

Merchant's House Museum

Newsletter

Spring/Summer 1996

Mrs. Astor and Friends

The most successful fund raising event in the Museum's history took place this past winter when Mrs. Vincent Astor, our long-time champion and friend, led a warm salute to Richard Hampton Jenrette before 150 of the Museum's and Mr. Jenrette's friends.

Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Equitable, Mr. Jenrette has for years quietly supported the Merchant's House and a number of other historic properties in New York and around the country. In her charming introduction, Mrs. Astor described him quite aptly as "a leader in efforts to preserve New York's past."

Among the friends of preservation joining these two leaders in supporting the Museum's restoration and public education programs were Lily Auchincloss, William Bernhard and Catherine Cahill, Mario Buatta, Mr. and Mrs. John Chalsty, Dorothy and Lewis Cullman, Beth Rudin DeWoody, Florence D'Urso, David Geffen, Agnes Gund, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kravis, Mr. and Mrs. John Loeb, Sr., Arthur Loeb, Joe and Emily Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Marron, Harold McGraw Jr., Elizabeth and Felix





Rohatyn, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ross, Elizabeth Strong-Cuevas, Arthur O. Sulzberger, Susan Utsch, Mrs. Alexander Vietor, Paul Volcker, Shelby White, and a host of other good and generous friends.

Museum Director Receives Award

In a ceremony held at the National Academy of Design on April 29th, Margaret Halsey Gardiner, executive director of the Merchant's House Museum, was honored with Classical America's prestigious Arthur Ross Award for stewardship. The Arthur Ross Awards are presented annually to individuals who have exhibited or furthered excellence and integrity in the application of classical ideals and canons.

The selection of award recipients was

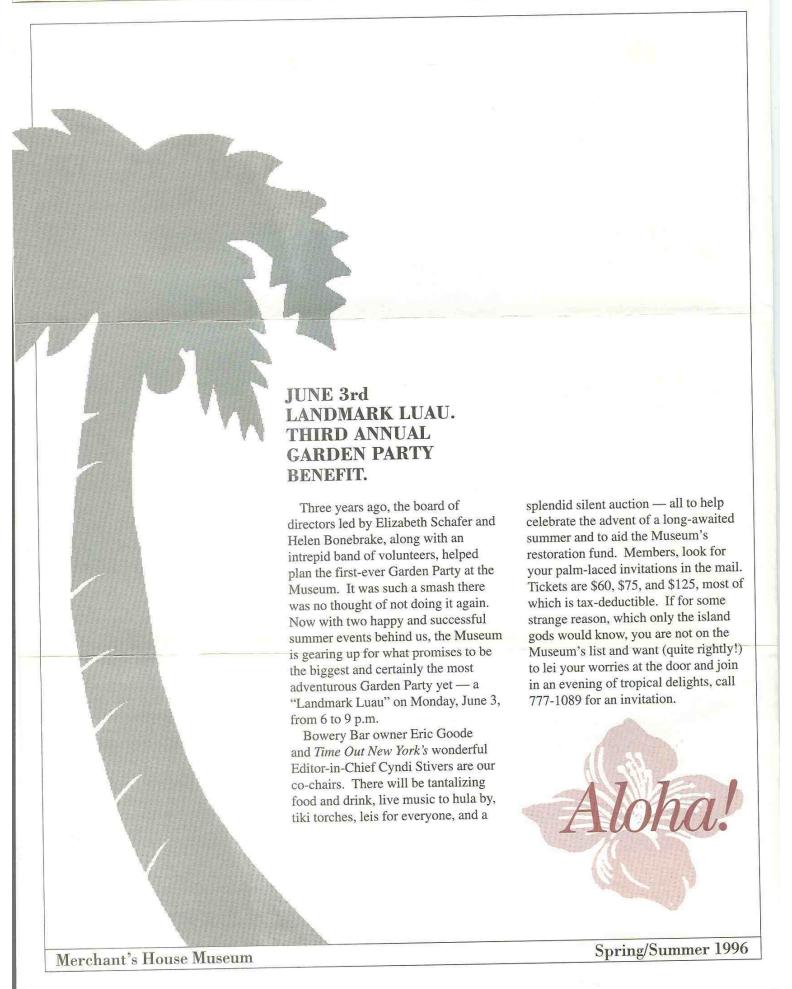
determined by a committee designated by the directors of Classical America, an organization which actively encourages the classical tradition in the arts. Henry Hope Reed, president of Classical America, underscored the importance of the Merchant's House both from an historical and architectural perspective. He cited the Museum as the New York City's prime example of a Greek Revival residence and emphasized several of the House's unique attributes, including its detailed decorative interior moldings.

