

# HISTORY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Historic Saranac Lake at the Saranac Laboratory Museum



## MAJOR ENDOWMENT GIFT RECEIVED

*In memory of David V. Pecora*



In January, Historic Saranac Lake received a very generous donation of \$115,000 from Dorothy Pecora in memory of her husband, prominent TB surgeon, Dr. David Pecora. Thanks to this gift, the Historic Saranac Lake endowment fund at the Adirondack Foundation has grown to a balance of over \$340,000.

Dr. Pecora graduated from Columbia University in 1937 and from Yale School of Medicine in 1941. He was a World War II veteran, and as an Army surgeon, he served in the European Theatre from 1943 to 1945. After the war, Dr. Pecora completed his residency, and then became Chief of Surgery at the New York State Hospital at Ray Brook. He developed several surgical procedures, including transtracheal aspiration. The Surgical Intensive Care Unit he created at Ray Brook

was among the first in the United States. He was widely published and considered to be an expert in the surgical treatment of TB.

Our deepest gratitude to the Pecora family for helping to assure our independence, quality, and continuity in the region with this substantial gift in Dr. Pecora's memory.

## NEW STAFF MEMBER



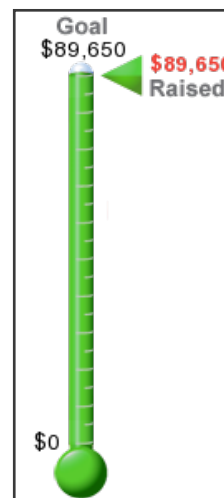
We are pleased to announce the addition of Kayt Gochenaur to our staff in the position of Oral History Coordinator. Kayt is now planning and overseeing the expansion of Historic Saranac Lake's Oral History Project as well as the Cure Porch on Wheels. Born and raised

in Saranac Lake, Kayt moved to New Mexico, where she attended St. John's College Santa Fe for three years. In 2017, she received her Bachelors of Liberal Arts with a focus on Classical Studies from St. John's College, Annapolis. After graduation, Kayt backpacked 300 miles on the Appalachian Trail. She enjoys reading, cooking, and working at Saranac Lake. Welcome, Kayt!

## CURE PORCH ON WHEELS MEETS GOAL

We have raised the funds needed to build and implement the Cure Porch on Wheels this spring! We are grateful for the generosity of many donors and foundations. And our thanks for support from the New York Council on the Arts and the National

Endowment on the Arts. See page 5 for more news about this exciting project!



## COMING EVENTS

- April 27: A Life in Hats Revisited
- Coffee Club
- New Museum Hours
- Summer Tour Schedule
- Gala 2019

*Details on page 3*

## BOARD MEMBERS

- President:  
Brandon Campbell
- Vice-President:  
Rich Loeber
- Treasurer:  
Jim Clark
- Secretary:  
Karen Morris  
Ruth Chasolen  
Dorothy Fobare  
Sunita Halasz  
Linda Jackson  
Amy Jones  
Skip Outcalt  
Andrew Rawdon

## STAFF

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

Made possible in part by the NY State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



**NEW HOURS** Starting in March, the museum will be open with longer hours all year! We will be open from 10:00 to 5:00, Tuesday through Saturday, year-round. Come visit us!

**OUR MISSION** Historic Saranac Lake is a not-for-profit architectural preservation organization that captures and presents local history from our center at the Saranac Laboratory Museum.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Something is in the air in Saranac Lake. Our good friend Howard Riley put his finger on it recently when he said, "It's hope." In January, the Hotel Saranac reopened to great fanfare. It is a preservation success story that holds great promise for not only our economy, but our cultural vitality as well.

The Hotel's restoration has already spurred big changes on Main Street and here at the Saranac Laboratory Museum. One small but tangible example is this newsletter. We simply can no longer be contained to just four pages! Welcome to our new format, full of news of a very busy fall and winter and announcements about many upcoming tours, talks, projects, and special events!

As we gear up for a busy season, a priority is collaboration and community engagement. We are actively involved in the Saranac Lake Area Tourism Council, advocating for local arts and cultural tourism assets. We have assisted in the development of the new Arts and Culture Master Plan, and we are advising on the current branding initiative for Saranac Lake. In January, we welcomed many elected officials to our Roaring Twenties Gala, including Assemblyman Billy Jones and Senator Betty Little. In February, we had the pleasure of meeting Governor Andrew Cuomo during his visit to the Hotel Saranac. We look forward to continuing to connect with political leaders and community initiatives to ensure that history and preservation play a role in the Saranac Lake's bright future.

