

FRIENDS of Pruyn House

November 2018

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A COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER

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Friends of Pruyn House

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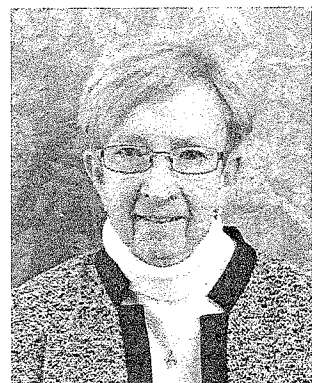
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President's Message

As the memories of Spring and Summer fade, cool, crisp air and shorter days take hold. At the Pruyn House Complex we look forward to Fall and Winter activities. The year will close with our Members Holiday Party taking place on December 12th, so save the date! Speaking of new members, I am very happy to announce that we have 32 new members who joined Friends of Pruyn House between the Concerts in the Barn and Old Fashioned Sunday. We welcome them and look forward to them becoming active participants in our various programs and activities. Please check the back page of the Newsletter for a full list of all upcoming activities. I urge you to come join us. Thank you to all our members for your continued support.

— Mary Brizzell, President



The
Schenectady
Pipe Band
performing at
Irish Night.
Enjoy more
Concert
photos inside!

Photo by
Tami Sherry

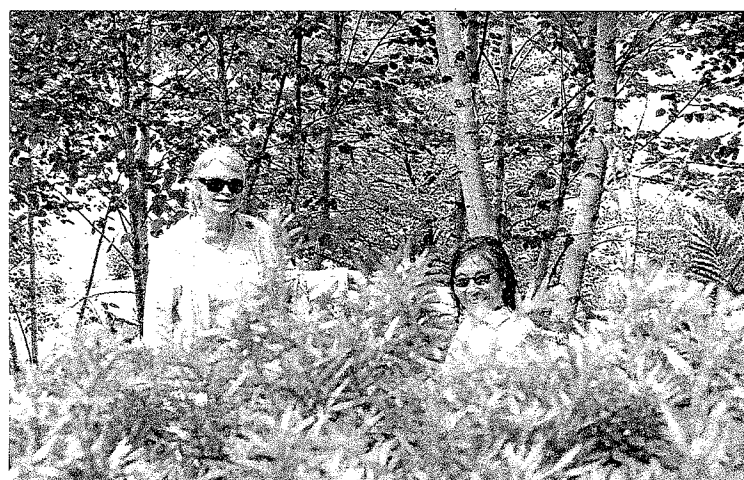


2018 Summer Concerts In The Barn

Despite the weather, we had a delightful Concert season! Thank you to all of our vendors and bands for bringing our community members an enjoyable evening out! A HUGE thank you to our sponsors, friends, members and volunteers! Without ALL of you our concerts would not be such a success. We look forward to seeing you all next summer for another fun and entertaining concert season! Lastly, thank you all for supporting me these past 6 years. I really enjoyed organizing the concerts.

—Courtney Antonucci,
Outgoing Concert Chair

Above right — Todd Meredith and the Rave-Ons rocking. Below right — The happy crowd at the Jade performance.
Photos by Tami Sherry



June Trip To Frelinghuysen Morris House & Naumkeag

The Friends of Pruyn House had a wonderful time visiting the Frelinghuysen Morris House and Naumkeag in June. We had a lovely lunch at The Red Lion Inn as well. Thanks to Pamela Rowley for planning such a terrific trip and for taking the above photos of some of our members exploring new places, making friends and enjoying the day.

Above left — Bonnie Perry; Above right — Carol Flanagan and Pat Paley
Photos by Pamela Rowley

