



# Pratt House News

Winter 2023 | Volume 24, Issue 1

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



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  
 Gail Chesbro  
 LaVerne DeLaud  
 Kathy DeLisle  
 Sue Ebert  
 Carole Farfaglia  
 Susan Fiorini  
 Wendell Howard  
 Marjorie Julian  
 Gay Musumeci  
 Janet Sczupak  
 Joe Sczupak  
 Fred Sumner

## Staff

Theresa Jones, Museum Coord.  
 Alec Seymour, Displays  
 Travis Wright, Maintenance

## 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-Mid-Dec.

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

## Ed Farfaglia: Celebrating a Life Well Lived

*"It is not the length of life, but the depth of life."* -Ralph Waldo Emerson

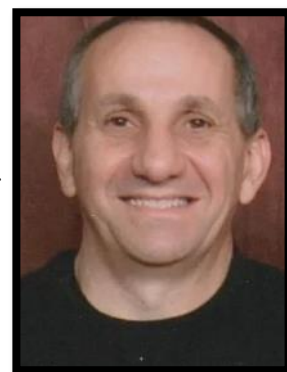
## A reflection

of Emerson's quote sums up the life of Friends of History board member Ed Farfaglia who passed away in November. Born in Fulton, Ed remained in Fulton to build his family, his career, and his many friendships. With his ready smile, his many talents, and his adventuresome spirit, Ed touched the hearts of all who knew him.

Ed worked for Niagara Mohawk/National Grid for 32 years. He was active in the Fulton community, volunteering as a youth sports coach for soccer, basketball, and baseball. He was an officer in both the Fulton Athletic Booster Club and in the Fulton Bowling League; in 2015 he was inducted into the Fulton Bowling Hall of Fame. Ed's love of sports led him to participate in several softball, bowling, and golf leagues.

Ed was a board member extraordinaire of the Friends of History. He was able to put his many skills to work while helping to make major improve-

*Continued on page 4.*



## Joe Cortini and Jazz Mafia Trio Perform at Tavern on the Lock

*Contributed by Mike Leboeuf,  
 editor@fultonvalleynews*

The dinner and performance served as a fundraiser for the Friends of History to help maintain the Pratt House Museum.

Cortini, on drums, was joined by vocalist Vanessa Vacanti, Matt Vacanti on bass, and Dave Solazzo on piano.

Their splendid selections were supplemented by discussion of the history of jazz, which Cortini noted is "an original American art form."

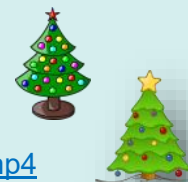
The performance was done chronologically to present a brief history of jazz, which

*Continued on page 3.*

## Parade of Trees 2022...

Pictures inside—pages 4 & 5.

See movie  
 here.. <http://www.pratthousemuseum.org/events/pot-movie.mp4>



# Greetings Friends of History

**As** we anticipate the new year and plan for our new exhibits and activities, we can't help looking back and realizing what a successful year 2022 was for the Friends of History.

The list of our accomplishments is long, but among the most notable are the following:

- A successful golf tournament, exceeding our expectations for this inaugural event which was held in memory of Alan Drohan. (Mark your calendars for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament which will be held on July 15).
- Two chicken BBQ's, which continue to raise funds thanks to the dedicated board members who spend a Sunday afternoon manning an assembly line to provide eager diners with a delicious meal.
- The reopening of our Parade of Trees, which showed the creativity of members of our Fulton community and delighted those who came to the Pratt House to view the trees.
- Our annual Hunter Arms Homecoming which, due to

the extraordinary efforts of Les Weldin, continues to draw visitors to our city.

- Our increased exposure on social media, thanks to the talents of our Executive Director, Theresa Jones.
- Ownership of an additional house which was generously bequeathed to us by Alan Drohan.
- The purchase of a storage shed and an event tent. The tent was used at the Fulton Fall Festival and garnered many compliments.

During 2023 the Friends of History will continue to help to keep Fulton's history alive. This year our exhibits will showcase the Fulton Chocolate Museum. Alec Seymour has again used his talents to design exhibits that will bring back memories and will make you smile.

The Pratt House Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10am to 3pm, beginning in April through mid-December. Stop in to see us and to be transported back in time to the Fulton of yesterday.