As Historic Saranac Lake nears its 40th birthday, volunteers and board members contribute more than ever to our programs, our organizational strength, and our fundraising success. Seven years ago, our endowment fund was under \$10,000. Thanks to many donations, and a very generous recent gift in memory of Dr. David Pecora, the fund is now over \$340,000, ensuring that we will be here for the long haul to capture and preserve our unique history.

HSL has grown quickly and accomplished so much in recent years. In order to take stock and plan for the future, the Board of Directors will embark on a new strategic planning process this fall. We look forward to welcoming the involvement of the community and our members. So please stay tuned!

Sincerely,



*Executive Director Amy Catania with Governor Andrew Cuomo during his visit to the Hotel Saranac in February.*

### OUR THANKS

We could not accomplish half of what we do without the help of so many volunteers.

- ◆ The fabulous Roaring Twenties Winter Gala was the result of many long hours by our amazing gala team. Our thanks to Ruth Chasolen, Penny Curran, Lorraine Kelly, Linda Jackson, and Deb Roedel.
- ◆ Special thanks to Karen Morris, for regular office support.
- ◆ Our thanks to Marc Wanner and Mary Hotaling for regular contributions to the wonderful HSL wiki site of local history and to our oral history volunteers who help with recording interviews.
- ◆ Thank you to members of Historic Saranac Lake and to the many businesses and individuals who support our programs and who sponsored the Roaring Twenties Winter Gala. See page 7 for a complete list!

## FALL & WINTER EVENTS



### TOURS

We hosted many special tours this fall and winter. Visitors included over fifty students from the University of Albany School of Public Health, Italian travel writer Travelling Dany, St. Lawrence faculty and students, Potsdam students, and thirty students from the SUNY ESF Wanakena Ranger School (pictured above).

### HISTORY MATTERS SPEAKER SERIES

Our speaker series concluded this fall with a presentation by local artist Georgeanne Gaffney on painting area great camps. We also hosted a presentation on Women in Silent Film supported by Humanties NY.

### SILENT FILM SERIES

The new monthly film series continued through the winter with presentations of *Nosferatu*, *The General*, *Christmas Shorts*, *It*, and *The Great White Trail*. On March 19, we look forward to a screening of *Safety Last!*, and on April 16, we will conclude the series with *City Lights*.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting in October featured a presentation of "the Future of Trudeau Institute" by President of Trudeau Institute, Atsuo Kuki, Ph.D.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

The John Black Room has been busy with a variety of community functions such as the fall Farmer's Market, the meeting of the Women's College Scholarship Fund, and other private gatherings. Contact us to find out about room rental for your needs!

## COMING SOON!

### "A LIFE IN HATS"

On Friday, April 27, please join us in the Hotel Saranac Ballroom from 3:00pm to 5:00pm for a tea party and short presentation revisiting our 2013 exhibit, "Ursula Trudeau: A Life in Hats." Garden party attire. Hats recommended! Tickets are \$30 per person and go on sale March 19.

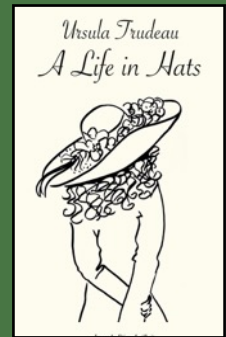


Illustration by Diane Leifheit

**COFFEE CLUB** — Stay tuned for news of this monthly meeting at the Hotel Saranac. The HSL Coffee Club will feature light breakfast, a short presentation, and conversation about local history.

**TOUR SCHEDULE** — Regular Wednesday tours start in June. Sites include the Trudeau Sanatorium, historic downtown, Cure Cottage Museum, Little Red and Trudeau Statue. We will also offer a special Saturday tour of each of the sites, as well as new guided tours of the historic Hotel Saranac. Tours of the Bartók Cabin are available by appointment. See our events page at [www.historicsaranaclake.org](http://www.historicsaranaclake.org) for details.

**WINTER GALA 2019** — On January 19, 2019, we



will host our second annual Winter Gala at the Hotel Saranac, revisiting the roaring twenties with a twist! The night will be inspired by surreal art of the era. As a lead-in to the event, HSL will present a program this fall about Gerald and

Sara Murphy, patrons of the arts who brought their son to Saranac Lake for TB treatment. Friends of Picasso, Hemingway, and Fitzgerald, the Murphys were well known for their "surreal galas." Members of HSL will have first chance to purchase tickets to this seated dinner in the ballroom. Start planning your cocktail attire of the era, plus something surreal! More news coming soon!

