

FRIENDS of Pruyn House

June 2018

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A COMMUNITY
CULTURAL CENTER

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Friends of Pruy House

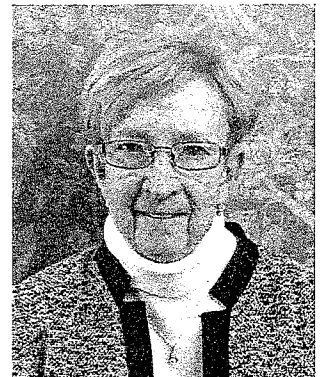
(518) 783-1435

www.pruynhouse.org

pruynhouse@colonie.org

President's Message

Now that winter has finally left the area, we can look forward to a fun filled spring and summer loaded with many activities. The 35th Annual Pruy House Dinner was a huge success with 90 in attendance! The food, company, and PowerPoint presentation reflecting on our 35 years as an organization, were all much enjoyed. We owe a big THANK YOU to the dinner committee and the wonderful staff at the Century House. At the dinner, we had the joy of honoring our "Outstanding Volunteer", Don Pagano. Congrats, Don!



The Concerts at the Barn series is set to begin July 11th.

The Barn and grounds will also host 21 weddings between June 2 and October 27 of this year. And speaking of the Barn... when you visit it this summer, you will notice an electrical upgrade and all new lighting. With that upgrade complete, our next major project is to rehabilitate the exterior of the Pruy House. You can read more about this in the Buildings and Grounds Committee Report on page 3.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you who volunteer throughout the year at the Pruy House. Your dedication shows a deep commitment to not only the history of our community, but also to making our future just as bright. If you haven't had the opportunity to join this great group of volunteers, we welcome you to do so! The Pruy House is indeed a crown jewel in the Town of Colonie.

— Mary Brizzell, President

FRIENDS OF PRUYN 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 Pruyn House

2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President:

Mary Brizzell

Vice President:

Mary Ellen O'Brien

Secretary:

Nancy O'Connor

Treasurer:

Fred Miller

Asst. Treasurer:

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Courtney Antonucci

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Patrick Dillon

Jolene Dirolf

Jamie Easton

Carol Fitzgerald

Richard Friedman

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Linda Murphy

Gary Thompson

Maggie Vinciguerra

Jennifer Whalen

Staff:

Diane Morgan, Curator

Pamela Rowley, Asst. Curator

Tami Sherry, Admin. Asst.

Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 4:30

Newsletter Team:

Gary Thompson

Carol Fitzgerald

Tami Sherry

Our newsletter is published three times per year. If you receive two copies of this newsletter, please share one with a friend and notify us.

518-783-1435

pruynhouse@colonie.org

2018 Concerts In The Barn Underwriting

Friends of Pruyn House would like to thank the following Foundations, Businesses, and Members for their very kind support of the Concerts in the Barn. As of June 1st, 2018 we have received over \$3,500!

\$1,000+

Cohoes Savings Foundation

National Grid

\$500+

Massry Charitable Foundation, Inc.

\$250 – \$499

Albany Marriott

Hillard's Greenhouse & Produce

Nicole's Restaurant & Catering

Price Chopper / Market 32

PLEASE SEE PAGE 8 FOR OUR CONCERT SCHEDULE!!!



Global Youth Service Day

The Friends of Pruyn House would like to thank Laura Archambault of the Community Center, Youth Services Division, for organizing Global Youth Service Day.

On Saturday, April 28th, the Pruyn House hosted 68 students who cleaned our entire 5 1/2 acre grounds. They raked, they bagged, they swept and they cleaned up the hiking trail.

We would like to thank Shaker High School, the Explorers and the Boy Scouts for all their hard work. What a wonderful event!

2018 Buildings and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee is happy to report that we are now two! One of our newest Board members, Jamie Easton, has agreed to be a committee member. Jamie is an engineer and a most wonderful addition to the Committee. We'll certainly use his expertise, because the Friend's architect, Mark Thaler, states that by the time you read this, the exterior repair project will have gone out to bid. We may well have a contractor ready to start work soon. The project needs to be done in above-freezing weather, so the repairs will start this summer, take a break in cold weather and then pick up again next spring. We hope you will watch the progress!



