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“Our goal is to have the gardens in glorious splendor by the sesquicentennial of the Rest Cottage in 2015.”

Frances Willard House Museum: Open for tours on the first and third Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. (last tour at 3), and by appointment.

Frances Willard Memorial Library and Archives: Open by appointment.

Amy Tyson,
President of the FWHA, served as editor for this edition of the Newsletter.

Garden Project at Willard Museum Campus

The Frances Willard Historical Association hopes to re-create the sense of gardens that could have been present at the time of Frances Willard's residence at 1730 Chicago Avenue, during her association with the WCTU-- from roughly 1870 when she returned from Europe, until her death in 1898. Our goal is to have the gardens in glorious splendor by the sesquicentennial of the Rest Cottage in 2015.



(Above: computer rendering of future plans for front of museum campus)

A review of existing site conditions revealed the following needs:

- The grounds have been limited to general yard maintenance for several years
- Evaluation of trees and shrubs is needed for plant health and aesthetic viability
- "Volunteer" trees are possible sources of damage to building foundations
- Pathways require rationalization
- Significant water-related issues are present, e.g., flooding in low spots
- Garden beds and plantings need rejuvenation - many beds are practically empty

The effort began last Fall with garden beds being weeded, mulched, and edges re-cut; "weed trees" removed; existing plants inventoried; and computer-aided-design software has been used to help visualize proposed changes.

Historical records provide sparse evidence of the gardens' appearance and no documentation is available on the plants that were used during the time of interest. In view of the lack of photographic evidence or plans to guide a true restoration effort, the design and plantings for the renovated gardens will use those of leading garden designers who were contemporaneous with the Willard/WCTU historical period in Evanston, (continued on page 4)

Focus on the Archives

...an online interview with volunteer archivist Janet Olson

How long have you worked as an archivist?

JO: Before I went to grad school, I worked in sales and customer service for 20 years. In 1997, when I got my Master's in history from Loyola University Chicago, I started working at the Northwestern University Archives, where I am now the Assistant University Archivist.

What about being an Archivist excites you?

JO: Oddly enough, working as an archivist gives me the chance to combine my customer service experience with my love of history. I help people find what they are

looking for—whether they are kids, faculty, scholars, journalists, genealogists, the interested public, or fellow archivists. And I unravel historical mysteries. Meanwhile, I keep on learning. My job involves everything from lugging boxes to mounting exhibits, digging through piles of paper to tinkering with our website.

How long have you volunteered with the Frances Willard Memorial Library and Archives?

JO: I have been the volunteer archivist since 2007. I served on the FWHA Board from 2006-10. (continued on page 2)



Focus on the Archives

...online interview with volunteer archivist Janet Olson

(cont. from page 1) [*What is significant about this collection?*](#)

JO: The Willard Archives offers a remarkably complete and organic look at a powerful and successful woman's movement from the inside. In the wider view, it reveals how the WCTU pioneered approaches in organizational structure, marketing, outreach, leadership training, and education in order to further its goals. At the micro level, it tells the stories of thousands of dedicated and motivated women around the world who gained the confidence to work for the betterment of their communities and for society as a whole. All this is documented in a wide range of formats—publications, diaries, scrapbooks, documents, photographs, artifacts, and more.

[*What are the most frequently requested items?*](#)

JO: The most frequently requested items in the collection are the photos of Frances Willard learning to ride a bicycle at the age of 53. There are a couple of great photos of her initial efforts—first with three men holding her up [*featured lower right*] then with two women standing by--and finally the ones with Willard flying down a country lane on her own. These photos have been used over and over again in middle- and high-school history textbooks, books on the history of bicycling, the women's movement, or women in athletics. The book in which these photos first appeared, Willard's "How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle," has been reprinted several times since it first came out in 1895. These images of a progressive woman are how many people first find out about Willard.

