

FRIENDS OF

Florham

THE TIFFANY TABLE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SAVE THE DATE!

On Thursday, May 21, 2015, at 11:30 a.m. plan to join us for "The Tiffany Table, A Luncheon at Florham" in Lenfell Hall, Hennessy Hall.

The Friends of Florham have partnered with one of the most notable jewelers to the Gilded Age and today's best dressed to celebrate history, great design and classic good taste. The Friends are simply thrilled to host Michael Plante, who will speak on the long-time association between Tiffany & Co. and the Vanderbilts.

Additionally, the afternoon will include a collection of silent-auction items, a live auction and the presentation of the traditional Tiffany blue boxes with special surprises and incredible favors.



(SEATED FROM LEFT) REGINA KELLY, VALERIE ADAMS, JENNIFER JOHNSON AND CHRISTINE ADRIGNOLO; (STANDING FROM LEFT) ANN WELLBROCK, DANIELLE LINDNER AND DAWN DUPAK

Danielle Lindner and her committee composed of Valerie Adams, Christine Adrignolo, Jenn Johnson, Ann Wellbrock, Dawn

Dupak and Regina Kelly are thrilled to bring a new, exciting example of historical insight into the Vanderbilt-Twombly lifestyle with this luncheon. Their goal is an elegant, stimulating afternoon with great food, interesting insights and good friends. Please plan to join us for what promises to be a wonderful event.

All proceeds from the luncheon will support the ongoing restorations and redecoration of Florham. For details go to our website at fdu.edu/fof or contact Regina Kelly, director of major gifts, University Advancement, and Friends of Florham treasurer, at 201-692-7008 or rkelly05@fdu.edu.

SPRING 2015

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THE TIFFANY TABLE, A LUNCHEON AT FLORHAM

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Florham Campus, Fairleigh Dickinson University
Ticket price is \$150

For Sponsorship Opportunities
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TIFFANY & Co.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I am honored to assume the presidency of Friends of Florham, a position so ably filled for the past six years by Linda Meister. I inherit a board of dedicated and talented people, who all contribute significantly to the success of this organization and I am looking forward to working with Jenn Johnson, the incoming EVP, as we continue the stewardship of Florham.

It is with regret that we say farewell to our colleague Denise Bridgens Collins as she resigns from the Friends. Denise was instrumental in creating our website and assisted with the digital access to our newsletters. Denise and her husband, Paul, moved to Delaware, and we wish them well.

And welcome aboard to our newest board member Maryalice Raushi. Please read more about Maryalice on page 3.

Your response to our annual appeal campaign in December 2014 was heartwarming. Welcome to our new members and thank you to all our generous donors —

we applaud your commitment to our mission to preserve the historical legacy of the mansion and its grounds.

Our most recently completed project is the hanging of additional Burden photographs in the second floor lounge and halls (see left). We invite you to visit Hennessy Hall and view these wonderful photographs. You'll be glad you did.

We are also in the process of acquiring, printing, framing and hanging more images for Lenfell Hall and the Great Hall. They are giclée reproductions of several important family portraits and also, hopefully, a portrait of Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect of Florham, and Stanford White of McKim, Mead and White, the architects.

Please join us on Sunday, March 15, at 3 p.m., for our spring lecture. We will be once again welcoming a favorite speaker, Ulysses Dietz, chief curator and curator of decorative arts of the Newark Museum. He will be enlightening and entertaining us on

the Beaux Arts Treasures of the Newark Museum.

Spring will conclude with a new event for us in lieu of our traditional Fall Gala. We look forward to you joining us on Thursday, May 21, for a luncheon, co-sponsored by the Friends of Florham and one of the world's most-renowned jewelers. Mark your calendars and save the date for "The Tiffany Table, A Luncheon at Florham."

With sadness I note the passing of Patty Savage on Thursday, January 15. Patty was the widow of our beloved former Board member, Walter Savage, and a dear friend of the "Friends." Plans are being made for a memorial service in the spring on the Florham Campus. Once finalized these plans will be posted on our website.

In closing, I must again thank the many members of the Friends of Florham who help with research, fundraising, membership, projects and public relations. I look forward to serving you as your president.

— Dawn Dupak



NEW BURDEN PHOTOGRAPHS IN HENNESSY HALL

FLORHAM FURNISHINGS AT WHITE HOUSE

The June 1955 auction at Florham of the estate of Ruth Vanderbilt Twombly, the daughter of Florence and Hamilton Twombly, was extremely well attended and received extensive media coverage. What the press did not know at the time, however, was that a few months earlier, William Burden, grandson of Florence and Hamilton Twombly, and his brother, Shirley C. Burden, had offered to donate items from the Twombly estate at Florham for potential use in the White House.