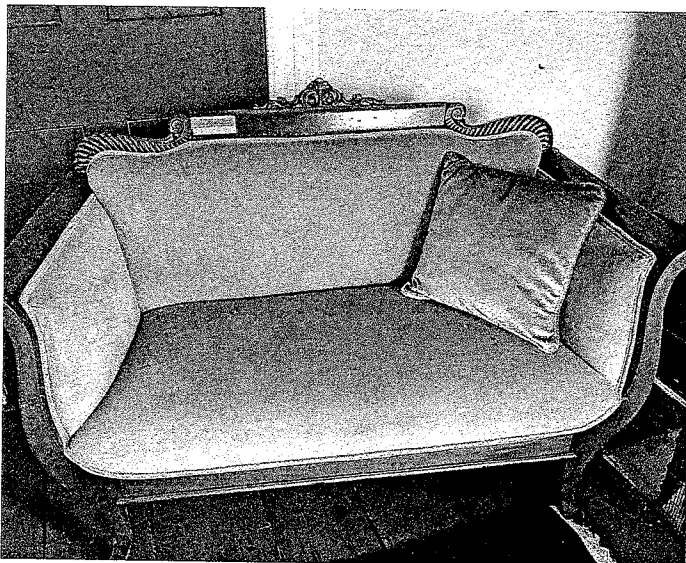
Please note the new steps and landscaping at the entrance to the schoolhouse.

Our other two projects involve lighting and power. The Friends have had new lighting installed in the Barn! We also have added a new power supply to the Barn so that the caterers, bands, and parties won't have issues with blown circuits. Wonderful! The Friends have instituted a professional exterior lighting study developed by Environmental Design & Research. The study creates a plan to replace and improve pathway and building exterior lighting. We received a grant from the Albany County Convention and Visitor's Bureau which helped to pay one half of the cost of the study. The study is complete and now the Friends will need to review it and decide how and

when it can be implemented. As we know, the property is extensive and it will necessitate working in stages; both for time and money.

Thanks to our members for showing such positive support to these improvements.

— Carol Fitzgerald, Chairperson Buildings & Grounds Committee



From the Collections

This lovely blue velveteen settee is the gift of Diane Pruyn Freer and Bob Freer. It has been passed down in Diane's family for generations, as it belonged to her great-grandmother, Mary Scott Pruyn. Mary was the wife of Colonel John Pruyn, who served with Teddy Roosevelt in the 1898 Spanish American War. This war, which the U.S. won, was the first overseas conflict fought by the U.S. and it ended Spanish rule in the Americas. Mary maintained their home in Yonkers, NY, caring for their many children and some elderly relatives. The Friends of Pruyn House is proud to display this piece in the second floor front bedroom.

— Diane Morgan, Curator

Capital Improvement Donations

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

Les & Madeline Abercrombie
Ed Bardon
Dorothy Buckley
George and Joan Buhrmaster
Betty Canape
Ann Christman
Donna Clement
Mary Colello
Marta Conley
Gail Cotler
Herb Dahlem
Marylyn DeGonzague
Jamie Easton
Judith Gladstone
Greater Loudonville Association
Rich & Betty Haggerty
Karen Jones
Elizabeth Kelly
Joe & Diane LaCivita
James La Coppola
Kathy LeRoux
Mary Ann Lewis
Tom & Sue Lyons
Frances Maurel
Zainab Magdon-Ismail
Kathleen Mioducki
Ruth Pelton
Peter Platt
Diana Praus
Chip & Ilene Stein
Stewarts Shops
Beverly Strube
George & Patricia Taylor

35th Annual Dinner



Many friends attended our Annual Dinner Meeting in April at the Century House, which was a wonderful celebration of our 35th anniversary. One of the highlights of the evening, besides the great food and company, was the PowerPoint presentation; a great representation of how active and vibrant the Pruyn House is and which showed the numerous improvements over the years. Guests were able to see firsthand what a gem we have in Colonie and that the Pruyn House is indeed a true destination.

