

LAUREL HILL MANSION NEWS

FLORIAN TRIO MUSICAL PICNIC SEPTEMBER 17, 2022



LHM HOSTED A LAWN CONCERT FEATURING THE FLORIAN TRIO WHO DELIGHTED THE AUDIENCE WITH A REPERTOIRE OF BAROQUE, CLASSICAL, AND ROMANTIC MASTERWORKS AND SONATAS.

THE TRIO CONSISTS OF NANCY BEAN ON VIOLIN & VIOLA, LLOYD SMITH ON VIOLIN CELLO, AND ALLEN KRANTZ, COMPOSER / GUITARIST



CONCERTS@LAURELHILLMANSION.ORG



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm happy to report that music is back at Laurel Hill Mansion! On Saturday, September 17, on a beautiful afternoon, about 35 attendees enjoyed a wonderful outdoor concert of The Florian Trio. Their performance was received with enthusiastic applause. Concerts By Candlelight will begin again during the summer of 2023 with Allen Krantz and the Wister Quartet already agreeing to perform.

I was also contacted by the Curator of Exhibitions at the Museum of the American Revolution concerning an exciting collaboration with Women for Greater Philadelphia. The museum will be using the forte piano to record music by Francis Johnson, a 19th century African American composer. The tracks will be recorded using the forte piano and will be a part of a listening station at the museum. Laurel Hill Mansion will be credited with the instrument recording and the use of our forte piano. All costs for tuning and recording will be paid by the museum, so it can only be to our benefit.

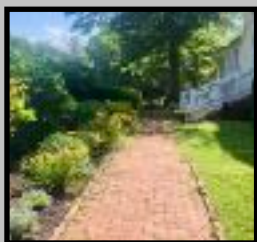
Developing relationships with other museums for collaboration of events and publicity is something that we should continue to foster. An invitation will be going out shortly for members of WFGP to join us for a day of decoration making on October 14, as we begin to prepare for our holiday tours, throughout the month of December. Lunch will be served as a big "thank you". Hope you can join us.

Barbara Frankl, President, Women for Greater Philadelphia

LHM LAWN & GARDEN



Thank you to the LHM Garden Committee: Toni DeGeorge, Barbara Jean Maresca, Christine Mifsud, Sylvia Myers, & Nancy Werner who have been enhancing and beautifying the grounds of Laurel Hill Mansion.



The Broadwood Forte Piano at Laurel Hill Mansion

Laurel Hill Mansion acquired its forte piano in the latter 1970's. Esther Kahn, Women for Greater Philadelphia charter member, founder of the music program at LHM, and wife of architect Louis Kahn, convinced the Board to purchase the forte piano, valued at \$50,000, from a New York auction house. Mrs. Kahn had the piano restored and brought to Philadelphia and LHM where it remains and is utilized for special events.



The piano is a fine English, George III period piece by John Broadwood and Son, London. The mechanism is housed within an inlaid and cross banded Hepplewhite mahogany case.

The instrument is mounted on square, tapered legs, with a pedal lyre and a compass that is five and a half octaves. The serial number is 4029 and the piano is dated 1808.

During the 19th century, John Broadwood (1732-1812) was considered an eminent piano maker and Broadwood was one of London's top manufacturing companies. John Broadwood's craft skills were of the highest order. When starting in the 1770's, Broadwood produced harpsichords, a prestige item, then later specialized in manufacturing pianos.

As a matter of esteem, John Broadwood gifted a grand forte piano, similar to the one at LHM, to Ludwig von Beethoven in 1818. Beethoven was delighted with the gift and the instrument is now on display in the National Museum in Budapest.

PLEIN AIR PAINTING CLASS

Thursday 10/06 & Friday 10/07: 10 am - 2 pm

Join landscape painter extraordinaire Joe Sweeney outside at historic **Laurel Hill Mansion** for this two-day workshop. Built in 1767, and nestled along the scenic Schuylkill River in Fairmount Park, Laurel Hill has a prominent location on a high bluff with a commanding view of the river. Joe Sweeney will paint along with you in these idyllic and historic surroundings, guiding you through color mixing to capture the tonal quality and character of the time of day, compositional fundamentals, and sound painting practices.

