

Hello,

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Good Times Ahead! **Summer Concerts in the Barn**

Concerts are held rain or shine. Enjoy the delicious entrees sold by our vendors or pack your own picnic supper. Desserts are available for purchase, as well as ice cream treats and soda from Mr. Soft Ice Cream. Classe Catering provides our beverage service. While here, be sure to stroll our spectacular gardens tended by the Fort Orange Garden Club. All buildings on the Complex grounds are open for touring one hour before the concert begins and close once the concert starts. Volunteer docents are available to answer your questions and provide literature about this historic site. The Concert series is our major fundraiser for the year. Admission for adults is \$5 and (new this year) children **ages 12 and under are Free**. Enclosed please find a handy pullout insert for your convenience with the Concert dates and performers. Join us...it's fun!

FPH 26th Annual Dinner & 2008 Volunteer of the Year

The FPH Annual Dinner was held on April 22nd. More than one hundred Friends enjoyed good food and drinks at the Holiday Inn Wolf Road. Journalist and author Paul Grondahl shared experiences, stories and insights covering his 25 years of reporting. Many thanks to co-chairs Sandy Kiepura and Diane Conroy LaCivita and their committee members for a wonderful evening. The annual "Outstanding Volunteer Award" went to Georgina Aumick. Beginning many years ago as a member of the Blue Creek Garden Club, Georgina helped with the plantings, weeding, and general upkeep of the Herb Garden. As a Pruy House volunteer, she has served as a greeter in the House on special occasions, explained items in the original kitchen to school children visiting on tours, arranged floral bouquets, made wreaths for the doors, sewn tablecloths for our tables, and frequently assisted with office duties. It is obvious Georgina loves this site and we thank her for all her efforts.

Our Celebration for the Quadracentennial.... The Friends joined with the Historical Society of the Town, the Watervliet Historical Society, the Albany County Historical Assn. and the Town of Colonie on May 16th for a day of festivities called **Schuyler Flatts 400**. There were military and Native American reenactors, early American crafters, music, vendors, and prizes for our essay contest winners. A highlight of the day was the dedication of a new sign recognizing the large role Schuyler Flatts played in the French and Indian War. Our thanks to Town Supervisor Paula Mahan and Town officials who participated, all the Friends who helped that day, and to all who volunteered to make the day a success.

The Gardens...our Treasure

Members of the Fort Orange Garden Club began spring clean-up in early April. Later on, the ladies spread 125 bags of magic (also known as Moo-Doo) on the gardens. Just in time for Albany's Tulip Fest, we enjoyed our own array of daffodils and tulips. On May 18th all the members again arrived to plant the annuals. The final touch was two full truck loads of pea gravel spread on the garden paths. We appreciate all the hard work of the Club members! Special thanks to Ike and Tripp Powell of Davis Seed and to Denise and Tony Gorman for their donations!

Schoolchildren visiting....

Each year it is a delight to welcome second graders, their parents and teachers, from Boght Elementary School. They tour the buildings and gardens and enjoy a picnic lunch on the grounds.

Programs.....Upcoming

Diane Conroy LaCivita

On July 20th, join us for an evening cruise on the Hudson and through the locks with commentary by Assemblyman Jack McEneny. Further information can be found on the enclosed flyer. On Thursday, September 24th, historian Michael Barrett will visit the Pruyn House to deliver a talk on Stephen van Rensselaer III, the last Patroon and Casparus Pruyn. This is the first of a three part lecture series planned for the fall in collaboration with Shaker Heritage and the American Italian Museum. Other lecture dates are October 8th and 22nd. More information will be coming. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 10th for a Bus Trip to the Seneca Falls area of western New York. The day will include visiting the home of Matilda Joslyn Gage, a writer, historian and women's rights advocate who lived in the 19th century. Her home is a stately Greek Revival built in 1854. Other stops to the Harriet Tubman and Seward homes are being considered.

Education

Fred Miller

Committee members planned and publicized an essay contest for grades 4 through 8. Over sixty children participated submitting essays and poems on the theme of Henry Hudson's voyage of discovery 400 years ago. Prizes were awarded to six children for their winning essays at our "Schuyler Flatts 400" day of celebration on May 16th. Winners were - Grade 4: Brianna Melick, Pieter B. Coeymans Elementary School and Abigail Grace Taylor, Loudonville Christian School; Grade 5: Patrick Rowan and Molly Urich, St. Pius X School and Grade 6: Sara Cao, Blue Creek Elementary School and Peter Crummey, Jr., St. Gregory's School. Plans are underway for a photo contest for older children with details to follow.

Buildings & Grounds

Kevin Franklin

Many cedar shakes on the roof of the cupola of the Barn were broken and in need of repair. In May, the Friends arranged for removal of the shingles and for a new roof on the cupola. To make for easier access to the field for parking, a new driveway was laid connecting the front circular driveway directly to the field. Our thanks to the Town's Department of Public Works' employees for use of their equipment, time and effort in laying this new passageway to the field.

Collections

Lorna Skaaren

The Collections Committee is working with Buildings & Grounds to improve the main floor service kitchen area. A new countertop is being considered along with replacement of the old sink, plumbing, electric stovetop and a fresh coat of paint. Once again the Friends of Pruyn House will be the recipient of a \$4,000

legislative grant for 2009 from Assemblyman Bob Reilly toward refurbishment of the kitchen and dining rooms.

Regards, The Friends of Pruyn House