



Historical Society Newsletter

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The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Volume 22, Issue 8



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email toghistsoc@gmail.com
www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com

Newsletter Dedication to Steve and Anna (Kubish) Pasek (see article on page 4)

CALENDAR

April 19, 2022 – Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program: Saratoga Plan – Casey Holzworth**, a member of Saratoga Plan's Palmertown Guidance Committee and staff at NYS Parks, will update us on the exciting things that are happening in the Palmertown Range and the Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails. This planned network of trails in Northern Saratoga County, emphasize celebrating friendship, building community, and connecting people from all walks of life to nature and to each other.

May 17, 2022 - Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield. **Program: Author Patricia A. Nugent** will discuss her book, "*Before They Were Our Mothers:*" *Voices of Women Born Before Rosie Started Riveting*. Have you ever thought, "Why didn't I ask my mother more questions about her life before me?" If so, you will want to read this 15 story anthology written by daughters in their mother's voice. A perfect Mother's Day gift for anyone. (See page 3)

Everyone is welcome, admission is free, and you don't have to be a member to attend.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR ABOUT FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Beginning in May, we will be increasing the number of newsletters we email. To test the system, we will send a newsletter to everyone whose email address we have on file. Email copies will be in color, mailed copies will be black and white.

If you still want a copy mailed to you through the Post Office or if you have updated contact information, please contact me at jjones18215@roadrunner.com or mail it to Janet Jones, 213 Ash St., Corinth, NY 12822, or just tell me if you see me.

Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for March, Joan Rowland and me. We served Carrot Cake (made by Joan) and Eclair Cake (made by Brian). April refreshment volunteers are John Greenwood and me.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

APRIL NOTES 2022

by Joan E. Rowland, Acting President

Mud season is here. Those with paved driveways just would not understand the art of driving your car – high and dry – out of the ruts so the car does not sink to the frame. Our driveway is a farm driveway. It is hard enough to not have ruts but go off the driving area by a couple inches, and you are about to sink and move mud. We have had crushed stones placed on the driveway many times but during the winter, they are moved by the snowplow guy, to the end of our driveway. If I get out there early enough, I can shovel the snow filled with crushed stones back into the driveway. It is work but less than when it gets into the grass and then the lawn mower throws them around, messes up the blades etc. On a nicer note, my Daffodils are popping through the garden dirt. Cannot wait for the spring flowers. Take a drive by my house when they are in full bloom. You may need your sunglasses on with so much yellow.

It was great to see 18 attending our March 15, 2022 meeting. You may not think that is many people but when it is damp and cold out, it is hard to leave the warm house. It was so nice to see some members who have not been with us in a while. We also had Carrot Cake and Eclair Cake for refreshments. Was great to hang after and chat with our neighbors.

John Greenwood presented the program with photos and parts of Ira Gray's book. You have to laugh at some of the writings in this book. (I can hear my dad saying some of these comments.)

My sister and I decided to go find Ira's homestead. John had a photo of it so off we go on the wild goose chase. Turn on Mosher Road he said (no street sign at corner of Rt. 9N or anywhere along the way) – we just kept driving until – whow – there it is. Small red building on the right, with another section added on and a small red garage. National Register of Historic places just off the road side. Thanks John for a fun presentation.

Our next meeting, April 19, 2022, the program will be Saratoga Plan discussing how the Palmertown trail will be going thru Town of Greenfield. This is the third time this year we have said "Saratoga Plan is coming" we hope it really happens this time. Sorry for the other cancelations – it just had to happen.

If you are on Facebook, please friend "Town of Greenfield Historical Society." John has been doing some digging and found some interesting newspaper clippings from the past. You may just be part of the topic.

Also, please see our Volunteer's Needed notice. Like they say, many hands make light work.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Will Return Next Month

Volunteers Needed for Spring Cleaning Sunday, May 15, noon to 2 p.m.