[*What's the biggest challenge?*](#)

JO: There is so much here, and so little is readily accessible to the public. It is both exciting and frustrating to realize the amount of unexplored history here. I always say there's a potential dissertation lurking in every box, a potential article in every file folder. So: the challenges are the all-too-familiar ones that small museums and archival collections face: trying to serve the widest possible audience without enough money, time, or staff. When I close my eyes, I visualize an orderly archives with well-organized collections that are accessible to the public through online finding aids and digital collections, overseen by a full-time trained

archivist (and staff!) who can meet the needs of researchers on and off site, plan exhibits and educational programs, write grants, work with donors, and continue to build the collection. When I open my eyes, I know we're a long way from my vision—but it's not impossible to get there.

[*How would someone volunteer or intern for the Archives?*](#)

JO: Volunteers are needed to help keep up with routine and ongoing tasks like filing; organizing; sorting through mystery boxes and folders; researching reference inquiries. At this point, we have space for volunteers on most Saturday mornings, and other times as well. An intern could take on specific projects--inventorying the serials collections, compiling a comprehensive guide to state and local holdings, identifying and organizing photographs. Again, the time frame would be Saturday mornings at the Archives, and perhaps some work that could be done on line.

Would-be volunteers and interns should send an email with a statement of interest and availability to info@franceswillardhouse.org to the attention of the Archives. Next step would be meeting at the Archives to see if a volunteer role or an internship project would be a good fit. Warning: archival work, especially in this remarkable setting, can be addictive. Note that people who work in archives must be able to lift boxes and should not be allergic to dust. And computer skills are most welcome.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities in the archives and at the museum on Sunday, April 3: from 2-3 (at the Museum).



Volunteer Appreciation Week: April 10-April 16

Volunteers and Interns help keep our Museum and Archives running. This year National Volunteer Recognition Week is April 10– April 16, 2010. To thank our volunteers, for the second year in a row, the Frances Willard House Museum will participate in the "Free Tours for Volunteers" program, organized by the Volunteers of Cultural Institutions in Chicagoland Area (VCCI), a group of museums that exchanges free tours with each other to reward their volunteer corps.

Diane Ernst (Volunteer Coordinator at the DuPage Children's Museum) and Marne Bariso (Volunteer/Intern Coordinator for the Chicago History Museum) are coordinating organizations' volunteers to sign up to receive complementary tours of a facility/site or an exhibition.

The Frances Willard House Museum will be offering free tours for volunteers from other cultural institutions who pre-register for tours on Sunday, April 17th, from 1-4 p.m. (last tour starts at 3). Do you volunteer for the Frances Willard House Museum or Archives? Contact [Amy at info@franceswillardhouse.org](mailto:Amy@franceswillardhouse.org) to find out what free tours are available for you.

If you are interested in volunteering your time or skills at the Museum or Archives, please contact us at info@franceswillardhouse.org



..... Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 3 (2-3 pm): Volunteer training kick-off! Learn about volunteering and internship opportunities at the Frances Willard House Museum and Archives.
For more info, or to RSVP write Amy at info@franceswillardhouse.org

Sunday, May 1 (1-4 pm): Happy May Day! Bicycle to the Frances Willard House Museum, pay ½ off for tours (members are always free!)



Did you know?

"Gladys" – Frances Willard's bicycle (featured above) so-named for its "gladdening effect" is on display at the Frances Willard House Museum.

Sunday, May 15 (3-4 pm): Garden Tea! Enjoy tea and cake, while learning about plans for our garden restoration, from our head gardener. At the Frances Willard House Museum: *Free!* RSVP to Amy at info@franceswillardhouse.org

Stay tuned... Exhibit opening. A travelling version of the award-winning Evanston Women's History Project exhibit will be installed temporarily at the YWCA Evanston/North Shore for the women's history month of March 2011.

After a few more stops, the exhibit will cease its travels, and will be installed at the Frances Willard House Museum, beginning in June. Stay tuned for information about an opening event.

Stay tuned... Dedication ceremony
Plans are in the works for a celebration and open house this spring, following the dedication ceremony of the recreated Fountain Girl statue (see story below).

Recreating the Fountain Girl

The Little Cold Water Girl

In the late 1950s, a "little girl" in her mid-60s was stolen from Lincoln Park, in Chicago, IL. The "little girl" was a sculptural fountain that had been commissioned by the Juvenile Division of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union for display at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Funded by donations from children all the world over, the purpose of this WCTU water fountain (and others) was to provide the public with ready access to "pure drinking water" as an alternative to alcoholic beverages.

