Our former print newsletter, *The Glessner Journal*, is no longer being produced. In place of that publication, we started issuing a weekly e-newsletter each Wednesday starting April 1st. Since we do not have an email address for you, we are summarizing some of the highlights of the issues published from May through the first week of August. We hope you enjoy reading through the articles and will go online to read our blog articles and other web content and look at our YouTube videos.

As of the beginning of August, the e-newsletter is now being distributed on the first Wednesday of each month. You will receive a print copy soon after. If you would like to start receiving our e-newsletter, please send your email address to William Tyre, Curator & Program Director, at wtyre@glessnerhouse.org.

**House tours resumed July 22**

We are pleased to announce that we reopened the house for public tours on Wednesday July 22, after a closure lasting 128 days. To ensure the health and safety of our guests, docents, and staff, we have implemented significant changes including reducing the number of participants on tours. Advance tickets are now required. If you are interested in visiting for a tour, please purchase your tickets online at www.glessnerhouse.org.
**Glessner House receives three grants**

We are very pleased to announce the recent receipt of three grants. The first, in the amount of $5,000, comes to us from Illinois Humanities, to be applied toward operating expenses during the ongoing pandemic. The second grant from the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund of the National Trust is for $5,500 and will be used to install U/V blocking on the windows throughout the house, to protect the collections. This was a 1-to-1 match, and we are pleased to report that our generous donors providing the matching funds, so we are actively planning the project to be completed in early fall. The third grant comes to us from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, which has been a faithful supporter of the House for many years. This two-year grant will provide $15,000 of operating support in both 2020 and 2021. We are deeply grateful for these grants and the faith they represent in the House and its ongoing mission.

**Upcoming Programs**

Our beautiful courtyard has provided a way for us to offer limited in-person programming during the pandemic. The courtyard concert series launched in July has proved most popular, with each concert selling out. Three concerts have been added to the series and tickets are strictly limited to ensure proper social distancing, so don’t delay in ordering your tickets online today at www.glessnerhouse.org.

- Friday August 21 – The Chicago “Quarantet” (woodwind quintet)
- Tuesday September 1 – The Honore Brass Trio
- Wednesday September 9 – Elizabeth Doyle and Friends (jazz)

**Glessner blog – The Story of a House**

We have been posting weekly articles to our blog, The Story of a House. To read the articles, visit www.glessnerhouse.blogspot.com. Recent postings include:

- May – A series of three article exploring major restoration projects in the house
- June – A two-part series focusing on Louis Sullivan and Prairie Avenue
- July-July – A four-part series on the early history of Prairie Avenue (through 1865)
- July-August – A three-part series on William Morris and Glessner House
Donate to Glessner House and receive a Morris face mask!

![Image of face masks]

Face masks will be a part of our daily lives for the foreseeable future. For a donation of $25 or more to the Glessner House COVID-19 Relief Fund, you will receive your own **William Morris face mask**, which combines safety and style into one. To make your donation and receive your face mask (we will select the pattern for you), simply mail a check or make your donation online. Your mask will ship within 24 hours of the receipt of your donation.

**Henry, your friendly Glessner House greeter**

From April through the end of July, a life-size cutout of house architect Henry Hobson Richardson stood in the front window greeting our neighbors and other passers-by. To further engage our passersby, twice a week Henry posed new questions to them, encouraging people to visit our website to learn about Glessner House and Prairie Avenue. Look for the “Ask Henry” page under the “Explore” tab to see the questions and answers. Upon reopening to the public, Henry moved into the Visitors Center and has made himself available for the perfect selfie!

**Glessner courtyard open to the public**

![Image of the Glessner courtyard]

The Glessner House courtyard remains open to the public from 9:00am to 5:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday (the days in which we are not open for public tours). Visitors are encouraged to peek through the windows of the schoolroom, main hall, parlor, kitchen, and coach house, where signs are posted with QR codes for them to learn about the rooms and connect to 360-degree views of the spaces. We are also pleased to be partnering with local businesses and organizations to provide safe, outdoor space for them during the pandemic. At present, our partners include Tiny Tunes Studio, Grit Health and Fitness, and Chabad South Loop.
Fanny’s bedroom virtual opening on June 25

More than 80 people from across the globe gathered for a virtual opening of Fanny’s bedroom on June 25th. The project took two years to complete and cost nearly $100,000. Our deepest thanks to our generous donors for making this project possible! The event included a video tour of the room, including a walk through the “secret passage” connecting her room to the bedroom of her brother George, and an online discussion with Bruce Goldfarb, author of the new biography of Frances Glessner Lee entitled *18 Tiny Deaths: The Untold Story of Frances Glessner Lee and the Invention of Modern Forensics*. For those unable to visit at this time, the room has been added to our “virtual tour” which can be accessed on the home page of our website.

