

HISTORY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Historic Saranac Lake at the Saranac Laboratory Museum



MAJOR PROGRESS WITH MUSEUM EXPANSION

Excitement is high as our project to expand the museum into the historic Trudeau Building moves forward on many fronts! As we prepare to begin construction next year, recent progress includes:

- **Museum Planning:** In September, museum consultant Kate Cravens finalized the overarching interpretive plan. The plan suggests solutions for visitor flow through exhibit spaces in both buildings, identifies the primary interpretive themes and sub-themes, and recommends potential exhibit elements.
- **Fundraising:** We have made major progress towards our total goal, having secured over \$1,225,000 in private donations, foundation support, and state grants.
- **Architectural Design:** We have signed a contract with architect Harry Gordon of G2 Architecture for schematic design. Mr. Gordon is a nationally recognized expert in sustainable building and community design. Experience includes serving as principal architect in Washington, D.C., on the Greening of the White House and restoration of the GSA-Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building. Kim and Jack Alvarez, of Landmark Consulting, will be providing historic preservation expertise. Design will proceed through the winter, and we look forward to beginning rehabilitation of the Trudeau Building in 2020 once all approvals are in place.



NY State Assemblyman Billy Jones visited the Trudeau Building this fall.

A MILESTONES IN MICROBIOLOGY SITE

In October, friends of Historic Saranac Lake and Trudeau Institute gathered for the unveiling of a plaque recognizing the Saranac Laboratory as an American Society of Microbiology (ASM) Milestones in Microbiology Site. Dr. Robin Patel, President of ASM, presented the award. Honored guests included NY State Senator Betty Little and representatives from the offices of Congressperson Elise Stefanik and Governor Andrew Cuomo. Following the ceremony, a reception was hosted by Trudeau Institute at Hotel Saranac. The reception followed a day of seminars at the Institute that included scientists from around the world.



Dr. Brian Weinrick, Amy Catania, Mary Hotaling, Dr. Robin Patel, and Dr. Bill Jacobs.

NEWS INSIDE

- November 6 Annual Meeting
- 1940s Big Band Gala!

BOARD MEMBERS

- President:
Amy Jones
- Vice-President:
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** Starred names are new incoming members to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting.*

STAFF

- Executive Director:
Amy Catania
- Museum Administrator:
Chessie Monks-Kelly
- Oral History Coordinator:
Kayt Gochenaur
- Museum Assistant:
Nathan Work



Made possible, in part, by the NY State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

OUR MISSION

Historic Saranac Lake's mission is to preserve and share area history and architecture to build a stronger community.

A letter from our new staff member

Dear Friends,

This past summer I applied for a summer internship at Historic Saranac Lake. At the time that I submitted my application, I had no idea how much of an impact it would have on my life: both professionally and personally.

My whole life I have been a history fanatic, especially when it comes to local history. I grew up in Dickinson Center, a small town where hearing the “old folks” tell their stories was a huge part of my childhood, and my love for personal interaction has followed me through life. When I saw that HSL was taking applications for summer internships, I wasn’t sure what to expect, but I knew that as long as I was working with history I would love it.



Within my first weeks working at Historic Saranac Lake, I got to experience many different aspects of working in a museum. There were days that I staffed the front desk, greeting visitors and attempting to answer their questions. Once in a while, I had the pleasure of going to interviews and tagging along with the Cure Porch on Wheels. As I worked more, I realized what I loved doing the most: working in the collection!

While many 18 year olds most likely wouldn’t enjoy spending dozens of hours sorting through boxes while (attempting to) make a comprehensive inventory of the collection, I have enjoyed every minute of it. Every box that I open contains details of lives from the past that I may not have any connection to, but I get to piece together their story all while doing my part to ensure that it will be available for generations to come. On top of that, I get to learn some extremely interesting stories of local history... it doesn’t get any better than that!

The generosity of Historic Saranac Lake donors allowed me to continue working at the museum even after my internship was over, giving me more time to explore what I love. This experience has shown me the path that I want to pursue in my life, and has given me an opportunity to meet some amazing people that I otherwise would not have known! I plan to attend college this upcoming year, majoring in History, and I will use all that I am learning at Historic Saranac Lake to guide me in my future!

Thank you for your support!

Nathan Work, HSL Museum Assistant

FRANK TRUDEAU’S 100 YEAR BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION

In July, Historic Saranac Lake and Trudeau Institute co-hosted an event at the Saranac Laboratory Museum to commemorate what would have been the 100th birthday of Dr. Frank Trudeau. We were honored to be joined by members of the Trudeau family: Garry Trudeau and Jane Pauley, Jeanie and Sandy Fenn, Ned and Patricia Trudeau, and Lynne Trudeau Jonquieres.