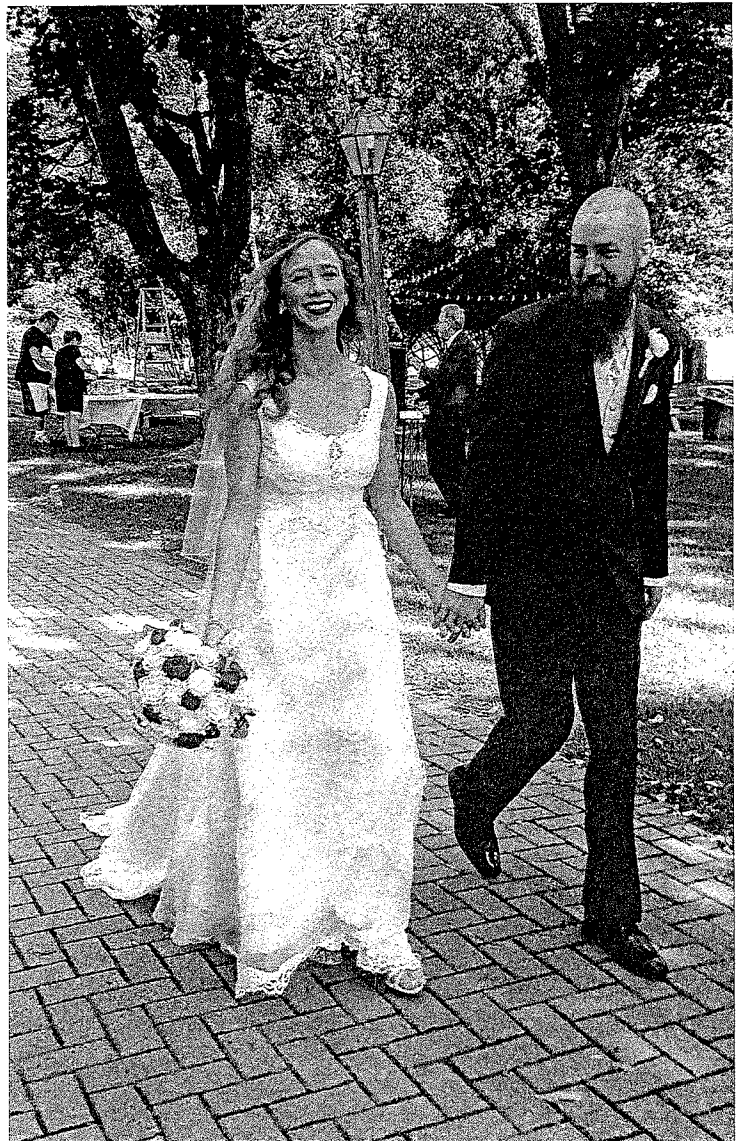


Summer Weddings

Friends of Pruyn House are delighted to provide the venue for weddings, showers, luncheons, church picnics and other events. We hosted twenty joyous wedding celebrations this summer.

We thank all of our amazing Program Aides that helped us this summer; David Carhart, Jim Hummel, Nancy Macy, Joanne Razzano and Awab Shawkat.

Above left — the ring-bearers watching the wedding.
Right — Nicole Soblosky and Dane Moslander are all smiles!
Photos by Tami Sherry



Generous Donations

The Friends of Pruyn House are grateful for the kind and generous donations from the following local organizations. They are our Friends and partners and we really enjoy working with them.

BLUE CREEK GARDEN CLUB
COLONIE ART LEAGUE
FORT ORANGE GARDEN CLUB

Colonie Art League presents check for \$1500 to Friends of Pruyn House at Old Fashioned Sunday.
Photo by Barbara Via

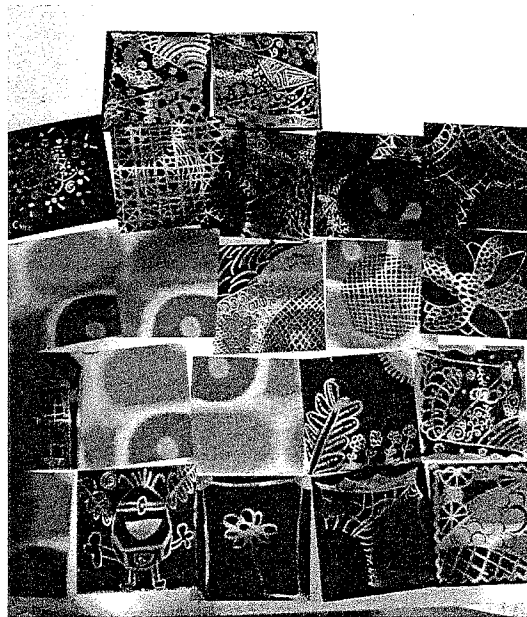
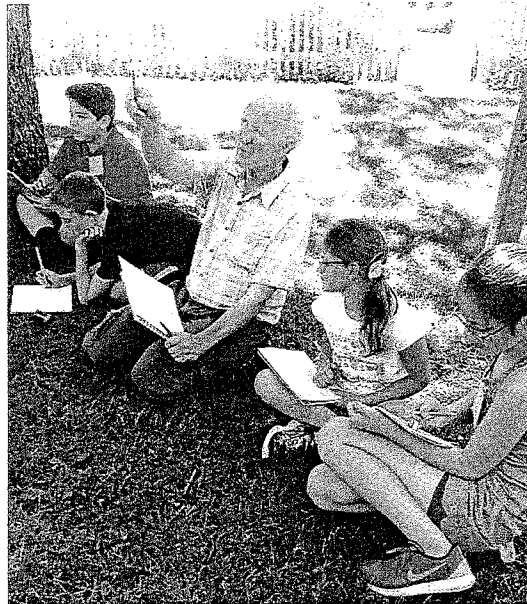
Welcome New Friends

Thank You
For Joining!