Representatives from the White House visited Florham, and selected more than 50 items — paintings, chairs, tables and other objects — and arranged for their transport to Washington.

Then, for many years, the trail of the Florham donations went cold. A Board member of the Friends, who was interested in the mystery, learned that his daughter had a professional contact who could put us in touch with the appropriate White House

office. In early September, we received wonderful news. Mystery solved.

More specifically, the assistant curator of the White House informed us that, "the vast majority of the items taken remain in our collection." Of special interest to the Friends is the Burden gift of a Georgian mahogany open armchair, which is often featured in photographs taken in the Oval Office. During the administration of George W. Bush, White House

(continued on page 3)

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT

The Friends are pleased to announce their selection of Dawn Dupak as the person who will lead the group for the next 18 months. Dawn's combination of leadership experience, creativity and design knowledge, and organizational skills are the perfect fit for a group as diverse as the Friends of Florham. Dawn has co-chaired the gala since 1999 and joined the board in 2003. Her history of involvement and participation in Friends' activities complements her record



in other areas of community service.

Dawn's record of community service extends from her early years as president of various PTOs in Chatham Schools; serving as president of the Stanley Congregational Church; various levels of service in the Junior League of Morristown, including president in 1992–1993; and serving the Arts Council of the Morris Area (now Morris Arts) in a number of roles, including co-chair of their annual fundraising event—April Arts. This impressive record demonstrates her commitment to the commu-

nity and her ability to work with diverse memberships as a leader and mentor.

Personally, Dawn graduated from the University of British Columbia, Canada, with a degree in fine arts and has worked as an interior designer and a wardrobe stylist. She married Peter Dupak in 1974. They have two daughters, Erin and Kim, who are both married and now reside in New Hampshire, near Peter and Dawn's lake house. Dawn is delighted to be a grandmother and enjoys downhill skiing, bridge, gourmet cooking, travel, jewelry design and other domestic arts.

WELCOME MARYALICE RAUSHI

Please join the board in welcoming Maryalice Raushi, who graduated from the Florham Campus with a BA in political science. She also attended Wroxton College as an undergraduate and received her MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson in 1990.

Maryalice is the immediate former executive vice president and sales associate at the commercial brokerage firm Newmark Associates, Inc. She joined Newmark in August 2014, following two years as president of Business Funding, LLC, a firm that finds money for businesses previously

turned down by banks. Maryalice's 25-year banking career includes serving as chairman and CEO of Platinum Bank & Trust for four years while the bank was in its organizational stage. She is also past president and CEO of the Parsippany-based trust division of \$26-billion New York Life Insurance Co., as well as past senior vice president and regional manager of PNC Bank.

A loyal alumna, Maryalice's volunteer efforts at Fairleigh Dickinson include being the guest



speaker for an FDU Club event in 2009, hosting an alumni reception for FDU in 2010 and working with the Wroxton Advisory Committee as chair of their fundraising efforts. She is also a member of FDU's Presidential Advisory Board, where her financial acumen is appreciated.

Maryalice and her husband, John, have a son, and they reside in nearby Bedminster, N.J. She is known for her interests in golf, horseback riding, reading and volunteer work.

WHITE HOUSE *(continued)*

Designer Ken Blasingame chose to have two reproductions made of the Burden armchair, so that a pair could be used in front of the fireplace in the Oval Office, and a third rotated in if necessary. More specifically, the chairs were upholstered in blue and gold for President Bush, and later in caramel-colored leather for President Obama.

The next time that you watch the news or see a photograph of the president with a guest in his Oval Office, note that either the president or his guest is seated in the original, although reupholstered armchair, while the accompanying reproductions continue to suggest the history of the armchairs, which began in the mansion at Florham. The "influence" of the Burden gift, in fact,

continues to be evident. According to the White House curator, "Many of the Burden donations have been used frequently since their acquisition, especially in the private quarters of the house. A number of the furniture items remain in use today in the family rooms."

— Carol Bere and Sam Convissor



LUNCHEON HONORS RETIRING PRESIDENT LINDA MEISTER

A luncheon honoring retiring Friends President Linda Meister was hosted by Florham Campus Provost Peter Woolley after the January 5 meeting of the Friends of Florham in Sarah Sullivan Lounge and Hartman Lounge, Hennessy Hall. Incoming President Dawn Dupak presented Mrs. Meister with a resolution celebrating the accomplishments of the Friends under her leadership.