The event included speeches by Garry Trudeau and Dr. Dorothy Federman. HSL compiled oral history interviews and archival photos to create a short film commemorating Frank Trudeau that was presented for the occasion.



Linda Jackson, Ruth Chasolen, Lorraine Kelley, Tom Delabant, Amy Catania, Garry Trudeau, Jane Pauley, Mary Hotaling, and Dot Fobare.

SUMMER EVENT RE-CAP



BARTOK CONCERTS

This summer, we enjoyed two wonderful concerts at Cobblespring Farm in support of the Bartók Cabin. In August, Maureen Hynes, Barbara Fusco-Spera, and LeAnn Overton presented “Music from the Heart.” In September, Barbara Tamerin and Hans Laverge sponsored a concert by cellist Mitchell Lyon and pianist Mika Sasaki (pictured above). Our thanks to the musicians and our friends at Cobblespring Farm!

EXCEPTIONAL SUMMER EVENTS

The summer and fall have been busy with many events including:

- Free Ice Cream Day, courtesy of Stewart’s Shops
- A talk by Tony Holtzman at Bartlett Carry on the Bethune Murals
- Museum Day with Cycle Adirondacks
- A talk titled “Saranac Lake, Science, and Space Exploration” by Barry Ressler (pictured above with Garry Trudeau). Mr. Ressler also presented about his uncle Ben Ressler, who cured in Saranac Lake and was a leader of the community.
- Participation in a History Day at Saranac Inn hosted by the Upper Saranac Lake Association
- A book talk and house tour with CJ Moore and Nancy Broermann, co-authors of *Maria Longworth Storer: from Music and Art to Popes and Presidents*. The day included a tour of Highland Manor, the home of Maria’s son. Our thanks to Kathy and Ralph Bonavist for opening their beautiful home for this memorable tour!
- Breakfast club presentations at Hotel Saranac included a talk about Guggenheim Camp by Liz Bennet, a presentation of historic maps by Stacey Allot, history of Onchiota by Phil Fitzpatrick, and a talk about Eagle Island Camp by Katrina Dearden.



COMING EVENTS



NOVEMBER 6 ANNUAL MEETING:

On Tuesday, November 6, we look forward to a presentation by Neil Surprenant on the history of Paul Smith’s. He will present from his *Images of America* book. Members will be asked to confirm the nomination of several new board members. We welcome Jan Dudones, Judy Meagher, Jim Sonneborn, and Susan Stiles to the board of directors. We say good-bye to board members Brandon Campbell, Ruth Chasolen, and Elaine Sunde. Our thanks to them for years of dedicated service to Historic Saranac Lake!

BIG BAND GALA — AUGUST 8, 2020

We are moving our gala to the summertime! Mark your calendars for our third annual gala at the Hotel Saranac. On August 8, we will go back to the 1940s and dance to the tunes of the Big Band Era. The Adirondack Jazz Orchestra will fill the ballroom with the music of the times. Stay tuned for news of this exciting coming event!



UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS

We will provide a monthly tour of the former Trudeau Sanatorium property beginning in the new year. The tour will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30A.M. at the Park Avenue gates. Call by noon the day before to reserve a place. Stay tuned to our events page at www.historicsaranaclake.org/events to find out about other upcoming winter events!

MUSEUM AND COLLECTIONS

**SUMMER INTERNS**

This summer, we continued our high school internship program with two great interns - Jon Zalewski and Nathan Work! Jon and Nathan both learned a lot about Saranac Lake history this summer and were a great help around the Museum. They worked with the collection, greeted visitors, summarized oral histories, helped with tours, and much more! They also enjoyed visiting the Six Nations Museum to learn more about the Native American history of the area. Thanks, Jon and Nathan!

BALDWIN FAMILY PAPERS

In April, we received an incredible donation from Barbara Baldwin Knapp, the granddaughter of Dr. Edward R. Baldwin. The donation includes the papers of Dr. Baldwin, his wife, Mary Ives Baldwin, and his brother, Ernest H. Baldwin, who ran the Baldwin School. Items include family photographs, correspondence,

manuscripts, and much more. Of particular interest is the guest book for the Baldwin House from 1924 to 1956, which offers a who's-who of important residents and visitors to Saranac Lake.

**ART OF THE CURE EXHIBIT OPENS**

Our new Art of the Cure exhibit opened in June after months of preparation! This exhibit highlights the origins of Saranac Lake's rich history in the arts. The Trudeau Sanatorium and the Study and Craft Guild offered groundbreaking occupational therapy programs to tuberculosis patients, many of whom went on to become accomplished artists, writers, and craftspeople. This exhibit features works from Martin and Betty Koop, Amy Jones, Mott and Elise Chapin, William Kollecker, Scopes and Feustmann, and many more! The Art of the Cure is open through fall 2020. A grant from Humanities New York supported the project as well as the creation of an exhibit catalog by Caroline Welsh.

