



## Maintaining the Miracle . . .

### \$598,000 Restoration to Begin in April

One hundred and seventy-eight years is a long time for an old house to remain standing in this city, much less in its historically accurate state. Some would even call it a miracle.

The preservation of our 1832 landmarked building began in 1933, when the last Tredwell family member died and the house was being turned into a museum. From the beginning, maintaining the historic integrity of the building has been the aim of those entrusted with its care.

We are gratified beyond measure to Council Member Rosie Mendez for the appropriation of \$598,000 from the FY 2008 New York City capital budget for a six-month restoration project. These funds will enable us to continue to preserve one of New York's most important historic structures as well as to update aging utilities.

#### Face Lift for the Rear Facade

The rear façade will be painted after repairs are made to the cracked stucco. The 1832 windows will be removed and restored (with UV protection) and the

gutter and cornice repaired to correct poor drainage.

#### Original Look for Garden Walls

At the rear of the garden, a 19th-century-style wooden wall will replace the unsightly cement block wall and chain link fence installed for security during the 1970s. The east garden wall will have the original brick "ventilators" replicated. The Department of Environmental Protection rebuilt the wall in 2008, following damage from the water tunnel construction next door.

#### And Inside the House

Interior plaster finishes in the front bedroom and study, caused by water infiltration from the roof, will be restored. (The roof was repaired in 2006).

Finally, the electrical system will be upgraded and a sprinkler system installed in the cellar.

The work is slated for completion by early fall, 2010, but rest assured, Museum activities will go on as usual while the work progresses.

## Getting Started on Our New Historic Furnishings Plan

While structural restoration is paramount in maintaining the house, it is the décor, the furniture, and the family possessions that transport us most dramatically to the era before the Civil War, our core interpretive period.

With thanks to the Gerry Charitable Trust, we have now begun to implement the recommendations in our recently completed Historic Furnishings Plan.

#### White Walls Begone!

One of our first projects will be to recreate the original wall finishes of the 1850s. A new scientific paint analysis, generously funded by Benjamin Moore, has revealed that the walls throughout the house were never white, but were finished with color-tinted decorative glazes.

#### The Rest of the Story

Another important first step in implementing the Plan is to explain more fully how the Tredwells' Irish servants fit into life on Fourth Street. This key chapter of our story will involve painting and furnishing one of the dormer rooms on the fourth floor where the servants slept, as well as showing how they performed their many and varied duties thought the house.

#### More Research, Too

And we are still learning. Where the original floor coverings have disappeared, we are continuing our research to determine what would be appropriate. And the suite of Rococo Revival front parlor furniture needs to be reupholstered, so we are examining fragments in our textile collection. It's all just the beginning. Stay tuned.

STAYIN' ALIVE, AH, HA,

STAYIN' ALIVE, AH, HA,

HA, HA, STAYIN' ALIVE, STAYIN' ALIVE, AH, HA, HA, HA,

# DO THE HUSTLE

(FOR THE MERCHANT'S HOUSE)

TUESDAY, JUNE 15 — 7 TO 9 P.M.

ON THE DISCO INFERNO ROOF OF THE CENTRAL PARK ARSENAL

SAVE THE DATE

*Yes, I (We) Would Like to Support the Merchant's House Museum (donations are fully tax-deductible)*

2010 Recession Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Thank You!)     Good Neighbor \$60     Family/Household \$80     Senior/Student \$30  
 Protector \$125     Cultural Hero \$250     Princely Supporter \$500     Leading Light \$1,000     Paragon of Virtue \$2,500

Please make checks payable to the Merchant's House Museum and mail with this form to 29 East Fourth Street, New York, NY 10003-7003, or charge your contribution to:  American Express  Visa  Master Card

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please!) \_\_\_\_\_

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

Unless otherwise noted, all events require reservations. Call 212-777-1089.

## **Exhibition: Tending the Fires — Photographs by Hal Hirshorn**

Evocative salt-print images taken with an early 20th-century view camera and a 19th-century lens recreate one of the most humble chores performed by the family's Irish servants. *Included with regular admission. Reservations not required.*

*Wednesday, March 17, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., tours begin every 15 minutes.*

## **St. Patrick's Day Celebration, ca. 1855**

Tour the House, including the fourth-floor servants' quarters (usually off limits to visitors), taste food and drink made from 19th-century Irish-American recipes, and tap your feet to traditional harp and bagpipe music. \$25, \$10 MHM Members.

*Saturday & Sunday, April 17 & 18, 12 to 5 p.m.*

## **Tour the Fourth-Floor Servants' Quarters (Usually Off-Limits)**

Come climb the narrow steps to see where the family's Irish maids lived and did some of their work. *Included with regular admission. Reservations not required.*

*Sunday, May 9, 5:30 p.m.*

## **Sing It With Flowers:**

### **a 19th-Century Serenade to Mother**

19th-Century songs performed live in the Museum's Greek Revival double parlors by members of the Bond Street Euterpean Singing Society as part of the museum's ongoing period music series "Salon Music." \$25, \$10 MHM Members.



