



Photo by Jim Michalowski
Native American Chippewa work basket, mid 19th century, made of birch bark and porcupine quills colored with vegetable or mineral dyes.

History In Full Bloom



Photo by Jim Michalowski
A Japanese "geisha girl" fan, early 20th century, made of paper and wood created as a tourist item.

By Jessica Kline / Correspondent

Cayuga Museum Springs Forward



Photo by Gordon Hugg

The Stanton Gallery at Cayuga Museum is one of the many rooms that will be adorned during the "History in Full Bloom" exhibit.

AUBURN — For the second straight year, spring hits the Cayuga Museum first! Building on last year's success, the Cayuga Museum is pleased to offer the exhibition "History in Full Bloom" on view, March 19 to 28.

The format of the exhibition has allowed the museum to work in tandem with the Bicentennial Beautification Committee, Cayuga County florists and specialty stores to offer creative floral displays using the historic Willard/Case mansion and collections as a backdrop. This unique collaboration celebrates our history and the glory of spring; and last year's "History in Full Bloom" visitors commented that the mansion had never looked or smelled more beautiful with the wide variety of floral displays.

A public reception for "History in Full Bloom" will take place 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 19. During the opening, the museum will thank Wal-Mart for a \$1,000 donation to the capital campaign. Wal-Mart representative Debbie Lovell will be presenting a check to the museum's executive director, Jim Richerson at 6 p.m.

Herron Hill Winery will provide a wine tasting that evening and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be served by a local Girl Scout troop who are working towards earning their bicentennial patches. After the opening, "History in Full Bloom" will be open to the public Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Culling from historic archives

"History in Full Bloom" gives Curator Stephanie Przybylek the opportunity to cull through thousands of

fascinating objects in the museum's permanent collection. Items selected for this year's exhibition will include late 19th and early 20th-century lace dresses, Native American bandolier bags, moccasins and various other examples of textiles and European decorative arts. Organic and floral motifs, as seen in the objects chosen, are the dominant theme of the exhibit. Because these objects originated from all over the world, they make very interesting stylistic comparisons when viewed together.

For example, visitors can compare two Plateau Indian bandolier bags, one from the period before European arrival (mid-19th century), and the other from post-contact. The difference in the bags lies in the stylistic approach. In the older bag the flowers were incorporated as a decorative symbol. After European contact, the artist strives to depict the flowers realistically.

"It is interesting to examine how different cultures use floral themes as a design element," said Przybylek. "It can be a universal point of reference, yet every culture's design style and choice of materials differs greatly. 'History in Full Bloom' gives people a chance to see the breadth of Museum's collection, which includes objects from a much broader scope than those of solely local origin."

Floral exhibits

Nine floral displays will be featured in the exhibit; the majority of these businesses are based in Auburn. Generously participating are Dickman Farms, Enchanted Florist, Fleur-de-lis Florist, Foley Florist, Grasmere Garden Art, MacKenzie-Childs, Ltd., May George Floral, Cosentino Florist and McEvoy Florist. The displays will

include silk flowers and live arrangements, located on the first and second floors of the museum.

Mary Ellen Avery, owner of May George Floral and Garden on Grant Avenue will be adorning the banister of the museum's grand staircase, as well as the front door and the moldings above the doors in the entrance hallway. Avery is president of the newly formed Finger Lakes Garden Club which meets at her shop the second Thursday of the month, spring through fall.

One of the club's upcoming projects is to create a float made of flowers for the county bicentennial parade June 12. After the parade, their float will be on display at the museum's outdoor ethnic food fest "Taste Cayuga," taking place that same day, noon to 5 p.m.

In an alcove in the museum's east wing, Kathy Bardwell, manager of Dickman Farm and Garden Center on Archie Street will be creating a cozy environment to the right of the Tiffany window. This area will feature plants reminiscent of those seen in a sitting room during the 19th century, a period when the mansion served solely as a residence.

"The cozy nook may have invited guests to sit in a quiet atmosphere and enjoy the peaceful surroundings created by the plants," said Bardwell.

Fleur-de-lis Florist's display will be featured on the gray marble mantle below the grand 12-foot mirror in the museum's entrance hallway. Sandra and Richard Schmidt are a successful husband-and-wife team who work together to create a unified aesthetic that is clearly Fleur-de-lis. Their shop, a colorful feast for the eyes, is located on Genesee Street in Skaneateles.

Photo by Jim Michalowski
Native American Plateau bandolier bag (post European contact), 1880-1890. Strictly decorative flowers reminiscent of European needlepoint designs influenced the traditional beadwork.



continued C10

Cayuga Museum continued

From C1

Patty Foley of Foley Florist on Genesee Street will use spring flowers to decorate the large fireplace in the museum's main gallery. Her live arrangement will include potted hyacinths and stone Victorian urns, accenting the fireplace mantel and the hearth as well. Offsetting Foley's display, the main gallery will feature four distinct dresses that span from the late 19th century to the 1920s. All four incorporate a floral design element, yet each time period dictates the dress's cut and overall appearance.

