HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE

at the Saranac Laboratory Museum

GRAND OPENING OF NEW EXHIBITS JUNE 5

Major Grant Also Funds New Film on Will Rogers Hospital



The new "Medical Marvels" features artifacts courtesy of Reeys-Believe It or Not!

A grant from the Will Rogers Motion Pictures Pioneers Foundation is supporting new exhibits, museum store renovations, and a new short film on Will Rogers Memorial Hospital.

An exhibition of antique medical devices titled "Medical Marvels" will open in the John Black Room on June 5. The exhibit will feature artifacts on loan from Ripley's Entertainment, Inc. Grants from the New York Council on the Humanities and the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation have supported the exhibit in consultation with the Dittrick Medical History Museum.

In the laboratory, new panels will interpret the story of the lab and Dr. E. L. Trudeau's work to establish Saranac Lake as a pioneer health resort. The new exhibit will include a self-guided audio tour, and a new interactive panel titled, "My TB Story." (See page 3 for more info.)

HSL is contracting with Jim Griebsch to produce the short documentary film on Will Rogers Hospital. The film will feature interviews with former Will Rogers patients and employees. Caroline Welsh, Director Emerita of the Adirondack Museum, is assisting with the film and exhibits. Exhibit design is by Davidson Designs, Inc.

WELCOME, NEW STAFF MEMBER!

Chessie Monks is HSL's new Public Programs Coordinator. As a trained archivist, Chessie brings experience working with collections and museums, and she has a passion for making history fun and engaging for everyone. Chessie has previously applied her love of history in a variety of settings, including national parks sites, a public library, and an art museum. She has a master's degree in Library Science with a concentration in Archives Management from Simmons College in Boston.

The addition of Chessie to the staff will allow HSL to better connect with the public through

improved exhibits, new tours, additional programming, increased hours of operation, and expansion of our school outreach program. The new position is supported by a two-year grant from the Regional Economic Development Council through New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NY State Legislature.



NEW MUSEUM HOURS

Our new museum hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10:00-4:00. Starting in June, we will also be open on Thursday evenings until 7:00 and on Saturdays from 10:00-4:00. The expanded Thursday and Saturday hours continue through mid-October.

HISTORY WEBSITE

Be sure to visit our amazing website of local history: <u>localwiki.net/hsl</u>. Click the edit button and add what you know!

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.

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Amy Catania, Executive Director Todd Bailey, Museum Coordinator Chessie Monks, Public Programs Coordinator



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

RECENT HAPPENINGS



School Outreach

This winter, HSL presented about the history of winter carnival to all Bloomingdale and Petrova Elementary 5th graders. In March, Liza Frenette worked with 7th graders exploring local history through poetry. See more about the project on page 3.



"The Forgotten Plaque" Film There was a full house for the premiere of the new American Experience film on TB at Saranac Village at Will Rogers. Josh Clement and Ed Kanze also presented a short film on curing in Saranac Lake produced by Mountain Lake PBS.



Winter Tours

In February, HSL hosted many tours, including a presentation for students from the Wanakeena Ranger school.



Clarkson Collaboration This winter HSL worked with Clarkson students for their Trudeau Semester. Students assisted with research for the new museum exhibit.



Franklin Manor Winter Solstice Anne Laemmle and Paul Willcott opened their lovely home for a winter solstice celebration that included caroling in Pine Ridge Cemetery, champagne, and homemade holiday treats. Special thanks to Kim Weems, pictured above, who sang carols for the occasion.

Annual Meeting with TAUNY

HSL's annual meeting in November featured a talk and presentation by Jill Breit, Executive Director of Traditional Arts of Upstate New York. Ms. Breit presented about *Songs to Keep*, TAUNY's ground-breaking project that showcases the folk music of New York's Adirondack North Country.



Center for Global Health Tour This fall we enjoyed another tour with graduate students from the University of Albany School of Public Health.



