



Pruyn House Cultural Center
Town of Colonie



Friends of *Pruyn House*



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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.

Fall 2021 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nancy O'Connor

Friends of Pruy House (518) 783-1435
www.pruynhouse.org pruyhouse@colonie.org



CONCERTS IN THE BARN

The abbreviated Concerts in the Barn series got off to a wet, but lively start with an Irish Night featuring the ever-popular *Get Up Jack*. After a soaking downpour, the sun came out, the music got started, and dancing began., The following week, *Jade* took us all back to the fifties and sixties, this time under sunnier skies. Jitter bugs and twist spilled out onto the Barn patio and a great time was had by all. Delicious food was catered by Mazzone's and sweet treats provided were provided by the Colonie Seniors. Watch for news about the 2022 season in the Spring Newsletter!



WEDDING BELLS AT THE PRUYN HOUSE



Despite the pandemic, the Pruyn House hosted several weddings this summer and fall. Interest has increased for 2022 and we are nearly fully booked! There are still some dates open, so if you or your relative is thinking about holding your nuptials at the Pruyn House in 2022 or 2023, call us at 518-783-1435.

Left, A radiant Precious Kaliku waits in the parlor for her big moment.



Right, The Beckmans strike a pose next to an antique Ford Model T Roadster.

WE HAD AN OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY!

The Friends welcomed hundreds of families and friends on a picture-perfect day at this year's Old Fashioned Sunday event held September 12. Our biggest event of the season featured farm equipment, old time sheep shearing, honey extraction demos, our friend, the blacksmith, and our "beauty," the big, green Brewster Wagon.

The Friends would like to especially thank our generous underwriters and sponsors. When you see them, be sure to let them know you noted their participation at Old Fashioned Sunday and appreciate their support of the Prun House:

- Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region;
- Keeler Motor Car Company;
- Massry Charitable Foundation;
- National Grid;
- Paul J. Roth Family Trust;
- David & Candace Weir Foundation;
- Buhrmaster Oil & Propane;
- Grassland Equipment; and
- Rosenblum Development Corporation.



L-R: Barb Hoehn, Deb Brown, Marcia Codling, and Carol Fitzgerald

Also, the Friends are grateful to all our amazing volunteers and staff who assisted with setting up, hosting each of the floors of the House, buildings, membership tables, and assisting with parking. Thanks also for the many vendors that helped make the event festive.

Watch for news about Old Fashioned Sunday 2022 in the Summer newsletter!



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The Town of Colonie and the Pruyn House Board of Trustees continue to complete necessary capital improvements on the site. This summer, the Buhrmaster Barn cupola was restored and roofing repairs were performed. The Carriage House roof was also replaced with a metal roof in keeping with the style of the building; other smaller projects around the Complex were also completed.

The Town and Trustees continue to invest in the historical preservation of the site. Future work includes new external lighting in the front of the property, completion of the House restoration project, and rehabilitation of the grand staircase inside the House.

Internet Access Now Available

The William G Pomeroy Foundation has generously donated \$1,500 to the Friends of Pruyn House to cover the cost of installing internet access throughout the property. This will be especially useful for on-site meetings, weddings, as well as personal access for members and visitors.



The 1850 Carriage House sporting its brand-new roof.

WELCOME NEW FRIENDS

COLONIAL DAYS AT SHAKER EL

Fourth graders at Shaker Road Elementary School in Loudonville recently learned about life in Colonial Days as part of their New York history curriculum. Friends of Pruyn House Trustees Jolene Dirolf and Mary Smith visited the students dressed in period clothing made by Trustee Carol Fitzgerald to speak about life at the Pruyn House on the 182 acre farm. Children learned about living without running water, indoor bathrooms, or cell phones and the typical chores youngsters did to contribute to the family. Before departing, Mary and Jolene gave each child a Pruyn House activity book. "The students were so welcoming and I felt we were able to peak their curiosity to visit our Cultural Center," said Jolene. "It was wonderful to see a couple of (the students) with their parents on Old Fashioned Sunday."

The school visit by Jolene and Mary replaced a Colonial Days field trip originally planned by Shaker Road Elementary for this past Spring, but cancelled over Covid-19 concerns. The Friends are looking forward to next year when they can host the students at the Complex.



Mary Smith (L) and Jolene Dirolf (R) dressed as Colonial ladies.

FAIRIES AFLUTTER AND GNOMES IN HOMES

The Barn was aflutter with fairies and gnomes on August 18th when the Second Annual Fairy House Contest took place. Participants enjoyed a Stewarts Make-Your-Own-Sundae, then placed their homes and mini-worlds in the glade next to the Tool Museum where they were displayed through Old Fashioned Sunday. There were 16 entries, with a prize given to each category:

Adult, Anything Goes

Bottled Up Castle, by Lydia Lynch

Adult, All Natural

Stick Sprite Stovetop Chalet, by Sue Sheridan

Family, Anything Goes

Tie with the Ratigan Family and Harris Family

Family, All Natural

Wee Little Clover Cottage, by the Palmer Family

Kids, Ages 10-15, Anything Goes

Anika Kalam

Kids, Ages 10 and under, Anything Goes

Clara's Fairy House, by Clara Anonucci



THE NEXT GENERATION

We have been fortunate to have an enthusiastic group of young adults who have contributed time and energy to Pruyn House projects:

Grace Harting from Girl Scout Troop 1694 has recently completed her project to clean and enhance the walking trail behind the Barn. She had a botanist assist her in identifying plants along the path and arranged to have benches installed.

