

FRIENDS OF

Florham



Spring is around the corner, as is Friends of Florham's spring fundraising event, A Day at the Races. Please join the Friends as we look to celebrate one of America's oldest sporting events, the Kentucky Derby, at Florham. It will be an afternoon of horses and hats, all in the grandeur of a Gilded Age mansion.

The Florham mansion will welcome race-goers on the

A DAY AT THE RACES

afternoon of Saturday, May 4, from 4–8 p.m., where we'll have a live broadcast of the Derby races. Your ticket also includes a silent auction, 50/50 raffle opportunity, race cards and other grand excitement.

As much as the horses are part of the Kentucky Derby, so are the hats and attire. Get into the full spirit of the races by donning your best hat, dress, or sport coat. Prizes will be awarded! Local partners *Madison Hat Shop* and *Stitch* (Madison) have offered to assist those who may need some help in styling their race-day outfit. It's all in the details! Tell them Friends of Florham sent you.

Thanks to *Cambridge Street Papers* in Madison for providing customized paper goods. Everybody is getting into the spirit!

Race-goers will also enjoy a specially selected lunch basket inspired by the Derby, and created by FDU's own Chef Jeff Gourley. Stroll up to the bar and enjoy a glass of wine with your three-course picnic or enjoy a signature mint julep.

Friends of Florham's goal is to raise funds to continue the preservation of the Florham mansion and landscape. We look to preserve the rich history of this beautiful building, while moving into the future.

Tickets for the event are \$120 per person.

For race day tips, fun details, and registration, please visit friendsofflorham.com.

To contact us directly email friendsofflorham@gmail.com.

— *Suzanne Manke*

SPRING 2019

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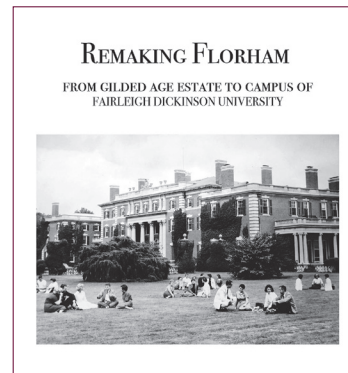
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REMAKING FLORHAM

A new book on the transition of the Vanderbilt-Twombly estate to a college campus is now available in time for the 60th anniversary (2018–2019) of the opening of the Florham Campus. *Remaking Florham: From Gilded Age Estate to Campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University* offers the memories of students who attended during the initial years and the perspectives of Peter Sammartino, the University's founding president; Samuel Pratt, the first campus dean; and Dorothea Creamer, a librarian from 1958–78. Many photographs illustrate the physical conversion and new construction.

Sammartino reveals the challenges of purchasing the estate and, within just one year, converting it from a seasonal home to an academic institution that would educate, house and feed several thousand students. Rarely traveled roadways had to be made ready for hundreds of cars. Water, electricity, plumbing, heating and other logistics had to be upgraded for this increased population. Yet all was accomplished, and a facility purchased in 1957 opened for classes in the fall of 1958.

Remaking Florham was created by Carol Bere, Friends of Florham trustee; Walter Cum-



mins, Friends honorary trustee and FDU professor emeritus of English; Eleanor Friedl, University liaison to the Friends and research librarian, Monnin-

(continued on page 3)



**FAIRLEIGH
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

Spring is around the corner, and we look forward to another beautiful season at Florham and Fairleigh Dickinson University. The mansion and landscape are so exciting this time of year preparing for all the spring and summer events — from graduation to weddings. The Friends of Florham have exciting news to share as well.

Our lions have arrived! Thanks to Wendy Burden, great-great-granddaughter of Florence Vanderbilt Twombly, the lions that once graced the front steps of Florham have returned. Your support will restore the lions and provide the proper base to hold

these majestic marble statues in a place of prominence in front of the mansion. Please put the lions back in place with a gift to the Friends of Florham at www.myfdu.net/givefriends.

Sadly, we must remember two extraordinary board members in memoriam: Antoinette (Ann) Petrocelli and Emma Joy Dana. We remember them fondly. We also remember Karl Meister, a lovely, supportive gentleman, and husband of Linda Meister, past president of Friends of Florham.

