

UPTON ASSOCIATION *Update*



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From the President

By Marti Flint

What a great year this has been for the Upton Association. Our members and the community have been more involved than ever.

The house has been filled with people enjoying the wonderful atmosphere as they celebrated weddings, showers, graduations and various family gatherings. We also held the summer sale, Sunday Open Houses, Equality Day reception and an elegant formal Downton Abbey dinner. What a beautiful backdrop for all these events.

This is all made possible by the work of our dedicated volunteers. Everything that is enjoyed at the house is the result of their hard work. Our thanks are extended to everyone who has used their talents to make our organization strong.

We are all familiar with the expression “You’ve come a long way, baby.” Let’s reflect on how far we’ve come. In 1848 when the suffrage movement began, **WOMEN COULD NOT:**

Speak in public, vote, own property, sign any legal documents, serve on juries, have guardianship of their children (men owned the children who could be sold as indentured servants to pay the father’s debts or sent to work to help support the family), keep or use any money they earned (sewing, laundry or things of that nature), or choose future mates (father must approve).

We do not want to go back to those “good old days.” Let’s honor Harriet and those women and men who fought so hard to make changes by getting more involved in our local, state and national affairs. We can continue to make a difference in our world.

DOWNTON ABBEY OFFERS GUESTS MAGICAL, ENCHANTING EVENING

By Sandy Sarsany

On August 29, the Upton House sponsored a fundraiser at the house called, “Dinner at Downton Abbey.” There were 250 Invitations sent out and 46 members took a leap of faith and sent in their reservations.



Paul & Sandy Sarsany (Lord & Lady Grantham)

They were richly rewarded with a delicious seven-course dinner as it would have been served at the real Downton Abbey. Prior to dinner, the guests were greeted by Lord and Lady Grantham, the Dowager Countess, Carson the butler, Barrow the footman, Sarah the housemaid and Tom the chauffeur, all in costume. We had a cocktail hour on the patio with a signature drink. Upon entering the dining room, the guests were greeted by a scene of long tables in the dining room, library, and parlor. These were draped in white linens and decorated with flowers and lighted candelabra. The electric lights were dimmed as there was no electricity in Downton at that time.

The guests were given instructions on etiquette by Lady Grantham and all enjoyed a candlelight dinner. A strolling violinist completed the picture to everyone’s delight. It was a magical and enchanting evening. My thanks to Darlyn Gardiner for printing and mailing the invitations and arranging the beautiful flowers that were on the tables and in every room. Also, thanks to Darlene Bennett for coming up with the signature cocktail and buying the wine. Both of them folded 46 napkins in the form of a bishops miter, not an easy task. We did our best to make this a memorable evening and I think we succeeded. Those who attended will be talking about this for a long time to come.

CURATOR REPORT

By Sandy Sarsany

I received two books that will be placed in the Elizabeth Hauser library. The first book is titled "Buckeye Women," donated by Sandy Mahaffey. The other book is titled, "What Every American Should Know About Women's History," donated by Jean Tunstall.

We also received an autumn haze mink cape from Elizabeth Bourtoff. It will be a great addition to our display of vintage furs at the Christmas open house.

The family of Jim Economos donated a service for 12 of Havilland China. It will be on display soon in the cupboard in the kitchen. They are a blue floral design and will be our winter display of Havilland. We have a pink set for the summer months.

I am eagerly anticipating the opening of the second floor, where we will have more exhibits.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

By Marti Flint

Thanks, thanks, thanks to all of you who put so much time and effort into maintaining the Gardens, Park and House during our wet spring and early summer and then our hot July and August. We have been challenged by the weather but managed to keep everything looking good.

We have had 63 great people who have donated over 1,234 hours to help with all our projects. It's not all work and no play; we have lots of time to talk and laugh while getting our tasks completed. As we finish up this year, we will be asking you to join our dedicated group. The committees will be closing the Garden and Park on Saturday October 24; it's always a fun Make a Difference Day project. Set up for the holiday sale will be November 16-17. The sale days will be November 20-21. Finishing up the year will be story time with our own Mrs. Claus set for December 11-14. Hope you have time to join us.

Call Darlene at 330 609-6108 or Marti at 330-772-5623 for more information.