Pam Agan-Smith
Rosemary Avery
Daniel Bertrand
Erin Cade
Pat Campbell
Julie Carroll
Rachel Christiansen
James Easton
Scott Ebeling
Edwin & Carol Engelhardt
Jim & Barbara Feiden
John Ferer
Donna Hanlon
Jen Heerwagon
P. Klose-Hammond
Thomas & Christine Lally
Linda Langevoort
Latham Kiwanis
Sandra Maxwell
Donna Mautone
Stephanie Milleren
William Mirabile
Byron D. Moak
Elinor Obuchowski
Nancy Pierce
Joanne Richards
Fran Scattareggia
Lynnda Shugars
Amy Sternstein
Marjorie Ward
Jennifer Whalen

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.

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Colonie Art League Summer Camp

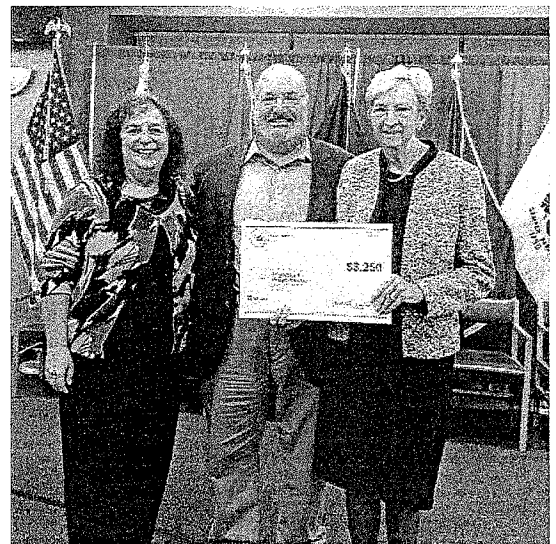
In June 2018, the Colonie Art League again offered a four day children's art camp at the Pruyn House. The camp, offered to upper grade school students, was a smashing success, with record attendance. The students who were taught by volunteers from the League and the community explored a wide variety of techniques and materials. Shaker High School students from the Art Explorers program, who also volunteered their time and talent, served as camp assistants. Anyone interested in the 2019 camp should send a request for information to: calartcamp@gmail.com

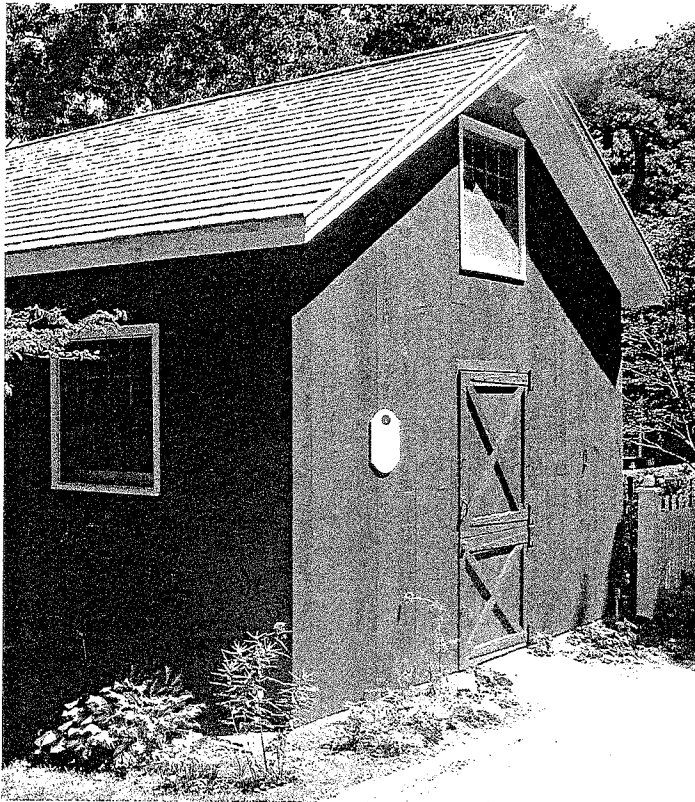
Top left — CAL member Kevin Kuhne and summer campers enjoy painting in the Pruyn House garden.
Bottom left — Zentangle — just one of the many forms of art included in the summer camp. Photos by Marjorie Ward

