

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

## **King Manor Museum has received funding from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for its first ever exhibition catalogue**

*Grant Will Support the Upcoming Exhibition Catalogue “The Queens of King Manor: Women in Historic Preservation”*

King Manor was awarded \$13,750 from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation to produce its first ever exhibition catalogue for their 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary show, *Queens of King Manor*, dedicated to exploring the history and legacy of women in historic preservation using King Manor’s founding as a case study. The confluence of this historic anniversary, along with the women’s suffrage centennial, and recent social activism movements like #metoo or activism against voter suppression, provides an incredibly unique opportunity to reach audiences and use history to make a difference today.

The support of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation will make King Manor Museum the first small historic house museum in New York City to have a professionally published academic catalog and assist in their vision of raising the profile of historic house museums.

The *Queens of King Manor* exhibition, scheduled to open to the public in September 2020, celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote and was ratified on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1920 --while acknowledging that these rights did not include *all* women. Due to social distancing requirements given the current health crisis, the museum will also produce a robust online experience, with related public programs exploring women’s citizenship and voting rights in the early Republic and corresponding educational materials for teachers and students, but looks forward to doing a book tour of Long Island (after all, the women’s club that saved King Manor is called the King Manor Association of Long Island!) following the book’s release.

Through material objects in the collection, the exhibition and catalog explore the Colonial Revival movement and its relationship to ideas like Republican motherhood, the cult of domesticity, increasing industrialization and immigration, and their legacy in “pink collar” jobs today. Items featured in the exhibition range from colonial era furniture, 18th- and 19th-century domestic objects, as well as 20<sup>th</sup>-century Women’s Club memorabilia.

The richly-illustrated catalogue will feature a selection of key objects from the museum’s collection and archives, which delves into the history of the women who founded King Manor, their world, and the impact work like theirs still has on the field today. Catalogue articles will be dynamic in their critical examinations of several of the exhibition’s objects, which explore how material culture aligns with issues of early feminism, preservation, domestic practices, race, and class. The project was executed to put forth a greater understanding of women's historic

involvement in preserving early American history and how it relates to the social and political issues facing America today.

*“King Manor Museum offers modern Jamaica an oasis. The legacy of Rufus King (1755 - 1827) as a framer and signer of the United States Constitution, a U.S. Senator, and a passionate anti-slavery advocate is exceptional. King owned 160 acres of land and developed it as a successful working farm without slave labor at a time when his contemporaries relied on that work force. This house museum is moving forward to embrace the diversity of its neighborhood with educational and cultural offerings”* said Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation

King Manor thanks the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for their continued support of our mission to use our history to teach critical thinking. Foundation funds recently supported a Greater Hudson Heritage Network grant awarded for the conservation of Mary Alsop King’s gown and shawl, which will be on display at King Manor in autumn 2020.

**About the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation:**

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, primarily supports the study of Long Island history and its role in the American experience. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in August 2004, the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner’s Island, NY. The Gardiner family and their descendants have owned Gardiner’s Island since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from King Charles I of England. The Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner’s personal passion for New York history.

**About King Manor Museum:**

King Manor Museum is located in King Park at 150-03 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, New York near the E train terminus at Jamaica Center, the LIRR to Jamaica, the F train to Parsons, and many bus lines. The museum was the home and farm of founding father Rufus King from 1805 to 1827. Rufus King was a framer of the U.S. Constitution, and an early, outspoken opponent of slavery. King Manor later became the estate of King's son, John Alsop King, who served as New York's Governor where he fought against unfair fugitive slave laws. King Manor has been a museum since 1900. Detailed information about King Manor’s events, history, and other programs is available at [www.kingmanor.org](http://www.kingmanor.org).

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Make a wish for a  
strong and safe  
recovery by making  
1,000 cranes!!

*King*  
MANOR

#JamaicaStrong  
#BlackLivesMatter  
#MuseumsAreNotNeutral

Our annual cocktail party fundraiser is going virtual, so join us for an online evening of history and community! Celebrating the 233rd anniversary of the signing of the US Constitution and King Manor's own 120th birthday, sipping cocktails with us will help King Manor continue to engage and inspire over 5,500 students, their families, and 10,000 members of our community every year! Our virtual cocktail party features an hour and a half jam-packed with social activities, auctions, and a first look at our new exhibition *The Queens of King Manor*.

*Sponsoring King Manor's educational programming is good business — putting your company's name out into the community as you support the only museum in Southeast Queens and help us to promote critical thinking for a healthier democracy. We serve a diverse and vibrant community of 650,000 people where word-of-mouth is key, and we hand out hundreds of flyers every month to visitors and program participants. Our online presence is growing too, as we move some of our programs to the internet, where we reach and serve people across the country!*