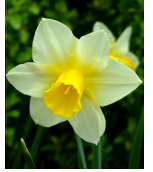




The Cobblestoner



Summer Solstice Soirée IV—A Celebration of Beauty—June 22

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By Maarit Vaga, Event Chairman

You are cordially invited to join us for the fourth Summer Solstice Soiree in celebration of beauty. The Thompson-Kast Visitors Center and grounds will be basking in the beauty of art, music, and poetry on Wednesday, June 22 from 4 p.m. until dark. Come, sit, and hear a poet speak and listen to the bard perform; artists from both near and far will bathe your eyes with beauty. Opportunities abound for you to add to the beauty whether by painting ceramics, composing haiku, or origami paper-folding. Sip a glass of wine as you stroll around the property and count the quotes on beauty. Select a poem to read or hear the poet recite it for you. Amble among the artists'

booths and purchase some beauty to bring home. Pick up your pre-ordered charcuterie snack box or bring your own basket and have a picnic on the lawn. Stay till dusk to see the wondrous delight of lanterns glow.

Come one, come all to be enthralled this Summer Solstice Night!

Admission is free (suggested donation \$5). All donations go to the Cobblestone Society & Museum. Charcuterie snack boxes are available by pre-order, order form on back page, (deadline June 15) for \$15 with wine; \$10 w/o wine. Door-prizes, kids' activities, wine cash bar, baked goods & light snacks for sale, and more...

More information & pre-orders, contact the Cobblestone Museum office: 585-589-9013.

"If eternity had a season, it would be midsummer. Autumn, winter, spring are all change and passage, but at the height of summer the year stands poised. It's only a passing moment, but even as it passes the heart knows it cannot change."
-Ursula K. LeGuin

Fiddlers of the Genesee To Present Concert—Sept. 10

The Cobblestone Museum Presents:
An Old Time Fiddle Music Concert (III)
Featuring "Fiddlers of the Genesee"

Saturday, Sept. 10 Time TBD
The New Visitors Center Lawn
Rain Location (Cobblestone Church)
Bring a Lawn Chair or Blanket
A Free-will Offering Will Be Accepted



Thompson-Kast Visitors Center

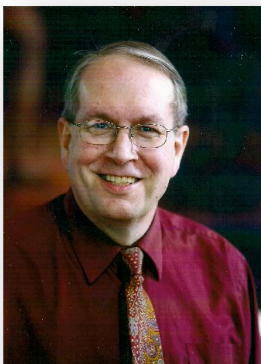


We are pleased to announce we are **OVER-THE-TOP!** As of press time for this newsletter we have reached our \$750,000 goal and our total stands at \$759,000. We are also pleased that ten major donors have added their family names to particular rooms in the building and two families have purchased the naming opportunity for the Visitors Center: Gail Johnson on behalf of the Thompson Family and David & Kathy Kast for the Kast Family. If you are interested in helping us continue to push this thermometer even higher over the top, you can send your donation or pledge using the form at the back of this newsletter. And, thank you, again, to all who have helped us reach this goal.

Our Visitors Center Committee is currently working with Clinton Brown Architects to complete a series of studies and plans needed to reconfigure the existing structure and add a new meeting room to accommodate meetings, events and receptions of up to 100 people. We anticipate that we will have some plans and renderings to share very soon.

If you haven't "visited" the Visitors Center yet, there is a chance for a "prequel" event on June 22 for the Summer Solstice Soirée. You can order a box lunch for that event on the last page of this newsletter. We hope to see you there!

Director's Report



By Doug Farley, Director

I am always amazed at how quickly time marches on, even in the winter. This past winter I accepted a project that I thought I would easily accomplish, but have since learned that it will take several "seasons" to complete.

With great thanks to Frank Berger who loaned us over ten years of newspaper clippings of Bill Lattin's articles, "Bethinking Old Orleans," I have begun to scan and digitize this invaluable source of local history information. It is my hope that researchers and history enthusiasts will soon be able search for these topics online through our website.