Spring Cleaning is needed at the museum. Outside work – lawn sticks, stones, brush trimming, window washing, spiders removed from doorway. Inside work – window washing, dusting, vacuuming upstairs and down.

Volunteers Needed for Museum Hours

Museum will be open Fridays, July 8 through August 26 from 4 to 6 p.m. (8 weeks total).

We will need minimum of two volunteers per day (one upstairs, one down).

Please drop us an email at toghistsoc@gmail.com to sign up for a time slot. Or call Joan at 518-893-7786 (H).

Any questions, feel free to ask.

Honoring a Long-Time Member and Treasurer

We'd like to take a minute to thank JoAnn Rowland for her many years of service to the Greenfield Historical Society. She has quietly dedicated hundreds of hours of her time to our organization. Never one to seek the spotlight or accolades, we want her to know how much her efforts are appreciated. We ran across this wonderful photo in one of Clayton Brown's scrapbooks recently and thought it would be a good time to share the photo and our gratitude. Come to our next meeting on Tuesday, April 19, and thank her in person. I'd say there's a 99.99% chance she'll be there. **JoAnn, thank you for all you do.**

Signed, All TOGHS Members



The caption under this photo from the '70s reads:

GRANGE WINNERS — Miss Margaret Ward, left, and Miss JoAnn Rowland, right, were recently selected as winners in the Saratoga Springs Pomona Grange sewing contest. Young Christine Morris models some of the clothes produced in the contest. A third winner in the contest was Linda Crandall (not shown).

Dear Newsletter Readers:

Time goes swiftly past, as we all can attest in these unsettled yet hopeful times. I have meant to send this letter for over two months now, since the time our friend and neighbor Marilyn Wochinger passed away on Jan. 30. She was fortunate to be able to pass while at her home on Ormsbee Road, here in Porter Corners, just partway into her 99th year on this Earth. She enjoyed a rich life with much love and many good deeds, and she indeed made the world a better place.

Two newsletters have come out since then, and thus two deadlines which my own busy schedule have caused me to miss. Yet, something interesting has come out of this.

In our February letter, there was a photograph of Marilyn speaking with Earl Jones, also dearly departed of Porter Corners (and there have been far too many these past several years, months, and weeks, alas). Though Lynn and Earl grew up in the same era of American history, Marilyn's upbringing was in Western NY (Oneida) and Earl's was much more local to this area.

Our March newsletter had a nice tribute to the Porters Bluegrass Festival, an annual event which put P.C. on the map of cool places in the world of music. Pete and Shirley Bishop owned the entire field back then, and (as the photos plainly show) the turnout of campers and other apprecianados of country and bluegrass music was substantial.

The hilly meadow depicted in the photos, i.e. the ones showing all the people on the hill standing about a bandstand, is the very same hill Lynn Wochinger would see when she looked out her back window or sat on her patio facing Porter Mountain (and a '70s throwback: The Sky Ranch) a couple of miles to the west.

It turns out these photos also depict part of my own family's happy existence in Porter Corners. In our daily dog walks around the perimeter of the meadow sitting out back of our home (also on Ormsbee) we walk past the very same opening shown in the photo which has all the campers and tents depicted. If the festivals were held today we could literally stumble home (if need be, of course).

People would camp in what since 1995 has been my own (relatively flat) back field. They would congregate at the bandstand through the windbreak, in the hillier part of the meadow closer to Plank Road. After hours, the fires and sit-around jams filled the fields down at this end of the road, in a way which perhaps could not be repeated today. Alas.

It was a thrill seeing the photos of our very own daily stomping grounds. The serendipity of the newsletter's subject with the passing of Marilyn Wochinger, is very reassuring. Lynn was a teacher, a joyous musical provider, a role model and mentor, a good wife, mother of five, and grandmother of many; she was an old fashioned lady with an opinion formed from great knowledge, of which she had a lot and was always willing to share. Lynn was a true peach, and we will all miss her very much.