Instruction is geared towards oil, acrylic, and pastel, but experienced watercolorists are welcome. Restrooms and plenty of free parking available. Price \$125. <https://ceruleanarts.com/products/plein-air-painting-at-laurel-hill-mansion-with-joe-sweeney-in-person-outdoors>



EN PLEIN AIR-ARTIST DAYS

We invite you to spend a day en plein air on the grounds of Laurel Hill Mansion. Nestled along the scenic Schuylkill River in East Fairmount Park, Laurel Hill has a prominent location on a high bluff overlooking the river. Garden, river view, historic house, or Strawberry Mansion Bridge there is much here to intrigue the eye, no matter what is your medium. Pack your supplies and join us for a day of painting, sketching and making art under the shade trees of Laurel Hill Mansion.

OCTOBER 2, 16, and/or 20 from 10 am - 3 pm
These are free events with ample free parking, however space is limited so register soon.

https://www.laurelhillmansion.org/Pages/plein_air.html

THE HOLIDAYS

AT LAUREL HILL MANSION



As part of our annual holiday festivities, we are planning to provide Christmas Tours at LHM beginning December 1, 2022. Tours will be in partnership with Woodford, Ormiston, and Strawberry Mansions. Please volunteer to be a holiday hostess at events@laurelhillmansion.org



Halloween

Thanksgiving

Christmas



Mikasa



Johnson Bros



Lenox

WFGP Spotlight on KATHRYN TUCKER HOLDEN



Women for Greater Philadelphia Board Member, Kathryn Tucker Holden, is a grandmother of five, mother of three, and a beloved sister. Many of us know her as the co-chair of the Membership Committee and as one of the lovely and friendly costume-adorned volunteers for our summer concerts and Christmas tours. Still, she has lived an exciting and joyful life outside our organization.

During the early 1940s, Kathryn and her family of six joined the Great Migration as they traveled north from rural Virginia to join other family members living in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. While most African-Americans of that time were renters, the Tucker family was able to purchase their Main Line home and establish their roots.

As a secondary school student, Kathryn thrived academically, in the arts, and athletics. She ran track and participated in the Penn Relays. Throughout middle and high school, Kathryn was a member of the National Honor Society, sang with the glee club and performed in many theatrical productions. As a graduating senior she was named "The greatest asset to the Class of 1955" due to her excellence in studio art and she enrolled at Temple University. Kathryn initially considered pursuing a career in the fine arts, but ultimately, she became an elementary school educator to avoid the pitfalls of "starving artists." A highlight of her collegiate years was joining Temple's concert choir and performing Beethoven's Ode to Joy with The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Academy of Music and Carnegie Hall each year.

Kathryn married in her twenties and moved to Texas with her late husband, Robert L. Holden, who joined the United States Air Force as a pathway to college. Upon their return to the Philadelphia area, Kathryn worked in the public school district for thirty-nine years. With Kathryn's love and support, her husband obtained three degrees during his lifetime - the capstone of which was a doctorate in education. Once Kathryn became a seasoned educator, she earned her master's degree from Lincoln University. The couple raised two daughters and a son while living in Bucks and Montgomery counties. Her children are graduates of Georgetown, Cornell, and the University of Virginia. Kathryn's grandchildren are also talented. Two of her "grands" are scholar-athletes attending Georgetown University, and Emory University. One granddaughter is pursuing a career in home health care, and the younger two are terrific middle and high school students. Kathryn helped instill the value of education in her family, which remains an essential aspect of their lives.

