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MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE FOUNDATION
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MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE FOUNDATION

THE ENGAGER

Fall 2005

DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING ONLINE AND SUPPORT THE GAGE FOUNDATION

The Gage Foundation Earns Double Donations through ShopforMuseums.com



Karent McMahon, Lead Coordinator for ShopforMuseums.com introduces the program at the Mary Daly Tea

Thanks to our wonderful supporters, The Gage Foundation won a national competition sponsored by ShopforMuseums.com last month by signing up the most people. Our prize is double donations through the end of the year. Thank you to everyone who took action and signed up. The rest of you still have a chance.

Please do your holiday shopping through www.ShopforMuseums.com. At no extra cost to you, shop with over 200 of your favorite online stores, including Amazon, Target, National Geographic, The

Wine Messenger, Sears and more, and have a percentage of your purchase amount donated to the Gage Foundation. Through December 31st, 2005, ShopforMuseums.com will match the donation amount your purchases create.

This is a huge opportunity to help bring in extra funds to the Gage Foundation, while making holiday shopping stress free for you! Once you sign up, be on the look out for emails with sales and coupons you can use through ShopforMuseums.com. Thank you for your support.



ART DISPLAY AT THE GAGE HOME

Artist Sarah McCoubrey has created an exhibit of images and documents which will be on display in the Gage Home from November 15 through December 15. This exhibit is made possible by "Sites Re-Seen", a pilot grant from the Museum Program of the New York State Council on the Arts. McCoubrey, an Associate Professor of Art at Syracuse University, has created an archive of material surrounding the artistic life of the fictional character Hannah Morse, a 19th century woman who is struggling to become a great landscape painter.

For this exhibit, McCoubrey will answer the question, "What if Hannah Morse met the real-life Matilda Joslyn Gage?" The Gage Home will be open 10 am to 4 pm on Mondays and Saturdays, and also by appointment, during the exhibit period. Donations are appreciated.



A VERY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Sponsored by the Syracuse University Honors Student Association

We invite you to join us for live, classical music, authentic Victorian refreshments and décor, holiday readings from L. Frank Baum and Matilda Joslyn Gage, and period games for children. The festivities take place Saturday, December 3 at the Gage Home, 210 East Genesee Street in Fayetteville (on the corner of Walnut and Genesee) from 12 pm to 4 pm. \$12 for adults, \$8 for students, \$25 for a family, and under 5 are free. All proceeds will benefit the Gage Foundation.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Come to a wine and cheese reception at the Gage Home on December 8, Thursday, from 4-5. Greet the other folks who have volunteered over the year for the Gage Foundation, pick up our little holiday gift for you and do your Christmas shopping with a special 10% off all items in the gift shop as a Thank You.

The Engager—Fall 2005

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As we go to press, the Village of Fayetteville Board of Trustees unanimously voted to issue us a permanent museum license. The Planning Board will review our site plan at their next meeting, and, if they approve, we are established as a permanent historic site. We welcome three new members to the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation Board of Directors: AnnMarie Leo, a second year math and secondary education major at Syracuse University; David Kellogg, a retired engineer from Bristol-Meyers Squibb, and Elizabeth W. Morse from Partner's LLC Business Consultants in West Palm Beach, Florida. It's been an exhilarating fall, with fundraisers, programs and the usual bustle of activity at the Gage Foundation. Join us for our upcoming events and thank you, always, for your support as we bring Matilda forward in history.

Sally Roesch Wagner, Ph.D.

INFORMAL CONVERSATION AT THE GAGE HOME: HOW DID GAGE COPE?

Barb Evans remembers when we used to have informal discussions at the house making Gage relevant to our lives today. For those who came, she says, "you'll remember how much these discussions helped and inspired us with our every day lives. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity of experiencing a discussion at the Gage House, you are in for a wonderful experience!" Barb is hosting a conversation asking, "Did Gage go through periods of great discouragement at the state of her country and the world? What did she do to get through it?" Join us on January 11 at 7 pm, when Sue Boland and Sally Roesch Wagner share their thoughts and invite others to share theirs on how Gage may give us direction on how to move past discouragement to action.

DOCUMENTARY ON MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE TO BE MADE

Carey Graeber, President of New York Women in Film and Television and head of Great Plains Productions, along with Mona Kanin are collaborating with Gage scholar Sally Roesch Wagner to create a documentary film on Matilda Joslyn Gage. The film will focus on how this unrecognized genius played an integral role in the woman suffrage movement, exploring her vision, her work and her pioneering understanding of the importance of separation between church and state and the role of the church in the repression of women.

The film has received an initial challenge grant from the Patricia Lynn Cross Trust of \$5,000 to create a trailer for the film. As we go to press, Scottie Dougherty has stepped forward with a matching gift of \$2500. The filmmakers are now looking for someone who would like to be the third donor to help us meet the challenge. Donations may be sent to the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation earmarked "documentary trailer".

