



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, the New-York Historical Society received approval last spring from the Landmarks Preservation Commission for renovations to our building that will make it more welcoming and inviting to all our visitors, including those with disabilities. Construction will begin in June, with the first phase of the project focused on 77th Street. This is a very exciting time in our history—not the first change in our 100-plus year-old building, for three annexes were added in the 1930s—but an important one. For the first time ever, visitors in wheelchairs will have full access to our collections, and the original building design that took advantage of the tree-lined connective tissue between the history of the natural world and the history of the nation will finally be realized with a superb set of new windows. [Click here to learn more about the renovation.](#) Construction will bring some temporary changes, including closure of the 77th Street entrance for several months and the relocation of our Museum Shop to the Central Park West side of the building. We do not, however, expect a disruption to our activities and, in fact, will be opening a major new exhibition on “Grant and Lee” in October 2008. The work we are undertaking is, above all, a wonderful sign of the will of friends like you to ensure the vitality of this splendid institution. Generous grants and gifts from the city, the state and private donors have already reached the \$50 million mark. We need your help to reach all of our goals which include, most importantly, an endowment of the size merited by New York’s address for great exhibitions, programs and scholarly resources around the history of our city and nation. [Please respond](#) as generously as you can to our capital campaign, and don’t hesitate to be in touch with me directly to discuss your gift.

Sincerely,

Louise Mirrer

Louise Mirrer
President & CEO

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL '08

Click here to purchase your tickets now for the 2008 Strawberry Festival Benefit Luncheon on Monday, June 2, honoring Nancy Newcomb, former senior executive of Citigroup, former Chair of the New-York Historical Society, and current co-chair of our Executive Committee.

Linda Fairstein, best-selling crime novelist and former prosecutor, will deliver the keynote address. Baccarat will present an exclusive trunk show featuring their summer 2008 jewelry collection, and a portion of the proceeds from all sales will be donated to the New-York Historical Society. Galleries will be open for exhibition viewing.

FUN FOR FAMILIES!
Hear what it was like to be a soldier during the American Revolution from reenactment troops at this month's Living History days:

SATURDAY, MAY 3

2nd Regiment Light Dragoons, Tallmadge's Troop & John Koopman III as George Washington

SATURDAY, MAY 10

3rd NJ Regiment

SATURDAY, MAY 17

2nd NY Provincial Battalion

SATURDAY, MAY 24

4th NY Regiment; 85ème Régiment de Saintonge; 35th Regiment of Foot, Royal Sussex Society; John Koopman III as George Washington

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Infanterie Regiment von Donop

EXHIBITIONS

Plague in Gotham! Cholera in Nineteenth-Century New York

This exhibition is devoted to the cholera epidemics of 19th-century New York in 1832, 1849, and 1866, with particular emphasis on 1832. A brief introductory section covers the yellow fever epidemics of the 1790s–1820s that preceded them. A concluding section examines New York’s response to epidemics at the end of the 19th century.

BLOG: www.nyhistory.org/cholera
READ THE NEW YORK TIMES REVIEW

Woven Splendor

Dozens of dazzling rugs and textiles are the centerpiece of *Woven Splendor from Timbuktu to Tibet: Exotic Rugs and Textiles from New York Collectors*, a major N-YHS exhibition examining the history of the Oriental rug in New York and the story of the Hajji Baba Club—the nation’s oldest and most prestigious rug collecting club.

READ THE NEW YORK TIMES REVIEW

Allure of the East



Advertising poster for Murad Turkish Cigarettes, ca. 1890–1910
The New-York Historical Society Library

To provide historical context for *Woven Splendor*, N-YHS has organized the companion exhibit, *Allure of the East: Orientalism in New York, 1850–1930*, examining the impact of New Yorkers’ late 19th- and early 20th-century infatuation with the images, art and folklore of the Orient.

The Hudson River School at N-YHS

See a showcase of over 100 famous paintings by artists of the Hudson River School including Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, John F. Kensett, Jasper F. Cropsey, and Albert Bierstadt.

