



GREEN SPRING GARDENS
4603 GREEN SPRING ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22312

Victorian America: Glimpses Into a Gilded Age



HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 8th, 2014
8:30am-3:30pm

Green Spring Gardens

4603 Green Spring Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22312
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring
703-642-5173

About Green Spring Gardens



GREEN SPRING GARDENS is a Fairfax County park dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the area's horticultural, historical, and natural resources. It's a 31-acre public garden, horticulture center and historic site that provides a place for the encouragement of the practice of gardening and the interpretation of history.

Over 20 thematic demonstration gardens provide ideas and inspiration for home landscapes. Green Spring offers an extensive education program. Horticulture-themed lectures, workshops and demonstrations and garden tours and getaways are offered year-round. Specialized history programs are presented all year at the Historic House, often accompanied by afternoon tea.

The history of Green Spring spans three centuries and chronicles the lives of the many families that lived here. The landscape and the 1784 house have evolved with these families from the late 1700s until the mid-twentieth century. Their personal stories reflect the area's changing agriculture, industry, culture, and politics.

Historic Green Spring is a Virginia Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Cover: John Singer Sargent, *Mr. and Mrs. I.N. Phelps Stokes*, 1897

About Our Speakers

Richard Guy Wilson holds the Commonwealth Professor's Chair in Architectural History at the University of Virginia. He specializes in the architecture, design, and art of the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. He has authored or co-authored 16 books and directed the Victorian Society of America's Summer School since 1979. He has also served as an advisor and commentator for several television programs on PBS, A&E, and sixty-seven segments of *America's Castles*.

Tyler Anbinder is professor of history at George Washington University. He is a specialist in nineteenth-century American politics and the history of immigration and ethnicity in American life. His book, *Five Points*, traces the history of nineteenth-century America's most infamous immigrant slum. He served as historical consultant to director Martin Scorsese for the making of the film *Gangs of New York*.

Debbie Waugh is historic house coordinator at Green Spring Gardens. She interprets the rich history of Green Spring's buildings and land use through a wide range of programs and events that reflect the site's eras of significance. She is a graduate of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and the University of Nottingham, Graduate School of Education in England.

Elizabeth Way is the curatorial assistant at the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. She earned her masters degree in Costume Studies at New York University. Her research focuses on the impact of black fashion designers of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. She previously worked as a patternmaker and theater costumer.

Ryan Clemens Ryan Clemens is resident theatre artist with Virginia Stage Company. He is an actor, director, playwright, teacher, and Mark Twain scholar and has performed at theatres, touring shows, and workshops throughout the U.S.. His recent work includes the past four seasons with Virginia Stage Company and three seasons with the Virginia Shakespeare Festival. For over a decade he has written and performed in productions portraying his ancestor Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known by his pen name, Mark Twain. He holds a BA in Theatre from Western Washington University and an MFA in Acting from Regent University.

VICTORIAN AMERICA: GLIMPSES INTO A GILDED AGE



Explore the late Victorian era in America through lectures, exhibits, music, and living history. The Gilded Age - roughly 1870 to 1910 - was lampooned by Mark Twain as a glittering façade of wealth and extravagance that masked huge social and economic inequalities between the “haves” and the “have-nots.” Hear about fabulous mansions, gardens, fashions, and art as well as immigration, tenement life, social reform, gender, and more. Learn how Green Spring’s historic legacy stems from this transformative period in American life.

Photo: Jacob Riis, *Bandits' Roost*, 1888

REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS 8:30-9:00 am

Welcome 9:00-9:15 am

Richard Guy Wilson
Gilded Age Excess and Reform in Architecture, Interiors, and Gardens
9:15-10:15 am

This talk explores some defining characteristics of the Gilded Age, and their influence on the visual arts. In an age of vast fortunes, wealthy American patrons of the arts sought cultural legitimacy by emulating European design, particularly the English and Parisian styles. At the same time, a shift towards distinctly American themes sought to create architecture, interiors, and gardens that were charged with a national spirit. Discover how the turn-of-the-century struggle for national identity was reflected in the works of American architects, writers, and designers, ranging from Alfred B. Mullet to Edith Wharton and Beatrix Farrand.

BREAK 10:15-10:30 am

Tyler Anbinder
The Ungilded Side of Gilded Age New York
10:30-11:15 am

The flip side of the Gilded Age coin was tarnished. In overcrowded cities tenement housing provided unwholesome accommodation for the poor and for new immigrants. Hear about New York’s most notorious “slums” and the people who lived in them. Learn about slum reform through the work of one of its most influential advocates, Jacob Riis, whose photojournalism exposed the squalor of the slums to New York’s upper classes.

BREAK 11:15-11:30 am

Debbie Waugh
Green Spring’s Gilded Age Legacy
11:30 am-noon

Hear about one of the wealthiest, brightest, and most independent young women of the Gilded Age, Dorothy Payne Whitney, and how she influenced Green Spring’s historic legacy.

LUNCH & EXHIBITS Noon-1:30pm

- The Victorian Society at Falls Church presents an exhibit of the 1893 Columbian Exposition.
- Artist and collector Caroline Hottenstein exhibits original Victorian era fashions.
- Bill Pishock, appraiser and owner of *Two Guys Antiques* in historic Dumfries, Va, displays Victorian furniture and domestic items at the Historic House.
- Docents are on hand to provide information at the Historic House and surrounding gardens.

Elizabeth Way
Elizabeth Keckley: An Unlikely Victorian Lady
1:30-2:15 pm

Hear the compelling story of a woman whose accomplishments helped pave the way for the social activism of the Gilded Age and beyond. Born a slave, Elizabeth Keckley used her talent and entrepreneurial skill to become an independent businesswoman for the elite and personal modiste to Mary Todd Lincoln. In a life that spanned the entirety of the Victorian era, Keckley struggled to live by its rules of race, gender, and class. Yet this unlikely Victorian lady constantly broke those rules in order to survive and thrive.

Ryan Clemens
Meet Mark Twain!
2:15-3:30 pm

The dominant literary figure of the Gilded Age was Mark Twain, whose realistic and often scathing portrayals of contemporary American life revealed the era at its best and at its worst. This rousing living history performance brings to life the celebrated author and humorist at different stages of his life and presents excerpts from his lectures, short stories, and novels in the voices of a variety of characters from his world. Discover that Mark Twain’s roguish wit and sharp-eyed social commentary still have the power to move and entertain us today.

3:30pm Close



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If ADA accommodations are needed, please call
703-324-8563. TTY 703-803-3354

Registration

On-Line:

Go to **Parktakes** on-line:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes and
 enter program code # **290 183 3101**. Follow
 registration instructions. Call 703-642-5173
 for assistance or to reserve a vegetarian lunch.
or

Mail to: Green Spring Gardens
4603 Green Spring Road
Alexandria, VA 22312

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Date of birth

Parktakes member number (if known)

Lunch Choice	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian
Method of Payment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	<input type="checkbox"/> Check
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Total: \$ _____	
	(\$75 county residents)
	(\$90 out-of-county residents)
	(\$48.75 county seniors over 65)
_____ Credit Card #	_____ Exp. date

Signature

PLEASE REGISTER BY
MARCH 3, 2014