



Help Us Meet The Dollar-for-Dollar Gerry Challenge!

We are thrilled to report that last month the Merchant's House received a \$25,000 *dollar-for-dollar* Challenge Grant from The Gerry Charitable Trust in New York. If we succeed in meeting this challenge (deadline: September 1), the Museum will have the initial funding — \$50,000 — to launch a multi-year, house-wide, and much-needed interior restoration project.

The last full restoration of the House took place almost 40 years ago, in the 1970s. Understandably, four decades of New York City soot and tens of thousands of visitors tramping on our reproduction carpets have taken their toll.

In addition, research has shed new light on the interiors of New York City rowhouses of the mid-nineteenth century. As we have described in previous Newsletters, two years ago we began working closely with a decorative arts consultant on the Museum's first-ever, and now just-completed, Historic Furnishings Plan. The Plan outlines top-to-bottom

treatment recommendations for all our period rooms, including walls, floors, window coverings, lighting, and upholstery, as they would have appeared in the mid-nineteenth century.

As you know, almost all of the furniture on exhibit is original to the House, and the front parlor draperies and carpet are exact reproductions. A paint and finishes analysis has revealed what color the walls were painted in the mid-nineteenth century. Examination of the nail holes in the floors has shown what floor coverings would be appropriate for the hall (not what's there now) and the bedrooms.

When implemented, the recommendations of the Furnishings Plan will result in an historic New York City domestic interior unmatched for its authenticity.

In light of this tremendous opportunity for the Museum, we hope you will consider a gift to help us meet the Gerry Trust Challenge. Thank you.

Students at PS 150 Take the Fundraising Cake

A group of students from Sunnyside Community Services' After School Program at PS 150 in Queens have formed the very first *Help The Merchant's House Bake Sale Committee*. Their initial sale raised a whopping \$150. We are planning a formal check-presentation ceremony of course, with members of the Museum's board in attendance.

The students — who visited the Museum with Sunnyside's Curriculum Coordinator, Sybil White — are already planning a follow-up sale. One of the committee members believes strongly that "with better organization, we can raise even more money!"

Won't you join us in saluting the students of PS 150 — and join the students in supporting the Merchant's House?

Hoopers

Silent Auction



Cocktails & Canapes

Hooping Contests
(and Dancing)

SAVE THE DATE for the Museum's annual *Rooftop Benefit Party*. This year, we'll celebrate 50 years of Hula Hooping (and raise funds to meet the \$25,000 Gerry Challenge).

Thursday, June 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

On the roof of the historic Central Park Arsenal

Call 212-777-1089 to request an invitation.

The Merchant's House is grateful to the following for their especially generous support in 2008. Without their continuing confidence, the work we do would not be possible.

Marc Andrew Alheim, Mrs. Martin E. Anderson, Jr., Timothy Beard/The Colonial Lords of Manors in America, Sharen Benensen, Helen Bonebrake, Elizabeth Bramwell, Lisa & Dick Cashin, Betty Chaurize, Corita Charitable Trust, Constance Culver Foundation/Pauline M. Herd, Franny & David Eberhart, Anne Fairfax & Richard Sammons, Florence Ferrington, Peter Fine, Jeanne C. Bruce, Christopher Forbes, Timothy Forbes & Anne Harrison, Gilder Foundation, Laurie A. Griffith, Merrikay Hall, William Happel, Tiziana & Hugh Hardy, Historic House Trust of New York City, Carl Jacobs Foundation, The J.M. Kaplan Fund/Joan Davidson, Martin L. Keating, Pamela Kendall, Geraldine Kunstadter, Kane Lodge Foundation, The Arthur Loeb Foundation, Anthony & Caroline Lukaszewski, James A. MacDonald Foundation, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, The Malkin Fund, Inc., NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Nicholas B.A. Nicholson, John E. Oden, Robert J. Osterhus, Kate Ottavino, Randy Polombo, Patricia Pope & Stephen Dizard, Paul and Klara Porzelt Foundation, David Schaeffer, William Sofield, Charles & Szilvia Tanenbaum, Jack Taylor, Richard Tredwell, Robert Vadheim, Taylor B. Wagenseil, Anonymous

Yes, I (We) Will Help the Merchant's House Meet the \$25,000 Gerry Challenge!

