



FRIENDS of Pruyn House

March 2021

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A COMMUNITY
CULTURAL CENTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Capital Improvement | 2

New Members | 2

Donations | 2

From the Collection | 3

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 Pruyn House

(518) 783-1435

www.pruynhouse.org

pruynhouse@colonie.org

President's Message

"We can't help but be optimistic and hopeful as we look at the year ahead."

As we roll into 2021, I am honored to be writing my first message as President of the Friends of Pruy House. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to thank Diane Conroy-LaCivita, our past President, for her strong leadership for the last two years. I would also like to thank our committed Board of Trustees, who bring so much to the table with their various talents and expertise. Last, but not least, I'd like to thank Tami Sherry, who does so much at the House and makes sure all of our programs run smoothly.

While almost all of our events were put on hold in 2020, we were pleased to see individuals and families visiting the beautiful gardens throughout the spring, summer and fall. These gardens are maintained by the Fort Orange Garden Club. It was also great to see others enjoying our newly renovated nature trail and using the grounds as a lovely backdrop for photographs. Thank you to the Blue Creek Garden Club for making the House look lovely and festive during the holiday season and providing the perfect setting for our Christmas Photo Opportunity.

We can't help but be optimistic and hopeful as we look at the year ahead. Stay tuned for upcoming events and programs which will be announced over the course of the next several weeks and months. We would appreciate and encourage you to become a member of the Pruy House so you can be the first to be informed about these events. Your support helps make programs and events possible and your contributions help maintain and improve this beautiful site.

I'd like to thank you for your friendship. We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

Truly yours,

Nancy O'Connor, President



Capital Improvement

The Friends of Pruyn House would like to thank the wonderful Friends who have donated to our Capital Improvement Fund:

Henry & Anne Bankhead
Mary & Bill Brizzell
Bill & Ann Collins
Harriett DeGraff
Judith Gladstone
Sandra & Alan Inget
Jim La Coppola
Nancy Lovett
Barbara McCarthy
Kathleen Mioducki
Dorothea O'Brien
George & Joann Parker
Stephen C. Pruyn
David & Pamela Rowley
Mary Smith

Edward Bardon
William Campbell
Paul & Phyllis Cooney
Patricia Frank
Carol Ann Houlton
Elizabeth Kelly
Kathleen LeRoux
Ruth Lyons
Kevin McCoy
Bebe Morehead
Kathleen O'Brien
William Picotte
Ruth Rankin
Alfred & Lois Siegel
Shirley Tschumi

Margaret Blanco
Anne Christman
Herb Dahlem
Maureen & Joe Fogarty
Priscilla Johnson
Frank C. Kiepura Associates
Mary Lewis
Frances Maurel
Rector McIntyre
Linda Murphy
Judy Quinn
Diana Praus
Robert & Mary Reilly
Helen & Peter Schnitzer
Peter & Kathleen Tunny

Welcome New Friends!

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

Beverly Coons
Darcy Delago
Gloria Grimmell
Karen Grimmell
Mary Gorman
Evan & Beth Harley
Edward Howe
Linda McKenna
Barbara McCarthy
Rebekah Nellis Kennedy
Sharon O'Dea
Louis Patak and Anne Grace
Joseph Rossi
Mary Smith

Financial and Other Donations

In the fall, we received a lovely letter from Debby Heller, one of our members. It was accompanied by a very generous financial donation:

My mother, Shirley Ann Sutter, born Shirley Ann Haswell, is the last remaining person who lived in and grew up in what is now called the Pruyn House. Mom had a hard year, but survived a fall, a hip replacement and Covid-19 and turned 90 in good health on September 14, 2020. Her five offspring would like to honor her by continuing to con-

Here is one of
the beautiful
pieces of
furniture
donated
by Mary
Garabedian.
Photo by Tami
Sherry



From The Collection — Ice

The Pruyn House Tool Museum exhibits tools used by 19th century industries and trades, including farming, logging, blacksmithing, coopering, carpentry, butchering, cobbler, and ice farming. The ice industry was very large in New York State, employing 20,000 and producing over three (3) million tons of ice at its peak. Rockland, Rensselaer and Greene Counties were major sources of ice and over 100 icehouses dotted the landscape along the Hudson River, with transport up and down the river. The workers had to drill holes in the ice ponds, test the depth of the ice, and then use horse-drawn rigs to cut the ice and to pull out blocks of ice. The blocks were stored in icehouses and then transported to other metropolitan icehouses, where they were loaded onto wagons for delivery to homes. The tools used in the ice industry were ice augers, ice saws of different sizes, ice planers, ice picks and hooks, and ice tongs. For more information on the ice industry, go to these web sites: antiqueicetoolmuseum.org/industry/history/ and digital.sciencehistory.org/works/gb19f683r. For the New York State ice industry, go to David Levine's chapter "Nice Ice" in his 2020 book entitled *The Hudson Valley* starting on page 150.

The Pruyn House Tool museum has three ice saws and three ice tongs. There are one 35" two-person saw and two one-man saws (64"). The tongs have 12", 17" and



Throughout 2020, Gary Thompson, (standing) our Collections Committee Chair and his friend, Edward Howe (seated), have worked diligently to undertake a massive job. They catalogued every item in the Tool Museum and cleaned and polished un-



Thank you to all the wonderful families who came to take their holiday photos at the Pruyn House! And, special thanks to Blue Creek Garden Club for

2021 Board Of Trustees

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Spring Trip



We are planning to visit 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, in operation since 1766. Later, we'll tour the Beekman Arms and the Henry Delamater Inn, in operation since 1844.

Cost for members is \$80 and includes bus, driver tip, lunch, gratuity, and all tours. You may bring a nonmember friend for \$85. Call for reservations at 518-783-1435. There are a few seats left. The trip is sponsored by the Friends of Pruyn House and the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie.

Please note! The Spring Trip is subject to NYS Department of Health Covid-19 regulations and may be postponed until October, 2021.



FRIENDS
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