

LAUREL HILL MANSION NEWS

FLORIAN TRIO MUSICAL PICNIC SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

THE SWEET SOUND OF MUSIC
RETURNED TO LHM AS WE
HOSTED A LAWN CONCERT
DEDICATED TO VICTIMS OF THE
9/11/OI ATTACKS.
THE FLORIAN TRIO PERFORMED:

ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810-1856)
SCENES FROM CHILDHOOD – TRAUMEREI

HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS (1887-1959)
PRELUDE NO. 1, FOR SOLO GUITAR

NICCOLO PAGANINI (1782-1840)
ADAGIO CANTABILE RONDO: ANDANTINO ALLEGRETTO

ALLEN KRANTZ (B. 1951)
THE WATER IS WIDE, FOR VIOLIN AND CELLO

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA (1921-1992)
L'HISTOIRE DU TANGO



[https://www.instagram.com/
p/CTsIsseJ5C7/?
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THIS CONCERT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE
GENEROUS DONATION OF
ANTHONY P. COOPER & CARLA J. WALTERS

CONCERTS@LAURELHILLMANSION.ORG
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Message from the President

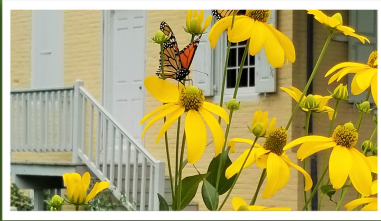
Dear Members and Friends of LHM,

As we enter the Fall at Laurel Hill Mansion, the Women for Greater Philadelphia have been busy on several projects. Thanks to the Garden Committee the grounds look wonderful, with the view of the Schuylkill River once again being restored. The bees, that have made a home at the hives at Laurel Hill, are busy making their honey and The Florian Trio performed a beautiful outdoor concert on Sept. 11 with an appreciative audience. We are now in the planning stages of opening the mansion for holiday tours. We are keeping our fingers crossed that this can come to fruition.

Barbara Frankl,

President, Women for Greater Philadelphia/Laurel Hill Mansion

LAWN & GARDEN



The LHM Garden Committee and Ascencio Landscapers have been beautifying the grounds of Laurel Hill Mansion this past year. Additionally, our large trees have all been tagged with common and botanical names. This will be of interest to gardeners and all visitors who tour the property. We used sustainable bamboo labels and attached them to the trees and identified plant material in the beds. Fun to check out and see if you can identify the trees and plants and see some of our garden art.

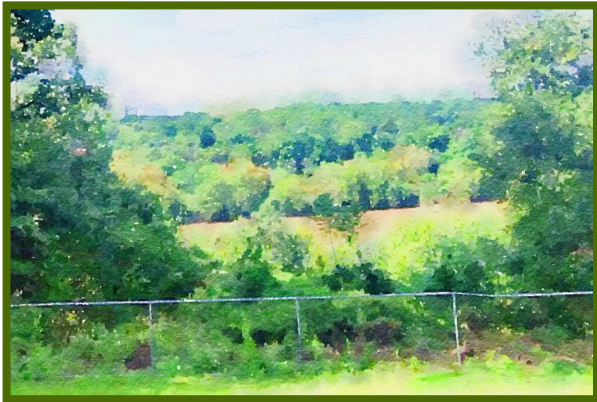


Women for Greater Philadelphia Committees need you

Please peruse the current committees and join one or more

- **EDUCATION**– develop programs for students on colonial America in relation to LHM and the US Constitution; educate adults about LHM’s history
- **HOUSE** –chair- Jacqui Martin –report repairs to maintain the structure of the house so that it is presentable to visitors; assist with house events
- **MEMBERSHIP**– chairs- Jeanette Gonzales & Kathryn Holden – develop ways to attract new members and retain current members; send materials to prospective members and renewals to members, record member renewals, enhance member benefits
- **MUSIC** –chair-Barbara Frankl–promote the LHM music program, contract with performers, schedule concerts, coordinate public relations
- **SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS**– chair- Smokie Kittner–increase visibility of LHM, post information on Instagram and Facebook; maintain and update www.laurelhillmansion.org website, promote LHM events
- **GIFT SHOP & MERCHANDISE SALES** – chair – Tish deTuro– design sales space and decor; organize and price items for events
- **HOSPITALITY/GUEST EXPERIENCE** – chair- Christine Smith – organize volunteers to offer food and supplies for events; welcome guests and ensure event guests have an overall positive experience
- **BY-LAWS**–create and maintain the organization’s bylaws, make note of updates needed, create revised drafts regularly, and ensure that all rules in the bylaws are followed
- **PLANNING**–chairs- Athena Flamporis & Phyllis Kauffman– oversee and direct fundraising activity and events at Laurel Hill Mansion
- **GARDEN** – chairs – Toni DeGeorge & Christine Mifsud–maintain the landscaping , develop new gardens, maintain the integrity of colonial style plantings & beautify Laurel Hill
- **HISTORY**–gather, organize, & retain data, records and information about the house and its occupants and interpret its authenticity; keep track of activities within the organization, take pictures and document events,
- **FINANCE COMMITTEE**–chairs–Jen Warfield & B Bufford–keep track of the organization’s assets and liabilities, prepare and present financial reports at Board meetings and the annual meeting, audit the work of contractors