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Erin Anheier
President, Cobblestone Board
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Doug Farley, Museum Director
(585) 589-9013

Membership Program

LEGACY

(\$250,000-\$499,999)

Gail T. Johnson*

DIAMOND BENEFACTOR

(\$100,000-\$249,999)

David & Kathy Kast /
Kast Farms

GOLD BENEFACTOR

(\$75,000-\$99,999)

Elizabeth Dye Curtis
Foundation

Rochester Area
Community Foundation

Camilla & David
VanderLinden & Robin
MacLeod / Dunn Martin
Fund

BENEFACTOR

(\$50,000-\$74,999)

Erin Anheier & Russ
Bosch

GOLD HERITAGE

(\$30,000-\$39,999)

Roy Bubb

Orleans Chapter,
National Society
Daughters of the
American Revolution

K. Peter & Patricia Hurd

SILVER HERITAGE

(\$20,000-\$29,999)

Sue & Jim Bonafini

Genesee-Orleans
Regional Arts Council

Ingrid & Roger LaMont

David Mitchell—
Christopher Mitchell
Funeral Home

John Nipher

HERITAGE

(\$10,000-\$19,999)

Lawrence & Gabriella
Albanese*

Debby & Jack
Batchellor

Albion Agencies-Bill &
Jackie Bixler

Lois & Doug Farley

Courtenay & Maurice
Hoag

Grace & Gary Kent *

C. W. "Bill" Lattin*

Galen Lewis & The
Lewis Family

Gerard & Patricia
Morrisey

Shirley Bright-Neeper &
Le Roy Neeper

Pat & Bill O'Brien

F. Richard & Susan K.
Remley

Christine Sartwell

Brad (Patricia) Shelp

GOLD (\$1,000+)

Shirley & Stanley
Farone

BRONZE (\$250+)

Krys & Mike Elam

Sylvia Goodstine

Amy Machamer & Joe
Sidonio

Richard & Leona
Pazasis

Richard & Sibyl Pilon

Mariana Rhoades*

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Mikael Erakare

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Doris Antinore

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Batchellor

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Robert & Evelyn
Blackburn

Karen & Mark Bower

Nelda & David Callard

Victoria Christopher

Margaret Ciechanowicz

Grace & John
Denniston

Mendal & Alberta Dick

Donna Farley

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Linda Fraser

Linda Fuller

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Michael Loftus

Marcia & Gene Graczyk

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Terri Jennings

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Janice Mann-Beech

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Sheila McAtee

Dan Miller

Gloria Neilans

Maureen O'Donnell

Sen. Robert Ort

Toni Plummer

Mark & Brenda
Radzinski

David & Peggy Schreck

Bruce Schmidt

Joann Smith

Kathleen Smith

Elaine & Dan Specht

Sue Starkweather-Miller
& Doug Miller

Arlene & James Taylor

Sherry Tuohey

Kay VanNostrand

Diane Ecker-
Wadsworth

Sandra Walter &
Michael Schmackpfeffer

Mary & Tom Zangerle

FAMILY (\$40+)

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Lois McAllister Baum &
Greg Baum

Susan & Henry Beamer

Linda & Doug Beech

Darcy Beeman & Chris
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Duane Ecker

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Fries

Harriette Greaser

Kathy & David
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Cynthia Howk

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Galiford

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Michael Kaye

Linda & Tim Kirby

Wendy & Dennis Kirby

Rozenn & Bob LeSuer

Judy & Donald Manley

Tim Neilans

Richard Palmer

Ann & John Raskopf

Shirley & Glenn Roat

Mary Jean Welser &
Marty Schlabach

Jane & Neal Smith

Stephanie & Jake
Stinson

Laurie & Judd Sunshine

Christine & Ross
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Beverly Thompson

Loretta Tomasino

E. Deane Turner

Jean Wetherbee

Lynne Williams

Becky Winans

Delores Wolfe

Beatrice Young

* Denotes Life
Members

As an additional membership benefit, Patron level and higher levels are recognized in every issue of the Cobblestoner. Members at the Individual and Family levels are recognized in one quarterly issue at the time of payment. Major Donor levels, Heritage and above, are cumulative giving.

April Virtual Lecture Series Recap



By Sue Bonafini, Assistant Director

Educating the public has always been characteristic of the Cobblestone Museum. This spring there were two virtual lectures offered to the general public via the Zoom platform, inspired by Joe and Nellie Vagg, two former Gaines residents who are fondly recalled each time visitors tour their home and blacksmith shop on the Museum grounds.

Guest speaker Jonathan Bernard, a hobbyist blacksmith and American Civil War reenactor, shared his knowledge about the history of blacksmithing and metallurgy. He included a nod to Blacksmith Vagg and shared photos of Mr. Vagg's shop. Lori Osborne, Dir. of the Frances Willard House Museum and Executive Dir. of the Ctr. for Women's History & Leadership in Evanston, Ill., shared the life of Frances Willard and her impact on many societal issues of her day, most notably, her work with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Mrs. Vagg was a strong supporter of the temperance movement. A member of the Orleans Co. Women's Christian Temperance League for about 25 years, she served as a delegate at area and state conventions.