(FROM LEFT) INCOMING PRESIDENT DAWN DUPAK, RETIRING PRESIDENT LINDA MEISTER AND FLORHAM CAMPUS PROVOST PETER WOOLLEY

The resolution noted she had: "... worked tirelessly to ensure the development, progress and completion of the Friends' major preservation projects at Florham, which include — among several vital restoration enterprises — the renovation of both the Sarah Sullivan and Hartman Lounges; the redecoration of the Main Hall including the installation of a breakfront with the Wendy Burden donation of Twom-

bly linens; the redecoration of the offices of both the president and the provost at Florham; the renovation of Room 2 at Wroxton College into the J. Michael Adams Presidential Suite; and in 2014, the transformation of former classroom M2 in Hennessy Hall into the Governor Richard J. Codey Classroom ..."

Dr. Woolley expressed his personal appreciation for Mrs. Meister's time, care and leadership and continued interest in the restoration and maintenance of Florham with a handwritten note. He went on to thank her for "being our conscience reminding us of this great inheritance and prodding us to respect it and to pass it on for new generations to enjoy." He also indicated to the board how positively the community responded to the Fall Gala and the dedication of the Governor Richard J. Codey Classroom.

The board welcomed back honorary board member and former board member Audrey Parker to the luncheon as they reminisced about previous meetings and shared memories of past galas and lectures. It was fitting that we took a moment to look back on our history as a board even as we look forward to the next chapter.

DIETZ SPEAKS ABOUT WHITE HOUSE

On November 8, Ulysses Grant Dietz, the Newark Museum's chief curator and curator of decorative arts and a great, great grandson of Ulysses Grant, spoke on his book, *Dream House: The White House as an American Home*. Mr. Dietz's talk, replete with tidbits about the many families that occupied our country's most important residence, was accompanied by slides selected from a vast archive.



ULYSSES GRANT DIETZ WITH HONORARY TRUSTEE PHYLLIS CONWAY

Mr. Dietz took the audience from the modest 18th-century country estate inhabited by Thomas Jefferson, to Andrew Jackson's "genteel" 19th-century villa, to interiors resembling a hunting lodge under Theodore Roosevelt

and a middleclass home with a balcony barbecue under Dwight Eisenhower.

Of greatest interest were those furnishings that survived many presidential generations and those furnishings abandoned to the attic or elsewhere as soon as a president's term ended.

Some first ladies selected furniture from fashionable department stores. Others hired great interior designers, among them, Herter Brothers, Louis Tiffany and McKim, Mead and White, to create a comfortable home for the presidential family. Jackie Kennedy, perhaps the best known, was influential in rescuing pieces of historic value and displaying them properly, not only creating a beautiful interior, but giving impetus to a national preservation movement, something from which Florham benefits today.

Mr. Dietz is always in demand by our audience, and we look forward to his next lecture on March 15.

W.H. VANDERBILT'S ART COLLECTION

William H. Vanderbilt, Florence V. Twombly's father, began collecting art around 1878, and by the time of his sudden death in 1885, had amassed a major private collection, which included more than 200 paintings by prominent contemporary European artists. Vanderbilt's move from his home on Fifth Avenue and 40th Street, to his newly constructed, lavishly appointed mansion at 640 Fifth Avenue and 51st Street — the early stages of what has been referred to as Vanderbilt Row — was probably related to his need to house his growing art collection, as well as the Vanderbilt family's desire, in general, to develop this section of Fifth Avenue, and confirm its social presence.

Briefly, in 1878, WH Vanderbilt commissioned what came to be known as the Triple Palace, three interconnected mansions, which included his home on 640 Fifth Avenue, with its impressive private two-story art gallery, and the homes at 642 Fifth Avenue, and 2 West 52nd Street for his daughters, Margaret Fitch and Emily Sloane, respectively.* In 1881, Vanderbilt's home was ready for occupancy, and his desire, unusual among art collectors, was to offer area residents the opportunity to view his collection in the gallery. Vanderbilt's collection, among other works, essentially comprised historical, landscape, and literary genre paintings, and showcased paintings such as Francois Millet's *The Sower*, and J.M. Turner's *The Fountain of Indolence*, as well as major works by John Everett Millais, Delacroix, De Neuville, Corot, and a portrait of Vanderbilt by Ernest Meissonier.⁽¹⁾

Following a reception for about 2,500 people in 1883, large numbers of people began to visit the Vanderbilt gallery — via its sepa-

rate entrance on West 51st street — at the appointed times on Thursdays. Vanderbilt took great pleasure in his collection and was often present during gallery hours, conversing with visitors about his art, and dispensing small catalogues. By 1884, however, after visitors began taking parts of the tapestries, and had moved into private family areas, Vanderbilt was forced to close the gallery to visitors other than to family and friends.