*Best regards-Thomas Brown*

## Corporate Sponsors 2023

### Silver Membership

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

### Bronze Membership

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

### Patron Membership

Century 21 Leah's Signature  
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.*

## And the winner is...



Verner Drohan was the winner of the Fulton Memories throw raffle. Congratulations Verner!



*Joe Cortini and the Jazz Mafia Trio... (cont.)*

had its roots in New Orleans and the Deep South.

The group began with a song by Bessie Smith, one of the most popular blues singers of all time, earning her the moniker of “Empress of the Blues.”

Next came the Big Band Era of the 1930s and the popularity of orchestras led by Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, and others. To demonstrate a song from that era, the Jazz Mafia played Duke Ellington’s composition, “It Don’t Mean a Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing).”

Cortini said that during that era, band members challenged one another to outdo their own improvisations.

“We’re up here to make each other sound good,” he said. “That’s the beauty of it. It makes it a lot of fun.”

Vanessa Vacanti, a rising star jazz vocalist in the region, then sang Billie Holliday’s version of “Pennies From Heaven.” In the 1930s, Holliday was one of the most prominent vocalists. Her vocal stylings drew inspiration from instrumentalists.

That led into the Bebop Era of the 1940s. Cortini explained that World War II put an end to the Big Band Era, and now things were more focused on the musicians and their virtuosity. The Jazz Mafia performed Duke Ellington’s “A Night in Tunisia” and Charlie Parker’s version of “How High the Moon” as examples.

The crowd of nearly 100 at Tavern on the Lock applauded enthusiastically in response to each number by the performers.

Next came the 1950s, and Miles Davis and Ella Fitzgerald



*Joe Cortini (on drums) performs with the Jazz Mafia Trio, consisting of, from left, Vanessa Vacanti, Matt Vacanti and Dave Solazzo. The group performed at Tavern on the Lock last November for the Friends of History’s end-of-year celebration.*

*Photo by Mike Leboeuf.*

and were among the biggest names in jazz. Known as the “First Lady of Song,” Fitzgerald captivated audiences with her phrasing and her scat singing technique. The Jazz Mafia played a Fitzgerald song, “Misty,” with Vanessa Vacanti providing wonderful vocals.

The ‘60s and ‘70s marked the Fusion Era, with elements of rock ‘n roll mixing in with jazz, the Jazz Mafia explained. George Benson even brought some rhythm and blues into the mix, and his song “Everything Must Change” was played.

That led to the modern era, with artists such as Esperanza Spalding and Oscar Peterson putting their own spin on things. The Jazz Mafia performed Spalding’s “I Know You Know” to demonstrate the modern style.

The audience got its jazz education in the most enjoyable way possible, grooving to the sounds of the Jazz Mafia Trio.



*The Fulton Elks recently made a \$300 donation to the Friends of History in Fulton. Pictured from left to right are Theresa Jones, museum coordinator, Lodge Esquire Jim Myers, LaVerne DeLand, museum membership chair, good member Mimi Stuber, Lodge Treasurer Silvan Johnson and good member Peter Bailey. They are pictured with the Gnome tree, part of the museum’s annual Parade of Trees.*



*Treasurer of the Fulton Sunrise Rotary Club presented a \$50 donation to the Friends of History for the Parade of Trees children’s goody bags. Pictured from left are Doug Stevens (Fulton Rotary treasurer), Friends of History President Tom Brown, and Museum Coordinator Theresa Jones.*



## 2022 Parade of Trees Winners

Go here for slide show movie with more pics...  
<http://prathousemuseum.org/events/pot-movie.mp4>

Fulton Women's Club and Open Doors Neighborhood Center tie for first place in the adult category

Fulton Women's Club decorates a tree with little teddy bears.



Pictured are Jean Niver, Liz Schremp, and FoH Treasurer Sue Brown.

Open Doors Neighborhood Center-First United Church of Fulton, displays a cute gnome for their tree display.



Pictured here are FoH board members Sarah Conley and Carol Dexter, Patty Mancino, Connie Seiter, Gloria Manitta, and Annette Cotton, Fulton Savings Bank.



