



What's Happening?

Here's an overview of upcoming events. Read inside for more details on each of these events or call the Vrooman Mansion at 309-828-8816.

Cooking Classes

- March 16 Irish Favorites
- March 31 Easter in the Country
- April 12 Appetizers for any party
- May 3 Mother's Day Tea
- May 5 Spring into Brunch

Other events

- May 16 *Somewhere in Time* Fashion Show & Tea
- July 31 Lincoln Event
- Nov. 9 Vendor show
- Dec. 7 Teddy Bear Tea
- Dec. 18 Christmas at the Mansions

Come join us for all of these special events!

Become a part of history!

Vrooman Mansion Bed & Breakfast and Hospitality Establishment

VROOMAN MANSION

1869

VROOMAN MANSION BED & BREAKFAST

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We're on the web!
VroomanMansion.com

from Julia's desk

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Vrooman Mansion Bed & Breakfast Newsletter

Upcoming Events...

Cooking classes

We are starting up our cooking classes again in February. The following demonstration classes are co-sponsored with Heartland Community College. Come hungry, as you'll be sampling each of the dishes prepared, plus, the recipes are provided. Registration and additional details can be found by contacting Heartland Community College:

online: www.heartland.edu/communityed
phone: 309.268.8160

Irish Favorites

Tuesday, March 16th
6:00p.m.-8:30p.m. Fee: \$39 per person

March brings in spring winds and a kiss on the Blarney Stone with St. Patrick's Day. Join Chef Steve Sparrow for an enjoyable evening of Irish-themed cooking and tasting. Because the fishing industry is a major part of Irish life, we'll start the evening with Smoked Wild Salmon, served on toasted bread points. Next Chef Steven will give Irish Corned Beef and Cabbage his special touch followed by delicious Apple Pudding.

Easter in the Country

Wednesday, March 31st
6:00p.m.-8:30p.m. Fee: \$39 per person

Again, Chef Steven Sparrow joins us to demonstrate a traditional Easter dinner — country style. The main course, Rosemary Chicken, is a symbolic dish, chosen because rosemary represents the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head prior to his crucifixion. This will be served with a red or golden potato, asparagus spears, and followed by a strawberry cream cheese pie. Come hungry!

Appetizers for Any Party

Monday, April 12th
6:00p.m.-8:30p.m. Fee: \$39 per person

Straight from the downtown Bloomington delights of Kelly's Bakery catering menu, you will enjoy bacon-wrapped dates, fresh avocado salsa, a rosemary focaccia, and a spinach and artichoke dip that loves the crock pot. And, last but certainly not

least, chocolate dipped shortbreads that are super easy & delicious.

Mother's Day Tea

Monday, May 3rd
6:00p.m.-8:30p.m. Fee: \$39 per person

She never misses your birthday, she knows just the right thing to cheer you up and her hugs are always the best— she's your mom. Let Luther Oaks Dining Services Director Kenneth Jenzen and Head Chef, Julie Pepple, help you thank her for everything she's done with an elegant Mother's day tea party in the historic Vrooman Mansion. Sip on assorted teas from around the world, enjoy Mint Ice Tea Shake-Ups, sample delicate tea sandwiches paired with a decadent Waldorf salad.

Spring Into Brunch

Wednesday, May 5th
6:00p.m.-8:30p.m. Fee: \$39 per person

In this class with Kelly you will learn secrets to easy individual quiche, using local eggs and Kilgus Dairy cream combined with local spring vegetables and baked until fluffy and light: perfect for a week-end brunch. Watch as she whips up a dark chocolate and caramel bread pudding. And, find out that working with yeast is as easy as can be with this step by step recipe for cinnamon rolls. She, also, shows you how to make party potatoes and light cranberry orange scones.

Somewhere In Time Fashion Show and Tea

Sunday May 16th,
1:00p.m.-2:30p.m. & 3:30p.m.-5:00p.m.
Fee: \$27 per person

Join The Tea Ladies as they present a style show featuring fashions through the ages. Fourteen vintage and reproduction costumes from the 1860's through the 1920's will be modeled in the parlor following a delightful tea buffet served by the Vrooman Mansion staff.

Pre-paid reservations required. Call Nancy Perzo at 1-309-827-2200.

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Another Gift for our Archives

We always welcome tangible gifts and stories to return to the mansion. Our latest was this month when Bill & Glenda Bunn stayed at the mansion. They brought copies of newspaper clippings about the family, but most interesting was a story and pictures of Bill's father, Marshall. He raked leaves for the Vrooman's with one arm. He was able to do this with a "special rake" invented by Julia's cousin in Colorado. The rake had wheels on the outside edge to prevent the rake from dragging in the grass enabling someone with a handicap to rake. We thank Bill for these newspaper articles to add to the history archives.

History Nook

Romance

This is the time of year to think of romance with Valentine's Day coming near. How did Carl & Julia Vrooman meet?

According to what was written by Helen Cavanagh in her book "Carl Shurz Vrooman", Carl was on the French Riviera in 1894 and met Miss Julia Scott who he said, "Is the most delightful girl of my acquaintance. If I know her for long, I shall get to like very much I am sure..." Indeed he did fall in love quickly. He thought her religion was very personal and real, and such eyes - "...brimming with that mellow, magnetic liquid light as lovely as inspiring". They later were in Venice, Italy where the romance flourished. Gondolas filled with musicians came to serenade Julia in front of the hotel almost every night. While floating down the Grand Canal in Venice was when Carl first told Julia that he loved her.

