

# Please join us for our annual meeting

7.16.24



Bobby Sulecki



Mabel Howard, Bishop Curtis Jones Sr., and Pastor Vickie Jones



Michelee Curtze



Members will receive our 56-page, premiere issue of *The Triangle* magazine.

Dear Members and Friends,

Without a doubt, summer is our busiest season at the History Center. Our visitation increases with an influx of tourists, and our programming offers a unique event nearly every week.

I am so grateful for our amazing staff and volunteers who are able to produce so many programs in a relatively short three-month summer.

At the height of summer, we host our **Summer Member Party & Annual Meeting**. If you haven't attended in the past, the party is a great evening of camaraderie with fellow members, and a celebration of the past year's achievements.

This year, we will be unveiling our much anticipated, full-color magazine, *The Triangle*, and attendees will be the first community members to take their copies home. This 56-page, premiere issue shares in-depth stories with noteworthy history.

The Summer Member Party & Annual Meeting is also a time to celebrate historical excellence from our community. The History Center has multiple award categories but only issues awards when it is truly merited.

This year, we honor **Bobby Sulecki** with the Education Award for his significant contributions to documenting Erie's Polish heritage.

Our Local History Award recognizes the incredible accomplishments of **Mabel Howard, Bishop Curtis Jones Sr., and Pastor Vickie Jones** in founding the Historical Institute of Culture and the African American Experience. This incredible museum inside the former St. Mary's is dedicated to Erie's African American heritage.

We also honor **Michelee Curtze** with the Volunteer of the Year award for her longtime dedicated support of the History Center.

We hope that you will join us on July 16 at the Yellow House. Registration details can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Wishing you a happy summer,

*Caleb Pifer*

Caleb M. Pifer  
Executive Director



**Now  
Open**

# Visit 3 new exhibits in the Watson-Curtze Mansion

## 1 History on Tap: Erie's Brewing Culture

Take a look at items from Erie's beer-making past with Erie beer collector and Guest Curator Ray Barber's personal collection and artifacts from our archives. Pour a Koehler Collar!



## 2 Teamwork: Celebrating Erie's Sporting Heritage

Through jerseys, photos, and memorabilia, this exhibit highlights Erie's vibrant history of team sports including hockey, baseball, roller derby, basketball, soccer, and more. You'll know at least a few people who are featured in photos and video.



## 3 City Lights: The Stained Glass of Erie City Hall and the Erie Steam Bakery

These beautiful windows on our second floor reveal the intricate designs that were once part of Erie's commercial buildings.

# Announcing The New Legacy Society



**Dr. Barrett C. Walker**

Would you like to give the gifts of exploration and education for generations to come? Consider a planned gift to the History Center's Legacy Society.

After providing for your family, you might want to make a planned gift. It is a gift you plan now but make in the future to support your favorite nonprofit for years to come.



**Edith Benson**

That's what Dr. Barrett Walker did. Upon his death in January of 2022, and after providing for his family, Dr. Walker's remaining estate was left to a fund that he had established at the Erie Community Foundation.

The Walker Family Fund will provide financial assistance to a variety of nonprofits, including the Erie County Historical Society/Hagen History Center, in perpetuity. He believed he had a civic responsibility to share his success.

Edith Benson wanted to begin her legacy during her lifetime. She wanted to encourage underprivileged college students to intern at the History Center with a paid internship that her fund would support.

She established a fund and contributes to this fund annually. She has also included this fund in her will. Because of her generosity, students will gain work experience and learn museum operations. Perhaps these students will choose a museum career when they graduate.

Thanks to Dr. Walker and Edith Benson for their vision and generous spirit that will leave a lasting legacy. You might consider a fixed dollar bequest in your will, a gift of stock, a gift of an insurance policy, or other options. Your estate planning accountant or lawyer can guide you.

If you'd like additional information contact Geri Cicchetti at 814-454-1813 ext. 34 or [gicchetti@eriehistory.org](mailto:gicchetti@eriehistory.org).