The project is also looking for interns who will help research and identify potential funders, create proposals, screen and log tapes, and compile and update a database of contacts. Research into visual images and other archival items will also be required. The intern will have the opportunity to learn about filmmaking while working on the project. Contact Carey Graeber at Cgraeber718@aol.com.

THE GAGE HOME: DIG IT!

This summer, preliminary archaeological excavations were undertaken in the yard of the Gage Home by UC Berkeley graduate student Kim Christensen and local volunteers. The excavations found dense concentrations of artifacts dating to the nineteenth century located behind the house, which will be explored further in more excavations this coming summer. In the meantime, the artifacts—including broken ceramics, animal bone, bottle glass, coal, and nails, which were likely used and thrown away by the Gage family—are being washed, labeled, and catalogued at the UC Berkeley Historical Archaeology Laboratory by Kim and Berkeley undergraduate students. When studied along



with the historical documents held by the Gage Foundation, these artifacts provide a fascinating window into the daily life of the Gage household. Interested parties can keep up with this ongoing project at the Gage Dig blog, accessible at: <http://iis.syr.edu/WP/gage/>

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CELEBRITY AUCTION

The Gage foundation extends its gratitude to all those who helped make the 2005 Celebrity Auction a huge success!

Our generous sponsors;
COR Development and Tom Thomas of the Wellington House

Our gracious honorary chairs;
Harry & Debbie Sydow

All of our charitable patron donors;
Sue & Bob Boland, Loretta Zolkowski, Rosemary & Joseph Agonito, Rita Beard, The Friends of Women & Right National Park, Inc., Barbara Brown, Harry Gage Carpenter, and Sally Roesch Wagner

The hardworking Gage Foundation Volunteers who made it possible;

Co-chairs Delores Hnat and Dee Petta, Loretta Zolkowski—President of the Board, Rosemary Agonito—VP of the Board, David Kellogg, All the members of the Local Advisory Committee, Shelly and The Brunchdogs (Shelly Krebs, Mark Westers and Andy Comstock), Tommy Kehoskie—Auctioneer, Karen McMahon—Lead Coordinator for ShopforMuseums.com, Alice Mott—Sales coordinator, Delta Tau Delta, Mary Druke, Sue Boland, Barbara Brown, Barbara Evans, Jackie Charette—Board Treasurer, Diana Browlie, Debbie Munster and Barbara Kellogg.

Our bighearted donors:
Harvey Rogoff and Drive-In Self Storage (inadvertently omitted from the auction program so we offer instead a small ad)

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LAST BUT NEVER LEAST

The incomparable Mimi Kennedy & John Fricke

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FROM
DELTA TAU DELTA & ALPHA TAU OMEGA

SAVE THE DATE!

December 3rd, 2005 - A Very Victorian Holiday from 10—4 pm
January 11th, 2006—7—9 pm Tea & Discussion with Sue Boland and Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner entitled, "How did Matilda Cope?"
January 14th, 2006—10—12 Docent Training with Sue Boland.



Encore! Back by popular demand authors Rosemary & Joseph Agonito will host a High Tea & Book-signing January 22nd at 2:30 pm at the Gage Home.



BUFFALO CALF ROAD WOMAN BOOKSIGNING AND TALK

Following their sold-out book signing tea on November 13, Gage Foundation Board Member Rosemary Agonito and her husband Joseph Agonito have generously offered to do another one on January 22 at 2:30. During the High Tea, the authors will provide comments and readings, and books will be available for purchase and signing.

Buffalo Calf Road Woman: The Story of a Warrior of the Little Bighorn is an historic novel about a Native American warrior woman. Michele Powers Glaze of *Cowboys and Indians* magazine calls the book "the perfect gift for ... all admirers of Native American culture and women's history."

Tickets are \$15.00, and reservations are required. Email gagefoundation@earthlink.net or call 315-637-9511. Signed books are available in advance for \$16 (tax and S&H included) by calling the Gage Foundation office with your MC or Visa information.

DESPERATELY SEEKING DOCENTS

The Gage Foundation has an urgent need for docents--the tour guides who host visitors to the Gage Home on Mondays and Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm. We provide the training and reading materials, and will split a shift into two or three hour sections. If you can say "welcome", push the play button on a VCR, and pour tea, then you're qualified to be a docent! Please consider this opportunity to tell Matilda's story to our appreciative guests. Sue Boland, Docent Coordinator, will hold a training session on January 14, 2006, 10 am to 12 noon. Call 637-9511 or email gagefoundation@earthlink.net to register in advance.

THE "CHA-CHA CHARMING (TOTALLY DISARMING, ACTUALLY QUITE ALARMING!) RECIPE CHASE

Seven women business owners hosted this fundraiser for the Gage Foundation August 5-6. Participants in the Chase received a Passport which included a map to each of the shops where participants shopped, sampled delicious foods, and were given a recipe, a stamp for their Passport, and a special charm. Participants also visited the Gage Home. The event raised \$700.00 for the Foundation. A warm thanks to: Jan Smith of A Stitcher's Garden, Janet Lutz and Barbara Huntington of Calico Gal's, Yasha and Annie DeRegis of Café L'eau Vive, Barbie Truskalo of GLEE! Fairyland Studio and Jill Dickey of The Rose Cottage.



