



A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon: Recreating a Nineteenth-Century Literary and Musical Entertainment



Join us on **Sunday, July 25 at 3pm** for a celebration of the reopening of the museum and the kick-off event for our new series of public programs, *Arts at the Willard House*. This outdoor re-creation of a nineteenth-century "literary and musical entertainment" will feature storytelling pieces adapted and performed by Fiona Maxwell and American parlor guitar music performed by the Waller and Maxwell Guitar Duo.

Nineteenth-century Evanston housed a vibrant community of elocutionists and musicians. In homes, voluntary societies, and schools, women and girls gained skills in self-expression and collaboration that they mobilized to fight for gender equality and social reform. A trailblazing orator and bestselling author, Frances Willard helped lay the foundation for successive generations of socially conscious and artistically innovative women in Evanston and around the world.

Our event is called *A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon* in reference to entertainments held at many Chicago settlement houses during the 1890s. Evanston women often organized or performed at these gatherings, which were intended to foster "good fellowship" across boundaries of age, gender, class, race, ethnicity, and religion. Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience the history of women's artistry and activism!

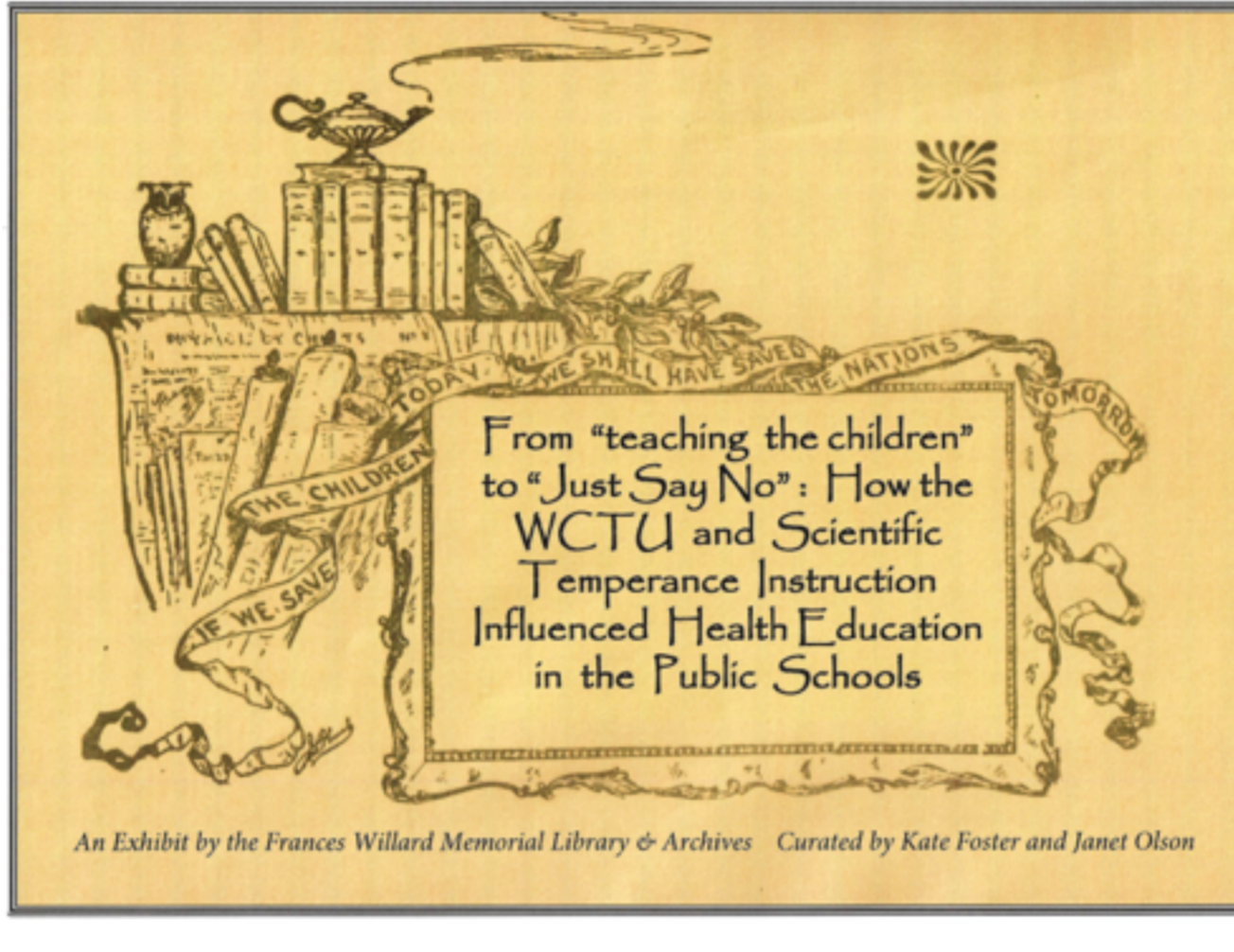
The event is free and welcomes audience members of all ages. Attendees are asked to bring their own seating and spread out across the lawn.

