



## COMING EVENTS

- Bartok Summer Concert Series
- Historic Wednesday Walking Tours  
July 9 – October 8
- Pioneer Health Resort Tour with Adirondack Architectural Heritage
- Pine Ridge Cemetery History Tour
- History Day  
September 6 at Guggenheim Camp  
A Celebration of the History of the Lower Saranac

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Emily Fogarty  
President

Ruth Chasolen  
Vice President

Jane Carroll  
Secretary

Rich Loeber  
Treasurer

Lionel Arlan

Sara Bullock

Linda Jackson

Lorraine Kelley

Kirk Peterson

Chris Rdzanek

Tracy Santagate

## STAFF

Mary B. Hotaling  
Executive Director

Amy Catania  
Program Manager

## The John Black Room Opens Adirondack Unitarian Universalists Share Space as New Tenants



Historic Saranac Lake was pleased to unveil the substantially renovated John Black Room of the Saranac Laboratory at our annual meeting on October 23, 2007.

## Remembering John Baxter Black

HSL has been working to recapture the history of the John Black Room and the man for whom was named. In January we were thrilled to reconnect with the family of John Black, having found his nephew, John Black II, of Mansfield, Ohio. Mr. Black has generously shared with us his fascinating family history.

John Black attended Andover Academy and Princeton. He planned to work at the Ohio Brass Company of which his father, Frank Blymyer Black, was founder and president.

Then came the Great War, and in May of 1917, John Black sailed for France with the Princeton Unit to enter the American Field Service as a volunteer ambulance driver. He spent that summer on the Aisne front with the French camion service.

John Black was one of many Princeton contemporaries who volunteered

Executive Director Mary Hotaling welcomed the public with a power point presentation on the history of the room and John Black.

The John Black Room and upstairs offices were the gift of Mrs. Frank Black in memory of her son, John Baxter Black, who was treated for tuberculosis in Saranac Lake. In 1928, the John Black Room, a one-story addition adjoining the main building on the south side, was built to serve as a library and lecture room. The John Black Room later was capped by a second story, providing additional office and laboratory space.

HSL has been working to bring to life this elegant room, with its vaulted ceiling, fireplace and leaded windows. HSL acquired the Saranac Lab in 1998 and has

*Continued on page 3*



*Courtesy of the Trudeau Institute, this portrait has been returned to its original location over the fireplace in the John Black Room.*

for service in France, including writers F. Scott Fitzgerald, Edmund Wilson, and John Peale Bishop.

*Continued on page 3*

## HSL Adds Staff



Amy Catania  
Program Manager

In December, HSL welcomed Amy Catania to its staff as part time Program Manager.

Amy developed an interest in the history of Saranac Lake while completing her graduate studies. She drew a picture of the largely forgotten community of Spanish speaking patients by surveying the patient TB cards in the Adirondack Room of Saranac Lake Free Library. She also found some descendents of the Latin American residents of the village. Her work was published in 2003 in an article in *New York Archives Magazine*.

Amy graduated from Oberlin College, majoring in Latin American Studies, concentrating on history. She studied in Santiago, Chile, and Lima, Peru, where she worked as a newspaper reporter. While teaching Spanish in Saranac Lake and Lake Placid, Amy has maintained her interest in local history and is thrilled to have the chance to work at HSL.

## New Website Unveiled

With support from the New York State Council on the Arts, HSL enlisted the help of a preservation professional to create a new comprehensive website.

Unveiled this spring, the website helps HSL achieve a number of the key goals of our strategic plan, particularly to establish a multifaceted informational outreach program. The site provides a wealth of history of Saranac Lake and information about ongoing HSL projects.

The new site was designed by Paula Dennis, principal of In the Field Consulting, which offers architectural history and historic preservation services to cultural resource professionals, communities, nonprofits, and individuals throughout New York State and New England.


Ms. Dennis previously worked at Adirondack Architectural Heritage, the park-wide regional nonprofit historic preservation organization.

To enter the raffle, just clip the ticket and mail the stub to HSL with payment.



