

# LAUREL HILL MANSION NEWS



## WFGP ANNUAL

**SPRING TEA 05/14/22**

*WFGP Members and friends enjoyed their annual Spring Tea Party fundraiser. Coordinated by Karen Phinney, guests enjoyed delicious tea, savories and sweets provided by Jack Francis Caterers.*

*Tish deTuro graciously donated freshly potted herbs to raise funds for LHM. The day's highlight was a garden bench dedication to beloved Board Member and Garden Chair, Sylvia Myers.*



## A Message From

### The President of WFGP

You may know Women For Greater Philadelphia is an all volunteer organization. As I was thinking about what makes a good volunteer, I decided to use Google to learn the answer. The results were quite enlightening but not surprising. The 5 traits:

1. **PASSION**– This can be infectious, so it is very important for a group to thrive.
2. **RELIABILITY** – How important it is to depend on someone to do something and have them follow through.
3. **INTEGRITY**- If we can't be honest with fellow volunteers then our group can't work together.
4. **TEAM PLAYER** – We must be able to work for one common purpose even though it may not always be easy.
5. **ENERGY** – Sometimes we don't seem to have this trait, especially as we get older. Then it's important that we have a "back up" plan; a way to share responsibility so tasks don't fall to one person. Today we have a challenge in front of us. How do we get more people to join our wonderful group of volunteers? The younger generation will be beginning the stage where volunteerism becomes a part of their life; beginning to give back to their community while developing social skills. The Women for Greater Philadelphia needs to find a way to tap into that pool of volunteers. Do you have any ideas how this can be accomplished? Let me hear from you. [bfrankl433@comcast.net](mailto:bfrankl433@comcast.net)



*Barbara Frankel*

President, Women for Greater Philadelphia

## CHESS OPEN HOUSE

There will be a Chess open house Thursday, July 7, 2022 (Rain date July 14) from 11 am-2 pm at LHM. All ages and levels welcome. Kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a chess set, folding chairs, and a small table, or stretch out on the grass under a tree.

The July 7th event is coordinated by John Cotero and ASAP/After School Activities Partnerships.

Stay tuned for information regarding future organized chess play and tournaments at

**Laurel Hill Mansion**  
**3487 Edgley Drive**  
**Philadelphia, PA. 19121**

Contact Anita McKelvey, Program Organizer & tour guide at **215-235-1776** or [events@laurelhillmansion.org](mailto:events@laurelhillmansion.org)



[www.laurelhillmansion.org](http://www.laurelhillmansion.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009621556713>

<https://www.instagram.com/laurelhillmansionph/>

## Laurel Hill Mansion Musical Picnic

The renowned **FLORIAN TRIO** will be performing selected chamber music on the lawn of Laurel Hill Mansion

**Saturday, 2:00 pm, September 17, 2022.**

Rain date: Sunday, 2:00 pm, September 18, 2022

Patrons may arrive from 1:00 pm on with their own seating and refreshments to picnic and enjoy the lovely grounds.

The live music of *Lloyd Smith, Nancy Bean, and*

*Allen Krantz* will begin at 2:00 pm.

Tickets are \$20, make your reservation at 215-643-7923 or

[concerts@laurelhillmansion.org](mailto:concerts@laurelhillmansion.org)

## Upcoming Events at historic Laurel Hill Mansion

### PLEIN AIR PAINTING IS COMING TO THE GROUNDS OF LHM

Made into an art form by French Impressionists, plein air painting is about leaving the four walls of your studio behind and experiencing painting and drawing "in the open air." Today, plein air painting is a flourishing trend as artists come together for paint out excursions and workshops.

Artists and Art organizations who would like more information should email [events@laurelhillmansion.org](mailto:events@laurelhillmansion.org).

Those who wish to learn about classes in plein air painting at Laurel Hill Mansion, please email [s.kittner@womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org](mailto:s.kittner@womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org) to be notified when they are scheduled.

## **CHESS THEN and NOW at LAUREL HILL MANSION**

by Christine Mifsud, Garden Committee

**F**or avid readers of the Laurel Hill newsletter, you may remember a previous article by Nancy Cohen and Anita McKelvey highlighting the masterful chess playing skills of Philip Physick Randolph, 1824-1869 who had a rich family connection to and lived at Laurel Hill Mansion. In memory of Philip Randolph, the Women for Greater Philadelphia are excited to welcome the return of this challenging game to Laurel Hill Mansion. This summer, members of After School Activities Partnerships, "ASAP" will set up their chess sets, select their opponents and the strategies of Table Top Armies, aka "Chess" will begin.