### Ed Farfaglia: Celebrating a Life Well Lived—cont.

ments to the Pratt House Museum. Ed's knowledge of heating systems helped in the maintenance of the steam boiler and radiators. Other contributions included installing the camera security system, maintaining and improving the building and grounds, organizing the attic storage area, and overseeing the installation of new gutters on the back porch and the handicap ramp project. He also participated in and co-chaired several Friends of History fundraisers.

The hallmark of Ed's life was his devotion to his family. He and his wife Carole were involved and loving parents to their sons. Ed was a man that his family described as "always leading by example." Ed and Carole loved traveling throughout the US and were able to complete their bucket list item to visit every state.

Friendships can become an integral part of one's life and Ed's personality fostered such friendships. FoH member Les Weldin reflected upon his

friendship with Ed, a friendship that began over 50 years ago at G. Ray Bodley High School. The friendship progressed over the years as Ed and Les worked for the same company and their wives were colleagues at Volney Elementary. Les saw first-hand the strength of Ed's work ethic that carried over to his work at the Pratt House.

Perhaps one of the greatest signs of Ed's determination and strength was the way he fought the disease that ultimately took his life. Ed knew of and greatly appreciated all the prayers and love that was sent on his behalf. His positive attitude and ready smile showed his inner courage and should be a model for all.

Be it family member, coworker, fellow sports enthusiast, or friend...if Ed was a part of your life, you were blessed.

*"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."*

A.A. Milne



Ed Farfaglia teeing off. The Friends of History's Alan Drohan/Pratt House golf tournament will be in memory of Ed.



## A Look at Parade of Trees 2022

The Fulton Library decorated their tree with Narwhale, unicorn of the sea.



Fulton Public Library wins first place in the children's category. Pictured is Annette Cotton of Fulton Savings Bank (left) awarding the first place prize to Caroline Chatterton of the Fulton Public Library.



Buttons were the theme for the G. Ray Bodley youth group.



G. Ray Bodley took first place in the Parade of Trees youth category. Annette Cotton, second from right, stands with students.



Sesame Street was the theme for First Step UPK.



Pictured are Tammy Eastman, OVIA, awarding Francine Latino the second place prize in the children's category.



Baby Jesus and manger was the theme for Fulton Alliance Kidz.



From left are Taylor Regal, Tammy Eastman, OVIA, and Fulton Alliance Kidz Director Amy Nehlsen.

◀ Second place tie in the children's category: First Step UPK (pictured left) and Fulton Alliance Kidz.

Recycling was the tree theme for City Limits Dayhab.



Pictured at left is a representative from City Limits Dayhab accepting third place prize in the adult division from Lara Leo of Edward Jones.

Pictured at right is Blue Moon Grill Owner Stephanie Overton awarding third prize for the children's category to Carole LaVoie, OCO.



"You are my sunshine" was the Christmas tree theme for OCO Pinewood Head Start.



## The Lighting of the Pratt House Cupola in 2022

Alicia & Dick Calagiovanni remember Joe & Pauline Swiatlowski

Gail Chesbro remembers Gordon Chesbro, Evelyn & Fred Lamont, & Eleanor Biddlecome

LaVerne DeLand remembers Ed Farfaglia & Marilyn Bevacqua

Verner Drohan wishes a **Merry Christmas** to Gail Drohan

Stephen & Naneen Drosse remember Joyce & Rudy Drosse, & Billie & Elliott Smith

Roger & Sue Ebert remember James Ingermells, Herschell & Edna Ebert, & Herbert & Eleanor Ebert

Carole Farfaglia remembers Ed Farfaglia, James Falanga, Bart Falanga, Florence Falanga, Joseph Crisafulli, & Stanley Curtis

John W. Finocchiaro remembers Betty Finocchiaro, Rita Finoacchiaro, John M. Finocchiaro, & Linda Cline, & Ed Farfaglia

Debbie Foster remembers Paul Foster

Jeff Hodge remembers Roy & Sue Hodge, & Raymond & Dorothy Hodge

Theresa Jones remembers Ed Farfaglia

Marjorie Julian remembers Ed Farfaglia

Jerry Kasperek remembers Mike Hogan, & Betty & Joe Cozart

Arlene Mayne remembers Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Mayne, Mr. & Mrs. Waldo Chaffee, Leon Chaffee, Frank Mayne, & Reginald Mayne

