

### March 2021

Volume 32 · Issue 1

## A COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER

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### **Friends of Pruyn House**

The Friends of Pruyn 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 Pruyn House was established to oversee the Pruyn House Historic and Cultural Center, 207 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham NY 12110. The mission of the Friends of Pruyn House, in partnership with the Town of Colonie, is to conserve and preserve the Pruyn House complex as an educational, cultural and social center. The Friends of Pruyn 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."

s we roll into 2021, I am honored to be writing my first message as President of the Friends of Pruyn 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 Pruyn House so you can be the first to be informed about these events. Your support helps make programs an 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 Edward Bardon
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Patricia Frank
Carol Ann Houlton
Elizabeth Kelly
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Ruth Lyons
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Kathleen O'Brien
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Shirley Tschumi

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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

Margaret Blanco

### Welcome New Friends!

Mary Smith

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

he Pruyn House Tool Museum exhibits tools used by 19th century industries and trades, including farming, logging, blacksmithing, coopering, carpentry, butchering, cobblery, 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 unto 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

President: Nancy O'Connor Vice President: Patrick Dillon

Secretary: Mary Smith
Treasurer: Richard Friedman

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Jamie Easton
Carol Fitzgerald
Camille Hoheb
Linda McKenna
Nicole McNamara
Fred Miller
Judy Quinn
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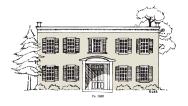
Tami Sherry Joanne Razzano

### Spring Trip

e 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.



PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE



DATED MATERIAL

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