

Glen Foerd Gazette

Holiday 2011

A Glen Foerd Gilded Age Christmas

The glitter of gold and the sparkle of silver promise to dazzle visitors to Glen Foerd this holiday season. "Silver and Gold" is the decorating theme selected by our talented decorators on the Torresdale Women's Committee. Silver objects currently in museum storage will be placed on display for all to enjoy.

The much-loved "Victorian Tea with Father Christmas" will be held on Saturday, December 3rd from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This child-inspired event will feature holiday-themed activities and a visit with Father Christmas himself! There will be a special children's tour of the art gallery, Victorian-inspired holiday craft making, a visit by a storyteller, caroling, and a delicious tea with light lunch. This ever-popular event sells out fast. Make your reservations early by calling 215-632-5330. Cost is \$25 per ticket regardless of age.

Christkindl Market will be replaced this year with "A Gilded Age Christmas" to be held on Wednesday, December 14th from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Visitors can enjoy the sights and sounds of the season during a self-guided mansion tour. In the drawing room, visitors will be enchanted by ballerinas performing a sequence from The Nutcracker, a string trio will delight all who visit the Art Gallery, and three tables in the dining room will be decked for a Gilded Age feast. Dinner guests in period dress will complete the enchanting scene. Fun children's activities will take place in the adjoining tent beginning at 5 p.m. The evening will conclude with an outdoor tree lighting ceremony which begins at 7 p.m. The tree lighting event is free. Mansion festivities cost \$5 for non-members, \$4 for members and students under 18, and children under 3 are free.

Nature's Tapestry

The decorative three-fold tapestry screen featured in this issue is a 19th century English folding screen located in the formal dining room. I was first attracted to the screen because of the lovely peaceful scene that it presented. The front panels are worked in multi-colored muted wools across a fine green thread background. The screen features clusters of orange, tan and white flowers with large and smaller leaves scattered randomly across the three panels.

(continued on page 4)



Upcoming Events

Victorian Tea with Father Christmas

December 3 from 11 am to 3 pm

A Gilded Age Christmas & Tree Lighting

December 14 from 4 to 7:30 pm

Evening Tours

November 22

December 20

January 17

February 21

All tours begin at 7 p.m.

Open Wednesdays

December 7

December 21

December 28

Tours at 11 am & Noon

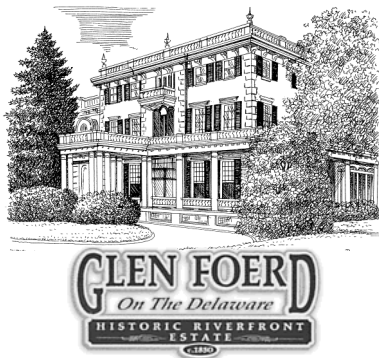
Winter Events

Tai Chi Classes

Members-Only

Book Club

Details inside.



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Tours Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m., except in Jan. & Feb. Other times by appointment.

Call 215-632-5330 to reserve a tour.

The mission of Glen Foerd on the Delaware is to preserve the last surviving riverfront estate in Philadelphia as a historic site and a center for providing historic and cultural experiences to the public.

Greetings from the Director

Dear Friends,

We are entering the season when shadows lengthen and moonshine lights our way home after a long workday. Before the deep winter months descend, people the world over celebrate special religious holy days in which light plays a very important role. Hindus celebrate Diwali, or the "Festival of Lights," by illuminating their homes, Jews light the menorah to commemorate Hanukkah, and Christians light the Advent wreath and decorate a tree to celebrate the Christmas season. All of these festivals hold in common the recognition that light symbolizes promise and hope despite the darkness of night.

Glen Foerd also lights up for this special season of hope. Please visit in December to celebrate the season regardless of your religious or secular tradition. The sparkle of this Gilded Age mansion is yours to enjoy.

On a different note, many members received a very late Fall newsletter. For that I apologize. It seems the newsletters were, should we say, lost in the mail. We've taken measures to lessen the chance of a late newsletter in the future.