After its debut at the Worlds' Fair in Chicago's Jackson Park, the statue—"The Little Cold Water Girl"—was relocated first to the Woman's Temple (LaSalle and Monroe), and then to Lincoln Park after the Woman's Temple (designed by Burnham and Root) was demolished in 1926. The Lake Shore Drive construction project of the 1930s forced the statue to be moved again, first to a storage facility and then back to Lincoln Park again in 1940 where she remained (just south of the W. La Salle Drive underpass) until she was stolen before the turn to the 1960s.

Fortunately, several copies of "The Little Cold Water Girl" had been cast. In *Occupations for Women* (1897) Frances Willard noted that this "beautiful statue" not only stood "in Willard Hall" but also "in a London park, and [one was] soon

to be erected in Bombay."

Thanks to the efforts of the Chicago Park District, the Lincoln Park Conservancy, and others, in 2011, "The Little Cold Water Girl" will be installed again in Chicago – on its original base no less. A replica statue in Portland, Maine was used as the model, and late in 2010 the recreated bronze sculpture emerged from the foundry (below).



Photo: courtesy of Stephen Grant, Assistant Architect for the Department of Capitol Construction, Chicago Park District

Once the weather clears, plans will be underway for a dedication ceremony for the historic "return" of this statue to its Chicago home. The Frances Willard House Museum will host a celebration and open house in honor of the occasion. Stay tuned.

Recent Publication by
Frances Willard Memorial
Library and Archives
Researcher.

***Wheels of Change:
How Women Rode the Bicycle
to Freedom (With a Few Flat
Tires Along the Way)***



by Sue Macy

Published by Random House for the National Geographic Society, in this spirited and accessible book about women cyclists, Macy discusses the significance of Frances Willard in the history of women and cycling, and uses one of the famous photos of Willard learning to ride the bicycle. (Macy's book jacket cover is featured above)

The Frances Willard Historical Association would like to thank all of our members for their continued support, and would like to acknowledge
Ann Calhoun Diener
and
Japanese Woman's Christian Temperance Union
for supporting the FWHA as members at the Benefactor Level.



Garden Project



(Above: computer rendering of future plans for rear of museum campus)

(continued from page 1) such as English designers William Robinson (1838-1935) and Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932); and American designers Jens Jensen (1860-1951) and Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959). We plan to use plants that were available to these designers during their time.

We also plan to add an educational aspect to the gardens (and have some fun!) by incorporating elements that help tell our story, such as:

- Adding yellow-flowering plants (the color of the suffrage movement) and blue-flowering plants (Frances' signature color)
- Adding a prairie-style garden to reflect her Wisconsin childhood
- Creating a "pure" English landscape designer garden to highlight her connections to England
- Adding Japanese garden components to bring to mind the international aspect of the property as the founding site of the World WCTU

We plan to use a "Citizen Gardener" approach to the restoration with members of the

community contributing their knowledge, skills, and time to this effort. It is hoped that many plants will come from volunteers' home gardens, as long as they are appropriate to the historical period. We will gladly accept donations (or discounts of materials and services) from local gardening businesses. We are also actively seeking grant monies from garden clubs, historic preservation organizations, etc.

Our Head Gardener will be spearheading all aspects of the landscape renovation. He has been a gardener for over 25 years, has had his own home garden included on the 2000 Keep Evanston Beautiful Garden Walk, and has a Master's Degree in Plant Biology and Conservation from Northwestern University.

How can you help? Get involved! We plan to have several days during the upcoming gardening season where Members and other volunteers can be a part of creating the gardens and contributing to the legacy of Frances Willard. If you are interested, please contact Glen Madeja by writing us at info@franceswillardhouse.org.

-Glen Madeja



Frances Willard
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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The Frances Willard Historical Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that preserves and interprets the Frances Willard House Museum and its historic collections to promote vibrant discussion of Willard's life and her work on behalf of women, temperance and human rights.

The Association works to inspire and encourage leadership and broad participation in civic life as Willard's lasting legacy. Educational uses of the Frances Willard House Museum, its grounds, and the Memorial Library and Archives benefit a local and global community of visitors, educators, and scholars.