Anne Miller wishes a **Merry Christmas** to Anne Miller & Family

Elma Smith remembers Willson P. Smith, Howard W. Johnson, Alice E. Johnson, Carole J. Stanford, David R. Johnson, & Joanne J. Priest

Dorothy Thomas remembers Ralph Thomas & Faith Morin

Eleanor Vayner remembers David E. Vayner, Edward J. Vayner, & Marian M. Stanton

Robert Vayner remembers Joseph Vayner, Jennie Vayner, & Edward Vayner

Floyd Wallace remembers Carol Wallace, Gary Lee Wallace, Ronald Briggs, & Ronald Vilardo

Les & Janet Weldin remember Ed Farfaglia & wish each other a **Happy Anniversary**

Carol Zellar remembers Horace Zellar

*It is with great honor and gratitude that we list below those who have made special end-of-year donations for our annual appeal.*



Stephen & Teresa Abraham  
Mary Anne Babikian  
William & Margaret Barclay  
Burke's Home Center  
Christopher & Debra Canfield  
Gordon Chalone  
Gail Chesbro  
Joyce Cook  
Dennis & LaVerne DeLand  
Patrick & Rebecca Devendorf  
Carol Dexter  
Verner & Gail Drohan  
Richard & Naneen Drosse  
Roger & Susan Ebert  
Carole Farfaglia  
Jim Farfaglia  
John Finocchiaro  
William & Pamela Finocchiaro  
Debbie Foster  
Fulton Savings Bank  
Anne Grassi  
Robert & Sandra Green  
Leah Haggarty (Century 21)  
Sarah Hill  
Robert & Mary Hillick  
Marjorie Julian  
Thomas Kanaley  
Jerry Kasperek  
Harvey & Ann King  
Bea LaClair  
Francine Latino  
Anne Miller  
Mimi's Drive-in, Inc.  
Jerome Mirabito  
Deanne Morrill  
Gay Musumeci  
Lowell & Carol Newvine  
Ellen Nowyj  
Joan Nucifora  
Patterson Warehousing, Inc.  
Jonathan & Sarah Peck  
Brian Pederson  
Karen Potter  
Joe & Janet Sczupak  
Alec & Virginia Seymour  
James & Suzanne Stout  
Frances Sullivan  
Robert Vayner  
Patrick & Carol Waite  
Floyd Wallace  
Les & Janet Weldin  
Stephen Wise & Jim Leo



# Membership

## Cupola

Deanne Morrill  
Elma J. Smith  
Jim Leo & Stephen Wise

## Attic

Alicia & Dick Calagiovanni  
John Finocchiaro  
Debra Foster  
Fran Sullivan

## Gallery

Ed & Angela Bernat  
Thomas & Suzanne Brown  
Chris & Debbie Canfield  
Brian Caswell  
Gordon Chalone  
Theresa Chalone  
Leigh & Marietta Colitre  
Kathy & RJ DeLisle  
Carol Dexter  
Verner & Gail Drohan  
Richard & Naneen Drosse  
Leonard & Nancy Ellis  
Jim & Teri Hunter  
Spencer & Anne Ludington  
Charlene Mirabito  
David Mirabito  
John Munger  
Joseph & Janet Sczupak  
Jerry Stanard  
Eleanor Vayner  
Les & Janet Weldin  
Howard Wilson

## Exhibit

Richard Burke  
Bill & Michelle Clark  
Sarah Conley  
Joyce Cook

LaVerne & Dennis DeLand  
Pat & Becky Devendorf  
Mary Elliott  
Sheila Hayden  
Robert Hillick  
Geraldine Hogan Kasperek  
Joseph & Francine Latino  
Dave & Marie Mankiewicz  
Mary Miller  
Jerry & Beth Mirabito  
Steve & Wendy Osborne  
Karen Potter  
Alec & Ginny Seymour  
Philip & Adele Sheldon  
Nancy Galusha Thomas  
Carolyn L. Waterman

