

# Pratt House News

Summer 2020 | Volume 21, Issue 3

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

## Remembering Marian

A

few months ago, Fulton lost one of her finest citizens: Marian Stanton. Marian was no stranger

to many of us. She was born in Fulton and attended Fulton schools before attending Syracuse University and graduating from Katherine Gibbs School. After venturing into big cities such as New York City and Chicago, Marian returned to her native city, where she quickly became one of Fulton's most admired citizens. Many remember her as the store owner and operator of Murphy's Gifts.



*Marian Stanton receiving the "Elma Smith Award" from Alan Drohan.*

An avid reader, Marian served as a member and president of the Fulton Public Library Board, successfully fighting to fund the historic Carnegie Library as a school district public library and to obtain grants to facilitate library improvements. Marian also served on the boards of the Oswego College Foundation and The Manor at Seneca Hill, was a longtime member of the local Salvation Army board and was active in the Greater Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

But Marian's interests extended far beyond Fulton. She was a proud leader of the Syracuse James Joyce Club. She was also a member of the Irish American Cultural Institute's Syracuse chapter and an active member of the Corinthian Club, often bringing her Fulton friends to events at the Club. Marian was a member of the faith community and Eucharistic minister at St. Lucy's Church on the near west side of Syracuse and was a regular volunteer at the Syracuse Samaritan Center.

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## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunter Arms Canceled for 2020

*By Les Weldin*

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunter Arms Homecoming that was to take place on August 21 – 22 has been postponed due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Many things were considered in the decision process, including mass gathering limits, restaurant regulations, and the New York State imposed mandates issued for travel; many L.C. Smith Collectors Association (LCSCA) members travel from other states. **Most important, however, is the health and safety of Friends of History's staff and volunteers, the LCSCA members, Pathfinder Fish and Game Club members and**

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### 2019-2020 Board of Directors

LaVerne DeLand, President  
Paula Rohn, 1st Vice Pres.  
Jean Lewis, 2nd Vice Pres.  
Carol Dexter, Secretary  
Sarah Conley, Corr. Secretary  
Sue Brown, Treasurer  
Angela Bernat  
Cindy Bickford  
Gail Chesbro  
Sue Ebert  
Carole Faraglia  
Ed Faraglia  
John Finocchiaro  
Marjorie Julian  
Fred Sumner  
Stephen Wise

### Staff

Theresa Jones, Museum Coord.  
Alec Seymour, Displays  
Adam Babcock, 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:  
10a to 3p

Saturday, by appointment only. Call us at 315-938-4618.

**Closed for the season due to COVID-19. See you next year!**

# Message from the Board of Directors

We hope that this newsletter finds you and yours healthy and staying safe.

Our Board has been communicating regularly via email and we were able to have our July board meeting on the lawn of the Pratt House. It was such a pleasure to see one another on the grounds of our beautiful museum.

We have had many discussions regarding the advisability of opening the museum to the public this year. We miss seeing you and showcasing the new exhibits to our members and to other visitors. However, our highest priority is ensuring the safety of employees, volunteers, and members of our community. Because of its age, our building lacks proper air circulation and, even if we take all other precautions, there would still be risks that we are not willing to

take. We, therefore, have decided that we will not open to the public this year, a step that several other organizations have chosen to take.

In addition to the delay in re-opening the Pratt House, we will be cancelling the following events for this year:

- The Hunter Arms Homecoming – Our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is being postponed until next year due to NY State travel restrictions and for the safety of those who could be at risk.
- Trash-to-Treasure Sale -- We are still unable to accept your items for donation. Please save any items that you would have donated for this sale. It is a big fundraiser for us, but we feel that it is prudent to cancel this year's event.
- Fall Chicken BBQ – This was a

difficult decision to make, but it was made with the interests of our volunteers in the forefront of our minds

- Parade of Trees – Since the Pratt House will not be opened, the Parade of Trees will not be held.

Our Pandemic Puzzle fundraiser has been a fun, successful event for us. Your support has been overwhelming and we look forward to displaying the puzzle picture of the Pratt House with your names listed!

Please watch for information about a virtual tour of the Pratt House Museum. **“Visit” us on our Facebook page** to keep up to date on Pratt House Museum news.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to the day when we can welcome you back to the Pratt House Museum.

Click here to see a [virtual tour](#) of the Pratt House Museum.



A new updated video of the Pratt House Museum is in the works! Watch for it in your email and on **Facebook**. We'll keep you posted!

## Corporate Sponsors 2019-2020

### Gold Membership

- Fulton Savings Bank

### Bronze Membership

- Harbor Eye Associates (Dr. David J. Dexter)
- OVIA Insurance Agencies, LLC
- Pathfinder Bank
- Save-A-Lot (Fulton)

### Silver Membership

- Advanced Dental Arts (Dr. Frank Fuce, DMD)
- L.C. Smith Collectors Association

### Patron Membership

- The Great Outdoors
- Oswego County Bookkeeping, Inc.
- Scriba Electric
- Valley Locksmith

*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.*

*Remembering Marian—Cont.*

Marian was also an international traveler. She traveled extensively throughout Europe and, among her most exciting adventures, were her four trips to China, where she rode a camel, had her shoes shined, and...you might not believe this...even knocked on a stranger's hotel room door to ask if she could use his Western-style bathroom!