Gerry Challenge \$_____ (Thank You!)

Or, become a member of the Merchant's House Museum (or renew your current membership) and we'll apply your 2009 dues to the Gerry Challenge:

Good Neighbor \$60 Family/Household \$80 Senior/Student \$30 Protector \$125 Cultural Hero \$250 Paragon of Virtue \$500

Please make checks payable to the Merchant's House Museum or charge your contribution to: American Express Visa Master Card

Card No. _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____

Name/Company _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email (please!) _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Reservations and prepayment are required unless otherwise noted. Call 212-777-1089.

Sunday, May 3, 9 a.m. to Noon

Annual Garden Plant Sale

Plant divisions and seedlings from our historic Garden; astilbes, epimediums, hostas, ferns, ivies, herbs, and much more. *Free admission. Reservations not required.*

Sunday, May 10, Seatings at 1 & 3 p.m.

Mother's Day Tea in the Garden

Enjoy dainty sandwiches, scones with clotted cream, and tempting sweets, amid the flowers and foliage. Followed by a tour of the Museum. *\$40, \$30 MHM members.*

Friday, May 8, 2 p.m.

Astor Place Walking Tour, with the East Village History Project

Meet at the East Village Visitors Center, 308 Bowery.

Colonnade Row was once one of the most elegant addresses in the country. Today, Astor Place is still home to some of New York's most prestigious 19th-century landmarks. *\$15 suggested donation. For information call 917-215-2575.*

Monday, May 11, 7 p.m.

Reading: Simon Loekle Remembers the 1849 Astor Place Riots

Literary historian and WBAI radio personality Simon Loekle will examine the whys and wherefores of the historic Astor Place Riots. He'll also deliver some of the Shakespearean passages implicated in the affair. *\$15, \$10 MHM Members.*

Tuesday, May 12, 2 p.m.

Riots & Revolution Walking Tour, with the East Village History Project

Meet at the Merchant's House Museum

This walking tour will explore the layers of rebellious and revolutionary history of the East Village that helped define counterculture in America. *\$15 suggested donation. For information call 917-215-2575.*

Tredwell Fashions on Display

Thursday, May 7, to Monday, June 29

Sarah Ann Tredwell's 1872 Wedding Dress

A complete bridal ensemble, including wax orange-blossoms and other accessories. The invitation and marriage certificate will also be on exhibit.

Thursday, July 9, to Monday, September 14

Mid-19th Century Underwear

Take a peek at rarely seen 'unmentionables' of the 1850s and 60s, including a lady's chemise, corset, drawers, stockings, and cage crinoline.

Sincerest thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and talents in 2008.

Anthony Bello, Kerriane Biele, Gavin Bridge, Sarah Brockett, Heide Cleary, Suzanne Daone, Jackie Dinas, Marguerite Durret, Kevin Foley, Denise Fryburg, Rosalind Gnat, William Herrlich, Cathy Hiller, Jo Humphrey, Jessica Kaczorowski, Margaret Kaczorowski, Elizabeth Kaeser, Ilana Kohn, Christine LaPlume, Grace Markman, Kate McCoy, Maureen McElheron, Deborah McMillan, Kiriki Metz, Ann Michell, Esther Mittelman, Nora Mulrooney, Karen Murphy, Kristina Nazimova, Delphine Oravetz, Robert Psotto, Jane Rady, Stan Ries, Olivia Roszkowski, Thelonia Saunders, Philip Scandura, Christine Scott, Kay Seward, Tracey Shumpert, Rachel Steinberg, Alice Stryker, Dan Sturges, Kathryn Tuggle, Robert & Julia Van Nutt, Dayle Vander Sande, Gloria Withim, Margaret Zamos-Monteith, Debra Zanon, Sarah Zimmet

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

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John Rommel
Head Gardener

And Many Volunteers & Interns

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

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www.merchantshouse.org

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29 East Fourth Street
New York, NY 10003



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