaching adults, various grades and college levels ESL, English, Education, Writing, and Teacher Training, using various modalities and media to create enhanced, immersive learning and storytelling experiences. She is thrilled to think of the endless possibilities the Mansion provides for this! Krista grew up in Los Angeles, has lived in MI, DC, VA, Paris (Fr), moved to NYC 6 years ago with her husband and 3 kids, was soon rescued by a mini schnauzer during Covid, and, most recently, by the wonderful Morris-Jumel Mansion staff. She loves connecting with her Italian, Polish, and Scottish roots, as well as with the Asian, African, Hispanic and South American cultures of her friends and students in NYC's neighborhoods.



Eva Scherrer is so excited to be part of the Morris-Jumel Mansion team! They received a BA in History and Political Science from The Ohio State University where they wrote their undergraduate independent research thesis on labor organization in Central America at the turn of the century. (Ask them any time about the importance of bananas!) They're new to the city but eager to learn more about their neighborhood in Washington Heights. In their free time, they enjoys acting, playing guitar and roller skating!

Spotlight on the Northup Audio Experience



In 1841, Eliza Jumel summered in Saratoga Springs, NY, and there she met Anne Northup, a well-known chef. The story goes that Eliza invited Anne to go to New York and serve as her chef at the Mansion. It was a strange moment in time for Anne. Her husband Solomon had just disappeared after going to Washington, DC. He had been hired to play violin, but it was a ruse. Instead, Solomon was drugged, kidnapped and sold into slavery. He was enslaved in Louisiana, and it was twelve long years before he would be located, extricated from slavery, and reunited with his family... a story made famous by the 2013 movie.

Anne and Solomon Northup were free people of color who had never been enslaved. This did not stop unscrupulous profiteers from targeting free people of color in addition to freedom seekers fleeing slavery, kidnapping them to receive a “reward” for their capture. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 provided for the seizure and return of runaway slaves who escaped from one state into another or into a federal territory, thus enabling and emboldening corrupt slave catchers who pursued both enslaved and free people of color.

Anne and her children Elizabeth, Margaret and Alonzo moved to the Mansion in 1841. Anne served as cook, and 10-year old Elizabeth was also employed as a servant by Eliza. They were not at the Mansion long before returning upstate, but as the primary servants to Eliza at the time, they had a close relationship with their employer. This we know thanks to transcripts of a trial in 1873 over Eliza’s estate. The Northups were called to testify, and the record of their testimony provides a small window into their lives at the Mansion. We will share more on that trial in another spotlight article.

This year a new Northup audio experience is being offered to visitors who can listen as they tour the Mansion and to non-visitors who can access it on the website: www.morrisumel.org/. This contemplative audio experience, produced by Black Gotham Experience, was commissioned by the Morris-Jumel Mansion and funded by Humanities New York. It seeks to find the voice of Anne Northup in the shadows of this historic building and explore and share her story. This program is part of MJM's commitment to offering a more complete history of this unique place by capturing unknown or forgotten stories of the diverse people whose lives touched the Mansion, including those who worked below stairs.

UPCOMING Virtual Parlor Chat

October 16, 2024 at 7pm

Learn about the vibrant impact and history of the Dominican Republic in Washington Heights. A recent state board vote to recognize a new Washington Heights-Dominican Cultural Historic District will be addressed. The virtual event will be presented by Dr. Ramona Hernandez, director of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute. [Register here](#) for the Virtual Parlor Chat.



New Curatorial Intern Joins for Fall

Alexis Pecknay has joined as an intern for the fall semester, and in this role is assisting the Morris-Jumel Mansion's curatorial division in completing and maintaining proper records, catalogs, and resources in accordance with the standards and best practices of the field. The internship will focus on organizing the current collection in advance of the collections move required for the museum's 2025 exterior restoration project.

Alexis attended Bryn Mawr College and received a BA in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology while minoring in Geology and History of Art. They are currently studying at the Fashion Institute of Technology to receive their MA in Fashion and Textile Studies with a concentration in Conservation. Their current academic interest is experimental history involving historical dress.



Mansion Minute

Thank you to our members and new donors

Susan Arnot Heaney	Annette Duran	Jennifer Nassau
Joachim Auer	Brad Eckensberger	Robert Newman
Brooke Baldwin	Sehra Eusufzai	Guillaume Nicoud
Priscilla Bassett	Erik Fiks	Sara Parrott
Wayne Benjamin	Ruth Fischbach	Lori Perkins
Sean Benum	Gary + Karen Fowlie	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	Mary Wagner
Rose Deler	Will LeLand	Gregory Washington
Vincent DeLuca	Suzanne Lemakis	Isabelle Wedemeyer
Stephen Paul DeVillo	Curtis LeRoy Archer	Glenn Weiss
Isabel Dische	Maria Luna	Kevin White
John Doherty	Xavier Mandeng	Warren Whitlock
Francis Dubois	Berta Matos	Jason Wilcox
Suzanne Ducat	Patricia McMaster	Suzanne Wray
Tessa Dunning	John Munoz	Elizabeth Yockey

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

Donate