In addition to these Standing Committees, Ad Hoc Committees are developed as needed To join a committee, Contact Barbara Frankl: bfrankl433@comcast.net



VIEW FROM THE PIAZZA

Hannah Wharton, (1789-1875), grand daughter of Francis & Rebecca Rawle, and daughter of Margaret Rawle & Isaac Wharton, commented on the fine view from the porch in the rear of Laurel Hill Mansion in 1815: "A beautiful place...The view from the piazza is extremely fine." Fortunately, the lovely view is once again en force at Laurel Hill. Over the summer, the vista that goes to the Schuylkill River was cleared of vines and overgrowth on our back fence. More needs to be done, but it is a substantial start. Be sure to take a stroll around the property and see how nice it looks.



**ALL DECKED OUT FOR
THE HOLIDAYS**



In the tradition of LHM's annual holiday festivities, we are hoping to provide limited Christmas Tours in early December; dependent upon public health safety protocols. Tours will most likely be in partnership with Woodford, Ormiston, and Strawberry Mansions.

LAUREL HILL MANSION

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UPCOMING WFGP EVENTS

Board Meeting: 10/09/21, 10:30 am at LHM

General Membership Meeting: 10/16/21 11 am at LHM

Christmas Committee Meeting: 10/16/21 1 pm at LHM

LHM Holiday Tours: TBA

HALLOWEEN



10/31/21

THANKSGIVING



11/25/21

CHRISTMAS



12/25/21

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WINDSOR FURNITURE

by Christine Mifsud

Windsor furniture seems to have derived its name from Windsor, an English market town, where the furniture was made and sold in the 17th century. Windsor chairs are characterized by stick legs and spindles driven into a plank seat. Hickory and ash woods - tough, springy and easily shaped, were ideal woods for Windsor construction, which did not require nails or screws.

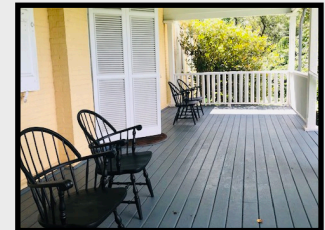
Because Windsor chairs were being made in large numbers in Philadelphia by the mid-18th century, they were occasionally called "Philadelphia" chairs. These chairs were constructed with a variety of types of wood, then painted to create a unified look. Black, which has been selected for the chairs on the back porch at Laurel Hill, was a popular color

Windsor chairs did not require upholstery. They were used in and outside the home. Benjamin Franklin owned two dozen. Thomas Jefferson ordered four dozen for Monticello.

Due to popularity and adaptability, it is easy for us to envision the Rawle, Shoemaker and Physick families enjoying their summers seated on Windsor chairs on the porch at Laurel Hill, overlooking the Schuylkill River.



Pictured left are the original LHM Windsor chairs. To the right, are the the refurbished, black chairs on the rear porch. Stop by, rest, & enjoy the vista...



Spotlight on **BARBARA FRANKL, WFGP PRESIDENT**



Barbara Frankl was born in Stanford, CT, close enough to NYC to enjoy its cultural benefits but far enough away to be immersed in a lovely suburban life. Barbara attended undergraduate school at the University of Bridgeport in CT and majored in Elementary Education. She moved to the Philadelphia area and attained a Masters Degree at Villanova University. Barbara stayed in the Philadelphia suburbs and taught Elementary School for thirty three years in Central Bucks County. After retiring in 2005, Barbara’s attraction to music and teaching drew her to return to education as a Preschool Music Teacher until 2014.

Musical talent is one of Barbara’s many attributes. She is a member of the choir of The First Presbyterian Church of Ambler and a member of The Choristers, a highly acclaimed choral group that performs throughout Pennsylvania.

An ardent dog lover, Barbara is the proud owner of Robbie, a handsome West Highland White Terrier (Westie) and award winner of numerous canine scent competitions.

Barbara’s dedication to civic responsibilities is evident through her membership in the Greater Conshohocken Chapter of Business and Professional Women, where she is currently the Secretary. Barbara has a deep commitment and interest in historic preservation and is a volunteer and docent at the Evans Mumbower Mill, a member of the steering committee for Wissahickon Trails, and a member and current President of Women for Greater Philadelphia (WFGP), steward of historic Laurel Hill Mansion (LHM).

