

FRIENDS OF

Florham

KENTUCKY DERBY: A DAY AT THE RACES



FROM LEFT: KAREN HUGHES, MAUREEN BYRNE AND PAT WYER



TOM CURNIN



GINA AND JON KARNIK

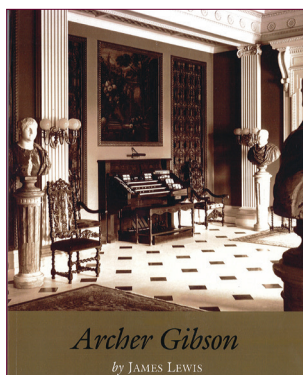
Guests gathered at the mansion house (Hennessy Hall at the Florham Campus) on May 4 this past spring to celebrate A Day at the Races with the Friends of Florham. The Great Hall and Lenfell Hall were the perfect backdrops for the 145th Kentucky Derby viewing. Friends of Florham held the event as a fundraiser to continue its efforts in the preservation, care and maintenance of the Florham estate. And what better way to do so, than hosting a grand event for one of America's oldest sporting events, in one of America's grandest buildings.

Those attending A Day at the Races were greeted with a signature cocktail of mint julep and an air of anticipation as to which horse would be the big winner in the Race for the Roses. A special menu created just for the day, by FDU's own Chef Jeff Gourley, was provided to all racegoers as well, in a fun jute picnic bag. Staying on theme of a proper Kentucky picnic, the menu consisted of horseradish pimento cheese and crackers, crispy black-eyed pea salad, corn bread hush puppies with honey butter, barbecue pork sliders and chicken-fried steak.

Guests could take their picnic to the outside veranda if they wished or pull up a chair to one of the many festive indoor tables.

No Kentucky Derby-viewing gathering would be complete without guests donning their best race-day hat and attire. A highlight of the day was seeing all the beautiful hats and seersucker suits. Several community partners stepped up to offer assistance in getting ready for the big day. Hat Shop Madison, STITCH Boutique (Madison) and Vineyard Vines (Short Hills

(continued on page 3)



ARCHER THE ORGANIST

James Lewis has put together a fascinating compilation of quoted correspondence and letters between patrons (H.C. Frick, John D. Rockefeller, Florence Vanderbilt-Twombly, among others) and organist Archer Gibson; correspondence between Mr. Gibson and the Estey Organ Company; as well as newspaper and magazine clippings reporting recitals given by the esteemed organist. The book includes a great many archival photographs of various instruments and of Mr. Gibson.

— Eleanor Friedl
Research and Instruction Librarian and
Friends of Florham Board

WINTER 2020

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

The Olmsted Cutleaf Maple Grove on Dreyfuss Road was particularly colorful last fall, and I anticipate the twinkling lights guiding us on the winding road from Madison Avenue to Florham. As the Friends of Florham reviews the past few months and the upcoming season, we reflect on what we have accomplished and what we hope to accomplish in the future. As always, preservation is a priority, with community awareness a close second; and **your donations make our work possible**. With these themes in mind, we highlight the following:

- A bus full of Friends participated in a fun and engaging day trip to the Holiday Train Show at the New York Botanical Gardens in December 2018. We'll plan another trip in spring 2020. Join us!

- A Day at The Races on May 4, 2019, was a Winner's Circle success! Many joined us for a mint julep, the Kentucky Derby watch party, and dinner with a Kentucky Derby theme. We loved the hats, the outfits, and the enthusiasm. Thanks to all who attended (see article).

- We hosted an American Girl Luncheon in June 2019, introducing Florham to another group of young people.

- The Friends will honor Emma Joy Dana, who bequeathed a generous gift from her estate in 2019. With this support from Emma Joy, the Friends will undertake the restoration of the stained-glass windows next to Mrs. Twombly's original breakfast room.

- We have been gifted a reproduction portrait of Florence Adele

Vanderbilt. We thank Florence MacDonald, great-great-granddaughter of Florence, for this generous and exciting reproduction of a portrait to complete the Portrait Project in Lenfell Hall.

Thank you for your effort to help us reach our collective goals! **You** help to make our programs flourish. **You** protect the integrity of the Vanderbilt-Twombly Estate. And **you** continue to heighten interest in historic preservation within our communities.

It is with your continued membership and support that we share this special, magnificent place. Will you join the Friends of Florham? Visit us at <https://support.fdu.edu/giving/friends-of-florham>. Thank you.