In a final serendipity of continuity: This summer Lynn's grandson Mark Siragusa will marry his bride, Grace, outside in the same meadow. Marilyn's middle name was Grace. She would be pleased as punch.

Dan Chertok

MARILYNN “LYNN” WOCHINGER



Lynn Wochinger playing the keyboard for “An Old Time Sing Along” in Oct. 2009 at one of our TOGHS programs.

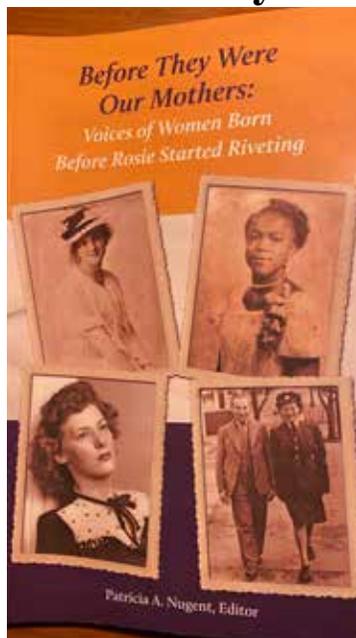
PORTER CORNERS – Marilyn “Lynn” Grace Wochinger was born to Elliot and Flossie Turnbull on October 1, 1923, in Oneida, NY and entered heaven peacefully on January 30, 2022, surrounded by family at her home in Porter Corners. After graduating from Oneida High School third in her class in 1941, she attended Cortland Normal School (now SUNY) to become a teacher. Upon her graduation,

she moved to Long Island and worked first in the Malverne School District and finished her 30 year long career in the Lawrence School District. She was an exceptional teacher. There wasn’t anything Marilyn wasn’t good at. She was a wonderful seamstress, who made clothes for her children and their baby dolls and Barbies (Tammy, actually). She was an avid reader who kept records of all the books she read in her 98 years. She was a gifted piano player with perfect relative pitch. Marilyn could change key upon request while playing and as a result was a sought after accompanist at her United Methodist Church homes (St. Mark’s UMC and Saratoga Springs UMC), school events, and for aspiring singers. Lynn was very community minded. She was a member of the Long Island Council of Churches for years, she volunteered at the UMC Mission in Far Rockaway for years, and volunteered in many roles. If you needed something organized and executed, you definitely wanted her on your team. We are in awe of Lynn, who earned a master’s degree from Queens College while working full-time, volunteering, and taking care of a family of five. Marilyn and her late husband loved to travel and visited more than 10 countries in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Upon moving to Saratoga Springs at the age of 77, she made good friends at Red Hats, the Saratoga UMC, and NYS Retired Teachers. She especially loved the fine women in her circle at the church.

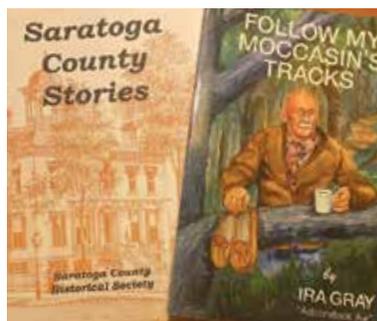
Marilynn is survived by her loving children: Nancy Hayes (Bob), Mark Wochinger (Joe Keegan), Carol Wochinger (Don Selee) and Alison Siragusa (Thomas); son-in-law, John Zimmerman; her beloved sister, Carol Wells; and her grandchildren, Lesley Hostetter (Adam), Laura Zimmerman (Ryan Smith), Brian Hayes (Amy), Erin Kazana (Matt), Courtney Siragusa, Mark Siragusa (Gracie), Lewis Siragusa and Timothy Wochinger. She was also so proud of her nearly six great-grandchildren: Eliza, Max, Colin, Logan, Dylan and her great-granddaughter on-the-way. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews and her sister-in-law, Marge. She was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, Frank, and her cherished eldest daughter, Anne Zimmerman. She was also predeceased by her sister-in-law, Mary Jane and her brothers-in-law, Jack, Bob, and Dick.