In 2005 Barbara joined WFGP at the urging of her good friend, neighbor, and mentor, Alma Jacobs, WFGP Charter Member and President for many years. Since that time, Barbara has played many important roles at LHM. She immediately became a member of both the Education and Music Committees, where her background and expertise were highlighted. Barbara co-chaired the Music Committee with Alice Nugent and eventually became sole chair in 2014. Barbara is responsible for the recent success of LHM’s Summer Candlelight Concerts series, an important fundraising source for the Mansion. She has procured premier Philadelphia chamber music performers such as violinist Nancy Bean and cellist Lloyd Smith of the Wister Quartet, flutist Mimi Stillman, and classical guitarist Allen Krantz. In her role on the Education Committee, Barbara helped orchestrate Constitution Day and other programs for both children and adults.

After serving six years as Vice President, Barbara Frankl became the President of WFGP in May 2021. During these challenging times, Barbara is committed to look to the future and is in the process of planning activities and events to showcase the rich history of Women for Greater Philadelphia and Laurel Hill Mansion. The WFGP community looks forward to sustaining the mansion, its history, memory, and stories, under the leadership of President Barbara Frankl.

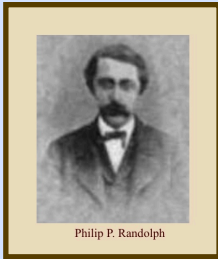


Barb Frankl & Alma Jacobs

WOMEN FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA, INC. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation of volunteers. The goals of the corporation are to promote and enhance the historical, philosophical, educational and cultural value of Greater Philadelphia and to maintain and preserve Laurel Hill Mansion.

PHILIP PHYSICK RANDOLPH, distinguished Chess Master

October 28, 1824-May 05, 1869



Philip P. Randolph

“So Philip Randolph is gone! That man had the sweetest moral nature I ever knew. There never was a man so lacking in self-consciousness. The other day I saw in the London Times that the American Randolph one of the three greatest chess players in the world was dead. I knew Philip intimately since he was a boy and I never heard him mention the game. I did not even know he played it. How fine that was!” expressed American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson upon hearing the sad news, “how fine that was!” 1

Philip Physick Randolph became a well regarded member of Philadelphia society and a renowned chess master; recognized for his intelligence, gentle manner and modest character. Philip was the grandson of the “father of American surgery” Dr. Philip Syng Physick, and son of Dr. Physick’s daughter Sally and her husband Dr. Jacob Randolph. Dr. Philip Syng Physick purchased Laurel Hill Mansion from William Rawle in 1828 to use as a summer retreat and later bequeathed the house to his daughter Sally Randolph in 1837, when it became known as the Randolph Mansion. 2 Philip Randolph remained the last resident of the mansion before it was purchased by the City of Philadelphia in 1869.

The historic Philadelphia Athenaeum, a member’s library located on Sixth Street across from Washington Square, was a hub for chess and other social activities during Randolph’s day. There, after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 1846, Philip joined with other chess enthusiasts known as “the Men of Athenaeum,” under the direction of founder and mentor Charles Vezin. The Philadelphia team competed in correspondence matches with Boston and New York chess clubs. In 1858, Philip, a steady, patient, analytic player, took part in a famous telegraphic chess contest against New York, and with his teammate H. P. Montgomery, soundly defeated their New York rivals 2-0. Philip stopped competing in chess tournaments after 1858, probably for health reasons, but continued to follow the game, say chess historians.



Philip Physick Randolph died in Randolph Mansion in 1869 at the age of forty-five. Philip never married and was buried at Christ Church Burial Ground, 5th and Arch, Philadelphia, PA. The mortuary notice in the newspaper dated Saturday, May 8, 1869 follows:
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania RANDOLPH—On the 5th inst., At 6 A.M., PHILIP PHYSICK RANDOLPH, son of late Jacob Randolph M.D. The relatives and male friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his mother, No. 321 S. Fourth Street, Saturday, 8th inst, at 4 PM, without further notice. 3

That same year, 1869, Sally Randolph, Philip’s widowed mother who was predeceased by both of her sons, sold Randolph Mansion to the city of Philadelphia. In 1870, the city demolished its barn, outbuildings, and farmhouse, yet the mansion still stands to this day.

- Notes:
1. Some years after his death, Philip was eulogized by Ralph Waldo Emerson in Rebecca Harding Davis’s autobiography, “Bits of Gossip.”
 2. Randolph Mansion was renamed Laurel Hill Mansion in 1976 and is maintained by Women for Greater Philadelphia.
 3. The Hill-Physick-House, a historical landmark and home to the Dr. Philip Syng Physick family, is still located at 321 S. Fourth Street and is open for tours and special events.

By Nancy S. Cohen with research assistance from Anita McKelvey, site historian & tour guide at Lemon and Laurel Hill Mansions: authenticphiladelphia@gmail.com