Legislative Grant

Thanks to the efforts of Paul Burgdorf of the Albany County Legislature and Mary Brizzell, Pruyn House has received a \$3,250 grant which will be used to offset the costs of hosting Old Fashioned Sunday.

— Tami Sherry,
Assistant Curator





The freshly painted Potting Shed practically shines!
Photo by Tami Sherry

2018 Buildings and Grounds

The Pruyn House will be going through many exciting changes in the near future. One significant change will be a complete restoration of the exterior of the building. The last time significant exterior preservation work was done on the house was in the 1980's. The Board of Trustees, in coordination with the Town of Colonie, have hired Lacey Thaler Reilly Wilson Architects and Preservation, LLP. They have developed rehabilitation and preservation plans for the exterior of the Pruyn House which will be done in phases. We anticipate it will take between two and three years for all work to be complete. Some of the work that will occur on the exterior of the building will include a new roof and preservation and rehabilitation of both front and rear entry ways. In addition, the existing exterior paint on the building will be removed, damaged bricks will be replaced, and new gutters and shutters will be installed.

In concert with the exterior preservation work, the Building and Grounds Committee will enhance the property's site lighting, which will provide better visibility during nighttime events. The walkways and parking areas will be our main focus. Building and grounds members will work with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to ensure the appearances of the light fixtures will fit into this historic property setting.

We expect all this work to start in the spring of 2019. As the exterior work commences, we ask visitors and members to be patient as this important work takes place. The preservation and rehabilitation plan may take time but will provide future generations the ability to enjoy the historical grounds and buildings of The Pruyn House for many years to come.

— Jamie Easton, Buildings & Grounds

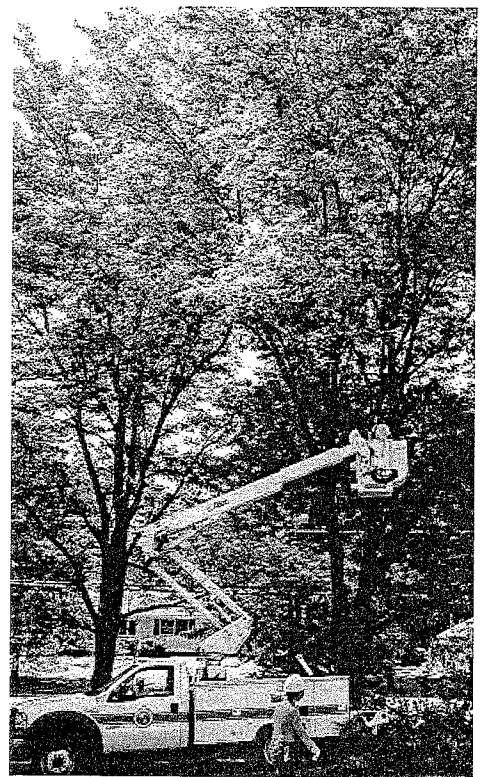
Moving On...

Friends of Pruyn House would like to thank **Courtney Antonucci** for six amazing years as our Concert Committee Chair. Her cheerful leadership will be missed!

Do YOU know someone who would like to help organize the Summer Concert series for 2019?

Our Assistant Curator of 8 years, **Pamela Rowley**, has accepted a full-time teaching position at Shaker High School. Friends of Pruyn House wish her great success in her new position!

Taking over as Assistant Curator is **Tami Sherry**, who will continue to implement programs and trips, edit the newsletter and assist the Board in all endeavors.