— Mary Ellen O'Brien, Vice President & Nancy O'Connor, Secretary



Top: Mary Ellen O'Brien and Nancy O'Connor. Bottom: Don Pagano receiving his "Outstanding Volunteer" award from Courtney Antonucci.

Legislative Grant

The Friends of Pruyn House would like to thank Assemblyman Phil Steck for recommending us to receive a \$10,000 Legislative Initiative Grant. The funds are for educational programming but may also be used for equipment. To date, the lighting in the Buhrmaster Barn has been updated. The remainder of the funds will offset the cost of updating the sound system in the Barn.

The Friends of Pruyn House would like to thank Assemblyman Phil Steck for recommending us to receive a \$10,000 Legislative Initiative Grant. The funds had been designated for either educational programming or equipment. To date, the lighting in the Buhrmaster Barn has been updated. The remainder of the funds will help to offset the cost of updating the sound system in the Barn."

—Pamela Rowley, Assistant Curator

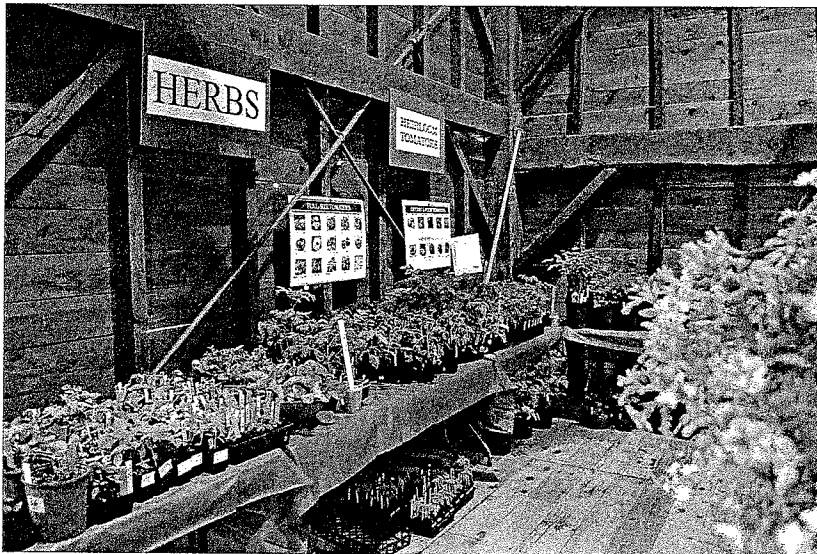


Fort Orange Garden Club Plant Sale

Another Winter is gone, another Spring has arrived and another Plant Sale in the Barn has come and gone! It was the LONGEST April that most gardeners have known, but we made it! Thanks to the Friends of Pruyn House for providing new overhead lighting in the Barn. It was especially appreciated, because Saturday turned out to be a showery, dark day—yet the plants showed well. Our customers could read the labels and we could see to write the sales slips!

We highlighted our tomato collection, presenting as many as 15 varieties of unusual tomatoes for folks to try at home. Those unusual varieties aren't available at the local garden outlets. 'Box Car Willie', is seldom available at the market! Shrewd shoppers were rewarded with many bargains at our always popular Tag Sale in the Schoolhouse. We experienced the usual early morning crowd and were happy to have customers keeping us all busy until closing at 2 PM. Thank you all for many years of support! The FOGC loves being a part of the Pruyn House Community!

— Carol Fitzgerald, Associate Trustee



Photos by Carolyn Martel, Fort Orange Garden Club

Old Fashioned Sunday — 35 Years Strong!

Sunday, September 9, 2018 • 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm



Family fun for all ages!

Old Tyme Craft Demonstrations, Vendors,
Town Bands, Children's Activities, Music,
Food & Drinks Free Admission!

Would you like to help at Old Fashioned Sunday?

We would love to hear from you!

Please call Diane Morgan at 518-783-1435!!

