

***“Centennial “Babies Honored During Old Fashioned Sunday Celebration
Joanne FitzGibbon***

During the Town of Colonie's Centennial celebration in 1995, ten babies born to Town of Colonie residents around the centennial date, June 7th, were chosen to be the “2095 Bicentennial Committee”. The last time this group was gathered together was in 2005 and they indicated they would like their next meeting to take place when they turned 16 and were able to drive to the event!

Five of the 10 “2095 Bicentennial Committee” members were honored on September 11th at OFS:

Katherine Alexis Battaglia daughter of the late Augustus Battaglia and Anne Battaglia

Ian Fleming Forsland son of Hal & Elizabeth Forsland

Meaghan Grace Potter daughter of Terrance & Teresa Potter

James Spencer Mans & Laura Isabella Mans, son & daughter of Jeffrey & Sandra Mans

Bella Napoli Italian Bakery donated a beautiful cake which was enjoyed by all. We look forward to the “Committee” meeting again in five years when the members turn 21.

Clara Infausto Memorial Concert

On June 24th and 25th, Park Playhouse joined the Friends of Pruyn House in presenting "*Something Wonderful*" a special benefit concert in memory of Mrs. Clara Infausto. Clara had a major impact on both organizations and we are pleased to have benefitted from her generosity and support over the years. Owen M. Smith, the Producing Director of Park Playhouse, put together an excellent cast just for this performance. He narrated the production touching on the various stories of the shows and songs of the composers Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein. More than 200 people filled the Barn helping to raise money for Park Playhouse to continue their efforts to present plays in the Park. It was a pleasure to once again hear those special songs we all remember.

Collections and Refurbishment

Lorna Skaaren

Our Committee's efforts this year have been in the North Front Parlor (to be renamed), a room without any real definition up until now. With Committee member, Fred Hershey's interest and excitement over learning of the existence of the Casparus Pruyn family's 1846 inventory, we wholeheartedly agreed to be guided by it for restoration. The inventory includes Wilton carpets, Argand lamps, and box stoves. While we couldn't afford a Wilton carpet, Fred cleverly applied a Wilton design to a commercial wall-to-wall carpet. In your visits to PH, be sure to check out the beautiful Argand chandelier crafted for PH by a New York "tinsmith" hanging in the parlor. Additionally we've opened up the original fireplace in which a box stove, loaned to us by collector John Mesick, has been inserted. The fireplace mantle has been restored to its original black faux marble finish by a talented local artist.

The wall color, while seemingly bright, is appropriate for the period as well as accurate for the house. We've become knowledgeable of early PH wall and mantle paint colors through microscopic analysis of scrapings generously conducted by Doug Bucher, a local restoration architect. The draperies, also bright, were chosen by our Committee for period and color appropriateness.

In 2012, the Committee will work toward actual furnishing of this parlor. The 1846 inventory tells us this was the Pruyn family's dining room but we may have to interpret the room as a study or family parlor since there seems to be strong sentiment to keeping the current, cozy dining room where it is.

Memories of Old Fashioned Sunday...

Program Updates

Dam Rowley

On Thursday, October 13, 2011, a group of 18 ventured over to Lenox, MA to The Mount, home of Edith Wharton. The group toured the 20th century mansion designed by Wharton. She eschewed the excesses of the Victorian Era and stressed a return to proportion, harmony and most of all simplicity. By today's standards, the Mount was opulent and quite ornate! The gardens were exquisite and beautiful even for mid-October. It was then onto The Red Lion Inn for a wonderful and sumptuous dinner. The Inn lived up to its reputation for a fine dining experience. A delightful day was enjoyed by all.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Friends together with the NY Council for the Humanities welcomed Siena Associate Professor Bruce Eelman on Sunday, November 6th. Mr. Eelman presented a lecture titled, "Ellsworth's Avengers: The New York 44th Regiment and the American Civil War." His lecture focused on the military, political, and social experiences of the war both from a New York and a national perspective.

President's Message

Camille Stasior

As I write this, plans are being made for holiday travel and entertaining, both personally and at the Pruyn House. Where did the year go? We had another busy, successful year, filled with improvements and memories for our Town residents. Educational programs, concerts and weddings, to name a few, made our beautiful complex come alive. Next year will be more of the same and we hope to see you.

We are delighted to welcome **44** new "Friends" who joined from Nov. '10 through Oct. '11

Anne Barbagallo
Deborah Staley Barnum
Justin and Cindy Bates
Mary Lou Beauchea
Julie Bonanni
James Bovair
Sandra Brien
John & Elizabeth Brunski
Donna M. Clement
Anna Coryea
Karen Corliss
Judith Daniels
Dufresne & Cavanaugh
Funeral Home

William J. Dwyer
Sheila Fero
Susan & Jason Germain
Ruth Hasler
Peter Iannacone
Marjorie Jacobs
Alissa Jones
Andrew Kinerson
Joseph Krausman
Bonnie Lu LaManna
Sophie Leary
Evelyn Lewis
Judith Matteo
Jacqueline Mills

Carol Napierski
Mary S. Orr
James Pruyn
Miranda Rand
Cheryl Richardson
Roxanne Speck
David Smith & Shirley Hunter
Jennifer Stah
Jacqueline Towne
Den Tarantino
Mike & Betty Van Kleeck
Frank Visco

So, from our House to yours, we wish you and your family a blessed and peaceful season, filled with your own memories, making your life come alive.