We continue to introduce our local gem, Florham, to many through tours, day trips, lectures and our first American Girl Luncheon. We've met friends from

the Adult School of Chatham, a book club, historical societies and local Rotary clubs. This spring, we will host a Kentucky Derby event, **A Day at the Races, on May 4, 2019!**

This newsletter would not happen without the fabulous Carol Bere. She tirelessly researches and creates articles of interest for each issue. Thank you, Carol!!

Friends, you make all of these wonderful projects happen. You preserve the dignity and grace of Florham and the landscape. Your support and enthusiasm continue to help us achieve our mission. Thank you.

Lisa MacNair

President, Friends of Florham

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN TRIP



YANKEE STADIUM



REFLECTING POOL

The Friends hosted a successful fundraising day trip to the 27th Annual Train Show at the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, N.Y.

The Train Show was breathtaking! Paul Busse and his team designed an elaborate landscape featuring more than 175 New York City landmarks. The entire display was uniquely crafted using plants and plant parts such as seeds, acorns, sticks, bark

and leaves. We were in awe as we walked under a replica of the Brooklyn Bridge, which was made entirely of sticks and twine.

Along our stroll through a miniature Manhattan, we came across William K. Vanderbilt's mansion, located at 660 Fifth Avenue, which was built in 1883 and demolished in 1926.

We all agreed that the most unique display was in the reflect-

ing pool. It was as if we were on the ferry heading to lower Manhattan with the Statue of Liberty and the Freedom Tower ahead of us.

We would like to thank everyone who joined us on this festive trip! We look forward to hosting more trips such as this in the future.

— *Jennifer Johnson*

FLORENCE VANDERBILT TWOMBLY AT BILTMORE HOUSE



FLORENCE VANDERBILT TWOMBLY
PHOTO CREDIT: THE BILTMORE COMPANY

A major exhibition, “A Vanderbilt House Party: The Gilded Age,” is underway at Biltmore through Monday, May 27, and includes reproductions of clothing from members of the Vanderbilt family — including Florence Vanderbilt Twombly — originally worn in Biltmore House. Florence Vanderbilt Twombly’s brother, George, built Biltmore, the largest home in the United States, in Asheville, N.C. The clothing is displayed in the



A VANDERBILT HOUSE PARTY: GILDED AGE
PHOTO CREDIT: THE BILTMORE COMPANY

settings in which they were worn originally in Biltmore House.

We corresponded with Laura Cope, Collections Manager at Biltmore (who has visited Florham), who said that guests can view Mr. and Mrs. Twombly in the final scene of the exhibition, the formal dinner party in the Banquet Hall. She told us that Leslie Klingner, Curator of Interpretation at Biltmore, explained that the inspiration for Mrs. Twombly’s

recreated gown came from a photograph of Mrs. Twombly in the Biltmore archives. The curators later confirmed that her gown was from the House of Worth. The color of Mrs. Twombly’s gown is unknown, but Biltmore curators based the color on fashionable color palettes of the time.

For more information about the exhibition go to <https://www.biltmore.com/events/a-vanderbilt-house-party-the-gilded-age>.

REMAKING FLORHAM (continued from page 1)

ger Center for Learning and Research; Harry Keyishian, FDU professor emeritus of English; and Arthur T. Vanderbilt II, Friends honorary trustee, with memories and photographs contributed by former students and alumni Clara Warcola Bondinell, BS’65 (Flor); Lilly Lee Kwong, BS’64 (Flor); Pat Moran, MBA’72 (Metro); Gordon Perry, BS’69 (Metro); and Richard Wellbrock, BA’60, MBA’64 (Flor).