## Senior with Spouse

Doug & Gina Abraham  
Robert & Susan Anderson  
Charles and Audrey Avery  
Verne & Cindy Bickford  
Dr. Michael & Janine Botty  
Jim & Chris Brannan  
Gary & Alexa Carter  
Steve & Cathy Chirello  
Don & Marion Ciciarelli  
Bill & Peggy Donnelly  
William & Beatrice Dyer  
Roger & Sue Ebert  
Dave & Megan Falanga  
Ed & Carole Farfaglia  
Timothy & Josephine Farrell  
Bill & Pam Finocchiaro  
Bill & Marilyn Fivaz  
Bob & Sandy Green  
Daryl & Sharon Hayden  
Roy & Susan Hodge  
Harvey & Ann King  
Alan & Sue Lane

Silvia & Robert Langdon  
Edward & Sharon Lindo  
Doc & Gloria Manitta  
Dennis & Kellie Merlino  
Lowell & Carol Newvine  
Bill & Jean Niver  
Jim & Karen Obrien  
Francis & Nancy Quirk  
Edward & Barbara Scerbo  
Michael & Karen Stafford  
Nancy & Jim Thomas  
John & Judy Tryt  
Stephen & Margaret Young

## Senior

Debra Allen  
JoAnne Bakeman  
Suzy M. Beyer  
Carrie Butler  
Vita Chalone  
John Churchill  
Gladys Daniels  
Marilyn Datz  
Roberta Dunn  
Kathleen Dyer  
Mary Falanga  
Teresa Ferlito  
Gretchen Flick  
Cindy Garrett  
Richard T. Gillespie  
Anne Grassi  
Sarah Hill  
Robert Hillick  
Laurina Hoffman  
James Hotchkiss  
Marjorie Turrell Julian  
Tom Kanaley  
Bea LaClair  
Jean Lewis  
Arlene Mayne

Anne Miller  
Agatha Musumeci  
Ellen Nowyj  
Joan Nucifora  
Sandra Ottman  
Brian J. Pederson  
David Phares  
Eleanor Pryor  
Kathryn Reynolds  
Paula Rohn  
Roxanne Seeber  
Pat Sharkey  
Shelly Shepard  
Suzanne Stout  
Robert Vayner  
Floyd Wallace  
Rick Wallon  
Carmella Warner  
Kelley Weaver  
Clarice Wilber  
Hal Wilber Sr.  
Charles Young  
Carol Zellar

## Individual

Bev Somers Bergh  
Stephen T. Burnham  
Judy Company  
Gail Chesbro  
Lisa Cooper  
Wendell Howard  
Sarah Finocchiaro  
David Guyer  
Carole Lescarbeau  
John McGraw  
John Snow  
Doug Stevens  
Fred Sumner  
Dorothy Thomas  
Floyd Wallace

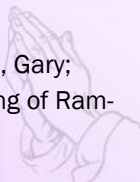
***Thank you to our friends who have donated to the Pratt House in memory of loved ones:***

**Fran Sullivan in memory of Ramsey Ludington**

## Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences to Carole Farfaglia & family on the passing of husband & father Ed Farfaglia;

Lorna Hoffman on the passing of her son, Gary; and to the Ludington family on the passing of Ramsey Ludington.



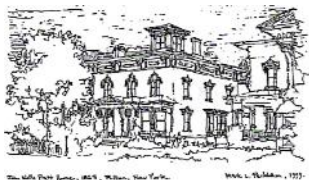
## Second Annual Pratt House Classic July 15, 2023 In memory of Ed Farfaglia

**M**ark your calendars for the second annual Pratt House Classic set for July 15, 2023 at Battle Island on Route 48, Fulton, NY.

- 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.](#)



## 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](mailto:friendsofhistoryinfulton@gmail.com)

[www.pratthousemuseum.org](http://www.pratthousemuseum.org)

**Opening Wednesday, April 12**

**Winter 2023**

**Over 43 years preserving Fulton history.**

## Dates to Remember

Second Annual Golf  
Tournament -  
Sat, Jul 15,  
Battle Island



Hunter Arms 12th Annual Homecoming—  
Aug 11 & 12



The John Wells Pratt House Museum



Parade of Trees pics...  
Pages 4 & 5.



[Sign up](#) a team for our Second Annual  
Golf Tournament or become a  
sponsor!



### 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.