True to form, Marilyn made her body a “gift of life” to the Albany Medical College. Her memorial service was held in the Saratoga United Methodist Church on April 2. Memorial gifts may be made to the Community Hospice of Saratoga County whose kindness is unmeasured. We share with you here, her often spoken wise words “Love one another.”

Before They Were Our Mothers



Before They Were Our Mothers was conceived when Patricia A. Nugent realized, at her mother’s funeral, that she knew very little about her mother’s life before her mother was her mother. She’d never asked; her mother had never offered. Nugent deeply regretted missing the opportunity to know her mother more fully. To inspire other families to share personal histories, she compiled this anthology of real-life stories about women before they were mothers. Learn more about Patricia A. Nugent and her other books at: journalartspress.com.



BOOKS FOR SALE

We have both the *Saratoga County Stories* (\$18) and *Follow My Moccasin’s Tracks* by Ira Gray (\$15.95) for sale at the April meeting.

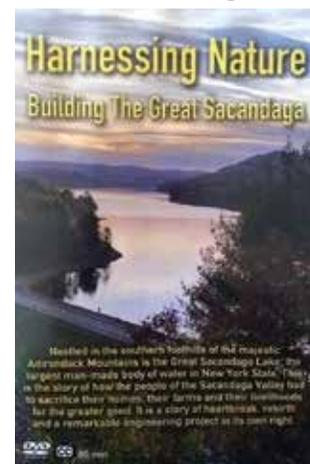
Thanks to the generosity Ira Gray’s niece, Sandra Gray Loychik, we have several

copies of Ira Gray’s (Adirondack Ike) *Follow My Moccasin’s Tracks*. These were printed in 2002 and have become a rare keepsake for anyone who enjoys old stories of life in the Adirondacks.

Pick your copy up at the April Meeting or order through our P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 with an additional \$3.50 postage and handling.

“Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga”

This DVD is an 80-minute documentary telling the story of how the people of the Sacandaga Valley had to sacrifice their homes, their farms and their livelihoods for the greater good. It is a story of heart-break, rebirth and a remarkable engineering project in its own right. This is the story of how the Great Sacandaga Lake, the largest man-made body of water in New York state, was made. DVDs are available for \$20 at the Greenfield Town Hall, or by contacting the Historical Society at P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. (Please add \$3 if you want one mailed.)



Newsletter Dedication to Steve and Anna (Kubish) Pasek

By John R. Greenwood



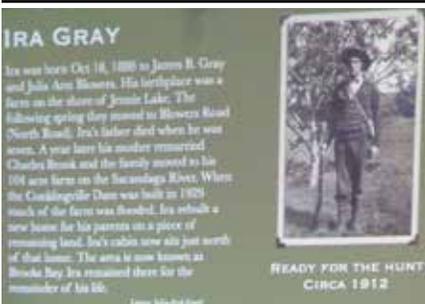
Ann & Steve Pasek's wedding at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Greenfield

I would like to dedicate this newsletter to my Aunt Ann and Uncle Steve. They were the previous owners of the green and white house that is now the Town of Greenfield Community Center. Ann was my mother Helen's sister. My family lived with them when I was little. We moved two houses up from the old Greenfield General Store when I was around three.