*Lisa MacNair
President, Friends of Florham*

THE FRIENDS ARE OFF TO ENGLAND

After a successful FILL (Florham Institute for Lifelong Learning) trip, the Friends decided to have a go as well. We have four spots remaining on our "Gardens and Estates" tour of southern England based at historic Wroxton College, the landmark-listed, 17th-century manor house campus that Fairleigh Dickinson owns and operates in rural Oxfordshire, England.

Sites to be visited include Blenheim Palace, Althorp Estate, Highgrove, Sulgrave Manor and Oxford, among others.

Sunday, July 19, 2020, to Sunday, July 26, 2020; \$2,290 per person (single or double occupancy)

Price Includes

- Seven days/six nights at historic Wroxton Abbey;
- Welcome buffet lunch and farewell reception and dinner in Wroxton's Carriage House;
- Breakfast and dinner daily in Wroxton's Carriage House;
- Four group lunches at historic locales (*two country estates, one pub, one hotel*);

- One afternoon group tea and cake at historic Tudor-era castle;
- Two evenings with group; round of cocktails at historic pubs;
- All admission fees to all scheduled sites with expert faculty guides;
- All transport for all scheduled site visits via luxury charter coach; and
- Airport transfer to/from London's Heathrow Airport and Wroxton (*for those on selected group flights*).

Price Excludes

- Group-escorted flight to/from London's Heathrow Airport (booked and paid separately) and
- Airport transfer to/from Newark Liberty International Airport.

Payment Deadlines

- Deposit of \$500 (nonrefundable)
- Balance of \$1,790 due by March 31, 2020

Please email Gary Darden, FDU professor of U.S. history and Friends of Florham Board darden@fdu.edu. (for a brochure, questions and registration).



Mall) were all available to outfit racegoers from head to toe. Prizes were awarded to Carol Menniti for Best Hat, CJ and Kim Minetti for Best-dressed Couple and Carol and Rob Black and Jon and Gina Karnick for Best Overall Dressed. Much thought went into each and every outfit, and definitely added to the atmosphere.

Other community partners included Crowley's Cupcakes, Cambridge Street Papers, Go-Charity, Gourmet Dining, Lash House, J & M Home and Garden and the FDU Bookstore – Madison. Thanks to all of our generous supporters!

If guests wanted to “place their bet” on a winning horse, they just needed to drop their ticket into a bucket before the big race. If they wanted to raise their odds, additional tickets were available.



CJ AND KIM MINETTI



CAROL MENNETI



ROB AND CAROL BLACK

As all eyes and ears were on the races, the final race did not go off without controversy. In a first in the history of the 145-year-old race, the final race saw its first on-track disqualification ever. While Maximum Security was the first horse to cross the finish line, he was later disqualified for interference. This allowed Country

House to move into the winner's circle and take the title at the 145th Kentucky Derby.

A fun day was had by all. Friends of Florham tips its hat to all those who supported and attended A Day at the Races, and support its preservation efforts.

— Suzanne Manke
Friends of Florham Board

COME VISIT! TREASURE OF MORRIS COUNTY

The Florham mansion in Madison, with just one visit, this little-known estate may well become one of your favorite spots in Madison!

Few people know of one of Madison's most beautiful places to visit, and even fewer have actually visited. It was created more than 115 years ago, and it is just as enchanting as when it was first erected. I'm talking about the Florham mansion, which was built in 1897 by Florence Vanderbilt. Madison was chosen as the location for her family's spring and fall home for many of the same reasons that families choose to live in Madison today: the picturesque landscape, ample and lush space and a burgeoning community.

Although Florham is currently used by Fairleigh Dickinson University, anyone can visit Florham to take a self-guided tour, just mention Friends of Florham at the entrance gate — any season is the perfect time! During breaks, FDU students have retreated from the campus, taken

a winter stroll in the fresh snow and enjoyed a family picnic in the summer. Consider a romantic stroll in the spring when everything about this historic treasure is brighter and brilliant.

There are scores of breathtaking features to be explored at Florham. Just a few of these features include the Italian Gardens, the Hassan Orangerie (where the Vanderbilt family grew their own oranges!), the Clowney Gardens, and of course — the mansion itself.

