



THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Sally Holben, Editor

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September/October 2009

SEPTEMBER 25 FUND-RAISER

In lieu of our regular monthly meeting, we will all be at the Skaneateles Country Club on Friday, September 25, from 6 to 10 pm for "Sailing through History," our festive fund-raiser for the museum expansion (postponed from June). Many more details on subsequent pages. Hope to see everyone there!

OCTOBER 27: JOHN MCCARTHY'S "GLIMPSES OF PARADISE"

Local photographer John Francis McCarthy has traveled to many far-flung places, including Ireland and China, finding and photographing scenes of enchanting beauty and mystery. But he is perhaps best known for his stunning photographs of the Finger Lakes region in New York. McCarthy's latest project is the soon-to-be-released "Glimpses of Paradise." For this beautiful book he has returned to the Finger Lakes area for his subject matter, and his images are sure to delight locals as much as they do our visitors.

Along with a presentation featuring a selection of his photographs, McCarthy may share some stories about his career in photography, the process of putting his new book together, and perhaps some tips on how he approaches his art.

Please join us on Tuesday, October 27, at 7:30, at the Creamery for this very interesting program.

A HEADS-UP FOR THE NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Because this program will be on Sunday, November 15, at 2:00 at the Frog Pond Bed & Breakfast (680 Sheldon Road), we wanted you to have plenty of advance notice so you can be sure to save the date. Frog Pond is the site of Skaneateles's Community Place, a mid-nineteenth century experiment in communal living. We will be given a tour of the house and some history of the fascinating but short-lived communal experiment.

The purpose of the Skaneateles Historical Society is to conduct and encourage historical research and to collect, preserve, and exhibit historical material in connection with the Town of Skaneateles.

SAILING THROUGH HISTORY

As anyone who has gone past the Creamery lately has seen, our fund-raiser thermometer shows that we are tantalizingly close to realizing our goal for the museum expansion. We need about \$175,000 more to complete our project. One means is a gala evening on Friday, September 25, from 6 to 10 pm at the Skaneateles Country Club.

Food and drink: From 6 till 7:30, there will be an open bar for beer and wine (a cash bar opens at 7:30). From 6:30 till 8:00, there will be carving stations, as well as passed hors d'oeuvres and a cheese table--plenty to keep your strength and spirits up for seeing the historical displays, bidding on the auctions, taking chances on the "What's in your box?" selections, and enjoying each other's company and the live music provided by the Barrigar Brothers and Harvyn Tarkmeel.

Auctions: Both silent and live auctions will offer a wide variety of objects and services. Among the items offered are gift certificates to area restaurants and stores; consultations and/or lessons with local architects, art conservators, and golf and lacrosse coaches; framed photographs and paintings; assorted small antiques; the chance to "Borrow a Barrow" oil painting; a framed watercolor painting of the village from the west shore by Hildegarde Edwards; cruises on the lake; getaways to Arizona, Vermont, or Myrtle Beach; Stickley and Sinclair furniture; a sailboat; a 37" Native American birchbark canoe from the 1890's. Quite truly, if you can't find something in these auctions to tempt you, you must already have everything!

What's in your box: A number of decorated and sealed boxes will contain a variety of items guaranteed to be worth \$35 to \$50. Chances on the boxes will be sold for \$30. Some boxes will be labeled "female," "male," "edible," etc, to give you a clue as to their contents.

Music: The Barrigar Brothers will play a couple of sets and Harvyn Tarkmeel will be at the piano.

Surprise reveal: A wonderful oil on canvas painting of the Glen Haven Water Cure will be unveiled, after a brief introduction by Susan Blakney. The artist, Luthera Rogers Converse, did the painting about 1855. Members of her family will be present to tell about her and her work.

Tickets: Admission for all this is \$75 per ticket or \$125 for two tickets. Checks should be made out to the Skaneateles Historical Society and marked for the fund-raiser. They may be mailed to us at 28 Hannum Street or dropped off at the Creamery, by September 18.

Ros Schwartz, our captain for the sail, and Joan Thomsen, her able first mate, have been working all summer with a dedicated crew to prepare an exciting and enjoyable evening. Steve White will be our master of ceremonies and conduct the live auction. Historical Society President Karlene Miller will greet everyone and say a few words about the museum expansion. The whole event sounds like a fine way to spend an evening, take your chances on getting some wonderful items for yourself or as gifts, and help the Society complete its project.

TRIBUTE PAVERS STILL AVAILABLE

If you haven't yet bought a tribute paver, for the brick walkway to the new connecting building between the Creamery building and the old boiler building, you still have a chance to do so. The pavers will be engraved according to your instructions, as a tribute to your family, a friend, or an occasion. They come in two sizes: 4" x 8" or 8" X 8". We will engrave the former with up to 3 lines of 14 characters; the latter, up to 5 lines of 14 characters. The two prices are \$125 and \$200. Several bricks have already been engraved and delivered to the Creamery, if you'd like to stop by and see what they look like "in the flesh." Forms for ordering the pavers are available at the Creamery; they also will be on hand at the fund-raiser on September 25.

