

BULLETIN

Cortland County Historical Society

Volume 2, Issue 4

November 2009

Mindy's Musings

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In the spring of 2001, I started my first endeavor into the museum field. I was an undergraduate at Keuka College, and as part of the field period program, I was required to complete four field periods during my time there. My first field period was the beginning of my museum experience. I interned during the summer of 2001 putting in well over the required number of hours and loved every minute of it. I learned much from two great women in this field, Valerie Bell (Director), and Elaine Wisowaty (Education Director) of the Onondaga County Parks Museum Office (Sainte Marie among The Iroquois and the Salt Museum). During this time my grandmother was told, Mindy would be great at this. At that time I really wanted to teach, but shrugged it off as a maybe.

During my time in college I found that I did not want to teach, but I really loved my time working at the museum, so I set out with the goal to finish my Bachelors in Education, and go on to a career working as a Museum Educator. After my time at Keuka was up, I found myself enrolled in SUNY Albany as a Public History student. Here I got the chance to embark on what would become the greatest adventure of my life. As a requirement for graduation students are required to complete a full time internship in the museum field. I was left wondering where am I going to intern. I need to do this, but I really do not want to be stuck in Albany (it is a nice enough town, but I am from a small town, and like big country roads). An advertisement for a Woman's Tour of the Seward House came across the screen, and I am like that could be fun. I had never been to the Seward House, and I would love to go see it. So the plan was set Grandma and I registered, and off we went. The night before the tour, I was like, I wonder if they take interns. I printed off my resume, and brought it with us as we headed off the next morning. At the front desk I inquired, do you ever take interns? The gentleman at the front desk said of course we do, and the woman giving your tour is in charge of our interns, so talk to her. After the tour I went to the car and grabbed my resume, handed it to Jennifer Haines (Director of Education and Outreach Services, Seward House) and was off. Soon after the plan was set, I would work on inventorying one room, and creating a guide of all the items in that room for docents in case they were asked about something they were not familiar with. My time at the Seward House flew by. It was a whirlwind of school tours, group tours, working on identifying artifacts, and so many other activities that would help me in my future. A second internship came that spring as I finished up my Oral Comprehensive Exam for graduation. This time, less public but still as educational, I worked on the reconfiguration of the painting storage room, and making sure that everything had an easily locatable home. I was still giving tours and other activities as necessary, but far more behind the scenes work.

May 2007 brought my graduation from Graduate School with my MA in Public History, but no immediate job. There were interviews, and more interviews. Through this all I continued volunteering at Seward House. There was always an encouraging word as I trotted off to job



Seward House Volunteer Luncheon 2007

2010 marks the 85th Anniversary of CCHS watch out for special ways to help us celebrate.

Mindy's Musings Continued

interviews across the state (and even one over state lines). But my big break into the profession came, because of volunteering. It was January 2008, silver polishing time. I donned the appropriate attire for one polishing silver (jeans, t-shirt and a pony tail), and headed off to another day of fun at the Seward House. This day would change my life. There was a reporter there from a local paper (Post Standard out of Syracuse), and they mentioned how I had interned there before, and he asked well what do you do now. I jokingly replied, "I interview for a living." The next day there in black in white, in the Syracuse paper is my name, that I have an MA in Public History from SUNY Albany and those words, as well as a picture of us working on our silver polishing. Everyone thought it was a riot, I myself was a bit embarrassed, and was like I can not believe I said that, and much less that it was printed in the paper.

In March of 2008, I received a phone call from the Volunteer Manager of the Seward House: Mindy, Mike Stapleton (CCHS Board Member and Treasurer) saw the quote in the paper, and the museum he is on the board of has an opening. I'm not sure what exactly it is, but I have given him your phone number, and he is going to call you about the position. Also, that she knew him, and he was not stalking me. A short while later, Mike calls, and the rest is history, complete with the most memorable of job interviews (a truck ended up in the side yard of the museum).

So, why the jaunt down memory lane you ask? To show the power of volunteering and its great effect on all whose lives it touches. No, not everyone gets a job out of volunteering, I was lucky. But there is something about volunteering that makes you feel good. I still to this day volunteer at the Seward House when I have time. Why, because it makes me feel good inside.

In this newsletter we want to thank all of the volunteers for all of the hard work they do in the name of CCHS. In 2008 our volunteers logged over 4,100 volunteer hours. We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to the society. I can not personally thank you enough for all that you make possible. So I dedicate this edition of the Bulletin to our volunteers and their amazing efforts to help us preserve and protect the history of Cortland County.