## COLLECTION PROJECT



### MEMORY MAKING PROJECT

This winter we collaborated with the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society and the Lake Placid Olympic Museum on projects at Saranac Village at Will Rogers (resident Joe Pete Wilson pictured above) and Elderwood of Uihlein at Lake Placid. The "Memory Making Through History, Art, and Storytelling" project included displays of historic photographs and memory sharing sessions. This project was funded by a Generous Acts Fund grant from the Adirondack Foundation in honor and memory of John Lansing.

### IMLS GRANT

Museum Administrator Chessie Monks-Kelly is hard at work creating a long-term preservation plan for our collections. This fall she met with Collections Consultant Eileen Corcoran to update Eileen's preservation assessment from 2011.

### FALL FOR HISTORY EVENT

In September, we participated in the Franklin County Historical & Museum Society's Fall for History event. We presented curling history to participating children (and adults!), including a playable tabletop curling game.

### NEW TO THE COLLECTION

Recent exciting additions to the collection include:

- A New Year's card with a photograph of Dr. and Mrs. Trudeau. *Donated by Karen Lewis.*
- A sash from the 1917 Winter Carnival. *Donated by James and Barbara Halla.*
- A 1911 photo album of Saranac Lake kept by Fletcher Durbin, TB patient. *Donated by John Durbin.*
- Speed skating medals belonging to Ed Lamy. *Donated by Dick Jarvis.*

## MUSEUM

### NEW EXHIBIT — "The Art of the Cure"

We are hard at work on a new John Black Room exhibit featuring artwork created by TB patients in Saranac Lake.



*Temming pin, courtesy of Priscilla Goss.*

The TB industry attracted

talented artists from around the world to Saranac Lake, and many patients found an artistic calling during their time curing. "The Art of the Cure" will highlight the history of the Scholfield Memorial Workshop at the Trudeau Sanatorium and the Study and Craft Guild. The exhibit will include art from the collection of the Saranac Lake Free Library, and it will feature the work of painters, photographers, sculptors, craftspeople, musicians, writers, actors, and architects. Please contact us if you have artifacts or information to share!

### STUDENT INTERNS

HSL will hire two student interns this summer. The intern program is made possible by generous support from Kay and Marvin Best to the Ralph Kelly Education Fund. More information will be available soon for interested students!

### WINTER MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

It has been a busy winter at the museum! Over 100 museum visitors stopped in during Winter Carnival weekends to participate in our special "Make Your own Winter Carnival Button" activity.

### UPCOMING CONFERENCE

Museum Administrator Chessie Monks-Kelly looks forward to attending the upcoming Museum Association of NY annual conference in Rochester.

### NEW BRICK WEBSITE

We recently launched a new website for our memorial bricks. The new website features a page for each patient memorialized with a brick, with a photograph and biographical information. Visit the new brick website at [www.historicsaranaclake.org/bricks](http://www.historicsaranaclake.org/bricks).

THANKS TO OUR CURRENT BUSINESS MEMBERS!

Adirondack Massage Therapy, Bionique Testing Laboratories, Carcuzzi Car Care Center, Fogarty's Bed and Breakfast, Guide Boat Realty, and Patti Brooks Books.

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT & CURE PORCH ON WHEELS



### PORCH CONSTRUCTION BEGINS!

The trailer and handicap lift have been delivered to Don Rumble Carpentry. Designer Melissa Kline and Engineer Wiley Lavigne are putting the finishing touches on the architectural plans. Soon we will begin building the Cure Porch on Wheels in collaboration with the BOCES building careers high school students (pictured above is teacher Clarence Brockway)! The Cure Porch on Wheels will be handicap accessible, heated for winter use, and solar powered. We are so excited for the Cure Porch on Wheels to become part of the community. Visit the Cure Porch on Wheels website [cureporchonwheels.org](http://cureporchonwheels.org) to keep up to date on this exciting project.



### CURE PORCH ON WHEELS PLANNING

This winter and spring, HSL has made presentations to the Downtown Advisory Board, Adirondack North Country Association, and the Village of Saranac Lake Board of Trustees about the Cure Porch on Wheels project. The purpose of the outreach sessions is to solicit feedback about the porch design and to inspire interest in widespread community use of the porch.

### HOTEL SARANAC MINI-EXHIBIT

We are hosting a mini-exhibit in the beautifully restored phone booths at the Hotel Saranac. Please stop by the Great Hall to share your special memories of the Hotel Saranac! To date, hundreds of memory cards have been posted on the walls of the phone booths. Photo courtesy of Dylan Van Cott and Cassandra Hopkins. Stay tuned for an online exhibition of memories shared!