Anyone who meets Kathryn quickly learns of her love for plants, flowers, and gardening. She enjoys creative floral design, receiving a first-place award for her efforts from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society many years ago. Kathryn's friends often compliment her for being quite the hostess of afternoon teas and outdoor garden parties at her lovely townhome in North Wales. Kathryn loves to travel when she isn't busy tending to her garden and plants. While her husband was alive, they visited many regions of the United States, Canada, France, and the Caribbean. Upon retirement, she has been to the Southeast, New England, Hawaii, the U.K., Egypt, Dubai, Jamaica, and Barbados and somehow found time to cruise the Mediterranean and Alaska. This past spring, she spent a milestone birthday in Charleston, South Carolina, enjoying their annual Home and Garden Tour with her eldest daughter and grandson.

Kathryn is a busy senior, and she continues to sing with the choirs of Salem Baptist Church and her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. She is an active member of organizations such as ASALH that study and promote African American History. As Kathryn shares, "I never really learned much about my culture as a child...it wasn't in the history books." We have much to learn from this beloved grandmother and teacher because her education is enduring, and her story is still being written.



By Linda Holden Bryant

Loyalist Anna Rawle's Reflectons upon the Revolution

In 1780 and 1781, sisters Anna and Margaret Rawle no longer had access to Laurel Hill Mansion and were living with their maternal grandmother in a family home on Front Street in Philadelphia. Samuel Shoemaker, their step father, had been accused of treason, and Joseph Reed, Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, confiscated Laurel Hill Mansion for his own personal use as a summer home.. The sisters' mother, Rebecca Shoemaker, had been accused of being a Loyalist informant and was exiled to New York with her husband, Samuel.

Anna Rawle wrote an informational journal for her mother while Rebecca was in New York. The patriots intercepted, read, and sometimes destroyed the written correspondence of Loyalists to one another. In an effort to maintain non incriminating communications among the family members, the Rawle/ Shoemakers developed a written code to identify one another in their letters and journals. For example, the code included Anna Rawle=Fanny, William Rawle=Horatio, Benjamin Shoemaker=B.S. (A copy of this code may be viewed in the front hallway of LHM).

On October 19, 1781, Britain's Lord Cornwallis surrendered in Yorktown, PA to General George Washington where they signed the Articles of Capitulation. Lord Cornwallis added wording to the Articles to protect colonial Loyalists and their property when the war was over, but these words were deliberately stricken by General Washington. Thus, Loyalists would be at the mercy of lawless rebels; therefore, many moved to Canada, the Caribbean, or Great Britain.

In their zeal to celebrate the patriot's victory, on October 25th in Philadelphia, the rebels demanded that all homes display lit candles in their windows to demonstrate support for the American revolution. The Rawle families and other Loyalists did not light candles in their windows. Rebel mobs attacked Loyalist and Quaker residents (often with sexual assault) and their property if lit candles were not displayed in the windows to celebrate the victory at Yorktown.

As recounted in Anna Rawle's journal, the following events transpired at the Rawle Front Street home during that anarchic evening of October 24th, 1781:

October 25... "I suppose, dear Mammy, thee would not have imagined this house to be illuminated last night, but it was. A mob surrounded it, broke the shutters and the glass of the windows, and were coming in, none but forlorn women here. We for a time listened for their attacks in fear and trembling till, finding them grow more loud and violent, not knowing what to do, we ran into the yard"...

At this point, two male neighbors, Mr. Coburn and Mr. Shewell, came over the fence to aid the Rawle women. They pacified the mob and lit candles in the windows solely to abort the rebel attack.

... "I truly believe had it not been for them the house would have been pulled down. In short, it was the most alarming scene I ever remember. For two hours we had the disagreeable noise of stones banging about, glass crashing, and the tumultuous voices of a large body of men, as they were a long time at the different houses in the neighborhood. At last they were victorious and it was one general illumination throughout the town"...

Upon reflection, the next day Anna wrote in her journal:

October 26... "it seems universally agreed that Philadelphia will no longer be that happy asylum for Quakers that it once was. Those joyful days when all was prosperity and peace are gone, never to return"...

If you would like to read the excerpt from the Diary of Miss Anna Rawle, October 22 to 26, 1781 please refer to: <https://americainclass.org/sources/makingrevolution/war/text7/annarawleloyalist.pdf>



By Nancy S. Cohen, M.B.A., LHM Newsletter Editor