Individuals registered for these presentations using a sliding scale registration fee, so that the program could serve as a fundraiser for the Museum. Community sponsors provided financial support earmarked for speakers' fees, for which we are grateful. Our generous sponsors: Rochester Arc & Flame Center; Richard & Lee Pazasis, Members; Newstead Equestrian Center (Akron); An Anonymous Donor and Friend of the Museum; Bloom Wellness (Churchville); Royal Equine Veterinary Services (Lockport); and Jim Bonafini, former Cobblestone Society president/treasurer.

Museum Art Tour—July 16



Be prepared to spend a relaxing summer evening being pleased and amazed during your "artful" Museum Tour on Friday, July 16 beginning at 6pm. Wear your comfortable shoes so you are ready to walk around our various buildings to see many paintings, prints and sculptures on display at the Museum.

Former art teacher and Director & Curator, Bill Lattin, will be leading this interesting and educational tour with a dozen stops to examine a variety of art from the 19th and 20th centuries.

We plan to hold this tour, rain or shine, so dress appropriately. A free-will donation will be gladly accepted. Please reserve a spot in this tour by calling the Museum at (585) 589-9013.

Cobblestone Flea Market—August 13

By Sue Bonafini, Assistant Director

"Sooner or later, everything old is new again," is a quote credited to author Stephen King. So why not attempt a fundraiser that was once one of the highlights of the summer season, enjoyed by so many in the Cobblestone Society's past?

On Saturday, August 13, there will be a Flea Market held on the grounds of the Cobblestone Museum from 10 am – 4 pm. We're predicting an assortment of goods for purchase, ranging from those provided by vendors to treasures that homeowners no longer need, but someone else might! There will also be a large assortment of gently used books for sale, and refreshments, including hot dogs, will be available that day. As in the past, there will be a White Elephant booth with contributions from the membership or community at-large to benefit the Cobblestone Society.

Cobblestone Society members are eligible and strongly encouraged to assist as part of a large volunteer team required, by phoning the Museum or reaching out to Sue Bonafini at volunteers@cobblestonemuseum.org. If you're interested in making a donation for the White Elephant booth, items will be gladly accepted beginning in late July or August until the day before the event. A drop-off schedule for collections will be shared in the next newsletter and posted on our website Events page this summer. You've got plenty of time to survey your closets, attic, garage and/or basement to find worthy contributions!

Booth reservations will be taken at 585-589-9013. Spaces will be 10 x 10 feet square at \$20 each (no tables provided). A folding chair or two will be included upon request on a first come basis, while the limited supply lasts.

Whether you decide to shop or sell on Saturday, August 13, we hope to see you at our Flea Market!

Patriotic Service-July 3



This year's Patriotic Service will have a slightly different "feel" to it, as the Museum harkens back to its early roots and hosts an event with patriotic songs, poems and readings that are designed to make you proud of America and all that it stands for.

The Patriotic Service, beginning at 11am on Sunday, July 3, will be held in the Cobblestone Church, but won't be a religious service this year. At noon, we will move outdoors to enjoy a good old fashioned picnic with hotdogs right off the grill. Bring your own lawn chair and a dish to pass. Hotdogs and beverages will be provided.

Donors and More!

Many thanks to our members & friends who have made donations to the Cobblestone Society since our last issue of *The Cobblestoner*. Many people kindly donated items, finances, in-kind services, or artifacts to help the Museum continue to grow.