*The Museum's educational programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.*

## **With Gratitude for the Especially Generous Support We Received in 2009**

Mrs. Martin E. Anderson, Jr., Arthur Ross Foundation, Timothy Beard/The Colonial Lords of Manors in America, Sharen Benenson, Cynthia Wainwright Berger, Bloomberg L.P., Jack & Pamela Bolen, Elizabeth Bramwell, Jeanne C. Bruce, Lisa & Dick Cashin, Betty Chaurize, Heide Cleary, Constans Culver Foundation/Pauline M. Herd, Corita Charitable Trust, Earl Crittenden, Jr., Spencer Davidson, Franny & David Eberhart, Katherine Emmet & James Peterson, Anne Fairfax & Richard Sammons, Florence Fearrington, Felicia Fund/Pauline Metcalf, Peter Fine/Atlantic Development Corp., Andrew Fisher/Astor Wine & Spirits, Kevin Foley & Stephen Littell, Timothy Forbes & Anne Harrison, Gerry Charitable Trust, Gilder Foundation, Laurie A. Griffith, Agnes Gund & Daniel Shapiro, Merrikay S. Hall, H. William Happel, Tiziana & Hugh Hardy, William Herrlich, John & Diana Herzog, Scott Heyl, Historic House Trust of New York City, The J.M. Kaplan Fund, Marjorie & Corey Jonas, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, Kane Lodge Foundation, Steve & Marina Kaufman, Pamela Kendall, Estee Lauder, Geraldine Kunstadter, The Arthur Loeb Foundation, Joseph Pell Lombardi, Elizabeth Lugar, Anthony & Caroline Lukaszewski, The Lynne Waxman Foundation, The Malkin Fund, Michael Matlock, Kate McCoy, Deborah McMillan, Deborah Spaeder McWilliams, Ray Mortenson & Jean Wardle, Carl Navarro, Nicholas B. A. Nicholson, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, John Oden, Avis Ogilvy Moore, Kate Burns Ottavino, Edward Parran & James Guidera, Patricia Pope & Stephen Dizard, Stan Ries, David Schaeffer, Katherine Schoonover, Elizabeth Scott, William Sofield, Mary Lou Strong, Charles & Szilvia Tanenbaum, Jack Taylor, Richard Tredwell, Victorian Society in America, Metropolitan Chapter, Taylor B. Wagenseil, Ralph & Meta Wyndrum, Anonymous

## **Thanks Beyond Measure to Our 2009 Volunteers & Interns**

Chelcey Berryhill, Kerianne Biele, Gavin Bridge, Sarah Brockett, Emily Bullington, Bryan Cates, Heather Christensen Smith, Heide Cleary, Suzanne Daone, Jackie Dinas, Marguerite Durret, Bob Estremera, Megan Findling, Kevin Foley, Denise Fryburg, William Herrlich, Greg Hill Ries, Cathy Hiller, Jo Humphrey, Jennifer Johnson, Jessica Kaczorowski, Margaret Kaczorowski, Elizabeth Kaeser, Ilana Kohn, Christine LaPlume, Julie Linnard, Sarah Lohman, Catherine Lukaszewski, Grace Markman, Kate McCoy, Maureen McElheron, Deborah McMillan, Jennifer Metz, Kiriki Metz, Ann Michell, Elizabeth Mok, Kristina Nazimova, Delphine Oravetz, George Price, Robert Psotto, Jane Rady, Deborah Rogal, Olivia Roszkowski, Zoh Rothberg, Philip Scandura, Christine Scott, Kay Seward, Tracey Shumpert, Rachel Steinberg, Alice Stryker, Stephanie Swinton, Lauren Tartaglia, Dayle Vander Sande, Patrick Whalen, Gloria Withim, Catherine Wnek, William Younger, Margaret Zamos-Monteith, Debra Zanon.

## **MERCHANT'S HOUSE MUSEUM**

The Merchant's House Museum is New York City's only family home preserved intact — inside and out — from the 19th century. A National Historic and New York City Landmark, the House was built in 1832 and was home to a prosperous merchant family for 100 years.

### **Board of Directors**

Anthony Bello, Helen Michalis Bonebrake, Earl Crittenden, Jr., Franny Eberhart, Anne Fairfax, Margaret Halsey Gardiner, Merrikay S. Hall, Scott Heyl, Joseph Pell Lombardi, Elizabeth Lugar, Deborah Spaeder McWilliams, Nicholas B. A. Nicholson, John E. Oden, Kate Burns Ottavino, Richard Franklin Sammons, William Sofield

### **Advisory Council**

Frank Andrews, John Dobkin, John Guare, Tiziana & Hugh Hardy, Charles Lockwood, Nicholas Quennell, Stan Ries, Frank Sanchis, Anthony C. Wood

### **Staff**

Margaret Halsey Gardiner, *Executive Director*  
Mary Knapp, *Museum Historian*  
Eva Ulz, *Education & Communications Manager*  
Caroline Drabik, *Collections Manager*  
Roberta Belulovich, *Visitor Services*  
John Rommel, *Head Gardener*

## **And Many Volunteers & Interns**

## **Follow Us Online**



*The Merchant's House Museum is owned by the City of New York, operated by Old Merchants House of New York, Inc., and is a member of the Historic House Trust.*

## **Visit the Museum**

*Hours* Thursday through Monday, 12 to 5 p.m., self-guided tours  
*Groups* by appointment  
*Admission* Members Free  
Adults \$8, Students & Seniors \$5

29 East Fourth Street, NYC 10003  
Tel 212-777-1089 Fax 212-777-1104  
[www.merchantshouse.org](http://www.merchantshouse.org)

Merchants House Museum  
29 East Fourth Street  
New York, NY 10003



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
New York, NY  
Permit no. 2828