## *Curtze Circle Members Enjoy behind-the-scenes private tours*

In the past few years, History Center Curtze Circle members (donors of \$1,000 or more) enjoyed private tours of historic spaces that are not open to the public.

These include Howard Falls; Erie Insurance Heritage Center; the renovated Sommerheim Pumping Station (Richard S. Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant) at the foot of Sommerheim Drive in Millcreek Township; a West Sixth Street tour of mansions under renovations and the History Center Archives.

For more information on this program, please contact Geri Cicchetti at 814-454-1813 x 34 or [gicchetti@eriehistory.org](mailto:gicchetti@eriehistory.org).



# *Thanks for attending our events*



In June, the Mansion has been the hot spot for events!

A very special thank you to our **Women Creating A Legacy** committee members **Lauren Bauer, Emily Fessler, Erin Fessler, Susan Kanonczyk, Abby Lechner, Barb Lechner, Dr. Kim Mascia, Leah Murphy, Lisa NeCastro, and Dana Zaphiris** for chairing the Women Creating A Legacy. They doubled attendance from last year with 220 women onsite and raised over \$42,000 -- that's a record!

Funds raised from this event will help to conserve the Eugene Iverd paintings donated to the History Center from the Erie School District.

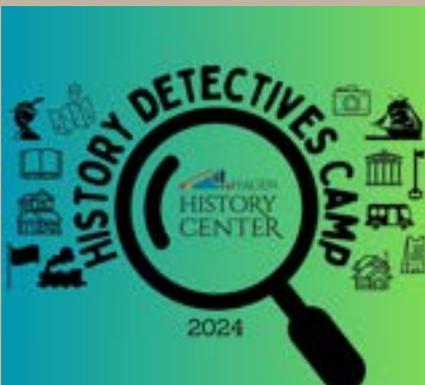
Special thanks to **Men at the Museum Chairman Matt Clark**.

More than 140 men attended this event and raised over \$62,000, another record for the second year of this event.

Funds raised will help us replace the roof on the Watson-Curtze Mansion.



## *Students enjoy our third year of summer camps*



Our history detectives have been learning about history and having a lot of fun with architecture presentations from Dr. Michael DeSanctis and Architect Laura Howard. They also completed scavenger hunts, field trips, historic building tours and created their own architecture projects that they shared with their families during a closing presentation.

# Upcoming events

## Here's our schedule:

Some events, like our Sunflower Picnics, are dependent on Mother Nature. Others are still in the works, so please visit our website and social media pages for updates and details on each event.

### JULY

**July 9** Culinary Class, Girard: Edible Flowers

**July 10** Canalside Readers Book Club

**July 16** Annual Meeting at the Yellow House in Girard

**July 22 - 28** History Camp

**July 24** JES Speaker series:

Justin Gunther/Fallingwater and Gerald Morosco/  
Taliesin fellow

### AUGUST

**July 30 - Aug. 4** Dan Rice Days

**Aug. 1** Bike ride West County



**Aug. 6** Culinary Class, Girard

**Aug. 11** Free-Admission Day at Erie campus

**Aug. 21** Home Tour West 6th Street

**Aug. 24** Sunflower Picnics Girard (dates are dependent on blooms)

**TBD** Farm-to-table Dinners Girard

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR



### SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 3** Culinary Class, Girard

**Sept. 11** Canalside Readers Book Club

**Sept. 14** A Night at the Museum Gala Watson-Curtze Mansion

### OCTOBER

**Oct. 1** Culinary Class, Girard

**Oct. 16** 4:00-5:30 p.m. Cooking Up History for kids in grades 3 to 6

### NOVEMBER

**Nov. 5** Culinary Class, Girard

**Nov. 10** Free-Admission Day at Erie campus

**Nov. 20** Holiday/Volunteer Appreciation Party

### DECEMBER

**TBD** Victorian Holidays

## WHAT MAKES IT GREAT?

## A LOOK AT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S ARCHITECTURE THEN AND NOW

Join us for the free Doris Becker lecture series that includes an illuminating discussion of how Wright incorporated functional and beautiful furnishings, accessories, and objects d'art to elevate and distinguish his spaces.