2008-2009 CCHS Volunteers

*I believe...that
every human mind
finds pleasure in
doing good to
another.*

*Thomas Jefferson,
3rd U.S. President
(1743-1826)*

Diane Ames, Ina Bean, Betsy Beardsley, Pierre Beaudry, Mary Alice Bellardini, Mary Bickford, Betty Bonawitz, Anna Brookes, Elaine Case, Harry Coleman, Joe Compagni, Sandy Decker, Justin Defresne, Sue Dovi, Marti Dumas, Eric Ekstrom, Robert Ferris, Margaret Fiske, Toni Gallagher, Elsie Gutches, Johanne Halcomb, Jaff Harris, Nadyne Harris, Sharon Holl, Byron Horak, Roger Horak, Sally Horak, Betty Hudson, Otto Janke, Stephani Johnson, Mary Ann Kane, Tom Kannalley, Paul Keil, Carl Kimberly, Mary Kimberly, Paul Lorenzo, Berniece Potter Masler, Gwen McCabe, Anna McConnell, Therese McDonald, Jim Miller, Betty Palm, Pamela Poulin, Dylan Prete, Wilma Puderbaugh, David Quinlan, Len Ralston, Greg Reed, Allyssa Rihle, Linda Ruthig, Dottie Sarvay, Jake Schuhle, David Serignese, Kevin Sheets, Lorraine Sherry, Esther Slater, Laura Spencer, Michael Stapleton, SUNY Cortland History Club, Martin Sweeney, Kathleen Walsh, Betsy Walters, and Jennifer White.



**Volunteers work together
to create 2008
Bicentennial Parade float.**

**Volunteers are not paid - not because they are
worthless, but because they are priceless.**

Anonymous

Volunteer Spotlight: Research Assistant

As a two person staff it would be impossible to function without the help of our volunteers, especially the help of our research assistant. The research assistant not only helps with research requests from outside sources but also assists researchers that come to the Kellogg Memorial Research Center in their quest to find information. This person knows the ins and outs of the materials we have collected and offers ideas for

places to look for information that may seem unusual to the casual seeker.

Currently we have one person that fills this category. On an average week she works over 20 hours in service of the museum. Her talent and dedication are unmatched, because beyond her work in the research center, she also takes care of our beautiful gardens. Thank you Betty Bonawitz for all you do!

If you are interested in volunteering with Cortland County Historical Society please contact me at (607)756-6071, by e-mail at: cortlandhistory@centralny.twcbc.com, or stop in.



Volunteer Spotlight: Cutters and Pasters

Cutters and pasters, clippers and gluers whatever name you call them by this group gets their work done (and manages to have a lot of fun while doing it). Every Thursday morning the research center comes alive with the sounds of chatter as our cutters and pasters get down to work.

Our Collections Manager Anita makes sure they have

plenty of papers to work with and they set out to assist us by cutting out articles related to Cortland History and pasting them to the proper source to be sorted into categories for ease of research. Their work is invaluable to the assistance of our researchers. Thank you Betsy Beadsley, Anna Brookes, Elaine Case, Sandra Decker, Margaret Fiske, Johanne

Halcomb, Gwen McCabe, Anna McConnell, Therese McDonald, Pamela Poulin, Wilma Puderbaugh, Lorraine Sherry and Laura Spencer for your dedication to CCHS.



If you have not often felt the joy of doing a kind act, you have neglected much, and most of all yourself.

~ A. Nielson

Volunteer Spotlight: Research Center

To run a research center it takes many hands as previously described. Then we have people who do the behind the scenes “grunt” work. They file, create indexes, transcribe letters and records, and yet few think of all the work they do. Thank you to Ina Bean, Betsy Beardsley, Betty Bonawitz, Betty Hudson, Betty Palm, and Leonard Ralston for being my many hands.



Cutters and Pasters hard at work.

Volunteer Spotlight: Volunteers as Needed

From Holiday in Homer through Pumpkinfest there is always a need for volunteers. These people may not have the time to devote to a weekly or monthly schedule, but want to be able to give something back. They help sell tickets, collect money, give tours or do

whatever we may ask of them. Thank you to Harry Coleman, Sue Dovi, Elsie Gutchess, Sharon Holl, Roger Horak, Sally Horak, David Quinlan, Greg Reed, Linda Ruthig, and Martin Sweeney for all of your assistance

Volunteer Spotlight: Trustee

Imagine being responsible for the financial well being of an organization, the hiring and firing of staff, upkeep on a building, deciding what to collect, all while trying to keep me in line, now do all of that for no pay. This would be the thankless job of our Board of Trustees. Each of these trustees gives of their skills and expertise freely and without reservation.

They are fundraisers, organizers, accountants, investors, repairmen, CEOs, and always a phone call (or e-mail) away. They assist whenever possible and always have a smile or encouraging word to push through the challenges. While in every issue I list them. I would like to recognize each of them and the committees they serve on.



Board members and supporters at tribute dinner to Mary Ann Kane

Diane Ames—Board President, Ex-officio member of all committees

Mary Alice Bellardini—Personnel*, Publications

Mary Bickford—Collections, Publications

Joe Compagni—Secretary, Buildings and Grounds

Marti Dumas—Fundraising*, Publications

Toni Gallagher—Fundraising*, Publications

Byron Horak—Buildings and Grounds

Otto Janke—Technology, Outreach*

Mary Kimberly—Collections, Publications, Fundraising

Paul Lorenzo—Accountant, Personnel

Dr. Jim Miller—Buildings and Grounds*

Dr. Leonard Ralston—Vice President, Publications*

Dr. Kevin Sheets—Technology*, Outreach

F. Michael Stapleton—Treasurer, Financial*

* Committee Chairman

*Men have always
volunteered, they
just called
themselves
coaches, trustees,
and firemen!*

Susan J. Ellis

Volunteer Spotlight: Committee Member

With 8 committees and only 14 board members, the committees are rounded out by willing volunteers. They assist with committee decisions and the work that has to be done. Thank you to the volunteers who fill up our committees.