Gabriella & Lawrence Albanese	Shirley Bright-Neeper & Le Roy Neeper	Linda & Tim Kirby	John Nipher	Laxa
Albion Ace Hardware	Margy & Eric Brown	Wendy Kirby	Richard & Lee Pazasis	Susan & Michael Thaine in memory of Janice Barnum Thaine
Erin Anheier & Russ Bosch	Roy Bubb	Kludt Farm	Toni Plummer	Loretta Tomasino
Anonymous Donor	Chris Capurso	Elinor Sartwell	Brenda Radzinski	Virginia & Gar Trusselle in memory of Don Ross
Avanti Pizza	Kim Charron	LeClaire & Ed LeClaire	Mollie Radzinski	Virginia & Gar Trusselle
Jackie & Bill Bixler	Dr. Nancy Ciavarri	Mike LaLonde	Pauline Radzinski	Maarit Vaga
Erin Anheier & Russ Bosch	Case-Nic Cookies	Bill Lattin	Kim & Dick Remley	Camilla & David VanderLinden & Robin MacLeod / Dunn Martin Fund
Doris F. Antinore	Curtis Foundation	Lowes/Brockport	Mariana Rhoades	Kay VanNostrand
Cindy & Bill Applegate	Grace Denniston	Amy Machamer & Joe Sidonio	Rochester Arc & Flame Ctr.	Victor Hiking Trails Village House
Brett Baker	Richard Dunham	Susan & Jerome Machamer	Ann & John Raskopf	Diane Ecker Wadsworth
Debby & Jack Batchellor	Amy L. Engert	David Mitchell	Royalton Equine Veterinary Services	Benjamin and Nancy Zielinski Wetmore
Gene Bavis	Farm Credit East	Pat & Bill O'Brien	Rush's Vegetables	Doreen Wilson
Jean Benson	Barbara Filipiak	Olde Dogge Inn	Mary Jean Wesler & Marty Schlabach	Zambistro
Jackie & Bill Bixler/ Albion Agencies	Diana Flow	Mark's Pizzeria	Chris Sartwell	
Bloom Wellness	Sylvia Goodstine	Judy & Donald Manley	Scott B. Schickling, CPA	
Sue & Jim Bonafini	Kevin & Leigh Hamilton	Andrew W. Meier	Sue & Jeff Schmaltz	
Russ Bosch	Mary & Alan Isselhard	Newstead Equestrian Center	Jane & Neal Smith	
Mark Bower	Terri Jennings	Clara & Jeff Martin	Joann Smith	
Mary Anne Braunbach	Gail Johnson	David Mitchell	Jake Stinson/Turf Pro	
	Michael Kaye	Elissa & Chuck Nesbitt	David Sturges & Jana	
	Grace Kent			

Added Support for Cobblestone Museum



Did you know you can support the Cobblestone Museum without any cost to you? We have a great fundraising opportunity called Amazon Smile wherein Amazon will donate a generous percentage of your purchases to the Cobblestone Museum without any additional expense for you. Simply log in to Amazon at "Smile.Amazon.com" and register to support the Cobblestone Society as your charity of choice. After that, it is all handled automatically. Amazon cuts a check for the Cobblestone Society each month for all of the contributions they make.



Another additional source of support comes from Upstate Bottle Return sites throughout Orleans and Monroe counties. Drop off your bottles and cans at one of their many convenient locations and Upstate Bottle Return will donate the full proceeds to the Cobblestone Museum. No need to handle the messy returns. Upstate Bottle also increases the amount of their donation per container to six cents each, instead of the usual nickel. There's an Upstate Bottle Return conveniently located in the old Dollar General site in Albion.

Inspecting and Restoring Cobblestone Buildings



By Jim Salmon

Note: For nearly 30 years Jim Salmon has provided the most comprehensive home inspection services available in the Rochester area and the nine surrounding counties of Western New York. A licensed New York State Home Inspector, he has inspected more than 15,000 homes.) For 33 years, Jim has presented a live radio broadcast on WHAM 1180 AM.

As Home Inspectors, we are always seeing things we have never seen before. No matter how long we stay in this interesting business there will always be homes and construction techniques which amaze us. As for me, whenever I think I have seen everything, something strange and different comes up.

Approximately 12,000 years ago, the last modern ice age receded from North America. Mammoth glaciers carved huge ridges and hills from Minnesota to Wisconsin to New York and Massachusetts.

Left in its wake were large boulders - some of which were pounded into cobblestones, small fist-sized stones or a stone which can be held in one hand. As the ice receded north into Canada, large bodies of fresh water we know as the Great Lakes were left behind to polish these cobblestones for an eternity.

Sometime around 1825 near Rochester, New York a country mason began collecting these small "cobblestones" and built walls with them. Soon cobblestone homes were popping up all over Western New York and by 1830 it was an accepted construction method. As a result of an inexhaustible supply of cobbles, this trade spread fast throughout the Great Lakes region.

The homes were built with materials harvested from nearby fields and forests. A cobblestone wall means the home was 100% hand-made from bottom to top. Between 1825 and the start of the Civil War, approximately 1,000 cobblestone and mortar buildings were crafted in the northeastern United States. From its origin near Rochester, these buildings appeared in the Midwest, a few in New England, and even some in Canada. They also dot the landscape to the east across New York State.