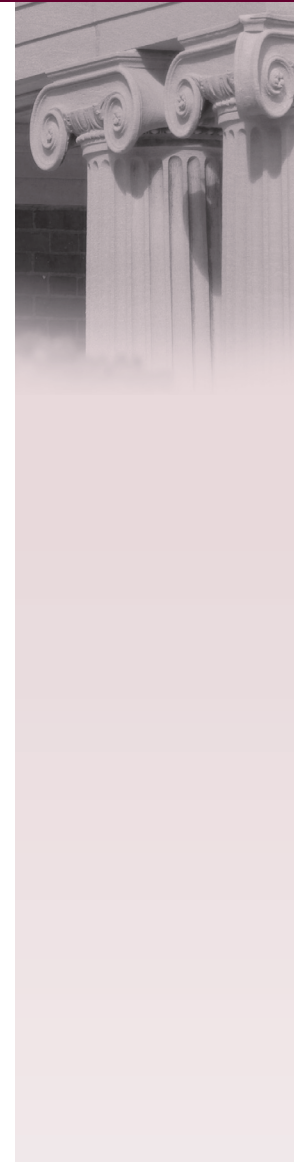
Arthur Vanderbilt explains the spirit the authors hoped to convey in the book:

“Picture being one of the first students and first professors to be there that first year. Here what was once almost a fairy tale home and grounds presided over by two elderly ladies — Mrs. Florence Vanderbilt Twombly and her maiden daughter,

Ruth — and looked after by a staff of 120 to care for the mansion and grounds, was gradually becoming a modern campus. To have been there when so many vestiges of the old days remained — from the organ in the Great Hall, to the marble bathtubs in the rooms on the second floor being transformed into classrooms and offices, to the gardens designed by the famous Frederick Law Olmsted, to the Playhouse with its tennis court and pool: how wonderful would it be if we could experience that today! In our book, we wanted to capture as much of that feel as possible. We hope that students and all readers will get a feel for the history of this amazing campus, to see it not only as a great University, but once as someone’s home.”

Remaking Florham is the fourth in a series of hardcover books that cover aspects of the estate’s history. The first, *Florham: An American Treasure*, provides an overview of the estate’s history. *The Richest and Most Famous Private Chef in the World: Joseph Donon: Gilded Age Dining with Florence Vanderbilt Twombly* tells the story of the Twombly’s legendary chef for almost 40 years. *Olmsted’s Vision: The Landscaping of Florham* describes how America’s most significant landscape architect and his successors created the grounds and gardens that we continue to enjoy today.

An American Treasure is available at the campus bookstore. The other three titles may be purchased on *Amazon.com*, *barnesandnoble.com*, *www.booksamillion.com* and other online outlets.



IN MEMORIAM

We fondly remember our Friends who have given so much.

The Friends sadly acknowledge the deaths of Emma Joy Dana and Antoinette Petrocelli and send its condolences to their families.

EMMA JOY DANA

Emma Joy Dana was a remarkable person by any definition. She was a master organizer, volunteer, fisher woman, woodcutter, art collector, and, in general, a gracious individual. We are all better for either knowing Emma Joy Dana personally or being the recipients of her legacy. She will be missed!

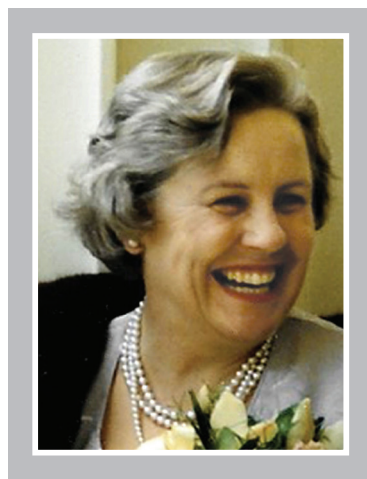
The following tribute was given at the celebration of Emma Joy Dana's life in November by Linda Carrington, honorary trustee of the Friends of Florham.

"Emma Joy was a Pied Piper. She had the skill of disarming you by saying 'Hey, We're doing such and such. Why don't you ... come, join, etc.,' in her cultural projects and endeavors.