Best,

Meg Sharp Walton

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

It truly has been a magical fall here at Glen Foerd. The sight of the early snow on the trees and mansion was a lovely reminder that the Holiday Celebrations here at Glen Foerd will start in less than a month. We believe that this year's festivities will be fun and exciting and take us back to the "Gilded Age" in the Village of Torresdale. We hope that many of you join in the celebration.

Speaking of cold and ice, a marvelous event is planned for April 14, 2012 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the maiden voyage of the Titanic. The grandeur of first class and excitement of steerage will be celebrated. Mark your calendars so that you can be one of the fortunate (?) passengers!

In closing, I want to recognize that this is a special time of year where we pause to give thanks. On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank all of you for your support and encouragement.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Roseanne Duzinski, Board President

Special Events & Programs

Holiday 2011

Glen Foerd on the Delaware



Victorian Tea with Father Christmas Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$25 per person, regardless of age

This child-inspired event will feature holiday-themed activities and a visit with Father Christmas himself! There will be a special children's tour of the art gallery, Victorian-inspired holiday craft making, a visit by a storyteller, caroling, and a delicious tea with light lunch. **Registration and pre-payment required. Space is limited and sells out fast.**

Call 215-632-5330, or email info@glenfoerd.org

A Gilded Age Christmas & Tree Lighting

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Children's activities begin at 5. Tree lighting ceremony at 7 pm is free.

\$5 non-members; \$4 members & students under 18; children under 3 free. Registration not required.

Experience the magic of the holidays at Glen Foerd. While touring the mansion, enjoy the sights and sounds of the season. Nutcracker ballerinas, inspiring violinists and a table decked for a Gilded Age feast will highlight the grandeur of this Gilded Age mansion. Children under 4 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. For more information, call 215-632-5330.



Members-Only Book Club

Second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Free.

Book-loving members are invited to join the book club at any time. If you are interested in joining the group, please call the office for the book selection.

Tai Chi Winter Classes

A new 10-week session will begin this winter. Classes meet every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please call the office for more details.



Evening Tours

November 22, December 20, January 17, February 21. All tours begin at 7 p.m.

Open Wednesdays

December 7, 21 and 28. Tours begin at 11 a.m. and Noon.

Tapestry

(continued from page 1)

While very early tapestries were often of religious themes or created to commemorate the scenes or achievements from the owner's life, this tapestry depicts a scene from nature. Scenes on the panels include birds in flight, a small crest in the tree at the top of the center panel, and a rabbit standing on its hind legs, possibly sensing danger.

The backing of the two side panels is finished in a burgundy, black and cream paisley fabric over what appears to be a stronger brown cover. There is a hook in the upper center panel and a square-shaped shadow mark which indicates framed artwork, or a mirror hung on the panel. Extensive fading indicates the folding screen may have been used to block the strong rays of the daytime sun shining through the mansion's windows.

The pictorial scenes on the panels were hand-woven on a loom. When creating this tapestry, the green horizontal cross threads are referred to as the **weft**. The decorative scenes were added using wool thread in a vertical manner and are referred to as the **warp**. Tiny black specks that appear throughout the tapestry are a result of the very small openings left between the **weft** and the **warp**. Antique tapestries often employed unstable natural dyes which may be why there appears to be some fading of the colors. The panels are affixed to the wooden frame by round metal studs. The sides of the wooden frame are covered with a rippled pattern in color wools that match the panels.



Story photos by Colleen Sharp

A tapestry such as this one might have been prepared from a pattern known as a cartoon. The weaver traces the cartoon pattern on the back of the tapestry and weaves from the back. The quality of a tapestry depends mainly on four variable factors: the quality of the cartoon from which it is copied; the skill of the weaver at translating the design into woven form; the fineness of the weave; and, the quality of the materials from which it is made. The crewel embroidery on our tapestry is often double stitched to give depth to a particular flower or leaf.