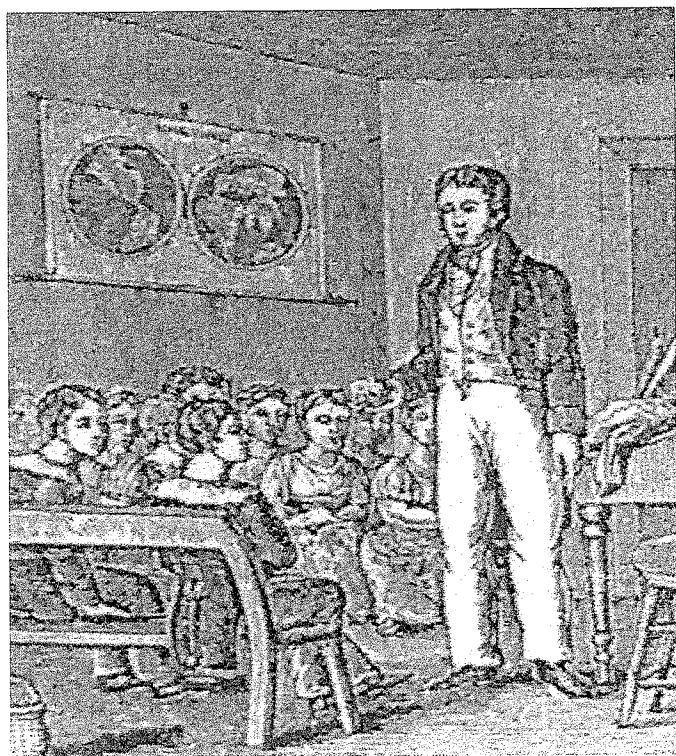
Thank You!

Thanks to Michelle Karlquist and the Town of Colonie Crew for taking down several large dead trees and pruning others on the front lawn of Pruyn House. It's so much brighter!

Photo by Tami Sherry

School Subjects and Textbooks

The Pruyn Children Encountered



Nineteenth Century New York State witnessed the rise of common schools (1812-1820), academies (1815-1835), and later public high schools (1850-1870). School attendance did not become compulsory until 1870. Before 1840, less affluent students attended common school sporadically, while more affluent children attended the academies for six to eight months until 15 to 17 before going to college and/or into the professions or business. Robert, Francis and William Pruyn went to the Albany Academy in the 1820's and 1830's. The only record for a Pruyn daughter is Cornelia attending the Albany Female Academy until she was 18. Most girls lagged behind in school attendance during this period.

In the first half of the 19th century, the American **common school** curriculum moved beyond simple primers and spellers to include readers, arithmetic, and later geography and history. To impart practical skills schools added courses like surveying and bookkeeping. The guiding principles of American education were morality and character, discipline, useful knowledge and citizenship. **Academies** provided a more advanced curriculum offering English and Classical tracks with Latin/Greek, advanced English, mathematics, science, rhetoric, and philosophy. The Albany Academy offered this course of study in 1815:

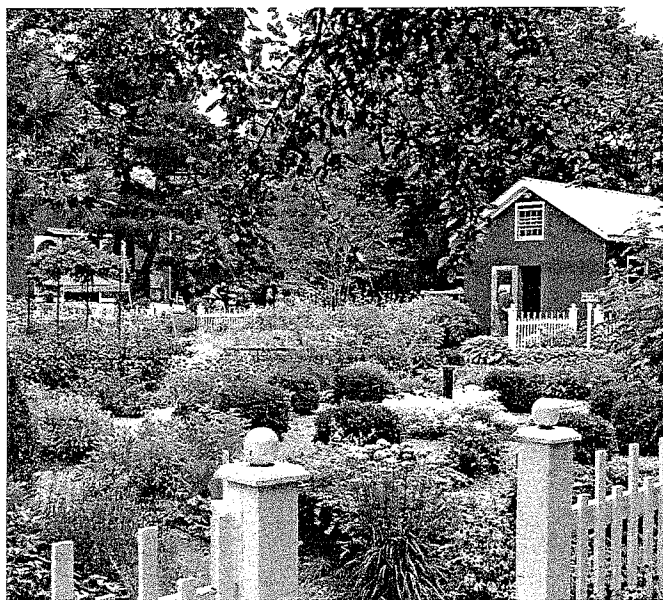
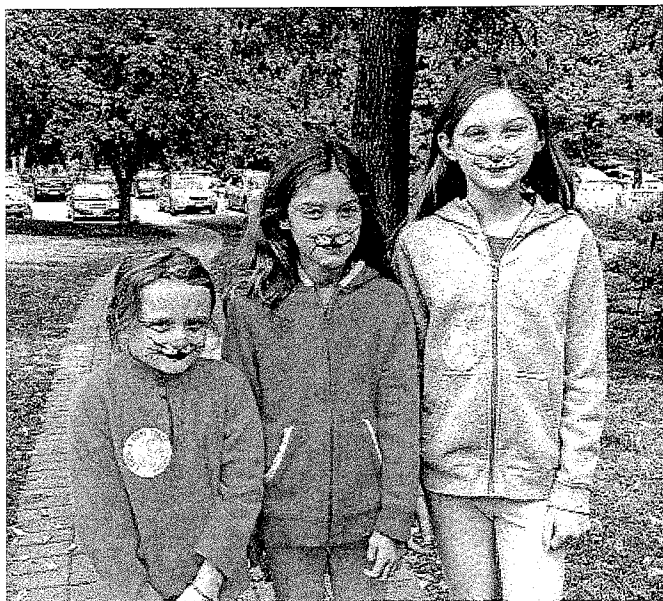
"Reading the English Language with propriety and construing it grammatically, English Grammar and Grammatical Exercises, Delivery of selected pieces (i.e., oration of prose and poetry), Geography and History, the first five rules of Arithmetic, Book-Keeping, and the principles of English Composition."