We encourage donations to support our free public programs. You can make a donation [here](#).

Fiona Maxwell is the Director of Museum Operations and Communications at the Frances Willard House Museum. A PhD candidate in History at the University of Chicago, her research explores the ways in which volunteers and participants at Chicago settlement houses used the spoken arts to activate social democracy. Maxwell received a BA in Theatre and History from Northwestern University with a module in Theatre for Young Audiences. She is a youth drama teacher at the Piven Theatre Workshop and has performed in storytelling venues across the Chicago area.

Anne Waller and Mark Maxwell specialize in the performance of works for nineteenth- and early twentieth-century guitars on modern and historical instruments. As the Waller and Maxwell Guitar Duo, they have toured for 40 years, have been presented in a wide variety of festival, concert, and radio venues, and have performed, lectured, and taught master classes throughout the United States and Europe. They have made recordings for the *Music from Northwestern Series* and Berto Records. Waller has directed the guitar program at the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music since 1985, and Maxwell has been the Coordinator of Guitar Studies at the DePaul University School of Music since 1986.

From the Archives: New Digital Exhibit



The Archives is pleased to announce the launch of a [new digital exhibit](#): *From "teaching the children" to "Just Say No": How the WCTU and Scientific Temperance Instruction Influenced Health Education in the Public Schools*.