According to [Needlework Through History](#), “the word ‘Crewel’ can be found in English records back to the thirteenth century. It may have come from the Anglo-Saxon, cleow or clew, meaning ball of thread.” The floral motif is also extremely common in crewelwork. William Morris is credited with reviving crewelwork in the mid-nineteenth century when Morris and Company led a movement that came to be known as “arts and crafts”. Morris was active in the growing movement to return originality and mastery of technique to embroidery. He was one of the first designers associated with the Royal School of Art Needlework with its aim to restore ornamental needlework for secular purposes among the decorative arts.

In closing, I would add that I am continually amazed at the wonderful treasures to be found at Glen Foerd. And, when I sit and enter the details of the antiques into the museum computer program, I can imagine the wonder of what it must have been like to have actually lived here.

Story by Rita Smith, a Glen Foerd Docent and Collections Volunteer.

Glen Foerd could be yours to host a night to remember for you and nine of your guests. The ***Evening of Elegance*** includes cocktails, dinner and music. The cost is \$5.00 each, or \$20.00 for five. Return the completed stub with your cash or check and you'll be in the running. The office address is 5001 Grant Ave., Philadelphia, PA, 19114.

The winning ticket will be drawn on the evening of the tree lighting ceremony on Wednesday, December 14th. You do not need to attend the tree lighting to win.

Don't delay, send in your winning ticket today!

**Lift raffle
tickets for
details.**



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U—Upgrade; N—New

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Mail this form with payment to: Glen Foerd, 5001 Grant Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19114

Glen Foerd on the Delaware is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your membership is tax deductible.

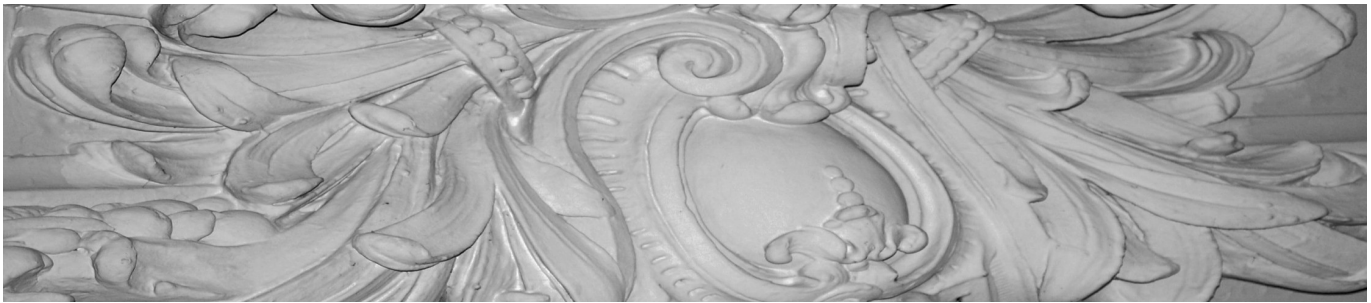
Glen Foerd on the Delaware

Glen Foerd Conservation Corp.
5001 Grant Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19114

215-632-5330
www.glenfoerd.org
info@glenfoerd.org

Call office to update your mailing information.

Glen Foerd is a Fairmount Park property operated by the Glen Foerd Conservation Corp. in cooperation with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation.



Thank You!

The Leadership Gala was a huge success! A big thanks to our honorees, **Bob and Karen Borski**, the event sponsors, **Philadelphia Federal Credit Union, United Auto Workers—GM, Jim and Susan Anderson of James J. Anderson Construction Company, The Gellers, Holy Family University, and Conroy Catering**, as well as the event chairs, **Bob Wombwell** and **Barb Guiliano**, along with Committee Members, **Roseanne Duzinski, Stephen Duzinski, Tish Edwards** and **Bob Jaskowiak**.

Glen Foerd Gifts

If you enjoy being a member of Glen Foerd then pay it forward. A gift of a Glen Foerd membership makes a wonderful present for family, friends, co-workers and teachers. Another option is our gift shop goodies. Stop by the office today to make your purchases!

Look Inside. . .

Victorian Tea

Holiday Happenings

Nature's Tapestry

Winter Tai Chi

. . . and more!

Don't forget to join us on **facebook** !