But we, as members of the Friends of History in Fulton, remember Marian mostly for her extraordinary contributions to our organization. She served as founding president of the organization (1978-1979) and remained involved in and committed to the Friends of History until her death. She was a major supporter of our events, bringing and involving friends and relatives whenever she could.

To those who had the pleasure of spending time with her, Marian will be remembered for her intelligence, thoughtfulness, creativity, volunteerism, fearlessness, and indomitable spirit. May she rest in peace.

*Hunter Arms Cancelled—Cont.*

The Hunter Arms Homecoming committee was looking forward to making this year's event extra special since it would have been the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will now use this extra time to improve and to incorporate some new ideas to add to what has taken place in the past.

We hope that Jim and Cheryl Stubbendieck will honor their commitment to attend next year. Jim is the recordkeeper for the LCSCA and he and Cheryl had planned to write a feature article about the Homecoming. The LCSCA members look forward to attending the event every year since their L.C. Smith guns were produced at the Hunter Arms factory in Fulton. It is also an honor to have Hunter descendants return to the event.

For over 60 years the Hunter Arms Company was a mainstay of the Fulton economy and history. The factory employed skilled local workers who produced the famous L.C. Smith shotgun and the Hunter Fan. The products they produced were known worldwide and helped to put Fulton, New York on the map.

Let's pray that this pandemic is over soon and that we can resume some normalcy. We look forward to making the 10<sup>th</sup> Hunter Arms Homecoming in 2021 the best yet!



See some fun facts about Hunter Arms on page 4.

## Remember Our 40th Anniversary Celebration Last Year?



Pictured here are some of the Friends of History's past presidents who attended. Front and center is Marian Stanton. Back row: Alan Drohan, Paula Rohn, LaVerne DeLand (current president), and Alec Seymour.

Did you know that Hunter Arms also produced bicycles? In 1895, Hunter Bicycle was organized and the first bicycle produced was named the "Hunter." It was followed by the "Fulton" in 1897. Pictured below is the "Hunter" bicycle that hangs from the ceiling in the Pratt House Museum Hunter Arms room



# Membership 2020

## Cupola

Bill & Marilyn Fivaz  
Elma J. Smith

## Attic

Alicia & Dick Calagiovanni  
Alan S. Drohan, Esq.  
Jim & Teri Hunter  
Jim Leo & Stephen Wise

## Gallery

Robert & Susan Anderson  
Mary Ann Babikian  
Ed & Angela Bernat  
Thomas & Suzanne Brown  
Richard Burke  
Gordon Chalone  
Marilyn Datz  
Carol Dexter  
Verner & Gail Drohan  
Richard & Naneen Drosse  
John Finocchiaro  
Terry & Deanne Morrill  
Bill & Jean Niver  
William & Judith Patterson  
Joseph & Janet Sczupak  
Fran Sullivan  
Ed & Eleanor Vayner

Les & Janet Weldin

## Exhibit

David Estus Coant  
Joyce Cook  
Marilyn Datz  
Pat & Becky Devendorf  
Mary Elliott  
Beverly Helm  
Mary Lou Hill  
Jerry Kasperek  
Spencer & Anne Ludington  
Dave & Marie Mankiewicz  
Mr. & Mrs. John McGraw  
David Mirabito  
Jerry & Beth Mirabito  
Rick & Mary Rebeor  
Mary Ellen Ross  
Alec & Ginny Seymour  
Phillip & Adele Sheldon  
Mary Ellen Stewart  
Carolyn L. Waterman  
Judith Wellman  
Bob & Sandy Weston  
Senior with Spouse  
Charles and Audrey Avery  
Jean Barrus  
Verne & Cindy Bickford  
Dr. Michael & Janine Botty

Jim & Chris Brannan  
Gary & Alexa Carter  
Steve & Cathy Chirello  
Don & Marion Ciciarelli  
Leigh & Marietta Colitre  
LaVerne & Dennis DeLand  
Bill & Peggy Donnelly  
Paul & Donna Drohan  
William & Beatrice Dyer  
Roger & Sue Ebert  
Leonard & Nancy Ellis  
Dave & Megan Falanga  
Ed & Carole Farfaglia  
Bill & Pam Finocchiaro  
Bill & Marilyn Fivaz  
Anne Grassi  
Daryl & Sharon Hayden  
LeRoy N. Hodge  
Michael & Theresa Jones  
Harvey & Ann King  
Carolyn Kunzwiler  
Alan & Sue Lane  
Edward & Sharon Lindo  
Doc & Gloria Manitta  
Dennis Merlino  
Francis & Charlene Mirabito  
Leland Mitchell & Carolyn Beckwith  
Jim & Karen Obrien