Objects of the Month

Each month, we post a new article to our website focusing on a particular item from our collection. To view, visit the “Explore” tab of our website, and then click on the “The Collections.” Items featured in the last few months:

May – Richardson’s original sketch for the house (shown above)
June – 1874 illustration of Prairie Avenue houses from *The Land Owner*
July – Frances Glessner’s 1901 instructions for the household staff
Collections Cameo: Bust of Dante

This bust of Dante Alighieri was just returned to the Glessner house library, after an absence of several months for a "facelift." Although this is not the original bust owned by the Glessners, it is identical to the bronze bust they purchased in March 1890 while visiting Naples, Italy. In 2016, a visitor on one of our tours noted the bust in the 1923 historic photo of the room and mentioned that he had the same bust, but in plaster, and soon after, he donated it to the house. His plaster copy was made by P. P. Caproni & Brother, based in Boston, Massachusetts sometime between 1892 and 1927. The company was well known for its reproductions of classical and contemporary statues, which were supplied to museums, universities, art schools, and the general public.

The bronze finish was recently applied by Jo Hormuth, the founder of Chicago Architectural Arts. Hormuth focuses on the restoration of historically significant interiors and the design and fabrication of period rooms for museum exhibitions. Her work has included several Frank Lloyd Wright residences as well as Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow, Scotland. We are delighted to have an example of Jo Hormuth's artistry in our collection, adding another layer to the story of the Glessners' acquisition of their bust.

Cooking with Mattie features weekly historic recipes

For those of you who enjoying cooking (and who isn't doing more cooking these days) we are pleased to launch a new page on our website, Cooking with Mattie. You have met Mattie in the past, the Glessner's beloved cook from 1892 to 1912. Ellie of ElliePresents, who recreated Mattie and participated in our events in early March, has graciously agreed to share historic cooking techniques and recipes (with modern conversions) for those of you who would like to sample an authentic taste from the past. To review the recipes, simply visit our “Cooking with Mattie” page on the website under the “Explore” tab. Recipes include those from a progressive dinner down Prairie Avenue to wonderful picnic fare, and much more!
Videos posted to the Glessner House YouTube channel

With people unable to visit the house in person these days, we have tried to fill the gap by posting weekly videos to our YouTube channel.

Our ongoing series of secrets includes the following:
Secrets of Glessner House Part 3 – Library Alcove
Secrets of Glessner House Part 4 – Dining Room Pocket Door
Secrets of Glessner House Part 5 – Coal Dumbwaiter
Secrets of Glessner House Part 6 – Fanny’s Bedroom
Secrets of Glessner House Part 7 – Burglar Alarm
Secrets of Glessner House Part 8 – Gaslight Ignition System

We also produced a series of videos focusing on the surviving houses on Prairie Avenue:
Spotlight on Prairie Avenue Part 1 – Keith House
Spotlight on Prairie Avenue Part 2 – Marshall Field Jr. House
Spotlight on Prairie Avenue Part 3 – Coleman House
Spotlight on Prairie Avenue Part 4 – Rees House
Spotlight on Prairie Avenue Part 5 – Kimball House
Spotlight on Prairie Avenue Part 6 – Reid House

Simply visit YouTube.com and type in the titles above to listen to these short (5-10 minutes) and informative videos.
In Memoriam: George Rene Mathey (1929-2020)

George Mathey at 20 months (December 1930) and during his tenure as president of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott (c. 1990)

It is with sadness that we report the passing of George Rene Mathey on July 9, 2020 at the age of 91. George was a great-grandson of John and Frances Glessner. After graduating from Phillips Exeter Academy, George attended Harvard College where he received his BA in 1951 and his MArch from the Graduate School of Design in 1954. Except for a two-year period in the early 1960s, he spent his entire architectural career with the firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott. In 1977, he was made a principal and director, and the next year was elected president of the firm, a position he held until his retirement in 1994. It is of great interest to note that Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott was the successor firm to H. H. Richardson, the architect of Glessner House. Given the enormous respect the Glessners had for Richardson, one can imagine the pride they would have felt knowing that a great-grandson of theirs would become president of the firm.

In Memoriam: Karen Oliver (1943-2020)

It is with profound sadness that we report the sudden passing of our beloved docent, Karen Oliver, on Monday August 3 following a stroke. She passed away at the home of her son Joseph, daughter-in-law Jackie, and her beloved grandson Joey. Karen certified as a docent at Glessner House in 2004 and was among our most faithful and devoted volunteers, covering her "normal" Sunday shift, and always offering to pitch in as needed with special tours. In 2014, she was elected by her peers to serve as the chair of the Glessner House Docent Council, a position which she held for three years, during which time she also served on our Board of Directors. Always efficient, enthusiastic, and displaying a calm demeanor, she was the perfect person to lead our docents, instituting monthly docent lunches, the "gleam team" to keep the house clean, and creating the docent resource library.

The family has directed memorial donations to Glessner House, which will be used to fund a special project in Karen’s memory. Donations may be made by check or online, please note the gift is in memory of Karen.
Online Store now open

Glessner House recently launched its online store, which currently features a dozen of its most popular titles, including the newly released biography of Frances Glessner Lee, *18 Tiny Deaths*, shown above. To browse the store, simply click on the “Store” tab on our website. New items will be added throughout the summer and fall.

Color Our Collections

Do you like to color? If so, be sure to visit our new “Color Our Collections” page on the website (under the “Explore” tab) where you can print pages featuring images of the house and its collections ready for you to add your artistic touch!

Bill Tyre, Executive Director & Curator
wtyre@glessnerhouse.org