



Pratt House News

Fall 2023 | Volume 23, Issue 4

Friends of History in Fulton, N.Y., Inc.

Remember when...

Do you remember when you used to “slow dance” to the beautiful voices of some of your favorite crooners? Do you remember when you used to “twist and shout” to music that forced you to get up and dance? If so, the Friends of History is inviting you to join them in an evening that you are not going to want to miss!

Take a nostalgic trip down memory lane on Friday, November 10 at the Tavern on the Lock with our very own Joe Cortini. Joe educated and enchanted us at last year’s dinner with his Jazz Mafia Trio. This year Joe, on drums, will be joined by well-known pianist Rick Montalbano and vocalist Julie Falatico. Together they will entertain us with songs from the ***Great American Songbook***.

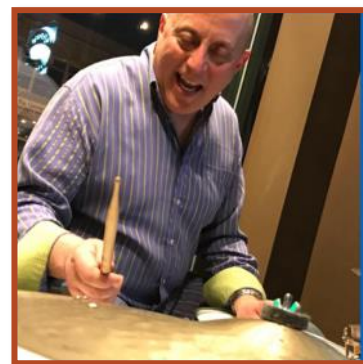
Join The Friends of History in Fulton for an evening of good food, good friends, and great music. The cash bar will open at 5:30 with a buffet dinner served at 6:30. Be prepared to step back in time to listen to your favorite music.

Begin your holiday season early with us on November 10 at the Tavern on The Lock.

For more information call **315-598-4616** or visit:

<http://www.pratthousemuseum.org/events.html>

Won't you join us?



Top: Joe Cortini.



Bottom: Julie Falatico & Rick Montalbano.



2023

Board of Directors

Tom Brown, President
John Finocchiaro, 1st Vice Pres
Angela Bernat, 2nd Vice Pres.
Carol Dexter, Secretary
Sarah Conley, Corr. Secretary
Sue Brown, Treasurer
LaVerne DeLand
Kathy DeLisle
Sue Ebert
Carole Faraglia
Sue Fiorini
Wendell Howard
Marjorie Julian
Gay Musumeci
Janet Sczapak
Joe Sczapak
Fred Sumner

Staff

Theresa Jones, Museum Coord.
Travis Wright, Displays

Handicap Accessible

A ramp off the driveway to the side door enables handicapped access to the Pratt House. (During the winter months, however, we are closed and there is no handicap access.)

Pratt House Hours

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
10am to 3pm, mid-Apr thru-mid-Dec.

Saturday by appointment only. Call us at 315-598-4616.



Parade of Trees 2023



It's that time

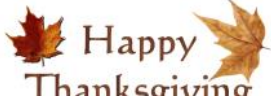
Where has this year gone?! The year 2023 marks the 33rd year for the Friends of History's Parade of Trees. It all began in 1988. Ever since, the halls of the Pratt House are decked with trees every year that are brought in and decorated by participating schools, non-profit organizations



Continued on pg. 3.

In this issue: [2023 Hunter Arms pg 4](#) | [Celebrating Our Every Day Heroes pg 6](#)

Greetings, Friends,

 Happy
Thanksgiving



It is hard to believe that 2023 is almost behind us; it has been a busy and eventful period for the Pratt House.

We have been doing some much needed outdoor work. Tree trimming was done on the north side of the house. Our gardens look lovelier than ever thanks to the efforts of Janet Weldin, Sue Brown, Gay Musumeci, and Kathy DeLisle. Work was completed on the cellar windows and on the steps and railings to the side door entrance. Our new maintenance shed was painted and it looks great!

The Chocolate Museum will be showcasing displays in



Some much needed outdoor work has been done recently at the Pratt House. Work was completed on the cellar windows and the side stairs and railings. The new maintenance shed (pictured above) was painted the green color like that Pratt House and it looks wonderful! Everything looks fresh and ready for our end-of-year festivities!

the history of the Nestles Factory in Fulton.

In September we hosted a new event at the Pratt house. Thanks to the hard work of Theresa Jones, we celebrated and honored the Fulton Police, Firefighters

and EMT's. Thank you to the many businesses in Fulton who donated to help make the celebration successful. We want to thank Price Chopper for donating the cake and Walmart, Mimi's, Dunkin, Subway, Lakeview Lanes, and Tavern on the Lock for their contributions. We are so grateful for the generosity of these community businesses. It was a nice show of appreciation and respect to our Fulton first responders. Two of my favorite items were Mike Jones' chili and Theresa's goulash.