*We spent a lot of time at my aunts house. We'd visit on Saturday evenings during the late '50s and early '60s to watch shows like *The Rifleman* and *My Three Sons*. They had a console television long before we did. My Uncle Steve worked for Henry C. Foote's Paint & Glass Store at 45 Caroline Street. My Aunt Ann worked at Van Raalte's. I would have after school sports or other activities, while attending Saratoga Jr. and Sr. High and would walk down to Foote's for a ride home to Greenfield. My uncle had a beautiful black Chevy Impala with red leather interior. He really loved that car and so did everyone else. They were good people and they kept their home immaculate inside and out. I believe their generous spirit's help maintain the good karma that permeates the Community Center.*

My parents and aunts and uncles have passed and I miss them all. After my aunt and uncle sold their home they lived in an apartment in Saratoga. When my Uncle Steve passed away my aunt went to live with her daughter, my cousin Deborah, in Massachusetts. Eventually she ended up in a nursing home. I grabbed my keys one morning and headed to Easthampton, Mass to see her.

I wrote the following piece in 2013 after my return. My aunt and uncle's headstone is next to my mother and father's in Greenridge Cemetery in Saratoga Springs. I visit the four of them often. This is not meant to be a sad memory, it's meant as a reminder to cherish every aunt, every uncle, every moment.



TOGHS Meeting and Program – March 15, 2022

TOGHS member John Greenwood talked about Ira Gray's book "*Follow My Moccasin Tracks*." He shared photographs, anecdotes, and newspaper clippings from Ira's personal scrapbooks. Thanks to the generosity of Ira's niece Sandra Loychik all proceeds from the book sales benefit the TOGHS.

(Thanks to Corinth Town Historian Rachel Clothier for sharing her knowledge about Ira, as well as her extensive collection with John.)

Aunt Ann



Dear Ann,

I'm sorry. I should have been here long before now. There are no excuses. Too busy doesn't cut it. It's so far away, holds no water.

All I can do is apologize and tell you I love you. It was good to see you today. It took a minute for you to recognize me but when you heard my voice you smiled that great Aunt Ann smile and said, "Oh, Johnny!"

You looked nice in your white sweater and pearl necklace. You showed me your watch and said, "Debbie gave me this." We sat and talked for quite some time. I held your hand and you squeezed mine. I needed that. It reminded me of mom and how she would squeeze my hand so hard when dad and I would visit her in the hospital. We talked about a lot of things today. I told you what relatives I'd seen and when. We reminisced about Uncle Steve and how he loved to get out his banjo and play it for me. I always loved the banjo because of him. We talked about your beautiful Angora cat that was so big it looked like a lion stretched out on the sun-filled window sill. You said you missed the old house and I assured you it was still green and white. I explained that it looked a lot different inside now but it was being put to good use as a community center for seniors. You liked that idea.

You said I looked good with no hair. I told you that when I tried coloring the grey it turned red and the guys at work kept calling me Big Red. You laughed. I told you I decided to just cut it so short so you wouldn't be able to tell if it was grey or missing and you laughed even harder. It felt good to hear you laugh.

I think I tired you out. I was drained from worry. I thought you might be upset to see me. That wasn't the case. You made me feel special like you always did. I wish I could turn back the clock for us both but it won't work, I've tried. All I can do is hold your hand gently and kiss your forehead. There is no time machine for us, only a book of memories. It was good to see you today Aunt Ann. I love you.

Readers

If you have someone you have been meaning to see, whether they are young or old, don't wait until next week. Go now. Go yesterday. Just go. Here is a photograph of Aunt Ann. It was good to see that smile today.



Ann Pasek circa 1940s



A Majorette Discovery!

By John R. Greenwood

Once again, my penchant for nostalgic photos, stories, and connections has placed additional discoveries on my doorstep. Shortly after I sent Janet Jones my story about Jim Smith’s book for the March Newsletter I was sorting through photos that my mother Helen kept in an old Brach’s candy tin. The tin was small and the photos were curled and dry. I wanted to organize them in small albums to make them easier to view. Very few had identifying names or dates on them. Several were from my mother’s high school years. One in particular caught my attention. It was a photo of my mother and another girl in their majorette uniforms. They were posing in front of the old high school on Lake Avenue in Saratoga. I suddenly recognized the girl with my mother. It was Rose Smith. The date was 1944, and they were still in school, so it was really Helen “Kubi” Kubish and Rosemary “Rosy” Bruchac.



