



FRIENDS of Pruyn House

Fall 2020

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A COMMUNITY
CULTURAL CENTER

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Friends of Pruy House

The Friends of Pruy House was established as a 501(c)(3) and chartered in 1983 through the New York State Board of Regents as an educational corporation. The Friends of Pruy House was established to oversee the Pruy House Historic and Cultural Center, 207 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham NY 12110. The mission of the Friends of Pruy House, in partnership with the Town of Colonie, is to conserve and preserve the Pruy House complex as an educational, cultural and social center. The Friends of Pruy House, assisted by a staff provided by the Town, manage the site pursuant to an agreement with the Town. The site has been designated by the Town as its Historic and Cultural Center.

Friends of Pruy House

(518) 783-1435

www.pruynhouse.org

pruynhouse@colonie.org

President's Message

"The Holiday Season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and to seek ways to make life better for those around us."



As the holiday season approaches, the Friends of Pruy House Board want to express our extraordinary gratitude to all our members for your patience and understanding while we continue to try our best to navigate through these difficult times. We realize the virus has effected everyone in some capacity and we regret the inconveniences and limitations the pandemic has brought. 2020 in many regards has been a very quiet and lonely year for the organization; no Annual Dinner, no Concerts in the Barn, no Old Fashion Sunday, no greens show and no holiday party. We so miss seeing everyone and celebrating the wonderful resource that is the Pruy House complex.

On a positive note, this pause has allowed the Town of Colonie, in collaboration with the FOPH, to concentrate on taking on and finishing many needed upgrades, repairs and construction projects at the Pruy House complex. For instance, Phase I of the restoration/renovation of the historic Pruy House is complete. If you have had the opportunity to drive by, you will see that the facade is no longer bright white. The painting of the structure will hopefully occur in Phase II along the installation of shutters.

With the support of Town of Colonie staff along with FOPH volunteers, repairs are also going on in the Barn, the Carriage House, the Schoolhouse and the Tool Museum. We are doing a close review of our collections and working on site drainage issues. Many of the board committees are meeting to plan for future programs and initiatives. Couples are beginning to setup tours with Site Curator Tami Sherry in hopes of 2021 and 2022 weddings at the site. We envision ourselves operational in 2021.

Mark your calendar for the first weekend of December (Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 5th & 6th). FOPH will be hosting a winter scene complete with a historic sleigh directly in front of the Pruy House where you can have your family holiday photo taken for a nominal fee. Reservations will be required and space will be limited. Details will follow in an email, or you can call the office.

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President's Message

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Finally, as my term as president comes to an end, words cannot begin to express what a huge honor and privilege it has been to serve as President of Friends of Pruyn House for the last two years. The actual experience has exceeded in every way my thoughts of what it would be like. It is, without question, a highlight of my professional and volunteer career that I will always cherish.

Be well —

Diane Conroy-LaCivita, President

Recent Donations

The Friends of Pruyn House would like to thank generous community members who have made donations to help fund our Concerts in the Barn. With their permission, these funds have been re-allocated to renovations to the House and grounds.

Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust

Cohoes Savings Foundation

Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region

James H. Maloy, Inc.

John Mesch

John J. Nigro

Roma Foods Importing

National Grid

Stewart's Shops

William Gundry Broughton Charitable Trust



Spring Trip June 3, 2021

*Join us for our Spring 2021 Trip on
Thursday, June 3rd!*

We hope to be going to Staatsburgh, a New York State Historic site, built in 1895.

This Beaux Arts Mansion belonged to Ogden Mills and his wife Ruth Livingston Mills. We will lunch at the Beekman Arms Hotel, which has been in operation since 1766 and in the afternoon we will have a tour of both the Beekman Arms and the Henry Delamater Inn, which has been in operation since 1844.

The cost for members is \$80 and includes bus, driver tip, lunch, gratuity and all tours. You can bring a nonmember friend for \$85. Please call for reservations—518-783-1435.

The trip is sponsored by Friends of Pruyn House and the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie.

Welcome New Friends!

*The Friends of Pruyn House
extend a warm welcome
to our new members:*

Mark Armstrong
Pamela Belschwinder
Diane Brennan
Seth Edelman
Jonathan Ewbank
Eleanor Ferraro
Halina Gajewski
Charlie Goddard
Zoe Griffin
Lisa Gutheil
Barbara Hrachian
Janet Mattox
Barbara McCarthy
Nicole McNamara
Tess Everett Murphy
Phyllis Ochs
John & Beverly Petiet
Elizabeth Purcell
Michael & Judy Quinn
Joanne Schnee
Gordon & Joan Scotch

WISH LIST

Did you know Pruyn House has a wish list?

Can you help with any of these?

Oven
Microwave
Work table
Light fixtures
Floor lamps
Desk lamps
Period furniture—1800's

Items don't need to be new, but should be in good working order.

Thank You!

Buildings and Grounds

The Town of Colonie and the Friends of Pruyn House have been working diligently to continue to preserve this beautiful Historical and Cultural Complex for the community to enjoy. We are proud of the work on the exterior of the Pruyn House and are continuing to renovate this beautiful structure. The painters are hard at work right now painting the soffits and window trim and new grass has been planted. The windows have been completely refurbished. The new roof and parapet are finished, the chimneys have been repointed and all the drainage issues have been solved.

Please watch for these fun projects over the next year: new shutters on the Pruyn House, new roof on the Carriage House, roofing repairs on the Buhrmaster Barn and roofing repairs on the outdoor restroom building.

We are also undertaking a structural analysis of the beautiful curved staircase to determine how to best strengthen and preserve the staircase and railing.

In addition, we are continuing to plan for Phase II of our exterior lighting project, which we hope to accomplish over the next two years.

There are many more repairs which will occur over the winter and spring; including woodwork repairs to the Schoolhouse, Buhrmaster Barn, Carriage House and Tool Museum.

Thank you for your continued support in our endeavors!



Girl Scout, Grace Harting, Tackles Pruyn House Nature Trail

Hello! My name is Grace Harting and I am a Girl Scout. Currently, I am working on my Gold Award Project, which focuses on cleaning up the trail behind the Pruyn House, as well as identifying the various tree species along the trail. I have been working hard to get it done and I am pleased to say that it is coming along smoothly!

Recently, I walked the trail with an arborist and we looked at all the of trees that line the trail. Soon, I will have plaques made with a brief description of the tree made and put along the trail. I cannot wait for the trail's debut!



FRIENDS
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