If you're wondering how Florham is preserved, you may be surprised to learn that there is a nonprofit philanthropy composed of numerous FDU alumni and friends of the campus who volunteer to tend to the maintenance and restoration of this grand historic site. This group is called the Friends of Florham, and it holds cultural events and gatherings throughout the year. I have served as a public relations volunteer for more than two years, and it's been incredibly rewarding to be part of

a group with such a wonderful cause, and which is dedicated to sharing all of Florham's beauty with those who appreciate it. The Friends' events have included a gilded-age tea; a lecture on the landscape architecture of the estate; an American Girl luncheon; a day trip to a sister Vanderbilt mansion in Hyde Park, N.Y.; and most recently, a Kentucky Derby party.

Anyone who is interested in history, architecture or simply enjoying a day off is welcome to visit the Florham mansion at 285 Madison Avenue in Madison, N.J. You can expect breathtaking scenery, transportive architecture and an all-around lovely visit.

Inquiries of any kind may be sent to friendsofflorham@gmail.com. I wish you a wonderful visit, and hope that you have an experience that leads you to cherish this estate the way I do!

— Sarah Hof
Friends of Florham Board

SPYING ON THE SOUTH: AN ODYSSEY ACROSS THE AMERICAN DIVIDE

By Tony Horwitz, Penguin Press, 2019

When most people today hear the name of Frederick Law Olmsted, they tend to think of the famous landscape architect of such well-known sites as Central Park, Biltmore, and, locally, Florham.

Yet long before Olmsted found his calling, he was somewhat adrift, that is, until the early 1850s when he undertook an assignment from *The New York Times* as an undercover correspondent. Briefly, through his travels, Olmsted was looking to understand, generate dialogue and find common ground in what was apparently a divided country. He failed. In *Spying on the South*,

and 160 years later, Horwitz follows Olmsted's initial path to explore what might be considered today's divides, focusing on race and the political divide.

Horwitz traveled, like Olmsted, by boat, train and other modes, for example, down the Mississippi via a paddle wheeler, to a dangerous Mexican town. Among various sites, he visited a creationism museum, and viewed a memorable Cajun-country mud fest. Yet while Horwitz discovered significant diversity, the book overall is somewhat pessimistic, as Horwitz concluded via his travels that the country is still divided.

With his journey completed, without reaching any resolutions, Horwitz sits alone in Central Park before he meets two children, and asks them what they like best about the park. Briefly, they mention "exploring" or "going where they want." Horwitz tells them about Olmsted, and his work on the park. Before getting back on his Hoverboard, one of the boys says, "Tell Fred he did good."

Sadly, Tony Horwitz died suddenly at age 60, shortly after publication of his well-received book.

— Carol Bere
Friends of Florham Board

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PLAN

Fairleigh Dickinson University's historic Florham Campus, established in 1958, features Gilded-Age structures, antique statues and elegant stone fountains. Over time, these historic treasures have deteriorated due to exposure to the elements, but the attention that they deserve will soon commence. The Friends of Florham is working with the University to enact a new, five-to-seven-year preservation and restoration plan. The scope of this plan includes the repair of these various artifacts and edifices around the campus.

Ongoing Projects

The fountains that reside behind Hennessy Hall (the mansion) are in desperate need of repair. These fountains are reflective of the grandeur of the estate.

Structural work and restoration are planned for the two gazebos that are the cornerstones of the Clowney Gardens. This restoration will transform them to their original splendor.

The Friends of Florham ensured the safe return home of two lion statues that stood guard on the estate before spending decades in Seattle, Wash. The restoration and cleaning of the lions are almost complete; soon they will reclaim their stately position in front of Hennessy Hall.

The original leaded stained-glass window, located on the first floor of Hennessy Hall, is being restored to its former glory.

The delicate cleaning of the statuary located in the Clowney Gardens will soon be underway.

Commitment to Preserve

This historic estate is not only a "Treasure of New Jersey" but is also treasured by those of us who study and work here. The continued work and stewardship that the Friends of Florham provides helps us with our commitment to preserve this beautiful estate for the enjoyment of future generations. Current students and alumni boast to their friends and family how proud they are to be on such a historical campus. Your help will keep it that way for many years to come!

I look forward to working with each and every one of you and am hopeful that, together, we can keep Florham one of the most beautiful estates in the United States.

— Brian Mauro
Florham Campus Executive



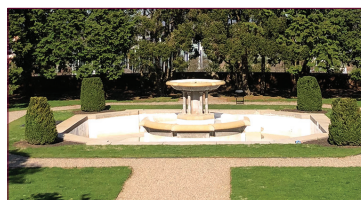
STATUARY



GAZEBO



STAINED-GLASS WINDOW



FOUNTAIN

<https://www.fdu.edu/campuses/florham-campus/about-florham-campus/friends-of-florham/>

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