### CURE PORCHES PRESENTATION

We had fun presenting about cure porches at the Saranac Lake Free Library's January Library Luncheon! Videos are up online of both parts of the presentation. The first half of the presentation featured Mary Hotaling presenting on the history of cure porches, and the second half includes an update on the Cure Porch on Wheels from Amy Catania.

### ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

It has been a busy spring for the Oral History Project! We have conducted interviews with Saranac Lake residents, revived our Living History column in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise and developed a website to make our Oral History archives accessible to the public. We are working on summarizing each interview in our Oral History collection and transferring the summaries to the website where stories can be browsed by topic or by name. Visit our new (and growing!) website [www.hslstories.org](http://www.hslstories.org) to listen to the voices of Saranac Lake.

### CONFERENCES AND CONNECTIONS

This fall, former staff member Aurora Wheeler attended the Oral History Association annual meeting in Minneapolis. Aurora presented about the Cure Porch on Wheels as part of a panel entitled "Beyond the Walls: Engaging Audiences Inside and Outside the Museum." Her travel was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Aurora also visited the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, where she presented about the Saranac Laboratory Museum and Saranac Lake's unique TB history.

## SCHOOL OUTREACH



### WINTER CARNIVAL PRESENTATIONS

We enjoyed presenting about Winter Carnival history to over 80 fifth graders from Petrova and Bloomingdale Elementary Schools. This year we were thrilled to have a surprise visit by Winter Carnival royalty.

### HOMESCHOOL HISTORY DAY

We enjoyed participating in this special day for the third year. Special thanks to Saranac Village at Will Rogers for hosting us and local homeschool families for participating. The children presented on figures from history, and learned about Will Rogers history by watching "Hotel Hope" and doing a scavenger hunt through the facility. We were joined by residents from Saranac Village at Will Rogers as well!



### CEMETERY TOURS

This fall we hosted great walking tours with Petrova 5th graders. The students walked through historic downtown, visited the Saranac Laboratory Museum, and toured Pine Ridge Cemetery with the help of local history buff and HSL Board Member, Jim Clark. Before the tour, the students researched people who are buried in Pine Ridge Cemetery such as local legends Charlie Green and Don Duso. The students then presented their research with a photo at the grave sites.

## PRESERVATION



### SAINT GABRIEL'S CHURCH

Historic Saranac Lake is supporting a project to nominate Saint Gabriel's Church in Paul Smith's to the National Register of Historic Places. The Church was built in 1896 on land offered by Paul Smith for the growing community of Catholic families that worked at the Hotel or in the various services around the area. Despite the seasonal or infrequent use of this church building over the past 120 years, it is remarkably intact, with very few and minor alterations, and in excellent condition. The nomination is part of an ongoing effort to protect this beautiful historic building.

### OTHER PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Current advocacy efforts include the protection and enhancement of the Historic Tax Credit, which has been instrumental in the restoration of the Hotel Saranac and historic residential properties. We are also actively monitoring the former Medical Associates Building, the former Trudeau Sanatorium; the William Morris' Camp Intermission; the Remsen-Lake Placid Railway; and the Saranac Lake Union Depot. Our project to expand Saranac Lake's downtown National Register District is almost complete. This March, we will submit the draft to the Office of Historic Preservation, and we will be reaching out to property owners about the project.

Contact us to find out more about the National Register and the Historic Tax Credit, which can help you care for your historic property!

## ROARING TWENTIES WINTER GALA



Antique cars courtesy of Elwin and Charlotte Hall, Ben Kline, and MC Motors

On January 20, 2018, two days after the Hotel Saranac reopened its doors, 300 attendees turned out to celebrate the Hotel's rebirth in style! Our thanks to:

### **GOLD SPONSORS**

Hotel Saranac, Hyde Fuel, JNK Home Enterprises, and Samuelson Furniture.

### **SILVER SPONSORS**

Cedar Circle, Clix Photo Booths, Community Bank, and Fortune Studio.

### **FRIEND SPONSORS**

Ayres Insurance; Blue Moon Cafe; Brandon, Cole, and Sandy Campbell; Cantwell Jackson Design Build; Cape Air; Davidson Design; Evergreen Auto; Geomatics Land Surveying; Great Adirondack Brewing Company; Guide Boat Realty; Sunita and Steve Halasz; HomEnergy Services; George Locker; Nori's Village Market; Placid Audiology; The Porcupine Inn; Raquette River Brewing; Rice Furniture; Schrader General Contracting; Trudeau Institute; Fran Yardley and Burdette Parks.