Steve & Wendy Osborne  
Fran & Nancy Quirk  
Kathryn Reynolds  
Paula & Bill Rohn  
Edward & Barbara Scerbo  
Floyd Wallace  
Charles D. Young

## Senior

JoAnne Bakeman  
Suzy M. Beyer  
Bev Somers Bergh  
Carrie Butler  
Jean C. Caster  
John Churchill  
Mary M. Clapper  
Carmella L. Demperio  
Kathleen Dyer  
Mary Falanga  
Jim Farfaglia  
Teresa Ferlito  
Joe Fuchs  
Merry Gantley  
Cindy Garrett  
Richard T. Gillespie  
Bob & Sandy Green  
Sarah Hill  
Robert Hillick  
Mary R. Hundycz  
Laura Hoffman  
Richard Johnson

Tom Kanaley  
Jim @ Scriba Electric  
Marjorie Turrell Julian  
Ellen T. Kane  
Arlene Mayne  
Anne Miller  
Agatha Musumeci  
Ellen Nowyj  
Joan Nucifora  
Karen Potter  
Eleanor Pryor  
Madelyn Schmidt  
Shelly Shepard  
Michael & Karen Stafford  
Jerry Stanard  
Nancy Galusha Thomas  
Robert Vayner  
Carmella Warner  
Charles Young

## Individual

Stephen T. Burnham  
Gail Chesbro  
Dorothy Engell  
Roberta Dunn  
G.C. Garbus  
David Guyer  
Carole Lescarbeau  
Fred Sumner  
Dorothy Thomas  
Rick Wallon

## Some Fun Facts About Hunter Arms

**Q:** What is an anti-side lock?

**A:** If you said how your Aunt locked her door, you would be wrong. It is the unique locking device on the L.C. Smith guns that kept them shooting accurately.

**Q:** What is the lunch box special?

**A:** If you said it was your Roy Rogers lunch box, you would be wrong. It was the unique guns made from mismatched parts by workers at the Hunter Arms factory.

**Q:** What do Teddy Roosevelt, John Phillip Sousa, Anne Oakley, Babe Ruth and Humphrey Bogart have in common?

**A:** All owned L.C. Smith Shotguns.



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

### In Memorium

The following individuals donated in memory of Marian Stanton:

Ed & Angela Bernat  
Sarah Conley  
LaVerne DeLand  
Paul & Ellen Nowyj  
Elma Smith  
Leah K Wayland-Smith



### Other Donations

Mary Ellen Rook donated in memory of Bobby Dexter.

### Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences to the family of Marian Stanton on her recent passing.

*Thank you to the anonymous individual who donated generously in memory of Rosemary Cook.*

# Pandemic Puzzle Mania!

**T**here is still time to help us put together our 500-piece puzzle of the J.W. Pratt House. By purchasing pieces for the puzzle, you will be part of the picture and your name will appear along with others who are supporting the Friends of History and the Pratt House Museum.

- 1 puzzle piece - \$2
- 3 puzzle pieces - \$5
- 8 puzzle pieces - \$10



Many are participating in this pandemic puzzle 'fun'draiser, so if you want to be part of the fun, send in the form below as the puzzle pieces are going fast!

Print out this form below and mail with a check to Friends of History in Fulton, P.O. Box 157, Fulton, NY 13069. You may also pay with PayPal.

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## Pandemic Puzzle 'Fun'draiser

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

List names and circle how many puzzle pieces you would like to purchase (Use back of form for additional names, if necessary):

1 puzzle piece—\$2

3 puzzle pieces—\$5

8 puzzle pieces—\$10

Other—\$2 per piece (indicate how many): \_\_\_\_\_

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1) First Name _____ | Last Name _____ |
| 2) First Name _____ | Last Name _____ |
| 3) First Name _____ | Last Name _____ |
| 4) First Name _____ | Last Name _____ |
| 5) First Name _____ | Last Name _____ |
| 6) First Name _____ | Last Name _____ |
| 7) First Name _____ | Last Name _____ |
| 8) First Name _____ | Last Name _____ |

Mail to: Friends of History in Fulton—P.O. Box 157—Fulton, NY 13069, or call 315-598-4616/315-297-5561 to pay using PayPal or credit/debit card.

Email: [friendsofhistoryinfulton@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhistoryinfulton@gmail.com)



## Pratt House Museum

Friends of History in Fulton, NY, Inc.  
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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)

*Summer 2020*

Over 40 Years Preserving Fulton History

## 2020 Annual Meeting

*Our annual meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 23 at 7 p.m. Due to COVID-19 the meeting will not be held at the Pratt House. We are researching a way to present the meeting to you in a virtual format.*

*Stay tuned for further details.*



The John Wells Pratt House Museum

We have books about Fulton's history and nice Fulton tapestry throw blankets, as depicted in photo. Also, we have Fulton High School yearbooks for most years. Some of these items also can be purchased at the Village Shops in Fulton.

Contact us at 315-598-4616 for more info.



### 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.