

JAMESVILLE COMMUNITY MUSEUM  
 Post Office Box 76  
 Jamesville, New York 13078-0076  
 Phone: 492-4890  
 jamesvillemuseum.org



### Museum Hours

- May through December  
*Sundays 1-4 p.m.*
- March through April  
*Sundays 2-4 p.m.*

The museum is open anytime by appointment. Please call Greg Titus at 469-6681.

NOTE: Your membership is current for December 31st of the year shown on the mailing label.

### Membership Application 2016

Jamesville Community Museum  
 P. O. Box 76  
 Jamesville, New York 13078-0076

*Membership runs from January 1st, 2016 through December 31st, 2016*

Supporting	\$50	*Patron	\$150
Family	\$25	Individual	\$15
*Sustaining	\$ 75	Senior/Student	\$10
*Suitable for Corporate Members			

Please make your check payable to: Jamesville Community Museum. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Check here if Membership cards are desired.

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

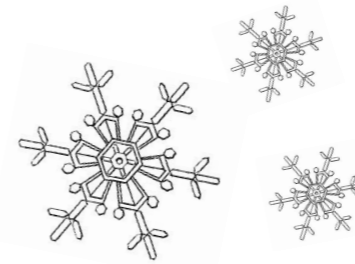
(As you would like it to appear on museum list)

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

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

I am interested in:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> helping with Memorial Day parade activities   | <input type="checkbox"/> landscaping and gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> planning exhibits for coming year   | <input type="checkbox"/> helping with refreshments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> planning children's activities (field trips from the elementary school and/or kids' corner) | <input type="checkbox"/> telephoning               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carpentry, exhibit setup, etc.  | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> helping with cataloguing and record keeping   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> serving as host/greeter on Saturday and Sunday afternoons                                   |  |



# Museum News

Jamesville Community Museum January 2016



### Letter from the President

Even without snow, the year-end activities energized our hamlet for a brief period of time! I can't remember when the museum was busier than the night of "Lighting Up Jamesville". Certainly the presence of Mrs. Santa and the children's corner created a draw, but many of our visitors just seemed excited to be out and about. It was a night to visit with friends and neighbors and welcome Santa!

In this New Year we are in the planning stages for at least two activities that we hope will be available for the summer season. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we would like to honor all military veterans with a special day. This would not be a parade but a display of military items, vehicles, etc. There appears to be a great deal of interest in such an event. We will also be adding a new display that will focus on the days of the circus and the many times they visited our area.

Improvements in our facility continue to move forward. We will be closed this winter as we plan on starting some preliminary work on a new bathroom. It is hard to believe that our building has never had running water or a bathroom! This addition would add greatly to the type of activities that we can offer. Obviously it is impossible to set a time line on completion because of funding and the scope of the work. We will continue our capital fund drive to help with this project. While much of the work will be done by volunteers, which will reduce overall costs, we will still need outside professional help.

The success of the museum is dependent on its supporters and in this department we are indeed fortunate. Over the years the people of this small hamlet and surrounding area have been extremely generous with their support in our goal to preserve and present local history. While not large in size, we continue to grow in offerings and are always open to suggestions for making changes for improvement. We ask for your continued support as we move forward.

*Marv Bodley*

### Jamesville Community Museum Calendar of Events, 2016

**No Regular Board Meetings:**  
 January, February, December

**Special Events:**

May 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Celebration  
 December 5 Open for "Light up Jamesville"  
 December 6 Holiday Party and Quilt Raffle

**Regular Board Meetings, 7:30 PM:**  
*All meetings held on the third Monday of the month.*

March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15,  
 July 20, August 17, September 21,  
 October 19, November 16

**Newsletters:**

January Regular Newsletter with membership drive and year end recap  
 Regular Newsletter  
 July Mini Newsletter with raffle tickets, calendar, officers and presidents letter  
 November

**Trustee meetings are at 7:00 PM**  
 (called by the Chairman)

## News Update

Recently we had a story in our newsletter about the Homemaking House at Jamesville High School. We do get feedback from people in our community about some of the stories and it is always welcome. I received a letter from Bob Reals who is now living in Florida and he added some interesting details to the story about the Homemaking House.

Here is Bob's letter:

Dear Jean,

The museum article about Professor Knapp's house was very well done and interesting, however, you forgot what was upstairs. True, we had little interaction with the downstairs because there was a separate set of covered stairs on the north side of the building leading up to the second floor. I don't remember much interaction between the floors because we had our own entrance. Even though we could smell the aroma of cookies being baked, we never got a cookie!

There were three rooms upstairs, one large and two smaller ones. The ceiling wasn't much over six feet high and there was no hallway. The small room facing south was for my plants and cobwebs. I made a big deal about how attractive spider webs could be to the students. Imagine, a spider web allowed to grow and develop for one year. It probably could have made the Guinness Book of Records.

The fact remains though, that the second floor of the Knapp house was the center of the Art Education world for Jamesville High School, kindergarten through grade twelve. I was the Art Teacher for the School Year 1952-1953. It was the first year that Ward Edinger was Superintendent. He hired me right out of Syracuse University. The plans were being made for the new Jamesville-Dewitt Central School and I was asked to draw up the specks for its new art room. However, I never got to teach in the new high school. After serving in the United States Army, from September 1953 to August 1955, Herb McGoff was at the high school teaching art classes. Ward Edinger said I could bump Herb or take the job in the new Jamesville Elementary School. Herb was a friend of mine from Syracuse University. He seemed content at Jamesville-Dewitt High School so I opted for the elementary job. It worked out fine!