HEAR AUDIO TOUR OF LINDA FERBER WITH JOHN UPDIKE

The Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture is a permanent innovative display making accessible to the public in a single place nearly 30,000 museum objects, ranging from the cot used by George Washington at Valley Forge to one of the world’s largest collections of Tiffany lamps. The *Slavery in New York* panel exhibition is on display in the Mezzanine level.

French Founding Father: Lafayette's Return to Washington's America

Military tactician. Diplomat. Aristocrat. Benefactor. France’s Marquis de Lafayette came to the Americas to join the fight for independence in 1777 and went on to play a major role in George Washington’s defeat of the British army. More than 40 years later, he returned on a 13-month tour of all 24 states, inspiring the American public in a uniquely galvanizing event in the early history of our nation.

CHECK OUT OUR . . .

NEW LAFAYETTE TEEN AUDIO TOUR

The audio tour was developed by New York City high school student-interns and produced by the New-York Historical Society with the teens voicing many of the parts. From red carpet commentary to amusing historical reenactments, the audio tour has thirteen stops in the exhibit, providing a fun way to learn about one of America’s lesser-known founding fathers.

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN

LET THEM EAT CAKE FILM NIGHT

As part of our Let Them Eat Cake Series, we will be showing French films as part of our Free Friday Nights.

On May 16 we will show the comedy *Bernie* (1996) written and directed by Albert DuPontel, and on May 30, join us for *Samia* (2005) written and directed by Philippe Faucon. Both films were generously provided by the **Cultural Services of the French Embassy**. Films will begin at 6PM.

Museum and Museum Store Hours

Tuesday–Saturday
10AM to 6PM
Sunday 11AM to 5:45PM
FREE FRIDAY NIGHTS 6–8PM

Library Hours

Tuesday–Friday 10AM to 5PM

Admission

Members: Free;
Adults: \$10; Students: \$6;
Seniors and Educators: \$7
Children 12 and under
w/ adult: Free

Café open daily.

212-873-3400
www.nyhistory.org

SIGN UP FOR N-YHS MONTHLY E-DIGEST!

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

To order tickets, visit SmartTix.com or call [SmartTix](tel:212-868-4444) at 212-868-4444.

May Bird Walks

Speaker: Alan Messer
Saturday, May 3, 2008 9:00AM &
Saturday, May 10, 2008 9:00AM

From Lafayette's Tour to the War in Iraq

Speakers: Lloyd Kramer, Amo Houghton, Walter Russell Mead
Tuesday, May 6, 2008 6:30PM

Hudson River School: Nature and the American Vision Gallery Tour

Speaker: Linda S. Ferber
Wednesday, May 7, 2008 11:00AM

Orientalism: The Roots of Modernism

Speaker: Barry Lewis
Thursday, May 8, 2008 6:30PM

The Constitution and the Court in 2008

Speakers: Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., Akhil Reed, Kenneth W. Starr
Tuesday, May 13, 2008 6:30PM

George Washington on Leadership

Speakers: Richard Brookhiser, Richard Snow
Tuesday, May 20, 2008 6:30PM

Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates that Defined America

Speakers: Allen C. Guelzo, Harold Holzer
Thursday, May 22, 2008 6:30PM

Lafayette Gallery Talk

Speaker: Cal Snyder
Saturday, May 24, 2008 2:00PM

FDR and the New Deal

Speakers: Diane Ravitch, moderator, Amity Shlaes, Jonathan Alter
Tuesday, May 27, 2008 6:30PM

Ida: A Sword Among Lions

Speaker: Paula Giddings, Brent Staples
Thursday, May 29, 2008 6:30PM

Margaret K. Hofer, New-York Historical Society's Curator of Decorative Arts will give a special presentation on her exhibition

ALLURE of the EAST

A cocktail reception and presentation presented by **Schumacher** and **The New York Observer**

Thursday May 15 5:30 – 7:00PM

Schumacher Showroom D & D Building
979 Third Avenue, Suite 832
(Between 58th and 59th Streets)

Space is limited to please **RSVP** no later than May 12 to marketing@observer.com
Subject line: **Schumacher**



THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE 2008 UPPER WEST FEST, FROM MAY 4–18. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UPPER WEST FEST, SIMPLY CLICK THE LOGO AT LEFT OR VISIT WWW.UPPERWESTFEST.COM