WEEKEND WITH MATILDA AND MARY

Gage enthusiasts from across the country converged on Fayetteville the weekend of September 30-October 2 for the annual "Weekend with Matilda". This year's special guest was pioneer feminist philosopher Mary Daly, who read passages from her soon-to-be-published book *Amazon Grace: Re-Calling the Courage to Sin Big* at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society. Wild Women leapt and spun ideas about the future of feminism at a special tea in her honor at the Gage House.

Mother Nature gave us splendid weather for a walking tour of Gage's neighborhood, led by Sally Roesch Wagner and Sue Boland. Thanks to Don Leopold from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry for explaining the plant life and geology of Green Lakes State Park, one of Gage's picnic spots, during the Sunday walking tour.

Mimi Kennedy and John Fricke kept us entertained at The Redhouse, a beautiful new theatre space in downtown Syracuse with the world premiere of a documentary about L. Frank Baum, included on the new *The Wizard of Oz* DVD set, Judy Garland classics and a grand tour of Mimi's career in film and television. At the Gage Foundation celebrity auction, Mimi and John serenaded bidders with uproarious lyrics written to the tunes of "We're Off to See the Wizard" and "Over the Rainbow" while an array of sale items tempted auction-goers, from a Susan B. Anthony autograph to a copy of the book *Wicked* with a green witch drawn by author Gregory Maguire.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

With a generous grant from The Sister Fund, The eight member Underground Railroad Curriculum Committee has been busy this fall researching, writing and bringing together materials focusing on Central New York activities and their connection to the local Woman's Rights Movement. The Gage Home is the only recognized historic home on the Underground Railroad in Onondaga County that is open to the public. Thus we have been involved in a number of community programs to share this history with others.

We presented this information to educators from around the region at the Central New York Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference held at the State Fairgrounds on October 24th. Our group also participated in the 2005-2006 CNY Reads program through the Syracuse University Library, with an informal discussion November 5 to share our resources and introduce people to the abolitionist work of Gage.

We have created a comprehensive packet of information to assist teachers in informing their students about slavery, abolition, and the Underground Railroad. It includes resources such as a bibliography of children's literature and teacher books, a listing of useful websites and DVD's, a detailed timeline, map, vocabulary and lesson plans. These packets will be for sale through the Foundation to further support the committee's programs.

The committee will resume its regular meetings in January. New members are always welcome. Please contact Grace Clancy for more information at 458-5132 or gmm4521@aol.com.

JOIN US

Interested in volunteering for the Gage Foundation? We need individuals to help with a variety of activities such as conducting research, helping at events and fundraisers, assisting with office work, or giving tours of the Gage Home (to name just a few!) Our needs are ever-changing and on-going. For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Mary Druke at mmdruke@alltel.net or call her at (315) 559-4634.

The Gage Foundation is in need of folding chairs for special events and fundraisers held at the Gage Home. If you have any folding chairs which you would like to donate, please call Lynn at 637-9511.

HOUSE RESTORATION UPDATE FROM BETH CRAWFORD

Documentation and development of the restoration and rehabilitation plans have continued this year. Contractors from Custom Building Unlimited peeled away the layers of sheetrock and flooring in the First Floor Kitchen to reveal information on the evolution of the house. A sample of historic wallpaper on the north side of the room was uncovered and is believed to have been in this room during M.J. Gage's occupancy (1854-1898). Evidence was found that the current Kitchen was at one point two rooms, possibly with a small pantry, built-in cabinetry, and a door at the south side of the room into the rear wing. The room was photographically and graphically documented by Beth Crawford of Crawford & Stearns, Architects.

This important investigation phase will help us understand the evolution of the house as well as corroborate historical research currently being conducted by the Gage Foundation. Lisa Garigen of Crawford & Stearns has measured and documented interior elevations and prepared drawings to incorporate into the Historic Structure Report. Crawford & Stearns also believes they have identified the location of an early well, in the crawl space under the southwest addition.

This well would have been located just outside the rear wing, where the Gages' kitchen was located.

Contract documents are currently being worked on in anticipation of construction in 2006.

In the meantime, executive director Sally Roesch Wagner has been working with Syracuse University students Sarah Ryman and AnnMarie Leo to uncover the written record, going through the Gage family correspondence for information about the occupancy and use of the home.



DIGITIZING GAGE

The Matilda Joslyn The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation continues to transcribe its correspondence collection. Much progress has been made -- we are now in the 1870s! Only thirty years to go. Our understated THANKS to all our volunteer transcribers and proofreaders! The future holds a Her Own Words Digital Library - Stay tuned! If you'd like to join the project, contact Kuki Haines at digmjgdn@hotmail.com.