As you read this newsletter, I hope that you are looking forward to our Parade of Trees in December. I hope, too, that you all have a safe and happy holiday season. Information on the Parade of Trees and other activities are included in this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Thomas Brown-President



Corporate Sponsors 2023

Silver Membership

Burke's Home Center	L.C. Smith Collectors Association
Fulton Savings Bank	
Harbor Eye Associates, (Dr. David J. Dexter)	Patterson Warehousing

Bronze Membership

Advanced Dental Arts (Dr. Frank Fruce, DMD)
Howard Hanna Real Estate
OVIA Insurance Agencies, LLC
Pathfinder Bank
Save-A-Lot (Fulton)

Patron Membership

Valley Locksmith, Rick Rebeor

We thank all of the businesses for their sponsorship support. They help the Friends of History and the Pratt House Museum to continue to share local history of Fulton and the surrounding area.

Oswego Homeschoolers Meet Mrs. Pratt—*You can too!*

Recently students from the Oswego Homeschool Association visited the Pratt House Museum for a tour. They also had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Pratt! Mrs. Pratt showed them around the house and told stories about life back in the early days in Fulton. You too can meet Mrs. Pratt at our Open House Punch Party on December 3 from 1:30p—4:00p.

*Mrs Pratt, (Karen & Kathy ☺)
Thank you so much for hosting
the Oswego Homeschool Association at
Pratt House. Our students learned so
much great local history Hands-On
from you. Your generous contribution
to our learning is appreciated!
Nellie Rose and the OHA Board
Events coordinators*



Meet Mrs. Pratt!

At this year's **Open House Punch Party**
Sunday, December 3
1:30p—4:00p
J.W. Pratt House Museum

2023 Parade of Trees (cont.)

and businesses in the community. Those who visit to view the amazing showcase of trees vote on their favorite one. The non-profit winners receive a cash prize.

We invite you to this year's Parade of Trees which will take place November 27 – December 8, from 10 a.m. – 3 pm.. Our Punch Party Open House is Sunday, December 3 from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

For more information, call 315-598-4616.



Click to print or make bigger.



[Watch slide show video of 2022 Parade of Trees.](#)

Visit our [Parade of Trees webpage](#)



Start your holiday festivities early with the Friends of History, featuring Joe Cortini and friends—5:30 cash bar; 6:30 buffet dinner. [Click for more info and payment options.](#)

Hunter Arms Homecoming Weekend



2023 Hunter Arms Homecoming Contestants

The Friends of History hosted the 12th annual Hunter Arms Homecoming Weekend this past summer on August 11 and 12. The Hunter family along with Hunter Arms/L.C. Smith collectors and enthusiasts from across the country gathered together in Fulton to relish in the camaraderie and revel in friendly competition.

As in years past, the shooting competition took place at Pathfinder Fish & Game Club while the Pratt House Museum showcased participants' carefully crafted exhibits that were viewed and voted on by visitors.

Displays at the museum were artistically constructed by each presenter and eloquently portrayed the history of the guns and related artwork and memorabilia. *(By the way, if you've never been to the Pratt House Museum you may be interested to know that there is a room upstairs dedicated to Hunter Arms/L.C. Smith. Of course we would love for you to visit and tour the Pratt House and Hunter Arms room in person, but for now you can watch the [virtual tour](#).)*

The Hunter Arms Homecoming event centers around the superb craftsmanship of L.C. Smith and Hunter guns made at the Hunter Arms Factory in Fulton from the late

1800s to 1950, when the factory closed. Now, more than 70 years later after the factory shut its doors, the guns made there are prized possessions and still used in the annual shooting competition.

James Hunter II (Jim) and his sons James III and Rob

came from their homes in the Midwest to attend the 12th homecoming event. Jim has attended every homecoming since its inception in 2010. The Hunters are part of a shared family homestead in Sterling Valley where they stay while enjoying the Hunter Arms weekend activities.

He tells us that the homecoming events are just an all

around great weekend as it gives them an opportunity to get caught up with good friends met at past Hunter Arms Homecoming celebrations, as well as get reacquainted with the family history here in Fulton.

Awards from the displays and the shooting competition were presented at Saturday night's banquet at RFH's Hide-A-Way in Phoenix.

The Hunter Family Award went to Annie Jardin's display; Tom Garvey's display won the Mayor's Award; and



Annie Jardin's display won the Hunter Family Award.

Continued on pg. 5.

Hunter Arms Homecoming—cont.

The People's Choice Award, as voted on by all those who viewed the displays, went to Steve Sipprell, who came all the way from California for the homecoming.

In the shooting competition, Tom Snyder Jr. took first place in the Skeet category, followed by Rick Ghenn and Greg McConnell.