RENTAL REPORT

By Kathy Lepro

What a busy time it has been with Upton House rentals since the last newsletter! A total of 45 events took place during the spring and summer. With the exception of Easter, Mother's Day, the Fourth of July and the three Open House dates, every Saturday and Sunday in April, May, June and July were booked for various parties, including the usual showers, weddings and graduations.

In May, a young girl invited several of her friends to a 6th birthday tea party, which included a lesson beforehand on proper etiquette and manners, thanks to several of the mothers. Needless to say, each little girl was properly dressed for the occasion.

In July, I received a request for a family gathering on Christmas Eve. However, the family who has rented Harriet's beautifully decorated home on December 24 for the past two years, has plans to do the same this year. This became a rather difficult situation to resolve, but in the end, the "three-time family" is willing to look for another location after 2015, and the woman who called in July is now booked for Christmas Eve, 2016 and 2017. Wow! That's what I call planning ahead!

August 8, for some reason, was a very popular date. There were requests for four different events. Two of those were able to happen since one was a morning brunch and the other was an afternoon tea, and both renters were willing to make accommodations. The other two, who were unable to have their first choice, selected an alternative day. Toward the end of August, a first-time event took place at the Upton House. One expectant mother was the guest of honor at a gender-revealing party, which apparently is becoming more popular these days. The invited guests, encouraged to wear pink or blue, gathered to find out if the new arrival will be a girl or a boy. Near the end of the party, when the cake was cut, it was blue inside.

As I write this article for the 2015 fall newsletter, a gathering on October 29 has not yet taken place. However, I would like to share with you some information about it. There will be an Open Reception at the Upton House for Maureen O'Connor, the 10th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the State of Ohio and the first woman in Ohio history to lead our State's judicial branch. She was born in our nation's capital, raised in Strongsville and Parma, and will soon be visiting the home of Warren's suffragette for the first time. Organizers of the event plan to obviously recognize the accomplishments of Maureen O'Connor, and also to pay tribute to Harriet Taylor Upton and her accomplishments. What a great venue in which to hold such an event!

Women's Park: *History Comes to Life!*

By Darlyn Gardiner

It was a cool and misty morning as the audience arrived with umbrellas and took their seats. Anticipation filled the air as patrons had been issued signs and banners in favor of the right to vote for women and also signs against voting rights for women. The year was 2015...or was it 1848, the place Seneca Falls New York, the event: The First Women's Rights Convention.

It was the second day of the convention and men were permitted to participate. The esteemed Mr. Mott called the meeting to order and introduced the Assemblyman, Ansel Bascom, to the podium to discuss the ramifications of voting rights for women. The audience was very vocal and displayed contempt with the belittling sentiments of Mr. Bascom and like-minded people of the time.

Mr. Mott gained control of the convention and introduced author, abolitionist, activist, and friend of the suffrage movement, Mr. Frederick Douglass. A gentle calm filled the air as Mr. Douglass spoke eloquently and persuaded the convention to indeed vote in favor of the Declaration of Sentiments and in particular the enfranchisement of women. With that single moment in time the Women's Movement was shaped to influence the future and history.

What an exciting day to actually revisit and be a part of history. Thanks to the talents of our presenters, Mr. Mott (Mr. Jim Tallman), Assemblyman Bascom (James Penn), and Mr. Frederick Douglass (Rev. John McCants Jr.), we were able to take a step back in time and experience the thrill of the birth of the Women's Rights Movement.

Mayor Franklin received a special recognition plaque for his dedication supporting the Women's Equality Day and then he presented proclamations to the organizations responsible for hosting the annual event.

The celebration concluded with a joyous music program by the very



*Mr. Mott (Portrayed by Jim Tallman)
Mr. Frederick Douglas (Portrayed by Rev. John McCants Jr.)
Assemblyman Bascom (Portrayed by James Penn)*

gifted Tony DeFoor and adjourned to the Upton House for refreshments. It was indeed a very special 95th anniversary of the passage of the nineteenth amendment, the amendment that granted American women the right to vote.

Please remember to take advantage of your opportunity to shape the future and exercise your right to vote!