NEW TO THE COLLECTION

Recent exciting additions to the collection include:

- A hand-cranked "film" strip created by TB nurses, featuring the hand drawn "Shady Story" of Teddy the Tubercule. *Courtesy of Karen Lewis and Beth Glover.*
- Hundreds of sheets of Christmas Seals, collected by Charlotte Testwuide. *Courtesy of Kip Testwuide.*

Have an item you want to donate to the collection? Contact our Museum Administrator at chessie@historicsaranaclake.org.

MEMORIAL BRICKS

Did you know that you can view our memorial brick wall online and find out about the people featured? Visit www.hslbricks.weebly.com to learn more and dedicate a brick!

JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY!

You are invited to join the Historic Saranac Lake Legacy Society and ensure the financial viability of our museum and programs into the future. It's as simple as adding Historic Saranac Lake as a beneficiary in your will and notifying us of your intention in a signed letter or making a donation to our endowment fund with the Adirondack Foundation. Please feel free to contact Executive Director Amy Catania with any questions at 518-891-4606.

CURE PORCH ON WHEELS



The CPOW visiting Fish Creek Campground.

CPOW ON THE MOVE!

In July, we took the Porch to Donnelly's Ice Cream, where we recorded many stories and shared history about local dairies. In August, we spent a day at Fish Creek Pond Campground. We took the Porch to Paul Smith's Homesteading and Rural Skills festival with a display of art made by TB patients. We also teamed up with Bike the Barns to share some history of farming in the Adirondacks at their annual cycling tour at Tucker Farms.

DONOR & VOLUNTEER RECEPTION



In June, we celebrated the donors and volunteers who made the Cure Porch on Wheels possible with a reception.

Special thanks to our core volunteer team pictured left to right: Russ Fehrer, Marty Rowley, Chris Brescia, and Lee Foster.

NCPR NORTH COUNTRY AT WORK

This summer, we teamed up with NCPR's North Country at Work to host Saranac Lake at Work! We interviewed locals about their work, scanned photos, and hosted an exhibit featuring the photos and voices of our interviewees. The finale was a live storytelling event and the grand unveiling of the Cure Porch on Wheels.

NEWS FLASH... Fun new CPOW merchandise will be coming to our museum store in time for the holidays!

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



Jane Pauley uses the Story Phone!

THE STORY PHONE

We are excited to introduce the Story Phone! We reconfigured an antique wall phone in the Cure Porch on Wheels into a do-it-yourself recording booth. Visitors can press a button on the side of the phone to record their story. Another button plays a selection of pre-recorded stories. This project allows us to preserve personal stories from museum and Porch visitors. To listen to some of the Story Phone stories, visit www.cureporchonwheels.org/story-phone.html Follow the Cure Porch on Wheels Facebook page to see a one minute story from the Story Phone or the Oral History Project in your newsfeed every Saturday!

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Over the last year we have interviewed 65 Will Rogers residents for our Oral History Project. We have also been hard at work recording stories from other Saranac Lake residents. Among the interviewees this year are Bud Drutz, Loren and Judy Vaughn, Dorothy and Jay Federman, Patrick Kiah, Mary Beth Murphy, and Bob North.

Become a Friend of the Cure Porch on Wheels!

Our Friends of the Porch program supports the meaningful work of sharing community history. Your donation is tax-deductible and, we'll send you a bumper sticker to help raise awareness about this project! We send out a monthly newsletter featuring stories from the Oral History Project, news of Porch exhibits, and event info. Become a Friend of the Porch today at www.cureporchonwheels.org/support.



SCHOOL OUTREACH



VISITORS FROM COSTA RICA

In August, we enjoyed a day of tours with visiting students from Costa Rica through the University of Albany Graduate School in Public Health. We learned a lot about public health in Costa Rica, and we continue to work to build a relationship with the Durán Sanatorium in Costa Rica.



SCHOOL VISITS

The past months have been very busy with visits from students in the NCCC Rad Tech program, Tupper Lake 5th graders, Petrova 4th graders, the Petrova 2nd grade enrichment program (pictured above), St. Bernard's Summer Camp, Dewey Mountain Club Summer Camp, and the Franklin Academy in Malone. We also hosted tours for students from the Albany school of public health, Albany and Saranac Lake New Visions programs, St. Lawrence University, and Hamilton College. In October, we hosted our annual walking tours with Saranac Lake 5th graders and Homeschool History Day.