The awards were presented by the Right Honorable Sir Edward Heath, former Prime Minister of Great Britain. In past years, the Arthur Ross Awards have been presented by such luminaries as Mrs. Vincent Astor, Kitty Carlisle Hart, and Louis Auchincloss.

The Merchant's House Museum is New York City's only family home preserved intact from the 19th century and Greenwich Village's only historic house museum. A rowhouse built in 1832, it is among the finest surviving examples of late-Federal and Greek Revival architecture of the period. Home to prosperous merchant Seabury Tredwell and family from 1835 to 1933, the landmark house, which has been a museum open to the public since 1936, reflects in its original textiles, furniture, and decorative arts the lifestyle of a typical New York City upper-middle-class family of the last century.

Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m. Group tours by appointment.

Admission: Free for members, \$3 for the public.



MUSEUM NEWS

The Crocus Are Up

Just last year, gardener John Rommel visited the Merchant's House and was instantly enchanted. John approached us with a proposal and, one year later, the fruits of his efforts are bursting forth. Already the wall vines have been tamed and are yielding to the persuasions of John and the talented crew of gardeners he has assembled to work. The green thumbs of Delphine Orvetz, Beverly Perkey, and John have logged in countless hours. In an effort to raise money for the garden, Delphine has designed and created small baskets and wreaths, the proceeds of which directly benefit the planting and pruning efforts. Louise LoPresti, a volunteer at the Merchant's House, and Beverly have donated bulbs and plants.

Since mid-March, those who have visited the garden have enjoyed the peeping crocus and daffodils. Each day brings with it a wider range of colors and blossoms and promises even greater delights as spring and summer progress. Come see for yourself. Don't miss our "Second Sunday" garden celebrations listed in the calendar. Better yet, schedule a visit to work out your floral frustrations; bring your garden shovel and gloves and join the crew!

Kudos to Our Volunteers

We are extremely grateful to the Museum's dedicated volunteers who help us in a myriad of valuable ways. In the area of systems technology, Louise LoPresti doggedly removed a computer virus which had infected our disks and hard drive. Thanks to her persistence, no files were

destroyed and our newly donated 386 computer is completely germ free and ready to go. Bill Wander has made himself accessible at all hours to respond to questions as well as to draft signs and memos on his own equipment. Yet another computer guru, Michael Vallone, has applied himself to the important task of toning up all Museum systems. This effort includes adding 3.5 floppy drives to ensure greater flexibility and compatibility with a wider range of equipment.

In the area of textile storage, Penelope
Bareau continues to move the process along
— almost single-handedly. In addition to
contributing her expertise and time,
Penelope has donated the funds necessary to
purchase conservation materials critical to
the task.

Mary Knapp, another valued volunteer, helps with weekday tours for both children and adults. Mary has also assumed responsibility for monitoring the publicity for our growing calendar of events.

We would be remiss if we failed to mention a few other noble souls, including our talented gardeners, the Sunday docents and Dea Dios, and of course Leslie Senn who has earned the unofficial title of Museum archivist for her relentless organization of materials relating to the early days of the Merchant's House Museum.

A hearty thanks to our volunteers for their tremendous accomplishments and an invitation to those who have yet to join the ranks of our volunteer force; please call the Museum to find out how you can become more involved.