BRICKS AT THE WOMEN'S PARK

By Darlene Bennett

So many times I have heard, "The Women's Park? Where is it?" (Even from people who have lived here for many years). The Women's Park is located on Mahoning Avenue between City Hall and the Kinsman House. We invite you to visit our park; to view the beautiful landscaping with a stone bridge that spans a bubbling brook, and a statue honoring unknown women. A special courtyard dedicated to the pioneer women of the Western Reserve. The walkways and courtyards have inscribed bricks to celebrate the lives of the women we love. Anyone interested in a brick can pick up a brochure located in the mailbox in the park, or go to the Upton House Association web site to find an order form, or call Darlene at 330-609-6108. Bricks are a wonderful way to remember that special woman in your life.

PART 16: *Harriet and the Loon*

The *Upton Update* continues to tell the story of Harriet Taylor Upton based in part on her autobiography, *Random Recollections*, from which the quotations were taken. (*We digress from the chronology of Harriet Taylor Upton's life story to relate this story from her childhood as written in her memoirs*)

"We were at this time living in the house to which we moved from the hotel. It still stands across the street from my present home. It was a pretty gothic cottage with casement windows which were fine in the summer but poor things to keep out the winter's cold.

When we rented this house, the owner, Rev. Joseph Marvin, reserved one room in which to store his household goods. One day he had an auction and, among the things to be sold, was a stuffed loon which his son, Dana Marvin, a naval officer, had brought to him from a foreign country.

The moment I saw that loon I wanted it. Nothing could drive me from the front porch where the sale was held. I would have given all my belongings in exchange for it. How I regretted that I had not saved my money as my mother wanted me to do so I could buy it.

Early the auctioneer put it up, but got no bids. I do not think I breathed while I was standing on the porch railing, so much afraid was I that someone would buy it.

Later in the afternoon, he offered it again. Again I was terrorized and ran around the house to save myself the sadness of seeing it carried away. Again no one wanted it and I returned to the porch. Finally, as the sun was beginning to lower and most everything else had been disposed of, the owner called me to him and asked me if I would care to have the bird. I was so excited that I could not answer but nodded my head. 'Well, take it,' he said. It was a large loon and I could not have carried it if it had been alive, but its stuffing weighed little and I made away with it.

I lugged it up the back stairs fearing the family would not approve and would make me give it back. Such was not to be my fate and the loon sat by my door-like window as long as I lived in that house and I took it with me to my East Market Street home. That loon was my "rock and fortress" as my grandfather used to say at the time of family prayers. I confided everything to this bird which I did not tell to others. I mean most intimate and interesting things. He was always patient, apparently sympathetic and never disapproving. It was natural that this winter afternoon I should seek his company and tell him tearfully how nobody wanted me about, not even my blessed mother. I laid my cheek against his breast and put my arms around his body and pitied myself. This is what my Taylor grandfather used to do. The difference is that I was normal and scarcely remembered the incident when supper was ready, while he kept up his sad jag' for days."

~ EDUCATION REPORT ~

By Liz Clark

Today, two women are seeking the nomination for President of The United States, so either one could become the 1st woman President of this great nation. In my research, I discovered that Europe in the 16th century was controlled by women. The greatest was Elizabeth I of England who ruled with an iron-hand, creating a fantastic empire. Next, was Mary Tudor of Scotland who also ruled sections of France. Infanta, daughter of Eleanor ruled Portugal and its great sea-going fleet. Isabelle of Aragon with her husband ruled all of Spain. Catherine de Medici controlled the largest portion of France. Anne, daughter of Charles V ruled Navarre. So history verifies that women can be national leaders.

During the Spring and Summer Tours of Upton, lectures were given to the following: Salem Girl Scout Council's Board, Boardman

Professional Business Women, Newton Falls Lutheran gathering of women, Warren Women's Club, County Federation of Women, Boardman Friends of the Public Library, and Blessed Sacrament 4th grade students. Summer students from Valley Counseling toured both City Hall and the Upton.

Jeff Wills from YSU surprised his Mother and her friends with a 70th birthday luncheon at the Upton House that included a lecture about Harriet.

This fall, the docents of the Education Committee are looking forward to a new group of Warren's 4th graders. We will follow the previous plan.

Harriet's Garden is Truly a Place of Beauty

By Carol Olson

Harriet's Gardens continue to be a thing of beauty for the community and those who rent Harriet's House. The gardens looked wonderful for the Downton Abbey Event and added to the ambiance of the evening. The impatiens in the Lady in the Fountain planter were still spectacular. It was special to enjoy time outside on the patio prior to the formal dining inside.



