

Views From The Veranda



You are cordially invited to

*“A Dickens of a Christmas Party”
and
“40th Anniversary Celebration”*

*Monday, December 12th at 7pm
82 Union Street
Montclair, NJ*

*Details on next page~Reservations requested~\$15/person
Please RSVP to Christina at 973-744-5916 or christina.mayer@fmglobal.com*

Greetings From the President



Dear Members:

Our November speaker Marta McDowell was exceptional. She brilliantly introduced us to Beatrix Potter through her gardens. Beatrix used her own gardens as inspiration for the illustrations she used in her books. Marta compared photographs of the actual gardens to the illustrations in the Peter Rabbit stories. The life story of Beatrix Potter was woven throughout the lecture. It was a great example of how one woman with the constraints of the nineteenth century emerged as an author, artist, entrepreneur, avid gardener and creator of one of the most beloved childhood characters, Peter Rabbit.

In December we will celebrate not only the holidays, but the 40th anniversary of the *Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Victorian Society in America*. It is a testament to our club that there are so many long term active members, and so many founders that are still active members. It is our exceptional programs, trips and refreshments that keep people returning. My sincere thanks and appreciation to all of our Board members, past and present, who have been a key factor in keeping our club relevant.

Our festive holiday meeting will feature an outstanding chorus and elements of a Dickens Christmas. Please be sure to attend. Happy Holidays!

- Jane 

You are cordially invited to travel back in time when the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Victorian Society in America host "A Dickens of a Christmas Party" and our "40th Anniversary Celebration" on Monday, December 12th, 2016 at 7pm
82 Union Street~Montclair, NJ.

Special entertainment by the "WomanSong Intergenerational Chorus", guest appearance by "Charles Dickens",

Victorian refreshments and other Dickensian delights!

Victorian attire encouraged but not required~\$15/person.

for reservations please contact Christina at 973-744-5916 or email her at christina.mayer@fmglobal.com

The Statue of Liberty ~ Celebrating 130 years



This year marks the 130th anniversary of the *Statue of Liberty*, dedicated on October 28th, 1886. Initially called "*Liberty Enlightening the World*", Lady Liberty came to represent freedom, patriotism, and the immigrants' first sight of the new world. It is hard to imagine New York Harbor without this iconic symbol; but there was a time very early on that Philadelphia, Boston, or even Washington DC could have been her home.

Although the statue was gift from France, fundraising for the pedestal here in America proved difficult and dragged on for years. New York City was also apparently indifferent until another city tried to claim Lady Liberty. While Philadelphia was always a contender, when Boston jumped in, New Yorkers were not thrilled. There was also the possibility that the statue could have rested atop the Washington Monument, 150 feet high at the time. Finally, publisher Joseph Pulitzer spearheaded a successful donation drive which attracted over 120,000 contributions, and the pedestal was finished April, 1886. The statue's completion was marked by New York's first ticker-tape parade and a dedication ceremony presided over by President Grover Cleveland.

Public access to Liberty Island was denied for a time after 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy. Now there are 4 million visitors a year!

For a quick 90-second video of the statue's history, please visit:

<http://time.com/4544961/statue-of-liberty-quick-history/>



The arm and torch of the Statue of Liberty at the Philadelphia Centennial Celebration~1876. Members of the public could pay fifty cents to climb to the balcony of the torch.



"Proust's Muse, The Countess Greffulhe" until January 7, 2017

at The Fashion Institute of Technology, NYC features extraordinary fashions from the legendary wardrobe of *Élisabeth de Caraman-Chimay, the Countess Greffulhe* (1860-1952). A famous beauty celebrated for her "aristocratic and artistic elegance," the countess fascinated her contemporaries, including Marcel Proust who said "I have never seen a woman so beautiful." When Proust wrote his great novel *In Search of Lost Time* (*À la*



La Comtesse Greffulhe 1896 ~ Photo: Galliera

recherche du temps perdu), the Countess Greffulhe was one of the primary inspirations for his immortal fictional character, Oriane, of whom he wrote, "Each of her dresses seemed like...the projection of a particular aspect of her soul."

VSANNJ member Majda Kallab writes, "this current exhibit on Proust's Muse is fantastic! The countess had such a long life; the exhibit sheds light especially on late 19th to early 20th century Parisian culture and couture."

For a preview, please visit the following website which includes a video on these amazing dresses.

<http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/prousts-muse.php>





VISIT TO THE HOME OF HELEN HAYES

The following invitation is taken from our archives:

*With Great Pleasure
The Northern New Jersey Chapter of
the VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN
AMERICA
Invites Members to Visit the Home of
MISS HELEN HAYES
Nyack, New York
Saturday, May 26, 1984*

By very special permission, we are able to arrange a visit to the home of Helen Hayes. Miss Hayes' 21-room mansion overlooking the Hudson River has been her residence for over fifty years and contains a vast collection of Victorian memorabilia, displayed in charming, personal rooms.

Helen Hayes (1900-1993) was an American actress, known as the *First Lady of American Theatre* for the many roles she played. In her lifetime, she won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony award. She received the *Presidential Medal of Freedom Award* from President Ronald Reagan in 1986.

Helen Hayes and her husband, the playwright Charles MacArthur, bought an old wedding cake of a house in Nyack in 1932 and christened it *Pretty Penny*. The historic home has become one of the best-known properties in Rockland County and the rest of the Lower Hudson Valley.

Right from the start, the 1858 Italianate Victorian was a magnet for celebrities. Hayes and MacArthur entertained the likes of Ronald Reagan, Marilyn Monroe, Rosalind Russell, Ed Sullivan, Noel Coward, Laurence Olivier, Katharine Hepburn and Vivien Leigh. Cole Porter played the piano. F. Scott Fitzgerald left a signed copy of one of his books. John Barrymore was said to have once stopped by for a pack of cigarettes and left three days later. American realist painter, Edward Hopper was commissioned by Hayes and MacArthur to paint the house in 1939.

Eileen Sutera, who was on the trip, remembers Miss Hayes greeting the group and posing for pictures. Eileen said that *"she was most gracious in allowing us to roam through her home."*



Renowned realist artist Hopper painted the house in 1939



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA

www.VictorianSociety.org

Northern NJ Chapter

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The VSANNj is part of the only national non-profit organization committed to historic preservation, protection, understanding, education, and enjoyment of our nineteenth century heritage.

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82 Union Street is
handicap accessible