Historic New England Adds Jewelry Design Material To Its Collection

BOSTON — Historic New England recently acquired material from the Frank N. Nathan Company and the Church Company. These companies were part of Boston’s thriving jewelry industry in the late Nineteenth to mid-Twentieth Centuries. From ancient times to today, jewelry has been worn as a mode of self-expression or to convey social status, to indicate religious beliefs or political views or for the sheer enjoyment of a beautiful object. The Nathan and Church designs complement Historic New England’s existing jewelry collection and provide information about consumer taste, the design process and the materials used in jewelry making.

This new collection contains 83 mounted and unmounted pendant and watercolor drawings from the two companies that beautifully illustrate designs for rings, brooches and pendant dating from 1928 to 1960. Many of the design drawings contain handwritten information, such as buyer names, sizing information and metal and stone choices for the jewelry. A portion of the drawings are mounted. The remainder are on acid-free cardstock or company stationery.

The Frank N. Nathan Company was founded in 1891 and specialized in antique and modern jewelry and silverware. It was located on Washington Street not far from the heart of Boston’s jewelry center, the Jeweler’s Building at 371 to 379 Washington Street. The Church Company employed jewelers and silversmiths and was located at 47 Winter Street.

Newport Mansions’ Ad Campaign Invites Visitors To ‘Live The Drama’

NEWPORT, R.I. — The Preservation Society of Newport County has launched “Live The Drama,” an advertising campaign that shines a light on one of the most fascinating aspects of the Newport Mansions: the dramatic lives of the wealthy families who resided in them. The Preservation Society has partnered with Nail Communications, an award-winning creative agency based in Providence, R.I., which proposed this unconventional approach to engaging new audiences with the properties. The strategy? Dramatize the people and the stories behind these legendary houses in the style of a Hollywood blockbuster. For The Breakers, the largest and grandest of the Newport Mansions, that meant creating a trailer, billboards, landing page and all the trappings of movie marketing.

“There’s no denying The Breakers is one of the most exquisite mansions of its time,” said Trudy Conn, chief executive officer and executive director of the Preservation Society. “But it’s so much more than that. We wanted to bring these spaces to life by spotlighting some of the fascinating people who walked these beautiful halls.”

In the case of The Breakers, that meant the inimitable Vanderbilt family. The television spot alludes to several historic storylines that affected the course of the family’s legacy. As one of the wealthiest households in American history, the Vanderbilts experienced an unprecedented level of influence and scrutiny. Ripe with drama, intrigue and a remarkable, historically authentic backdrop, the campaign offers a taste of what visitors will find when visiting The Breakers.

“It’s no secret our society is completely transfixed by the lifestyles of the wealthy,” Nail Communications partner Alec Bockett said. “As we introduced the Vanderbilts’ stories, their incredible house became one of the key characters in the drama.”

With the recent popularity of period dramas like Downton Abbey and The Glided Age, the Preservation Society and Nail recognized a unique opportunity. There is a large, untapped audience who would love the chance to walk through stunning homes where the owners and their stories were real, not a screenwriter’s fantasy. “The stories of the people who lived and worked in the mansions have always been part of our tours and a favorite with visitors,” Conn said. “Now this is a significant focus of our marketing as well.”

The “Live The Drama” campaign will run throughout New England and the tri-state area through television, digital, billboards and social media platforms. You can watch the trailer for The Breakers and learn more about the campaign at www.newportmansions.org/live-the-drama.

PHLF Awards $120,000 For Renovation Of Historic Religious Structures

PITTSBURGH, PENN. — The Historic Religious Properties Grant Program of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) has awarded a total of $120,000 in matching grants to 16 congregations in Allegheny County, Penn., as part of its 2023 funding cycle. The monies, which will leverage about $500,000 raised by the congregations, will be used to fund restoration, renovation and maintenance projects on the historic structures utilized by religious organizations. The work ranges from masonry restoration to roof repairs and renovation of wooden doors, and stained glass windows, among other needs. PHLF is the only non-profit organization in Allegheny County offering a continuing program of financial and technical assistance to historic religious property owners. They have awarded more than 290 such grants totaling more than $1.5 million, and provided more than 60 technical assistance consultations, since the program’s inception in 1997. This effort is made possible through individual donations, private foundations, and our Donor Advised Funds.

Grant recipients include:
- Calvary Episcopal Church, Shadyside, for the interior stair repair
- Church of The Ascension, Shadyside, for some entry stair repairs
- Deer Creek United Presbyterian, West Deer Township, to replace five sets of exterior doors
- Fairhaven United Methodist Church, Overbrook, for stained glass window restoration
- First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, Oakland, for masonry and roof repairs
- First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh, Bloomfield, for stained glass window restoration
- Holy Faith Tabernacle Church, Knoxville, for roof repairs and masonry repairs/repointing
- King of Kings Baptist Ministries, Garfield, for masonry repairs, replace steel liner
- McKeeport Area Shared Ministry UMC, McKeeport, for slate roof repairs
- Pinebrook United Presbyterian Church, McKeeport, for roof repairs to chapel
- Mulberry Community Church, Wilkinsburg, for stained glass window repairs
- Pittsburgh New Church, Point Breeze, for masonry repairs to bell tower
- Praise Temple Deliverance Church, Hazelwood, for slate roof repairs
- St Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Highland Park, for roof replacement
- Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, Sewickley, for masonry repairs and sealing
- Trinity Cathedral, Downtown Pittsburgh, for repointing along Oliver Avenue side of building.

For more information about this program, contact David Parkes at david@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 516.