

Masterpieces Return to Freer Mansion

The Charles Lang Free House hosted a high profile series of events on the weekend of October 24 and 25. The new National Advisory Board for the Friends of the Freer House (FOFH) gathered for its first official meeting on Saturday. A reception and dinner to honor donors to the "Historic Freer House Art Reproduction Project" followed with 50 guests. On Sunday, Dr. Linda Merrill held a lecture at the DIA entitled, "The Blue Room: Whistler's Peacock Room in Detroit," followed by a reception at the Freer House for more than 250 enthusiastic participants. The events, sponsored by the Friends and MPSI, yielded \$4,000 for the Freer House and 30 new Friends.

A weekend highlight was the unveiling of 11 new reproductions of paintings by American artists T.W. Dewing and D.W. Tryon now displayed in the Freer House main hall and parlor. The reproductions are based on original paintings commissioned by Freer in 1892-94 that now reside in the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

The project was spearheaded by FOFH board member Doug Peters with the cooperation of the Freer Gallery of Art. Reproductions sponsors include: Phebe and Sid Goldstein, Peter Lichtenberg and Susan MacNeill, John and Ann Hannigan, Cathy Lysack and Stewart Neufeld, Thomas and Carla Jankowski, Marianne Endicott, Ann and James Nicholson; and a bequest from the estate of MPI alumnae Camille Schifman.

- by William Colburn
Historic Preservation Specialist
and FOFH Board Member

CHARLES LANG FREER HOUSE

The Freer House is home to MPSI faculty, administrative offices and meeting rooms

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOURNAL RELEASE: In an upcoming article in the peer-reviewed journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, Dr. Steven Ondersma reports the results of studying 200 pregnant women, 18 or older, recruited at substance abuse treatment agencies. They found that external pressure to attend treatment is associated with greater retention in treatment as well as lower drug use. The group, subjected to pressure from legal, housing or child protection sources, attended more scheduled hours, stayed in treatment longer and used drugs less often.



EXPLORATIONS IN INFANT MENTAL HEALTH in June focused on parental chemical addiction. Responses to the conference were overwhelmingly positive. Forty-five professionals (plus a waiting list) who work with infants, toddlers and families attended the two day CE conference. Participants wrote:

- "Learning the characteristics of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder and specific medical effects related to mothers' use of alcohol during pregnancy was helpful to me as a therapist."
- "Dr. Fitzgerald's research is inspiring and speaks to intergenerational patterns. It provides credibility to infant mental health and relationship-based work."
- "The video examples of motivational interviewing was very helpful. I will use these concepts immediately in my work with parents."

Urban Families

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families. The training examines the impact on grandparents, family dynamics, and the grandchild (from the child's perspective). It also includes an up-to-date list of available resources. "I'm piloting the modules with support groups now," Joan said. "It should be available to the community by mid-2010." Check the project's status at www.mpsi.wayne.edu.

Parenting From Prison

In addition to assisting with community workshops, Joan Blount facilitates Parenting from Prison with motivated male prisoners at Mound Correctional Facility. The 6-week course requires attendance at the twice-weekly, two and a half-hour sessions, extra reading, homework and a willingness to be honest about past parenting mistakes.

About 20 men, dressed in blue and orange prison uniforms, attend the session, many selected for early release within the next few months. "I know I have to take responsibility

for what I did wrong," one of the men said in a recent session. "My son might never forgive me but I want to try to make up for not being there, to be a good dad to him now." Another inmate admitted, "I got two boys and I don't understand either one of them."

Joan shares informational handouts, community resources, gives brief talks and answers questions. The men often perform roleplays to get comfortable with constructive ways of handling the inevitable conflicts that come with parenting. Inmate Raymond Carr is one of three facilitators for the class, a journalism study and an avid and talented writer. He has no children of his own. "All children are our children," he said. "I want to learn how to be a better father to the children in my community. We have to take responsibility so no more of our children end up here."

In October, the Parenting from Prison group donated more than \$400 and 50 handmade stuffed animals to Alternatives for Girls, an organization providing shelter, mentoring and counseling to high-risk girls and young women. "These men are trying hard to make amends and learn from their mistakes," Joan said. "Prisoners are often parents, too."

Visit www.mpsi.wayne.edu in the spring for information on the 2010 Infant Mental Health conference. To learn more about The Charles Lang Freer House visit: www.mpsi.edu/about/friends-freer.php or call 313-872-1790.