John Heretyk was the winner of the Trap category. McConnell placed second, and Jesse Rock was third.

The top three in the 5-Stand category were Snyder, Annie Jardin, and McConnell.

In the Sporting Clays category, Rock placed first with McConnell second and Snyder third.

Snyder received the High Gun Award at the banquet for all-around shooting excellence.



The People's Choice Award went to Steve Sipprell for his display.



Pictured above (middle) is James Hunter II (Jim). Jim has attended every homecoming since it all began in 2010. This year his sons Rob (left) and Jace (right) enjoyed the camaraderie and competition with him at the event.

A special thanks to Les Weldin, a member of the Friends of History in Fulton and of the L.C. Smith Collectors Association, who devotes much time and energy each year to make this event a memorable occasion for Hunter Arms and L.C. Smith gun lovers and collectors, as well as the Fulton community.



The Mayor's Award went to Tom Garver's display.

Door prizes and raffle prizes were also included in the dinner celebration. We extend our gratitude and appreciation for Janet Weldin's gifted talent with a paint brush—Janet painted a delightful representation of outdoor life on a piece of live edge wood, which added to its charm. The art piece was one of many prizes at the banquet. Thank you to ALL who contributed to this year's prizes!

As Les put it, the banquet was "a fitting way to cap off the weekend. Everybody enjoyed the meal and the camaraderie."



Pictured at right is Janet Weldin presenting the beautiful scenic picture she painted on a live edge piece of wood to Cindy Jimenez, the winner of the raffle.



Click for more homecoming photos...



Celebrating Our Every Day Heroes

Friends of History Honor First Responders with Free Lunch

This past September the Friends of History invited Fulton police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel and other first responders to the Pratt House to enjoy a free lunch on us. This was a way to show how much we really appreciate our “Every Day Heroes.” And who deserves a nice treat more than they do? They risk their lives day in and day out safeguarding our community—always the first at the scene.

The gathering was an occasion to meet and talk with our local heroes—they are, after all, our neighbors too. The lunch was spread over two hours or so to allow our guests of honor enough time to enjoy the feast and maybe even take a little tour around the museum. A variety of food choices included hot dogs, subs, doughnuts, goulash, chili, apples, chips, water, cake and more.

“Free food—no officer’s going to turn that down,” Fulton Police Chief Michael Curtis said with a laugh. “We appreciate it, of course, and it’s a great opportunity to see part of history. We have a display for the police department, and we’re proud to see that here. It’s always nice to be a part of the community. We’re really appreciative of the effort that has been put forth.”

Chief Curtis said he was impressed with all the displays of the city’s history in the museum. “It’s amazing. I know the community has a rich history, but this really shows how deep it is,” he said.

There were six raffles at the luncheon. Each first responder got to drop a raffle ticket with their

name and contact information in the basket corresponding with the prize they wanted to win.

Here are the winners and what they won...

Steve Dexter—“[Memories... Fulton, NY](#)” throw

Michael Curtis—\$25 Lakeview Lanes gift card

Peter Holmes—Celebrating Every Day Heroes puzzle

Sophia Graves—FoH one year membership

Shawn Simoneau—\$25 Tavern on the Lock gift card

Lucas Hollenbeck—[Fulton & the Oswego River](#) (book)

Congratulations Heroes!



Pictured left is Firefighter Steve Dexter with Museum Coordinator Theresa Jones. Steve won the throw blanket—“[Memories... Fulton, NY](#)”.



Pictured here are two Fulton Firefighters who both won raffles at the event. Shawn Simoneau, left, won a \$25 Tavern on the Lock gift card and with him is Peter Holmes who won the Celebrating Our Every Day Heroes puzzle.

Marjorie Julian, FoH board member, gives Detective Lucas Hollenbeck his winning prize—a copy of “[Fulton and the Oswego River](#)”.

See more pictures...

[Celebrating Every Day Heroes slideshow](#)