I have been privileged to inspect 30 of these unique structures in my career. Many cobblestone buildings have been remodeled and updated and just as many still have the same dirt on the floor from 1825. They come in many sizes - from very tiny to large 3000 square foot homes with several additions. Most are residential homes, but some are commercial office buildings,

churches, schools, museums or just plain unoccupied historical buildings.

No two of these interesting buildings are made the same and if we could go back in time and talk with these masons, we would find that they were very proud of their work. Many guarded their techniques with their lives. Special tools were crafted to make their own unique finished look. Of all the cobblestone buildings that I have inspected, only one had major structural failures - most have stood the test of time. The awful winter weather of Western New York and the northeast can bring disastrous results to masonry products. Each mason had his own style of constructing the actual mortar joint. Some of the mortar joints were trowled to a point with 6 sides around a single stone producing a hexagon look. The stones were laid in rows using natural lime mortar.

The reason many of these structures still remain today is the quality and hardness of the mortar and the way in which it was applied. Natural lime mortar was made from limestones mined from quarries located near the construction sites. The lime was mixed with sand and water to specific formulas. Many differences of opinion exist as to which formula worked best. The actual process of making the lime powder was exhaustive. First the lime was pounded into small pieces and burned in a lime kiln. Water was added and the mixture was allowed to age from several weeks to as much as a year before it was used. How well the mortar held up under weather depended on the quality and purity of the sand and limestone used as ingredients.

Cobblestone buildings can be framed as a wall only or as a veneer to wooden framing. Remember no two are the same. Most stone walls range from 12" to 24" thick. They begin with what is called a rubble wall of stones laid first with no particular pattern. This beginning wall can be made of various sized stones, usually larger than the fist-sized cobblestones. Most of the time records show only one or two masons worked on a home at the same time. Too many workmen would mean the walls might go up too fast and not have time to dry properly causing early failure or even a collapse. Usually it was best for one mason to work methodically giving all mortar time to set up properly. Besides, most of these craftsmen were not eager to teach their trade to others.

Between the rubble wall and outer wall is where most failures occur. Water penetration and the freeze and thaw cycles will cause the outer cobblestone wall to crack and become loose which would eventually cause movement and failure. This is why when modern restoration repairs are made most of the outer stones are removed to allow the rubble wall to be restored providing a sound base for re-installation of the cobblestones.

Several of these homes, but not all, have the foundation as the beginning of the stone wall which indicates the subsequent wood floors do not sit on the foundation. Any negative grading situations or foundation damage can be seen as affecting the whole structure. The floor joists are usually mortared into the wall indicating foundation movement would be joist movement. Uneven floors with some extra slope are not uncommon. On-going pointing maintenance is essential for this type of building. Anyone who would live in a historical home like a cobblestone, would most likely be interested in preserving the original look and at the same time make modern upgrades.

(Continued on Page 7)

Inspecting & Restoring Cobblestone Buildings (Continued from Page 6)

Each one of these homes has a slightly different shade of mortar. Matching the color closely makes a much better result to pointing maintenance. Cracks are the single most evident sign of failure. Pointing will seal out moisture to a cracked area but will not insure against future failures. Usually small cracks pose only normal maintenance concerns. Cracks in excess of 1/16" and those that form a circle or show differential shifting are the ones to direct your attention to. Any bulges, bowing or loose and missing stones indicate a failure of the inner rubble wall which is pushing on the outer veneer of cobblestones.

The earliest cobblestone structures had the corners the same as the walls, a rubble wall with outer cobblestone veneers. These were prone to failure from having to turn the corner. Later techniques saw large square pieces of lake stone used to give the corners improved support. The finished cobblestones came in several varieties. Red sandstones which had been polished by the lake were used in several ways. A herringbone pattern was popular. Horizontal stones laid flat were also often used.

It is always important to pay particular attention to very old floor joists and support beams, as well as exterior wood trim and moldings. If you mix 175 year old wood with a stone foundation you are bound to find some decay. What makes this type of a home inspection challenging is that many of these homes have been added onto with modern construction and methods. You

are constantly switching back and forth in your mind from 1825 to the 1900's.

A cobblestone home can be very drafty and cold. As we all know masonry products are poor insulators and transfer cold temperatures easily from outside to inside. Insulation upgrades are always suggested. When stone walls are stripped of plaster and drywall on the inside 6" of unfaced fiberglass can be added with a covering of high "R" sheathing or Dow board prior to the installation of drywall.