Jamesville was bursting at its seams in 1952. Classes were being held all over the hamlet. Mary Reidy taught kindergarten in the downstairs Sunday School Rooms at the Methodist Church on South Street. Illah Curry and Mildred Dence had fifth and sixth grade classes in the Grange Hall. Fourth grade was in the Presbyterian Church. First through third grade classes, along with seventh and eighth grades, were in the old 19<sup>th</sup> century brick building that stood next to the museum building, which at the time was the Episcopal Church. My sister Nancy Reals Freeman and brother Russell were in eighth grade that year. The adjustment to having my brother and sister in my class didn't seem to matter although I do not once remember them calling me, Mr. Reals.

Vera Bruce's third grade class was held on the second floor, east classroom, of the old building. Vivian Morton and Sundie Isham were in that class. They each did a painting of themselves in "poodle" skirts. Remember the time when those skirts were all the rage?

Kay Conklin was in the first grade. Her section of grade one was on the first floor in the west side of the building. Kay seemed to attend school each day in a new dress. During one of my painting lessons, Kay, now Mrs. Robert Keough, spilled purple paint down the front of her beautiful new dress. I am pretty sure that I took her home for a change. Neither Kay nor I will ever forget that day!

The high school courses were taught in the upstairs rooms of the Clifford Knapp house. I had two sections of Studio in Art and one section of Mechanical Drawing. Art Shaffer and Ronnie Jones were Mechanical Drawing students. I think that both of them used those skills in their future careers.

Dorothy Schad, Nancy Diello, Melvin Piquet, and my brother, Spank were Studio Art students. My brother Spank's given name was Harold Paul. But my great Aunt Margie, who is ninety-seven and living at East Side Manor in Fayetteville, thought he looked like Spanky McFarlin of Our Gang in the movies. I think he was about four years old then and the name stuck with him into adulthood.

It was a fun year of teaching. Knowing so many of the student's families made it especially nice. They were so supportive. Interestingly, Prof Knapp, as we called him, divided the huge seventh grade class into two classes. I had a particularly difficult time with the section in the west front room of the second floor of the old building. Hank Wheeler and Franny Knapp are two whom I remember distinctly. During one art class, Hank threatened to jump out the window of the second story building and Franny encouraged him. Of course he did not jump. It was to tantalize me, the new teacher, whom they knew well. It was really quite hilarious, but not the kind of stuff you wanted going on while you were teaching art. They were both bright kids and full of hell/fun. I became so concerned with Franny that I went to see his dad Ollie Knapp whom I knew well, also.

Ollie was plowing at the time so I hiked out into the field. Ollie stopped his tractor to hear me out only to say, "I can't do anything with him either." It did not bring about a lot of change, but it satisfied me because I knew I wasn't alone.

Franny has passed away now but he actually turned out okay. Recently I saw Hank in Cocoa Beach Florida where he and his lovely wife spend their winters. We had a joyful exchange about that year. The students had a good time with their hometown art teacher.

There were more students than those listed, but after all, it has been sixty-three years. It is kind of difficult to remember many of those who were in my art classes. I think I had as many as twelve or fifteen in the regular art classes and six to eight in the Mechanical Drawing classes. Dick West stands out in my mind for the fourth grade. I brought in a live lobster and Dick took to the exercise. It was a good lesson.

It was a fun first year of teaching. Knowing so many of the student's families made it especially nice. I am filled with many fond memories of that year. And I just felt compelled to let you know, the second floor of the Knapp House was filled with activity too.

*Bob Reals*

## Christmas Activities in Jamesville

"Lighting up Jamesville" and the traditional quilt raffle at the museum certainly sparks a great deal of interest in early December in our small Hamlet. Regardless what kind of weather we're having the people are out in force preparing for the coming Christmas season. In a way its like the calm before the storm. Getting a tree, decorating the house, and shopping for that perfect gift to place under the Christmas tree.

As always, the Jamesville Chamber did a fine job organizing the activities for the "Lighting up Jamesville" event on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Collecting items for the raffles, contacting the different groups that offer refreshments, as well as crafts for the young, and preparing for Santa's visit at the train station requires a great deal of planning. The firehouse provided punch and cookies. At the museum the children could work on crafts, under the guidance of Kim and Kristina Bell, and also visit with Mrs. Santa (Luana Impellizzeri). Our curator Greg Titus was available to answer questions from our visitors, and at M&T Bank hot chocolate, cookies, and crafts were offered. All this as well as the arrival of Santa on a fire truck.

On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> our museum held its holiday celebration. There always seems to be a feeling of excitement because this is the day of the quilt raffle! While many of the visitors enjoy the cookies, cider, and Christmas carols, most would like to hear their name called when the winning ticket is drawn for the beautiful patchwork quilt. Unfortunately, there is only one quilt available. As secondary prizes we also award four gift certificates obtained from local businesses. As this raffle is one of our major sources of revenue we are thankful for all that participated in any way. Without donors, ticket sales and local business support, as well as membership, we could not exist.

The gift certificates this year were obtained from: Cutters Corner, Robbie T's, The Half Moon, and Ruston's Diner.

Alice Haase won the quilt and gift certificates were won by Lena Massa, Kay Keough, Jeanette Siegal, and Karen Young.



### Capital Campaign Project Application

I am interested in helping with the fundraising for the Capital Campaign projects by:

Contributing to the Capital Campaign projects in general

Contributing to a specific Capital Campaign project:

Roof replacement total cost \$35,000

New unisex bathroom facilities \$25,000

Upgrade front entrance of museum \$40,000

Helping to identify potential donors and soliciting them for contributions.

Contributions may be made directly to the Jamesville Community Museum in the form of cash gifts, check or pledges. Any amount is acceptable and much appreciated. The success of the campaign will depend on the generosity of many individuals, corporations, and foundations working together to ensure the preservation of this important landmark.

Please make your check payable to: Jamesville Community Museum. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

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

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

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