ICE HOUSE ADDITION COMPLETED!

The first step of our three-part museum expansion has been completed. Some of you toured the rooms in June at the time of our monthly meeting. Since then great additional progress has been made.

Director Laurie Winship and board member Dave Miller went shopping for furniture for the room that will be used for research and for the new "cooler." That furniture has arrived and is now in place. Laurie, Dave, Ted Prindle, and Bent Thomsen figured out where everything in the old cooler should go in the new room. Ted and Kihm Winship moved the (massively heavy) file cabinets and a book case. Then for 4 hours of intense work on a Saturday morning members of the Sunrise Rotary plus Dave and a high school student doing community service moved everything else. They reassembled the shelving and put up new shelving. They lugged a map holder down from the attic. And they filled the shelves with all the books, files, newspapers, videos, scrapbooks, photographs that make up our research resources. We never would have been able to do all this without the help of all these people. A special HUGE thanks to Mark Schafer and his Rotarians for this act of generosity. The Society is enormously in their debt.

UPDATE ON THE REST OF THE EXPANSION

With the ice house completed, we can now concentrate on finishing the connecting building and the boiler building. Since the last newsletter, the exteriors of both buildings have been essentially completed. We are awaiting shutters for the windows in the connector building, as well as the white columns that will be placed at the entrance. The floors in both buildings have been laid and are now covered for protection. The doors in the boiler building have been installed. Both buildings are now closed to the elements. Once we have the necessary funds we will be able to complete the interiors. We are still pursuing grants, as well as the fund-raising enterprises mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

DOCENTS AND GIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fall and winter would be a good time to get started as a volunteer in the gift shop or as a museum docent. That way you would know the ropes before summer when we have the majority of our visitors. The work is easy and pleasant and it's fun to talk with the visitors, as well as learn more about Skaneateles. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please call the Creamery (685-1360) and leave your name, so we can set up training sessions at your convenience.

LABOR DAY IN SKANEATELES

Although Labor Day weekend has "always" been a time of celebration and fund-raising for the Skaneateles Fire Department, the ways of celebrating have changed some over the years. For instance, witness this year's shift from Sunday-Monday to Saturday-Sunday. Back in 1908, there were shoe races, wheelbarrow races, and 3-legged races, as well as a pie-eating contest. In 1921, there was a peanut race "for boys," a tug of war between the east side and the west side, and a "slow auto race for Fords." In 1961 Maurice Baumgartner recalled that there used to be a greased pole and hose fights. And in a 1984 article in the Press, Helen Ionta, former Town Historian, remembers when the fireworks were set off from the breakwall in the lake. We all probably have vivid memories of past Labor Days. No matter how or when they were celebrated, the main recollections are of fun, food, and fireworks. This year should be no different.

WHO'S BEEN TO THE CREAMERY THIS SUMMER?

Since May of this year, 273 visitors have signed the guest book at the Creamery. (Since not everyone signs, we figure this means at least 300 people have dropped by.) The majority have come from New York State, but visitors have come from 20 other states as well as Canada, Scotland, New Zealand, Australia, and Germany. Although most do not come to Skaneateles specifically to see the Creamery (to do research, for instance), many are members of historical societies in their home towns and like to compare notes and welcome us to visit them. It is always interesting to see what other societies do and pleasing to hear their impressed reactions to the Creamery.

To make accepting even easier, you can fill out and send in this form. See you at the Country Club on September 25!



The
Skaneateles
Historical Society
28 Hannum St. Skaneateles, NY 13152

Please respond to the above by September 18, 2009

I/we can attend: _____

- | | |
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| <p># <u>General Ticket Sails</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75 per registration</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$125 for two registrations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>I/we cannot attend, but have enclosed a contribution for the Museum Expansion.</i></p> | <p><i>Names of Harbor Masters will be listed in program if RSVP is received by September 18, 2009</i></p> <p># Harbor Masters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$125 per registration - Deck Hand</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$150 per registration - Crew Member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$200 per registration - Navigator</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$250 per registration - Captain</p> |
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES -- ONLY \$10 PER PERSON PER YEAR!

As in any organization, it is important that the Skaneateles Historical Society maintain a current and active membership. Help us increase our membership by signing up your friends, neighbors, and family members for the year 2009 and beyond, at only \$10 per person per year. Don't forget that membership means a 10% discount at the Society Gift Shop.

Memberships @ \$10 each	\$ _____
Small Jobs Fund donation (for jobs volunteers can't do)	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Please make your check payable to Skaneateles Historical Society and mail to our Membership Chair: David Bates 5623 Mack Road Skaneateles NY 13152. Thank you very much!