A Look Back at the Concerts...

Our five Concerts attracted more than 2,000 people to this site. It was a pleasure to see those who attended enjoying the grounds, the gardens, the music and the company of family and friends. Under the direction of co-chair Joanne FitzGibbon, performers and vendors were arranged and volunteers scheduled. The Concerts raised over \$8,250.00 for our restoration fund. In addition, FPH partnered with our not-for-profit vendors - the Latham Rotary, BVM of Czestochowa Polish Church, the German American Auxiliary, and the American Italian Heritage Association whose proceeds from food sales benefitted their projects. A portion of the Concert expenses were underwritten by special contributions from thirty two donors. Our thanks to all those who donated, participated, and volunteered to make the 2011 Concerts a success! See you at the "Barn" next year.

News from the Garden

Barbara Soehn

On September 15th the Buhrmaster Barn, the Verdoy Schoolhouse, potting shed, and the grounds of the Pruyn House were most delightful as the Fort Orange Garden Club (FOGC) members welcomed several hundred visitors to a Garden Club of America (GCA) Flower Show.

Rabbit Tales was created and produced by the members of the FOGC guided by the rules and regulations of the GCA. It was the result of hundreds of hours of planning, planting, construction and painting of sets for the various divisions. The organizing committee consisted of two co-chairs, the chairs for 27 areas of responsibility and their committee members. A GCA Flower Show is a highly competitive event. All entries are judged by teams of GCA judges with each entrant hoping for a blue ribbon or one of the coveted GCA Awards.

This year in addition to the four customary divisions of Flower Arranging, Horticulture, Photography, Education and Conservation, the division of Botanical Jewelry and Embellishment brought a new concept to the use of plant material and great appreciation for the creativity of the entrants. A Children's class, entitled "Mr. McGregor's Garden", was added to the Flower Arranging Division and displayed in the Potting Shed. It attracted 12 young flower arrangers who created delicious looking baskets for Peter Rabbit all of which were remarkably charming and awarded a blue ribbon.

The FOGC and individual members were pleased to have been honored with 12 GCA Awards and 12 Judges' Commendations. Perhaps a quote from the GCA Judges' Report wraps up this "Tale" most appropriately: "On behalf of the Garden Club of America, congratulations to you, your Committee and Fort Orange Garden Club on your charming and successful GCA Flower Show, *Rabbit Tales*. Your show presented the public with judged exhibits of flower arrangement, horticulture, photography, botanical jewelry and embellishment, conservation and education in keeping with the mission of GCA. The teamwork of your members was evident in all aspects. Each and every judge gave you a standing ovation for the amazing hospitality shown to her with cheers of 'Ears to You!' and 'Hare, Hare!'"

Summer Weddings – photos from 2 of our 21 joyful events

Coming Events

November 17 th – 20 th , Thurs – Sun: Th.2pm-9pm, Fri.10am-9pm, Sat.& Sun.10am-5pm	Hudson Mohawk Weavers – Show and Sale <i>Fashion Show Daily Th & F at 7pm; S & S at 2pm</i>
Saturday, December 3 rd 10am – 4pm	Blue Creek Garden Club Greens Show – <i>theme: "Say It With Music " – Boutique - free admission</i>
Sunday, December 4 th 12:30pm – 4:00pm	Friends of Pruyn House Open House & Greens Show <i>Music by the Recorders Society and refreshments – free</i>
Wednesday, December 7 th 6:00pm – 8:30pm	Members' Party – Champagne, hors d'oeuvres, <i>desserts & music. Free members' party</i>
Wednesday, December 14 th 7-9:30pm	ARIA – Vocalists with piano accompaniment...traditional <i>holiday melodies...wine and cheese reception. \$5.00 admission, limited seating – RSVP (518) 783-1435</i>
Saturday, December 17 th 1pm – 3pm	Children's Holiday Party - magician, face painting, visit <i>from Santa, refreshments & more. Free but space is limited, RSVP (518)783-1435</i>

For information & reservations (518) 783-1435 www.pruynhouse.org Email: pruyhouse@colonie.org

*Friends of Pruyn House
207 Old Niskayuna Road
P.O. Box 1254
Latham, NY 12110-8754*

Photo Captions:

Cover page:

Colonie Town Supervisor Paula Mahan, Meaghan Potter, Laura Mans, James Mans, Katherine Battaglia, Ian Fleming and Joanne FitzGibbon.

Page 2:

Park Playhouse singers delivered a crowd pleasing performance of Rogers and Hammerstein's songs in "Something Wonderful", a tribute to Clara Infausto.

Page 3:

Friends Madeline Santore (l) and Sophia Pasinella enjoy OFS.

125th NY Regiment Civil War Re-enactors commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War and 10th Anniversary of 9/11.

Artists Sylvia Spradlin and Libby Lee visit during OFS.

Twins Abigail and Bradley Rice pose with their friend "Centennial Baby" Katie Battaglia.

Page 4 - no captions for photos

Page 5:

Displays inside the Barn
Photo courtesy Mary-Louise McHugh

Children participating in "Mr. McGregor's Garden" class.

Gupta Family Wedding

Hong Hua Wedding