"I first met her in 1986 when I joined the board at the Macculloch Hall Historical Museum in Morristown. Emma Joy was the chair of the hospitality committee, among other assignments. Let us fast forward to 2002 when I joined the Friends of Florham board. What a fun board it was. It included some of my friends and neighbors and my former professors and four or five members from the Macculloch Hall board. After one lively and fractious meeting (yes, fractious!) a new member commented on our contentious familiarity with one another. Every month we returned for more. What happened in Hartman Lounge stays in Hartman Lounge.

"James Fraser [co-founder of the Friends of Florham and former FDU library director at the Florham Campus] described Emma Joy in his 2008 tribute: 'Finding a friend for the Florham-

Madison Campus Library in the 1970s meant "stealing someone already involved in supporting other libraries and museums." He was referring to Emma Joy whom he enlisted: 'no task was too daunting; not even the logistics (or difficult people) in cities where we were organizing exhibitions: Prague, Moscow, Berlin, Zurich or Tokyo. To Emma, flying a distance or driving locally was all the same and always a pleasure. She made friends for us wherever she went. She inspired friends to give, and she matched their giving. When friends moved on, Emma took up the slack. In fact, slack wasn't allowed to develop. Resource needs, resource development, exhibitions from concept to opening reception, publications, workshops, speakers — the cup was always full.



Thirty years later her batteries were still charged. Emma was a most amazing Friend of the Library, Friend of Florham and the College at Florham.'

"This dynamic duo, Emma Joy and James Fraser, founded the Friends of Florham in April 26, 1990, when what was then called 'The Cultural Affairs Board' held its first meeting. Total membership of that group was the Board's 15 trustees. Emma Joy brought along her index cards of

friends and the group of friends expanded exponentially.

"For several years starting in 2008 and running through 2014, Emma Joy sponsored the Book Arts program and workshop at the Morristown Public Library.

"The Friends of Florham accomplishments under the leadership of Emma Joy are chronicled in the newsletters, which you can read online at fdu.edu/fof. The highlights include the lecture program starting in 1991; the restoration of the mansion gardens, the Great Hall and Lenfell Hall; the preservation of the Cutleaf Maple Grove; the restoration of the courtyard lanterns; the replacement of the balusters in the garden and courtyard; the replacement of the mansion door; and the donation of the Twombly ledgers.

"One accomplishment not described in full in the newsletters centers on Edward Burden's gift of the Twombly ledgers and archives. The story is vague on details, but here goes: Edward Burden, the great-great grandson of Florence Vanderbilt Twombly, had the household ledgers and records tucked away in his file cabinet. According to Linda Meister, honorary trustee of the Friends of Florham, 'It's my recollection that Edward contacted Emma Joy out of the blue. She and Jim Fraser drove up there, somewhere on the interstate highway in New York State, I think, north of Poughkeepsie, to a roadside rest stop, and he literally came out of the woods in flip-flops and shorts and handed her a packing box filled with the records. He was just getting rid of them. Not sure how he knew to contact her.' The follow-up: In 2005 the Friends of Florham applied for a grant from the Morris County Heritage Commission,

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hired an archivist and later digitized the records.

“Emma Joy’s son, Andrew, said she also sponsored a speakers’ series for a while, bringing in fishermen and fishing writers and artists for talks. I am sorry I have not fished around for details on this.

“In closing, every organization, every individual, every family should have an Emma Joy Dana. She was a Pied Piper who led us on the path of community and arts support. And, we all know that investing in the arts is investing in the best of human endeavors.”

ANTOINETTE “ANN” PETROCELLI

The Friends of Florham mourn the loss of Antoinette Petrocelli, a trustee of the Friends board since 2013, and a trustee of FDU. Ann supported the activities of the Friends with candor, humor and a realistic sense of what was possible to achieve within the scope of the Friends’ plans. She was a graduate of Hunter

College (City University of New York), the State University of New York at Geneseo, earned an MA degree in education and taught at a variety of lower- and high-school levels.



Susan Adams, honorary trustee of the Friends of Florham and widow of J. Michael Adams, former president of FDU, commented, “What I liked and respected about Ann was her quiet dignity, her candor and her sense of hu-

mor. Maybe because she was so petite and quietly self-possessed, casual acquaintances didn’t recognize what a giant intellectual she was or what amazing strength she possessed. Ann touched many lives.” When her husband died, for example, Ann stepped in and managed the family business successfully.