The Pruyn Children at Home and at School

In the early 1800's three American institutions cared for elementary education: family, church, and school. Mothers and fathers primed children in the alphabet and then taught them how to speak, read and count by 4 or 5 years of age. It was the duty of every parent "to put a library into the hands of his children" according to *The NY Mercantile Advertiser*. By the 1830's, book publishers expanded their marketing to family and children. Harper & Row produced the "American Family Library" series with 52 titles. As an upper class urban family, the Pruyns would have provided their youngsters with elementary primers, readers, and geography, history and other textbooks and reference books. The Pruyn House has examples: Goodrich's *Child's History of the United States*, Long's *Home Geography*, and *Young Folk's Cyclopedia of Common Things*.

Sunday schools taught young boys and girls to recite Bible passages and to read psalms, psalters and moral lessons. The American Sunday School Union (ASSU) published six million books by 1830. The Pruyn House Library has two ASSU publications: *Infant Teacher's Manual: for the Use of Sunday Schools and Families and Lessons for Every Sunday*.



Before 1820 90% of Americans lived in rural towns and villages, with few schools. By contrast, the Pruyn family lived in Albany, the 10th largest city in the United States, before they moved into the Pruyn House around 1830. As a result, they had access to early common schools such as the Albany Lancastrian School, Loudonville School District and Latham School District, all authorized under the 1812 state legislation. Families paid tuition for young children to attend when they could be released from farm chores. In New York State, private academies met the need for advanced education beyond the elementary years and to prepare students for college and the professions, expanding from 34 in 1826 to 127 in 1840. The Pruyns were privileged to have access to the Albany Academy founded in 1813 and the Albany Female Academy founded in 1814.

Casparus Pruyn had eight children who lived to adulthood: Robert, Francis, Elizabeth, Cornelia, Alida, William, Augustus and Mary. Robert and

Francis started at the Albany Academy at 10 years old and finished at 15 and 17 respectively, before going into law and civil engineering. William attended from 1837 to 1839 before going into business. Cornelia attended the Albany Female Academy until she was 18. Thanks to the Albany Academy archives staff for this research. Next issue will discuss school textbooks from the period.

— Gary Thompson, Trustee

Would you like to become a "Friend"?

New members will receive a free ticket to a summer Concert in the Barn!

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

Your contribution is tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to:

Friends of Pruyn House, P.O. Box 1254, Latham, NY 12110

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Senior Citizen (62+) \$20

Senior Couple • \$35

Individual • \$35

Family • \$45

Associate • \$75

Patron • \$150

Benefactor • \$500

Corporate • \$300

Sponsorship Categories

Benefits of Sponsorship

\$1,000 • Buhrmaster Patron

- Banner with your name hung on barn at concerts
- Concert Program listing
- Sponsorship listing in FPH newsletter
- 8 free concert tickets
- One-year free FPH membership

\$500 • Verdoy Schoolhouse Sponsor

- Concert Program listing
- Sponsorship listing in FPH newsletter
- 6 free concert tickets

\$250 • Horst Pogge Friend

- Concert Program listing
- 4 free concert tickets

\$100 • Henkes Family Supporter

- Concert Program listing
- 2 free concert tickets

\$25 • Pruyn House Friend

- Concert Program Listing
- 1 free concert ticket

Would You Like To Donate Toward Our Concerts?

We need your help to keep the Concerts in the Barn going! They are a main source of funds for continuation of the restoration and preservation work done at the Pruyn House Complex.

Tear off and return:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NO.

EMAIL

Amount Enclosed: \$

To be properly listed in the Programs, please complete this form and mail it by 6/29/18 to:

Pruyn House, P.O. Box 1254, Latham, NY 12110

If you have any questions, please call Diane Morgan, Pruyn House Curator, at (518) 783-1435 or email morgand@colonie.org

Thank You For Your Consideration Of This Request.

Concerts In The Barn

July 11 • **JADE** – Bring your dancing shoes for music of the 50's & 60's

July 18 • **ITALIAN NIGHT** with **THE GOOD TIMES BAND**

July 25 • **GERMAN NIGHT** with **THE MOUNTAIN BRAUHAUS BAND**

August 1 • **IRISH NIGHT** with **GET UP JACK**

August 8 • **TODD MEREDITH** and **THE RAVE-ONS**
— all the way from New York City!

Music: 6:30 – 8:30pm

Admission—\$5 Adults, Children 12 and under free



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Pruyn of House

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Latham, NY 12110-8574

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