Of the 1000 cobblestone buildings remaining, approximately 90% are within 75 miles of Rochester, New York. But, if you have the chance to inspect a cobblestone in Chicago, Minneapolis, or wherever, be prepared to enjoy yourself because these beautiful buildings are a testimony to the ingenuity of our forefathers. The Civil War generally marked the end of cobblestone construction in the northeast. Modern wood balloon framing was gaining in popularity. Modern bricks were being mass produced and Portland cement would dry much faster than natural lime mortar. A cobblestone building simply became too costly and time consuming to construct.

I try to take a picture of each cobblestone that I inspect to hang on my office wall. Like so many other aspects of modern craftsmanship, this is a long ago lost art.

Membership Dinner Recap



Committee members Grace Denniston and Marty Taber prepare to cut the cake for the Fourth Annual Membership Dinner

By Gail Johnson, Membership Dinner Chair

Eighty-six members attended the fourth annual Membership Fundraising Dinner on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Everyone agreed that it was the best organized dinner to date. Thanks go out to all of the committee who worked so hard that evening. Larry Albanese, Jean Benson, Rita Burrell, Kim Charron, Grace Denniston, Doug Farley, Sylvia Goodstine, Kevin and Leigh Hamilton, Grace and Gary Kent, Ruth Mathes, Shirley Bright-Neeper, Brenda and Mollie Radzinski, Dick Remley, Marty Taber, Camilla VanderLinden, and Doreen Wilson all did a fantastic job. Our auc-

tioner, Randy Bower, was also outstanding.

Fifty-one ticket holders were in the Early Bird drawing. To qualify for this raffle, you had to have paid for your tickets by April 1st. Our gross income for this event was \$19,865. This includes membership for those attending the dinner (\$4,680) dinner and donations (\$9,035) and the auction, silent auction and raffles (\$6,150). The live auction brought in \$3,000, the silent auction \$1,525, the basket raffle \$760, the money tree raffle \$620, and the split club raffle \$245. Our net income was over \$16,000 after expenses.

A special thank you is extended to Erin Anheier, Roy Bubb, and John Nipher of Holley, and Gail Johnson of Albion who underwrote the cost of all of the dinners. Also, Scott Schickling, CPA, CFP of Medina underwrote the entire cost of the Carlton Recreation Hall rental for the evening. Jackie and Bill Bixler/Albion Agencies, Shirley Bright-Neeper and Le Roy Neeper of Medina, and David Mitchell/Mitchell Family Funeral Homes gave generous monetary donations. The cost of the appetizers for the evening was donated by Diane Ecker Wadsworth of Bend, Oregon, Grace Denniston of Albion, Rita Burrell of Holley, and Tops Friendly Markets of Albion. Brenda Radzinski of Albion underwrote the cost of the sheet cake and Doreen Wilson of Albion provided the table coverings.

And to all the members who donated items for the auctions and raffles, a big thank you. We had some unusual items such as official U.S. Post Office Boxes from the 1940s donated by Kim Charron of Kent, a vintage Polynesian Four Tier Teak Centerpiece/ Serving Set/Lazy Susan donated by Amy L. Engert of Holley, and a dark blue/beige Coverlet donated by John Nipher of Holley. Woven into the coverlet was "THE PROPERTY OF F. IDE/ WOVEN IN NEWFANE, NIAGARA COUNTY NY 1844."

Cobblestone Museum Events 2022

Victorian Mourning Art Exhibit—Spring 2022

An exhibit to showcase mourning art prominent in the late 19th century in America is currently on exhibit in the Proctor Room. Many pieces from the Museum collection are featured, including objects that display the motifs of angels, wreaths, pillows and lambs. One of the most unique artifacts is a beautiful tombstone donated to the Museum by the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester that depicts a stand of weeping willows and an obelisk pointing to heaven.

Summer Solstice Soirée at the Visitors Center—Wed. June 22 (4-9pm)

A celebration of art, music and nature at the “new” Thompson-Kast Visitors Center. Plein-air artists will be painting in the beautiful outdoor setting. A cadre of musicians will entertain throughout the campus. Modest donations will be gladly accepted.

Victorian Mourning Art Exhibit Opening—Fri. June 24 (6pm)

Join us for the official opening of the summer exhibit in our Upper Gallery, “Victorian Mourning Art.” Former Director & Curator, Bill Lattin, has put together a floor-to-ceiling exhibit of 19th century funereal art and related ephemera. Light refreshments will be served. RSVPs are appreciated at (585) 589-9013.