As noted by Karen Lewis, executive director of One University Many Dreams, University advancement, “Ann was a lifelong educator.” She and her late husband, Anthony J. Petrocelli, a “nontraditional” graduate and former trustee of FDU, “shared a passion for education,” and were committed to providing access to education to a wide variety of traditional and nontraditional students. More specifically, in response to a major financial commitment from Ann and her husband, FDU dedicated the Anthony J. Petrocelli College of Continuing Studies in 2005.

Ann will be greatly missed.

FRIENDS WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES

The Friends are delighted to welcome two new trustees, who bring their impressive talents and experience to the Board.

ROSEMARIE CONDON-KELLS

Rosemarie Condon-Kells, a 1994 graduate of FDU, is married to Michael Kells, who is also an FDU graduate, and has four children. After graduation, she began her teaching career in Highland Park, and coached field hockey and softball at the Academy of St. Elizabeth. Rosemarie returned to FDU as assistant women’s field hockey coach, and was inducted into the FDU Division III Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001. While at home, she helped start MOMS Club (Moms Offering Moms Support) in Parsippany, an international organization that

helps mothers who have left full-time careers to raise children.

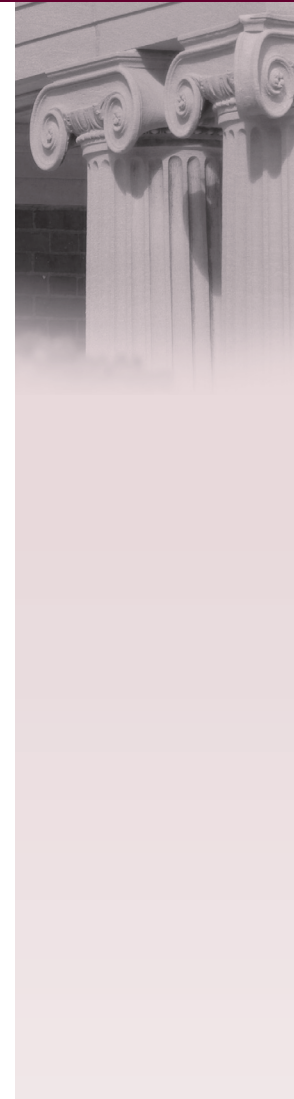
After teaching full-time again, in October 2018, she was offered an impressive opportunity by Friends member, Jennifer Johnson, to work for Top Safety Products in Branchburg, N.J., a women-owned small business, where she is currently the new business development manager. Rosemarie continues to be an active FDU alumna, serving on committees and attending a variety of FDU events.

SUZANNE MANKE

Suzanne Manke is originally from Columbus, Ohio, and received her BA in business administration from Ashland University in Ohio. Suzanne, her husband and their two children have done an impressive amount of travel,

living at various times, in New Orleans, and prior to moving to Madison a year ago, lived in England for eight years. She says that she developed a “true appreciation for architectural preservation,” when, after Hurricane Katrina struck, she, “saw New Orleans struggle to recapture its famous architecture and rebuild.”

Suzanne and her family lived outside of London in Surrey, where she volunteered at her children’s international school, and participated in many historical/cultural tours of London and surrounding areas. Of particular interest, she lived near and visited Hampton Court Place frequently, which as reported in the history of Florham, was a model or influence on the building of the mansion at Florham.





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FLORHAM

AN AMERICAN TREASURE



From the Gilded Age Vanderbilt-Twombly Estate
to a Contemporary University Campus

ORDER THE BOOK

Copies may be purchased at the Florham Campus bookstore by emailing us at friendsofflorham@gmail.com, or by sending a check for \$25.00 (includes shipping) to Barbara Dawson, c/o Friends of Florham; FDU, 285 Madison Avenue, M-MS1-04, Madison, N.J. 07940

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Join the Friends of Florham. Participate directly in our efforts to preserve the architectural history of Florham, and support our informative programs.
Your support will make a difference!

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