In early America, chess sets were set up where things were happening, where people got together such as favorite coffee shops or taverns. Franklin and Jefferson were both keen chess players. Jefferson taught the game to his granddaughter Ellen and they played under the trees at Monticello in the summertime. Franklin spoke of its virtues in the Columbian Magazine in 1786 in an article, "The Morals of Chess". "The Game of Chess is not merely an idle amusement; several very valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired and strengthened by it, so as to become habits ready on all occasions." In Franklin and Jefferson's day, the style of play was different. Clocks weren't used, rather the point was to show dazzling, daring attacks. Winning didn't matter as much as how you won - how spectacularly you won.



Prior to 1849, the Staunton style chess sets, seen today, were not yet used. Named after the leading English chess master Howard Staunton and designed by John Jaques, Staunton chess pieces are sometimes just called Jaques' chessmen. They were officially adopted by the World Chess Federation in 1924. The 8 pawns, 2 rooks, 2 knights, 2 bishops, queen and king can be made from a variety of materials such as wood, metal, stone, etc. The Staunton design is less intricate, possibly less expensive, easier to carve and most importantly they have a lower center of gravity for stability, enhanced sometimes by adding weights to wooden pieces. This was a great advantage over pieces used in earlier periods which were sometimes spindly and would fall over readily. To overcome the instability concern, Franklin had a ivory traveling chess set - small gaming pieces with long tales or pegs that fit into holes in a matching game board to hold them in place while encountering a bumpy carriage ride or rough seas.



Greatly popular by the 18th century, chess is believed to have originated in India before 600 A.D. The game spread throughout Asia and Europe and was tuned or evolved into chess as we know it today around the 16th century, representing medieval life - ceremonies, grandeur and wars.

If you would like to participate in chess playing among the beautiful summer floriculture at Laurel Hill, whether on the porch, in the gazebo or under the trees, please contact us: Thursday thru Sunday, 10-4 at [215-235-1776](tel:215-235-1776) or at [events@laurelhillmansion.org](mailto:events@laurelhillmansion.org)

## WFGP Spotlight on **NANCY J. WERNER**



Nancy “Sparkles” Werner was born in the rural area of Lehigh County called Balliettsville. Her parents had a poultry farm and all nine of the children knew what hard work was. It was taking care of the animals as well as farming the land. But she loved helping her mother tend to her rose, dahlia, and gladiola beds. Not a few plants but hundreds. She graduated from Parkland High School and attended Kutztown University for her BS and then her MA in elementary education. In 1971, she was most fortunate to locate a teaching position in the Pennridge School District for 35 years. That school area is in Upper Bucks County. She retired in 2006. Her memories of her teaching days are a delight to hear so don’t get her started. Children are her love of life.

1971 was another memorable year as Nancy married Fred Werner and moved to the Quakertown area. Fred has been a lifetime registered PA surveyor. They had two children, Robert and Melissa. Both of them are living in Massachusetts with their families. Rob attended Emerson College and Missy attended Boston College and they loved the area so much they stayed in MA with their future mates. Rob and Suzanne have two children, Sophie and Alexander while Missy and Ken have three sons, Ben and James, twins, and Matthew. Nancy and Fred just celebrated their 50th Anniversary this past August 21.

Through her association with Alma Jacobs, Nancy became a member of Women for Greater Philadelphia many years ago. Elected in 2021, Nancy now serves on the WFGP Board of Directors and is a member of the Garden Committee, where she uses her knowledge and love of horticulture.

1971 is Nancy’s triple crown for she became a member of the Quakertown BPW. What is BPW ?- Business and Professional Women. She became a dual member of the Central Montgomery County BPW in 2007. She has held many chairs and leadership roles in these locals, in her District 11 and on the BPW/PA Board level. She served as the State President in 1995-96 when PA had 6000 members and 208 local organizations. She serves wherever they need her. Her next goal-mentoring the younger members so they become leaders.