Union Depot is at the top of the quilt. Then, clockwise are: the Masonic Temple, the former Baptist Church (original version), the Ice Palace at the bottom, Little Red, and our own Saranac Laboratory (before the addition of the John Black room and upstairs offices).

## Cabin Fever Quilt to be Raffled

<p>HSL Quilt Raffle 2008</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ ST _____ zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</p>		<p>Hand crafted wool quilt made by the Cabin Fever Quilters for the benefit of</p> <p><b>HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE</b></p> <p>Winner to be announced at the end of the Sparkle Village Craft Fair Winter, 2008</p> <p>\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00</p>
---	---	---

The Cabin Fever Quilters have chosen Historic Saranac Lake as this year's recipient of a beautiful handmade quilt. Raffle tickets will be sold this year and the winning ticket will be announced at this year's Sparkle Village Craft Fair at the Town Hall. Proceeds from the raffle sales will go to support the programs of Historic Saranac Lake. The quilt will be featured at this year's Cabin Fever quilt show in August, a three-day event held in the Great Hall at the First Presbyterian Church.

The quilt features many of Saranac Lake's beloved historic buildings, including

our own Saranac Laboratory. The quilt is all wool and quilted with a big stitch. The quilt has a soft flannel backing and is washable.

The Cabin Fever Quilters have been meeting twice a month for over twenty years. Every two years the group makes a quilt for a local nonprofit organization to raffle as a fundraiser.

Historic Saranac Lake would like to thank the skilled quilters, Nancy DePuy, Marilyn Gillespie, Judy Kratts, Valerie McGuoirk, Carolyn Moody, Coralie North, and Carole Wiesinger for their many hours of careful work.

## The John Black Room Opens ...

*The John Black Room is now available to be rented for events.*

*Rental income from our tenants and community use of the John Black Room enables Historic Saranac Lake to maintain and continue to improve the historic Saranac Laboratory.*

*Please contact us to find out about reserving the John Black Room.*

been in the process of restoring the building.

In September, the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community became tenants, using the John Black Room for their services two Sundays a month, and renting two rooms on the upper floor for classrooms and an office. Kisco Information Systems, a computer technology firm, has been renting a suite on the second floor since 2002.

HSL recently installed a historic Wurlitzer piano in the John Black Room. Ditta Bartok, wife of famous composer, Bela Bartok, played the piano in the Levy family home on Riverside Drive. Anna Ferree generously donated the piano to HSL.

Another recent addition to the room is a long table (pictured on the front page), which HSL believes to be one of the original pieces of furniture in the room. The table

had been stored at the Saranac Lake Free Library. Library Director Betsy Whitefield presented the table to HSL in February, preceding Executive Director Mary Hotaling's talk on John Black.

The space has begun hosting the Cabin Fever Film Series, the Saranac Free Library Brown Bag Lunch Series, and other private and group meetings.

In 2005, Historic Saranac Lake moved our office from the North Elba Town House to Dr. LeRoy Gardner's old office on the laboratory floor. On the north side of the building, a high-ceilinged space with white glazed brick walls, once the laboratory of Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau, will become the heart of the new history center that HSL is creating.

