

Grand Island Historical Society

Post Office Box 135, Grand Island, New York 14072
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Fall 2016 Newsletter

2016-17 GRAND ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President - Curt Nestark 864-8697

Vice President - Programs - Adele Upton 773-5847

Vice President – Membership - Jeri Benzing 773-1587

Recording Secretary - Robin Shipman 912-6590

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Cooke 255-5838

Treasurer – Arlene Ehde 773-3881

A Message From The President

On a quiet warm June afternoon, I signed the agreement between the Historical Society and State Parks! After ten years and numerous meetings, we now have a five year agreement in place. Because we now have an agreement, the Society can continue our plans for the Porch Project which includes making the entrance to River Lea ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant. The agreement will be presented to you at our September potluck supper.

The 11th annual Paddles-Up event on July 30 in Beaver Island State Park was another great success! We served breakfast foods to the participants, had a small but substantial historical display, and Kim and I enjoyed our first food truck sandwich together.



For those of you who helped out on the May fourth grade tour, I want to thank ALL of you!! The Huth Road School Principal, Kerri Nowak, was able to attend the tour and greatly enjoyed the wash day skit and the outside exhibit by Bryce Shipman.

Speaking of schools, the historical society is planning a spring 2017 adult-ed class on the history of Grand Island. If you would like to help or have any ideas please contact myself or Mary Cooke.

Thank you to all of our Historical Society Board of Trustees, the volunteers who take the lead in keeping the historical society running and our River Lea museum presentable. Many exciting events are planned for this fall, please plan on attending!

Curt Nestark, President

Grand Island Historical Society
Programs, Events and Open Houses
September 2016 - December 2016

Please join us for our monthly meetings and interesting lineup of programs and speakers. Enjoy some refreshments while visiting the historic River Lea Farmhouse, home of the Grand Island Historical Society, in Beaver Island State Park. All programs are **free** and **open to the public**.

Thursday, September 1, 2016- 6:00 p.m. -POTLUCK PICNIC-- Please bring your own place setting and a dish to pass. Beverages and desserts will be provided. Save a stamp and bring your membership check to the dinner, too! Our guest speaker will be Steve Cichon with a presentation on "Grover Cleveland's Buffalo".

Sunday, September 18, 2016- OPEN HOUSE AT RIVER LEA-2:00-4:00 PM Costumed docents will greet you for a tour of the historical farmhouse.

Thursday, October 6, 2016 - 7:00 p.m., general meeting and program. Our guest speaker will be Timothy Bohen, speaking about his book, "Against the Grain", the story of a group of mostly Irish immigrants who toiled in the hulls of grain ships and other waterfront industries of Buffalo's First Ward.

Sunday, October 16, 2016 -OPEN HOUSE AT RIVER LEA 2:00-4:00 PM. Costumed docents will greet you for a tour of the historical farmhouse.

Thursday, November 3, 2016 - 7:00 p.m. SPECIAL EVENT!! The Union Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps, a reenacting group performing military field music of the American Civil War, will be our special guest presenters. **PLEASE NOTE: Our meeting location is changed for this event** and will be at **Historic Trinity Church at 2100 Whitehaven Rd.,** Grand Island, N.Y 14072.

Holiday Luncheons-Tues., Nov. 29, Wed., Nov. 30 and Fri., Dec.2, Noon, \$25.00
Program: "Christmas in Miniature" by Nancy LaChiusa.

Reservations required. Call Carole Moore at 773-3817 for lunch reservations.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 -Members' holiday party, 6:30 P.M. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to pass and a fun, inexpensive, small wrapped gift if you wish to participate in our Christmas game.

Back by popular demand: The River Lea Bell Ringers!

Sunday, December 4, 2016- CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE-1:00-4:00 PM. Come and enjoy the decorations and sounds of the season in our historic farmhouse. Shop in our boutique and enjoy some refreshments while listening to holiday music by a harpist. Costumed docents will be on hand to share information about the house.

River Lea Library News

Many thanks to all the members who responded to last spring's plea for help in the library. A goodly crew of workers turned out, throughout the spring, and a lot of clipping, filing, sorting, and just general clearing-out was accomplished. It is gratifying to see how much can be accomplished, even though at times it seemed like just a nibble! Besides the catch-up, there are decisions to be made about the best way to bring the library and its resources up-to-date.

A vacation was called over the summer, because it is too hot to work there. But, with cooler days coming, it is time to get back to it. I would like to schedule work times on Tuesdays: September 13, 20 and 27, and October 4, 11 and 18, from 10:00 am to 12 noon. Not everyone can come every time, but whatever you can do, is greatly appreciated.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping, or would prefer a different time.

Thank you!

Barbara Birt, birtgrisny@gmail.com, 773-5300

Spring Tea a Great Success



Sherrie Wendling and Suzanne Hutt chaired a beautiful, sold out Spring Tea on April 24. The menu included a new salad that was very well received and the program about quilting was most interesting and informative. Thank you to the chairs, and to all the volunteers, who made the tea a great success!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Time is approaching for membership renewal. Membership dues should be paid up by December 31, 2016. This year, to make it easier, you can bring your dues to one of our monthly meetings, and give to Jeri Benzing and she will have the membership cards for you then. This will save postage and time receiving your membership cards. If you know anyone who would like to join, we have membership forms at River Lea for you to take. A form is also the last page of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings and other functions throughout the year!

Spring Road Trip: Ulrich's and the Pierce Arrow



On April 15, GI Historical Society members enjoyed lunch at historic Ulrich's Tavern, the longest continuously operating establishment in Buffalo, followed by a tour of The Buffalo Transportation-Pierce Arrow Museum. The group was privileged to have Museum owner Jim Sandoro as a tour guide! In addition to cars, trucks and bikes, the museum has a huge collection of related advertisements, clothing of the era of each vehicle and other most interesting memorabilia: see photo below – note the poodle skirt. It was awesome! If you haven't been there, go soon! There is so much to enjoy for all ages and interests!





GRAND ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please Print)

Name(s)_____

Address_____

Telephone_____ e-mail_____

____ Individual membership @ \$20 per person

____ Couples @ \$35 (married couples)

____ Family membership (3 or more persons residing at same address) @ \$40

____ Lifetime membership (one time dues payment) @ \$250

____ Business/Professional membership @ \$100

____ Student membership @ \$10 per person

Return form with check or money order (made out to the Grand Island Historical Society) to:

**Jeri Benzing, Membership Chair
Grand Island Historical Society
2136 Baseline Road, #225
Grand Island, NY 14072**