Three Wishes

While our wish list could go on for pages, here are three of our most dire needs:

- Table Cloths white and at least 60" x 80"
- Computer 486 or better
- Lighting a podium with a light as well as an outdoor metal halide lamp



The Merchant's
House Museum
is now available
for private parties,
corporate events,
still photography,
and film shoots.
Call (212) 777-1089.

STEP INTO THE PAST AND BE A PART OF OUR FUTURE

Become a member and help preserve one of America's finest historic houses and its collections. Membership contributions play a vital role in the life of this remarkable museum.	I/We would like to join the Merchant's House Museum in the category above. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$		
☐ GOOD NEIGHBOR Individual\$50, Family\$75 Free admission during visiting hours. Invitation to the Holiday Party. Bi-annual newsletter. Calendar of Events.	I/We cannot join the Merchant's House Museum at this time, but wish to make a tax-deductible gift of \$		
□ PROTECTOR \$125	Name(s) Acknowledgement listings will appear as written above.* Address		
☐ CULTURAL HERO \$250			
☐ PRINCELY SUPPORTER \$500			
☐ TRUE FRIEND \$1,000 and above	City	State	Zip code
For those who can consider a leadership contribution of \$1,000 or more, the Merchant's House Museum has launched a special	Telephone: Day	Evenin	g
FRIENDS program. FRIENDS will be invited throughout the year to receptions and other events for them and their guests only. FRIENDS contributing at the higher levels enjoy additional benefits. For more information, please call	Please make your check payable to the Merchant's House Museum and send it with this form to the Merchant's House Museum, 29 East Fourth Street, New York NY 10003. Contributions are deductible to the extent provided by law. * If you prefer not to be listed, please check here.		
Margaret Halsey Gardiner Executive Director (212) 777-1089			

Museum Calendar

Monday, June 3, 6 to 9 p.m. Landmark Luau - Third Annual Garden Party Benefit

Lei your worries at the door and join in an evening of tropical delights. Call 777-1089 for an invitation.

Sunday, June 9, 4 to 6 p.m. Garden Sunday

Basketry with Janet Pao, using vines pruned from our wisteria. Reception to follow.

Thursday, June 13, 8 p.m. A Capella Performance

The Salamone Trio presents a capella madrigals and chansons from the late Middle Ages to Salamone Rossi.

Sunday, June 16, 4 p.m. Reading of Edith Wharton Jessica Weglein reads Edith Wharton's "After Holbein." Wednesdays, June and July, Midday Noontime tours and Lunch in New York's 19th Century Secret Garden

The garden is open for lunch (bring your own) from noon until 4 p.m., weather permitting.

Sunday, August 11, 4 p.m. Garden Sunday

Pat Olmstead presents her slide show, "The Greening of the Concrete Canyon."

Admission is \$10, \$7 for members, unless otherwise noted. Reservations are recommended. Call (212) 777-1089.

The Merchant's House Museum is open Sunday through Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3. Members free. Group tours by appointment.

Best Routes to the Merchant's House Museum

By Subway:

IRT: Lexington Avenue local #6 to Astor Place. Walk South on Lafayette Street to 4th Street and walk 1/2 block East.

BMT: Local R or N to 8th Street. Walk South on Broadway to East 4th Street and walk 1 1/2 blocks East.

IND: D or F to Broadway/ Lafayette. Walk North on Lafayette for 3 blocks, then East 1/2 block.

By Bus:

Bus #M5 or M6 to Broadway and 4th Street. Walk East 1 1/2 blocks; Lexington-Third Avenue Bus #M102 to East 4th Street, walk West 1/2 block; Bus #M1 to Broadway and 8th Street, walk South on Broadway to East 4th Street and 1 1/2 blocks East.



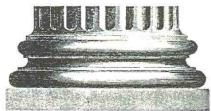
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Merchant's House Museum is the bi-annual newsletter of the museum. Inquiries may be sent to the Merchant's House Museum, 29 East Fourth Street, New York, NY 10003. Telephone:

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