JUSTIN  
GUNTHER,  
M.F.A.  
FALLINGWATER  
DIRECTOR



GERALD  
MOROSCO AIA,  
PITTSBURGH-  
BASED  
ARCHITECT  
TALIESIN FELLOW

Reserve Now



HAGEN  
HISTORY CENTER

JEFFERSON  
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Wednesday, JULY 24TH, 2024

3207 State St.

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

# *We're cooking up history*

Culinary classes for kids have been fun for students grades 3 through 6 and their parents!

In our second class, students created a 100-year-old Chicken Salad recipe and enjoyed it in the Watson-Curtze Mansion.



## *Have you attended our monthly culinary classes for adults?*

We've had some mouth-watering culinary classes at the Yellow House, and they all SOLD OUT! Our guests have feasted on:

- Apple butter, brie sandwiches & martinis
- Delicious Mason Jar meals
- Wassail & charcuterie
- Maple Syrup menus
- Cooking over an Open Fire
- Honey up your cooking
- Reveling in Rhubarb
- Edible Flowers (coming July 9)



Thanks to Jessica Schultz, owner of Herb & Honey Bakery, for her interesting, entertaining and tasty class where we made rhubarb filling, simple syrup and more.

Our guests had a great time, and Linda Wilkinson brought in fresh rhubarb stalks for Jessica.



**Tuesday Aug. 6  
It's Fungi time!**

Mushroom foraging with Josh Mowris. Stay tuned! More to come! Visit our website for signups.

*Spend a weekend, a week or a month  
in our historic Girard farmhouse*

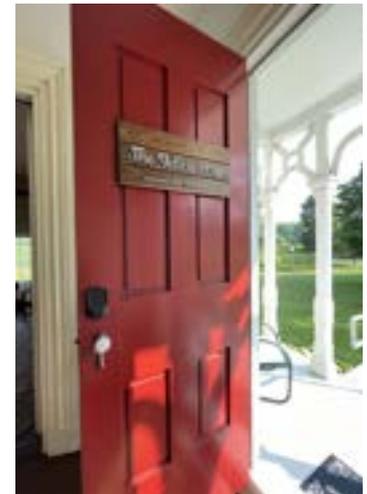


## FAMILY OR FRIENDS NEED A PLACE TO STAY?

Our fully renovated, two-bedroom farmhouse apartment would make the perfect summer home-away-from-home for a week to the entire summer. It features two bedrooms, bathroom, fully-stocked kitchen, dining room, living room, central air conditioning, and WiFi.

Our fabulous guest reviews on Airbnb speak for themselves! We would be happy to offer you a tour.

Please email the executive director at [cpifer@eriehistory.org](mailto:cpifer@eriehistory.org).



*Who built your house?*

*Who lived there?*

Would you like to learn more about your home or that of a loved one? You can do the research on your own during a research appointment with us, or try our new Historic Property and Land Research Program, available from our Library and Archives.

We do the research for you, and it starts at \$250.

Contact us at [info@eriehistory.org](mailto:info@eriehistory.org).

*You're invited to our*

**SUMMER MEMBER PARTY  
& ANNUAL MEETING**

436 Walnut St.  
Girard, PA  
Tuesday, July 16  
6 to 8 p.m.



Enjoy beer, wine and charcuterie. Take time to check out our sunflower garden, meet our staff and board members and stay for our bonfire!

**RSVP by July 9  
to [info@eriehistory.org](mailto:info@eriehistory.org)**

*Save the Date*

09.14.2024

**A Night at the Museum Gala**

Celebrating 10 Years of Transformational Growth  
under our inspiring leaders and 2024 honorees:

HEAVY HORS  
D'OEUVRES  
OPEN BAR  
MUSIC BY THE GROOVE

TICKETS: \$125 EACH



PETER  
BURTON



KELLY  
MONTEFIORI



RANDY  
SHAPIRA



MARK  
SQUEGLIA



ROY  
STRAUSBAUGH



JACK  
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