From left are Pat Procter, Ken Conklin and Phyllis Savakis.

The generous and faithful garden volunteers this year were Barbara Beach, Darlene Bennett, Ken and Elaine Conklin, Kay Fisher, Marti and Larry Flint, Darlyn Gardiner, Rebecca Patterson, Pat Procter, Sandy and Paul Sarsany, Phyllis Savakis, Kathy Seemann, Sandy Skovran, Marilyn Thomas, Barbara Rosier-Tryon and Liz Wildman. I love them all and cannot thank them enough.

The Kick-off Luncheon was held at the Upton House on Monday April 28; 12 members attended including two new members, Barbara Rosier-Tryon and Sandy Skovran. Another new member, Rebecca Patterson, joined the group later in the season. Clean up day was held on May 5 with members and May 9 with Lesley Austin and her Girl Scouts.

We continue to receive plants from Raul Kemp at TCTC and Michael Paquet at Warren Greenhouse. They are our benevolent supportive friends. Sandy and Paul Sarsany deserve recognition and thanks for helping pick up and transporting the flowers to the Upton.

We did not make a lot of changes this year. Kathy Seemann planted new herbs and lavender in the herb garden. We found overgrown vines were making an effort to choke out their neighbors. Our huge Mulberry Tree in the back yard decided on its own to "down-size." One Tuesday, after a very wet weekend, I made the discovery that 1/3 of the tree was on the ground and had unfortunately taken a young Redbud tree with it. Arrangements were made to have the damaged portion of the Mulberry Tree removed. A Monroe neighbor stopped to inquire as to what the Lambs' Ear were because she wanted to go buy some, so we gave her some to plant in her own yard. We did divide some hostas and will probably divide more in October.

Dan and Carol Olson spread the leaf mulch that Kay Fisher obtained for us.



From left are Kathy Seemann, E. Carol Maxwell, Kay Fisher, Rebecca Patterson and Sandy Sarsany.



Lesley Austin and her Girl Scout Troop.

It was impossible to make plans with NEOCAP this year...we had a lot of rain at that time and we could not coordinate schedules. Next year, I will send a request at the beginning of the season.

Ken Conklin continues to take care of whatever watering system we have in place. He also trimmed the hedges, planted grass seed and sprayed the weeds in the driveway and the stone border. This year with help of others, he replaced the garden fence that was falling apart in pieces. It looks wonderful again. Great job!

So far this year working in the garden from April through August, we have accumulated a total of 222 volunteer hours or approximately 28-8 hour days. That does not include when some individuals worked in the garden on their own and did not record the time they spent. What a wonderful volunteer group the Garden Committee is. Kudos!

On October 24 at 9 a.m., we will "put the garden to bed." Please consider coming out to help and have refreshments. We really do have a fun day!

Membership

By E. Carol Maxwell

We sincerely THANK all of you who support Harriet's home and gardens! The details are: 183 Members - \$6,650 plus \$735 in donations to the Endowment Fund. THANK YOU to those who renewed their membership this year!

THANK YOU to our new members: Lenore Antonelli, Helen Elias, Kathleen Farlow, Judie Hartley, Karen Jennings, Adele Jones, Rebecca Natale, Patricia Proctor, Sandee Skovran, Judy Waid and Elizabeth Wildman.

And, THANK YOU to Upton Association members who requested a complimentary membership for someone.

Our "complimentary" members are: Kathy Bowman, Lynn Bryne, Kathleen Dragoman, Kathy Ferris, Suzanne Fredericks, Pat Hansel, Mary Lou Jarrett, Melissa Karman, Chris Kimes, Koreen Palm, Ali Patterson, Denise Patterson, Rebecca Patterson, Marge Petty, Mrs. Dean Smith, Carol Stow, Kim Wagner and Laura White.

Endowment

On Saturday, June 20, 2015, a retirement celebration was held in Harriet's house and gardens for E. Carol Maxwell. Family and friends gathered and several of them made contributions to the Harriet Taylor Upton Association Endowment fund in E. Carol's honor. A total of \$710 was donated!