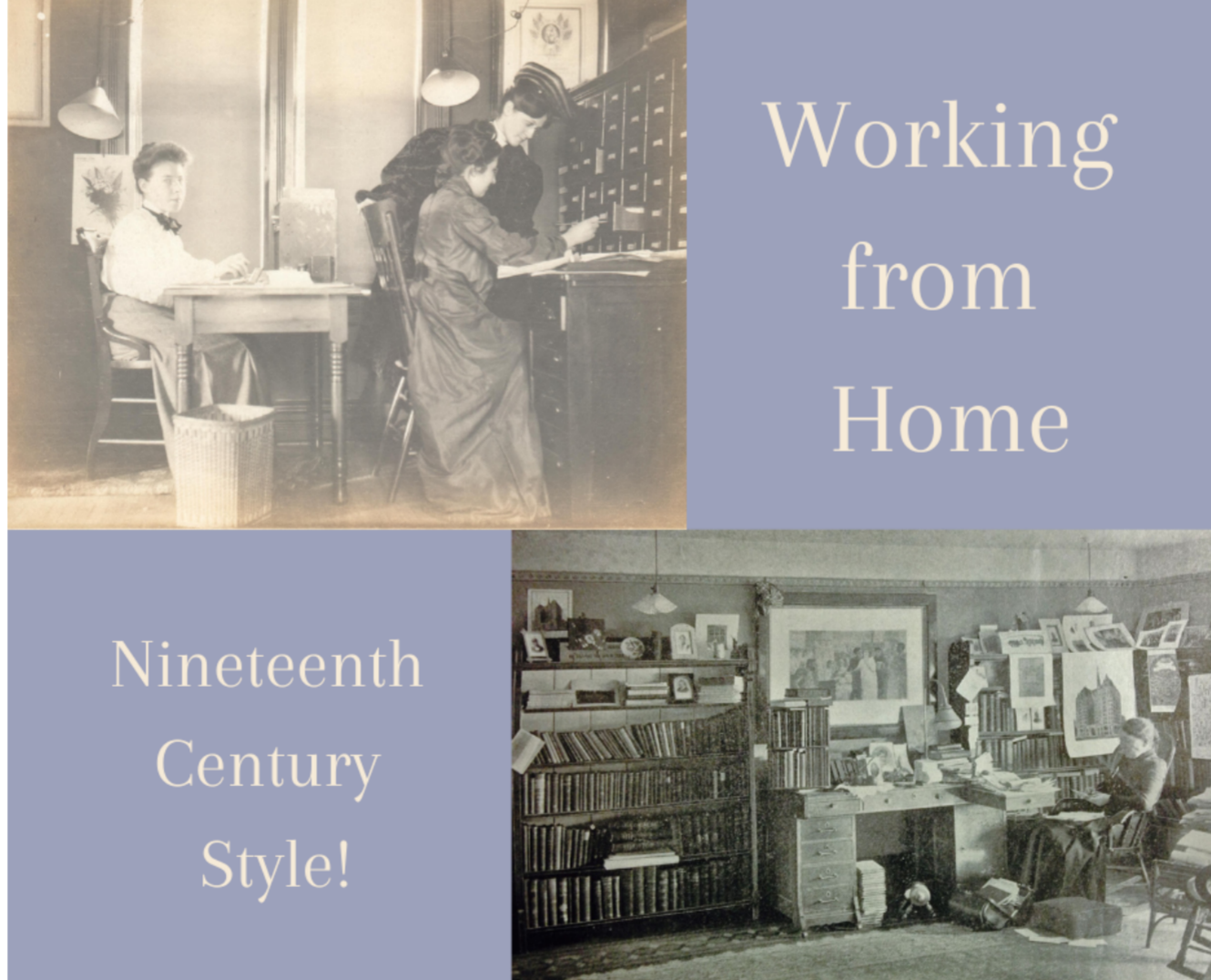
Educating young people was part of the WCTU's mission from the beginning. Sunday school lessons and Loyal Temperance Legion activities offered temperance education to limited audiences and focused on the moral and spiritual issues of temperance. Scientific Temperance Instruction, on the other hand, was intended to reach all children in public schools, as a state-mandated program of health education emphasizing the physiological consequences of alcohol consumption.

This exhibit features a small sampling from the wide range of research materials in the Willard Memorial Library and Archives – documents, publications, photographs, and artifacts – that tell the story of Scientific Temperance Instruction and the WCTU women who spearheaded the movement, from its introduction in the 1870s to its implementation, evolution, and continuing influence on health education.

The digital exhibit was created by Archives intern Margaret Reilly. It is based on a physical exhibit on display in the Frances Willard Memorial Library and WCTU Archives that was curated by Janet Olson and Kate Fowler.

You can explore the wide range of digital exhibits curated by Museum and Archives staff and interns [here](#).

Working From Home Since 1865



Working from home might seem like a peculiarity of pandemic life, but the women of the Willard House perfected the practice during the nineteenth century. As both a historic home and a site of women's activism, the Frances Willard House Museum showcases how Willard, her family, and her circle of women reformers blended and balanced everyday home activities with public-facing work. **We've officially reopened, so book your tour today!**

Tours are available by reservation only. Thursday and Sunday afternoons are preferred, but there is some scheduling flexibility. Visitors should request a tour at least 48 hours in advance using our [online reservation form](#) or by 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.

Please note that health and safety measures will be in place. At this time, tour groups will be limited to 5 visitors, and no children under 12 years old will be admitted. Visitors and staff must wear masks, practice social distancing, and stay home if not feeling well.

We look forward to seeing you at the Willard House soon!



July print from the Willard House Dining Room

[Donate and Support](#)