Cobblestone Patriotic Service—Sun. July 3 (11am-1pm)

Come out and celebrate our nation’s independence with patriotic songs and readings, followed by a hot dog picnic lunch on the side lawn. (Bring your own lawn chair or blanket and a dish to share.) A free-will donation will be received.

Cobblestone Museum Art Tour—Fri. July 15 (6pm)

Visit several of the Cobblestone Museum’s buildings to view some of the paintings, prints, sculptures and more, that are displayed. There is some walking necessary so wear comfortable shoes. Free-will offering.

Cobblestone Flea Market—August 13 (10am-4pm)

We showcase our new Visitors Center for this community shopping event.

Fall Open House—Sept. 10 (10am-3pm)

Our museum will come alive with artisans along with a special concert performed by Fiddlers of the Genesee on our Visitors Center lawn at 3pm. (Bring a blanket or lawn chair for your comfort.) Free-will offering.

Music from the 1920s—Fri. Sept. 23 (6pm)

Join us at the Vagg House to enjoy a short “concert” of tunes “performed” on the Museum’s Gulbransen Player Piano and Edison Cylinder Phonograph. Light refreshments will be served. Free-will offering. Reservations required: (585) 589-9013.

Ghost Walk—October TBD

Meet “ghosts” from the Museum’s history at various outdoor locations throughout the campus.

Holiday Shoppe—TBD

Visit the lower level of the Cobblestone Church for a huge selection of Christmas decorations and gift possibilities at affordable prices. Sold while supplies last.

Music of the 1920s—September 23

The Vagg House is the setting for a great summer treat, “Music of the 1920s.” Guests will be entertained throughout the evening with a nostalgic trip back in music history to enjoy the sounds of the 1920s as presented using the Museum’s Gulbransen Player Piano and Edison Phonograph. Both of these instruments represent the type of music that would have been enjoyed in the 1920s. Bill Lattin will lead this “tour” down memory lane as he plays a curated selection of tunes and comic readings.

Reservations will be needed for this program by calling (585) 589-9013. If we overrun our capacity we will schedule additional “performances.” Light refreshments will be served. A free-will donation will be gladly accepted.



Victorian Mourning Art & Sundries: “Absent, But Not Forgotten”

Exhibit Opening—June 24 (5pm-8pm)

We are very pleased to announce that board member Bill Lattin has put on loan his extensive collection of Mourning Art which will be exhibited in our Upper Gallery. An opening reception for the show will take place on Friday, June 24 between the hours of 5pm to 8pm. The Cobblestone Ward House will also be open for viewing. Wine, cheese and crackers will be offered for your enjoyment.

Bill indicates that around 200 items will be displayed from his collection which include homemade memorials (one-of-a-kind) as well as manufactured knick-knacks and a host of memorial prints as well as hair art in shadowboxes. Posthumous portraits and postmortem photographs are also included. Bill states, “Some of the artifacts in this collection are unmistakable, however, some are much more subtle in appearance and often passed over as not being death related.

Bill said he first took an interest in the subject as a freshman at college when a photography professor showed students 19th century postmortem photos that he had collected. That was in 1963 and the beginning of Bill’s awareness of this genre. As a collector he then began to realize the many facets of this subject.

From “Mourning Art & Jewelry,” by Maureen De Lorme, published in 2004, we find: “The happy reunion of family members in paradise became the overriding focus of death perspectives and commemorative art after the Enlightenment and Romantic Movements. Death is no longer death in the same sense that it had been throughout the Middle Ages; it is now obscured in the beautiful portrayals of the deathbed scene both in art and literature. For the first time in Western culture, death had now become an *aesthetic*.”

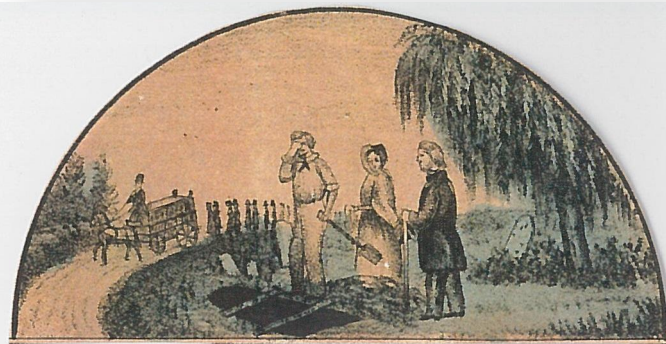
Indeed, some of the examples included in this exhibit can certainly be described as beautiful. Bill Lattin will be on hand at the opening reception to answer questions, providing commentary for our guests and visitors. If unable to attend the reception, we do hope you will drop by this summer to take in a very informative exhibition.