## Remembering John Black ...

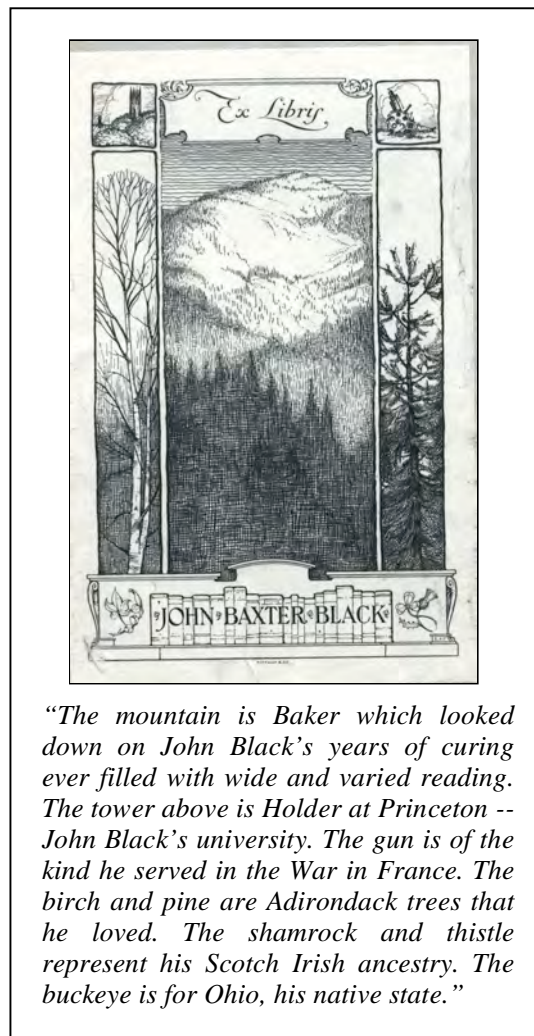
In October of 1917, John joined the American army at Paris. He was sent to the French Artillery School and was in active service in France until returning home ill with tuberculosis in May of 1918. He was later discharged as 100% disabled.

Sent to Saranac Lake for the fresh air cure in July of 1918, John and his mother stayed in the village for five years. John Black died on May 16, 1923, in Montreal, where he had gone for a final surgery, expecting to go home cured.

## Paul Smith's Interns

HSL recently began a partnership with Paul Smith's College. Two business majors, Renee Marleau and Bill Barber are working with HSL under the leadership of Dr. Diane Litynski, Associate Professor and Program Director of Business Management and Entrepreneurial Studies. The interns are helping HSL develop a marketing plan for the retail store of our future history center in the Saranac Laboratory.

Our interns have enclosed a survey in this newsletter. Please take a moment to fill it out and return it to us, or find it online at [www.historic.saranaclake.org](http://www.historic.saranaclake.org). Thank you!



*"The mountain is Baker which looked down on John Black's years of curing ever filled with wide and varied reading. The tower above is Holder at Princeton -- John Black's university. The gun is of the kind he served in the War in France. The birch and pine are Adirondack trees that he loved. The shamrock and thistle represent his Scotch Irish ancestry. The buckeye is for Ohio, his native state."*

*Books donated from John Black's personal collection may be found today in the Saranac Lake Free Library. The books contain this library plate and the inscription below.*

**HISTORIC  
SARANAC LAKE**

89 Church Street  
Suite 2  
Saranac Lake, NY  
12983  
518-891-4606

email:historicsaranac  
lake@verizon.net

[www.historic  
saranaclake.org](http://www.historic<br/>saranaclake.org)

**OUR MISSION**

*Historic Saranac Lake  
is dedicated to  
nurturing a sense of  
place and pride in  
community by  
advocating the  
restoration,  
preservation and  
interpretation of the  
built environment and  
the cultural heritage of  
the Saranac Lake area.*

State of the Arts



NYSCA

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

## We Count on Your Support!

Thanks to the support of our members, Historic Saranac Lake continues to actively encourage the preservation and restoration of Saranac Lake's unique architectural and historic environment.

Our 2007 fund drive was a great success. HSL would like to thank 173 members who donated over \$20,000.

Since acquiring the Saranac Laboratory in 1998, Historic Saranac Lake has invested approximately \$350,000 in private and state grants and individual donor support to restore the laboratory and the John Black Room.

We estimate that we will need an additional \$500,000 in order to complete the



The Saranac Laboratory today

laboratory restoration and install a history center in the building.

## Please help us take care of the past for the future.

Choose a membership category and return this card with your check, or contact us regarding opportunities for planned giving through our partner, the Adirondack Community Trust.

Historic Saranac Lake Membership	
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor — \$1,000 or more
Address: _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron — \$500 or more
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend — \$250 or more
Email: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Booster/Business — \$100 or more
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family — \$50 or more
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual — \$35
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other — _____

Please return to **Historic Saranac Lake 89 Church Street, Suite 2, Saranac Lake, NY 12983**



**HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE**

89 Church Street, Suite 2  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Postage  
PAID  
Saranac Lake  
NY 12983  
PERMIT NO.9