HOUSE REPORT: *The past has been passed on*

By Ken Conklin

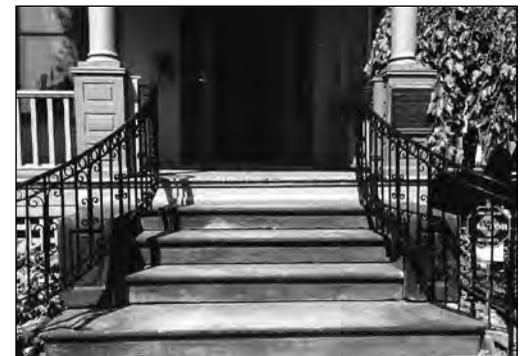
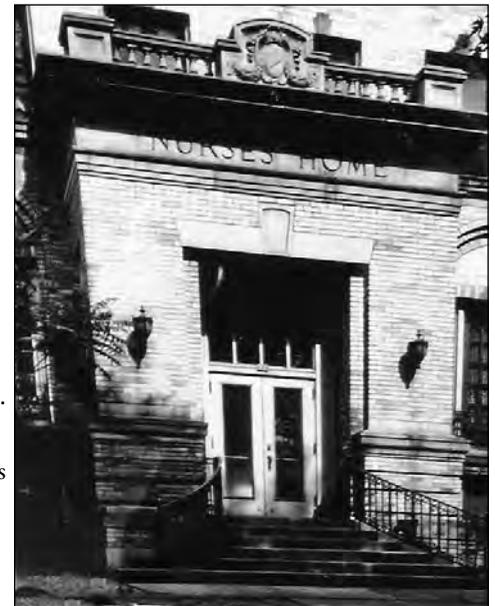
When the Upton Association became aware of Trumbull Memorial Hospital's plans to demolish the Nurse's Home, we expressed an interest in securing the wrought iron railings that had graced the entrance to the Nurse's Home since the 1920's. The response from the hospital was very positive knowing the railings could have a new home on a historic property in Warren.

The next question was: where is an appropriate place on Harriet's property for the railings? As many of you will attest, I say "Yes" then worry about what to do with the items!

Arrangements were made to have the railings delivered to the Upton House garage. Consideration was given to install the railings on the front porch steps; install them on the back terrace; or to incorporate them into the landscaping. Harriet was watching out for her Home and Association. Chuck Hahn and I carried one of the railings to the front entrance of the Upton House. Without having to do any adjustments, the railings fit perfectly. It was meant to be. We only had to have two extensions welded to the bottom portion in order to cement them into the ground.

The railings were sanded, power washed, primed and painted. Chuck Hahn, my brother Ray (who thinks I need a new hobby) and I installed them. The railings were perfect for the Upton House and they look like they've always been there. Harriet would be very proud. I also want to thank my "messenger" Elaine for her contacts at the hospital.

The Board of Directors held a dedication ceremony and was very pleased that Anthony Ciminero and Linda



Bishop from Trumbull Memorial Hospital were able to attend. The railings served the hospital well and now will serve guests and visitors as they enter Harriet's home.

We again thank Trumbull Memorial Hospital for this gift and the Upton Association feels blessed that this piece of Warren history has been passed on to the house.

Side Note: House Report



Ken Conklin and Chuck Hahn

In May 2014, a letter was sent to our membership regarding the need for a new fence for Harriet's garden. Once again, the membership generously came through and provided funds for the fence. We contracted with Mr. Monsanty and Mr. Capozzi to do the construction. Cedarwood was purchased for the fence and in the spring of 2015, the fence was completed, including the priming and painting. The fence was then delivered to the Upton House and was stored in the garage. Section by section, the old fence was removed and found a new home on the Sheridan property. The posts were still in decent shape and only needed a good coat of paint. Chuck Hahn and Ken Conklin installed the new fence. It looks wonderful and we thank each of you who were a financial part of this project.

News & Notes

Check out the website www.uptonhouse.org calendar for the latest information on events.

SPECIAL GIFT TO THE UPTON *By Liz Clark*

Shirley Rae, a longtime supporter and dedicated member of the Upton Association, gifted a beautiful Waterford Crystal punch bowl and cups to the Upton. This was a going away and a farewell gift as she is moving to Florida. Thank you, Shirley. You will be missed.