She was a “founding mother” to the PA BPW Foundation that was created in 2006-2007. She helped to write the bylaws, history and the policies and procedures for the PA BPW Foundation. She has served on the Board off and on at least 3 times during the past 14 years. She truly enjoys sharing how we are “women helping women” across the federation with scholarships and financial assistance. Nancy was truly surprised and humbled when she received the BPW/PA “Woman of the Year” Award of 2011 at the State Convention in Cranberry Township. Then in 2014, she received another state award called the District 12’s -Tribute to Women for outstanding leadership and going beyond the realm of BPW. Must be her nickname, “Sparkles” that provides her the energy and enthusiasm for whatever she does.

# The Influence of Amelia Earhart and the Sugar Maple Tree

By Nancy S. Cohen with contributions from Pat Jordan



Amelia Earhart (1897-1937) stated “You haven’t seen a tree until you’ve seen it from the sky,” exemplifying her reverence to nature and trees. Growing up in Atchison, Kansas, Amelia looked out of her bedroom window at her favorite tree, a large sugar maple which she loved to climb and then watch the propeller like seeds spinning to the ground in the fall, possibly inspiring her future vocation.

Amelia Earhart is best known as a female aviator pioneer who set many records including soloing across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932. Interestingly, she was also an author, clothing designer, and the first president and founder of the Ninety-Nines, an organization for female pilots.

Amelia’s grandparents’ house, now the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, is home to the original sugar maple from which American Heritage Trees collect seeds and sell as saplings. In the 1980’s, American Heritage donated 50 sugar maple saplings throughout the United States, one per state. The Pennsylvania maple sapling was given to Fairmount Park which in turn donated the sapling to Laurel Hill Mansion.



In 1991, under WFGP President Alma Jacobs, the planting of the Amelia Earhart sugar maple was commemorated at Laurel Hill Mansion. Amelia Earhart’s life story was portrayed by WFGP Board Member and professional historical actress Pat Jordan at this celebration.



Now the Laurel Hill Mansion sapling is mature and on May 14<sup>th</sup>, following the Spring Tea, a new bench was placed under the tree and dedicated to beloved Women for Greater Philadelphia Board Member and Garden Committee Chair, Sylvia Myers. The plaque states: *IN HONOR OF SYLVIA MYERS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR 45 YEARS OF LOVING DEDICATION TO THE HOUSE AND GARDENS OF THE HISTORIC LAUREL HILL MANSION, MAY 15, 2022*



*“Trees make us feel small and reverent and remind us of our place in the Universe.” Henry David Thoreau.*



WFGP deeply mourns the recent passing of Im Ja Choi, life member and staunch supporter of LHM. Ms. Choi leaves a strong legacy as founder of PASSi, a nonprofit organization that provides health, home care, and vocational services for many Asian Americans. WFGP extends heartfelt condolences to the Choi family.

<https://6f6cp.r.a.d.sendibmr.com/mk/mr/>

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## Volunteer at LAUREL HILL MANSION

If you are interested in history, horticulture, education, music, planning, culture, social media, hospitality, biographies, or the preservation of an extraordinary old house and the lives of its descendants, then volunteering at Laurel Hill Mansion provides an excellent opportunity for you. You have the ability to participate not only in ongoing maintenance and preservation of the house, but also in special programs such as Constitution Day, Candlelight Concerts, Love Your Park Days, the Spring Tea, Cider Fest, and the Fairmount Park Holiday House Tours.



Volunteers may participate on an ad-hoc basis with no minimum time commitment. Volunteers will receive emails about the upcoming events and options and receive free admission to the house throughout the year and are invited to the festive year end Holiday Party.

To obtain additional information about volunteering or joining Women for Greater Philadelphia (men are welcome members), please contact **BARBARA FRANKL, President of Women for Greater Philadelphia, Stewards of Laurel Hill Mansion, at [BFRANKL433@COMCAST.NET](mailto:BFRANKL433@COMCAST.NET)**

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 Historic Laurel Hill Mansion.

[www.womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org](http://www.womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org) [www.laurelhillmansion.org](http://www.laurelhillmansion.org).

Historic LAUREL HILL MANSION is proud to be a **Blue Star Museum**, offering free admission to active military and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Information to visit: **215-235-1776** or [VISIT@laurelhillmansion.org](mailto:VISIT@laurelhillmansion.org)

**LAUREL HILL MANSION, 3487 EDGLEY DRIVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19121**