The fate of Vanderbilt's collection shifted with his death in 1885. William Vanderbilt's will contained a sizable monetary gift to the Metropolitan Museum, and there is also some evidence that he planned to build a museum across the avenue from his home, but his general intent was that his collection would remain private. More specifically, Vanderbilt willed the house to his wife, and after her death in 1896, to his youngest son, George. The public did have some opportunity to view a number of Vanderbilt's works, however, primarily because George loaned 135 works to the Metropolitan Museum for a year in 1902, and ultimately extended the loan until 1919.

Following George Vanderbilt's relatively early death in 1914 (without a male heir), and according to the terms of William Vanderbilt's will, George's nephew, Cornelius Vanderbilt III, and his wife, Grace, inherited the house and collection. They, or at least, Grace, were more interested in competing socially than in the art collection, and made extensive renovations to the mansion to showcase their lavish entertainments. Ultimately, in 1940, Grace sold the art collection at auction for the relatively low figure of \$325,195.⁽²⁾ Today, many of the

paintings (and decorative objects) from Vanderbilt's collection can be found in museums in the United States, Europe, Canada and Japan, while George Vanderbilt's home, Biltmore, also holds some of the works.

Critics have suggested that because Vanderbilt's collection had been so widely dispersed, that the importance of his holdings and his influence may not have been recognized. Yet Vanderbilt's collection had been catalogued: in a somewhat rare move for a collector, Vanderbilt himself had published several small catalogues of his collection. Moreover, with text by well-known art critic, Edward Strahan, Vanderbilt published an impressive, four-volume work, *Mr. Vanderbilt's House and Collection* (1883–1884). Editions of this work can be found today in libraries and for sale online. Others suggest that interests of collectors had changed, and that Vanderbilt's collection was no longer "current." What does seem apparent, however, is that Vanderbilt influenced future collectors, particularly, the younger Henry Clay Frick. In the mid-1880s, for example, Frick had purchased the four-volume compilation, *Mr. Vanderbilt's House and Collection*, and in the early stages of his collecting, purchased works by many of the same artists that Vanderbilt collected.

By the terms of his father's will, George could not sell 640 Fifth Avenue, and in 1904, Frick agreed to rent the mansion for 10 years, at \$50,000 a year, which included many pictures in Vanderbilt's collection, and ultimately some works from his own collection. Frick wanted to be surrounded by more of Vanderbilt's art works, however — and, (continued on page 6)



IMAGES OF WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT'S ART COLLECTION AT HIS 640 FIFTH AVENUE MANSION



Photos courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries, Posner Memorial Collection



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VANDERBILT (continued from page 5)

of particular interest — in 1905, he told Hamilton McKown Twombly, George Vanderbilt's brother-in-law, that he would like to have some of the paintings, which were on loan at the Metropolitan Museum, returned to 640 Fifth Avenue. Twombly wrote to Vanderbilt, who wrote directly to Frick in response to the request: "This I would not be willing to do. It is a pleasure to me to feel that my father's collection is on view to the public at all times, and performing its 'educative function.'"⁽³⁾ By 1913, Frick had begun building his mansion and gallery at 1 East 70th Street, which would ultimately become the renowned Frick Collection.

Vanderbilt's Triple Palace was torn down in 1947 and replaced by commercial buildings, and as family members had begun to migrate uptown much earlier, and skyscrapers replaced their homes, a significant period in Vanderbilt family history ended. — *Carol Bere*

**Florence and Hamilton Twombly lived at 684 Fifth Avenue; in 1926, the then-widowed Florence sold her home, and in 1926, commissioned another home at 1 East 71st Street.*

⁽¹⁾For an excellent and comprehensive assessment of WH Vanderbilt's art collection, see "Art for the Public: William Henry Vanderbilt's Cultural Legacy," by Leanne Zalewski: <http://www.19thc-artworldwide.org/index.php/summer12/leanne-zalewski-william-henry-vanderbilts-cultural-legacy>.

⁽²⁾For information on Frick and the William H. Vanderbilt art collection, see "Aspiration and Obsession: Henry Clay Frick and the W.H. Vanderbilt House and Collection — <https://aliasmissmellie.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/aspiration-and-obsession-by-melanie-linn-gutowski.pdf>.

⁽³⁾Gutowski, p. 30.

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