Membership 2023

Cupola

Jim Leo & Stephen Wise

Attic

Alicia & Dick Calagiovanni

John Finocchiaro

Deanne Morrill

Fran Sullivan

Eleanor Vayner

Gallery

MaryAnn Babikian

Ed & Angela Bernat

Thomas & Suzanne Brown

Chris & Debbie Canfield

Brian Caswell

Gordon Chalone

Theresa Chalone

Marietta & Leigh Colitre

Kathy & RJ DeLisle

Carol Dexter

Verner & Gail Drohan

Leonard & Nancy Ellis

Debra Foster

Sheila Hayden

Spencer & Anne Ludington

John Munger

Joseph & Janet Sczupak

Les & Janet Weldin

Howard Wilson

Exhibit

Will & Margaret Barclay

Richard Burke

Sarah Conley

Joyce Cook

David Coant

Pat & Becky Devendorf

Mary Elliott

Anne Grassi

Robert Hillick

Wendell Howard

Marjorie Turrell Julian

Geraldine Hogan Kasperek

Dave & Marie Mankiewicz

Jerry & Beth Mirabito

Steve & Wendy Osborne

Brian J. Pederson

Karen Potter

Nancy Galusha Thomas

Carolyn L. Waterman

Senior with Spouse

Robert & Susan Anderson

Dr. Michael & Janine Botty

Gary & Alexa Carter

Steve & Cathy Chirello

Don & Marion Ciciarelli

Bill & Michelle Clark

LaVerne & Dennis DeLand

Bill & Peggy Donnelly

Roger & Sue Ebert

Bill & Pam Finocchiaro

Bob & Sandy Green

Daryl & Sharon Hayden

Harvey & Ann King

Alan & Sue Lane

Silvia & Robert Langdon

Edward & Sharon Lindo

Doc & Gloria Manitta

Dennis & Kellie Merlino

Lowell Newvine

Bill & Jean Niver

Jim & Karen Obrien

Franc & Nancy Quirk

Edward & Barbara Scerbo

Pat & Eileen Sharkey

Doug & Dranee Stevens

Nancy & Jim Thomas

Stephen & Margaret Young

Senior

Debra Allen

Marian Arnold

Suzy M. Beyer

Carrie Butler

Vita Chalone

John Churchill

Gladys Daniels

John Darling

Roberta Dunn

Kathleen Dyer

William Dyer

Mary Falanga

Carole Farfaglia

Teresa Ferlito

Cindy Garrett

Sarah Hill

James Hotchkiss

Richard Johnson Sr.

Tom Kanaley

Sharon Komaneky

Jean Lewis

Arlene Mayne

Edward & Cindy McCormick

Anne Miller

Charlene Mirabito

David Mirabito

Agatha Musumeci

Joan Nucifora

David Phares

Eleanor Pryor

Kathryn Reynolds

Paula Rohn

Roxanne Seeber

Elma J. Smith

Jerry Stanard

Suzanne Stout

Emil Timilione

Robert Vayner

Floyd Wallace

Kelley Weaver

Carol Zellar

Individual

Bev Somers Bergh

Stephen T. Burnham

Gail Chesbro

Lisa Cooper

Sarah Finocchiaro

David Guyer

Bea LaClair

John McGraw

David Mirabito

Christopher Schreck

John Snow

Fred Sumner

Dorothy Thomas

Lifetime Members

Alec & Ginny Seymour

Tom Tryniski

Second Annual Pratt House Classic July 13, 2024

Mark your calendars for the third annual Pratt House Classic set for July 13, 2024 at Battle Island.

- Shotgun start at 9am
- Captain & crew
- Luncheon included
- Carts included
- Raffles
- Door prizes
- Closest-to-the-pin contest
- Skin game & putting contest for an extra fee.



[Click here for more details and a registration form.](#)

Thank you to our friends who have donated to the Friends of History in memory of loved ones:

Elma Smith in memory of Sandy Clift.

Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Athalte Bymaster who passed away recently;

Condolences to Sue Brown and family on the passing of her brother-in-law;

Sympathies to Steve Chirello and his family on the passing of his mother, Rita;

Condolences to Philip Clift on the passing of his wife, Sandy.

Condolences to Harold Wilson & family on the passing of Faith Morin.





Pratt House Museum



Friends of History in Fulton, NY, Inc.

177 South First Street

P.O. Box 157

Fulton, New York 13069

Phone: 315-598-4616

Fax: 315-598-6992

E-mail: friendsofhistoryinfulton@gmail.com

www.pratthousemuseum.org

Fall 2023

Over 43 years preserving Fulton history.



Dates to Remember

Punch Party Open House—Dec 3

Parade of Trees—Nov 27—Dec 8



[Celebrating our Fulton Heroes. See the video.](#)



The John Wells Pratt House Museum

Our Mission Statement

The organization, established in 1979, is dedicated to the preservation of the history of Fulton and the adjacent towns of Granby and Volney. This mission will be approached in the following ways:

1. Acquire and preserve significant artifacts, publications, and other archival material of local interest.
2. Maintain as much of the historical integrity of the Pratt House as possible, while leaving space for historical exhibits.
3. Provide historical and genealogical resources for researchers and interested members of the general public.
4. Develop and provide community outreach programs.