The posthumous portrait here of a young girl dates to the 1860s. This oil on canvas is a more subtle rendition of mourning art. We note the sort of sad look on her face and that she is shown in clouds. The coral in her necklace may symbolize pilgrimage and heartfelt love.



This oval portrait on canvas from the 1880s shows a woman in mourning attire probably looking at a photo of her deceased husband.



This vignette from a circa 1860 hand colored lithograph shows the hearse approaching the graveyard with mourners following. The gravedigger is mopping his brow, while the minister and his wife await the coffin. Note the two boards over the open grave to hold the coffin during the graveside committal service.



This is a temporary grave marker made out of a plank first painted white with black stenciled letters. Dating from the Civil War era, it states “Joseph White Co. K. H. 8.”

In Memoriam—Bruce Midkiff

The Museum received word that this past February, Bruce Midkiff passed away in Ambridge, PA, at the age of 72, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was active with the Cobblestone Society during the 1980s and 1990s. During that period he conducted several cobblestone masonry workshops. He restored the exterior walls of the Harness Shop with lime based mortar stucco and began the reconstruction of the cobblestone smokehouse on our campus. To better understand lime mortar, Bruce built a working limekiln in his own backyard. His friends described him as a "lime looney," as he experimented over the years with various mortars.

Bruce became a well-known speaker in his field and made trips to England, Ireland, Scotland and Egypt to speak on his craft. In addition to teaching classes on cobblestone masonry for the Cobblestone Museum, Bruce also demonstrated at the University of Rochester.

In 1991, Bruce stood on the "back" of the Sphinx in Cairo, as part of a team of panellists who traveled there for the first International Symposium for the Preservation of the Great Sphinx.

Bruce served on the Cobblestone Board of Trustees as well as the Town of Gaines Planning Board. In 1999, Bruce took a job as a Preservation Construction Specialist for the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, based out of Old Economy Village in Ambridge, PA.

He enjoyed writing and had a book published on historic mortar and another book with short stories. Bruce was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. He proudly served his country as a member of the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Geraldine; three sons, a daughter, two stepsons; five grandchildren and six step-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and many close friends.



District #10 School—Hartland



By Richard Palmer

District No. 10 schoolhouse is located at 9713 Seaman Road at intersection with Carmen Road in the town of Hartland, Niagara county. It was built in 1845. It was used until centralization in 1947. It is now owned by the Hartland Historical Society as a one-room schoolhouse museum. It is built of field cobbles. It has been placed on the National Register. Old photo courtesy of Norman LaJoie, Hartland Town Historian



Five Year Capital Pledge Drive for the Cobblestone Visitors Center

\$200,000 Gail Thompson Johnson*	Dunn Martin Fund— Camilla VanderLinden & Robin MacLeod	\$2,000 Karen & Mark Bower	Cindy & Bill Applegate	Lorraine Oakley
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		Susan & Michael Thaine in memory of Janice Barnum Thaine	Michael Kaye	Mark Tillman— Tillman's Village Inn
\$15,000 Gabriella & Lawrence Albanese*	\$2,500 Rev. Don Algeo	Ann & John Raskopf	Linda Kozubal	Kay VanNostrand
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Membership Levels	(.....SUSTAINING LEVELS.....)						
	Individual \$25	Family \$40+	Patron \$100+	Bronze \$250+	Silver \$500+	Gold \$1000+	Diamond \$2500+
Free Admission	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Free Cobblestoner Newsletter	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Discounts on Events & Tours	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10% Discount in Gift Shop	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advance Notice of Events	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Use of Resource Center	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cobblestone Perks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Recognition in Newsletter	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Recognition in every Newsletter			X	X	X	X	X
Recognition at Membership Dinner			X	X	X	X	X
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Free Raffle Tickets at all Events						X	X
Complimentary Dinner for Two at Membership Dinner							X

Membership Category (All levels except Individual include two people.) Through April 30, 2023

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I want to make a five year pledge of support for the Cobblestone Visitors Center. (Contact Me:) Yes / No

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I want to pre-order:

_____ Charcuterie Box(es) for the Summer Solstice Soirée with Wine @ \$15 each \$ _____

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