



Donate and Support



Spring has officially sprung at the Frances Willard House Museum and Archives, with lots of activity indoors and out (as well as online!). During the coming weeks, you can...

- 1) [Support](#) the continued restoration of our historic gardens
- 2) Take a **Bicycle Month** tour of the Museum
- 3) Register for our May 7 **Views** program on *Bicycle Fashions and the New Woman*
- 4) Explore our [online content](#), including our [blog](#), [digital exhibits](#), [YouTube channel](#), and social media profiles
- 5) Share this newsletter with a friend!

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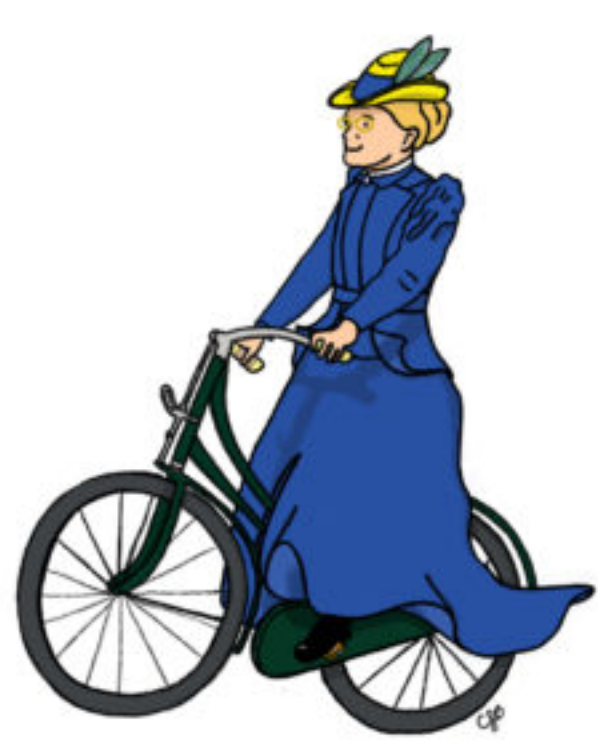
Garden Update



After seven years of re-creating the historic gardens surrounding the Frances Willard House Museum, the work is nearly complete. We used historic photographs from our Archives to add the reproduction ladder trellis, construct the wooden walkway, recreate the original urn base, and reproduce the dovecote. We also planted over 85 annuals, 1,060 bulbs, and 300 perennials (more or less!), along with a few shrubs and vines. The final bulbs and perennials have been sourced for purchase for 2023 – all plants that would have been available and used during Frances Willard's time.

We hope you will consider making a donation to fund this year's plants and the necessary maintenance items for 2023 and future years. Thank you for your support – and please come visit during the flowering season if you are nearby!

Bicycle Month Tours



Frances Willard would certainly have celebrated Bicycle Month in May, as she was an early adopter of bicycle riding and one of its strongest proponents. In addition to its health benefits, she believed that bicycling contributed to women's and girls' sense of independence and freedom. She named all of her bicycles Gladys, because they made her "glad." You can meet "Gladys III" first-hand by taking a tour of the Frances Willard House Museum.



May tours will be held at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm on the following dates:

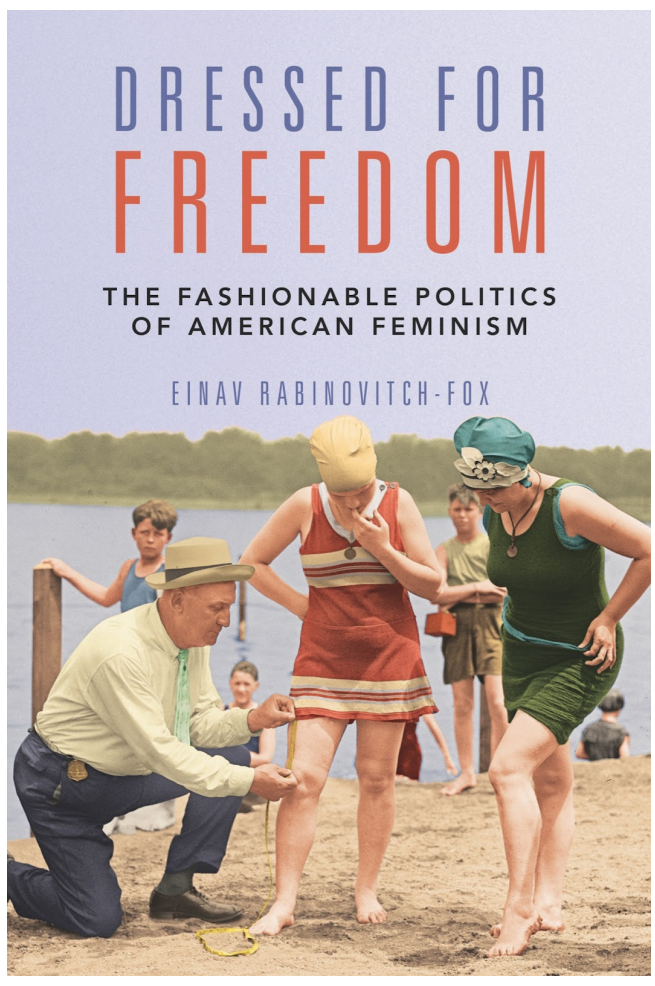
- Sundays, May 7, 21, and 28
- Thursdays, May 11, 18, and 25

Tours are available by reservation only. Masks are required. Visitors should request a tour by emailing info@franceswillardhouse.org or calling (847) 328-7500. Tour fees are \$15 per person. Admission is free for students at all levels. Payment must be made online or over the phone once the tour day and time has been confirmed.

Can't wait until May? RSVP for our final April tour day on Thursday, April 27 at 1pm, 2pm, or 3pm!

Views

"A Picture of Free, Untrammelled Womanhood": Bicycle Fashions and the New Woman



Join the Frances Willard House Museum on **Sunday, May 7 at 4pm Central Time** for a virtual conversation with Dr. Einav Rabinovitch-Fox on *Bicycle Fashions and the New Woman*.

The rise of the "cycling craze" in the late nineteenth century transformed not only women's leisure and mobility but also their fashions. Symbolizing a new understanding of femininity, women's rights advocates from Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Frances Willard adopted cycling and its fashions as an expression of their feminist views. This talk will explore how the rise of the New Woman, the bicycle, and dress reform shaped ideas concerning women's rights and movements, as well as the ways in which liberating ideas regarding cycling attire translated into everyday wear and politics.

RSVP [here](#). A Zoom link will be sent shortly before the event to everyone who registers. All registrants will also be sent a link to a recording of the program.

Dr. Einav Rabinovitch-Fox is a historian of modern American women's and gender history who teaches at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Her new book, *Dressed for Freedom: The Fashionable Politics of American Feminism*, examines the ways in which women used fashion to promote feminist agendas and to challenge ideas regarding gender, race, and class.

This program is part of the **Views** series at the Willard House, which examines topics in women's history with new eyes. Our free public programs happen only with your support. We hope you will consider making a donation [here](#). Thank you!



Women's History Around Town: Evanston Women's History Mural Community Input Session



You're invited to be a part of Evanston history! Art Encounter's Evanston Mural Arts Program is leading an exciting mural project this year, celebrating the lives and legacies of notable women leaders in Evanston history. The mural will be painted by a team of artists led by veteran muralist Dorian Sylvain on a public wall in downtown Evanston. The [Evanston Women's History Project](#) at the Evanston History Center and the [Shorefront Legacy Center](#) are collaborating to develop the content for this mural, and they invite you to share your input.

On Saturday, April 29 at 11:00am, the project leaders are gathering at Evanston Township High School to hear your stories of Evanston women who you think should be included in the mural – not only historical subjects but more contemporary women of local impact as well. Following this 90-minute listening session, the artist team will use the input gathered to develop the design for the mural. You can learn more about the project [here](#). To RSVP for the Community Input Session or to submit your thoughts and feedback online, click [here](#).



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