PRESERVATION



SANATORIUM FINDING A FUTURE

We are thrilled with the news that the former Trudeau Sanatorium has found new owners. Wayne Zukin and Sue Smith, along with their partners, Scott Zukin and Brian Draper, purchased the property from the American Management Association in October. Currently, they are planning to rehabilitate the spaces as tenants come forward. The team has proven expertise in rehabilitating historic properties in Saranac Lake and Pennsylvania. We are proud to count Wayne and Sue as members of HSL, and we wish them well as they embark on this adventure!

NEW BARTOK CABIN EFFORTS

Years ago, Historic Saranac Lake rescued the Bartok Cabin in Saranac Lake, where the great composer spent the last summer of his life. It has come to our attention that the cabin is in need of significant repairs. We have begun to brainstorm ways to support this effort. This fall, Executive Director, Amy Catania, met in New York City with supporters of the effort, including Christina Stanescu. Ms. Stanescu was instrumental in efforts to rescue the cabin in 1995. Amy also met with patrons of the arts, Barbara Tamerin and Hans Laverge, as well as with Ildiko Nagy, Operations Manager of the Hungarian House of New York.

CURRENT PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

- In April, we hosted an information session about the National Register in collaboration with Adirondack Architectural Heritage.
- The Berkeley Square National Register Expansion has been submitted to the State, and we await news.
- We have been busy assisting homeowners with the historic preservation tax credit.
- Executive Director Amy Catania will be attending the Preservation League colleagues meeting in November in Albany.

SPECIAL SUMMER VISITS

**Dr. Baldwin's Family**

Barbara Baldwin Knapp and her son Gunnar and daughter Tina visited in April. Barbara is the granddaughter of Dr. Edward R. Baldwin, who was director of the Saranac Laboratory. The family donated a collection of family photos and letters.

**Marlene and Bill Johnson**

This summer, Dr. Bill Johnson visited with his wife Marlene. Bill is a graduate of Saranac Lake High School. He worked at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, where he was a leader in protecting the health of workers from industrial diseases that were studied at the Saranac Laboratory.

**Robert Low**

Robert visited the museum this summer and told us that his uncle Bill was the fiancé of wilderness author, Martha Reben. Tragically, Bill died of TB before the couple was able to marry. Robert is pictured with the exhibit about Martha.

**Jonathan and Elizabeth Downs**

3 grandchildren of former director of the laboratory, Dr. Leroy Gardner visited the museum recently. Tom Downs visited in September, and his cousins, Jonathan and Elizabeth, visited in August.

**Frank and Cindy Nagle**

In August, Frank and Cindy Nagle visited to honor the 100th anniversary of Edwin Bernard Nagle's death from TB in Saranac Lake. Frank's grandfather came to cure after being diagnosed while working in Cuba.

**Quezón's 75th Anniversary**

This summer, a special event and tour commemorated the 75th anniversary of Manuel Quezón's death in Saranac Lake. The Rev. Alex Guimpol, a native of the Philippines and a Catholic priest at St. Bernard's Church, helped to arrange a mass and tour of the museum. Quezón is revered as the first president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines from 1935 to 1944. During the Japanese invasion, he ran a government-in-exile in Washington, D.C. Stricken with TB, Quezón came to stay at Camp Massapequa on Lower Saranac Lake, where he died in 1944. We plan on developing our interpretation of this important story with the museum expansion, and look forward to welcoming more Filipino visitors to the museum in the years to come!

**Norman Bethune Documentary**

Filmmaker Jordan Paterson visited Saranac Lake in September to film on location for a documentary about Dr. Norman Bethune, who was a patient at Trudeau San. The film will be released in China, where Bethune is well known as a hero of Mao's Red Army.

**Jazz Pianist, Lucian Ban**

Lucian Ban, a jazz pianist from Brooklyn, NY, visited the Bartók Cabin. He is currently working on a project titled, "Retracing Bartók" that is inspired by Bartók's ethnomusicology work in villages of Transylvania.

HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Support the Historic Saranac Lake Annual Fund!

Your membership dues and other donations are so important! At the end of each year, we appeal to our members and friends for this special contribution. Please help us make a strong start in the coming year with a gift to our Annual Fund!

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Make your check payable to Historic Saranac Lake or donate by credit card:
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*You may give online at
www.historicsaranaclake.org/annual-appeal*

Your annual fund support makes these key programs possible! Which matter most to you?

- Architectural Preservation
- Bartók Cabin & Concerts
- Collections Care
- Cure Porch on Wheels
- History Tours
- Museum Exhibits
- Oral Histories
- School Outreach
- Talks and Presentations
- Wiki Website
- Other _____



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