When the Pruyn children were at Albany Academy in the 1820's and 1830's, the curriculum had grown to include ancient history and biography, government, letter writing, chemistry and physics and moral philosophy. The Academy students read the Bible, Virgil and Cicero, Homer, history texts as well as advanced readers on a wide range of contemporary subjects. They progressed from Webster's spellers and Beattie's *Arithmetic* to Olney's *Geography*, Bowditch's *Navigation*, Goldsmith's *History of England*, Paley's *Moral Philosophy* and Bullion's *English Grammar*. Bullion was a beloved professor at AA from 1824 to 1848. Academies aimed "to give a child an education that shall fit him for ...eminence in his profession, whether mercantile or mechanical" and to give him "a different education from any which our public schools can now furnish".

The Pruyn House Library has examples of school textbooks from the period for reading, rhetoric, geography, mathematics, history and science, demonstrating important trends in American schoolbook publishing. McGuffey's *Reader*, Webster's speller and Russell's *Common School Reader and Speaker*, Olney's *United States History* and Long's *Home Geography for Primary Grades* evince the new emphasis on America language, literature and history. Bentley's *American Instructor* and Sweet's *Practical Elocution* are samples of local publishing in Albany and Troy. Adams' *Arithmetic* has exercises to show students how to handle receipts and bills, demonstrating the importance of practical knowledge. Comstock's *Elements of Chemistry* and Gray's *How Plants Grow* show the desire of schools to have a modern curriculum transmitting the latest scientific discoveries.

When you visit the Pruyn House, take a look at the Home Library to see what children and adults read at home and at school during the early to middle to late nineteenth century.

— Gary Thompson, Trustee



Old Fashioned Sunday

As you can see by the wonderful audience thoroughly captivated by Magician Jim Snack, we had record crowds at this year's Old Fashioned Sunday. Friends of Pruyn House were delighted to see many new faces, to welcome many new members, and to meet many terrific new vendors! The weather was cool, the crowds were happy, and the beautiful Fort Orange Garden Club garden captivated one and all.

Thank you to all the extraordinary volunteers for making Old Fashioned Sunday such a success!

Old Fashioned Sunday photos by Tami Sherry



Upcoming Events

Sunday November 4

Kitchen Jazz Concert, 2:00 pm—Free

Thursday–Sunday, November 15-18

Hudson Mohawk Weavers Show & Sale—Thurs
2-9pm, Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12-4pm
Fashion Shows—Thurs & Fri—7pm, Sat & Sun—2pm

Thursday December 6

Fort Orange Garden Club Green Sale Preview—\$5
donation with purchase, 2-6pm — In the Schoolhouse!
Wreaths & more!

Friday December 7

Fort Orange Garden Club Green Sale—9am-5pm
Blue Creek Garden Club Greens Show 10am-4pm
BCGC Theme—The Nutcracker Suite
Holiday Boutique Sale in basement of House
Friends of Pruyn House Open House

Saturday December 8

Fort Orange Garden Club Green Sale—9am-3pm
Blue Creek Garden Club Greens Show 10am-4pm
BCGC Theme—The Nutcracker Suite
Holiday Boutique Sale in basement of House
Friends of Pruyn House Open House

Wednesday December 12

Holiday Members Party 6:00—8:30 pm
Champagne, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, music

Tuesday December 18

Holiday Concert, 7:00pm, FREE admission
Soprano Rosanne Hargrave, Pianist Michael Clement



PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE

FRIENDS
Pruyn House

DATED MATERIAL

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