Winter Carnival Festivities History *rocked* in the winter carnival parade with Trudeau Institute! We also hosted an excellent panel discussion about the Sixties with Brian Mann, Ellen Rocco, Howard Riley, and George Nagle.

THE HSL LEGACY SOCIETY

HSL Legacy Society Members are those who have added HSL as a beneficiary in their will or made a donation to our endowment fund with the Adirondack Foundation.

We recently learned of a generous gift from our dear friend, John Black II, of Mansfield, Ohio. Mr. Black included HSL in his will with a gift of \$100,000.

His gift is a vote of confidence in our long-term future. We hope you will help us build on this success. There is no minimum gift to join the HSL Legacy Society.



CURRENT PROJECTS and UPCOMING EVENTS

E.L. TRUDEAU BIOGRAPHY



We are in the home stretch of fundraising for this year's publication of the new biography of Dr. E. L. Trudeau by Mary Hotaling. Recent grants from the New York Newspapers Foundation and the Henry Uihlein II and Mildred A. Uihlein Foundation have brought us very close to our fundraising goal! Your \$100 subscription supports the

book publication and reserves an advance copy. Checks can be made to HSL with "Trudeau book" in the memo.

ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

HSL continues to advocate for preservation of Saranac Lake's unique architecture. This winter we invited Julian Adams of the State Office of Historic Preservation to present about preservation to our Local Development Corporation. We also met with government officials to support efforts to preserve Union Depot, and we continue to monitor the situation of the former Trudeau Sanatorium property. Recently, we helped a local homeowner to nominate her Sears kit house to the National Register, and we worked with AARCH to create a nomination for the Helen Hill Neighborhood. The home rehabilitation tax credit is available to National Register listed properties. Contact us to find out more.

MUSEUM STORE IMPROVEMENTS

Tom Seymour, who crafted the cabinet replicas for the laboratory space, is creating new cabinets for merchandise, installing new doors, and working on other improvements. New inventory also is being added. We look forward to a grand reopening of the space in June!

HISTORY MATTERS SERIES AND MORE

We are now planning our fourth annual History Matters speaker series for this May. As the weather warms, we are looking forward to an expanded tour schedule. Stay tuned to our events page for information.

SUMMER INTERNS

We look forward to hiring two high school students as paid summer interns. The interns will assist with greeting the public and leading tours. The positions are made possible through generous support from Kay and Marvin Best to the Ralph Kelly Education Fund. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity. Students can find out more about applying on our website.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

With the busy season on the horizon, we need volunteers to help staff the museum and gift shop. As we look forward to the reopening of the restored Hotel Saranac, we are preparing for more visitors! We will be holding a volunteer training in late May. Contact us to get involved!

A NEW EXHIBIT: "MY TB STORY"

Many HSL members and museum visitors have a connection to tuberculosis. Many have relatives who came for the fresh air cure or know scientists or doctors who worked in Saranac Lake. We have visitors every year who work in public health and have direct experience with the disease today. We also meet a surprising number of people who have tested positive and developed active infection. All of these stories have a place in our new "Your TB Story" exhibit. We are asking people to record their story in a few lines to share with others on a special panel. Please contact us if you would like to contribute to this exhibit, or find a link on our homepage to a "My TB Story" card that can be printed and mailed in to post in the exhibit.



7th Grade Poetry Project with Liza Frenette

In March, we hosted author Liza Frenette for a two-day workshop with Saranac Lake 7th graders, exploring local history through poetry. The project was supported by an Arts in Education grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. Each of the one hundred students researched a person and topic in local history, using our local history website <u>localwiki.net/hsl</u>. Students then created a poem from the point of view of the person in history. In a letter to the students after the project, Liza wrote, "Dear students of Mrs. Jones, You truly, truly inspired me. ... You are POETS! You are using original thoughts, emotions and creativity to bring history to life..." Thanks to a generous donation, three prizes have been established for the top three poems, which are being selected now. Stay tuned for news about the winners!

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BECOME A MEMBER

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