Rosemary “Rosy” Bruchac and Helen “Kubi” Kubish in front of the Lake Avenue High School 1944



Rosemary “Rosy” Bruchac photo given to her friend Helen “Kubi” Kubish with the words “To Kubi, Lots of Luck & Love, Rosy”

There was another photo of Rose with writing on the front. It said, “To Kubi, Lots of Luck & Love, Rosy.” I now realized the two women hadn’t become friends as adults, as I had originally thought, they had been classmates! In 1945, Rose would meet a handsome Marine home on furlough at a Greenfield night spot called Lola’s. Soon after they would have their first real date

when Jim invited Rose to a dance at the Greenfield Grange. A year later, on June 30, 1946, Rosemary Bruchac would become Mrs. James A. Smith, Jr.



Mr. and Mrs. James A. Smith Jr. leaving St. Joseph’s Church June 30, 1946

It was now 2022, and I was just putting the pieces of my mother’s youth together through her long forgotten photos. I discovered another photo of a young Sonny Hall and his friend Dick Zigo taken on Broadway in Saratoga. It now dawned on me that my



Photo of Dick Zigo and Sonny Hall taken on Broadway in Saratoga

mother grew up just a few miles from the Hall’s farm and that Sonny would have been a childhood friend of my mother.

It’s so important to ask questions and write things down. This is why I’m grateful that I’ve never ventured far from my roots. How lucky I am to be able to drive past the places filled with the memories that enriched my life and nourished my sense

of place. For me that is true wealth and when I make a majorette discovery like the one above, I realize just how rich an average man can be.

Brookside Dairy Farm Quilt

by Sydney Homicz (Peyser)

I’m inspired to share stories and photos of Brookside Dairy Farm, the same land that I walk today in 2022. Follow along on Instagram at @hillsandhearths

Yesterday I opened up our wooden blanket chest to admire my Great Great Great Grandmother, Priscilla Ostrander’s wedding quilt made in 1855. 167 year old quilt. Priscilla stitched her name, Saratoga Springs, NY and the date March 20, 1855. All the other patches were made and initialed by her friends as a wedding gift to her.

What a beautiful memento to still have today. It’s special to think about a group of Priscilla’s friends coming together to make a quilt for her special day. A quilt that would be passed down for generations to come.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL AVAILABLE ONLINE

Become a member of The Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. **Our membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31, dues are paid annually. Send \$10 per household (or \$100 for Lifetime Membership)** along with your name and address to the address shown below. **If you send more than \$10 for your household, the balance will be considered a donation.** You also may join at one of our meetings. Send this application form and fee to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make checks payable to: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society. **YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE! www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com.** Email toghistsoc@gmail.com for more information.

Click on “Store,” “Membership” then click either “Annual Membership – Household” or “Lifetime Membership.”

Please Print – Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). _____ New Renewal

Name _____ I am interested in volunteering.

Address _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

Areas of interest to you _____

To sponsor a newsletter send \$50 along with your name and address and the wording describing whom you would like it dedicated to.

If you know someone whom you think might want to become a member, send us their name and address, and we will send them a copy of our newsletter along with information on how they can join.

Name _____

Address _____

**If you'd like to dedicate and/or sponsor a newsletter, send \$50 to *The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833*, include your name, address and the wording describing who you would like it dedicated to and/or sponsored by.
Please send articles and/or photos to: JJones18215@roadrunner.com.**

Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

We invite our membership and readers of this newsletter to share with Dan any historical information about an interesting person, place, structure, or event within our town. Dan reserves the right to proofread and edit submissions, but he will be very happy to add your information to our map. We are always looking for historical information to add to and enhance the map, which we consider to be an ongoing work in progress. Please email Dan Chertok at Dgchertok@gmail.com, call his cell phone (518-321-0330), or text him.



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