SUMMER GARAGE SALE TOTALS *By Sue Stoddart*

We had lots of great help setting up, working at the sale, and cleaning up at the end, but we didn't make as much as we usually to in the summer. Maybe, we need to raise our prices! We sold about \$1400. Since we no longer have renters, we need to raise more money. It was proposed that we generate \$3500 each year. As a result, we need to have another Christmas sale like we had last year. Thanks to everyone who helped!

BELLE BOYD TELLS HER STORY *By Judi Sheridan*

In May, Susan Thomas, from Butler, PA, presented a first person program reviewing the life of Belle Boyd who became a Confederate spy at the age of 17. Susan was informative and humorous in her depiction of the life and times of a woman during the Civil War. The program was preceded by a light southern theme supper that included Brunswick stew. Thirty-six people attended the event.

HISTORY ALLIANCE AWARD *By Liz Clark*

October 2014, the docents of Upton received the top award from this State Organization for our school children program. As a result of attending the award ceremony, we discovered that they also had an award for individuals. We immediately thought of Ken Conklin. We asked him and he agreed to let us submit a proposal. We assembled a book with his accomplishments and letters of recommendation from Marti Flint, Upton President, Chuck Hahn, Board member, and former Mayor Hank Angelo. Each described his many contributions of time and labor, which have added to the beauty and success of the Upton House. An e-mail, received on September 1, announced that Ken had won the Award for Outstanding Individual for his contributions! He will be presented with this award in Columbus in October. Congratulations, Ken!

SUMMER OPEN HOUSES *By Judi Sheridan*

Three open houses on the first Sunday of June, July and August welcomed many first-time visitors to the house. The theme for June was "childhood and toys" hosted by Kay Fisher and Judi Sheridan. Fisher has some unusual items from the early 1900's that were unique. The July theme was "U.S. Presidents" and Carol Olson and Judi Sheridan provided memorabilia from several Ohio Presidents. Ken Conklin and Chuck Hahn were the hosts that day. The August theme was related to roses. Darlene Bennett, Judi Sheridan and Kathy Lepro provided a variety of items from china to paintings and textiles. Kathy Lepro was the hostess and served lemonade along with information. The open houses in 2016 will be on the second Sunday.

HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS SALE *By Sue Stoddart*

It is scheduled for November 20-21, and I know some of you snowbirds will already be gone but there are some people who "promised" to work at the November sale because they were busy in July. We will be clearing out the basement on Monday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to noon and then working on the display from 1-4 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Wednesday, we won't work because of Town Hall. A few of us price things on Thursday. The sale shifts are Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 12-4 p.m. and the Saturday shifts are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. Donations are starting to accumulate in the garage so this should be a good sale.

STORY TIME WITH MRS. CLAUS *By E. Carol Maxwell*

Mrs. Claus and her elfettes are busy planning for this year's Story Times with Mrs. Claus! Don't wait another minute to make a reservation for the special child(ren) in your life! This one-of-a-kind holiday event is very special! Each child has his/her picture taken with Mrs. Claus and they learn how to decorate a frame for their special picture and make another holiday trinket. Mrs. Claus reads stories to and sings songs with the children! A child-friendly meal is served and each child leaves with a smile on their face and a special surprise treat from Mrs. Claus! While the children are having fun, a special message for the adults and refreshments are served in Harriet's library! To make a reservation, call 330-360-0901 or email ecarol@twc.com for more information!

WARREN HISTORY HOP *By Kathy Lepro*

The first Warren History Hop was held on Saturday, September 12. The event gave visitors of all ages an opportunity to step back in time and experience a part of Warren's rich history. The Upton House was one of many locations open for the event. Sandy Sarsany, Kay Fisher and Kathy Lepro, wearing attire reflective of the early 1900's, gave guests a tour of the house, provided information about Harriet Taylor Upton and the suffrage movement, explained the various artifacts on display and invited everyone to enjoy some light refreshments. A surprising number of people attended in spite of the cold temperatures and all-day rain. The John Stark Edwards House, Kinsman House, Packard Museum, City Hall and Horseshoe Bar were other historic locations open to the public. All who attended certainly had many opportunities to explore some of our town's amazing historical locations and to experience a variety of interesting activities and exhibits, bringing together the history of the past with the art and artists of the present.



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