The most current dress, from the 1920s, is a bell-shaped black shell with long sleeves, with the flowing lines of a flapper dress. Another dress has a more Edwardian look of prestige. It is late Victorian with a "Titanic like" high collar, intricate lace and beadwork. In contrast is a sand-colored linen day dress, with cream embroidered flowers adorning the entire length. (Considering the tiny waistlines of all of these dresses, corsets were definitely needed!) When viewed together, the different ways of using floral design, color and texture produce very different effects.

In the front gallery on the first floor, McEvoy Florist's two bright-colored displays will be housed in antique brass pots, located on different sides of the room, where the Native American beaded bags, moccasins and birch bark baskets with quill work will be on view. McEvoy Florist is located on East Genesee Street.

Cathy Orman, owner of Enchanted Florist and For the Birds gift shop in Aurora, will be presenting a live arrangement created for tabletop display. Cathy has owned this business for the past three years, but the establishment has been around for a total of twelve years. Wells College is one of Enchanted Florist's mainstays, placing orders for arrangements as often as once a day. For the Birds offers items for the nature lover such as garden implements and birdhouses.

Ann Marie Cosentino of Cosentino's Florist has again chosen the space in front of the museum's Tiffany window for her display. Last year's presentation played off the window's climbing ivy and stylized purple flowers. An oxidized cupid supported the arrangement with the contents echoing the shades of lavender and green as seen in the stained glass. We look forward to seeing what new twist Cosentino's will provide us with this year. Their shop is located on Dunning Avenue.

Judy Vorreuter, of Grassmere Garden Art in Poplar Ridge, will present miniature landscapes made of both live and dried materials. The different varieties will include a Zen garden, a live landscape with a pond, pathways, statuary and urns housed in a hand-made stone trough. Another garden will have a Japanese feel, complete with raked sand, bamboo grasses and craggy trees.

Vorreuter will also be presenting for the first time ever, her "five jewelry" pendants made from fired clay and living plant material. The pendants are unglazed yet hand painted to achieve a washed-out translucent effect. The plants appear to be rooted in the clay, spilling over from the pocket of the pendant, which is suspended from a silk cord.

"When the pendant isn't being worn, it should be hung in a window, or placed in an area receiving natural light," she said of her new product. "I use duck foot ivy and varieties of thyme and sedum to create these colorful unique accessories."

Marigolds and history

"History in Full Bloom" is a joint endeavor on more than one account. For the second straight year, Cayuga Museum board member Carla Vorreuter assisted with the planning of the exhibition, acting as a liaison between the florists and the museum.

"I am so pleased that this year's 'History in Full Bloom' event has involved working with the Bicentennial Beautification Committee, local florists, and the schools," said Vorreuter. "This exhibition will delight those with an appreciation for flowers, antiques and the arts."

Another museum board member, Laura Coburn, designed the logo as seen on the promotional poster, handbill and banner located on the museum's facade.

"This year's design incorporates the marigold (our bicentennial flower), and shows off the fun festive side of this exhibition," explained Coburn. "There's also a youthful flavor to the poster, highlighting the grade school seed packet competition, being judged by the public at the museum."

This year's "History in Full Bloom" program will focus on a grade school competition organized by the Beautification Committee for the county's bicentennial. The marigold seed package competition involves sec-

ond through eighth grade students from all over Cayuga County. The top nine designs will be on display during the exhibit, and visitors to the show will vote for their favorite. The winner will be announced 2 p.m., March 27. This competition is sure to increase the show's visitation, and since the marigold is the county's signature flower for the bicentennial, florists have been encouraged to incorporate it into their display.

Nancy Sweet organized the marigold competition, and Laurel Auchampaugh is facilitating beautification projects all over the city. Sweet is an elementary school art teacher at Arthur E. Gates Elementary in Port Byron. A total of 577 students

submitted designs from 14 different Cayuga County schools. Other institutions are involved in the beautification project as well.

Casey Park, the Neighborhood House, B.O.C.E.S. Occupational, Booker T. Washington Community Center, Woodport Library and R.G.S. Children's Place will be planting marigolds and trees on site, to illustrate their commitment to Cayuga County's bicentennial.

Donations made in memory of deceased loved ones will soon be translated into lovely gardens and decorative plantings. Auchampaugh's enthusiasm is contagious.

"We are thrilled that the bicentennial will involve all ages, and it

is encouraging that the public has responded so favorably," she said. "Our committee was delighted to be approached by the museum to be included in 'History in Full Bloom,' working together on this project invites more participation from the community. We hope the teachers, students and their parents will come to see this exhibit."

"History in Full Bloom has added another dimension this year," said Cayuga Museum's Executive Director Jim Richerson, summing up the gained opportunities in organizing an exhibition of this nature. "With programming in sync with Cayuga County's Bicentennial. The marigold certainly reflects the rich, hearty spir-

it of this part of the country. My only regret about the event is its short running time of only 10 days, but then that is the nature of the medium — flowers!

"Last year, the event filled the museum with a whole new audience," said Richerson. "While the outside world was shaking the winter doldrums, we were treated to the fragrances and visual delights of the floral presentations."

Admission fees for the exhibition will be \$2 for museum members, \$3 for non-members and children under 12 are free.

For information regarding "History in Full Bloom," contact Cayuga Museum at 253-8051.

Jessica Kline is education/outreach coordinator for Cayuga Museum.

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Family Matters with Deb Shumway



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