### **SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS**

Adirondack Architectural Heritage, Adirondack Carousel, Adirondack Wine and Liquor, Ames Hotel, Cape Air, the Community Store, Eco Living, Fiddlehead Bistro, Fortune Studio, Hotel Saranac: Academy & Main Gift Shop, Ampersand Salon and Spa, Great Hall Bar, Campfire Adirondack Grill + Bar, Hyde Fuel, Little Italy, Olympic Regional Development Authority, Pendragon Theatre, T.F. Finnigan, and the Wild Center.

### **OTHER SUPPORT**

Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Compass Printing, Davidson Design, Phil Leonidas/Empire Merchants, Great Adirondack Brewing Company, High Peaks Distributing, Gordon W. Pratt Agency, Raquette River Brewing, Scott's Florist, and Spencer Boatworks.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Clix Photo Booths; The Dance Sanctuary; Antique cars courtesy of Elwin and Charlotte Hall, Ben Kline and MC Motors; Music by Crackin' Foxy and Drew Benware; Cigarette Girl by Brianna Knapton; Film by Jim Griebisch and the Kollecker Collection of the Saranac Lake Free Library; and sign by Laura and Caitlin Friebel.

### **GUEST OF HONOR**

Phil "Bunk" Griffin

### **SPECIAL GUESTS**

Garry Trudeau, Jeanne Trudeau Fenn, and Ursula Trudeau

### **AND OUR SINCERE THANKS TO**

The Roedel Family and Members of Historic Saranac Lake.



300 attendees gathered in the Great Hall for the cocktail hour



Fran Yardley, Jim Sonneborn, Dr. Dorothy Federman, and Garry Trudeau



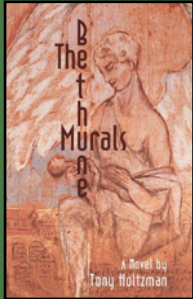
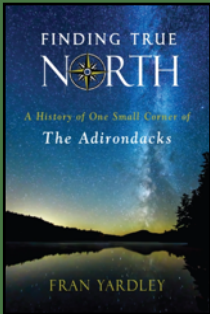
Fred B. Roedel



Guest of Honor, Bunk Griffin and Amy Catania

## MAKING HISTORY

**Keep an eye out for these exciting new works of local history**

- ❖ **THE BETHUNE MURALS** — Historical fiction by Tony Holtzman, M. D. Two true events—the drawing of murals on the walls of Lea Cottage at the Trudeau Sanatorium in 1927 and the actual theft of scientific papers from the Saranac Laboratory in 1953—lay the foundation for this novel set mostly in the Adirondacks. It culminates in a mid-twentieth century witch hunt that has fatal consequences and threatens the survival of a venerable Adirondack institution. The paperback and ebook edition will be available in early June. 
- ❖ **“RESTORATIVE ADIRONDACK ARCHITECTURE”** — An article in the winter edition of NY Archives Magazine by former HSL staff member Aurora Wheeler about the restoration of the Hotel Saranac.
- ❖ **FINDING TRUE NORTH: A History of One Small Corner of the Adirondacks** — In 1968, Fran and Jay Yardley, a young couple with pioneering spirit, moved to a remote corner of the Adirondacks to revive the long-abandoned but historic Bartlett Carry Club, with its one thousand acres and thirty-seven buildings. The Saranac Lake—area property had been in Jay’s family for generations, and his dream was to restore this summer resort to support himself and, eventually, a growing family. Fran chronicles their journey and, along the way, unearths the history of those who came before, from the 1800s to the present. Offering an evocative glimpse into the past, Finding True North traces the challenges and transformations of one of the world’s most beautiful, least-celebrated places and the people who were tirelessly devoted to it. The book will be released in July. 
- ❖ **WIKI WEBSITE** — Read the story of Charles Dickens’ trip through the Adirondacks in 1859, guided by Paul Smith. Search “Dickens” on the wiki to find the page, which includes a link to Dickens’ personal account of his journey.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

*Become a member of Historic Saranac Lake, and help us make history matter!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Make your check payable to Historic Saranac Lake or donate by credit card:

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Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ security code \_\_\_\_\_

Name as appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also give online at  
<http://www.historicsaranaclake.org/support-us>

**Join us!** Members enjoy benefits such as free museum admission and a gift shop discount!

- Benefactor: \$1,000
- Patron: \$500
- Historian: \$100
- Family: \$65
- Individual: \$35
- Business: \$125
- Nonprofit Organization: \$35

St. Lawrence University students  
January, 2018



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