This courtship continued at home and abroad until December 29th, 1896 when they were married at 410 Westminster Place, St. Louis. This was the home of her sister and brother-in-law Charles & Letitia Bromwell.



The St. Louis Post Dispatch described the wedding as quiet but tastefully elegant! The Louis XVI drawing room was converted into a white chapel with the ceremony performed by Dr. Frank Vrooman, brother of Carl. Julia's attendants were her sister Letitia and cousins Letitia Stevenson, daughter of Vice President Adlai Stevenson and Agatha Bullitt. Walter Vrooman was the best man.

They honeymooned in Excelsior Springs. Carl & Julia remained married for almost 70 years and were true soul-mates!

Dana's Tool Box

The last 3 months have been fairly busy. It is usually the hardest time of year to get many projects done. You have the colder, shorter days to deal with. And, switching from summer to fall and fall to winter with taking out the air conditioner units & getting them to the 3rd floor, putting away the porch furniture, flower pots & garden hoses and raking the many, many leaves! And, then you turn around and it's time to decorate for Christmas!!

Plus, an opportunity came up that was hard to refuse. The Old House Society was trying to find a new owner for their warehouse in Danvers. The early 20th century building was designed by architect Arthur Pillsbury (the same architect that designed the 1900 addition to the mansion — I guess, we have a soft spot for Mr. Pillsbury's buildings). The warehouse has been in disrepair since last spring, when melted snow seeped into its awning causing it to crumble and pull down the front brick façade.

We obtained the building for a nominal cost. And, again, asked for help from Dana's cousin,



Our new Arthur Pillsbury acquisition: a warehouse in Danvers that needed some tender loving care, and a few bricks re-layed!

Ed to start relaying the 3,000 bricks that had fallen. Dana and Ed, with some help from Dana's dad (a retired bricklayer), spent 10 days rebuilding the façade. They, also, spent time patching the roof, cleaning and rearranging the interior of the building.

Therefore, there hasn't been a lot of progress on the carriage house. We have purchased a couple of beautiful, antique sconces from

Gridley Antiques for the Charlevoix Suite. Dana did have to rewire them and do some creative modifying to mount them, but they're perfect.

And, currently, we're back on the 1st floor where Dana has begun sanding all the woodwork on the windows.

Follow up on past events

Vendor show —

Many shoppers came to the mansion on November 10th, 2009 for our first sponsored vendor show. A wide variety of products were available from 20 vendors throughout the mansion. Items included food products, jewelry, purses, personal items, home & office decorations, candles, kitchen items, books, cutlery and doll clothes.

Refreshments were served throughout the evening. We appreciated all those who came & supported our local businesses.

Thanks to all of the vendors who came on board for the first time. We do plan to host a vendor show on Tuesday, November 9th, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. thru 7:30 p.m.

Teddy Bear Tea —

On December 1st, 2009 the "Friends of Vrooman Mansion" hosted a Teddy Bear Tea. We collected teddy bears to give to Chestnut Health Systems for adolescents entering residential treatment for addictions.

Over 85 bears were placed under the large Christmas tree by guests of all ages. We thank all who donated a bear and supported our community service project. We are planning to have this event again on December 7th, 2010. Plan to come!

Christmas at the Mansions Tour —

On December 19th, 2009, Vrooman Broadview and David Davis Mansions hosted an open house with free shuttle service for guests. Refreshments & entertainment were enjoyed. We also featured a "mystery mansion" which was a private beautifully decorated historic home opened to the public for the tour. This home remained a "mystery" until the evening of the event!

Our thanks to "Judge Davis," Christine Travis & Nikki McLeese who promoted the Mansions Tour event during the Holiday Parade while riding in an antique car.



We want to extend our sympathy to Janet Blue & her family on the loss of her husband, Ron, to cancer late in December. Janet serves on the planning committee for the Christmas Tour on behalf of the Vrooman Mansion. Ron helped design our program in 2008 and Janet helps secure funding through sponsorships. She also volunteers to help with our progressive dinners. We wish for comfort and peace for the family at this time of their loss.

Raffle Winner —

Every year at the Christmas Tour we sell raffle tickets for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. A portion of the money raised this time went to the American Cancer Society. The winner was **David Lee from Washington, IL**. He and nine guests won a progressive dinner at the three mansions. David Davis will honor them with appetizers and drinks, a dinner will be served at the Vrooman Mansion, with dessert and coffee at Broadview Mansion. David won a prize valued at \$1,000 for just \$1.00. Congratulations and thanks to all of our guests who purchased raffle tickets.

Pam's Recipe Box — A sweet chocolate treat for Valentine's Chocolate Raspberry Temptations

Makes about 24 truffles

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 Tablespoons raspberry-flavored liqueur
- 6 (1-ounce) squares bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 4 (1-ounce) squares semisweet chocolate chopped
- 1/2 (8 ounce) package dried raspberries, chopped – can substitute with dried cranberries
- 1 (1.5-ounce) package dehydrated raspberries, pureed – optional*

Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan, combine cream, milk, and raspberry liqueur. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat.
2. In a separate bowl, combine bittersweet and semisweet chocolate. Pour hot cream mixture over chocolates, stirring gently until chocolate is completely melted. Mix in dried raspberries. Place in an airtight container in freezer. Chill thoroughly.
3. Using a small ice cream or cookie scoop, dip small amount of chocolate mixture. Using hands, roll chocolate to form 1-inch balls. Coat truffles with pureed dehydrated raspberries, cocoa powder or red colored sugar.
4. Chill until ready to serve. Enjoy!