Collections—Betsy Beardsley, Jaffrey Harris, Joan Siedenbug

Publications—Christine Buck, Mary Ann Kane

Finance—Robert Ferris

Volunteer Spotlight: Collections Assistant

A collection is a lot of work, especially as it is always growing. Store it, record it, care for it, without the help of two dedicated volunteers it could become all we focus on. Luckily Jaff and Nadyne Harris assist Anita in her work. Their work ranges from data entry to organizing the vault. They give all they can to assist CCHS. Many thanks.



Jaffrey Harris

Volunteer Spotlight: SUNY Cortland Students

Being with in walking distance from a college serves as a wonderful location to drum up enthusiastic volunteers that are looking for a way to serve their community. Whether as a classroom assignment, a club project, or as a way to work off campus community service hours these students are dedicated and provide a great benefit to the society. We have even had student volunteers go on to continue in the field.

They often do the odd jobs that no one else wants to tackle, but their work assists us in so many ways.

This year SUNY Cortland volunteers have included: Lauryn Abdo*, Tim Carroll*, Lindsey Catanzante*, Joe Corson*, Eric Ekstrom, John Glass*, Andrew Godfrey*, Beth Grinnell*, Ryan Healt*, Stephani Johnson, Paul Keil, Scott Neri*, Dylan Prete, Allyssa Rihle, Harris Schoenfeld*, David Serignese, Eric Svensson*, Kathleen

Walsh and Danielle Wynkoop*.

* - SUNY Cortland History Club Volunteers



Stephani Johnson and Kate Walsh pose during exhibit opening.

Volunteer Spotlight: Businesses

There are many times that we rely on the kindness of local businesses for support. If possible please patronize these businesses. Good News Computing, Jodi's Hallmark, Price Chopper, Sheridan's Jewelry, and Wright Beard Funeral Home.



Membership Renewals July 2009—September 2009

Irvin and Nel Lo Bassett
Ina Bean
Betsy Beardsley
Kathy Beardsley
Barbara Bergeron
Tom Billard
Betty Bonawitz
Rosemary Bracciale
Elizabeth Brevett
Valerie Brown
John and Christine Buck
William and Jean Cadwallader
Ward and Louise Calaway
Joan Cannella
Anne Caratelli
Elaine Case
Dixie Lee Christenson
Suzanne Conley
Mary Jane Corey
Carol Culver
Nancy-Lee Cute
Carol Deloff
Thomas and Martha Dumas
Charlotte Farris
Gerri Fitzgerald
Carol Foster
Mary Giamei
Dorothymae Graves
Elsie Gutchess
William Haight
John and Kathleen Howe
Handiboe
Edward and Patricia Harrison
Barbara Haskell

Keeta Hastings
Richard Hillenbrand
John and Lisa Hoeschele and Family
Howard and Johanne Holcomb
Maureen Isaf
Ruth Jordan
Robert D'Addario and Kate O'Connell
Richard and Nancy Kroot
Kevin Sheets and Laura Gathagan
Stephen and Helen Leet
Diana Leisenring
Paul Lorenzo
Joan Mack
John and Betty MacNeill
Raymond and Patricia Malbone
Gwendolyn McCabe
Helen Meyer
Theresa Mitchell
Michele Mix
Susan Moyer
Jane O'Shea
Tom and Nan Pasquarello
Roger Phillips
Robert Price
Edmund Raus Jr.
Gregory Reed
Peter Rice
Teresa Roberts
James and Ellen Robinson
Margaret Robinson
Barbara Rogers
Dorothy Sarvay

Richard and Josie Schieffelin
Frances Shearer
F. Michael and Kathy Stapleton
Janet Steck
Randi Storch
Louis Vanaria
Helen Walker
George and Patricia Walter
Russell Wanish
Kenneth and JoAnn Wickman
Dale and Barbara Wightman
Ron Wiser
Josephine Zaharis
Murlyn Zeske

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.

Edward Everett Hale

Holiday Closings

Thursday November 26—Thanksgiving

Thursday December 24—Tuesday January 5, 2010

We wish all of our members and friends a happy and healthy holiday season and best wishes for a wonderful 2010.

CORTLAND COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

25 Homer Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045



*Your primary source for Cortland
County History*

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E-mail: cortlandhistory@centralny.twcbc.com

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Join The Cortland County Historical Society

Membership Form for New Members

Senior (optional 65 years & older)	\$18.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	For "Family" Category please list
Individual	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	names of family living at this
Family	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	address.
Supporting	\$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sustaining	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sponsor	\$300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Patron	\$600.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Benefactor	\$1,200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____



Suggett House
Home of the
Cortland County
Historical Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____