Sam Holmes, a Colonie High School student and Eagle Scout from Troop 1022, is building brochure boxes for the trail.

Sean Kilmartin, a Shaker High School student volunteered during the summer months to keep the property weed-free.

“Our Boys,” Mike Blaauboer (center), Seth Michel (left), and Tommy Servitas (right) were hired by the Town of Colonie as custodian and Program Aides respectively, here at the Pruyn Complex. They cleaned the House, Barn, Schoolhouse, and Restrooms each week, set up and took down tables and chairs for weddings and meetings, painted vestibules, hauled wagons, and did every job we asked them to do...all with willing and cheerful smiles. We are saying adieu and merci for all they have done now, but hope to have them all back next season!



JAZZ IN THE BARN

The Friends hosted a members-only concert in the barn on a crisp late September evening featuring the Jeanine Ouderkirk Quartet. “We were not able to have the members’ Annual Dinner this year due to the pandemic, nor are we able to host a Holiday Open House again this year,” said Nancy

O’Connor, President of the Friends of Pruyn House. “We thought a free, members-only concert would be a way to thank our Friends for joining and encouraging their continued support of our efforts for the future.”

Jeanine is a music teacher at St. Gregory’s School in Loudonville and had those in attendance nodding their heads or tapping their feet to the music, featuring autumn-themed standards such as *Autumn in New York* and *Autumn Leaves*.

Before the concert, Nancy presented an

original Kevin Kuhne watercolor painting of the Pruyn House property to Paula Mahan in thanks for her many years of service to the Town of Colonie and for her continued support of Pruyn House projects and events.



RECENT DONATIONS

Over the summer, we received several donations to add to the Pruyn House collection. Long-time member Charlie Flanagan discovered an article called “Saga of the Albany Area Rent Wars,” from the now defunct *Washington Park Spirit*. The article highlights an important historical event relevant to Casparus Pruyn, who was a rent collector for the many properties owned by the Van Rensselaers.



This 1800s sofa was found in a barn and lovingly restored by Cynthia Willis in the bottle-green damask that it now wears. Its new home is in the Blue Room.

The Fogarty family donated a tool box and buck saw that originally came from the Fogarty Family Farm in Schaghticoke, New York, which celebrated its centennial anniversary in February 2021. The tools now reside in the Tool Museum.

John and Ora Henkes donated a cradle they purchased from a local shop made from wood and square-head nails. While the history is unknown, one can imagine Mrs. Pruyn or one of the other early owners of the House rocking one of their babies in it. You can see it in the baby's room in the House.



A charming white child's sleigh was dropped off to the House anonymously. It's of the time period that the Friends' collect and will make a handsome holiday display this year, especially during the Holiday Photo Op. (see back page).



Other contributions include a Victorian-style child's woolen coat; a microwave for the House work area; a black needlepoint ladies' purse; and a number of books from the 1800s that make fine additions to our library. Thank you to all for your donations and for thinking of the Pruyn House.

If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact our Collections Chair, Gary Thompson at 518-783-1435 or email us with a description and photo, if possible, to pruynhouse@colonie.org.

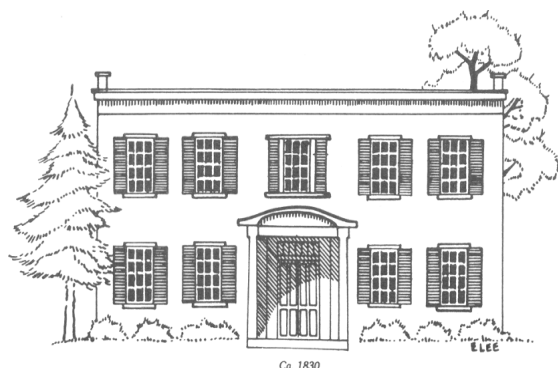
Holiday Photo Op



Repeating last year's successful holiday event, The Friends of Pruyn House will offer an Outdoor Holiday Photo Op! You and your family are invited to take holiday photos in front of the Pruyn House in our old-fashioned sleigh. New this year is a beautiful child's sleigh that would be perfect for the toddlers in your family. The Pruyn House will be decorated for the Holidays and our 1800's sleighs will be out front for family photos. Each child will receive a free Holiday Craft kit!

The photo op will be held Saturday, December 4 between 10 am and 2 pm. Reserve your 10-minute time slot by calling 518-783-1435, extension 1564. Time slots are \$25 each, payable at the time of your appointment in cash or by check made out to Friends of Pruyn House. Be sure to bring your own fully-charged cameras or cell phones.

All funds will be used to preserve and restore this lovely, historic property.



Friends of Pruyn House
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